



# THE ACADEMIA

Official International Bulletin of the University of Santo Tomas

Vol. LI No. 2

February 1 - 28, 2021

ISSN0117-0083



(From left:) UST College of Rehabilitation Sciences Dean Assoc. Prof. Anne Marie Aseron, UST Vice-Rector for Academic Affairs Prof. Cheryl R. Peralta, DrPH, UST alumna and Manila City Vice Mayor Hon. Honey Lacuña, Manila City Mayor Hon. Francisco 'Isko Moreno' Domagoso, UST Faculty of Medicine and Surgery Dean Dr. Lourdes D. Maglinao, and Justice Jose Abad Santos General Hospital Director Dr. Merle S. Faustino [Photo courtesy of Manila City Public Information Office]

## UST receives first of three nods for limited in-person classes

University of Santo Tomas officials, led by UST Vice-Rector for Academic Affairs Prof. Cheryl R. Peralta, DrPH, met with Manila City Mayor Francisco 'Isko Moreno' Domagoso on February 3, 2021, at the Manila City Hall to present the University's plan for limited in-person classes for the medical and health allied programs during the pandemic.

The discussion included the expected adherence to health and safety protocols, occupancy capacity management, crowd management outside campus premises, coordination between 'sending' and 'receiving' LGUs for students coming from other localities, scenario-based planning of various contingency plans for when students, faculty, or staff members develop COVID-19 symptoms, and surveillance and referral protocols in suspending classes in case of clustering of cases, among others.

To this proposal, Mayor Domagoso said, "Consider it approved. We will just follow the memoranda of CHED."

Mayor Domagoso's approval is just the first of several approvals needed for a partial resumption of in-person classes, particularly for internships, clerkships, and practicums, for the selected programs.

**LIMITED IN-PERSON CLASSES TO PAGE 2**

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## EHS alumnus John Simon receives Environmental Justice Award from EcoWaste Coalition



Simon (right) receives his award. [Photo courtesy of EcoWaste Coalition Facebook page]

Bureau of Customs District Collector John Simon, a batch 1977 graduate of the UST Education High School and a customs official with 31 years of government service, is the lone recipient of EcoWaste Coalition's first "Environmental Justice Award" coinciding with the national observance of "Zero Waste Month" this January. The award was announced on January 19, 2021.

EcoWaste Coalition (EWC) President Eileen Sison, in a public post on EcoWaste Coalition's Facebook page, said that Simon was recognized "for his exemplary leadership, unfaltering dedication, and focused action on protecting public health and the environment from hazardous wastes from overseas, particularly about the successful re-exportation in 2019-2020 of some 7,408 metric tons of illegal waste shipments from South Korea."

Sison emphasized that "Simon's decisive and unyielding action to uphold our country's tariff and customs and environmental laws and the provisions of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal led to the completion of the re-exportation procedures last September 15 amid the COVID-19 challenges."

The Basel Convention Ban Amendment prohibits the export of hazardous wastes from developed to developing countries.

In a press release, EcoWaste Coalition shared Simon's statement that "Environmental justice demands that we assert our sovereign right not to be treated as dumping ground for wastes from abroad that can put the health of our people and that of our ecosystems in harm's way."

Simon, who is District Collector for Region 10, emphasized that "This job is too big for one agency to accomplish, so I reach out to all sectors, especially to the environment department and Congress to take on this challenge and strictly ban waste imports like what other Asian countries have done."

For context, contaminated waste shipments, falsely declared as "plastic synthetic flakes," arrived in Misamis Oriental in July and October 2018 without prior import clearance from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources. However, customs and environmental authorities found that it contained unsorted plastic materials, household garbage, used dextrose tubes, discarded electronics in the container shipments.

According to EWC, authorities confirmed the shipments as "misdeclared, heterogenous and injurious to public health" and in blatant violation of Republic Act 10863, or the Customs Modernization and Tariff Act, and DENR Administrative Order 2013-22, which states that "no importation of heterogenous and unsorted plastic materials shall be allowed."

Following bilateral negotiations, the illegal waste shipments totaling 364 containers were returned to Pyeongtaek City in seven batches between January 13, 2019 to September 15, 2020.

### LIMITED IN-PERSON CLASSES FROM PAGE 1

"Initially, this includes Medicine, Nursing, Physical Therapy, and Medical Technology, as indicated in the guidelines that we are anticipating from CHED," said Dr. Peralta in an email interview.

The face-to-face activities for these selected programs, conducted with safety as the utmost priority, will serve as valuable learning opportunities for the nation's future healthcare professionals. Known for producing topnotchers in the above-mentioned fields, UST is also set to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the Faculty of Medicine and Surgery, the oldest medical school in the Philippines, this 2021.

During the meeting, the Mayor reminded UST to keep the students' and parents' consent primarily in mind. Participation in the limited face-to-face classes would not be mandatory.

It was revealed in the meeting, and later on to the public through Mayor Domagoso's Twitter post, that "Teachers will be included in the first batch for the vaccine. Whether you're a Manilan or a non-Manilan, (for) as long as you're working here in Manila, you will be included in the list for vaccine."

Also present during the meeting were Vice Mayor and UST alumna Ma. Sheilah 'Honey' Lacuña, UST Faculty of Medicine and Surgery Dean Dr. Ma. Lourdes Domingo-Maglinao, UST College of Rehabilitation Sciences Dean Assoc. Prof. Anne Marie Aseron, and Justice Jose Abad Santos General Hospital Director Dr. Merle Sacdalan-Faustino.

## Very Rev. Fr. Filemon I. Dela Cruz, Jr., O.P., is new Prior Provincial of Dominican Province of the Philippines



Very Rev. Fr. Filemon Dela Cruz, Jr., O.P., (left) recites the Oath of Fidelity in front of his predecessor, 12th Prior Provincial Very Rev. Fr. Napoleon B. Sipalay, Jr., O.P. [Screenshot obtained from La Naval de Manila's Facebook page]



Fr. Dela Cruz delivers his acceptance speech. [Screenshot obtained from La Naval de Manila's Facebook page]

Very Rev. Fr. Filemon I. Dela Cruz, Jr., O.P., was installed as the 13th Prior Provincial of the Dominican Province of the Philippines on February 2, 2021, at the Santo Domingo Church.

Fr. Dela Cruz was elected to his post during the 12th Provincial Chapter held in Caleruega, Batangas, on January 17, 2021. By virtue of his new position, he will also serve as the University's Vice-Chancellor for four years and is now Presider of the Board of Trustees.

The transition coincides with a number of milestones, noted

Fr. Dela Cruz in his message. To be celebrated in 2021 are the 800th death anniversary of the Founder of the Order of Preachers St. Dominic de Guzman, the 500th year of the arrival of Christianity in the country, and the 50th founding anniversary of the Dominican Province of the Philippines. The COVID-19 pandemic and its daunting effects on society may still be ongoing, (but) causes of joy, such as these aligned milestones, remain.

"It may sound like simply numbers, but they tell us something. These numbers would remind us how God has helped us and saw us through the years. The numbers go beyond our time, our terms, our generations. And so, sometimes, when we feel disheartened by the things that we go through, like this pandemic, it's a good time to remember the God who has journeyed with us through 800, 500, and 50 years, full of trials and difficulties, but never wanting of God's blessings and His grace," said Fr. Dela Cruz.

"That is why even if we held the provincial Chapter in the midst of pandemic, it is not enough to dampen our spirit. There is more that makes the event not simply memorable, but very significant," he added.

Formerly the Vice-Rector for Religious Affairs in UST, Fr. Dela Cruz was most recently assigned to the House of San Lorenzo Ruiz and Companion Martyrs in Navotas, and was Prior of the Rumah Santo Tomas de Aquino in Surabaya, Indonesia.

Ordained priest in 1992, Fr. Dela Cruz obtained his Bachelor's degree in Philosophy at the Philippine Dominican Center of Institutional Studies in 1986. His canonical degree in Sacred Theology in 1991, and his Master's degree in Theology in 2006, were both obtained in UST.

The installation ceremony can be viewed through the La Naval de Manila Facebook page: <https://fb.watch/3xfWbdd3eK/>



## Peralta of Graduate School is named Outstanding Medical Physicist

UST Graduate School Professor Agnette de Perio Peralta is the only Filipino to join the ranks of the Outstanding Medical Physicists of the Asia-Oceania Federation of Organizations for Medical Physics (AFOMP).

The award was given recently to 21 individuals who have made great contributions to medical physics education, training, research, and professional development in the Asia-Pacific region in the last 20 years.

As the Founding President of the Philippine Organization of Medical Physicists, now known as the Society of Medical Physicists of the Republic of the Philippines (SMPRP), Peralta is recognized as one of the pillars of Medical Physics in the Philippines. She has been a faculty member since 1983 at the University of Santo Tomas Graduate School, the only

university in the country that offers the Medical Physics program.

A former Assistant Secretary of Health, Peralta served as national project coordinator/counterpart in several International Atomic Energy Agency and World Health Organization (WHO) projects in Medical Physics.

Peralta is the only Filipino medical physicist to have worked as a consultant at the World Health Organization in Geneva and at the WHO Advisory Committee on Electromagnetic Fields. She is the only medical physicist from Asia to have been elected a member of the Main Commission of the International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection which she served for three terms, and she is the only Filipino to have been elected a Fellow of the International Organization for Medical Physics.



Prof. Agnette de Perio Peralta

## Fernandez of Architecture is appointed as member of scientific committee for international research, publication



Ar. Asst. Prof. Rino D. Fernandez

College of Architecture faculty member Ar. Asst. Prof. Rino D. Fernandez received his designation as a member of two scientific committees, one for international research publication and one for international academic gathering. His appointments came from the Journal on Traditional Building, Architecture and Urbanism (JTBAU) and the International Seminar for Vernacular Settlements (ISVS).

With publications in both English and Spanish, JTBAU is a peer-reviewed international journal that focuses on traditional construction, architecture, and urbanism. The journal is published by the International Network of Traditional Building, Architecture and Urbanism (INTBAU) and Rafael Manzano Prize for New Traditional Architecture. With the annual publication, the organizers

aim to provide a better knowledge and understanding of the traditional constructive cultures of various regions worldwide.

Meanwhile, the ISVS is an event that takes place every two years and is organized by the International Society for the Study of Vernacular Settlements based at the University of Bahrain. The conference gathers educators, researchers, professionals, and students to contribute to the knowledge of vernacular settlements worldwide. It focuses on the role of traditional design and construction knowledge and its role in contemporary times.

Fernandez, the Design Cluster Coordinator for third and fourth-year students, is also the author of "Diksiyonaryong Biswal ng Arkitekturang Filipino" (A Visual Dictionary on Filipino Architecture) published by UST Publishing House.

**AFOMP OUTSTANDING MEDICAL PHYSICISTS**  
**20<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF AFOMP**

**AFOMP**  
**21 Outstanding Medical Physicist Awardees**

Dr. K.Y. Cheung  
Hong Kong

Dr. M. Endo  
Japan

Dr. H. Round  
New Zealand

Dr. A. Chougule  
India

Dr. N. Kanematsu  
Japan

Dr. J. Lee  
Singapore

Dr. T. Kanai  
Japan

Dr. C. S. Chui  
Taipei

Dr. H. J. Kim  
South Korea

Dr. N. B. Jamal  
Malaysia

Dr. S. K. Kim  
South Korea

Dr. H. A. Azhari  
Bangladesh

Dr. K. Ogawa  
Japan

Dr. K. B. Kim  
South Korea

Dr. H. Mozdarani  
Iran

Dr. H. T. Chung  
South Korea

Dr. W.A.K. Abdullah  
Malaysia

Dr. B. P. Ravindran  
India

A. P. Peralta  
Philippines

Dr. J. Dai  
China

Dr. N. Chawapun  
Thailand

Banner of awardees [Photo courtesy of Prof. Peralta]

## JHS publication garners major awards at 2020 Campus Press Awards

The Aquinian, the official student publication of UST Junior High School won 13 individual national awards in the 2020 Campus Press Awards hosted by The Manila Times. It also bagged the Best News Website and the Best Student Publication in the Philippines. The virtual awarding ceremony was held on January 29, 2021.

For this year, the Junior High School joined in both English and Filipino categories. The Aquinian is written in the English language while *Ang Beato* is in the Filipino language.

The winners from The Aquinian included: Best Feature Story - Stephanie Mae Aquilino and Heart Catherine Sosa, Best Sports Story - Juriel Deign Labudahon and Seann Carlo Lalimarmo, Best Layout

and Design - Sarah Alvarez, Luis Eivan Lanto, and Reese Angela Aquino. 1st runner-up in Best Column - Janssel Carylle Rigor, 1st runner-up in Best Editorial Story - Heart Catherine Sosa and Janssel Carylle Rigor, 2nd runner-up in Best Literary Piece - Athena Alessandra Cruz, and 2nd runner-up in Best Photography - Angelo Sy.

The winners from *Ang Beato* were: Best News Story - Julienne Allison Rengel and Cassie Jameelah Lecaroz, Best Feature Story - Danielle Noreen Lagdamen and Stephanie Mae Aquilino, Best Sports Story - Juriel Deign Labudahon and Seann Carlo Lalimarmo, 2nd runner-up in Best Editorial Story - Heart Catherine Sosa, Janssel Carylle Rigor, and Nathaniel James Estavillo, and 2nd runner-up in Best Column - Heart Catherine Sosa.

The Aquinian's Publication Adviser, Mr. Joram Kim Corcuera, and Assistant Publication Adviser Mr. Chris Gamoso, guided the team in its preparation for the competition that showcased the student journalists' skills and talents in writing, copyreading, photography, graphics designing, layouting, and publishing. This event is organized annually by The Manila Times.

A total of 404 entries were shortlisted, and 36 were recognized as national winners. The virtual awarding ceremony was broadcasted live on The Manila Times Facebook page, streamed on the publication's YouTube channel and The Manila Times TV.



# RESEARCH

## PROJECT B.E.A.T.R.I.C.E: Contactless entry to make entrances safer



(From left:) Engr. Alfrancis Urlanda, Assoc. Prof. Michael Jorge N. Peralta, Ms. Andrea Pauline D. De Guzman, Ms. Amira D. Malipol, Engr. Souichi A. Takahama

Nowadays, it has become a part of our daily routine to wear a face mask and face shield, have our disinfectant spray ready, and practice our roles as responsible citizens of our community by filling out the necessary contact tracing forms before we are allowed to enter any building or establishment.

This is the snapshot of our new normal as a consequence of the pandemic that has changed our lives. It has been a year, and yet, the world is still battling COVID-19.

Since COVID-19 is a new virus that has been classified as a pandemic, the human population has no immunity against it, and vaccination is apparently, the only hope to decrease its deadly effect.

The European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control implemented the Non Pharmaceutical Intervention (NPI) against COVID-19. NPI is a public measure that aims to mitigate the transmission of COVID-19 or SARS-CoV-2. According to Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), NPIs are among the best public

health interventions against the pandemic consisting of three main categories: (1) individual, (2) environmental, (3) population related with widespread, timely testing and contact tracing.

Contact Tracing is one of the Non-Pharmaceutical Interventions used to battle against the COVID-19. One form of this requires all establishments to ask people to fill out several contact tracing forms or scan QR codes before entering their establishment.

Now, are we not all tired of writing the same details all over again each time we enter a building or a business establishment? Are we not tired of using different applications for contact tracing whenever a certain establishment requires us to scan its contact tracing QR codes? Well, this is where Project B.E.A.T.R.I.C.E. comes in!

**PROJECT B.E.A.T.R.I.C.E  
TO PAGE 7**



The BEATRICE unit stands at the entrance of an establishment.

### PROJECT B.E.A.T.R.I.C.E FROM PAGE 9

Project B.E.A.T.R.I.C.E. is an acronym for “Buildings and Establishments Automated Temperature Reading Integrated Contact Tracing Equipment.” It is both a hardware and software system designed to increase the efficiency of contact tracing in buildings and establishments. This is a dedicated, full contactless contact tracing equipment wherein the user will have a one-time registration to acquire a QR code I.D, and all that he has to do is bring his I.D anywhere.

For as long as Project B.E.A.T.R.I.C.E. is there, one just taps the given I.D., scans temperature, disinfected, and the user is good to go! Being contactless will also provide more safety to establishment front-liners such as the guards and door attendants.

The project was developed by EEnovatics, a startup under the Department of Science and Technology

TOMASInno Center (DOST-TOMASInno Center UST). EEnovatics, with its tagline “We create and integrate”, is composed of two Electrical Engineering graduates from University of Santo Tomas, Engr. Souichi A. Takahama, who graduated in 2018 and Ms. Andrea Pauline D. De Guzman, who graduated in 2020. Their mission is “to provide technological innovation to issues faced by the world through research and development, with a vision of continuously innovating and creating solutions for a better world.”

EEnovatics developed project B.E.A.T.R.I.C.E. as a way to address particular issues that are encountered in the existing contact tracing efforts. Some of these issues include incomplete contact tracing forms, no centralized contact tracing solutions, a long queue in every entrance, and the unavailability of smartphones and/or access to the internet of some citizens.

With project B.E.A.T.R.I.C.E. EEnovatics aims to provide a permanent solution as a preparation for any future pandemic.

The EEnovatics team conducted its pilot testing on December 18, 2020, at a Restaurant named D’Banquet in Tagaytay City. The team was able to deploy and test its prototype and continuously improve on the project’s system. The goal is to deploy Project B.E.A.T.R.I.C.E. in different establishments in Tagaytay City and eventually, in the whole country to centralize the contact tracing initiative, with the collective efforts and collaboration of business owners and citizens in our country

Currently, EEnovatics is looking for investors to help their startup business grow. Intending to make entrances safer, Project B.E.A.T.R.I.C.E is a ripple that will soon start a wave once everyone realizes the importance, convenience and benefits this project can offer.



(From left:) Ms. Amira D. Malipol, Ms. Andrea Pauline D. De Guzman, Engr. Souichi A. Takahama



## Lipardo of CRS qualifies for Gelia Castillo Award for Research on Social Innovations in Health



Dr. Lipardo (rightmost, in black shirt) leads study participants in a PACT warm-up. [Photo taken prior to the pandemic with faces blurred to protect the participants' identities]

UST College of Rehabilitation Sciences faculty member and researcher Dr. Donald Lipardo was recognized by the Gelia Castillo Award for Research on Social Innovations in Health (GCARSIH). He was notified on February 4, 2021, that he was one of the top ten recipients of the award. GCARSIH, which recognizes the

outstanding social innovations that address persistent societal and health systems challenges in the Philippines, highlighted Lipardo's study "Falls prevention through physical and cognitive training (Falls PACT) in older adults with mild cognitive impairment."

Lipardo, who is a geriatric rehabilitation researcher, explained that the geriatric population, especially those with mild cognitive impairment (MCI), is susceptible to falling. Possible consequences of falling can include physical injuries, a minor bruise or a major bone fracture, or even death for older persons.

The aging process also involves changes in bodily and physical functions such as blurring of vision, decrease in muscle strength, a decline in reaction time, problems in standing balance, and slowness in walking. The likelihood of this unfortunate circumstance is why Falls PACT and other preventative measures to keep older adults safe are so necessary.

According to Lipardo, Falls PACT combines cognitive training elements into a series of exercises that address and target declines in physical and cognitive functions in the geriatric population. It involves walking in various directions

with executive training by sorting common daily objects; sit-to-stand exercises with orientation training by answering questions about dates, occasions, locations, and answering simple math questions; heel and toe raises with attention training by performing the exercise based on visual cues; stepping in different directions with memory training by stepping on a sequence of numbers written on the floor; step-up exercises with attention training; and graded reaching routines with executive training by transferring objects from one side of a long table to another side, and forming patterns, explained Lipardo in an email interview.

The said study was the final phase of his Ph.D. research project, which he completed in 2019 for his Doctor of Philosophy in Rehabilitation Medicine degree from the Hong Kong Polytechnic University.

Lipardo emphasized that "Aside from the increased blood flow to the muscles and to our brain when we exercise, incorporating Cognitive Training in Physical Therapy leads to better neural efficiency. This means that tasks are completed/accomplished with less resources

**GELIA CASTILLO AWARD TO PAGE 9**

**GELIA CASTILLO AWARD FROM PAGE 8**



Participants try PACT by stepping on numbers in sequence. [Photo taken prior to the pandemic with faces blurred to protect the participants' identities]

from our nerve cells after undergoing combined physical and cognitive training. That is the main reason why bodily functions are improved with PACT."

Proposing PACT to all older adults in general, Lipardo said that it is recommended even to those who have no cognitive impairment.

"It could proactively engage our dear senior citizens in the fun and challenging activities of the program that would maintain and/or improve their current physical and mental abilities," he added.

The GCARSIH finalists, aside from receiving a monetary prize, will be invited to attend a training package for research and innovation designed to improve further and scale the chosen innovations.

As Lipardo explained, "This was actually the main reason why I applied for the award. The training that will be provided will help me and my team to implement the program in other areas of the country. I hope that more seniors in our country will be able to receive the program's positive effects. But of

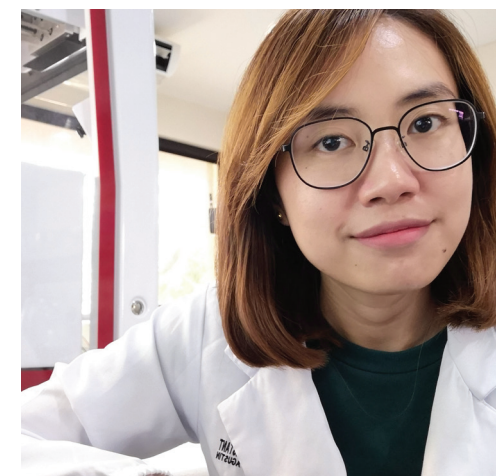
course, we need to look for agencies who would fund this project and possible collaborators in the regions."

After the training package, the new GCARSIH finalist hopes to continue developing exercise programs for the geriatric population.

"I am currently working on designing an exercise program based on Arnis, the Philippines' national martial arts, focusing on improving the balance control of older adults. I hope that it could become a popular exercise routine among our senior citizens similar to Tai Chi in other Asian countries," said Lipardo.

A licensed Physical Therapist for 21 years, Lipardo is known for advancing the care for the geriatric population. He was named the Outstanding Professional in Physical Therapy by the Professional Regulation Commission in 2015. His Bachelor of Science in Physical Therapy and Master of Science in Physical Therapy degrees were both obtained from the University of Santo Tomas.

## SIL recognizes Science faculty member Vicera for research on bacteria in Lake Taal copepods



Thomasian researcher Carmela Vannette Vicera [Photo courtesy of Vicera]

The International Society of Limnology (SIL - *Societas Internationalis Limnologiae*) recognized the research of Graduate School alumna and College of Science faculty member Carmela Vannette B. Vicera in the January 2021 issue of SILnews. Vicera completed her study on bacteria associated with copepods through the SIL's Tonolli Memorial Fund (TMF) for which she applied and was chosen in 2016 during her graduate studies under the UST GS Master of Science in Microbiology program.

While working on her copepod samples with the help of the Zooplankton Ecology, Systematics, and Limnology (ZESL) research group of College of Science Dean Dr. Rey Donne S. Papa, she found out about SIL and the TMF and was encouraged to apply. This opportunity gave Vicera a chance to obtain additional

**BACTERIA IN LAKE TAAL TO PAGE 10**



Study participants join a graded reaching activity as part of PACT. [Photo taken prior to the pandemic with faces blurred to protect the participants' identities]



**BACTERIA IN LAKE TAAL  
FROM PAGE 9**

funding and to share what post-graduate students like her have gained interest in while studying limnology in the country.

Vicera's research, conducted under the tutelage and supervision of her adviser, Assoc. Prof. Mary Ann G. Santos, Ph.D., looked into the different bacteria found in copepods.

According to the report, bacteria (genus *Aeromonas*) found in freshwater copepods in Lake Taal "are capable of degrading chitin using both organic and inorganic carbon source and in a wide range of pH and temperature, suggesting that the different species of this group of bacteria easily adapt to the environmental changes in the lake, allowing them to produce chitin-degrading enzymes even under unfavorable conditions."

The biodegradation of chitin, an insoluble marine waste product, is vital to the nutrient cycling in lakes. In ecosystems like Lake Taal, most chitin is derived from crustaceans such as copepods.

TMF provided the additional funding needed to finish the study, said Vicera in a grant experience video promoted by SIL in November 2020. She added that this was the first study to be conducted on zooplankton's associated bacteria in Lake Taal, so she hopes that her initial study will lead to more limnological research in similar sites across the country.

Vicera, who obtained her Master of Science and Bachelor of Science in Microbiology degrees from UST, added that she is thankful for the Tonolli Fund because "it gave me the opportunity to reach out to a wider audience where I can share what I've done, especially to those researchers who are conducting similar studies."

The Tonolli Memorial Fund of SIL was created in 1985 through a

bequest from Vittorio and Livia Tonolli, well-known limnologists at the *Istituto Italiano di Idrobiologia in Pallanza, Italy.*

The purpose of the fund is to provide assistance to young limnologists in developing countries and to encourage them to join SIL. In recent years, the awards committee for the Tonolli Fund has used the fund primarily for supporting students who are working toward post-graduate degrees (M.Sc., Ph.D.) in the field of limnology. Awards from the Tonolli Fund are generally \$1000 to \$1,500 for one year.

Vicera is currently a part-time lecturer at the UST College of Science teaching various subjects in Microbiology. She was chosen by the American Society for Microbiology to be a Young Ambassador of Science for the Philippines until 2022.

SIL is the oldest and only international society entirely devoted to inland waters, with over 1250 members from 70 countries. It will celebrate its centennial anniversary in 2022.



Taal Lake in 2016 [Photo courtesy of Carmela Vicera]



*Arctodiaptomus dorsalis*  
(Marsh, 1907) Adult  
Female [Photo courtesy of  
Vicera]



*Mesocyclops ogunnus*  
(Onabamiro, 1957) Adult Female  
[Photo courtesy of Vicera]

# LECTURES AND CONFERENCES

## Timbang of CTHM talks on entrepreneurial internship at Tourism Research and Education Forum



Assistant Dean Evangeline E. Timbang

College of Tourism and Hospitality Management Assistant Dean Evangeline E. Timbang, presented a paper on "The Entrepreneurial Internship Model for the Hospitality Management Program in the Philippines" during the Tourism Research and Education Forum of Guangdong, Hong Kong, Macau, and ASEAN held from January 15 to 16, 2021.

This third academic gathering, held virtually, featured topics on tourism and hospitality education, talent development, and tourism recovery in post-COVID time, in the Greater Bay Area (GBA) and Southeast Asia, among others.

Timbang discussed the elements of an entrepreneurial internship for Filipino hospitality management students in the

country as an alternative to traditional employment training. She emphasized the interesting opportunities from the emerging food businesses which continued to grow during the pandemic, such as cloud kitchens and food deliveries.

Paper presenters were from Malaysia, Indonesia, Vietnam, Thailand, China, Hong Kong, Macau, and Singapore.

The forum was organized by the School of Tourism of the Sun Yat-Sen University at Zhuhai, Guangdong, P.R. China, headed by its Dean, Prof. Xu Honggang, Ph.D. It was co-organized by the Macau Institute of Tourism Studies and School of Hospitality and Tourism Management, Hong Kong Polytechnic University.

### USTGS student presents paper at conference on post-COVID 'next normal'

The world is now slowly moving toward the post-COVID period and is anticipating what the 'next normal' would be like for the business sector. Organizations are now beginning to visualize how certain sectors of the economy would carry on with their functions post-COVID.

These premises were used as take-off point in the discussion of UST Graduate School student Tennessee Y. Soriano's paper titled "Understanding CSR Consequences on Employees' Awareness of Corporate Reputation and Organizational Commitment in Local Airlines in the Philippines." It was presented at the 2nd International Research Conference: "Re-imagining the Next Normal post-COVID-19" held virtually.

The study was a timely research paper that focused on the Philippine airline industry, an industry severely hit by the pandemic. Both quantitative and qualitative methods were used to investigate the effect of Corporate Social Responsibility on Employees' Awareness of Corporate Reputation and Organizational Commitment in Local Airlines in the Philippines.

"This pandemic paved the way for airline companies to take action and responsibility in fostering a better reputation by reconstructing and re-evaluating its current Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) programs and projects as well as

**'NEXT NORMAL'  
TO PAGE 9**



'NEXT NORMAL' FROM PAGE 11



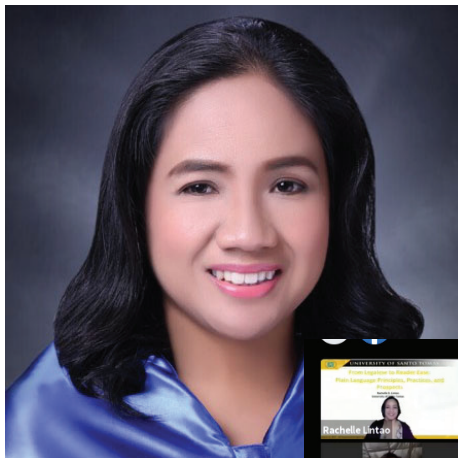
Soriano's presentation

changing its operations and policies especially during a global health crisis when these CSR initiatives are timely and needed more than ever," Soriano stated.

Organized by the MAGEZI Training Events and Educational Services, the virtual paper presentation provided shared learning and experiences from other scholars, researchers, and academicians with different experiences and backgrounds who would like to seek academic and professional excellence.

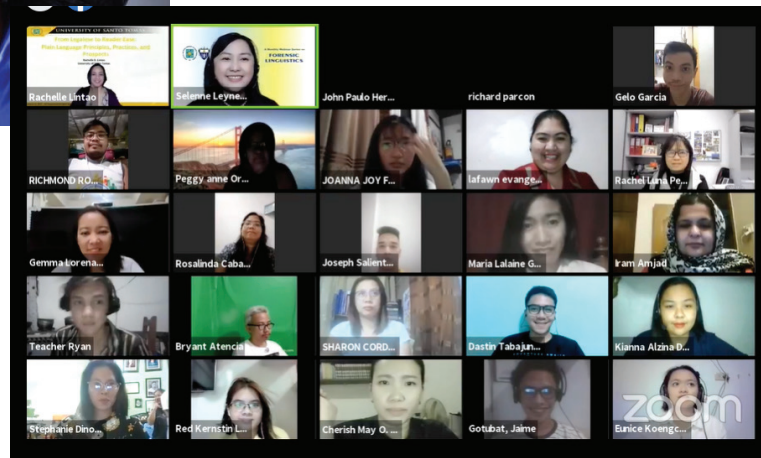
Other academicians also presented and shared their experiences and the strategies they are currently implementing to stay afloat in the new learning environment and survive this challenging time.

## UST Dept. of English chair advocates for plain language use



Assoc. Prof. Rachelle B. Lintao, Ph.D

University of Santo Tomas Department of English Chair Assoc. Prof. Rachelle B. Lintao, Ph.D., delivered a talk titled "From legalese to reader ease: Plain language principles, practices, and prospects" via Zoom and was streamed on the UST Department of English Facebook page on January 15, 2021, from 6:00-7:00 p.m. The lecture was the sixth installment of the Monthly Webinar Series on Forensic Linguistics hosted by the UST Department of English.



Lintao, also serving as Program Lead of the Graduate School English Language Studies Cluster, highlighted the importance of using plain language in various domains and how it is already adopted in different countries worldwide. She explained the need to take small steps, do research, and promote the benefits of plain language so the lawmakers and business owners can help institutionalize its use. She also mentioned the Department's current research project to simplify UST's enrollment conformé.

Almost 700 registrants from 19 different countries attended the webinar. Lawyer and English Department faculty member Selenne Anne S. Leynes acted as Moderator of the Open Forum.

Dr. Lintao (first row, leftmost), Atty. Leynes (second from left) and webinar participants.

## Navarro of CFAD bags bronze at 2020 International Design Awards

UST College of Fine Arts and Design faculty member Mr. Louie T. Navarro won a bronze award at the Interior Design – Renovation category of the 2020 International Design Awards (IDA) on January 29, 2021.

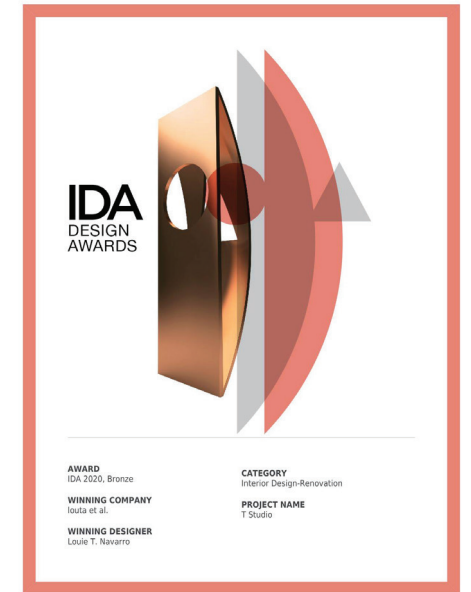
The entry entered as a design by Navarro's company "Iouta et al.," was awarded for his creative and tranquil approach to designing the 25sqm "T studio" located in Makati City where the bed, dining table, and kitchen sink and counter can all be hidden to create a clean space with 'an unhampered line of vision.'

Navarro, who teaches Interior Design at the CFAD, is himself a graduate of UST's Interior Design program. He is currently taking up his doctoral

degree in Design at the Hong Kong Polytechnic University.

According to its website, the IDA annually "recognizes, celebrates, and promotes exceptional design visionaries and discover emerging talent in Architecture, Interior, Product, Graphic and Fashion Design worldwide." As one of the leading design awards globally, the Jury evaluated hundreds of submissions from more than 80 countries.

The IDA certificate [Photo courtesy of UST College of Fine Arts and Design Facebook page]



Navarro's studio design maximizes the limited space by hiding items when not in use. [Photos courtesy of <https://idesignawards.com/>]



## UST Architecture student wins silver award in AYDA PH for *estero* recycling hub



Silver winner banner shows Napoleon Marion Clarke F. Mui

College of Architecture student Napoleon Marion Clarke F. Mui won the Silver Award under the Architecture category of the Asia Young Designer Awards (AYDA) 2020 for the Philippines. AYDA is an annual design competition organized for Architecture and Interior Design students by Nippon Paint in 15 Asian countries.

With the theme “Forward: Human-centered Design,” the design competition called for a socially driven space to serve the community’s needs. Project proposals were required to have a clear positive impact, especially for the booming population in Asian cities.

For his competition entry, Mui, who is in his fourth year, under the mentorship of Ar. Maria Lourdes Rigunay, proposed a humanistic design solution for the community of Estero de la Reina in Manila, whose problems include waste disposal and water pollution. The community-scale recycling center encourages a sustainable recycling system from the local garbage, which would then be a source of livelihood for the locals. Titled “Estero Recycling Hub,” the project utilizes community participation, innovation, and architecture design to positively impact the locals.

Participants of the national competition were from the University of Baguio, Polytechnic University of the Philippines, De La Salle - College of Saint Benilde, and Batangas State University. In the AYDA 2020, the Gold Award in Architecture was won by Paul John Jandoc of the University of Baguio, while the Gold Award in Interior Design went to Maita S. Hagad of the De La Salle-College of Saint Benilde. Lauren Ghenrich L. Khoo of De La Salle-College of Saint Benilde won Silver for the Interior Design category.

The members of the Panel of Judges for the Architecture category include Ar. Maria Benita Regala of the National Housing Authority, National President Ar. Renato Heray of the United Architects of the Philippines, and Executive Director Ar. Richard Garcia of the Commission on Professional Practice.



Mui's award-winning design

## Obiena bags 2 golds, 1 silver, sets new Philippine record



Obiena in Germany [Photo courtesy of E] Obiena's Facebook page]

Tokyo Olympics-bound Thomasian pole vault athlete Ernest John (EJ) Obiena set a new Philippine record and personal best through his silver-earning 5.86-meter jump at Atlas Arena in Poland on February 13, 2021. The reigning Olympic gold medalist, Thiago Braz, earned bronze with a 5.80-meter jump.

“A silver, a new personal best and a new Philippine record. Back home, we call it 3-in-1. Thank you!” said Obiena in a public Facebook post. To recall, his previous personal best was 5.81 meters at the Olympic qualifying tournament in Chiara, Italy in 2019.

Days ago, Obiena leaped 5.80 meters to win gold at the PSD Bank Indoor Meeting in Dortmund, Germany on February 8, 2021. With the same height, he also won another gold at the Internationales Stadionfest Indoor athletics meet at the Mercedes-Benz Arena in Berlin on February 5, 2021.

In these two jumps, he simultaneously broke twice the previous Philippine record that he himself set just a week prior. Previously, Obiena set a new Philippine indoor mark after clearing 5.62 meters, finishing fifth at the Karlsruhe World Indoor Tour Meeting on January 29, 2021.

Obiena was the first Filipino athlete to qualify for the Tokyo Olympics. Presently based in Italy, the 25-year old athlete trains under coach Vitaly Petrov. A UST Engineering student, he is currently on leave to focus on his sports and represent the Philippines.





# THE ACADEMIA

Official International Bulletin of the University of Santo Tomas

Vol. LI No. 2

February 1 - 28, 2021

ISSN0117-0083

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