



THE ACADEMIA

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UST receives PEACE award from Metrobank



(From left:) MBFI Senior Vice President Anjanette Dy Buncio, University of Santo Tomas Rector Very Rev. Fr. Herminio V Dagohoy, O.P., and MBFI President Aniceto Sobrepeña [Photo courtesy of MBFI Facebook page]

The University of Santo Tomas was recognized as a Partner in Empowerment, Advocacy, and Commitment to Excellence (PEACE) at the 40th anniversary celebration of the Metrobank Foundation Inc., (MBFI). The UST Rector Very Rev. Fr. Herminio V. Dagohoy, O.P., accepted the award for the University on February 21, 2019 during the special gathering at the Le Pavillon, Metropolitan Park, Pasay City.

With the theme “*Puso at Sigasig*,” (Heart and Perseverance), the event honored distinguished individuals and institutional partners of MBFI, and commemorated the life of its late founder Dr. George S.K. Ty, a recipient of the Doctor of Humanities degree, *honoris causa*, from UST.

Forty institutional partners from the government, non-government, and socio-civic organizations, media, academe, and business received the PEACE awards.

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Humanities programs in UST receive boost from ALC Group of Companies

The University of Santo Tomas is expected to further strengthen and continue its distinguished tradition in the field of the Humanities with the support from the family of Amb. Antonio L. Cabangon Chua, the late Philippine Ambassador to Laos.

“ALC” or “Amba,” as the friends of the older Cabangon Chua fondly called him, was known to have been a devoted patron of the arts and a bighearted supporter of the Church.

On February 26, 2019, the sons of the eminent philanthropist formally established the UST-Ambassador Antonio L. Cabangon Chua Research Award for the Humanities in honor of their father. It was done

through the signing of a memorandum of agreement between the family and the University through the UST Research and Endowment Foundation, Inc. (UST REFI).

“I know that our father is smiling right now because we are continuing his noble legacy of supporting and honoring our Filipino artists,” said son D. Edgard A. Cabangon, who headed the Cabangon family in the signing ceremony. “It is also opportune that we are having this program with UST because our father was also very close to the Church.”

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(From left, seated:) Mr. D. Edgard A. Cabangon, Very Rev. Fr. Herminio V. Dagohoy, O.P., (From left, standing) Assoc. Prof. Giovanna V. Fontanilla, Ph.D.; Asst. Prof. Joselito D. Delos Reyes, Ph.D.; Mr. T. Anthony C. Cabangon, Rev. Fr. Jesus M. Miranda, Jr., O.P.; Mr. D. Edward A. Cabangon; Ms. Sharon Tan; Mr. Joel Pablo Salud; Mr. Levine Andro H. Lao; Mr. Paul A. Castillo; and Prof. Augusto Antonio A. Aguila, Ph.D.

UST Rector Very Rev. Fr. Herminio V. Dagohoy, O.P., signed the agreement for the University, while the Secretary-General Rev. Fr. Jesus M. Miranda, Jr., O.P., represented the UST REFI as Director of the Office for Grants, Endowments and Partnerships in Higher Education.

"Today, in this signing of the memorandum of agreement between the University of Santo Tomas and the ALC Group of Companies, we are not only supporting, but also celebrating the Humanities," the Father Rector said. "This partnership will push forth the Arts' noble mission."

Also present were: Ms. Sharon Tan, BusinessMirror and Philippines Graphic publisher T. Anthony C. Cabangon, ALC Realty Corp. and ALC Industrial and Commercial Development Corp. President D. Edward A. Cabangon, and Philippines Graphic Editor in Chief Joel Pablo Salud.

Research Award

Starting Academic Year 2019–2020, the UST-Ambassador Antonio L. Cabangon Chua Research Award for the Humanities will annually have two recipient researchers. Their research subject must be one notable Thomasian artist, who has contributed to the rich landscape of Philippine culture.

Each researcher will receive a total of PHP150,000.00 to conduct research, which must be completed within one year. Upon the completion of their research, the recipients will have to present it as a public lecture in the University, preferably during the National Literature Month in April or the National Heritage Month in May.

The complete guideline will soon be released by the lead unit for this program, the UST Department of Literature chaired by Asst. Prof. Joselito Delos Reyes, Ph.D.

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Awardees received the "Kapit-Bisig" trophy designed by 2011 Metrobank Art & Design Excellence (MADE) Grand Prize Awardee for Sculpture Ar. Jonathan V. Dangué. According to a press release from the MBFI Facebook page, "The interweaving loops of brass represent the collective power in pursuit of nation-building, destined to last and prosper in the years to come. It is inspired by the age-old spirit of *bayanihan* featuring a community of stakeholders and institutional partners working in the spirit of cooperative effort to achieve a common goal."

"We thank our 40 PEACE honorees for working with us in making meaningful contributions towards the uplifting of the Filipino and the well-being of our society," said MBFI Vice Chairman Alfred Ty in the welcome remarks.

Dr. Allan de Guzman is Metrobank awardee for Continuing Excellence and Service

Metrobank Foundation, Inc. (MBFI) recently honored a new batch of awardees with the 2019 Award for Continuing Excellence and Service (ACES). Prof. Allan B. De Guzman, Ph.D., former dean of the College of Education, a Metrobank Foundation Most Outstanding Teacher in Higher Education awardee in 2011, and a multi-awarded researcher, was one of the 40 recipients.

The awardees were handpicked from the Foundation's roster of awardees. De Guzman was a recipient of the Foundation's Outstanding Teacher award, and as a researcher, he has published more than 120 articles in various ISI-listed journals. He has also been given recognitions such as the 2007 SEAMEO-JASPER Research Award given by the Government of Canada and the Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization (SEAMEO), the 2006 National Research Council of the Philippines (NRCP) Achievement Award, among others.

"[Awardees of] the Metrobank Foundation Award for Continuing Excellence and Service (ACES) have proven that the littlest gestures of love and passion are ultimately the distinctive qualities that drive service excellence," said MBFI Vice Chairman Alfred Ty.

The ACES is given to exceptional men and women who have consistently adhered to the highest standards of performance and conduct of duty and demonstrated continued excellence in the performance of their respective professions, substantive contributions to their chosen disciplines, and sustained outstanding service to their respective institutions and communities.

Awardees received the "SPIRAL" medallion that was conceptualized by 1984 Metrobank Foundation National Painting Competition awardee Roberto Feleo. It is described on the MBFI Facebook page as a representation of "the incessant journey of every public servant: a continuous march toward greater and greater impact, progressing through phases of succession and legacy. Circling ever-



ACES Awardee Dr. Allan De Guzman (center) together with Metrobank Foundation Board of Advisers Chairman Retired Chief Justice Artemio Panganiban (right). [Photo courtesy of MBFI Facebook page]

upward, the SPIRAL conveys the message of transformation for a better nation."

Included among the ranks of ACES recipients this year are veteran journalist and Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism Executive Director Malou Mangahas, multi-awarded painter Mark Andy Garcia, and Philippine Academy of Microbiology Regent Chair Professor Emeritus Virginia C. Cuevas, Ph.D. The giving of awards by Metrobank coincides with the bank's celebration of its 40th year.

Accountancy Regulatory Board holds dialogue with accountancy school heads at UST

The UST-Alfredo M. Velayo College of Accountancy hosted the dialogue between the Professional Regulatory Board of Accountancy (PRBOA) and the administrators of higher educational institutions (HEIs) in Metro Manila offering accountancy programs held on February 27, 2019 at the Civil Law Auditorium.

The dialogue, attended by representatives from 29 HEIs, was a project of the PRBOA and aimed at gathering school heads, deans and department chairs of accountancy programs to discuss pressing issues on the state of the accountancy education in the country.

Prior to the dialogue proper, the members of the Board presented topics

on accounting education. PRBOA Chair Hon. Noe G. Quiñanola, started the presentation with the discussion of the role of administrators in accounting education. He reminded school administrators and faculty members to develop and nurture professional accountants who are competent, virtuous, productive and well-rounded. Also discussed were ratings and statistics of CPA Licensure Examination (CPALE), monitoring and evaluation of accountancy schools, the new table of specifications of CPALE courses, the types

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RESEARCH

Thomsonian researchers bare potential anti-cancer properties found in local seaweed



Prof. Ross D. Vasquez, Ph.D., presents the study. [photo by Val Zabala of DOST]

A University of Santo Tomas research group, headed by National Research Council of the Philippines – Pharmaceutical Science Project member and UST Laboratory Equipment and Supplies Office Administrator Prof. Ross D. Vasquez, Ph.D., found that polysaccharides extracted from the *Codium* species are “effective against cancer cells and destructive enzymes associated with cancer metastasis,” said a press statement released by the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) on February 21, 2019.

Codium species, specifically the seasonally available seaweed known as *pukpuklo*, can be found in selected waters in Ilocos Norte, Cagayan Province, Iloilo, and Aklan. It is often harvested for food. In Ilocos, it is made into a seaweed salad dish with the same name.

Anti-Cancer Properties

According to the DOST press release, the study “evaluated the inhibitory potential of the polysaccharides fractions isolated from *Codium* species” and found that the polysaccharides “fight destructive enzymes that aid metastasis or spread of cancer to different parts of the body.” Polysaccharides are carbohydrates whose molecules consist of a number of sugar molecules bonded together, such as starch, glycogen, or cellulose.

Though there has been much research on other similar *Codium* species, this seems to be the pioneering study for *pukpuklo*, said Vasquez during a publicly-available online video interview with Agila Balita. He explained that two years had been devoted to conducting the research. The first year was for characterization and extraction of the polysaccharides, while the second year was dedicated to biological activities, such as testing its properties on cancer cells, rats, and normal cells within the lab.

In the same interview, Vasquez said that while obtaining the *pukpuklo*, he learned from the local fishermen that this seaweed cannot be grown elsewhere because it needs very specific conditions under which it can grow. He found that the *pukpuklo* needs certain variables, such as temperature, pH level, oxygen concentration, and other features of the marine waters, to be jointly conducive for growth.

While the *pukpuklo* can be eaten raw, the anti-cancer properties of *pukpuklo* do not extend to raw consumption, said Vasquez. The

polysaccharides make up a very small percentage of the ‘thallus’, or body, of the plant and has to be extracted first by using a treatment. A challenge the researchers face is increasing the yield of extracts from the seaweed. In one kilogram of *pukpuklo*, only around four to eight grams of the sulfated polysaccharides, which can inhibit the growth of lung cancer cells and breast cancer cells, can be extracted.

However, before extracts from the *pukpuklo* are ready for commercialization, Vasquez says that there remains a need for follow-up research on the specific structure and mechanism of action of the anti-cancer properties of the polysaccharides.

Fruits of Thomasian Research

The study, titled “Medical potential of polysaccharide fractions from *Codium* species as cytotoxic and matrix metalloproteinase=1 (MMP-1) inhibitory agent,” was first publicly presented by Vasquez at the Department of Science and Technology-National Research Council of the Philippines (DOST-NRCP) Second Basic Research Symposium held in October 2018 at the Hotel Jen, Pasay City. With the theme “Communicating Basic Research Results to the People: The Value of Philippine Flora and Fauna,” the symposium had six presentations of completed projects.

Also part of the research group were UST Faculty of Pharmacy faculty member Prof. Jovencio G. Apostol, Ph.D., and Regina Belen Callanta, a biological sciences student at the UST Graduate School. NRCP provided a grant of 1.3 million Philippine pesos for the completion of the research project.

In the same symposium, “The Phylogeny of *Argostemma* species (*Rubiaceae*)” was presented by UST Office for Graduate Research Director Prof. Grecebio Jonathan B. Alejandro, Dr.rer.nat. He examined the genetic make-up of the Philippine endemic coffee shrubs.

ACCOUNTANCY REGULATORY BOARD FROM PAGE 3

and format of CPALE, things to remember during the CPALE, and best practices of top performing accounting schools.

During the dialogue proper, which lasted for 90 minutes, the PRBOA was very generous in answering the queries of the participants and promised to consider the latter’s recommendations and requests. The question-and-answer revolved around CPALE, continuing professional development, accreditation of accounting teachers, curriculum matters and CHED memorandum orders, and the PRBOA strategic direction.



(From left:) UST-AMV COA Dean Prof. Patricia Empleo, Ph.D., PRBOA Members Hon. Gervacio I. Piator, Hon. Marko Romeo L. Fuentes, Hon. Sam B. Padilla, Hon. Thelma S. Ciudadano, PRBOA Chair Noe G. Quiñanola, and COA Secretary Mr. Francisco Calivan, Jr.

LECTURES & CONFERENCES

Communication faculty, students attend d’CATCH at Nanjing, China



Teachers (Front row, from left:) Tianmu Guo, Ying Wang, Qi Cao, Gengxing Wang (Communication University of China, Nanjing) Thitinan Boonpap Common (Chulalongkorn University, Thailand), Seongsoo Baeg (Kanda University of International Studies, Japan), Faye Martel-Abugan and Jose Arsenio Salandanan (UST), Puckpilai Khuptawathin, Nanutthun Wongbandue & Metha Serenethawong (Chulalongkorn University, Thailand)

Fifteen students of the Faculty of Arts and Letters under the Communication program together with two faculty members attended the annual d’CATCH or “decentralized Asian Transnational Challenges,” an academic gathering of communication students that advances practical international research and video-co-production project among university students from Thailand, China, Indonesia, Japan and the Philippines at the Communication University of China. Located in the beautiful and tranquil University Town in Nanjing, the capital of Jiangsu in East China, the postcard-pretty university, with its garden-like campus, was home to the 62 workshop- participants for six days.

UST Department of Communication and Media Studies Chair Asst. Prof. Jose Arsenio J. Salandanan, and UST Communications Bureau Assistant Director for Broadcast Asst. Prof. Faye M. Abugan, led the UST group composed of Erin Gillian Alvarez, Eunice Jeremie Batanes, Stephanie Laine Bendero, Kathrese Caguite, Maria Jezzamine Eizaguire, Migern Cole Estabillo, Ma. Patricia Victoria Lacuesta, Khrys Magno, Justine Angeli Mercado, Larissa Rose Olimpo, Carmela Ariadna Papio, Elijah Miguel Punzalan, Jhudiel Clare Sosa, Clarissa Sulit and Aina Eunice Viray.

Now on its 16th year, d’CATCH could not have chosen a more appropriate theme than “Endless” as the conference underscored the infinite opportunities for academic collaboration and broadened media literacies and cross-cultural understanding among students in the Asian region.

Participants from Team UST were divided into groups and required to produce a short video on the five sub-themes dovetailing with the general theme “Endless,” which they presented at the start of the 6-day video-workshop.

COMMUNICATION FACULTY, STUDENTS ATTEND D’CATCH TO PAGE 7

CTHM prepares for Tourism 4.0 with lecturers from Australia, Malaysia, Macau



The speakers (back row, from left:) Mr. Alan Williams, Prof. Glenn McCartney, Ph.D., Prof. Perry Hobson, Ph.D., and Dr. Andy Nazarechuk with (front row, from left:) UST Travel Management Department Chair Ms. Jane Devanadera, Hotel and Restaurant Management Department Chair Assoc. Prof. Evangeline E. Timbang, College of Tourism and Hospitality Management Assistant Dean Assoc. Prof. Amy Mia R. Turaray, and CTHM Dean Maria Cecilia A. Tio Cuison.

To keep abreast of the changes in the field of tourism, the UST College of Tourism and Hospitality Management conducted four lectures that were held simultaneously at the Albertus Magnus Building on February 22, 2019. Organized for its “Gurus of the Day” Program where the College invites distinguished global academics every term as ‘teachers of the day,’ CTHM invited for the second term experts from Taylor’s University, Malaysia, Sunway University, Malaysia, Australian School of Management, Western Australia, and University of Macau.

The lecturers were: former Taylor’s University Senior VP for International Relations Dr. Andy Nazarechuk, who discussed “Smart Employability Skills for the Future;” Australia School of Management experienced higher education practitioner Mr. Alan Williams, who talked about the topic, “Work Smarter-Not Harder;” Sunway University Pro-Vice Chancellor for Global Engagement Prof. Perry Hobson, Ph.D., who shared his insights on the topic: “Get Smart: How Ready are We for Tourism 4.0;” and University of Macau Faculty of Business Administration Associate Dean Prof. Glenn McCartney, Ph.D., who discussed the topic “Getting Smart with Tourism City Marketing.”

The lectures were participated in by students from the Tourism Management and Hospitality Management programs. According to CTHM Assistant Dean Assoc. Prof. Amy Mia R. Turaray, the college is able to invite international speakers through the professional organizations of which CTHM is a member, and through their linkages. The “Gurus of the Day” program is part of the internationalization efforts of the College.

Economics students present papers at conferences in Japan, Indonesia

Society of Business and Economic Researchers in Tokyo, Japan

Three students from the University of Santo Tomas Faculty of Arts and Letters presented a paper at the Society of Business and Economic Researchers conference held in Tokyo, Japan from January 10 to 11, 2019. Fourth year students Micholo Andrei Gabriel I. Cucio, Jaycar P. Espinosa, and Ean Dominique R. de Castro from the Department of Economics, the only undergraduate representatives at the said event, presented a paper titled “The Determinants of Public Health in the Philippines.”

The Society of Business and Economic Researchers conference aimed to bring together researchers from various disciplines in order to foster knowledge production and research. Moreover, the event was a medium for participants of diverse backgrounds and disciplines to come together and share, discuss, and potentially find solutions to current global economic issues.



(From left:) Micholo Andrei Gabriel I. Cucio, Jaycar P. Espinosa, and Ean Dominique R. de Castro and their research paper in Japan

ECONOMICS STUDENTS PRESENT PAPER TO PAGE 7

ECONOMICS STUDENTS PRESENT PAPER FROM PAGE 6

Keynote speaker was Dr. Bruno S. Sergi, a professor at University of Messina, Center Associate at Davis Center for Russian and Eurasian Studies of Harvard University, and affiliated faculty of Harvard Institute for Quantitative Social Science. In his keynote speech, Sergi talked about the importance of research for strategic goals of companies.

16th Economix Global Challenges in Indonesia

Ean Dominique R. De Castro and Micholo Andrei Gabriel I. Cucio were also participants in the 16th Economix Global Challenge, an international seminar and competition hosted by the Universitas Indonesia, Faculty of Business and Economics held recently at the Universitas Indonesia in Depok, Jakarta. The event brought together students from different countries to participate in its paper presentation and economic model united nations centering on the theme “The Future of Work: A Looming Phenomenon.”

De Castro and Cucio who represented the University of Santo Tomas, presented their paper titled “The Fourth Industrial Revolution: An Economic Analysis on Employment, Inequality, and Growth in the Philippines.” The paper explained from the Philippine perspective, the opportunities, challenges, and how both the public and private sector can adapt in the changes that are happening due to the 4th industrial revolution.

The 16th Economix Global Challenges is a medium for participants of diverse backgrounds and disciplines to come together and share, discuss, and potentially find solutions to current global economic issues. Speakers were from institutions such as the Indonesian Ministry of Manpower, Toyota-Indonesia, and the World Bank. Mr. Norman Loayza, Lead Economist for the World Bank spoke about the opportunities, challenges, and how countries can adapt to Artificial Intelligence (AI) and the 4th Industrial Revolution by utilizing Human Capital Development.

Made Dana M. Tangkas, from Toyota-Indonesia, explained how Indonesia’s manufacturing industry adapted to the developing times by investing in technology to maintain its lead as a leading manufacturing hub in the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) region. The delegates were also given a cultural tour around the cities of old Jakarta.

COMMUNICATION FACULTY, STUDENTS ATTEND D’CATCH FROM PAGE 5



Assistant Professors Faye M. Abugan and Jose Arsenio J. Salandanan (seated, center) with Communication students from the Faculty of Arts and Letters

Imagination (A Child’s Mind) showed how a theater playwright continues to use her imagination in writing stories that would appeal to children. Health (Work in Progress) chronicled how a young man successfully got back in shape and continues to keep fit after many years of living an unhealthy lifestyle. Learning (Mother of all Professions) tackled the struggles of a teacher in coping with the demands of the teaching profession in the current time. Hope (Forward) projected the youth as the hope of our nation. Love (Always and Theater) highlighted how love for the craft, driven by passion makes theater enthusiasts endure their careers.

The second day of the six-day workshop was designated as the pre-production stage day. The participants from the different countries were grouped based on their respective sub-themes and brainstormed on how to integrate the different interpretations in a single video presentation. The next two days were allotted to shooting, which gave the students an opportunity not only to tour the city but experience Chinese culture. The post production phase on the fifth day gave the participants an opportunity to share and learn different video editing techniques.

Capping the six-day workshop is the video presentation of the integrated outputs where each team was given a chance to present and explain their concepts to a select panel composed of Communication

faculty members and practitioners from the different participating universities. Highlighting the closing ceremony was the announcement that the University of Santo Tomas will host the 17th edition of d’CATCH with the theme “trans” to be held from February 3 to 8, 2020.

UST hosted the event in 2005, 2008, 2011 and 2015, and next year marks a shift in the practice of d’CATCH as the organizers decided to modify how the project will be undertaken. Although not a word but a prefix, next year’s theme “TRANS” sums up the goal of d’CATCH to move across and beyond borders. Each country will contribute a subtopic, which the students from the different universities will collectively work on. In an effort towards an actual video co-production, next year’s participants will jointly produce videos by doing pre-production online instead of the usual practice of having the national teams produce their respective videos. Local productions, as well as post-production, will be done in Manila during the event. The Department of Communication and Media Studies, in cooperation with the Communications Bureau of the University of Santo Tomas, will organize next year’s workshop.

A farewell party hosted at Hotel Unic by Prof. Wang Gengxin, assistant dean of the Communication University of China Nanjing, served as a fitting finale to the six-day video-workshop.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

UST SIMBAHAYAN, UST RCSSED hold annual Bartolome de las Casas research conference



The UST SIMBAHAYAN Community Development Office Director Assoc. Prof. Mark Anthony Abenir, DSD, (standing, fourth from left) Assistant Director Asst. Prof. Froilan Alipao, (standing, fifth from left) and Asst. Prof. Melanie Turingan, Ph.D. (standing, sixth from left) and the community development coordinators of the different faculties and colleges of the University.



The Vice Rector for Research and Innovation Prof. Maribel Nonato, Ph.D., delivers the opening remarks

A day-long research conference was held on February 22, 2019 to mark the annual Bartolome de las Casas Research Conference 2019 held at the Central Laboratory Auditorium B. Spearheaded by the UST SIMBAHAYAN Community Development Office (UST SIMBAHAYAN) in collaboration with the UST Research Center for Social Sciences and Education (UST RCSSED), the theme for this year's conference was "Community Engagement and Service Learning: Towards Strong Institutionalization and Community Empowerment."

The opening remarks, delivered by Vice Rector for Research and Innovation Prof. Maribel Nonato, Ph.D., was followed by the Panel Session 1: Institutionalization of Community Engagement/Service-Learning which was moderated by Assoc. Prof. Marielyn Quintana. Research presenters were SIMBAHAYAN Director Assoc. Prof. Mark Anthony Abenir, DSD, SIMBAHAYAN Assistant Director Asst. Prof. Froilan Alipao, and Asst. Prof. Melanie Turingan, Ph.D. – all are part of the UST Community Engaged Studies Research Interest Group (RIG), together with Asst. Prof. Philip Arnold Tuaño of Ateneo de Manila University (ADMU). For Panel Session 2: Community Engagement/Service-Learning and Student Formation, the presentors included: Asst. Prof. Leland Joseph dela Cruz from ADMU, Dr. Marian Emae Grace Alvarez from the UST Faculty of Medicine and Surgery, and Assoc. Prof. Jose Ricarte Origenes from the UST SIMBAHAYAN-National Service Training Program (NSTP).

The moderator for the afternoon session, Dr. Abenir, focused on Community Engagement/Service-Learning Intervention and Impact. Ms. Enha Erika Brondo, ADMU-NSTP Formator and Mr. George Omer Quitarano, faculty member of ADMU showcased their studies together with Engr. Alexie Ballon from the Institute of Information and Computing Sciences; Mitzico Bibal, graduating student of Faculty of Engineering; Jelynna Alano, and Jowillyn Capacite, students from College of Rehabilitation Sciences. The last session which awakened the interest of students on Community Engagement/Service Learning and Disaster Resilience was facilitated by Asst. Prof. Alipao. Assoc. Prof. Quintana from Faculty of Arts and Letters, Mr. Adrian Romero of UST NSTP, Ms. Imelda Oponda of Kasiglahan Village, Asst. Prof. Alain Jomari Santos of UST Graduate School, Marie Jane Turla, and Britany Alaine Lopez from College of Nursing students were the last presenters.

Abenir concluded the conference by not just mentioning the importance of research that is for the people and by the people, but also by emphasizing that the Bartolome de las Casas Research Conference serves as an avenue for the conference participants to listen and understand the research studies and interventions of different colleges guided by the discipline of community development. He also invited everyone to submit their research papers for the upcoming *Kamanlalakbay* portion of its program, which is a presentation of studies regarding partner communities of the University.

ARTS&CULTURE

Fil-Am Scholar John Blanco lectures on 'Missionary Chronicles' at CCWLS forum

The UST Center for Creative Writing and Literary Studies (UST CCWLS) held one of its regular programs, the UST International Writers and Scholars Series, on February 15, 2019, Friday, at the Tanghalang Teresita Quirino, Benavides Bldg. The lecture titled "Missionary Chronicles as Colonial History" featured Prof. John D. Blanco of the University of California San Diego with UST Visiting Prof. Jorge Mojarro Romero serving as reactor. UST CCWLS Director Prof. Emeritus Cristina Pantoja Hidalgo delivered the opening remarks, while Assistant Director Assoc. Prof. Ralph Semino Galán delivered the closing remarks.

The contexts that inspire Blanco's investigation range from the Spanish empire in the Americas and the Philippines, to the spread of Christianity in the modern period, to the philosophy of modernity and Eurocentrism, comparative forms of imperialism and anti-colonial struggles, and the legal, religious, and racial dilemmas and contradictions of post-colonial societies and states

in and through the study of Philippine, Latin American, Caribbean, and US minority literatures and cultures (religious, political, and artistic).

Blanco received his B.A. (with honors) from Arts and Ideas in the Residential College at University of Michigan, Ann Arbor; and his M.A. and Ph.D. from the Department of Comparative Literature at UC Berkeley, California. His research interests concern the colonial roots of globalization between the 16th-19th centuries. He is the author of *Frontier Constitutions: Christianity and Colonial Empire in the Nineteenth Century Philippines* (UC Press 2009; UP Press 2010); and the translator of Julio Ramos's *Divergent Modernities in Latin America: Culture and Politics in the Nineteenth Century*.

The UST CCWLS International Writers and Scholars Series consists of formal lectures and informal conversations by international writers as guests of the UST CCWLS. Previous speakers include Peruvian-Spanish Nobel Prize winner for Literature Mario Vargas Llosa, Filipino-Americans Ninotchka Rosca, Cecilia Manguerra Brainard, Sabina Murray, Gina Apostol, M. Evelina Galang, R. Zamora Linmark, Marivi Soliven, Lara Stapleton, Fidelito Cortes, Nerissa Balce, Amalia Bueno and Wilfredo Pascual, Filipino-Australian Robert Nery, Filipino-Canadian Miguel Syjuco, and foreign nationals, Tim Tomlinson, Dennis Haskell, Qaisra Sharaz, Yukari Yoshihara and Xu Xi.



Prof. John D. Blanco delivers his lecture.



Prof. Jorge Mojarro Romero, Ph.D. (left) engages Prof. Blanco in conversation



Prof. Blanco (sixth from left) and Prof. Jorge Mojarro Romero, Ph.D. (fourth from left) with UST CCWLS Director Prof. Emeritus Cristina Pantoja Hidalgo, Ph.D., Assistant Director Assoc. Prof. Ralph Galán, and Resident Fellows.

Cecilia Manguerra Brainard thrills UST audience at CCWLS lecture

The UST Center for Creative Writing and Literary Studies (UST CCWLS) in cooperation with the UST Publishing House, successfully hosted an informal lecture titled “Storytelling and Sketching: A Talk on the Creative Arts” featuring Filipino-American writer Cecilia Manguerra Brainard on February 22, 2019, 3:00-5:00 PM, at the Tanghalang Teresita Quirino, Benavides Bldg., University of Santo Tomas.

Starting her lecture with how she became a creative writer at a very early age, Brainard also shared how she shifted focus on her latest artistic interest which is sketching, a talent she discovered almost by accident after reading a how-to-do sketching manual she bought in an arts supply store. Always charming, Brainard during the open forum moderated by Ma. Ailil B. Alvarez, drew into the lively conversation with the UST Secretary General Rev. Fr. Jesús M. Miranda, Jr. O.P., UST CCWLS Director Cristina Pantoja Hidalgo and Assistant Director Ralph Semino Galán, as well as a good number of Creative Writing, Literature and Journalism majors.

Brainard is the award-winning author of nine books, including the internationally-acclaimed novel, *When the Rainbow Goddess Wept*, *Magdalena*, *Vigan and Other Stories*, *Acapulco at Sunset and Other Stories*, *Philippine Woman in America*, *Woman with Horns and Other Stories*, *Cecilia's Diary 1962-1968*, *Fundamentals of Creative Writing*, and *Out of Cebu: Essays and Personal Prose*. Her first novel will be reissued by the UST Publishing House later this year.

The awards Brainard has received include a California Arts Council Fellowship in Fiction, a Brody Arts Fund Award, a Special Recognition Award for her work dealing with Asian American youths, as well as a Certificate of Recognition from the California State Senate, 21st District. She has also been awarded by the Filipino and Filipino American communities she has served. She received the prestigious *Filipinas Magazine Arts Award*, and the *Outstanding Individual Award* from her birth city, Cebu, Philippines. She has received several travel grants in the Philippines, from the USIS (United States Information Service).

A sought-after speaker, Brainard has lectured and performed extensively worldwide in universities and literary arts organizations, including University of California in Los Angeles, University of Southern California, University of Connecticut, University of the Philippines, PEN International, Beyond Baroque, Shakespeare & Company in Paris, and many others. She teaches creative writing at the Writers Program of UCLA-Extension.

She is married to Lauren R. Brainard, a former Peace Corp Volunteer to Leyte, Philippines; they have three sons.



Brainard (left) with UST Publishing House Director Ma. Ailil B. Alvarez



Brainard (sixth from left) with UST Secretary-General Rev. Fr. Jesús M. Miranda, Jr., O.P., (fifth from left) UST CCWLS Director Prof. Emeritus Cristina Pantoja Hidalgo, Ph.D. (fourth from left), UST Publishing House Director Ma. Ailil Alvarez (seventh from left), Executive Secretary to the Rector Prof. Augusto Antonio A. Aguila, Ph.D., (leftmost), CCWLS Assistant Director Assoc. Prof. Ralph Galán (twelfth from left), the UST CCWLS Resident Fellows and AB Faculty Members

UNIVERSITY VISITORS

Samroiodyod Wittayakhom School, Thailand



Twelve Grade 7 and 8 students and three teachers from the Samroiodyod Wittayakhom School, Thailand, were at the University of Santo Tomas on March 7, 2019, during an exchange visit that is part of their 9th Thailand – Philippines Tour 2019. The delegation, led by Program Head Ms. Sangwan Janlamoon (front row, sixth from left), are with UST Office of Public Affairs Director Assoc. Prof. Giovanna V. Fontanilla, Ph.D., (front row, fifth from left), Office Assistant for Media, Events and Special Visits Ms. Michaela Lagniton (front row, ninth from left), and student ambassadors Ferrena Enriquez (rightmost) and Dezylee Marquez (leftmost).



The Thai delegation had an interaction with the faculty members and students of the UST Faculty of Arts and Letters, headed by Dean Prof. Michael Anthony C. Vasco, Ph.D., (seated, center). With them are Arts and Letters International Relations Coordinator Prof. Arlen A. Ancheta, Ph.D., (seated, rightmost) and the class of 2JRN2, whose Philippine History class taught by Asst. Prof. Anita Garcia (seated, leftmost) they joined.

BOARD TOPNOTCHERS



Physician Licensure Examination

March 2019

UST Passing Rate (First-time Examinees): 100.00%
 UST Passing Rate (Overall Performance): 100.00%
 National Passing Rate: 76.71%



1st – 89.83%
 Jan Bendric C. Borbe



Pharmacist Licensure Examination

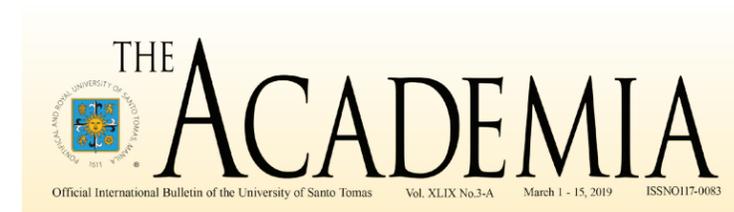
March 2019

UST Passing Rate (First-time Examinees): 80.00%
 UST Passing Rate (Overall Performance): 72.41%
 National Passing Rate: 64.94%



8th – 91.20%
 Alexandra Kay T. Co

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