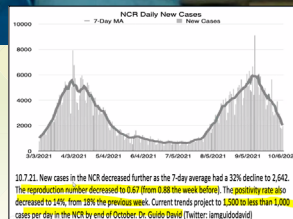




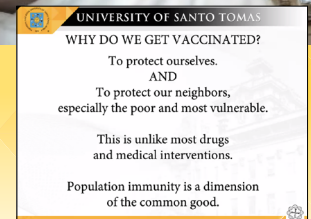
Anthony Leachon

*Dr. Anthony Leachon presents the current COVID-19 situation in the NCR.*



Nicanor Austriaco, OP

*Rev. Fr. Nicanor Austriaco, O.P., Ph.D., S.Th.D., emphasizes the community benefit of vaccination.*



## Austriaco, Leachon allay concerns, encourage wider COVID-19 vaccination efforts at UST lecture

Microbiologist-priest Fr. Nicanor Austriaco, O.P., and independent health reform advocate Dr. Tony Leachon, provided clarity on getting the COVID-19 jab through a free, publicly available webinar. The “Second Albertus Magnus Faith and Science Lecture” was held on October 8, 2021 via Zoom and livestreaming at the University of Santo Tomas Facebook page.

With misinformation currently rampant, the decision to get vaccinated may still be daunting for some people. Often, this choice may be influenced by faith and religion, particularly in the Philippine context.

The UST College of Science, led by its Dean, Prof. Rey Donne Papa, Ph.D., in collaboration with the UST Center for Theology, Religious Studies and Ethics (CTRSE), Uniharmony Partners Philippines, and UST-CoVAX Awareness Team, organized the webinar to show how COVID-19 vaccination is an acceptable initiative across different faiths and beliefs.

Focusing on the theme “Solidarity, Equity and the Global Challenge for Universal Access to Vaccination,” the webinar featured two keynote lectures.

“The COVID-19 Vaccines and the Common Good” was delivered by UST-CoVAX Awareness Team Lead Investigator and Department of Biological Sciences Professor Rev. Fr. Nicanor Austriaco, O.P., Ph.D., S.Th.D.

“Each individual has a responsibility toward the common good and must consider it when making decisions. In fact, according to St. Thomas Aquinas, ‘We must strive to desire the common good more than the individual good, because in this way, we are more like God,’” Fr. Austriaco emphasized.

As more people get vaccinated, the transmission rate goes down. Being fully vaccinated not only protects the people who are jabbed, but also the people around them. Particularly, this protection applies most to the elderly and the vulnerable,

*continued on page 2*

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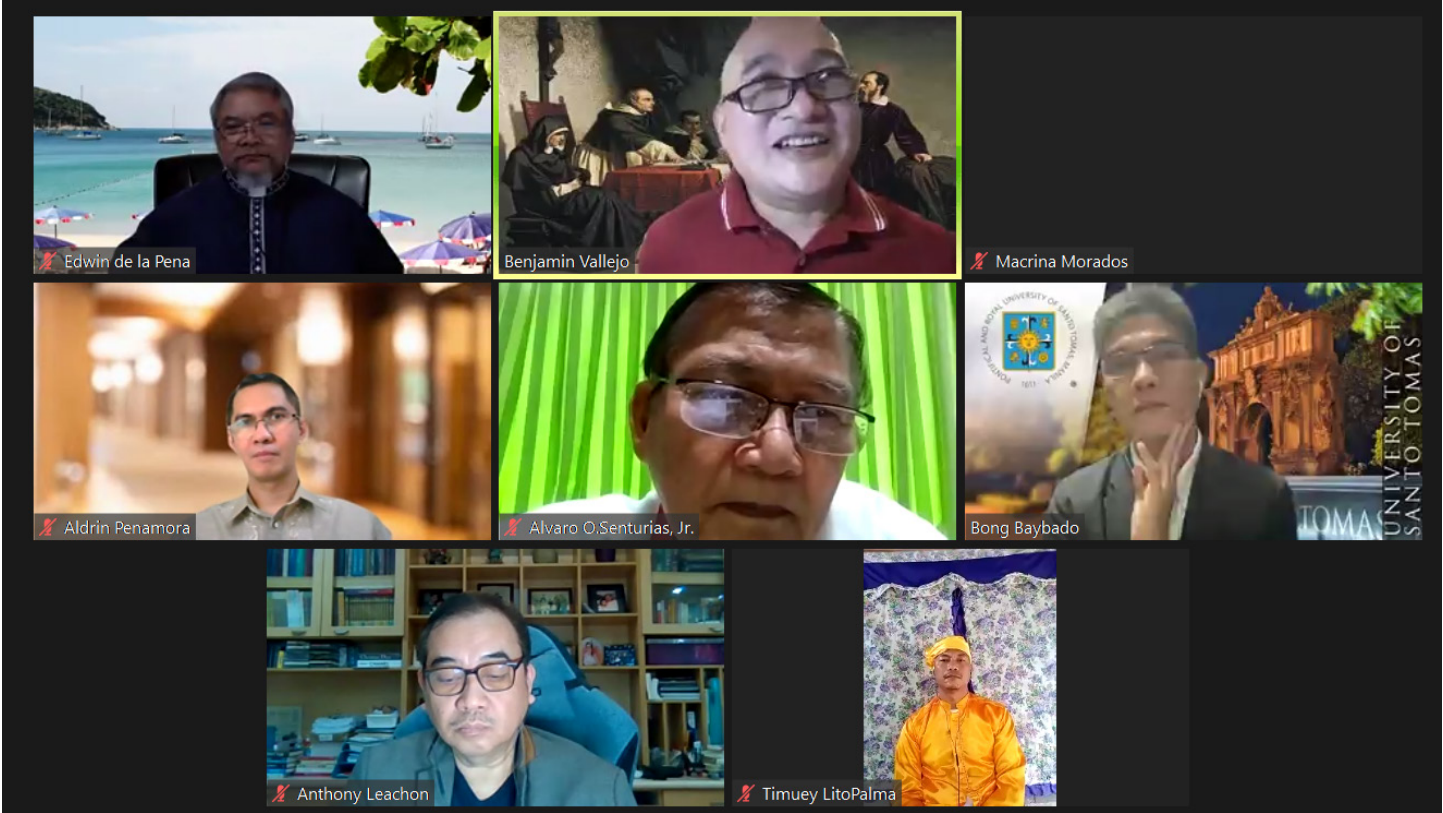
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**Austriaco, Leachon allay concerns, encourage wider COVID-19 vaccination efforts in UST lecture**

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The panel of reactors (first row, from left) Bishop dela Peña, moderator Dr. Benjamin Vallejo, Jr., (second row, from left) Prof. Morados, Pastor Dr. Penamora, Pastor Senturias, moderator Dr. Pablito Baybado, Jr., (third row, from left) Dr. Leachon, and Chieftain Palma

which is why the choice to get the vaccine leads to the common good.

To illustrate, Fr. Austriaco shared that in Providence College in Rhode Island, USA, where he also teaches, classes in-person are already being held, but students wear masks. The student, employee, and faculty population have a joint 97 percent vaccination rate. For the Providence College community, herd immunity, which is a level of population immunity where viral transmission is stopped, has been achieved.

“With the substantially high vaccination rate, even their cafeteria now operates in full capacity and in a few weeks, the mask mandate will be lifted,” said Fr. Austriaco.

This live scenario currently contrasts deeply with the Philippines since, by November, it will be the only country in the world to still not resume in-person classes. In a COVID-19 resilience ranking by Bloomberg, the country fell to last place out of 53 countries, scoring poorly in terms of its vaccine rollout and its economic

response to the pandemic.

To break the cycle of lockdowns, the Health Education Reform Order (Executive Order 595) author, Philippine College of Physicians Past President, and UST College of Science Class of 1981 alumnus Dr. Tony C. Leachon discussed his recommendations in his talk titled “How to end the Pandemic in the Philippines.”

Aside from increasing the testing, tracing, and treating efforts, Dr. Leachon said that the primary considerations to focus on include: emphasizing proper ventilation; subsidizing tests, creating a network of health facilities from barangays to tertiary hospitals, and improving health workers’ compensation.

Leachon also added the following considerations: providing timely and complete case data, having clear and consistent messaging; improving mass public transportation and its safety measures, making vaccination processes simple and transparent, and

providing economic stimulus and relief for households when lockdowns are imposed.

The panel of reactors was composed of experts from different perspectives, including the Chair of the Episcopal Commission on Interreligious Dialogue of the Catholic Bishops’ Conference of the Philippines Most. Rev. Edwin Dela Pena, D.D.; Philippine Council of Evangelical Churches Commission on Justice, Peace and Reconciliation Executive Director Pastor Dr. Aldrin Penamora; University of the Philippines Institute of Islamic Studies Dean Prof. Macrina A. Morados; Ancestral Domain Tribal Impahalad and Arumanon-Manuvo Chieftain Timuey Lito Palma; and United Church of Christ in the Philippines Cosmopolitan Church Pastor Alvaro O. Senturias, Jr.

The interfaith discussion had common ground in its encouragement of vaccination.

The webinar is available for public viewing [through this link](#).

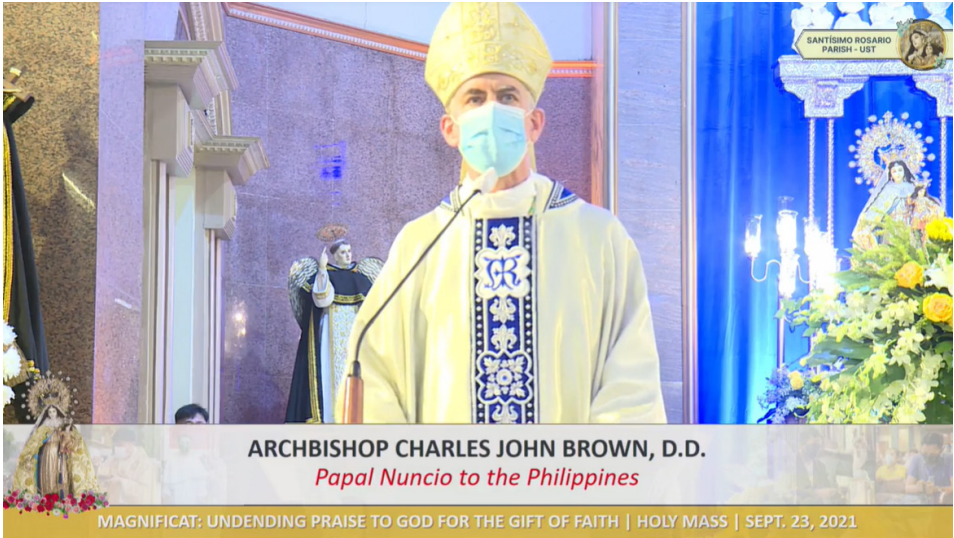
**Apostolic Nuncio encourages consistent praying of Rosary at Enthronement Mass for Our Lady of the Holy Rosary**

The Apostolic Nuncio to the Philippines His Excellency Most Rev. Charles John Brown, D.D., presided over the Enthronement Mass for the image of Our Lady of the Holy Rosary held on September 23, 2021, at the UST Chapel (Santísimo Rosario Parish Church).

In anticipation of the Feast of the Holy Rosary on October 7, and the Feast of the Santísimo Rosario Parish Church, which was celebrated on October 3, the first Sunday of the month, the Enthronement Rites had the theme “*Magnificat*: Unending Praise to God for the Gift of Faith.”

Most Rev. Brown, in his homily, emphasized the need to consistently follow the humility of Mary, saying that, “If we follow her path, we follow the path of true wisdom: to receive the Word of God in the most intimate part of our hearts, to give birth to Jesus in our own way, by living our Catholic Faith in the world, which is such great need of light and truth.”

One path to be close to Mary is through the consistent praying of the Rosary, which is a prayer that equalizes all who recite it. Kings, nuncios, popes, theologians or philosophers, and the simplest people of any city in the world, including Manila can pray it [because everyone is a] child of Mary, living our vocation to holiness in



Most Rev. Brown delivers the homily. [Screenshot obtained from the Santísimo Rosario Parish Facebook Page]

different ways, said the Papal Nuncio.

Echoing the call of Pope Francis to pray the Rosary more, especially in this time of pandemic, Most Rev. Brown urged the faithful to “Please pray the Rosary, especially beginning this October, the month dedicated to Our Lady. Ask Mary for the grace to be faithful to prayer, to be filled with humility, and to be like Mary – always

trusting and confident in God’s Love for us.”

Novena Masses were held from September 24 to October 2, 2021, with a Mass for the Feast of the Parish held on October 3 with Santísimo Rosario Parish Priest Rev. Fr. Paul Talavera, O.P., as main presider.

**Lobo takes oath as PACUCOA accreditor**



Lobo

UST Miguel de Benavides Library Chief Librarian Ms. Maria Cecilia D. Lobo recently took her oath as one of the new accreditors of the Philippine Association of Colleges and Universities Commission on Accreditation (PACUCOA).

Lobo was part of the 150 participants from different universities who were clustered in dissimilar areas for the training. Under the library cluster, 17 were library directors. The webinar training was held to prepare accreditors to conduct the evaluation surveys using the Remote Virtual Accreditation (RVA) platform.

The accreditation training webinar was organized by PACUCOA in partnership with C&E Adaptive Learning Solutions. It was headed by Conrado E. Iñigo, Jr., Ph.D., chairman, PACUCOA, Inc.

The two-day training focused on theories, principles and important concepts of accreditation, verification techniques, preparatory to the RVA visit, preliminary assessment of the accrediting team, remote virtual accreditation proper and post remote virtual accreditation, ethical guidelines for virtual accreditation, organization of the accrediting teams, and expectations from accreditors. Focus was also given on appreciating, evaluating and rating a program, report writing, and critiquing of reports.

Ms. Lobo’s 26-year service to the UST Library includes her appointment as Chief Librarian in 2018. Prior to that, she was the assistant chief librarian from September 2016 to December 2017.



## UST History Dept. Chair Resos is appointed to DepEd Teacher Education Council

University of Santo Tomas History Department Chair Assoc. Prof. Archie B. Resos, Ph.D., was appointed as member of the Teacher Education Council (TEC), representing the Social Studies cluster of the Department of Education (DepEd).

The TEC, created by Republic Act No. 7784, mandates the strengthening of teacher education in the Philippines by identifying and designating among private and public schools, teacher education institutions as centers of excellence; formulate policies and standards that shall strengthen and improve the system of teacher education, and recommend appropriate measure to the President, Congress and heads of government offices to improve, enhance and strengthen teacher education.

The members of TEC include the Secretary of the Department of Education as ex-officio chairman, four ex-officio members from the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC), National Commission for Culture and Arts (NCCA), Commission on Higher Education (CHED), Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) and seven regular members representing Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao and subject area representatives in Science, Mathematics, Social Studies, and Languages. All members are appointed by the President of the Republic of the Philippines.

Resos represents the Social Studies teachers of the Philippines and assists the Secretary of Education. He will fulfill his oath of office for a three-year term, from September 23, 2021 to 2024.



Resos

## UST English Dept. Chair Lintao is elected Secretary of NRCP Humanities Division

UST Department of English Chair Prof. Rachelle B. Lintao, Ph.D., was elected for a two-year term as Secretary of the National Research Council of the Philippines (NRCP), Division XI - Humanities on September 9, 2021.

An attached agency to the Department of Science and Technology, the NRCP acts as an advisory body to the Philippine Government on matters of national interest.

Lintao will serve as Division Secretary until March 31, 2023. She now joins the NRCP Humanities Division in promoting the enrichment of the humanities in the

enhancement of arts and culture and define their roles in the different fields of social and hard science through coordination with its members and with the other Divisions of the Council.

Prior to her election as Division XI Secretary, Lintao, who is currently the Vice-President of the Linguistic Society of the Philippines (LSP), also serves as the Country Representative of Clarity, an international plain language association and a board member of the International Plain Language Federation.



Lintao

## Licup heads national UAP student auxiliary

Zion Enrico Licup, a fourth-year student of the UST College of Architecture, has been named the National President of the United Architects of the Philippines Student Auxiliary.

On September 25, 2021, UAPSA conducted the national induction ceremony titled "Trailblaze: Pioneering Quintessence" through Zoom for the national posts of the student organization. UAPSA is the duly recognized student organization of the United Architects of the Philippines (UAP), the accredited professional organization of architects.

Other Thomasian Architecture students who hold national posts are:

Nicole Angela Tenoso (Chair, Committee on Awards), Danielle Anne Balatan (Chair, Committee on Ways and Means), Franchezka Abad (Committee on Ways and Means Deputy), Hannah Mae Gutierrez (Director for National Architecture Week), and Colleen Deirde Villacroza (Graphics Head) are officers of the said organization. Throughout the country, UAPSA has active chapters from 96 architecture schools with around 21000 members.

UST College of Architecture faculty Ar. Armando Eugene C. De Guzman III, UAP National President, also graced the induction ceremony.



Licup being inducted as the National President of the United Architects of the Philippines Student Auxiliary

## GS student bags best poster award for energy storage devices at Chemistry congress

UST Graduate School student David Joseph Alzate won the Best Poster Award during the 35th Philippine Chemistry Congress (PCC) held from September 20 to 24, 2021.

The poster, "Sustainable and environmentally friendly energy storage devices: polyaniline / MWCNT / water hyacinth-cotton, and polypyrrole / MWCNT / piña-cotton textile composites," was awarded on September 24, 2021, the last day of the conference.

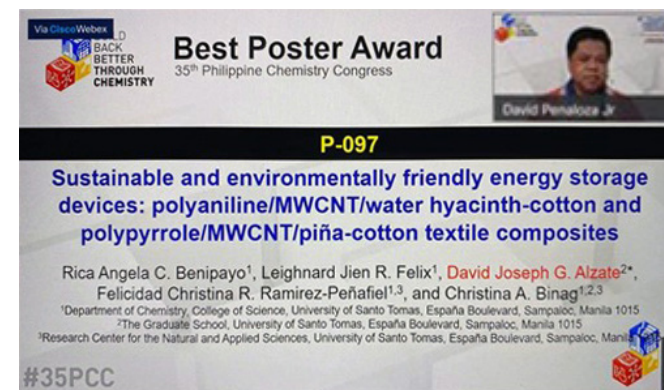
Alzate's research was co-authored with his adviser, Prof. Christina A. Binag, Ph.D., faculty member Asst. Prof. Felicidad Christina Ramirez-Peñañiel, Ph.D., and College of Science students Rica Angela Benipayo and Leighnard Jien R. Felix.

The 35th Philippine Chemistry Congress is the first fully online gathering of chemists and chemistry enthusiasts in the country, with its theme: "Build Back Better Through Chemistry." "The 'Build Back Bet-

ter' (BBB) concept was defined in the 2016 United Nations General Assembly - the "use of the recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction phases after a disaster."

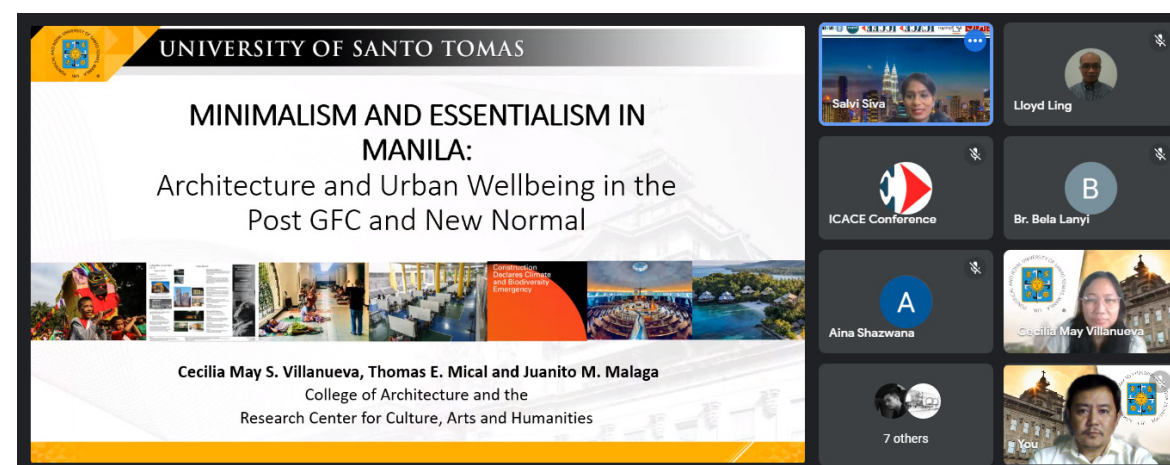
The PCC is the annual conference of chemists and chemistry enthusiasts in the Philippines. First held in 1984, the PCC has since served as one of the biggest gatherings of chemists and researchers from academe, industry, government, and other sectors, where new knowledge in chemistry and allied fields are brought to the forefront.

The virtual event was organized by



PCFS Board of Directors member Dr. David Peñañola, Jr., (top right) announces the Best Poster Award [Photo courtesy of Sittie Zuleiha D. Salik]

the Philippine Federation of Chemistry Societies, Inc. (PCFS) and attended by chemists, Chemistry educators, chemical technicians, and professionals from affiliated fields.



Villanueva (right column, third row) and Malaga (bottom right) present their paper.

## Villanueva, Malaga of Architecture discuss economy, pandemic as considerations in architectural design

UST College of Architecture faculty members Ar. Cecilia May S. Villanueva and Ar. Juanito M. Malaga virtually presented their paper during the 5th International Conference on Architecture and Civil Engineering (ICACE).

Villanueva and Malaga's work, titled "Minimalism and Essentialism in Manila: Architecture and Urban Wellbeing in the Post GFC and New Normal," showcases architecture and urban architecture in Manila designed by Thomasian Architects as reflections of minimalism and essentialism. Villanueva is also a faculty researcher of the UST Research Center for Culture, Arts and Humanities.

According to the paper, the 2008 Global Financial Crisis

caused shifts on the designs in the country. Architecture took austere approaches and financial considerations through frugal innovations, adaptive reuse, and different forms of minimalism in the design. A significant finding of the research pointed out that design considered natural wind flow on the interior spaces that has now become a significant tool on addressing the present pandemic.

The paper was co-authored by Jindal School of Art and Architecture Dean Dr. Thomas E. Mical.

ICACE 2021 also showcased different paper presentations from other countries and was participated in by architects, engineers, researchers, and members of the academe.





(Clockwise:) Dr. Gwenetha Pusta, Ms. Dame Avelino, Mr. Carlo Jake Martin, Ms. Janice Roman and Dr. Joyce Arriola [Photo courtesy of Ms. Elizabeth Cachin]

## Arriola, GS alumni cite films to discuss critical research

Communication faculty members and alumni of the UST Graduate School served as resource speakers in the webinar titled “Critical Research: A Thomasian Sampler” held on September 29, 2021.

The speakers included UST Faculty of Arts and Letters and UST Graduate School faculty member Prof. Joyce L. Arriola, Ph.D., and three M.A. Communication graduates: Dame B. Avelino, Carlo Jake D. Martin, and Janice D. Roman. The webinar was organized by the Philippine Association for Communication and Media Research, Inc. (PACMRI), and was moderated by UST Faculty of Arts and Letters faculty member Prof. Maria Gwenetha Y. Pusta, Ph.D.

Arriola, in her introductory presentation “Critical Research: A Brief Primer,” traced the roots of critical research in communication and media studies, beginning with Aristotle’s Rhetoric, which is considered as the oldest communication theory, then linking it with the philosophy of St. Thomas Aquinas, and then with critical theories—both uppercase c (Critical Theory of the Frankfurt School) and lowercase c.

Explaining the connection between the webinar’s title and Thomism, Arriola highlighted that the Graduate School offers a course titled St. Thomas Aquinas on Critical Thinking, which teaches critical argumentation and reasoning.

Arriola underscored three frameworks and methods—transtextuality, genre study, and semiotics of space—to provide context for the research studies to be presented by the next three speakers.

Avelino’s presentation, “Utilizing Negative Capability and Paratextuality for Transmediation in *The Grave Bandits* (2012),” focused on the aforementioned film’s potential transmediation of media

through negative capability, which referred to unanswered story details that can be used as entry points to another narrative, and transmedia geography, which pertained to other media that are not connected to the story of the main text.

This included social media such as Facebook and Twitter, reviews and criticism, promotional materials, and the like. Based on the analysis, characters were a huge fount of stories that could be used for narrative expansions. In addition, making use of social media for the film’s transmedia geography prior to its release allowed *The Grave Bandits* to build a solid audience following.

Using Digital Media Archaeology as a two-fold theory and methodology, Martin’s “Filipino Romantic Comedy Genre: A Study Through the ABS-CBN Film Archives” explored how the ABS-CBN Film Archives, the country’s *de facto* film repository, lend insights to the evolving digital archive-based scholarship. It employed archival research to survey the recurring genres of surviving Filipino films through the media giant’s film database site, the Film Archives Catalog System (F.A.C.S.).

The (digital) archival data showed that there is a significant uptick of Filipino romantic comedy films in terms of production in the early 2000s to 2010s, as compared to other leading genres and sub-genres. From there, this study delved deeper into the structuralist orientation of Filipino romantic comedy. By using Rick Altman’s Semantic/Syntactic Approach to Film Genre, six *Pinoy* ‘rom-coms’ are examined according to characters, settings, theme, and plot.

The results gathered from the genre and textual analyses revealed that while Filipino rom-coms agree with the present

conditions of their Western counterparts, they also showcased tropes central to Filipino values, customs and traditions like *panliligaw* (courtship), *harana* (serenading) and *pamamanhikan* (asking the woman’s family for her hand in marriage).

The last presentation, “Hari ng Tondo: The Convergence of Hero and Place in Selected Fernando Poe, Jr.’s ‘Tondo’ Films” by Roman, analyzed seven Fernando Poe, Jr. (FPJ), films: *Ito ang Maynila* (1963), *Tundo: Isla Puting Bato* (1977), *Tatak ng Tundo* (1978), *Iyo ang Tundo*, *Kanya ang Cavite* (1986), *Dito sa Pitong Gatang* (1992), *Eseng ng Tondo* (1997), and *Pakners* (2003).

Roman showed how Tondo constructs FPJ as an iconic hero by utilizing the concepts of Joseph Campbell’s Monomyth, Andre Bazin’s Cinematic Realism, Edward Soja’s Trialectics of Space, and Roland Barthes’s Semiotics. According to her, the FPJ character encountered conflicts brought by the social realities and domestic affairs in Tondo. The character started out as an ordinary man, but these conflicts transformed him into a heroic character. From there, convergence occurred between the hero and the place.

PACMRI is an organization composed of Filipino researchers on communication and media of which Arriola is currently its Director of Research. Avelino is the PACMRI Luzon Area Coordinator for Research and the Communication Program Chair of the Angeles University Foundation, Angeles City. Martin is the Executive Officer of the Public Affairs and Information Services Department of the Quezon City Government. Roman is the Managing Editor for Higher Education at the C & E Publishing, Inc., and Special Lecturer at the Lyceum of the Philippines University-Manila.

## AB faculty members present research papers on political subjectivation, language, overseas remittances

An academic lecture was organized by the Faculty of Arts and Letters where the three faculty members who have recently earned their Ph.D. degrees as Graduates of Offshore Programs delivered research papers on the Zoom platform on September 25, 2021.

Spearheaded by the Dean’s Office, with the support of the Department of Philosophy, Department of English Language Studies, and the Journalism Program, the webinar featured the faculty members’ Doctoral research outputs and their academic journey in completing degrees in Australia.

Dr. Darlene Demandante, who graduated from the Macquarie University, delivered her lecture on “Thinking of Politics as Political Subjectivation.”

Demandante presented her dissertation on the notion of political subjectivity using the work of Jacques Rancière, a contemporary political philosopher. Anchoring her research question on Rancière’s work, Demandante attempted to show that the way Rancière conceptualized his notion of political subjectivity, including its hesitations, provides invaluable material for reflection on how we should understand politics at present and on how we should think of our specific roles as political subjects. Demandante’s lecture concludes by suggesting a reading of Rancière that is focused on the “experiences” of the subject of politics.

Dr. Pia Patricia Tenedero, who earned a degree in Linguistics from Macquarie University, discussed “Challenging Language and Academic Myths: Gems from My Ph.D. Journey.”

Tenedero expounded that doing a Ph.D. involves questioning ideologies that people consider common sense or simply take at face value, like the ‘publish or perish’ discourse in academia and favoring English as the only language that matters in global professional communication. She added that many of these discourses that are often reproduced in institutional interactions are, in fact, myths and mere social constructs that need to be



Tenedero



Opiniano

challenged, especially when they are cultivating a toxic culture of competition and perpetuating stereotypes.

Catching the attention of the audience was Tenedero’s emphasis on the responsibility of the researcher. She shared that it is a researcher’s moral responsibility to share the new knowledge discovered, but publication in high-impact journals is not the only way. An important question to ask is: “Who needs to benefit from this knowledge?” Then share that knowledge creatively to make sure that it is accessible to those it attempts to help.

In his lecture on “Overseas Remittances and Rural Hometown Investing: In Lands of Green, Harvests Come Across Seas,” Dr. Jeremiaah Opiniano, who obtained a degree in Human Geography from the University of Adelaide, spoke of his Ph.D. thesis on luring overseas remittances for the development of the rural hometowns of overseas Filipinos.

Covering the municipalities of San Nicolas (Ilocos Norte) and Moncada (Tarlac), Opiniano said using remittances for savings and investment hinges on what the communities and financial institutions have to offer locally as well as financial relationships within families having overseas-based breadwinners.



Demandante

Opiniano, who was recently appointed as the Assistant Director of the Research Center for Social Sciences and Education, also inspired the audience with his story of resiliency and courage in earning his degree amidst the challenge of the pandemic.

The webinar, which was part of the Quasquicentennial anniversary of the Faculty of Arts and Letters, was attended by its faculty members and students in their senior year under the Philosophy, English Language Studies, and Journalism programs.



# Modern Languages department announces internationalization opportunities in Spain

The Department of Modern Languages, according to its Department Chair Asst. Prof. Abigail T. Pagalilauan, called for new applicants for the *Becas Auxiliares de Conversación en Inglés* or English Language Assistant Program 2022-2023 in cooperation with the *Consejería de Educación Gobierno de España* (Ministry of Education of the Government of Spain) held on September 8, 2021, via Facebook livestream.

Newly appointed Education Adviser to the Philippines of the *Consulado de España en Manila* Profesora Beatriz Jimeno Ortáz, discussed the importance and purpose of the program, including the steps and procedure in applying from the pre-selection in the university until the final stage of the application.

To supplement Prof. Ortáz's talk, three alumni of the *Becas Auxiliares*/Language Assistants, who are also faculty members of the Department of Modern Languages, Ms. Jana Isabela Hayao and Mr. Jeff Roxas, and from the Department of History, Ms. Rischia Panganiban, also shared their insights and experiences during their stint under the program.

## BRIEFING ON LAP 22-23



Modern Languages Department Chair Asst. Prof. Abigail T. Pagalilauan (top left), Education Adviser to the Philippines Prof. Beatriz Jimeno Ortáz (bottom right), and Becas Auxiliares alumni



UST CRS interns (from left, top row:) Buclatin, Calayag, Ordinate, (from left, bottom row:) Roxas, Manaloto, and Marasigan

# CRS Global Internship Experience students participate in virtual inter-professional conference in Japan

Six interns from the University of Santo Tomas College of Rehabilitation Sciences joined the Interprofessional Education (IPE) Conference hosted by the Niigata University of Health and Welfare, Japan. Held virtually through Zoom from August 30 to September 3, 2021, this annual event promotes collaboration among various healthcare professionals in different countries.

For 2021, the event had participants from Japan, the Philippines, Vietnam, and Taiwan. Representing UST were Therese Daniela Manaloto and Anna Katrina Roxas from the Department of Physical Therapy; Anne Marguerite A. Buclatin and Mikaella

R. Marasigan from the Department of Occupational Therapy; Nathan Cristopher A. Calayag from the Department of Sports Science; and Sofia T. Ordinate from the Department of Speech Language and Pathology. They were distributed to three different groups to discuss cases with students from other disciplines and countries.

NUHW President Masatoyo Nishizawa, in his keynote lecture, encouraged the future therapists to develop and maintain empathy for their clients to help create "a symbiotic society where people live in harmony with others while maintaining dignity, a society that allows all generations to make choices according to diverse

lifestyles in all aspects of life, not limited to elderly people."

Despite the pandemic, UST CRS, together with its partner universities, continues to provide its students with internationalization opportunities to learn more through its GIE course.

Joining the UST students were participants from Hai Duong Medical Technical University in Vietnam, Chung Chan Medical University in Taiwan, Niigata University of Pharmacy and Applied Life Sciences, Nippon Dental University, Niigata University of Rehabilitation in Japan, and Angeles University Foundation.



Moderator Prof. Clarence Batan, Ph.D. (top left), with Dr. Darilag (top right), Mr. Tarayao (bottom left), and Mr. Paulino.

# UST educational transformation Summit tackles how to thrive in Industry 4.0

Looking into the challenges faced by thousands of graduates in search of a rewarding employment and career in the world of work, the UST Alumni Association Inc. (USTAAI), in partnership with the UST Graduate School Center for Continuing Professional Education and Development (UST GS CCPED) organized the National Multisectoral Summit for Educational Transformation: An Academe - Alumni - Industry - Government Collaboration (AAIG 2021). The series of four webinars was held via Zoom on September 3, September 17, October 1, and October 15, 2021.

The main objective of this webinar series was to catalyze the transformation of the Philippine educational landscape towards Education 4.0 by enjoining the academe, alumni, industry, and government sectors to come together in dialogue to adapt innovative and collaborative practices in bridging the academe and industry gap. It also called for the Commission on Higher Education (CHED), Department of Education (DepEd), Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), basic and tertiary education institutions, and other agencies to forge a common innovative pathway.

The AAIG 2021 provided an efficient platform for feedback and continuing conversations to build an ecosystem where fast incubation and birth of innovative pathways lead to inclusive life success and national development.

USTAAI believes that meaningful conversations among academic, industry, and government decision makers are crucial for sustainable development of the country.

The fourth and final webinar, with the theme "Towards a Robust Eco System for Transformative Education," was held on October 15. Guest speakers included Officer-In-Charge of the Department of Education's Office of the Undersecretary of Human Resource and Organizational Development; One Shared World Founding Chair Jamie Metzl, Ph.D.; Mount Hermon Academy President Ernesto Jay Adalem, M.D., Ph.D.; and UST Nursing Alumni Association President and Francise Asia Philippines Overall Chair Dr. Carl Balita.

For its third webinar held on October 1, the speakers included Globe Telecom, Inc. Senior Vice President for Communicatio, Ma. Yolanda C. Crisanto; StudyPlex Learning and Development Training Center Managing Director, Leo Aberion, Ph.D.; Informatics College President and CEO, Leonardo Riingen; and UST Graduate School

faculty member for Educational Leadership and Management and Priory of St. Thomas Aquinas Prior, Rev. Fr. Jesús M. Miranda, Jr., O.P., Ph.D. The third webinar was titled "Higher Education in the Industry 4.0 Era."

The second webinar, held on September 17, focused on "Industry 4.0: Disruptions, Disturbances & Disorders." The discussion focused on the Covid-19 pandemic and how it greatly affected the industry and the academe, and how practical and effective solutions are put in place with the support of the government to help organizations adapt and become resilient.

The guest speakers were DepEd Undersecretary for Legislative Affairs, External Partnerships and Project Management Service, Tonisito M.C. Umali, Esq.; TESDA Deputy Director General for Policies and Planning, Rosanna A. Urdaneta; PCCI Human Resources Development Foundation Inc. President, Alberto Victor P. Fenix, Jr., Ph.D.; and Department of Trade and Industry Secretary, Ramon M. Lopez.

The first webinar, held on September 3, had for its theme "Transitioning the Graduates to Industry 4.0 Workplace: What do Educational Institutions have to do to prepare the workforce for industry 4.0?" Speakers were Shell Philippines Exploration Managing Director and General Manager, Rolando Paulino, Jr.; CHED Commissioner, Dr. Aldrin A. Darilag; and One Meralco Foundation President Jeffrey Tarayao.

Participating in the event were UST Alumni Priests Association President, Monsignor Bernardo R. Pantin, PC, JCD, and UST Vice-Rector for Academic Affairs Prof. Cheryl R. Peralta, DrPH. The Summit Overview was given by CCPED Director Assoc. Prof. Jocelyn F. Agcaoili.

The recording of the webinar series may be accessed through this [link to the USTAAI website's AAIG Summit page](#).



DTI Secretary Ramon Lopez



# AB Syllabi Gender Gap Project addresses equal gender representation in Philosophy

The University of Santo Tomas Department of Philosophy launched the Syllabi Gender Gap Project to address the dearth of female philosophers and authors on course syllabi. For its inaugural lecture, Dr. Sara Protasi of the University of Puget Sound in Washington, USA, virtually delivered her lecture titled “Teaching Ancient Women Philosophers” on October 2, 2021.

The event, which was open to the public, was organized as a contribution in addressing the perceived gender gap in Philosophy. Common in many contexts is the apparent presence of bias in Philosophy that discriminates against women as argued by existing literature and studies. As a response, the Syllabi Gender Gap Project will aim to re-introduce female philosophers in the discussions toward more inclusive Philosophy syllabi.

A “gender gap” is the disproportionate absence of women in a discipline or workforce, which can lead to an imbalance of rendition of rationalities and epistemologies that affects the climate of philosophical thinking.

This is perpetuated by the kind of knowledge fostered in the (virtual) classroom through the topics included in the syllabus that mostly underrepresents women. The syllabus, which envisions the kind of graduates an institution tries to mold, is instrumental in achieving learning outcomes for specific courses in the discipline and illustrates what discussions may foster in the classroom.

The critical role of the course facilitator is to develop a shared space between voices that have traditionally spoken and those that have traditionally been silenced, and this can be done through having a robust syllabus that represents both the male and the female voices.

Organized with the first-year students of Philosophy, the webinar is a response to the call to pay attention to the syllabus and potentially address its gender gap. The first webinar of a series featured a speaker who discussed pedagogies and strategies in teaching ancient woman philosophers, a period dominated by the male superstars of the Greek world.

The Faculty of Arts and Letters Dean Prof. Marilu R. Madrunio, Ph.D., in her opening remarks, echoed the presence of the dominance of male personalities in the realm of Philosophy, recounting that patriarchy has aggravated the unfortunate conditions of women in society, such as exclusion from social and political life, and deprivation from opportunities, among others.

To support achieving a balance of male and female representation in Philosophy, Madrunio articulated the challenge to increase women presence in Philosophy by “speaking about the female philosophers’ important contributions and works to Philosophy and society.”

Dr. Sara Protasi, in her talk, showed that women also share in the development of Philosophy. Her discussion was anchored on her 2020 paper titled “Teaching Ancient Women Philosophers: A Case Study,” citing the methodological hurdles and pedagogical challenges she faced in teaching ancient woman philosophers.

Protasi addressed the question “how to best teach ancient women philosophers” and presented various strategies such as concept mapping, independent research, and creation of digital archives to approach the subject matter.



Event poster

Assoc. Prof. Marella Ada M. Bolaños, Ph.D., a faculty member from the Department of Philosophy, and Mr. Carlo G. Cadiz, a first year Philosophy student, served as reactors. Both agreed with the importance of women representation in Philosophy. Bolaños further magnified the contributions of Filipino female philosophers in having a proportional representation of women in Philosophy, while Mr. Cadiz emphasized a point that he picked up from Dr. Protasi’s paper, which was to rediscover the forgotten women philosophers in the history of Philosophy.

The call is not to dominate the discipline; it is rather a call for proportional representation, for equity that yields to a certain degree of balance of rendition of rationalities, ontologies, and people. Such representation would lead to improving the climate in Philosophy, that men and women would flourish alongside each other.



OGR Director Dr. Alejandro introduces the speaker.

## Academician Fortunato Sevilla discusses dynamics, intricacies of ‘Writing Research Publications’ at GS webinar

University of Santo Tomas Graduate School (UST GS) Office for Graduate Research (OGR) Director Prof. Dr. Grecebio Jonathan D. Alejandro, organized a webinar titled “Writing Research Publications” held on October 2, 2021, attended by over 200 graduate students.

Academician Prof. Emeritus Fortunato B. Sevilla III, Ph.D., of the Science Cluster, UST Graduate School was the speaker. Sevilla, a renowned Professorial Lecturer and Outstanding Researcher with distinguished awards and recognition both local and international, talked about the dynamics and intricacies of research writing.

Sevilla started with an update on the CHED Memorandum Order No. 15 Series of 2019 regarding Policies, Standards and Guidelines for Graduate Programs. According to him, the motivation for publication includes what the researcher has done, highlights the success of Master’s or Ph.D., garners points for promotion, gains visibility in the international research circle, and confirms the acceptability or quality of the researcher’s work.

Further, it is the responsibility of the researcher to disseminate his research findings. He stressed that while the author’s physical presence will cease to exist, the publication will immortalize the contribution to the stock knowledge of the author as he will be cited every time a

researcher refers to his research work.

Likewise, Sevilla added that by publishing one’s research, the researcher lays a foundation of establishing a network to connect with other researchers. He mentioned the advantage of publishing in open access journals where accessibility is free and public with no financial, legal, or technical barriers, compared to publishing with subscription fees.

However, Sevilla also cautioned the participants and would-be researchers about the perils of publishing in predatory journals because of its negative effects, in addition to the monetary cost it entails. More importantly, he gave key points in the authorship and the different parts of a research paper from the abstract down to conclusions and recommendations.

In his closing remarks, Graduate School Dean Prof. Michael Anthony C. Vasco, Ph.D., stated that “the quality of research is the hallmark of graduate and post-graduate education. It is through high-caliber research that separates a graduate or post-graduate degree from a professional or undergraduate student. The research publication is a medium for the dissemination of knowledge.”

Vasco emphasized that the research process would never be complete without dissemination through publication for public consumption. Hence, it must be published to withstand scrutiny by critiques and peers to validate its value to the body

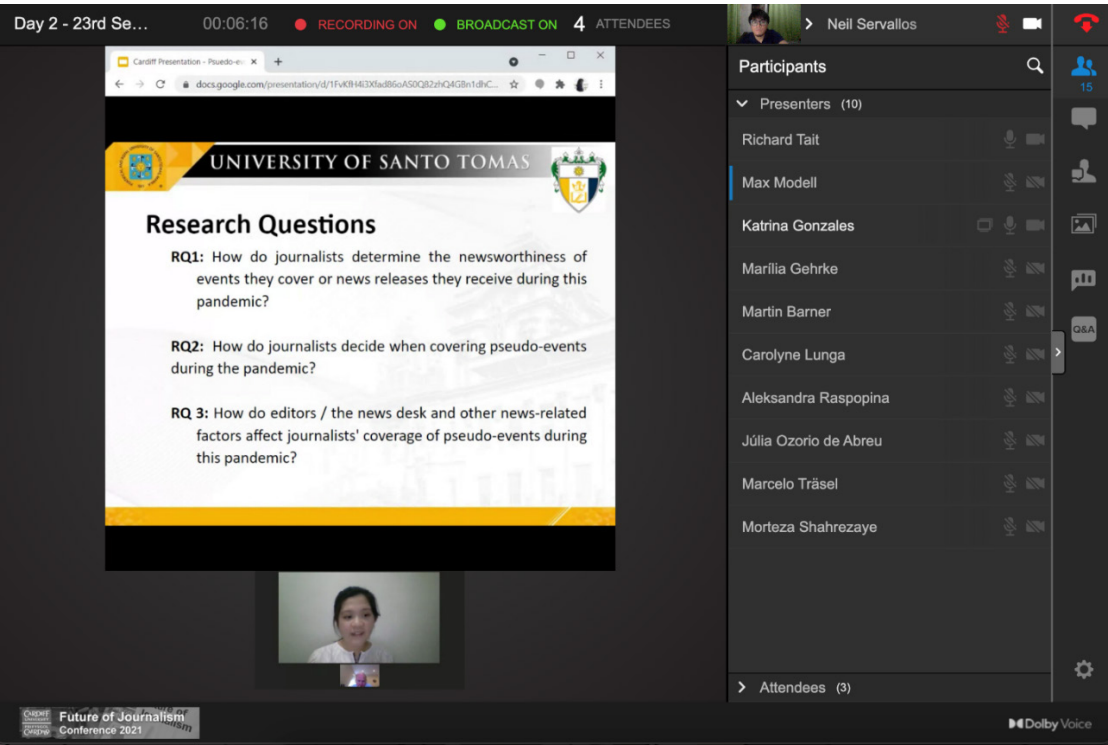
of knowledge, policy formulation, and contribution to national development.

Assoc. Prof. Mary Caroline N. Castano, Ph.D., of the Business cluster, served as the moderator.



Prof. Sevilla during his lecture





Katrina Isabel Gonzales (center) and Neil Jayson Servallos (top right inset) during their paper presentation

## GS students present papers on pandemic news reportage at int’l conference in Wales

Five UST Graduate School students, Neil Jayson Servallos, Katrina Isabel Gonzales, Jasper Emmanuel Arcalas, Rochelle Senaida, and Jhoana Paula Tuazon, presented papers during The Future of Journalism 2021 conference held in Cardiff, Wales, conducted virtually from September 22 to 24, 2021.

Students under the Master of Arts in Journalism program, Neil Jayson Servallos and Katrina Isabel Gonzales, presented their paper titled “How COVID-19 pseudo-events alter news decisions by Filipino journalists: A comparative case study” during a parallel session held on September 23.

On the same day, Jasper Emmanuel Arcalas and Rochelle Senaida, as well as Master of Arts in Marketing Communication student Jhoana Paula Tuazon, shared their findings through their paper “How journalists cope with the stresses of news work and while remaining creative amid the COVID-19 pandemic: A phenomenological case study.”

The said papers were outputs of the course “Communication Theory and Theories of the Press,” under the Master of Arts in Journalism program, which was offered during the second term of the previous academic year.

Cardiff University’s School of Journalism, Media, and Communication (JOMEC) organizes the Future of Journalism Conference, now running on its eighth edition. JOMEC professors edit three of the top four journals in Journalism Studies: *Journalism Studies*, *Journalism Practice* and *Digital Journalism*, all published by the London-headquartered Taylor and Francis.

After receiving comments from session attendees, the Thomasian graduate students will revise their papers and submit these to target journals in the discipline.



Prof. Imke Henkel of the University of Lincoln in the UK tweets the presentation of Filipino graduate students Jasper Emmanuel Arcalas and Jhoana Paula Tuazon at The Future of Journalism 2021 conference.



Event posters for both sessions of the series



## Behavioral Science webinar series: Making healthy positivity possible in workspace, personal space

Anchor on the “community pantry” concept, the Behavioral Science (BES) academic program under the UST Faculty of Arts and Letters launched a series of talks on healthy positivity. The lectures highlighted the combined efforts of BES faculty members, students, and alumni who joined forces in setting up a series of learning sessions using homegrown talents aimed at promoting well-being and a positive mindset amid these challenging times.

Held on October 20, 2021, was the second session of the series. Titled “Promoting Healthy Positivity in the Workspace,” it featured veteran Human Resource practitioners from the Behavioral Science department Ms. Khiara Desiree L. Agnote, Assoc. Prof. Maria Vida Caparas, Ph.D., and Mr. Ferdinand Magkasi.

Agnote discussed “From A to Engagement: A Brief Guide to Thrive at Work and in Life,” while Caparas delivered “Achieving Mental Wellness in the New Normal.” Magkasi tackled “Maintaining Boundaries: Family, Work, and Leisure.”

The first session of the webinar on “Healthy Positivity in the Personal Space” was held on September 24, 2021. It featured

three BES faculty members who are seasoned online lecturers on mental health and wellness.

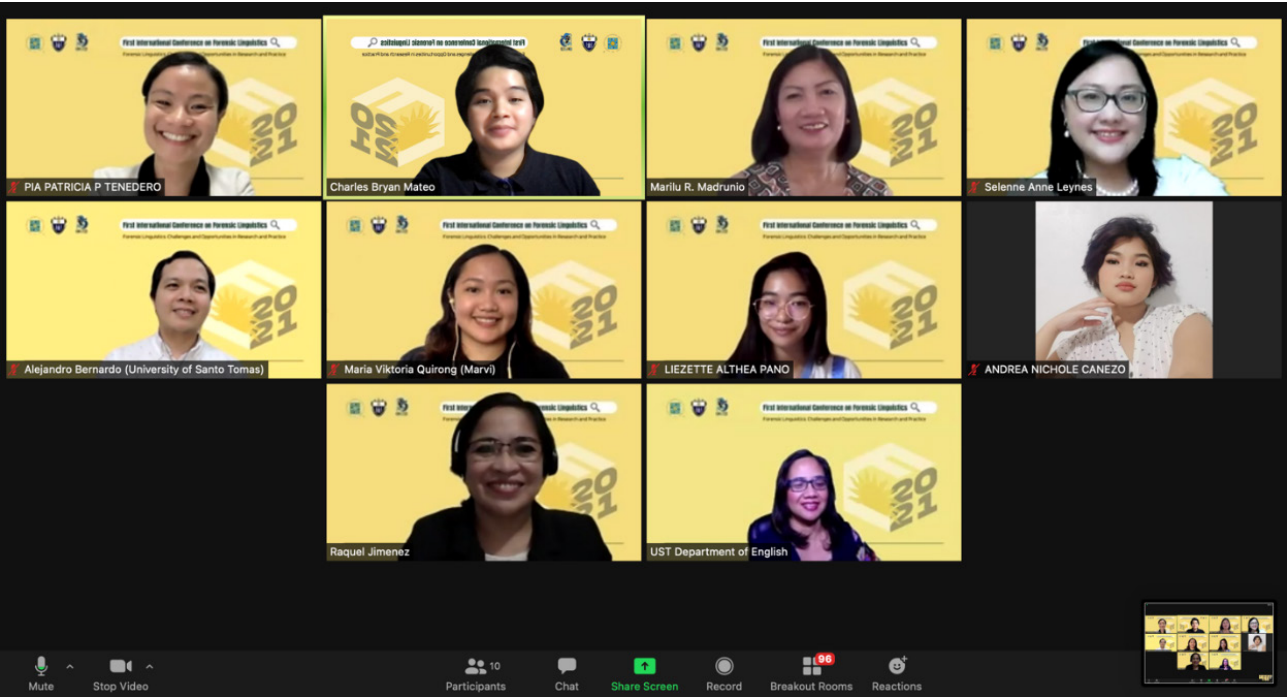
Psychological Association of the Philippines President Dr. Marc Eric S. Reyes, a full professor at the UST Department of Psychology, delivered the opening remarks.

Faculty members teaching professional courses Mr. Gian Carlo M. Ledesma and Mr. Joseph B. De Roxas presented their topics. Ledesma presented “Decision Making and Goal Setting Amid the Pandemic,” while De Roxas talked about “Call a Friend: A Student’s Guide to Anyone in Crisis.”

Capping the first session of the webinar was the lecture on “Self-Love through Self-Compassion” delivered by Interdisciplinary Studies Department Chair and BES Program Coordinator Dr. John Manuel R. Kliatchko.

The webinar, held in partnership with the Behavioral Science Society and Tiger Media Network, was broadcast live on Facebook through TigerTV’s page. It was organized as part of the Quasquicentennial celebration of the Faculty of Arts and Letters.





The conference committee, led by Faculty of Arts and Letters Dean and FL researcher Prof. Marilu R. Madrunio, Ph.D. (first row, third from left), with AB Assistant Dean Prof. Alejandro Bernardo, Ph.D. (second row, leftmost), and English Department Chair Prof. Rachelle Lintao, Ph.D. (bottom row, right)

## First Int’l Forensic Linguistics conference in PH tackles research, practice

The UST Department of English hosted the First International Conference on Forensic Linguistics (FL) in the Philippines held on September 18, 2021, as one of the activities to commemorate the 125th year of foundation of the Faculty of Arts and Letters.

With the theme, “Forensic Linguistics: Challenges and opportunities in research and practice,” the conference featured notable names in the field such as the Don Forchelli Professor of Law from the Brooklyn Law School, Prof. Lawrence Solan. He talked about “Linguistic Issues in the Interpretation of Laws.”

University of Southern California Professor Emeritus of Linguistics and Law, Prof. Edward Finegan, discussed “The Challenges of Serving as an Expert Linguist in U.S. Courts.”

University of Hong Kong Assistant Professor Dr. Eva Ng, delivered a lecture on “The Right to a Fair Trial and Right to Interpretation Ambiguity in Legal Texts.”

Nihon University in Tokyo Dr. Richard Powell, who teaches courses

in English for law and business, sociolinguistics, and language and human rights, delivered a lecture on the “Challenges for the Regulation of Pandemics.”

The newly elected president of the International Association of Forensic and Legal Linguistics, Dr. Isabel Picornell, graced the event with her inspirational message.

The conference, according to Department of English Chair Prof. Rachelle Lintao, Ph.D., was an offshoot of the monthly webinar series on forensic linguistics held from August 2020 to May 2021 hosted by the Department of English, which incidentally is celebrating its 10th anniversary this year.

The conference was attended by more than 1,000 participants from 28 countries in five continents. It was a platform to convene Forensic Linguistics (FL) researchers and enthusiasts to advance their knowledge about FL in research and on how it is practiced in other countries.



Event poster and list of speakers



## UST, EJAP bring economic journalism to academe

The University of Santo Tomas (UST) co-organized with the private sector a free two-day certificate webinar on economic and business journalism.

The Journalism program, under the Communication and Media Studies department of the UST Faculty of Arts and Letters, partnered with the Economic Journalists Association of the Philippines (EJAP) and the Aboitiz Group in conducting the webinar titled “Beyond the Numbers: Understanding Business Journalism,” held from September 17 to 18, 2021.

The two-day webinar, participated in by over 400 students and faculty members from at least 35 universities and colleges nationwide, sought to institutionalize a partnership between the academe and business journalism industry through an annual activity that would impart industry knowledge to journalism students.

Resource speakers were veteran and multi-awarded business journalists including Business Mirror Editor-in-Chief Lourdes M. Fernandez, the country’s first Filipina EIC of a major English daily.

Fernandez talked about the significance of business journalism in society, particularly how the best stories of the Covid-19 pandemic are best told in the lens of economic writing.

The other speakers for the first day were Ben Arnold O. De Vera of the Philippine Daily Inquirer who discussed macroeconomy reporting and Neil Jerome Morales of the Reuters News Agency who talked about covering capital markets.

On the second day of the webinar, BusinessMirror reporter Jasper Emmanuel Y. Arcalas, tackled reporting about

agriculture and commodities, while Aboitiz Data Innovation Head Marwell Dalangin, discussed the importance of data and statistics.

The webinar was capped off by a presentation of EJAP President and TV5 Senior Correspondent Gerard de la Peña on reporting business stories for TV platform.

“We are happy to partner with EJAP and UST for such an insightful and rich discussions. We are all fortunate to hear and learn first-hand from talented and experienced media personalities and respected business reporters,” said Aboitiz Group Assistant Vice President for Media Relations Maricar Bautista.

“They have imparted valuable learning which you can apply if you are to pursue a career in journalism covering the business beat or simply understanding what these numbers truly mean and how they can affect our lives,” Bautista added.

UST Journalism program Coordinator Felipe F. Salvosa II, emphasized in his Welcome Remarks that the economic implications of COVID-19 related mobility restrictions and measures showed that business and economic news coverage is just as important as the coverage of the pandemic itself and the government’s response to it.

“We need good business journalists to report on how the government for instance is trying or even failing to balance the need to protect the health of citizens and the need to keep the economy up and running,” he said.

“This is why we continue this partnership with the Economic Journalists Association of the Philippines for what will

hopefully be a regular seminar on economic journalism,” Salvosa added.

EJAP President Gerard de la Peña said the association went full circle with the webinar as its members were able to share their industry knowledge with the country’s budding and future journalists.

“It is just right to share our knowledge to you, the next generation of journalists,” De la Peña said.

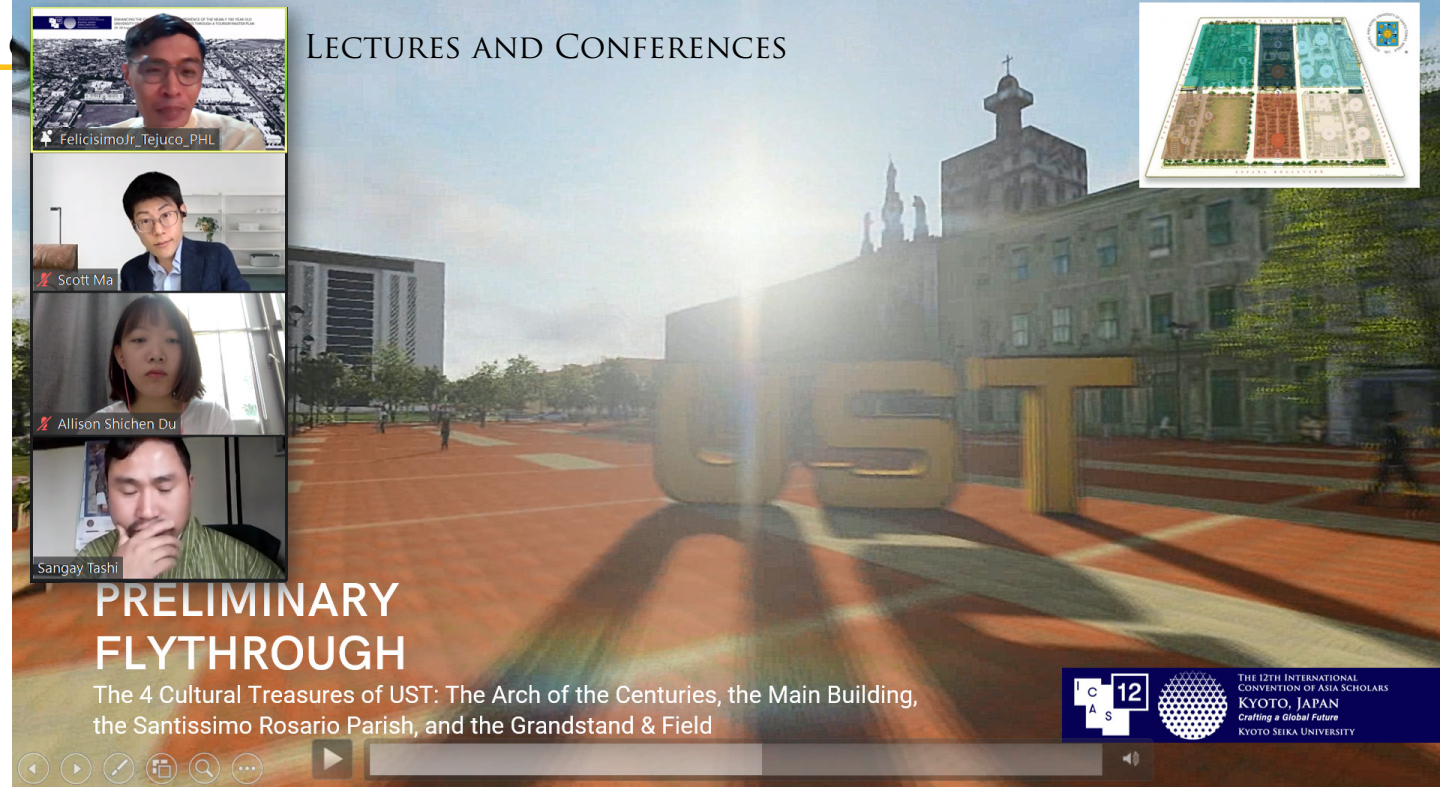
“We want to institutionalize this partnership with the academe and private sector and make this a yearly event. So that we learn together and grow together as responsible and skilled journalists, especially during challenging times like these, when we deal with issues if fake news, rising prices of consumer goods elections and the weakening economy,” he added.

The students and faculty members who attended the webinar were from UST, Bulacan State University, Cavite State University, University of San Jose-Recoletos, University of Rizal System, Lyceum of the Philippines University and West Visayas State University.

There were also participants from West Mindanao State University, De La Salle-College of Saint Benilde Manila, Emilio Aguinaldo College, Tarlac State University, Polytechnic University of the Philippines, Negros Oriental State University, Centro Escolar University and Palawan State University, among others.

The event was hosted by the UST Journalism Society president Marymon Frances Reyes.





Tejuco (top left) presents the proposed flythrough of the University tour.

## Herrera, Tejuco of Architecture present papers on Thomasian Built Environment at virtual conference in Japan

College of Architecture faculty members Asst. Prof. Henry Felix E. Herrera and Asst. Prof. Felicisimo A. Tejuco, Jr., presented their papers as associates of the Research Center for Culture, Arts, and the Humanities (RCCA), during the 12th International Convention of Asia Scholars (ICAS 12) in Kyoto, Japan, held via Zoom.

Herrera presented the conditions and challenges of housing for students residing near the University. In his paper, "Assessment of Current Student Housing in the Vicinity of the University of Santo Tomas," it was noted that there were former and current students who live in residences located in far flung provinces and cities that necessitated nearby student housing.

The study recommended that the University reach out to the owners and managers of these student housing buildings to alleviate the conditions of their lodgings and for the mutual benefit of both parties, the housing management and the students.

Tejuco, meanwhile, presented a paper and poster about UST and España Boulevard. In the paper titled "Enhancing the Cultural-Heritage Experience of the Nearly 100-Year Old UST Manila Campus through a Tourism Master Plan," he discussed the opportunity of *edu-tourism* for UST

as a tourist destination. The University's rich history, with its four heritage buildings, and the upcoming centennial anniversary of the Sampaloc campus are main considerations in laying out a tourism plan.

Recalling a consultation activity held years back with alumni and students, Tejuco said that a vision for the University as tourist destination was laid out.

"By 2027, UST will be a tourist destination that welcomes and promotes cultural diversity, national & Thomasian values, environmental concern & sustainability, architectural development & preservation of natural heritage, and unique tourist experience with respect to the surrounding community," he said.

Tejuco concluded his presentation with a proposed tourism trail and video walk-through of the campus. He also acknowledged the Office of Public Affairs, especially its late Director Assoc. Prof. Giovanna V. Fontanilla, Ph.D., for the assistance on the study.

Another research work by Tejuco was presented through an online



Herrera



Tejuco

poster. "Urban Regeneration of the Streets of España Boulevard (Welcome Rotunda to Lerma / Morayta) through Community Empowerment." It featured the conditions and improvements of the main thoroughfare. The study reiterated that pedestrianization, flooding, and safety are community concerns that should be coordinated to by the public and private sectors.

The ICAS was organized by the International Institute for Asian Studies (IIAS), a research and exchange platform based in the university city of Leiden, the Netherlands. IIAS encourages the multi-disciplinary and comparative study of Asia and promotes national and international cooperation, thus linking the expertise of scholars and practitioners.



Madrunio (top right window), presents her paper.

## English Language Studies student presents paper at Forensic Linguistics Conference in UK

Ma. Kaela Joselle R. Madrunio, a student in her third year under the English Language Studies (ELS) program of the Faculty of Arts and Letters presented a paper during the 15th Biennial Conference of the International Association of Forensic Linguists (IAFL). It was hosted by the Aston Institute for Forensic Linguistics (AIFL), Aston University, Birmingham, UK, held from September 13 to 15, 2021.

Madrunio was one of the three paper presenters from the Philippines. This year's edition of the IAFL conference which was held online had almost 80 parallel paper presentations

from the United Kingdom, China, Germany, France, Australia, Indonesia, Italy, Hong Kong, Thailand, Denmark, Canada, Norway, USA, Austria, Finland, South Africa, Netherlands, Qatar, Spain, Switzerland, Egypt, Romania, Brazil, and the Philippines.

Madrunio's paper, titled "Uhm...I think...": Epistemic and Evidential Markers and Stancetaking of Courtroom Interactants in Crime Docuseries" examined the epistemic and evidential markers as well as the stancetaking of witnesses in courtroom proceedings reflected in the crime documentaries.

## ARTS AND CULTURE

## Six Cultural Heritage students join int'l workshop on intangible cultural heritage

Six UST Graduate Students of the Cultural Heritage Studies Program joined the 2021 International Workshop on "Intangible Cultural Heritage and Sustainable Development."

A collaboration of Intangible Cultural Heritage Center for Asia and the Pacific (ICHCAP-Korea), Ahmedabad University (India), and the UNESCO Bangkok, the online workshop is an intensive two-week course offering a combination of lectures, seminars, discussion and exercises. It was held from September 27 to October 11, 2021.

Led by Center for the Conservation of Culture Preservation and Environment in the Tropics Director Assoc. Prof. Eric B. Zerrudo, Ph.D., the UST GS CHS student-participants were Rizsa Valerie Rivero, Jhunie Pearl Sanchez, Romulo Suyom Jr, Ramundo Andres Palad, and Welfredo

Miranda Artigo Jr., while Patria Teodoro was accepted as observer.

The workshop advanced the visibility of the UNESCO 2003 ICH Convention that "aims to address the need for awareness raising and capacity building among emerging researchers and practitioners."

In particular, the course broadens the intangible cultural heritage concepts and safeguarding principles under the framework of the 2003 Convention: to strengthen the capacity of young researchers/practitioners for the safeguarding of ICH in Asia Pacific region; to emphasize the relevance of ICH to different academic disciplines and different dimensions of sustainable development; and to foster a network of ICH emerging experts in the field of cultural heritage.



Ahmedabad University Centre for Heritage Management Director Dr. Neel Kamal Chapagain (bottom window) with Dr. Zerrudo during the workshop.





The UST-Davao City MICE Team led by Dean Granado (top right) and the Davao City Tourism Operations Office, led by Ms. Regina Rosa D. Tecson (second row, second from left) during an online meeting

## CTHM partners with Davao City Gov’t for MICE planning, development

The University of Santo Tomas College of Tourism and Hospitality Management (UST CTHM) and the City Government of Davao are partners in a project that would develop the Davao City Meetings, Incentives, Conventions, and Expositions (MICE) Strategic Master Plan (SMP). The project’s main objective is to provide guidance and to address the needs of the private sector and the City Government of Davao on the development and implementation of their MICE programs. The project aims to assess the current situation of the Davao MICE industry, with respect to its environments and competitions, as well as existing programs, infrastructures, and strategies; conduct an inventory of tourism and hospitality products that may align with the competitive advantages, proposed strategies, and possible future programs for MICE for Davao. The SMP will also identify and determine short-term and long-term objectives and strategies for both the private sector and the local government in the implementation of its MICE programs and plans. The project will develop a comprehensive Strategic Master Plan for MICE for Davao, which will contain the necessary directions, objectives, and strategies as well as policies and supporting data that will serve as a guide for both the local government and the private sector; and design a monitoring and evaluation process

that can help the stakeholders determine the effective programs and improve the opportunities seen in the implementation of the SMP. The motivation for this project is Davao’s vision of becoming the MICE hub of Asia. The project started in June 2021 and will end in December 2021. Virtual meetings, presentations, and focus group discussions were conducted to determine the current situation of the city’s MICE industry. The project team, also known as #TeamDavaoCityMICE, is headed by the UST CTHM Dean Gezzez Giezi G. Granado, DCL. The members of the team include Asst. Prof. Jane G. Devanadera (Project Consultant), Mr. Jame Monren T. Mercado (Project Coordinator), Ms. Kathrine Camille A. Nagal (Writer/Researcher), and Mr. Arnulfo Ricardo A. Butiong (Writer/Researcher). The project is in collaboration with the City Tourism Operations Office (CTOO), the Davao City Tourism Association, Davao City MICE Core Group, the Department of Tourism Region 11, and the Tourism Promotions Board – MICE Department. CTOO head Ms. Regina Rosa D. Tecson explained that the project would provide a strategic direction to sustainably promote and develop the touristic identity of Davao City as a world-class MICE destination in the country and the ASEAN region. It will also provide the action plans on implementing MICE-related programs and projects in this new and next normal.



The MOU signing: Archbishop Cabantan (seated, center), Zerrudo (seated, fourth from left) and José (rightmost), with Jasaan municipality and Church officials as witnesses

## CCCPET, AUST launch Church Heritage Conservation Program with Diocese of Maasin, Archdiocese of Cagayan de Oro

The Archdiocese of Cagayan de Oro - Commission on Church Heritage, in cooperation with the Municipality of Jasaan, collaborated with the University of Santo Tomas Graduate School Center for Conservation of Cultural Property and the Environment in the Tropics (UST GS CCCPET) and the *Archivo de la Universidad de Santo Tomas* (AUST) to undertake the church heritage conservation program titled “Jasaan: Retracing the Missionary Route into the Mindanao Interior.” Coinciding with the national celebration of the 500 Years of Christianity in the Philippines, and the 400th year of the foundation of Cagayan, this program is composed of two projects. Project 1 is the Conservation Management Plan of the Jasaan Church and Project 2 is the Cultural Heritage Mapping of the Municipality of Jasaan. It envisions a deeper appreciation and renewed evangelization of church heritage into the daily lives of the people. The Church Heritage Conservation Program of the Archdiocese of Cagayan de Oro was held from September 21 to 25, 2021, at the Church of the Immaculate Conception Parish, a National Cultural Treasure Church, in Jasaan, Misamis Oriental.



An image of Christ during the conservation process.

The inaugural ceremony was highlighted by the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Archdiocese of Cagayan de Oro, represented by Most Rev. Archbishop Jose Cabantan, D.D.; UST GS CCCPET, represented by its Director Dr. Eric B. Zerrudo; and AUST, represented by its

continued on page 20



CCCPET, AUST launch Church Heritage Conservation Program with Diocese of Maasin, Archdiocese of Cagayan de Oro from page 19

Archivist Professor Regalado Trota José.

The event was witnessed by Jasaan Municipal Mayor Hon. Redentor Jardin, Parish Priest of Jasaan Rev. Fr. Demli Redeemer Valmores, and officials of the Jasaan Parish Restoration and Development Council Inc. (JPRDC).

The UST Heritage Specialist Team Batch 1 was composed of Asst. Prof. Eric Babar Zerrudo (Director, UST GS CCCPET), Prof. Regalado Trota Jose (Archivist, AUST), Joselito Corpus (Heritage Preservation Specialist), Rona Repancol (CHS Graduate and Stone Specialist), Cham Odan (CHS Student and Architect), Edgar Alan Sembrano (CHS Graduate and Journalist) and Beverly Bautista (CCCPET Coordinating Staff). The next batch of specialists will conduct fieldwork from November 13 to 19, 2021.

The UST GS CCCPET and the AUST also launched the long-term Church Heritage Conservation program for the Diocese of Maasin on September 4, 2021.

The program will develop the conservation management plans for the eight historically significant fortification-churches within the Diocese in the next four years. The informal launch was marked by the turnover of books by Zerrudo to Most Rev. Precioso Cantillas, D.D., Bishop of the Diocese of Maasin.

The program, spearheaded by Fr. Mark Vincent Salang, Chancellor and Chair of the Diocesan Commission for the Cultural Heritage of the Church, embarks from and enhances further the global significance of Limasawa Island, a parish under the Diocese and site of the first Easter Mass in the Philippines, officially declared by the National Historical Commission of the Philippines (NHCP).



Maasin Bishop Most Rev. Cantillas receives the books from CCCPET Director Dr. Zerrudo (right).

After three attempts to visit Southern Leyte because of the pandemic spike, the three-day preliminary inspection of the five-man UST Heritage Team was finally undertaken from September 3 to 5, 2021.

The rapid assessment covered the Punta Barangay Chapel, Baybay City, Leyte; Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception Church, Hilongos, Leyte; Our Lady of the Assumption Cathedral, Maasin City, Southern Leyte; Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception Church, Baybay City, Leyte; Santo Niño Church, Malitbog, Southern Leyte; Saint Joseph Church, Matalom, Leyte; Saint John the Baptist Church, San Juan, Southern Leyte, and Amparo Barangay Chapel, Macrohon, Southern Leyte.

The church heritage conservation team conducted the first extensive study and mapping at the Punta Church. The church was built around 1634 in Baybay City, Leyte.

All conservation management plans will be published by the Diocese as a legacy to the clergy and the community.

BOARD TOPNOTCHERS

**Chemical Engineer Licensure Examination**  
October 2021  
UST Passing Rate: 45.95%  
National Passing Rate: 47.42%



Joshua Santiago Aldave – 8th  
81.30%

**Physician Licensure Examination**  
September 2021  
UST Passing Rate: 100%  
National Passing Rate: 70.39%



Carl Jay Enad Jainar – 5th  
87.00%

### Pagbabalik Tanaw

- Dominican Province of the Philippines 12<sup>th</sup> Provincial Chapter 2021
- Divestment in funds used for the destruction of the environment
- Act 194 – Diligently study and promote Laudato Si and Fratelli Tutti
- Act 195 – Support Indigenous Peoples
- Act 201 – Commends UST Legazpi for being recognized 2 consecutive years by DENR – sustainable and eco-friendly academic institutions in Bicol Area (Region V)
- Act 239 – development of skill based programs on care for creation

UST Central Seminary Vice Rector Rev. Fr. Napoleon B. Sipalay, O.P., recalls the efforts of the Dominican family on Laudato Si’.

SIMBAHAYAN leads Thomasian celebration of 2021 season of creation

The University of Santo Tomas SIMBAHAYAN Community Development Office, together with the Office of the Vice-Rector for Religious Affairs (OVRRA), and other offices, organized a webinar to commemorate the Season of Creation.

The Season of Creation (*Panahon ng Paglikha*) is a period of rejuvenating the correlation with the Creator and the creation through celebration, self-transformation, and collective commitment. This is the time to reflect on our vocations as children of God and stewards of creation. It is supported by major religions, organizations together with the World Council of Churches, Christian Aid, and Lutheran World Federation, Anglican Communion Environmental Network, the *Laudato Si’* Movement, and the Vatican Dicastery for the Promotion of Integral Human Development.

UST SIMBAHAYAN Director Asst. Prof. Froilan A. Alipao explained this year’s theme, “A Hope for All, Renewing the Oikos of God,” in his welcome remarks.

“*Oikos* in Greek means, family and

home. With this, it is indispensable and inseparable to view nature as our home,” he said.

Inter-Congregational Theological Center Executive Director Rev. Fr. Cristino R. Pine, OFM, gave a retrospect of *Laudato Si’*. Six months after its publication, it has already been influential in the 21st Conference of the Parties (COP 21) in Paris, France.

Through the Paris Agreement, world leaders agreed to set an ambitious goal of limiting global warming to below 2, preferably to 1.5, degrees Celsius, compared to its pre-industrial levels.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) was mandated to release its special report in October 2018. Based on the IPCC Report, if the Paris Agreement goal will not be met in 2030, it can cause irreversible damage to the Earth. Fr. Pine also highlighted that the *Laudato Si’* goes hand in hand with the United Nations 17 Sustainable Development Goals.

Continuing the discussion, UST Central Seminary Vice Rector Rev. Fr. Napoleon B. Sipalay, O.P., discussed the efforts of the Dominicans in promoting *Laudato Si’*. He presented the results of the survey on the Climate Change and Environmental Awareness conducted in Dominican schools and institutions in the Philippines, the Bien Hoa 2019 General Chapter, the

### Pambungad na Pananalita

Katuwang na Propesor  
Froilan A. Alipao, MCD  
Direktor,  
UST SIMBAHAYAN

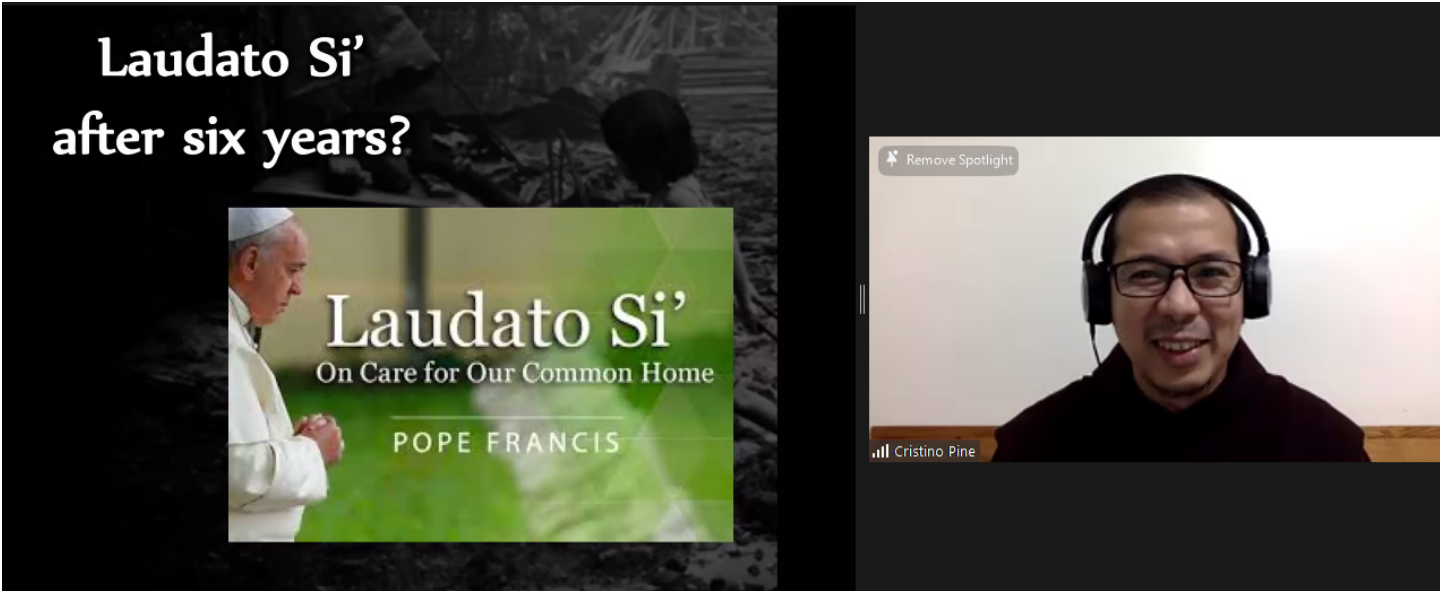
SIMBAHAYAN Director Asst. Prof. Froilan A. Alipao (top window) delivers the opening remarks.

continued on page 22



SIMBAHAYAN leads Thomasian celebration of 2021 season of creation

from page 21



Rev. Fr. Cristino R. Pine, OFM, during his talk

Dominican Province of the Philippines’ 12th Provincial Chapter 2021, the Family Committee on Environment, and the challenges faced by the Dominicans.

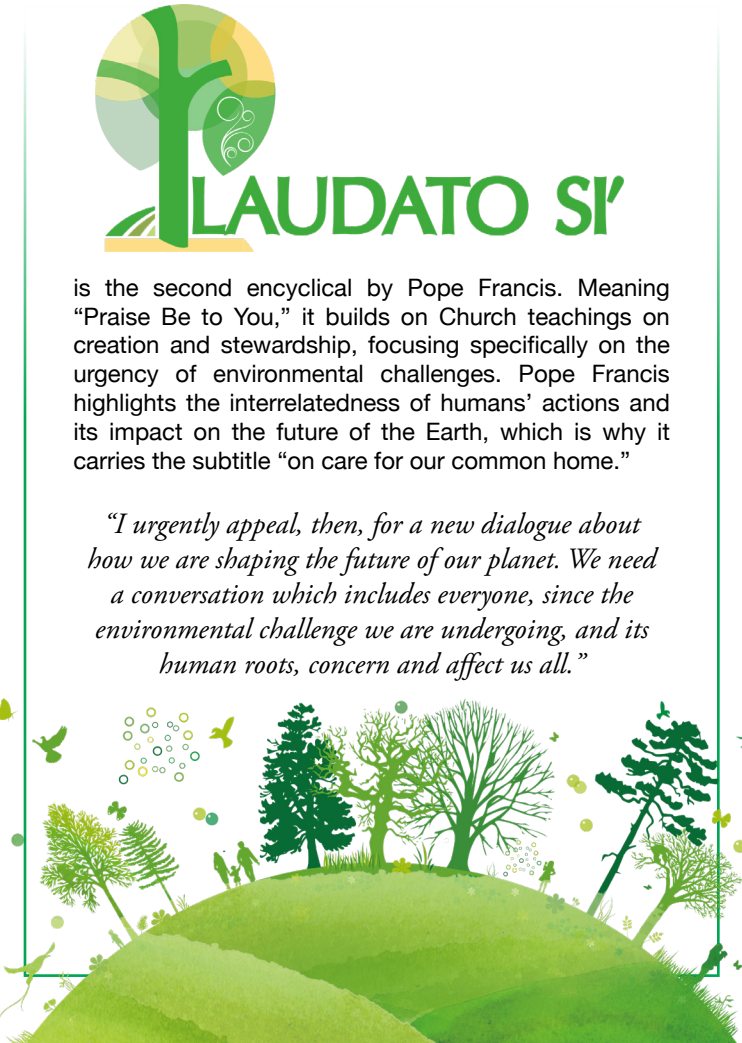
The second part of the webinar was the call for environmental actions. SIMBAHAYAN Assistant Director Asst. Prof. Evalyn B. Abiog, Ph.D., urged the participants to partake in the *Ambag sa Kalikasan* activity of the UST SIMBAHAYAN.

With the Earth’s current situation, pollution is rampant and as such, everyone should take a stand and make even the smallest contribution to help the Earth to recuperate. Another way of moving toward a sustainable environment is to support the Save Zambales Kalikasan Movement.

Mr. Ricky Pablonia, explained that Barangay La Paz, in San Narciso, Zambales and other towns in Zambales are currently under threat because of illegal dredging and black sand mining. Participants were encouraged to join in the advocacy by signing an online petition to stop the illegal activities.


A synthesis was delivered by Sister Teresa Dagdag, MM, of the DFJPCCP-Environment Committee. She emphasized the importance of ecological conversion, or a change of ecological issues, and that change should come from the heart. Rev. Fr. Victor Calvo, O.P., the Justice, Peace, and Care for Creation Promoter of Dominican Province of the Philippines, Inc., delivered the closing remarks.

The event, co-organized with the AlerTomas Cluster, Dominican Family for Justice, Peace, and Care for Creation-Philippines (DFJPCCP), Fellowship for the Care of Creation Association Incorporated (FCCA) and Philippine Misereor Partnership Incorporated (PMPI), was moderated by Mr. Adrian Romero. It had close to 200 Thomasian administrators, faculty members, support staff, students, alumni, Dominicans, and guests from partner communities and institutions as participants.



is the second encyclical by Pope Francis. Meaning “Praise Be to You,” it builds on Church teachings on creation and stewardship, focusing specifically on the urgency of environmental challenges. Pope Francis highlights the interrelatedness of humans’ actions and its impact on the future of the Earth, which is why it carries the subtitle “on care for our common home.”

*“I urgently appeal, then, for a new dialogue about how we are shaping the future of our planet. We need a conversation which includes everyone, since the environmental challenge we are undergoing, and its human roots, concern and affect us all.”*



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