



(From left:) UST Graduate School Dean Prof. Michael Anthony C. Vasco, Ph.D., Vice-Rector for Academic Affairs Prof. Cheryl R. Peralta, DrPH, Christopher Po, Teodoro Po, UST Rector Very Rev. Fr. Richard G. Ang, O.P., Ph.D., Angelita Po, Ricardo Po, Jr., Leonardo Po, Prior Provincial of the Dominican Province of the Philippines Very Rev. Fr. Filemon I. Dela Cruz, O.P., College of Science Dean Prof. Rey Donne Papa, Ph.D., and UST Secretary-General Rev. Fr. Louie R. Coronel, O.P., EHL

Century Pacific Founder Ricardo Po, Sr., receives posthumous Doctor of Science degree from UST

The University of Santo Tomas conferred the degree Doctor of Science, *honoris causa*, posthumously upon its notable alumnus, †Mr. Ricardo S. Po, Sr., the Founder and Chairman Emeritus of Century Pacific Food, Inc., (CNPF) on March 19, 2022. The solemn investiture was held through hybrid modality at the Dr. Robert Sy Grand Ballroom, Bl. Buenaventura Garcia Paredes, O.P. Building, and livestreamed through UST's Facebook page (UST1611official).

The Po Family matriarch and Ricardo Sr.'s wife Angelita Po, the honoree's four sons, CNPF President and CEO Teodoro Po, Executive Chairman Christopher Po, Vice Chairman Ricardo Gabriel Po, Jr., and Director & Treasurer Leonardo Po, and their respective families, graced the event. The academic robe, doctoral cap, the ring, framed medallion, and diploma for Ricardo Po, Sr., were presented to his wife and sons.

"We, his family, his colleagues, his friends and associates, thank this esteemed University for bestowing such a great honor on our beloved Tatay," said

Teodoro Po in his acceptance speech on behalf of his father.

During the Address of Petition, UST Graduate School Dean Prof. Michael Anthony C. Vasco, Ph.D., shared Po's history and his inspiring demonstrations of science-based decisions in leadership. Ricardo Po studied chemistry at UST under the College of Science, then called the College of Liberal Arts, from 1952 to 1954. He was later granted the Master's in Business Administration (MBA) degree by the UST Graduate School through the CHED Expanded Tertiary Education Equivalency Accreditation Program (ETEEAP) in 2006.

In 1978, Po started his canning factory, which would become the leading exporter of tuna products in the Philippines. He was a pioneer and trailblazer in the food industry, setting high standards for product quality, sustainability, and affordability. Under his dynamic leadership, Century Pacific has since expanded its portfolio with flagship brands such as Century Tuna, Argentina, 555, and Birch Tree.

By strongly encouraging scientific

inquiry and study, several breakthroughs were introduced by Century Pacific

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UST Rector Very Rev. Fr. Richard G. Ang, O.P., Ph.D. (leftmost), assisted by Vice-Rector for Academic Affairs Prof. Cheryl Peralta, DrPH (rightmost) presents the framed medallion to Po Family matriarch Angelita Po (second from left) and Century Pacific Director and Treasurer Leonardo Po.

CENTURY PACIFIC FOUNDER FROM PAGE 1

through Po's directives. His technology investment led to the very first microwave thawing system for frozen meat blocks in the country, a technique much ahead of its competitors at the time of its purchase. His redesigned corned beef can filler was recognized as the fastest in the industry and 24 years after its conception, it is still the fastest in the country or possibly in the world.

In the 90s, his groundbreaking investment from Belgium paved the way to treat wastewater from marine manufacturing operations. Since then, CPFI has continued Po's efforts in using science and technology to effectively manage natural resources and minimize harmful emissions, such as using high-yield quantum cookers that decreased production costs and market prices.

"Ricardo Po may not have become



a full-fledged chemist [by completing his Bachelor's in 1956], but he was a true-blooded Thomasian, for he was a servant leader, effective communicator and collaborator, analytical and creative thinker, and a lifelong learner. Experience became his best teacher," said UST Rector Very Rev. Fr. Richard Ang, O.P., in the Address of Concession.

This was echoed by UST College of Science Dean Prof. Rey Donne Papa, Ph.D., in the Reading of the Diploma, saying that "[Po] was considered a champion of affordable nutrition for all Filipinos and is a firm believer that every household

deserves to have delicious and nutritious food on the table. He continues to serve as an inspiration, through his exemplary life, in achieving success through determination, hard work, and resiliency."

Po returned to the Lord's embrace on October 11, 2021. He was 90 years old.

Included among the previous recipients of an *honoris causa* degree from UST are Jollibee Foods Corporation founder Tony Tan Caktiong, Mercury Drug Corporation founder Mariano Que, Metrobank founder George SK Ty, Focolare Movement founder Chiara Lubich, and many more.



Fr. Ang presents a University token to Mrs. Po (right)



Dean Papa reads the diploma.

(From left:) Prof. Allan B. de Guzman, Ph.D., Prof. Annie Tohme Tabet from the Université Saint-Joseph in Beirut, Prof. María Eugenia Cardenas Cisneros from Anáhuac México, Prof. Rodrigo Mardones from the Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile, and Gravissimum Educationis Foundation Secretary-General Msgr. Guy-real Thivierge



De Guzman of UST highlights teachers' roles in promoting civic engagement at Vatican democracy conference

UST Research Center for Social Sciences and Education researcher Prof. Allan B. de Guzman, Ph.D., presented three team studies at an international conference titled "Educating for Democracy in a Fragmented World" organized by the Gravissimum Educationis Pontifical Foundation. The event was held from March 17 to 19 at the Libera Università Maria Santissima Assunta (LUMSA) in Rome.

Gracing the international conference were Cardinal Giuseppe Versaldi, Prefect of the Congregation for Catholic Education; Prof. Isabel Capeloa Gil, President of the International Federation of Catholic Universities (IFCU/FIUC); Former Prime Minister of Benin Prof. Lionel Zinsou; Dr. Carlos Creus Moreira, President of Wisekey Cybersecurity; and Fr. Eric Salobir, O.P., President of the Optic Technology Research Network.

On the second day of the conference, Pope Francis met the conference participants in a papal audience on March 18. The Holy Father urged educators to "Feed young people's thirst for democracy, teach young people that the common good is formed with love, and educate young people to live authority as service."

"Exercising authority is not easy: it is a service. Let us not forget that God entrusts

us with certain roles not for personal affirmation but so that, through our work, the whole community may grow," shared Pope Francis.

In relation to this mission, de Guzman presented studies on the role of social studies teachers in teaching democratic principles and civic engagement, namely, "Social studies teachers' ability to integrate social problems and issues and civic engagement in students' learning"; "Teachers' knowledge of 21st-century democracy holds the key for their delivery of promoting civic engagement in classroom settings"; and "Teachers' abilities to exercise practical-evaluative teaching methods and to contain their risk-taking behavior may help enrich school curricula's integration of civic engagement by students."

The studies are under the UST Local Antenna Team, which carries research and formation initiatives from the Gravissimum Educationis Pontifical Foundation's project titled, "Democracy: an educational urgency in pluricultural and plurireligious contexts." Joining De Guzman as the Philippine Local Antenna Coordinator are RCSSD Director Prof. Belinda De Castro, Ph.D. and Assoc. Prof. Joel Adamos, Ed.D.

In an interview by Vatican News conducted by journalist Fausta Speranza,

De Guzman shared that "We believe that schooling will lead to democracy, because we still believe in the power of education... We are not only looking at individual benefits of education, but we would like to see that the learners we are producing can respond to the problems and concerns of Philippine society."

De Guzman further shared that, "Teachers are not the mere implementors of curriculum, but they must have a disposition to be able to lead in their respective classrooms."

Aside from LUMSA in Rome and UST in Manila, the participating universities were: Ukrainian Catholic University in Lviv, Instituto Universitario de Investigación Ortega y Gasset in Madrid, Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore in Milan, the Catholic University of Mozambique in Maputo, Université Catholique d'Afrique de l'Ouest in Abidjan, Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile in Santiago, Universidad Anáhuac México, Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú in Lima, Pontificia Universidade Católica do Rio Grande do Sul in Porto Alegre, The Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C., Christ University in Bangalore, and Université Saint-Joseph in Beirut.



UST CTHM Team, led by its Dean Assoc. Prof. Gezzez Giezi G. Granado, D.C.L. (seventh from left) and representatives from the City Government of Davao during the turnover ceremony.

CTHM presents 4-year Strategic Management Plan for Davao City MICE

Tourism was one of the hardest hit sectors during the pandemic. As restrictions are lifted and efforts to move forward with the new normal are progressing, the UST College of Tourism and Hospitality Management (CTHM) actively joins efforts to help industry recovery. One of the research outputs of the college is the Davao City Strategic Management Plan for Meetings, Incentives, Conventions, and Expositions (MICE), which was presented to the local government unit of Davao City.

The output was officially turned over to the primary and secondary stakeholders on March 4, 2022, at Seda Abreeza Hotel, Davao City. An orientation and workshop followed the day after.

Aside from sustaining the culture of research, CTHM also integrates it into the teaching and community development aspects in line with the seven-point agenda of the Rector Very Rev. Fr. Richard G. Ang, O.P., Ph.D., specifically that which pertains to enriching the research ecosystem of the University and fostering a stronger industry-academe-alumni partnership.

CTHM is sustainably collaborating with the City Tourism Operations Office of Davao, led by Ms. Regina Rosa D. Tecson, and the Davao City Tourism Association, specifically the MICE Executive Committee, headed by Mr. Kennedy V. Kapulong, the General Manager of Seda Abreeza Hotel, Davao City.

The project's main objective is to provide guidance and a means to address the needs of the private sector and the City Government of Davao about the development and implementation of their MICE programs. Specifically, the project aims to assess the current situation of the Davao City MICE industry, with respect to its environments and competitions, as well as existing programs, infrastructures and strategies; conduct an inventory of tourism and hospitality products that may align with the competitive



Official Turnover of the Davao City MICE SMP Digital Copies to the City Government of Davao



Official Turnover of the Davao City MICE SMP Digital Copies to the Davao Tourism Association

advantages, proposed strategies, and possible future programs for MICE for Davao City; identify and determine short-term and long-term objectives and strategies for both the private sector and the local government in the implementation of its MICE programs and plans as they pursue the city's vision to be the MICE Hub for Asia; develop a comprehensive Strategic Management Plan for MICE for Davao City which will contain the necessary directions, objectives, and strategies as well as policies and supporting data that will serve as a guide for both the local government and the private sector; and design a monitoring and evaluation process that can help the stakeholders determine the effective programs and improve the opportunities seen in the implementation of the Strategic Management Plan.

The project team, is headed by the CTHM Dean Assoc. Prof. Atty. Gezzez Giezi G. Granado, D.C.L., as Project Director and the Regent, Rev. Fr. Roland D. Mactal, O.P., S.Th.D. Other members of the team are Asst. Prof. Jane G. Devanadera, (Project Consultant), Mr. Jame Monren T. Mercado (Project Coordinator), Ms. Kathrine Camille A. Nagal (Writer/Researcher), Mr. Arnulfo Ricardo A. Butiong (Writer/Researcher), and Ms. Ruby Ann I. Lucina (Graphic Artist).



Madrunio presents her paper.



Dr. Madrunio (bottom row) and Madrunio (top row, right window) during the Q&A portion.

AB Dean, Department of English academic staff, ELS students present papers at LSPIC 2022 & 21st ESEA

Prof. Marilu R. Madrunio, Ph.D., Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Letters, Prof. Rachele B. Lintao, Ph.D., Chair of the Department of English, Atty. Sellenne Anne S. Leynes, academic staff of the Department, graduate and undergraduate English Language Studies (ELS) students delivered presentations at the Linguistic Society of the Philippines (LSP) International Conference 2022 and 21st English in Southeast Asia (ESEA) International Conference last March 10 to 12, 2022. The event was hosted by the Linguistics Society of the Philippines and the Ateneo de Manila University.

Their papers, which covered forensic linguistics, discourse analysis, and language education, were part of the themed panel presentation and parallel sessions during the three-day event. This year's conference with the theme "Multilingualism, Multimodality, and Multiliteracies: Trends, Challenges, and Prospects" was held fully online.

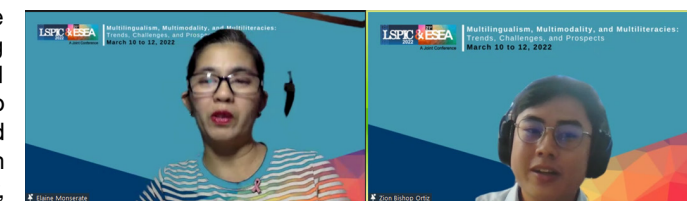
Prof. Lintao served as the convener of the themed panel presentation titled "Studies in Forensic Linguistics: Multimodality, Facework and Face-Threatening Acts, and Communicating with Child Witnesses in Courtroom Interactions." The panel included three graduate students enrolled in the ELS doctorate program of UST. Atty. Sellenne Anne S. Leynes, a full-time faculty member of UST, delivered

the first presentation where she analyzed the behaviors and patterns of exchanges observed in the direct-and-cross-examination of a witness in two online courtroom hearings in the Philippines. Following her presentation, Ms. Cherie Ann M. Luna investigated the cross-examination of a case in California. She identified face and face-threatening acts that were used by the constituents to show credibility and establish rapport with the other party. Lastly, Ms. Krizza Mae C. Balisong presented how the prosecution in an American trial questioned child witnesses. She examined the linguistic features that determine power relationships and revealed the clarity and coherence of the responses provided by the child witnesses.

Prof. Madrunio and Ma. Kaela Joselle R. Madrunio, a third-year BA English Language Studies student,



Ortiz presents his paper



Ortiz (right window) during the Q&A portion.

presented their collaborative research titled "Language in Crisis Negotiations: The Rizal Park Hostage-Taking Incident." Their paper examined the Rizal Park hostage-taking incident from the lens of forensic linguistics that looked into crime management.



Panel presenters

Rafael presents his paper.

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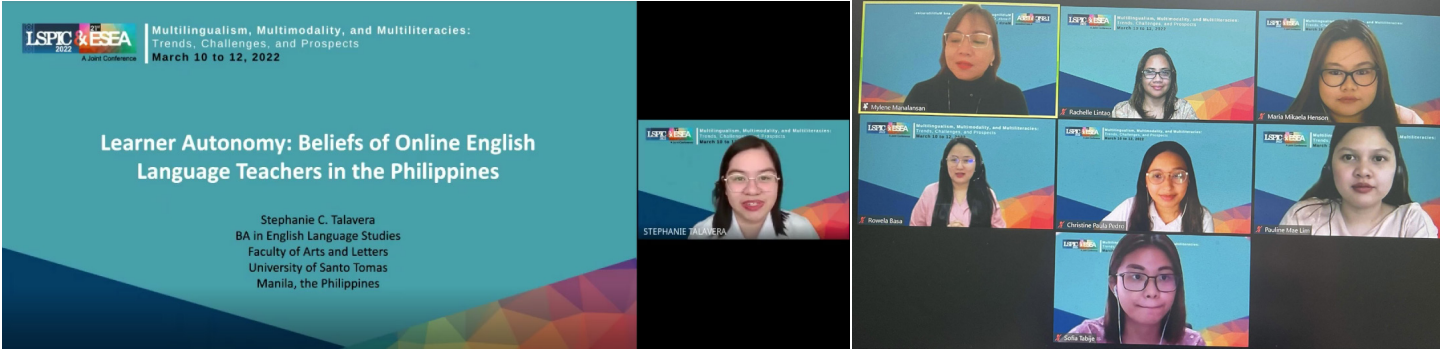
Other presenters from the undergraduate ELS program were Zion Bishop C. Ortiz with his study titled “The Language of Negotiation in Hostage Taking Incidents”; Rhen Dave V. Rafael who presented his paper, “The Language of Evaluation in Human Rights Discourses in the Philippines”; and Stephanie C. Talavera, a fourth-year ELS major who presented her paper titled “Learner Autonomy: Beliefs of Online English Language Teachers in the Philippines.”

Another parallel paper presentation titled “Filipino ESL Teachers’ Conceptions of Language Input in Second Language Acquisition” was done by the group of Prof. Lintao and her students in Second Language Acquisition at the graduate school. They

include Rowela Basa, Maria Mikaela Pauline Mae Lim, Christine Paula Pedro, and Sofia Anne Tabije.

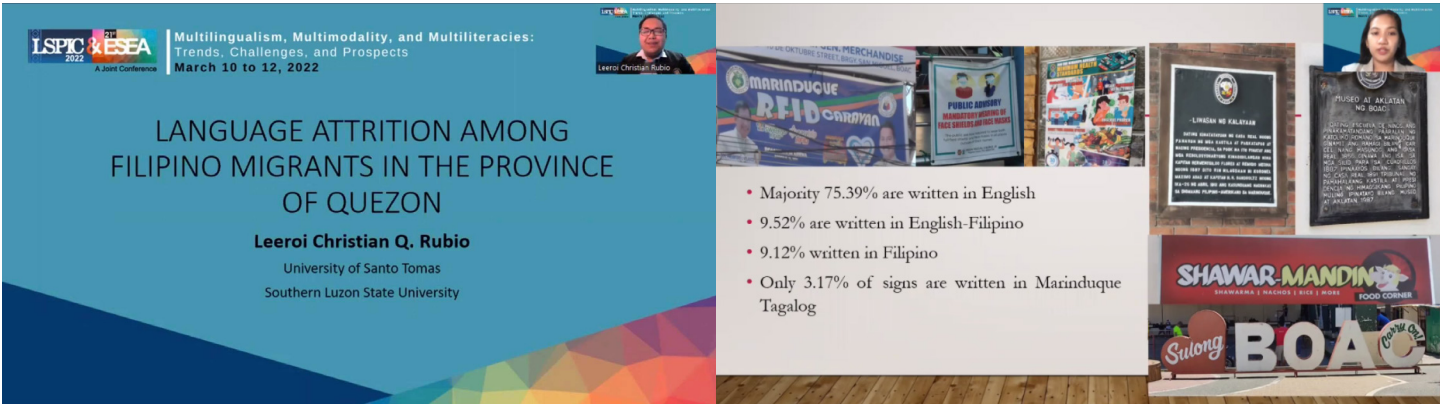
PhD ELS student Leeroi Christian Rubio presented a paper titled “Language Attrition among Filipino Migrants in the Province of Quezon.” Another PhD student, Cherie Ann M. Luna, also presented her paper titled “The Position of Marinduque Tagalog in the Linguistic Landscape of the Heritage Town of Boac in the Province of Marinduque.” Both papers were also featured during the parallel sessions under the theme of Multilingualism, Multimodalities and Multiliteracies.

The joint conference included five plenary lectures, 14 themed panel presentations, and over 160 paper presentations. The event was attended by local and international academics, researchers, and students.

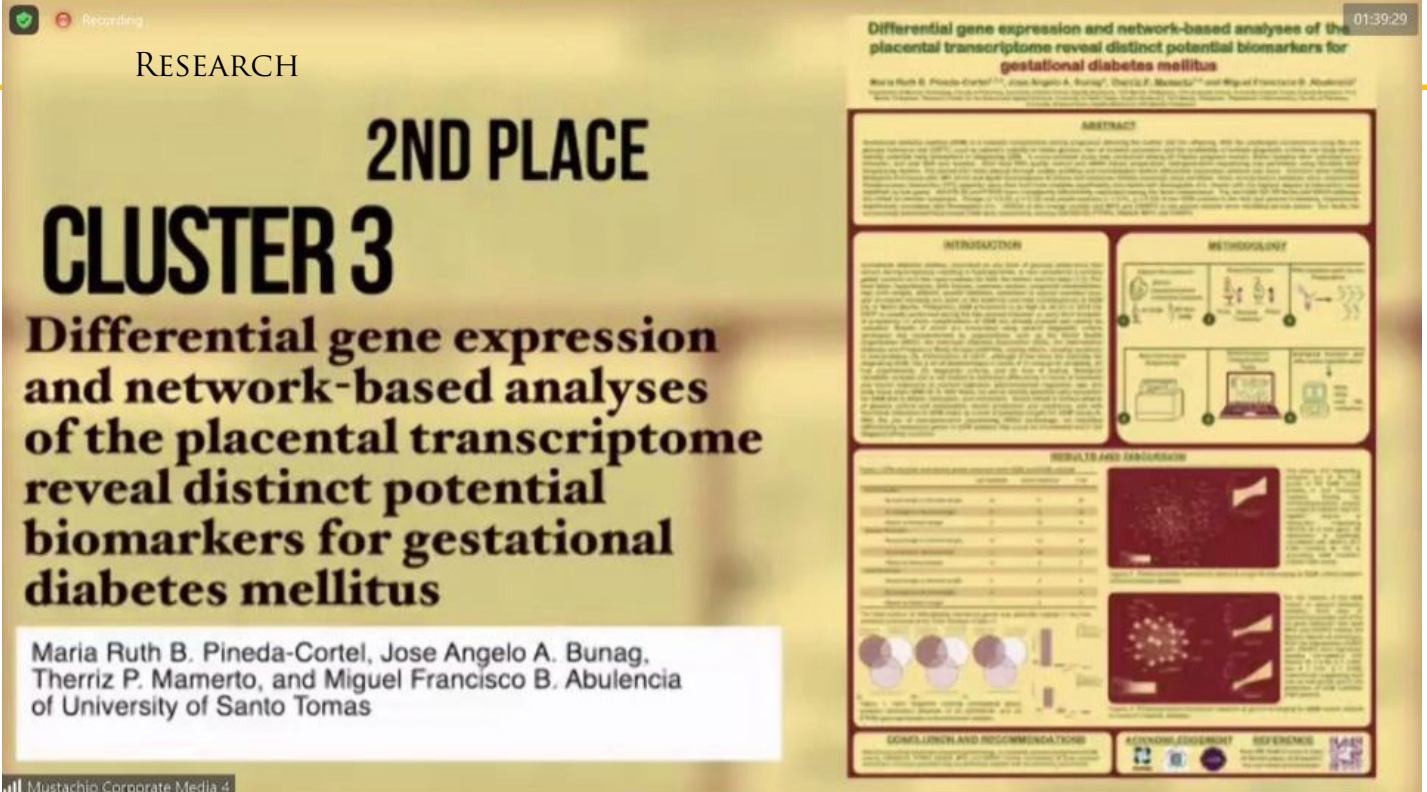


Talavera presents her paper.

Dr. Lintao (top row, center) and her group presents their paper.



Rubio (left) and Luna’s presentations



Dr. Pineda-Cortel’s poster is announced as second place winner.

Natural compounds research works are recognized at NRCP e-poster competition

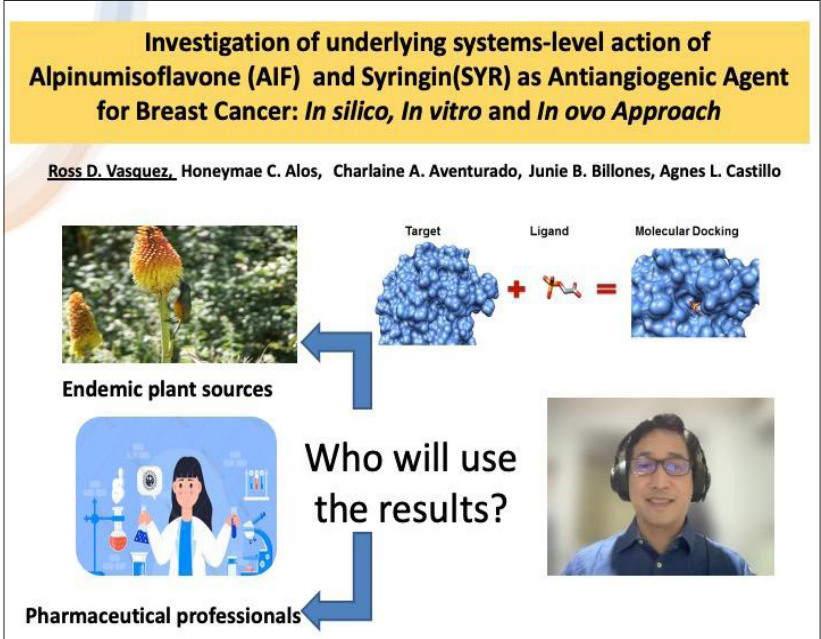
Two posters from the University of Santo Tomas bagged 2nd and 3rd place at the National Research Council of the Philippines (NRCP) - 2022 Annual Scientific Conference e-Poster competition for Health Research Category (Cluster 3).

The scientific poster competition is one of the highlights of the recently concluded Annual Scientific conference of the National Research Council of the Philippines held on March 15, 2022, via Zoom, with the theme, “Digital Transformation in Research: Powers and Perils.” All competing poster entries are research studies funded by NRCP and/or other DOST institutions.

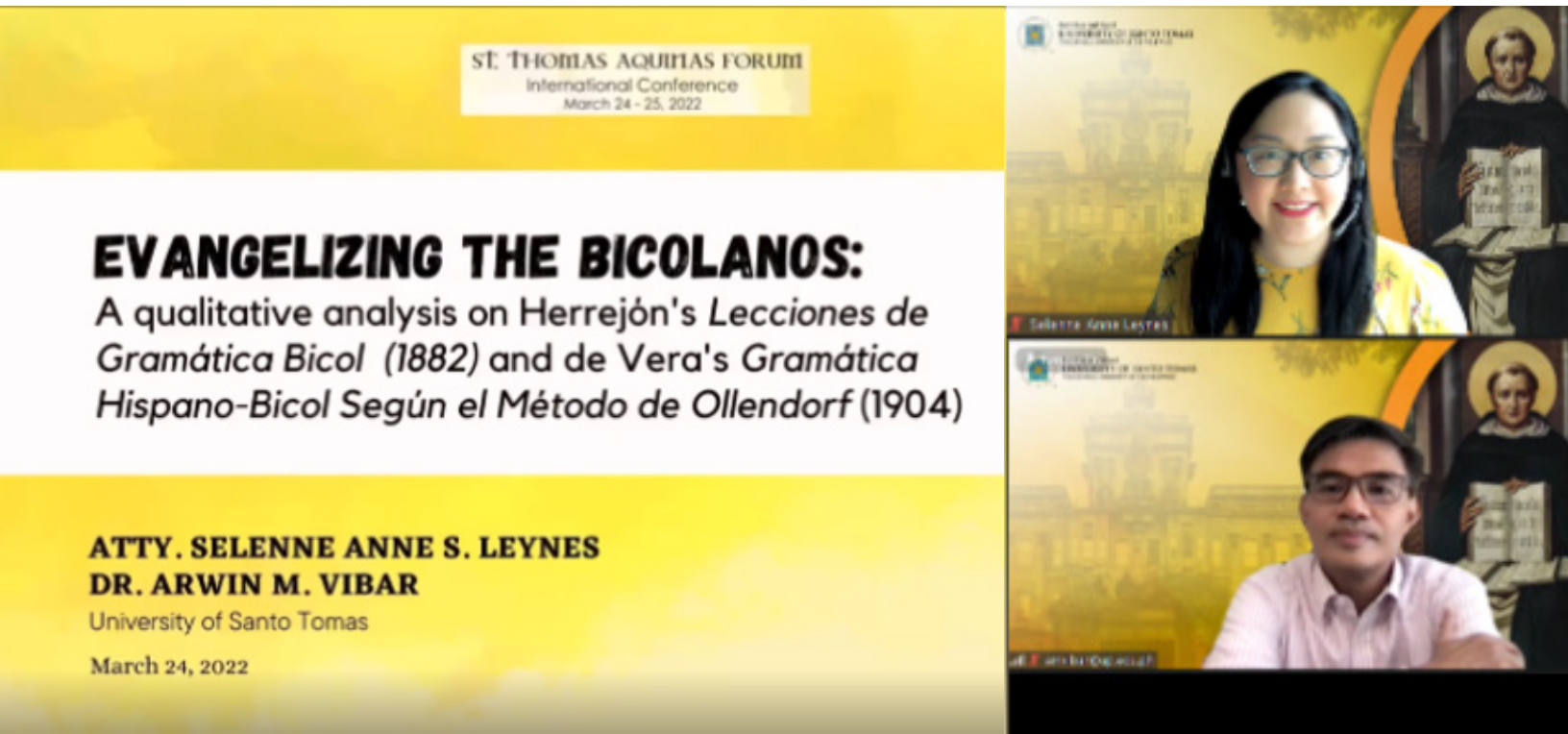
Bagging second place is the poster authored by Assoc. Prof. Maria Ruth B. Pineda-Cortel, Ph.D., a faculty member of the Faculty of Pharmacy and the Graduate School, together with Jose Angelo A. Bunag, Therriz Mae P. Mamerto, and Miguel Francisco B. Abulencia. Bunag and Mamerto are students at the UST Graduate School. The study titled, “Differential gene expression and network-based analyses of the placental transcriptome reveals distinct biomarkers for gestational diabetes mellitus (GDM),” aimed to identify potential early biomarkers of GDM in light of the possible instances of over-diagnosis, undiagnosis, or misdiagnosis due to the absence of a standard diagnostic criteria.

Winning 3rd place is a poster authored by Dr. Ross D. Vasquez and Dr. Agnes L. Castillo, also faculty members of the Faculty of Pharmacy and the UST Graduate School and co-authored by Graduate School students Ms. Charlaine A. Aventurado and Ms. Honeymae C. Alos. The poster reported antiangiogenic potential of Alpinium Isoflavone and syringin and their

potential application in cancer therapy using system-based approaches: *in silico*, molecular, cell and embryo-based assays. This winning poster emphasized that computer-aided – research design provides efficiency in minimizing the time, labor, cost of drug research, and streamlining the whole process of drug discovery and development.



Dr. Vasquez (right) presents his research.



Leynes (top window) and Vibar present their paper in the St. Thomas Aquinas Forum - International Conference in celebration of the 500 Years of Christianity

Leynes, Vibar of GS present papers on Missionary Linguistics, promote Bikol history, culture

Atty. Selenne Anne S. Leynes, a Ph.D. graduate student under the English Language Studies program and an academic staff from the Department of English, Faculty of Arts and Letters and Prof. Arwin M. Vibar, an Assistant Professorial Lecturer who teaches the course Missionary Linguistics at the UST Graduate School, presented their research on missionary linguistics in two research events: a national conference organized by UST Legazpi Bikol Studies Center on February 24, 2022 and an international conference by the UST Institute of Religion on March 24, 2022 .

In the first conference, Atty. Leynes and Dr. Vibar discussed their study titled “The linguistic, pedagogical, and religious experiences of the Bicolanos: A missionary linguistics approach” in PANDUWANG RAWOG: A Research Conference, which was held via Zoom.

During the paper presentation, Leynes emphasized the religious teachings present in the book written by Santos Herrejón underscoring that the missionary works integrate a lot of Christian teachings and doctrines unlike the post-Spanish grammar books that focus primarily on language teaching and learning.

“Although the other themes for verb conjugations that are used are the most common and basic ones for the children to experience and encounter such as go, walk, give, play, err, fear, and remind among others, it is love that is emphasized as perhaps all children should know not only how to use love with sense and meaning, but to also act with love,” said Leynes.

Vibar also added that as decided during the 1582 Synod of Manila, evangelization would be better carried out in the early Filipinos’ own tongues, so they started writing *artes* or grammars, which

ordinarily entailed compiling *vocabularios* or dictionaries, to facilitate the mastery of the local languages.

In the second conference, Leynes and Vibar presented the research titled “Evanglizing the Bicolanos: A qualitative analysis on Herrejón’s *Lecciones de Gramática Bicol* (1882) and de Vera’s *Gramática Hispano-Bicol Según el Método de Ollendorf* (1904)” in the St. Thomas Aquinas Forum - International Conference.

With the theme, “500 Years of Christianity in the Philippines: Embracing the Gift and Charting New Paths”, the international research conference also provided an opportunity for the presentation of the two grammar books that embodied linguistic rules, methods of language teaching and learning, different forms of evangelization, and fundamental theological teachings.

UST Nutrition students present at Tufts Research Symposium for Food and Nutrition

Fourth year BS Nutrition and Dietetics students from the Department of Nutrition and Dietetics, College of Education presented their study on emergency mobile apps at the 15th Tufts Research and Data Symposium for Food and Nutrition held last March 3-15.

Organized by the Massachusetts-based Tufts University, Gerald J. and Dorothy R. Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy, the forum gathered more than 1,000 participants from over 55 countries to share research on nutrition, agriculture, food systems, and health; discuss real-world challenges and controversies; and, explore the role of data analytics in their fields.

Johanna Marie C. dela Cruz appeared on behalf of her teammates Danielle Laetitia S. Maniego, Frances Earl V. Venturina, Jhanelle Jayveeh B. Ricohermoso, and Ralph Ingrid V. Amisola to discuss their paper “Development and Pretesting of a Nutrition in Emergency Mobile Application, eSNAP: Emergency Surveillance and Nutrition Assessment para sa mga Pilipino.”

Mr. Daniel G. Salunga, MS, who is a former officer of the Philippine Society of Nutritionist-Dietitians, Inc., served as their research adviser.



Presenters and participants

Accountancy faculty members present papers in accounting conference

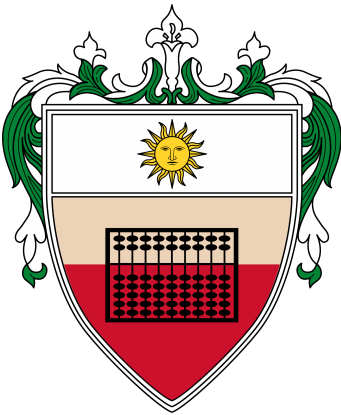
Several faculty members from the UST-Alfredo M. Velayo College of Accountancy presented research papers in the recently concluded 8th Mid-year Accounting Teacher’s International Conference (MYATIC) on March 26, 2022.

Assoc. Prof. Dennis C. Ligan, Ph.D., BS Management Accounting chairperson, presented the paper “Impact of Debt Financing on Profitability: The Case of Publicly Listed Philippine Companies in the Real Estate Industry”, with Sofia Marie L. Mosquera, John Arden A. Oabel, Leanne Claire C. Oblena, Francis Matthew N. Obligacion, and Sophia Isabelle D. Olalia as co-authors. The paper “Tracer Study for BS in Management Accounting: The Perspective of the UST-AMV College of Accountancy’s Management Accounting Graduates on Skills and Competencies Needed for Career Success” was presented by Asst. Prof. Michael M. Dalimot with

Rochelle Anne R. Paragas, Hannah Cassandra M. Parrocha, Theresa May M. Panopio, Sofia Mariz L. Rodriguez, and Renato G. Roldan as co-authors. Finally, Ms. Melba C. Matula presented the paper “Sustainability Reporting Compliance of Philippine Publicly-Listed Companies in the Finance Industry.” The said paper was co-authored by Kyla Kathryn L. Basid, Jenny F. Belen, Armelle Marie R. Catapang, Precious Anne P. Correa, and Hannah Arianne L. Cuna.

The 8th MYATIC is organized by the National Association of Certified Public Accounts in Education.

This year’s conference theme was “Learned Accounting Teachers Thriving Through Reflective Transformation” with Mr. Voravit Janthanakul, president of the ASEAN Federation of Accountants, as the keynote speaker.





Andalecio and Martin win Best Paper (First Place) under the Faculty and Graduate Student Category

CTHM academic staff, students bag research plums at nat'l conferences

The University of Santo Tomas College of Tourism and Hospitality Management (CTHM) presented one faculty research paper, three student research works from the Hospitality Management Department and one from the Tourism Management Department during the Philippine Association of Researchers for Tourism and Hospitality, Inc. (PARTH) 7th Tourism and Hospitality Annual Research Convention (THARC) and 8th Annual Tourism and Hospitality Student Research Conference (ATHSRC) on March 19 and 26, 2022, respectively.

CTHM Dean, Assoc. Prof. Gezzez Giezi G. Granado, DCL, served as one of the speakers who shared about the research and innovation culture, along with the best practices of the College of Tourism and Hospitality Management.

The faculty research presented was authored by Mr. Avi Ben P. Andalecio and Dr. Edwin S. Martin. The paper, "A Preliminary Study on Productivity Investments in Tourism Security of a Multi-Islands Province: Analytics Approach for Holiday Destination Holistic Strategy for Community-Based Tourism Model of Romblon, The Philippines," was awarded Best Research Manuscript under the faculty and graduate student category.

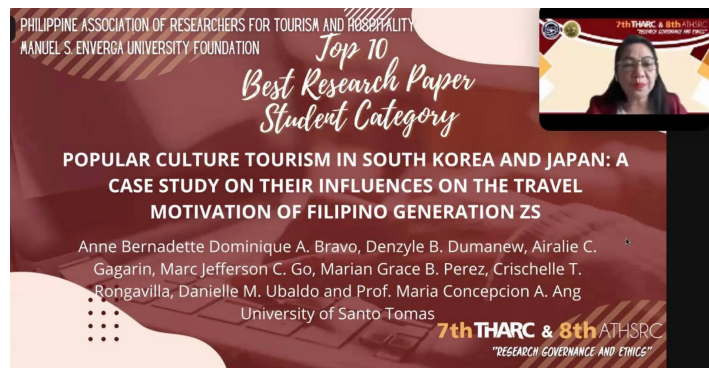
The student research works presented were: "Popular Culture Tourism in South Korea and Japan: A Case Study on Their Influences on the Travel Motivation of Filipino Generation Zs" by Anne Bernadette Dominique A. Bravo, Denzyle B. Dumanew, Airalie C. Gagarin, Marc Jefferson C. Go, Marian B. Perez, Crischelle T. Rongavilla, and Danielle M. Ubaldo from the Tourism Department and co-authored by their Adviser, Asst. Prof. Maria Concepcion A. Ang. Under the Hospitality Management Department were papers by Jomar R. Alejandrino, Madeleen L. Alvarez, Stacey Kimberly T. Lee, Gwyneth Faith Y. Ty, Joana Marie C. Unica, and co-authored by their adviser Chef Ramona Oga O. Del Rosario-Ko titled "Dimensions of Online Laboratory Classes that Influence the Well-being of Culinary Entrepreneurship Students"; "Customer Perception and Purchase Intention on Alamid Coffee: A Marketing Analysis" by Bernardine Margaret A. Paulino, Rhaianne Rizza S. Peralta, Peter Uriel L. Pilar, Janiell Rose B. Regualos, Camille Patricia S. Villela, and Prof. Kathrine Camille A. Nagal; and "Travel Motivation of College Students in Metro Manila through Social Media Influencers' Content" by Jerome Adrian A. Santos, Divina Andrea N. Aldave, Estefani Regine A. Ballelos, Jena Andrea P. Hayao, Hinano Q. Mizuno, Lea Grace S. So, Adrielle Kyle G. Tirado, co-authored by their adviser Mr. Karl R. Baroro.

After a double-blind review by experts in the field of tourism and hospitality, the faculty research paper, "A Preliminary Study

on Productivity Investments in Tourism Security of a Multi-Islands Province: Analytics Approach for Holiday Destination Holistic Strategy for Community-Based Tourism Model of Romblon, The Philippines," got the top spot among the 45 papers across the country. Meanwhile, "Customer Perception and Purchase Intention on Alamid Coffee: A Marketing Analysis" and "Popular Culture Tourism in South Korea and Japan: A Case Study on Their Influences on the Travel Motivation of Filipino Generation Zs" qualified for the Best Research Paper - Undergraduate Category and ranked Top three and five respectively among 62 papers across the country.



CTHM students win Third Place, Best Research Paper in the Undergraduate Category.



Another group paper is named one of the Top 10 Best Research Papers in the Undergraduate Category.

CLINICAL CASE THERAPEUTIC DRUG MONITORING IN RESOURCE-LIMITED HEALTH CARE INSTITUTIONS IN THE PHILIPPINES

Objectives:

1. Evaluate the practice of aminoglycoside use and monitoring in an urban, public, resource-limited hospital in Manila, Philippines.
2. Identify gaps in the clinical use of aminoglycosides and opportunities for improvement of therapeutic drug monitoring in this pediatric population.

Setting:

A 3-hour old female patient weighing 2.8 kg was born to a 35-year-old G3P3 (3003) mother with a urinary tract infection in an urban public hospital in Manila, Philippines. Vital signs and physical exam were within normal limits. Septic workup was performed on samples from the newborn within the first 24 hours of life, including complete blood count (CBC), C-reactive protein (CRP), and blood cultures to rule out infection. The patient was treated with ampicillin 140 mg IV every 12 hours (50 mg/kg/dose) and gentamicin 11.2 mg IV every 24 hours (4 mg/kg/dose) for seven days for prophylaxis against early-onset neonatal sepsis. Septic workup results for the CBC and CRP were unremarkable, and blood culture revealed no growth. Gentamicin peaks and troughs were not ordered.

The combination of ampicillin and gentamicin is routinely ordered for neonatal patients at this hospital who are either suspected to be septic due to maternal factors or have a confirmed diagnosis of sepsis. The antibiotic regimen selection, dosing, and duration of therapy for this patient are consistent with recommended treatment guidelines for neonatal sepsis (1,2). Close monitoring of aminoglycoside levels is recommended as this class of drugs may cause nephrotoxicity and ototoxicity. In resource-limited settings in some parts of the world, access to laboratory evaluations may be intermittent or not available. With the absence of clinical pharmacokinetic monitoring of peak and trough concentrations in a neonatal intensive care unit (NICU), this case reflects a potential compromise in safely administering aminoglycosides (3).

Table 1 shows the identified gaps and the corresponding opportunities in improving aminoglycoside use and monitoring at an urban public hospital in Metro Manila, Philippines.

Discussion:

This case revealed that adherence to global treatment guidelines for sepsis is problematic in this setting, and raises concerns around potential, preventable harm to patients with the lack of proper monitoring of newborns given with aminoglycosides in areas of the Philippines. The presence of a clinical pharmacist specializing in pediatrics has been well-documented in the literature and could help improve patient outcomes. These observations could serve as bases in formulating strategic directions to improve the practices of aminoglycoside use and monitoring to ensure patient safety and quality of care in resource-limited hospitals.

References:

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2. Fuchs A, Bielicki J, Mathur S, Sharland M, Van Den Anker J. Antibiotic use for sepsis in neonates and children: 2016 Evidence Update. WHO Reviews. 2016. Available from: http://www.who.int/selection_medicines/committees/expert/21/applications/s6_paed_
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CASE CONTINUED

Table 1. Gaps and Opportunities in Improving Aminoglycoside Use and Monitoring

Gaps	Opportunities
Absence of clinical pharmacists	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishment of a clinical pharmacy service Interprofessional collaboration to improve patient outcomes Empower pharmacists to conduct therapeutic drug monitoring (TDM).
Lack of healthcare TDM knowledge and absence of TDM protocols	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TDM training of drugs with narrow therapeutic indices such as AGs Modernization of the hospital and patient medical records which are currently on paper Use of medical calculators to compute the correct aminoglycoside dose.
Insufficient diagnostic protocol for sepsis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development of a sepsis workup protocol including antibiotic therapy selection, including assessment methods to monitor for efficacy and safety Documentation of incidence of early onset sepsis in the medical record.

Submitted by Faculty of Pharmacy, University of Santo Tomas, Manila, Philippines

- Roi Martin B. Pajimna, RPh, MSc.
- Agnes L. Castillo, RPh, PhD, Associate Professor/Resident Researcher
- Marlon C. Mallillin, III, RPh, MPH(I)
- Prof. Aleth Therese L. Dacanay, PhD, Dean of the Faculty

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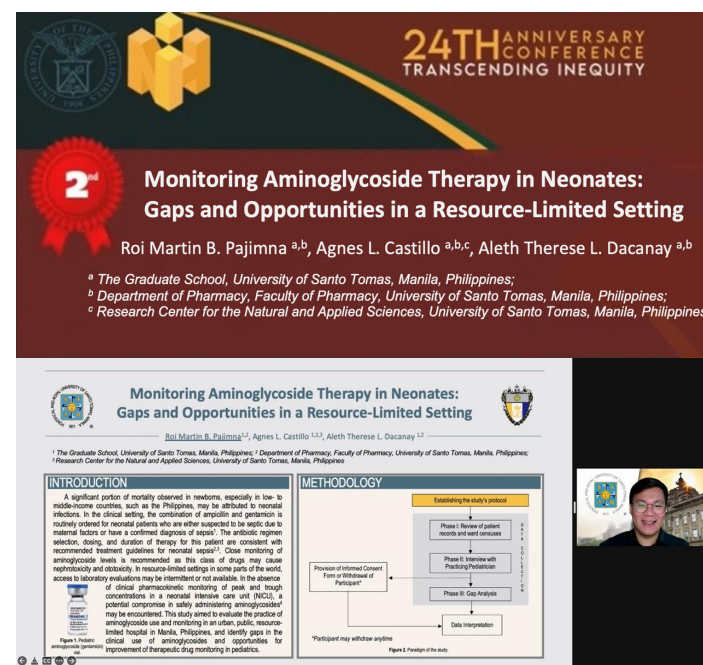
GS student wins 2nd place in UP – National Institutes of Health 24th Anniversary Conference

Another display of Thomasian excellence is credited to Mr. Roi Martin B. Pajimna, a Ph.D. in Pharmacy student at the UST Graduate School, together with his mentors and professors, Assoc. Prof. Agnes L. Castillo, Ph.D., and Dean Aleth Therese L. Dacanay, Ph.D., as they were awarded Second Place

in the research poster competition hosted by the University of the Philippines – National Institute of Health during its 24th Anniversary Conference that took place from March 2 to 4, 2022.

The research poster titled "Monitoring Aminoglycoside Therapy in Neonates: Gaps and Opportunities in a Resource-Limited Setting" focused on evaluating the practice of aminoglycoside use and monitoring in an urban, public, resource-limited hospital in Manila, Philippines, and identified the gaps in the clinical use of aminoglycosides and opportunities for improvement of therapeutic drug monitoring in a special population, the neonates. The study gathered data for the gap analysis by reviewing patient and ward records as well as conducting interviews with practicing pediatricians. The absence of clinical pharmacists, poor diagnostic protocols for sepsis, and a lack of healthcare TDM expertise and protocols are among the gaps observed. The authors made suggestions for addressing these gaps and ensuring better healthcare. "These findings could serve as the foundation for creating strategic directions to improve aminoglycoside use and monitoring practices to ensure patient safety and quality of care," the authors wrote.

The study was developed as Mr. Pajimna's capstone research project for the Advanced Pharmaceutical Care and Clinical Pharmacokinetics courses that he took with Assoc. Prof. Castillo and Prof. Dacanay, respectively. A clinical case report, which is a part of the study, has also been published in the American College of Clinical Pharmacy (ACCP) Global Health Practice and Research Networks (PRN) Fall 2021 Newsletter.



Pajimna virtually accepts the award



Gapas (bottom window) receives his certificate during the online program.

GS alumnus Gapas bags 2nd prize from PSSC for research on Marawi City crisis news framing

UST Graduate School alumnus Wilfred Gabriel Gapas is the second-place recipient of the Loretta Makasiar Sicat (LMS) Prize for the Social Sciences for his master's thesis. This award was announced by the Philippine Social Science Council (PSSC), the host institution, on March 19 and was formally awarded last April 6, 2022.

Gapas, who completed his bachelor's (2015) and master's degrees (2020) in English Language Studies (ELS) at UST, expressed his gratitude at this distinction, saying "I thank the PSSC and the Sicat family for this award and for recognizing my work's significance and impact."

He also thanked the ELS program lead, Department of English Chair, and his supervisor, Prof. Rachelle B. Lintao, Ph.D., for nominating his research to the LMS Prize.

His winning work, "The Newsworthiness of an Armed Conflict: A Corpus-Assisted Multimodal Discourse Analysis of Selected Philippine Newspaper Reports",

explored the rhetorical practices used in local broadsheets in framing the 2017 Marawi City crisis as a newsworthy event. He emphasized how these broadsheets, through the ideas they reproduce to their readers, can shape how people understand the crisis as an act of terrorism, which he believes is a contentious concept.

"My paper somehow asks journalists to be aware and judicious of the realities they present to the readers, who in turn are encouraged to read varied news sources," Gapas shared in an interview.

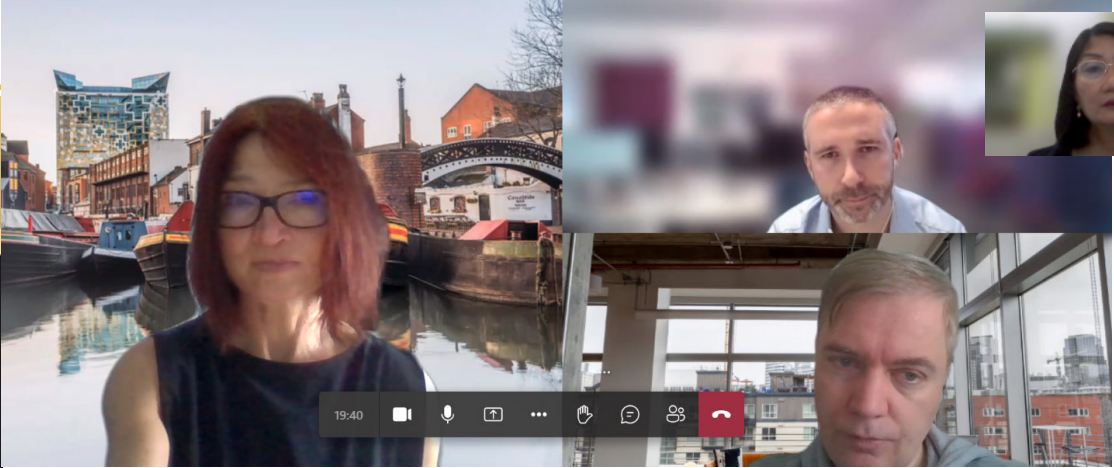
The prize was launched in September 2021 to honor the legacy of political science scholar and former PSSC executive director to whom the award was named after. It was open to Filipino graduate students who wrote their theses or dissertations in the social sciences from Philippine higher education institutions and were nominated by their department or college.

All nominated papers underwent a selection process, where five finalists were chosen for a three-member panel review to

determine the best manuscript. This year's reviewers were cognitive psychologist Dr. Allan Benedict I. Bernardo, University of the Philippines (UP) System Vice President for Public Affairs Dr. Elena E. Pernia, and marine anthropologist Dr. Cynthia N. Zayas.

The inaugural recipient of the LMS Prize for the best thesis was MA Demography graduate Sanny Boy D. Afable (UP Diliman). As first-place recipient, he discussed his work, "Demographic Correlates of Late-Life Depression in the Philippines: Exploring Gender Differences" during the awarding ceremony on April 6, 2022 and received USD 5,000 as the grand prize.

The three other finalists were Mico A. Galang (third place, MA International Studies) and June Michael B. Salcor (fourth place, MA Media Studies) from UP Diliman and Ma. May Flor Sentina (fifth place, PhD in Guidance and Counseling) from the Philippine Normal University. Along with Galang, Gapas received a prize of USD 500.



UST Faculty of Arts and Letters Dean Prof. Marilu R. Madrunio, Ph.D., (inset), meets with Dr. Selena Teeling, International Relations Manager of Aston University (left), Dr. Keith Schofield, Associate Dean International (upper right) and Dr. Krzysztof Kredens, head of the MA Forensic Linguistics program (lower right).

UST AB partners with Aston University on Forensic Linguistics Master's Program

The Faculty of Arts and Letters recently forged an academic partnership with Aston University in Birmingham, England in the United Kingdom, for a full-time Master's degree program in forensic linguistics.

Part of the Memorandum of Understanding is the establishment of a teaching partnership collaboration (articulation or progression) where BA English Language Studies graduates from UST who satisfy the agreed academic criteria can apply to be admitted to Aston's full-time MA Forensic Linguistics program and receive a partnership discount in tuition fee. The MA program is for one year.

With its Aston Institute of Forensic Linguistics (AIFL) headed by Professor Tim Grant, Aston University offers a very strong program in Forensic Linguistics, which is a relatively new field of

research in applied linguistics in most countries. Aston University is the fourth institution in the UK with which UST has established a partnership.

Aston University is one of the highly ranked universities in the United Kingdom. It was the recipient of the University of the Year Award by *The Guardian* in 2020, and the Outstanding Entrepreneurial University award by the Times Higher Education, also in 2020. Its Business School is triple-accredited (AACSB-accredited, EQUIS-accredited, AMBA-accredited), a classification given to only 73 business schools worldwide by the three leading business school accreditation associations. The Telegraph newspaper also ranked Aston among the top 10 UK universities for producing millionaires.



Dr. Mark Irvin Celis (top row, third from left) and Kathrine Camille A. Nagal (second row, fifth from left) with the rest of the Board.

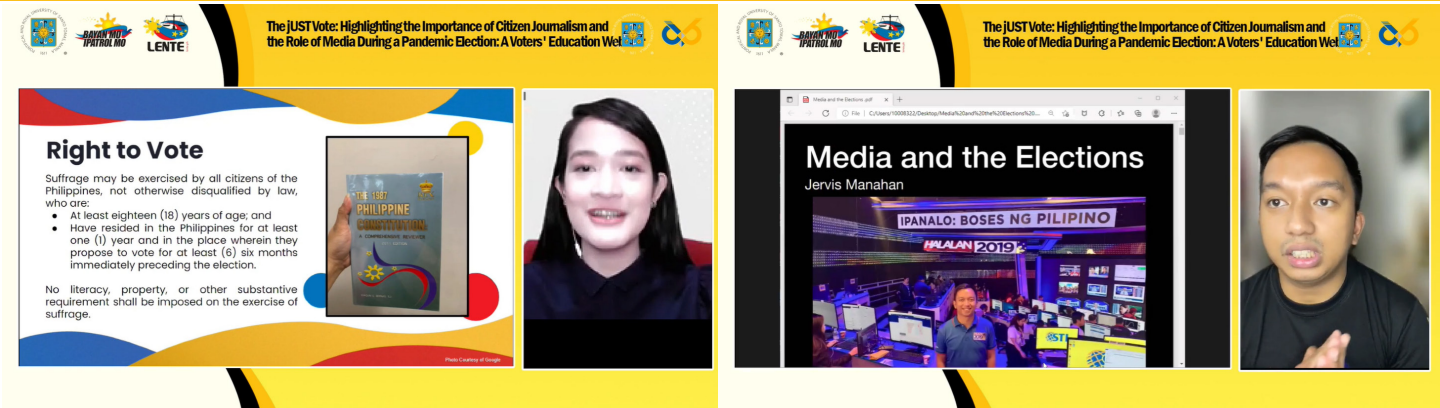
Celis of CTHM elected COHREP president

Dr. Mark Irvin C. Celis and Ms. Kathrine Camille A. Nagal are elected as incoming President and Asst. Secretary, respectively, of the Council of Hotel and Restaurant Educators of the Philippines (COHREP). The elections occurred on March 26, 2022, via Zoom during the General Membership Meeting.

The event, virtually hosted by the Davao Region XI Chapter of the organization, highlighted its outlook of the industry, through the theme "Synergy Amidst Adversity: Developing appropriate,

viable, and adaptable communities."

There were 21 nominees for the election which included three faculty members of the College of Tourism and Hospitality Management – Dr. Mark Irvin C. Celis, Chef Theresa B. Resurreccion, and Ms. Kathrine Camille A. Nagal – as well as other current members of the Board of Directors, and representatives from other Regions. Out of the all the nominees, 15 were elected as the incoming Board of Directors.



Eduardo discusses the services and functions of LENTE prior to and during election season.

Manahan specifies the responsibilities of media during elections.

UST voters' education webinar focuses on citizen journalism, media responsibilities

The University of Santo Tomas, through the Office of Public Affairs, in partnership with ABS-CBN's Bayan Mo, I-patrol Mo (BMPM), and the Legal Network for Truthful Elections (LENTE), held a voters' education webinar titled, "The jUST Vote: Highlighting the Importance of Citizen Journalism and the Role of Media during a Pandemic Election." The event was held through Zoom and livestreamed on the UST Facebook page on April 5, 2022.

Through its discussions, the webinar raised awareness and continued the dialogue on how the academe, media, youth, and other sectors of society can work together for a truthful and fair election. Serving as speakers were Ms. Rowena Paraan, Head of Bayan Mo, i-Patrol Mo; LENTE Networking and Advocacy Officer Ms. Antonette Eduardo; and journalist Mr. Jervis Manahan from ABS-CBN News.

UST Secretary-General Rev. Fr. Louie R. Coronel, O.P., in his welcome remarks, said that "During this time of the pandemic, the media has relentlessly fulfilled their mission of giving comprehensive coverage of the 2022 elections. May their

commitment inspire us to be equipped with the proper training to contribute to these truth-seeking initiatives."

For the topic "Citizen Journalism and the Election," Paraan shared how every Filipino can responsibly exercise their right to free expression and access to information through citizen journalism. Through this initiative, ordinary people can share documentation, such as photos and videos, on local issues and concerns. Such reports can cover issues such as lacking school facilities to community threats such as natural disasters. Verified citizen reports can give important, first-hand viewpoints of crucial moments that reporters may not be able to catch in time, since newsrooms may often send journalists after an incident has happened.

Aside from highlighting community issues, citizen journalism can become a bridge between those in need and those who can help, call attention to emergencies, provide a venue for sharing positive experiences and moments of human interest, share

Fr. Coronel delivers the welcome remarks.



Journalism coordinator Mr. Felipe Salvosa II shares his insights on the presentations.

updates from the ground on key issues, such as election campaigns and calamities, and fight disinformation, explained Paraan.

This was followed by a discussion on the "The Role of Media during the Elections." Through media, voters can be educated on how to exercise their right to suffrage, learn about the developments of election campaigns, and have a platform to communicate their concerns and needs, shared Manahan. It also allows candidates to share their platforms through debates. Media coverage also includes reporting results and vote counting to protect against anomalies and scrutiny of the entire electoral process, from preparations to the day itself.

Media responsibilities also include leveling the playing field or giving underrepresented candidates airtime; explaining comprehensively the platforms, track records, campaign promises, and stands on issues of the candidates, with

UST VOTERS' EDUCATION TO PAGE 15



Paraan explains how ordinary people can contribute to citizen journalism.

UCT COMELEC Vice-chairperson Alyssa Ragodon serves as the student panelist.

UST VOTERS' EDUCATION FROM PAGE 14

the end goal of ensuring that the public is well-informed.

Manahan also highlighted the deluge of misinformation and disinformation in the time leading up to May 2022. In this context, media and ordinary citizens must carefully do their part to fact-check to stop the proliferation of falsehoods and protect themselves from being victims of misinformation and disinformation. Particularly, Manahan warns that media consumers should watch for 'representation' in the media of issues, candidates, and platforms.

Eduardo shared the various duties of

LENTE, a non-partisan nationwide network of lawyers, law students, paralegals, and volunteers who do election work and pre-election preparations, such as assisting PWDs and other vulnerable sectors in voter registration. The Network also pursues election reforms in such cases where policies or laws become obsolete or unfitting in present contexts to make elections accountable, transparent, and inclusive; monitors electoral processes, and raises public awareness on voters' rights.

Amidst the ongoing pandemic, Eduardo also cautioned that voters should meticulously follow health protocols, whether one is showing symptoms or not.

Prior to a question-and-answer portion, insights and reactions were shared by Ms. Alyssa S. Ragodon, Vice-Chairperson of the UST Central Commission on Elections, and Mr. Felipe Salvosa II, the Journalism Program Coordinator of the Faculty of Arts and Letters.

The event was a result of a #Halalan2022 partnership with BMPM, which UST joined on January 17, 2022. In her closing remarks, OPA Director Asst. Prof. Joreen T. Rocamora, Ph.D., said "we gladly welcome this opportunity to help our youth make informed choices and participate meaningfully in the voting process."

NEWS



Ar. Jennifer T. Angeles, Ph.D. Ar. John Joseph T. Fernandez Ar. Felicisimo A. Tejuco, Jr. Ar. Christian F. Guerrero Ar. Maria Lynn S. Del Rosario

Architecture academic staff are elevated as Fellows of UAP, PIA

College of Architecture academic staff Assoc. Prof. Jennifer T. Angeles, Ph.D., Assoc. Prof. John Joseph T. Fernandez, Asst. Prof. Felicisimo A. Tejuco, Jr., and Christian F. Guerrero joined the College of Fellows of the United Architects of the Philippines (UAP), while Ar. Maria Lynn S. Del Rosario was elevated to Fellowship of the Philippine Institute of Architects (PIA).

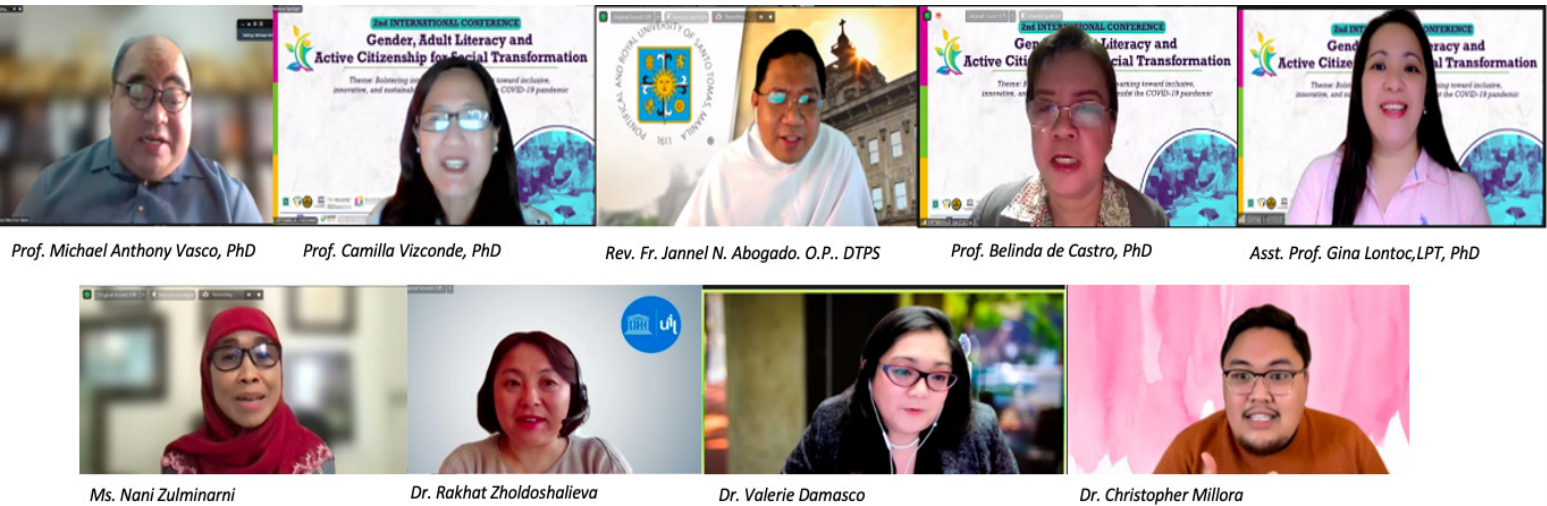
These faculty members were recognized for their outstanding

contribution to the architecture and design practice, architectural education, and their service to their respective institutions.

UAP is the integrated and accredited professional organization of architects in the Philippines.

PIA is a society of architects in the Philippines, the oldest of its kind in Asia.

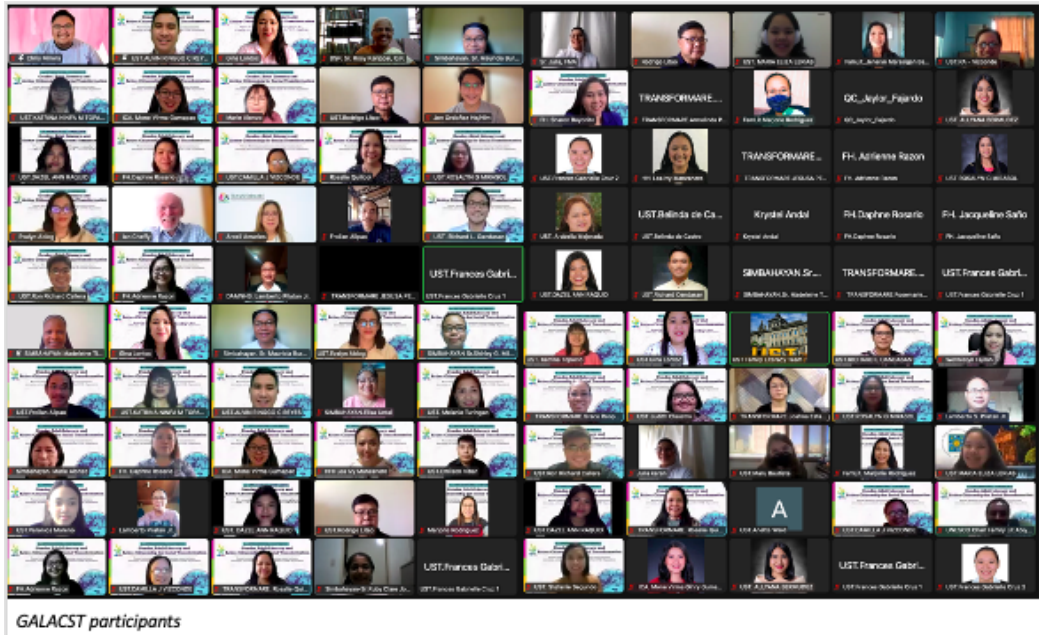
Fellows act as the advisory and consultative body of both UAP and PIA.



GS, RCSSED at the forefront of the 2nd GALACST International Conference

The UST Graduate School, together with the Research Center for Social Sciences and Education (RCSSEd), and *Transformare: A network of adult literacy and lifelong learning advocates*, in collaboration with the UNESCO Chair in Adult Literacy and Learning for Social Transformation at the University of East Anglia, UK brought to the fore the second international conference on Gender, Adult Literacy, and Active Citizenship for Social Transformation (GALACST). This year's theme was “*Bolstering inter-generational linkages towards inclusive, innovative and sustainable communities amidst the Covid19 pandemic.*”

This online event was held via Zoom on March 25-26, 2022. The participants were welcomed by Rev. Fr. Jannel N. Abogado, O.P., DTPS, the Acting Vice-Rector for Research and Innovation. This was followed by the opening remarks given by Prof. Michael Anthony Vasco, PhD, the Dean of the Graduate School. The Keynote Speech which was on the topic of Lifelong Learning and Education for Equality and Justice was delivered by Ms. Nani Zulminarni, the President of the Asia-South Pacific Association for Basic and Adult Education(ASPBAE) and the Founder of Perempuan Kepala Keluarga (PEKKA) or Women Headed Family Empowerment. What followed afterwards was the Launching of the Family Literacy and Intergenerational Learning Certificate Course where Asst. Prof. Gina Lontoc, PhD, the Country Project Lead of the UST Family Literacy Projects, presented the rationale of the program and introduced



the mentors and scholars.

Three plenary sessions took place during the event. The first one was on the topic of ‘Unlocking the potential of Family and Intergenerational Learning’ by Dr. Rakhat Zholdoshalieva, the Team Leader of Policy Support and Capacity Development in Lifelong Learning, UNESCO Institute for Lifelong Learning in Hamburg. Another plenary talk was by Dr. Valerie Damasco, Researcher/Project Director from the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education (OISE), the University of Ontario, Canada. Her topic examines the changing structure of transnational families and literacy initiatives implications for equity and

inclusion intergenerational learning, health, and community participation”. The third plenary session which was focused on the theme, “Learning in/through social action: Literacies, knowledges and active citizenship” was shared by Dr. Christopher Millora. He currently acts as the Chair of British Association for Literacy in Development (BALID), United Kingdom.

Quickfire sessions were also held on each day of the conference. These sessions involved the UST Simbahayan Community Development Office and other partners who shared their best practices in terms of health, livelihood, culture, and various

GS, RCSSED TO PAGE 17

UST Team spearheads First National Conference on Black Nazarene

The First National Conference on the Black Nazarene was held virtually on March 16 to 17, 2022, hosted by the Minor Basilica of the Black Nazarene (Quiapo Church).

The lead convenor, Msgr. Hernando Coronel, Ph.D., Rector and Parish Priest of the Quiapo Church, was assisted by a volunteer team from UST: Prof. Felicidad Galang-Perena, Ed.D., Prof. Roberto D. Ampil, Ph.D., Prof. Luciana Lopez-Urquiola, Ph.D., Assoc. Prof. Jeanette Perez-Grajo, Ph.D. and Asst. Prof. Christine Ivy Alarcon-Nogot. The UST team worked with the combined staff of the basilica and the Emergency Response Integration Center (ERIC), a non-profit, non-government organization specializing in Emergency Informatics.

The conference, with its theme, “Five Hundred Years of Christianity: Devotion and Discourse on the Black Nazarene”, was intended to: articulate the Christian faith through the devotion to the Black Nazarene; enunciate people’s perception of their encounter with the Black Nazarene from various perspectives; initiate a deeper understanding of the Black Nazarene phenomena from the perspective of Catholic Christian devotion to popular religiosity to an intellectual discourse through academic research; document the conference proceedings through the publication of selected scholarly research papers; educate the devotees and spread the devotion to the Black Nazarene.

In line with the conference objectives, the topics and strands surfaced on the Black Nazarene were as follows: universal devotion; personal encounters-- hope, healing, and renewal; miracles; socio-anthropological, ecumenical and inter-faith views; Filipino Christology; current situation in the age of social media; and evangelization trends, both domestic and global.

The keynote address was delivered by His Eminence Cardinal Luis Antonio G. Tagle, DD, whom Pope Francis designated as Prefect of the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples in 2019. Cardinal Tagle emphasized the importance of devotion to God---not by superficial worship but by the strength of belief in divine providence. In his incisive tracing of the history of the Filipinos’ devotion to the Black Nazarene, the Cardinal underscored the values of thanksgiving and *utang na loob* (sense of gratitude).



Msgr. Hernando Coronel, Ph.D. (top row, third from left) and Fr. Earl Allyson Valdez (top row, fourth from left) of the Minor Basilica of the Black Nazarene with the UST and ERIC team

Three plenary papers set the tone for the discourses shared by scholars and supplicants: “500 Taon ng Paglakad ng Bayan Kasama ang Poong Hesús Nazareno”; “Maka-Diyos at Makasambayang Pamamanata sa Poong Nazareno” and “Understanding Catholicism in a Shared Space for Religious Practices: An Analysis of Performing Sacred Vow to Nuestro Padre Jesús Nazareno of Quiapo” by Profs. Michael Charleston “Xiao” Chua (Univeristy of the Philippines/De La Salle University), Wilson Angelo Espiritu (Ateneo de Manila University/Catholic University of Leuven) and Mark Inigo Tallara (National University of Singapore/De La Salle University) respectively.

A special feature of the forum is a Round Table Discussion on the phenomenal devotion to the Black Nazarene, moderated by Drs. Roberto de Lara Ampil and Luciana Lopez-Urquiola, with a panel of secular devotees: Lilibeth Bautista, President, Handmaids of the Black Nazarene; Lance Raven Chato, Representative, Kabataang Deboto of the Black Nazarene; Juanito Tan Jr, Chairman, Hijos del Nazareno Central, Quiapo; and Mark Joseph Verdadero, Community Events Organizer, Minor Basilica of Black Nazarene, Quiapo.

In his closing remarks, Msgr. Coronel gave an accolade to all who participated in the forum: “Engaging the community of the Nazareno in this age means immersing into a life of dedication, service, and commitment.”

GS, RCSSED FROM PAGE 16

forms of learning amidst the COVID19 pandemic.

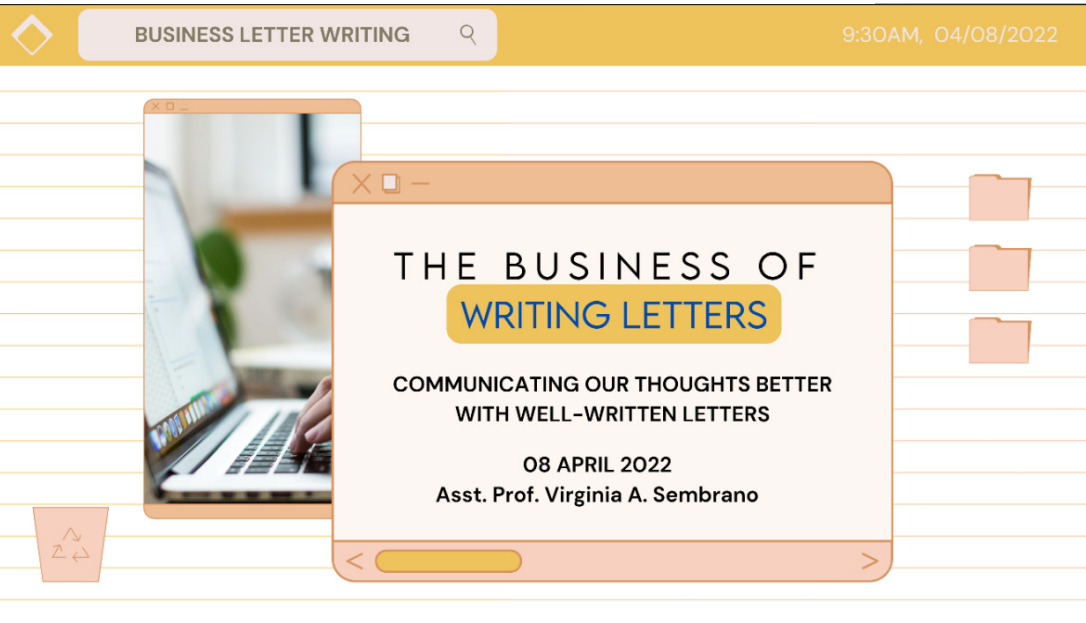
World Café sessions were also held where a discussion on topics like “Exploring the Roles of Local and Indigenous Knowledge Systems in Promoting Learning” was led by the Family Literacy Teams of the UNESCO Chair partner institutions such as the Bahir Dar University, Ethiopia and the University of Santo Tomas, Philippines. The results of a

collaborative research, “COVID-19 and its impact on Adult Learning and Education: a scoping research in the UK, Afghanistan and the Philippines”, between the British Association for Literacy in Development and Transformare was the focus during the second World Cafe session.

Another highlight of the conference was the Networking Hubs which were Zoom breakout rooms that were created according to themes such as environmental and economic sustainability, family literacy

and intergenerational learning, gender and development, health literacies, indigenous learning, inclusive education, and sustainable livelihoods. This gave the participants opportunities to meet people who share similar fields of interest; thus, expanding their networks.

The conference was ended by the closing remarks by Prof. Belinda de Castro, PhD, the Director of the UST Research Center for Social Sciences and Education(RCSSEd).



Sembrano during the discussion

Clear, efficient communication highlighted at UST OPA’s business letter writing webinar

The UST Office of Public Affairs held a webinar titled, “Paper Trails: Effective Engagement Through Business Letter Writing,” on April 8, 2022, via Zoom. Former OPA Acting Director Asst. Prof. Virginia A. Sembrano served as the speaker.

Sembrano, who has almost 45 years of writing, administrative, and teaching experience, focused on answering three main questions during her discussion: (a) “What makes an effective business letter?” (b) “How is clarity achieved in a concise message?” and (c) “What specific protocols should be followed in business letter writing?”

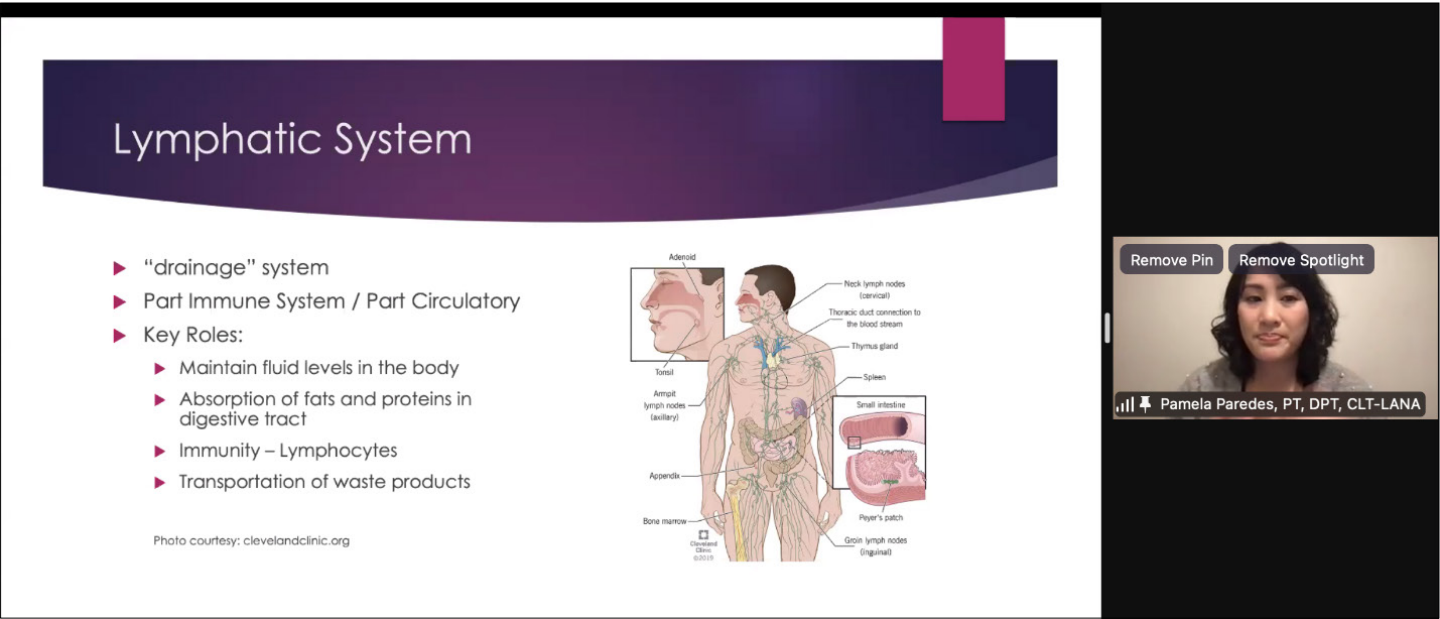
Having been the Faculty of Engineering Secretary and Office of Public Affairs Assistant to the Director for Publication for many years, Sembrano’s valuable letter writing expertise was generously shared with the target participants. Over the course of the two-hour discussion, she constructively critiqued actual anonymized letter samples, demonstrated alternative phrasing for common errors, provided proper formats and specific examples for the types of business letters usually exchanged in a school setting, and discussed memoranda and related promotional materials.

OPA Director Asst. Prof. Joreen T. Rocamora, Ph.D., echoed the importance of clear and efficient business correspondence in her opening remarks, saying that, “Effective communication has always been a primary focus of the Office of Public Affairs... may we further ease connection and communication among our offices and work together to advance the synergy among the University units.”

Over 230 administrative and academic officials, faculty secretaries, support staff, and student organization officers attended the event.



(From left:) OPA Assistant to the Director for Public Affairs Ms. Michaela O. Lagniton, who served as the host, OPA Director Asst. Prof. Joreen T. Rocamora, Ph.D., the speaker and former OPA Acting Director Asst. Prof. Virginia A. Sembrano, and the Assistant to the Director for Publication Ms. Katherine Patrice B. Sibug, who spearheaded the event



Paredes discusses lymphedema.

CRS holds virtual women’s health summit

In celebration of the women’s month, the University of Santo Tomas – College of Rehabilitation Sciences Alumni Association, Inc (UST-CRSAAI), in collaboration with the College of Rehabilitation Sciences (CRS) and CRS Faculty Club, held a virtual women’s health summit on March 19 and 20, 2022.

The speakers at this summit were all UST College of Rehabilitation Sciences alumni. They provided the participants with evidence-based approaches and treatments to common women’s health issues. All proceeds from the event went to the UST College of Rehabilitation Sciences Scholarship Fund.

Mr. Johann J. Dela Paz, PT, MS, Chair of the Organizing Committee, provided the participants with an overview of the summit. Assoc.Prof. Jocelyn F. Agcaoili, President of the UST-CRSAAI, Inc., and CRS Dean Assoc. Prof. Anne Marie C. Aseron were also present during the event.

The summit’s first day focused on the rehabilitation assessment and interventions for pelvic pain, breast cancer, and lymphedema. The first speaker, Alreen Day Alfonso, talked about pelvic pain assessment, treatment, and pelvic health in aging women. She discussed and demonstrated specific exercises that could help prevent pelvic dysfunction and improve overall pelvic health.

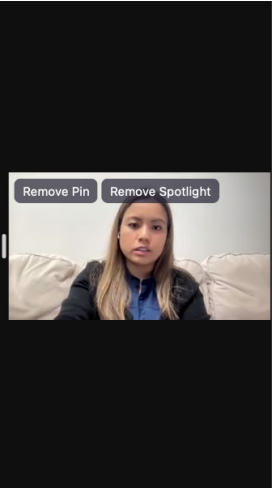
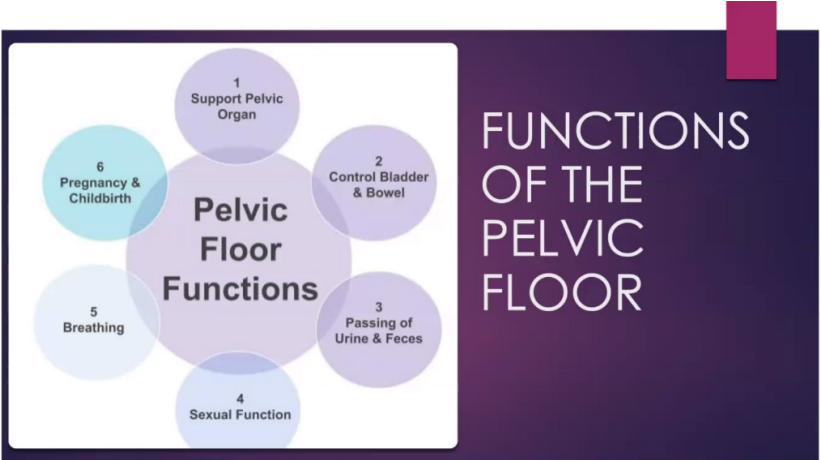
It was followed by a discussion on breast cancer and lymphedema by Pam Paredes. She explained how to perform manual lymphatic drainage and demonstrated the bandaging technique.

The second day of the summit focused on the movement approach to perinatal and postpartum care, physical and mental well-being of mothers during the

pandemic, and caring for one’s child and self. Anne Marieviel Olegario discussed some perinatal and postpartum exercises that can be used in designing exercise programs for pregnant women. Coach Alfa January Crisostomo provided several parenting tips that could help the mothers cope with their physical and mental health amidst the pandemic.

Lastly, Cecilia Anne Ibay talked about some mental health exercises and tips. She emphasized the need to acknowledge the simple everyday encounters we have as a means to feel grounded and guided—something she feels is usually overlooked because of being too exhausted from work.

The summit had 229 attendees and is equivalent to 7 CPD units as granted by the Professional Regulatory Commission – Continuing Professional Development (PRC-CPD) Council for Physical Therapy.



Alfonso’s presentation

Event participants

UST ELSSOC celebrates International Women’s Month with webinar on language, gender

Language is the most powerful means through which gender discrimination and sexism are often committed and demonstrated. In alignment with the objectives established by the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal No. 5, *Gender Equality*, the UST English Language Studies Society (ELSSOC) under the Faculty of Arts and Letters held the webinar “*HERSTORY: Inqueeries on language and gender construction*” on March 15, 2022.

The discussions focused on the diverse field of language and gender in relation to different societal topics that are linguistically experienced in one’s professional or academic background. The speakers highlighted how the role of linguistics in gender equality can be attained when everyone is addressed through language as persons of equal dignity and respect.

As the event aims to build an engagement among women-leaders and promote gender inclusivity, the guest speakers were Senator Risa Hontiveros, the current Chairperson of the Committee on Women, Children, Family Relations, and Gender Equality, Dr. Joey Andrew Lucido Santos, an English lecturer at King Mongkut’s University of Technology Thonburi in Bangkok, Thailand, and two professors from the Department of English and Comparative Literature of the University of the Philippines Diliman, Dr. Lalaine F. Yanilla-Aquino and Dr. Aileen Salonga.

Headed by the ELSSOC Adviser, Dr. Rachelle B. Lintao, ELSSOC President Marianne M. Manalo, and ELSSOC Auditor

Mary Caryl O. Lozano, the virtual event took place in March, to commemorate and align its agendas with the International Women’s Month.

SDG #5, Gender Equality, states that equality of men and women are basic

acknowledged and thanked Filipinos (particularly OFWs, farmers, women, and the LGBTQIA+ community), for their hard work and dedication for not only contributing to the improvement of our nation but for also advocating for everyone’s equal rights.

Dr. Santos shared his analysis of semiotic construction of transgender women, in which these women remain under the heteronormative culture and marginalized community. These are to be taken as a start off point in opening the discussion of trans discourse.

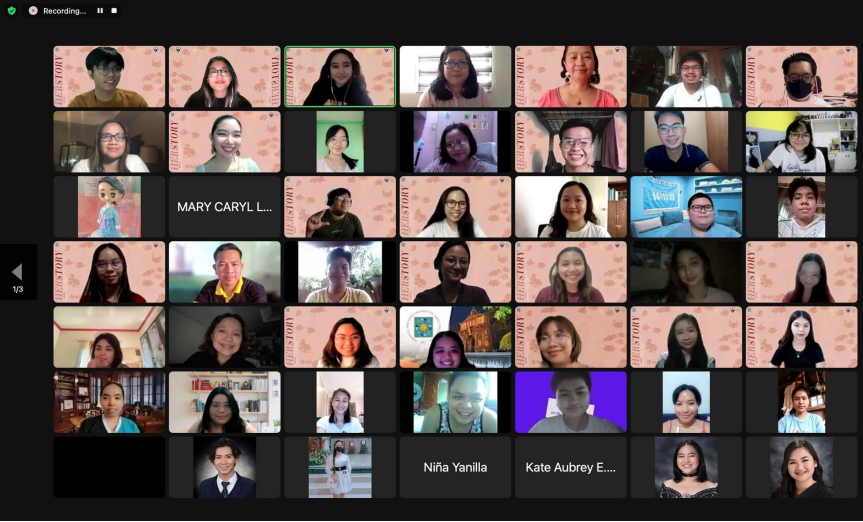
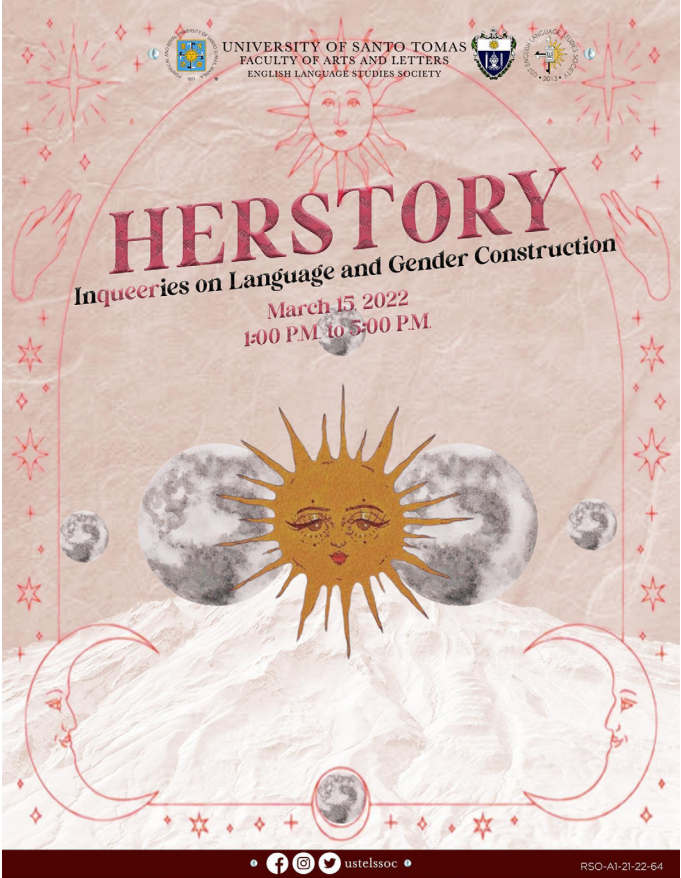
Dr. Aquino discussed the importance of gender representation and education based on the teachings written in one’s literary and academic writings, and how these resources can impact a child’s mind and awareness on how they can view themselves, their culture, their country, and the people around them.

The last speaker, Dr. Salonga, reminded the audience to keep challenging dominant gender ideologies and gender constructs to disrupt unequal gender and gendered relations of power, and make way for the more vibrant realities of our intersectional lives on the ground.

UST ELSSOC President Marianne Manalo, concluded the virtual event by strongly encouraging the audience to choose leaders that would uplift the voice of different gender identities, champion safe spaces for women and children, and walk the same path with language majors in believing that language can defy the structures of patriarchy, as well as gender issues and politics.

human rights that cannot be preserved unless women and girl empowerment were essentialized while expanding the numerous societal-sectors necessary to build a stronger community.

In her short speech advocating for each and everyone’s “*Healthy Buhay at Hanapbuhay*”, Senator Risa Hontiveros



UST participants Ms. Judith Damian (top row, center), Ms. Bea Aque (second row, center), (from left, third row:) Ms. Veronica Yu, Mr. Raymond Gonzales, Mr. Ken Dizon, and Mr. Jonah Katalbas (bottom row, right).

CRS academic staff hold virtual lectures at Thomas More University in Belgium

Academic staff from the UST College of Rehabilitation Sciences Department of Speech Language Pathology participated in the International Day hosted by the Thomas More University of Applied Sciences in Antwerp, Belgium on March 16, 2022. Together with UST and host institution Thomas More University, the Education University of Hong Kong and the University of Suriname were also present during the event.

Ms. Judith Damian, Chair of the Department of Speech Language Pathology, represented UST during the plenary session where she discussed her study on the delivery of SLP services at the start of the COVID 19 pandemic in the Philippines.

Five faculty members of the UST Speech Pathology Department each presented a short lecture and facilitated a group discussion composed of international students during the parallel sessions in breakout rooms in two rounds for the main program of this event.

Academic staff Ms. Veronica Yu discussed “Empowering Clinicians and Parents in the Cleft Palate Speech Intervention.” She highlighted the basic treatment strategies and error-specific techniques used for speech disorders related to cleft palate. A cleft palate speech camp was presented as a community-based program used to cater to the growing number of operated cleft palate patients who cannot afford to have speech intervention. This will stress the demand for speech pathologists in rural communities.

Moreover, the first Filipino mobile speech application was presented as an innovative

tool used during the Covid-19 pandemic. Both the speech camp and speech mobile app underscores the importance of parental counselling and parental training in the speech progress of the patients.

Mr. Raymond Gonzales from UST, in collaboration with Dr. Carmen Ooi from The Education University of Hong Kong, discussed “Where do we stand? The speech-language pathologists’ role in inclusive education.” This presentation gave future SLPs a general overview of their possible roles in providing inclusive services within the school setting. Having a clear understanding of their duties and responsibilities within the context of inclusive education will be beneficial for our future colleagues, as it will enable them to become effective and competent SLPs who are ready for the modern demands of our discipline.

Mr. Kenneth R. Dizon tackled “The Barriers and Facilitators to the Accessibility of Rehabilitation Services in the Philippines.” This interactive session provided the participants with a better understanding of the current state of persons with disabilities (PWDs) in the Philippines and the Asia-Pacific region. The session focused on the concept of accessibility, its barriers and facilitators, the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, and potential prospects for community-based initiatives.

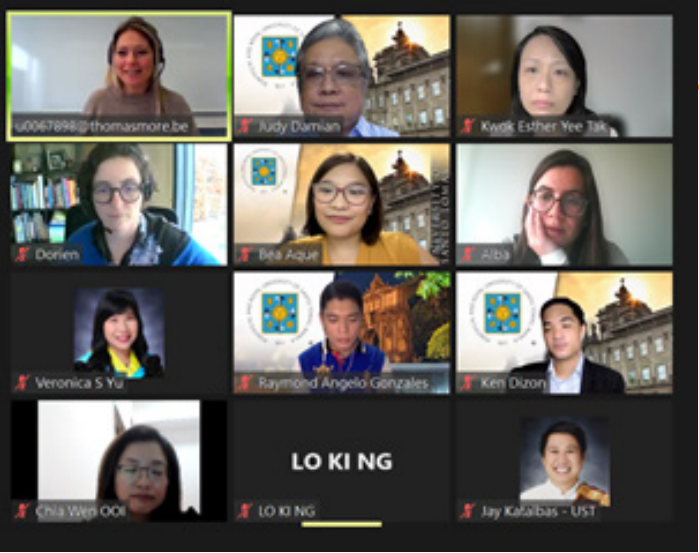
In addition, he discussed contextual components of the International Classification of Functioning, Disability, and Health (ICF) Framework and its implications for the accessibility of healthcare and rehabilitation services.

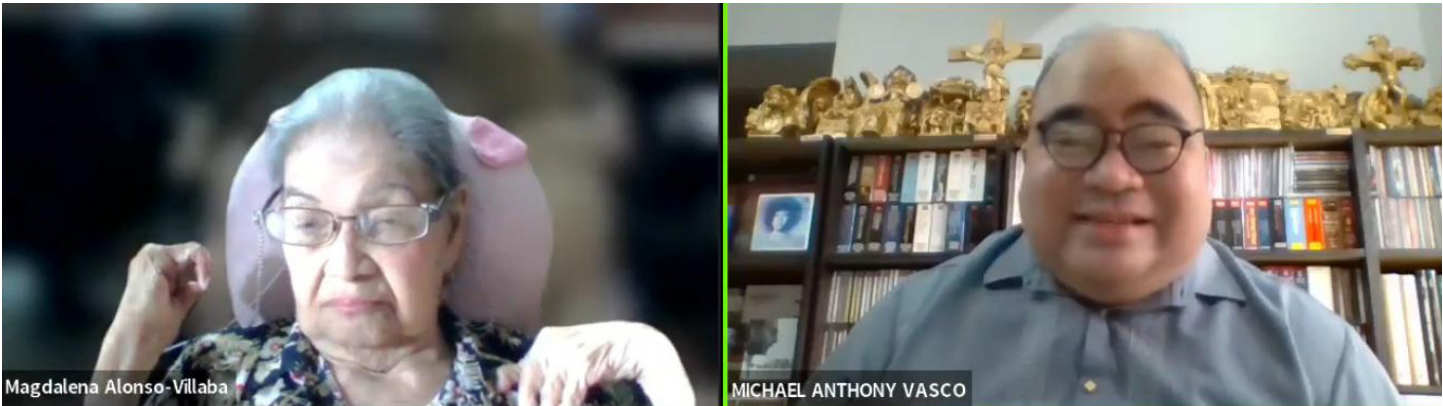
All of these are centered on community-based rehabilitation and its intersections with inclusive development practice. Case studies and scenarios will also be given to better elucidate these topics. At the end of the lecture, the participants had a better understanding of concepts related to community-based rehabilitation, accessibility, disability, and apply these concepts towards the creation of projects and programs in their own communities, institutions, or organizations.

Mr. Jonah Jerome Katalbas participated in Ms. Esther Kwok’s (The Education University of Hong Kong) discussion of “Impacts of Head Neck Cancer on patients and how medical SLP manage and care with heart.” The joint discussion pointed out associations between speech-language pathology (SLP) care and pre-treatment variables, short-term and long-term swallowing and airway impairment, and survival in patients treated for oropharyngeal squamous cell cancer (SCCA).

Another lecture was on “How can we assess an adult with aphasia?” by Dr. Dorien Vandendorre (Thomas More, Belgium) and UST academic staff Ms. Bea Aque. It was a workshop that focused on a case study where a 48-year-old, right-handed, bilingual bank employee is involved in a chain collision accident. Workshop participants learned about different motor, cognitive, and psychosocial parameters that can influence an accurate assessment.

The event ended with a round up with participants sharing their experiences and learning insights from the plenary and parallel sessions.





Dean Emeritus Villaba (left) and incumbent GS Dean Prof. Michael Anthony C. Vasco, Ph.D.

The Legacy of Dean Emeritus Prof. Magdalena Alonso-Villaba, Ph.D.: A Thomasian, Educator and Administrator

The UST Graduate School, in partnership with the Department of Philosophy, celebrated the 7th Thomasian Philosophers Reunion Convention. The convention is a biennial event which aims to celebrate its alumni for their contribution to the academe. This year’s convention was a tribute to Dean Emeritus Prof. Magdalena Alonso-Villaba, Ph.D., who was able to virtually join the event for the duration of the program.

Dean Emeritus Prof. Magdalena Alonso-Villaba, Ph.D. finished her Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy in 1957. A year after her graduation, she was already recruited by Dr. Emerita Quito to teach Philosophy in the University.

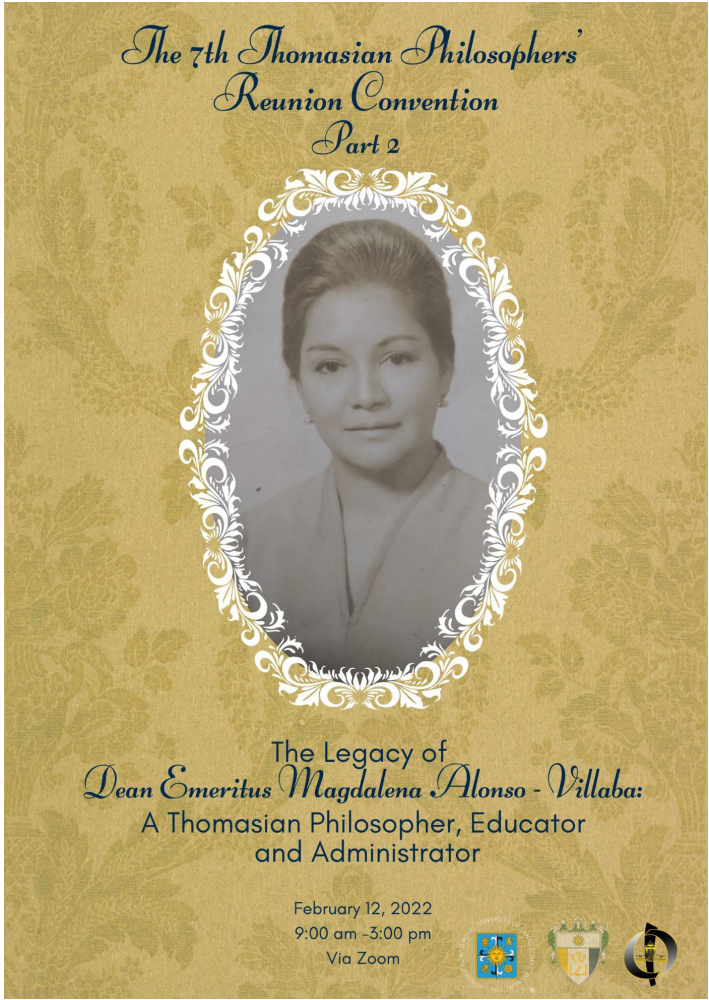
She pursued her graduate studies and finished her doctorate in 1976, Magna cum Laude. Her dissertation was then published by Filipiniana Sacra in 1976. Her notable publications are Philosophy of the East, Atman-Brahman Relationships in the Upanishads, Interpretation of the Doctrine of Transmigration, and Mission of Women: A Return to their Original Role.

Aside from being a respected professor, Dr. Villaba also served as the Assistant Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Letters from 1972 - 1976, Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Letters from 1976-1987, and Dean of UST Graduate School from 1987- 1995.

It is because of these reasons that she was given tribute by the Department of Philosophy and the Graduate School. Her role as an educator and an administrator has inspired her students to continue a career in the academe. This is evidenced by the messages given by her former students who were invited to deliver testimonials, namely, Dr. Arlen Ancheta, Dr. Lino Baron, Mr. George Garcia, and Mrs. Anita Garcia. All of them have become respected professors and administrators in the university.

Dr. Alma Santiago-Espartinez and Dr. El Mithra Dela Cruz also delivered a paper about Dr. Villaba’s role in shaping female philosophy students. It is important to note that when Dr. Villaba started teaching philosophy, there were only 3 female faculty members in the department whom female students looked up to as their models. Dr. Villaba’s presence alone encouraged female students to prosper in a male dominated discipline. Fr. Ranhilio Aquino was also invited to deliver a tribute paper.

The conference ended with a response from Ms. Espie Villaba-Alvez, daughter of Dr. Villaba. The closing remarks were delivered



by Dean Prof. Michael Anthony C. Vasco, Ph.D., who was also a former student and thesis advisee of Dr. Villaba.

Austrian Embassy, UST, FDCP collaborate on SDG Film Festival, CineForum

The University of Santo Tomas, through the Office of Public Affairs in Manila and the Film Development Council of the Philippines (FDCP) in organizing a Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Film Festival and CineForum.

Six documentary films, namely, Die Dohnal (Johanna Dohnal – Visionary of Feminism) by Sabine Delflinger; Erde (Earth) by Nikolaus Geyrhalte; Guardians of the Earth by Filip Antoni Malinowski; The Green Lie by Werner Boote; Wood by Ebba Sinzinger, Michaela Kirst, and Monica Lazurean-Gorgan; and Zeit Für Utopien (Utopia Revisited) by Kurt Langbein, were made available publicly and for free on the FDCP website from March 27 to April 2, 2022, and on the last day, a CineForum with Mr. Werner Boote as the keynote speaker, was held virtually through Zoom. The discussion is still available for viewing on the official UST Facebook page.

Her Excellency Bita Rasoulia, in her welcome remarks, said, “It’s our hope that through this initiative we are able to highlight the role of film and media in implementing the SDGs and inspire you to use your talents and skills to achieve a more just, prosperous, and equitable society.”

OPA Director Asst. Prof. Joreen T. Rocamora, Ph.D., echoed the sentiment and shared that, “We are lucky to be able to watch six thought-provoking films that will inspire audiences to discuss the agenda for sustainable development and consider contemporary societal challenges. In their own unique ways, they simultaneously express the gravity of our man-made environmental and societal crises, but



Keynote speaker Mr. Werner Boote, director of The Green Lie

more importantly, they also highlight the hope, ingenuity, and tenacity of our human society that is highly capable of working for the common good.”

In his talk, Boote shared his journey as an environmental film maker and how his films Plastic Planet (2009), Population Boom (2013), and The Green Lie (2018) aided not only in awareness, but in generating discussions to gather possible solutions. In particular, The Green Lie, included in the Film Festival line up, tackles “greenwashing,” the unethical practice of portraying an organization, product, or service as eco-friendly purely as a sales strategy. The documentary showed how “green” or “environmentally friendly” company images are used to obscure continued resource destruction and pollution, and how conscious “eco-conscious” choices by individual consumers are not enough to combat corporate greed.

The more conversations happen about a societal issue like climate change, the more ideas can come up to make

OPA Director Asst. Prof. Joreen T. Rocamora, Ph.D., shares her message.



Austrian Ambassador to the Philippines Her Excellency Bita Rasoulia delivers the welcome remarks.

little changes, shared Boote. Solutions are not as clear or simple as just ceasing the sale and production of plastic, because many lifesaving or crucial products can only be made from the material. Instead, the world needs complex solutions where society joins together to actively do their part.

Boote emphasized, “Consumers need to think about our purchases, politicians need to come up with new regulations which can keep the environment [sustainable], and the industry needs to come up with alternatives to harmful materials and practices.”

United Nations Development Programme Communications Associate Charlene Balaan, one of the three panelists, focused on clarifying the concept of the 17 SDGs.

“To call development sustainable, it must improve the living conditions in the





UNDP Communications Associate Ms. Charlene Balaan discusses the SDGs.

FDCP Chairperson and CEO Usec. Mary Liza B. Diño invites participants to watch the six films and join the CineForum.

AUSTRIAN EMBASSY FROM PAGE 23

present without compromising the resources of future generations. We must understand that we are all connected together and that economic and social wellbeing cannot be improved through measures that destroy the environment,” said Balaan.

Another panelist was the College of Tourism and Hospitality Management academic staff Mr. Jame Monren T. Mercado, whose research expertise is sustainable tourism planning and development.

In Mercado's talk, he shared that “The academe would do well on the importance of integrating the SDGs in the curriculum or pedagogies of our students, highlighting the importance of how we can teach our students on applying the SDGs within their respective programs or chosen field.”

Mercado also emphasized the need for significant collaboration of the academe with other industries, with the media, and the government in larger scale dissemination of information about the SDGs.

The third panelist, journalist and CNN correspondent Mr. Tristan Nodalo, highlighted the role of media in achieving the SDGs. Aside from promoting the SDGs, the media can reduce the spread of misinformation and disinformation; help in promoting the rule of law to ensure justice for all; aid in the fight against corruption by providing an avenue for the expression of citizens' concerns; promote political participation; reinforce the importance of democracy, provide access to information and fundamental freedoms.

Almost 300 academic staff, students, and guests attended the CineForum. It was hosted by OPA Assistant to the Director for Public Affairs Ms. Michaela O. Lagniton, and the panel discussion and question-and-answer portion was moderated by the Assistant to the Director for Publication Ms. Katherine Patrice B. Sibug.



CNN correspondent Mr. Tristan Nodalo emphasizes the key role of media in advancing SDGs.



CTHM academic staff and researcher Mr. Jame Monren Mercado highlights the role of the academe.



The first episode of ArkiTalks

Digital ArkiTalk, live exhibitions, webinar enliven virtual Architecture Week

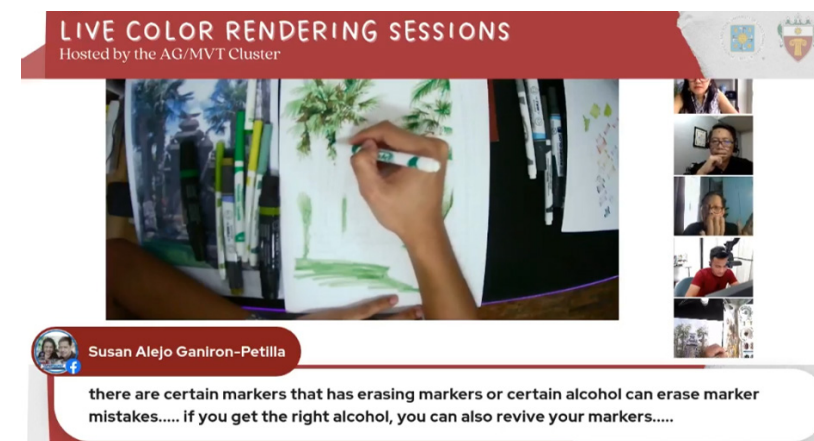
The Architecture College Week 2022, organized by the UST College of Architecture, conducted various online activities to highlight both faculty and student excellence during their college week. These were live streamed through the official Facebook page of the college.

“Rendezvous: Digital Arkitalk Series” featured notable alumni based locally and abroad, as well as those that are in private practice and government offices, who shared their inspiring experiences in relevant topics such as topping the licensure exams, pursuing international studies, and setting-up a private practice. Ar. Noel Cruz, Ar. Caryn Paredes-Santillan, Ar. Christian Lyle La Madrid, Ar. EL Plan, and Ar. Ramil Tibayan, were the guest speakers for the first episode.

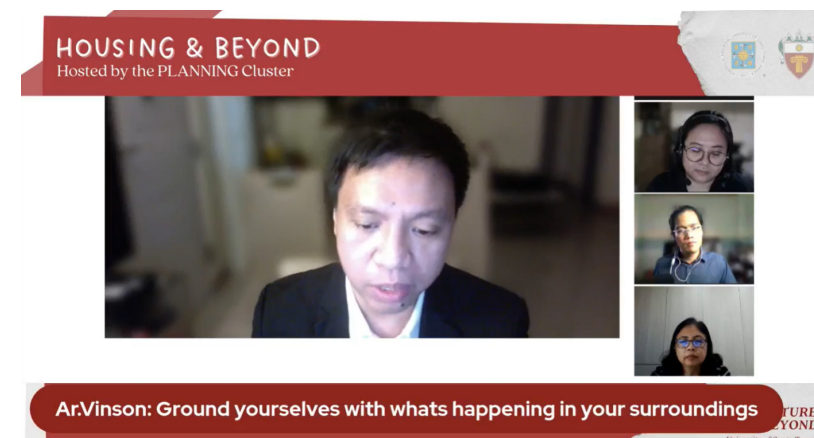
There were also online exhibits on the History and Theory of Architecture (accessible through: <https://bit.ly/HirayangAnyo>) and Architecture Design that showcased the best works of the students. They also had a live manual color rendering exhibition with markers and watercolor, as well as an online webinar about public housing and resiliency with Ar. Audrey Santos and Ar. Vinson Serrano as the speakers.

The awarding of the Architectural Design competition was also held during the week-long celebration. The competition featured entries that showcase the architecture of the future. Entries are evaluated by local and international judges.

Fully virtual, this year's college week celebration was well attended not just by students but also by parents, alumni, and other guests. More information about the works, winners, and the events that transpired during the week-long celebration can be found on the college's Facebook page.



Manual color rendering techniques are demonstrated



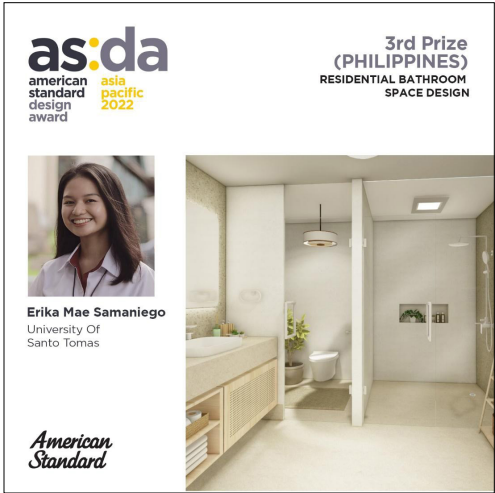
Ar. Vinson Serrano (left), with (from top:) Ar. Audrey Santos, Ar. John Clemence Pinlac, and Ar. Annabelle Verdote.

Architecture students bag design plums at int’l design competition

UST College of Architecture students bagged the top places in the recently concluded American Standard Design Award (ASDA) for the Philippine level. For the Residential Bathroom Space Category, JR Caberte was named the First Prize Winner. Nicole Angela Teñoso and Erika Mae Samaniego, won the second and third prize respectively. Lira Monica Macula was also named as a runner-up in the same category. In another category, Hospitality Bathroom Space Design, Danielle Ann Balatan won the third prize.

ASDA is an international design competition organized by the American Standard, a global brand of sanitary products. The competition called for a bathroom design for residential and hospitality projects. The entries called for user-centric, purposeful, and innovative designs to address consumer needs.

Caberte, as first place winner of his category, will represent the Philippines against entries from Australia, Cambodia, India, New Zealand, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam.



Greenpeace Philippines Communications Campaigner Mr. Maverick Russel Flores shares insights on climate justice.

Climate justice emphasized during Dunong Tomas webinar series

The UST Simbahayan Community Development Office (UST SIMBAHAYAN) in partnership with the Dunong Tomas cluster from the Junior High School, Senior High School, College of Education, and College of Information and Computing Sciences, organized the second webinar for the series “Boto Pilipino: Boto Mo Para sa Pagbabago” on February 5, 2022.

The said event was also aligned with the second Community Service Day for A.Y. 2021-2022, the bi-annual advocacy event of UST SIMBAHAYAN that promotes the proactive response to the call of Pope Francis’ *Laudato Si’*.

With the theme *Kapaligiran at Halalan*, discussions did not only center on the elections, politics, and livelihood, but also on issues related to the environment. Asst. Prof. Froilan A. Alipao, the Director of UST SIMBAHAYAN, delivered the welcome remarks. It was followed by the insightful talk of Mr. Maverick Russel Flores, the Communications Campaigner of Greenpeace Philippines, titled “2022: The Year of Climate Action.”

Flores stressed that the Philippines urgently needs climate justice since our country is continuously battling the climate crisis coupled with the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. He also stated that environmental and climate issues are at the bottom of the priorities in the current electoral discourse.

Core Questions

1. Is Environmental Politics present in the Philippines?
2. Why are Environmental issues and problems perceived to be less compelling as opposed to other political, economic and social issues?
3. Why should Green Politics dominate the political sphere?



Dr. Froilan C. Calilung talks about environmental politics.

Dr. Froilan C. Calilung from the Political Science Department of the Faculty of Arts and Letters had his presentation on the “Analysis of Environmental Platforms of the 2022 Presidential Candidates.” He shared a concise summary of the six front-running presidential candidates’ environmental agenda on the following issues: renewable energy, commitment to the international environmental agreements, creation of a Department of Disaster Resilience, mining, plastic and solid waste management, and the West Philippine Sea.

Mr. Rodne Galiche, the Executive Director of Living *Laudato Si’* Philippines, discussed “*Laudato Si’* and Ecological Teachings of the Church.” Through the seven *Laudato Si’* Goals: 1) Response to the cry of the earth, 2) Response to the cry of the poor, 3) Ecological economics, 4) Adoption of simple lifestyles, 5) Ecological education, 6) Ecological spirituality, and 7) Community engagements, the voters can use these as standards in deciding who amongst the national and local candidates will have the political will to push forward with climate justice.

The program culminated with the closing remarks of Asst. Prof. Evalyn B. Abiog, Ph.D., the Asst. Director of UST SIMBAHAYAN. The event was facilitated by Asst. Prof. Catherine C. Cocabo and Mr. John Christian Valeroso, Ph.D. The webinar can still be viewed via the UST-SIMBAHAYAN Community Development Office Facebook Page.

WHERE DO PRESIDENTIABLES STAND ON GREEN ISSUES?

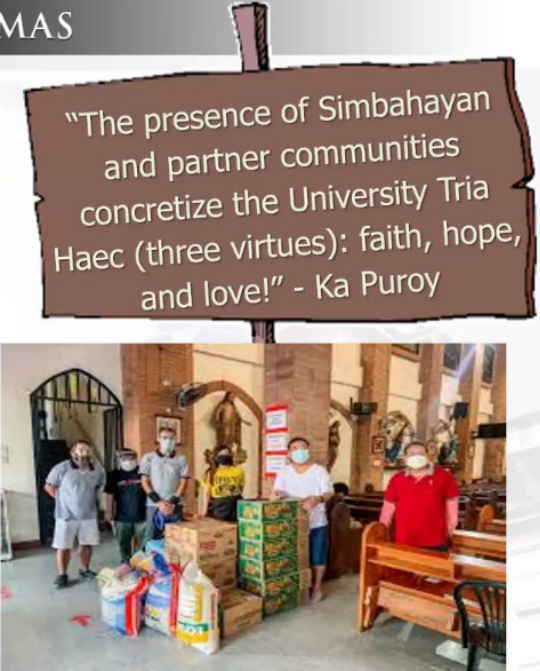
	ROBREDO	MOENNO	LACSON	PACQUAO	MARCOS	DE GUZMAN
Urgently solve climate crisis?	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Expand renewable energy?	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Support coal expansion?	✗	?	?	✗	✗	✗
Support open to nuclear power-to-energy?	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗
Expansion of mining?	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗
Reforestation?	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Support a new department?	✗	✓	✓	✗	?	?
Open to joint exploration of West Phil. Sea with China for oil and gas?	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗
Protect/work with indigenous peoples?	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Regulate plastics?	?	✓	✓	✓	?	?

All answers as of 12:00 AM, 18 January 2022.

Mr. Rodne Galiche, the Executive Director of Living *Laudato Si’* Philippines, discusses presidential candidates stands on environmental issues.

UNIVERSITY OF SANTO TOMAS

The UST – Simbahayan Project



Asst. Prof. Joselito G. Gutierrez, Ph.D

Community engagement during pandemic is emphasized at SIMBAHAYAN web conference

The UST Simbahayan Community Development Office (SIMBAHAYAN), in partnership with the Research Center for Social Sciences and Education (RCSSD) and in collaboration with the Dominican Family for Justice, Peace, and Care for Creation-Philippines (DFJPCC-Phils.) held a virtual research conference on March 4, 2022.

This year’s theme for the Bartolome De Las Casas Research Conference was “Community Engagement and Service-Learning in a V.U.C.A. World: Thriving, Sustaining, and Empowering Towards Compassionate Education.”

The morning plenary session commenced with the presentation of SIMBAHAYAN Director Asst. Prof. Froilan A. Alipao, MCD, with his paper titled, “AraLinkCoD (Service-Learning Linking with Communities for Development): The Service-Learning Praxis Framework of the University of Santo Tomas vis-à-vis Salamanca Process.”

He concluded that the Salamanca process is a vital resource to strengthen, develop, and sustain the Service-Learning praxis framework of the University of Santo Tomas as a Dominican educational institution amid dynamic and complex realities. The components of this framework encompass and suggest the contextualization of the mission on justice and peace, integration of Catholic Social Teaching, defense of human rights, promotion and living of *Laudato Si’* and *Fratelli Tutti*, collaboration within the mission, and improvement of structures of communication, strengthening of Dominican presence and solidarity within, and taking prophetic stands against sinful structures of power that oppress people and violate the whole of creation.

It was then followed by the insights shared by the Executive Assistant of the Office of Vice-Rector for Religious Affairs, Mr. Leo-Martin Angelo R. Ocampo.

Subsequently, three parallel sessions focused on Research and Service-Learning, and Service-Learning Amidst the Pandemic.

The presenters of Parallel Session 1 were Mr. Adrian Romero with his paper, “Social Solidarity sa Panahon ng Social Distancing: Kwento ng Birtwal na Service-Learning ng UST NSTP CWTS/LTS”; Ms. Micah S. Estrologo with her thesis, “A Phenomenological Study of Service-Learning Experiences in National Service Training Program of University of Santo Tomas (UST) Selected College Students in the Time COVID-19 Pandemic”; Mr. Christian Eroid Enriquez with his study, “Combo-Home Building System: A Grassroots Approach for Community-Based Incremental Residential Development in Compostela Valley, Mindanao”; and Sr. Jenny P. Fajardo, O.P., with her group research titled, “A Report on the Black Sand Mining in San Narciso and Botolan, Zambales, Philippines.”

Parallel Session 2 delved into Research and Service-Learning with the presentations of Dr. Jayson A. Punzal on his paper, “The Effectiveness of Community-Based Nutritional Health Program in Improving Biophysiologic Measures among Elderly”; Mr. Ravinango Argayoso with his thesis, “The Effectiveness of Simbahayan Community Development Projects at Barangay Sibulan, Nagcarlan, Laguna”; and the group of Mr. Lorenzo Jael S. Mallari, Mr. Dave Joss T. Quigao, and Ms. Athena Kryshna AD. Salgado, in their study, “Assessing Telerehabilitation Readiness among Older Adults with Hypertension in Communities in Rizal and Laguna: A Cross-Sectional Analytic Study.”

Parallel Session 3 shed light on the topic of Service-Learning amidst the pandemic. Ms. Beatriz Bravo Sacdalan and Mr. Gavin Joseph L. Cruz discussed their paper “Are We on The Right Track? The Lived Experience of The Junior High School Students of Barangay 472 & 473 Sampaloc, Manila”; Asst. Prof. Ginavee F. Dapula, Ph.D., with her research titled, “The Perceived Challenges Faced by Selected Microenterprises amidst COVID-19 Pandemic”; and Ms. Line Nalangan presented a group study titled “Tanimang

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT FROM PAGE 28

Bayan (Community Food Garden) in Sitio San Roque Urban Poor Community: Securing Food and Asserting Land Rights in COVID-19 Times.”

UST SIMBAHAYAN Assistant Director Asst. Prof. Evalyn Abiog, Ph.D., began the afternoon session with her synthesis of the morning plenary and parallel sessions. She expressed her gratitude, impressions, and salutations towards the presenters of the morning plenary for sharing their nuggets of wisdom as they presented their research studies.

Asst. Prof. Maria Carinnes P. Alejandria, Ph.D. was given the online spotlight to shed light on her study titled, “Mapping of the Socio-Cultural Factors and Determinants Associated with Depression, Anxiety, Self-Harm, And Suicidal Behavior Among University Students.”

Alejandria presented the findings in multiple themes, some of which revolved around the students’ daily concerns and the role of the faculty. She mentioned that faculty members could promote mental health well-being among students by being keen on looking into some symptoms that students are experiencing and referring them to mental health professionals.

The theme of students’ involvement in school organizations as well as community volunteering activities was also brought up, providing even more depth

to the discussion. As the study suggests, involvement in community work and service increases the students’ well-being, which gives the students some form of support.

Following that train of thought, the next theme is all about the activities with peers suggesting that those activities provide the students with ease and comfort in their time of need. At the end of her presentation, she mentioned that the ultimate goal of the study is to promote a more holistic approach to mental health. Since our Filipino youth are experiencing a mental health crisis, a fully western approach will not be the most efficient, as mentioned by Dr. Alejandria.

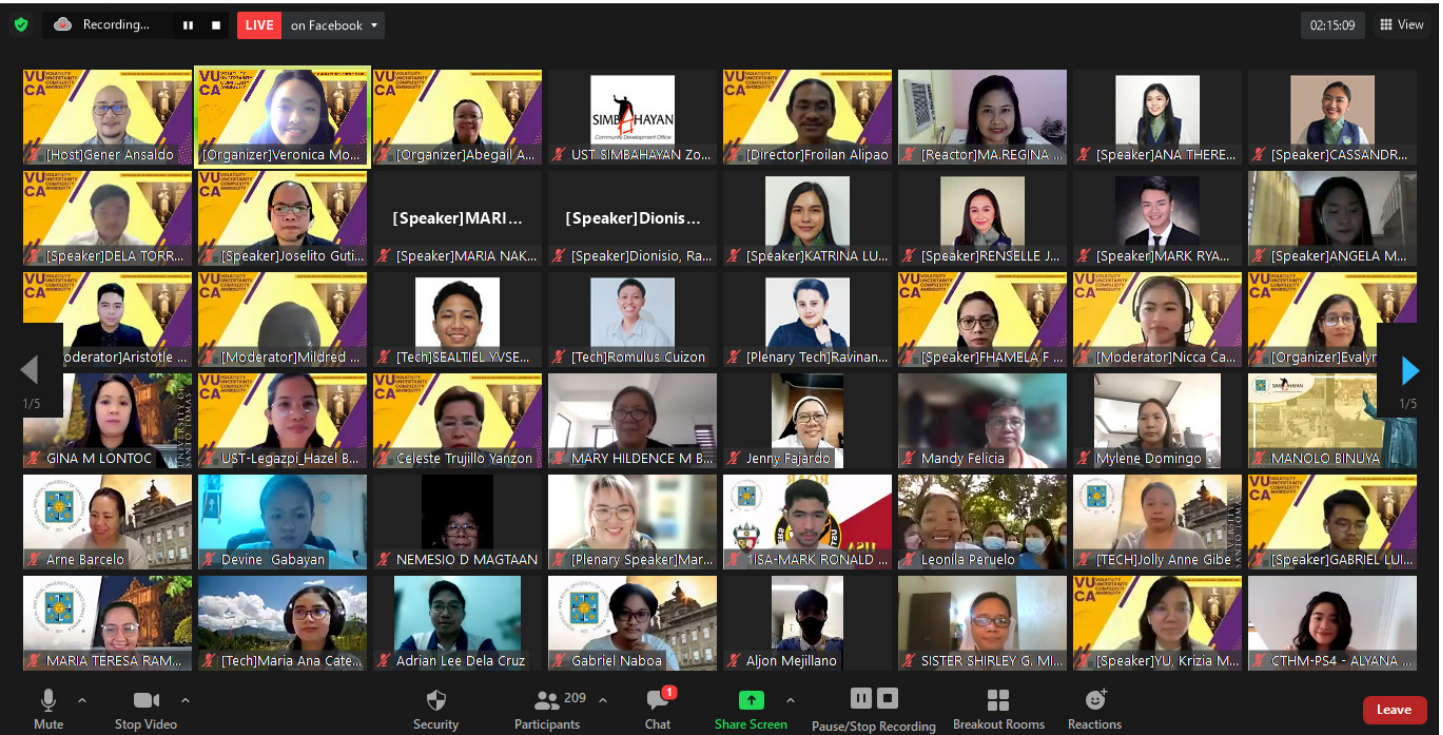
Subsequently, Ms. Ma. Regina Atinaja, a Guidance Counselor at the UST Counseling and Career Center, provided her reactions and insights on the presentation. Atinaja began by talking about the time when she came across a news release by the World Health Organization. It was a news article relating to the COVID-19 pandemic that triggers a 25% increase in prevalence of anxiety and depression worldwide. She shared that it was a wake-up call to all countries to step-up their mental health services and support. Atinaja also urged national leaders to continue their efforts in making mental health services and support accessible to all, especially the less privileged.

The presenters of Parallel Session 4 were the College of Tourism and Hospitality

Management (CTHM) Dean Assoc. Prof. Gezzez Giezi G. Granado, DCL, Assistant Dean Assoc. Prof. Evangeline E. Timbang, Ph.D., Asst. Prof. Maria Concepcion A. Ang, and Ms. Fhamela F. Sarmiento, with their paper titled, “Sustainable Community-Based Tourism Potential and Development of Barangay San Manuel, Echague, Isabela in the New/Next Normal.” They discussed how the pandemic challenged the tourism industry in Isabela. Highlighting the community-based approach to improving the tourism sector, village people can build new opportunities for themselves and for their communities.

Following the presentation, Mr. Avi Ben P. Andalecio, discussed his study entitled, “Pagbalangkas: Issues and Opportunities on Natural Heritage Branding and Sustainability- The Case of UNESCO World Heritage Nomination for Samar Island Natural Park (SINP) Philippines.” The presentation highlighted the need to preserve and protect the country’s natural heritage through sustainable ecotourism development. The presentation is a testament to the role of environmental conservation in the country.

In light of the issues in sustainable tourism and national heritage, another presentation spoke on the role of heritage in the youth’s future. Mr. Jame Monren T. Mercado shared “Pamana sa Mata ng mga...Bata? (Heritage in the Eyes of the...



SIMBAHAYAN Director Asst. Prof. Alipao, MCD (top row, fifth from left), SIMBAHAYAN Asst. Director Asst. Prof. Evalyn Abiog, Ph.D. (third row, rightmost), Asst. Prof. Lontoc, Ph.D. (fourth row, leftmost), together with presenters, organizers, and participants

Asst. Prof.
Maria Carinnes P.
Alejandria, Ph.D.



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Child?) A Phenomenological Study on The Experiences of Student Tour Guides on Heritage Sustainability-The Case of San Nicolas, Ilocos Norte, Philippines.” He described how natural heritage is a historical treasure in the eyes of youth that must be preserved and protected.

Mr. Karl-Richard S. Dela Torre presented “Agkuyog: Community Participation in Tourism Development for the New Normal, the Case of Candon City, Ilocos Sur Philippines.” He emphasized the importance of community engagement in promoting tourism.

Ms. Cassandra Barbara M. Aurelio, Ms. Maria Nakanomyo, and Ms. Renselle Joy DL. Palomo also shared their study, “Candon City Ecotourism Park Sustainable Tourism and Strategic Development Plan 2021-2025.” They gave a report on how tourism improved in Candon City through sustainability measures.

The same theme of community engagement in the tourism sector was

highlighted by Mr. Rafael Anton Manuel M. Dionisio, Mr. Mark Ryan J. Isidro, Ms. Ana Therese Jin-ju A. Lee, Ms. Katrina Luz P. Martinez, Ms. Ginelle Aira T. Rose, Mr. Raphael Frederick M. Tamayo, Ms. Justin Miccaela T. Tampolino, and Ms. Audrey Veronica Wednesday T. Valentin in their study titled, “Myth and Reality of Community-based Tourism in Romblon, Philippines: A Structural Equation Model.” The last presenters for this session were Mr. Arnulfo Ricardo A. Butiong and Ms. Kathrine Camille A. Nagal, with their study, “Recovery in the MICE Industry: The Case of Davao City.”

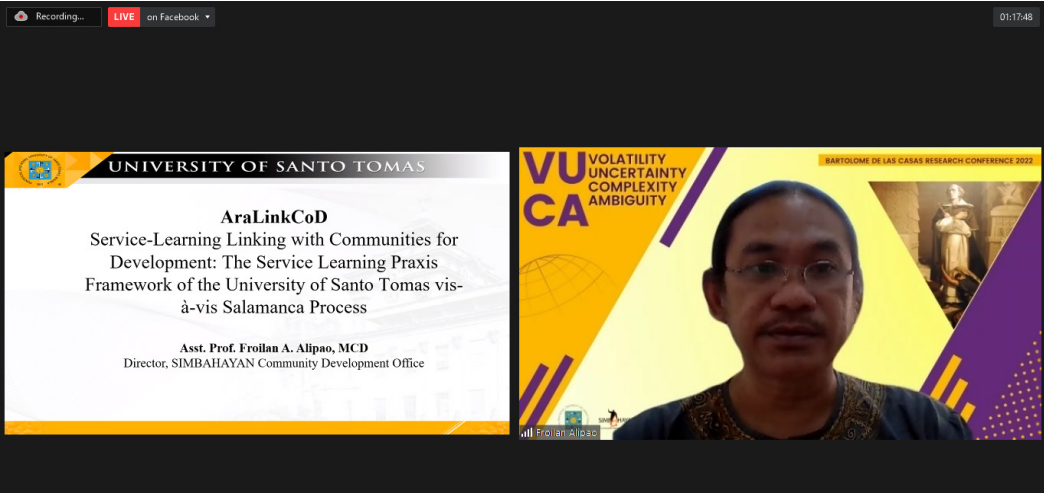
For the sixth Parallel Session, the first presenters—Ms. Naomi Joyce S. Sibala, and Ms. Krizia Mile Joy B. Yu discussed, “An Evaluation Study on the Mathematics Proficiency Program of Grade 10 Aeta Learners.” The study provided insights about the academic improvement of indigenous children. Asst. Prof. Joselito G. Gutierrez, Ph.D., then shared his study, “Contextualizing Abesamis’ Third Look at Jesus During the Time of Pandemic.”

The last presenters of the session were Mr. Gabriel Luis Z. Redor and Ms. Angela Maria Tabios with their paper, “A Comparative Study Between the Impact of Traditional Parenting and Modern Parenting on a Child’s Gender Role Development Based on Conformity.” Their research delved on the behavioral outcomes in children’s upbringing and gendering.

The research conference concluded with closing remarks from Asst. Prof. Gina Lontoc, Ph.D. She emphasized that the goal of research as embodied in the lessons of Bartolome de las Casas and the Salamanca process would be to empower the people, giving meaning to their lives, so that stability, truthfulness, justice, sustainability, and empowerment shall take root.

The Bartolome De Las Casas Research Conference is an annual research symposium highlighting studies discussing relevant topics concerning community engagement in national issues. It was conceived to provide a venue for Thomasians and institutional partners to share their scholarly research outputs on community-based, community participation, and service-learning research. This research conference is also dedicated to Bartolome De Las Casas, a Dominican missionary who was the first to reveal the mistreatment of indigenous peoples by Europeans and Americans in the 16th century. Thomasians are urged to follow in the footsteps of Bartolome de las Casas in advocating for the communities by engaging in community-based research that will contribute to community development.

SIMBAHAYAN Director Asst. Prof. Froilan A. Alipao presents his research.



Physician Licensure Examination

March 2022
UST Passing Rate: 85.71%
National Passing Rate: 50.30%



Mitch Roy Balbacal Maristela
4th – 87.83%



Daryl Manza Obciana
5th – 87.58%



Madelaine Johanna Lizardo Abraham
6th – 87.33%



Sushmita Mae Rose Ricafuerte Contreras
7th – 87.25%



Mary Joeline De Jesus Arada
10th – 86.67%



Mikhael Tan Palao
10th – 86.67%



Medical Technologist Licensure Examination

March 2022
UST Passing Rate: 66.67%
National Passing Rate: 46.08%



Remi Nina Ramos Gurion
5th – 87.60%

Pharmacist Licensure Examination

April 2022
UST Passing Rate: 45.65%
National Passing Rate: 36.28%



Elisha Bersamina Soriano
3rd – 90.45%



THE ACADEMIA

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