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(From left:) Jollibee Group Foundation Chair Mrs. Grace Tan Caktiong, Prior Provincial of the Dominican Province of the Philippines Very Rev. Fr. Filemon I. dela Cruz, Jr., O.P., SThL, UST Rector Very Rev. Richard G. Ang, O.P., PhD, and Founder and Chairman of Jollibee Foods Corporation Dr. Tony Tan Caktiong

UST inaugurates Tony Tan Caktiong Innovation Center at its Santa Rosa campus

The University of Santo Tomas held the solemn blessing and formal inauguration of the UST-Tony Tan Caktiong Innovation Center (UST-TTCIC) at its 40-hectare campus in Santa Rosa City, Laguna. The rites coincided with UST's 412th foundation anniversary on April 28, 2023.

The innovation center is named after its donor Dr. Tony Tan Caktiong, Chairman and Founder of Jollibee Foods Corporation (JFC). Tan Caktiong graduated from the UST in 1975 with a Bachelor of Science in Chemical Engineering. He also received a Doctorate in Business Administration, *honoris causa*, from UST in 2018.

In his message, Tan Caktiong expressed his joy over the completion and inauguration of the innovation center and its significance to the UST community, as well as to the future of the Philippines.

"This state-of-the-art innovation center in the midst of the UST community is intended to champion innovation and entrepreneurship with its end in mind to benefit not only the University, but also the country and society as a whole," Tan

Caktiong said. "This Center can serve as a catalyst for promoting innovation that fosters connection, empathy, and compassion, and I am very excited to see the impact it can have on many people's lives and well-being."

Innovation for a better future

Tan Caktiong has always been passionate about innovation and continuous learning, evident in how he steered JFC from a single-brand company into one of the world's largest restaurant companies with 16 brands operating over 6,500 stores across 34 countries.

"I am very thrilled of how this Center perfectly aligns with my ardent belief in the incessant thirst for continuous learning and dreaming big, all the more so as the pace of change in the world is increasingly becoming more rapid," he said. "Being unable to adapt can put in question one's relevance and render

TONY TAN CAKTIONG INNOVATION CENTER
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TONY TAN CAKTIONG INNOVATION CENTER FROM PAGE 1



Dr. Tony Tan Caktiong shares his hopes for the Tony Tan Caktiong Innovation Center as he delivers his speech.

one's knowledge, skills, and even entire businesses obsolete."

Tan Caktiong added: "Innovation is not only an engine for economic growth, but also a tool for social transformation. As we build back better from the pandemic, this Center is in a remarkable position to harness the power of science and entrepreneurship in developing products and processes that can promote food security and improve livelihoods, especially in the rural areas."

Partnership for nation-building

UST Rector Very Rev. Fr. Richard G. Ang, O.P., Ph.D., in his message, shared that "The UST-TTCIC is designed to foster creativity and collaboration. It will be a place for researchers, innovators, and

entrepreneurs to exchange ideas, share knowledge and work together towards a common goal—creating a better future. The various laboratories, workshops, and workspaces in this building have been carefully planned to support a wide range of research and innovation activities, whether you're a scientist working on a breakthrough discovery, an engineer developing a new technology, or an entrepreneur launching a startup, this Center will provide you with the resources and support that our stakeholders need to succeed."

UST Facilities Management Office Director Rev. Fr. Dexter Austria, O.P., shared that "The edifice we are inaugurating today is the first among many in the pipeline, hoping that this campus becomes as it is envisioned—a research complex, a visible

testament of UST's indomitable pursuit of making research a cornerstone element, a building block in the field of education."

The event included a Eucharistic Celebration and Entrustment to the Blessed Virgin Mary led by UST Vice Rector for Religious Affairs Rev. Fr. Pablo T. Tiong, O.P., the ribbon cutting, and the solemn blessing rites.

In September 2022, UST laid down its 15-year road map for the Center. On the same occasion, the Assistant to the Rector for UST Santa Rosa Prof. Philipina Marcelo, Ph.D., presented the three phases of UST Santa Rosa's long-term operational and sustainability plan. She mentioned that UST Santa Rosa will target health and well-being, food security and safety, environmental sustainability, energy, information and communications, and material sciences as its interdisciplinary research areas.

"The Innovation Center is a tangible manifestation of our shared commitment, common values, and vision. We get an opportunity to nurture the next generation of leaders, thinkers, and entrepreneurs, and in so doing, we will continue to shape the future of our country," Tan Caktiong said of the partnership with UST.

The UST-TTCIC held its groundbreaking ceremony in December 2020, while the UST Santa Rosa campus had its site development kick-off ceremony in September 2017. The construction is led by Casas+ Architects, Mundo Builders, Design Coordinates, Inc., and the UST Facilities Management Office. ■



The UST-Dr. Tony Tan Caktiong Innovation Center now stands at the UST Santa Rosa Campus in Barangay Malitlit, Santa Rosa City, Laguna.

Miguel de Benavides Library is set to digitize UST Law Review journal



(From left:) UST Prefect of Libraries Rev. Fr. Ángel Aparicio, O.P., UST Civil Law Dean Atty. Nilo T. Divina, UST Rector Very Rev. Fr. Richard G. Ang, O.P., Ph.D., and UST Law Review Journal Editor-in-Chief Mr. Jonathan Yusi (Photo courtesy of UST Law Review Facebook page)



Signing of the Memorandum of Agreement between Atty. Divina (left) and Fr. Ang (Photo courtesy of UST Law Review Facebook page)

The signing of the Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) between Atty. Nilo T. Divina, I.I.B., Dean of the Faculty of Civil Law and UST Rector Rev. Fr. Richard G. Ang, O.P., Ph.D., was held at the DivinaLaw Hall on March 31, 2023.

Witnessing the MoA signing were the Prefect of Libraries Rev. Fr. Ángel Aparicio O.P.; Assistant to the Prefect of Libraries Rev. Fr. Gaspar R. Sigaya, O.P.; Chief Librarian Ms. Maria Cecilia D. Lobo; Regent of the Faculty of Civil Law Rev. Fr. Isidro C. Abaño, O.P.; UST librarians, Law Review editorial team, and partners and associates of DivinaLaw.

For the digitization project, the agreement stipulates that the donation shall cover the expenses of hiring additional staff who will work on the scanning of the journal's copies dated 1950 up to the present. For its part, the Library will supervise and monitor the scanning, conversion, and uploading of the digitized copies of the journal to the UST Digital Library.

This significant collaboration will allow more comprehensive access to numerous law information and preserve noteworthy research and scholarly discourses that will help improve legal education in the country. ■

The University, through the efforts of the UST Miguel de Benavides Library and Faculty of Civil Law entered into a partnership to digitize the UST Law Review, the official journal published by the Faculty of Civil Law. The journal is a student-edited publication that includes articles by law professors, members of the judiciary, and students of the Faculty, as well as commentaries, case summaries, legislations, and book reviews.

Ampil is honored with *Dangal ng Lahi* Award 2023



Prof. Ampil



Former *Departamento ng Filipino* chairperson Prof. Roberto D. Ampil, Ph.D., was named the Philippines' Exceptional Professor and Most Outstanding Researcher & Humanitarian Advocate of the Year by the 5th *Dangal ng Lahi* Awards 2023 on April 27. This year's ceremony was held in Baguio Country Club, Baguio City, Benguet.

The annual prize, which recognizes exemplary individuals in the country, is organized by Asia Pacific Luminare Awards, *Tulong para sa Maharlikang Pilipino, Inc.*, and *Kiwanis International*.

Ampil expressed his gratitude to his family, friends, teachers, students, and the leadership of UST.

"Recognition is not just receiving a trophy, plaque, and certificate. It serves as an inspiration to further improve my work," he said. ■

Mabini, Ngo of Engineering receive Outstanding Service Awards

Prof. Marilyn Mabini, Ph.D., former Dean of the Faculty of Engineering, and Assoc. Prof. Joehanna Ngo, Ph.D., former Chair of the UST Industrial Engineering Department, received awards from the Industrial Engineering & Operations Management (IEOM) Society International during its 13th International Conference on Industrial & Mechanical Engineering and Operations Management held in Manila on March 9, 2023.



Prof. Mabini



Assoc. Prof. Ngo

Mabini was conferred IOEM Women in Industry and Academia Award for her outstanding contribution in research and teaching in the field of Operations Research and for her service to the Industrial Engineering and Operation Management profession while Ngo received the IEOM Society Outstanding Service Award for her outstanding achievements, contributions, and service in the same field.

The IOEM Society International, a global organization dedicated to the advancement of industrial engineering and operation management discipline, recognizes educators, researchers, and

other professionals for their significant contribution through teaching, research and publication, service, innovation, or leadership in the field of engineering and operations management.

Mabini was Dean of the UST Faculty of Engineering from 2000 to 2006 and served as academic staff of the UST Department of Industrial Engineering until her retirement. She was also resident researcher in the UST Research Center for Natural and Applied Sciences (RCNAS) and served as administrator in various capacities in the university. Her many

achievements include recognition from the Philippine Regulatory Board (PRC) for her contribution to the growth of the academic sector of the country as well as serving as a role model in the IE profession, from the Philippine Institute of Industrial Engineers (PIIE) for her dedicated service and invaluable contribution as a member of Board of Trustees of the Industrial Engineering Certification Board, and "Inspiring Filipina Engineer" from the Philippine Technological Council – Women Engineer Network (PTC-WEN).

Ngo was Chair of the UST Industrial Engineering Department from 1991 to 2000, 2002 to 2005, and from 2019 to 2022. She was one of the prime movers in the successful implementation of Total Quality Management (TQM) which earned the University the Philippine Quality Award (PQA) Level 2 recognition. She was also Director for Quality Management Office (QMO) and was the Quality Management Representative of the University from 2013 to 2018. She is also a founding member of the Philippine Institute of Industrial Engineers (PIIE) and a Board of Trustees of Philippine Technological Council – Women Engineers Network (PTC-WEN). ■

Caliwan of Accountancy is named next NACPAE President

UST-AMV College of Accountancy Assistant Dean Mr. Francisco M. Caliwan, Jr., was elected as the next President of the National Association of CPAs in Education. The election happened during the 30th Accounting Teachers Conference held at the Villa Caceres Hotel, Naga City, from April 26 to 28, 2023.

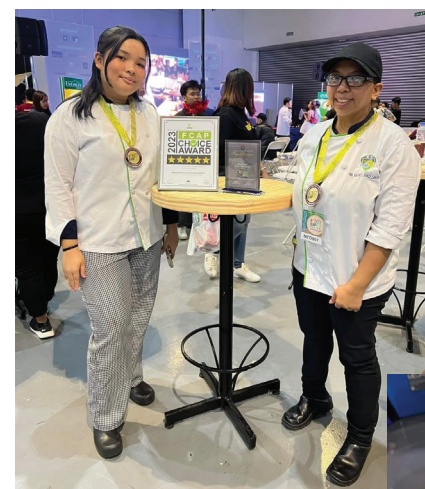
Caliwan vowed to create projects that would improve the delivery of accountancy education in the Philippines. He promised to establish focused groups that will study the declining passing rate of the Licensure Examination of CPA (LECPA); review the alignment of the senior high school curriculum, the BSA curriculum, the LECPA syllabi, and the competency requirements for entry-level CPAs; and design a model internship program for accounting students and immersion program for accounting teachers. He also pledged to spearhead a series of dialogues between the accountancy regulators and accountancy school administrators to establish open and constant communications between the different stakeholders of the accounting practice in the Philippines. Moreover, he swore to decentralize the operations of the association by constituting NACPAE regional chapters.

Caliwan's presidency will start on July 1, 2023 and will end on June 30, 2024. He will be the NACPAE's 33rd president. ■



Mr. Caliwan (front row, center) with NACPAE members and officers

CTHM team wins Modern Dessert Category at 15th Philippine Food Expo 2023



Ms. Paja and Chef Labay with their winning desserts

Students and academic staff from the College of Tourism and Hospitality Management (CTHM) joined the culinary competitions at the 15th Philippine Food Expo 2023, organized by the Philippine Food Processors and Exporters Organization, Inc. (PHILFOODEX) and CUT Unlimited Inc. It was held from April 28 to 30, 2023, at the SMX Convention Center Manila.

The Food Expo highlighted the culinary skills of students and professionals through various competitions. Various categories were offered, such as Food Styling, Food Photography, Healthy Pasta, Kitchen Master, Modern Filipino Dessert, Mystery



Ingredient, and Table Setting.

CTHM student Sofia Angela Paja, who partnered with Chef Maria Karmel Grace Labay, was named Champion in Modern Filipino Dessert Category. They presented the following dishes: Mango-Barzo Bicho-Bicho (Bicho-Bicho filled with Mango-Barzo Custard, Mango-Rum Compote, Dragon Fruit Coulis, and Fresh Fruit Salad in Pandan Syrup); Stuffed Mango-Bugna Palitaw (Palitaw stuffed with Kesong Puti and Latik served in a Mango-Coconut Soup); and Mango-Tibok Souffle (Souffle of Mango Tibok-Tibok served with Pastillas Sauce and Fruit Salsa)

CTHM instructor Chef Reinald Andaya coached them along with Chef Kristian Kristoffer Roque, who served as the team's consultant.

Also participating in various competitions during the food expo were: Daniel Dalipe and Chef Elija Coronado (Mystery Ingredient category) and Marc Rensus Espinosa and Chef Dos Bustillos (Health Pasta category). ■

UST GS, NCCU Taiwan forge academic, research accord



From left: Prof. Tangco, Fr. Aligan, Prof. Vasco, Director C-M. Tsai, and Mr. O. Tsai during the political science forum



The UST and NCCU groups after the collaboration agreement ceremony

The UST Graduate School (GS) has partnered with National Chengchi University (NCCU) in Taiwan to promote international academic cooperation. The two universities agreed to exchange academic materials and information, mutually receive educational visits by faculty members and researchers, exchange students, hold joint international conferences, conduct joint research projects, and engage in other activities to better enhance mutual understanding and collaboration.

The collaboration agreement signing ceremony was held on May 5, 2023, at the NCCU Administration Building, attended by the GS administrators and academic staff composed of its Regent Rev. Fr. Rodel E. Aligan, O.P., S.Th.D.; Dean Prof. Michael Anthony C. Vasco, Ph.D., Political Science Program Lead Prof. Belen L. Tangco, O.P., Ph.D.; Internationalization Coordinator Prof. Lino Baron, Ph.D.; and OGR Director Prof. Grecebio Jonathan D. Alejandro, Dr.rer.nat.

They were warmly welcomed by the NCCU administrators President Prof. Tsai-Yen Lee, Associate VP for International Cooperation Prof. Jih-Syuan Lin; Associate Dean College of Social Sciences & Director of International Doctoral Program in Asia Pacific Studies (IDAS) Prof. Chung-Min Tsai; Director of International Master's Program in Asia Pacific Studies (IMAS) Prof. Philip Hsaiopong Liu; and Executive Secretary of International Cooperation Ms.

Lexie Yap.

The signing of MOU was executed by the UST Rector Very Rev. Fr. Richard G. Ang, O.P., Ph.D., who had affixed his signature and was represented by Fr. Aligan.

The preparation of this agreement was facilitated by Asst. Prof. Ronald Castillo, Faculty of Arts and Letters academic staff (on leave) and current Ph.D. candidate at NCCU.

On the following day, May 6, 2023, a joint hybrid Political Science forum on "Geopolitical Field Researches: Peace Study Series" was held at the Conference Room of the College of Social Sciences of NCCU. The forum was attended onsite by NCCU graduate students, while UST graduate students participated online.

Welcome remarks were delivered by NCCU Dean of College of Social Sciences Dr. Wan-Ying Yang. It was followed by the opening remarks of Dr. Chung-Min Tsai and Prof. Belen L. Tangco, Ph.D.

A keynote address on "Ethical Approaches to the Geopolitics of War: The Christian Perspective" was delivered by Fr. Aligan.

Four plenary speakers were invited to discuss different topics, namely, GS Dean Prof. Michael Anthony C. Vasco, Ph.D., Director Dr. Chung-Min Tsai, Asst. Prof. Ronaldo M. Castillo, and Ph.D. student Mr. Oddis Tsai, who tackled "Philosophical Reflections on Contemporary Geopolitics: Lessons from Immanuel Kant and John

Rawls," "US-Taiwan-China Relations," "Bibliometry of IDAS student researchers," and "Australia and the Asia-Pacific," respectively.

The discussions provided insightful debates about geopolitics, incorporating both liberal and realist perspectives on conflict resolution and peace studies.

Castillo's bibliometric analysis on the other hand was presented with the intent that such can be used for university, collegiate, and departmental accreditations. The presentation situated student outcomes in terms of research, more so the same can be applied to faculty accomplishments on the same.

After the keynote and plenary speakers, two NCCU students, Ms. Virgie Salazar and Mr. Andrew Tim-An Yi, and three UST students Ms. Jennylyn Cabbuag, Mr. Jeremiah Elegado and Mr. Mico Galang, delivered their reactions as panelists.

The programme ended with the closing remarks delivered by the UST Director of International Relations and Programs Prof. Lillian J. Sison, Ph.D..

Prior to the agreement signing ceremony in the afternoon of May 5, 2023, the UST delegation visited the Manila Economic and Cultural Office (MECO) located at the Neihu District of Taipei. The group was welcomed by the Deputy Director of MECO Mr. Michael J. So, a Thomasian alumnus of BS Nursing Batch 1990. ■

CTHM academic staff, students bring home research awards from PARTH

CTHM academic staff and students joined the 8th Tourism and Hospitality Annual Research Convention (THARC) and the 9th Annual Tourism and Hospitality Student Research Conference (ATHSRC) 2023, organized by the Philippine Association of Researchers for Tourism and Hospitality, Inc. (PARTH). It was held from April 19 to 21, 2023.

Out of 33 manuscripts from faculty and graduate students, Ms. Lizette A. Vicente, academic staff from the Department of Tourism Management and a candidate for Ph.D. in Human Resource Management of the Graduate School, won Best Paper for her research titled "Perspective of Laid off Employees toward Retrenchment and Outplacement Programs of Selected Airline Companies in the Philippines: An Outplacement Framework Proposal."

The research aimed to determine the importance of retrenchment and outplacement programs to the voluntary and involuntary laid off employees of two airlines. The study showed that a retrenchment package, employee assistance, financial assistance, and psychological assistance are essential in the termination of employment. The research's contribution to the existing literature provides a methodology for integrating specific outplacement programs as part of the human resource programs of the organization. Accordingly, the implementation of the proposed outplacement framework can assist the organization on how to better manage the laid off employees affected by the crisis and incorporate it as part of the organization's development.

Participating students from the Department of Tourism Management won the Best Paper and Best Oral Presentation for their research titled "A Triangulation Approach on the Ecotourism Potential of Sibuyan Island, Romblon as an Extractive Host Site: Basis for Public Policy Development." The student researchers are Mari Stella M. Duque, Grace L. Villamiel, Kelie R. Oshiro, Jan Nikka L. Uy, Patricia Margareth G. To, Rizza Cailley Alvarez, and Raymond Albert V. Morfe. Their research adviser and co-author are Dr. Avi Ben P. Andalecio (academic staff from the Department of Tourism Management and Academic Researcher from the Research Center for Social Sciences and Education) and Mr. Jerome C. Madrona, the Municipal Tourism Officer of the Municipal Government of San Fernando, Romblon.

The study assessed the ecotourism potential of Sibuyan as a host site for extractive industries. The research is in partnership with the Municipal Government of San Fernando, Romblon, and the UST Simbahayan Community Development Office. The paper concluded that ecotourism in Sibuyan Island has great potential in response to the emergence of extractive industries, should the community and concerned local government units implement ecotourism through public policy development. Ecotourism provides long-term benefits for the community, imposing optimal utilization of resources, valuable collaboration between stakeholders, and the overall betterment of the quality of life for the local community. The Sibuyan Island Public Policy Framework for Sustainable Ecotourism Development was conceptualized as the output of this study, which may guide tourism stakeholders in Sibuyan Island toward strategic directions that maximize ecotourism to achieve sustainable development.

Aside from the winning teams, other collaborative research papers were also presented during the conference. Academic staff and CTHM administrators presented their paper titled "Behind the Community Lenses: Community-based Tourism Potentials of Barangay San Miguel, Echague, Isabela using the Extended Parameters of Sustainable Tourism Development." The paper is a collaborative effort among CTHM academic staff members Dr. Avi Ben P. Andalecio, Mr. Jame Monren T. Mercado, Dr. Fhamela F. Sarmiento, and Asst. Prof. Maria Concepcion A. Ang, as well as CTHM administrators Assistant Dean Assoc. Prof.

Evangeline E. Timbang, Ph.D., and CTHM Dean Atty. Gezzez Giezi G. Granada, DCL.

Selene B. Abad, Mariam Nicole S. Calaca, Paolo Glenn R. Mendoza, Beatrice Fay G. Pascua, Twyla Justine A. Tamondong, and Gabrielle Marie Yap, together with their research adviser Ms. Ramona Olga D. Ko, presented the paper "Gap Analysis: An Assessment of Employers' Perception of UST – CTHM's Online Graduates' Competency."

Nona Richie O. Cantos, Kyle Malord V. Dayao, Ann Margarete B. Juanitas, Ericson P. Ocampo, Sharmaine Andrea T. Ritumalta, Maria Martina Pauline A. Versoza, and Gabriel L. Vitug, together with their research adviser Mr. Jame Monren T. Mercado, presented the study titled "Paham: Manifest Content Analysis on the Common Values of Tourism and Hospitality Management Learners through the Lens of the Industry: A Case of a Philippine University."

CTHM Regent Rev. F. Roland D. Mactal, O.P., S.Th.D., and academic staff Mr. Jame Monren T. Mercado presented the paper "Santuario (Shrines): The Sustainable Religious Tourism Management of Selected Philippine Congregation-managed Marian Shrines." Student researchers for this paper include Janine Patricia P. Chuajap, Rizyl May C. Diamante, Angela Gabrielle S. Donguez, Francesca D. Mentrillo, Chrisalyn O. Miralles, and Renz Vincent C. Quicio.

Co-hosted with Miriam College, PARTH is a tourism and hospitality professional organization geared towards its advocacy of uplifting and developing research awareness and competencies of its members in the field. ■



Ms. Vicente during her presentation

Ligan, Matula of Accountancy present papers at ATC

Representing the UST-Alfredo M. Velayo College of Accountancy, Assoc. Prof. Dennis C. Ligan, Ph.D., and Ms. Melba C. Matula presented research papers in the 30th Accounting Teacher's Conference (ATC) held on April 27, 2023 at Villa Caceres Hotel, Naga City.

With Lauriza Jane E. Panaligan, Jerahmeel J. Perolina, Julia Ysabel T. Quintero, Ma. Trisha Mae L. Ragua, Vincent Leonart P. Reyes, Ashley Rose Q. Saccalan, and Maryjoy Francheska P. Santana as student-authors, Ligan presented the paper "Impact of Sustainability Reporting on the Performance of Different Corporate Sectors in the Philippines." Assoc. Prof. Ligan highlighted the effect of a company's sustainability reporting in its market-to-intrinsic value and return on asset ratios, supporting the positive link between sustainability and corporate value.

Together with Matula, Christina Ysabela S. Bellosillo, Karlo Philippe C Bernabe, Christine Faith A. Carlos, Ysabela Maria D. Carreon, Leila Katrina C. Dela Cruz, Mary Frances Chantelle M. De Villa, and Ken Etienne M. Dimaapi wrote the paper, "The Effect of Ethical Awareness on Ethical Behavior as Moderated by Ethical Dilemmas among CPAs in Business Organizations within Metro Manila". In Matula's presentation, she presented the pivotal role played by ethical awareness in priming the ethical behavior of certified public accountants, providing a nuanced understanding of



Assoc. Prof. Ligan



Ms. Matula

ethics in the practice of accounting.

Ligan and Matula are the BS Management Accounting program chairperson and community development coordinator of the College, respectively. This year's ATC theme is "The Learned Accounting Teachers: Inspired by the Past, Creating Value in the Present, Shaping a Sustainable Future." The ATC is annually organized by the National Association of CPAs in Education, the sectoral organization of accounting teachers in the Philippines. ■

UST joins CERID, Tribhuvan University IOM for collaborative public health research

Academic staff from the UST College of Education, Graduate School, and the Faculty of Medicine and Surgery joined researchers from the Center for Emerging and Reemerging Infectious Diseases (CERID) and the Central Department of Public Health Institute of Medicine (IOM) of Tribhuvan University, Nepal, in piloting a partnership project between local communities and universities to explore the range, scope,

and perceptions of community-based learning in public health courses.

This international collaborative initiative brings together the experts from UST in the fields of family and community medicine—Dr. Ma. Teresa Tricia Bautista (Co-Investigator); food technology—Assoc. Prof. Elizabeth Arenas, Ph.D.; adult literacy and lifelong learning—Prof. Camilla Vizconde, Ph.D. (Co-Investigator) and Asst. Prof. Gina Lontoc, Ph.D., as

they address the question, "How best can universities engage communities in a mutually respectful and equal partnership to advance public health education?"

The research commenced with interviews, focus group discussions, and documentary analysis to explore current approaches to community-based learning in each participating institution. Furthermore, community members, medical students, and university researchers will collaborate



The UST team Prof. Vizconde, (sitting, rightmost), Assoc. Prof. Arenas (sitting, third from left), Asst. Prof. Lontoc (sitting, leftmost), with Prof. Anna Robinson-Pant (standing, leftmost) who holds the UNESCO Chair for Adult Literacy and Learning for Social Transformation and fellow project team members

UST JOINS CERID TO PAGE 9

JHS alumni bag silver awards in int'l research conference

Three University of Santo Tomas Junior High School (UST JHS) completers from academic year 2021 to 2022 prevailed triumphantly for their research outputs at an international conference held on April 18 to 19, 2023.

Justine Clarence Atienza, Athena Jeid Cañete, and Sinead Louise Famanilla, now students of UST Senior High School, garnered several awards in the "Education, Psychology, and Communication," category of the 3rd St. Dominic College of Asia (SDCA) International Virtual Multidisciplinary Research Conference 2023.

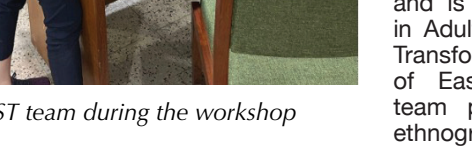
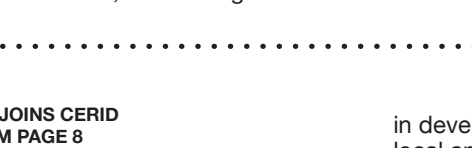
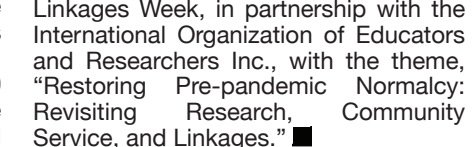
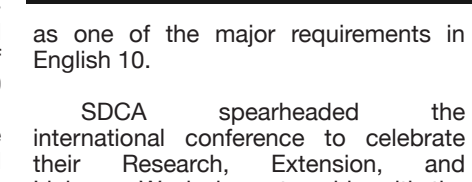
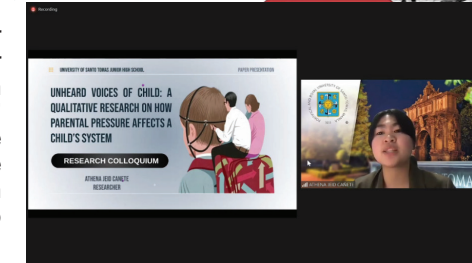
Cañete was awarded 2nd Place for the Best Paper Presenter category of the conference, with her paper titled "Unheard Voices of a Child: A Qualitative Research on How Parental Pressure Affects a Child's Microsystem."

Atienza also garnered the same rank among the Best Paper Presentations, with his study titled "Woke from TikTok: Exploring the Roles of TikTok as a Tool in Heightening Sociopolitical Awareness among Filipino Gen Z."

Moreover, Famanilla also obtained the second-place title in the same category, with her research titled "Filling the Void of Interaction: Exploring the Roles of Social Media in Relationship-Building among Grade 10 Students amidst the COVID-19 Pandemic."

Enrique Angelo Ting also participated in the conference, where he presented his study titled "Examining Social-Cognitive Influences of Online Gaming on Students: A Descriptive Survey Analysis Research Report."

Mr. Joram Kim Corcuera, the UST JHS English 10 Subject Chair, served as the research adviser for the conference presenters, whose studies were conducted



as one of the major requirements in English 10.

SDCA spearheaded the international conference to celebrate their Research, Extension, and Linkages Week, in partnership with the International Organization of Educators and Researchers Inc., with the theme, "Restoring Pre-pandemic Normalcy: Revisiting Research, Community Service, and Linkages." ■

UST JOINS CERID FROM PAGE 8



UST team during the workshop

Dr. Vizconde (above) and Dr. Lontoc (below) discuss participatory action research tools and methods

in developing methods for co-investigating local and indigenous health knowledge.

The two research teams from the Philippines and Nepal convened from April 12 to 19, 2023, to finalize the project implementation plans, share comparative perspectives on public health and community-based education within courses, and formally launch the undertaking. While in Nepal, they engaged with health professionals, students, and academics to learn about the public health context, participating institutions, and university-community partnerships.

This interdisciplinary endeavor is funded by the Medical Research Council - Public Health Intervention Development (MRC-PHIND) in the United Kingdom and is managed by the UNESCO Chair in Adult Literacy and Learning for Social Transformation based at the University of East Anglia. The UNESCO Chair team provides guidance in integrating ethnographic and participatory approaches into the 18-month project. ■

Hidalgo delivers 2023 St. Antoninus of Florence Lecture

Professor Emeritus Cristina Pantoja Hidalgo, Director of the UST Center for Creative Writing and Literary Studies, recently delivered the St. Antoninus of Florence Lecture for Academic Year 2022-2023. The lecture was held as part of the annual activity of the UST Graduate School in honor of its patron saint, St. Antoninus of Florence (1389-1459).

Hidalgo's lecture titled "Will there be a Space for Literature Studies in the Near Future?" tackles the state of literary production in the Philippines, the reading preferences of Filipinos across generations, and the percentage of consumption of literary titles in relation to the rest of the output of the country's fledgling publication industry. She also notes the changes in the reading habits of the Millennials and Generation Z in the light of new media platforms such as mobile phones and iPads that have become more prevalent than the traditional print-based publications.

Hidalgo began her lecture on the premise that the humanities in general and literature in particular have had very minimal support from educational institutions for decades and the neglect has been exacerbated by the innovations of the Fifth Industrial Revolution, which have begun to replace traditional book learning with new literacies that are technology-based. She noted that the traditional canon

and contemporary literary titles have enjoyed less patrons over the decades and have been overtaken by popular works such as romances and graphic novels. She attributed this scenario not only to the changing tastes of the young generation, but also to the shift in the platforms and genres that have come along with the birth of digital communication and the rise of social media beginning the 2000s.

People do still read, Hidalgo claimed, but they prefer to read via their computers, cellphones, and other gadgets. With the shift in the mode of delivery of knowledge systems, there has also been the shift in the media of literature. While this might be interpreted as the passing of traditional notion of literary consumption, the current interest in translating works into other media in the consciousness of the current generation.

Hidalgo concludes the lecture by hazarding to intuit answers to the question she raised in the lecture's title. She presented an optimistic assessment of the future of literature in the midst of new technologies, such as Artificial Intelligence programs like chatGPT, robotics, and the Internet of Things. She remained positive that literature will reappear in newer forms via adaptation or transmediation. However, Hidalgo offered advice to her fellow contemporary writers



2023 St. Antoninus of Florence lecturer Professor Emeritus Cristina Pantoja Hidalgo, Ph.D.

on the need to address the issues confronting the young generation in a world attended by changing mediascapes. This will ensure that Literature Studies will continue to be a major cultural influence in a world given to the virtual and the artificial.

The lecture was held on April 29, 2023 at the Thomas Aquinas Research Complex before graduate students of Literature, Creative Writing, Communication, Development Studies, History and Education. The lecture was also streamed live through Facebook. ■



Professor Emeritus Cristina Pantoja Hidalgo (ninth from left) with Graduate School administrators led by Dean Vasco (eighth from left) and academic staff

Education champions 'transformative learning' on 97th founding anniversary

The College of Education celebrated its 97th Founding Anniversary Week from April 17 to 21 with activities that focused on 'transformative learning.'

An opening mass at the Santisimo Rosario Parish Church, presided over by College of Education Regent Rev. Fr. Maximo P. Gatela, O.P., kicked off the week-long festivities, bearing the theme "EDUC@97: Empowering Future Professionals and Building Sustainable Communities through Transformative Education."

The liturgy was followed by a parade and flash zumba session at the Albertus Magnus Building, and the onsite exhibit 'Organization Day: LINANG: Pagpapatibay ng Ugnayan Sa Educ,' which featured the vision, mission, programs, projects, advocacies, and other initiatives of various College-based organizations.

Lectures on Teaching and Library Education

Alternative learning activities were conducted during the second day.

The UST Medicine Auditorium was jam-packed with the entire College community who attended the 37th Fr. Antonio Gonzalez, O.P. Memorial Lecture.

The lecture is held every year in honor of Rev. Fr. Antonio Gonzalez, O.P., the first Regent of the College of Education. With the theme "Education as a Transformative Power: Building Communities for a Better Future," this year's lecture expounded on the role of education and the different societal institutions in transforming communities.

Rior Santos, Regional Project Manager of the United Nations Office for Project Services, shared his experience as an educator and professional. Rosanna A. Urdaneta, Deputy Director General for Policies and Planning of Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), tackled the pivotal role of Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) in helping industries and workers stay.

On the other hand, Assoc. Prof. Ninia Inoncillo-Calaca, from the Department of

Mathematics and Physics and the UST Research Center for Social Sciences and Education (UST RCSSSE), discussed the need for and challenges of transformative education.

The Department of Library and Information Science led the 2nd Candida C. Agcaoili Memorial Lecture in the afternoon.

The annual lecture is held in honor of Prof. Candida C. Agcaoili, Chief Librarian of the Miguel de Benavides Library from 1950 to 1966 and an outstanding alumna of the College.

Anchored on the theme "Library and Information Professionals in the New Normal: Challenges and Competencies," this year's online lecture featured Prof. Hao-Ren Ke, a Distinguished Professor and Associate Dean of School of Learning Informatics, Graduate Institute of Library and Information Studies, National Taiwan Normal University (NTNU).

Dr. Hao-Ren Ke discussed how academic libraries will be utilized in a post-COVID-19 world, as well as their experience in NTNU.

During the same period, the Career Fair 2023: Edge-YOU-Action was being held at the Lourdes J. Custodio Multipurpose Room.

College alumni were invited to talk on the opportunities that await after graduation.

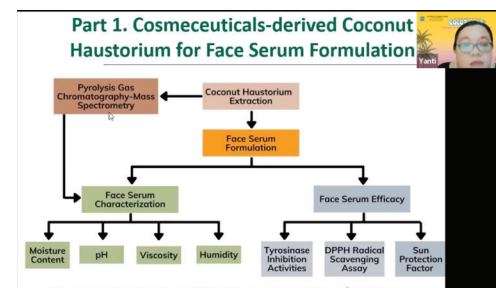
On Health and Well-being, Translation Studies

Soundness of health and languages were the goals on April 19 to 20.

Edukalusugan, a campaign that promotes physical and mental health and well-being, was launched on April 19 at the Lourdes J. Custodio Multipurpose Room and 3rd Floor Lobby.

A nutrition caravan and a lecture-discussion about mental health first aid were held during the event.

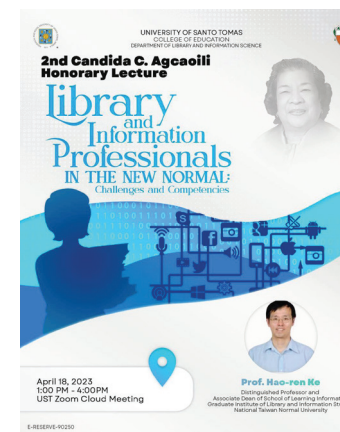
Meanwhile, the two-day EDUC Sports: Athleticism Towards Camaraderie was conducted at the Quadracentennial Pavilion Practice Gym and Central Seminary Covered Court.



Prof. Yanti's presentation for the Helen Ocampo Memorial Lecture Series



Ms. Krautharot's presentation for the Nenita Caralipio Honorary Lecture



TRANSFORMATIVE LEARNING
FROM PAGE 11

Spectators have turned out for the elimination and championship rounds of the basketball and volleyball events of the competing teams.

The *Departamento ng Filipino* and the *UST Sentro sa Salin at Araling Salin* (UST-SSAS) has set the table on translation studies with *Saliksikan at Salintasan 2023: Mga Talakayan sa Pananaliksik sa Filipino at Pagsasalin*.

Educators presented their research papers on and related to Filipino and translation studies in this whole day event on April 20 at the Lourdes J. Custodio Multipurpose Room.

In his lecture “*Pagbuo, Pagsusuri, at Pagsubok ng Bersyong Filipino ng Expanded Prostate Index Composite (EPIC – F)*,” Dr. Warren Bacorro, from the UST Faculty of Medicine and Surgery and University of Santo Tomas Hospital - Benavides Cancer Institute, related the importance of involving the target readers in his translation. Meanwhile, Dr. Niña Christina Lazaro-Zamora, from PNU Kolehiyo ng Gradwadong Pag-aaral at Panggurong Pananaliksik, delved on “*Si Ako at ang Filipino sa NORMAL na Pananaliksik*.”

Faculty members from the *Departamento ng Filipino*, who are also members of SSAS Lupon ng mga Tagasalin, also shared their lectures. John Dale Trogo discussed the roles of the council in his lecture “*Paggalugad sa Trabaho ng Tagapangasiwa ng Proyekkong Salin* (Translation Manager): *Ang Pangangasiwa ng Proyekkong Salin ng UST-SSAS*.” He enumerated the roles of a translator.

Asst. Prof. Elenita Mendoza recounted her translation practice in “*TQA sa Pagsasalang Pang-institusyon: Isang Panimulang Repleksiyon sa Karanasan ng UST-SSAS*.” Meanwhile, Roland Bautista and Asst. Prof. Catherine Cocabo-Yao discussed “*Ang Paglikha at Pagtampok sa Water lily bilang Sosyo-Kultural na materyal at Pambayang Sagisag ng Kulturang Las Piñero*” and “*Mga Naratibo ng Danas ng mga Go Negosyo Mentor sa Pagsisilbi sa Bayan*,” respectively.

Prof. Roberto D. Ampil, Ph.D., shared his recent work “*Aba! Eba, Nasaan Ka? Isang Pag-aaral sa Espasyo ng Kababaihan sa Traslasyon*

at Prusisyong Plubyal ng Nuestra Sra. de Peñafrancia.”

Academic staff from the *Departamento ng Filipino* and BSE Filipino majors attended the lecture. Fellows from the *Kapisanang Diwa at Panitik* (KADIPAN), led by their adviser former Filipino instructor Jasper Lomtong, also participated in the said event. KADIPAN is a campus organization of Filipino majors in Philippine Normal University.

The community enjoyed the rest of the day with ‘*PASINAYA: Ang Himig ng Bagong Simula*,’ the College of Education Concert,’ held at the P. Noval Court. This concert, which featured Autotelic, Sean the Archer, and our homegrown talents, was organized for the benefit of the College’s *Isang Daan, Isang Daan* Project.

Toward Sustainable Communities

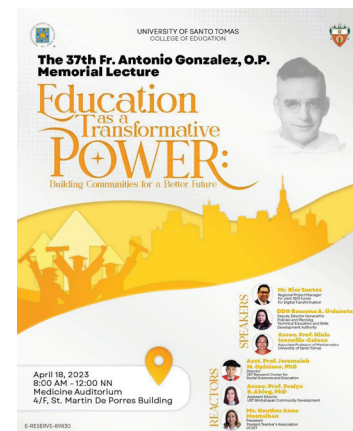
The last leg of the anniversary celebration was marked by two alternative learning activities, both conducted online.

The Department of Elementary Education organized the 2nd Nenita D. Caralipio Honorary Lecture, with the theme “*Greening the Schools and Empowering the Future Teachers: A Path Towards Sustainable Communities*.”

The lecture is held every year in honor of Prof. Nenita D. Caralipio, long-time principal of the UST Elementary School.

In her lecture, Autchariya Krautharot, Assistant to the President for Foreign Affairs of Lampang Rajabhat University, Thailand, talked about the moral and knowledge in creating innovations for internationalization in greening the schools. Meanwhile, Prof. Arlen A. Ancheta, Ph.D., President of Mother Earth Foundation, underscored that green schools influence the behavior of children in valuing the natural environment.

Finally, the Department of Food Technology and Department of Nutrition and Dietetics organized the 4th Helen D. Ocampo Memorial Lecture. The lecture is conducted every year in honor of Prof. Helen D. Ocampo, the longest serving Chair of



Dr. Bacorro's presentation for Saliksikan at Salintasan

the Department of Food and Nutrition Science.

Centering on the topic, “*Coconut as a Functional Food*,” lecturer Prof. Yanti, Ph.D., of the Biotechnology and Research Centre for Indonesian Spices at the Atma Jaya Catholic University of Indonesia, discussed the “*Nutraceutical and Cosmeceutical Potency of Coconut Haustorium*” while Acad. Prof. Fabian M. Dayrit, Ph.D. of the Ateneo de Manila University Department of Chemistry, explored the “*Benefits of Virgin Coconut Oil (VCO)*.”

College of Education Dean Assoc. Prof. Pilar I. Romero, Ph.D., expressed her deep gratitude to the whole College community for the success of EDUC@97.

In one of her messages, she explained that “*in the grip of the worsening climate change, we are reminded of sustainable economic growth, sustainable source of energy, and sustainable education*.” ■

Empleo, Yabut of Accountancy give lectures on performance evaluation, accounting education

Dean Empleo (with mic)



Mr. Yabut

UST-AMV College of Accountancy Dean Prof. Patricia M. Empleo, Ph.D., and College Secretary Mr. Fermin Antonio D.R. Yabut spoke to accounting educators during the 30th Accounting Teachers Conference (ATC) held at the Villa Caceres Hotel, Naga City on April 26 to 28, 2023.

Dean Empleo delivered a lecture titled “*Evaluating School's Poor Performance in the Licensure Examination for CPAs: What Could Have Gone Wrong and What*

Could Have Been Done”. She started her presentation by comparing the Licensure Examination for Certified Public Accountants (LECPA) passing rates with that of the licensure examination passing rates of engineering, nursing, medicine, and other related fields.

Empleo identified the stakeholders (the students and graduates, the teachers, the program managers, the higher educational institutions, the review centers, the professional organizations, and the

regulators such as the Commission on Higher Education and the Board of Accountancy) and what each group could do to improve accounting education in the Philippines. She also called for the accounting teachers to reflect upon their roles as formators of the future accounting practitioners.

Yabut talked about “*The Life of an Accounting Teacher: Life-long Learning, Life-long Leading*.” Participants reflected on the paradoxes pertinent to their roles as leaders, learners and teachers. In his lecture, he linked the tasks of educators as leaders to the Paradox of Tasks and Relationships, as learners to the Paradox of the Expert and the Amateur, and as teachers to the Paradox of the Person and the System. He also emphasized that as a leader one should be mindful, as a learner one should be humble, and as a teacher one should be a systems thinker.

The accounting teachers conference is the annual gathering of all accounting educators from all over the country. This year, the theme of the conference is “*The Learned Accounting Teachers: Inspired by the Past, Creating Value in the Present, Shaping a Sustainable Future*.” ■

RCCA, GS, AB hold lecture on academic integrity amidst developments in AI

The UST Graduate School and the Faculty of Arts and Letters Community Development Offices, in collaboration with the Research Center for Culture, Arts and the Humanities (RCCA), organized a seminar on sustaining academic integrity amidst the development of artificial intelligence. This academic interchange was conducted at the UST Central Laboratory Auditorium on March 1, 2023.

Titled “*Creative AI: Opportunities and Challenges for the Academe*,” this endeavor also forms part of the two-day activity of RCCA’s “*Research Fortnight: Framing the Future of Arts and Humanities Research*.”

With the guidance of RCCA Director Prof. Maria Alexandra I. Chua, Ph.D., the event was jointly conceptualized and organized by Dr. Robert Montaña and Ms. Ederliza V. Magpantay of the Graduate School and Faculty of Arts and

Letters Community Development Offices, respectively.

Serving as speaker during the lecture was Rev. Fr. Jesus Miranda, Jr., O.P. with his talk titled: “*The humanities as vanguard of academic integrity in the new industrial revolution*.”

Dr. Paolo Bolaños then shared his insights on “*AI and the decline in thinking*.” Applying the issue to his expertise, Mr. Christian Esguerra discussed his opinion as regards “*Using AI for better journalism*” while Mr. Arturo Patungan, Jr. offered his technical knowledge on “*What can chatGPT do?*”. With the current opportunities and threats for the proper use or misuse of AI, especially in its novel capacity for creativity in manipulating vast amounts of data, the lecture has clarified a lot of critical issues and is in line with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal towards Quality Education. ■



GS Nursing webinar examines implications of AI on healthcare

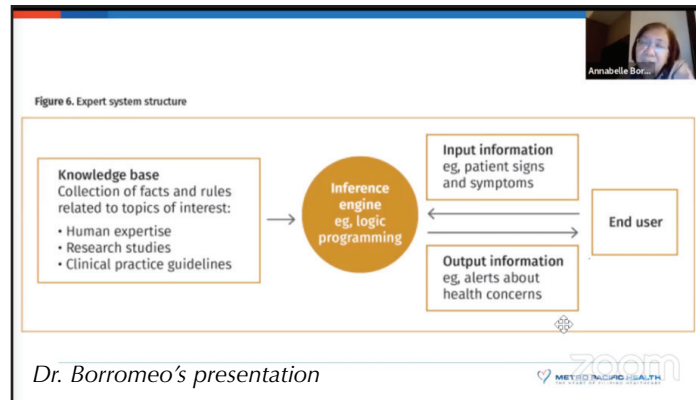
The webinar “Artificial Intelligence and Universal Health Care: Will the Twain ever meet?” was conducted via Zoom and Facebook Live on April 28, 2023. More than 100 students, academic staff of different universities, nurses, doctors, and other members of different healthcare institutions participated in the webinar organized by the Current Trends and Issues in Nursing and Healthcare class of the UST Graduate School.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is currently a contentious topic as it continues to advance technological innovation. Its implications for the Philippine healthcare system and its impact on healthcare professions are issues worth investigating. Meanwhile, ensuring health equity through Universal Health Care is another pressing concern. Although these two concepts may seem contradictory, they have both left their mark on the healthcare industry. As a result, the webinar examined the potential for these seemingly opposing ideas to intersect and find common ground.

Prof. Rowena Escolar-Chua, Ph.D., the Program Lead of the Nursing and Hospital Administration Master's programs and Dean of the UST College of Nursing, delivered the welcome remarks.

The resource speaker was Prof. Annabelle R. Borromeo, Ph.D., the current Chief Nursing Officer of Metro Pacific Health, the largest group of private hospitals and other healthcare facilities in the Philippines. She was awarded by the Professional Regulation Commission as 2022 Outstanding Professional in Nursing and has worked in the areas of patient experience and patient safety for more than 20 years.

Borromeo highlighted that the healthcare industry is currently in the early stages of adopting AI technology. She provided insights on the potential applications of AI in healthcare, before transitioning to the topic of Universal Health Care. She provided an overview of the system, its coverage, and how individuals can avail themselves of it in order to achieve the best possible outcomes for the health



system's building blocks, action domains, and outcomes, including quality, efficiency, equity, accountability, sustainability, and resilience. She argued that data management using Artificial Intelligence would be key.

The discussion concluded with an examination of how AI-driven tools could help achieve the best possible outcomes for the Universal Health Care system and its impact on healthcare in the Philippines.

Course facilitator Dr. Teresita I. Barcelo, in her closing remarks, mentioned that there is a place for Artificial Intelligence but it should not replace people, and that ethics in the use of AI must be at its core.

The webinar attendees gave impressions and feedback that they learned how AI can help our healthcare delivery systems such as our Universal Health Care with proper technical balance and ethical consideration and regulation. ■

Industry professionals promote strengthening FTAs, int'l partnerships for sustainable business operations



Participants (top row), masters of ceremony Ms. Abigail S. J. Arboleda (middle row, leftmost) and Ms. Marie Ruth Sarah G. Morales (middle row, center), and resource speakers Atty. Mark Brian A. dela Cruz (middle row, rightmost), Ms. Bianca Pearl R. Sykimte (bottom row, left) and Mr. Richard Emerson D. Ballester (bottom row, right)

With the recent approval of the Senate resolution concurring the ratification of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) on February 21, 2023, the virtual academic talk titled, “Moving Beyond National Borders, Growing with International Partners” was organized by the International Business & Global Strategy (IBGS) students of the Master

in Business Administration (MBA) cluster of the UST Graduate School on April 15, 2023.

The webinar was formally opened by the UST Office for Graduate Research Director Prof. Grecebio Jonathan D. Alejandro, Dr. rer. nat., where he quoted Finance Secretary Benjamin Diokno on the promotion of a more open, transparent, and predictable trade and investment environment through

the RCEP. This comprehensive partnership was signed last November 2020 by ten ASEAN member states, including the Philippines, the ASEAN+3 countries (China, Japan, and South Korea), and ASEAN+6 members (Australia and New Zealand), and is considered to be the largest regional free trade agreement (FTA) in the world, accounting for 30 percent of the world's population, 29 percent of gross domestic product (GDP), 29 percent of trade, and 33 percent of global inward investments in 2020.

While this largest regional FTA in the world promotes mechanisms and strategies for addressing the emerging trade issues affecting small and medium enterprises (SMEs), e-commerce, competition, intellectual property, and government procurement that were not covered in existing FTAs, the recent trends, developments, and challenges of Philippine traders and SMEs would forecast the future of our operational competitiveness and sustainability against the rest of the world.

Through the enthusiastic presence of well-versed and esteemed resource speakers from the Department of Trade & Industry (DTI), Ms. Bianca Pearl R. Sykimte; the Philippine International Trading Corporation (PITC), Atty. Mark Brian A. dela Cruz; and the National Economic and

STRENGTHENING FTAS TO PAGE 17

Navarro of CFAD lectures on sustainable Filipino design strategies



UST College of Fine Arts and Design (CFAD) academic staff Mr. Louie T. Navarro, Ph.D., served as one of the speakers in the 24th Philippine World Building and Construction Exposition (WORLDBEX) seminars held from March 29 to 31, 2023. WORLDBEX gathered the finest local and international companies catering to various construction and design needs.

Navarro, who is the co-founder and creative director of his design firm “Iouta et al.”, discussed “On Arriving at a Better Understanding of How Sustainability is Inherently Filipino by Design.”

He engaged participants to think about how design, as we know it today, can pivot in these most crucial of times as humanity is faced with its biggest hurdle yet: the climate crisis. By way of Iouta et al.'s completed, ongoing, and unrealized projects, the sustainable design strategies deployed by the team were revealed to be Filipino by design. Ultimately, Navarro's talk was a call for action directed at the building industry as it urges industry practitioners to rethink current design approaches and methodologies to fulfill our needs today without compromising those of future generations. ■

Vibal Foundation, UST Library launch book on 19th-century printing, publishing

The Vibal Foundation, in partnership with the University of Santo Tomas Miguel de Benavides Library launched the “Imprenta Ramirez y Giraudier: A Story of Late Nineteenth-Century Philippine Intellectuality,” which was written by historian Lino L. Dizon, Ph.D. The event was held on March 29, 2023, at the ground floor of the UST Miguel de Benavides Library.

Imprenta details the establishment of the influential publishing firm Imprenta Ramirez y Giraudier (IRG) and how it became one of the crucial engines of Spanish-speaking society in the Philippines during the late nineteenth-century.

Founded by Don Manuel Ramirez y Carvajal and Baltazar Giraudier y Ortega, IRG's newspapers, novels, magazines, and journals paved the way for the birth of important social movements such as

the development of the *Ilustrado* class, the Propaganda movement, and the Philippine Revolution.

The launch was attended by the Philippine Ambassador to Austria Evangelina Lourdes Arroyo-Bernas; Chairman of the Board of Commissioners of the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA) Dr. Victorino Manalo; Director General of the National Museum of the Philippines Mr. Jeremy Barns; National Library of the Philippines Director Mr. Cesar Gilbert Adriano; National Historical Commission of the Philippines (NHCP) Chairman of the Board Dr. Emmanuel Calairo, and NHCP Board Members Dr. Rene Escalante, Dr. Earl Jude Cleofe, and Dr. Lisa Guerrero Nakpil.

UST LIBRARY LAUNCH BOOK TO PAGE 16



“Imprenta Ramirez y Giraudier: A Story of Late Nineteenth-Century Philippine Intellectuality” [Photo courtesy of the UST Miguel de Benavides Library Facebook page]

UST LIBRARY LAUNCH BOOK TO PAGE 16



Dr. Dizon, author of the book [Photo courtesy of the UST Miguel de Benavides Library Facebook page]



Fr. Aparicio delivers the welcome remarks. [Photo courtesy of the UST Miguel de Benavides Library Facebook page]

In his welcome message, Fr. Aparicio discussed Manuel Ramirez, who served as director of the UST Press from 1848 to 1857, before collaborating with Baltazar Giraudier at the IRG, as the reason why Mr. Vibal chose the UST Library to host the event. According to Fr. Aparicio, these publications nurture the inquisitive minds of those who became fathers of the land. He also said that it is the sacred duty of those engaged in publication and research to preserve the precious heritage and make it accessible to each one interested in culture and spur the hearts of those who have a say in promoting culture in the country.

National Historical Commission of the Philippines (NHCP) Chairman of the Board Dr. Emmanuel Calairo said in his message that the press played a significant role in the intellectual enlightenment that led to the *Ilustrado* movement in the 19th-century Philippines. During this period, the publishing firm *Imprenta de Ramirez y Giraudier* was one of the first lithographic presses, which paved the rise of various printed materials and further became the venue of Filipino-Spanish intellectuals who echoed Filipino sentiments for reform and independence. Significantly, to understand the history of the printing press, the author presented different viewpoints to understand the history of the printing press in the Philippines. Furthermore, Calairo said that this book would add to the growing number of references on the subject matter and the firm produced various publications,

including influential periodicals, and will serve as the foundation for the modern field of Philippine studies.

Vibal, in the Publisher's Message, introduced the book as the dream project of Dizon, which has come to completion as the remarkable renaissance and translation of the mid to late nineteenth-century Spanish-Philippine intellectuality. He added that this book joins the rostrum of books that investigate Philippine intellectuality, including national artists, propagandists and *Ilustrados*.

Vibal also encouraged everyone to examine UST's special exhibition. Mounted were special IRG rarities, exhibited for public display. The brochures contain QR codes that can be scanned on mobile phones and could be easily flipped to examine these forgotten books as living artifacts.

Dizon said that the project focuses on the production of knowledge and intellectual development of the period through the *Imprenta de Ramirez y Giraudier*, and this is a topic that Vibal Foundation and himself believed is very much lacking and wanting in Philippine colonial scholarship.

The highlight of the program is the presentation of the first copies to the selected distinguished recipients.

Part of the activity was the awarding of the token of appreciation to Ambassador Arroyo-Bernas by the UST Library administrators together with the Secretary-General Rev. Fr. Louie R. Coronel, O.P., EHL. ■



Vibal Foundation and Chairman of Vibal Group and Mr. Gaspar Vibal [Photo courtesy of the UST Miguel de Benavides Library Facebook page]

Also present were, NHCP Executive Director Ms. Carminda Arevalo; National Book Development Board (NBDB) Director Mr. Anthony John Balisi; UST Secretary-General Rev. Fr. Louie Coronel, O.P., EHL; UST Prefect of Libraries Rev. Fr. Ángel Aparicio, O.P.; UST Archivist Rev. Fr. Gaspar Sigaya, O.P., and Vibal Foundation and Chairman of Vibal Group and Mr. Gaspar Vibal.

Rector's Cup committee turnovers tournament proceeds to IPEA



Team Medicine & Surgery receives the coveted Orlina trophy as the champion for this year's tournament.



(From left:) Ar. Casares, Dr. Laurel, Fr. Cansancio, Asst. Prof. Medina, Asst. Prof. Kamus, and Asst. Prof. Sambuang

STRENGTHENING FTAS FROM PAGE 15

Development Authority (NEDA), Mr. Richard Emerson D. Ballester, over a hundred fifty virtual participants from the University of Santo Tomas (UST), Polytechnic University of the Philippines (PUP), University of Asia and the Pacific (UA&P), Centro Escolar University (CEU), among other universities witnessed the virtual event. Participants learned about the competitiveness of the Philippine local industry players, particularly traders and SMEs, and witnessed the economic roadmap of the current government administration, which included the importance of strengthening and expanding regional and global networks for sustainable international business operations.

Following all of the presentations, the virtual participants had the opportunity to raise relevant and pressing matters for the esteemed resource speakers through an open forum. Also in attendance to deliver the closing remarks is the course facilitator and the Program Lead of the MBA cluster, Dr. Elizabeth O. Recio. ■

Thomasian alumni golfers and the Office of Alumni Relations (OAR) concluded the 5th edition of the Rector's Cup with a turnover ceremony of tournament proceeds to its student athlete beneficiaries through the Institute of Physical Education and Athletics (IPEA) on April 26, 2023.

OAR Director Asst. Prof. Fredeswindo R. Medina, together with the Tournament Chairman and IPEA alumnus Dr. Adrian Paolo Laurel, and incoming Tournament Director Ar. Eduardo Casares handed over a check amounting to Php 1,300,000.00 to the Institute. It was accepted by the IPEA administrators headed by Director and Regent Rev. Fr. Rodel S. Cansancio, O.P. The proceeds collected will be used for the development programs of the athletes.

The committee assured the group of the tournament's improvement with more pledges, sponsorships, and a slightly higher playing fee that would benefit the student athletes.

This year's Rector's Cup included playing teams from various alumni batches of the Faculty of Arts and Letters, College of Accountancy, College of Architecture, Faculty of Civil Law, College of Commerce and Business Administration, Faculty of Engineering, Junior High School, Faculty of Medicine and Surgery

(Team Champion), Faculty of Pharmacy, and the College of Science.

Monetary sponsors included Wilcon Depot, Inc., DivinaLaw, Datem, Inc., and Commerce Asia, Inc.

In-Kind Sponsors included Chery Auto PH, Shinagawa Lasik & Aesthetics, Rey Gajo, Edgar San Diego, Skynet Travel Corp., Willie de Vera, Summit Ridge Tagaytay, Hotel 1611, Aficionado, L Three R's Enterprise, and Chevrolet PH.

The 6th Rector's Cup is set to launch in the first quarter of 2024. ■

Rev. Fr. Tiongco during his inspirational message in the awarding ceremonies.





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