

(From left:) Armed Forces of the Philippines Vice Commander MGen. Nestor Herico, PN(M); National Historical Commission of the Philippines Chairman Dr. Rene Escalante; Her Majesty's Ambassador of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland Her Excellency Laure Stephanie Beauflis; Ambassador of Canada His Excellency James Peter MacArthur; Manila City Vice Mayor Hon. Maria Sheilah Lacuna-Pangan, M.D.; Manila City Mayor Hon. Francisco Domagoso; Ambassador of Australia His Excellency Steven James Robinson, AO; Ambassador of Japan His Excellency Koshikawa Kazuhiro; Acting Deputy Chief of Mission of the Embassy of the United States of America Mr. David "Chip" Gamble, Jr., and UST Rector Very Rev. Fr. Richard G. Ang, O.P., Ph.D., offer wreaths and stand in the same spot where former internees celebrated their liberation exactly 77 years ago (public domain image, right).

## 77<sup>th</sup> anniversary of UST's liberation as an internment camp, Battle of Manila commemorated

Seventy-seven years after the Battle of Manila and the liberation of the Santo Tomas Internment Camp, the University of Santo Tomas, with the City Government of Manila through the Department of Tourism, Culture, and Arts of Manila (DTCAM), hosted the commemoration on February 3, 2022. A solemn wreath-laying ceremony and 21-gun salute were held in the Plaza Mayor followed by a reception program at the Benavides Garden.

Gracing the event were foreign diplomats, namely, Her Majesty's Ambassador of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland Her Excellency Laure Stephanie Beauflis; the Ambassador of Canada His Excellency James Peter MacArthur; the Ambassador of Australia His Excellency Steven James Robinson, AO; the Ambassador of Japan His Excellency Koshikawa Kazuhiro; and Acting Deputy Chief of Mission of the

Embassy of the United States of America Mr. David "Chip" Gamble, Jr.

Armed Forces of the Philippines Vice Commander MGen. Nestor Herico, PN(M); National Historical Commission of the Philippines Chairman Dr. Rene Escalante; Manila City Mayor Hon. Francisco Domagoso and Vice Mayor Hon. Maria Sheilah Lacuna-Pangan, M.D., also took part in the ceremonies. Along with the diplomats, they offered wreaths at the façade of the Main Building as a sign of respect and remembrance.

UST Rector Very Rev. Fr. Richard G. Ang, O.P., Ph.D., in his speech, bid the audience to focus on remembrance.

"We remember the courage of nameless civilians and the unimaginable suffering of those who experience the desolation of war. Remembering is part of healing; we can only make sense of the past by our ability to retell the story and acknowledge the pain inflicted. We cannot

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UST Rector Very Rev. Fr. Richard G. Ang, O.P., delivers the welcome remarks.



Mayor Domagoso delivers his message.

bring back the lives sacrificed during this period of history, but through this memorial we continue to honor their exceptional courage and valor,” emphasized the Father Rector.

It is through remembrance that historical events such as this are preserved in the collective memory for posterity, shared Fr. Ang. He added that the gathering was not only a celebration of history, identity, community, and friendship, but an enabling of peace.

Vice Mayor Hon. Maria Sheilah Lacuna-Pangan, M.D., who obtained her undergraduate pre-medical degree in Biology from UST, highlighted the lessons of heroism learned from the Battle of Manila, likening it to the current challenge of the pandemic.

“No weapons of war are needed, but great heroic challenges remain for the heroes of the present times. As we commemorate the Battle of Manila, we also honor the heroism of the medical health workers,” said Lacuna-Pangan, who continued to thank all who were involved in aiding Filipinos as they weathered the pandemic.

Manila City Mayor Hon. Francisco Domagoso, in his message, extolled the virtues of patriotism and love of one’s own country. In the modern context, these virtues can also manifest in the valor of medical frontliners protecting people from COVID-19.

“We are now in the middle of a conflict with a virus that left no one unaffected. Just as the brave soldiers whom we relied upon the armed battle; we have our courageous frontliners who never turned their back on us when we needed them the most. Our country’s medical professionals live truthfully to their Hippocratic Oath as they display their selflessness,” Mayor Domagoso concluded.

UST became the largest internment camp in the Philippines after the Japanese forces occupied Manila in December 1941. For 37 months in captivity, around 7000 people were kept inside, with a few thousand being transferred to Los Baños Internment Camp. Although the internees were initially allowed to continue schooling and to keep a vegetable garden, they suffered an increasingly brutal treatment and prolonged deprivation of food and medicine as the Japanese continued to lose World War II.

On February 3, 1945, the Cavalry Division reached Manila and began the liberation of less than 4000 internees, of which 3000 were Americans, through the guidance of Captain Manuel Colayco - a UST faculty member and a guerilla intelligence officer – who was mortally wounded in the attempt. Colayco Park in UST would later be named after him. The internment camp was finally emptied in September 1945.

Since then, the University of Santo Tomas has hosted previous anniversary commemorations of this historical event, such as the 50<sup>th</sup>, 60<sup>th</sup>, 70<sup>th</sup>, and the 75<sup>th</sup>.

For this year, the Manila Public Information Office livestreamed the event [through their Facebook page](#), where it remains available for public viewing.



UST Vice Rector for Religious Affairs Rev. Fr. Pablo T. Tiong, O.P., leads the prayer.



The Vice Mayor introduces the keynote speaker.



Mayor Domagoso and Military Host Col. Esperanza Casiao, PN (M) (GSC) preside over the Entrance of Colors.



Ngo (left) and Arenas during the okara soysage production and testing process

# UST research team reduces food waste, develop vegan sausage from soy byproducts

A UST research team, led by UST Graduate School Secretary Assoc. Prof. Elizabeth H. Arenas, Ph.D., sought to reduce food waste through the development of “soysage,” a gluten-free, vegan sausage made from okara, the pulp that remains after pureed soybeans are filtered in the production of soy milk and tofu.

Arenas presented the research project during the Department of Science and Technology Collaborative Research and Development to Leverage Philippine Economy (DOST-CRADLE) symposium held on January 18, 2022.

Industrial food processing generates massive amounts of waste, and the unused byproducts, which are commonly disposed of and not maximized, lead to environmental problems and economic loss for businesses, particularly micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs).

Banawe Soybean Curd Food Products Corporation (BSCFPC), which produces soy milk, taho, and bean curd sheet products, also generates 200kg to 300kg of okara as a byproduct. They linked with the UST team through the DOST’s Government-Academe-Industry or GAIN workshop held in August 2019, and the one-year research project to make use of okara officially commenced on June 6, 2021.

The world production of okara, mostly coming from Asian countries, is about 1.4 billion tonnes, according to the team’s presentation. This large quantity of food byproduct is discarded or used as animal feed. To reduce food waste, the okara will be made into a high-volume food product, such as sausages.

The project’s team leader Arenas shared in an interview that, “Currently, there is a strong market demand for sausages, but unfortunately, high consumption of processed meat products like sausages is associated with an increased risk of chronic diseases. Thus, we envision a healthy vegan sausage made from okara, which is free of artificial food coloring and chemical preservatives.”

Okara is a low-cost source of bioactive compounds that are good for human health. It is high in dietary fiber and contains an appreciable amount of protein, oil and phytochemicals, such as isoflavones, added Arenas.

At present, the product is still being finalized to determine the ideal formulation and the team plans to conduct chemical analyses to determine its nutrient composition.

The team is composed of Research Center for Natural and Applied Sciences (RCNAS) researchers, Assoc. Prof. Elizabeth H. Arenas, Ph.D., who teaches at the Food Technology Department, and Assoc. Prof. Franelyne P. Casuga, Ph.D.,



Dried okara is pulverized to make okara flour.



The okara soysage is formed.

who is the Laboratory Supervisor of the Pharmacy Department. With them are research assistants Mr. Kevin Rae Ngo and Ms. Kerstin Mariae G. Ponsaran, who are UST BS Biochemistry graduates, and laboratory aide Chelsea Apple T. Torio.

The project is expected to end on June 5, 2022. Once completed, the product formulation and process will be adopted by BSCFPC.





(From top window:) Cruz, Santillan, and Pinlac, at the ASEAN-QA Forum



## Architecture faculty members underscore resiliency of Filipino architects at two int’l conferences

In two separate online conferences, UST College of Architecture academic staff presented their studies about the resiliency of Filipino architects in the academe.

Ar. John Clemence Pinlac, Ar. Noel Cruz, and Ar. Caryn Paredes-Santillan, Ph.D. presented their research that focused on the condition of educators in the architecture field during the shift to online architecture design learning due to the pandemic. This study on resilience was based on a previous study on Human Capital Future Resilience by Visser, whose framework they applied in their analysis. Although resilience is a common topic especially now with a global pandemic, studies that focus on human capital resilience is very scarce. In particular, their research focused on the architectural design studio, which is the cornerstone of architectural education.

Pinlac, Cruz, and Santillan presented their paper “Resiliency of the Architects in the Academe: A Qualitative Focus on the Virtual Architectural Design Studio in the Philippines” during the eLearning Forum Asia 2021 (eLFA 2021) with the theme “Augmenting the Virtual Environment: Technology – Innovation – Humanity”. In their discussion, the team discussed their findings that high individual resiliency could be maximized, and organizational resiliency should be supported. Furthermore, their data highlighted that low resource efficiency, which includes internet connectivity, available workspaces, and technological tools and resources, need to



(From top window:) Santillan, Pinlac, and Cruz present their work.

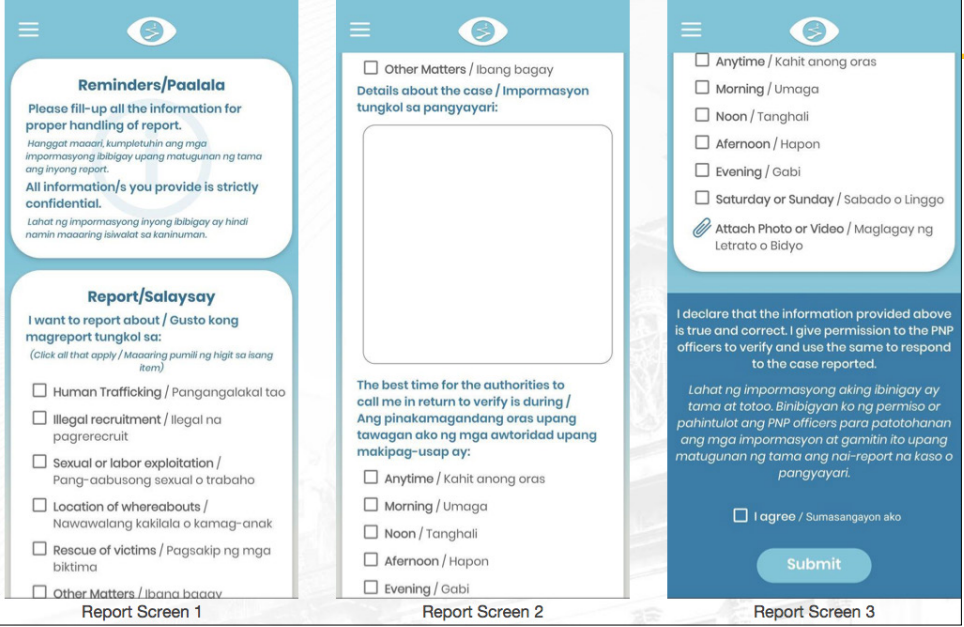
be addressed for the optimal performance of educators.

In another conference, the ASEAN-QA Forum 2021 with the theme “The Way Forward: Assuring Quality in Diverse and Remote Learning Environments”, the same team presented their paper “Human Capital Future Resilience Analysis: Perspective from Virtual Architectural Education in the Philippines.” Similar to the earlier paper, this research built upon the hypothesis that there was a correlation between the profile of the architects in the academe and their resiliency during the online teaching setup. Their data showed that long-time faculty members, those with 30+ years of teaching experience, had the most difficulty adjusting to the online architectural design studio. It was recommended that schools should properly investigate and address

their concerns proactively through proper support or possible partnering activities between senior and junior faculty members.

Aside from teaching at the College of Architecture, Pinlac is also the Chairman for the Committee on Research and Academic Institutions under the Commission on Education of the United Architects of the Philippines (UAP). On the other hand, Santillan is the present College of Architecture Pedagogical Lead.

The eLFA 2021 was hosted by Soegijapranata Catholic University in collaboration with eLFA Asia and the United Board of Christian Higher Education in Asia. Meanwhile, the ASEAN-QA Forum is organized by the ASEAN-QA Association (ASEAN-QAA), an organization involved in the development of quality assurance in academic institutions in Southeast Asia.



Screenshots of the Matyag application where users can report human trafficking incidents



Domingo

## Domingo presents 2 papers, applications for virtual front desk, human trafficking mobile tracker

Asst. Prof. Mylene J. Domingo, DIT, presented two research papers on the creation of web and mobile applications during the 3rd International Conference on Advanced Information Science and System (AISS 2021) held via Zoom.

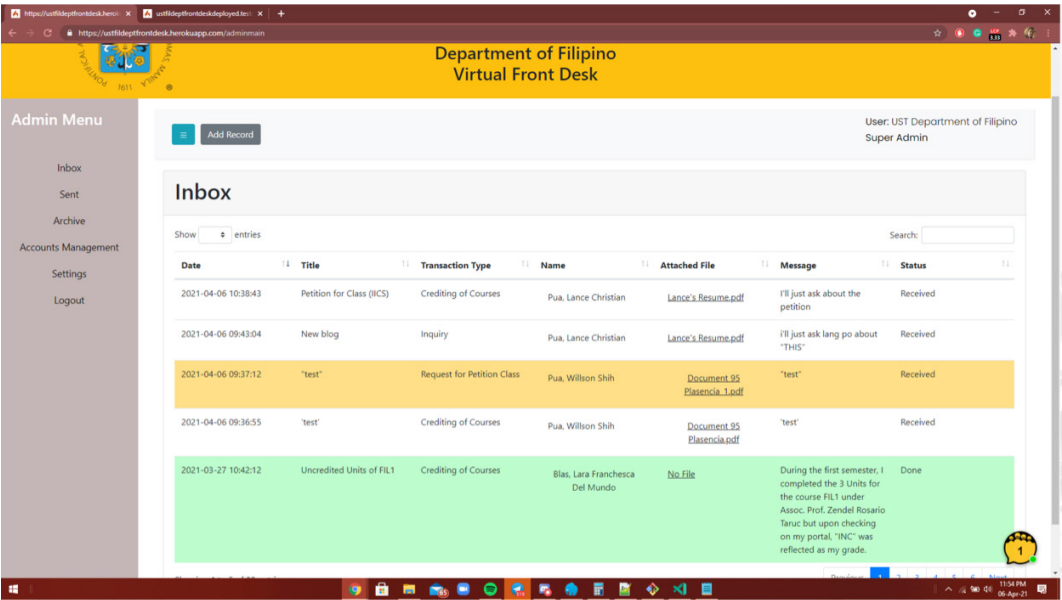
The web application, “University of Santo Tomas Department of Filipino Virtual Front Desk” was developed by Domingo together with her students Willson Pierce Pua, Lance Christian Pua, and Hans Chester Talag. The application is intended to manage received documents from students and documents sent by the department itself. It notifies users of incoming documents and status updates. In addition, it provides a communication system through an internal chat function. Its specific features include the creation and management of accounts for students and the Department’s administrators and office staff; submitting, viewing, editing, and removing entries; downloading, and viewing files.

Another team, under the guidance of Asst. Prof. Domingo, with members Jeremie Jun Viray, Allyssa Bea Topacio, Alexandria Therese Sadang, and John Christian Fudotan worked on “MATYAG: A Tracking System to Prevent Potential Cases of Human Trafficking.”

The Matyag tracking system is a mobile application that can track a person’s real time location in case the user is in danger. The project was made in response to the growing statistics of human trafficking that has reached almost 800,000 people according to the 2018 Global Slavery Index. The features of the application are tailored to fit the Philippine context.

The application can notify the account holder’s emergency contacts that the user has been apprehended through automated messages that can be triggered through an emergency button or shaking the device. Buttons are provided to tell emergency contacts that the user feels unsafe or that the danger has passed. Infographics on human trafficking and a report form are provided to enable users to recognize and report possible human trafficking incidents.

Aside from teaching at the College of Information and Computing Sciences, Domingo also serves as the Assistant Director for Promotion and Reclassification of the Office for Faculty Evaluation and Development.



The Virtual Front Desk application helps teachers monitor student related transactions.



## Thomasian priest Msgr. Catalan is new Apostolic Nuncio to Rwanda

His Holiness Pope Francis appointed Thomasian Monsignor Arnaldo Catalan as the new Apostolic Nuncio to Rwanda in Africa. He was conferred the episcopal ordination at the Manila Cathedral on February 11, 2022.

His Eminence Cardinal Luis Antonio Tagle, the Prefect of the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples, was the principal consecrator, accompanied by the Apostolic Nuncio to the Philippines His Excellency Most Rev. Charles John Brown, KC\*HS, and the Archbishop of Manila His Eminence Most Rev. Jose Cardinal Advincula, D.D..

Rev. Msgr. Catalan, now Archbishop of the Titular See of Apollonia, is the first priest of the Archdiocese of Manila to become a Nuncio, Cardinal Advincula said in a statement. His new post was first announced by the Archdiocese of Manila on January 31, 2022.

Before his latest appointment, he was Chargé d'affaires of the Apostolic Nunciature in China in 2019. Prior to that, he was the first counsellor of the Apostolic Nunciature in Manila.

Msgr. Catalan is the latest Thomasian to be appointed to a Nunciature. He joins Archbishop Bernardito Cleopas Auza, D.D., who was most recently the Apostolic Nuncio to Spain and Andorra in 2019.



Ordination announcement [Photo courtesy of the Archdiocese of Manila – Office of Communications]



Cardinal Advincula (top row, sixth from left) with Very Rev. Fr. Dela Cruz (top row, seventh from left), Very Rev. Fr. Ang (top row, fifth from left), Fr. Tiong (top row, fourth from left), and faculty members from the Institute of Religion who were conferred the academic mandate.

## “Persevere in hope,” urged Cardinal Advincula at St. Thomas Feast Day Mass

Manila Archbishop His Eminence Jose Cardinal Advincula, D.D., presided over the Eucharistic Celebration for the feast day of St. Thomas Aquinas, patron of all Catholic universities for whom UST was named.

The Mass, held on January 27, 2022, was concelebrated with the Prior Provincial of the Dominican Province of the Philippines Very Rev. Filemon I. Dela Cruz, Jr., O.P., the UST Rector Very Rev. Fr. Richard G. Ang, O.P., Ph.D., and the Dominican Fathers, at the Santísimo Rosario Parish Church through hybrid modality.

For this year, the theme of the Feast Day celebration was “Saint Thomas: Beacon of Hope and Perseverance.”

In his homily, Cardinal Advincula noted that the theme was timely and relevant, “given what we have been through the past two years of the pandemic, as an educational institution and in our personal lives.”

“Both teachers and students know the perseverance needed in online teaching and distance learning. Both staff and administrators hope for the end of the pandemic, for a safer and more suitable environment to work and study,” the Cardinal explained.

Despite the difficulties, the Cardinal urged the faithful to follow St. Thomas’ example of persevering, hoping, and holding on to his faith. His family was originally opposed to his desire to become

a Dominican and placed him under house arrest for a year, but St. Thomas’ determination remained strong.

Eventually, St. Thomas would produce prodigious scholarly work through faith, reason, and the scientific manner of theologizing. He contributed immensely to philosophy and theology, and remains a guiding light and pillar of thought for over 700 years.

“It is important to persevere in this mission of education and formation—pandemic or no pandemic—if it is our hope to produce Catholic students who are committed, compassionate, and competent to face the questions and challenges of our time,” emphasized the Cardinal.

The Manila Archbishop concluded his homily with a prayer that, “Like St. Thomas, we persevere in hope so that they may see goodness in your acts and give praise to you, Heavenly Father, so that all of our lives will be for the love of Thee.”

Cardinal Advincula, who underwent the Rite of Profession to commit himself to the Order of Preachers in December 2021, was formed as a diocesan seminarian in the UST Central Seminary in Manila. Later, he took up Canon Law Studies at the Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas (Angelicum) in Rome, Italy.



Cardinal Advincula delivers his homily.

In the same celebration, the *mandatum docendi* or academic mandate was conferred on professors from the Institute of Religion who made their public Profession of Faith and Oath of Fidelity. The *mandatum* signifies their commitment to ensure the delivery of a sound theological education faithful to the magisterium of the Church as part of providing quality Catholic education rooted in faith and Saint Thomas’ continuing legacy.

UST Vice-Rector for Religious Affairs Rev. Fr. Pablo T. Tiong, O.P., presented the academic staff to Cardinal Advincula.

## Dela Cruz of Science appointed member of DepEd Teacher Education Council



UST College of Science academic staff Prof. Thomas Edison E. Dela Cruz, Dr. rer. nat., was appointed to represent science teachers at the Department of Education (DepEd) Teacher Education Council (TEC). He will serve a three-year term beginning February 2022.

Included in the functions of the TEC are formulating policies and standards for teacher education, reviewing curricula and programs for teacher training, adopting incentives for scholarship grants and other benefits to encourage more students to pursue teacher education, designing programs to enhance pre-service teacher training, in-service training, and teacher development, among many others.

Dela Cruz, who also teaches at the Graduate School and is a researcher at the UST Research Center for Natural and Applied Sciences (RCNAS), is a Metrobank Foundation Outstanding Filipino Teacher (2015). He was awarded The World Academy of Sciences (TWAS) Prize for Young Scientists in the Philippines – Biology in 2014 and the National Academy of Science and Technology (NAST) Outstanding Young Scientist in the field of mycology in 2012. He has conducted research fellowships in Germany, Austria, China, and the US.

Congratulatory banner [Photo courtesy of the UST College of Science Facebook page]





*Fr. Ang (foreground) is in line with the diplomats and government officials who offered commemoration wreaths.*



*Members of the AFP participated in the Entrance of Colors (top) and the 21-gun salute. [Bottom photo courtesy of the MPIO Facebook page]*



# 77<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF MANILA

*Fr. Ang (center) presents a copy of Lumina Pandit, a compendium of rare books and incunabula in the collection of the Miguel de Benavides Library, to Mr. David Gamble Jr., (left), H.E. Beaufils (foreground), and H.E. Robinson (rightmost).*



*UST Secretary-General Rev. Fr. Louie R. Coronel, O.P., (left) presents a painting of the Main Building as a token for Mayor Domagoso.*



*UST Office of Public Affairs Director Asst. Prof. Joreen T. Rocamora, Ph.D. (left) converses with the Manila Vice Mayor Hon. Lacuna-Pangan.*





## CTHM students bag awards in int'l global revenue management contest

Thomasian excellence is once again recognized as CTHM students Mr. Thor Terenz T. Manuel and Ms. Kane Ellisha Reyes were part of the winning teams that won first and third place, respectively, at the International Centre of Excellence in Tourism and Hospitality Education (THE-ICE) Global Revenue Management (GRM) Challenge.

THE-ICE GRM Challenge is an international student competition exclusively for students of accredited member institutions. It brings together students and academic staff from around the globe and provides opportunities to engage collaboratively and build international skills.

The competition was able to bring together 55 students from ten institutions who were grouped into international and inter-institutional teams of four to six members. Each group was tasked to compete in challenges that tested and developed their hospitality and tourism revenue management skills over several months.

Manuel was part of Team 7, which won first place. Members of the team were from William Angliss Institute, Far Eastern University, and Lyceum of the Philippines University.

Meanwhile, Ms. Kane Ellisha Reyes, was from Team 9, which won third place. She was joined by students from Hotel Management School Maastricht, Singapore Institute of Technology, Far Eastern University, and Lyceum of the Philippines University.

Coached by their adviser, Mr. Dennis Lemsic, the two students received free registration on the Hospitality Business Acumen (HBA) Certificate Program offered by Russell Partnership Technology.

As part of the winning team, Manuel also received a \$AUS 1500 bursary for education offered by any member institution of THE-ICE and a free registration on the Certification in Advanced Hospitality and Tourism Industry Analytics (CAHTA) offered by the Smith Travel Research - Supporting Hotel-related Academic Research and Education (STR-SHARE) Center.



Castillo

## DOST-PCHRD names Castillo of GS, Pharmacy as outstanding health research mentor

UST Graduate School and Faculty of Pharmacy academic staff Assoc. Prof. Agnes L. Castillo, Ph.D., was named the outstanding health research mentor for the National Capital Region – Graduate Category by the Department of Science and Technology Philippine Council for Health Research and Development (DOST-PCHRD). The winners were announced on January 28, 2022, through the DOST-PCHRD official Facebook page.

Castillo was recognized for guiding health researchers in the publication of

their studies. To date, she has mentored two Ph.D. and fifteen Master of Science in Pharmacy students in completing their research.

Castillo was previously recognized as one of the 25 recipients of the Philippine Men and Women of Science awarded by the DOST in 2015. She received the DOST Academic Excellence award in July 2013. Currently, she is also a resident researcher at the UST Research Center for the Natural and Applied Sciences.



Most Rev. Brown blesses the image of Bl. Takayama with the censer. [Photo courtesy of Lorenzo Atienza through Santísimo Rosario Parish Church Facebook page]

## Apostolic Nuncio honors “Samurai of Christ” at Bl. Takayama’s Feast Day Mass

The Apostolic Nuncio to the Philippines His Excellency Charles John Brown, KC\*HS, underscored the unflinching devotion to the faith displayed by the Samurai of Christ, Blessed Justus Takayama Ukon, at the martyr’s Feast Day Mass on February 3, 2022.

Born in Takayama village, in Toyonochi, Osaka Prefecture, Takayama Ukon was a former samurai turned Catholic

layman who was considered a pillar of the early Church of Japan. He was baptized at 12 years old, taking the name “Justus”, during a time when Christian persecution was rampant.

Bl. Takayama, accompanied by around hundreds of Japanese Christians, was exiled to Manila in December 1614 for refusing to abjure his Catholic faith. He turned over an image of the Blessed

Virgin Mary to the Dominican friars in Santo Domingo in Intramuros. The image, known as “La Japonesa”, remains in the Santo Domingo Church in Quezon City. He died in Intramuros, Manila on February 3, 1615, only 44 days after arriving in Manila

“He represents an admirable example of fortitude in the faith and dedication in charity. This is the glory of Blessed Takayama. The fact that he was able to sacrifice his honor and homeland for the sake of Christ,” emphasized Most Rev. Brown.

The Apostolic Nuncio prayed, “that we may have the grace to imitate [Bl. Takayama], his steadfastness in his spiritual combat, and his love for our Lady, and in his triumph over sin and death.”

In 1630, a petition was presented to the Vatican by the Archdiocese of Manila for Bl. Takayama’s beatification. In the 1980s, a historian and alumnus of the UST Graduate School, Dr. Ernesto de Pedro, was commissioned to study the cause since the petition for Takayama’s beatification was revived. In 1989, de Pedro established the Lord Justus Takayama Professional Chair in Philippine-Japanese Studies at the University of Santo Tomas.

Bl. Takayama was Beatified in Osaka on February 7, 2017. His statue is hosted at the Blessed Lord Justus Takayama Sanctuary in front of the Thomas Aquinas Research Center.



Apostolic Nuncio to the Philippines His Excellency Most Rev. Charles John Brown, KC\*HS [Photo courtesy of Lorenzo Atienza through Santísimo Rosario Parish Church Facebook page]

Blessed Justus Takayama Ukon, the Samurai of Christ [Photo courtesy of Lorenzo Atienza through Santísimo Rosario Parish Church Facebook page]



Previous and current STS executive board officers with the NCBUCP



## UNESCO accredits CTHM Students Tourism Society – first in PH

The UST CTHM Students Tourism Society (STS) successfully passed all 3 screenings to be accredited as a United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Club by the UNESCO National Commission of the Philippines on December 6, 2021.

Along with 20 previous and current Executive Board members of STS, the organization underwent a virtual interview via Zoom with the National Coordinating Body of UNESCO Clubs in the Philippines (NCBUCP). Current STS President Ms. Grace Villamiel, attended a dialogue meeting with the Director of the UNESCO National Commission of the Philippines. In its closing, the founding chairman of NCBUCP, Dr. Serafin A. Arviola Jr., stated that if the organization were to pass accreditation, STS will then be UNESCO's first and only tourism organization to be accredited in the Philippines.

According to Villamiel, "It is an absolute honor for the Students Tourism Society to be part of the UNESCO Clubs Philippines, especially since we are the first and only tourism organization to be accredited in the country. I have my STS family to thank for their contributions in making this possible."

Thanking the current and previous Executive Board members, Villamiel commented that, "We ought to bring more opportunities for CTHM's Tourism

Management students to become competent, compassionate, and committed future tourism professionals!"

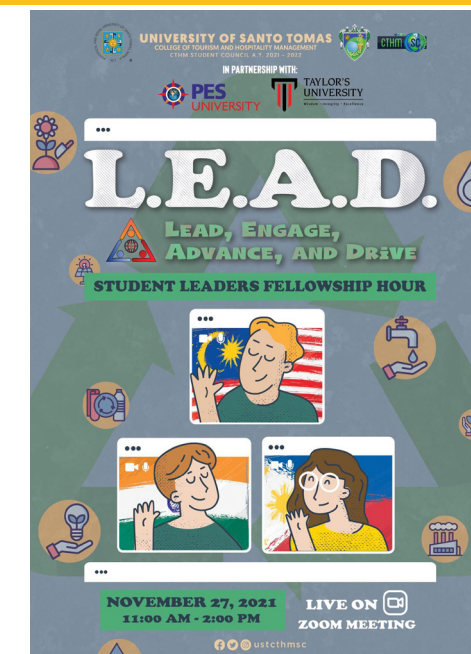
The primary purpose of UNESCO Clubs is to develop grassroots initiatives among schools and communities—fostering cultural diversity, international understanding, and social development for people of all ages and walks of life. They seek to disseminate UNESCO's ideals by letting its constituents undertake activities which broaden cultural horizons and facilitate international exchange all but for worldly cooperation, understanding, and peace. This shall then provide students of the CTHM Tourism Management Department with opportunities in and out of the country to experience life-changing socio-civic moments that transform young minds into empowered youth leaders, community servants, and world advocates.



Accreditation Poster by UNESCO [From the UNESCO Clubs Philippines official Facebook page]



L.E.A.D. Fellowship Introductions of Organizations and Officers are led by (top row, from left:) Ms. Gershei Mae K. Quirao of UST-CTHM, Ms. Yumi Uchida and (bottom row, from left:) Ms. Rinne Matsushita of Taylor's University Malaysia and Mr. Aaqib Mohiuddin of PES University, India



Event Poster

## CTHM hosts int'l student leaders fellowship hour

The College of Tourism and Hospitality Management Student Council (CTHM SC), in collaboration with other young leaders from Taylor's University in Malaysia and People's Education Society (PES) University in India, recently created a virtual networking and fellowship experience for all hospitality student leaders of their institutions.

Through Zoom, the CTHM SC hosted the very first Student Leaders' Fellowship Hour that was joined by several student leaders of the three universities. The event is part of the Lead, Engage, Advance, and Drive (LEAD) Webinar Series project initiated by CTHM Assistant Dean Assoc. Prof. Evangeline E. Timbang, and Dr. Kandappan Balasubramanian of Taylor's University, Malaysia.

LEAD provides a platform for student leaders where they can create opportunities for themselves to lead by setting relevant goals and directions; engage to take ownership of responsibilities; advance to make a difference; and drive to enhance team spirit towards success.



CTHM Asst. Dean, Assoc. Prof. Evangeline E. Timbang, Ph.D., delivers the opening remarks.

Participants of the event included Dr. Kandappan Balasubramanian, Ayano Yatsuzuka, Rinne Matsushita, Yumi Uchida, and Kelly Christie from Taylor's University Malaysia; Dr. V Jaykumar, Prathika Suresh, Aaqib Mohiuddin, Krithika J, Gazal Chanda, Attur Vaishnavi, Hitha Rohith, Anirudh Chennampalli from PES University, India; Assoc. Prof. Evangeline Timbang, Gershei Quirao, Mark Terence Cruz, CTHM SC officers, Students Tourism Society officers, and Hotel and Restaurant Management officers.

In the three-hour event, participating student leaders and advisers engaged in cultural exchange through country-specific cultural videos, university information sharing, and student organization presentations contributed by each participating university.

By the end of the event, the students had gained a better understanding of the value of international networking, building friendship, camaraderie, global leadership, collaboration, and cooperation with the other participants. The gathering concluded with plans to organize more leadership-inspired student programs and projects.

L.E.A.D. Fellowship Inspirational Messages are delivered by Dr. Kandappan Balasubramanian of Taylor's University (top right window), Malaysia and Prof. V Jaykumar of PES University, India (bottom left window)





Objectives

Identify


Identify sectors affected by the pandemic

Forecast

Forecast economic growth for the next 3 years

Recommend

Recommend policies to ease the burden of recession especially to businesses.



Faustino during the lecture [Screenshot courtesy of UST Artlets Economics Society]

## Economics Department delves into recession’s impact at webinar

The UST Faculty of Arts and Letters Department of Economics hosted a lecture discussing the Philippine recession. The webinar, held through Zoom, helped the participants learn about the sectors affected by the pandemic, forecasted economic growth for the following years, and shared policy recommendations that would help ease the burden of recession.

Serving as the speaker was the Founder of the Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation of the City College of San Francisco, California, Affiliate Professor Vivian Faustino. She is a graduate of UST Business Economics Class of 1988.

The theme, “The impact of recession

to the business sector,” focuses on the effects of the pandemic that started in early 2020. In the business sector, micro and small businesses needed to close because they can no longer recover from losses due to extended lockdown measures.

One of the safety nets present in the Philippines was the distribution of “ayuda” or stimulus checks, but it was noted that this was not enough because the economy still declined after a year. The latter half of 2021 marked the attempt of the government to lighten the restrictions in hopes of economic recovery.

On a global scale, the economy remains in a slump. Faustino noted that the Philippines declined in the Global

Competitiveness Index due to the pandemic. The GCI includes indicators of infrastructure, information and communications technology adoption, macroeconomic stability, efficiency enhancers, and innovation factors that determine the level of competitiveness of a country.

To recover, Faustino recommended dynamic reallocation of human resources; the normalization of the ability to launch and dissolve small, agile teams for swift issue resolution and opportunity capture; having faster and ‘flatter’ organization structures to streamline communication flows; and rapid decision making at the leadership level.

## Reyes of Educ delivers lecture on Filipino Studies program at Hawaii university

College of Education Department of Secondary Education Chair Asst. Prof. Alvin Ringgo C. Reyes, delivered a virtual guest lecture in the Filipino Studies Program of the University of Hawaii at Hilo, USA, held from February 7 to 11, 2022.

Reyes mapped the historical role of the University of Santo Tomas (UST) in Philippine society to his audience composed of students of FIL 432 Spanish Heritage in the Philippines, ANTH354/FIL354 Filipino Culture, and FIL 333 Filipinos in Hawaii, comprised of heritage learners of various ethnicities, and nationalities.

“UST, the oldest university in Asia, remains to be timeless, yet timely. As one

of the top universities in the Philippines, it was given an autonomous status by the Commission on Higher Education, which means less regulation, because of its quality education,” Reyes said.

The lecture was part of a five-year Memorandum of Understanding signed between UST and the University of Hawaii at Hilo in 2020.

To encourage exchanges between faculty, students, and scholars on research and educational processes, the agreement paved the way for tie-up activities, including the well-attended 1st Virtual International Conference on the Teaching of Filipino as a Second Language in 2021.



Reyes



Secretary Joseph D'Oliveira (top left) from the Guyanese Honorary Consulate in Manila, Philippines

Chargé d'affaires Mauricio Muñoz (top left) from the Embassy of the Argentine Republic in the Philippines

## CTHM students discuss global culture, tourism geography with South American embassies, consulates

The third-year students from the College of Tourism and Hospitality Management (CTHM) under the Bachelor of Science in Tourism Management program, major in Travel Operations and Service Management, conducted a virtual conference on global culture and tourism geography on December 2, 2021, via Zoom.

The conference developed the students’ sense of understanding and responsiveness to cultural values, traditions and geographical features that exist beyond their own culture and country. It was part of the course Global Culture and Tourism Geography, which introduces students to the analysis of the different regions of the world as travel destinations, including the geographic features and significant cultural elements in relation to tourism and the hospitality industry.

Secretary Ricardo dos Santos Poletto from the Embassy of the Federative Republic of Brazil in the Philippines, Chargé d'affaires Mr. Mauricio Muñoz from the Embassy of the Argentine Republic in the Philippines, Secretary Joseph D'Oliveira from the Guyanese Honorary Consulate in Manila, Philippines and Deputy Ambassador Carmen Azurin from the Peruvian Honorary Consulate in Manila, Philippines graced the event and shared their expertise on how elements



Secretary Ricardo dos Santos Poletto from the Embassy of the Federative Republic of Brazil in the Philippines

of a particular region contribute to the uniqueness of a place and is an important variable in geographic studies.

The virtual conference was attended by the third year BS Tourism Management students taking the course Global Culture and Tourism Geography.

Together with their course facilitator, Asst. Prof. Joreen T. Rocamora, Ph.D., the students from Class 3TOM1 who organized the conference with the South American Embassies and Consulates included Mr. Mark Terence V. Cruz, Ms. Alexandra Aerin G. David, Ms. Claire Dave Ellis D. Magos, Mr. Gian Marco R. Opena, Ms. Wenshielou Marie C. Tacang, and Ms. Janica Kyana O. Yee.



Deputy Ambassador Carmen Azurin (bottom window) from the Peruvian Honorary Consulate in Manila





Zerrudo (left, background), Fr. Salang (seated, center), and Trota José (right, in orange shirt) meet with CHREST team members.

# UST GS CCCPET lead post-Typhoon Odette assessment on Church cultural heritage in Diocese of Maasin

The UST GS Center for Conservation of Cultural Property and Environment in the Tropics (CCPET), in its capacity to help in the preservation of cultural heritage, visited churches around the Diocese of Maasin to assess the general condition and post-Odette damages on heritage churches of the Diocese.

The onslaught of Typhoon Odette in Northern Mindanao and Visayas last December 2021 left eight provinces---Surigao del Norte, Southern Leyte, Bohol, Cebu, Negros Occidental, Negros Oriental, Guimaras, and Palawan without electricity, communication, food, and water. Aside from these, important infrastructures were also damaged—including heritage and culture sites.

The schedule included an on-line inception meeting attended by representatives from UST GS CCCPET, UST Faculty of Engineering, the Association of Structural Engineers of the Philippines (ASEP), Diocese of Tagbilaran, Diocese of Talibon, Diocese of Maasin, and the National Commission for Culture and the Arts.

The on-site debriefing was held on January 8, 2022, in San Miguel, Leyte attended by representatives from the Diocese of Palo, Diocese of Maasin, Office of Congressman Ching Veloso, and the CleMend Construction Company. The field evaluation covered heritage churches such as the Maasin Cathedral Complex, Amparo Chapel in Macrohon, Malitbog Church, San Juan Church, Matalom Church Complex, Hilongos Church Complex, Punta Chapel and the Baybay Church.

Fr. Mark Vincent Salang, Diocesan Chancellor who heads the Church Heritage Commission and an alumnus of the UST Central Seminary, was deputized by Maasin Bishop Most Rev. Precioso Cantillas D.D., to oversee the safeguarding, conservation, and rehabilitation of the heritage churches.

Aside from assessing damages to churches around the Diocese of Maasin, CCPET's initiative also aims to provide church-specific and diocesan-wide recommendations to rehabilitate the church complex and collections, and to formulate climate change resiliency and church cultural heritage protocols (principles and guidelines) that could be integrated in the

development of the church's conservation management plan.

UST and the Diocese of Maasin have a standing and active Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in church heritage conservation and research. The UST GS CCCPET response mission was logistically supported by the Department of Tourism Region 8, under the leadership of Dir. Karen Tiopes; The Farm Guinciaman; Congressman Ching Veloso of the 3<sup>rd</sup> District of Leyte; Board Member Anna Veloso-Tuason; and the Office of Mayor Jose Carlos Cari of Baybay, Leyte.

The Center organized the Church Heritage Response Team (CHREST) composed of specialists, namely, Assoc. Prof. Eric Babar Zerrudo, Ph.D. (Heritage and Development), Prof. Regalado Trota José (Church History and Archivist), Asst. Prof. Michael Manalo (Church Architecture), De La Salle University Prof. Lessandro Garciano of Ph.D. (Heritage Engineering), Mr. Joselito Corpus (Architectural Conservation), Ar. Cham Odan (Project Management), Mr. Jefferson Chua (Climate Change), and Ms. Beverly Bautista (Coordination).



Participants of the Recipio 1500 Strong Challenge

# Recipio: Pharmacy's medicine take-back initiative as a response to Laudato si'

Integral to healthcare are medicines that are used for the diagnosis, prevention, and treatment of diseases. The accessibility of medicines make it possible for people to get hold of medication through a simple trip to their local pharmacy. Though accessibility of medicines is seen as a benefit, the improper disposal poses risks of accidental or intentional poisoning. Even greater is the threat it poses to the environment. Thus, their proper disposal must be ensured and the most effective way to dispose of them is through medicine take-back initiatives.

The UST Faculty of Pharmacy, through the leadership of their Dean, Prof. Aleth Therese L. Dacanay, launched a medicine take-back program that aims to propagate necessary knowledge for safe medicine disposal and to provide an avenue where unused, unwanted, and expired medicines can be disposed of.

The Faculty of Pharmacy marked a milestone in the practice of Pharmacy by launching the first-ever medicine take-back initiative in the country. *Recipio*, a Latin word for “recover” or “take-back”, is a program borne out of the vision of the Faculty of Pharmacy's Dean Dacanay as a response to medication stewardship as it stepped up to initiate and institutionalize a university-wide medicine take-back program. During its launch, the whole Thomasian community was engaged through the medicine take-back booths that were set-up in every building on campus. A lecture on the importance and best practices of medicine disposal was conducted for both students and faculty. The lecture emphasized the negative impacts of improperly disposed medicines focusing on diversion of use and emphasizing the concept of pharmaceutical pollution.

Now, in the new normal, *Recipio's* initiatives still thrive despite the restrictions brought about by the pandemic as it focuses on its health education and promotion programs. Through the Social and Administrative Pharmacy course, a week-long *Recipio* Online Caravan was conducted and was able to reach 2,100 households. Topics discussed in the online caravan were the basics of medicines, including their storage and proper disposal. The latter part of 2021 marked another milestone for *Recipio* as another round of online events were held coinciding with the National Environmental Month. A webinar titled “The Trash Talk” was held to rally the faculty towards active involvement in the program. It featured the university's waste disposal practices. The webinar also highlighted perspectives from department representatives in the faculty on how their disciplines can contribute to reducing waste and becoming stewards of the environment.

*Recipio's* thrust is further defined as it draws inspiration from the concepts adapted in the *Laudato si'*. With environmental stewardship as one of the goals of the medicine take-back program, the organizers of *Recipio* also envisions this program to champion advancements in health education and promotion and social responsibility. Looking ahead, partnerships with recognized organizations is also in the future of *Recipio* to further propel its advocacy. It is the dream of *Recipio* that the creation of a national policy on medicine disposal will happen. With its newfound direction, *Recipio* is truly set “in caring for people and the environment.”







# THE ACADEMIA

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