

Accenture Technology Lead for the Philippines, Africa, and Asia-Pacific Ms. Ambe C. Tierro (bottom left window), assisted by the Innovation Lead for Accenture Technology in the Philippines Mr. Arvin Yason (bottom right window) formally turns over the Certificate of Grant to UST Vice-Rector for Research and Innovation Prof. Maribel G. Nonato, Ph.D. [Screenshot courtesy of the Communications Bureau]

## UST gets grant from Accenture; CICS to put up IoT Lab as part of industry innovation initiatives

The University of Santo Tomas, through the College of Information and Computing Sciences (CICS) and the DOST-TOMASInno Center, received funding for industry innovation initiatives and healthcare startups from Accenture. The grant was formally turned over by technology and consulting multinational company to UST on August 24, 2021, through a virtual presser attended by Accenture and University officials.

Vice-Rector for Research and Innovation Prof. Maribel G. Nonato, Ph.D., represented UST while the Accenture Technology Lead for the Philippines, Africa, and Asia-Pacific Ms. Ambe C. Tierro led

the Accenture group.

The primary beneficiary, the CICS, has a line-up of projects, one of which is the forthcoming Internet of Things (IoT) Laboratory, which will be housed in the Pier Giorgio Frassati, O.P. Building. While it will remain under the administration of the CICS, the lab will also be shared with other academic units for multi-disciplinary research projects, shared CICS Dean Jerralyn T. Padua, in an online interview.

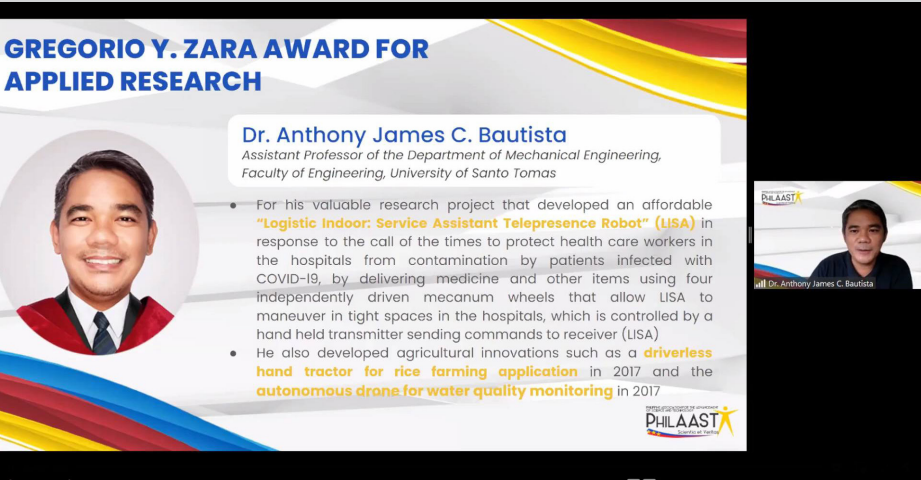
The Internet of Things is a system of interrelated computing devices (things) with the ability to transfer data over a network without requiring human-to-human or human-to-computer interaction.

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Bautista accepts his award online. [Screenshot obtained from the DOST Philippines Facebook page]

## LISA robot developer Bautista receives 2021 Gregorio Y. Zara award

UST Faculty of Engineering Acting Assistant Dean Asst. Prof. Anthony James C. Bautista, Ph.D., more popularly associated with the LISA robots that he developed to help the frontliners, received the Gregorio Y. Zara Award for Applied Research in a virtual awarding ceremony held on September 6, 2021.

Bautista was awarded for his project, the Logistic Indoor Service Assistant (LISA) Telepresence Robot. It was recognized for allowing remote communication and medicine delivery between healthcare practitioners and patients, which minimizes the exposure of the hospital staff to the coronavirus.

The Philippine Association for the Advancement of Science and Technology (PhilaAST) virtually presented the award to Bautista through Zoom, which was [livestreamed for public viewing on the Department of Science and Technology \(DOST\) Philippines Facebook page](#).

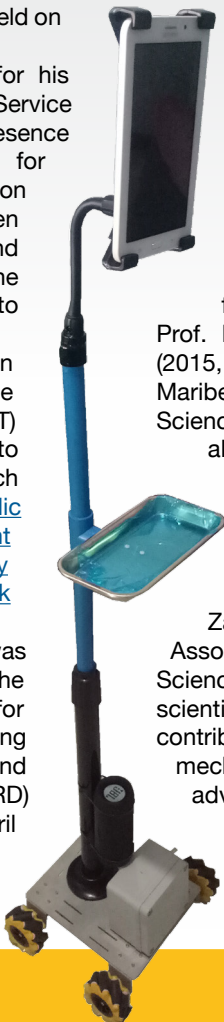
The LISA robot was developed with funding from the DOST - Philippine Council for Industry, Energy and Emerging Technology Research and Development (DOST-PCIEERD) and was first deployed in April 2020 to minimize the contact of medical front liners with their COVID-19 patients.

The LISA Robot has four independently driven Mecanum wheels, which enables the robot to turn efficiently in a single spot via remote control. Units began deployment in various hospitals in 2020 such as the UST Hospital, Pasig Doctors Medical Center, Premier Medical Center, Binangonan Lake View Medical Center, and Marikina Valley Medical Center, among others.

With the award, Bautista now joins the ranks of Thomasian scientists and faculty members who were recipients of this award, namely, Prof. Maria Natalia Dimaano, Ph.D., (2011, for Applied Science Research), Prof. Dr. Grecebio Jonathan Alejandro, (2015, for Basic Science Research), Prof. Maribel Nonato, Ph.D., (2016, for Basic Science Research), UST Graduate School alumna Dr. Anabelle V. Briones (2020, for Applied Science Research), and Dr. Jonel Saludes (2020, for Basic Science Research).

The award, named after National Scientist Gregorio Y. Zara, is given by the Philippine Association for the Advancement of Science and Technology, to Filipino scientists who have made valuable contributions to their field of study. Zara, a mechanical engineer, was known for his advances in the fields of aeronautics and engineering.

A sample unit of the LISA robot



## UST gets grant from Accenture; CICS to put up IoT Lab as part of industry innovation initiatives

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Dean Padua

According to Dean Padua, “[The IoT] is important in creating a framework in distance education, with all the important components in place such as wearables [such as smartwatches], cameras, microphones, cloud storage that are all connected to a learning management system. This technology can aid teachers in monitoring attendance, behavioral indicators, and even emotional states. It is also helpful in analyzing data captured in the administration of practical exams and other assessments.”

Thinking fast-forward, in post-pandemic in-person classes scenario, Padua emphasized that even under such circumstance, IoT technology will remain beneficial for the University.

It can provide interconnected emergency alert buttons in classrooms, use data from the occupancy sensors to capture actual attendance in a specific class, and generate attendance monitoring reports both for faculty members and students. Through the occupancy sensors paired with devices such as tablets or laptops, IoT-connected lights and temperature controls can also be programmed to turn off when a room is empty, which improves building efficiency and reduces energy waste.

Another emerging technology that will be developed using the grant is Extended Reality (XR), an umbrella term for immersive innovations that can merge the presentation of physical and virtual worlds. Particularly for the Enhanced Virtual Mode currently in place, instruction delivery can be aided by providing

platforms to augment learning through simulated environments.

Augmented Reality (AR), which is one of the examples of XR, can present virtual information and objects overlaid on the real world through projecting computer-generated graphics onto the real environment on screen. AR can make it easier for teachers to show virtual examples of concepts and add gaming elements to provide textbook material support.

“We expect to complete the acquisition of the equipment such as drones, swarm robots, robotic arms, [and other learning materials] as well as the training and course content development by A.Y. 2021-2022, so that we can make it available to our students by A.Y. 2022-2023 at the latest,” shared Padua.

“The grant is expected to be the start of more collaborations with Accenture, with the goal of providing the most fitting learning environment for our students, to help them be ready to take on actual and real-life projects,” Padua said.

A multi-year program, the Accenture grant was given to ten Metro Manila-based partner institutions including UST. Aside from the CICS, the funding will also be shared with chosen healthcare startups of the UST DOST-TOMASInno Center.

Citing the need for a stronger innovation ecosystem in the country, Mr. Arvin Yason, Innovation Lead for Accenture Technology in the Philippines, explained during the virtual presser, that the grant will improve the content of the schools’ technology curriculum, fund research and publication in emerging technologies, and explore other activities that will facilitate the adoption of these technologies in the academe and in the startups they incubate.

Founded in 1989, Accenture is a multinational professional services company listed in the Fortune Global 500. Its Philippine arm employs over 50,000 people in the country.

Specializing in technology services and management consulting, Accenture was recognized at the 2019 Asia Corporate Excellence & Sustainability Awards (ACES) for its commitment to grow the Information Technology and Business Process Management (IT-BPM) industry in the Philippines.



Albano

Bennett



Dagamac

Sabit

## UST researchers validate new COVID-19 qPCR test kits in clinical setting

A team of researchers and faculty members from the University of Santo Tomas College of Science has been commissioned by MiRXES Pte Ltd, a Biotech company from Singapore, to conduct clinical validation for PCR-based detection of SARS-CoV-2 using nasopharyngeal and saliva samples.

According to the lead proponent Pia Marie Albano, Ph.D., using saliva samples could lessen the cost of testing since patients can self-collect their own samples, which eliminates the need for trained swab collectors.

Time and cost are further reduced by directly subjecting the saliva samples to polymerase chain reaction (PCR). For most commercial kits, the genetic material of the virus is first extracted before PCR can be performed.

Apart from determining whether a patient is positive or not for COVID-19, the positive samples can be further tested for possible mutations or new variants.

“We have qPCR-based kits that can identify the variants of concern (VOCs),” said Albano, whose research experience focuses on molecular biomarkers of cancer, and now, COVID-19.

By exploring and validating new options for testing, the cost and waiting

time could be brought down eventually, which will make testing more accessible to the masses.

Led by Albano, the team is composed of Reuel Bennett, Dr.rer. nat., Nikki Heherson Dagamac, Dr.rer. nat., and Maureen Sabit, Ph.D., from the Department of Biological Sciences.

After the kits were developed and initially tested in the MiRXES facilities using contrived samples, Albano’s team was commissioned to further test the kits in clinical and community settings. Over a thousand participants were invited to be part of the study.

The team will write its report once the sufficient data are obtained. If the kits are found to have the same diagnostic performances in comparison with other currently trusted test kits, MiRXES will apply for the approval by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). Once registered, the kits can be commercially distributed in different parts of Asia.

In addition to her research work at the UST Research Center for Natural and Applied Sciences (RCNAS), Albano teaches courses in medical microbiology, molecular diagnostics, and biology of cancer.



# RCCAHA director leads NRCP research grant on country’s music ecosystem

A seminal and pioneering research on the Philippine Music Industry will be spearheaded by UST Research Center for Culture, Arts, and Humanities (RCCAHA) Director Assoc. Prof. Maria Alexandra Iñigo-Chua, Ph.D. The new policy research titled “*Musika Pilipinas: Research and Mapping Towards Understanding, Scoping, and Defining the Philippine Music Industry*,” is under the auspices of the National Research Council of the Philippines.

As a ground-breaking and establishing research on the Philippine Music Industry, the project will explore and examine the current condition of the music ecosystem of the country, which will serve as an academic foundation in support of the government’s efforts in improving, protecting, and strengthening the creative industries of the country. It will produce an in-depth mapping, scoping and defining of the Philippine music industry and the current socio-cultural and economic state of its music market.

The NRCP new research policy will be grounding its analysis of the current

dynamics of the Philippine music industry using the frameworks *Cultural Institution Studies* (2006) of Prof. Peter Tschmuck from the University of Music and Performing Arts Vienna - Cultural Institutions Studies and *Network Value System* (2017) of Prof. Ricardo Alvarez from the University of Barcelona. The exploration will serve as catapult for a comprehensive mapping of the *Musika Pilipinas* Research Program.

According to the DOST press release, the target beneficiaries of the project include: young talented artists, music agents, promoters, managers, and producers; ailing music ecosystems that need and want to be revived; professional artists, managers, and producers from more mature music industry ecosystems; cultural policy makers and executives; and allied personnel of the music industries.

The three-year *Musika Pilipinas* Research Grant is in partnership with NRCP’s new policy research on the Philippine music industry in support of the proposed House Bill (HB) No. 8101 or the Philippine Creative Industries Act. The bill advocates for the protection, support, and



Iñigo-Chua

advancement of the creative industries of the country, since music and the performing arts are one of its vital sectors.

The UST Research Center for Culture, Arts, and Humanities will serve as the governing institution of the research grant.

# Nursing students win ITU video pitch challenge with anti-information AI proposal

Six students in their third year from the UST College of Nursing won the Generation Connect Video Pitch Challenge organized by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) for their anti-misinformation artificial intelligence (A.I.) proposal aptly named NARS, or the Nursing Assistance and Reinforcement System.

Trisha Mangahas, Stephen Marasigan, Qjiel Mariano, Ivan Martinez, Zysha Marquez, and Anne Novales formed their team

“NeoFlorence” inspired by the mother of modern nursing, Florence Nightingale.

Armed with the knowledge on the current situation of misinformation and disinformation during the pandemic, the team proposed an A.I. to tailor-fit health information to the public. The team was mentored by Dr. Gian Carlo Torres and Dr. Sarah Maria Salazar, faculty members of the UST College of Nursing.

For winning the challenge, Team NeoFlorence will share their experiences at the Generation Connect Summit in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in June 2022, preceding the World Telecommunications Development Conference (WTDC). Their winning video will also be presented to world leaders, innovators, and advocates in telecommunication all around the world in the said events.



Team NeoFlorence members (from left:) Novales, Mariano, Marquez, Martinez, Mangahas, and Marasigan



Estrella



Ponay

# Estrella, Ponay of CICS discuss telehealth application, bilingual data clustering at conference in Malaysia

College of Information and Computing Sciences faculty members Assoc. Prof. Noel E. Estrella, who is the former chair of the Information Technology Department, and Asst. Prof. Charmaine S. Ponay virtually presented their respective research papers during the 7th International Conference on Software Engineering and Computer Systems (ICSECS 2021) and 4th International Conference on Computational Science and Information Management (ICoCSIM 2021) held on August 24 and 25, 2021. The conference was organized by the University Pahang Malaysia (UMP).

Estrella’s paper was titled “Sentinel: The Development of a Web and Mobile Application for the Development and Testing of an E-service Learning Interprofessional Telehealth Community Based Rehabilitation Program among Hypertensive Clients.”

Estrella and his team composed of Information Technology students, Rafael Benedict E. Bacungan, Kurt Martin C. Choi, Jansen Patrick A. Chua, and Jericho P. Dupo, developed a mobile application called Sentinel that can help healthcare providers synchronously consult with hypertensive clients through personal messaging. It also has asynchronous functions where patients can download brochures and other information to aid in managing their condition.

After a User Acceptance Test (UAT) with 17 healthcare providers testing the application, “Sentinel” met the requirements for the development of a web and mobile application.

Ponay’s paper was “Topic Modelling and Clustering of Disaster-Related Tweets using Bilingual Latent Dirichlet Allocation and Incremental Clustering Algorithm with Support Vector Machines for Need Assessment.”

Ponay and her team composed of Computer Science students, Lady Angelica Buen Guerzo, Hans Aaron Kilkenny, Raphael Noel Osorio, and Andrei Hart Villegas, studied the data clustering of social media posts on Twitter on the topic of disasters, including the classifications of tweets for prayers, cash, shelter, relief, and rescue. Due to the tendency of Filipinos to post in either Filipino or English as a majority, the system would normally have difficulty clustering data with the same disaster types, but in different languages.

To solve this bilingual problem, the team employed a Bilingual Latent Dirichlet Allocation (BiLDA), which will help the system determine correctly whether a post is related to a disaster or not. It was found that the metrics precision, recall, F-measure, and area under the curve (AUC) of Incremental Clustering in the system, when it comes to clustering and classifying tweets according to its disaster type yielded an improvement on the overall accuracy.

This conference series served as a forum for an international community of researchers, practitioners and vendors on all aspects of Software Engineering and Computer Systems. The presenters were from countries including Malaysia, Indonesia, India, Oman, Saudi Arabia, Bangladesh and the Philippines.

Recalling the preparations for the pitch, the student nurses researched extensively on public health situation reports, existing solutions, and timely innovations to address the alarming spread of fake news on the COVID-19 pandemic, especially on vaccine rollout. The team cites Nursing Informatics, a course they completed in their second year, as a pivotal factor in understanding the importance of emerging technologies and the Nursing profession.

The ITU is a specialized agency of the United Nations responsible for all matters related to information and communication technologies. One of their initiatives is Generation Connect. The global initiative aims to engage, empower, and encourage the

youth to stand as equal partners alongside the leaders of today’s digital change, equipping them with the skills and opportunities to advance their vision of a connected future.

According to the challenge prompt, internet connection provides opportunities for young people to access education, quality health care, and other necessities. Generation Connect, ITU’s youth strategy initiative, aims to improve the lives of young people around the world and ensure meaningful participation of the youth as key stakeholders in ITU’s implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.





## The IP Management Program for Academic Institutions Commercializing Technologies (IMPACT) Program

Program poster [Photo courtesy of the PCIEERD website]

### ITSO secures funds from DOST-PCIEERD for intellectual property protection, licensing

The Innovation Technology Support Office (ITSO) of the University recently secured a four-million-peso grant from the Department of Science and Technology - Philippine Council for Industry, Energy, and Emerging Technology Research and Development (DOST-PCIEERD) to further capacitate it in the areas of technology transfer operations, intellectual property (IP) protection, and IP licensing.



Assoc. Prof. Mike Peralta

UST ITSO Manager Assoc. Prof. Michael Jorge N. Peralta, said that the grant, officially known as the IP Management for Academic Institutions Commercializing Technologies (IMPACT), covers the one-year period of September 1, 2021 to August 31, 2022.

Peralta explained that “the University will be able to transfer research outputs to industry partners for public good through IP licensing.

With this, not only do we achieve our goals as a research University, but we also push the nation’s economic and innovative indices by creating innovative outputs that solve society’s problems and create more jobs for the common Filipino.”

UST pre-qualified for the grant after successful completion of the Knowledge and Technology Transfer Office (KTTO) program sponsored by USAID-STRIDE. Peralta, who was one of the facilitators of the said training, said that UST pre-qualified for the grant in January and received approval on May 31, 2021.

The grant will help realize 12 outputs: (1) an updated and revised IP and Technology Transfer Policy together with its implementing rules and regulations and its Operations Manual for the ITSO; (2) a simple assessment and/or audit of the 976 research projects in the last 5 years; (3) Have two licensed technologies in the year; (4) filing of five patents in the year; (5) receive at least ten IP Disclosures; (6) at least one collaborative technology development project between University and Industry partners; (7) Capacity building activities: Tech Transfer 101, Patent Search, Patent Draft, Tech Triage, Business Model Canvassing; Design Thinking, and Developing the Pitch; (8) business modeling workshops for identified University technologies; (9) technology pitch competitions for inventors through Industry Networking Events; (10) a database and inventory of all research projects in the University; (11) an improved ITSO page at the University Website; and (12) a sustainability strategy and development plan.

The funding is seen to further boost ITSO’s operations and ties well with UST’s efforts to intensify innovation, specifically in the areas of healthcare, science and technology, computing sciences, and engineering.

## NEWS



Newly appointed Regional Trial Judge-at-Large Rigor Pascual is accompanied by his family during his oath-taking before Chief Justice Alexander Gesmundo (at podium). [Photo courtesy of Rigor Pascual]

### Judge Rigor Pascual of Arts & Letters is appointed regional judge-at-large

A seasoned faculty member of the UST Department of Political Science under the Faculty of Arts and Letters was appointed regional trial judge-at-large by President Rodrigo Duterte.

Judge Rigor R. Pascual was selected as one of the 20 regional trial judge-at-large from a shortlist of 35 candidates submitted by the Judicial and Bar Council to the President.

The creation of the judges-at-large position is pursuant to Republic Act (RA) 11459 which amended *Batas Pambansa Bilang* 129 or the Judiciary Reorganization Act of 1980. The law gives the Supreme Court the flexibility to assign judges to problematic and heavily congested courts across the country.

According to RA 11459, the duly appointed judge-at-large shall have no permanent salas and may be assigned by the Supreme Court as acting or assisting judges to any Regional Trial Court in the Philippines as public interest may require. The Supreme Court shall determine the length of such temporary assignment.

In July 2021, Chief Justice Alexander Gesmundo designated Pascual as Acting Presiding Judge (full time) of the Regional Trial Court, Branch 14 of Malolos Bulacan.

Pascual’s appointment was signed by the President on December 9, 2020. It was only released this year after the Office of the Chief Justice received the appointment on March 25. He took his oath before the Chief Justice on June 10.

Prior to his selection, Pascual had been a long-time faculty member of the UST Department of Political Science, teaching courses related to international law, local government and development, political thought, conflict resolution, and international political systems.



(Top row, from left:) UST Rector Very Rev. Fr. Richard G. Ang, O.P., Ph.D., SGV & Co. Chairman and Country Managing Partner Mr. Wilson P. Tan, SGV & Co. Vice Chair and Deputy Managing Partner Ms. Maria Vivian C. Ruiz, (second row, from left:) Mr. Buddy Velayo, UST-AMV College of Accountancy Dean Prof. Patricia M. Empleo, Ph.D., Assistant Dean Asst. Prof. Christine S.M. Alday, (third row, from left:) College Secretary Mr. Francisco M. Caliwan, Jr., and SGV Foundation Association Director for Brand and Marketing Communications Ms. Ma. Regina O. Maldonado.

## On AMV’s centenary: UST, SGVF ink scholarship MOA

The University of Santo Tomas and professional services firm SyCip Gorres Velayo & Company (SGV & Co.) formalized the granting of scholarships to accountancy students through a virtual signing of the Memorandum of Agreement on August 20, 2021, via Zoom.

On the occasion of the 100th birth anniversary of UST alumnus and SGV co-founder Mr. Alfredo M. Velayo, after whom the College of Accountancy was named, the accounting giant SyCip Gorres Velayo & Co., through the SGV Foundation, pledged a total of 5,000,000 pesos in scholarship grants. Deserving accountancy students will enjoy full defrayal of tuition and miscellaneous fees. SGV & Co. will provide P1,000,000 worth of scholarships per year for the next five years beginning the First Term of Academic Year 2021-2022.

In his message, Mr. Buddy Velayo, son of Mr. Alfredo M. Velayo, recounted how his dad would happily tell them that he was very honored that the UST College of Accountancy was named after him. He also noted how the College has achieved so much in its existence.

UST Rector Very Rev. Fr. Richard G. Ang, O.P., Ph.D., virtually signed the MOA on behalf of the University. SGV & Co. Chairman and Country Managing Partner Mr. Wilson P. Tan, signed on behalf of SGV.

Present also during the virtual signing were: SGV & Co. Vice Chair and Deputy Managing Partner Ms. Maria Vivian C. Ruiz; UST-AMV College of Accountancy Dean Prof. Patricia M. Empleo, Ph.D.; Assistant Dean Asst. Prof. Christine S.M. Alday; College Secretary Mr. Francisco M. Caliwan, Jr.; SGV Foundation

Association Director for Brand and Marketing Communications Ms. Ma. Regina O. Maldonado, and the first batch of the SGVF scholars of the University.

Other than the SGV & Co. scholarship, UST-AMV College of Accountancy students also enjoy the scholarships from AMV Foundation, Inc., the Equitable Foundation, Inc., and the Rebisco Foundation, Inc.

#### Alfredo M. Velayo

Alfredo M. Velayo was born on August 26, 1921 in Sta. Mesa, Manila. He was the ninth in ten children. He studied Bachelor of Science in Commerce, major in Accounting at UST, graduating *Summa cum Laude*. His classmate and boyhood friend, Washington SyCip, and later a co-founder of SGV, also graduated *Summa cum Laude*. Velayo graduated in March 1940, took the CPA board in the same year and landed fourth place.

Being one of the best students in class, Velayo was invited by the dean, Dr. Stanley L. Prescott, an American CPA, to teach accounting courses in the evening, while he attended his classes as a third-year student in the daytime. When he passed the CPA board exams, he was only 18 years old, and he received his certificate only when he turned 21, the legal age in the country at that time.

The accounting firm, now known as SGV & Co., was founded in 1946.

Velayo, an accountant, leader, teacher, and philanthropist, was married to Harriet Lazaga, a lawyer, with whom he has four children: Kathy, Alfred (Buddy), Michael, and Richard.





NEWS

# PACUCOA grants 6 Arts and Letters programs Level III Re-accredited Status; ELS, HST receive Level I Accreditation

Six programs of the Faculty of Arts and Letters, Bachelor of Arts (BA) in Asian Studies, BA in Behavioral Science, BA in Communication Arts, BA in Journalism, BA in Political Science, and BA in Sociology were granted a Level III Re-accredited Status by the Philippine Association of Colleges and Universities Commission on Accreditation (PACUCOA) through the Federation of Accrediting Agencies of the Philippines (FAAP) as the certifying body.

According to Arts and Letters Dean Prof. Marilu R. Madrunio, Ph.D., these programs will enjoy their first re-accreditation status until March 2026.

Two BA programs, the Bachelor of Arts in History, and the Bachelor of Arts in English Language Studies, established in 2011, were granted a Level 1 Formal-Accredited status. This will be in effect until June 2024.

The PACUCOA accreditation team led by Dr. Rosita I. Navarro conducted its remote visit accreditation (RVA) in March 2021 for the six Level III programs while the BA in History and BA in English Language Studies underwent accreditation in June 2021.

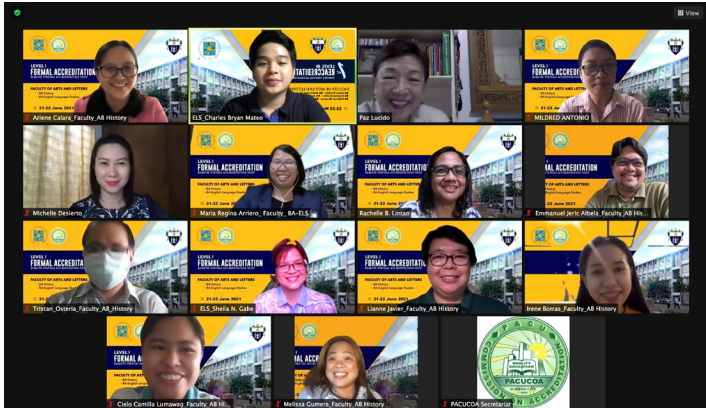
During the visit, the Faculty of Arts and Letters highlighted its quality online instruction and the alignment of the Faculty's intended learning outcomes with the mission and vision of the University. During the remote visit accreditation process, the department chairs and program coordinators showcased the various strategies of online instruction used by faculty members, the alignment of their curriculum with the skills needed in the workplace, and the achievements of the students and alumni.

The PACUCOA Accreditation team lauded the Faculty of Arts and Letters' achievements in internationalization, quality instruction, and the excellence of students by garnering awards in various national and international competitions.

The Faculty of Arts and Letters is also recognized as a CHED Center of Excellence in Philosophy and a Center of Development in Literature, Journalism, and Communication.

These achievements added honor and prestige to the Faculty of Arts and Letters as it celebrates its 125th or Quasquicentennial Anniversary with the theme "Life, Love, Lore: Brimming Full."

The Faculty of Arts and Letters is also scheduled to undergo international assessment by AUN-QA in November 2021 for its BA Communication and BA Journalism programs.



Dr. Lucido (first row, third from left) with UST Department of English Chair Prof. Rachelle B. Lintao, Ph.D. (second row, third from left), and faculty members from the History and ELS programs during the Level I Accreditation virtual visit



Dr. Navarro (second row, leftmost) with Faculty of Arts and Letters Dean Prof. Marilu R. Madrunio, Ph.D. (top row, leftmost), UST SIMBAHYAN Director Asst. Prof. Froilan Alipao (third row, fourth from left), Assistant Dean Assoc. Prof. Alejandro S. Bernardo, Ph.D. (second row, fourth from left), Arts and Letters Faculty Secretary Asst. Prof. Ma. Zenia Rodriguez (fourth row, rightmost), accreditors, program chairs, and faculty members during the Level III Re-accreditation in March 2021



Minecraft avatars of the UST-CICS graduates are on the stage of the recreated Quadricentennial Pavilion, where the virtual graduation ceremony was held.



The UST-CICS graduates' avatars in front of the Arch of the Centuries

## UST CICS classes of 2020, 2021 march in Minecraft virtual graduation

Creativity and safety are at the top of the list for holding events in the new normal, and the UST College of Information and Computing Sciences (CICS) has stepped up their game. Faithful to the core of the programs under CICS, the college made it possible for their students from Classes 2020 and 2021 to virtually celebrate their graduation using the popular open-world sandbox game Minecraft. After all, it was Christian Nobleza, a student of CICS who initiated to use Minecraft to relive UST activities and traditions such as the Welcome Walk for Freshmen, Paskuhan, send-off ceremonies, among others, to share the experience to freshmen who have never been into the University campus due to the pandemic.

The solemn investitures were [livestreamed via the CICS Facebook page](#) on August 28, 2021.

"You are graduating into a transformed world, into a moment in world history full of opportunities and possibilities that did not exist 18 months ago," said CICS Dean Jerralyn T. Padua as she congratulated the new graduates.

In total, 69 students obtained their Bachelor of Science in Computer Science degree, 157 students graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Information Technology degree, and 71 students completed the Bachelor of Science in Information Systems degree.

## PolSci chair Dennis Coronacion is elected PPSA president

UST Department of Political Science Chair Asst. Prof. Dennis C. Coronacion, Ph.D., was recently elected president of the Philippine Political Science Association (PPSA).

Coronacion, the first UST faculty member to be elected to the position, assumed the presidency following a majority vote from members of the country's premier organization of political science scholars, mentors, and researchers. He will lead the organization until 2023.

Prior to his election as president, Coronacion served the organization as vice president for two years. He replaced Prof. Rosalie Arcala-Hall, Ph.D., of the University of the Philippines-Visayas.

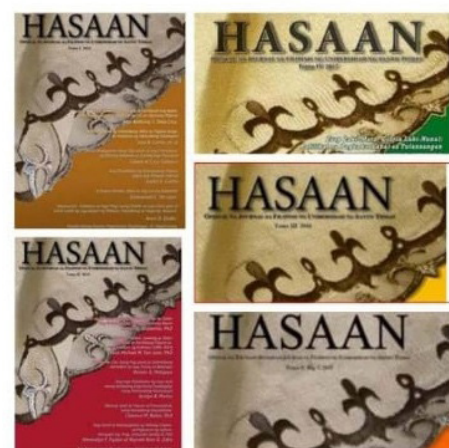
In his speech, Coronacion thanked the outgoing officers of the PPSA and assured its members that his leadership will continue to spur political science scholarship in the country through the organization's various initiatives.



Asst. Prof. Dennis C. Coronacion, Ph.D. (top row, third from left) is welcomed in a virtual meeting by the other newly elected officers of the Philippine Political Science Association. [Photo courtesy of PPSA]

Aside from teaching and taking active part in University research, Coronacion, who is affiliated with the Faculty of Arts and Letters, is regularly invited by media outfits as a resource person to discuss the pressing political issues of the time. He has also authored books and research articles on Philippine political dynamics and world affairs.





# HASAAN JOURNAL TOMO V1 PAGLULUNSA 2021

## Lecture series marks release of latest UST HASAAN journal

A series of virtual lectures delivered by contributors of *HASAAN* Volume IV, Number 1 (2020) was held from August 26 to 28, 2021, to mark the release of the latest issue of UST *HASAAN* journal.

Managed and published by the College of Education Department of Filipino, *HASAAN* is the University's official annual refereed academic journal in Filipino.

Department of Secondary Education Chair Asst. Prof. Alvin Ringgo Reyes officially released the current issue by recognizing the contributors and international referees, including the new editors of the journal. Mr. Reyes is the former chairperson of the Department of Filipino.

Meanwhile, Assoc. Prof. Zendel Rosario M. Taruc, Ph.D., editor-in-chief of *HASAAN*, discussed the process of publishing works in the journal.

The topics discussed during the three-day lecture consisted of rhetoric, varieties of local language, analysis of language used in literature, among others.

Speakers were: Jun Yang Badie, Dr. Eugene Y. Evasco, Mark Anthony S. Angeles,

Dr. Leslie Anne L. Liwanag, Romeo J. Toring, Jr., Hilda A. Pedrera, Aisah B. Camar, Dr. Fe S. Berniso, Ian Mark P. Nibalvos, Dr. Christoffer Mitch C. Cerda, Axle Christien J. Tugano, Clarissa Mae E. Paranas, Nina Jesusa G. Reyes, and Nixon Paul J. Sumaong.

Some of the topics presented were: "Mga Talinghaga ng Pagkalinga, mga Retorika ng Pandemya: Kapangyarihan ng mga Infographic at Tungkulin ng Pagsasalin sa Paglupig ng COVID-19; "Mga Talinghaga ng Saranggola sa Panahon ng Krisis at Pandemya," "Varayti ng Wikang Surigaonon: Isang Pagsusuri sa Ponemang /J/ at /Y/"; "Hulagway sa Pagwasak sa Kalikasan at Kapaligiran: Ang mga Eko-Panitikang Manobo na Nagtatanghal ng mga Hamong Ekolohikal," among others.

The call for contributions for *HASAAN* Volume VII (2021) was also formally made. According to Mr. Nibalvos, managing editor, the next issue will prioritize research papers related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Submissions will be accepted until October 31.

[The lectures may be viewed on the UST Departamento ng Filipino Facebook page.](#)

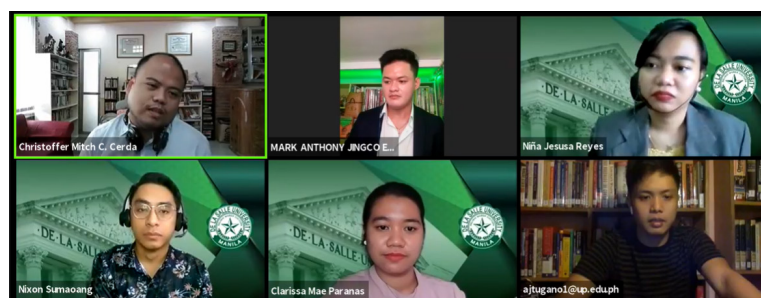
Articles from *HASAAN* Volume IV may be downloaded at the journal's website (<https://hasaan.ust.edu.ph/>), where the guidelines for the next issue may also be accessed.



Evasco (top right) and Angeles (center) with the moderator

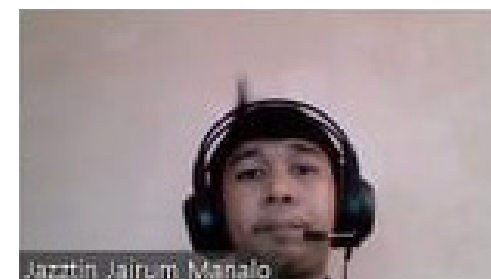


Presenters for the second day during the question and answer portion.



Researchers discuss their works on the third day.

Jazztin Jairum Manalo presents his study on environmental governance in Palawan during the PPSA conference. [Photo courtesy of Jazztin Jairum Manalo]



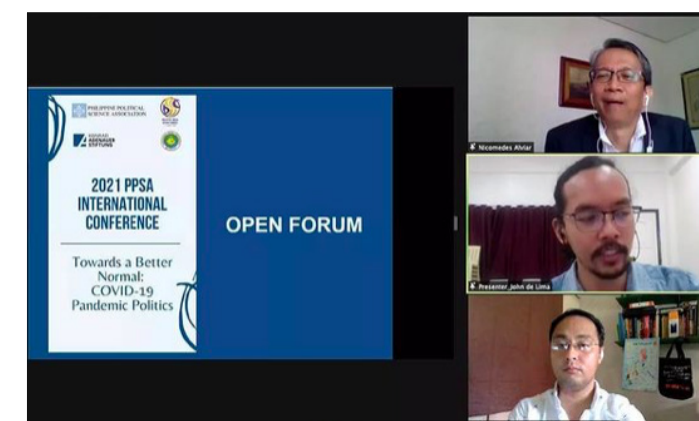
## PolSci faculty, students present papers on multifarious topics at PPSA conference

Faculty members and students of the UST Department of Political Science presented their scholarly works on various political, social, and cultural topics at the recently held 2021 Philippine Political Science Association (PPSA) International Conference.

Arts and Letters Faculty Secretary, Asst. Prof. Ma. Zenia M. Rodriguez and UST Political Science Department Chair Asst. Prof. Dennis C. Coronacion, Ph.D., led the Thomasian contingent in the three-day forum graced by the country's leading political science scholars and researchers.

Rodriguez talked about international religious non-government organizations and their advocacies for peace and justice within the purview of the Dominican Order. Meanwhile, Coronacion co-presented with his student Jerome Madrid Inoc, the case of Overseas Filipino Workers in Cambodia in the context of the Global South trends in migration.

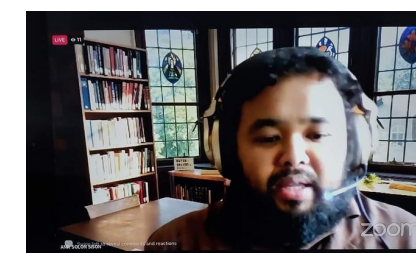
Faculty members Jazztin Jairum Manalo, delivered a study on the co-production and environmental governance in Palawan.



### Community Education and Participation



98.5 MHz DWWA-FM CABAYUGAN  
101.1 MHz DWGA-FM BATARAZA



Amr Solon Sison discusses his study about "other canon" economic in the early decades of the 21st century. [Photo courtesy of Amr Solon Sison]

Anthony Andrew Divinagracia probed the implications of the ABS-CBN shutdown on the final years of the Duterte administration. Cleve Arguelles, meanwhile, examined the durability of President Rodrigo Duterte's popularity amid his mismanaged COVID-19 response.

Another faculty member, Amr Solon Sison co-presented the resurgence of "other canon" economics in the early decades of the 21st century with Arellano University instructor Bryan Joseph Ortiz.

Political Science student Erick Joshua Lagon, dissected the great power politics of the COVID-19 pandemic under the lens of political realism.

This year's conference theme centered on COVID-19 politics amid economic and sustainability issues confronting the world today.

Anthony Andrew Divinagracia (bottom, right) discusses the findings of his study on the implications of the ABS-CBN shutdown on the final years of the Duterte government during the open forum. [Photo courtesy of Anthony Andrew G. Divinagracia]





Komisyon sa Wikang Filipino (KWF) Chairman  
Dr. Arthur P. Casanova

College of Education Dean Assoc. Prof. Pilar I. Romero, Ph.D.

UST is premier Filipino research hub – KWF Chair

Komisyon sa Wikang Filipino (KWF) Chairman Dr. Arthur P. Casanova, in his speech, underscored the role of the University of Santo Tomas as a premier research hub for the intellectualization of the Filipino language. He stated this during the culmination of WIKAAKUHAN: Tomasinong Pagdiriwang ng Buwan ng Wika, organized by the Department of Filipino, College of Education held on August 31, 2021.

WIKAAKUHAN 2021 was a three-part webinar series on language and culture held on the Tuesdays of August, in celebration of this year's Buwan ng Wika.

Newly-appointed UST Department of Filipino Chair Dr. Roberto Ampil, inaugurated the first leg, held on August 17, with the theme “Wika at Panitikan.” Featured lecturers were multi-awarded fictionists Dr. Luna Sicat-Cleto and Ms. Rosa May Bayuga.

Cleto lectured on “Tungkol sa Kapangyarihan ng Maláy na Pagninilay,” while Bayuga discussed “Hininga’t Hiraya sa Sinapupunan ng Hiwaga.”

The second session was held on August 24. Following the theme “Kultura at Katutubong Wika,” educators Dr. Randy Nobleza lectured on “Wikang Filipino at Marinduque: Bigkis ng Magkakabuklod na Isla sa MIMAROPA,” while Dr. Vicente Villan expounded on “Pasundayag: Ang



Nuncio (top right) and Peña (center) with the moderator Ms. Maricris Gacias

Adaptibong Wikang Akademiko at Halaga ng Organikong Sining sa Dekolonisasyon ng mga Pilipino.”

To cap the series, Dr. Rhoderick V. Nuncio’s “Ang Araling Filipino at Maka-Pilipinong Pananaliksik sa Gitna ng Krisis at sa Bagong Normal” and Dr. Romeo P. Peña’s “Pagsusulong ng Maka-Pilipinong Multidisiplinaryong mga Pananaliksik: Ilang Hamon at Inspirasyon” delved on the

theme “Wika at Pananaliksik.” The third and final session was held on August 31.

In her closing remarks, College of Education Dean Assoc. Prof. Pilar I. Romero, Ph.D., reminded the participants to celebrate language despite the challenges that we face during the pandemic.

The webinar series may be viewed on the UST Departamento ng Filipino Facebook page.



UST GS Assistant Dean Dr. Camilla Vizconde (fourth row, third from left), CCPED Director Assoc. Prof. Jocelyn Agcaoili (third row, leftmost), top graduates Maville Alferez (top row, leftmost) and John Marvin Ong (third row, second from left) with course facilitators and graduates

CCPED certificate course in human resource produces 16 graduates

All the 16 course participants who successfully hurdled the certificate course in Strategic Human Resource Business Partnership offered by the Graduate School Center for Continuing Professional Education and Development, have graduated. They are now recognized as Certified Strategic HR Business Partners.

The virtual activities for the certificate course was held on August 28, 2021

In her address, Graduate School Assistant Dean Camilla Vizconde congratulated the graduates and said that they will now bring with them the new skills, strategies, and competencies of an HR Practitioner gained from the program and

apply these in their respective workplaces, empowering not only themselves as individuals, but also the companies with whom they work and their clients.

Special recognition was given to two graduates for their exemplary performance in the course. Ms. Maville C. Alferez graduated as Top 1, while Top 2 was John Marvin S. Ong.

In her message of thanks, the Top 1 graduate Alferez said that the course was able to hone her business partner mindset and thanked the resource speakers & course facilitators for providing the framework to understand and appreciate HR, the strategies to think innovatively while striving for continuous improvement,

the ability to operate the HR models for employee effectiveness and productivity, the skills to be a management consultant, and the heart to make decisions with meaning and purpose.

Ong, who was the Top 2 graduate, expressed his thanks to CCPED for hosting such relevant course that would equip HR Practitioners who aspire to be an effective HR Business Partner and transition to a strategic model in the HR field. He also said that the program is really highly recommended for all people managers, business leaders, and aspiring HR Professionals.

INTERNATIONALIZATION

Three Visiting Professors to teach in Arts & Letters

Faculty of Arts and Letters Dean Marilu R. Madrunio, PhD., announced that for academic year 2021-2022, three Visiting Professors and Lecturers will teach in different programs of the Faculty of Arts and Letters: Dr. Sampson Blair, Ramon Mislang, and Marta Ruiz Sánchez.

Dr. Sampson Blair of the State University of New York – Buffalo will teach in the Sociology program, and give academic lectures to the faculty and students of Sociology. Blair is an Associate

Professor of Sociology at SUNY-Buffalo and earned his PhD at the Pennsylvania State University. Currently, he is the editor of Contemporary Perspectives in Family Research, and the Vice President for North America of the Research Committee on Youth, International Sociological Association.

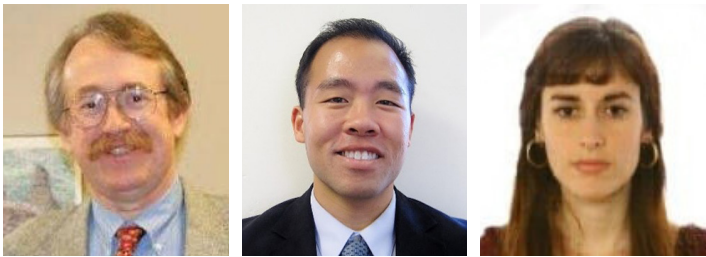
At the Department of English, Ramon Mislang will be the assigned Virtual English Language Fellow (VELF) at the University of Santo Tomas. The US State Department assigned Mislang as a VELF at UST.

Mislang, who is based in California, holds a master’s degree Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) and a BA in Japanese Language and Literature, which he earned

at the San Francisco State University in San Francisco, California. His teaching experience covers a wide range of courses he handled as a British Council English instructor as well as a Fulbright ETA in the US, Japan, China, Hong Kong. This year, he will handle specialization courses for students in the BA English Language Studies program.

Visiting Lecturer Marta Ruiz Sánchez will teach Spanish courses under the Department of Modern Languages. Sánchez holds a master’s degree in Teaching Spanish from the Universidad Internacional dela Rioja in Logroño, Spain, and another master’s degree in Teaching in Secondary Education from the Universidad de Granada.

The Faculty of Arts and Letters has a long-standing partnership with the Agencia Española de Cooperación Internacional para el Desarrollo (AECID) for academic exchanges.



Dr. Sampson Blair      Mr. Ramon Mislang      Sra. Marta Ruiz Sánchez



# Tejuco of Architecture presents digital tours, use of digital platform to promote heritage at Singapore conference

Tejuco's presentations

UST College of Architecture faculty member Asst. Prof. Felicisimo A. Tejuco, Jr. proposed a digital tour of the Escolta area of the City of Manila by tapping the affected transportation sector. This was one of the two papers that he presented during the 2021 Inter-Asia Cultural Studies Society (IACSS) virtual Conference held recently in Singapore.

Through a community-based tourism framework and mobile technology, Tejuco proposed multiple strategies to encourage digital tours of Escolta. These include multi-sectoral and phasing projects like ongoing streets improvements, developing an online visitor application, and skills training of displaced and affected residents as tour guides.

The conference theme was "Creative Cultural Industries: Responses to COVID-19," and Tejuco presented this digital tour of Escolta titled "Reviving the Tourism Sector of Manila through a Preliminary Tourism Trail as Part of its Comprehensive Tourism Plan Vis-à-vis Community-based Planning During the COVID-19 Pandemic."

Under the sub-theme "Changing Spaces: Home, Institution, Diaspora and Empire," Tejuco presented his second paper "Documenting the Spirit of the Place of the UST Arch of the Centuries through its Tangible and Intangible Features in the Digital Platform of Minecraft."



Tejuco discussed how an online game can be used to promote the heritage structures and events of the University. The study was inspired by the Minecraft version of the UST campus, which was planned and developed by College of Information and Computing Sciences student Charles Nobleza, president of the Thomasian Gaming Society.

The digital recreation of UST allowed new Thomasian students to virtually experience the Thomasian Welcome Walk, a UST tradition. In his research, Tejuco explained that the digital translation of sites and structures like the UST Arch of the Centuries can be developed as "alternative" platforms to promote tourism. For heritage sites, he noted the importance of capturing the "spirit of place," or the iconic design of the Arch; and the "sense of place" or the symbolism of the Arch as an entry and exit portal.

The first paper was a collaboration between Tejuco and his former students, Kristine L. Manzano, Christian Paul R. Ramos, Buena Mai C. Tunac, Iain Rafel N. Tyapon, and Ar. Nathan Arman T. Sario.

The second paper was co-authored by Tejuco and his adviser, University of the Philippines College of Architecture Dean Grace Ramos, where he is a student under the Doctor of Philosophy in Designed and Built Environment program.



Calalang [Screenshot obtained from the UST Singers Facebook page]

## Adoramus Te, Christe: Calalang's music of hope bags award at int'l composition contest in Austria

University of Santo Tomas Singers founder and conductor Asst. Prof. Fidel Gener Calalang, Jr.'s composition, "Adoramus Te, Christe" (We Adore You, O Christ), won third prize in the Academia Musica's Second International Composers Competition held on August 16, 2021, in Vienna, Austria.

"Adoramus Te, Christe" had its online global premiere on August 15, 2021. It was performed by the two-time winner of the Luciano Pavarotti Choir of the World trophy, the UST Singers.

Scored for six voices, the song is based on the centuries-old traditional church hymn, "Adoramus te, Christe et benedicimus tibi." (We

adore You, O Christ, and we bless You.")

In his message during the premiere, Calalang said that he composed the song in April 2021.

"I was inspired and motivated to create a song that will provide a sense of hope and strength in the wake of our dark, uncertain, and troubled times," Calalang explained, referring to the pandemic.

The award-winning song is available for streaming on various music platforms, such as Spotify, Apple Music, YouTube, Deezer, Amazon, and SoundCloud.



The Tiger Sports Hub launch poster



The Aruga logo is unveiled immediately after the virtual ribbon cutting ceremony.

# CRS opens Tiger Sports Freehub, Aruga Occupational Therapy Clinic for free telerehabilitation, conditioning services

The Tiger Sports Freehub, a clinical internship virtual clinic, was launched on August 25, 2021 to provide free rehabilitation and strength and conditioning services to all enrolled Thomasian student athletes.

The exercise programs are strengthened through interprofessional collaboration among physical therapists, sports science specialists, coaches, and medical doctors. Using online platforms, such as a private Facebook group and Zoom, athletes can join the group and schedule their initial screening appointment.

The online launch was attended by the Vice-Rector for Academic Affairs Prof. Cheryl R. Peralta, DrPH, College of Rehabilitation Sciences Dean Assoc. Prof. Anne Marie Aseron, UST Health Service Director Dr. Sheryl M. Dionisio, UST-IPEA Athletic Moderator Asst. Prof. Rodrigo A. Sambuang, Jr., Physical Therapy Department Chair Asst. Prof. Donald G. Manlapaz, Ph.D., Sports Science Department Chair Asst. Prof. Reil Vinard S. Espino, Chief Physical Therapist Ken Ervin R. Sosa, Sports Science Supervisors Gino V. Zapanta and Kris Anthony T. Agarao, faculty members, coaches, and interns from the physical therapy and sports science programs.

**Aruga Occupational Therapy Clinic**

The Department of Occupational Therapy, under the University of Santo Tomas College of Rehabilitation Sciences, formally launched its first virtual clinic on July 29, 2021. The event was held

online through video conferencing among organizers and main guests, and streamed live for public viewing.

Formally known as the [Aruga UST OT Clinic](#), this virtual therapy and wellness center provides an avenue for occupational therapy interns to receive quality training and an opportunity for the department to serve the UST community and its partners through the provision of free occupational therapy services.

The online launch was attended by University officials, faculty members, interns, and guests from partner organizations and institutions.

College of Rehabilitation Sciences Dean Assoc. Prof. Anne Marie Aseron delivered the welcome remarks. This was followed by a presentation about the Aruga UST OT Clinic, showcasing the history, background, goals and programs of the clinic.

To signify the formal opening of the clinic, the Vice-Rector for Academic Affairs Peralta, with Dean Aseron, the clinic administrators Charles Bermejo, Zha Nella Canja, Gillian Ollet, Ma. Carol Mae Protacio, Allan James Tan, and the OT Department Chair Asst. Prof. Kathlene Anne Hernandez held a virtual ribbon cutting ceremony.

From the planning stage beginning in December 2020, Aruga opened its doors to receive its first clients on July

1, 2021. Partners in this initiative include the UST Human Resource Department, Parent Advocates for Visually Impaired Children (PAVIC), Balay Tulul-anan, the UST SIMBAHAYAN Community Development Office, the UST Health Service, and the UST Psychotrauma Clinic.

Aruga moves forward with its mission to impart quality education and training to occupational therapy interns, to go beyond the provision of service in physical clinics and extend the reach of occupational therapy services to more people through telehealth, and to empower clients and their families to be able to overcome their difficulties and limitations.



Vice-Rector for Academic Affairs Prof. Cheryl R. Peralta, DrPH (second row, rightmost), CRS Dean Assoc. Prof. Anne Marie Aseron (second row, second from left), Physical Therapy Department Chair Dr. Donald Manlapaz (top row, right most), Chief Physical Therapist Ken Ervin R. Sosa (top row, leftmost) with faculty members and interns during the launch of the Tiger Sports Hub.





SIMBAHAYAN Director Asst. Prof. Froilan A. Alipao (first row, third from left), SIMBAHAYAN Assistant Director Asst. Prof. Evalyn B. Abiog, Ph.D. (first row, rightmost), with CD coordinators, support staff, and students.

# SIMBAHAYAN, OSA hold e-forum on community development, advocacy

The UST Simbahayan Community Development Office (SIMBAHAYAN), in collaboration with the Office for Student Affairs (OSA), held the “All Leaders’ Community Development E-Forum and CD Team Members’ Orientation (A.Y. 2021-2022).”

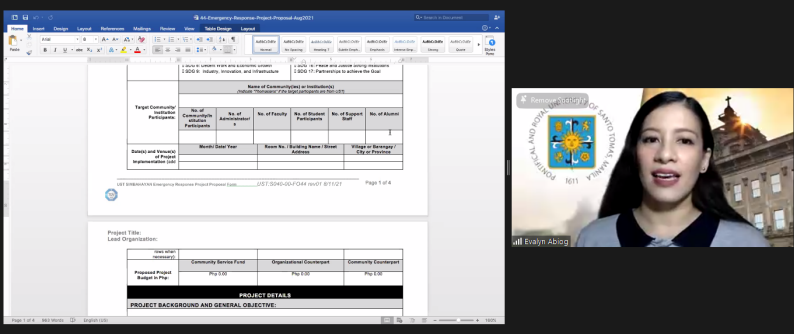
Conducted via Zoom and Facebook on August 19, the online gathering of student leaders and community development coordinators focused on the processes involved in the University Community Development Program (UCDP) which are significant in the successful preparation, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of a community development project and advocacy.

Office for Student Affairs Director Asst. Prof. Maria Cecilia Tio Cuison, in her opening remarks, acknowledged the efforts of everyone for earnestly sustaining the sense of compassion and solidarity amongst the community in the humble service for others.

Moreover, the OSA director emphasized that the definition of a community be developed not just with the partner communities of UST, but also with the immediate environment of the students, which includes the family, neighborhood, non-government organizations, minority groups, online groups, people with similar needs and other social circles.

Presented to the student leaders were the online process for non-curricular activities including policies on student activities, student-initiated activities, processing of online activities, approval process, processing timeline, SAAF submission file format, and important reminders.

Meanwhile, SIMBAHAYAN Assistant Director Asst. Prof. Evalyn Abiog, Ph.D., formally introduced the Community Development Coordinators for the academic year, and discussed the Ten-Step SIMBAHAYAN Process that involves: 1) consultation, 2) preparation, 3) review, 4) endorsement, 5) submission, 6) follow-up, 7) approval and preparation of the budget and other requests, 8) the release of budget, 9) project implementation, and 10) project



SIMBAHAYAN Assistant Director Asst. Prof. Evalyn Abiog presents the revised SIMBAHAYAN templates on community development and advocacy.

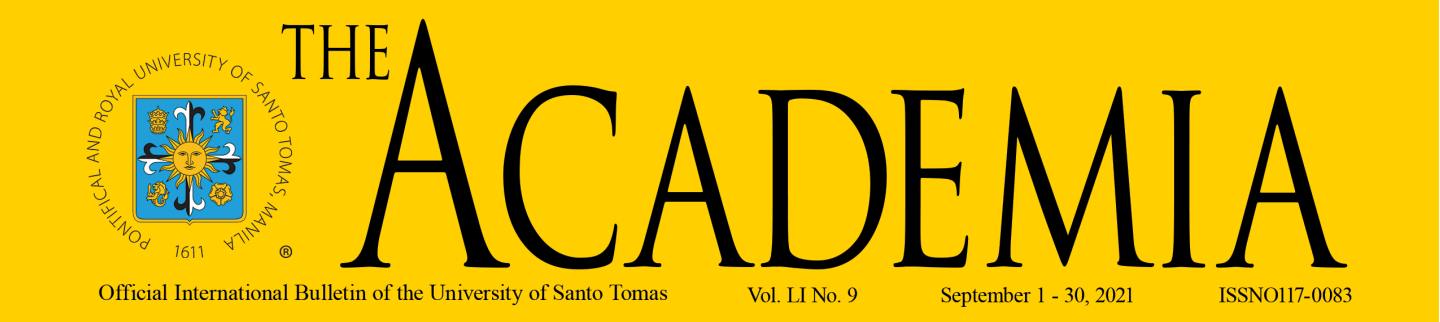
reporting and evaluation.

The updated SIMBAHAYAN forms such as Emergency Response Project Proposal, Advocacy Project Proposal, and Emergency Response Terminal Report were also highlighted. It was mentioned that all of the remaining pertinent SIMBAHAYAN documents will be made available to the students and faculty members through a Google Drive link posted on the SIMBAHAYAN Facebook page. Abiog also addressed some frequently asked questions related to community development and advocacy.

Part of the forum was to equip the student leaders with analytical and creative thinking skills, the ability to solve a problem, and to effectively collaborate and communicate as they learn in the problem case scenarios.

The forum was moderated by College of Tourism and Hospitality Management Community Development Coordinator Asst. Prof. Joreen Rocamora, Ph.D.

Over 200 Thomasian student leaders, community development coordinators, support staff, and faculty team members from different academic units attended the e-forum and orientation.



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