



# THE ACADEMIA

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Manila City Mayor Hon. Francisco "Isko Moreno" Domagoso (right) signs the University guest book, with UST Secretary-General Rev. Fr. Jesús M. Miranda, Jr., O.P.

CHED-NCR Education Supervisor Victor Castelo (second from left) inspects medical learning aids.

## CHED, DOH, IATF-EID, Manila LGU inspect UST; discussions on limited in-person classes for medical students held

**M**anila City Mayor Francisco "Isko Moreno" Domagoso, accompanied by Vice Mayor and UST alumna Honey Lacuña, and representatives from the Commission on Higher Education (CHED), the Department of Health (DOH) and Inter-Agency Task Force on Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF-EID), visited UST on February 26, 2021, to look at the retrofitted classrooms, and for a discussion on how in-person classes would be conducted.

Amid stringent safety and disinfection protocols to combat the ongoing pandemic, UST intended to start in-person instruction for its medical and

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

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LIMITED IN-PERSON CLASSES FROM PAGE 1



UST-FMS Dean Dr. Maglinao explains to the media the UST health protocols to be implemented during the limited in-person activities.



The Vice-Rector for Academic Affairs Prof. Peralta, whose expertise is on public health, briefs the inspectors of what they will see during the inspection.



Dr. John Hubert Pua demonstrates the use of the anatomage-interactive cadaver.

health allied programs in March, but opted to temporarily postpone it due to another surge in Metro Manila. Of the 480 fourth-year Medicine students, 94 percent have chosen to learn on campus, said UST Vice-Rector for Academic Affairs Prof. Cheryl Peralta, DrPH.

“They really recognize that face-to-face encounters with patients are very important in this profession,” said Peralta, who has a doctorate in Public Health, major in Epidemiology.

To comply with distancing protocols and other strict safety measures, less than 30 students will have activities per building. They will be spread out among the UST Hospital, St. Raymund de Peñafort

Building, the San Martin de Porres Building, among other areas. Students and teachers who have opted to join in-person classes have already begun the 14-day mandatory quarantine period by the time of the inspection.

“With courage and commitment, we are determined to make this return [to in-person learning activities] safe and successful by making sure we strike that cautious and deliberate balance between two gargantuan tasks: safety for all and quality medical education,” said UST Faculty of Medicine and Surgery Dean Dr. Ma. Lourdes D. Maglinao.

An initial nod by the Manila City Government was given last February 3

after UST officials met with the Mayor at the Manila City Hall. During the visit on February 26, the Mayor reaffirmed his approval, saying “I trust UST. I hope you will not fail me because you are the first in the country to apply, the first to be given the approval of the local government [to hold limited in-person classes].”

“This is now our window of opportunity to show the excellence of UST’s Faculty of Medicine [and Surgery],” the Mayor added.

CHED-NCR Education Supervisor Victor Castelo said that UST is ready, and that “Based on the documents submitted to the Commission on Higher Education, *silá po naman po ay* compliant, *so ang ginagawa po namin ay* validation, evaluation.”

Though UST-FMS was deemed ready in late February, it indefinitely suspended internships and clerkship rotations following a surge in COVID-19 cases in early March. Clerkships were originally scheduled to resume on March 8, 2021.

The UST Faculty of Medicine and Surgery is the oldest medical school in the country. It is known for producing topnotchers in the physician licensure exams. By the time it celebrates its 150th foundation anniversary on May 28, 2021, it will have produced over 40,000 medical doctors.

## Health Secretary Duque visits UST Hospital’s ceremonial vaccination against COVID-19

Department of Health Secretary Dr. Francisco T. Duque, III, visited the University of Santo Tomas Hospital (USTH) to inspect its vaccination rollout on March 11, 2020. Duque, a graduate of the UST Faculty of Medicine and Surgery, also led the ceremonial vaccination where the Prior Provincial of the Dominican Province of the Philippines and Chairman of the UST Board of Trustees, Very Rev. Fr. Filemon I. Dela Cruz, Jr., O.P., received the COVID-19 jab.

The inoculation against COVID-19 for UST Hospital’s over 1,500 personnel began during its 75th Anniversary held on March 7, 2021. As of publication date, all workers who registered for COVID-19 vaccination were able to get their first dose according to UST COVID-19 Vaccine Logistics Task Force Head Dr. John Hubert Pua. The second dose of Sinovac would be given after four weeks, while AstraZeneca’s second dose is after eight to ten weeks.

On USTH’s diamond jubilee, the top administrators, namely the Chief Executive Officer Rev. Fr. Julius Paul C. Factora, O.P., Medical Director Dr. Charito Malong-Consolacion, and Director for Administration Analin Empaynado-Porto, Ph.D., were among those who participated in the ceremonial vaccination.



Very Rev. Fr. Filemon I. Dela Cruz, Jr., O.P., (seated) is vaccinated by Sec. Duque (rightmost). With them are USTH Chief Executive Officer Rev. Fr. Factora (in black) and Medical Director Dr. Consolacion (leftmost)

## Thomasian Nursing student named ‘Education Hero’ by Youth Service America



Mariano (top row, rightmost) with children in the Streets to School program [Photo courtesy of Youth Service America Facebook page]

UST College of Nursing student Qjiel Giuliano Mikhl Z. Mariano was named “Education Hero” by Youth Service America (YSA) on February 12, 2021 as part of its Everyday Young Hero (EYH) program.

Each week, YSA’s EYH focuses on young people, ages 5 to 25, who are improving their communities through service to others and making significant progress in achieving the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Mariano a second year student, was chosen for founding the Ladders to Literacy initiative to help less fortunate Filipino children learn how to read and write.

In an assessment facilitated by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development to 15-year-olds in 2018, the Philippines ranked last in reading comprehension, with similarly low scores in sciences and math. Having read studies that suggested that both Filipino adults and children enjoyed storybooks, Mariano and his team initiated Ladders to Literacy.

EDUCATION HERO TO PAGE 4

# Thirty-eight obtain degree in Sacred Theology from UST Faculty of Sacred Theology-Catholic University of Korea aggregation



Fr. Paul Yeongjoon Jeon, S.Th.D., (leftmost) with graduates and faculty members

‘Aggregation’ gives an Institute the authority to provide bachelor and licentiate degrees under an ecclesiastical Faculty.

This was the reason the College of Theology of the Catholic University of Korea was able to award the canonical degree of Bachelor in Sacred Theology from the UST Faculty of Sacred Theology for the first time.

This became possible because of its aggregation to the UST Ecclesiastical Faculty, which was approved by the Congregation for Catholic Education on September 3, 2019. It resulted in the graduation of 38 graduates on February 25, 2021.

Sr. Kyoungah Lee topped the batch, graduating *Summa cum Laude*, garnered an average of 95.6. Her thesis was “A Christological Study on the Concept of Persona in Christianity–Focused on Joseph Ratzinger’s Theology of Relation.”

Due to the ongoing pandemic, simple ceremonies were held where Fr. Paul Yeongjoon Jeon, S.Th.D., Director of the College, handed the diplomas to the graduates.

In his message for the said occasion, the Dean of Sacred Theology, Rev. Fr. Rodel E. Aligan, O.P., S.Th.D., recalled how the event coincides with the 200th anniversary

of the birth of St. Andrew Kim Taegon, the first native Catholic priest of Korea who was martyred in the 19th century. As a young seminarian, the saint sought refuge in the Philippines, where he continued his studies in a Dominican convent in Bulacan.

“How appropriate then to celebrate this momentous occasion in our collaboration as we commemorate that original link between priestly formation in Korea and



Rev. Fr. Rodel E. Aligan, O.P.

the Dominicans in the Philippines through the Faculty of Sacred Theology of the University of Santo Tomas,” the Dean said.

Fr. Aligan also congratulated and encouraged the graduates, saying, “These may be the worst of times and yet also the best of times for you students. There will never be a time like this. As we honor and praise our own frontliners in this fight against COVID 19, you, too, will become frontliners for education as you minister to the Korean faithful. Let this defining moment be your shining moments to let the light of Christ continue to shine in Korea and in Asia as well.”

### EDUCATION HERO FROM PAGE 3

The project’s goals are to help the youth identify the needs of their communities and create a book that advocates for the fulfillment of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

According to the YSA website, not only has the program helped increase youth literacy rates, but it has also provided the youth with the invaluable opportunity to advocate for the implementation of the SDGs in their own way.

Ladders to Literacy is implemented through “a multi-sectoral approach as volunteers, parents, children, NGOs, and

more collectively co-learn to solve existing problems at the local, regional, and national levels.”

As notable as the Ladders to Literacy program is, it is not Mariano’s first foray into community development. In 2016, at only 15 years old, Mariano founded Streets to Schools, a youth-run organization that empowers impoverished Out-of-School Children and Youth with opportunities to go to school, to work toward achieving the United Nation’s Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Currently, the 19-year-old Mariano and his team are developing a children’s rights gaming app to help spread their group’s works in promoting literacy for children.

# Marketing Management students join SEOIL PH’s consumer market planning activities

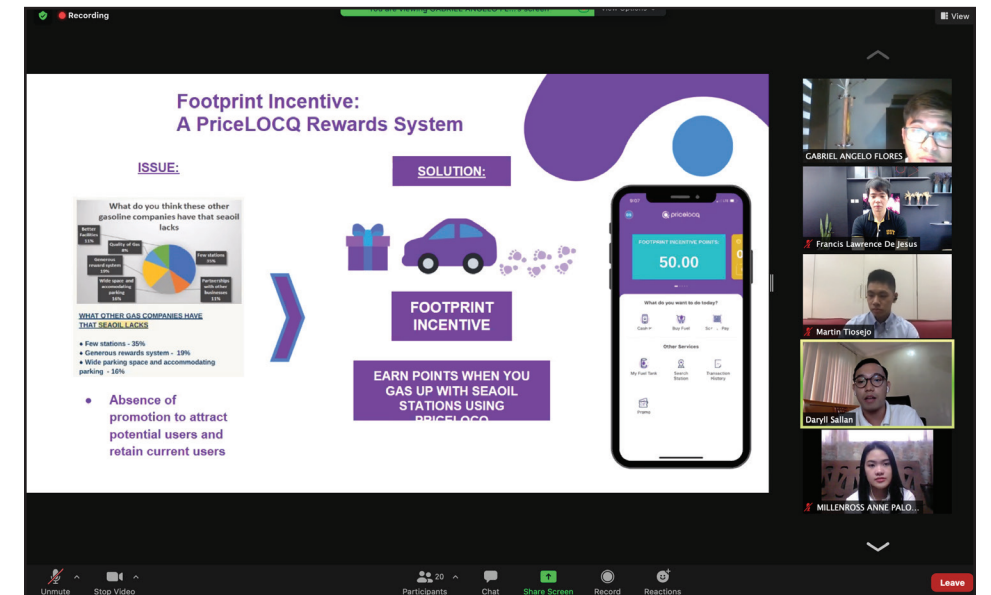
Ten students of the University of Santo Tomas (UST) College of Commerce and Business Administration under the Marketing Management Department were chosen to participate in a series of Consumer Market Planning activities organized by SEOIL Philippines’ Corporate Consumer Marketing Department. The program ran from November 2020 to March 2021.

In September 2020, the University of Santo Tomas and SEOIL Philippines, Inc., an independent fuel company, signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) to officially name the Marketing Management Department of the College of Commerce and Business Administration a Market Research Partner.

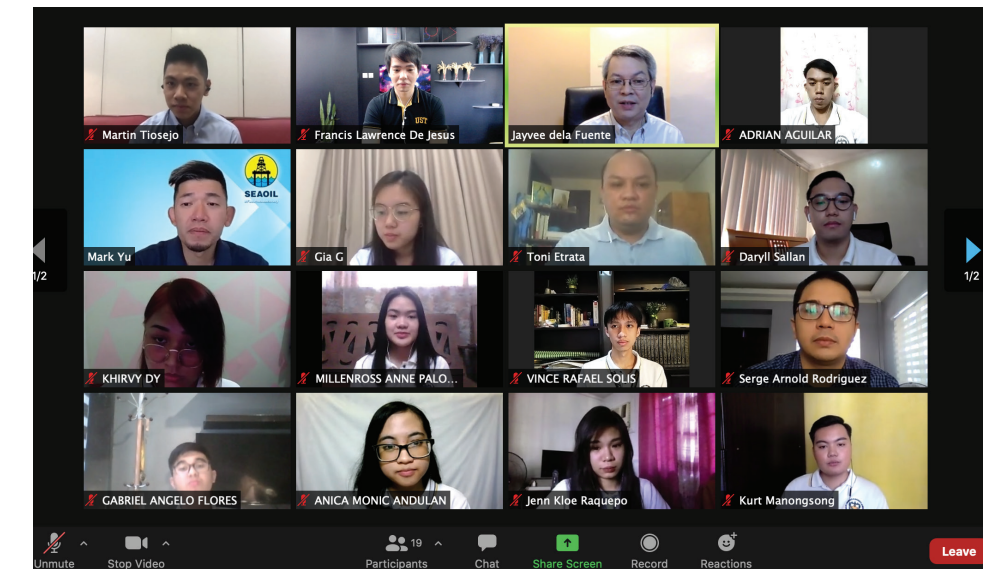
Students Anica Monic Andulan, Adrian Aguilar, Khirvy Dy, Gabriel Flores, Kurt Garcia, Kenneth Olivares, Millenross Palomo, Jenn Kloe Raquepo, Daryll Sallan, and Vince Solis joined the planning activities. They were under the supervision of Marketing Management Department Chair Mr. Francis Lawrence B. De Jesus, Ph.D., and Market Research Adviser Mr. Antonio E. Etrata, Jr., Ph.D.

As stated in the MOA, the students’ main research outputs are translated into actual strategic action plans for the partner company’s adaptation.

The final meeting was attended by the SEOIL Officials and members of the Corporate Consumer Marketing Team. Among them were Chief Financial Officer and President for Retail Business Mr. Mark Yu, Vice President Corporate and Consumer Marketing Mr. Jose Jaime Dela Fuente, Corporate Consumer Marketing Department Senior Manager Mr. Serge Rodriguez, Knowledge Base Supervisor Ms. Gia Guevarra, and Program Roll-Outs Supervisor Mr. Martin Tiosejo.



Flores (topmost window), Sallan (fourth from top), and Palomo (bottom window), accompanied by their department chair Dr. De Jesus (second from top) present their marketing plans to SEOIL Program Roll-Outs Supervisor Martin Tiosejo.



SEOIL Philippines VP for Corporate and Consumer Marketing Mr. Jayvee dela Fuente (top row, third from left) with UST faculty members Mr. Francis Lawrence B. De Jesus, Ph.D., (top row, second from left) and Mr. Antonio E. Etrata, Jr., Ph.D., (second row, third from left), program participants from the College of Commerce and Business Administration, and officials from SEOIL

## CFAD offers new courses on Exhibition Design, Curatorship

The UST College of Fine Arts and Design recently introduced new groundbreaking courses in line with the University's initiative towards 'sustainability,' a recurring global movement addressing health, biocapacity, the well-being of individuals, communities, and the environment.

Aimed to introduce to students the significance of Adaptive Reuse, 'Basic Adaptive Reuse of Interior Design' (ELE BARID) introduces to students the wide variety of avenues on the proper restoration and preservation of historic interior spaces. 'Basic Exhibition Design' (ELE BED) is also introduced to students interested in the foundational knowledge on Exhibition Design. Its syllabus is specifically designed to prepare students for a more focused study on the exhibition spaces' essence and significance.

Spearheaded by Thomasian curator and heritage advocate Dr. Mary Ann Venturina-Bulanadi, the two courses



interweave the passion for curatorship and uphold and safeguard the stories living within the heritage sites and spaces. In light of her lifelong research advocacy, she shared, "It is a sense of respect for an old or existing interior space (by giving it) a new purpose on account of the needs of the current times. It may also serve the same or additional purpose, but because the perspective is through present days' users, there may be adjustments."

Introduced to the College of Fine Arts and Design students for the first time, the two courses envision cultivating a deep interest in Exhibition Design and Curatorship, which are both needed to achieve the current global call for sustainability.

Venturina-Bulanadi is a faculty member at the UST College of Fine Arts and Design, and a faculty researcher at the UST Research Center for Culture, Arts, and Humanities. She started her research career in 2004 with the UST Center for Intercultural Heritage Studies while simultaneously appointed as the Beato Angelico Gallery's curator. Years later, she served as volunteer curator for the Bahay Napkil Bautista, a 108-year-old heritage house located in Quiapo, Manila which remains a pivotal Filipino cultural heritage in the 19th-century Philippine history. She is currently working on an NCCA-CHED Research Grant in cooperation with the Bahay Napkil Bautista Foundation.

## RESEARCH

### Newton-UST Research Team presents research output to Santa Rosa, Laguna LGU

The final report of the project titled "Eco-Social Surveying: Mapping the Social Assets, Urban Greenery, and the Connections Between Them in Rapidly Changing Cities" was presented on February 19, 2021 by the Newton - UST Research Team to its partner community, the City of Santa Rosa, Laguna. Ar. Assoc. Prof. Leah P. Dela Rosa led the team with Ar. Asst. Prof. Sylvia D. Clemente as Deputy Project Leader, both from the UST College of Architecture (USTCA) and UST Research Center for Culture, Arts and Humanities (RCCA).

NEWTON-UST RESEARCH TO PAGE 7



Hon. Mayor Arcillas (middle) receives the reports from the Newton UST Research team, namely, (from left:) Ms. Magdalene Guevarra, Assoc. Prof. Leah Dela Rosa, Asst. Prof. Sylvia D. Clemente, and Ar. Simoun T. Ong.

## Arriola of Graduate School delivers NRCP Awardees' iShare Lecture



Arriola (rightmost) receives her NRCP Achievement Award in the Humanities plaque at the PICC in March 2019.



The NRCP Achievement Awardees' Lecture Series (iShare) second webisode invitation [Photo courtesy of NRCP]

UST Graduate School literature and communication professor, Dr. Joyce L. Arriola, delivered a lecture titled "Finding my Voice as a Researching Self" as part of the second webisode of *iShare: Stories of Inspiration and Creative Research* by the National Research Council of the Philippines (NRCP). The webisode is a venue for streaming lectures by NRCP Achievement Awardees, particularly their journeys and inspirational messages.

Arriola's segment was shot at the UST campus and streamed via zoom on February 24, 2021, as part of the lecture programme. She was awarded the 2018 NRCP Achievement Award in the Humanities in March 2019.

In the particular webisode, Arriola traced her research journey as a scholar from her childhood in Bulakan, Bulacan, a town known as "a land of writers." The town's distinction as having produced

ARRIOLA TO PAGE 8

### NEWTON-UST RESEARCH FROM PAGE 6

Santa Rosa Mayor Arlene Arcillas, received the Newton-UST reports at the City Hall. Together they were joined by the other project team members Ar. Simoun T. Ong, Community Planning Expert, and Ms. Magdalene Guevarra, Community Engagement Facilitator.

The research project was in cooperation with the British research team led by Prof. Flora Samuels of the University of Reading (UoR) in the United Kingdom. The British Council funded the two-year research project

through the Commission on Higher Education (CHED).

This project was supported by an Institutional Links grant, ID 332241573, under the Newton Fund UK-Philippines partnership. The grant was funded by the UK Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, and the Commission for Higher Education (CHED) and delivered by the British Council. More information about the research project could be found at [www.newtonfund.ac.uk](http://www.newtonfund.ac.uk).

ARRIOLA FROM PAGE 7



Arriola at the UST grounds during the recording of her lecture

several Filipinos “who fought the revolution, joined the Propaganda Movement and did a lot of service to the nation” somehow impressed on her young mind the value of pursuing work as a call to service. She knew she must spend many years reading the best that has been written to be an excellent communicator in the future. Thus, she took literature as her major.

After college, as she took her first graduate course at the University of the Philippines, she learned about social science research and the need for social responsibility. Eventually finding a job as Information Officer at the Bureau of Broadcast Services, a line agency of the Office of the Press Secretary, she received proper training in applied communication and media research.

It was in 1993 when Arriola decided to teach and that it “plunged her deep into academic research,” which began an illustrious career that would span decades and would produce an extensive publication history ranging from research on the institutional history, organization and

academic programs of UST, to literary and cultural studies, and to communication and media studies.

Arriola did not only publish actively, she also got herself involved with research networking activities by joining professional organizations; by lending her expertise as member of editorial boards of reputable research journals; by engaging in international collaborative publication projects; and, by contributing to research policy-making through her involvement with the NRCF, the CHED Technical Panel for Literature, and the NCCA National Committee for Literary Arts.

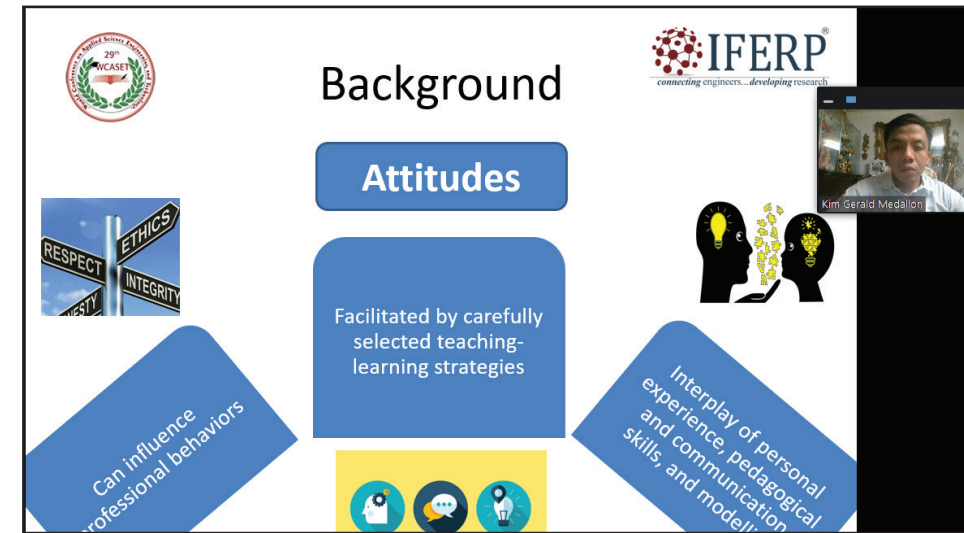
The UST Graduate School is pivotal to Arriola’s dynamic research career. In 2003, she obtained her Ph.D. Literature degree, *Summa cum Laude*. Her doctoral dissertation titled “Postmodern Filming of Literature: Sources, Contexts and Adaptations” was published in 2006 by the UST Publishing House. A year later, the publication won the National Book Award for Film/Film Criticism.

Arriola’s initiatives led to the

establishment of the MA Communication program in 2001, which was cited as one of the Top 200 Best Master Programs Worldwide by EDUNIVERSAL Masters Ranking for The Best Masters and MBA Worldwide in 2011. Under her leadership, the MA Literature program received its Level 4 PACUCOA accreditation, the Ph.D. Literature its Level 1 accreditation and the MA Communication its Preliminary Level 1 candidacy. A mentor to many master’s and doctoral students, Arriola claims that she is happy “to breath life” onto other people who would like to pursue the life of the mind.

The St. Antoninus of Florence Award, the UST Graduate School Outstanding Alumni Award, was conferred upon Arriola in 2014. When she won an NRCF Achievement Award in 2018, it also marked the first year the indexed publications became a more emphasized criterion for the NRCF award. Arriola’s award was proof that humanities researchers can penetrate the high stakes world dominated by metrics and scientific quantification.

## Medallion of CRS tackles OT interns’ attitude development in research presentation



Medallon’s presentation

UST College of Rehabilitation Sciences faculty member Asst. Prof. Kim Gerald G. Medallon presented his research work titled “Attitudes development of occupational therapy interns from a private school in three clinical settings.” He participated in the 33rd World Conference of Applied Science, Engineering, and Technology, held virtually through Zoom from February 26 to 27, 2021.

The study explored the Occupational Therapy (OT) interns’ professional behaviors in three different settings, namely, in a hospital, a stand-alone center, and a community-based center. Through interviews, observations, and record reviews, these behaviors were identified and the extent of their manifestation was

determined. Medallon also investigated factors that facilitated or mitigated professional behavior manifestation within these contexts and the knowledge, skills, and attitude of OT clinical teachers to attitudes development.

It was revealed that factors outside the clinical training, such as personal reflection, upbringing, and the sense of camaraderie among co-interns, are the ones that facilitate the manifestation of professional behavior.

As the current Internship Supervisor for the OT Department, Medallon wants “to urge the different [internship] settings to allot considerable learning opportunities for reflective practice because it would make you a conscientious professional in the future.”

Though the “shift towards telehealth as an occupational therapy service delivery [medium] is a blessing and a challenge as it enables our clients to still receive the same line of care despite restrictions,” Medallon acknowledges that “it poses a challenge for the interns and the clinical supervisors to continuously retool too. Maybe that is something that I would want to facilitate for both parties.”

An alumnus of the UST College of Rehabilitation Sciences, Medallon, whose line of practice is in pediatrics, has been a licensed occupational therapist for over 10 years. He has been teaching undergraduate courses at CRS since November 2010. Aside from teaching at CRS, Medallon currently offers occupational therapy services to clients in Tarlac City.

## LECTURES AND CONFERENCES

## UST, Embassy of Denmark bring urban design expert Jan Gehl through webinar on livable cities



Architect Jan Gehl, Hon. FAIA



Ambassador of Denmark to the Philippines Her Excellency Grete Sillasen

In the wake of Metro Manila's systemic transport and city planning concerns, internationally renowned Danish urban design expert and architect Jan Gehl discussed planning livable cities with UST Architecture students.

The Zoom webinar, held on February 24, 2021, was made possible through the collaboration of the Royal Danish Embassy in Manila, the University of Santo Tomas Office of Public Affairs, and the UST College of Architecture as part of a series of programs celebrating 75 years of diplomatic relations between Denmark and the Philippines.

Ambassador of Denmark to the Philippines Her Excellency Grete Sillasen, in her message, mentioned that she grew up in Copenhagen, a city that was designed through Gehl's methodology of 'Cities for People.'

"[Copenhagen] got better year by year, and we are all very proud that it is

considered one of the most livable cities in the world. For that, we can thank Jan Gehl," said Ambassador Sillasen, adding that "Cities for People' is not only about traffic, but I noticed that when we talk about livability, traffic is often an issue because it affects us as much as it does. Part of the livability of Copenhagen is that it's a city for bikers and pedestrians."

"I hope that you will walk in the footsteps of Jan Gehl. I dare you to be the ones to make Manila a city for the people," the Danish Ambassador challenged her online audience. This webinar with Gehl is part of a series of programs under the celebration of the 75 years of Diplomatic Relations between Denmark and the Philippines.

Jan Gehl, whom the Ambassador called the 'Grand Old Man of Urban Planning for People,' is an award-winning architect and expert on urban planning with over 50 years of experience. He is a recipient of the

Global Award for Sustainable Architecture in 2015, and the Sir Patrick Abercrombie Prize for exemplary contributions to Town Planning in 1993, among others.

Gehl centered his lecture, "Livable Cities of the 21st Century," on the people-oriented approach to city planning. By keeping the people's experience or 'the patterns of public life' in urban environments at the heart of urban design, Gehl envisions lively, safe, sustainable, and healthy cityscapes that are not so dependent on motor vehicles. In the course of his decades-long career, he has created such spaces in Copenhagen, Melbourne, New York, and other urban centers around the globe.

This idea was echoed by the UST College of Architecture Dean Ar. Rodolfo S. Ventura in his remarks. He reminded the

LIVEABLE CITIES TO PAGE 11

### LIVEABLE CITIES FROM PAGE 10

442 Architecture students and faculty members attending the webinar that "We are always challenged not just to create inspiring and functional works of art, but also to be mindful of the spaces we use and create."

In particular, Gehl emphasized that planning and building for urban centers needed three main points of consideration: the protection, comfort, and enjoyment of the people who will inhabit or pass through the space.

"First, we shape the cities, then they shape us," said Gehl, adding that "Architecture is the interplay between form and life. If life and form interact successfully, then that is good architecture."

The urban design expert recommended that they (architects) should study public life or inhabitants' behavior within and around the planned space to see their habits and needs instead of building a city space that merely looks good from above or as a 3D model.

Gehl further explained that architects should design for protection against traffic accidents, crime, and inconvenient sense experiences involving weather and pollution. One should also add a clean and unobstructed street layout, defined spots for staying, sufficient lighting and unhindered views, and open spaces for talkscapes

and group physical activities. The scale, ventilation and insulation as necessary, and positive sense-experiences and aesthetic qualities are also key points.

When these key factors successfully come together, the result is a livable, lively, healthy, and sustainable city that would also be "good to be old in", he said.

UST College of Architecture faculty members Ar. Ruth Marie I. Equipaje, Ar. Cesar Concio III, and former Dean Ar. Luis Ferrer served as the panel discussants.

The University of Santo Tomas, aside from being known for producing topnotchers in the national licensure examinations in Architecture, also has National Artists and renowned architects within its ranks of alumni, namely Leandro Locsin, Idefonso Santos, Jr., and Francisco Mañosa.

Aside from being the Founding Partner of Gehl Architects, Jan Gehl is Professor Emeritus of Urban Design at The Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts — School of Architecture. In the last 50 years, he has published several books, including, "Life Between Buildings", "Cities for People", "New City Spaces", "Public Spaces – Public Life", "New City Life" and most recently, "How to Study Public Life."



Ar. Jan Gehl (bottom right) with panel discussants, Ar. Ruth Marie I. Equipaje (top left), Ar. Cesar S. Concio III (top right), and Ar. Luis Ferrer.



Ar. Gehl highlights the need to make mobility options like walking and biking more accessible and safe for citizens of all socio-economic backgrounds.

LIVEABLE CITIES OF THE 21ST CENTURY

BY JAN GEHL  
HON. FAIA

## UST holds media training workshop with renowned journalist Armie Jarin-Bennett, award-winning writer Jowie De Los Reyes



Ms. Jarin-Bennett (left), program host and Office of Public Affairs Assistant Director Ms. Katherine Patrice Sibug, and Dr. De Los Reyes (center) during the question-and-answer portion

In certain instances, leaders of academic institutions take on the role of spokespersons and bring with them their expertise and their skills to respond to questions asked by the media. To assist its administrators and officials, the University of Santo Tomas, through the Office of Public Affairs, held a virtual media training workshop for them on February 19, 2021 through Zoom.

Sharing their expert insights were Emmy award-winning international journalist and the former president of CNN Philippines Ms. Armie Jarin-Bennett and prolific author, translator, and columnist Asst. Prof. Joselito De Los Reyes, Ph.D. Jarin-Bennett discussed “Thinking Like a Journalist”, while Delos Reyes talked about “Netika: Ang ating birtwal at kinakatawang

pag-iral sa avenida ng mga mainipin” (Net ethics: Our virtual and embodied existence on the road of the impatient).

UST Secretary-General Rev. Fr. Jesús M. Miranda, Jr., O.P., noted in his opening remarks that shifts in mindsets, policies, and processes have become inevitable due to the adjustments brought about by the pandemic.

Since everyone needed to be in sync to ensure the continuity of programs, new solutions were shared with stakeholders through systematic messaging and strategic communication, augmented by the lessons from the speakers.

In particular, trained spokespersons can effectively bridge the gap between the academe and the general public. As UST Office of Public Affairs Acting Director

Asst. Prof. Virginia A. Sembrano explained in her message, “Administrators have the responsibility of being trusted to represent the institution in various capacities as leaders and experts, but there are different nuances to communicating with the media that differ from the usual classroom interactions and conference presentations.”

De Los Reyes delivered the first talk. It focused on the dynamic world of new media, encompassing the gamut of digital, social, and online media. Despite its below-average connection speeds, the Philippines has been noted to have the most time spent on social media, especially Facebook, said De Los Reyes. He added

**MEDIA TRAINING WORKSHOP  
TO PAGE 13**

### MEDIA TRAINING WORKSHOP FROM PAGE 12

that the dopamine-inducing effects of notifications for the reward area of the brain help associate social media’s instant gratification with positive reinforcement.

De Los Reyes, who has authored two books on social media, encouraged the audience to be more critical of how their real and virtual existences are maintained through digital technology and social platforms, especially with how they should protect their credibility as persons in authority. Particularly, he recommended prudent and well-thought-out responses if there really is a need to engage, avoidance of disseminating disinformation by being cautious of sources, and being mindful of what should and should not be posted.

Jarin-Bennett’s talk put the participants in the journalist’s perspective, as she shared lessons on how to engage with traditional media. She highlighted how journalists prioritize and pursue stories, how institutions can plan responses to crises, and how spokespersons can prepare for interviews.

“I truly believe that it is through the work of the journalist that we can share information that people can trust. [With the surge in disinformation,] we are more empowered than ever to ensure that the information we share is accurate, fair, and balanced,” shared Jarin-Bennett.

In Ms. Armie Jarin-Bennett’s more than 25 years in journalism, she worked for 16 years in CNN’s Global Headquarters from 1997 to 2013 as an executive producer, won an Emmy Award for CNN’s coverage of the revolution in Egypt, and oversaw CNN’s content sales in the Asia-Pacific Region. During her term as President of CNN Philippines, UST partnered with CNN for the 2016 Vice Presidential and 2019 Senatorial Debates.

Joselito De Los Reyes, Ph.D., is a recipient of the NCCA Writer’s Prize for



Ms. Jarin-Bennett emphasizes the importance of knowing your purpose.



Dr. De Los Reyes points out the Philippines’ top spot in Facebook audience reach worldwide.

Fiction, the National Book Awards for the Essay, the National Book Awards for Nonfiction, and the *Makata ng Taon* from the *Komisyon sa Wikang Filipino*. He is also a regular popular culture and new media opinion contributor for multiple publications, a resident fellow of the UST Center for Creative Writing and Literary Studies and the coordinator of the UST BA Creative Writing program. Currently, he teaches writing, new media, and literature

courses at the UST Faculty of Arts and Letters, UST College of Education, and the UST Graduate School.

Organized by the UST Office of Public Affairs (OPA), in coordination with the UST Communications Bureau and UST Educational Technology Center, “How to Face the Media” was attended by almost 100 administrators and academic officials. It can be viewed through the OPA Facebook page.

## Kritike hosts online conference on place of university in culture, society

**THE 2ND KRITIKE CONFERENCE**  
6-27 FEBRUARY 2021

**From Wisdom's Special Workshop to Factories of Knowledge: The Place of University in Culture and Society**

**Dr. Bob Brecher**  
University of Brighton  
Lecture Title: "The Neoliberal Agenda for our Universities"  
Feb 6, 2021 6pm (Philippine time), 10am (London time)

**Dr. Paolo Bolaños**  
University of Santo Tomas  
Lecture Title: "Speed and its Impact on Learning: Preliminary Notes on a Dromology of Education"  
Feb 13, 2021 4pm

**Sensei Adorador**  
Carlos Hilado Memorial State College  
Lecture Title: "The Funnel System of Education: Why the University Loses Its Most Promising"  
Feb 20, 2021 6pm

**Dr. Gerardo Lanuza**  
University of the Philippines-Diliman  
Lecture Title: "Neo-Fascism as the Apparatus of Neoliberal Attack on Education: Towards a Pedagogy of Resistance"  
Feb 27, 2021 6pm

*The Lectures are open to the public. Pre-registration required. Zoom links will be sent to your registered email. Pre-registration Link: <http://bit.ly/2ndKritikeC>*

University of Santo Tomas | Faculty of Arts and Letters  
| The Graduate School | Department of Philosophy |  
Concilium Philosophiae

Event poster

The UST Department of Philosophy's official journal, *Kritike: An Online Journal of Philosophy* (<https://www.kritike.org/>), held the 2nd *Kritike* Conference with the theme, "From Wisdom's Special Workshop to Factories of Knowledge: The Place of University in Culture and Society," held on February 6, 13, 19, and 27, 2021, via Zoom.

The main theme of this one-month online conference revolved around the current crises of higher education. Four papers were presented each Saturday by keynote speakers Bob Brecher of the University of Brighton, United Kingdom; Paolo Bolaños of the University of Santo Tomas, Philippines; Sensei Adorador of the Carlos Hilado Memorial State College, Philippines; and Gerardo Lanuza of the University of the Philippines – Diliman.

The topics discussed were: "The Neoliberal Agenda for our Universities," by Bob Brecher, "Speed and its Impact on Learning: Preliminary Notes on a Dromology of Education" by Paolo Bolaños, "The Funnel System of Education: Why the University Loses its most promising" by Sensei Adorador, and, "Neo-Fascism as the Apparatus of Neoliberal Attack on Education: Toward a Pedagogy of Resistance" by Gerardo Lanuza.

In the first session held on February 6, Brecher explained the challenges engendered by the neoliberalist revolution to higher education in the United Kingdom. Through the UK-model, he explained how neoliberalism has wrecked the very possibility of knowledge in the university.

Meanwhile, the succeeding presenters provided more concrete explanations and prognoses of the effects of the neoliberal market economy on Philippine higher education. In Bolaños's lecture held on February 13, he explicated the implications of the supremacy of the Total Quality Management (TQM) approach through Quality Assurance (QA) in the university. Using Virilo's theorization of 'speed,' he critically opined that the obsession of universities with accelerated procedures, measurable outcomes, and "ranking badges," among others, has debased the very integrity of the university. As a recommendation, he proposed a kind of 'becoming-slow' in relation to educational management, faculty development, and student learning. In the third plenary,

Adorador elucidated on February 19 how the funnel system in education has aggravated the pre-existing predicaments in Philippine education. He narrated his experiences as a public school teacher in the province to further explore the nuanced effects of neoliberalism in Philippine higher education.

Lanuza, for his part, discussed on February 27 how the peculiar alliance of Duterte's neo-fascist rule and neoliberal ideology have created a repressive society in general and a debased higher educational system, in particular. In conclusion, he emphasized the significance of humanities education as a foundation for an anti-fascist pedagogy inside and outside the classroom.

The 2nd *Kritike* Conference was convened by members of the *Kritike* Editorial Board, and some members of the UST Philosophy Department. It was made possible by the gracious support of the Department of Philosophy and the UST Graduate School and some technical assistance from the *Concilium Philosophiae*.

## UST Grad School - Educ Cluster webinar presents emerging designs, uses of Qualitative Research

The UST Graduate School (UST-GS) Education Cluster conducted a webinar on the Designs and Uses of Qualitative Research held on February 27, 2021, through Zoom teleconferencing. The lecturer was Dr. Esther Priyadarshini from the School of Education and Lifelong Learning of the University of East Anglia, Norwich, United Kingdom.

Attended by over 100 students and professors from UST, the webinar aimed to introduce to its participants the current trends in qualitative research designs and how they are used in the field of education across the globe.

In her lecture, Dr. Priyadarshini strongly warned her audience on how researchers misuse qualitative research. She noted that interpreting qualitative research like quantitative research, poor analysis, and inconsistency with underpinning philosophical assumptions are errors researchers should watch out for. She then discussed the place of qualitative research in the continuum between science and social science in the lenses of ontology, epistemology, and methodology.

Priyadarshini also presented different qualitative research designs while sharing her own experiences in applying these designs herself and by her colleagues and students. She centered on mainstream qualitative research designs such as narrative research, qualitative case study, ethnography, grounded theory, phenomenology, and participatory action research. She also presented two new emerging designs: speculative design and affective/sensory design.

The lecture was followed by commentaries from the Panel of Reactors composed of Graduate School students Mr. Marwin Obmerga, Mr. Christopher Paulo Manlapaz, and UST Graduate School faculty member Prof. Aleli Sevilla, Ph.D. An open forum followed.

The program was facilitated by Master of Arts student Ms. Gerby Parra, and was organized by students and faculty members of the UST-GS Education Cluster spearheaded by Assoc. Prof. Rodrigo Litao, Ph.D., and Asst. Prof. Gina Lontoc, Ph.D.

UST GRADUATE SCHOOL  
EDUCATION CLUSTER INVITES YOU TO:

**DESIGNS & USES OF QUALITATIVE RESEARCH**

**DR. ESTHER PRIYADARSHINI**  
SCHOOL OF EDUCATION AND LIFELONG LEARNING  
UNIVERSITY OF EAST ANGLIA

Dr. Esther Priyadarshini's research is in the broad area of critical cultural studies in education, focussing particularly on youth/childhood, schooling, educational futures and gender. She is interested in how the field of education can support young people to imagine and build alternative futures, with a sense of agency. She works mostly with qualitative research designs, and uses ethnography, participatory research and discourse analysis in research.

**CLICK HERE TO PRE-REGISTER AND RECEIVE E-LINK!**

**27 FEBRUARY 2021**  
4:00-5:30 PM

**WEBINAR REACTORS**

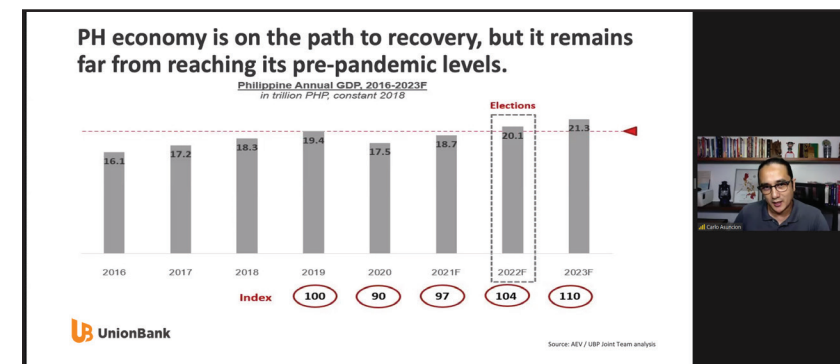
**MARWIN E. OBMERGA, MA, LPT, RN**  
CANDIDATE, PH.D. IN EDUCATIONAL MANAGEMENT AND LEADERSHIP

**PROF. ALELI SEVILLA, PH.D.**  
FACULTY, EDUCATION & SOCIAL SCIENCE CLUSTERS

**CHRISTOPHER PAULO T. MANLAPAZ**  
STUDENT, MA CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION

Event poster

## UST Economics webinar tackles mid-, post-pandemic PH economy with Lina, Asuncion, Manapat



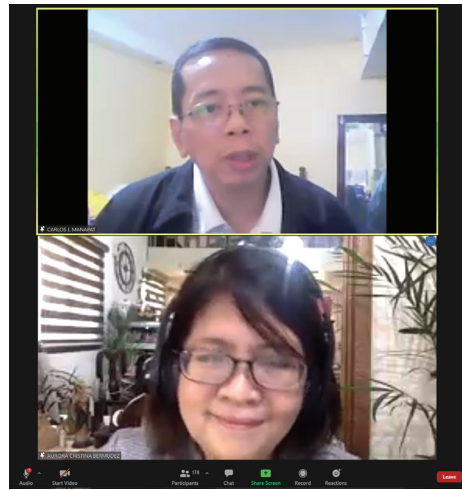
Asuncion's presentation

A year after the onset of the community quarantine necessitated by the pandemic, economic worries persist at a macro and micro level. To get expert insights on the Philippines' economic forecast, mid- and post-COVID, the Artlets Economic Society of the UST Faculty of Arts and Letters held a webinar titled "Economic Outlook 2021: The Cost of Our Choices" on March 1, 2021, through Zoom.

**MID-, POST-PANDEMIC PH ECONOMY TO PAGE 16**



## MID-, POST-PANDEMIC PH ECONOMY FROM PAGE 15



Manapat (top window) and the moderator Asst. Prof. Bermudez during the question-and-answer portion.

**OneLGC**  
LINA GROUP OF COMPANIES  
A LINA GROUP COMPANY

- **Pre-pandemic state of logistics in the Philippines**

**Highest logistics cost in Southeast Asia**

Philippines - 27%	Indonesia - 21.4%
Vietnam - 16.3	Thailand - 11.11%

**Challenges in cross-border logistics**

High shipping costs and incidental charges – THCs, container deposits, unexplained shipping lines charges

**Transport policies that hinders growth and drives up costs**

- Truck ban
- Number coding
- TERMINAL APPOINTMENT BOOKING SYSTEM
- Pass thru Permits
- Re-fleeting Program
- Driver's Education & Welfare

Lina discusses his topic.

Serving as speakers were: UnionBank Chief Economist Mr. Ruben Carlo Asuncion, Lina Group of Companies (LGC) Chairman and Bureau of Customs Commissioner Mr. Alberto Lina, and UST Department of Economics Chair Assoc. Prof. Carlos Manapat, DBA.

Based on a joint team analysis conducted by UnionBank Philippines (UBP) and Aboitiz Equity Ventures (AEV), Asuncion's talk was titled "Are we there yet? A return to a pre-COVID-19 PH economy". While he forecasts that the Philippine economy is on the path to recovery based on annual gross domestic product (GDP), it is in 2022 that the Philippine economy will likely reach pre-pandemic levels. It is expected that Gross Capital Formation will grow rapidly in 2021, to be led by public construction because private sector sentiment remains subdued.

Asuncion added that if vaccines are distributed widely, election spending may boost private consumption and will likely return to pre-COVID levels in 2022. Hedging that the AEV-UBP joint research is conservative compared to other forecasts by groups such as the Asian Development

Bank and the International Monetary Fund, Asuncion posits that it is possible to reach pre-COVID levels in 2021 after widespread vaccination if the government would meet its spending target, the teenage demographic would be able to go out and spend, and private construction would resume normal activity by the second half of 2021.

Manapat's lecture was titled "Economic situation amidst pandemic and the road to economic recovery." He briefly summarized the state of 2020 Philippine economics in which gross national income, gross capital formation, OFW remittances, direct foreign investment, exports, and imports, among others, drastically decreased in the second quarter of 2020.

As the Philippines moves forward to the 'better normal', Manapat says that he agrees with figures from the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) that a 'v-shaped recovery' is feasible. Based on his own research, he forecasts a "positive 1.2 percent in GDP growth rate by the second quarter of 2022."

Lina spoke on the topic "The Philippine Logistics Industry in 2020 and

the 2021 Outlook." Over the last 40 years, the Lina Group of Companies (LGC) has been heavily involved in logistics, among other industries, and has facilitated the flow of goods, people, and information. The Chairman, fondly calling LGC "Ang Kargador ng Bayan", said that the Philippines has the highest logistics cost in Southeast Asia due to high shipping costs and incidental charges like terminal container handling charges (THCs), container deposits, unexplained shipping lines charges, and inimical transport policies.

While these factors are not new, the community quarantine also increased demand and difficulty in transport and delivery of goods in unprecedented ways. For 2021 and beyond, LGC expects a continued spike in e-commerce and express delivery services, and will result in "coope-tition" among different logistics companies in the form of collocated warehouses, shared spaces and services, and subcontracting.

Over 170 UST students and guests virtually attended the three lectures.

## USTGS-CCCPET, DOT organize Fr. Ignacio Alcina's online lecture series to celebrate quincentenary of Christianity in PH

Signifying Fr. Ignacio Alcina's  
**Bisayan Islands**  
in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

Online Heritage Lecture Series for  
the Quincentenary Celebration

every **Wednesday, 10am**  
starting **January 20, 2021 to March 10, 2021**  
via **Zoom**  
also available in livestreaming via  
**DOT Region 8, UST-CCCPET,**  
and **CBCP-ECCHC** Facebook page

500 Quincentennial Commemorations in the Philippines  
500 QUINCENTENARY CELEBRATION IN EASTERN VISAYAS

Event poster

The UST Graduate School – Center for Conservation of Cultural Property and Environment in the Tropics (UST GS CCCPET) collaborated with Department of Tourism Region 8 in conducting the Fr. Ignacio Alcina's "Bisayan Islands in the 21st Century, online Heritage webinar series, a Quincentenary Celebration of the Philippines."

The Tourism Promotions Board (TPB) and the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) Episcopal Commission for the Cultural Heritage of the Church (ECCHC) supported the partnership. The weekly webinar began on January 20 and closed on March 10, 2021.

The series highlighted the crucial contribution of Fr. Francisco Ignacio Alcina in defining the history of the islands of Samar and Leyte. Fr. Alcina, a Jesuit missionary chronicler, travelled to the islands of Samar and Leyte in the 17th century. His documentation has been enshrined in a three-volume work 'History of the Visayas Islands'

published by the University of Santo Tomas, and provides a clear illustration of the people's lifeways.

In addition, the webinar aimed to impress the value of extensive research and documentation in developing meaningful community tourism programs, to illustrate the holistic approach of cultural heritage studies traversing the past, present, and future dimensions, utilizing various credible sources of information and contributing to the quin-centenary narrative of the national government.

The episodes featured specialists and researchers, mostly alumni of the UST Cultural Heritage Studies, where it discussed themes that have been sourced from Fr. Alcina's historical accounts. The lectures highlighted the discoveries of Alcina during his missionary work and how these

**FR. IGNACIO ALCINA'S ONLINE LECTURE TO PAGE 18**

### FR. IGNACIO ALCINA'S ONLINE LECTURE FROM PAGE 17

elements are evident until today in their original, modified, or derivative Bisayan forms and expressions.

The roster of speakers included: Dr. Rolando Borrinaga (Unpublished Alcina's works), Dr. Cheek Fadriquela (Wood), Dir. Cora Alvina (Weaponry), Mr. Emil Justimbaste (Townships), Fr. Gilbert Urbina (Evangelization), Asst. Prof. Leo Almeria (Jewelry), Ms. Kinna Mae Kwan (Diplomacy) and Dr. Francis Navarro (Documentary Heritage).

The podcast took place every Wednesday through Zoom and live-streamed on the Facebook pages of USTGS-CCCPET, Department of Tourism Region VIII, and the CBCP ECCHC.



Dr. Rolando Borrinaga



Dr. Cheek Fadriquela



Dir. Cora Alvina



Mr. Emil Justimbaste, Jr.



Fr. Gilbert Urbina



Asst. Prof. Leo Almeria



Ms. Kinna Mae Kwan

## UST Grad School student presents research paper at international conference on curriculum studies, instructional designing



Br. Rocky Niño L. Manire, O.P.

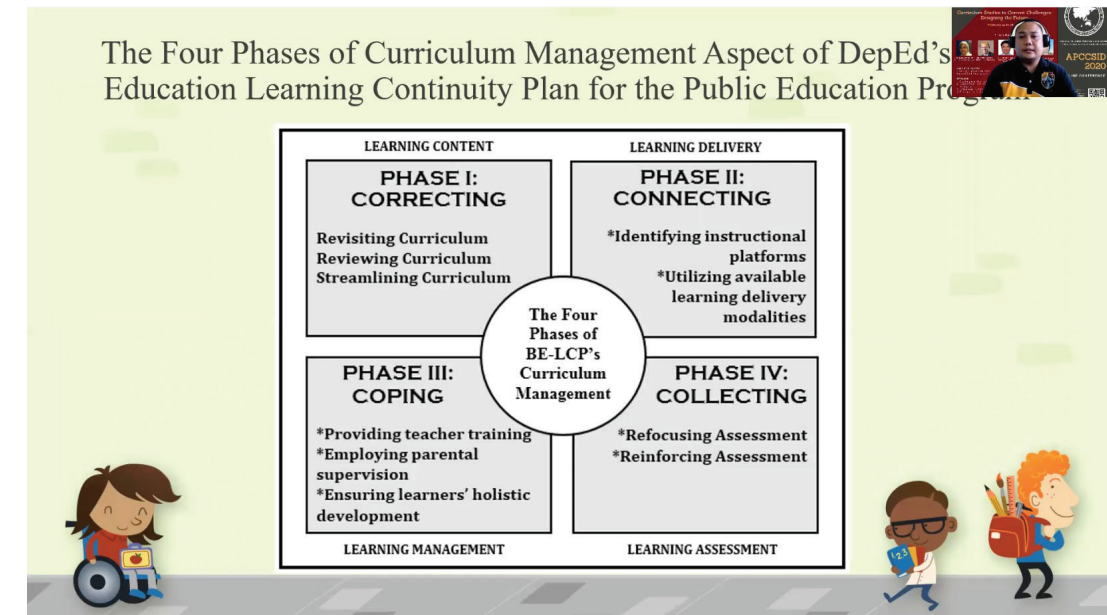
University of Santo Tomas Graduate School student Br. Rocky Niño L. Manire, O.P., presented a paper during the Online Asia Pacific Conference on Curriculum Studies, and Instructional Designing (APCCSID) held from February 25 to 26, 2021.

Manire, a student under the Master of Arts in Education program majoring in Educational Management and Leadership (MAEd-ELM), presented the research paper titled "Promoting Learning amidst Pandemic: A Thematic Content Analysis on the Curriculum Management Aspect of DepEd's Basic Education Learning Continuity Plan (BE-LCP)." The same research paper has also been accepted for publication in an international peer-reviewed journal.

The research, according to Manire, was conducted to uncover the aspects of curriculum management of the Department of Education's BE-LCP for the public education program. He utilized Thematic Content Analysis and highlighted in his paper the uncovering of the four phases of the Curriculum Management of DepEd's BE-LCP anchored in the adjustments made in the four aspects of learning – correcting phase (learning content); connecting phase (learning delivery); coping phase (learning management), and collecting phase (learning assessment). Three department orders (D.O. #12 s.2020, D.O. #18 s.2020,

**INSTRUCTIONAL DESIGNING TO PAGE 19**

### INSTRUCTIONAL DESIGNING FROM PAGE 18



Manire presents his paper.

D.O. #31 s. 2020) underwent cool and warm thematic analysis to realize the desired objectives of the research.

The research suggested the need to provide comprehensive seminars, training, and orientations to teachers, and parents, and guardians as regards their responsibility in the learning process in the blended learning environment for a better internalization of their participatory role in the realization of learners' 21st-century skills amidst the threat of COVID-19. He concluded his presentation with an appeal to DepEd to further refine its curriculum management strategies in all phases to effectively integrate the 21st-century skills to the streamlined curriculum in the new normal setting of Philippine Education.

With the theme "Curriculum Studies in Current Challenges: Designing for the Future," APCCSID Online was spearheaded by the Asia Pacific Research Association on Curriculum Studies (APRACSI), an organization composed of the international board from different countries, especially from the Asia Pacific region.

Initially scheduled in September 2020 in Thailand, the supposed 4th on-site

conference, APCCSID 2020, was canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and was decided by the board members of APRACSI to be an online conference, according to Dr. Amelia Fajardo, APCCSID Conference Chair. It was attended by educators mostly coming from the Philippines and other countries in the Asia-Pacific Region.

Dr. Murray Print, a renowned professor and Chair of Education at the University of Sydney, delivered the keynote speech. He argued in his recorded presentation, accessible at the events management system (EMS), that the challenges brought about by the pandemic could be opportunities for educators to renegotiate and redirect school curricula towards providing a stronger foundation of democracy.

Scholarly presentations from notable plenary speakers also graced the two-day online conference. Speakers were: Dr. Zhongyi Deng (University College London, UK); Takuya Baba (Hiroshima University, Japan); Dr. Rohaida Mohd Saat (University of Malaya); Dr. Sallimah Salleh (University of Brunei Darussalam); Dr. Jasmin B.Y. Sim (National Institute of

Education, Singapore); Dr. Aurelio Vilbar (University of the Philippines Cebu); Dr. Carolyn U. Ronquillo (Woosong University, South Korea); Dr. Andrew Wall (University of Redlands); Dr. Ng Soo Boon (SEGI University); Dr. Jacqueline Cahill (Air University); Dr. Thomas J. Gibbons (US Navy War College); Dr. Thomas Galvin (US Army War College); Lt. Col. Ronnel Almazan (Phil. Marines Training Center); Dr. Suwarsih Madya (Yogyakarta State University); Dr. Lorna Abad (UP-Philippine General Hospital); and Dr. Yotsawee Saifah (Chulalongkorn University).

Various topics on curriculum studies and instructional designing were presented in the plenary, which focused mainly on the challenges and strategies for curriculum designing, implementation, and supervision in a remote learning environment. All presentations generated positive online audience responses. Six parallel sessions for paper presentations were held on the two-day event, three on the first day and three on the second day, and lasted for an hour each. Paper presentations were pre-recorded to make them more accessible to attendees.

## Department of English webinar discusses plagiarism detection through Forensic Linguistics approach

The monthly webinar on Forensic Linguistics organized by the UST Department of English featured detecting plagiarism through the forensic linguistics approach for its February installment. The speaker was Dr. Rui Sousa-Silva from the University of Porto, Portugal, in the webinar held on February 24, 2021 via Zoom and streamed live on Facebook.

Silva highlighted the role of intentionality in committing plagiarism such that plagiarism may likely occur when more effort is done to manipulate the text through textual changes. He then explained the different plagiarism strategies: verbatim copying, copying with alterations, plagiarism and translation, and translingual plagiarism.

Silva stressed the importance of linguistic evidence in detecting plagiarism even with the use of different plagiarism software.

The event, attended by more than 500 participants from 24 countries, was moderated by UST Department of English Chair Dr. Rachelle B. Lintao.

Event poster

## ARTS AND CULTURE

### UST GS CCCPET, CTHM lead Samar Island Natural Park nomination to World Heritage List

The University of Santo Tomas Graduate School Center for Conservation of Cultural Property and Environment in the Tropics (UST GS CCCPET), in collaboration with the UST College of Tourism and Hospitality Management (UST-CTHM) recently concluded Phase 2 of the Technical Assistance for the Nomination of Samar Island Natural Park (SINP) to the UNESCO World Heritage List.

USTGS-CCCPET Director Assoc. Prof. Eric B. Zerrudo, Ph.D., a former UNESCO Philippines Commissioner for the World

Heritage Convention, and the Focal Person for Intangible Cultural Heritage Convention of the Philippines, heads the project supported by UST CTHM team represented by its Dean, Atty. Gezzez G. Granado, DCL.

The UST team coordinated online meetings and monitored the collation of documents despite the limited mobility due to the COVID 19 pandemic. The SINP World Heritage campaign is a concerted effort composed of the three Samar Island Provinces (Samar, Eastern Samar, and Northern Samar) valuably endorsed by the SINP Protected Area Management Board

(PAMB), Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Region VIII, and Department of Tourism (DOT) Region VIII.

The SINP Project highlights the biodiversity and endemicity of the Park worthy of UNESCO World Heritage conservation standards. Phase 1 of the project, which ended in May 2020, investigated on the cultural mapping of the Samar Island. Phase 2, which ran from August 2020 to February 2021, produced

**WORLD HERITAGE LIST  
TO PAGE 22**

## UST Minecraft wins Project of the Year in AcadArena Awards



A screenshot from the award show displays the recreation of UST's Grandstand in Minecraft.

UST Minecraft map, the virtual reconstruction of the 21.5-hectare campus in its own Minecraft server, bagged the Project of the Year honor and a Php10,000 cash prize in the first-ever AcadArena Awards held on February 14, 2021.

The award was given "to an ambitious project of its kind that not only showcased student talent and skill in the realm of e-sports and video games, but also became a platform for community building." The UST Minecraft map certainly fits the bill as it would be recalled that it enabled thousands of freshmen to virtually join a traditional gathering of the Thomasian community called the Thomasian Welcome Walk in August 2020.

Since 2002, freshmen have symbolically entered the University by walking through the historic Arch of the Centuries at the start of each academic year to signify the beginning of their Thomasian life. It is a social gathering that would not have been possible due to the pandemic-necessitated distancing protocols had it not been for the UST Minecraft Team's initiative. By meticulously recreating each aspect of the Manila campus (and even the surrounding streets to ensure that the view is the same), the team's 80 student-

members helped welcome the new Thomasians into the fold by letting them explore the iconic structures in a two-hour virtual campus tour.

In an email interview, UST Minecraft Team Leader Charles Benedict Nobleza, a second-year student of the UST Institute of Information and Computing Sciences, said he was grateful for the Thomasian community's help in nominating them and supporting their project.

"The team is proud of the aspect of creativity done inside a video game. Video games may have a reputation for being violent or having a bad impact on most of its users. Still, our team has shown that it has another side composed of imagination and innovation. We are proud of the fruits of our labor, and we are happy that we have represented the University of Santo Tomas with UST Minecraft as The Project of The Year in the field of video games here in the Philippines," said Nobleza.

After UST Minecraft's launch in August and the initial media attention it gained, the idea of a virtual Paskuhan, UST's Christmas Celebration, was in the early stages of preparation. However, with the devastation brought about by Typhoon Ulysses, the team quickly decided to reroute funds from



Minecraft UST Founder Charles Benedict Nobleza



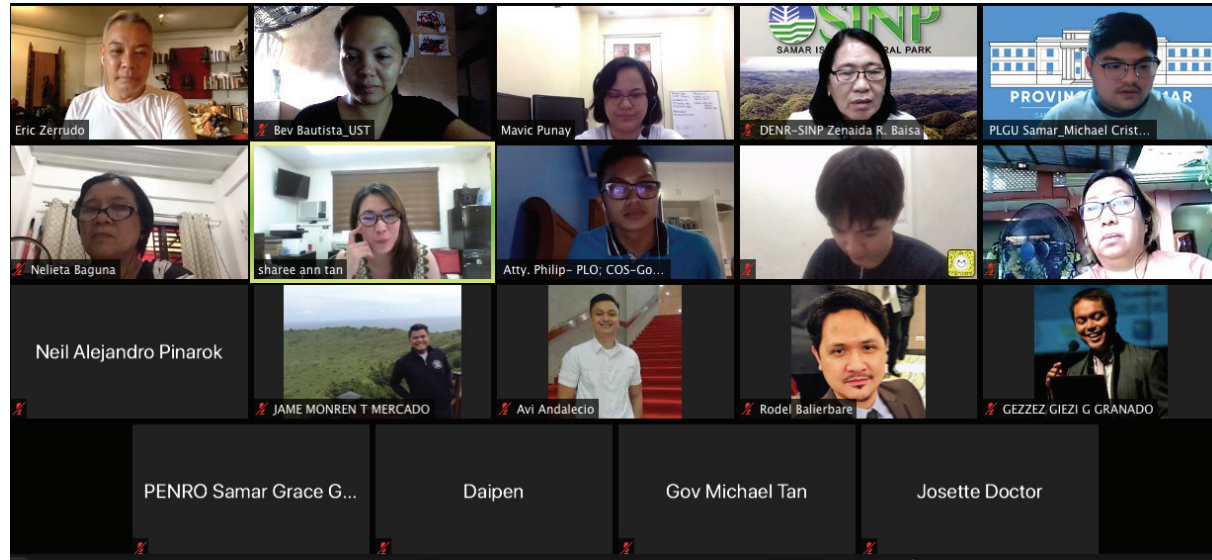
The award banner

hosting the server to giving relief goods instead. As of the time of publication, the server remains closed. But there is hope for re-opening the server.

Nobleza shared, "We are partnering with media organizations such as the Tiger Media Network to host our famous traditional events in the University. We are currently planning to host the Baccalaureate Mass for the graduates and welcome the next batch of freshman students with a (Minecraft) surprise!"

All photos on this page are courtesy of Nobleza.

**WORLD HERITAGE LIST  
FROM PAGE 20**



the initial draft of the nomination dossier including the sustainable tourism and strategic development plan for Samar Island Natural Park.

Phase 3 is programmed to start in May 2021. In this phase, the USTGS-CCCPET continues and expands collaborative efforts with UST-CTHM and the UST College of Science to profile the biological significance of the property.

*CCCPET Director Dr. Zerrudo (top row, leftmost) and CTHM Dean Atty. Gezzez Giezi G. Granado, DCL (third row, rightmost), with DENR, Samar LGU, DOT, and SINP representatives*

# USTGS-CCCPET develops San Pablo City Heritage District Conservation Guidelines



*Site inspection [Photo courtesy of the San Pablo City Office of the City Tourism Officer]*

The UST Graduate School Center for Conservation of Cultural Property and Environment in the Tropics (USTGS CCCPET) extends technical assistance to the San Pablo City Government of Laguna to crafting the Conservation Principles, Policies, and Guidelines for the San Pablo Heritage District.

The two-phased project covers from December 2020 to January 2021 for Phase 1 and from February 2021 to April 2021 for Phase 2. The project intends to define the heritage district and develop the necessary conservation guidelines to uphold its cultural significance. Specifically, it will formulate infrastructure and activity guidelines based on historical and social research, comparative studies, community consultations, and fieldwork exercises to develop a meaningful conservation framework for the American colonial heritage zone.

The project is headed by CCCPET Director Assoc. Prof. Eric B. Zerrudo, Ph.D.,

**SAN PABLO CITY HERITAGE  
TO PAGE 24**

**SAMAR PROVINCE  
CULTURAL EDUCATION  
FROM PAGE 22**

in January 2021, premised on the home, community, and the school as critical agents of empowerment.

The USTGS-CCCPET team, headed by its Director, Assoc. Prof. Eric Zerrudo, Ph.D., collaborated with the Curriculum Development Team, composed of faculty members from the UST Institute of Religion (IR), and universities in Samar. They were endorsed by (then) IR Director Fr. Florentino Bolo, Jr., O.P., and represented by Prof. Joan Christi T. Bagaipo, Ph.D.

Initially, faculty researchers from the UST College of Education were selected, but due to the heavy impact of the COVID-19 on the budget, mobility, and logistics led to a leaner UST team. The project is strongly supported by the Samar Provincial Government and the Department of Education Samar.

Phase 2 formulated a curriculum for Cultural Education based on the Samar Province Cultural Mapping Outputs in developing the cultural competencies of students in Basic Education and Adult Education. It linked the cultural competencies to the Most Essential Learning Competencies (MELC) of the Department of Education and provided guidelines for the development of culture-based learning modules. The project covered the utilization of the cultural mapping data for crafting the SPCEC for Grades 1 to 12 and Adult Education as the basis for the development of cultural education modules and other relevant instruction materials.

Phase 3, set to begin in May 2021, will embark on module development and classroom training, which will be modified due to the mobility constraints brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic.

## UST GS CCCPET, UST IR formulate Samar Province Cultural Education Curriculum Development

The University of Santo Tomas Graduate School-Center for Conservation of Cultural Property and Environment in the Tropics (UST GS CCCPET) continues to provide valuable assistance to the Samar Provincial Government with the Samar Province Cultural Education Curriculum (SPCEC), part of the Cultural Heritage Values Interpretation Towards Education and Utilization for Community Development: A Cultural Mapping Continuing Project Phase 2.

Dovetailing from the cultural mapping of Samar in 2017, which was facilitated by the CCCPET, the curriculum development guideline was submitted

**SAMAR PROVINCE CULTURAL EDUCATION  
TO PAGE 23**



**SAN PABLO CITY HERITAGE FROM PAGE 23**

together with Ar. Caryn P. Santillan from the UST College of Architecture and students from the UST Cultural Heritage Studies program. The team is in cohort with the San Pablo City Tourism Office, members of Advocates of Heritage Preservation (San Pablo Chapter), and the United Architects of the Philippines (San Pablo Chapter). The project envisions a thematic renaissance of its American colonial heritage through architectural forms, design, colors, and motifs.



*Draft Output [Photo courtesy of the San Pablo City Office of the City Tourism Officer]*



*Community consultation with stakeholders [Photo courtesy of the San Pablo City Office of the City Tourism Officer]*

# THE ACADEMIA

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