



(From left:) UST Department of Chemistry Chair Assoc. Prof. Alan Rodelle Salcedo, Ph.D., speaker and alumna Assoc. Prof. Meden Isaac-Lam, Ph.D., Academician Professor Emeritus Fortunato Sevilla III, Ph.D., and UST RCNAS researcher and Department of Chemistry academic staff Prof. Allan Patrick Macabeo, Dr. rer. nat

UST-Science lecture features chemistry applications in treating cancer, mental disorders

The University of Santo Tomas College of Science hosted the Distinguished Alumni Lecture in Chemistry that highlighted the application of chemistry in cancer and mental health research. The lecture was held on August 11, 2023 at the Central Laboratory Auditorium.

Dr. Meden Isaac-Lam, currently an Associate Professor at Purdue University in Northwest Indiana, USA, and an alumna of the UST BS Chemistry (Class of 1980) served as the esteemed speaker. Her captivating talk delved into the significance of chemistry in treating cancer and mental disorders.

Lam's talk, titled "Chemistry Applications in Cancer and in Mental Disorder," presented pioneering research that promises advances in two critical areas. Her lecture highlighted the synthesis of photosensitizers for potential use in photodynamic therapy (PDT). These synthesized compounds show promise in combating triple-negative breast and prostate cancers.

In addition, Lam discussed the application of chemistry in understanding

post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), a mental health concern for American military personnel. Her innovative use of magnetic resonance imaging and spectroscopy (MRI/MRS) revealed metabolic imbalances in specific brain regions of individuals with PTSD, shedding light on potential correlations between neurometabolites and the disorder's severity.

The lecture, co-sponsored by the UST Department of Chemistry, the Research Center for the Natural and Applied Sciences (RCNAS), and the UST Graduate School, drew an audience composed of BS Chemistry students, academic staff of the College of Science, researchers from RCNAS, and graduate students from the UST Graduate School.

The event served as a platform for highlighting the significant contribution of chemistry in addressing diverse health concerns. Additionally, it demonstrated the University's dedication to promoting academic and scientific excellence through joint initiatives and by engaging notable alumni who have excelled in their chosen fields. ■

INSIDE:

UST hosts NACPAE Day 2023 3

Gozum, Gutierrez of IR publish new studies on proposed pastoral program 6

UST, USP mark 5th joint symposium 9

UST Museum, Artiste Musaeum jointly mount "Nusantara" exhibition on Indonesian *Objet d'Arts* 11

University Visitors 14

PH-Taiwan Night features music, magic, mirages at UST



Taiwan Association Inc. Director Ms. Frenny Lee presents a token of appreciation to UST Secretary-General Rev. Fr. Louie R. Coronel, O.P., EHL

The Overseas Community Affairs Council (OCAC) of the Republic of China (Taiwan), through the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office (TECO) and Taiwan Association, Inc. (TAI), has partnered with the University of Santo Tomas to hold cultural performances in celebration of the mid-Autumn Festival. Over 500 Thomasian and external guests joined the event on August 26, 2023 at the UST Medicine Auditorium.

UST Rector Very Rev. Fr. Richard Ang, O.P., Ph.D., through a recorded message, warmly welcomed the performers and participants and expressed gratitude for the continued activities and sustained partnership with TECO over the years.

TECO Representative Mr. Wallace Minn-Gan Chow likewise acknowledged the support of the OCAC, TAI, and their

various sponsors. He also thanked UST for hosting the event.

The almost three-hour show began with the UST Salingawi Dance Troupe who presented various Filipino dances including the *Kalatong*, *Binasuan*, and the *Tinikling*. Next was the University's premiere mixed choral ensemble, the two-time winner of the highly-coveted Choir of the World Grand Prize-Luciano Pavarotti Trophy, the UST Singers, fresh from their 36th international concert tour. They sang Ifugao rice cake-making song *Ahibakle*, Way Over in *Beulah Lan'*, and disco classic September.

In turn, the Cultural Goodwill Mission troupe of Taiwan's OCAC sent on stage a dazzling lights and drums group, Huang Da-Yan's crystal mirage and phantom rings, ballad diva Su Pei, master Diabolo

(Chinese yoyo) performer Liao Yu-Han, Tu Wei-Cheng's acrobatics, world magic champion Jeff Lee, pop singer Yvonne Jeng Yi who also sang a duet with TECO Representative Mr. Wallace Chow, and a

PH-TAIWAN NIGHT TO PAGE 3



TECO Representative Mr. Wallace Chow (left) duets singer Yvonne Jeng Yi



Ballad diva Su Pei



"Ahibakle" by the two-time Choir of the World awardees The UST Singers

UST hosts NACPAE Day 2023



The National Association of Certified Public Accountants in Education (NACPAE) Day was held at the Dr. Robert C. Sy Grand Ballroom, Blessed Buenaventura Garcia Paredes O.P. Building of the University of Santo Tomas on July 19, 2023.

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

During the event, the members of NACPAE's Board of Trustees were inducted with NACPAE Vice President for Professional Development Ms. Michelle Capistrano leading the oath taking. UST-AMV Assistant Dean Mr. Francisco Caliwan, Jr., also delivered his acceptance speech as the new NACPAE President.

Technical sessions included "Teaching in the digital age: How social media is reshaping today's educational system" with the UST Communications Bureau

Director Mr. Philippe Jose S. Hernandez as the speaker.

Priory of St. Thomas Aquinas Prior Rev. Fr. Jesús M. Miranda, Jr., O.P., Ph.D. led the second technical session on "Building and sustaining engagement and commitment in the academe."

For the third technical session, a roundtable discussion on "Day One competency requirements for entry-level CPAs: Are we meeting the industry expectations?" was held. SGV & Co. Tax Partner Mr. Hentje Leo Leaño, SM Group VP for Controllershship Ms. Consuelo Cadelina, and Government Association of CPAs Former President Mr. Wilfredo Agito served as the panel discussants representing the perspectives from public practice, commerce and industry practice, and government practice, respectively. Also sharing their insights were the Professional Regulatory Board Chairman

UST Rector Very Rev. Fr. Richard G. Ang, O.P. (center), NACPAE President and UST-AMV College of Accountancy Assistant Dean Mr. Francisco Caliwan, Jr. (ninth from left) with NACPAE officials.

Hon. Noe Quiñanola, CHED Technical Panel Committee Chair Prof. Arnel Uy, and Philippine Institute of Certified Accountants Academy Committee Chair and UST-AMV College of Accountancy Dean Prof. Patricia Empleo, Ph.D.

On the same day, Real Excellence Online (REO) and NACPAE also signed a memorandum of agreement which saw the donation of P500,000 from REO to promote CPD activities and research programs of NACPAE. ■

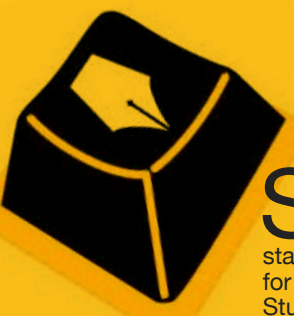
PH-TAIWAN NIGHT FROM PAGE 2

recreation of the late Asian Pop Queen Teresa Teng's performance through AI technology.

The 2023 PH-Taiwan Night is the fifth cultural experience jointly coordinated with TECO, the first having been in 2016 with the Taiwan Youth Ambassadors. ■



The UST Salingawi Dance Troupe presents the Binasuan dance.



CCWLS Fellows bring home awards, accept appointments from nat'l, int'l institutions

Several accolades through awards and appointments were given to a number of academic staff and fellows from the UST Center for Creative Writing and Literary Studies (CCWLS).

Asst. Prof. Benedict B. Parfan, MFA, newly-appointed UST Publishing House Director, was appointed member of the National Book Development Trust Fund Advisory Committee. This committee's primary responsibility is to oversee grant applications for government funding, facilitated through the National Book Development Board (NBDB).

Meanwhile, Mr. Mark Angeles from the *Departamento ng Filipino* who is also a Resident Fellow at CCWLS was awarded "Mananaysay ng Taon" by the *Komisyon ng Wikang Filipino* (KWF). Angeles serves as the Director of Literature and Arts of Caloocan Historical and Cultural Studies Association, Inc.

Likewise, Asst. Prof. Jennifer Rebecca L. Ortuoste, Ph.D., another distinguished Resident Fellow of the CCWLS, has been elected to serve on the PEN Board of Directors. The Philippine PEN, a member of International PEN (Poets, Playwrights, Essayists, Novelists) has centers across 150 countries worldwide.

Another resident fellow, Assoc. Prof. Chuckberry Pascual, Ph.D., was included as a finalist for *Pinakamahusay na Saliksik* by the Sentro ng Wikang Filipino (SWF) for his work *Ang Pagsasalin sa Ilustrado: Isang Awtokritisismo*. Pascual teaches Literature and Creative Writing courses at the UST Faculty of Arts and Letters and the UST Graduate School.

Also showcasing Thomasian talent is Asst. Prof. Joel Toledo who was in Bellagio, in Northern Italy as part of The Rockefeller Foundation Bellagio Center Creative Arts

Residency for a collaborative project with illustrator, Panch Alvarez. Their collaborative project, which ran from May to June, is a book of poems and illustrations called *Seasonal Adversities*. *Seasonal Adversities* seeks to expand the narrative on climate change—an environmental crisis felt globally with issues also affecting the Philippines—one that encompasses both an ecocentric and anthropocentric aspect of the discourse. The project explores and hopes to capture the complexity of climate change through the unbounded lens of poetry and visual art, believing that both the sciences and the humanities have equal footing in conveying vital messages relating to the climate crisis.

These individuals' achievements and appointments highlight the dynamism of Thomasian educators, further enriching the cultural tapestry of their respective fields and beyond. ■

Student team from CRS wins best poster at Belgian SLP gathering



(From left:) Manolito Garces Jr., Alyssa Noreen Clemente, Daniela Marie Mitra, Mr. Raymond Angelo Gonzales, CRS Asst. Dean Georgina Mojica, Alyssandra Kristel Garcia, Margaret Tish Canlas, and Ramon Leonardo Bantigue

Six students from the UST College of Rehabilitation Sciences (CRS) were awarded Best Speech-Language Pathology Curriculum Poster Award out of the 21 participating international SLP departments at the SLP-International Network (SLP-IN) Summer School held from August 10 to 18, 2023 at the Thomas More University of Applied Sciences (TM) in Antwerp, Belgium. The team was accompanied by Assistant Dean Assoc. Prof. Georgina D. Mojica and academic staff Mr. Raymond Angelo A. Gonzales.

The poster presented the current BS Speech-Language Pathology curriculum of CRS which highlighted subjects that are unique to the program like Community Based Rehabilitation, Management of Head and Neck Pathologies, and Professional Communication and Development.

Now in its 29th year, the SLP-IN Summer School continues to advance the profession by fostering international collaboration, sharing cutting-edge research, and promoting excellence in clinical practice and education. The event brought together 72 students and 37 academic staff from all over the world. Participants had the opportunity to attend various interactive workshops, covering topics ranging from SLP contributions to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, innovative technological applications in SLP, and exploring the impact of globalization on local SLP approaches. The weeklong sessions provided attendees with practical skills and knowledge that they could apply in their professional practice. ■

Culinary Entrepreneurship students bring home Silver Award from ASEAN Table Kitchen Competition 2023

C THM BS Hospitality Management major in Culinary Entrepreneurship students Franchezka A. De Roxas, Angelo Gabrielle Lati, and Daniel V. Dalipe won the Silver Award from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Table Kitchen Competition 2023 organized by the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) National Capital Region in partnership with Enderun Colleges. It was held on August 26, 2023. The event aims to highlight the culinary traditions and food cultures of ASEAN countries as part of the celebrations for the 56th Founding Anniversary of ASEAN.

The winning dishes were a display of Asian flavors namely: Thai Basil Chicken with Layered Squash Curry Puff for the appetizer, Chayote and Chicken in Herb Broth for soup, and Cereal Chicken and Shrimp with Nasi Goreng and Sambal Vegetables for the main course.

The student team was coached by Ms. Ramona Olga D. Ko and Mr. Reinald A. Andaya from the Department of Hospitality Management. ■



Dalipe, De Roxas, and Lati



The team's winning dishes



Accountancy officials receive research int'l grant; Yabut appointed in PSRC working group

U ST-Alfredo M. Velayo College of Accountancy Dean Prof. Patricia M. Empleo, Ph.D., College Secretary Mr. Fermin Antonio Del Rosario Yabut, and Accounting Information System Chairperson Mr. Louie Gene G. Marasigan received a research grant from the ASEAN Federation of Accountants (AFA), alongside other accounting academics from other Philippine universities.

Specifically, the team has been tasked to perform a multi-stakeholder research on the technological adoption of accounting professionals and accounting schools in the Philippines. Following a pragmatic paradigm, the researchers identified

the determinants of technology adoption, as well the recurring themes in the adoption experience of Filipino accountants and accounting schools. This research work is part of a larger research project aiming to explore the technology adoption experience of accountants and accounting schools across the ASEAN Region.

The AFA is an organization composed of the national professional accountancy organizations across jurisdictions in the ASEAN region. The research project is expected to conclude in September 2023.

Coinciding with this grant, Yabut now represents UST in the Philippine Sustainability Reporting

Committee (PSRC) Technical Working Group. His role allows him to work with representatives from various accounting firms, sustainability report writers, and government representatives as PSRC members in developing the Philippine implementation guidelines pertinent to the Sustainability Standards issued by the International Sustainability Standards Board.

The PSRC assists the Financial and Sustainability Reporting Standards Council (FSRC) and the Philippine Regulatory Board of Accountancy, as the latter exercises its mandate to promulgate financial reporting standards in the Philippines. ■

CTHM students bring home prizes from THE-ICE Global Revenue Management Challenge 2023



Anna Mae Pano and Justin Bryle V. James, BS Hospitality Management students from the College of Tourism and Hospitality Management, were included in the inter-school teams who won 1st and 3rd Place, respectively, during the International Centre of Excellence in Tourism and Hospitality Education (THE-ICE) Global Revenue Management Challenge 2023.

The competition unites students and academic staff across the THE-ICE network into teams in an innovative and exciting format that will test and develop their hospitality and tourism revenue management skills. Students are teamed up with others worldwide to increase international collaboration, share knowledge, and enhance team working. Each team has four or six students from two or three institutions. THE-ICE organizes the competition with Russell Partnership Technology and STR SHARE Center.

Pano was joined by Aaron Joseph C. Fandiño (Lyceum of the Philippines University) and Jeff Lander E. Fabilane (Far Eastern University) together with their Staff Advisor, Mr. Sebastian Küchler from EHL Swiss School of Tourism and Hospitality, Switzerland. The members of the team received a \$AUS1500 bursary towards study offered by any member of THE-ICE, a free registration on the Certification in Advanced Hospitality and Tourism Industry Analytics (CAHTA) offered by STR SHARE Center, and a free registration on the Hospitality Business Acumen (HBA) Certificate program offered by Russell Partnership Technology.

James was joined by Ashlyn Kumar (The University of the South Pacific, Fiji), Brandur Ingi Stefansson (César Ritz Colleges Switzerland), and Patricia Marie F. Pecson (Far Eastern University), together with their Staff Advisor, Ms. Maria Juliet Ang of the Lyceum of the Philippines University. The team members received free registration on the Hospitality Business Acumen (HBA) Certificate program offered by Russell Partnership Technology.

The students were also assisted by the UST CTHM's internal coaches, Mr. Wyatt White T. Lee, Mr. Dennis D. Lemsic, and Ms. Katherine Camille A. Nagal from the Department of Hospitality Management. ■

RESEARCH

Gozum, Gutierrez of IR publish new studies on proposed pastoral program

A recent article titled "Proposed Pastoral Response to the Increase in the Number of Suicide Cases in the Philippines During the COVID-19 Pandemic" was published in a Q1 Scopus-indexed journal, *Journal of Religion and Health*. The article was co-authored by Institute of Religion academic staff members Mr. Ivan Efreaim A. Gozum and Asst. Prof. Joselito G. Gutierrez, Ph.D., who are also affiliated with the Center for Theology Religious Studies and Ethics.

In the paper, Gozum and Gutierrez explored the reports and statistics concerning the increase in suicide-related cases during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. Though there were already known cases before the onset of the pandemic, some experts believe the pandemic contributed to the increase in the number of cases and may have produced added stressors that affected mental health. These include domestic conflicts and violence, financial loss, anxiety and depression, and pre-existing mental health conditions as factors in the spike in suicide cases.

Furthermore, the authors underscored the Church's commitment to promote the sanctity of life in the midst of the health

crisis. Different social issues that concern taking one's life, or even degrading one's value are addressed by the Church to uphold the inherent dignity of all persons. At the same time, it continues to update itself to respond to new challenges, including the problem of mental health.

Moreover, considering that access to basic health care in the Philippines is limited, the authors highlight that the Church and other sectors are encouraged to develop appropriate programs to assist individuals affected by the pandemic. In line with this, Gozum and Gutierrez proposed a pastoral program that includes a prevention, intervention, and postvention plan.

The proposed pastoral program was inspired by the Pastoral Letter on Suicide written by the Thomasian Cardinal, His Eminence Most Rev. José F. Advincula Jr., D.D., who highlighted the "culture of presence" in the community. This program encourages collaboration among Church leaders and lay professionals who can assist in giving support to people involved in suicide-related cases.

The program also suggests that the Church can provide support groups and counseling services to create a safe

environment for sharing experiences and healing together for persons who have attempted suicide or have family members who attempted or died as a result of suicide. Church leaders must implement emergency response protocols, which include measures for alerting emergency services, offering urgent assistance, and assuring the safety of the individual in danger. This step can only be completed if the Church and mental health specialists work together effectively. Individuals in crises might also benefit from parish prayer groups and receive spiritual advice and direction. The Church must also focus on the spiritual well-being of the members in order for them to experience a loving community, as indicated in the prevention plan.

The article adds to the growing literature on mental health studies since it provides an intersection between faith and science. The authors show that the Church can be of great help in the ongoing global concern on mental health. ■

Espino of CRS presents biomechanics research at int'l conference in Thailand



Espino presents his work



Espino (center) with colleagues at the conference

Asst. Prof. Reil Vinard Espino, an academic staff from the College of Rehabilitation Sciences in the Sports Science Department and a doctoral candidate in Health Research at the UST Graduate School, presented his research titled "Biomechanical Parameters Assessed During Running Among Running-Related Athletes with Recurrent Hamstring Strain Injury: A Scoping Review." He shared his work at the 9th Asian Society for Sport Biomechanics (ASSB) and 2nd Sports Authority of Thailand (SAT) International Conference on Sports Science titled "Sports Biomechanics: From Research to the Field." The conference was held from August 28 to September 1, 2023 at the Grand Four Wings Hotel in Bangkok, Thailand.

Espino's study aimed to provide an overview of the essential biomechanical parameters that have been evaluated in running-related athletes with recurrent hamstring strain injuries (HSI) and outline the common testing procedures used to assess these parameters in this specific athlete population.

During the same conference, he was selected to serve as member of the board of directors for the ASSB for the term 2023-2024.

The primary objective of the conference was to facilitate the integration of sports biomechanics research into practical applications and create opportunities for research collaborations with other Asian universities in the field of Sports Biomechanics.

The conference drew participants from all over the globe, including undergraduate and graduate students, academics, and sports biomechanics experts. The event featured keynote speeches and practical presentations, alongside oral and poster research presentations from a diverse array of institutions. Various companies from around the world showcased their latest and cutting-edge tools for conducting biomechanical analyses. Malaysia is scheduled to host the conference next year. ■

UST JHS alumni showcase papers at int'l research conference; group bags best abstract award among virtual presenters

Three groups of student-researchers and completers of the University of Santo Tomas Junior High School (UST JHS) presented their studies at an international research conference from August 31 to September 1, 2023.

Nine students shared their research at the 5th International Conference on Psychology, Counseling, and Education (ICPCE 2023), with the theme "Building capacity for better mental wellness through multidisciplinary practice in the 21st century."

Avah Jimaria Marzan, Zoila Madrelejós, Mitch Gabrielle Niegas, Aldouze Robin Relos, and Angel Zambrano discussed the influence of memes on education in their paper titled "To Meme or Not to Meme: Investigating the Effectiveness of Memes as

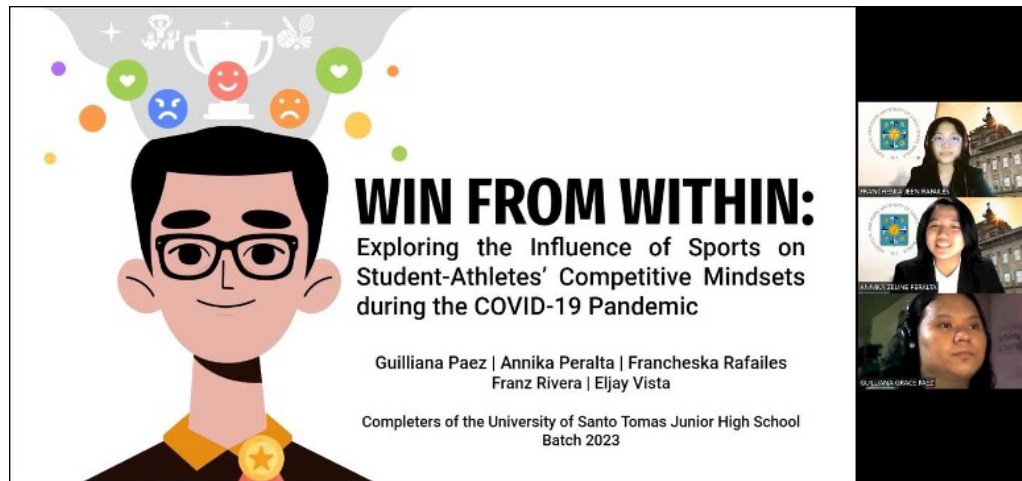
a Pedagogical Tool to Grade 9 Students," which was awarded Best Abstract under the student category.

During the paper presentation, France Ellaine Vergara highlighted that social media plays a significant role in developing one's character in her group's study titled "Balancing the Scales: Exploring the Influence of Social Media on the Moral Formation of Junior High School Students during the COVID-19 Pandemic."

Meanwhile, Annika Zeline Peralta, Guilliana Grace Paez, and Francheska Rafailles emphasized that sports training impact a student-athlete's mindset by developing their traits in their research titled "Win from Within: Exploring the Influence of

UST JHS ALUMNI TO PAGE 8

UST JHS ALUMNI FROM PAGE 7



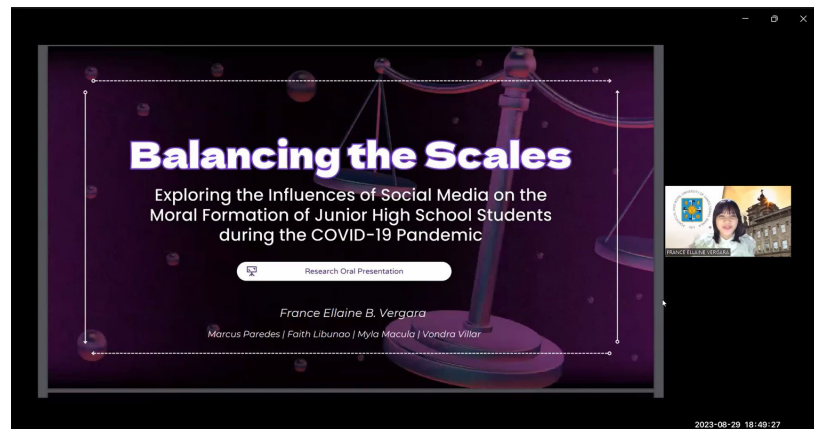
(From top:) Ms. Francheska Jeen Rafailles, Ms. Annika Zeline Peralta, and Ms. Guilliana Grace Paez

Sports on Student-Athletes' Competitive Mindsets During the COVID-19 Pandemic.”

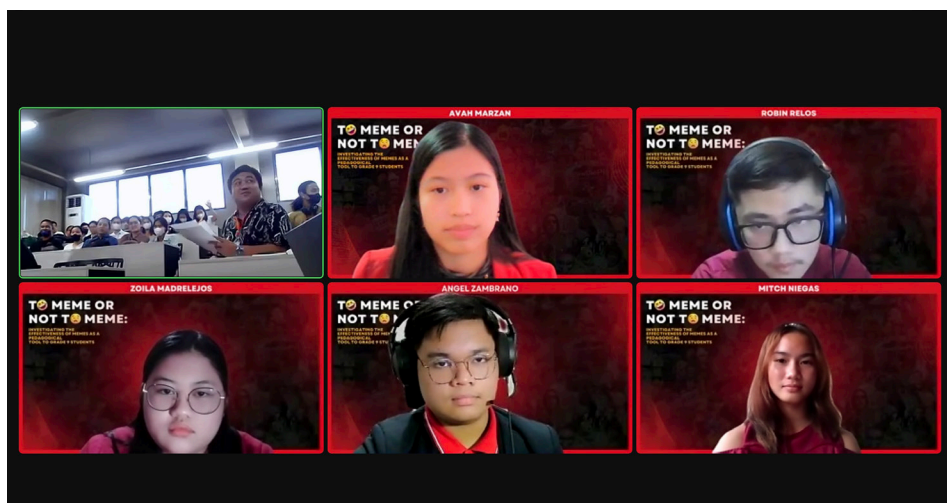
Mr. Joram Kim Corcuera, UST JHS academic staff, served as the research adviser of the conference presenters, whose studies were conducted as one of the major requirements in English 10.

The conference, which highlighted research and developments in psychology, mental health, and allied fields, hosted professional and undergraduate researchers from countries like Malaysia, the United Kingdom, Slovakia, and the Philippines.

Organized by Psychreg, the International Society of Psychology Counselling and Education, and the Cebu Institute of Technology-University (CIT-U), ICPCCE 2023 was held in person at the CIT-U campus, and virtually through Zoom.



Ms. France Ellaine Vergara



Onsite participants Ms. Avah Jimaria Marzan (top row, center), Mr. Aldouze Robin Relos (upper right), (bottom row, from left:) Ms. Zoila Isabel Madrelejos, Mr. Angel Zambrano and Ms. Mitch Gabrielle Niegas

CRS collaborates with University of Chichester for Posthuman Walking Project

The UST College of Rehabilitation Sciences partnered with the University of Chichester in the United Kingdom in an ongoing effort to foster international research collaboration and recognize the research expertise of our Thomasian Physical Therapists. The signing of a research collaboration agreement in August was represented by the Center for Health Research Movement Sciences Supervisor Prof. Valentin C. Dones, III, Ph.D., and Physical Therapy Department Chairperson Asst. Prof. Donald G. Manlapaz, Ph.D.

Within the framework of this agreement, the two institutions will collaborate on the “Posthuman Walking Project (PWP).” The PWP aims to explore the significance of walks in various cultural and socioeconomic contexts, considering factors such as location, climate, and purpose. These walks encompass both work-related and leisurely strolls.

This research endeavor involves five partner universities in Canada, New Zealand, Norway, Philippines, and the UK. Each of these universities will select up to two partner-walkers who will play a central



University of Chichester Emerita Reader in Interdisciplinary Art Dr. Shirley Chubb (top right) with Dr. Manlapaz (top row, center), Dr. Dones (lower left) and other researchers involved with the project.

role in the research process throughout the project's initial year and beyond. These chosen walkers will represent diverse cultural and socioeconomic backgrounds and will bring forth their experiences with pain, including musculoskeletal pain and conditions like Fibromyalgia and Long COVID.

Funding for the Posthuman Walking Project (PWP) is generously provided by the Landscape Research Group (LRG) 2023 Research Fund under the theme of Landscapes and Care. Information regarding the project can be accessed through this link: <https://posthumanwalkingproject.com/about-2/>

LECTURES AND CONFERENCES

UST, USP mark 5th joint symposium



Prof. Naoshige Goto, Ph.D

The decade-old collaboration between the University of Santo Tomas and the University of Shiga Prefecture, Japan was celebrated with the 5th UST-USP Joint Symposium on August 14, 2023, via hybrid mode at the Central Laboratory Auditorium.

This symposium, with the theme “Updates on Freshwater Ecology and Wildlife Parasitology,” is a testament of the long-standing collaboration of University of Santo Tomas and University of Shiga Prefecture, Japan.

The onsite and online participants were welcomed by the College of Science Dean Prof. Rey Donne S. Papa, Ph.D. He shared how the collaboration between the two institutions has been strengthened over time.

The symposium was officially opened by Prof. Naoshige Goto, Ph.D., Chair of the Department of Ecosystem Studies, School of Environmental Science, University of Shiga Prefecture. He expressed his support and excitement for this year's installment of UST-USP joint symposium since the COVID-19 pandemic restricted

the previous symposium to an online platform. Furthermore, Mr. Elfritzson M. Peralta provided a brief symposium history and overview.

Studies by the Japanese and Filipino researchers from the two collaborating institutions were highlighted. The morning session saw lectures from Assoc. Prof. Gregorio L. Martin I, Ph.D. of the UST Faculty of Pharmacy; Prof. Misako Urabe, Ph.D., a professor from the University of Shiga Prefecture; and Ms. Justine De Leon from the UST Department of Biological Sciences.

Martin presented his work on the “Fight against Fascioliasis”, which detailed his group's research in investigating the biology and dynamics between its host and of the Fasciola parasite. Urabe highlighted her study on Lake Biwa, one of the oldest freshwater bodies in Asia with endemic and diverse fishes and its associated parasites. Meanwhile, De Leon shared their limnological studies in Lake Taal, Batangas.

UST, USP ON PAGE 12

Madrunio delivers lecture before diplomatic envoys and scholars at 2nd China-ASEAN Forum on Language and Culture



Prof. Madrunio delivering her lecture before scholars and diplomatic envoys from China and the ASEAN countries

Prof. Marilu Rañosa-Madrunio, Ph.D., represented the Philippines at the 2nd China-ASEAN Forum on Language and Culture held from August 29 to 30, 2023 in Guiyang, China.

Madrunio spoke about World Englishes in the Digital Era. She was joined by linguists and language scholars from China, Malaysia, Indonesia, Brunei Darussalam, Thailand, Vietnam, Lao PDR, Singapore, Myanmar and Cambodia. Diplomats from ASEAN countries also graced the event.

In her lecture, she emphasized the importance of embracing the different varieties of English and how this can be disseminated through the use of technology. She likewise discussed the key issues and challenges associated with this language phenomenon.

Prior to the big event, she delivered lectures at Xiamen University and Quanzhou Normal University on mother tongue-based multilingual education (MTB-MLE) in the Philippines upon the invitation of the Silk Road Language and Culture Center at Quanzhou Normal University. Along with Xiamen University, Quanzhou Normal University serves as the center for language and culture in the People's Republic of China. ■

NUS science historian discusses Lake Lanao's endemic cyprinids

Lecture titled "Baoulan to Kadurog: Histories of Life and Loss in Philippine Freshwaters" was held on September 8, 2023 at the Science Online Learning Environment Room (SOLE) of the UST Main Building.

The lecture was delivered by Dr. Anthony Medrano of the National University of Singapore (NUS), a science historian who specializes in biodiversity studies. Medrano is a Presidential Young Professor of Environmental Studies of Yale-NUS College and an Assistant Professor at the NUS Department of History.

His talk focused on the extinction of Lake Lanao's 15 endemic cyprinid fishes from the genus *Barbodes*, including the highly prized *Barbodes baoulan* which was eventually traced to the proliferation of an invasive fish species, *Glossogobius giuris*, which was introduced to the lake during the 1960s to augment local fisheries.

As a historian, Medrano also provided perspectives on the history of the discovery of the endemic cyprinids of Lake Lanao including the scientists who discovered the said species and documented the decline of Lake Lanao's biodiversity.

The lecture was attended by undergraduate and graduate students in Biology, as well as select academic staff of the Department of Biological Sciences.

The event was organized by undergraduate BS Biology major in Medical Biology students under 2MBio3 as part of their General Ecology (Bio 426) class under the supervision of Prof. Rey Donne S. Papa, Ph.D. ■



Dr. Medrano delivers the lecture.



College of Science Dean Prof. Rey Donne Papa, Ph.D. (left) and Dr. Medrano



UST Museum, Artiste Musaeum jointly mount "Nusantara" exhibition on Indonesian *Objet d'Arts*



(From left:) UST Secretary-General Rev. Fr. Louie R. Coronel, O.P., EHL, Taipei Economic and Cultural Office Executive Assistant to the Representative Sophia P.F. Chi, Ambassador of Indonesia to the Philippines His Excellency Agus Widjojo, Embassy of India First Secretary and Press, Information, Culture and Education Head Kannan Chockalingam, Artiste Musaeum Owner Anthony Gedang, UST Museum Director Rev. Fr. Isidro Abañó, O.P., and Embassy of Mexico Economic, Commercial, Promotion, International Cooperation and Cultural Affairs Head Marcos Octavio Vara Jacobo during the ribbon cutting.

Art enthusiasts and culture aficionados were treated to a captivating journey into the heart of Indonesian art and culture as the University of Santo Tomas Museum and Artiste Musaeum proudly presented "Nusantara: A Celebration of Indonesian Art and Culture." The exhibition was unveiled on September 5, 2023 at the main gallery of the UST Museum.

The term "Nusantara" is derived from combining two old Javanese words - *nusa* or "island" and *antara* meaning "between." Combined, it refers to the Malaysian Archipelago (Singapore, Brunei, and Malaysia) along with Indonesia and

NUSANTARA TO PAGE 12



Museum visitors examine the tribal masks.



**NUSANTARA
FROM PAGE 11**

the Philippines. It also embodies the exhibition's essence of unity in diversity and is a testament to the artistic brilliance, historical significance, and cultural vibrancy of the area.

Curated by Anthony "Tonet" V. Gedang, owner of Artiste Musaeum, the *Nusantara* collection lets visitors experience the magic of Indonesia's indigenous traditions, artistic mastery, and captivating stories. From anthropomorphic sculptures, tribal masks, accessories, and *Wayang Kulit* shadow puppets, "Nusantara" showcases the profound connection between art and identity.

With a deep appreciation for Indonesia's artistic heritage, Gedang shared "*Nusantara*" to honor the nation's artistic genius, while fostering a deeper understanding and appreciation of its cultural tapestry.

Nusantara is a collaboration between the International Council of Museums - Philippines (ICOM Phils), Artiste Musaeum, and UST Museum under its Director, Rev. Fr. Isidro Abaño, O.P. ■

Anthropomorphic sculptures and various accessories are on display.



UST, USP FROM PAGE 9



Dean Papa (front row, third from left) with participants, presenters, and organizers

The afternoon session was composed of talks from Karin Tsuchida, Ph.D., from Kyoto University, Ms. Cyrille Villegas-Zubiri of the Aquatic Biology Laboratory of UST-RCNAS, and Mr. Kenneth Xavier O. Sanchez of the UST Department of Biological Sciences.

Tsuchida presented the biodiversity of Japanese salamanders and their corresponding parasites, investigating the systematics of both groups native and non-native species. Zubiri shared the various parasites infecting anuran populations of Lake Taal. Lastly, Sanchez presented the initial findings of their Project TroPaYan

(Ecology of Cercarial Production in Tropical Freshwater Ecosystems: Host-Parasite Connections of Trematodes in the Cagayan River) and the importance of investigating parasite biodiversity research.

Dr. Reuel M. Bennett, Chair of the Department of Biological Sciences, closed the symposium by highlighting the takeaways and future directions of this regular joint symposium between UST and USP. ■



Prof. Misako Urabe, Ph.D.

Calalang of UST Singers serves as guest lecturer, jury member in Spain, Taiwan

UST Singers Founder and Conservatory of Music academic staff Asst. Prof. Fidel Gener Calalang, Jr., delivered guest lectures and joined as an international jury member in choral festivals in Spain and Taiwan.

Most recently, on August 4, Calalang facilitated a lecture on "*Banal: Philippine Sacred Choral Music in the Concert Repertoire.*" This special lecture was part of a series hosted by the 2023 Taipei International Choir Festival and Competition in collaboration with the National Taipei University of Education in Da'an District, Taipei. In attendance were local conductors, choristers, music students, and scholars.

He was also invited as a guest speaker on "Conducting Experiences and Conducting the UST Singers" at the 5th Annual Conducting Workshop organized by the *Unió Musical D' Alaquàs*, held at

the Alaquàs Conservatory of Music in Alaquàs, Valencia, Spain on July 20.

At the 32nd *Certamen Habaneras y Polifonia Totana*, Calalang served as jury member at the Auditorio Municipal Marcos Ortiz in Murcia, Spain on July 15. The national competition, which specializes in the singing of the traditional song form, "*habaneras*," featured various choral groups from the different regions of Spain.

Calalang has led the University of Santo Tomas Singers through its 36th International Goodwill Concert Tour titled "30th Encore: Harmony through Time," the UST Singers' 30th-anniversary tour. The choir's latest international sojourn saw them traveling in Germany, Spain, Italy, Belgium, and Taiwan. The tour lasted six weeks with 22 standing ovation concerts held in different cities in Europe and Taiwan. ■



Asst. Prof. Calalang

GS initiates mental health seminars for partner communities, AFP



Col. Ferdinand Rey Ga (front row, fifth from left) poses with Prof. Robert Montaña, Ph.D., (front row, fourth from left) together with Mr. Michael Edward Buenaflor, RN, MA, RPsy (front row, sixth from left) and Mr. Romelito Manuel D.S. Clorina, MA, Rpm, RPsy (front row, seventh from left) after the first-phase mental health seminar for the organic personnel of the NCCRCDG and nearby units.

The UST Graduate School Office for Community Development in coordination with the Psychotrauma Clinic and the Guidance and Counseling cluster rolled out mental health awareness programs to various stakeholders from partner communities and government agencies respectively.

In collaboration with the UST Psychotrauma Clinic, a series of mental health seminars with the organic personnel of the National Capital Region – Regional Community Defense Group (NCCRCDG), including those belonging to other nearby units (for Phase 1) and those

troops belonging to reserve force assigned to the different Community Defense Centers (for Phase 2).

This activity was conceptualized upon the initiative of Col. Ferdinand Rey Ga, Group Commander, to organize activities to maintain the mental well-being of the AFP troops.

From the UST Psychotrauma Clinic, Mr. Michael Edward Buenaflor, RN, MA, RPsy and Mr. Romelito Manuel D.S. Clorina, MA, Rpm, RPsy, both UST academic staff, spoke about the importance of mental well-being in the performance of the soldiers' duties and the necessity of being able to assess the psychological situation of their companions.

The seminars were conducted at the Headquarters of the NCCRCDG at Camp Bonifacio, Taguig City in May 2023 while Phase 3 is being planned for the organic personnel of the Office for Reservist and Retiree Affairs (OG9) of the Philippine Army.

Another round of mental health seminars were conducted through the initiative of the students from the M.A. in Guidance and Counseling program, in collaboration with Barangay Sibulan in Nagcarlan, Laguna. The seminar titled "Mind that Matters: Mental Health Awareness Seminar" was held on May 27, 2023 to selected youth beneficiaries within the barangay and nearby vicinities. This activity is part of the service-learning component of the aforementioned graduate school program conducted through the guidance of Prof. Lucila O. Bance, Ph.D., of the Department of Psychology and Ms. Tita Sochaco from Brgy. Sibulan. The seminar addressed the common stressors encountered by the youth. ■



Saint Paul Institute, Cambodia (SPI)

UST Rector Very Rev. Fr. Richard G. Ang, O.P., Ph.D. (seated, right) met with SPI Director Prof. Phon Sophal (seated, left) on August 18, 2023. With them are: UST Secretary-General Rev. Fr. Louie R. Coronel, O.P., EHL (standing, center), and (from left:) Office of Public Affairs Director Asst. Prof. Joreen Rocamora, Ph.D., SPI Vice Director of Academic Affairs Mr. Mour Seangleng, Jesuit Service Cambodia Research Center Head Mr. Pong Makara, SPI Student Life Office Head Mr. Kong Douch, SPI Vice Director of Administrative Affairs Ms. Men Sotharin, students and teachers from SPI, and Assistant to the Director for Public Affairs Ms. Michaella Lagniton.



Australian Catholic University (ACU)

(From left:) UST Office of Public Affairs Director Asst. Prof. Joreen T. Rocamora, Ph.D., ACU Pro-Vice Chancellor for Global and Education Pathways Mr. Christopher Riley, ACU Vice Chancellor and President Professor Zlatko Skrbis, Ph.D., and UST Office of International Relations and Programs Associate Director Prof. Karen S. Santiago, Ph.D., on August 17, 2023



Dong-A University

Dong-A University Student Affairs and Employment Support Dean Dr. Eung-Soo Oh (fifth from left) is accompanied by academic staff from Dong-A University, officials from the UST Institute of Physical Education and Athletics including IPEA Secretary Ma. Gilda Kamus (fourth from left), and UST Office of Public Affairs Director Asst. Prof. Joreen T. Rocamora, Ph.D. (leftmost) and Assistant to the Director for Public Affairs Ms. Michaella Lagniton (rightmost) on August 25, 2023.

Yoshida Survey and Design Co. Ltd.

Yoshida Survey and Design Co. Ltd. President Naoto Yoshida (fourth from left) and his son Fuuto Yoshida (third from left) with UST Office of Public Affairs Director Asst. Prof. Joreen T. Rocamora, Ph.D. (rightmost), (from left:) UST Civil Engineering Department Chair Engr. Rajiv Abdullah (leftmost), Engr. Cristine Jin Estrada, Ph.D., and Engr. Jose Froilan Layese on September 6, 2023..



University of Notre Dame Australia

Dr. Martin Drum (center), Executive Dean for the Faculty of Arts, Sciences, Business and Law and Professor of Politics and International Relations at the University of Notre Dame Australia, with UST Office of Public Affairs Director Asst. Prof. Joreen T. Rocamora, Ph.D., (right) UST Office of International Relations and Programs Associate Director Prof. Karen S. Santiago, Ph.D. on August 22, 2023



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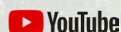
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