



# THE ACADEMIA

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*CNN Philippines' "The Filipino Votes" debates for the presidential and vice-presidential candidates aired from the University of Santo Tomas Quadricentennial Pavilion.*

## Philippine Presidential, VP candidates face off in CNN Debates held at UST

Nine presidential bets and seven vice-presidential candidates clashed in the Debates organized by CNN Philippines, in partnership with Microsoft Philippines and the University of Santo Tomas. The Debates were held at the UST Quadricentennial Pavilion from February 26 to 27, 2022.

Former presidential spokesman Ernesto Abella, labor leader Leody de Guzman, Manila Mayor Francisco Moreno Domagoso, former defense chief Norberto Gonzales, Sen. Panfilo Lacson, Faisal Mangondato, Jose Montemayor Jr., Sen. Manny Pacquiao, and incumbent Vice President Leni Robredo were present on February 27. The anticipated first-ever CNN Presidential Debates were moderated by veteran journalists Ms. Pia Hontiveros and Ms. Pinky Webb.

The day before, Walden Bello, Rizalito David, Manny SD Lopez, Dr. Willie Ong, Senator Francis "Kiko" Pangilinan, Carlos Serapio, and Senate President Vicente Sotto III showed up for the VP Debates, which were moderated by Mr. Rico Hizon and Ms. Ruth Cabal.

Empty podiums were left for the absent candidates.

Candidates for the top executive positions in the country received questions on pressing national issues, such as corruption, COVID-19 pandemic plans and accomplishments, infrastructure, workers' welfare, immediate timeline if elected, and global issues such as Russia's invasion of Ukraine, among others.

The arena, which could comfortably seat over 5,700 people, only had less than 200 masked people in the live onsite audience, which was mostly composed of the candidates' close-in staff, CNN's production team, and some UST officials. Everyone in attendance adhered to strict health protocols.

An opportunity to be part of the live event was made possible through Microsoft Teams where an audience from the different sectors of society served as virtual spectators of the debates.

While CNN has previously partnered with UST during the 2016 Vice-Presidential Debates and the 2019 Senatorial Debates at the same venue, Microsoft participated

in the linkage for the first time this year. CNN, Microsoft, and UST formalized this Debates' partnership in a Memorandum of Agreement Signing held on February 17, 2022, at the Benavides Garden.

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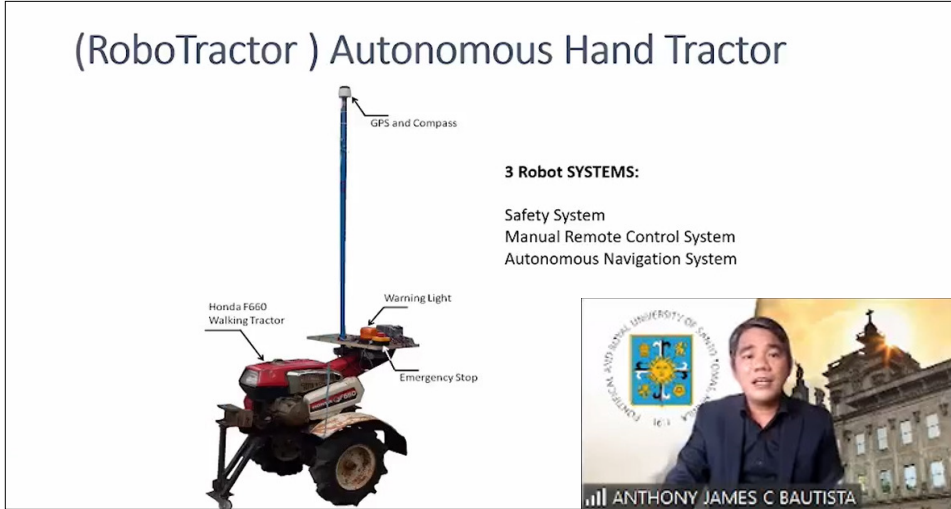
Agrotis RoboTractor unit with metal cage wheels for better movement across rice paddies

## UST Engineer Bautista showcases DOST-funded service robot to aid rice farmers

Asst. Prof. Anthony James C. Bautista, Ph.D., the Acting Assistant Dean of the UST Faculty of Engineering, presented his project, “Agrotis: The Global Positioning System (GPS)-Guided Hand Tractor Robot for Rice Farming Applications,” on February 23, 2022, as a webinar speaker for the Smart Farming Technology Research Centre (SFTRC) of the Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM).

Funded by the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) Philippine Council for Agriculture, Aquatic and Natural Resources Research and Development (PCAARRD) in 2020, the RoboTractor named *Agrotis*, which is the Greek word for farmer, had successful tests in navigation using Real-Time Kinematic (RTK)-GPS base station and initial land tillage operation in 2021. With his team of students at UST, Bautista was also able to present an initial working model to farmers at the Philippine Rice Research Institute.

Bautista, who was previously known for his Gregorio Zara award-winning Logistic Indoor Service Assistant (LISA) robot that minimized the exposure of the hospital staff to COVID-19 through remote communication and medicine delivery features, explained that the current *Agrotis* model has three main features. It has the safety system or emergency stop function; the manual remote-control system that allows manual control of the robots using radio signals; and the autonomous navigation system that will take care of the movement across the



Bautista presents an Agrotis unit and its functions.

farm while the robot performs land tilling or other farming operations.

With an increasing Filipino population heightening the demand for rice but less young people considering farming as a career, the *Agrotis* project will improve the working conditions and tools in farms.

“But robots can never replace our farmers. These technologies only aim to make their jobs easier through efficiency and safety, which can give them more time to be with their family,” emphasized Bautista, who himself belongs to a family of farmers.

Currently, Bautista is working with the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI)

to optimize the cost of the technology. They are also looking into the possibility of using small swarm robots for other farming operations, such as land mapping, leveling, crop spraying, and weeding.

“Agriculture 5.0 is fast approaching, and we really need to work harder together so that we can cope with the ever-advancing technology. The good thing is that these [machinery] are becoming more accessible and affordable. If this is the case, our next task is to prepare and aid our farmers in adapting to these technological tools,” concluded Bautista.



(From top to bottom window:) Cariaso, Rafael, and Talavera present their paper.

## ELS students present paper on language teaching at US symposium

Three students under the English Language Studies (ELS) program of the Faculty of Arts and Letters, Stephanie C. Talavera, Marygrace Danielle O. Cariaso, and Rhen Dave V. Rafael, presented their paper at the Symposium on World Language Education (SOWLE) 2022 on February 5, 2022.

This year’s three-day online symposium was hosted by the Graduate School of Translation, Interpretation, and Language Education at the Middlebury Institute of International Studies at Monterey, California, USA. It had the theme “Promoting Equity and Leadership in the Language Classroom.”

The group’s study, titled “ELT Training of Filipino English Language Teachers in an Online Shadow Education Company,” described the teacher training of Filipinos teaching English as a foreign language (EFL) in a Chinese company. They were able to highlight the company attitudes and requirements that reflected the notion of Unequal Englishes (UE).

In English language teaching (ELT), a native-speakerism ideology is often instilled in which native speakers and their ‘standardized’ varieties of English are considered the models for English language education. Despite being linguistically and culturally diverse, ELT classrooms create and maintain the inequalities in WE.

Amid the preference for ‘native’ or ‘standardized’ varieties of English,

‘non-native’ English-speaking teachers (NNESTs) outnumber native English-speaking teachers (NESTs) during the hiring process. However, discrimination and devaluation toward NNESTs and ‘standardizing’ Englishes remain a concern in ELT. Many studies have attested that language learners and NNESTs prefer ‘standardized’ varieties of English.

Currently, there is a high demand for shadow education or private supplementary tutoring in East Asian countries, where Filipino EFL teachers are often hired.

In this context, Talavera and her co-authors investigated the ELT training of Filipino online EFL teachers in a Chinese company with the assumption that the company abides by native-speaker norms, which may affect the teachers’ beliefs on WE. They interviewed four Filipino online EFL teachers and a teacher trainer who are affiliated with China’s largest online English tutoring platform.

The findings indicate that teachers must complete self-paced ‘Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages’ and Teaching English to Young Learners’ courses within 15 days. Afterward, they undergo an eight-step recruitment process that includes interviews, synchronous online technology and classroom management training, and mock classes with Filipino and Chinese English teacher trainers.

The training and teaching materials used in the company subscribe to American English (AmE) standards, yet only a ‘neutral’ accent is required. A ‘neutral’ accent is placed between ‘local’ Filipino and ‘native’ English accents, leaning toward an AmE accent. The company does not require Filipino EFL teachers to sound like native speakers. Still, the participants reported that a few Chinese trainers and clients expect them to sound like native American and British English speakers. Generally, the study found that the notion of Unequal Englishes in the industry can be interpreted as subtle and latent.

The Philippines has its own varieties of English. Studies often focus on the ‘standard’ or ‘educated’ variety of Philippine English, yet there are many sub-varieties across the archipelago. Filipino sociolinguist Dr. Isabel Pefianco Martin refers to Philippine Englishes as ‘Pinoylish’.

Talavera, Cariaso, and Rafael’s paper provided a preliminary description of Filipino EFL teachers’ training and teaching experiences in a virtual learning environment. In closing, they called for further research on online EFL teaching. Specifically, they stressed the need for a comparative study on the language policies of shadow education companies across Asia.



# Six visiting professors to handle UST GS courses for ELS, Health Research

The University of Santo Tomas Graduate School (UST GS) is currently hosting six visiting professors from Australia, Singapore, and Indonesia who are leaders and experts in the fields of English Language Studies and Health Research. They will handle courses at the USTGS for Term 2 of A.Y. 2021 to 2022.

To handle courses under the Health Research Program are Dr. Helen Banwell, Dr. Kobie Boshoff, and Dr. Steven Milanese. Dr. Banwell, who is based in Australia, holds a Ph.D. degree from the University of South Australia. She is a lecturer, course coordinator, Second Year Podiatry Program Coordinator, academic integrity officer, member of IIMPACT for Health (Paediatrics stream), co-director of the International Centre for Allied Health Evidence (iCAHE), and an Academic Level B in Allied Health and Human Performance at the University of South Australia.

Dr. Kobie Boshoff is a Senior Lecturer at the University of South Australia, Allied Health and Human Performance Unit, Occupational Therapy Program. She is a Co-director of the International Centre for Allied Health Evidence, an editor of The Allied Health Scholar journal, and has been leading various international and collaborative research projects.

Joining Dr. Banwell and Dr. Boshoff in running courses under the Ph.D. in Health Research Program is Dr. Milanese. He earned his Doctor of Philosophy at the University of South Australia, Adelaide. He is the Program Director of Master of Advanced Clinical Physiotherapy and is currently a Co-Director of the International Centre for Allied Health Evidence. He handled adjunct positions in several international universities. He also served as reviewer for academic journals and has received awards and recognition for his excellent contribution to teaching, research, and development.

For the English Language Studies Program, Dr. George M. Jacobs, who is based in Singapore, is one of the visiting academics. He handles courses in various



Dr. Helen Banwell



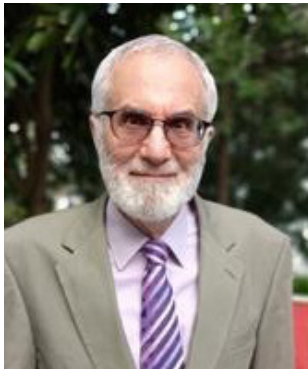
Dr. Steven Milanese



Dr. Kobie Boshoff



Dr. Anita Lie



Dr. George Jacobs



Dr. Mateus Yumarnamto

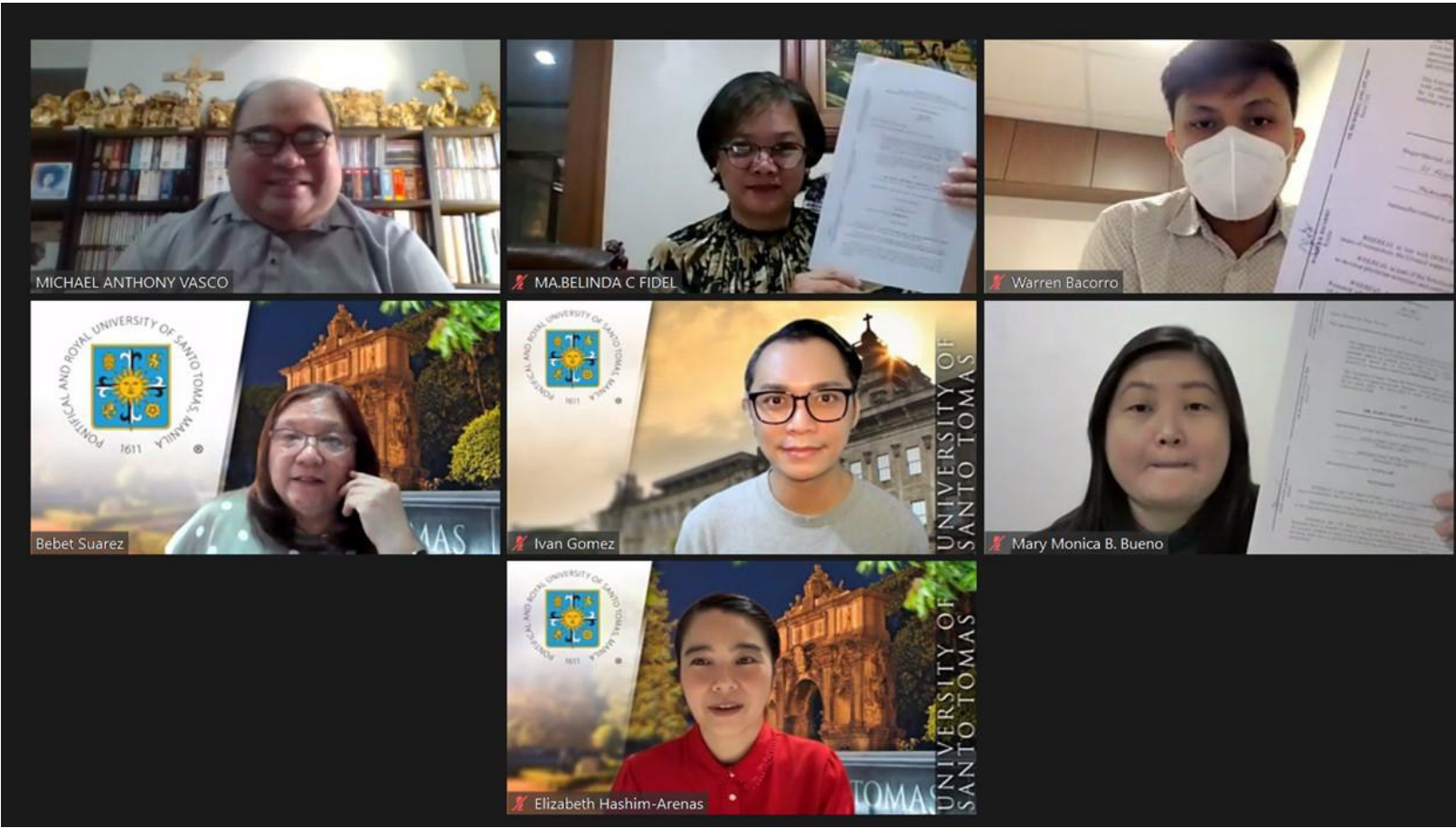
international universities where he serves as Visiting Professor. He is a member of the board of several national and international professional organizations and serves as editor for academic journals.

Two professors from Widya Mandala Surabaya Catholic University, a partner institution of UST in Surabaya, Indonesia, will teach under the English Language Studies (ELS) Cluster. Dr. Anita Lie, who is a former Director of the Graduate School of Widya Mandala Surabaya Catholic University, earned her Doctor of Education (Ed.D.) in Curriculum and Instruction at Baylor University, Texas. Currently, she is a professor at the Faculty of Teacher Education and the Graduate School in her institution. She has published extensively and has received grants and fellowships in

teaching and research.

Last in the list of visiting professors under ELS is Dr. Mateus Yumarnamto. He finished his Ph.D. at the Literacy, Culture, and Language Education (LCLE), School of Education at the Indiana University, Bloomington (IUB), Indiana, USA. He is an associate professor at the English Education Department at the Widya Mandala Catholic University and the current Vice Dean for Academics and Students' Affairs at the School of Education.

Through the expertise in teaching and research of these visiting professors, it is hoped that their engagement at the UST Graduate School will further enrich the academic experience of our faculty members and students.



(Top row, from left:) Dean Vasco, with the scholars Dr. Fidel, Dr. Bacorro, and (second row, right:) Dr. Bueno, with UST officials

## UST, DOST ink MOU for Ph.D. in Health Research scholarships

The University of Santo Tomas signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) to fund scholarships through the Philippine Council for Health Research and Development (PCHRD) under the Ph.D. in Health Research program of the Graduate School on February 7, 2022, via Zoom.

The Ph.D. in Health Research was recently launched by the University under the Graduate School. It is an innovative research-based degree that provides foundational coursework that focuses on health research methodologies. The program was developed in collaboration with the International Centre for Allied Health Evidence of the University of South Australia. The cohort includes six students—a group of three medical doctors and three allied health professionals.

Under the MOU, DOST-PCHRD accepted three medical doctor scholars, namely, Dr. Warren Bacorro, Dr. Mary Monica Bueno, and Dr. Ma. Belinda Fidel, who will receive privileges that cover tuition and other school fees, monthly stipend, yearly book allowance, transportation allowance, insurance, and a research grant. Additional support for ethics review fees, language editing, statistics consultation, research dissemination will also be provided.

Representing the UST Graduate School, the program's host institution, were the Dean, Prof. Michael Anthony Vasco, Ph.D.; Assistant Dean, Prof.

Camilla Vizconde, Ph.D., Faculty Secretary, Assoc. Prof. Elizabeth Arenas, Ph.D.; and Program Lead for Ph.D. in Health Research, Prof. Consuelo Gonzalez-Suarez, M.D., Ph.D. The event was also attended by key officials, administrators, and officers of UST and DOST.

The MOU was signed between the UST Rector Very Rev. Fr. Richard G. Ang, O.P., Ph.D., and DOST-PCHRD Executive Director Dr. Jaime C. Montoya.

The cohort students of the Ph.D. in Health Research are expected to graduate by 2025.







## UST campus lit blue, yellow to express solidarity with Ukraine on Ash Wednesday

The University of Santo Tomas campus was lit blue and yellow, the colors of Ukraine's flag, to express the University's solidarity with the people and Church of Ukraine on the evening of Ash Wednesday, March 2, 2022.

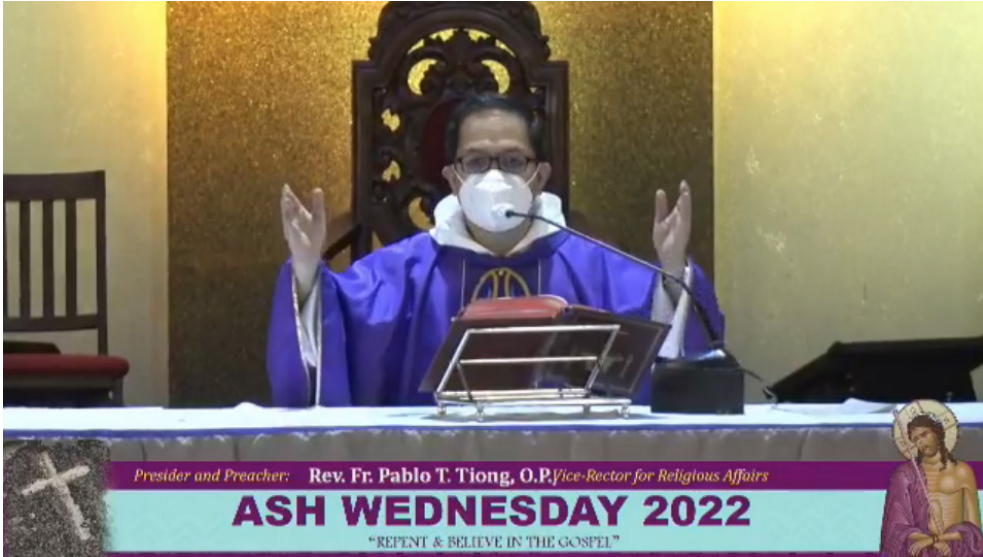
Included in the lighting were the Main Building, Benavides Garden, the Arch of the Centuries, and the UST Chapel. The lights were visible from March 2 to 4, 2022.

In observance of the Lenten Season and in response to the appeal of His Holiness Pope Francis, echoed by the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines, Eucharistic celebrations with the special intention of Reconciliation and Peace in the World were held throughout the day.

UST CAMPUS LIT BLUE TO PAGE 7



National Cultural Treasures found in UST are lit blue and yellow as the faithful pray for the end of hostilities in Ukraine [Photos courtesy of UST Facilities Management Director Rev. Fr. Dexter A. Austria, O.P.]



Vice-Rector for Religious Affairs Rev. Fr. Pablo T. Tiong, O.P., is the main president.



Dean Papa

## Science Dean Papa named research council chair for Taal volcano area protection

Prof. Rey Donne Papa, Ph.D., Dean of the College of Science, was elected chair of the Taal Volcano Protected Landscape (TVPL) Protected Area Management Board (PAMB) Research Council.

As a limnologist, a scientist who studies freshwater ecosystems like lakes, Dean Papa has studied Lake Taal since the early 2000s. He joined the team of aquatic biology researchers who visited Taal in December 2020 for conservation and

management proposals after the volcanic eruption earlier that year.

As chair, he will lead a group of experts who serve as scientific advisors for the Board. They review and endorse research proposals that will be conducted within the volcano and the surrounding waters.

Papa is also part of the National Research Council of the Philippines' Taal Post-Eruption Ecological Research Program.

## Literature Chair Wigley is elected to BDAP, FILCOLS Board of Trustees

The Chair of the Department of Literature of the Faculty of Arts and Letters, Prof. John Jack G. Wigley, Ph.D., was recently elected and inducted as a member of the Board of Trustees to the Book Development Association of the Philippines (BDAP) and Filipinas Copyright Licensing Society, Inc. (FILCOLS).

The Book Development Association of the Philippines is an umbrella organization of authors, publishers, and organizations engaged in the book and publishing trade. It spearheaded the formation of the Association of Southeast Asian Publishers, the publication of the Book Industry Roadmap, the creation of the *Gintong Aklat* Awards, an annual book awards for publishers, and the organization of the Manila International Book Fair, the longest-running and largest book-selling event in the country. It has collaborated with the National Book Development Board

on policies and events concerning book publishing and production.

The Filipinas Copyright Licensing Society is the collective management organization officially accredited by the government through Intellectual Property Philippines to collectively administer, license, and enforce the right of reproduction of authors, publishers, and other right holders in the text and image sector. FILCOLS is a member of the International Federation of Reproduction Rights Organizations.

Wigley will serve as a Trustee for both BDAP and FILCOLS for two years (2022-2024).

A fellow of both the Research Center for Culture, Arts, and the Humanities and the Center for Creative Writing and Literary Studies, Wigley is the author of six books and co-author of several textbooks on literature and creative writing.



Wigley

### UST CAMPUS LIT BLUE FROM PAGE 6

It culminated with a University Mass at 5:30 P.M., presided over by the Vice-Rector for Religious Affairs Rev. Fr. Pablo T. Tiong, O.P.

The faithful participated onsite strictly in accordance with standard health protocols, such as wearing of face masks, since Metro Manila de-escalated to Alert Level 1 on March 1, 2022. The Catholic tradition of receiving ash crosses on the foreheads during Ash Wednesday was once again implemented to the faithful—a practice put on halt because of pandemic restrictions.

Joining the Eucharistic Celebration online through the Facebook page of the Santísimo Rosario Parish Church was also available.

In addition to the lights, the Stations of the Cross were set up at the Benavides Garden for Lent. Purple flaglets, which symbolize repentance and reconciliation, are also on the lampposts inside the campus.







Visitors can drag their cursor or finger on the device screen to manipulate the view. By tapping the audio sign on the lower right, an audio guide may also be played to add more information about the area. Virtual tour interface programmed by Digiscript.

## Public Affairs opens UST Virtual Tour for online visits

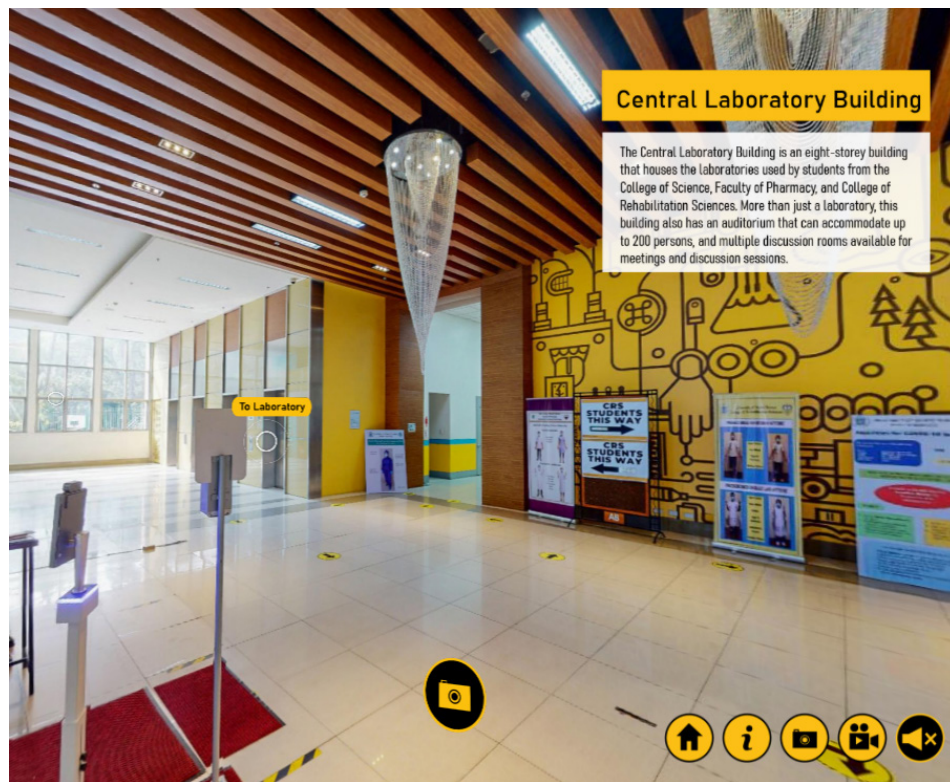
The University of Santo Tomas, through the Office of Public Affairs (OPA) in close coordination with the Office of the Secretary-General, opened to the public a virtual tour of the Manila campus on February 24, 2022. The tour can be accessed through the QR code below or via this link <https://bit.ly/UST-VirtualTour> from any internet-capable device.



The Office of Public Affairs, which has visit management for one of its four functions and works toward the University's positive public presence, spearheaded this feature to engage the Thomasian community and its external stakeholders, who have been unable to visit the campus during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The virtual tour is powered by a 3D digital reality program and includes an accompanying audio guide. With the tour now online, guests from anywhere in the world can visit the campus and be treated to new perspectives, such as aerial angles.

The National Historical Treasures found in the campus, aside from being presented through a 360-degree view, also



The italicized *i* symbol on the icon bar can be clicked to show more details about the buildings. Virtual tour interface programmed by Digiscript.

gave text and audio introductions, as well as photo slideshows to show snapshots of student life.

Two days after its launch, the tour has had over 7000 online visits from 39 countries, including the United States, Saudi Arabia, Australia, Indonesia, and

Thailand, among others.

Looking ahead, the virtual tour of the University will make its way to other cultural and tourism platforms to feature the historical and cultural significance of the UST campus.

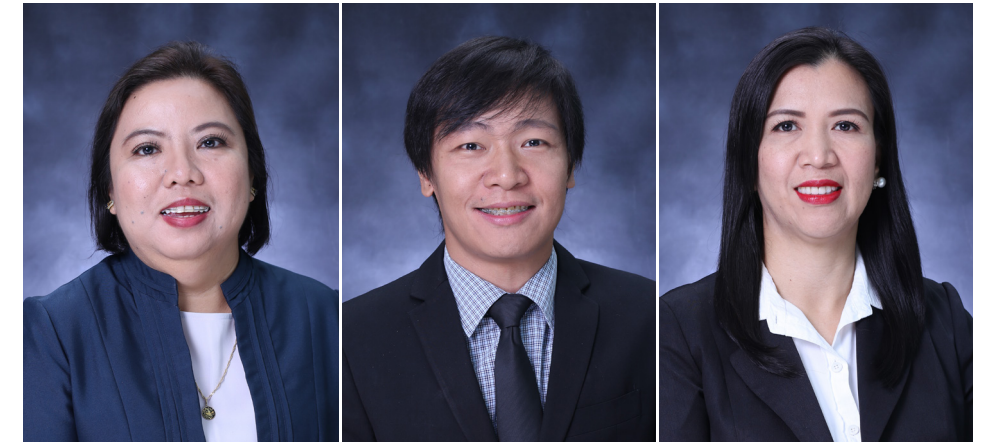
## UST librarians elected officers of 3 library associations

Three librarians of the UST Miguel de Benavides Library were recently elected officers of three national librarians associations in the Philippines.

Ms. Maria Cecilia D. Lobo, chief librarian of UST, was elected as a member of the Philippine Librarians Association, Inc. – National Capital Region Librarians Council (PLAI-NCRLC) Board for two consecutive years (2022-2023). She took her oath of office on January 22, 2022 and is assigned as chair of the association's committee on Nomination & Election. Her main responsibility is to conduct the National & Council elections and ensure that its rules and regulations should be promulgated not less than 6 (six) months before the elections. She is in charge of disseminating the said rules to all regional council members.

The PLA-NCRLC is the only nationally accredited professional organization of librarians in the Philippines to date. It also serves as the umbrella organization for all library groups in the country.

Ms. Ginalyn M. Santiago, assistant head librarian, and head book restorer of the Antonio Vivencio del Rosario UST Heritage Library, was named a member of the Philippine Association of Academic/Research Librarians, Inc. (PAARL) Executive Board for 2022. Her oath taking was held on January 28, 2022. She is also



Lobo

Sahagun

Santiago

appointed as Assistant Treasurer.

Founded in 1973, PAARL is an association of librarians working in academic and research libraries that support scholarly research and formal education at the tertiary level, and upholds the profession of librarianship in the country.

Mr. Jonas T. Sahagun, head librarian of the Civil Law section, was recently voted as President of the Network of Academic Law Librarians, Inc. (NALL). The election results were announced on February 24, 2022. His term will officially start on April 1 where he will serve for two

years as President of the organization. According to Sahagun, his term of office will focus on (3) important aspects of the organization: training, membership, and publications.

The NALL is a national organization in the Philippines which was founded in 2018. It aims to promote academic law libraries & librarians and encourage their developments and foster a spirit of networking among its member institutions. Presently, it has 50 academic law librarian members coming from 35 law schools nationwide.

## UST named Marketing School of the Year

The University of Santo Tomas College of Commerce and Business Administration was named the 2022 Marketing School of the Year by Junior Achievement (JA) Philippines, by virtue of producing the most number of students who made it into the top 10 of the recently concluded Registered Marketing Professional (RMP) examinations administered by JA. The results were announced on February 14, 2022.

Ms. Aaliyah Isis Jimenez who topped the exams, is also joined by Mr. Andre John A. Manglicmot (2nd place), Ms. Leanne Christine Gono (3rd place), and Ms. Anne Valerie Casimiro (6th place) from the graduating class of 2022 in the top 10.

One hundred and seventeen Thomasians took the RMP exam for

this year, according to College Secretary Mr. Francis Lawrence B. De Jesus, Ph.D., who is part of the RMP reviewers' team. Other academic staff part of the reviewers' team are Mr. Antonio Etrata, Jr., Asst. Prof. (Ret.) Robert Lao, and Asst. Prof. Real So.

JA Philippines is the Philippine affiliate of JA Worldwide, a youth-serving non-government organization that was nominated for the 2022 Nobel Peace Prize. According to its website, JA organizations deliver experiential learning in financial literacy, work readiness, and entrepreneurship.



Announcement banner  
[Photo courtesy of JA Philippines]





(From left:) Mr. Benjamin Ramos, Ms. Pinky Webb, Very Rev. Fr. Richard G. Ang, O.P., Ph.D., Mr. Rico Hizon, Ms. Joanna Rodriguez, and Ms. Ruth Cabal



CNN Philippines President Mr. Benjamin Ramos, UST Rector Very Rev. Fr. Richard G. Ang, O.P., Ph.D., and Microsoft Philippines Public Sector Director Ms. Joanna Rodriguez sign the memorandum of agreement for the Debates.



Office of Public Affairs Director Asst. Prof. Joreen T. Rocamora, Ph.D., (standing) hosts the programme for the signing of agreements.



(From left:) Philippine Presidential Candidates for 2022 incumbent Vice President Hon. Maria Leonor Robredo, Leodegario de Guzman, Faisal Mangondato, Norberto Gonzales, Manila City Mayor Francisco Moreno Domagoso, Jose Montemayor, Jr., Sen. Emmanuel Pacquiao, Sen. Panfilo Lacson III, and Ernesto Abella [Photo courtesy of CNN Philippines]



Pia Hontiveros and Pinky Webb moderate the Presidential Debates.



Rico Hizon (left) and Ruth Cabal serve as moderators for the Vice-Presidential Debates.

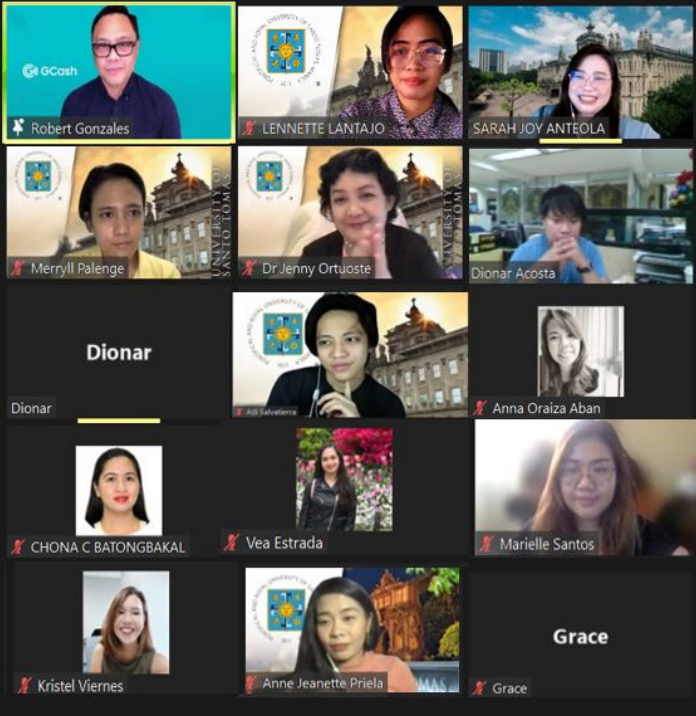
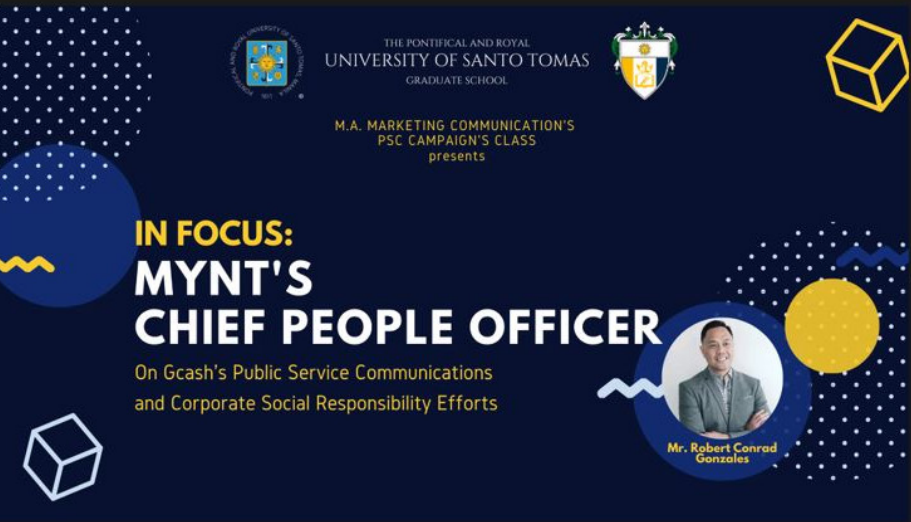


Vice-Presidential and Presidential candidates fist bump after the conclusion of the Debates.



(From left:) Moderator Rico Hizon, Walden Bello, Rizalito David, Emmanuel Lopez, Willie Ong, Sen. Francis Pangilinan, Carlos Serapio, Sen. Vicente Sotto III, and moderator Ruth Cabal.





Some of the participants with resource speaker Mr. Robert Conrad Gonzales, Mynt Chief People Officer.

## GCash exec talks about PubComm, CSR campaigns to GS MarkComm class

“Any small thing you do makes an impact.” This was how corporate executive Robert Conrad Gonzales, Mynt Chief People Officer, described the effect and influence that individual actions may have on the community and nation. Gonzales was speaker to a class of UST graduate students and a group of alumni.

Gonzales was invited by Asst. Prof. Jenny Ortuoste, Ph.D., to speak to her Public Service Communication Campaigns class in the MA Marketing Communication course about Globe-GCash’s public service campaigns and corporate social responsibility (CSR) efforts.

Mynt is a fintech startup partnership between Globe Telecom, the Ayala Corporation, and Ant Financial. They run GCash, a pioneer in mobile money solutions, and Fuse Lending, that offers loan products.

Gonzales also explained how large companies such as Globe can make a positive impact on our society through their CSR programs.

He also recounted how during the pandemic lockdowns, organizations played an important role in giving aid through sharing their services.

All the attendees were given an opportunity to ask the resource speaker



questions during the open forum that followed his talk.

According to Ortuoste, inviting industry experts and persons with rich experience in their fields to be resource speakers provides students with valuable real-world knowledge and advice as well as diverse perspectives that provide learning opportunities.

Mynt Chief People Officer Mr. Robert Conrad Gonzales speaks about the impact of individual actions on a nation.



Speaker Ms. Doreen Hills, with (second row, from left:) Dean Vasco, Dr. Bance, Dr. Agnes, Sr. Christine Pinto, Rev. Fr. Nolan Que, and moderators Cuambot (first row, second from left) and Gascon (first row, rightmost)

## UST GS, CEAP-NCR collaborate on mental health advocacy webinar

The UST Graduate School, through the Psychology and Guidance & Counseling Cluster in partnership with the Catholic Education Association of the Philippines – National Capital Region (CEAP-NCR) held the International Webinar on Mental Health Advocacy on February 18, 2022.

The webinar, titled “Trauma, A Silent Epidemic and the Need to Understand and Heal from It” encouraged Mental Health Awareness and provided information on how to properly handle trauma for the 171 schools participating schools under the Archdiocese of Manila.

Ms. Doreen Hills, the Founder and Director of the Center for Healing Trauma and Attachment, Inc., located in Colorado, USA, served as the speaker. She clarified profound field terminologies and engaged the participants with scientific-based techniques that could be utilized among clients suffering from trauma.

CEAP-NCR Guidance and Counseling Committee chair Prof. Lucila O. Bance, Ph.D., and the UST GS Psychology and Guidance & Counseling Cluster Program Lead Prof. Ma. Claudette A. Agnes, Ph.D., spearheaded preparations for the event.



Rev. Fr. Nolan A. Que, Ph.D., Regional Trustee of CEAP-NCR, UST Graduate School Dean Prof. Michael Anthony C. Vasco, Ph.D., and Sr. M. Christine L. Pinto, OSB, the President of St. Scholastica’s College and the Vice Regional Trustee of CEAP-NCR were some of the key persons also involved in the event.



A delegation from the Embassy of Brazil in Manila led by His Excellency Antonio José Maria De Souza e Silva, Ambassador of the Federative Republic of Brazil to the Philippines (eighth from left), paid a courtesy call upon the UST Rector Very Rev. Fr. Richard G. Ang, O.P., Ph.D., (seventh from left) on March 15, 2022.

Accompanied by Minister Sérgio Taam, Deputy Chief of Mission (ninth from left); Counselor Ricardo Poletto, Head of Political Sector (sixth from left); and First Secretary Eduardo Chikusa, Head of Trade and Economic Sector (fifth from left), the delegation met with UST officials regarding matters for internationalization, athletics, history, and languages, and toured the Antonio Vivencio del Rosario UST Heritage Library and the UST Quadricentennial Pavilion.

The UST Office of Public Affairs, in partnership with the Office of the Secretary-General, led welcoming courtesies and coordinated the visit, which is one of the first courtesy calls on campus since the pandemic began.



UST Rector Very Rev. Fr. Richard G. Ang, O.P., Ph.D., (left) presents a University token to the Ambassador of the Federative Republic of Brazil to the Philippines by His Excellency Antonio José Maria De Souza e Silva.



Ambassador de Souza e Silva (right) signs the University guestbook, witnessed by the Secretary-General Rev. Fr. Louie R. Coronel, O.P., E.H.L. (center), and Office of Public Affairs Director Asst. Prof. Joreen T. Rocamora, Ph.D.



(From left:) UST Miguel de Benavides Library Chief Librarian Ms. Ma. Cecilia D. Lobo, Counselor Ricardo Poletto, Assistant Chief Librarian Ms. Diana Padilla, First Secretary Eduardo Chikusa, Minister Sérgio Taam, His Excellency Antonio J.M. de Souza e Silva, Prefect of Libraries Rev. Fr. Angel A. Aparicio, O.P., and Acting Archivist Rev. Fr. Gaspar Sigaya, O.P., at the Heritage Library

Prefect of Libraries Rev. Fr. Angel A. Aparicio, O.P., (rightmost) shares book preservation processes and archive collections to the Brazilian Ambassador (leftmost) and delegates during the library tour.



Institute of Physical Education and Athletics Secretary Asst. Prof. Gilda Ma. Paz R. Kamus (right) presents a Growling Tigers token to H.E. de Souza e Silva (left) during the tour of the Quadricentennial Pavilion.







The third day of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sulat Tomasino Workshop, with CCWLS Director Dr. Cristina Pantoja-Hidalgo (top row, fourth from left), fellows and participants. [Photo courtesy of Chuckberry Pascual, Ph.D., (top row, second from left)]

## CCWLS stages 2nd Sulat Tomasino writing workshop

The UST Center for Creative Writing and Literary Studies (CCWLS) held the second edition of the *Sulat Tomasino* undergraduate creative writing seminar workshop for campus journalists from March 9 to 11 via Zoom.

The workshop, which is by invitation only, included campus editors-in-chief and literary editors of UST and other Dominican schools, representing the UST Nursing Journal, UST Purple Gazette, UST College of Science Journal, UST-Alfredo M. Velayo College of Accountancy Journal, The Flame, Thomasian Engineer, and the Varsitarian.

**Improving the quality of campus journalism**

Replacing the Center’s annual Thomasian Undergraduate Writers’ Workshop, Sulat Tomasino aims to improve the quality of campus journalism by helping the selected student writers become better at the craft of writing and editing.

The seminar participants listened to lectures about writing poetry, screenplay,

and film reviews and applied what they learned by critiquing sample works.

The lectures and workshops were delivered and facilitated by CCWLS Director Cristina Pantoja-Hidalgo, Assistant Director Ralph Semino Galan, and Resident Fellows Mark Angeles, Paul Alcosoba Castillo, Nerisa del Carmen Guevara, Jose Mojica, Ned Parfan, and Joselito Zulueta.

Sulat Tomasino is the brainchild of CCWLS Resident Fellows Joselito de los Reyes and Chuckberry Pascual, who served as this year’s seminar coordinators. The Center’s Fellows are all faculty members of UST’s creative writing and literature programs.

**Lectures on genre, craft**

The workshop’s opening lecture was delivered by Pantoja-Hidalgo, who asked attendees to reflect on what is good writing: “...writing that is carefully crafted, writing that seeks to explore ideas or problems or issues which the writer feels strongly about, writing that is written, not just to share experiences, but to offer insights

about these experiences.”

Poetry workshop panelists Guevara, Castillo, and Angeles discussed the standards of the different student publications for poetry, and what makes a poem good enough to be selected for publication. Parfan lectured on his process of writing poetry, using as examples the poems “Garden” and “Salome” from his “Epistles” sequence.

On the second day, Mojica taught scriptwriting basics using the film “Up” as an example. Also discussed were the similarities and differences between screenwriting and drama/playwriting, writing for an audience, and trying to balance art and business.

The last day saw Zulueta deliver a lecture on film criticism, while Angeles conducted another poetry workshop.

The CCWLS remains committed to continue offering the workshop to provide skills training to the campus journalists of the Dominican Network.



### Psychologist Licensure Examination

February 2022  
UST Passing Rate: 85.71%  
National Passing Rate: 78.47%



Debbie Marie Dalangin Bais  
2<sup>nd</sup> – 84.40%



Dianne Garcia Flores  
5<sup>th</sup> – 83.90%



Paula Glenda Ferrer Cheng  
9<sup>th</sup> – 83.50%



### Psychometrician Licensure Examination

February 2022  
UST Passing Rate: 88.89%  
National Passing Rate: 43.24%



Marian Lirainee Franchette  
Mallari Capulong  
4<sup>th</sup> – 82.80%



Miriam Kelly Siongco  
Adelantar  
6<sup>th</sup> – 82.40%



Liesyl Bautista Alvarez  
8<sup>th</sup> – 82%



### Registered Marketing Professional Examinations

February 2022  
UST Passing Rate: 68%  
National Passing Rate: 31%



Aaliyah Isis G. Jimenez  
Rank 1



Andre John A. Manglicmot  
Rank 2



Leanne Christine A. Gono  
Rank 3



Anne Valerie R. Casimiro  
Rank 6





# THE ACADEMIA

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