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95 years of the UST Main Building: A steadfast symbol of Thomasian education

It began by being everything, a total university, and by being referred to as the New Building to develop into the center, the head and the heart, the Main Building of a sprawling university city.” Spanish historian and former University Archivist the late Rev. Fr. Fidel Villarroel, O.P.[†], has perfectly articulated with this statement in his article, *The Main Building: A Witness to History*, that indeed this grand edifice was UST and has continued to be a steadfast symbol of Thomasian education.

This special feature article on the Main Building is a celebration of its 95 years, a revisit to its history, and a glimpse into its future. The article also looks into the conservation efforts suggested by experts that must be taken soon not only because it is a National Cultural Treasure, but more importantly because it has become an icon, a symbol of

Thomasian education that should be present too, in the experience of the next generations of Thomasians.

The Academia was fortunate to have been able to invite administrators and academic staff who graciously shared their insights

“It began by being everything, a total university, and by being referred to as the New Building to develop into the center, the head and the heart, the Main Building of a sprawling university city.”

- Rev. Fr. Fidel Villarroel, O.P.

and expertise with the University publication in a series of written and oral interviews conducted from May to July 2023. Ruminating on and commemorating the legacy and status of this iconic structure, these more than hour-long conversations have been documented to form part of the endeavors undertaken in 2023, five years before its centenary. These interviews were condensed to meet publication requirements.

From Intramuros to Suluan: The Beginning of a Centennial Journey

To fully grasp the importance of the Main Building as a cherished structure of the University of Santo Tomas, it is crucial to delve into its

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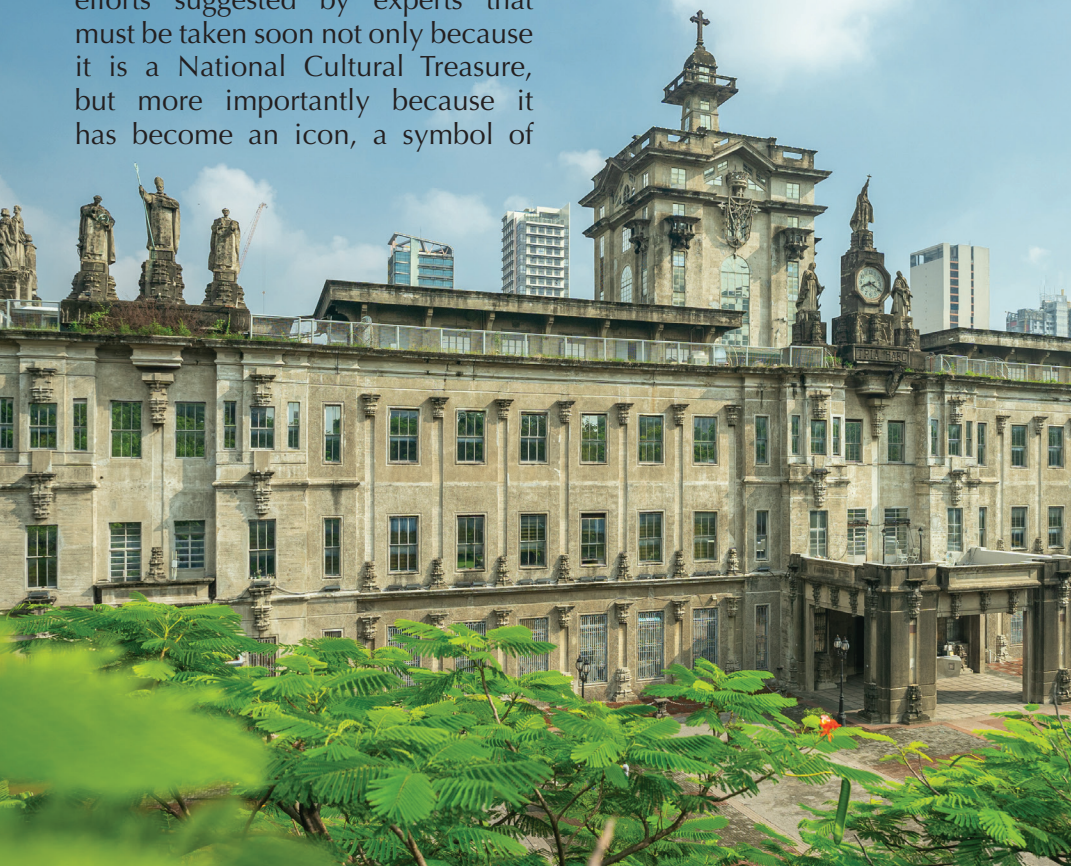
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UST, UY hold research symposium on energy materials



UST Vice Rector for Research and Innovation Rev. Fr. Jannel Abogado, O.P.



UST RCNAS Director Prof. Bernard John Tongol, Ph.D.



Prof. Junji Inukai, Ph.D.

The University of Santo Tomas (UST) and the University of Yamanashi (UY), Japan jointly held a Symposium on Energy Materials on July 17, 2023 at the Dr. Robert C. Sy Grand Ballroom, Buenaventura Garcia Paredes, O.P. (BGPOP) Building, UST.

UST Research Center for Natural and Applied Science (RCNAS) Director Prof. Bernard John Tongol, Ph.D., gave the background of the symposium and stated that it aimed to engage the academe, government, industry partners, collaborators, and target beneficiaries of the Center for Advanced Materials for Clean Energy Technologies using Indigenous Materials (CAMCET), a DOST Niche Center in the Region for Research and Development (NICER), which is being implemented at the UST RCNAS.

Prof. Junji Inukai, Ph.D., from the Clean Energy Research Center and the Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Nanomaterials Center of the University of Yamanashi discussed the proposed collaboration between UY and UST through the Science and Technology Research Partnership for Sustainable (SaTRePS) Development Program.

Prof. Toshihiro Miyao, Ph.D., from the Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Nanomaterials Center of UY and the Process Catalyst Research Lab of Nikki Universal Co., Ltd., presented research on the “Development of Pt/C-based Cathode Catalysts for PEFCs through a Novel Concept: Synthesis of Ordered Mesoporous Carbon Support with Hierarchical Network-like Structure”

Assoc. Prof. Akiyoshi Kuzume, Ph.D., from the Clean Energy Research Center of UY delivered a lecture on “Exploring *in situ/operando* Surface Analytic Techniques in Atomic Scale for Clean Energy Devices.”

Assoc. Prof. Dahlia Apodaca, Ph.D., from the School of Chemical, Biological, and Materials Engineering and Sciences of Mapúa University discussed the “Development of Silica-based Hybrid Membranes for Moderately High Temperature and Non-humidified Proton Exchange Membrane Fuel Cell (PEMFC) Application.”

UST RCNAS Director and College of Science Professor Bernard John Tongol, Ph.D., presented “Fuel Cell Electrocatalysts based on Agricultural Biomass.” The study used agricultural biomass, such as rice straw, coconut husks, and corn cobs,

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ENERGY MATERIALS
FROM PAGE 2



Participants and organizers of the Joint Symposium on Energy Materials

as alternative sustainable carbon supports for palladium (Pd)-based anode electrocatalysts for ethanol oxidation reaction (EOR) in basic medium and investigated the physical properties of the synthesized Pd/Biochar and its electrocatalytic activities toward EOR. Biochar from watermelon peels, rice husks, and coconut husks were also synthesized and studied as metal-free Oxygen Reduction Reaction (ORR) catalysts in basic medium.

Kapisanang Kimika ng Pilipinas President, UST RCNAS researcher, and College of Science Professor Christina Binag, Ph.D., discussed “Philippine Indigenous Textiles and Supercapacitor Electrodes.” This study by the UST Fabric Supercapacitor Team used local and natural fibers like piña, abaca, banana, and water hyacinth blended with polyester or cotton. By coating the textiles with conducting polymers and carbon nanotubes or rice straw biochar, they were able to use them as supercapacitor electrode materials or sustainable energy storage devices.

For the afternoon session, UY Master of Engineering student Mr. Christopher Schreiber presented a study titled “2D & 3D Monitoring of the Oxygen Partial Pressure ($p(O_2)$) within a Polymer Exchange Membrane Fuel Cell during Operation at Higher Temperatures,” and Master of Science in Applied Chemistry student Mr. Eric Selorn Dzramado discussed “The Use of Raman Spectroscopy to Study Water Distribution Inside a Membrane During Operation of Proton Exchange Membrane Fuel Cell.”

UST Graduate School doctoral students Mr. David Joseph Alzate and Mr. Jonyl Garcia presented their studies. Alzate presented his study titled “Polypyrrole and Rice Straw Activated Carbon on Water Hyacinth (*Eichhornia crassipes*) – Cotton (*Gossypium* spp.) Woven Fabrics as Electrodes for Supercapacitor Devices” while Garcia presented his study titled “Facile Preparation of Graphitic Carbon Nitride on Nitrogen-Doped Reduced Graphene Oxide via Semi-Closed Pyrolysis.”

Organized by the UST RCNAS and the UST College of Science Department of Chemistry, the attendees also included participants from the Faculty of Engineering, UST Graduate School, University of Yamanashi, Adamson University, and Mapúa University, among others.

The Department of Science and Technology’s Philippine Council for Industry, Energy, and Emerging Technology Research and Development (DOST-PCIEERD) Director Dr. Enrico Paringit also graced the event.

The joint symposium was also attended by Director Julius Leaño, Jr., of the DOST Philippine Textile Research Institute (PTRI), OIC Chief Engr. Apollo Victor Bawagan of the Chemicals and Energy Division of the DOST Industrial Technology Development Institute (ITDI) and representatives from the Department of Energy (DOE).



Amplifying voices of young changemakers: Romero, Vizconde, Lontoc of Education get UNESCO grant for youth empowerment



Prof. Romero



Prof. Vizconde



Asst. Prof. Lontoc

A UNESCO grant was awarded to College of Education Dean Prof. Pilar I. Romero, Ph.D., UST Graduate School Assistant Dean Prof. Camilla Vizconde, Ph.D., and Asst. Prof. Gina Lontoc, Ph.D., in recognition of the team's constant commitment to the empowerment of the youth.

As recipients, they are expected to run workshops that increase the involvement of young people in their participation in local political or social processes, volunteering, and livelihood endeavors. These workshops will bring together youth leaders, youth-led groups, students,

and stakeholders to consolidate the issues and challenges they face. The team recognizes the profound impact that youth can make in society; thus, it promotes activities that would foster youth leadership and community participation. Creative, arts-based participatory methods will be used to facilitate discussions.

This project is in partnership with the UNESCO Chair in Adult Literacy and Learning for Social Transformation at the University of East Anglia (UEA), United Kingdom.

UNESCO GRANT
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Devanadera, Mercado of CTHM elected to nat'l tourism organizations

College of Tourism and Hospitality Management academic staff Asst. Prof. Jane G. Devanadera and Mr. Jame Monren T. Mercado who teach under the Department of Tourism Management were elected as members of the Board of Directors of different national tourism organizations.

Devanadera was elected Board Member of the Union of Filipino Tourism Educators, Inc. (UFTE) for 2023-2024. UFTE is a group of educators that aims to have an increasing pool of trained academics and professionals in Travel and Tourism who understand the close interrelationship among all tourism industry segments. The officers were inducted into office during the 15th Annual National Tourism and Hospitality Students' Congress and Skills Olympics co-hosted by the University of Santo Tomas.

Mercado was elected to the Board of Directors of the Philippine Association of Researchers for Tourism and Hospitality, Inc. (PARTH) for the years 2023 to



Asst. Prof. Devanadera



Mr. Mercado

2025. PARTH is composed of researchers from prestigious Higher Educational Institutions (HEIs) mandated to foster research on the needs of the academe and the industry interlinked together, growing and developing simultaneously. Mercado served as PARTH National Vice President from 2021 to 2023. 🏠

Obiena earns Paris Olympics spot, rises to world No. 2 in pole vault

UST Electronics Engineering student on-leave Ernest John "EJ" Obiena is now the world's No. 2 pole vaulter, according to the World Athletics rankings as of July 18, 2023. He surpassed the previous No. 2, American athlete Chris Nilsen, by four points, garnering 1,432 ranking points.

In a public post on his official Facebook page, Obiena wrote, "Thank you to everyone who made this possible, and my deepest gratitude to those who went to war so that I could continue this dream. This is not just my accomplishment alone, but everyone's. *Maraming salamat, Pilipinas, sa pagkakataon na iwagayway ang iyong diwa.* This dreamer dares to dream."

The 27-year old pole vaulter is also the first Filipino to secure his spot at the 2024 Paris Olympics, a repeat of the recognition that he earned for the previous Tokyo Olympics, where he was also named the first Filipino athlete to qualify for the said Olympic games.

The Filipino pride qualified for the Summer Games by clearing a 5.82-meter jump at the Wanda Diamond League's Bauhaus Galan meet in Stockholm, Sweden on July 2, 2023, which earned him a silver medal.

Obiena has repeatedly set and broken new records, including soaring to new heights by joining the "six-meter-club" as the first Asian and Filipino pole vaulter on June 10, 2023 at the Bergen Jump Challenge in Norway, where he brought home the gold medal. He is the 24th athlete of all time to leap over the six-meter barrier.

Obiena recently won the gold in the 2023 Asian Athletics Championship held in Pattaya, Thailand on July 16, 2023. He now holds a new Asian record of 5.91m.

Earlier this academic year, during his homecoming to the University of Santo Tomas in September 2022, he received the Pope John Paul II Outstanding Achievement Award for his stellar performance in pole vault. 🏠



[Photos courtesy of EJ Obiena's official Facebook page]



Int'l forensic linguistics conference in UST gathers legal, language experts; SC Chief Justice Gesmundo is keynote speaker



Speakers, organizers, and participants of the 16th Biennial Conference of the IAFLL

The University of Santo Tomas Department of English, under the Faculty of Arts and Letters, hosted the 16th Biennial Conference of the International Association for Forensic and Legal Linguistics (IAFL) held from July 4 to 6, 2023 at the Grand Ballroom of the Buenaventura G. Paredes, O.P. (BGPOP) Building. The keynote speaker was Supreme Court of the Philippines Chief Justice Alexander G. Gesmundo. The theme was "Forensic Linguistics: Strengthening Foundations, Rethinking Paradigms, and Navigating New Horizons."

In the Chief Justice's keynote speech, delivered on his behalf by Supreme Court Associate Justice Hon. Jose Midas P. Marquez, he emphasized the importance of artificial intelligence in areas like author recognition, language and document analysis, and real-time translation technologies to break through language barriers. "Aside from potentially supercharging undertakings like language and document analysis and speaker and author recognition, of particular interest to those in multilingual jurisdictions such as ours is the development of machine

learning for real-time translation tools to help overcome language barriers," read Associate Justice Marquez.

The Chief Justice, in his speech, also highlighted the challenges and issues posed by biases, data privacy, security, and accuracy when using AI systems and stressed the significance of linguists remaining at the forefront of their field in order to address the complex intersections of law, language, and technology.

Marquez further read, "Even with the torrent of such tools, we count on linguists such as yourselves to stay at the helm of the field, especially given the issues that are likely to arise when law, language, and technology intersect."

The conference brought together 134 forensic linguists, lawyers, educators, researchers, practitioners, and language enthusiasts from 22 countries around the globe, including Australia, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Malaysia, Mozambique, Nigeria, the Philippines, Poland, Portugal, South Africa, Spain, Taiwan, United Kingdom, the United States, and Uzbekistan.

During the hybrid event, a stellar lineup of speakers and panelists fostered insightful discussions, shared best practices, and explored innovative approaches within the

INT'L FORENSIC LINGUISTIC CONFERENCE
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UNESCO GRANT FROM PAGE 4

Insights gained from the workshops will be used for a larger second workshop participated in by local policymakers, practitioners, industry and business representatives, youth workers, and academics. These workshops will also facilitate intergenerational sharing of issues and best practices to develop policy and practice recommendations on supporting young people's employability, entrepreneurship, and sustainable livelihoods.

This initiative builds on the impact of the UEA UNESCO Chair's research for the United Nations Volunteers' 2022 State of the World's Volunteerism Report (UEA Impact and Innovation Award Finalist) as well as UNESCO Chair partner institutions' research on youth, caste, gender, and entrepreneurship (Nepal), youth participation in policy design, decision-making and community development (Ethiopia) and youth and student activism (Philippines). 🏠

INT'L FORENSIC LINGUISTIC CONFERENCE FROM PAGE 6



(From left:) English Department Chair Prof. Rachelle B. Lintao, Ph.D., incoming IAFLL President Dr. Jennifer Glougie, outgoing IAFLL President Dr. Isabel Picornell, Faculty of Arts and Letters Acting Dean Atty. Jacqueline O. Lopez-Kaw, DCL, Aston Institute of Forensic Linguistics Director Prof. Tim Grant, Faculty of Arts and Letters Assistant Dean Assoc. Prof. Melanie D. Turingan, Ph.D., and Conference Convener Prof. Marilu R. Madrunio, Ph.D.

field of forensic and legal linguistics. The hybrid format allowed both in-person and virtual attendees to actively engage in the sessions, ensuring a truly global and inclusive event.

At the first day of the conference, Aston University in UK Aston Institute of Forensic Linguistics (AIFL) Director Prof. Tim Grant, delivered a plenary lecture on the role of explanation in forensic linguistic expert evidence, while the outgoing IAFLL President Dr. Isabel Picornell shared her knowledge and expertise on ethics and professional conduct oversight in forensic linguistic expert evidence.

On the second day of the conference, the plenary lecture of Georgetown University Professor Natalie Schilling was featured focusing on enriching understandings of language expertise through work in forensic linguistics. Meanwhile,

Japan Association of Law and Language Vice President Dr. Richard Powell, stressed on the value of multilingual law and its roles to multilingual human professionals.

The IAFLL incoming President Dr. Jennifer Glougie delivered a plenary talk on tightening the reins of expert evidence; judicial gatekeeping in the Canadian context during the final day of the conference. Indonesian Community for Forensic Linguistics Founder and President Dr. Susanto Saman, shared some reflection thoughts from case studies of forensic linguistics in Indonesia.

Ateneo de Manila University Department of Educational Leadership and Management Chair Prof. Isabel Pefianco-Martin, moderated a themed panel presentation that explored emerging challenges and innovative solutions within forensic and legal linguistics together with Prof. Marilu R. Madrunio of UST, Atty. Senando Santiago of the University of the Philippines-Diliman and Dr. Laura Smith-Khan of the University of Technology, Sydney in Australia.

Another themed panel discussion was moderated by Prof. Grant that delved into ethics and ethical conduct in Forensic Linguistics. Dr. Sarah Atkins of Aston University in UK, Prof. Georgina Heydon of



Conference Convener Prof. Marilu R. Madrunio, Ph.D., Associate Justice Hon. Jose Midas Marquez, and outgoing IAFLL President Dr. Isabel Picornell

RMIT University in Australia and Dr. Isabel Picornell served as panelists.

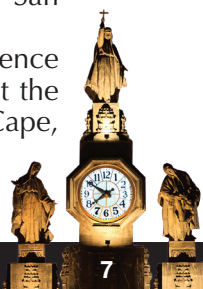
Participants were treated to a Filipino cultural experience with performances that showcased the talents from the UST Salinggawi Dance Troupe, BA Dauncen, UST Conservatory of Music and UST Graduate School Ph.D. English Language Studies students.

In line with IAFLL's 30th founding anniversary, the biennial conference organizers awarded the former IAFLL presidents with plaques of appreciation during the event to recognize their significant contributions in the field of forensic linguistics.

Conference Convener of IAFLL 16 was Prof. Marilu R. Madrunio of UST with Conference Co-conveners Prof. Rachelle B. Lintao and Dr. Alejandro S. Bernardo, who are both from UST. The other members of the core committee were: Ms. Zenaida Reyes (San Beda-Alabang), Atty. Selenne Anne Leynes (UST), Dr. Raquel Jimenez (UST), Ms. Ma. Kaela Joselle Madrunio (UST), and Dr. Shielanie Dacumos (University of Rizal System-Binangonan).

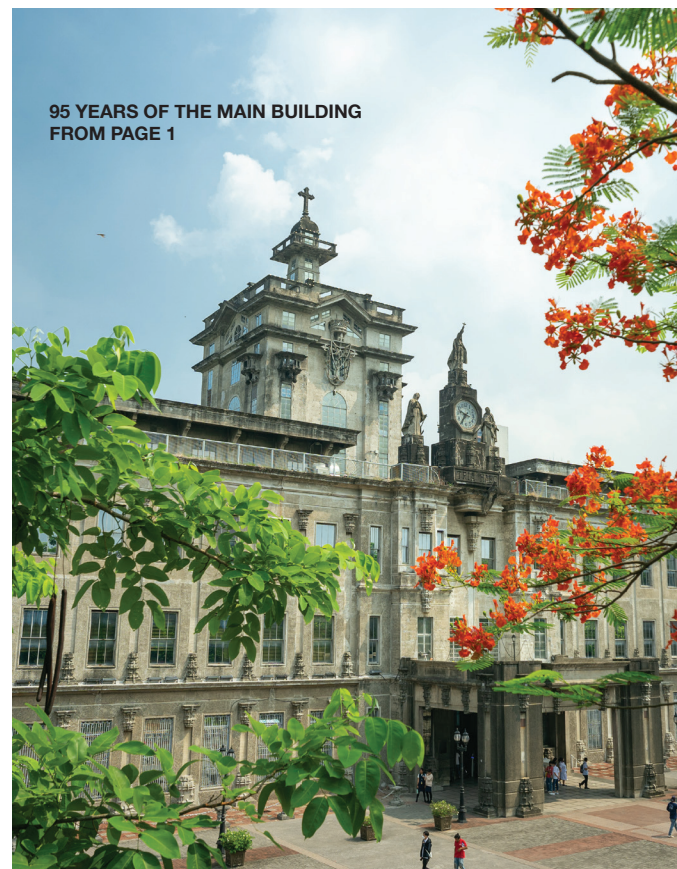
The members of the organizing committee were composed of the academic staff from the Department of English, English Language Studies students in the undergraduate and graduate levels as well as alumnae of the UST Graduate School affiliated with the University of Rizal System-Binangonan and Colegio San Agustin-Binan.

The next biennial conference of the IAFLL will be held at the University of Western Cape, South Africa in 2025. 🏠



95 years of the UST Main Building:
A steadfast symbol of Thomasian education
(An Academia Special Feature)





95 YEARS OF THE MAIN BUILDING
FROM PAGE 1

The UST Main Building in 2023

rich history. Faculty of Arts and Letters Assistant Dean Melanie D. Turingan, Ph.D., and a member of the UST Department of History, shed light on the stories behind its rise.

The Academia: Why was the new campus of UST, and consequently, the Main Building, chosen to be built on the 'Sulucan estate' in Sampaloc?

Assoc. Prof. Melanie Turingan, Ph.D. (MT): The campus we now enjoy was born out of the desire to provide for a bigger space for its growing enrollment. Before being located at its present site in Sampaloc, the University of Santo Tomás was located inside the walled city of Intramuros, where the old Santo Domingo Church also stood. As years passed, the University wanted to move its operations outside Intramuros because of its increasing student population. On July 18, 1911, a donation was given to the Dominican Fathers, a 220,000 square meter land located in the Sulucan Estate, northeastern part of the city of Manila. The estate was originally a property of the Sisters of Saint Clare, but in the early 1900s, they sold it to developers. One of the buyers, Doña Francisca Bustamante Bayot, donated the land to the

Dominicans represented by then Dominican Provincial, Rev. Fr. Buenaventura García Paredes, O.P.

The University received the donation of the Sulucan property in 1911, coinciding with its tricentennial anniversary. On December 18 of the same year, the laying of the first cornerstone was made by University stakeholders and the Dominican Fathers, headed by then University Rector Magnificus Fr. José Noval, O.P. This was witnessed by other distinguished guests composed of ecclesiastical authorities, members of the legislature, representatives of academic institutions, among others.

Can you walk us through the process by which Fr. Roque Ruaño, O.P. designed the UST Main Building?

MT: Fr. Roque Ruaño, O.P., a licensed engineer and professor at the UST Faculty of Engineering was chosen to design the new buildings in the new campus. However, due to budget constraints, he was forced to revise his plans and subsequently limited himself to construct only a single building. This limitation, however, did not stop Fr. Ruaño from creating a masterpiece--- a building not only aesthetically pleasing but also scientifically functional. The building's earthquake resistant feature can be attributed to Fr. Ruaño's tectonic and architectural studies in both Japan and the Philippines.

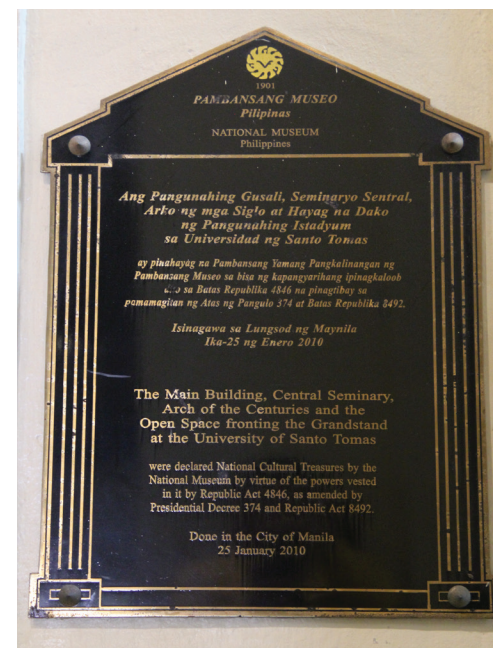
Keeping in mind the 95th-year of the construction of the Main Building, Turingan also mentions its legacy:



MT: At present, still standing at 95 years, the Main Building houses most of the administrative offices of the University. It is also the home of some academic units such as the Faculty of Civil Law, Faculty of Pharmacy, and College of Science. The Museum of Arts and Sciences, considered as the oldest existing school-based museum in the Philippines can also be found at the Main Building. Part of

95 YEARS OF THE MAIN BUILDING
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95 YEARS OF THE MAIN BUILDING
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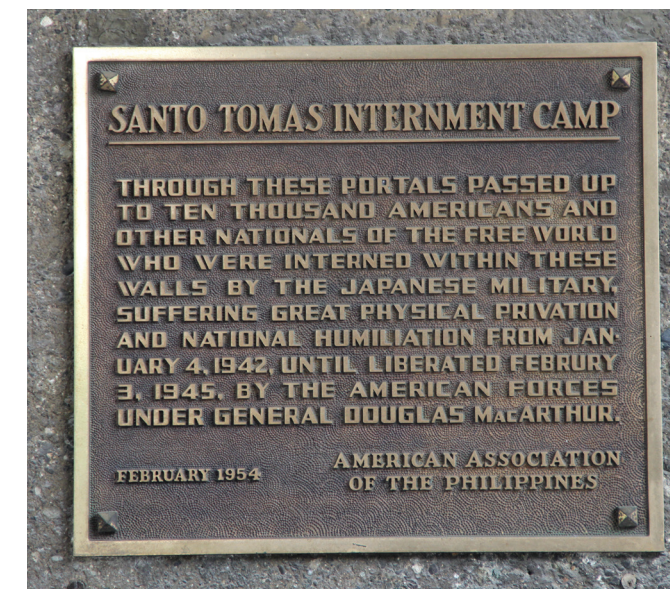
Marker of the Declaration of the UST Main Building as National Cultural Treasure

the Main Building's legacy is its recognition as a National Cultural Treasure as declared by the National Museum of the Philippines in January 2010. Along with the Main Building, the Central Seminary, the Arch of the Centuries, and the University's open spaces were also declared as national treasures. This made UST the first educational institution to receive such a distinction.



The UST Main Building after World War II and the liberation of the campus as an internment camp

One of the most important roles played by the Main Building in Philippine history was that of an internment camp during the second World War. According to Turingan, the operations of the University of Santo Tomás came to a halt in 1941 when the Japanese forces bombed the City of Manila. The war did not spare the University. The Main Building was converted into an internment camp, occupied by about 4,000 allied and foreign civilian prisoners-of-war, with nationalities such as American, British, Canadian, Australian, Dutch, Polish, Russian, Spanish, Cuban, Mexican, Burmese, Swedish, Danish, and Chinese. In 1942, the Santo Tomás Internment Camp was noted as one of the largest in the Philippines.



Marker of the Main Building as Internment Camp

After the war, life reverted to its usual routine, students went back to school after a three-and-a-half-year hiatus. In 1952, during the silver jubilee celebration of the construction of the Main Building, an addition to the building was made. Through the initiative of then Rector Magnificus Fr. Ángel de Blas, O.P., 15 statues of famous saints, philosophers, and other personalities from the arts and sciences were installed at the pedestals set on the roof deck. The great Italian sculptor, Francesco Monti, then a

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academic staff of the College of Architecture and Fine Arts, was commissioned for this massive project.

From the innovative mind of Fr. Ruaño to the realization of his plans, the UST Main Building is a living testament to the historical events in the University that made an impact even on the entire nation. The structure is a witness to the challenges and tribulations faced by the institution and the nation as well, and the

successes that came afterward. Its four walls—home to the different UST stakeholders; the cross—a beacon of Catholic education, and its history—a reminder of UST’s unending grace.

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Vincent of
Beauvais, O.P.

St. Augustine

St. Raymund de
Peñafof, O.P.

Theologians and historians



Lope de Vega

Aristophanes

Molière

Playwrights



The crown, cross, and rosary at the tower of the UST Main Building





Tragedians



William Shakespeare



Philosophers



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FROM PAGE 12

The Blueprint of a National Cultural Treasure: Conversations on Conservation

The Main Building is like a time capsule for the University. It houses the UST Museum which keeps valuable artifacts and documents. In a larger perspective, the building's prominence as a structural icon holds not only the history of UST, but also its legacy into the future. Celebrating its centennial anniversary in 2027, maintaining the Main Building's pristine condition requires much discourse on the conservation of this cultural treasure.

In separate interviews, the Facilities Management Office team, including its Director Rev. Fr. Dexter Austria, O.P., FMO Assistant Director Engr. Albert Surla, and Engr. Romnick Amida; architects and cultural heritage conservationists Ar. Froilan Fontecha and Ar. Willa Solomon; and civil and structural engineer and construction management professional Engr. Rodel Tiburcio discussed the efforts to conserve the Main Building. All of them have given their inputs to The Academia that are not only based on their considerable expertise as professional practitioners, but also from their hearts as true-blooded Thomasians.

The Academia: What kinds of challenges are involved in the conservation of the Main Building, given its age, historical significance, and status as a National Cultural Treasure? What strategies are currently employed to face these challenges?

Fr. Dexter Austria, O.P. (DA): As an almost century-old structure, the Main Building needs a lot of repair and maintenance work. We find the availability of materials to be used particularly challenging as they are needed to be close to the original. In the absence of as-built plans, restoration works become arduous to accomplish. Lack of data reference with regard to the structural, electrical, and mechanical systems makes the restoration process slow. With this, the introduction of modern equipment such as air-conditioning units, generator sets, fire detecting devices, deemed necessary by the present-day stakeholders, were not considered in its original concept. Thus, there is a need to think how to include these without any interference on structural and aesthetic aspects.



Ar. Froilan Fontecha (FF): The Main Building was completed in 1927, so the building code, or the codes in general were not as strict as they are now. It is one of the few heritage buildings that you call 'living heritage structures' in the sense that it is still used and occupied in its original functions. There are other culturally important buildings that are declared as culturally significant, but remain unoccupied and unused. In contrast, the Main Building continues to be functional and our climate, surroundings, and population have changed over time. In previous years, this building was used for classrooms and there were only a few administrative offices. There were no air conditioning units, and the fire escapes then were not as strictly required as they are now, and in the layers of renovations that took place over time, these efforts did not consciously consider conservation. Referring to Ar. Avendaño[†] and Ar. Solomon's study, it really takes a lot of effort to follow that, but we try to be more responsible, be more attuned to conservation practices that we have now. First and foremost, if you are going to take a look, the mezzanines—whenever we have renovations, we remove those. That lightens up the load of the structure. We also have the Central Laboratory erected in 2017 as a separate building, because if you'll remember, the Main Building's clock tower used to be storage for chemicals known as the Laboratory Equipment and Supplies Office. Also, the fourth floor had laboratories.

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Ar. Willa Solomon (WS): These contributed to the degradation and corrosion of the pipes and the cement, so one of our recommendations was to take out the laboratories.

FF: Before, the old air conditioning units were attached to the exterior wall of the facade, and the vibrations of those units were also bad for the building.

WS: So those were removed during the time of Fr. Pinto as FMO Director, and Ar. Enrique Sta. Maria as In-house Architect. We also had the parking lot in front of the Main Building converted to the Plaza Mayor and Quadricentennial Park by Ar. Jonathan Manalad in 2010, so that the Main Building would be less affected by pollution like heat and exhaust fumes coming from the vehicles. There's also a moratorium on certain changes in the interior of the building.

Is there really a need to decrease the internal load of the Main Building?

Engr. Rodelio Tiburcio (RT): Yes. Let me give you an example. A few years back, the steps of the grand staircase started to sink. To repair it, we had to put it upside down. What people use now when they climb the stairs was originally the underside. What will happen if the degradation continues? We can't use that method again. Ideally, the foot traffic caused by so many students should be minimized and limit the use of the grand staircase to maybe just the dignitaries going to the Museum, and direct the foot traffic to the side stairs instead.



DA: Given the above mentioned challenges, there is a need to employ the services of experts in the field or consultancy firms involved in critical engineering activities. At present, there is an on-going detailed structural assessment to check the structural adequacy and soundness of the structure. In the years before the celebration of the Main Building's centenary of its construction, we need to make sure of its structural integrity while preserving its original charm.

RT: Whether we like it or not, the materials in the Main Building are slowly deteriorating. Cement, when it is new, gradually increases in strength, but when its peak comes, its strength starts to wane. So the concrete has already started to wane many years back. What we can do is remove unnecessary things from the building itself. Our role now is to see to it that we identify those problem areas, like places where debris may fall.

When we hear 'earthquake-resistant', most of the credit goes to the seismic isolation system employed by Fr. Roque Ruaño, O.P., but how do other factors contribute to this feature, like the type of materials used, the depth of foundation?

Engr. Albert Surla (AS): The utilization of the seismic isolation system to the building primarily makes the structure 'earthquake-resistant' at a certain seismic magnitude. This system is complemented significantly by the design of structural elements such as columns, beams, slabs, and foundations.

FF: If you will take a look at the Main Building inside or even outside, you can spot some gaps (seen on the image in the top left, page 18). The beams and the corners are not connected because the Main Building is not actually one structure; it's made up of 40 separate units, so if there's an earthquake, it moves, it sways. Thus, it is able to withstand tremors due to its flexibility, rather than remaining rigid, which may cause the structure to crack or collapse instead.

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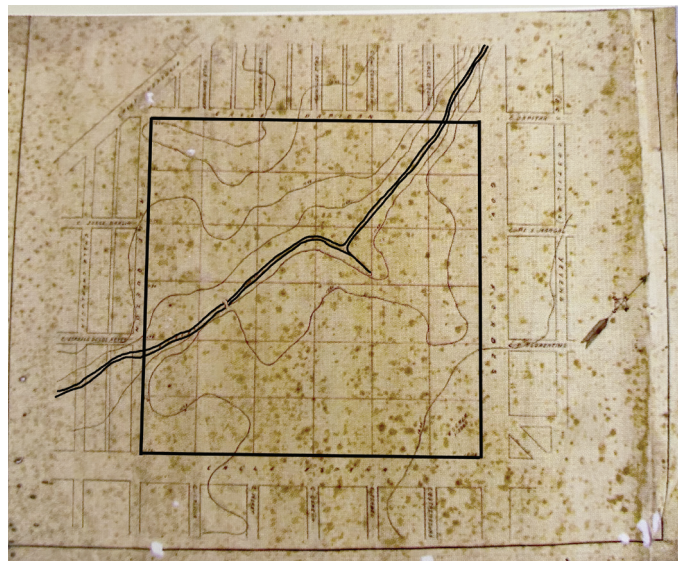
WS: In the 60s, there was a strong earthquake but there were no cracks in the Main Building. The risk was that our tower used to be a storage for chemicals. Ma'am Issa (Ar. Clarissa Avendaño[†], former Assistant Director of the UST Museum) and I were afraid that should there be an accident, chemicals may mix, react, and cause a fire or an explosion. The tower is at the center of the Main Building, and below it is our Museum. That's why we really recommended that the laboratories and chemical storage be moved out of the Main Building, so we could maintain the tower itself and protect it from accidents. Aside from the Museum, we also have the University records at the Registrar's Office.

Given the building's design as it was conceptualized by Fr. Ruaño, would you consider it as something that was advanced during his time, or was this the standard for that period?

RT: If you look at the history of Fr. Roque Ruaño, he studied in UST, but he did his research in Japan and he attended conventions of civil engineers where they talked about trends of construction during that time. So this building, it's around the same age as the Empire State Building (1931, in New York City), so that's a sample of the technology available at that time. There was no assistive computer software at the



time, so he did it by hand, through manual calculations. Our work as structural engineers is difficult; you have to do analyses of the whole building, and doing it manually will take a long time. Fr. Ruaño had his own way of doing it that, I think, during his time, stood out. Back then, the available methods were long methods of calculation, and he did simplify it by dividing the Main Building into 40 separate structures or units. The building may look complicated because it is massive and at the same time the configuration is not regular because of the presence of the atriums inside and the tower itself. Fr. Ruaño however, simplified it by cutting it into smaller units, and each of these units are like apartments. When it's of that size, each one is more manageable. He designed several types of apartment-like blocks and then replicated them for the others. So, units were used again, such as the four corner sections, and the tower was designed separately. Today, the prevailing techniques are, considering we have designing software easily available, we just design the whole thing altogether as a single structure. Though it would be the computer doing it, the approach is a little more complicated. Fr. Ruaño was able to simplify his methods.



The original 1914 lot plan of the campus, with the path of the Sulucan river running through it

WS: The Main Building is actually a structural feat, because as you can see here in the original 1914 Lot Plan (She points to the image on page 14 of her book "The Proposed Conservation Guidelines for the UST Main Building as a Built Heritage", seen above), there was a river, Estero Sulucan, running through where the Main Building would eventually be built. It was a swampy marshland. So you may wonder, since there was a river, the ground there would not be as firm, and back then

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there was no system for a deep pile foundation. I would compare the method used to the Cambodian's design of the Angkor Wat. It's surrounded by water and made of stone, but it was still supported in the marshy land because the floating foundation was set so that it would function similarly to a ship, like a floating slab or raft.

WS: I was amazed that somehow it was constructed in the middle of the campus, and as I've said a while ago, there was a river called Estero Sulucan across the lot, and somehow it's still earthquake-resistant. Resistant, not earthquake-proof. It resisted a big earthquake in the 1960s with a magnitude 7.6 quake that took place on August 2, 1968, and the building was without cracks and it is a complete building that did not sink even though it stood on marshlands. Its height has remained the same. It's also passively cooled, making use of water and atriums to cool the interior of the building. Then what's also amazing were the materials—cement, gravel, and imported steel from Japan. Even the way it was constructed by 200 Kapampangans—maybe that's why the capitals are so finely constructed. Pampanga was known for its sculptures and its people were known as very detailed workers. Our Main Building's facade is also pale (natural concrete hue) because it was said that they washed the gravel before it was mixed with the cement. There were no foreign elements so the finish looks smooth. It's also unpainted, so the maintenance in that regard is minimal. When you paint a building, in five or so years, you need to repaint it, but with this unpainted facade, you only need to clean it. So that's amazing for me, and its design is so different that it stands out from the other Art Deco buildings of that time.

Air conditioning units were uncommon in the 1920s. Look at the size of its windows, look at the inner courts. Other buildings in this campus built in the earlier years also have inner courts because that's one method of passive cooling. You have an open court and large windows for air to move through freely.

Is it similar to the design of the Engineering or Roque Ruaño building and Education or St. Albertus Magnus buildings?

WS: Yes, and also the St. Raymund de Peñafort Building and the Central Seminary. Many buildings on campus have this feature for passive cooling. Air goes in through the large windows and goes out. Even with only electric fans back then, it worked well enough.



A view from the courtyard at night: large windows and an open court to allow air to flow freely

Another feature is the roof of the laboratories on the fourth floor of the Main Building. These were used as laboratories recently, but they were intended as cisterns that collect water, so that it would give a cooling effect.

Does the status of being 'earthquake-resistant' also apply to later additions to the structure, such as the clock, 'Tria Haec', and the other figures mounted on top?

AS: No, because the elements identified are isolated building accessories and are not considered as part of the structural framing system of the building.

WS: The pedestals for the statues were prepared way before there were additions, so I think they really had some things in mind to be mounted there.

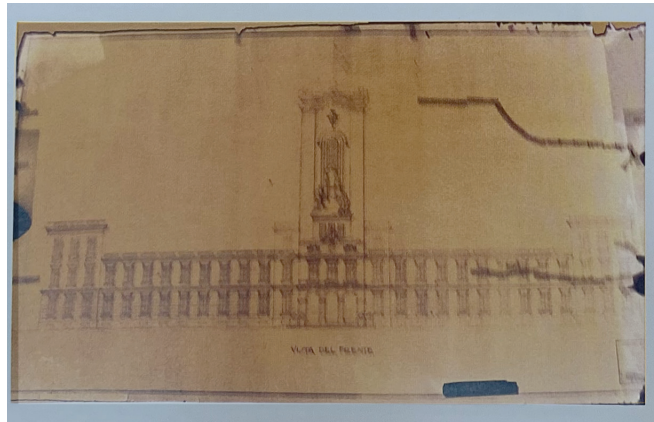


FF: You may notice that only the front half has statues, but the other half, those facing the Quadricentennial Square and Library, also have pedestals ready. Those were already part of Fr. Ruaño's construction. So way back when it was designed, it was intended to have statues.

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Would that be the term to describe the style of the Main Building?

WS: *Neoclassical, but Art Deco in design. Plus, of course, the presence of the (kumimono) capitals were actually Eastern or specifically Japanese in character. His original design (She points to an old architectural plan of the Main Building, seen*

above, originally on page 15 of her book “The Proposed Conservation Guidelines for the UST Main Building as a Built Heritage”), that’s from 1911. This was the design he wanted, but after he went to Japan his ideas shifted. Look at the capitals. In Japanese architecture, we call this kumimono, a system of supporting blocks and brackets for the eaves of buildings. If you superimpose this image of a kumimono on the capital used on the Main Building, it’s the same proportion. Look at this first renaissance-inspired design, the taller clock tower with only two stories. When he returned from Japan in the 1920s, his new plans had a fusion of Eastern design through the kumimono capital (seen left), which made it look distinct.

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The Main Building in its natural concrete hue



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In its 95 years, many office renovations or remodeling projects have been conducted in the Main Building. Have these left an impact on the seismic isolation segments? What further changes would you recommend to maximize the use of its spaces or enliven it, for example, the area occupied by the unused classrooms above the fourth floor?

Engr. Romnick Amida (RA): *There were numerous renovations undertaken that involved introduction of new equipment, new furniture, and construction of mezzanine floor level and these contributed to additional loads that the building had to carry and will have an impact on the building behavior during seismic activity. The Facilities Management Office is working to restore the original function of the building so as to maximize space utilization. Projects are also lined up such as the construction of galleries on the fourth floor to highlight the importance of the building as the focal point of the campus.*

RT: *I'm working on the structural audit, which means we'll look where there may be problems and recommend repairs. Not ordinary repairs, but of course, the criteria should be time or era-compatible. The new materials should be compatible with the original materials. The principle behind repairing a cultural building is that, if the repair is going to be—for example, this wall, if hypothetically I repaired it with a huge metal post, I need to do it in a way that it can be removed, so that in the future, if there may be better technology or materials existing that may be more appealing to look at, materials that don't make it look like it was extensively repaired, then the current repairs can be easily taken off so that the better technology may be used in the future instead.*

Aside from moving the academic units out of the Main Building to decrease foot traffic, are there any other changes you would like to recommend to preserve the Main Building? Any proposals to add or remove structures?

RT: *It can still function as a building with offices. Like the Rector's office as the center, of course. But what I'm saying is that, this early, we need to plan how to preserve it for the next 100 years. We can*

protect it for the next generations only by starting with all the repairs we need to do now. If you go up the cross tower, you may feel afraid to walk because the winding stairs are not that stable anymore.

FF: *For me, I would like to preserve the look of the Main Building, from the time it was built. There's a concept or strategy in architecture that states that the design should reflect the time the structure was built. But inside, if you're going to take a look at the signage outside the offices of the Main Building, we recently updated those. It's not modern—although the way it was made was modern—with the use of brackets, wood, it really goes back to that time because it adds to the feel of the time when Fr. Roque Ruaño built it in 1927.*

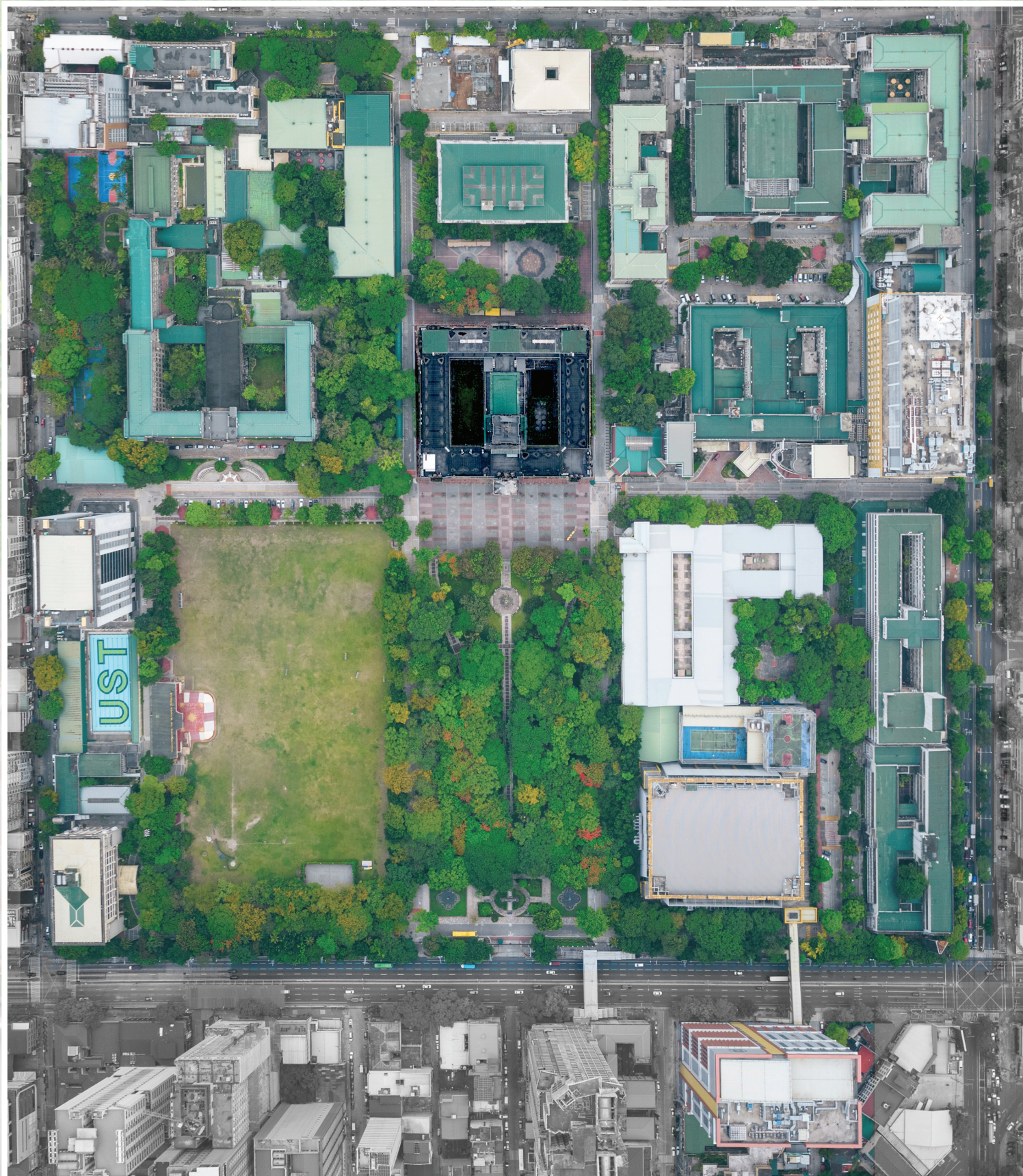
WS: *During the time when Ma'am Issa Avendaño † was alive, we were thinking about expanding the Museum because there are so many treasures that are not on display. If only it were possible to have the whole building*



as a Museum! Every college has its own history, so if it would be possible to have an assigned room per Faculty or College, why not? We could have a display of historic materials of the different academic units. Then upstairs, if we could have a restaurant, maybe in the tower, somehow we could make use of the view of the campus. There are so many beneficial options. I think it would be a waste to leave that space vacant. That was the dream of Issa and I, that each academic unit would have its representative section in the Museum, so the story of the University would be more complete.

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If you have a wishlist for the Main Building, what would it be?

FF and WS: *Maintenance and repair should be continuous.*

FF: *Yes, and there are exposed rebars, not only in the Tower, but even in the cornices and moldings. That's why now we have bollards around the top of the exterior wall and statues, to protect Thomasians from falling debris.*

WS: *My wish is the expansion of the Museum. There are so many treasures that could not be on display because there is not enough room.*

FF: *There are many more treasures that should be enjoyed by the Thomasians.*

WS: *And not just Thomasians, but the community too.*

TA: What makes the Main Building iconic?

RT: *UST is almost defined by that single structure. Though it is not as old as the churches in the country, because this was constructed only in 1927, the materials used then are still being used up to the present. I would say that this building defines UST.*

FF: *Even from a far distance, such as from the Arch of the Centuries, the Main Building in the background is noticeably so impressive.*

WS: *It has a beautiful vista. The setting-*

FF: *-the view corridor, the setting of the Main Building as a background from España, and it being situated in the center of the campus.*

WS: *Sad to say, some skyscrapers already mar the vista.*

So the view from the Arch, to the Benavides Garden and his statue, and the Main Building, is that intentional?

WS: *Yes, that's the beautiful thing about it, it looks as if you're not even in Metro Manila.*

FF: *We are very lucky to be living in these times as Thomasians, because previously the Benavides Garden had a roof.*

WS: *Yes. It was removed in the 1990s, but now, the experience entering through the Arch is different.*

FF: *That time, it was probably more about the practicality and convenience of having the roof, than presenting the aesthetic beauty of the Main Building, but now there's a marriage of preserving the beauty and providing convenience.*

WS: *Our approach to conservation is to do it little by little. Maybe not from the top, or it's very informal, but somehow, work on it little by little. There has to be awareness and support for the efforts to conserve the Main Building. Maybe unwritten, but it should exist.*

FF: *Conservation is expensive. As an academic institution, preserving this will be very costly, especially since it is a declared National Cultural Treasure.*

“UST is almost defined by that single structure... I would say that this building defines UST.”

- Engr. Rodelio Tiburcio

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The Main Building is such a unique structure that its image almost embodies UST in the minds of people. As satellite campuses in General Santos City and Santa Rosa City continue to rise, what elements or features of the Main Building are being emulated by the campuses respective administrative buildings to keep the identity of UST?

FF: For GenSan, its Main Building has the central tower and the symmetry, and I think the columns were also copied. But that's it, that's just for architectural branding as UST. We also consider the local context. GenSan is in Mindanao, so if you'll see it, the arches took inspiration from Islamic design. There's a successful fusion of Catholic and Islamic style. There are touches of Islamic art, so there's the association of UST as an institution and the local context. I'm not sure if Santa Rosa will be the same. (As of press time, only the Dr. Tony Tan Caktiong Innovation Center has been inaugurated in the UST Santa Rosa campus).

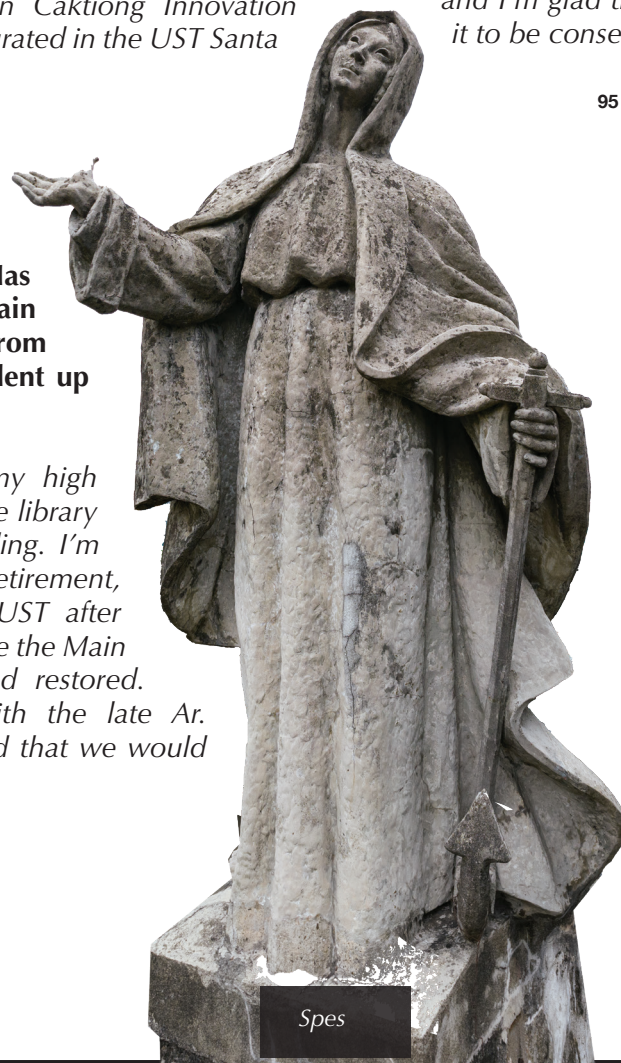
On a more personal note, what are some memories that keep you in awe of the Main Building? Has your vision of the Main Building changed from when you were a student up to this time?

RT: I remember my high school days in UST. The library was in the Main Building. I'm now close to my retirement, so when I return to UST after retirement, I hope to see the Main Building preserved and restored. In my discussions with the late Ar. Avendaño †, we agreed that we would

like to bring back the 'feel' of the Main Building from the time after it has been liberated as an internment camp.

FF: My father used to work at Central Bank, so whenever he would take me with him to his office, we would pass by España and I would be so impressed by the sight of the Main Building, thinking it was a Church, and wanting to study here at that time. So how did it change? Well, the Main Building for me now has a story. It's not just a structure. It has a past that I am part of, including its present because of my involvement, and hopefully, I will also be part of its future, making sure that whatever I do will preserve it for future generations of Thomasians.

WS: It's an icon for the University, and I'm glad that there are efforts for it to be conserved.

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Spes



Fides



Caritas

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A Dream Beyond Our Seeing: Towards the 100th Year of the UST Main Building

Having looked back at its history and considered its present as a living heritage structure, The Academia's Editor-in-Chief, the UST Secretary-General and Assistant Archivist Rev. Fr. Louie Coronel, O.P., E.H.L., shared his insights on the Main Building's future.

For almost a century, the Main Building has served as a witness to the University's enduring legacy, and played a crucial role in shaping the intellectual, social, and cultural landscape of the Philippines. Since its solemn blessing and formal inauguration in 1927, it has endured difficult challenges, withstanding wars and revolutions, surviving natural calamities and global health emergencies, and navigating the vicissitude of time. Our Founder, Fr. Miguel de Benavides (ca. 1552-

1605), attested that "darkness covers this land in a mental mist... and this is the task of the University of Santo Tomas: to spread the light (lumina pandit)." The UST Main Building has endured the passage of time, silently observing moments of success and adversity, periods of tranquility and turmoil. It has provided a sanctuary for numerous Thomasians, who wholeheartedly carried out their noble purpose of spreading the light. This year, the first edifice in UST Santa Rosa was inaugurated, and another UST Main Building will soon be inaugurated in Mindanao, an undertaking that was considered highly improbable a century ago. Indeed, from a flickering light in Intramuros, the light was scattered to Sampaloc. And now, from Sampaloc to Santa Rosa and General Santos City, the Thomasians radiate enlightenment to the global community, testifying to the Light!

From an inspired vision to a grand reality, Fr. Roque Ruaño's blueprint has stood the test of time and will continue to flourish in the years to come. Imbued with unending grace, the UST Main Building—home to us all. 🏰

"It's not just a structure... I will also be part of its future, making sure that whatever I do will preserve it for future generations of Thomasians."

- Ar. Froilan M. Fontecha





The view of the Main Building from above the Quadricentennial Square, with the UST Bl. Pier Giorgio Frassati Building seen in the background, along with the neighboring high-rise structures along España Boulevard



Summit in UST on fact-checking, digital literacy fosters collaboration to fight digital information disorder

Break the Fake Movement and the Media Civics Lab brought fact-checkers closer to civil society by gathering experts and different stakeholders with efforts in countering the information disorder at the First Philippine Fact-Checking Summit (PFCS) held at the Dr. George SK Ty Hall of the Blessed Buenaventura Garcia Paredes, O.P. Building University of Santo Tomas on June 30, 2023.

Break the Fake Movement (BTFM) Founder Gabriel Billones, Jr., said that misinformation and disinformation are not just issues that will be faced during election time, but a recurring one that will continue throughout a lifetime. He shared BTFM's efforts throughout the years in leveraging civic education, policy making, strategic lobbying for media literacy in the curriculum, and other endeavors to improve digital literacy, including locally adapting the annual Global Fact Conference by the International Fact-Checking Network (IFCN) in the form of the PFCS.

Billones emphasized that collaborative effort will be the key to consistent and widespread media literacy, sharing that "The ultimate solution to being able to deal with this kind of information disorder is for us to leverage each

other's strengths through a unified and united front of sharing the same kind of mission."

UST Secretary-General Rev. Fr. Louie R. Coronel, O.P., EHL, in a message read by Office of the Secretary-General Executive Assistant Emmanuel Batulan, Ph.D., encouraged this notion, and stated, "By cultivating a community founded on positive participation, and diverse perspectives, we can create a resilient and informed society." He further added, "Let us embrace the power of knowledge, critical thinking, and responsible digital citizenship as we embark on this transformative path together."

Historian Prof. Xiao Chua discussed "The Role of the Academe in the Fight Against Discrimination." He shared insights from his over 20 years of experience in bringing history closer to the people.

"Misinformation has always been part of our lives even before Facebook," said Chua, adding that "The problem now is that this platform is being used by the powerful because of algorithms, and it has divided the people."

Chua highlighted the need for effective communication of historical facts, explaining in Filipino that "History is analysis, it is making a stand when you see all the documents. You make a stand, but you should be fair. We defend the memory of martial law victims,



Break the Fake Movement Founder Gabriel Billones, Jr. (second from left), Office of the Secretary-General Executive Assistant Mr. Emmanuel Batulan, Ph.D. (third from left), Office of Public Affairs Director Asst. Prof. Joreen T. Rocamora, Ph.D. (rightmost), and Assistant to the Director for Public Affairs Ms. Michaela O. Lagniton

but you also have to not be too combative to the people that you talk to, so that the ones you converse with don't stop listening."

The noted historian added that it is important to avoid needless antagonizing, which can be a common issue when people who come from the academe engage with people outside the academic bubble. "Instead," he suggested, "find a niche where you can be effective. When people know their past and people know about their

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Prof. Xiao Chua (left) in a discussion with Mr. Billones

country and their culture, that makes people love the Philippines more. Not through force, but through the knowledge of history."

Warning against complacency on the fact-checking movement, Xiao Chua also emphasized the necessity of going beyond fact-checking. "The number one lesson I want to leave here is that fact-checking is not enough. We've done great work with fact-checking as a pushback to disinformation, but aside from fact-checking, we also need to do narrative building," said the historian.

For the plenary talk, journalist and Tsek.PH Project Leader Assoc. Prof. Yvonne Chua discussed "The State of Fact Checking in the Philippines."

Challenges to Filipino fact-checking initiatives include the sustainability of fact-checking projects due to limited funding or manpower, and the continued threats and attacks. Yvonne Chua also emphasized the importance of the Code of Principles in fact-checking by the International Fact-Checking Network (IFCN) at Poynter, to which fact-checking initiatives must adhere, namely, nonpartisanship and fairness, transparency of sources, transparency of funding, transparency of methodology, and open and honest corrections policy.

Yvonne Chua also cautioned against methods and gaps in practice

that both "rob you of your neutrality and rub the public in the wrong way," such as adding commentary in the fact-checking materials, relying on non-triangulated secondary sources rather than primary sources, omitting disclosures of attribution to sources, omitting disclosures of methods, funding, organizational affiliations, or ownership, not applying the "truth sandwich" method, having no open corrections policy, or failing to credit other fact checkers.

Acknowledging that while the community of fact-checkers has grown in recent years and that fact-checking efforts are including more varied and specialized topics in local languages in addition to English, Chua indicated her hopes to see the habit of principled fact-checking be more consistently widespread.

"We are part of an advocacy where fact-checking will not just be limited to professionals, to media, academe, or civil society that look at



Assoc. Prof. Yvonne Chua during the plenary talk

it as a full-time job. We would like to see fact-checking become a mindset, part of the lifestyle of every Filipino, so that they would not just verify the news often or sometimes, but *all the time*," said Yvonne Chua.

Among other discussants were Mansalay, Oriental Mindoro Vice Mayor Shernan Gamol and National Council for Children's Television Executive Director Desideria M. Atienza for the topic "Government's Efforts to Improve Media and Information Literacy in

the country;" Movement Against Disinformation Executive Director Atty. Christianne Salonga, IDEALS Inc. Media and Communications Officer Jag San Mateo, National Union of People's Lawyers Vice President (NCR) Atty. Frank Lloyd Tiongson for "Multi-stakeholder Approaches to Countering Disinformation."

The panel discussants on "What's Next for Fact Checking in the Philippines?" included Probe Productions Managing Director Jennifer Aquino, Rappler Digital Strategy Head Gemma Mendoza, MindaNews Fact Checker Yas Ocampo, VERAFiles journalist Nica Hanopol, PressOne.ph Associate Editor Rommel Lopez, with Atty. Cris Yambot who acted as moderator.

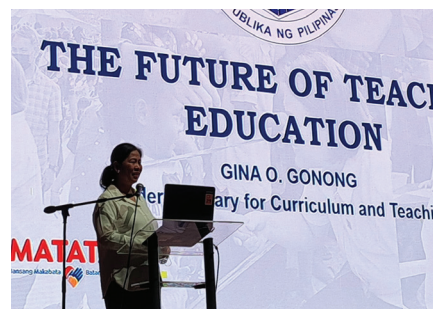
VERAFiles journalist Nica Hanopol pointed out that the effort of fact-checking need not be limited to just political misinformation, because climate misinformation, public health misinformation, finance scams, and the like also have potential dangers to the community.

Rappler Digital Strategy Head Gemma Mendoza mentioned that while the number of fact-checkers are increasing, the challenges are also increasing. "The distribution space for news information is actually shrinking," said Mendoza.

The event also included a discussion with GMA Integrated News Social Media Team Assistant Manager Audrey Domasian on "Building Trust in Media and Eroding Digital Spaces" and the Media Civics Lab Fact-Checking Academy Journey panel discussion with Andrea Ortega Guanco, Manda Guiam, Max Limpag, and Kimmi del Prado, and a workshop on verification with the Southeast Asian Teaching Fellow of Google News Lab Ching Yee Choo.



Education's 3rd PSALM international conference tackles future of teacher education in Asian Region



Dr. Gonong delivers her keynote speech

Hundreds of educators and students from different countries attended the 3rd Passion for Scholarship and Love for Mission (PSALM) International Conference for Teacher Education and Formation held on May 13, 2023 at the UST Frassati Auditorium.

Carrying the theme "Foresighting and Reimagining the Futures of Teacher Education in the Asian Region," the conference was organized by the UST College of Education, in cooperation with the Universitas Katolik Indonesia Atma Jaya and Philippine Association for Teachers and Educators-NCR.

Department of Education Undersecretary for Curriculum and Teaching Dr. Gina O. Gonong delivered the keynote speech on curriculum enhancement and teacher professionalization.

University of Santo Tomas Vice Rector for Academic Affairs Prof. Cheryl R. Peralta, DrPH, delivered the welcome remarks, while UST College of Education Dean Assoc. Prof. Pilar I. Romero, Ph.D, explained the conference rationale.

PSALM aims to draw perspectives on the future of teacher education and formation based on insights from Asian country representatives.

Plenary speakers discussed their country's experiences on teacher education and formation in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. Speakers included: National Taiwan Normal University College of Education Dean Dr. Hsiu-Lan Shelley Tien, Universitas Katolik Indonesia Atma Jaya College of Education Dean Dr. Luciana, Singapore National Institute of Education - Office of Teacher Education Assistant Dean of Teacher Leadership and Professional Inquiry Dr. Yen Leng Stefanie Chye, Valaya Alongkorn Rajabhat University under the Royal Patronage Head of Mathematics (English Program) at the Faculty of Education Dr. Thanatporn Grace, Kamphaeng Phet Rajabhat University Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences Dean Dr. Kamonwat Phuwichit.

Poster research papers on teacher education, education and formation, and teaching across disciplines, prepared by academic staff and students were on exhibit at the auditorium lobby. Meanwhile panel and roundtable discussions on hybrid and online sessions were also held.

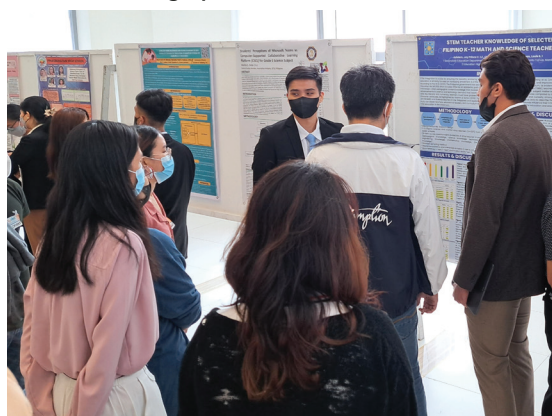
Lectures under Panel Discussion A included those from University of Hawaii at Manoa College of Education STEMS2 Masters Concentration and UH Manoa Learning Assistant Program Director Dr. Tara O'Neill, and UST Senior High School academic staff Ms. Lorraine del Rosario.

Under Panel Discussion B were presentations from: University of Asia and the Pacific Center for Student Affairs Vice Director Dr. James Lactao, Everest School Principal Mr. Gino Luyaon, and Miriam College Grade Level Coordinator Ms. Phoebe Emmanuelle De Asis.

In Session A of the roundtable discussions, participants were: UST Institute of Religion academic staff Ms. Maria Lourdes Santiago-Antonio and Atma Jaya Catholic University Religious Education Department Lecturer Mr. Dadi Komsiah.

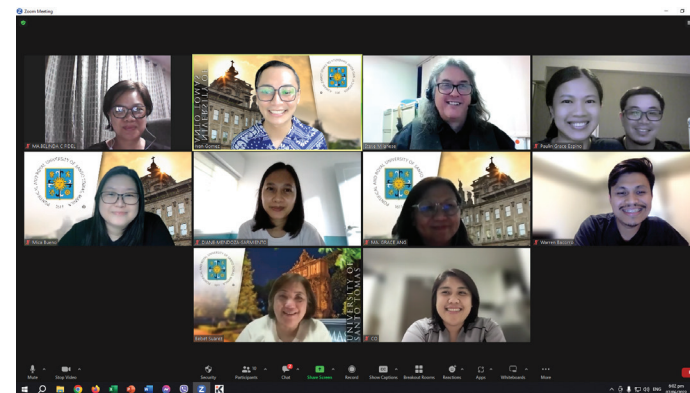
In Session B, presenters included UST students Ms. Justine Marie Estrada (Bachelor of Early Childhood Education), Ms. Joyce Ann Marie Mangibin (Bachelor of Elementary Education), and Mr. Peter Angelo Estalilla (Bachelor of Secondary Education).

UST College of Education Asst. Dean Louie B. Dasas, Ph.D., who served as chairperson of the PSALM Conference 2023, synthesized the insights of the speakers and lecturers in his closing speech.



Participants view poster presentations

UST-GS holds seminar on Delphi Survey in Health Research



(From left, top row to bottom row) Ma. Belinda Fidel, M.D. (Ph.D. student), Ivan Gomez, M.D. (Staff), Assoc. Prof. Steve Milanese (Speaker), Paulin Grace Espino (Ph.D. student), Reil Vinard Espino (Ph.D. student), Monica Bueno, M.D. (Ph.D. student), Diane Mendoza-Sarmiento (Ph.D. student), Ma. Grace Ang De Guzman, M.D. (Ph.D. student), Warren Bacorro, M.D. (Ph.D. student), Consuelo Suarez, M.D. (Program Lead), and Carmina Ortega, M.D. (Staff)

To further enhance methodologies in health research, the University of Santo Tomas Graduate School under its Ph.D. in Health Research program hosted via Zoom a research seminar on the Delphi Survey on June 7, 2023. The resource person was the University of South Australia International Centre for Allied Health Evidence Director Associate Professor Steve Milanese.

Milanese, who is also the Program Director of the Master of Advanced Clinical Physiotherapy degree program of the same university, covered empirical and practical strategies on how the Delphi method influences health research methodologies and methods.

The research seminar was attended by the current UST students under the Ph.D. in Health Research program, as well as the team of its program consultant, Prof. Consuelo G. Suarez. The Ph.D. in Health Research program of the UST-GS is supported by DOST-PCHRD and SEI.

RCSSSED #TeamKomunidad, CTHM present DOST NRCP Policy Research; UST, Echague LGU sign MOA

#TeamKomunidad, a team composed of academic researchers from the UST Research Center for Social Sciences and Education (RCSSSED) – Tourism Studies RIG, College of Tourism and Hospitality Management (CTHM), and UST *Sentro Turismo*, presented their Policy Research titled, "Sustainable Community-based Tourism Potential and Development of Barangay San Miguel, Echague, Isabela in the New/Next Normal." The project was presented during the NRCP Research Forum and Agenda Setting for Policy Development held on June 7, 2023 at the House of Representatives.

The project aimed to assess the tourism potential and tourism development of the barangay and its related stakeholders on sustainable community-based tourism. It was funded by the Department of Science and Technology – National Research Council of the Philippines (DOST NRCP) through the initiative of



Representative Hon. Faustino "Inno" A. Dy V of the 6th District of Isabela.

During the Policy Forum, Congressman Dy, who is also the chair of the House Committee on Bases Conversion, shared the significance of sustainable tourism development to uplift the way of life of the local community and their related stakeholders in the municipality and even through its district and nearby provinces. The plan will provide them with a strategic and evidence-based approach to mechanize their programs and projects for tourism development and resource conservation.

Echague officials led by Mayor Dy (third from left) and Isabela 6th District Representative Congressman Dy (fourth from left) with UST CTHM Dean Assoc. Prof. Granado (fifth from left) and Assistant Dean Assoc. Prof. Timbang (rightmost)

#TEAMKOMUNIDAD
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UST Filipino Dept. academic staff, students present papers on multi-disciplinary themes at 6th ICAPS



Faculty of Arts and Letters academic staff Dr. Luciana L. Urquiola (standing, seventh from left), College of Education academic staff Dr. Zendel Rosario M. Taruc (standing, ninth from left), Dr. Roberto Ampil (standing, fifth from left)

The Academic staff and students from the *Departamento ng Filipino*, College of Education, presented papers on language, education, and culture at the 6th International Conference on Asian and Philippines Studies (ICAPS), held from June 1 to 3, 2023 in Silliman University (SU), Dumaguete City.

Current department chair Assoc. Prof. Zendel Rosario M. Taruc, PhD, and former department chair Prof. Roberto D. Ampil, PhD, lead the delegates from the university who attended the onsite and online sessions.

Taruc presented her paper “*Ang Pagsasalin bilang Pedagoghiya sa Pagtuturo ng Filipino*” at

Komunikasyon sa mga Tiyak na Larang” while Ampil shared his analysis “*Ina(aruga/abuso): Mga Imahe at Gampanin ng Ina sa mga Piling Pelikula ni Laurice Guillen.*”

The papers presented by other academic staff also encompassed multi and interdisciplinary themes, which included Assoc. Prof. Catherine Cocabo-Yao’s “*Inang-Guro sa Panahon ng Pandemya: Mga Isyu at Hamon sa mga Ina sa Paggabay sa mga Anak sa kanilang Online Learning*”; Assoc. Prof. Josephine Villegas’s “*Ang Antas ng*

Mathematics Anxiety ng mga Mag-aaral ng Junior High School na may Kaugnayan sa Kanilang Akademikong Pagganap sa Matematika”; and Mr. Mark Anthony J. Etcobañez’s “*Pagtitipon ng mga Salitang Ginagamit sa Construction Site: Batayan sa Pagbuo ng Glosaryong Asintada.*” Etcobañez together with Ms. Charlotte Malinao discussed, “*Mga Hamon at Oportunidad sa Pagtuturo ng Pagsasalin sa Kaso ng UST: Mga Mungkahi sa Pagbuo ng E-Kagamitang Pampagtuturo.*”

Filipino major students under the Bachelor of Secondary Education program presented in two groups. Ann Karen Alonzo, Princess Angel Galono, and Hannah Quevedo discussed “*Ang Penomenolohiya ng Konektibismo sa mga Gurong Nagtuturo ng Filipino sa Bagong Normal.*” Meanwhile, Shane C. Mia, Julius I. Pontillas, and Maria Ysabela C. Sicat presented their findings

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The forum was followed by the ceremonial signing of the Memorandum of Agreement between UST and the municipal government of Echague, Isabela. The MOA signified the strong relationship between the two parties, specifically in implementing the DOST NRCP Policy Funded Research Project. Echague was represented by its officials: Mayor Francis Faustino “Kiko” A. Dy, Vice Mayor Allan P. Tupong, MD, the Members of the Sanggunian Bayan, and Municipal Tourism, Culture and Arts Officer Louie C. Simbe.

Representing UST were #TeamKomunidad and CTHM. #TeamKomunidad was headed by CTHM academic staff and RCSSD researcher Mr. Jame Monren T. Mercado. CTHM Dean and lawyer Gezzez Giezi G. Granado, DCL, led the group that included Assistant Dean Dr. Evangeline E. Timbang, Asst. Prof. Maria Concepcion A. Ang, Dr. Avi Ben P. Andalecio, and Dr. Fhamela F. Sarmiento. They were assisted by Mr. Danilo P. Bustillos II of the Department of Hospitality Management, and Ms. Andrea Nicole D. Hernandez, a CTHM alumna from batch 2019. 🏠

CTHM’s UST *Sentro Turismo* launches Project *Bisita* at Kumustahan in Quezon Province



The UST CTHM team, led by Dean Granado (fifth from left) with Atimonan Executive Assistant to the Mayor Atty. Uy (fourth from left)

The UST *Sentro Turismo* of the College of Tourism and Hospitality Management recently launched Project *Bisita* at Kumustahan with the municipal governments of Atimonan and Tagkawayan, Quezon, and the city government of Ormoc, Leyte.

Project *Bisita* at Kumustahan or ProBik is an initial coordination meeting and ocular visit of the project team to a potential partner, either from the private or public sector, that aims to collaborate for a particular service offered by the *Sentro*. Under the ProBik, the potential partner is tasked to provide a general overview of their destination and the related gaps or problems that must be addressed, while a representative from *Sentro* will discuss the services offered.

ProBik was started in Atimonan, Quezon with the visit of the team headed by CTHM Dean Gezzez Giezi G. Granado, DCL, that conducted an assessment of the significant tourist sites of

the municipality and performed in-depth interviews with site managers and representatives from April 29 to 30, 2023. Included in the team were Department of Tourism Management Chair Asst. Prof. Jane G. Devanadera, academic staff Asst. Prof. Maria Concepcion A. Ang, Dr. Avi Ben P. Andalecio, and *Sentro Turismo* Coordinator Mr. Jame Monren T. Mercado. The team also presented its preliminary observations and recommendations. Representing the municipal government was the Office of the Mayor Executive Assistant Atty. Elvis Uy, and the staff from the Municipal Tourism Office.

Meanwhile, on June 22 and 23, 2023 another team from the UST *Sentro Turismo* visited Tagkawayan, Quezon, for the First Coordination Meeting and Workshop of the Municipal Tourism Development Planning Committee. The CTHM team was headed by *Sentro Turismo* Coordinator Mercado, together

with Department of Tourism Management academic staff Asst. Prof. Ang, Ms. Catherine C. Mondejar, and Mr. Alec P. Bagcus, and Mr. Elijah J. Coronado from the Department of Hospitality Management.

Aside from discussions of the UST *Sentro Turismo* services and conduct of site assessment, a presentation on the Basics and Dimensions of Sustainable Tourism Planning and Development and related workshops were facilitated by the CTHM team. Representing Atimonan during the presentation was Municipal Mayor Luis Oscar T. Eleazar, a UST Engineering graduate, together with Sanggunian Bayan Committee on Tourism Head John Pocholo O. Eleazar, Senior Tourism Operations Officer Ms. Anna Louella U. Villanueva, and representatives from the different primary and secondary stakeholders. 🏠



UST Singers turns 30: 19 concerts on its 36th international tour



*The UST Singers in Germany
[Photo from the official Facebook page of the University of Santo Tomas Singers]*

The UST Singers, under the baton of its founder and conductor Maestro Fidel G. Calalang, Jr., is celebrating its 30th year as a group with an international concert tour. Of the 19 concerts and performances, 16 were held from June 25 to July 28 in Europe while the remaining three will be held on August 2 and on August 5 in Taiwan. The venues include Germany where 10 concerts and performances were held, Italy with one concert, Spain with six, and Taiwan with two. Each concert lasts for two hours.

Titled '30th Encore: Harmony Through Time,' the UST Singers' 36th International Concert Tour is a showcase of Thomasian and Filipino pride through its repertoire filled with renditions unique to the group.

Aside from holding concerts and performances, the 33-member group also participated in festivals in Spain and Taiwan, and one certámen or contest in Spain.

The Philippine Ambassador to Germany Her Excellency Irene Susan Natividad attended a concert in Heilig Geist Kirche, Berlin, Germany, which was also graced by other diplomats including the Ambassador of Sri Lanka to Germany Her Excellency Varuni Muthukumarana and the Ambassador of the Republic of Angola to Germany Her Excellency Balbina Malheiros Dias Da Silva.

The Philippine Consul General of the Republic of the Philippines in Milan Hon. Elmer Cato also graced their performance in Italy.

The last international concert by the UST Singers was held in Europe

in 2018. In February 2023, the group went on its first concert tour in South Korea after the hiatus brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The [University of Santo Tomas Singers](#) was named the Choir of the World Champion on July 9, 2019 by Llangollen.tv of the Llangollen International Eisteddfod in Wales, United Kingdom. It is also the only group to have won the coveted Luciano Pavarotti Choir of the World trophy twice, first in 1995 and second in 2010. The group will return to the Philippines on August 7, 2023. 🇵🇭



The UST Singers in Italy [Photo from the official Facebook page of the University of Santo Tomas Singers]

Ministry of Science and Higher Education of the Republic of Poland



The Secretary of State for the Ministry of Science and Higher Education of the Republic of Poland His Excellency Dr. Tomasz Rzymkowski (seated, left) with the UST Secretary-General Rev. Fr. Louie Coronel, O.P., EHL, (seated, right), and (standing, from left:) UST Office of Public Affairs Director Asst. Prof. Joreen T. Rocamora, Ph.D., OSG Executive Assistant Mr. Emmanuel Batulan, Ph.D., Deputy Director from the Ministry of Education and Science Mr. Przemysław Skrodzki, the Charge d'Affaires of the Embassy of the Poland in Manila Mr. Jarosław Szczepankiewicz, Prof. Dr. Mariusz Ziółkowski from the University of Warsaw, Embassy Intern Ms. Isabel Borwoska, and Assistant to the Director for Public Affairs Ms. Michaela Lagniton at the Rector's Hall on June 27, 2023. 🇵🇭

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College of Education academic staff Asst. Prof. Catherine Cocabo-Yao (in pink) with fellow presenters

through their paper, "Pagsusuri sa Kalidad ng mga Piling Modyul sa Filipino para sa Ika-8 Baitang ng Departamento ng Edukasyon Mula sa Rehiyon ng SOCCSKSARGEN."

Some 250 onsite and 130 online participants attended the conference, organized by the De La Salle University (DLSU) College of Liberal Arts, Silliman University-Philosophy Department, Danum (*Dalubhasaan ng mga Umuusbong na Mag-aaral sa Araling Filipino*), DLSU Salita (*Sentro sa Pagsasalin, Intelektuwalisasyon at Adbokasiya*), and the Andrew Gonzalez Philippine Citation Index. 🇵🇭



Huawei Philippines



UST Vice Rector for Finance and Regent of the Faculty of Engineering Rev. Fr. Roberto Luanzon Jr., O.P. (fifth from left) presents a token to Huawei Philippines Senior Public Relations Manager Ms. Karrie Buenafe (sixth from left). With them are: the Office for Grants, Endowments, and Partnerships in Higher Education Director Rev. Fr. Maximo Gatela, O.P. (seventh from left), Executive Assistant Mr. Levine Lao (ninth from left) Faculty of Engineering Assistant Dean Asst. Prof. Cristina Tiangco, Ph.D. (fourth from left), Faculty of Engineering Faculty Secretary Asst. Prof. Luisa Asilo (third from left), and UST Engineering IGAARP Officer-in-Charge Engr. Charlie Marquez (leftmost) at the Rector's Hall on July 7, 2023. 🏛️

Colayco-Komoto Family



The Colayco-Komoto Family—relatives of Captain Manuel Colayco, a UST academic staff who gave his life in the liberation of the Santo Tomas Internment Camp in 1945—visited the University of Santo Tomas on June 20, 2023. Komoto Family Foundation Executive Director Danielle Colayco-Komoto, PharmD (third from left) and Komoto Healthcare COO Kevin Komoto, PharmD (second from left), their daughter Audrey, are with Faculty of Arts and Letters Assistant Dean Assoc. Prof. Melanie Turingan, Ph.D. (leftmost), and Journalism Program Coordinator Mr. Felipe Salvosa II (rightmost). 🏛️

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95 years of the UST Main Building:
 A steadfast symbol of Thomasian education



Rev. Fr. Louie R. Coronel, O.P., EHL, is an ecclesiastical historian. He also serves as the Secretary-General of the University of Santo Tomas and Editor-in-Chief of The Academia.



The team from the Facilities Management Office is composed of its Director Rev. Fr. Dexter Austria, O.P. (center), Assistant Director Engr. Albert Surla (right), and Engr. Romnick Amida.



Asst. Prof. Melanie Turingan teaches history courses and serves as Assistant Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Letters.



Ar. Willa R. Solomon is the author of "The Proposed Conservation Guidelines for the UST Main Building as a Built Heritage" published by the UST Publishing House in 2011. She has been teaching at UST since 1984.



Engr. Rodelio A. Tiburcio is working on the structural audit of the Main Building. Outside of the academe, he is the President of RA Tiburcio & Associates, Inc., and a member of the Philippine Institute of Civil Engineers and Association of Structural Engineers of the Philippines.



Ar. Froilan M. Fontecha has been teaching architectural design and computer aided drafting and design (CADD) and building information modeling (BIM) courses at the UST College of Architecture since 2001. He is also an experienced museum exhibition designer.

SPECIAL THANKS

ARCHIVO DE LA UNIVERSIDAD DE SANTO TOMÁS
 UST MUSEUM

