



THE ACADEMIA

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The UST Open Field is filled with masked graduating students and graduates for the first time since 2019.

UST holds first in-person back-to-back Baccalaureate Masses in three years

After nearly three academic years of the Enriched Virtual Mode (EVM) of education, the University of Santo Tomas (UST) returned to holding in-person Baccalaureate Masses. The Class of 2022 had their Mass on June 3, 2022, while the Classes of 2020 and 2021 had their Mass on June 4, 2022, both at the UST Open Field and Grandstand.

Following health policies such as presentation of vaccination cards, health declaration via StaySafe.PH or ThoMedSS, wearing of masks, frequent hand sanitization, and thermal screening at the outdoor venue, the graduating students entered the campus for the last time before actual solemn investiture ceremonies.

For the Class of 2022, which had over 9000 graduating students, the Mass Presider and Homilist was the UST Rector Very Rev. Fr. Richard G. Ang, O.P., Ph.D. In his homily, he congratulated the students, saying that, "Each and every one of you

is an achiever, a victor, a high flier, and a hotshot. All of you are equally determined. All of you have worked hard for this, and now that you have attained your goal, each of you deserves to stand tall and be recognized."

For the Classes of 2020 and 2021, it was the UST Vice-Chancellor and the Dominican Province of the Philippines Prior Provincial Very Rev. Fr. Filemon I. dela Cruz, Jr., O.P., who presided over the Mass. He emphasized in his homily that, "We have more reasons to be thankful about, more than your diploma, more than the thought of graduating: We have survived. We have passed through a lot of trials, and I hope we get many lessons from this."

Part of the Post-Mass Program was the annual "Ceremony of Light" that represents UST's mission of illuminating the world through the light of education and evangelization. The flame that originates

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The Color Guard march forward to bring the Philippine and UST flags onto the stage.



For the Classes of 2020 and 2021, UST Vice-Chancellor and the Dominican Province of the Philippines Prior Provincial Very Rev. Fr. Filemon I. dela Cruz, Jr., O.P., served as Presider and Homilist.

The Mass Presider and Homilist for the Class of 2022 was the UST Rector Very Rev. Fr. Richard G. Ang, O.P., Ph.D.

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from the torch of the Presider is passed on to the torches of the Deans and Regents of the academic units and is received by each of their respective students. They were each given a Thomasian Mission Cross, as a reminder to stay true to Thomasian ideals, even after they leave UST. A recitation of the Thomasian Pledge of Loyalty followed the blessing and imposition of the crosses.

After the Post-Mass Program, the graduating students symbolically left the University in the traditional recessional parade where they exit through the historic Arch of the Centuries, signifying the completion of their student life in UST. The Mass Presider and the Secretary-General, with the administrative and academic officials, led the procession walking out of the Arch,

which was the original gateway of the University when it was still in Intramuros.

The Baccalaureate Masses were the prelude to in-person Completion Ceremonies of Education High School and UST Junior High School, and the Solemn Investiture Rites for Senior High School, Tertiary, Post-Baccalaureate, and Graduate School levels, which were held over the month of June.

In solidarity with the plight of many people, including Thomasians, who are still recovering from the pandemic's ill effects, or who have passed to God's embrace, the Baccalaureate Masses were held solemnly without the traditional pyrotechnics display.



Batch Valedictorian Louie Suyo (sixth from left) with his family, Fr. Ang (third from left), the Faculty of Pharmacy Regent Rev. Fr. Pompeyo de Mesa, O.P. (rightmost), Dean Prof. Aleth Therese Dacanay, Ph.D. (second from left), and Registrar Mr. Cesar Velasco (leftmost).

UST recognizes outstanding Thomasians at 2022 Student Awards Day

Distinctions were conferred in honor of student achievers from the University of Santo Tomas at the Student Awards Day held on May 31, 2022, through hybrid modality at the UST Quadracentennial Pavilion Arena and live-streamed via the UST Facebook page.

UST Rector Very Rev. Fr. Richard G. Ang, O.P., Ph.D., commended the students and said, “Be proud of what you have achieved, but at the same time, keep your feet firmly planted on the ground. Give thanks to the Lord for His unending grace for you have been blessed to be an instrument of blessing to others.”

The Father Rector also emphasized the important role of the parents, guardians, and teachers of the student awardees.

Agents of Change

Serving as the guest speaker was Ar. Justin David N. Tan, an alumnus from the Class of 2014 and a topnotch examinee in the 2017 Architect Licensure Examination. Currently, he is a practicing Project Coordinator for Eanovation Inc., an all-inclusive home renovation start-up based in San Francisco, California, USA. He was a former President of the UST Architecture Student Council, and a committee chair for the Central Student Council. As a student, he received the Benavides Outstanding

Achievement Award in 2012 and the Roque Ruaño Leadership Award in 2014.

Tan, who has been an achiever from a young age, underscored vital aspects of leadership, viewing it as an opportunity to be an agent of change, to be able to contribute to something greater than the self.

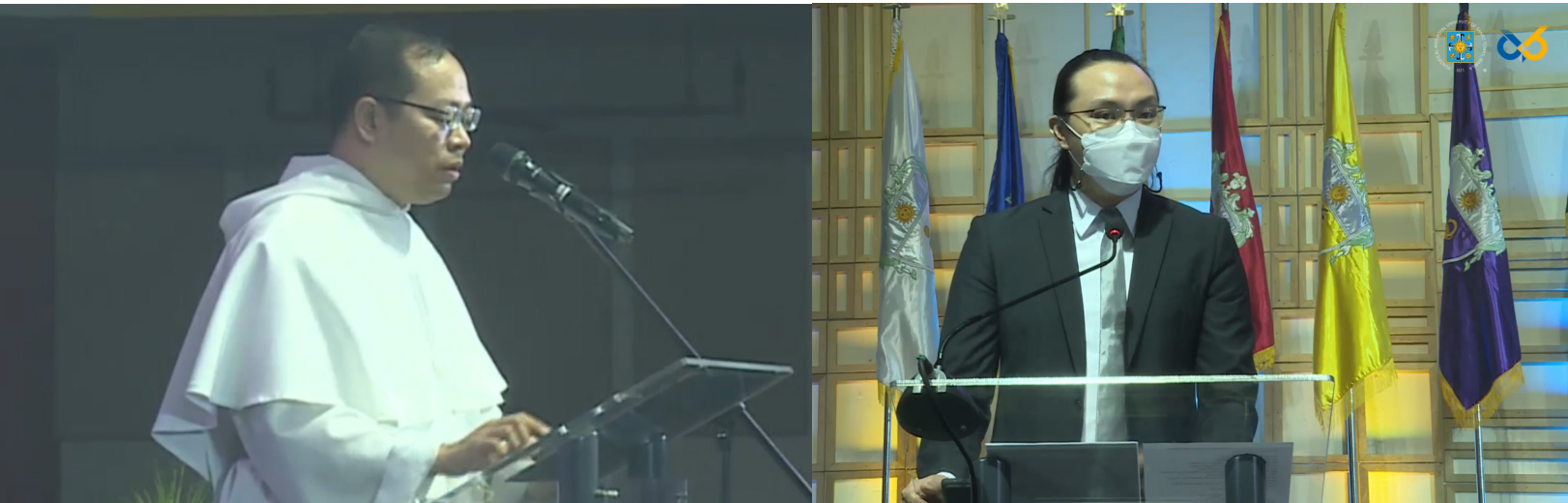
“Serving and making a difference – that makes you a leader, not fancy titles or positions. Devote your time in making a difference in the lives of the people around you,” said Tan.

Particularly, Tan emphasized the responsibility of leaving a legacy and maximizing the impact of leadership terms, saying that, “Your time in UST is limited. Many of you will soon graduate. You won’t always be here to fight the battles you started. You probably won’t be here to eat the fruits of the seeds you sow. So you have to inspire others to continue what you began. Because leadership is not about you, not about me, not about ourselves. It is always about all of us.”



UST Rector Very Rev. Fr. Richard G. Ang, O.P., Ph.D., during the opening remarks

Tan urged the students to be “Leaders that serve faithfully; leaders that communicate well, who listen when needed and speak up when it is called for; leaders that persist against all odds; and leaders that inspire others to be the



UST Secretary-General Rev. Fr. Louie R. Coronel, O.P., EHL, introduces the guest speaker.

Ar. Justin David Tan delivers the inspirational address.

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same. We are at the precipice of a massive societal change. People are rediscovering their power to be a force for good. Be the leaders that will keep this flame burning.”

Awards

The top academic achievers from each of the 18 tertiary and post-baccalaureate academic units received the Rector's Academic Award, conferred by the Father Rector Very Rev. Fr. Richard G. Ang, O.P., Ph.D., assisted by the Registrar Mr. Cesar Velasco. The valedictorian for the Class of 2022, who garnered the highest general weighted average at 1.031, was Mr. Louie Rince C. Suvo from the Faculty of Pharmacy.

Delivering the response on behalf of the student awardees, Suvo said, “We are recipients of something to be celebrated and to be shared. The talents and treasures we have must not end with medals and certificates. Let us use our knowledge, skills, and influence to make people's lives better. If we do so, we reinforce a culture of sharing and build a healthy environment for learning.”

Thirteen exemplary officers of recognized organizations received the Quezon Leadership Award for their service, including Qjuel Giuliano Mikhl Z. Mariano from the College of Nursing who engaged collaborations for the 2021 Institute of Technical Education (ITE) College Singapore Virtual Global Education Programme to the Philippines in partnership with Dunman High School of Singapore.

Another award, the Pope Leo XIII Community Development Award, was given to three students and three organizations for their outstanding involvement in community development. Among the recipients was Charles Kevin Mina for adding a new partner community and increasing the number of scholars supported by BUTIL (Bonded University Towards Imbued Learning) to 100.



The St. Dominic de Guzman Award was given to three organizations that held activities of significance to the entire University. This included the Becarios de Santo Tomas, who initiated the Scholarship Renewal Help Desk to assist students.

Thirty-seven individuals and 24 groups received the St. Albertus Magnus Award for excelling in research. Among them were the UST COVID-19 Vaccine Awareness Team, under its research adviser Rev. Fr. Nicanor Austriaco, O.P., for their publication “Interrogating COVID-19 vaccine intent in the Philippines with a nationwide open-access online survey.”

The Benavides Outstanding Achievement Award is given to students who have academic or scientific accomplishments of national or international significance. It was granted to 14 individuals and 11 groups, including Team NeoFlorence

from the College of Nursing for winning the International Telecommunications Union GenConnect Pitch Challenge.

For students who excelled in sports and the arts, the Pope John Paul II Outstanding Achievement Award was given. Twenty-seven students in the individual category and four groups received this recognition.

The Tradition of Excellence Award is given to student organizations that have shown sustained exemplary performance by having received the same award for five consecutive years. The UST Communication Arts Students' Association was recognized for having been awardees from 2018 to 2022.



(From left:) Mr. Jame Monren Mercado, CTHM Secretary Ms. Margarita Cruz, CTHM Dean Granado, Office for Alumni Relations Director Asst. Prof. Fredeswindo Medina, CTHM Regent Fr. Mactal, UST Secretary-General Fr. Coronel, DOT RO8 Regional Director Ms. Santiago-Tiopes, GS Dean Dr. Vasco, and GS-CCCPET Director Dr. Zerrudo during the MoA signing between UST and DOT RO8

CTHM and GS-CCCPET forge three sustainable partnerships for the UST Sentro Turismo, Eastern Visayas Food Mapping Project

The UST College of Tourism and Hospitality Management (CTHM) forged three sustainable partnerships through the signing of a Memorandum of Agreement and Terms of Reference. The ceremony was held on June 1, 2022 (Wednesday) at the Multi-purpose Hall, 8/F, Bl. Buenaventura G. Paredes, O.P. Building.

UST and the Association of Tourism Officers of the Philippines, Inc. (ATOP)

The agreement involves the implementation of a collaborative engagement between ATOP, UST CTHM, and the Graduate School – Center for Conservation of Cultural Property and Environment in the Tropics (GS-CCCPET), on an exclusive basis, to develop a physical library hub and maintain the digital and website platform for the Pearl Awards Nomination Book and other related materials.

ATOP will turnover existing and future materials (raw images, text, videos, audio, etc.) to UST CTHM and GS-CCCPET for on-site and digital documentation and safekeeping. Additionally, for the University to provide accessibility of the library hub and website to potential researchers and academicians as approved by ATOP and concerned LGUs.

GS-CCCPET will provide exclusive copies of the natural and cultural heritage mapping and other related materials to CTHM for safekeeping as part of the Tourism Center – Library Hub. In turn, CTHM will provide a physical room and a technical staff to support the safekeeping of the materials retrieved by GS-CCCPET.

Kulinarya Silangan: The Eastern Visayas Food Mapping Project

Kulinarya Silangan, a major campaign for the region, is a food mapping documentation on the six provinces of Eastern Visayas, namely, Northern Samar, Eastern Samar, Samar, Biliran, Leyte, and Southern Leyte. It will focus on three strands of Eastern Visayan foods such as dishes (pagkaon), rice cakes (suman), and sweets (tinam-isan). The objectives of this project are as follows: to identify and document the distinct dishes (pagka-on), rice cakes (suman), and sweets (tinam-isan) of the region; to develop a database of metanarratives that will facilitate research and studies on food anthropology and functional disciplines such as health, agriculture, tourism, education, product development, and others; to conduct a series of seminars, workshops, and

writeshop on food documentation; to formulate a tourism campaign program for food destinations, food routes, food landscapes, and seascapes.

The University of Santo Tomas Team, representing the Rector, Very Rev. Fr. Richard G. Ang, O.P., Ph.D., was headed by UST Secretary-General Rev. Fr. Louie R. Coronel, O.P., EHL. The other official representatives include CTHM Regent Rev. Fr. Roland D. Mactal, O.P., SThD, CTHM Dean Assoc. Prof. Atty. Dr. Gezzez Giezi G. Granado, DCL, GS Dean Prof. Michael Anthony C. Vasco, Ph.D., and GS CCCPET Director Assoc. Prof. Eric B. Zerrudo, Ph.D.

ATOP was represented by its National President Arwin Paul A. Lingat and National Secretary-General Ms. Jomelyn M. Abuan. They were also accompanied by Atty. Jose Maria Cesar C. San Pedro (Regional Representative, Region 3 and the Provincial Tourism Officer for the Provincial Government of Nueva Ecija), Atty. Jeffrey C. Saclot (Regional Representative, Region 10 and the Provincial Tourism Officer for the Provincial Government of Misamis Oriental), Mr. Edwin B. Guinto (Secretary for Luzon and the Supervising Tourism Operations Officer for the City Government of Bacoor, Cavite), and Mr. Charlie Dungo

CTHM AND GS-CCCPET FORGE TO PAGE 6



The MoA signing between UST and ATOP, represented by (from left, holding blue folders:) CTHM Dean Granado, Regent Fr. Mactal, UST Secretary-General Fr. Coronel, ATOP President Mr. Lingat, ATOP Secretary-General Ms. Abuan, and GS-CCCPET Director Dr. Zerrudo. They are accompanied by CTHM, ATOP, DOT officials, including UST Office of Public Affairs Director Asst. Prof. Joreen T. Rocamora, Ph.D. (rightmost)

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(Regional Representative, NCR and the Officer-in-charge, Department of Tourism, Culture and Arts of Manila for the City Government of Manila).

DOT RO8 was represented by Regional Director Karina Rosa Santiago-Tiopes, CESO III.

A learner-academic staff research collaboration was presented and officially turned over to the ATOP during the event. The research title is *Pamanang Haraya* (Inherited Vision): A Videographic Manifest Content-analysis of the Philippine Local Government

Unit's Tourism Practices during the COVID-19 Pandemic. The researchers were fourth Year BS Tourism Management major in Travel Operation and Service Management students, namely, Ms. Aleza Mae R. Bernal, Ms. Carmina C. Samson, Ms. Franzcess Nicole B. Aglugub, Ms. Gershei Mae K. Quirao, Ms. Kristel Pearl B. Capulong, and Ms. Patrisha Clare B. Santos. For mentoring, Mr. Jame Monren T. Mercado, an academic staff from the Department of Tourism Management, joined the students and co-authored the manuscript.

CCWLS director Hidalgo in 2022 top scientific index

Among the top research scientists included in the Jan. 29, 2022 rankings of the Alper-Doger (AD) Scientific Index is UST Center for Creative Writing and Literary Studies (CCWLS) Director Cristina Pantoja Hidalgo, PhD, who was cited for her research on women's literature, autobiographical writing by women, and Philippine literature in English.

The AD Scientific Index uses the total and last five years' values of the author impact index and citation scores from Google Scholar to rank scientists by subject, institution, country, region, and in the world according to scientific performance and the added value of the scientific productivity.

Hidalgo, who holds a doctorate degree in comparative literature, is also a Professor Emeritus of English and Comparative Literature at the University of the Philippines (UP).

Among the many awards she has received are the Gawad Balagtas, Gawad Dangal ng Lahi, and three Carlos Palanca Memorial Awards for Literature, including the Grand Prize for the Novel in 1996 for *Recuerdo*. She has also been recognized as an Outstanding Thomasian Writer and an International Publication Award Hall of Famer.

Hidalgo has published more than 40 books, including novels, short story and CNF collections, and autobiographical travel books. Her works on literary criticism and research focusing on women's literature have contributed greatly to local and international feminist scholarship.

Her latest book, *What I Wanted to be When I Grew Up*, released by UP Press in May 2022, is a memoir that traces the effects on her life of the books she read and movies she watched from childhood to high school.



CCWLS Director Prof. Cristina Pantoja Hidalgo, Ph.D.

MEET THE KOFI ANNAN CHANGEMAKERS 2022

FAHD JAMALEDINE

LUISA FERNANDA ROMERO MUNOZ

MAHRYAN SAMPAIO

MANATA ALEKSANDR

MARIUS AFFONFERE

MOHAMMAD HAMZEH SHEHADAT

QJIEL GIULIANO MIKHL Z. MARIANO

SAIF ULLAH KHAN

SAMAR ABUSHAMA

JUWON SAMUEL AFOLAYAN

SHRADHA PANDEY

STACY DINA ADHIAMBO OWINO

KOFI ANNAN Changemakers 2022

PARTNERS

CAGI

reycells

GRADUATE INSTITUTE GENEVA

ITU

The 12 Changemakers for 2022 [Photo courtesy of Kofi Annan Foundation]

UST student set to join Kofi Annan Changemakers Initiative in Switzerland

University of Santo Tomas College of Nursing Student Mr. Qjiel Giuliano Mikhl Mariano joins 12 youth leaders from 11 different countries who will undergo an intergenerational dialogue with world leaders in Geneva, Switzerland in November 2022. The Kofi Annan Foundation (KAF) announced the list of participants for the KAF Changemakers Initiative on June 7, 2022.

The 12 youth leaders, who have already demonstrated commitment and impact in their respective fields under the age of 30, will be matched with a mentor to dialogue with during and after the programme. The mentor will also guide the mentee on how to maximize the seed grant which will be given to the delegates to scale up a project that will highlight their work. Over the coming year, the Changemakers will participate in a series of online and offline modules with high-level experts, many of whom worked with the late Kofi Annan, a Nobel Peace Prize laureate and former United Nations Secretary-General.

Mariano is the founder of his own youth organization, Streets to Schools, which aims to intersect the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and the UN Sustainable Development Goals

among children. The organization's projects, such as Ladders to Literacy, have been recognized with international awards, including the ESD Okayama Awards, Points of Light, Everyday Young Heroes, and more.

The 12 chosen youth leaders will go on to become torch bearers of Kofi Annan's vision and values and part of the global Kofi Annan Changemakers community.

This initiative is led by the Kofi Annan Foundation and supported by Ambassador Jenö Staehelin and the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs. It is undertaken in partnership with the Greycells Association of former International Civil Servants for Development and the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies in Geneva, and in collaboration with the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) and the *Centre d'Accueil de la Genève Internationale* (CAGI).

Mariano is the second Thomasian to receive the recognition as UST Faculty of Pharmacy alumnus, Medical Technologist Junbert Pabon, received the same recognition a year ago.

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(From left:) OPA Director Asst. Prof. Joreen T. Rocamora, Ph.D.; Dusit International Assistant Manager – Programming and Operations Ms. Nisarat Sae-Lee; Dusit International Assistant Director for Customer Experience and Programming Ms. Tachatan Chairoek; Dusit International Assistant Vice President – Operational Excellence Mr. Aloysius Michael, CTHM Assistant Dean Asst. Prof. Evangeline E. Timbang; Hospitality Management Chair Mr. Juanito Luis S. Reyes; and International Relations and Programs Coordinator for CTHM Ms. Kathrine Camille A. Nagal.

Dusit International and CTHM renew partnership pledge

The University of Santo Tomas College of Tourism and Hospitality Management (CTHM) inked an agreement to continue and strengthen partnership with Dusit International, the mother company of the Dusit Thani and

Dusit Hotel brands, on May 27, 2022.

Dusit International, represented by Assistant Vice President for Operational Excellence Mr. Aloysius Michael, Assistant Director for Customer Experience and Programming Ms. Tachatan Chairoek,

and Assistant Manager for Programming and Operations Ms. Nisarat Sae-Lee, was welcomed by administrators of the College of Tourism and Hospitality Management, namely, Assistant Dean Asst. Prof. Evangeline E. Timbang, Hospitality

DUSIT INTERNATIONAL AND CTHM TO PAGE 9



Dusit International AVP Mr. Michael (seated, left) and CTHM Dean Atty. Gezzez Giezi G. Granado, DCL (seated, right), renew partnership pledges, with Dr. Rocamora, Asst. Prof. Timbang, and Mr. Reyes as witnesses.



UST OIRP Associate Director Prof. Karen S. Santiago, Ph.D. (rightmost), meets with the visitors.



UST Office of Public Affairs Director Asst. Prof. Joreen T. Rocamora, Ph.D. (in beige suit) and Assistant to the Director for Publication Ms. Katherine Patrice B. Sibug (in yellow mask) conduct a walking tour for campus sites.



DUSIT INTERNATIONAL AND CTHM FROM PAGE 8

Management Department Chair Mr. Juanito Luis S. Reyes, International Relations and Programs Coordinator for CTHM Ms. Katherine Camille A. Nagal and the Director of the UST Office of Public Affairs Asst. Prof. Joreen T. Rocamora, Ph.D.

UST CTHM Dean Assoc. Prof. Gezzez Giezi G. Granado, DCL, signed on behalf of the College, while Mr. Michael represented Dusit International in the pledge.

Dusit International is one of CTHM's partners in providing virtual internships for its Hospitality Management students under the Enhanced Virtual Mode. A campus and museum tour along with a courtesy call with the Office of International Relations and Programs were also part of the visit.



UST Museum tour



(From top row, left:) Razon, Javier, Rosindi, Soriano, Dela Torre, Guerrero, Co, and adviser Mercado

Tourism Management students win during the Asia Pacific CHRIE Conference 2022

Students from the BS Tourism Management program, major in Recreation and Leisure Management, won the Best Paper Award in the recently held Youth Asia Pacific Council on Hotel, Restaurant, and Institutional Education (APacCHRIE) Conference. The event was hosted by Sunway University, Malaysia on May 23 to 25, 2022, via Zoom.

Rei Abigail M. Co, Karl Richard S. Dela Torre, Liam Jan P. Guerrero, Christine Jean R. Javier, Raven Denzel S. Razon, Pamela I. Rosindi, Graciela Kristine F. Soriano and their adviser, Mr. James Monren T. Mercado, presented their research paper titled “*Agkuyog (Together): Community Participation in Tourism Development for the New Normal - The Case of Candon City, Ilocos Sur, Philippines*”. They studied the community participation in tourism development for the new normal in Candon City using the qualitative-phenomenological approach.

Two other teams from CTHM presented their papers during the main conference with the titles, “*Social Media Applications as Marketing Tool of Chicken Takeaway Establishment during Pandemic*,” by Kyle



The certificate for best paper is presented to the UST team by APacCHRIE representatives.

Monrae Padonan, Krystle Mae Caubalejo, Cara Justine Baldovino, Christine Mae Pagdilao and Miguel Victor Amat, together with their adviser Mr. Karl R. Baroro, and “*Influence of Mobile Food Delivery Experience on Customer Reuse Intention during Covid-19 Pandemic*,” by Joshua Anthony Samaniego, Portia Tuazon, Angelica Beatriz Ubuñgen, Vincent Philip

Vañó, together with their advisers Ms. Kathrine Camille A. Nagal and Dr. Agnes Jocelyn Bandojo.

APacCHRIE is the leading hospitality and tourism education association within the Asia-Pacific Region. The members are from more than 18 countries, covering almost 75 leading universities within the Asia-Pacific region.



Mock-up in Intramuros in Nov 2021 in preparation for Venice Biennale 2022

Prof. Felicidad Prudente, Ph.D., discusses weaving sounds.

Leading musicologist speaks at USTGS 2022 St. Antoninus of Florence Lecture

“Listen with the eyes and see with the ears,” said Dr. Felicidad Prudente, a leading Filipina musicologist, who gave a talk at the UST Graduate School’s St. Antoninus of Florence Lecture on May 7, 2022. Her lecture was titled “From Concept to Praxis: The Making of Textile Art from Weaving Sounds.”

Prudente argued that weaving sounds are not just noise but integral to the production of textile art. They are embodied sounds brought about by the physicality of the weaver’s body attached to the loom, making them one. Sound studies connect with visual art, the art of weaving, and even mathematics in the counting of rhythmic patterns and the endless counting of threads. The uncharted world of weaving sound becomes a multidisciplinary field that merges sound, image, performance, tradition, and technology in collaboration with visual artist Gerardo Tan and Ifugao master weaver Sammy Bule.

The speaker discussed how the weaver now becomes a musical performer with the loom as her musical instrument and projects herself sonically in her own style of handling the loom. The performer deploys and controls her tools at her own pace and rhythm, which generates sound patterns until the cloth is finished. It is like a musician who concludes the piece upon reaching its end.

In her insightful talk, Prudente also provided a modified definition of “translation,” which is now multidisciplinary and not solely confined to language. It is “carrying over” the intangible to the tangible, the transcribed



music being approximations of the actual sounds of the loom. She started a musical transcription project of weaving sounds in Miag-ao, Iloilo using non-Western methods (not staff paper, but lined pad paper and graph paper). Filipino indigenous instruments now approximate the different sounds of the loom: loud, soft, hissing, jingling, percussive, and silence when the weaver visually checks her work. Visual artist Gerardo Tan captured the sounds from the instruments in painting, and Ifugao master weaver Sammy Bule successfully generated textile art inspired by the transcribed music. It became a multi-disciplinary union of not only science and art but also of mathematics, movement, music, painting, and textile art.

The project was featured as one of the Philippine Arts at the “Venice Biennale,” whose exhibitions will extend until November 2022 in Italy.

The St. Antoninus of Florence Lecture is an annual event sponsored by the Graduate School in commemoration of its patron saint. This year’s lecture was organized by USTGS faculty members – Assoc. Prof. Elizabeth Arenas, Ph.D., Assoc. Prof. Antonio Africa, Ph.D., Asst. Prof. Peter John Marie Porticos, Ph.D., Asst. Prof. Rhochie Avelino Matienzo, Ph.D., and Asst. Prof. Marella Ada Bolaños, Ph.D. The welcome and closing remarks were delivered by the Regent and Dean of the Graduate School, Rev. Fr. Rodel E. Aligan, O.P. and Prof. Michael Anthony C. Vasco, Ph.D., respectively.

Ayala Corporation Executive Director and Treasurer Estelito Biacora (top row, leftmost), UST GS Business Cluster Head Dr. Elizabeth Recio (top row, rightmost), course facilitator Dr. Tomas S. Tiu (top row, center), with academic staff and graduate students.



BDO Senior VP and Ayala Corp Executive Director share expertise at GS business webinars

The UST Graduate School (GS) recently held two virtual lectures via Zoom, for Ph.D. and MBA students, in relation to its Business Leadership Series. BDO Unibank Inc., Senior Vice President Jennifer M. Tantan, and Ayala Corporation Executive Director and Treasurer Estelito Biacora served as speakers during the two-part event.

Tantan presented insights gained from her corporate leadership styles at several significant firms involving numerous areas (i.e., batteries, luxury products, real estate, and banking financial services). She imparted important lessons on transformative leadership and connected civic ideals to GS students, emphasizing that being a leader necessitates devotion, discipline, character, and effective communication.

Specifically, Tantan discussed how to navigate and progress up the corporate ladder while ensuring corporate continuity. Her perspective on the significance of lifelong learning and focusing on what matters most were key considerations on her personal leadership.

Her mentor, Ms. Teena Tan Cabbab of SM Group, joined her later during the event with an in-depth talk on experiential learning, organizational and change management, shifting leadership and collective leadership, workplace performance coaching, shared leadership, creating team vision from technological changes, and creating visions for companies.

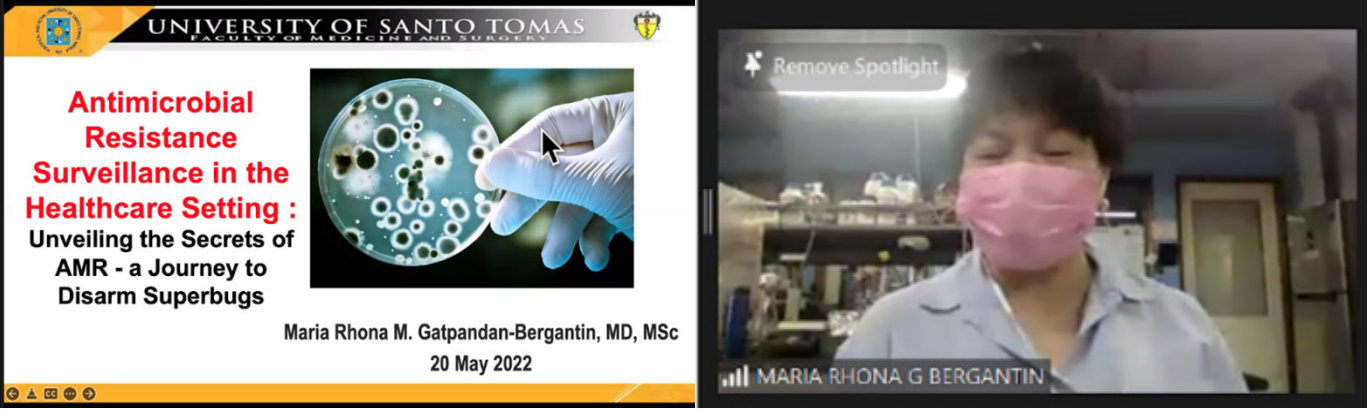
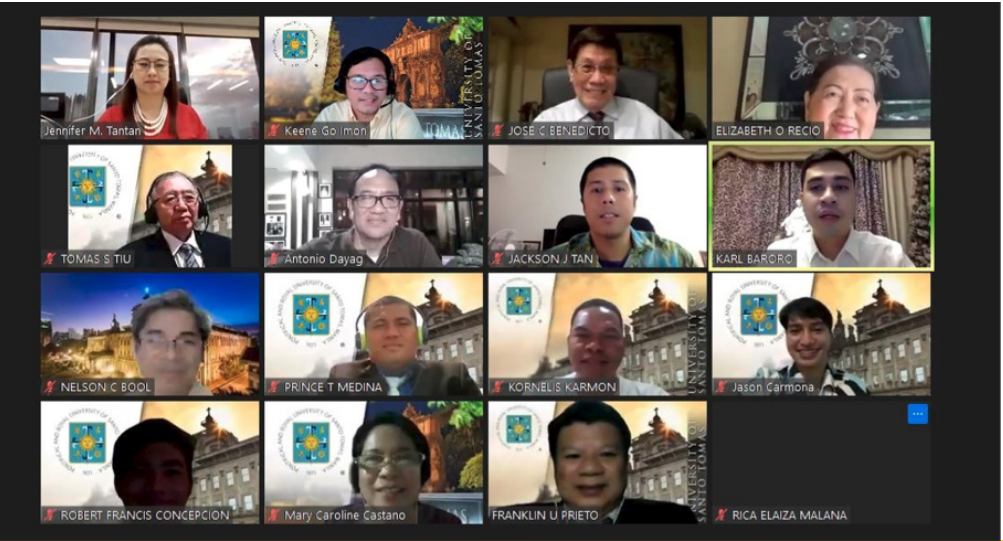
For Biacora’s talk, he discussed transformational leadership styles in various large organizations, based on

his experience in banking gained from managing one of the largest and oldest conglomerates in the Philippines. He was previously the Chief Investment Officer and Senior Vice President of Global Markets and former Head of Private Banking at Bank of the Philippine Islands.

Biacora shared lessons from the very challenging global macro-economic environments and pointed out how those were translated to making top-down decisions. He also pointed out various volatile markets that are currently roiling the financial markets globally. He explained that being a good leader requires connecting the dots, optimizing the returns for the organization, being flexible, resilient, sustainability capable for long-term goals, and a good leadership role model. He also emphasized the importance of managing risks and adding value to the organization.

Dr. Elizabeth Recio, UST Graduate School Business Cluster Head, gave the welcome remarks, while the Ph.D. students Mr. Karl Baroro, Mr. Keene Go-Imon, Mr. Prince Torres Medina, Ms. Frida Len Palermo, Mr. Franklin Prieto, and course facilitator Dr. Tomas Tiu, served as the masters of ceremony.

BDO Unibank Inc., Senior Vice President Jennifer Tantan (top row, leftmost), Recio (rightmost), Tiu (second row, leftmost), with academic staff and graduate students.

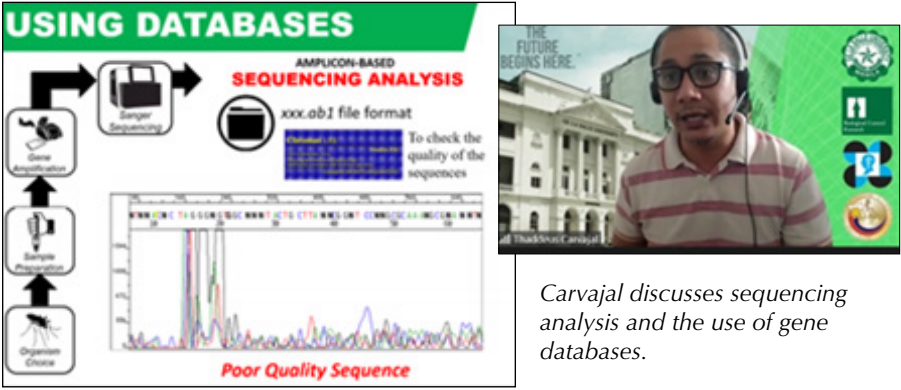


Bergantin presents her topic.

UST infectious disease webinar underscores antimicrobial resistance

UST Graduate School Ph.D. major in Medical Technology students, in collaboration with the Continuing Professional Development Committee of the Faculty of Pharmacy Medical Technology Department, held a webinar titled “Diagnosis of Infectious Disease Agents and Antimicrobial Resistant Genes” on May 20, 2022.

Experts in the field of infectious diseases and bioinformatics were invited to discuss some key and novel points regarding antimicrobial resistance contextualized in the Philippines, and the possible role of molecular and bioinformatics techniques in diagnostics of resistance.



Carvajal discusses sequencing analysis and the use of gene databases.



Assoc. Prof. Maria Rhona G. Bergantin, M.D., M.Sc., FPCP, FPSMID of the UST Hospital discussed “Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) Surveillance in the Healthcare Setting: Unveiling the Secrets of AMR - A Journey to Disarm Superbugs.” In this presentation, Bergantin focused on the mechanisms through which bacteria acquire antimicrobial resistance. She exposed the role of resistance networks on the transmission of AMR bacteria (ARB), as being driven by interactions among host, pathogen and environmental factors, including the role of hospital wastewater as a significant environmental reservoir of AMR, as it represents an ideal environment for ARB and antimicrobial resistant genes (ARGs) to persist. She also touched on the effects of antimicrobial resistance as a major issue posing a serious global health threat especially in low-income countries like the Philippines, and the treatment processes that can help in eliminating or reducing the ARB load and its impact on ARGs in a public health setting.

Assoc. Prof. Thaddeus M. Carvajal, Ph.D. of the De La Salle University College of Science, tackled the topic,

“Computational Design for Molecular Diagnosis of Infectious Agents,” which highlighted cutting-edge research that brings an opportunity for current and future researchers to be abreast on the novel technologies and approaches in molecular studies with the aid of bioinformatics. He gave examples of his collaboration with Japanese agencies and academia in which molecular techniques including methods like Sanger sequencing and next generation sequencing, and the expanding of research from genomics to full on systematics were used to help with the prevention of mosquito-borne viral infections.

The webinar was attended by over 520 participants, including medical technologists/clinical laboratory scientists currently working in clinical laboratories in the Philippines, faculty members from different universities, Medical Technology students, and researchers in the field of Clinical Microbiology.

Also present during the program were Prof. Edilberto P. Manahan, Ph.D., Chair of the Department of Medical Technology and Prof. Camilla J. Vizconde, Ph.D., Assistant Dean of the UST Graduate School.

(Top row, from left:) The moderators Liam Thomas Recacho and Laurice Dwayne Arceno, UST GS Dean Prof. Michael Anthony Vasco, Ph.D., Business Cluster Program Lead Dr. Elizabeth Recio, Course Facilitator Dr. Fernando Trinidad, with (second row, from left) the speakers: Old Baguio Café Operations and Marketing Head Wendy Molina, Francorp Philippines Assistant Vice President for Consultancy Joselito Samson and Bang Bang Special Crispy Bangus Co-founder Lutchie Canlas, and the organizing committee.



Franchising professionals share insights on managing franchise businesses at GS webinar

The UST Graduate School – Business Cluster organized the webinar “Game Plan: Winning Strategies in Business Franchising,” which highlighted the concepts of franchising along with its advantages, challenges, and strategies.

Business Cluster Program Lead, Dr. Elizabeth O. Recio, stated in her welcome remarks that having the topic was timely, since shifting from being a wage earner to having an enterprise or franchise is one of the many avenues that can be explored by an individual to succeed and start moving away from the economically devastating effects of the pandemic and other current events.

UST Graduate School Dean Prof. Michael Anthony C. Vasco, Ph.D., stated that franchising is one of the many ways of expanding our economic base, capitalizing on the success of the already well-established businesses, extending it to other locations. This in turn will not only generate income for the owner, but also employment opportunities for others.

The three speakers were professionals who are directly involved with the daily operations of franchising; Ms. Wendy Molina, Operations and Marketing Head of Old Baguio Café and Ms. Lutchie Canlas, Co-founder and Business Development Head of Bang Bang Special Crispy Bangus. They were joined by an expert in developing the biggest franchise brands in the country, Mr. Joselito Samson, Assistant Vice President for Consultancy of Francorp Philippines.

Molina started by introducing Old Baguio Café as it prides itself as a gourmet experience with the best of Cordillera brews and hospitality, a ‘piece of Baguio in the heart of the Metro’. Being a social enterprise at the same time, it promotes sustainability, traceability, and authenticity in their products. As one of the restaurants that launched during the pandemic, Molina shared that they saw the pandemic as an opportunity even amidst the continuous travel restrictions and lockdowns by strategizing into

making Old Baguio Café a solution to state the needs of craving the spirit of Baguio.

Canlas, co-founder of Bang Bang Special Crispy Bangus, discussed how they focused their strategy on revamping the normal fried Bangus that Filipinos are used to. Apart from the original flavor, they have introduced new tastes that are close to the Filipino palate such as Spicy Pares and Inasal. With a great business plan and intriguing marketing strategy, they have managed to increase their branches nationwide. When asked about how they maintain quality despite swift growth, she said that they made sure that the process is kept simple, which helps ensure quality and consistency. She also highlighted four points that aimed to answer the question ‘how to keep winning when the game rules changed’ through the acronym BANG: Be bullish. Accept realities. Navigate opportunities. Gear up for the next challenge.

Considering that the majority of the participants were students, the final speaker focused on laying out the basics of franchising. Samson emphasized the essence of equilibrium between the franchisee and the franchisor, ensuring that both will profit.

Samson shared that not all businesses are franchise ready. He explained various criteria that help determine franchisability of a business: successful prototype, continuing value, return on investment, affordability, market trends and conditions, capital requirements, adaptability, transferability of knowledge, differentiation, and credibility. He also advised to look into aspects such as structure, legal, operations, marketing, and sales.

The webinar ended with closing remarks from Dr. Fernando L. Trinidad, who noted the emerging interest of students in franchising. He said that it might seem like a road paved with gold but along the way, there are still ‘holes’ which require strategizing for one to survive.



Jangpatarapongsa discusses the business plan for their detection kits.

UST Pharmacy, GS collaborate with Mahidol University on Leptospirosis Diagnostics webinar

The UST Graduate School (GS) and the Continuing Professional Development (CPD) committee of the Department of Medical Technology of the Faculty of Pharmacy, through the class of Prof. Edilberto P. Manahan, Ph.D., under MT 820 (Graduate Seminar), organized the webinar “Diagnosis of Leptospirosis: Development of Test Kits” on April 12, 2022, via Zoom.

“Research in healthcare is an essential function that all higher education institutions must pursue. With the backdrop of emerging diseases, the more that we realize that we need to advance, push, and expand the frontiers of research in the health sciences so that we can address the pressing needs of our communities and society,” said GS Dean Prof. Michael Anthony Vasco, Ph.D., in his opening remarks.

Attended by various allied healthcare professionals working in the industry and academe, the webinar had Assoc. Prof. Kulachart Jangpatarapongsa, Ph.D., from the Mahidol University Center for Research and Innovation as the speaker. He shared his expertise on leptospirosis diagnostics, owing to the fact that the said disease has had a significant increase in both incidence and mortality rates in the Philippines for the past years, with farming communities in the Cordilleras seeing a rapid rise.

Jangpatarapongsa, whose expertise spans different biological fields, including parasitology, immunology, and diagnostics, shared several key components of developing a diagnostic kit for the diagnosis of leptospirosis, scaling up the production of said kits, and setting up of

business models for which academia can be highly involved in production.

In his talk, he first introduced the bacterium, followed by the process of infection with *Leptospira*, the segments of the population vulnerable to the disease, and epidemiologic consequences such as 50,000 people dying of leptospirosis every year. Considering that bacterium is zoonotically transmitted through the urine of animals like rats that mix with flood waters (a scenario common in the Philippines), the speaker emphasized that early treatment is key in preventing severe infections. Hence, the development of detection kits with high sensitivity and specificity serves a crucial purpose in the early detection and treatment of such disease.

The kits (detecting early antibodies), according to Jangpatarapongsa, are necessary because gold standard or reference methods prove to have consequential drawbacks. Microagglutination testing (MAT) is less sensitive in early cases, polymerase chain reaction (PCR) machines cannot be taken to the field and remain expensive, and bacteria cultures take a long time despite being definitive.

During the open forum, Jangpatarapongsa offered Filipino researchers the great opportunity to partner with Mahidol in identifying species under the genus *Leptospira*; and serovars using their Thai labs.

The Thai-developed kits detect both immunoglobulin antibodies, IgM and IgG, using enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA), and were later expanded to IgM immunochromatographic lateral tests for rapid detection. Studies on the rapid

test kit have proven that it is comparable in accuracy as the gold standard, PCR, in detecting earlier stages of infections, especially in cases of emergencies, and are therefore of great use for screening. The speaker stressed that this opens the door for the Philippines to develop its own test kits catering to the serovars of *Leptospira* in the Philippines as this affects specificity.

Another important aspect tackled by Jangpatarapongsa is how he, together with other members of his team, vastly contributed to developing a means by which their product can be profitable. These include discussions on upstreaming, which uses basic and applied research on proof of concept; middle streaming, which includes product design, development, and production among others; and market validation and commercialization as facets of downstreaming.

Jangpatarapongsa and his team developed IgM against specific antigens of *Leptospira*, worked on several series of specificity testing, reliability, and product stability validation; performed cost effectiveness studies; and came up with enquiries on target customers, and business-to-business plans that involved manufacturers (MT innotrex co., LTD), the academe (Mahidol University), and Thailand’s Ministry of Public Health.

Ending the talk with an open forum, it was discussed that a similar process must be followed (adapted to prevailing conditions) in order to produce a Philippine-made test kit mirroring the work of our Southeast Asian neighbors.

Baccalaureate Masses



UST Rector Very Rev. Fr. Richard G. Ang, O.P., Ph.D. (above, right), and UST Secretary-General Rev. Fr. Louie R. Coronel, O.P., EHL, lead the graduating students (below) in exiting the Arch of the Centuries.



A student proudly waves the Faculty of Pharmacy flag.



UST College of Nursing Dean Prof. Rowena Escolar Chua, Ph.D., (right) puts the Thomasian Mission Cross on a student, witnessed by Regent Rev. Fr. Julius Paul Factora, O.P. (left).



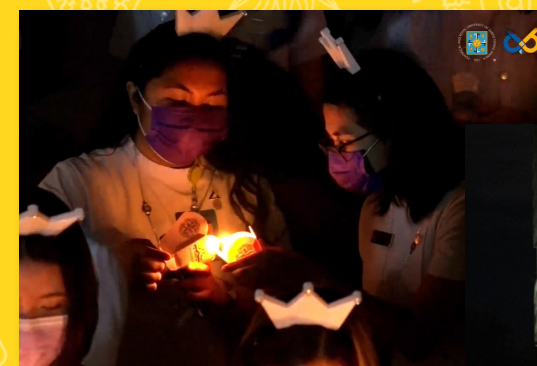
Students from the College of Commerce and Business Administration carry their College Flag to the stage.



Graduating students from the Faculty of Arts and Letters during the parade toward the open field.



Students write messages on each other's uniforms to remember the celebratory moment.



Graduating students (above) participate in the Ceremony of Light where the flame originates from the torch of the Presider Very Rev. Fr. Richard G. Ang, O.P., Ph.D. (below, right), and is passed to the Deans' and Regents' torches, from whom each of the students receives light.





THE PONTIFICAL AND ROYAL
UNIVERSITY OF SANTO TOMAS
The Graduate School
Entrepreneurial Marketing and Strategies Class
Presents

**Recalibrate your
Entrepreneurial Strategy**



April 30, 2022 | 5:00PM |
Live via   **LIVE**

Learn from Leading Entrepreneurs

John Paul “PJ” Lanot
Entrepreneur, DTI & Go Negosyo Mentor
“Entrepreneurial Origins & Opportunity Maximization”



Ban Joseph Ang, Rph, MBA
Global Director for Sales Excellence
Ortho Clinical Diagnostics
“Plan to Fail - How to Win in Business by Anticipating Failure”



Hiyasmin Neri-Soyao
CEO Shoppertainment Live Inc.
“Rising Innovation: Shopping in a Livestream Industry”



Industry experts share business, marketing strategies at UST GS webinar

Three entrepreneurs who were able to rise above the challenges of the global pandemic shared their experiences on the Zoom webinar organized by the Entrepreneurial Marketing and Strategies class on April 30, 2022.

Titled “RISE: Recalibrate your Entrepreneurial Strategy,” the webinar centered on how businessmen can maximize opportunities, manage risks, and be innovative to thrive within their chosen businesses. There were three invited speakers in the symposium.

The first speaker was an Entrepreneur, the DTI and Go Negosyo mentor Mr. John Paul “PJ” Lanot, followed by UST alumnus and the Global Director for Sales Excellence of Ortho Clinical Diagnostic Mr. Ban Joseph Ang, and former ABS-CBN artist, CEO and Co-Founder of Shoppertainment Live Inc., Hiyasmin Neri-Soyao.

Lanot discussed maximizing opportunities by listening to what your customers need and redesigning your business based on what suits the market. He shared that he was able to apply this to his own business during the pandemic by being flexible and adaptive to the changes

in his environment. He emphasized starting small to expand the business gradually.

Ang’s talk focused on managing risk while starting a business. He pointed out four reasons businesses fail –lack of operational cash flow, low customer demand, inadequate management, and ineffective business planning. For better and innovative management, he recommended leveraging the team’s strengths and putting the best people on the biggest opportunities, not the biggest problems. Ang urged listeners to “identify your short-term and long-term business goals, focus on what capabilities, resources, and skills you currently have, and then build your goals. Most importantly, stay with your core business intent.”

Neri-Soyao talked about “Rising Innovation: Shopping in a Livestream Industry”. With her years of experience in hosting a home shopping show, she saw the gap in the entertainment market of home shopping. She acquired sponsors and built her own company that started only with three employees but grew to 60 employees in the middle of the pandemic. She continues to innovate her way through

e-commerce using online platforms.

As an additional feature, interviews were conducted with various micro and small entrepreneurs who were also able to innovate, transform and recalibrate their strategies during the pandemic as an additional source of knowledge for the audience. A panel discussion followed the series of talks with the three speakers. As a parting message, Lanot, Ang, and Neri-Soyao highlighted the significance of having a mentor who can contribute wisdom and experience to a start-up business.

The event was attended by 272 participants from the academe and business community and was watched by over 1,000 people via Facebook Live. This event was opened with a message from Graduate School Dean Prof. Michael Anthony Vasco, Ph.D. and was concluded with the remarks of the Business Cluster Program Lead for Graduate School Prof. Elizabeth Recio, Ph.D. It was organized by the whole class of Entrepreneurial Marketing and Strategies with the course facilitator Prof. Esmeraldo Dimaculangan Jr., Ph.D.



Financial Management webinar focuses on communication, leadership skills

On May 19, 2022, via Zoom, the Financial Management Class of the UST Graduate School conducted a webinar titled “Navigating the Philippine Financial Market Amidst the COVID-19 Pandemic” that focused on how financial institutions should adapt to the disruptions and challenges posed by the recent economic crisis.

The webinar featured the President and Executive Director of AilBank (A Thrift Bank), Inc., Mr. Jesus Vicente O. Garcia, and the Vice President for Centralized Operations Group of the Bank of the Philippine Islands (BPI), Mr. Reynaldo Calingasan. The attendees were not only students from various universities in Manila, but industry practitioners as well.

Garcia discussed the value of having good leadership during such trying times. He talked about the significant differences between having a boss and a leader in a company. Moreover, he expounded on how a leader should adopt certain habits to survive the pandemic and non-pandemic adversities.

One key element of his talk was the importance of the employees of a company during the pandemic. According to Garcia, listening to the employees, understanding and sympathizing with their biggest concerns, communicating frequently, and being adaptable and compassionate to meet their needs are necessary considerations for work teams to survive in these times.



Calingasan (left) and Garcia

Garcia also shared that leaders must stay true to their core values. Alongside this, companies must adapt to current situations and be willing to take the initiative to navigate what is present. Since the future is unpredictable, he advised the audience to support the company’s vision with a set of approaches: change, flexibility, adaptability, transformation, and resilience, which are all vital leadership takeaways.

Calingasan shared his insights and experiences with the operations of BPI. He explained that the role of operations in a financial institution is vital. A bank or any business should have short-term, medium-term, and long-term plans to face the fast-changing environment and technology. He

reminded the audience that communication is essential and humans are the greatest assets.

In particular, Calingasan highlighted the growth and development of the team and having synergy with the team in achieving operational efficiency. The speaker capped off with a lesson that operations contribute to profitability by understanding the rationale of existing processes in appreciating the proposed changes, collaboration, management communication, and employee participation.

The course facilitator, Dr. Enrico Torres, delivered the closing remarks of the webinar.



Deputy Head of the EU Delegation to the Philippines Dr. Ana Sanchez Ruiz (right) and Master of Ceremonies Ms. Danie Laurel

Thomasian poets join multicultural live poetry recital with European Union

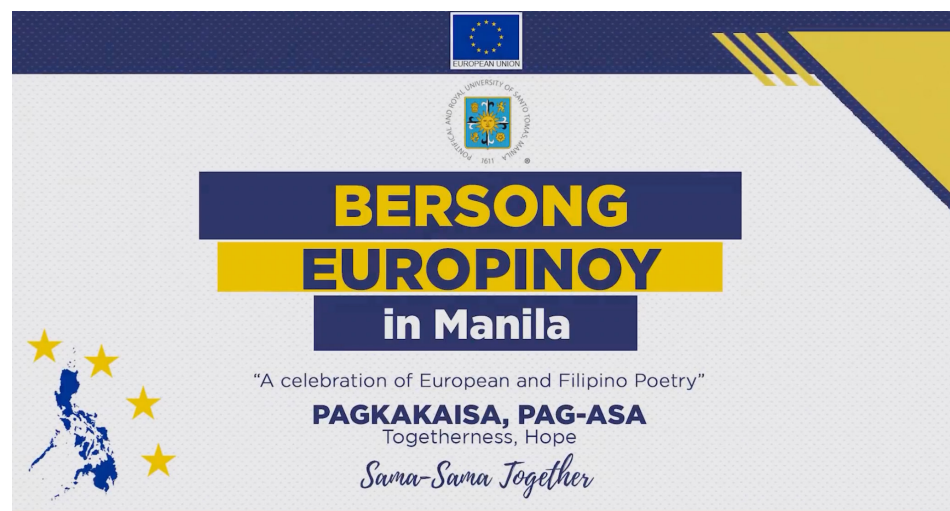
Four award-winning Thomasian authors and poets, who are a part of the academic staff of the University of Santo Tomas and authors of the UST Publishing House, recited their self-written works at “Bersong EuroPinoy”, an online poetry festival organized by the European Union Delegation to the Philippines, the embassies and cultural agencies of EU’s member institutions, and the University of Santo Tomas. The event was live-streamed on May 27, 2022, through the EU in the Philippines’ Facebook page.

Together with the Embassies of Belgium, Czech Republic, Germany (and the German Academic Exchange Service), Ireland, Spain (and Instituto Cervantes), France (and Alliance Française), Italy (and the Philippine-Italian Association), Austria, Poland, and UST through the Office of Public Affairs, the European Union Delegation to the Philippines set the theme “Pagkakaisa, Pag-asa” (Togetherness, Hope) for the international event. The festival is part of the Viva Europa cultural program, in commemoration of Europe Day, which took place on May 9.

Deputy Head of the EU Delegation to the Philippines Dr. Ana Sanchez Ruiz said in her opening remarks that Bersong EuroPinoy is a “festival of the richness and diversity of the European and Filipino languages, which brings to you the passion beneath 15 literary gems revered by European readers and Filipino poets. Poetry mirrors life, nurtures friendship and compassion, saves our core beings, our souls, emotions, and our identities.”

UST Secretary-General Rev. Fr. Louie R. Coronel, O.P., EHL, called the program

THOMASIAN POETS TO PAGE 21



UST Secretary-General Rev. Fr. Louie R. Coronel, O.P., EHL, delivers the closing remarks.



THOMASIAN POETS FROM PAGE 20

“a celebration of oneness, which bridges the east and the west, and brings a message of hope to every nation. We may be thousands of miles apart, but we feel and think as unified citizens of this world. We dream for our sustainable and peaceful future, and we hope for harmony in our social relationship with all our brothers and sisters as stewards of God’s creation.”

UST academic staff Asst. Prof. Joselito delos Reyes, Ph.D., recited “Ang Init Na ‘to”; UST PH Assistant Director Asst. Prof. Ned Parfan presented “The Waves”; Asst. Prof. Paul Castillo delivered “Para Lang Sa Langit”; and Assoc. Prof. Nerisa del Carmen Guevara presented “How to talk to the Dead in the Garden.”

Diplomats and representatives from the Embassies of Belgium, Czech Republic, Germany and the German Academic Exchange Service, Ireland, Spain and the Instituto Cervantes Manila, France, Italy and the Philippine Italian Association, Austria, and Poland recited poems in their original languages with English subtitles.

Included in the presentations were: “Tree of Justice” by František Novotný (recited by Dalibor Mička, Deputy Head of Mission, Embassy of the Czech Republic); “Hope” by Friedrich Schiller (recited by Dr. Monica Fröhlich, German Academic Exchange Service); “When all the others were away at Mass” by Seamus Heaney (recited by Irish Ambassador to the Philippines H.E. William Carlos); “Wild



The UST Singers performs virtually.

Swans” by William Butler Yeats (recited by Brian McCrohan, Deputy Head of Mission, Embassy of Ireland); *Variaciones Sobre El Instante Eterno* (The Eternal Instant) by Jose Hierro (recited by Professor Carmen Ruiz de Apodaca, Instituto Cervantes Manila); *Liberté* by Paul Eluard (recited by students from the French School Manila); *Un Adesso Immenso* (Immense Now), by Filippo Balestra (recited by himself with audio-visual rendition by Alessio Bertalot); *Amo* (Love) by Grazia Deledda (recited by Cristina Morrica, Philippine-Italian Association); *An Mauern Hin* (Along Walls) by Georg Trakl (recited by Tajana

Platzer, Embassy of Austria); and *Stepy Akermanskie* (The Akkerman Steppe) by Adam Mickiewicz (recited by the Chargé d’affaires a.i. Mr. Jarosław Roman Szczepankiewicz, Embassy of Poland).

A special presentation of “Doordeweeks” (On Weekdays) was recited by its author, the poet Mustafa Kör, who is the 5th Poet Laureate (National Poet) of Belgium.

The UST Singers, two-time winners of the Luciano Pavarotti Choir of the World trophy, delighted the audience of students and diplomats from Europe and the Philippines with song renditions.



The founding officers and state vice presidents of USTAA together with other members of the association.

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

Newly-recognized Thomasian alumni chapter holds virtual concert for UST’s founding anniversary

The UST Alumni Australia (USTAA), with the assistance of the Office of Alumni Relations (OAR), organized its first project as a certified and duly recognized alumni association of the University of Santo Tomas. The concert titled “Afterglow: A Touch of Nostalgia” headlined by the world-renowned UST Singers was the organization’s way of celebrating its alma mater’s 411th founding anniversary.

This event coincided with the official certification of USTAA by the University as a recognized alumni association, and the introduction of its founding officers and members to the world.

UST Rector Very Rev. Fr. Richard G. Ang, O.P., Ph.D., in his opening remarks, greeted USTAA and welcomed them as the newest addition to the growing number of Thomasian alumni associations around the globe.

“UST Alumni Australia is poised to distinguish itself as a dynamic and robust organization of professionals which will inspire our students and alumni of the university to look back with pride in their roots,” said Fr. Ang, adding that their enthusiasm for projects and activities will surely provide the impetus to bring all Thomasian alumni closer to the University.



Ambassador of the Philippines to Australia Her Excellency Ma. Hellen B. De La Vega, in her inspirational message, praised USTAA’s effort in establishing and uniting such a diverse group during the pandemic.

The association has members from different states of Australia such as New South Wales, ACT, Victoria, Queensland, Western Australia, and South Australia.

“Less than 6 months in their existence as a community organization, the women and men behind UST Alumni Australia, under the great leadership of Ms. Benjie de Ubago, have demonstrated their strong resolve to live and spread the Thomasian core values of competence, commitment, and compassion especially as we face today’s global challenges,” said Ambassador De La Vega, ending her speech with declaring herself as a proud Thomasian Asian Studies alumna.

More prominent Thomasian alumni such as John Lapus, Christian Esguerra, and Miriam Quiambao, joined the celebration and left a few words of inspiration for the group. The virtual concert also featured the performances of music legend Nonoy Zuniga, pianist Hildegard Palafox-Mendoza, balladeer Jun Polistico, and performer Rie Manaloto.

The program ended with the USTAA President Ms. Benjie de Ubago extending her sincerest gratitude to the people who supported the association’s journey. She invited everyone to join them in their upcoming activities and projects.

CCWLS podcast ‘USTinig’ promotes PH literature, writers

In line with its mission to celebrate and promote Philippine literature and writers, the UST Center for Creative Writing and Literary Studies (CCWLS) continues to produce its popular podcast ‘USTinig’ that debuted at the height of the pandemic.

The first episode of the Center’s official podcast was aired in August 2020 and featured Edgar Calabia Samar, who discussed his novel *Teorya ng Unang Panahon*.

Among the show’s other guests have been playwright Rody Vera, scriptwriter Ricky Lee, poet and TV personality Lourd de Veyra, poet and novelist Mookie Katigbak-Lacuesta, historian and writer Ambeth Ocampo, fictionist Eliza Victoria, and actor Mae Paner.

CCWLS Director Professor Emeritus Cristina Pantoja Hidalgo, Ph.D., is proud of what the ‘USTinig’ team has achieved in terms of the quality of its content. “It is several notches above much stuff that is on the ‘Net,” she said. “Its content is original and engaging, and the team has tried to give it popular appeal.”

Feedspot.com, in its May 29, 2022 ranking of best writing podcasts, places ‘USTinig’ at #13 among “thousands of podcasts on the web ranked by traffic, social media followers, domain authority, and freshness.” Metroskenemag.com last year included the show among its choice of five local podcasts on literature.

Show format, hit episodes

‘USTinig,’ hosted by creative writing instructor Mr. Jose Mojica, has two types of episodes: ‘RTs’ or Reading Texts, which features a creative work such as a book, play, or movie, and the author reading an excerpt; and ‘DMS’ or Discussion Matters, which is a conversation with a writer about their work, writing process, and other topics related to creative writing.

In 2021, a lively and engaging segment hosted by Asst. Prof. Dawn Marfil-Burris was added to the show. The other segments are the “USTinig Questionnaire,” patterned after Vanity Fair’s Proust Questionnaire, and “Save, Edit, and Delete,” where the guest is asked their opinion about a popular cultural product or phenomenon and asked whether they will save (the best), edit (“*puwede na*”), or delete (below par).

Among the ‘USTinig’ episodes that were the most popular with online audiences was Episode 20 that aired in



March 2022, an RT featuring Jhoanna Lynn Cruz, who penned the memoir *Abi Nako* or So I Thought, an important contribution to Philippine queer literature.

Podcast team members are UST homegrown talents

The ‘USTinig’ team comprises Mr. Jose Mojica (host and technical team head), Asst. Prof. Dawn Marfil-Burris (segment host & producer), Asst. Prof. Paul Castillo (producer), and Assoc. Prof. Chuckberry Pascual, Ph.D. (producer).

Assisting them are the technical team members who create posters, audio trailers, video trailers, and edit the entire episode. For the premiere episode, these were UST Department of Literature faculty members Kimberly Nicole Panis and Francis Rae Quilanting.

For the succeeding episodes, the tech team was composed of UST

Communication Arts majors, who do the work as part of their on-the-job training. The current tech team members are Korina Dela Cruz, Thea Flores, Ry Philip Jaco Galvan, Maxine Joaquin, Patricia Logina, and Joshua Miguel Rivero.

The show’s name comes from a spoken word album released by the UST Creative Writing Center under Prof. Ophelia Dimalanta, which features herself and UST faculty and alumni Vim Nadera, F. Sionil Jose, Cirilo Bautista, Lourd de Veyra, Ramil Gulle, Michael Corroza, J. Neil Garcia, Nerisa del Carmen Guevara, and Lito Zulueta.

Catch ‘USTinig’ on Spotify, Anchor, Google, and Apple podcasts:

1. <https://spoti.fi/37QKuAh>
2. <https://apple.co/33L5Dd7>
3. <https://bit.ly/2JNeRye>
4. <https://anchor.fm/ust-ccwls>



Thomasians curate an exhibit on 20th Century Intramuros architecture

For National Heritage Month, Thomasian alumni Prince Wico and Rancho Arcilla curated an exhibition on the architecture of 20th century Intramuros. Stemming from Wico's undergraduate thesis, the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA) housed "Istilong Intramuros: Identity by the Turn of the 20th Century" at their gallery from May 10 to 31, 2022.

Since the contemporary design style in the Walled City is inspired by the Spanish-era colonial style, little is known about the architecture of the district after the Spanish occupation. With this, the exhibition is an attempt to shed light on the district's architecture focusing on the beginning of the 20th Century. It is important to note that architectural gems during this time were mostly destroyed during the Second World War, except for the San Agustin Church.

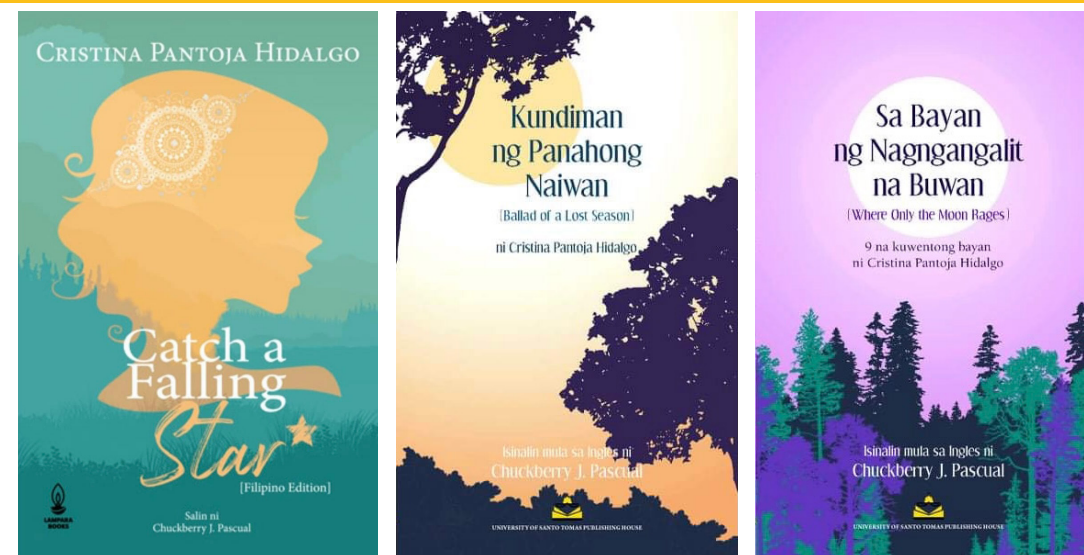
The exhibit, which is based on a book that is currently in development, aims to bridge the gap in the understanding and appreciation of Intramuros' unique character and stylistic identity by the end of the Spanish colonial regime. The exhibit is divided into two major parts: Housing the People, which explores the Bahay na Bato, its indigeneity, as well as its place as the prevailing architecture of Intramuros; and Housing God and King, which presents how power and dominance is projected in the churches, state buildings, palaces, and the fortifications of the Walled City.

Prince Wico is a Class of 2021 graduate from the University of Santo Tomas College of Architecture, and as an emerging professional in heritage work, he promotes the importance of contemporary innovation in the treatment of historic fabric.



Rancho Arcilla currently heads the Archives of the Intramuros Administration in Manila. Concurrent to this position, he also serves at the panel of the Intramuros Technical Committee on Architectural Standards, the review board of IA on all matters of new constructions in Intramuros.

He has an MA in Philippine Studies from the University of the Philippines Diliman and a BA in Asian Studies from the University of Santo Tomas.



The covers of his translations of three of Dr. Cristina Pantoja Hidalgo's books.

CCWLS Resident Fellow Chuck Pascual translates 4 works by Cristina Pantoja Hidalgo

UST Center for Creative Writing and Literary Studies (CCWLS) Resident Fellow Assoc. Prof. Chuckberry J. Pascual, Ph.D., has brought to four his translations of works by noted essayist and fictionist Prof. Cristina Pantoja Hidalgo, Ph.D.

To be published next year by the UST Publishing House (UST PH) is Pascual's latest translation into Filipino of Hidalgo, her *Tales for a Rainy Night* (1993) under the title *Mga Kuwentong Bayan para sa Gabing Maulan*.

His translations of her *Where Only the Moon Rages* (1994) as *Sa Bayan ng Nagngangalit na Buwan*, and *Ballad of a Lost Season* (1987) as *Kundiman ng Panahong Naiwan*, were published by UST PH in July 2021, while the Filipino version of

Catch a Falling Star (1999) was released by Lampara Publishing House in September 2021.

Pascual is an awarded essayist, fictionist, and literary critic. He teaches literature and creative writing at the UST Graduate School and Faculty of Arts and Letters. He has written 13 books and co-edited many anthologies.

Hidalgo, who is the Center's director, is a pioneer in the writing, teaching, and promotion of the creative nonfiction (CNF) genre in the Philippines. She has published over 40 books of fiction, CNF, and literary criticism.

The significance of memory in literature

Pascual, long a fan of Hidalgo's works, said he chose to translate her books and make them accessible to a wider Filipino audience because he believes they are a significant reminder of the importance of memory and narrative in literature toward the shaping of a nationalistic and feminist social identity.

"Binabasa ko talaga si Ma'am Jing [Hidalgo's nickname] dati pa," Pascual said. "At formative din ang mga kuwento niya sa akin bilang manunulat, kaya karangalan ko nang pumayag siyang isalin ko ang mga akda niya sa Filipino."

[I have been reading Ma'am Jing ever since, and her stories were formative to me as a writer, and so I was honored that she agreed to let me translate her works into Filipino.]

In a critical essay for the UST PH translations, he wrote: "Sa kabuuan, maaaring ilarawan ang mga akda ni

Hidalgo bilang makabayan, makababae, at eksperimental... Ngunit marahil, ang pinakahamahalagang kontribusyon ni Hidalgo ay ang pagpapahalaga sa gunita, ang walang tigil niyang pagpapaalala na dapat tayong umalala, at huwag na huwag makakalimot--sa mga kuwento ng kababaihan, sa mga kuwento ng bayan."

[Overall, Hidalgo's works may be described as nationalistic, feminist, and experimental...But perhaps the most important contributions of Hidalgo are the value she places on memory and her constant reminders that we should always remember and never ever forget - the stories of women, the stories of the nation.]

Pascual wrote *Kumpisal: Mga Kuwento* (UST PH, 2015), *Pagpasok sa Eksena: Ang Sinehan sa Panitikan at Pag-aaral ng Piling Sinehan sa Recto* (UP Press, 2016), *Ang Nawawala* (Visprint Inc., 2017), and a translation of Miguel Syjuco's 2010 novel *Ilustrado* (UST PH, 2022), among others.

His forthcoming titles this year are *Bayan ng mga Bangkay*, a horror/crime short story collection (UP Press), and two volumes of the *Maramihan* anthologies co-edited with Dr. Rolando Tolentino (Ateneo de Manila University Press).

Pascual has won many awards, among them the Dangal ng UST Gawad San Alberto Magno for Best Book and Best Published Research in 2019 and Best Creative Work in 2017; and Best Book of Short Fiction in Filipino, National Book Development Board/Manila Critics Circle 2018 National Book Awards for *Ang Nawawala*.



CCWLS Resident Fellow
Dr. Chuckberry J. Pascual

National Artist joins UST CCWLS 2022 National Writers' Workshop

Newly proclaimed National Artist for Literature G mino H. Abad joined the recent University of Santo Tomas Center for Creative Writing and Literary Studies (UST CCWLS) National Writers' Workshop (NWW) as a senior guest panelist. Held from June 13 to 22, 2022 via Zoom, this is the third time that the UST NWW was held online. Abad has been a stalwart of the workshop for years now.

This year's writing fellows were:

- For the SHORT STORY: Larissa Mae Suarez (Quezon City, UP Diliman) and Reil Benedict Obinque (Davao City, Ateneo de Davao)
- For MAIKLING KUWENTO: Carla Mortel Baricaua (Caloocan, UP Diliman) and Jerwin Bilale Uy (Manila, UP Diliman)
- For POETRY: Jessie Raymundo (Muntinglupa, DLSU), Karl Ren Lalas (Pangasinan, St. Louis University). and Cindel Ong (Manila, UST/UP Diliman)
- For TULA: John Christopher DG Lubag (Bulacan, UP Diliman) and Nikki Mae Recto (Valenzuela, PUP)
- For CREATIVE NONFICTION: Linus Van Plata (Laguna, UPLB), Hezekiah Louie Zaraspe (Laguna, UST), and L. A. Piluden (Baguio City, UP Baguio)
- For SANAYSAY: Jason Federigan Pozon (Pasig City, UP Diliman) and Sherald Salamat (Cavite, PUP)
- For the ONE-ACT PLAY/SCREENPLAY: J.M. Gomez (Cagayan de Oro, DLSU) and Zarina Sarapuddin (Laguna, St. Luke's Medical Center College).

Asst. Prof. Joselito Zulueta was the 2022 workshop director and Asst. Prof. Dawn Marfil Burris the workshop coordinator.

2022 NWW teaching panel

The teaching panel comprised CCWLS Director Prof. Cristina Pantoja Hidalgo, Ph.D.; CCWLS Assistant Director Assoc. Prof. Ralph Semino Gal n, Resident Fellows Prof. Augusto Antonio Aguila, Ph.D.; Asst. Prof. Ma. Ailil Alvarez, Mr. Mark Angeles, Asst. Prof. Paul Castillo, Assoc. Prof. Joselito Delos Reyes, Ph.D.; Assoc. Prof. Nerisa del Carmen Guevara, Burris, Mr. Jose Mojica, Asst. Prof. Benedict Parfan, Assoc. Prof. Chuckberry Pascual, Ph.D.; Prof. John Jack Wigley, Ph.D.; and Zulueta, as well as Associate Fellow Asst. Prof. Jenny Ortuoste, Ph.D..

In addition to Abad, the other senior guest panelists were University of the Philippines (UP) professors Luna Sicat Cleto, Ph.D., and Vim Nadera, Ph.D., as well as acclaimed writer and poet Jerry Gracio. Their participation was made possible through the sponsorship of the UST Varsitarian.

The 2022 workshop was the 11th since the Center's revival in 2012, but the 22nd counting the workshops held by the Center's founding director Ophelia Dimalanta.

The first online NWW - 2020

The Center was ready to hold the 2020 workshop in June that year in Baguio City as usual, but the Covid-19 pandemic and the subsequent lockdown of the country put a halt to those plans.

When it became apparent that the pandemic would not disappear soon, the Center's resident fellows, after much



deliberation, decided to hold that year's workshop online. It was agreed that to hold a virtual workshop would be better than no workshop at all, as the NWW is the Center's flagship program.

UST's 2020 NWW, slated on Nov. 9 to Dec. 2, from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. daily via Zoom, was the second online workshop to be held in the country after the UP Institute of Creative Writing's Likhaan. The teaching panel was composed of the Center's resident fellows and senior guest panelists Abad, Sicat-Cleto, and Gracio.

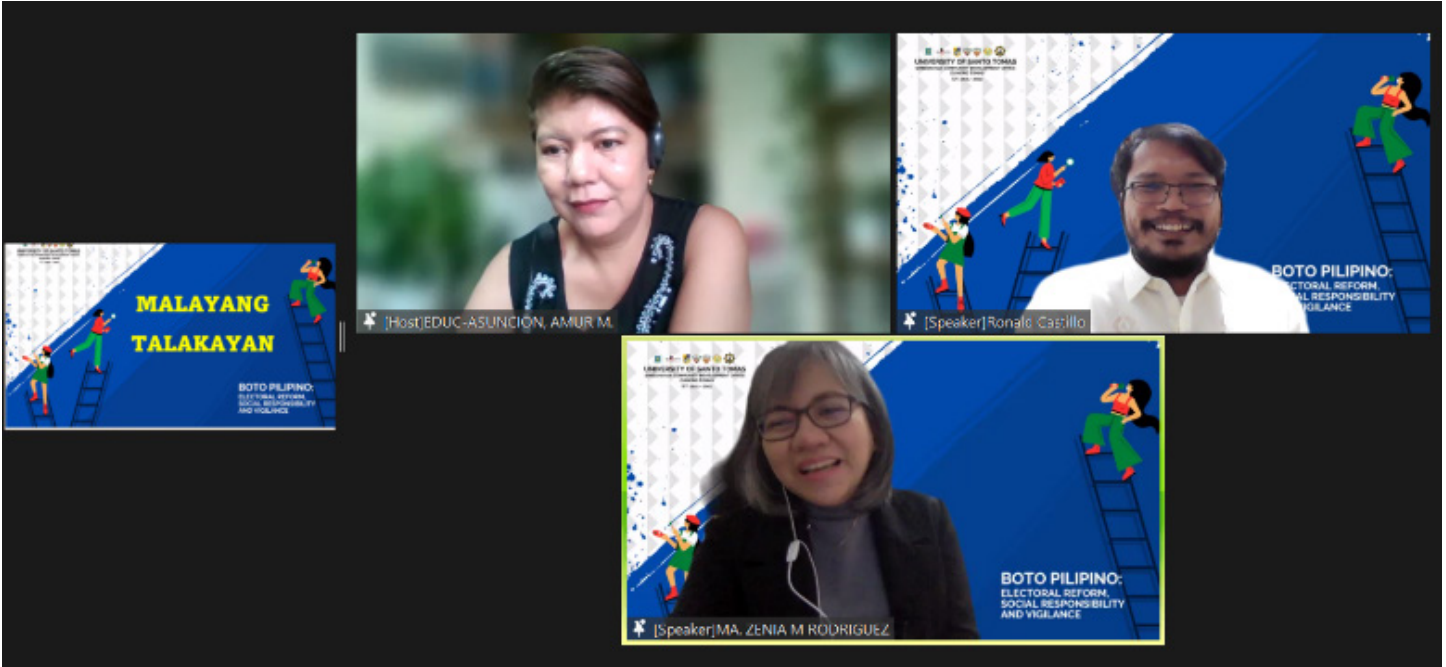
The workshop took longer than a month because in the midst of it a typhoon hit Manila, knocking down power lines and wreaking havoc on already unstable internet connections. Despite these challenges, the workshop was a success.

The second online NWW - 2021

With more experience holding online events under their belt, the resident fellows of the Center decided to hold the 2021 NWW on Zoom again from June 14 to July 2.

While the opportunity to fellowship with each other face to face was still not an option, given pandemic restrictions, holding the Zoom online "democratized" the workshop. Pascual and

THOMASIAN POETS TO PAGE 27



Asst. Prof. Amur Asuncion, Ed.D., Asst. Prof. Ronald Castillo, and Asst. Prof. Ma. Zenia Rodriguez

Castillo, Rodriguez of AB serve as Boto Filipino speakers for SIMBAHAYAN's Dunong Tomas

Dunong Tomas, one of UST SIMBAHAYAN Community Development's four university-wide advocacy clusters, focused on voter education this year through the Boto Filipino webinars. Beginning in November 2021 and ending in May 2022, it extended its efforts to engage with partner communities of the various academic units.

Former AB Community Development Coordinator, Asst. Prof. Ronald Castillo, and current AB Faculty Secretary, Asst. Prof. Ma. Zenia Rodriguez, were the speakers at the opening and closing webinars of Dunong Tomas. Both hailing from the UST Department

of Political Science, each provided strategic topics for both ends of the advocacy.

The opening of Dunong Tomas equipped voters with the ABCs of voting. Rodriguez spoke on evaluating candidates while Castillo undertook the topic of political discourse.

For the closing webinar, it featured themes on post-election reform, vigilance, and social responsibility, in which Castillo focused on institutions and what needs to be fixed in Philippine democracy, while Rodriguez discussed civic and political consciousness.

NATIONAL ARTIST FROM PAGE 26

Castillo, workshop director and coordinator respectively, said over 50 of the 103 applicants of the 2021 workshop were from the country's other regions. Of the 12 fellows, seven were based outside of NCR.

According to 2021 writing fellow Chuck Smith, "This opened the UST workshop to a wider range of voices and critical perspectives. A writer with a laptop or mobile phone and an internet connection can apply to join the workshop now, with distance and money not as big a concern as it was during its physical iterations."

The online sessions were no less thorough and critical than the physical workshops. Smith said, "For essayist Wigley, a good literary work is one that doesn't buckle or hesitate when revealing its truth and its insight. Fictionist Joselito delos Reyes highlighted the importance of telling a story without the frills and pretentiousness."

Other members of the teaching panel that year included Hidalgo, Galan, Parfan, Zulueta, and Mojica, with Abad, Sicat Cleto, and Gracio joining again as senior guest panelists courtesy

of The Varsitarian, UST's official student paper.

Smith also wrote: "Hidalgo, author of numerous books of fiction, nonfiction and criticism, cautioned writers that creative nonfiction—a genre that is often defined as 'true stories, well told'—is not an excuse to be 'sloppy...The piece of creative nonfiction should be as artful as fiction...We expect it to say something. Meaning, it should not be just 'kuwentuhan.' It should be 'kuwento.' It has to have a point.'"

2022 NWW

As the Center held its third year of holding the NWW online with writing fellows from all over the country, Hidalgo said it remains committed to sustaining its flagship project in the coming years to develop and encourage emerging writers and contribute to the growth of Philippine literature.

Assoc. Prof. Luděk Hynčík, Ph.D., Vice-Rector for Research and Development of the University of West Bohemia in the Czech Republic visited the University of Santo Tomas on June 14, 2022.

He was welcomed by UST Office of Public Affairs Director Asst. Prof. Joreen T. Rocamora, Ph.D., joined by UST Vice-Rector for Academic Affairs Prof. Cheryl Peralta, DrPH, and UST OIRP Associate Director Prof. Karen Santiago, Ph.D.

Dr. Hynčík met with Executive Assistant for Research Operations and Management Prof. Cecilia Moran, Dr.rer.nat., Research Center for the Natural Sciences and Applied Sciences (RCNAS) Director Prof. Bernard Tongol, Ph.D., Research Center for the Health Sciences (RCHS) Chief Program Officer Prof. Consuelo G. Suarez, MD, Ph.D., Dr. Peralta, and Dr. Santiago for possible collaborations. His visit also included a tour of the UST Museum.





Engr. José Antonio Portillo Corpas, from the Foundation for the Promotion of Industrial Innovation (F2I2) under the Higher Technical School of Industrial Engineers of the Universidad Politécnica de Madrid, visited the University of Santo Tomas on May 19, 2022.

He was welcomed by the UST Office of Public Affairs Director Asst. Prof. Joreen T. Rocamora, Ph.D., and representatives from the Faculty of Engineering, including the Regent Fr. Roberto Luanzon, Jr., O.P.

Engr. Corpas was accompanied during the visit by Industrial Engineering alumna Engr. Elvira Arceo. After a tour of the campus and the Museum, they met with the Engineering International Relations and Programs Coordinator Engr. Angelito A. Silverio, Ph.D., and the Industry, Government, Academe, and Alumni Relations Program Coordinator Engr. Charlie A. Marquez.





Occupational Therapist
Licensure Examination

June 2022
UST Passing Rate: 61.54%
National Passing Rate: 35.63%



Anne Marydon V. Lariosa
1st – 81%

Physical Therapist
Licensure Examination

June 2022
UST Passing Rate: 100%
National Passing Rate: 54.65%



Yuji U. Espejo
3rd – 87.55%



Krisma Shantal G. Ponsaran
3rd – 87.55%



Certified Public
Accountant Licensure
Examination

May 2022
UST Passing Rate: 41.24%
National Passing Rate: 22.29%



Jhoone Cyrelle D. Nacario
1st – 88.83%



Charlene Mae N. Perez
3rd – 88%



Gerimee R. Mappatao
8th – 86.67%



August Joshua T. Dela Cruz
10th – 86.17%



Nurse Licensure
Examination

May 2022
UST Passing Rate: 100%
National Passing Rate: 68%



Francheska Nicole L. Chua
10th – 87.40%



THE
ACADEMIA

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