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UST tops off six-storey Main Building at rising GenSan campus

A topping-off ceremony for the first building of the 80-hectare University of Santo Tomas (UST) General Santos City campus was held on December 4, 2021, at Brgy. Ligaya, South Cotabato and livestreamed on the University of Santo Tomas Facebook page.

The topping-off ceremony is a builders' tradition held when the last beam (or its equivalent material) is placed on top of a structure. It included a Eucharistic Celebration and blessing rites presided over by the Bishop of Marbel, His Excellency Most Rev. Cerilo Allan U. Casicas, D.D.

"May this topping-off ceremony remind us of what is at the heart of our faith. The Messiah has already come, and He has come first as a teacher. We must not only listen to Him, but we must accept Him personally and as a community," Bishop Casicas emphasized.

Aidea Philippines, Inc., one of the top architecture and design firms in Asia, helmed the planning of the new satellite campus. Its President and Chief Executive Officer, Ar. Abelardo Tolentino, Jr., is a member of class 1987 of the UST College of Architecture. He formally introduced the project after the Mass.



Most Rev. Cerilo Allan U. Casicas, D.D., during the homily [Screenshot courtesy of the UST Communications Bureau]



UST Rector Very Rev. Fr. Richard G. Ang, O.P., Ph.D., delivers his message. [Screenshot courtesy of the UST Communications Bureau]

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Fr. Austria discusses the challenges of building during a pandemic. [Screenshot courtesy of the UST Communications Bureau]

Ar. Tolentino presents the project description. [Screenshot courtesy of the UST Communications Bureau]

Mayor Rivera welcomes UST to General Santos City. [Screenshot courtesy of the UST Communications Bureau]

Tolentino shared, “It is a dream of a Thomasian architect to design a structure in UST. We are so happy and blessed that we got involved in this project, which started in 2018. It was an enjoyable collaborative effort between [Aidea] and the University officials.”

Primarily, the planning team considered two factors, said Tolentino. “[The design of the site] should be consistent with the branding of UST and it should have something unique that recognizes the culture and diversity of the [current locale, General Santos City]”

The Main Building, located in the Phase 1 Lot of the total 76.78-hectare campus, will be 52 meters tall, with six levels, 77 classrooms, and 25 laboratories that can accommodate up to 15,000 students.

It will also contain a chapel, a cafeteria, a library, clinic, organization rooms, an auditorium, and various function halls alongside administrative office facilities.

The first four Schools to be offered by the UST in GenSan, the School of Health Sciences, the School of Engineering and Technology, the School of Business and Accountancy, and the School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences will be the first residents.

UST Facilities Management Office Director Rev. Fr. Dexter A. Austria, O.P., expressed his anticipation as he “looks forward to the day that students from SOCCSKSARGEN and the Davao region will fill up the halls of this building.”

The General Santos City Mayor Hon. Ronnel Rivera said that the LGU “eagerly anticipates the presence of UST in our beloved General Santos City,” as



A 3D-rendered image of the UST General Santos City Campus [Screenshot courtesy of the UST Communications Bureau]

its opening will further improve social services, livelihood opportunities, and quality education.

The UST Rector Very Rev. Fr. Richard G. Ang, O.P., Ph.D., said that UST GenSan will “train and employ people from the surrounding cities to work with us as faculty and staff, we will also form meaningful partnerships with local industries which will lead to generation of new job opportunities... This is our gift to GenSan – Luzon meeting Mindanao.”

Concluding the ceremony was the Entrustment Rites to the Blessed Virgin Mary led by UST Center for Campus Ministry Acting Director Assoc. Prof. Ma. Sanita Quilatan, Ph.D.

On December 3, another structure was blessed, the Filial House of San Martin de Porres. With a mass led by Fr. Gerard Zabala, O.P., the blessing rites for the Filial House of San Martin de Porres followed. The three-storey structure will be the home of Dominican friars assigned to the UST General Santos campus.

As part of UST’s efforts to bring the Thomasian brand of excellence to more parts of the Philippines, the UST GenSan campus broke ground in 2018, while the 40-hectare rising Sta. Rosa campus recently topped off its first building, The UST - Dr. Tony Tan Caktiong Innovation Center, in August 2021.

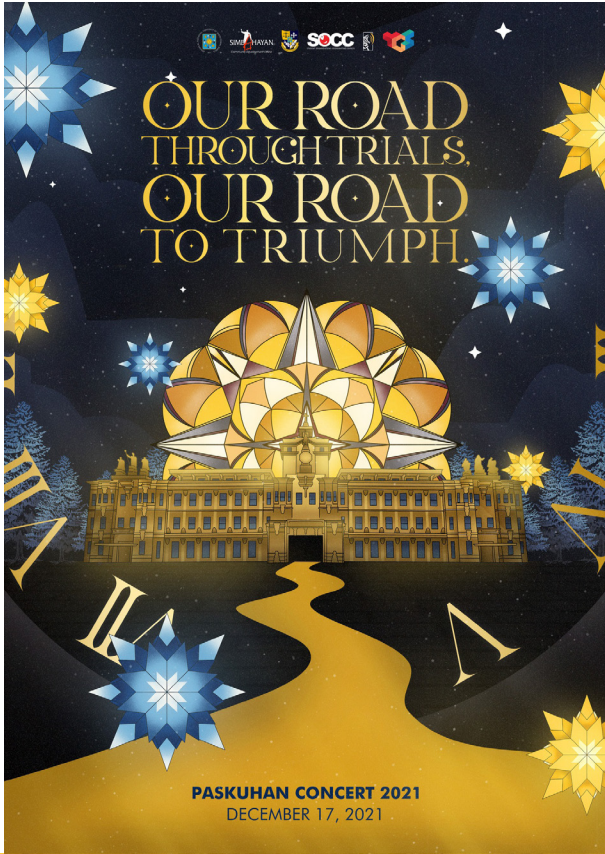
UST Rector Very Rev. Fr. Richard G. Ang, O.P., Ph.D., delivers the homily during the Paskuhan Mass on December 17, 2021. [Screenshot courtesy of the UST Communications Bureau]

UST’s marks 30th Paskuhan with online concert, raises funds for partner communities

The University of Santo Tomas tradition of holding a community celebration of Christmas called *Paskuhan* culminated on December 17, 2021, Friday, with the anticipated Christmas concert, festivities in its virtual Minecraft campus, and charity e-games.

To bring the festive Christmas spirit to the Thomasian community, the events, which were held minus its live audience, were livestreamed on the Facebook pages of UST and UST Tiger TV.

Musical talents for the virtual concert included Thomasian bands and talents along with local bands like Nobita, Orange and Lemons and Mayonnaise. They performed at the Quadricentennial Pavilion.



The whole-day event began in the morning with an online celebration at UST’s virtual recreation of its historic Manila campus in the sandbox game Minecraft, which was opened to Thomasians and non-Thomasians alike.

In the afternoon, a Eucharistic Celebration was presided over by UST Rector Very Rev. Fr. Richard G. Ang, O.P., Ph.D. It was concelebrated by the Prior Provincial of the Dominican Province of the Philippines Very Rev. Filemon I. dela Cruz, Jr., O.P., and UST Vice-Rector Rev. Fr. Isaias Tiongco, O.P., and the Dominican Fathers.

Leading up to Christmas Day, the traditional *Misa de Gallo* or *Simbang Gabi* Masses were held from December 16 to 25, 2021, at the UST Plaza Mayor, an open space in front of the Main Building. The outdoor set-up safely allowed for more churchgoers. The Parish provided chairs that are arranged with physical distancing in mind and adhered to the health protocol requirements of the University and the government.

The University formally began its traditional *Paskuhan* celebrations on November 27, 2021, with a lighting ceremony for its campus décor and an open-air Eucharistic Celebration at the Plaza Mayor. It was livestreamed through the official UST Facebook page.

Immediately before the lighting, UST Rector Very Rev. Fr. Richard G. Ang, O.P., Ph.D., delivered a message read by UST Vice-Rector Rev. Fr. Isaias Tiongco, O.P., at the anticipated Mass for the first Sunday of Advent.

Fr. Ang wished, “...for the Light of Christ to be in us as we tread the road through trials. A Christmas without light is not Christmas. Let there be light in our soul, in our heart, as we continue walking down the road to triumph.”

“Let there be the beautiful Light of Jesus shining upon us and being with us always. May there be light in our hearts, in our families, and in our Thomasian and Parish communities,” the Father Rector wrote.

To illuminate the campus, 210,000 energy-efficient LEDs (light-emitting diodes) were lit every 5:30 P.M. to 9:00 P.M. until the Feast of the Three Kings on January 6, 2022. In his *Paskuhan* Mass homily on December 17, 2021, Fr. Ang also mentioned that the University intentionally toned down the lights and decorations in sympathy with the Filipinos affected by the typhoon.

The theme, "The Pilgrimage: Our Road through Trials, Our Road to Triumph," according to UST Secretary-General Rev. Fr. Louie Coronel, O.P., EHL, is about the pilgrimage that Mary and Joseph took looking for a place where the child Jesus would be born. This pilgrimage is likewise experienced in the present time, when we journey together as a people, looking for answers to the many questions related to the pandemic: how mankind will be able to conquer it, and when we would see its end.

"Christmas Fireworks" a musical composition by the Conservatory of Music Dean Assoc. Prof. Antonio Africa, Ph.D., accompanied the lighting of the campus. Shown alongside was a montage of previous Paskuhan lighting ceremonies produced by the UST Communications Bureau.

The decorations included the 70-foot tall Christmas tree, life-sized figures of the Holy Family at the Arch of the Centuries, the Cross atop the Main Building, and many more lights framing the Benavides Park and campus streets.

The Christmas Tree was made up of 50,000 blue LEDs that drew attention to the Star, with meteor lights interspersed to enliven the tree.

Another 160,000 LEDs, majority of which were reused from previous years, brightened up the other campus trees and structures. Some lights formed the shape of gothic arches as a throwback to a time when UST was still in Intramuros.



UST Vice-Rector Rev. Fr. Isaias Tiongco, O.P., presses the button to light up the campus and symbolically begin the Paskuhan Season. [Screenshot courtesy of the UST Communications Bureau]



The lobby of the UST Main Building hosts colorful angel and tree figurines. [Screenshot courtesy of the UST Communications Bureau]



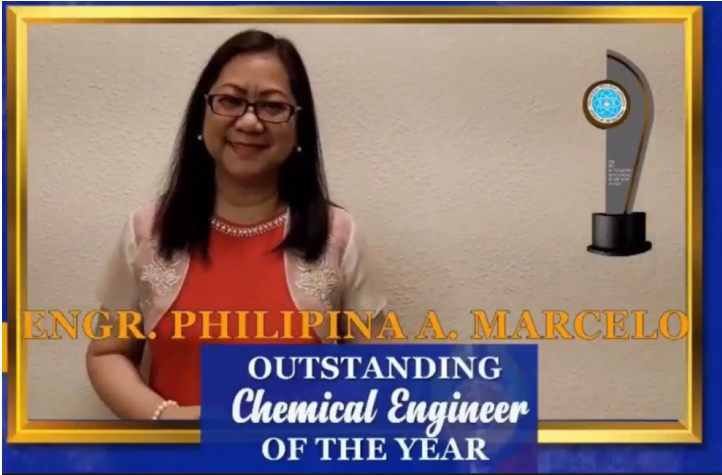
The Arch of the Centuries with life-sized figures of the Holy Family (partly hidden) [Screenshot courtesy of the UST Communications Bureau]



Towering above the various campus decorations is the 70-foot tall Christmas Tree at the UST Grandstand. [Screenshot courtesy of the UST Communications Bureau]



The statue of UST founder Archbishop Miguel de Benavides, O.P., is brightened by two Christmas trees. [Screenshot courtesy of the UST Communications Bureau]



Marcelo



Manaois

Two Thomasian PRC Outstanding Professionals of 2021: Former Eng'g dean, Biotech CEO receive award

The immediate past dean of the Faculty of Engineering, Chemical Engineer Philipina A. Marcelo, Ph.D., and Asst. Prof. Roberto Manaois, DBA, from the Faculty of Pharmacy, were named Outstanding Professionals of the Year by the Professional Regulation Commission for 2021. The awards were presented on November 15, 2021, through a livestream at the PRC's Facebook page.

Marcelo was hailed the 2021 Outstanding Professional in Chemical Engineering. Having served as dean of the Faculty of Engineering for nine years, Marcelo led the charge in ensuring the local and international accreditation of all six engineering programs. Under the Philippine Accrediting Association of Schools, Colleges, and Universities (PAASCU), these programs are on Level 3.

In the international accreditation scene, Marcelo successfully worked on the accreditation of the programs of the Faculty of Engineering through the Philippine Technological Council, the country's provisional member of the Washington Accord. Earlier, Engineering was able to hurdle the Accreditation Board of Engineering and Technology (ABET).

Marcelo is a two-time recipient of a Fulbright scholarship grant, the second of which is the reason why she is currently on leave from the University where she has to fulfill the requirements of her scholarship grant in the United States.

Manaois was named Outstanding Professional in Medical Technology for



Event poster

2021. He currently serves as president and Chief Executive Officer of Scientific Biotech Specialties, Inc., (SBSI). For over 25 years, he has consistently shared his expertise through the different chapters of the Philippine Association of Medical Technologists (PAMET). His team pioneered the development of Microbiology in clinical laboratories by introducing the bioMerieux Vitek system nationwide. Most recently, he became the chair for Professional Development Committee of PAMET.

Faculty members Marcelo and Manaois now join the University's roster of Outstanding Professional of the Year

Award recipients, such as Academician Dr. Maribel G. Nonato (2020, Chemistry), Dr. Eduardo Ong (2020, Real Estate Service), Dr. Donald G. Manlapaz (2020, Physical Therapy), Dr. Aleth Therese L. Dacanay (2018, Pharmacy), Dr. Donald Lipardo (2015, Physical Therapy), Dr. Rosalinda Solevilla (2011, Pharmacy), Dr. Priscilla Torres (2009, Pharmacy), Dr. Cheryl R. Peralta (2009, Physical Therapy), Assoc. Prof. Jocelyn Agcaoili (2007, Physical Therapy), and Dr. Fortunato Sevilla (2002, Chemistry).

The "Outstanding Professional of the Year Award" is the highest award bestowed by the PRC upon a professional.



UST facades turn red to commemorate day for persecuted Christians

The University of Santo Tomas joined the worldwide commemoration of Red Wednesday on November 24, 2021. The Holy Mass, presided over by UST Senior High School Regent Fr. Ermito de Sagon, O.P., at the Santisimo Rosario Parish Church (UST Chapel), was also livestreamed for public viewing through the respective official Facebook pages of the Parish and the University.

The facades of several of the University's structures were lit red for this observance, including the Main Building, the Santisimo Rosario Parish Church, the Arch of the Centuries, the UST Hospital, and the Bl. Buenaventura Garcia Paredes, O.P. Building.

Red Wednesday is an annual Church event initiated by Aid to the Church in Need (ACN), a papal charity for persecuted Christians. For this year, its theme was "Red without fear: A Church journeying as one." The 2021 commemoration blends the observance of two recent events within the Catholic community, the 500 years of Christianity in the Philippines and the preparation toward the Synod of Bishops in 2023.

Fr. De Sagon, in his homily, urged the community to "Remember to pray for those who are suffering for the sake of Christ. If ever we suffer, we ask God for His patience, for His enlightenment, [for us to]



Fr. De Sagon delivers his homily.

accept whatever happens because this is part and parcel of our life as Christians." The Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) institutionalized in January 2020 the annual observance of Red Wednesday in all Catholic churches and institutions in the Philippines.



Two Arts and Letters programs sign MOU with UB-SUNY

The University of Santo Tomas Faculty of Arts and Letters signed an international memorandum of understanding with the University of Buffalo (UB) of the State University of New York (SUNY) for the purpose of "developing academic and educational cooperation on the basis of equality and reciprocity and to promote relations and mutual understanding between both universities".

Dr. Sampson Lee Blair of UB-SUNY, a family sociologist who specializes in child and adolescent development, gender, and ethnicity, will teach a professional elective on the Sociology of Family to fourth year BA Sociology students under the Department of Sociology.

The course is intended to examine family research and Sociology of the Filipino family relative to contemporary social issues such as changing age at marriage, poverty and family dynamics, child employment, intergenerational families, and the role of religion within family, among others.

At the Department of English, a collaboration with the UB-SUNY is underway for the graduates of the English Language Studies program to pursue their education-based master's degree in the



(Top row, from left:) UB-SUNY Associate Dean of International Education and Language Programs Director Prof. Janina Brutt-Griffler, Ph.D.; UST Sociology Department Coordinator Prof. Clarence Batan, Ph.D.; UST Faculty of Arts and Letters Dean Prof. Marilu R. Madrunio, Ph.D.; (Second row, from left:) UB-SUNY Interim Vice Provost for International Education John Wood; family sociologist and UB-SUNY faculty member Dr. Sampson Lee Blair; UST Faculty of Arts and Letters International Relations and Programs Coordinator Prof. Arlen Ancheta, Ph.D.; and UST Department of English Chair Prof. Rachele Lintao, Ph.D.

institution at a discounted rate.

Other opportunities for international projects, research, and teaching assistantship of the students under the BA

Sociology program, and in other programs are also being explored in the partnership.

Ong is appointed member of QS Global Advisory Committee, AppliedHE advisory board

ASEAN Engineer and Office of the UST QS/THE Rankings Deputy Director Nestor R. Ong, was recently appointed as a member of the Quacquarelli-Symonds International Academic Advisory Committee (QS IAAC), a position that he will serve for six consecutive years.



Ong

The AppliedHE, a new ranking body, has also appointed Ong to sit as a member of its AppliedHE Ranking Advisory Board (RAB) for the initial term of two years.

With the reorganization of the QS IAAC and the streamlining of its committee members across the globe in its transitioning to the new QS Global Advisory Committee (GAC), Ong has remained as its sole Filipino member.

The QS GAC acts as the advisory body of QS to support the international QS conferences and summits held each year. The responsibilities of the Committee include providing guidance on the overarching vision and strategy for QS Conferences, identifying conference themes and speakers, and supporting the development of content driven and engaging programmes. The committee meets three times a year.

Being a member of QS GAC provides Ong, who teaches at the Industrial Engineering Department of the UST Faculty of Engineering, with the opportunity

to: 1) help foster academic excellence and innovation, 2) promote inclusion, discussion, and drive for academic excellence, and 3) expand his network and meet people with similar interest. In joining QS GAC, he establishes international connections through the QS vast network of speakers and stakeholders which includes royalties, prime ministers and government officials, dignitaries, C-Suites of private sectors and many more.

However, the RAB will advise AppliedHE on the development of rankings such as the AppliedHE Rankometer. Early next year, AppliedHE aims to launch rankings that incorporate factors such as teaching & learning, employability, and institutional impact. AppliedHE would like to develop rankings which address underserved segments of the global higher education sector, such as private institutions and those from emerging economies. The board operates independently of AppliedHE and can provide AppliedHE with its opinions both when requested and upon its own initiative.

Dean Romero, Alipao, present papers, poster on SL at global symposium

Two papers from UST, one from the College of Education and another from the Faculty of Arts and Letters, were presented during the II Global Symposium Universitate, an international academic gathering held recently via Zoom.

College of Education Dean Prof. Pilar I. Romero, Ph.D., and Special Needs Education (SPED) Department faculty member Asst. Prof. Maripia P. Rabacal presented the paper titled “Engendering empathy towards persons with disabilities among the youth involved in parish ministry.”

Their presentation was based on the research-informed service-learning (SL) project conducted by former students of the SPED Department, namely, Jeline Trinidad, Emmanuel H. Estrella, Freddie M. Galman Jr., Julianne Benett M. Martin, Nerissa Joy S. Nilmao, and Carina Belen C. Ramos.

The salient findings of the research were presented by Rabacal, who mentored the students.

Meanwhile, the transformative aspect of the research and its connection with the development of spirituality, both among the researchers and youth ministers, were explored by Dean Romero.

From the Faculty of Arts and Letters Department of Sociology, two faculty members and a student presented their works on Service Learning.

UST SIMBAHAYAN Director Asst. Prof. Froilan Alipao joined the e-poster presentation with his work titled “The Salamanca Process as Service Learning Praxis Framework of Dominican Educational Institutions.”

Meanwhile, Asst. Prof. Milrose P. Llenas together with her fourth-year student Romulus Vincent M. Cuizon co-presented “Analysis of Challenges and Opportunities in e-Service Learning” in a round table discussion.

Carrying the theme “Service-Learning, Integral Education and Transformative Spirituality,” the second edition of the Global Symposium was organized by *Universidade Catolica Portuguesa* (Catholic University of Portugal), the International Federation



Romero



Rabacal



Alipao



Llenas

of Catholic Universities (IFCU) and *Centro Latinoamericano de Aprendizaje y Servicio Solidario* (Latin American Centre for Service-Learning).

The global event was participated in by more than 30 universities coming from 26 countries across five continents.

Lontoc of GS presents research results on impact of pandemic on adult education in PH

Graduate School faculty member Asst. Prof. Gina Lontoc, Ph.D., presented the results of her team’s recently completed collaborative research project on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on adult education in the Philippines.

The presentation was held on December 6, 2021, during the Annual General Meeting of the British Association for Literacy in Development (BALID).

Lontoc, who also teaches at the College of Education, shared the challenges experienced by the research participants in terms of lesson implementation and participation in adult literacy classes during the pandemic. Data were taken from document analysis, interviews, and focus group discussions with instructional



Lontoc

managers, coordinators and students of the Alternative Learning System in Quezon City and Batangas.

In her discussion, Lontoc also highlighted the participants’ stories of success relating to strategies and new sets of skills that they developed to sustain their participation despite challenges in

transitioning to online mode of learning.

Representing the research team “*Transformare: A network of adult literacy and lifelong learning advocates*,” during the Annual General Meeting of BALID, Lontoc underscored her experience of working with UK and Afghanistan research teams which provided useful insights pivotal in rethinking the approaches in future projects that her team members will embark on.

BALID is a non-governmental organization that promotes adult and family literacy and numeracy as a basic human right, in the context of development. It aims to bring together organizations and individuals who believe that sharing experience about learning and literacy can help enrich workers and citizens in both the industrial and the developing world.



Project banner [Photo courtesy of the National Youth Mental Health Project 2021 Facebook page]

UST receives grant from DOST for National Mental Health Project 2021

The University of Santo Tomas Research Center on Social Sciences and Education (RCSSSED) received funding from Department of Science and Technology - Philippine Council for Health Research and Development (DOST-PCHRD) for its National Youth Mental Health Project.

The research work, titled “Mapping of the Socio-Cultural Factors and Determinants Associated with Depression, Anxiety, Self-Harm, and Suicidal Behavior among University Students,” officially began on June 20, 2021 and is expected to run for two years.

Vice-Rector for Research and Innovation Prof. Maribel G. Nonato, Ph.D., represented UST while faculty researcher Assoc. Prof. Maria Carinnes P. Alejandria led the project team. Part of the team were collaborators from various universities nationwide, such as the University of Santo Tomas - Legazpi, University of the Philippines Visayas, Saint Louis University, Mindanao State University - Iligan Institute of Technology, and Palawan State University.

A longstanding issue in mental health studies is its inability to address the widening gap in theoretical approach and the lived experiences of individuals from varying socio-cultural landscapes. Mental health has also been a concern within the academe and the rest of the country since college students are one of the most affected populations that experience mental health challenges.

The National Mental Health Project will identify the socio-cultural contexts that exacerbate the vulnerability of students who

are experiencing mental health issues and struggles in their daily lives. Part of its general objective is to explore the socio-cultural determinants of mental health illness (MHI) among enrolled University students.

The first two quarters of the project focused on data collection within UST and the collaborating external academic institutions, which primarily includes college students, faculty members, and administrators as participants of the study.

Currently, all collaborating universities have almost finished with the data collection phase. Since the data collection involved personal and sensitive matters related to mental health experiences, an interactive lecture led by an expert, Ms. Marian Lagundino, a UST Guidance Counsellor assigned to the College of Tourism and Hospitality Management, was conducted to provide support and assistance to the project team’s mental health and well-being.

Before the year ends, the project team will release its preliminary findings gathered from the University of Santo Tomas. The



Dr. Alejandria (top row, second from left) with UST Legazpi Office of Guidance and Testing Director Ma. Francia Sazon-Dechavez (top row, fourth from left), Palawan State University Prof. Alvie Bergado-Timbancaya (second row, leftmost), UP Visayas-Tacloban Asst. Prof. Rowena S. Guiang (second row, fourth left), Mindanao State University IIT Prof. Jean S. Taypa (third row, third from left), Saint Louis University Dr. PJ Bengwasan (bottom row, right), UST Communications Bureau Acting Director Philippe Jose S. Hernandez (third row, second from left) and Senior Teacher and Head Marie Antonette Quan-Nalus (last row, left), the SRAs Kristel, Jolly and Irish and RAs Sandy Fernandez and Ceejay Sandoval during the first alignment meeting

papers will focus on information related to students’ mental health experiences at home and in the community. A policy review that highlights the different mental health policies in the country affecting students will also be released.

Catechetical ministry conference caps off RCSSED’s five-year study on PH catechesis

The National Catechetical Study (NCS) 2021 project of the Research Center for Social Sciences and Education (RCSSED) staged a conference on the catechetical ministry, attended by Filipino Catholic bishops.

Kwentong-Katekista 10 - Piyesta ng Pananampalataya: Conference on Catechetical Ministry in the Philippines (CCMP) was conducted in celebration of the 2021 National Catechetical Month and of the feast of San Lorenzo Ruiz.

Fr. Ernesto de Leon of the Philippine Bishops’ Episcopal Commission on Catechesis and Catholic Education (ECCCE) says these *Kwentong Katekista* webinars marked the nine-year plan of the Philippine Catholic Church in preparation for the 500th anniversary of Philippine Christianity celebrated in 2021.

In the tenth and final webinar of the series held recently, the NCS project organizers expressed its gratitude to all the catechists, consecrated persons, Catholic educators, and social science researchers who journeyed with the NCS in the last five years, from 2016 to 2021.

The NCS 2021: PARI Project, funded by an anonymous Catholic donor from Europe, looked at the state of catechesis in the country and the conditions of Filipino catechists across Philippine ecclesiastical jurisdictions.

This one-day virtual event was also an opportunity to reflect on the five salient dimensions of the catechetical ministry, namely: catechists, catechetical leaders, catechized, catechetical formation programs, and catechetical human resources.

Each conference segment provided a *Regalo ng Pananampalataya* wherein the NCS 2021 Research Team gave



Project logo

away physical copies of the Directory for Catechesis and the NCS Project’s own publications.

The NCS project’s publications include: *Katekista: Mga Tulang Pananaliksik Hango sa National Catechetical Study (NCS) 2016-2018*; Catechetical Modules – Christian Faith: Call, Gift, Mission; and *Katesismo kay San Jose: Kabanalang Tinig ng Katahimikan*.

One of the highlights of the celebration was the final segment with members of ECCCE, a unit under the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines (CBCP). Here, attending bishops affirmed the work of Filipino catechists and signified their continuous support in the mission of catechesis.

“[A bishop’s] example, his word, his assistance, it will really make things as one, it will bind all activities. It will give unity to all the actions and plans, visions and missions of the catechetical ministry. So it the leadership of the bishop is so important because it will be able to ignite and flame the passion of the catechist whom God had already called,” said Bishop Jose Elmer Mangalinao, D.D. of the Diocese of Bayombong (Nueva Vizcaya).

The event concluded with a Mass co-celebrated by CBCP-ECCCE Chair Bishop Roberto Mallari, D.D., of the Diocese of San Jose, Nueva Ecija, and Bishop Mangalinao, the latter being the incoming chair of the ECCCE.

“The NCS project is a project of ... a community (*pamayanan*). And we are always in search of *simbahan*, we have seen that we are the Church--that we are all catechists who give life to our Catholic faith,” said UST Sociologist Dr. Clarence Batan, RCSSED’s principal investigator for the NCS 2021 project.



Vizconde, Lontoc present research on literacy of families with agricultural livelihood at UNESCO UIL webinar

UST Graduate School Asst. Dean Prof. Camilla Vizconde, Ph.D., and Graduate School faculty member Asst. Prof. Gina Lontoc, Ph.D., presented their research paper titled “Weaving family learning with agricultural livelihoods: a focus on women farmers and their families in the Philippines,” at the International webinar on Family Literacy and Indigenous and Local Learning held from December 9 to 10, 2021.

The members of the UNESCO Chair partner institutions from Malawi, Ethiopia, Nepal, and the Philippines, together with their colleagues from UNESCO Institute for Lifelong Learning (UIL), presented their findings from their recent research studies during the first day of the webinar which took the form of a public conference.

The aim of the presentations was to explore the potential of family literacy in enhancing the learning prospects of both adults and youth. Presenters underscored various ways in which children and adults learn together as they share knowledge and skills in everyday life.

Discussions also centered on the roles of parents, grandparents, siblings, cousins, and caregivers and members of the wider community in intergenerational learning. This also provided the opportunity to share their recent research projects, policies

and practices relevant to family literacy, indigenous knowledge and new ways of learning.

The participation of Vizconde and Lontoc was part of the Global Research Translation Award (GRTA)-funded project on family literacy and indigenous learning.

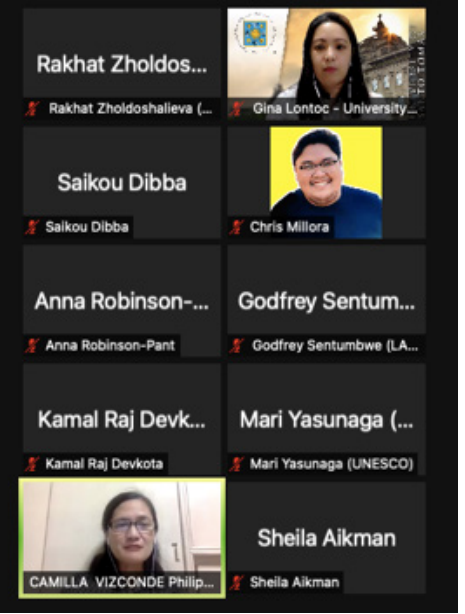
According to Lontoc, who also teaches at the College of Education, the Country Project Lead of Family Literacy Research Team in the Philippines, said that based on their research, learning within families in the context of the Philippines is tightly linked with sustaining livelihoods. It is a learning process that could be best described as intergenerational knowledge transfer and “modelling.”

Among their participants, local knowledge forms a core part of sustaining livelihoods. They also added that family members and their immediate community engage with a diversity of texts as part of their everyday life and livelihoods; thus, creating literacy-rich environments.

On the second day of the webinar, the virtual World Café format was utilized which engaged key policy makers and practitioners in discussions which could develop policy implications. Lontoc served as the co-chair of Dr. Catherine Jere from the School of International Development at University of East Anglia (UEA). This session aimed to build on the discussions

from Day 1 and to explore how participants could take forward the research and practice insights that emerged from the previous day.

This international webinar was organized by the UIL, UEA, and UNESCO’s Section of Youth, Literacy and Skills Development.



Lontoc (top rightmost window) and Vizconde (lower leftmost window) during their presentation

Escuadra of CRS presents paper on interprofessional education, collaboration at int’l health conference

UST College of Rehabilitation Sciences (CRS) faculty member Ms. Catherine Joy T. Escuadra participated in the All Together Better Health X Reinvented Webinar series held on November 23, 2021.

The paper, which she co-authored with Asst. Prof. Jocel Regino, who like herself is a member of the CRS Interprofessional Education Committee, was titled, “Understanding the research landscape of Interprofessional Education and Collaboration (IPE/C) via data mining.”

The study summarized the temporal trend of topics and interpreted the evolution of topics within the IPE/C research area within recent years. Upon reviewing more than 3,000 manuscripts from 1992 to 2021, 20 dominant topics were found. Among the topics, highest frequency and significant trend of publication was found among topics related with student development, education training, and health professionals.



Escuadra



Regino

Manlapaz of CRS presents result of student exit survey on Connectivity as bridging program

Department of Physical Therapy (PT) Chair Asst. Prof. Donald G. Manlapaz, Ph.D., presented the evaluation of Connectivity, a bridging program conducted by the University of Santo Tomas College of Rehabilitation Sciences (UST CRS) PT Department during the 16th eLearning Forum Asia (eLFA 2021), which was held virtually on November 30, 2021.

The theme “Augmenting the Virtual Environment: Technology – Innovation – Humanity” showed that amidst the pandemic, eLearning and its surrounding technologies and pedagogies play a key role in facilitating student learning and enlightening teaching ideas.

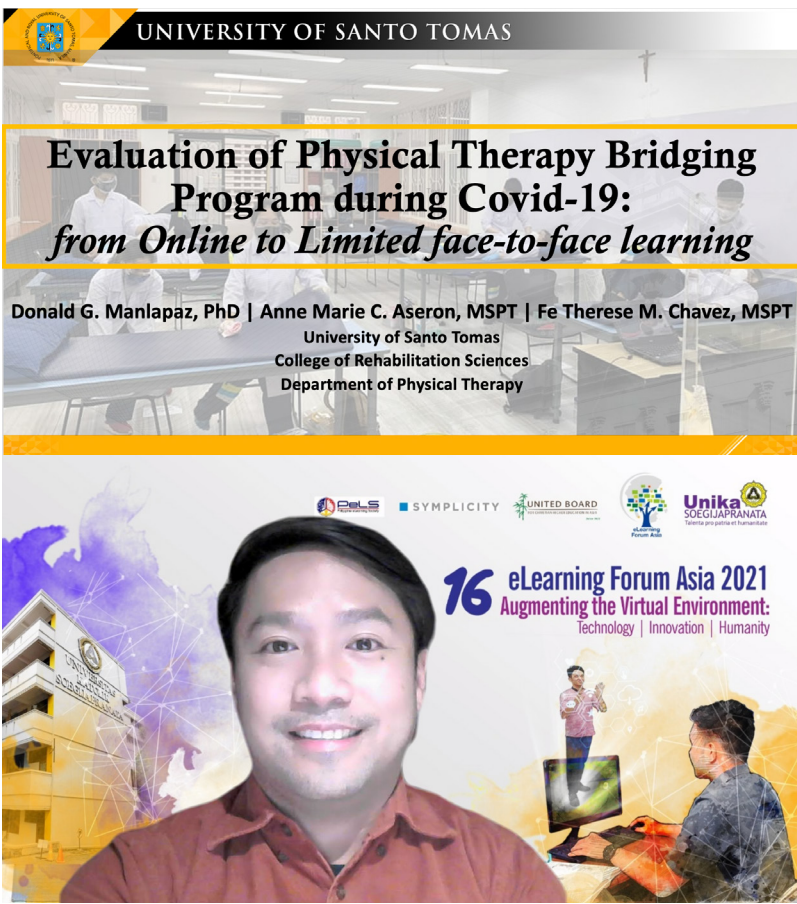
Together with CRS Dean Assoc. Prof. Anne Marie C. Aseron and Ms Fe Therese M. Chavez, they conducted an exit survey to evaluate the students’ satisfaction, program’s usefulness, and quality, such as content, teaching and learning strategies, and facilities.

The overall completion rate of the program was 91.02%. One hundred twenty-four students completed the survey with 92.74% satisfaction and 96.53% usefulness of the bridging program. The program’s quality was rated at 92.12%, with a high rating on content (91.70%), teaching and learning strategies (94.59%), and facilities (90.70%).

As one of the first PT programs to return to limited face-to-face set-up in the country and with the program’s successful implementation, Connectivity’s design and delivery can serve as a model to other PT and allied health programs in their transition from online to face-to-face instruction during the pandemic.

The results of the Connectivity evaluation will help better understand the ongoing changes in the educational system and processes while ensuring a safe environment for the program’s sustainability.

This year, the program was hosted by the Soegijapranata Catholic University in Indonesia. Next year, UST will host the 17th eLearning Forum Asia (eLFA 2022).



Manlapaz discusses the CRS bridging program.

Balitaan of Science participates in NAST forum for future science leaders

College of Science faculty member Asst. Prof. Jolleen Natalie I. Balitaan, Ph.D., was chosen by the National Academy of Science and Technology Philippines (NAST PHL) to participate in the 2021 Future Science Leaders Forum (FSLF).

The FSLF is a prestigious mentoring forum that gathers young individuals who show significant promise for leadership in their respective fields, manifest excellent communication skills, and have demonstrated outstanding accomplishments in their profession.



Balitaan

Around 50 delegates from different institutions across the country were carefully selected by NAST to undergo the mentoring forum. The plenary speakers of this forum were composed of NAST

Academicians and/or National Scientists.

The FSLF is an opportunity to empower young Filipino science leaders and create a pool of potential NAST awardees. Through this, NAST Philippines hopes to assist young leaders to maximize their remarkable potential in their respective fields and provide a scientific avenue to establish leadership network of peers and potential mentors and advisers.

Some of the NAST awardees from UST are: Prof. Mario A. Tan, Ph.D. (2018 Outstanding Young Scientist in Pharmaceutical Sciences and 2012 Talent Search for Young Scientist), Prof. Bernard John V. Tongol, Ph.D. (2012 Outstanding Young Scientist), Prof. Dr. Thomas Edison E. dela Cruz (2012 Outstanding Young Scientist in Mycology), Prof. Dr. Grecebio Jonathan D. Alejandro (2006 Outstanding Young Scientist in Botany), Prof. John Donnie A. Ramos, Ph.D. (2005 Outstanding Young Scientist in Molecular Biology/Immunology), Prof. Christina A. Binag, Ph.D. (2001 Outstanding Young Scientist), Prof. Alicia M. Aguinaldo, Ph.D. (1993 Outstanding Young Scientist), among others.

Tejuco of Architecture presents street management plan for España Blvd. at conference in Qatar

UST College of Architecture faculty member Ar. Felicisimo A. Tejuco, Jr., presented his paper that will uplift the sidewalks of España Boulevard, and even include it in a tourism trail to promote tourism while encouraging walking.

Tejuco, a fellow of the UST Research Center for Culture Arts and Humanities (RCCA) Ar. Felicisimo A. Tejuco, Jr., presented his paper during the 57th International Society of City and Regional Planners (ISOCARP) World Planning Congress held from November 8 to 11, 2021, in Doha, Qatar, through a hybrid format.

With the theme “Planning Unlocked,” the international event focused on unlocking what planning is and may become. Under the track “Smartness and development. AI-Souq: Innovating for performance and management,” Tejuco shared how public and private participation can contribute to better management of streets.

In his paper, “Revitalizing the Sidewalks of España Boulevard (from Welcome Rotunda to Lerma/Morayta) through a Street Management Plan vis-à-vis Community Empowerment,” Tejuco noted that the two-kilometer España Boulevard is a major artery connecting the City of Manila through other cities in the National Capital Region. Although it is valued by the community for its accessibility to



Tejuco (standing) presents his research

basic services and public transportation, common concerns include congestion, climate change, and criminality.

Since 2016, Tejuco has been looking into the state and problems of España Blvd., the area being studied. He has conducted workshops, consultations, and presentations with community leaders, local government officials, and experts.

Aside from suggesting the continuous maintenance of the streets and sidewalks through community empowerment and participation, Tejuco’s paper recommended the integration of heritage sites like the University of Santo Tomas and the Far Eastern University in a tourism trail to promote tourism while encouraging walking.



Tejuco

The research paper was funded and fully supported through the UST-RCCA under the Office of the Vice-Rector for Research and Innovation. It was also awarded a travel grant through the National Commission for Culture and the Arts.

Founded in 1965, the ISOCARP, which organized the Congress, is a global association of professional city and regional planners, and Tejuco is one of its lifetime members. It has 700 experienced professionals from more than 90 countries worldwide.

GS students present research paper on COVID-19 political reportage at Journalism int’l conference

A group of Journalism students under the Master’s degree program of the University of Santo Tomas Graduate School (UST GS) presented a paper at a scholarly conference on journalism studies held on December 1, 2021, staged virtually from Canberra, Australia.

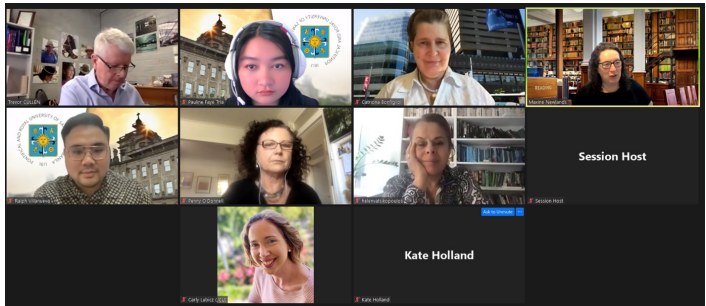
UST GS students Ralph Edwin Villanueva and Pauline Faye Tria presented a paper titled “Filipino politicians passing through news gates and becoming newsworthy? A discursive news values analysis (DNVA) of COVID-19 political reportage” during the annual conference of the Journalism Education and Research Association of Australia (JERAA).

In September of the same year, a group of Graduate School students, Neil Jayson Servalos and Katrina Isabel Gonzales, as well as the trio of Jasper Emmanuel Arcalas and Rochelle Senaida all under the Journalism program, and MA in Marketing Communication student Jhoana Paula Tuazon, presented their research papers during the biennial Future of Journalism 2021 conference, held virtually from September 22 to 24, 2021, in Cardiff, Wales.

The three papers aimed to bring the voices of Filipino journalists into current-day global discussions among journalism

practitioners, scholars and educators on the pandemic’s impact on overall journalism.

JERAA (www.jeraa.org.au) is Australia’s national association of journalism educators and scholars. JERAA co-organized this year’s annual event with the University of Canberra.



MA in Journalism students Pauline Faye Tria and Ralph Edwin Villanueva [those with UST Zoom backgrounds] presented a paper at the annual conference of the Journalism Education and Research Association of Australia.



The speakers Jason Cruz (second row, leftmost), Ivy Piedad (second row, third from left), and Gian Reyes (fourth row, second from left), with (third row, from left:) Dr. Recio, Dr. Ong, Dean Vasco, organizers, and participants

Industry leaders share digital marketing strategies at UST GS virtual marketing symposium

Heads of three leading companies presented their take on digital marketing at a forum on Marketing Management organized by the Graduate School held on November 20, 2021. The virtual symposium titled “360°: Traversing Digital Marketing in Full Circle” focused on how present-day enterprises transform the marketing function into a technology-driven aspect of a business.

The speakers were Shell Global Content Strategy Head Jason Cruz, PureGold Price Club Inc. Senior Manager for Marketing Ivy Piedad, and KMC Solutions Vice President for Marketing and Strategic Partnerships Gian Reyes.

Cruz discussed the “Mental Framework of Digital Marketing.” He underscored the importance of reskilling and upscaling to keep up with the fast-paced digital environment. He also pointed out the significance of “having an open mindset, to start learning again, and to continue investing in oneself” to succeed in a career in marketing and advertising.

Piedad, who delivered the second talk, shared her vast experience in consumer marketing. With successful nationwide marketing strategies under her name, she emphasized that marketing should stay authentic, agile, and humanize the brand

regardless of the medium of communication. She capped off with a reminder to always establish a brand voice. For her, there is always a story to tell and personality to project in every post, response, and content published online.

The last speaker was Reyes who explained how their company, KMC Solutions, focused how on co-working spaces could address the problems brought by COVID-19. He attributed this to their knowledge of the client and understanding of various social media channels.

Reyes left his audience with three guidelines to be successful in the digital world: (1) understanding the client’s changing needs, (2) engaging with the clients, (3) stickiness to attract and maintain the clients. The series of talks was followed by a panel discussion with the three speakers.

The symposium, which had 2,500 participants from business and the academe, opened with the message from Graduate School Dean Prof. Michael Anthony Vasco, Ph.D., concluded with closing statements from Marketing Management Course Facilitator Dr. Eduardo Ong. The event was hosted online via Zoom and livestreamed on UST Tiger TV’s Facebook page.



UST Science, Universiti Utara Malaysia host conference on innovations, analytics

“What’s Next? Surfing the Big Data Waves”

This was the theme of the 5th Innovation and Analytics Conference & Exhibition (IACE2021), that was jointly organized by the University of Santo Tomas Department of Mathematics and Physics under the College of Science and the School of Quantitative Sciences of the Universiti Utara Malaysia (UUM).

Held from November 23 to 24, 2021, the webinar provided a platform for collaboration among academics and practitioners involved in research and development in the quantitative sciences, analytics and applied mathematics.

UST Rector Very Rev. Fr. Richard Ang, OP, Ph.D., in his opening message, stressed the importance of data analytics and the need to find effective ways to analyze and utilize these data especially during this challenging time of the pandemic, stating, “When great minds meet, great things happen.”

The keynote session was led by UST Vice Rector for Academic Affairs Prof. Dr. Cheryl R. Peralta with her presentation “Data-Informed Decisions in Academics in Support of Quality Assurance: The Experience of the University of Santo Tomas.”

Peralta discussed the University’s experiences in the use of data analytics for informed decision-making in academics and highlighted the key lessons in UST’s journey that helped support continuous quality improvement.

Prof. Dr. Naomie Salim of the School of Computing of the Faculty of Engineering, Universiti Teknologi Malaysia, Malaysia, and Prof. Dr. Anton Abdulbasah Kamil of Istanbul Gelisim University, Turkey, were

among the keynote speakers.

Faculty members and students from the College of Science and the College of Information and Computing Sciences presented papers during the parallel sessions.

From the Department of Mathematics and Physics of the College of Science, faculty presenters on the topic ‘Surfing the Big Waves’ included: Department Chair Asst. Prof. Enrico Yambao (“Iteration Functions for Approximating Complex Roots of Cubic Polynomials”), Dr. Josephine Bernadette Benjamin, (“Feature Weighted Multi-View Possibilistic C-Means with Feature Reduction Framework”), Dr. Ma. Carlota Decena, (“Detecting Chaos in Time-Series Data of Localized Measles Cases in the Philippines”), Dr. Bernhard Egwolf, (“The UST CoV-2 Model for the COVID-19 Pandemic in Metro Manila”), Asst. Prof. Arturo Patungan- (“A Machine Learning Modeling Prediction of Enrollment of Admitted College Applicants at University of Santo Tomas”), and Asst. Prof. Mark Louie Ramos (“Adaptive local false discovery rate procedures for spiky data and their application to protein Set4 Delta data”).

Discussed during the second day of the webinar was “Improving Asynchronous Delivery of Mathematics in the Modern World through Student Feedback: A Descriptive Case Study” delivered by the dynamic and YouTube sensation faculty member of the Mathematics and Physics Department, Asst. Prof. Xandro Alexi Nieto.

This was followed by eight student presenters from the UST College of Science and the UST College of Information and Computing Sciences that included: Ronica Lilia A. Pascua (College of Science-

“Cardiac alternans suppression using the T±ε feedback control in a single cell human model”), Jose Conrado Añonuevo (College of Information and Computing Sciences- “A Prescriptive Analysis of Toll Plaza Booths for Company X”), Ramon Joseph A. Teoxon (College of Science- “Proton beam interaction with ovary and prostate tissues using SRIM software simulation”), Abigail Joy Roxas (College of Information and Computing Sciences - “Revenue Maximization: A Case for a Furniture and Decking Company”), Nicole G. Aquino (College of Information and Computing Sciences - “A Prescriptive Analysis on the Cost Optimization of LF Almirañez Construction Metal Works”), Jigo Jovero (College of Science - “Feasibility of Markov Chain Modelling Techniques for Covid-19 Cases Prediction in the Philippines”), Ray Liorenz SP. Dominguez (College of Science - “Sentiment Analysis of the Community on COVID-19 Vaccination Programs: A Case Study of the 2nd District of NCR, Philippines”) , and Hancelie Keith Llaguno (College of Information and Computing Sciences - “The Implementation of Service Desk and Service Request Management through the Development of e-Ticketing System for IT Management Services”).

The conference concluded with speeches from the Dean of the UUM School of Quantitative Sciences Assoc. Prof. Dr. Mohd Kamal Mohd Nawawi, and the Dean of the UST College of Science Prof. Dr. Rey Donne S. Papa.

The two-day event in a fully virtual platform brought together numerous participants from Malaysia, Philippines, Nigeria, Japan, Iraq, Oman, Saudi Arabia, United States of America, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Taiwan, and other countries.

UST Science webinar emphasizes One Health approach

The Science, Technology, and Society (STS) Unit of the Department of Biological Sciences of the UST College of Science hosted the second STS Summit with the theme “Understanding One Health for a Sustainable Future.” It was held via Zoom on November 12, 2021.

This year, the Summit highlighted the One Health approach, which recognizes the interconnectedness of people’s health to the health of animals and their shared environment. The One Health idea has been pertinent over the last few years as a myriad of factors continually affect change in the interactions between humans, animals, and the environment.

Four esteemed speakers shared their expertise in using science-based approaches for their studies related to the One Health agenda. For environmental health, E-Kwento PH Director Mr. Ronaldo Magsakay delivered a lecture on effectively communicating environmental awareness using digital arts and social media as a platform.

Dr. Emiel de Lange, a post-doctoral research consultant at the University of Edinburgh, tackled animal health by applying social science research on Cambodian social groups to understand wildlife poisoning in their communities.

Furthermore, human health was presented by Dr. Benedict Maralit, the Director of the Philippine Genome Center Core Sequencing Facility, and Dr. Pia Marie Albano, a researcher and faculty member of the UST Biological Sciences Department.

Maralit delivered a talk about the usage of sequencing technologies at the plight of COVID-19 in the Philippines, while Albano shared her experiences and challenges in conducting a clinical validation study of a COVID-19 kit in the country.

Science, Technology, and Society (STS) is offered as a course under the General Education curriculum of UST. It inculcates science appreciation among students and is anchored on the teachings of Pope Francis within the encyclical *Laudato Si’*.

The annual STS Summit was established by the Department of Biological Sciences to create an avenue of active discussion. More so, it fosters the advocacy of effective information dissemination in the usage of science and technology as an effective tool to address many social dilemmas to the public.



Event poster

QS/THE Rankings deputy director discusses international ranking system at PNU webinar

UST Office of QS/THE Rankings Deputy Director Engr. Nestor R. Ong was one of the keynote speakers in the webinar on the International Ranking System at the Philippine Normal University held on November 26, 2021. The discussions focused on the “QS Stars and THE Impact Ranking Systems: A Preliminary Discussion Towards Participation in QS Stars Rating and THE Impact Ranking System.”

Ong’s keynote speech titled “Going Beyond Local Accreditation” cited UST’s QS Stars journey as the first and only university in the Philippines to be rated 5 Stars by QS London. He encouraged his audience to pursue the internationalization accreditation in enhancing and uplifting the quality assurance of PNU’s education system as against international standards.

Having been established in 1901, PNU is known as the oldest teacher-training institution in the country.

The presentation was divided into three parts, the first part was the challenges and opportunities based on current trends



Ong

in Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) around the world. This included the internationalization challenges related to rankings and ratings, a framework of the UST’s EQMS (Educational Quality Management System) for excellence, several rankings and ratings, and a comprehensive approach to the definition of a World Class university.

The second part focused on understanding the QS Stars Rating System and Creative Branding.

QS/THE Rankings Office Assistant Vien Vic G. Flores presented and discussed the high-level QS Stars Rating methodologies.

The last part of the presentation was about UST’s success in tackling the QS Stars Rating challenge for three cycles, and UST’s best practices.

Ong ended his speech with words of motivation for his audience, saying: “We do not want you to be only inspired, we want you to take action, action necessary to achieve the goal of PNU to be QS Stars rated by QS London!” This was followed by a Question-and-Answer portion.

UST GS holds web conversations on diplomacy, education with Prof. Wellington Wei of Ming Chuan University

The UST Graduate School conducted a web conversation on Diplomacy and Education with educator-diplomat Prof. Wellington Wei, Ph.D., as guest speaker. The web conversations were held on November 27, 2021.

Wei, who holds a doctorate in Political Science, Magna cum laude graduate, is a filial alumnus of the University of Santo Tomas, and of Cheng Chi University. He has been teaching at the Ming Chuan University in Taiwan. He shared his decades-long diplomatic journey, and his insights into education.

Wei underscored the role of education in the honing and fortifying skills in diplomacy, use of soft power and promotion of respect, and understanding by way of cultural diplomacy, among others. He mentioned that in his various diplomatic posts, he has upheld Thomasian values. Wei was a Visiting Professor of the University of Santo Tomas.

The web conversations were followed by a sharing from a distinguished panel of reactors who contributed their expertise in the various areas of education, political science and culture.

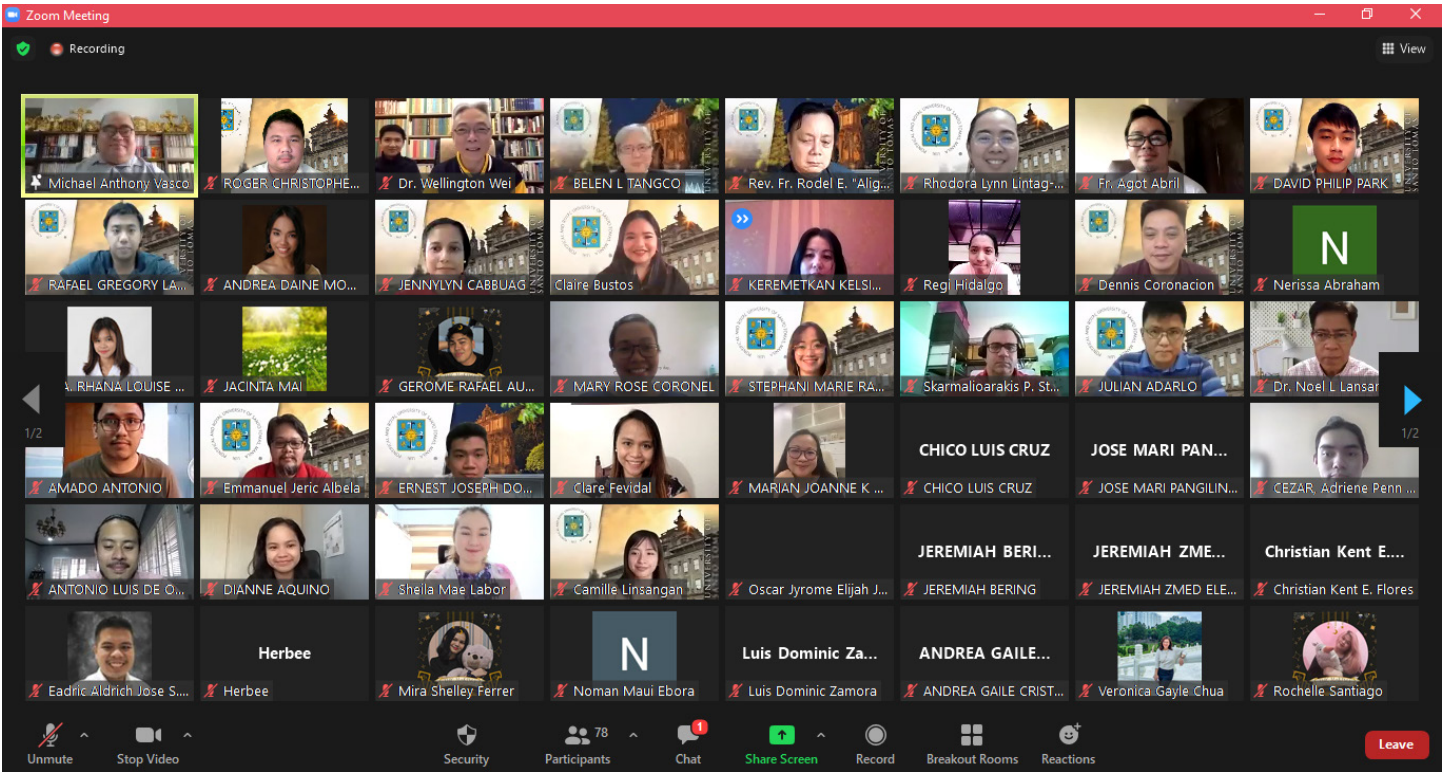
The Members of the Panel were: UST Education High School Principal Marielyn Quintana, Ph.D.; President of the Philippine Political Science Association and Department of Political Science Chair Dennis C. Coronacion, Ph.D.; GS Ethics Research Committee and Student Welfare Development Board member Emmanuel

Batoon, Ph.D.; and UST Graduate School and Faculty of Arts and Letters faculty member Noel L. Lansang, Ph.D.

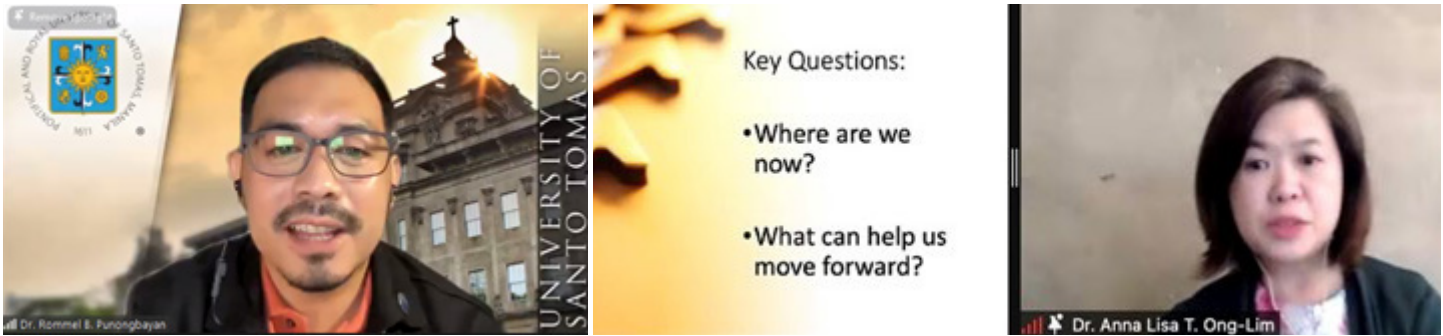
Participants from the Graduate School included Rev. Fr. Augusto O. Abril, GS Regent Rev. Fr. Rodel E. Aligan, O.P., Asst. Dean Prof. Camilla J. Vizconde, Ph.D., Program Lead Prof. Belén L. Tangco, OP, Ph.D., GS Faculty Secretary Dr. Elizabeth H. Arenas, Political Science doctoral student Ms. Jennylyn G. Cabbuag, Asst. Prof. Emmanuel Jeric A. Albela of UST Research Center for Culture, Arts & Humanities, Mr. Jeremiah Elegado, Mr. Roger Christopher R. Reyes, and Mr. Rafael Labariento, and Political Science students, among others.

Patrick Q. Bugarin, OP, who holds a Ph.D., in International Relations from Cheng Chi University, Taiwan, and a Filipino scholar-student of Dr. Wei for years, also participated in the webinar.

UST Graduate School Dean Prof. Michael Anthony C. Vasco, Ph.D., in his Closing Remarks, shared the broad spectrum of relations between UST and Taiwan. The academic ties with Taiwan universities, specially the Fu Jen Catholic University, and the academic visits fruitfully made, including guest lectures and Visiting Professorship agreements only further strengthened the friendship and academic bonds between UST and Taiwan universities and research centers.



Dean Vasco (top row, leftmost), the speaker Dr. Wellington Wei (top row, third from left), Political Science and Public Administration Cluster Program Lead Dr. Tangco (top row, fourth from left), UST GS Regent Fr. Aligan (top row, fifth from left) with faculty members, guests, and participants



Dr. Punongbayan discusses the vaccination process and details.

Dr. Ong-Lim gives an overview of the current situation in the Philippines.

UST GS vaccinology forum tackles practical, social benefits of getting vaxxed

The COVID-19 vaccines are now available, vaccination campaigns come in different forms, but still, there are people who remain undecided on getting vaccinated. With the need for the different sectors to work together to provide the public with essential information about COVID-19, which may put an end to the pandemic, the UST Graduate School held a forum titled: “Vaccinology: COVID-19 Myths, Misconceptions and Facts.” Initiated by the Medical Technology cluster, the online forum was held on November 10, 2021. Resource speakers were Medical City Research and Training Managing Head Dr. Rommel B. Punongbayan, and UP-PGH Division of Infectious and Tropical Disease in Pediatrics Chief Dr. Anna Lisa T. Ong-Lim.

Dr. Ong-Lim also serves as a member of the Department of Health Technical Advisory Group, the IATF Technical Working Group on COVID-19 variants as well as the interim National Immunization Technical Advisory Group for COVID-19 vaccines.

Forum organizers decided to bring the technical and scientific discussions outside the virtual classroom of UST Graduate School as way of public service. They took the opportunity to share the practical and social benefits of vaccination by taking it to the same medium that caused confusion to the public – the internet of things. Through the chosen speakers’ expertise, the participants were informed about the basic principles of vaccination, the mechanism of action, types, and production of vaccines, the efficacy and effectiveness, as well as the roll-out strategies of the government for the Filipinos.

The lectures also provided the participants with information and knowledge about the necessity for vaccination so each one can be part of a solution in ending this pandemic. An open forum followed the lectures.



UST Graduate School Dean Prof. Michael Anthony C. Vasco, Ph.D., welcomes the participants.



The Course Facilitator of Immunology-Microbiology Dr. Roberto G. Manaois delivers the opening remarks.



Boodhoo (top leftmost), with UST Vice Rector for Research and Innovation Prof. Maribel G. Nonato, Ph.D. (lower rightmost), GS Dean Vasco (top row, second from left), reactors Opiniano (top row, center) and Dela Rosa (second row, center), with UST GS professors and students.

UST GS conducts webinar on PhD by Research

The UST Graduate School spearhead a webinar on “PhD by Research: Program Structure, Content, and Supervision” held on November 10, 2021 via Zoom.

This online event provided insights on designing program structure, streamlining curricular contents, identifying logistical requirements, and offering guidance in student supervision in the context of the ‘PhD by Research’ program.

The guest speaker was Professor Nalini Boodhoo, Ph.D., of the School of Education and Lifelong Learning at the University of East Anglia in the United Kingdom. Her lecture centered on two key questions: 1) What makes for a sustainable climate in which Postgraduate Research (PGR) students can thrive, and 2) What supervisory pedagogy is most suitable in view of the recent COVID-19 pandemic?

Boodhoo also shared the qualifications framework for England, Wales, and

the Northern Ireland, the personal and professional development programs designed for postgraduate students, and research development and transferable skills training among students.

The speaker likewise encouraged the participants to reflect on building a research culture and academic community in a world of hybrid working. She also linked this to developing communities and supporting wellbeing in a fragmented world.

One of the highlights of the webinar was the sharing insights by Asst. Prof. Jeremiah Opiniano, Ph.D., and Assoc. Prof. Leah Dela Rosa, Ph.D.

Opiniano shared his experiences in doing PhD by Research in Australia, while dela Rosa, talked about managing and supervising PhD by Research students from the University of Reading.



Boodhoo

Students' rendering for "HAPAG:
Connecting through Indi-genius Approach"



Two Architecture students join PH delegation at ASEAN jamboree

Fourth-year students Zion Enrico R. Licup and Schneider S. Arbas from the UST College of Architecture were hand-picked to participate in the gathering of talented Asian architecture students that aimed to initiate knowledge exchange and build fellowship among the ASEAN countries.

The students were part of a team that represented the Philippines for this year's Architects' Regional Council Asia (ARCASIA) Student Jamboree held recently via Zoom.

The Philippine delegation was composed of Licup, who is also the National President of United Architects of the Philippines Student Auxiliary (UAPSA), Arbas, and their fellow architecture students, namely, Quiou Nikolai M. Malabao (Adamson University), Adon M. Dela Rosa (Don Honorio Ventura State University), Maxine Andrea N. Lumbera (Ateneo de Davao University), Bryan Steven E. Borja (University of the Philippines-Mindanao), Marlo S. Maraña Jr. (Technological Institute of the Philippines), and Zuyuska Yvanna A. Bennett (National University).

The team was mentored by Architecture alumnus Ar. Adrian U. Tampolino. Fifteen countries from the

ASEAN region participated in the ARCASIA Student Jamboree 2021.

With the theme, "Reconnecting Our Community," the Student Jamboree had a series of workshops and talks that led to the culmination project that was developed and presented by each participating country.

The Philippine delegation presented their project titled "HAPAG: Connecting through Indi-genius Approach," which aimed to aid families impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic by transcending the 'bayanihan' spirit through architecture and design.

The project was developed to connect the disconnected, provide universal access to proper recreational facilities, and promote the co-existence of man and his environment through the amplification of natural on-site features.



The Philippine delegation for the ARCASIA Student Jamboree 2021 includes Thomasians Licup (top row, second from left) and Arbas (third from left).



International, local experts deliver lectures at Chemistry Dept. webinar series

The Department of Chemistry, in collaboration with the Graduate School and the UST Chemistry Society, held a series of webinars from September to December 2021 to continue the flow of knowledge and connectedness among peers.

Local and international professionals delivered extensive and up-to-date information in their respective disciplines of chemistry throughout the webinar series on topics that were as diverse as materials chemistry, inorganic chemistry, electrochemistry, molecular design, and NMR spectroscopy fundamentals.

Speakers for the December series were from Chung Yuan Christian University Chemistry Department Dr. Hsi-Wei Jia, Dr. Amily Fang-Ju Jou, and Dr. Mei-Yu Yeh of Chung Yuan. They presented chemical research to end the first term's webinar series. They covered a wide range of chemistry topics, including NMR technology and its applications, developing nucleic acid materials for electrochemical biosensing, and molecular designing using organic molecules. These online chemistry lecture series drew students and teachers from UST, local and international institutions, and research institutes.

For the third webinar in the series which was held in November, speakers were from India and the Philippines. Dr. Avijit Kumar Das of the CHRIST University of India and Dr. Aaron Joseph Villaraza of the University of the Philippines – Diliman Institute of Chemistry discussed the development of chemosensors in detecting biologically relevant small molecules and the kinetic considerations of lanthanide-DOTA type complex design in medical diagnostics, respectively.

The second webinar, conducted in October, covered various issues in inorganic chemistry research, including peptide-mediated biomineralization, lanthanide luminescence in nitride lattices, and iron (III) spin-crossover materials. Dr. Jose Isagani Janairo of the De La Salle University, Dr. Julius Leao Jr. of the Philippine Textile Research Institute, and Dr. David James Harding of the Functional Materials and Nanotechnology, Walailak University, were the panelists.

The inaugural webinar, which focused on current trends in materials chemistry research, was held in September. Prof. Drexel Camacho of De La Salle University talked about characterizing synthetic materials such as batteries, carbon

nanotubes, zeolites, and cellulose using nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) spectroscopy.

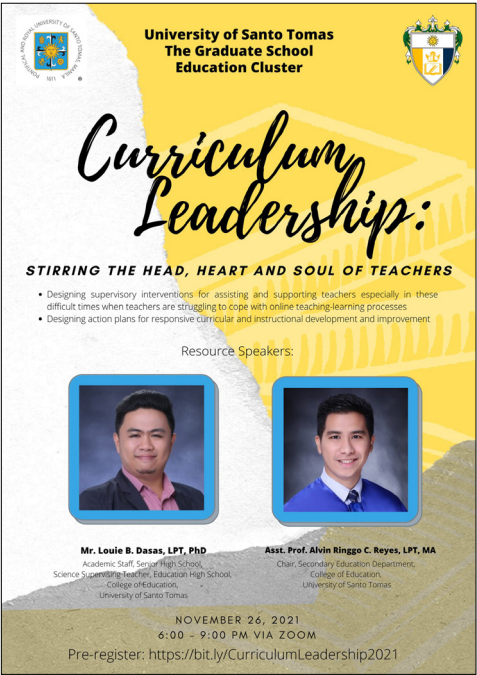
Dr. Joey Ocon of the University of the Philippines-Diliman Department of Chemical Engineering, provided a comprehensive talk on energy storage for the renewable energy transition using a systems approach that included catalysis, electrochemistry, and energy engineering.

Dr. Sangaraju Shanmugan of the Daegu Gyeongbuk Institute of Science and Technology discussed the electrochemical properties of nanostructured catalysts in the production of carbon-free fuels that are sustainable.

Mr. Zeus Cruz (1st student), Ms. Junella Ruth Banawa (2nd student), and Ms. Angelica Uy (MS Chemistry student) of the Department of Chemistry hosted the webinar series, with assistance from Dr. Dharmatov Albano, Chair of the Department, Dr. Alan Rodelle Salcedo, Dr. Felicidad Christina R. Ramirez, Mr. Melvir Sucaldito, and Mr. Kent Gervacio of the Department of Chemistry. Dean Rey Donne Papa, Dean Michael Anthony Vasco, and Dr. Elizabeth H. Arenas from the College of Science and The Graduate School supported this online event.



(Clockwise) Moderator Mr. Jason Mari De Las Alas, speaker Dr. Dasas, and speaker Asst. Prof. Reyes



To help teachers cope with online teaching-learning: Graduate School holds webinar on Curriculum Leadership

Emphasizing the need for curriculum leadership particularly with struggles currently experienced by teachers with online instruction, University of Santo Tomas Graduate School (USTGS) Education Cluster Program Lead Assoc. Prof. Rodrigo A. Litao, Ph.D., explained curriculum leadership in his opening remarks to the participants of the USTGS webinar titled “Curriculum Leadership: Stirring the head, heart, and soul of teachers.” The webinar was held recently via Zoom.

The three-hour webinar featured two Thomasian educators, Science Supervising Teacher of the Education High School and UST College of Education Mr. Louie B. Dasas, Ph.D., and the Chair of the Secondary Education Department of the College of Education Asst. Prof. Alvin Ringgo C. Reyes.

Both shared their expertise and experiences on the topics of (a) “Designing supervisory interventions for assisting and supporting teachers especially in these difficult times when teachers struggle to cope with online teaching-learning processes” and (b) “Designing action plans for responsive curricular and instructional development and improvement.”

In his talk, Dasas, who teaches at the UST Senior High School, presented the significance of having teacher agency in schools, where long-term development directions are sustained using past learning and applying these for the present and the future. He also mentioned the teacher as the indisputable leader in curriculum development, whose role was made more crucial now with remote teaching and learning. Thus, distributive leadership may now be the norm in schools. Nonetheless, teachers take charge in linking curriculum, assessment, and learning – all following a situational praxis in class.

Explaining the realities of learning losses incurred by the Philippines under the COVID-19 pandemic during the last two

years, Dasas pressed the need for teacher abilities and self-drive while withstanding the global crisis. He assured his audience that professional and personal growth can still occur during these times.

Meanwhile, Reyes discussed the inevitable changes in curricula for both teacher training and basic education. He stressed that these are never the mere adding of new knowledge facts and insights for the classroom. Reyes enumerated and explained the various factors that inevitably lead to curriculum change and how these should be considered in conceptualizing action plans inside schools.

Explaining the concept of discursive institutionalism, Reyes said that schools use grounded knowledge in policy and action, alongside communication among administrators of all levels, academic staff, and not the least, student leaders. A number of the best action plan practices were shared and discussed, including some of the best practices of the UST College of Education, one of the leading teacher-training centers in the country. He mentioned that stakeholder involvement will steer the success of action plans.

The webinar was attended by UST students, faculty, staff, and participants from other academic institutions, such as the Asian Institute of Management, Bicol University, Far Eastern University Institute of Technology, Our Lady of the Pillar College San Manuel, Inc., Southern Luzon State University, University of Northern Philippines, and Western Philippine University. There were also participants from abroad.

Webinar organizers included Daniel Day Aguillon, Kashmer T. Cruz, Jason A. de las Alas, Carmen Delos Reyes, April Joy M. Gascon, Jodi Mylene Lopez, Zhou Ren, and Yuhang Wang. Ph.D. student, Jason A. De las Alas, moderated the webinar.

Ong of QS/THE Rankings moderates session at virtual QS APPLE conference, exhibition 2021

Deputy Director of the Office of QS/THE Rankings and ASEAN Engr. Nestor R. Ong, and Office Assistant Mr. Vien Vic G. Flores, attended the three-day Virtual QS-APPLE Conference and Exhibition. Ong served as moderator for a breakout session in the conference on the theme “Future Rebalance: Emerging trends and workforce in the Asia Pacific” held from November 1 to 3, 2021.

The conference, which had 80 speakers, included keynote speeches, debates, panel discussions, case studies and thought-provoking sessions that reflected the opportunities and trends in education in the Asia Pacific region. Some of the key topics included were the role of artificial intelligence in addressing global challenges; how universities can thrive through a network of global partnerships; how the pandemic has brought about changes in the way students learn and the future of global student exchanges.

Prior to the QS APPLE Event, the Commission on Higher Education International Affairs Staff (CHED IAS) assigned Engr. Ong and Flores to lead the 19 participating Philippine Universities in producing six booth videos as part of the preparatory activities presented at the actual proceeding of the events. The video contents gave an overview of Philippine Higher Education, Internationalization Initiatives, Covid-19 initiatives, Impact Projects, and world-class achievements.

Part of the participating HEIs were: UST, Benguet State University, Bicol University, Caraga State University, Cavite State University, Cebu Technological University, and Mindanao State University-Iligan Institute of Technology.

Other participating universities that formed part of the CHED IAS delegation were: Batangas State University, Central Luzon State University, Central Mindanao University, Mariano Marcos State University, Tarlac Agricultural University, University of the Philippines, University of Science and Technology of Southern Philippines, University of Southern Mindanao, Visayas State University, West Visayas State University, and Western Mindanao State University, among others that included private universities in the Philippines.

On the first day of the conference, the QS Stars Rating results across the Asia Pacific region was announced during the QS Stars Awards. With the introduction



of 5 Stars Universities of which UST was rated as the first and only university in the Philippines to be rated 5 Stars, a one-minute video by the UST Rector Very Rev. Fr. Richard G. Ang, O.P., Ph.D., was presented sharing UST’s experience and journey toward this achievement.

“The University of Santo Tomas is a higher education institution that is constantly forward looking. One that moves with the times and how to blaze trails in the various disciplines. Our QS journey can be described as both remarkable and exciting. To be included amongst the finest in the world is not only an honor but also a reminder that universities have to keep close watch with the demands of global market in which degree programs must be germane to the needs of the times,” said Fr. Ang.

Ong was the only Filipino representative to sit on the newly structured QS Global Advisory Committee (GAC) formerly known as the QS International Academic Advisory Committee for approximately six years. He was tasked to moderate the Breakout Session 3: Cultivating Great Minds (Innovation in Pedagogy).

After the presentations made by participants from Kansai University (“Digitally Strengthened International Partnerships: The Global Smart Classroom Initiative to Build Inclusive International Education”), Nanyang Technological University (“Reim-AI-gine Teacher Education”), and The Chinese University of Hong Kong (“Curriculum Innovation for the Challenge of Digital Transformation: Integrating Data Science with Policy Studies”), Ong emphasized in his closing remarks that “This education industrial revolution 4.0 focuses on modern and

smart technology, AI, robotics, all of which influence our everyday lives.”

“Institutions must value the power digital technology has on transforming education. Creativity is the foundation of Education 4.0. It emphasizes the need to prepare students to take on challenges, head-on,” Ong ended.

Ong and his colleagues from QS GAC were commended by GAC Chair Prof. Nigel Healey, for all their contributions and QS Editor & Programme Designer Mr. Anton John Crace, for their hard work and support to the programme, and for successfully bringing together the entire conference.

Flores, who won the short and quick quiz, received for his prize, a free registration to attend Analytics Level 2 Certification.

The Commission on Higher Education (CHED) Chair Dr. J. Prospero E. De Vera III, led the CHED Roundtable Discussion on Philippine Higher Education in the Era of Fourth Industrial Revolution with Party-List Kabayan District Representative Ron Salo, Mariano Marcos State University President Dr. Shirley Agrupis, and British Council Philippines Interim Country Director and Head of Education Ms. Lotus Postrado.

The three-day Virtual QS APPLE Conference and Exhibition 2021 was attended by 1,200 delegates, leading minds and experts from across the Asia Pacific region who gathered to address and debate emerging trends in higher education composed of university presidents, vice chancellors, policy advisors, international collaboration experts, senior and rising higher education administrators, academics, public officials, quality assurance experts, businessmen, NGOs, and other stakeholders.



Dr. Eric Zerrudo (second row, in light blue jacket), with some members of the Fauna Team and local field guides at the DENR headquarters of SINP in the Municipality of Paranas, which served as the field base of the group

GS-CCCPET, CTHM conduct tourist site evaluation of Samar Island Natural Park for UNESCO World Heritage Site nomination bid; Science surveys SINP for biodiversity documentation

The UST Graduate School – Center for Conservation of Cultural Property and Environment in the Tropics (USTGS-CCCPET) and the College of Tourism and Hospitality Management (CTHM) conducted a two-week Tourist Site/Attraction Evaluation from October 25 to November 7, 2021 at the Samar Island Natural Park (SINP).

The project's objective is to conceptualize a sustainable tourism and strategic development plan for SINP using the stakeholders' participation and perspective and statement of natural heritage significance approaches. It is associated with the preliminary requirements for the nomination bid in the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) World Natural Heritage Site.

The team assessed 14 SINP ecotourism sites and one associated site within the Samar Island area. The sites were: Lulugayan Falls and River and Langun-Gobingob Cave in Calbiga, Sohoton

Cave and Natural Bridge in Basey, La Milagrosa Falls in Pinabacdao, Ulot Watershed in Paranas, Pinipisakan Falls and Sulpan Cave in San Jorge, Mt. Huraw in San Jose de Buan, Paglantuyan Falls in Motiong, Lobo Cave in Jiabong, Pinipisakan Falls in Las Navas, Northern Samar, Taft Forest Philippine Eagle Sanctuary, Maharlika Falls in Taft, Bulusao Watershed and Forest Reserve (Amandaraga Falls) in Lawaan, and Borongan (Maydolong Balangkayan) Llorente Closed Canopy Forest in Eastern Samar.

The UNESCO SINP Nomination Team is headed by CCCPET Director Assoc. Prof. Eric B. Zerrudo, Ph.D., with the Project Coordinator, Ms. Beverly M. Bautista.



The UST Tourism Team, including CTHM Dean Granado (seated, left), conducts an onsite interview with the Municipal Tourism Officer of Calbiga, Samar Ms. Lea Pait Rafales (seated, right).



CCCPET Director Zerrudo (second from left), CTHM Dean Granado (sixth from left), and the UST team during the de-briefing and coordination meeting with the Department of Tourism Region VIII Director Karina Rosa Santiago-Tiopes (third from left).

Under the UST Tourism Team are: Jame Monren T. Mercado (Team Leader), CTHM Dean Assoc. Prof. Atty. Gezzez Giezi G. Granado, D.C.L., (Team Member), and Mr. Avi Ben P. Andalecio (Team Member).

The project was initiated by the Office of Congresswoman Sharee Ann Tan, An Waray Partylist, Provincial Governments of Samar, Northern Samar, and Eastern Samar, the Department of Tourism (DOT) Region VIII, and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources – Protected Areas Management Bureau (DENR PAMB) Region VIII.

Earlier this year, the CCCPET and the UST College of Science – Department of Biological Sciences, in collaboration with the aforementioned offices, conducted field surveys in target sites around SINP from October 22 to November 12, 2021.

The 333,330-hectare SINP is the largest known protected area on the island and straddles the provinces of Northern Samar, Eastern Samar, and Samar.

This project aims to provide a comprehensive inventory and assessment of the diversity of the flora and fauna in SINP. The output of this project will provide crucial biodiversity information to support its nomination as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

The field expedition team was basically divided into two and each had members who are known specialists on certain taxonomic groups of plants and animals. The Flora team was headed by project leaders from the College of Science, Prof. Cecilia B. Moran and Mr. Jorge Anton Ordas, and was assisted by a research assistant and 12 field assistants.

The Fauna team was headed by Asst. Prof. Mae Lowe L. Diesmos from the College of Science and Asst. Prof. Mariano Roy Duya from the University of the Philippines Diliman along with two research assistants and six field assistants.

The composite team was composed of faculty members and graduate students from UST, UP Diliman, UP Los Baños, and the University of San Carlos.

Consultants included Dr. Juan Carlos T. Gonzales and Ms. Carme Irene Pelone (for birds), Dr. Arvin C. Diesmos (for amphibians), Mr. Yñigo del Pardo (for reptiles), and Dr. Grecebio Jonathan D. Alejandro and Mr. Danilo N. Tandang (for plants).

These specialists will analyze data from the expedition including information from previous field studies, to provide a comprehensive science-based synopsis that will strengthen the SINP dossier for nomination to the UNESCO World Heritage Sites.



Onsite inspection and evaluation in Sohoton Cave and Natural Bridge



Flora Team 1 after the fieldwork at Sohoton Cave and Natural Bridge, Basey, Samar with the local guides, local tourism officers, faculty members Antonio Felipe Arbias (leftmost), Dr. Cecilia B. Moran (fourth from left) from the College of Science and graduate students




USTPH at the MIBF Online 2.0

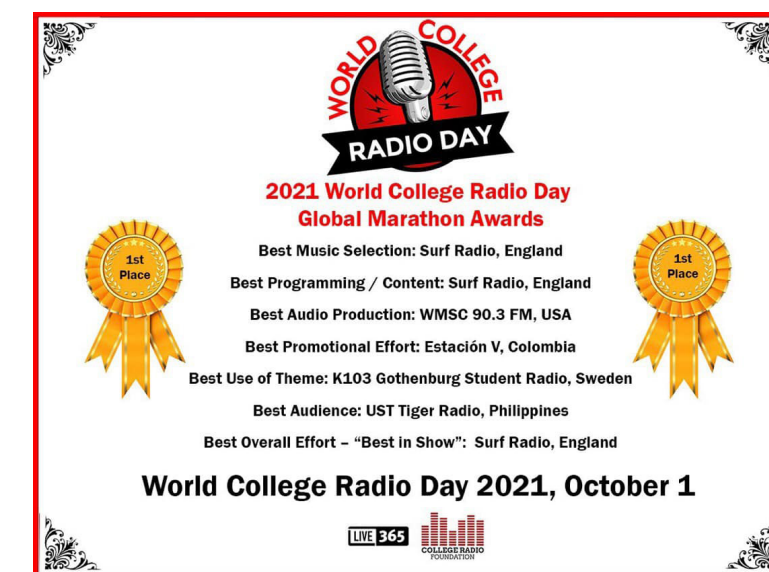
Day 1
Nov. 17, 2021, 11 A.M. to 12 P.M.

The Other World: The Challenges and Anxieties of Translation

Day 2
Nov. 18, 2021, 1 P.M. to 2 P.M.

The Collection Connection: New Books by the UST Publishing House

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CEST	UTC	Local time	Country	City	Station
0:00	13	11:00	New Zealand	Dunedin	Radio One 91FM
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4:00	8	10:00	Philippines	Manila City	UST Tiger Radio
5:00	3	06:00	Israel	Herzliya	IDC International Radio
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7:00	3	08:00	Finland	Tampere	Radio Moreeni
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9:00	2	9:00	South Africa	Pretoria	Tuks FM
10:00	2	10:00	Italy	Cagliari	Unica Radio
11:00	2	11:00	Spain	Mix	Asociación de Radios Universitarias de España
12:00	2	12:00	Slovakia	Trnava	Rádio Aetter
13:00	2	13:00	Sweden	Gothenburg	K103 Gothenburg Student Radio
14:00	1	13:00	England	Surf Radio	Falmouth
15:00	1	14:00	Wales	Cardiff	Xpress Radio
16:00	1	15:00	Ireland	Limerick	ULFM
17:00	-3	12:00	Argentina	Buenos Aires	Conexión Abierta
18:00	-4	12:00	United States	Annandale-On-Hudson	WXBC
19:00	-4	13:00	Canada	Ottawa	CHUO 89.1 FM
20:00	-5	13:00	Ecuador	Portoviejo	UTM Radio
21:00	-5	14:00	Colombia	Floridablanca	Estación V
22:00	-6	14:00	Costa Rica	San José	RADIO-E
23:00	-4	17:00	United States	Mix	WLWC/ICE Radio/WMSC FM

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Speakers for the first day of the webinar

Culture-based governance in tourism highlighted at three-day ‘CulTour’ webinar

University of Santo Tomas Graduate School - Center for Conservation of Cultural Property and Environment in the Tropics (USTGS-CCCPET) and College of Tourism and Hospitality Management (CTHM) held recently a three-day webinar series titled “CulTour: Culture-based governance in Tourism.”

On the first day of the webinar, the speakers were: the Officer-in-Charge of the Product Planning and Development Division of the Department of Tourism (DOT) – Office of Product and Marketing Development (OPMD) Ms. Gina Marie Liberty Esmaña; NCCA Head of Cultural Communities and The Traditional Arts section Ms. Renee Talavera; Atty. Guiller B. Asido of the Intramuros Administration; De La Salle University History Professor Dr. Jose Victor Torres; Food Historian from the Food Association of the Philippines (CBFP) Episcopal Commission for the Cultural Heritage of the Church (ECCHC) Executive Secretary Fr. Milan Ted D. Torralba; and Association of Tourism Officers in the Philippines Officer Mr. Arwin Paul Lingat.

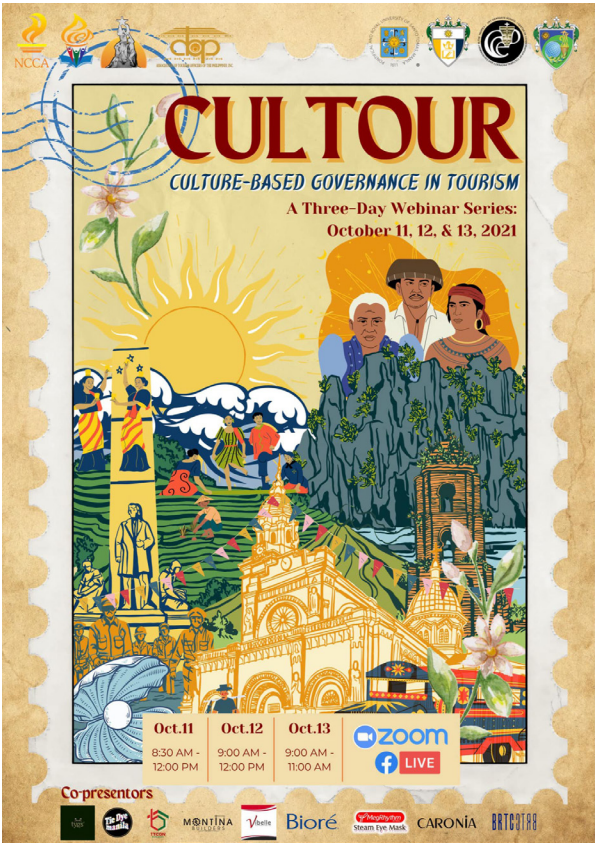
The Focus Group Discussion on the second day of the webinar provided a space for the different Local Government Units (LGUs) to raise

awareness and concerns regarding the importance of having cultural officers to fulfill their duties. The event participants were categorized into three levels, namely, the provincial level, the city level, and the municipal level.

Each level was designated to their specific breakout rooms to discuss policies and frameworks to promote sustainable tourism as a valuable tool for the preservation of natural and cultural heritage. Research Associates of the USTGS-CCCPET, Mr. Jame Monren T. Mercado, Mr. John Christopher B. Mesana, and Mr. Welfredo M. Artigo, Jr., served as facilitators.

The speakers from the different parts of the country were able to share their experiences and their LGU’s performance in relation to the current situation of the tourism industry. The speakers who shared their expertise on the Provincial Level were: Mr. Alphonsus Tesoro, Provincial Tourism Officer of the Province of Capiz; Ms. Maria Luisa Elduyan from the Pangasinan Provincial Tourism & Cultural Affairs Office; and Mr. Mario Piczon, Provincial Tourism Officer of Samar.

For the City Level, the speakers were: Ms. Josephine Granada-Gutierrez, Tourism Officer of Baybay



Event poster



Tourism experts at the municipal, city, and provincial level are featured speakers

City; Ms. Gene Rose Tecson, Tourism Officer of Davao City; and Ms. Junel Anne Divinagracia, Tourism Officer of Iloilo City.

For the Municipal Level breakout room, the resource speakers were: Dr. Jeffrey Pino, Municipal Tourism Officer of Tanay, Rizal; Ms. Kinna Mae Kwan from Guiuan, Eastern Samar; and Mr. Richie Cavinta from San Nicolas, Ilocos Norte.

During the third day, the facilitators from each level presented a summary and shared their knowledge about the topics discussed during the Focus Group

Discussion on the second day of the webinar. The synthesis of the event was given by Mr. Edgar Allan Sembrano and Ar. Michael Manalo, who also discussed the Cultural Tourism in Spanish-era Philippines.

In the same event, CCCPET Director Dr. Eric B. Zerrudo launched a two-volume publication titled “Culture-based Governance” for local government units in the Philippines. The event was concluded by the Director of the NCCA-PCEP Dr. Joseph “Sonny” Cristobal with a hopeful message to safeguard our native culture

and pursue culture-based governance in tourism.

The event was attended by Cultural and Tourism Officers and guests all over the country. It was held in collaboration with the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA), Philippine Cultural Education Program (PCEP), Barasoain Kalinangan Foundation, Inc., Association of Tourism Officers of the Philippines (ATOP), and third-year students and faculty members from the CTHM.

UST GS CCCPET conducts Heritage Impact Assessment of DOTR North-South Commuter Railway Project

The 85 stations and structures along the 100-kilometer segment of the Philippine National Railway (PNR) is undergoing a historical evaluation project and the University of Santo Tomas Graduate School Center for Conservation of Cultural Property and Environment in the Tropics (USTGS-CCCPET) is a partner of the Department of Transportation (DOTR) in this initiative.

The Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) of the DOTR North-South Commuter Railway Project looks into the significant structures and townscapes along the historic route. It intends to define the significance of the railway- as a route of transportation, as an ensemble of stations and as a collection of structures and to assess the dramatic impact of the new NSCRP to the cultural landscape.

Formally launched on October 18, 2021, the six-month project covers the PNR’s north and south segments. In the north, the segment starts from the Casitas in Solis St., Tondo and ends at the Angeles City Station while in the south, it begins from Paco Station and ends at the Calamba Station.

The DOTR contracted the GCR Consortium which engaged the USTGS-CCCPET experts because of the commendable track record of the CCCPET in the World Bank-Department of Tourism (DOT) Vulnerability Project for the Earthquake Structures



of Bohol and the San Pablo Heritage Zone Infrastructure Guidelines Project in Laguna.

UST GS CCCPET Director Eric Babar Zerrudo, Ph.D., serves as the Project Director assisted by Ms. Beverly Bautista as Project Coordinator.

The Historical-Technical Team is composed of UST Archivist Prof. Regalado Trota José, Mr. Jefferson Chua of Greenpeace-Philippines, Mr. Jowee Alviar of Team Manila and Mr. Wilson Yu of FEU.

The Architecture Team is composed of Dr. Caryn Paredes-Santillan of UST College of Architecture who serves as Team Leader with Mr. Joselito Corpus, a Heritage Preservation Specialist, Ar. Theo Residilla of UST and Ar. John Clemence Pinlac of UST College of Architecture.

The team leader of the Material and Structural Team is Dr. Cheek Fadriquela of the USTGS - Cultural Heritage Studies (CHS) with Dr. Lessandro Garciano of De La Salle University, and Ms Rona Catherine Repancol of USTGS-CHS, as members.

The Socio-Cultural team is composed of graduates of the UST Graduate School Cultural Heritage Studies lead by Mr. Jame Monren Mercado of UST-CTHM with Mr. Edgar Allan Sembrano, a journalist, Ms. April Dopeno of Far Eastern University, and Mr. John Christopher Mesana of Colegio de San Juan de Letrán, as members.

GS-CCCPET, CFAD collaborate with Design Center Philippines to harness skills of Leyte artisans

The University of Santo Tomas Graduate School Center for Conservation of Cultural Property and Environment in the Tropics (USTGS-CCCPET) and the UST College of Fine Arts and Design (CFAD) closely collaborated with the Design Center of the Philippines (DCP) to advance the USWAG Design and Development Project of the Third District of Leyte.

Under the vision of Congressman Vicente “Ching” Veloso of the Third District of Leyte, and the Leyte Provincial Board Member Ana Veloso-Tuason, the project envisions to harness the creativity of local artisans toward global designs that will generate revenues and livelihood for the community. “Uswag” is a Waray term that means ‘(move/come) forward.’

The DCP, through the leadership of Executive Director Rhea Matute and Consultant Milo Raval, mobilized design experts who engaged the community in capacity-building, hand-holding and exhibition display of the products.

The documentation synergy was a critical mass of knowledge

and skills from the USTGS-CCCPET, CFAD, DCP, DTI-Leyte. The culminating activity was an exhibition in Robinsons in Marasbaras, Tacloban, Leyte, from Nov 25 to 29, 2021 and in Lolo Inting’s Heritage House in Villaba, Leyte, from December 1 to 14, 2021. The institutional buyers exhibition

was held in Guinciaman, San Miguel, Leyte from December 15 to 25, 2021.

UST GS CCCPET’s Cultural Mapping Project in 2018 spawned the USWAG Project as a Continuing Cultural Mapping Activity. With documented natural resources, local skills inventory, manpower profiling, and community organizing, the stakeholders decided to advance towards skills upgrade and product upscale.

The project produced heritage-inspired designs of housewares and lighting accessories made out of local indigenous materials. This heritage utilization model is integral to CCCPET’s heritage conservation and sustainable development framework.

The USTGS-CCCPET team was composed of Assoc. Prof. Eric Babar Zerrudo, PhD and Ms. Beverly Bautista, while the UST-CFAD was led by CFAD Dean Assoc. Prof. Christie Que, and Industrial Design Department Chair Mr. Romano Macaísa. One of the DCP’s lead designers, Mr. Charles Boris Mañez, is a graduate student of UST Graduate School Cultural Heritage Studies.



Zerrudo (standing, in green jacket) meets with artisans from Leyte’s third district.



UST SIMBAHAYAN puts Indigenous People’s rights at center of advocacy webinar



The University of Santo Tomas SIMBAHAYAN Community Development Office held the *Araw ng Katutubo at Ang Panahon ng Paglikha 2021* recently via Zoom. An annual advocacy event, it is conducted to deepen appreciation of the cultural identity and expression of indigenous people (IP) as they respond to environmental threats in a time of pandemic.

The program, held online, raised issues and recommended actions to address environmental challenges considering the co-existence of IPs in societal, environmental, and cultural contexts. It also strengthened initiatives to appreciate the cultural life of IP communities in taking care of the environment.

Anchored on this year’s theme, “*Walang Iwanan: Mga Katutubo at ang Panawagan para sa Panibagong Pagtatalaga para sa Sangnilikha*,” the organizers invited the Aeta tribe in Bamban Tarlac, Lambangian tribe in Maguindanao, Kankanaey tribe in Cordillera Administrative Region, and the Lumad tribe to share their life experiences and challenges as IPs.

The first part of the webinar was the presentation of *Ambag sa Kalikasan* videos submitted by students and faculty members from the academic units in UST and partner communities and institutions.

With mass gatherings disallowed, tree planting and coastal clean-up activities which were the customary engagements during Community Service Day, were prohibited due to the pandemic. Instead, SIMBAHAYAN encouraged the participants to have individual and group efforts that showcased their environmental contribution to care for our common home.

Igorota Foundation program coordinator Ms. Arline Ba-a – Santiago from the Kankanaey tribe shared the

As Kankanaey IP and member of CoE/L	
Strength/ Opportunities	Challenges Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none">-Proud of being IP-Have a domain (home/since of belongingness)/ancestral land	<ul style="list-style-type: none">-Destruction of AD due to influence of outside-Not all are valued/ not practiced-Destruction of AL due to influence of cash economy- No title (ALs)-Discrimination“Development aggression”-Diminishing values, IKSPs, etc-Land grabbing-Lack recognition by LGU to the IPS/ Council of Elders has a role governing the domain/ No harmonization of the IPRA and 7160-Proper implementation of IPRA



Ms. Arline Ba-a – Santiago of the Kankanaey tribe presents the challenges faced by IPs.

experiences of their foundation in securing ancestral domain (AD) of IPs in Cordillera, a vital sense of living and indivisible to the identity and spirituality of IPs. The Cordillera alone has 149 ancestral domains located in the different municipalities with 7 registered Certificate of Ancestral Domain Title (CADT).

Their community also faced threats due to the destruction of their ancestral domain by the influence of outside forces. Some cultural values were not practiced and appreciated and the destruction of ancestral land due to the influence of cash economy continues.

Other concerns were the lack of property deeds/titles on AL, discrimination, development aggression, diminishing values, land grabbing, lack of recognition by LGUs to the IPs/Council of Elders, no harmonization of the Indigenous People’s Rights Act (IPRA) and Bishop of Bontoc-Lagawe and Chair of the Catholic Bishop’s Conference of the Philippines – Episcopal Commission on Indigenous Peoples Most Rev. Valentin C. Dimoc, D.D., delivered an inspirational message. He stressed the importance of dialogue, participation, and

co-responsibility especially on the issues of development aggression and red-tagging of the indigenous leaders.

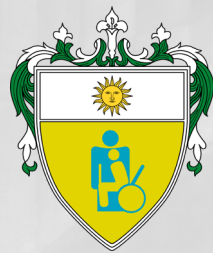
UST Vice-Rector for Religious Affairs Rev. Fr. Pablo T. Tiong, O.P., gave the final blessing.



Most Rev. Valentin C. Dimoc, D.D., delivers a message.



Mr. Jerry Lalison Datuwata of the Lambangian tribe explains the importance of ancestral domain.



**Occupational Therapy
Licensure Examination**

December 2021
UST Passing Rate: 88.89%
National Passing Rate: 73.61%



Maria Regina De Vera Cerezo
1st – 85.40%



Andryella Maxie Pascual Ibarra
2nd – 85.20%



Nadia Isabel Mesina Trajano
3rd – 84.60%



Kenneth Sacro Porlucas
5th – 84.20%



Princess Emperador Madarang
6th – 84.00%



Carl Simon Mingoy Concepcion
7th – 83.60%



John Ephraim Caparas Alviz
8th – 83.20%



Chiara Betina Abbariao Cabildo
8th – 83.20%



**Lindsey Monique
Dela Cruz Gaela**
8th – 83.20%



Roxanne Siy Sabido
8th – 83.20%



Kimberly Claire Arayata Kiang
9th- 83%



Glenn Echague Regondola, Jr.
9th- 83%



**Physical Therapy
Licensure Examination**

December 2021
UST Passing Rate: 100.00%
National Passing Rate: 68.97%



Andrea Joyce Fabian Ansong
10th – 87.30%



**Civil Engineer
Licensure Examination**

November 2021
UST Passing Rate: 77.19%
National Passing Rate: 36.70%



Rod Michael Lora Dacanay
9th – 91.00%



Nurse Licensure Examination

November 2021
UST Passing Rate: 100.00%
National Passing Rate: 51.45%



Margaret Lucas Sta. Maria
4th – 87.80%



Anneka Marjan Halum Goingo
7th – 87.20%



Gracielle Adelfina Zaraspe Averia
9th – 86.80%



Physician Licensure Examination

October to November 2021

UST Passing Rate: 94.37%

National Passing Rate: 72.85%



Alyssa May Bringas Madriaga
3rd – 87.33%



Emmanuel Luis Santos Mangahas
6th – 86.92%



Ivan Gabriel Lalic Simpauco
7th – 86.83%



Miguel Luis Oñate Arkoncel
8th – 86.75%



Aldric Mikhail Niu Aw
10th – 86.50%



Johnvert Fulgar Batara
10th – 86.50%



Lawrence Raymond Villafior Mariano
10th – 86.50%



THE ACADEMIA

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