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(From left, seated:) Trends CEO Hasan Fard, UST Rector Very Rev. Fr. Richard G. Ang, O.P., Ph.D., and Assistant to the Rector for ICT Asst. Prof. Jerralyn Padua with the UST team



Trends CEO Mr. Hasan Fard



Very Rev. Fr. Richard G. Ang, O.P., Ph.D.



Secretary-General Rev. Fr. Louie R. Coronel, O.P., EHL

UST, Trends, Cisco renew partnership to further improve network infrastructure, services

The University of Santo Tomas renewed its partnership with two information technology companies, Trends and Technologies, Inc. and Cisco, in a ceremonial contract signing on October 24, 2023 at Makati Shangri-La.

UST Rector Very Rev. Fr. Richard G. Ang, O.P., Ph.D., who represented the University in the signing, shared that “Through this contract signing, UST affirms a collaborative partnership with modalities of cooperation centered on improving our network and infrastructure system.”

Trends and Cisco have been the University’s partners since the mid-2000s, when UST first made wireless internet available throughout the 21.5-hectare campus. With the renewed partnership, they aim to modernize network infrastructure, increase bandwidth and reduce latency, provide full and seamless coverage, and improve network monitoring and troubleshooting capabilities.

The Father Rector further added, “As an institution dedicated to the formation of competent, committed, and compassionate professionals, we recognize the importance of digital technologies to provide a topnotch learning environment, post-digital and otherwise, in order to prepare our students

to thrive and excel in their future workplaces. Of course, technology is very important, but technology will be nothing without the human person... This collaboration today is vital because it is the key to bridging the gap between education and employment. Through this ceremonial signing, we envision our educators being updated with the industry trends, learners are provided with practical skills, exposure to industry needs, familiarity with cutting edge technologies, and potential job opportunities through apprenticeships, internships, or cooperative programs.”

Cisco Managing Director Ms. Zaza S. Nicart said, “UST is the oldest university in the Philippines, but it is the most technologically advanced. UST has also been a pioneer in shaping the way education is delivered to Filipinos. As digital transformation evolved in all industries, especially during the pandemic, UST led the way in technology adoption in Philippine education. We are witnesses to how UST empowers the students, faculty, and university members with innovative and adaptive technology. Cisco’s purpose is to power an inclusive future for all, which is very much aligned to the digital journey of

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UST, a huge leap to making a significant contribution to the advancement of education.”

Trends and Technologies CEO Mr. Hasan Fard, a Thomasian, pledged that the Trends, Cisco, and UST teams will work together harmoniously for the positive outcome of the project. He also commended the project teams, saying “It is the people behind [the technology] and the vision of the institution that delivers the outcome that everybody wants, as regards the values and will get the end result you have envisioned.”

The upgraded services would “fortify and advance the technological infrastructure of [UST] aligning it with the demands of the hybrid learning mode,” said the Assistant to the Rector for ICT Asst. Prof. Jerralyn T. Padua, who added



Trends CEO Hasan Fard, UST Rector Very Rev. Fr. Richard G. Ang, O.P., Ph.D., and Assistant to the Rector for ICT Asst. Prof. Jerralyn Padua ink the agreement.

that the collaboration would foster “an environment that would enable flipped classroom approaches, enhance student engagement, and offer simulated laboratory space where both students and academic staff could practically apply theories and concepts in laboratory experiments.”

The renewal of the partnership between the University and its partners Trends and CISCO is a testament to the commitment of UST to provide quality education to its students and to strengthen its thrusts toward a technologically adept campus. ■

INTERNATIONALIZATION

OCAC, TECO, and UST showcase Taiwanese, PH food in demo cooking session



Chef Peng cooks the meal while explaining her methods live, with TAI Secretary-General Mr. Peter Lin serving as translator



Chef Reinald Andaya discusses the history of the Filipino dishes included in the menu while Chef Elijah Coronado prepares the meal.

The Overseas Community Affairs Council (OCAC), Taipei Economic and Cultural Office (TECO) and University of Santo Tomas, through the Office of Public Affairs and College of Tourism and Hospitality Management (CTHM), collaborated in the 2023 International Tour of Taiwan Gourmet Cuisines on October 13, 2023. Thirty-three students from CTHM interacted and learned directly from Chefs Zhang Yuling and Peng

Xuanqi during the culinary exchange. The event also saw the participation of Chefs Reinald Andaya, Elijah Coronado, Ramona Olga Ko and Hospitality Management Chair Mr. Juanito Luis S. Reyes in a demonstration cooking and presentation class with 100 taste testers from TAI and the University.

DEMO COOKING SESSION TO PAGE 3

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The chefs and CTHM students with event participants and officials from TAI and the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office

The chefs led the students in preparing famous Taiwanese dishes like *Hakka* glutinous rice balls, fried buns, fried rice noodles, 3D fruit and vegetable jelly flower cake, lotus seed seafood rice, and crispy salted chicken. Filipino dishes like *okoy*, *ginataang halo-halo*, *bicol express*, and *pork adobo* were also prepared and served as a showcase of Filipino cuisine.

As the teams prepared the dishes at the CTHM food laboratory, the cooking process was streamed live to the presentation and tasting area in the College of Education ICD room. Alongside showcasing their culinary skills, the chefs also discussed the history of each dish that completed the entire tasting experience.

Last August 26, OCAC and TECO partnered with the University for the PH-Taiwan Night 2023 where a variety of performances from Taiwanese and Thomasian representatives were showcased. ■



TAI President Ms. Frenny Lee (seated, second from left), Culture Center of TECO Director Karen Wang (seated, fifth from left), Culture Center of TECO Deputy Director Benjamin Liang (standing, rightmost) with UST OIRP Director and Dean Emeritus Prof. Lilian Sison, Ph.D. (seated, third from left), UST CTHM Dean Assoc. Prof. Gezzez Giezi G. Granado, DCL (seated, center), UST OPA Director Asst. Prof. Joreen T. Rocamora, Ph.D. (seated, rightmost) with the chefs and organizers



Chef Zhang lists the included ingredients in a dish, with Ms. Debbie Soyangco from TECO serving as translator



CTHM students begin plating the food.

Argentinian diplomats lead cross-cultural sharing session at UST

Mr. Sordoni and Ms. Pianezza each lead a parallel session on different topics.



The Embassy of Argentina in the Philippines Trade Section Head Ms. Ana Clara Pianezza and the Third Secretary and Consul Mr. Fabricio Sordoni discussed Argentina’s foreign policy, trade, higher education, history, culture, travel, and more during the inaugural UST World Lenses: A Cross-Cultural Dialogue with Students held at the Dr. George SK Ty Hall on October 18, 2023.

They interacted with economics, commerce, tourism, and history students across the three-hour session jointly organized by the Embassy of Argentina, the UST Office of Public Affairs, and the UST Office for International Relations and Programs.

UST Secretary-General Rev. Fr. Louie R. Coronel, O.P., EHL, in his welcome remarks, shared that the inaugural lecture is a “Testament of the power of education in fostering international understanding and cooperation.”

Referencing the message Pope Francis—who himself is Argentinian—

has written in the University’s guestbook when he visited UST in 2015, *May the Lord bless all those studying and working for a culture of encounter*, Fr. Coronel further shared “As inspired by our beloved Pope, we are having an encounter now, and we are blessed because of this—A blessed encounter indeed, which has the potential to expand each other’s horizons and broaden our understanding of a nation that is geographically distant and culturally rich. As an institution we firmly believe in the power of international cooperation and the importance of building bridges between

(From left:) UST OIRP Associate Director Prof. Karen S. Santiago, Ph.D., Embassy of Argentina in the Philippines Trade Section Head Ms. Ana Clara Pianezza, Third Secretary and Consul Mr. Fabricio Sordoni, and UST Office of Public Affairs Director Asst. Prof. Joreen T. Rocamora, Ph.D. during the presentation of certificates.

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Participants and organizers of the lecture with the speakers Mr. Sordoni and Ms. Pianezza (standing, front, center)

cultures and nations and this lecture is a step in that direction.”

After the lecture, each diplomat led a parallel session, with Mr. Sordoni focusing on bilateral ties and cultural engagements and Ms. Pianezza highlighting the current trade relations between Argentina and the Philippines.

With the assistance of the Office of Public Affairs, the diplomats also had the opportunity to have a brief tour of the campus and UST Museum following the event. ■



(From left:) UST OIRP Associate Director Prof. Karen S. Santiago, Ph.D., UST Secretary-General Rev. Fr. Louie R. Coronel, O.P., EHL, UST Office of Public Affairs Director Asst. Prof. Joreen T. Rocamora, Ph.D., Embassy of Argentina Third Secretary and Consul Mr. Fabricio Sordoni and Trade Section Head Ms. Ana Clara Pianezza



The diplomats tour the UST Museum

UST, Prosple discuss strengthening career services and portal for alumni and students

The UST Office of Alumni Relations (OAR) and Counseling & Career Center (CCC) met with a group of officials from the Australian education platform technology company Prosple on September 12, 2023 to further strengthen their career services offered to the University, its students, and alumni.

The partnership with Prosple began in 2021. During the height of the pandemic, Prosple has assisted the University and its industry partners in transitioning its career services online, such as the virtual career fair, employer panel sessions via Zoom, and the career directory listing website.

During the dialogue, it was identified that there is a necessity to innovate services now due to the changing education and workplace landscape where universities shifted heavily to onsite classes and more companies were implementing frequent to full return-to-office arrangement policy. The University aims to enhance its collaboration with industry partners through linkages, network building, incentivization of employers' active participation, and improved data analytics reporting.

For this academic year, UST and Prosple are looking forward to an upgraded Career Directory Listing website with a developed functionality for the benefits



of its users. A more interactive and niched road shows and career seminars will also be carried out to different colleges. From being purely virtual, the upcoming career fair in 2024 is planned to be held both onsite and online to cater to more graduating students and alumni, as well as recruiters. ■

(From left:) Ms. Aiza Oco, Ms. Sarah Marco, Ms. Yohanne Esguerra, OAR Director Asst. Prof. Fredeswindo R. Medina, Mr. Sam McDonald, Mr. Grant Robson, Mr. Greg Halol, and Ms. Frimcel Ayalin

UST joins National High Jakarta School's Education and Career Day



Members of the UST OFAD marketing team (center, in yellow shirts), with National High Jakarta School teachers including Career Guidance Counselor Ms. Martha Tandiyono (third from left) during the courtesy call of UST to the NHJS prior to the fair

The University of Santo Tomas Office for Admissions (UST OFAD) was invited to the National High Jakarta School's Education and Career Day 2023, themed "Digital Futures: Tech Trends and Careers in the Digital Age," which was held on October 20, 2023, in Jakarta, Indonesia.

Ms. Martha Tandiyono, the Career Guidance Counselor at the National High Jakarta School, an international school, made the invitation to UST as a response to the growing number of interested students applying to universities in the Philippines each year. As part of their commitment to providing their students with diverse and valuable opportunities, the NHJS organized the University Fair, their first full onsite event after years of hybrid activities.

The University Fair is an exceptional platform that brings together aspiring students and representatives from

Hualien Tzu Chi Hospital, UST collaborate on pioneering telomere clinical study

Hualien Tzu Chi Hospital and Medical Center in Taiwan have joined forces with the University of Santo Tomas (UST) to embark on a clinical study on telomeres. This cooperative endeavor not only signifies a rare instance of clinical trial cooperation between the two nations but also represents a significant step forward in the healthcare domain.

Telomeres, often described as the guardians of gene stability, are specialized DNA repeats found at the ends of chromosomes. Their length gradually shortens with each round of chromosome replication, and when they become too short, it triggers cell death. This unique biological phenomenon allows the length of telomeres to function as a clock for cell division, providing insights into an individual's biological age. Moreover, telomeres have been found to be closely associated with medical conditions, including bone marrow failure, cancer, and a range of aging-related diseases.

Under the auspices of the Ministry of Health and Welfare's New Southbound 2.0 Program, Hualien Tzu Chi Hospital has been proactively involved in "New Southbound Medical and Health Cooperation and Industrial Chain Development." A pivotal development occurred in 2023 when the hospital facilitated the establishment of the Department of Traditional Chinese Medicine at Chongren General Hospital in the Philippines. This strategic move has laid the foundation for a multinational clinical

trial program, which commenced in mid-October, carried out in close collaboration with the University of Santo Tomas in the Philippines. This comprehensive program not only involves imparting technical training to the Philippine medical and research team but also encompasses the creation of a DNA database, with the overarching aim of advancing the treatment of telomere-related diseases.

The "Telomere Clinical Research and Taiwan Medical Humanities Exchange Workshop" took place at Hualien Tzu Chi Hospital and Medical Center in Hualien City, Taiwan, from October 10 to 16, 2023. The inaugural ceremony gathered a distinguished assembly of key figures in the medical field.

UST participants in the said workshop included Prof. Pia Marie Albano, Ph.D., Assoc. Prof. Maureen Sabit, Ph.D. and Ms. Mariella Cielo Cobarrubias, M.Sc., academic staff of the UST Department of Biological Sciences, as well as BS Biology alumnus Jerome Alfred Tabajonda and hematologic oncologist Dr. Flordeluna Zapata-Mesina from the University of Santo Tomas Hospital. Their presence marked a historic moment in the burgeoning transnational medical collaboration between Taiwan and the Philippines.

Dr. Shang-Hsien Yang, who conducted extensive research on bone marrow failure syndrome at Boston Children's Hospital in the United States, played a pivotal role in establishing the technical platform

for telomere-related research. Under his guidance and with support from Cheng Yoong Pang, Deputy Director of the Department of Medical Research, and Dr. Liuh-Yow Chen, Associate Research Fellow at the Institute of Molecular Biology, Academia Sinica, this international clinical trial collaboration program with the University of Santo Tomas became a reality.

Director Li emphasized the growing importance of cross-border clinical trials by the Ministry of Health and Welfare. He underscored the rarity of clinical trial cooperation between Taiwan and the Philippines, making this partnership a significant achievement.

Director Yang expressed optimism that the collaboration and hands-on laboratory work would foster mutual understanding between Taiwan and the Philippines, ensuring smoother cooperation in future clinical trials. Dr. Albano, renowned for her work in cancer research, aspired to uncover the link between telomeres and human health through future clinical trials, with the potential to advance cancer research. The workshop, spanning several days, included presentations on telomere research, laboratory training, and in-depth discussions with the Philippine team. This initiative holds the potential to advance our understanding of telomeres and their role in healthcare, ultimately benefiting patients and medical practitioners worldwide. ■



Prof. Albano (seated, rightmost), Assoc. Prof. Sabit (standing, sixth from left), Ms. Cobarrubias (standing, seventh from left), USTH hematologic oncologist Dr. Zapata-Mesina (seated, fourth from left) and alumnus Mr. Tabajonda (standing, rightmost) with the team from Hualien Tzu Chi Hospital and Medical Center

various renowned universities, that aims to facilitate meaningful interactions and provide valuable information to students who are eager to pursue higher education.

Gathering universities such as University of Toronto, Tokyo International University, and University of Sydney, the event allowed UST to showcase its academic programs, extracurricular opportunities, campus culture, and other distinctive features that set UST apart.

UST OFAD was represented by its marketing team, headed by Ms. Roseanne Pingol, and members Ms. Andrea Anne Potenciano and Mr. Daryl Bryan Arceta. ■

Medallion of CRS presents research on school leadership practices in Taiwan

College of Rehabilitation Sciences academic staff Asst. Prof. Kim Gerald Medallion, Ph.D., internship supervisor of the Department of Occupational Therapy, participated in the 2023 Asia-Pacific Association for Teacher Education Annual Conference, held at the National Taiwan Normal University from October 19 to 20, 2023.

His study titled “Intergenerational Differences of School Leaders’ Reflective Practice and Ethical Dilemma Resolution” explored different enablers for two groups of school leaders. Medallion identified novice school leaders’ enablers as those that display proactiveness to improve educational institutions despite limited experience, core values, and feedback given by others. Their continuous engagement in reflection is geared towards expanding their perspectives and strengthening their leadership mandate. As for seasoned school leaders, identified enablers include the maintenance of smooth interpersonal relationships, spirituality, and organizational culture. Their goal for reflection is geared towards empowering stakeholders and seizing opportunities to leave a legacy to the community.

In addition, two leadership tools were also explored in this study namely reflective practice and ethical dilemma resolution. According to Medallion, the two leadership tools are intertwined with each other. Engagement in reflection facilitates a keen sense of environmental awareness necessary for ethical dilemma resolution. Meanwhile, resolving ethical dilemmas over time makes school leaders more adept at making sense of a situation, which is a staple in reflective practice.



Medallion's presentation

With the theme “Connecting Multiculturalism, Sustainability, and Teacher Education”, the said conference was attended by various educational leaders, academic staff, and graduate students across the Asia-Pacific region. ■

Thomasian scientists present research at 2023 Asian Mycological Congress

Academic staff from the Department of Biological Sciences and the Department of Chemistry of the College of Science and the Graduate School attended and presented their research at the Asian Mycological Congress held from October 10 to 13, 2023 at the BEXCO Exhibition Center in Busan, South Korea.

The Asian Mycological Congress (AMC) which is held every two years is the largest gathering of mycologists in Asia. This year’s congress is organized by the Korean Society of Mycology and Chonnam National University. The UST delegation is composed of academic staff researchers from the Research Center for the Natural and Applied Sciences (RCNAS) namely Asst. Prof. Melfei E. Bungihan, Ph.D., Prof. Gina R. Dedeles, Ph.D., and Prof. Thomas Edison E. dela Cruz, Dr. rer. nat. Joining them are two graduate students under the MSC Microbiology program: Katherina Aubrey Resente and Gian Carlo Aldover. The delegation was led by Department of Biological Sciences Chair Dr. Ruel M. Bennett.

Dr. Melfei E. Bungihan, a chemist, delivered her talk titled “Fungal metabolites in drug discovery: Bioactive



(From left:) Ms. Resente, Dr. Bungihan, Dr. Dedeles, Mr. Aldover, Dr. dela Cruz, and Dr. Bennett at the Asian Mycological Congress in South Korea

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Jose of Architecture bags Best Paper Presentation award in 18th ACARE



Ar. Ernest Jose (center) receives his Certificate of Recognition as Best Paper Presenter

Academic staff from the College of Architecture participated in the 18th Annual Conference on Architecture Research and Education (ACARE). It was held from October 21 to 22, 2023, at National University MOA Campus, with the theme “Universal Design ABCs: Architectural Projects, Beliefs, Creative Works.”

The winning paper “Gearing towards efficiency and efficacy in the planning of Medical Arts Buildings: A look into selected Metro Manila Hospitals,” presented by Ar. John Ernest Jose is a research work that focuses on assessing the comfortability and space planning efficiency of eight Medical Arts Buildings in Metro Manila. It aims to find strengths and weaknesses among these facilities and use the data as a basis to create guidelines when designing Medical Arts Buildings in the future.

College of Architecture academic staff Ar. Jonathan Manalad, Ph.D. and Ar. Caryn Virginia Paredes - Santillan, Ph.D. served as reactors for papers presented on the following sessions Exploring Pedagogical Approaches in Architecture Education and Architecture Identity Through Time and Design, respectively.

Other academic staff who attended were Ar. Jose Marie Tan, Ar. Justin David Tan, Ar. Nathalie Audrey Santos, Ar. Daniza Rutor - Sy, Ar. Mark Santos, Ar. Juan Miguel Domingo, and Ar. Mervin Demapelis.

18TH ACARE TO PAGE 9

18TH ACARE FROM PAGE 8

ACARE rotates among the architecture schools in the Philippines. UST hosted the 4th ACARE in 2004, under Ar. Chona Ponce as Acting Dean. ■



(From left:) Ar. Demapelis, Dr. Manalad, Ar. A. Santos, Ar. M. Santos, Ar. Sy, Ar. J.D. Tan, Ar. J.M. Tan



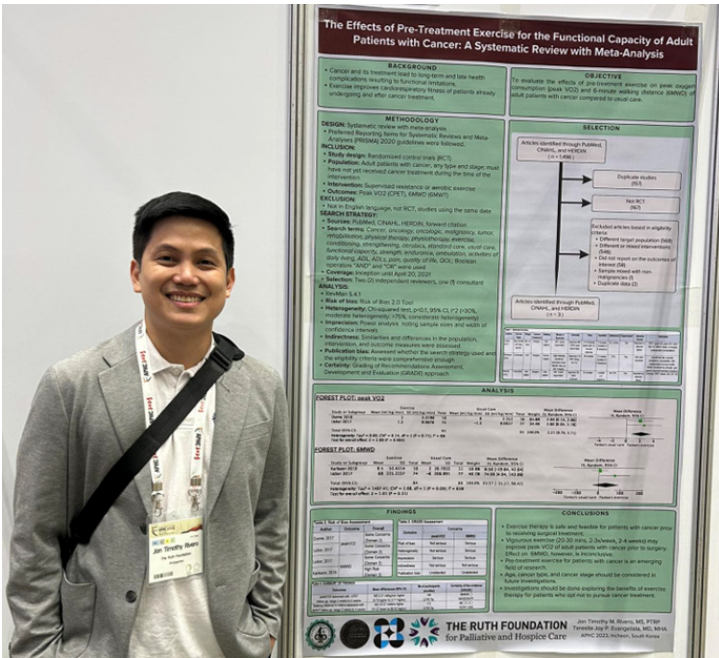
(From left:) Ar. Domingo, Ar. Demapelis, Dr. Santillan, Ar. J.M. Tan, Ar. J.D. Tan

Rivero of CRS presents study on palliative care at South Korean conference

College of Rehabilitation Sciences instructor Mr. Jon Timothy M. Rivero from the Department of Physical Therapy presented his research at the 15th Asia Pacific Hospice and Palliative Care (APHC) Conference 2023 held at Songdo Convensia, Incheon, South Korea from October 4 to 7, 2023.

In his work, he looked into the potential benefits of exercise to improve the overall quality of life of patients who have been diagnosed with cancer and have not yet received any curative treatment. It was found that there is moderate certainty in the evidence that exercise can increase the physiologic biomarker peak VO2 which has previously been determined as a strong predictor of all-cause mortality. Low levels of oxygen consumption is also strongly associated with cardiovascular disease, a leading non-cancer cause of death among cancer survivors. Improvements in cardiorespiratory fitness leads to better physical functioning and psychosocial well-being of these patients.

Rivero's paper takes into consideration the social aspect of a cancer diagnosis where not all cancer patients can afford curative treatment. He states that treatment alternatives should be made available to help such group as they face the challenges of cancer without sacrificing quality of life. Rivero aims to contribute to this by finding ways to palliate physical functioning of patients affected, not only with cancer, but with all types of chronic and life-limiting conditions. ■



Mr. Rivero's poster presentation

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secondary metabolites from endophytic fungi isolated from plant hosts *Pandanus* spp. and *Rhizophora* spp.” She also co-authored a poster on the colonization of microplastics by mangrove and seaweed-associated fungi together with Prof. dela Cruz, biologist and ecological modeler Asst. Prof. Nikki Heherson A. Dagamac, Dr. rer. nat., and MSc Biology graduate student Ms. Joannalyn S. Montemayor. The poster was also chosen as one of the Best Posters during the AMC awarding ceremony.

Thomasian graduate students, Glen Carlo Aldover and Katherina Aubrey

Resente, also presented their poster on Philippine mangroves as cradle of novel *Phytilium* species. The poster is co-authored by Thomasian microbiologist, Dr. Bennett, who also gave a talk on the phylogeny of saprotrophic oomycetes under the Concurrent Session 7 – Fungus-like Organisms. Joining him in this session is Prof. dela Cruz who served as the session co-chair.

Dela Cruz, the group lead of the Fungal Biodiversity, Ecogenomics and Systematics-metabolomics (FBeS) at RCNAS also gave a talk titled “Slime

Molds and the City: Impact of buildings on myxomycetes”. He also co-presented a poster on the diversity of endolichenic fungi associated with the fruticose lichen *Ramalina* with Dr. Bungihan, Mr. Ghimel P. Espinosa, and Dr. Sittie Aisha B. Macabago, also an academic staff at the Department of Biological Sciences. This research is funded by the National Research Council of the Philippines (NRCP) of the Department of Science and Technology. Dela Cruz has been the Philippine representative to the Asian Mycological Association for more than 15 years now. ■

Resos, de Viana present papers on decolonization, autonomous knowledge at NUS

UST Department of History Chairperson Assoc. Prof. Archie B. Resos, Ph.D., and UST Graduate School History Program Lead Assoc. Prof. Augusto V. de Viana, Ph.D., presented their research during the seminar on Decolonization and Autonomous Knowledge held from October 18 to 19, 2023 at the National University of Singapore (NUS).

In his paper “American Democracy and Philippine Political Culture: Decolonizing the United States’ Concept of Presidential Elections in the Philippines (1946-2022),” Resos tackled ways in which Filipinos applied the concept of American-style democracy and the influence of Filipino traits like “utang na loob,” close family ties, and familism. Resos also discussed the effect of emotionality in the conduct

of elections from the administration of Manuel A. Roxas to Rodrigo R. Duterte. He concluded that the resulting democratic tradition differed greatly from what the Americans intended for the Filipinos and the Americans supported presidents that would support their own objectives.

Meanwhile, de Viana discussed the decolonization of history-writing. He noted that foreign biases are always present in the writing of Philippine history especially about its precolonial past and early history, pointing out that the only way to remove these biases is to interpret history from the point of view of the Filipinos. He also discussed the characteristics of the history writing of propagandists like Jose Rizal and historians such as Gregorio F. Zaide, Teodoro Agoncillo, Renato Constantino,

Onofre Corpuz, Samuel K. Tan, Nick Joaquin, Zeus Salazar and Ambeth Ocampo. In concluding his presentation, he said that history is always dynamic and that every generation should write their perspective of the past, critically examine its sources, and draw their own conclusions.

The two-day seminar was organized by the NUS Department of Malay Studies and the Department of Sociology and Anthropology and was participated in by speakers from other universities such as Ateneo de Manila University, Chinese University of Hong Kong, and local speakers from NUS.

The seminar attendees were composed of graduate students from sociology, anthropology and Malay studies as well as faculty members and research staff. Numerous proposals for future joint activities were proposed after the seminar. ■



Dr. Resos and Dr. De Viana present their studies.

Bautista of CFAD presents papers at interdisciplinary conference in Malaysia



UST College of Fine Arts and Design academic staff Assoc. Prof. Anna Marie H. Bautista presented two papers at the 4th BTS Global Interdisciplinary Conference held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, from August 16 to 18, 2023, with the theme “BTS in Southeast Asia; BTS and the Future”.

This was organized by the International Society for BTS Studies, the Faculty of Arts and Social Science-Universiti Malaya, and the National Art Gallery (Malaysia). Out of 150 abstract submissions, only 45 were accepted where two of which are Bautista's papers.

For Day 1, Bautista presented her paper “HOMEBOUND: The Narratives of the ‘UST Goes Namjooning: Capturing Moments

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on Campus’ Interactive Exhibition” which highlights the role of arts, culture, and heritage in educating the public. This paper is an off-shoot of a larger project titled *BTS A.C.H.E. Initiative: The Act of BE:COMING (BTS and Heritage)*. The A.C.H.E. Initiative is a heritage framework encompassing Arts, Culture, Heritage, and Education. UST goes Namjooning, an offshoot of the A.C.H.E initiative, was the successful exhibition mounted by the UST Museum in September 2022 to welcome the Thomasian community on campus.

Her co-presenter, Charmaine G. Salido, a graduate of UST BFA-Interior Design, presented her paper “When Canvas Speaks: A Tale of Rediscovery and Healing.” The paper was inspired by her personal journey as a professional interior designer turned visual artist. She also sought inspiration from her mental health journey during the pandemic when she rediscovered her talent in painting through synesthesia/chromesthesia, a neuropsychological condition that causes the brain to do multi-sensory experiences through music, and in her case, BTS music.

Another presenter was Mr. Jefferson J. Acala, a UST College of Education Teacher’s Certificate Program graduate. His paper, “It’s a W(RAP), Pabalat!” which he co-authored with Bautista, focused on the slowly vanishing traditional Filipino art of “Pabalat,” a delicacy paper wrapper from Bulacan. The study merges traditional and contemporary art through BTS themes to re-introduce “Pabalat” to the public underscoring how traditional and contemporary art and culture can be intertwined to be relevant to the times.

As seen in the themes of their research, where Salido’s paper focuses on the Arts, Acala’s paper highlights Culture, and Bautista’s paper is on Heritage and Education thrusts, the A.C.H.E initiative is realized. The initiative compels the Act of Be:Coming, a dynamic approach to understanding who we are, what to be, and what to become through BTS. The meeting point of the A.C.H.E. framework serves as the intersection to the future, ensuring heritage preservation through education.

On Day 2 of the conference, Bautista presented her other paper titled “TAKE TWO: A Second Helping of BTS-Inspired



Assoc. Prof. Bautista

Pedagogical and Advocacy Projects,” inspired by BTS’ 10th anniversary single “Take Two,” discussing twelve BTS-inspired activities conducted last A.Y. 2022-2023. BTS’ song “Take Two” aptly conveys the concept behind the series of activities conducted in two’s. In the context of the paper presentation, “Take Two” also refers to a second helping of BTS-laden activities, satisfying the urge to teach and learn inspired by BTS.

Bautista also attended the Round-Table Discussion on Day 3 held at the National Art Gallery, which was capped by a tour of the Hallyu-Korean Wave Exhibition with works by Jin Youngsun, master of fresco and professor emerita at Korean University School of Art and Design, and Batu Belah Art Community group. The tour also served as a way to commemorate South Korea and Malaysia diplomatic ties. ■



Assoc. Prof. Bautista with fellow participants and organizers

AAIG 2023 gather industry experts in international
multi sectoral summit



The Father Rector (second from left) receives a copy of the Thomasian Icons coffee table book from the USTAAI represented here by (from left:) 2023 AAIG Main Convenor Henry Tenedero, USTAAI Chairman of the Board Prof. Evelyn Songco, USTAAI Vice President for Academics Ms. Inocencia Ida S. Tionko, and USTAAI President Atty. Dwight M. Ramos

The University of Santo Tomas Alumni Association, Inc. (USTAAI), in collaboration with the UST Center for Continuing Professional Education and Development (CCPED), marked the fifth anniversary of its Academe, Alumni, Industry, and Government (AAIG) strategic alliances by hosting the AAIG International Multi-Sectoral Summit on September 29 & 30, 2023. The event took place at the Dr. George S.K. Ty Function Hall, located within the Buenaventura Garcia Paredes, O.P. Building.

Themed “AAIG NEXUS: New Visions, New Frontiers, New Strategies and Practices,” the two-day summit aimed to underscore the intrinsic value and significance of collaborative efforts among the academe, alumni, industry, and government for inclusive growth and sustainable success. The emphasis was on integrating technology-driven approaches with humanistic strategies in community development and showcasing best practices for the practical implementation of collaborative engagement through a humanizing approach to education.

Day 1: On Leadership and Technology

For Day 1, distinguished speakers, well-versed in education, leadership, public relations, and business, led talks and discussions throughout the event. The inaugural day commenced with a warm welcome from USTAAI President Atty. Dwight M. Ramos, who stressed the importance of technology-driven approaches coupled with humanistic strategies in community development. Very Rev. Fr. Richard G. Ang, O.P., the University Rector, further emphasized the significance of sharing successful practices for collaborative engagement through humanizing education.

AAIG Lead Convenor Prof. Henry S. Tenedero provided insights into AAIG’s five-year journey, focusing on bridging the gap between the academe and industry to facilitate a seamless transition for new graduates into the workforce. Dr. Ethel Agnes P. Valenzuela, ASEAN Adviser on the Future of Education, delivered the Keynote Address, urging delegates to “reimagine



Dr. Ethel Agnes P. Valenzuela, ASEAN Adviser on the Future of Education, delivers the keynote address



Rev. Fr. Jesús M. Miranda Jr., O.P., Ph.D., tackles the subject “Augmenting Humanity Through Artificial Intelligence”

the education space” and seek innovative solutions to address the pressing challenges impacting learning and teaching.

The first day’s plenary sessions featured Dr. Rosalina Ora’a-Fuentes, Former President of Southeast Asia Interdisciplinary Development Institute (SAIDI), discussing “Understanding the Current Visions and Language of Leadership.” She highlighted the need for adapting to the changes brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic, embracing mindset reframing, continuous innovation, and collaboration beyond borders. The second plenary session, led by Rev. Fr. Jesus M. Miranda, O.P., delved into “Augmenting Humanity Through Artificial Intelligence,” challenging the audience to prioritize humanity over productivity and navigate the ethical dimensions of artificial intelligence.

Additional speakers included Dr. Margarita C. Ballesteros, Director of External Partnership Service at the Department of Education (DepEd); Engr. Armand Cacacho, Adjunct Professor at the Asian Institute of Management and mentor at Stanford University; Prof. Donn Emmanuel Gonda, Lecturer at the Hong Kong University; and Dr. Donald Patrick Lim, Chief Operating Officer of DITO Communications. The first day of the symposium concluded with a talk from Ms. Maria Luz “Yayu” Javier, Vice Chair of the United Nations Global Compact Network Philippines, focusing on “Embracing New Strategies and Practices on Leadership, Organization, and Commitment from the UN Global Compact Perspectives.

Day 2: On Communication and Education

The second day of the summit, opened with a message by Prof. Michael Anthony Vasco, Ph.D. from the UST Graduate School, where he emphasized the importance of socio-economic demographics in fostering partnerships across four sectors. The goal, he stressed, is to pave the way for inclusive growth and success for all.

The summit’s keynote address was delivered by Mr. Norman Agatep, the President and CEO of Grupo Agatep, a globally recognized entity in public relations, communications, and advertising. Agatep’s insightful discussion centered on “Effectively Communicating Your Messages Beyond the Syntax of Language.” He urged the audience to connect effectively by understanding their audiences intimately, unlocking minds, piercing hearts, telling compelling stories, inciting



University of Hong Kong academic staff Mr. Donn Emmanuel Gonda presents “In-Depth Humanistic Look at Artificial Intelligence”



President and CEO of Grupo Agatep Mr. Norman Agatep discusses “Effectively Communicating Your Messages Beyond the Syntax of Language

action, fostering conversations, embracing new technology, and keeping messages simple.

Dr. Carl E. Balita, the first plenary speaker, and Board of Director and Overall Chairman of the Franchise Asia Conference, presented on “Education 5.0: Towards Future Ready Graduates.” Balita outlined the transitions from Education 1.0 to 5.0, emphasizing shifts from planning to portfolios, theory to practice, and formal education to fast learning.

The second plenary speaker, Dr. Maria Christina G. Aquino, shared her insights on “Good, Better, and Best in Tourism and Hospitality.” She painted a vivid picture of the current state of tourism and hospitality in the country, advocating for quality Philippine tourism rooted in being HOSPITABLE - Helpful, Open-minded, Systematic, Purposeful, Innovative, Technologically proficient, ASEAN aware, Bold, Love the country, and Engage

Architecture alumni share works, experiences at career talk

The College of Architecture and the UST College of Architecture Alumni Association, Inc. (USTCAAAI) conducted an exhibit and career talk on October 2, 2023, coinciding with the celebration of the World Architecture Day. The exhibit showcases the works of alumni from Batch 1980, displayed at the main stair landing of Beato Angelico Building, highlighting the works of Ar. Jose Siao Ling and Ar. Ana Mangalino - Ling of JSLA Architects - one of the Top 10 Architecture Firms in the Philippines.

After the exhibit opening was the career talk for the students, where three prominent alumni from Batch 1980 shared their knowledge and experiences with aspiring Thomasian architects.

Ar. Chona Elvas Ponce, former Acting Dean of the College, shared her insights on the topic “Finding your Niche in Architecture,” where she also presented the Career Progression and Specialization Program and Credit Accumulation and Transfer System (CPSP-CATS).

The second talk featured Ar. Consuelo C. Buencamino, the Principal of CC Buencamino Architect. She discussed the sustainability and future of architecture as a profession.

The last talk was from one of the top 10 Architects in the country, Ar. Jose



Siao Ling, who talked about ethics in architecture practice.

The activity was graced by alumni officers, headed by USTCAAAI President Ar. Ma. Benita Ochoa - Regala, administrators, academic staff, and students of the College of Architecture.

Through this event, the college highlights alumni talents throughout the year to inspire the students—the future leaders in the Philippine architecture industry. ■

(From left:) Ar. Buencamino, Ar. Ventura, Ar. Carino, Ar. Encinas, Ar. Herrera, Ar. Ponce & Ar. Siao Ling during the ribbon cutting ceremony



the whole society. Aquino is the TIBFI IP Chairperson and past president of Asia-Pacific Council on Hotel, Restaurant, and Institutional Education (APacCHRIE) and Council of Hotel and Restaurant Educators of the Philippines (COHREP).

Dr. Maria Christina G. Aquino, ASEAN master and CHED Technical Committee member on Tourism and Hospitality Management discussed “Good, Better and Best News in Tourism and Hospitality”

Interactive breakout sessions provided participants with the opportunity to engage with each other. Session facilitators included Prof. Cheryl Peralta R. Peralta, DrPh, Atty. Ma. Elena Enriquez, Mr. Arnel Ocampo, Engr. Emmanuel R. Estrada, and Assoc. Prof. Evangeline E. Timbang, Ph.D.

Present during this two-day event were the AAIG co-conveners, the USTAAI Vice President for Academics Ms. Inocencia Ida S. Tionko, CCPED Director and UST CRS Alumni Association, Inc., President Assoc. Prof. Jocelyn F. Agcaoili, and USTAAI Chairman of the Board Dr. Evelyn A. Songco, an AAIG Core Officer.

The event was sponsored by Rex Education, Globe Telecom, and UST Faculty of Civil Law Dean Atty. Nilo T. Divina. ■

Navarro of CFAD featured in South Korean exhibition

The art installation project *Nagalit ang Buwan sa Haba ng Gabi* (A Tired, Angry Moon on a Restless Night) of College of Fine Arts and Design academic staff and co-founder/creative director of *louta et al.* IDr. Louie T. Navarro, Ph.D., in collaboration with artists/curators Gian Cruz and Cristian Tablazon, was recently selected for exhibition as part of the Guemgang Nature Art Pre-Biennale 2023.

As a lead-up to the 2023-2024 Nature Art Biennale *Shelter in the Forest II*, the selection featured a total of 145 artists from 42 countries.

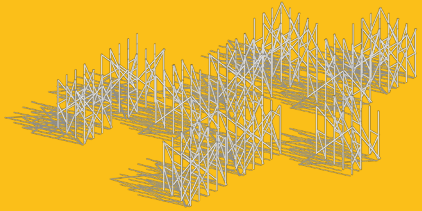
The title is taken from Danny Zialcita's film from 1983 and as highlighted in the exhibition text: "The curatorial intention resounds a poetic internalization of an endless night or the perplexing unrest of the darkness that seems to have no trace of the light coming to illuminate things—that is at least, at face value."

Established in 1981, the Korean Nature Artists' Association-YATOO focuses on Nature Art and its study and exhibition. The first international nature art event (Guemgang Nature Art Biennale) was held in 2004.

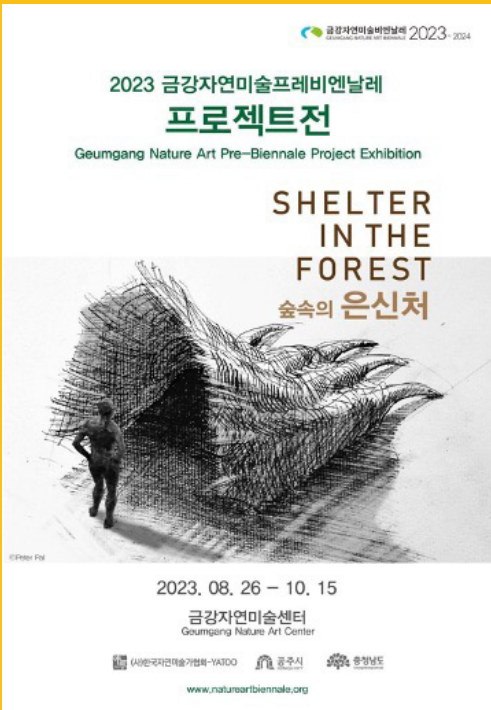
The exhibit ran from August 26 to October 15, 2023 at the YATOO-GNAB gallery in Gongju in the Chungcheongnam-do province of South Korea. ■



Perspective rendering by louta et al.



Axonometric rendering by louta et al.



Event poster

UNIVERSITY VISITORS



Dr. William T. Belo

Dr. William T. Belo (third from left) with the Office of Public Affairs Director Asst. Prof. Joreen T. Rocamora, Ph.D.(second from left), and Office of Alumni Relations staff Ms. Ma. Carla Romina G. Ricarte (leftmost) and Mr. John Benedict S. Rebello on October 7, 2023.



Converge Philippines

ConvergePH Senior Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer Mr. Jesus Romero (front row, fourth from left), accompanied by officials from Converge, visited the campus on October 11, 2023. With them are Assistant to the Rector for ICT Asst. Prof. Jerralyn T. Padua (third from left), CICS Acting Dean Asst. Prof. Christopher D. Ladao (fifth from left), UST Office of Public Affairs Director Asst. Prof. Joreen T. Rocamora, Ph.D. (rightmost), Executive Assistant Assoc. Prof. Noel Estrella, DIT, Santo Tomas e-Service Providers Assistant Director for Network Operations Engr. Sebastian Raymond A. Mendoza (second from left), Ms. Janet Gonzalez (leftmost), and Ms. Sarah Maravilla (seventh from left).



ASEAN Orthopedic Association

Five delegates from the ASEAN Orthopedic Association visited the University of Santo Tomas for a Travelling Fellowship Program with the UST Department of Orthopedic Surgery on October 12, 2023. OPA Director Asst. Prof. Joreen T. Rocamora, Ph.D., accompanied by doctors from the UST Department of Orthopedic Surgery, welcomed the delegation.



Ateneo de Iloilo - Santa Maria Catholic School

A group of students from Ateneo de Iloilo - Santa Maria Catholic School, accompanied by teachers and administrators, visited the University of Santo Tomas on October 12, 2023.

Kalasalingam Academy of Research and Education

Kalasalingam Academy of Research and Education officials led by Vice-Chancellor Dr. S. Narayanan (fifth from left) visited the University of Santo Tomas for a meeting with the UST College of Science, led by Dean Prof. Rey Donne S. Papa, Ph.D. (sixth from left), regarding collaborative research, as well as student and academic staff exchange on October 12, 2023.



President and Chief Executive Officer of the Sta. Elena Construction and Development Corporation

Class of 1986 alumna Ms. Alice Eduardo signs the University guestbook on October 17, 2023, witnessed by OPA Director Asst. Prof. Joreen T. Rocamora, Ph.D.

Ms. Rozaliia Tarnovetckaia

(From left:) Ar. Noel Cruz, Ms. Rozaliia Tarnovetckaia from the Technical University of Berlin, Assistant to the Director for Public Affairs Ms. Michaela Lagniton, and College of Architecture Secretary Ar. Vinson Serrano on October 23, 2023.



The University of Adelaide

(From left:) The University of Adelaide Executive Director for Education Transformation Ms. Lori Hocking, Faculty of Arts, Business, Law, & Economics Deputy Dean - International Assoc. Prof. Mathew White, Faculty of Health and Medical Sciences Deputy Dean - International Assoc. Prof. Philippa Rasmussen, Faculty of Science, Engineering, and Technology Deputy Dean - International Prof. Scott Smith, Deputy Vice Chancellor for External Engagement Dr. Jessica Gallagher, Vice Rector for Academic Affairs Prof. Cheryl R. Peralta, DrPH, Office of International Relations and Programs Associate Director Prof. Karen S. Santiago, Ph.D., Associate Director for Global Partnerships Mr. Phillip Fredericks, Dr. Feras Dayoub, and Office of Public Affairs Director Asst. Prof. Joreen T. Rocamora, Ph.D., on October 23, 2023.



Chemical Engineer Licensure Examination

October 2023

UST Passing Rate: 77.22%
National Passing Rate: 70.23%



9th - 84.80%
Charlene Sandoval
Mendoza



9th - 84.80%
Justin Robert Landicho
Tolentino



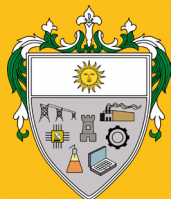
Electronics Technician Licensure Examination

October 2023

UST Passing Rate: 93.88%
National Passing Rate: 73.52%



3rd - 93%
Warren Denzel
Formoso Cheng



Electronics Engineer Licensure Examination

October 2023

UST Passing Rate: 42.75%
National Passing Rate: 33.36%



9th - 86.20%
Jose Paolo
Enriquez Nicolas



THE ACADEMIA

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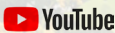
Address all communications
to the Office of Public Affairs,
University of Santo Tomas
España Boulevard, Manila,
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