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Photo by: Kennett Garcia

UST confers Dean Emeritus title upon Prof. Lilian Sison



Prof. Lilian Sison, Ph.D., (center), accompanied by her daughter Dr. Christine Sison-Sese (right), accepts the cap from UST Rector Very Rev. Fr. Richard G. Ang, O.P., Ph.D. (left)

In recognition of her excellent and pioneering leadership, exemplary scholarship, meaningful and dedicated 54 years of untarnished service to the University, the University of Santo Tomas honored Prof. Lilian J. Sison, Ph.D., with the title Dean Emeritus on November 13, 2023 at the Dr. Robert Sy Grand Ballroom of the Bl. Buenaventura Garcia Paredes O.P. Building.

"Today's recognition ceremony does not only acknowledge past accomplishments. It is a moment of grace to inspire, encourage, and motivate all of us witnessing this solemn event, underscoring the enduring impact one person can have on higher education. Today, we celebrate a leader whose influence transcends the confines of our institution, leaving a profound mark on students, academic and support staff, and the broader academic community," said the Vice Rector for Academic Affairs Prof. Cheryl R. Peralta, DrPH.

UST Graduate School Dean Prof. Michael Anthony Vasco, Ph.D., who previously served as the GS faculty secretary under then-GS Dean Sison, commended Dr. Sison's impeccable eye for detail. "[She] demanded high-quality outputs from coworkers but also enabled

them to learn how to meet those standards through her sincere mentorship and her efficient, accurate, and decisive judgment and actions. All these were tempered by foresight, calculated risk, innovation, insight, and wisdom."

Dean Sison has served the University in many administrative positions for over 42 years, beginning as the Faculty Secretary of the Graduate School from 1981 to 1987. She has also been the Director for Faculty Evaluation and Development from 1987 to 2000, the Assistant to the Rector for Academic Affairs and Research from 1990 to 1995, and the Assistant to the Rector for Academic Affairs from 1995 to 2000.

From 2000, she spent 13 years as Dean of the UST Graduate School, where she spearheaded the restructuring of curricula to make graduate programs more research-intensive with the introduction of mandatory courses in the Research Colloquium for theses and dissertations, the expansion of graduate program offerings, and the establishment of the extension centers in the Graduate School, such as the Psychotrauma Clinic, the Center for Conservation of Cultural

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Property and Environment in the Tropics, and the Center for Continuing Professional Education and Development.

Through her visionary leadership, she reformed instructional standards, such as reducing class size, furthering the training of academic staff on pedagogy and the writing of learning materials, conducting management workshops for academic officials, supervising the implementation of faculty classification and promotions, and much more. All these efforts bore fruit as it improved the quality perception of UST, and during her term, the University was ranked among the top tier universities in the ASIAWEEK survey regarding the top universities in Asia.

In addition to her academic work, Dr. Sison engaged in faith-based advocacies during her term as Secretary-General of Religions for Peace (RfP), Philippines and Chair of the Asia Pacific Women of Faith Network. She organized multi-faith action programs and capacity building projects on mental health and trauma healing for women groups, the internally displaced youth and the armed forces of the Philippines in the conflict areas of Central Mindanao, child protection programs in partnership with faith-based communities, and inter-faith forums and conferences at the national and international levels. Dr. Sison was the only Woman of Faith selected by the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines and the Vatican for the Meeting of Pope Francis with Religious Leaders during the 2015 Papal Visit.

UST Rector Very Rev. Fr. Richard G. Ang, O.P., Ph.D., praised her "relentless determination and fruitful action," and acknowledged the honoree as an "intellectual powerhouse who keeps pushing the boundaries of thought and assisting others to reach their full potential" and as "someone whose actions align with her deeply held values."

As the Founding Director of the Office of International Relations and Programs (OIRP) since 2013, Dr. Sison is "an architect and weaver of sustainable collaborations who is instrumental in building alliances and networks for the University. She expanded the influence and reach of the University globally through an intensive campaign of pursuing international alliances, partnerships, and networks," said Fr. Ang. Through these efforts, UST achieved a rating of five stars in Internationalization given by Quacquarelli-Symonds.



Dean Emeritus Prof. Lilian Sison, Ph.D. (center) with (from left:) UST Graduate School Dean Prof. Michael Anthony C. Vasco, Ph.D., UST Rector Very Rev. Fr. Richard G. Ang, O.P., Ph.D., Prior Provincial of the Dominican Province of the Philippines Very Rev. Fr. Filemon I. Dela Cruz, Jr., O.P., and Chemistry Department Chair Assoc. Prof. Alan Rodelle M. Salcedo, Ph.D.



Dean Emeritus Lilian Sison, Ph.D. delivers her address of acceptance.

In her message, Dean Sison reflected on her wholehearted service to UST and shared her deepest gratitude to those she has worked with, including the Dominican Fathers, most especially the Rectors and top administrators for their trust and confidence in her abilities, as well as their spiritual gifts, to the academic and support staff in the offices she was assigned, her fellow administrators and kindred spirits, the Office of International Relations and Programs, her colleagues and students in the Chemistry department, and most importantly, her family, to whom she dedicated this honor.

Her service was a "joyful professional journey that gave me varied experiences. I have traveled far and wide, from the gilded steps leading to the Clementine Hall of the Vatican to the halls of the International Court of Justice and to many others. I ate with soldiers and

DEAN EMERITUS TO PAGE 4



UST Secretary-General Rev. Fr. Louie R. Coronel, O.P., EHL serves as the Master of Ceremonies.

UST's month-long Paskuhan celebration concludes with concert, pyromusical show



The Vice Rector for Finance Rev. Fr. Roberto Luanzon, Jr., O.P. leads the Rite of Blessing of the Christmas Tree and Ornaments.

The University of Santo Tomas concluded its month-long community celebration of Christmas with the annual Paskuhan concert and pyrotechnic display. With the theme “Witnessing the Joy of Christmas,” the festivities began on December 1, 2023, with the lighting ceremony and UST Christmas Concert Gala, and culminated on December 21, 2023.

Paskuhan Concert

Popular Filipino acts like BINI, Cup of Joe, Hey Jace, Lola Amour, Adie, and Lily joined the Tunog Tomasino 2023 winners, Thomasian bands Kler, Benchfly, and MIMOSA for the Paskuhan Concert. Performances began at 2:00 P.M. at the UST Grandstand and Open Field.

While the in-person concert was open to Thomasians only, the public may still watch online via the University of Santo Tomas (ust1611official) and the UST Tiger TV (/USTigerTV) Facebook pages.

PASKUHAN CELEBRATION TO PAGE 5



The Cross atop the Main Building shines above the varied Christmas decorations on campus.

DEAN EMERITUS FROM PAGE 3

rebels at their barracks, slept next to displaced women and children in Mindanao. I have shaken hands with Popes, Cardinals, Prime Ministers, Presidents, First Ladies, Queens, Princesses and Nobel Laureates. I was in constant interaction with visionary leaders in education, in high-level meetings at the international and local levels. The sum of these many experiences have shaped my character, the values I espouse, and my disposition in life,” said Dean Sison.

“Fifty-four years of professional journey at UST was a joyful experience inspired by my family and the patronage of the Blessed Mother. If I were to look back in time, and meet my 20-year-old self, what advice would I give her? I was an average student who did not graduate with Latin honors, and yet today, I am receiving

this honor. So what can I tell you based on my experiences? Believe in yourself. You can do anything if you put hard work into it. Continue reading and learning and be kind to all in manners and action. Finally, heed what St. Paul wrote in his letter to the Romans: “Whatever you do, do it for the greater glory of God.”

“When the time comes that I will be knocking on the door of St. Peter, and he would ask me, ‘What did you do with the talents God gave you?’ I would just show him my [Dean Emeritus] medal,” Dean Sison concluded.

The title of Dean Emeritus is bestowed upon deans who have devoted a minimum of nine cumulative years to an academic unit. Dean Sison is the latest to join UST’s roster of Dean Emeriti, which includes Dr. Magdalena Alonso-Villaba, Dr. Norma Lerma, Dr. Amado Dimayuga, Dr. Carmen Kanapi, and Dr. Lourdes Custodio. ■



The 20-meter Christmas tree at the UST Grandstand

PASKUHAN CELEBRATION FROM PAGE 4

Agape and Gift-giving

On December 13, the UST Rector Very Rev. Fr. Richard G. Ang, O.P., presided over the Paskuhan Mass at the Plaza Mayor, 5:00 PM, which was concelebrated by the Dominican Fathers of the Priory of St. Thomas Aquinas. The Thomasian Christmas Feast, known as the *Agape*, which is the ancient Greek word for “the highest form of love and charity,” followed.

As Thomasians partook in the *Agape*, they were encouraged to bring gifts-in-kind like Noche Buena packs and school supplies or gifts-in-cash as organized by the UST Simbahayan Community Development Office, which were shared through the Paskuhan Community Gift-giving Activities.

All gifts were shared with beneficiaries through *AKaP (Agape para sa mga Kamanlalakbay ngayong Pasko)* for the partner communities (December 11-19, 2023); *Sambahaginan* for the University maintenance and security personnel (December 17, 2023); *Kaparokya* for identified families of servants of the Santisimo Rosario Parish-UST (December 20, 2023); and *KAAGAPAY (KAsama sa maAGAP na aksyon at Payo)* for the sectoral groups providing assistance on safety and security i.e., barangay officials, Manila Police District (MPD), Sampaloc Fire Station (SFS), Manila Traffic and Parking Bureau (MTPB), and Manila Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office (MDRRMO) (December 21, 2023).

Lighting and Concert

UST Vice Rector for Finance Rev. Fr. Roberto L. Luanzon, O.P.,SThD, DL, assisted by UST Graduate School of Law Dean Assoc. Prof. Maria Liza Lopez-del Rosario, DCL and the George Cross awardee Ms. May Parsons, an alumna of the UST BS Nursing Class of 2000 known best for administering the first COVID-19 vaccine in the world, officially declared the Paskuhan Season open on December 1, which also signaled the lighting of the UST Manila Campus.

The annual lighting ceremony that marks the beginning of UST’s Paskuhan celebrations is symbolic of the divine light of Christ. In a circular by the UST Office of the Secretary-General, a message from Pope Francis in 2014 was quoted: “In turning on the light of the Christmas tree, we wish for the light of Christ to be in us. A Christmas without light is not Christmas. Let there be light in

PASKUHAN CELEBRATION TO PAGE 6



Maestro Fidel Calalang, Jr. and the UST Singers



Parent Advocates for Visually Impaired Children (PAVIC)

PASKUHAN CELEBRATION FROM PAGE 5



Mr. Ace Ross Arceo sings “Mapayapang Pasko”, which he co-arranged with the Conservatory of Music Dean Dr. Antonio Africa

the soul, in the heart; let there be forgiveness to others; let there be no hostilities or darkness.... Let there be the beautiful light of Jesus. This is my wish for all of you, when you turn on the light of the Christmas tree.”

UST Facilities Management Office Director Rev. Fr. Dexter A. Austria, O.P., shared that, excluding the numerous Christmas LED lights covering the campus structures, there are more than 250 new decors of various shapes and sizes lit in Christmas colors of green, red, and yellow, and a 20-meter (65.6 ft) Christmas tree near the UST Grandstand.

“This year’s theme is inspired by a Japanese arcade video game symbolizing the feeling of happiness and joy we experienced as children. Christmas is just that—to witness the joy that God has given us—His Son, who once became a Child like us,” said Fr. Austria.

The campus Christmas lights were turned on every day of the season at 6:00 P.M., until the Feast of the Epiphany on January 6, 2024, which commemorates the visit of the three Magi to the child Jesus.

Immediately following the lighting ceremony, the UST Christmas Concert Gala was held at the Drs. Jose and Stella Evangelista Lobby of the Bl. Buenaventura García Paredes O.P. Building at 6:30 P.M. It remains available for viewing at the official UST Facebook page (UST1611official).

Directed by the Conservatory of Music Dean Assoc. Prof. Antonio P. Africa, Ph.D., the concert featured popular Christmas songs in English and Filipino performed by the UST Symphony Orchestra, the UST Jazz Band, Thomasian choral groups like the UST Singers, Coro Tomasino, and the Liturgikon Vocal Ensemble, sopranos Elisanta G. Cortes, Nenen E. Espina, Naomi Paz S. Nemenzo, Mary Patrice P. Pacis, Thea P. Prosia, and tenors Eugene A. De Los Santos, Ronan H. Ferrer, and Randy I. Gilongo, among many other talents. For a special performance of One Voice/Prince of Peace, members of service learning community partners, Aeta children from Sitio Buok and Parent Advocates for Visually Impaired Children (PAVIC), joined Thea Prosia and the UST Symphony Orchestra.

Included among the month-long festivities are the ongoing *Belen Exhibit* and *Christmaseum* at the UST Museum Gallery from November 20 to January 10, the Paskuhan Christmas Pop-up Village from December 5 to 15, and the Simbang Gabi from December 15 to 24 (4:30 A.M. and 8:00 P.M.), among others.

A Thomasian tradition since 1991, the UST Paskuhan season ends on December 21, 2023, with the annual Paskuhan concert. The Christmas break begins the next day, while office work resumes on January 4, and regular classes will start on January 15, 2024. ■



Cups of taho are served for free to Thomasians at the Plaza Mayor during the Agape [Photo courtesy of Rio Leonelle I. Deluvio].

Empleo, Caliwan of Accountancy are appointed to ASEAN workgroup committees



Prof. Patricia M. Empleo, Ph.D. and Asst. Prof. Francisco M. Caliwan, Jr., the Dean and Assistant Dean, respectively, of the UST-AMV College of Accountancy, were appointed to the working committees of the ASEAN Accounting Education Workgroup (AAEW) during its 14th meeting held on November 3, 2023 at UNITAR International University, Selangor Malaysia.

Dean Empleo will chair the Executive Committee for Teaching and Learning. Her committee is tasked to design and implement programs for teaching, learning, and engagement of academic staff and students in AAEW programs.

Meanwhile, Assistant Dean Caliwan was appointed Director for the Special Interest Groups, the body tasked to lead the workgroup on addressing the emerging trends of continuing interest to the members, such as international research collaborations, faculty and student exchange programs, international scholarship programs, and other collaborative projects between and among the AAEW member institutions.

AAEW is an association organized by accounting educators from the neighboring ASEAN countries to share best practices in managing accounting programs and international collaborations. ■

Dean Empleo (right) and Asst. Prof. Caliwan

Civil Law academic staff benchmark in NY to strengthen clinical legal education program of the University

In order to enhance the existing clinical legal education program of the University, the Faculty of Civil Law, sent a delegation of academic staff to different law schools in New York, USA, from September 25 to 30, 2023 in order to explore different clinical legal programs, best practices and current methodologies with the end goal of creating the best clinical legal education program in the country.

The delegation, composed of Judge Rigor R. Pascual, the delegation lead, Judge Madonna C. Echiverri, Judge Sherwin Peter O. Pulayan, Dean Jose I. Dela Rama, Jr., Atty. Floro C. Balato, Jr., Atty. Isaiah O. Asuncion III, and Atty. Al Conrad B. Espaldon, visited five schools, namely, Cardozo Law School, Brooklyn Law School, Fordham Law School, City University of New York – School of Law (CUNY) and New York Law School (NYLS). During their visit to each institution, they were welcomed by the administrators of the respective law schools.

The law schools introduced their respective clinical legal education program and how their program equips their students to become practice-ready and



ethical members of the bar by providing real-life clients and simulations that will test not only their knowledge of the law, but also their character. They also shared best practices and current experiential methodologies for the consideration of the delegation. Lastly, the host schools

The UST Civil Law delegation (left) meets with their counterparts from American law schools

LEGAL EDUCATION PROGRAM TO PAGE 8

Dimaano presents paper on Vanadium redox flow batteries in Vietnam



Prof. Dimaano during the parallel session

27th Regional Symposium on Chemical Engineering (RSCE 2023) held in Ho Chi Minh, Vietnam.

Dimaano’s research team is currently working on the first-ever research project on Vanadium redox flow battery energy storage system (VRFB-ESS) in the Philippines which can potentially bring more stable and cheaper electricity to the country. The ongoing project aims to analyze the performance of the system considering the Philippine climate and to evaluate its potential economic benefits.

In a parallel session, the research presentation discussed the stability of the prepared electrolyte in different temperature conditions and how the country’s climate could affect the operation of the energy storage system. Dimaano explained that studying the thermal stability of the electrolyte for VRFB-ESS application is essential for establishing a good operating condition for its potential incorporation in power microgrids in the Philippines.

The paper presented is part of a collaboration between UST and De La Salle University (DLSU) seasoned researchers that include Prof. Christina A. Binag, Ph.D. and Assoc. Prof. Felicidad Christina Ramirez-Peñañiel. The research is funded by the National Research Council of the Philippines and DLSU in a tripartite partnership.

The conference, whose primary goal was to promote research and developmental activities in chemical engineering, food, and biotechnology, was attended by professors, researchers, industrial practitioners, and students from countries including Japan, Malaysia, Thailand, Indonesia, Vietnam, and the Philippines. ■

Prof. Maria Natalia R. Dimaano, Ph.D., an academic staff of the UST Faculty of Engineering and Program Lead for Engineering Graduate Programs, presented a paper titled “Thermal stability of Vanadium redox flow battery electrolyte in the Philippines” at the 6th International Conference on Chemical Engineering, Food and Biotechnology 2023 (ICCFB 2023) and the

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LEGAL EDUCATION PROGRAM FORM PAGE 7

also underscored the importance of the clinical legal education program as it is not only an educational tool but also a tool to promote social justice by providing quality legal services to the community.

In 2019, the Supreme Court of the Philippines promulgated A.M. No. 19-03-24-SC or the Revised Law Student Practice Rule [Rule 138-A] that required all law schools to establish a clinical legal education program which includes the establishment of legal clinics. The rule also makes the completion of the program as a prerequisite for a law student to take the bar examination.

In compliance with the said Supreme Court mandate, Dean Nilo T. Divina directed the revision of UST’s Clinical Legal Education Program and the enhancement and upgrade of the existing Chief Justice Roberto Concepcion Legal Aid Clinic.

Aside from the development of the clinical legal education program and the exposure of UST Clinical Law Faculty to current experiential pedagogy and clinical training, the Faculty of Civil Law is currently expanding and upgrading the physical infrastructure of the Legal Aid Clinic that will be at par with international standards that will meet the needs of both the students and the community. ■



Judge Rigor Pascual (leftmost) and the UST team at the City University of New York School of Law

IR, CTRSE academic staff present papers at Thammasat University



The UST team joins fellow participants

Seven academic staff from the UST Institute of Religion and the Center for Theology, Religious Studies, and Ethics presented papers at the 14th International Roundtable of the Asian Research Center for Religion and Social Communication based at St. John’s University, Bangkok, Thailand. With the theme “Religious Communication and the Technological Future: Prospects, Concerns, and Responses”, this year’s meeting was held from November 2 to 3, 2023 at the East Asian Institute in Thammasat University as part of the International Conference on Inter-Asia and Challenges.

Bryan Albia, Mariel Blanza, and Andrew Joseph Chanco co-authored an article titled “From Icons to AI: Evolution of Imagery in Religious Communication.” The paper presents the evolution of religious

icons in various world religions throughout history and inquires whether AI-generated icons made possible today by generative AI tools are suitable for use in sacred functions and other forms of religious communication.

Meanwhile, Leo-Martin Angelo Ocampo and Ivan Efreaim Gozum explored AI’s implications on religious education in their paper, “AI in the Academe: Opportunities and Challenges for Religious Education.” In response to questions and concerns raised by ChatGPT and other AI applications, their study looks into the interface of AI and how it can be maximized for its educational use without ignoring the dangers. It likewise highlights the unique contributions of religious educators to AI using the wisdom and practices of their respective religious traditions while bearing in mind AI Ethics.

Lastly, Fred Antonio and Center for Campus Ministry Director, Maria Lourdes Santiago-Antonio presented their paper, “Catholic Higher Educational Institutions (HEIs): Communicators of Truth for a Rehumanized Education Toward Industrial Revolution 5.0.” Their article explores the evolving mission of Catholic HEIs in today’s shifting societal landscape, calling for a humanistic approach to communicating truth and a friendship model in accompanying young people.

The annual roundtable, which gathers religious leaders and scholars of various religions in Asia, was pioneered by the late Thomasian educator, Fr. Franz-Josef Eilers, SVD who also established the Social-Pastoral Communication Program in the UST Graduate School. ■

UST, Japanese partner universities lead eDNA workshop



Biology students join the hands-on workshop

The Department of Biological Sciences and the Research Center for the Natural and Applied Sciences through the DOST-JSPS funded Project *TroPaYan* headed by College of Science academic staff Mr. Elfritzson M. Peralta, conducted a lecture-workshop on eDNA technology and its application, titled “Detection of parasites in ecosystems (DOPE): A lecture-workshop on eDNA applications in aquatic research” on October 27, 2023 at the Central Laboratory Building.

This event, which is one of the main activities under the countdown

eDNA WORKSHOP TO PAGE 11

Tan of CRS presents research on participation of PTs in disaster response

Mr. Gabriel C. Tan, an academic staff of the CRS Department of Physical Therapy, presented a paper titled “Barriers and Facilitators to the Participation of Physical Therapists in Disaster Response Following Natural Hazard-Driven Sudden-Onset Disasters” at the 2nd National Conference of the Philippine Academic Society for Climate and Disaster Resilience (PASCDR).

The conference theme was “From Discourses to Actions: Mobilizing the Academe for Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation.” It took place at the Atencio-Libunao Hall, University of the Philippines Diliman, Quezon City from October 25 to 27, 2023.

In his paper, Tan emphasized the crucial role of Physical Therapists (PT) in disaster response, specifically in preventing long-term disabilities resulting from injuries. Research reveals that PTs are underutilized in this context. The study explored the factors that affect PTs’ involvement in disaster response and identified four key themes: personal and social factors, profession-related factors, organizational support, and operational considerations. ■



Mr. Gabriel Tan

MBA student bags silver for best presentation at int’l conference in Kuala Lumpur

John Alexander L. Fellizar, a Master of Business Administration student, was awarded the Best Research Presentation (Silver) at the AHIBS International Action Conference (AHIBS-ACT 2023) held on October 27-29, 2023, in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Fellizar presented his research paper and competed against 25 other research paper presentations from different schools and universities in the region, including the private sector, under the conference track on Marketing, Accounting, Finance, Economics, and Human Resources. He virtually presented his paper “Impact of Brand Activism on Facebook on Brand Image and Purchase Intent: The Cases of C2 Green Tea and Lucky Me! Instant Pancit Canton” before a panel of esteemed academicians, researchers, and conference participants. Fellizar’s presentation was praised for its actionability, relevance, and overall research impact. The research panel included senior faculty members from Telkom University, Indonesia, and International Islamic University, Malaysia.

The AHIBS-ACT 2023 was organized by the Azman Hashim International Business School (AHIBS) of Universiti Teknologi Malaysia with the theme “Empowering Change, Elevating Impacts.” The conference gathered scholars and practitioners from various fields of business and economics to present and exchange their recent research findings and innovative ideas. It also emphasized the action research approach in solving real-world problems. Furthermore, it offered a unique opportunity for participants and industry experts with interdisciplinary interests to collaborate and broaden their knowledge. ■



Fellizar (upper left) during the feedback session with panelists

Alumni association in Brunei Darussalam inducts new officers, members in founding anniversary celebration



(From left:) USTAAB officers Michelle Centeno, Joji Languido-Castillo, Katrina Reyes Ignacio, Christheart Anthony Corral, together with Ambassador Tirol-Ignacio and OAR Director Asst. Prof. Medina

The UST Alumni Association in Brunei Darussalam (USTAAB) commemorated its 7th founding anniversary with an annual gathering and induction ceremony on November 11, 2023. The event was graced by Her Excellency Marian Jocelyn R. Tirol-Ignacio, the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Philippines to Brunei Darussalam. She was accompanied by Vice Consul Jacqueline Ong and Welfare Officer Maria Cristina Mallare. Also present in the event was UST Alumni Relations Director Asst. Prof. Fredeswindo R. Medina, MACHs as the

lead inducting officer in the ceremony.

Ambassador Tirol-Ignacio recognized the association’s strong linkage with the Philippine embassy in Brunei owing it up to the shared values both institutions have. The ambassador also made mention of her connection to the University as she was raised by a Thomasian alumna and educator. She congratulated the outgoing officers of USTAAB for a job well done and gave well wishes to the incoming officers for their term.

The incoming officers took their oath of office in the presence of Ambassador Tirol-Ignacio and Asst. Prof. Medina. New

members were also introduced and inducted during the ceremony then the outgoing officers were named and recognized to turnover the symbolic USTAAB Flag to the new officers.

Newly elected USTAAB president Mr. Christheart Anthony Corral presented the group’s past activities and involvement in the Filipino Association. Corral plans to continue his predecessors’ projects and increase the association’s participation and contributions to the Sultanate and the Filipino community. ■

eDNA WORKSHOP FROM PAGE 9

to the centennial celebrations of the UST College of Science, highlights the strong partnership between the University of Santo Tomas, the University of Shiga Prefecture (USP) and Kyoto University (KU).

The participants included academic staff, students of the undergraduate and graduate Biology programs of the College of Science and the Graduate School, government researchers, and research staff of DOST funded research projects housed in UST. Peralta introduced the

project’s objectives, members, and goals, emphasizing the significant partnership with USP. The lectures included presentations by Dr. Karin Tsuchida (Kyoto University), introducing molecular techniques to parasitology, Dr. Shoko Hosoi-Tanabe (USP), discussing the fundamental concepts of eDNA research, and Dr. Misako Urabe (USP) presenting the application of eDNA technology in animal parasitology.

The afternoon session was facilitated by Peralta along with UST academic staff Mr. Kenneth Xavier Sanchez, M.Sc. and Dr. Hosoi-Tanabe where they conducted a hands-on workshop on eDNA sampling

and processing methods. Students were given the opportunity to experience the preparation of sampling materials, actual water sampling, and filtration techniques. Participants were reminded of the practical applications of eDNA and the research opportunities available for those willing to explore this new field of science.

The event provided a platform for skills training and knowledge transfer for research-oriented students, early-career researchers, and seasoned experts in the field. The project envisions to incorporate and utilize the use of eDNA for applied research in biodiversity conservation and environmental management. ■

14th Asian Conference on Chemical Sensors is hosted by UST



Participants and organizers of the 14th ACCS in UST

UST Secretary-General and College of Science Regent Rev. Fr. Louie R. Coronel, O.P., EHL warmly welcomed participants to the 14th ACCS, calling the conference a great platform “where brilliant minds across Asia and beyond converge to share insights, research findings, and technological advancements in the field of chemical sensors, whose importance cannot be overstated in our rapidly evolving world where precision and accuracy in detecting and analyzing various substances are crucial in scientific, industrial, environmental, and healthcare applications.”

University of Toyama (Japan) Graduate School of Science and Engineering Professor Hiroaki Shinohara was the first to present his plenary lecture titled “Sensing Cell State by SPR Imaging Technique: Assessing the Differentiation State of Stem Cells into Neurons or Cardiomyocytes by SPR Monitoring”. The study found that the surface plasmon resonance (SPR) imaging technique is effective for drug sensing because it enables noninvasive observation of intracellular reactions to drug stimuli, and can continuously assess changes in cellular states, such as differentiation of stem cells into neurons or cardiomyocytes, over a period of several days.

National Cheng Kung University (Taiwan) Professor Hung-Wei Yang discussed “Microneedle-Based Biosensors for Sampling, Diagnosis, and Monitoring” for the second plenary lecture. He talked about three types of microneedle-based biosensors tailored for three specific purposes: an integrated hydrogel microneedle patch (HMNP) and lateral flow cassette (LFC) system for early diagnosis and daily management of chronic kidney diseases, a microneedle-based biosensor housed within a detection box that is dedicated to detecting the IgA antibody against the SARS-CoV-2 nucleocapsid protein (NP) and spike protein, and a glucose-biosensing microneedle patch (GBMP) to achieve instrument-free glucose monitoring in a painless and safe manner.

Pukyong National University (South Korea) Professor Wan Young Chung delivered the third plenary lecture on “Wireless Battery-Free Sensors with Optimized RF Energy Harvesting”. He reported that radio frequency (RF) energy harvesting technologies

CONFERENCE ON CHEMICAL SENSORS TO PAGE 13

(From left:) ACCS National Organizing Committee Chair Academician Professor Emeritus Fortunato Sevilla III, Ph.D., UST RCNAS researcher Prof. Christina A. Binag, Ph.D., who serves as the President of the Kapisanang Kimika ng Pilipinas (Chemical Society of the Philippines), and ACCS International Steering Committee Chair Prof. Youichi Shimizu, Ph.D. during the ribbon cutting

The University of Santo Tomas hosted the 14th Asian Conference of Chemical Sensors held from November 20 to 23, 2023 at the Thomas Aquinas Research Complex.

ACCS 2023 is the 14th Asian Conference on Chemical Sensors. It is a multidisciplinary meeting of scientists and engineers engaged in research and innovation in the field of chemical sensors. It is organized by the University of Santo Tomas with the cooperation of the Chemical Society of the Philippines (Kapisanang Kimika ng Pilipinas) – Division of Analytical Science.

In a video message, DOST Secretary Renato U. Solidum, Jr., Ph.D. commended the success of the event, saying “this would definitely inspire our young scientists and engineers to further their desire to discover technologies related to chemical sensor research and development, which are crucial in environmental and medical applications.”

Varieties of English class at GS hosts lecture by top Filipino linguist

The Varieties of English class at the UST Graduate School organized an online lecture delivered by top Filipino linguist, Dr. Ariane M. Borlongan of Tokyo University of Foreign Studies. The said lecture was held on October 17, 2023.

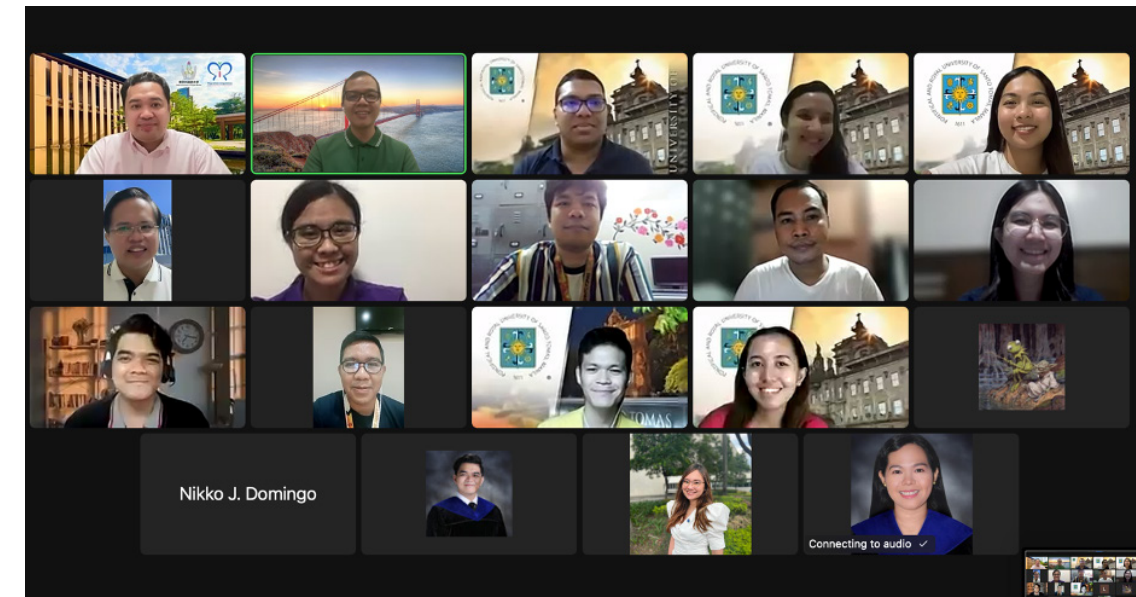
Borlongan, who is based in Japan, talked about the linguistic aspects of endonormative stabilization in the standardization of Englishes. In his talk, Borlongan examined the linguistic aspects of the penultimate stage in the Schneider’s (2003, 2007) dynamic model of the

evolution of Englishes. His talk focused on how linguistic features evolve from being deviations to becoming legitimate variations and, therefore, varieties in world Englishes.

Borlongan was previously with De La Salle University (Philippines) and The University of Tokyo (Japan) and also held various visiting teaching and research posts at the Nanyang Technological University (Singapore), SEAMEO Regional Language Centre (Singapore), the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS)

University of London (The United Kingdom), University of Bialystok (Poland), the University of Freiburg (Germany), Universiti Malaya (Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia), and Wenzao Ursuline University of Languages (Kaohsiung, Taiwan).

The online lecture was attended by graduate students taking up MA and PhD major in English Language Studies from UST and Far Eastern University, and English teachers currently teaching in Japan. ■



Dr. Borlongan (top row, leftmost), Prof. Alejandro S. Bernardo, Ph.D. (top row, second from left), with graduate students and English teachers

CONFERENCE ON CHEMICAL SENSORS FROM PAGE 12

hold great potential in enabling wireless sensors to operate without traditional power sources.

Jilin University Professor Geyu Lu served as the fourth plenary speaker, with his presentation on “Mixed Potential Gas Sensors Based on Solid Electrolyte and their Applications,” where he discussed strategies to significantly improve the gas-sensitive performance of mixed potential gas sensors, paving the way for their practical applications in areas such as breath detection, pollution source tracking, atmospheric monitoring, and in situ indoor air quality assessment.

Invited speakers also include Prof. Dr. Ping Wang of Zhejiang University, Assoc. Prof. Yu-Jui Fan of Taipei Medical University, Prof. Jui-Ming Yeh of Chung Yuan Christian University, Prof. Yoshiteru Itagaki of Ehime University, Prof. Karsten Haupt of the University of Technology of Compeigne, Prof. Jose Bergantin, Jr., of UST, Prof. Hyoun-woo Kim of Hanyang University, Dr. Ni Luh Wulan Septiani and Assoc. Prof. Allan Christopher Yago of the National Research and Innovation Agency of Indonesia, and Prof. Manabu Tokeshi of Hokkaido University.

In addition to the abovementioned lectures, there were also over 50 research and poster presentations in various parallel sessions during the conference. ■



University of Toyama (Japan) Graduate School of Science and Engineering Professor Hiroaki Shinohara (center) receives his certificate from Academician Professor Emeritus Fortunato Sevilla III, Ph.D. (right) and Prof. Youichi Shimizu, Ph.D.

Medina of OAR shares alumni engagement expertise in THE Campus Live SE Asia

Office of Alumni Relations Director Asst. Prof. Fredeswindo R. Medina represented the University of Santo Tomas in the Times Higher Education (THE) Campus Live Southeast Asia hosted by De La Salle University Manila on November 23, 2023.

Medina joined the panel composed of different educational institutions to talk about skills exchange and increased engagement through alumni relations of different educational institutions. The panel included Gadjah Mada University's Director for Partnerships, Alumni and Global Initiatives Puji Astuti, and University of Nottingham Malaysia's Chief Strategy and Operations Officer Kylie Colvin. The session was moderated by De La Salle University Executive Director of Advancement and Alumni Relations Office Edwin Theodoro Reyes.

The best practices of handling and establishing alumni relations were thoroughly discussed during the session. Challenges of filling the gap between graduates' competency and industry standards and how to solve it were also added to the discourse.

THE Campus Live Southeast Asia is a two-day affair held at DLSU Manila. The event gathered academic and administrative higher education leaders, industry partners, and policy experts together to explore more ways to achieve institutional success. ■



(From left:) Panel Session Moderator Edwin Theodoro Reyes, UST OAR Director Asst. Prof. Fredeswindo R. Medina, UNM representative Kylie Colvin, and UGM representative Puji Astuti

CRS, Engineering joins Empower 2023 conference, study visit in India



Delegates from the Philippines

CRS Secretary Asst. Prof. Arlene Chiong-Maya, CRS academic staff and Simbahayan Community Development Office Assistant Director Asst. Prof. Christian Rey Rimando, and Faculty of Engineering academic staff Engr. Wally Enrico Ingco, joined the 3-day EMPower 2023 Conference and 4-day Study Visit in India about Assistive Technologies.

EMPOWER 2023 is an annual scientific meeting that brings multiple stakeholders together for the development, innovation and utilization of assistive technologies. The conference was held in IIT Madras Research Park, Taramani, Chennai, India.

After the conference, a study visit was done on various centers that showcase a wide spectrum of assistive technologies both in Chennai and Thiruvananthapuram (Trivandrum), India.

Participants got to explore the Museum of Possibilities, an establishment under the Department of Welfare of Differently Aabled Persons of the Government of Tamil Nadu that showcases adaptive devices and model accessible home modifications for persons with disabilities (PWDs) where technologies followed the principle of universal design. PWDs themselves were given the opportunity to provide service at the Museum Cafe.

In addition to the museum visit, two institutions were also visited namely, Vidya Sagar Institute (formerly the Spastics Society of India) and Madras Industrial Training Institute (ITI). Both institutions showed how the PWDs were educated, trained and integrated to be independent and to engage in individually-designed and adapted occupations. Vidya Sagar offers various services to more than 3,800 PWDs each year that includes early intervention, education, community empowerment, therapy, vocational training and advocacy for disability rights. In ITI, PWD youths were involved in vocational activities as an exposure training for future job placements.

A study visit at the National Institute of Speech and Hearing (NISH) in Thiruvananthapuram was also made.

EMPOWER 2023 CONFERENCE TO PAGE 15

CTHM conducts "WHISKEY LIVE" mentorship program



Students develop practical skills associated with bartending



The UST College of Tourism and Hospitality Management, through the Hotel and Restaurant Management Society (HRMS), conducted the workshop "Whiskey Live" on October 18, 2023, at the Beverage Studio of the Buenaventura Garcia Paredes O.P. Building. More than broadening the student's knowledge about the world of whiskey from the talks delivered by the mentors, the selected BS Hospitality Management students who triumphed during the first phase of the event were also able to display astounding showmanship in crafting whiskey-based cocktails.

Different individuals and professionals in the Philippine beverage industry were invited to share their expertise such as Mr. Arnel Sulangsawa (Bartender, Coconut Grove, Admiral Hotel Manila), Ms. Camille Tiongco (Head Bartender, Bar Flora Quezon City), Mr. Rian Asidao (Diageo, Brand Ambassador, Johnny Walker, and Alumnus, UST CTHM), and members of the Whisky Live Team, Mr. Kris Ong (Singlemalt PH), Mr. Jaz Jan Juan (The Spirits Library), and Mr. Ramil Quinonez (Pinoytender Mgt.). Ms. Mary Angel D. Elacion, Academic Staff from the Department of Hospitality Management, spearheaded the event.

The event also acknowledged the CTHM student participants for the Whiskey Live and Bar Show, which happened on October 27 and 28, 2023 at the Makati Shangri-La Hotel. Luke Adriano (BS Hospitality Management major in Culinary Entrepreneurship) and Louis Anjello Cheng (BS Hospitality Management major in Hospitality Leadership) participated in the event. ■

EMPOWER 2023 CONFERENCE FROM PAGE 14

NISH is an institute that offers innovative approaches allowing multidisciplinary team approach for the development, testing, utilization and implementation of assistive technologies for the benefit of PWDs. The International Centre for Free and Open Source Software (ICFOSS) was visited to observe how advanced technologies are being applied for assistive technology.

It also allows linking of communities, developers and institutions to collaborate in promoting research-based development of softwares, instruments and machines.

Participants were also given an exposure at Kanthari which provided an opportunity to learn from PWDs who were involved in a 12-month immersive, hands-on, multi-national and intensive training program. Kanthari aims to equip

change makers with all tools and skills required to start their own impact-making organizations or projects.

The conference and study visits provided significant learning as the university aims to develop its own assistive technology center that will provide interprofessional research-based collaborative opportunities to provide services for PWDs. ■





KWF Chairman Dr. Arthur P. Casanova (seated, center), UST Filipino Department Chair Dr. Zendel Rosario M. Taruc (seated, fifth from left), and UST SSAS Chair Dr. Wennielyn Fajilan (seated, fourth from left) with translators and educators

Joint KWF, UST nat'l confab sounds the alarm on translators' welfare

Around 200 local and international translators and educators gathered for *Mga Dalumat at Realidad ng Pagsasalin: Pambansang Kumperensiya ng mga Tagasalin sa Pilipinas* held last September 27-29 at the St. John Paul II Building, University of Santo Tomas (UST) Hospital.

The three-day hybrid conference, organized by the Komisyon sa Wikang Filipino (KWF) in cooperation with UST College of Education's Departamento ng Filipino and UST Sentro sa Salin at Aralin Salin (UST SSAS), brought to light concerns on translators' welfare and professionalization of translation practice.

UST Vice Rector for Academic Affairs Dr. Cheryl Peralta and KWF Chairman Dr. Arthur P. Casanova led the opening ceremony with a reminder that translation fortifies diplomacy and cultural exchanges.

Dr. Tereso Tullao looked back on the role of translation in writing the very first Economics textbook and glossary. Meanwhile, Dr. Josephine Barrios-Le Blanc and Dr. Raquel Sison-Buban revealed unreasonable compensation to most translators in the United States and the Philippines, as well as concerns in accreditation and translation ethics.

Subject-matter experts shared insights on their years of experience. The panelists include court interpreter Ms. Ma. Cristina Carmela Japzon, from Branch 15 of the Regional Trial Court Manila and President of the Philippine Association of Court Employees-Manila; Lexcode Inc. director

Ms. Christine Ignacio, who lectured from Canada; *Propesyunal na Asosasyon ng mga Tagapagtaguyod ng Salin* (PATAS) National Committee member Dr. Emmanuel Gonzales; and KWF commissioner on the Languages of Northern Cultural Communities Dr. Jimmy Fong.

KWF commissioner on the Cebuano Language Dr. Hope S. Yu mentioned the possibilities of translating one word into a myriad of equivalences.

To continue the panel discussions, heads of government agencies presented their programs that focused on translation. The panelists include KWF *Sangay ng Salin* chief and conference director Mr. John Enrico Torralba, Department of Education (DepEd) Bureau of Learning Delivery-Teaching and Learning Division program specialist Gaudencio Serrano, and National Commission for Culture and the Arts-National Committee on Language and Translation (NCCA-NCLT) head Dr. David Michael San Juan.

Serrano expounded on E-Salin: Pagsasalin sa Filipino, under DepEd's E-Taguyod, a national program on Filipino for Basic Education, while Torralba and San Juan enumerated the seminars, fora, and grants of KWF and NCCA-NCLT, respectively.

The third panel saw lectures on programs by various university centers on language and translation. UST SSAS chief Dr. Wennielyn Fajilan, Polytechnic University of the Philippines, Manila (PUP) Sentro ng Pagsasalin head Dr. Jenalyn Lai,

and UP Diliman (UPD) Sentro ng Wikang Filipino director Dr. Jayson Petras presented the conception of their center, their publications, and collaborations.

Leaders of language and translation organizations recounted their programs on training and organizing translators in the country. The panelists include Filipinas Institute of Translation director Dr. Romulo P. Baquiran Jr., Filipino Sign Language (FSL) National Network founder Dr. Liza Martinez, and Kasalin Network-Visayas head Dr. Lita Bacalla.

Baquiran enumerated the national and international seminars and contests that his group has been organizing for years. Martinez pointed out that FSL, like any other languages, have variants depending on the region. Lastly, Bacalla related in Waray that happiness and fulfillment are few key elements in overcoming the burdens of translating and organizing translators.

The second day ended with focus group discussions gathering insights from participants on the skills training and accreditation of translators, protection of the rights and welfare of translators, development of registry and network of translators, and promoting a bill for the professionalization of translation.

Outputs presented on the last day revealed experiences on the ground and the need for organizing and legislation.

Sessions can be viewed on the Facebook pages of KWF and UST SSAS. ■

Lipardo of CRS discusses falls prevention in older adults at rheumatology symposium



Dr. Lipardo

Assoc. Prof. Donald S. Lipardo, Ph.D. of the Department of Physical Therapy of the College of Rehabilitation Sciences delivered a lecture at the Philippine Rheumatology Association (PRA) Symposium on October 7, 2023 held at the Manila Diamond Hotel, Roxas Boulevard. The Geriatrics and Osteoporosis Special Interest Groups of PRA dubbed the joint symposium with a theme "*Living La Bidang 'Lo-'La.*"

With his talk titled "Stepping into Safety," Dr. Lipardo shared his expertise in falls prevention and geriatric care. He emphasized that to step into safety, we need to lower the risk for falling among older persons. The first step to achieve this is to conduct a proper assessment of their fall history and concern about falling, including the personal and environmental risk factors that predisposes them to falling, as well as determining their walking speed and balance control. The second step is the delivery of proper interventions such as brain activities that challenge the mental abilities of older persons, exercises that aim to improve their strength balance and walking speed, and environmental modifications to ensure that the surroundings, the place where they reside is safe for them.

Given this platform, Dr. Lipardo hopes to ignite collaborative activities among rheumatologists, geriatricians, physical therapists, and other allied health professionals in managing falls in older adults. ■

Artlets present at Yogyakarta Cultural Conference

Academic staff from the Faculty of Arts and Letters, representing the Departments of Communication and Media Studies, Creative Writing, and Literature, delivered presentations at the 11th Literary Studies Conference held from October 3 to 4, 2023, at Universitas Sanata Dharma in Yogyakarta, Indonesia. The conference's theme was "Geopolitics and Literature: Reimagining The Past, Present, and Future."

The presentations—some delivered onsite and others online—covered a diverse range of topics, including colonialism, ecocriticism, film, new media, history, and cultural practices.

In his presentation, "Meme-Worthiness: Rhetorical and Political Analysis of Popular Filipino Memes," Assoc. Prof. Joselito D. Delos Reyes, PhD, Coordinator of the Creative Writing Program, delved into the world of popular Filipino memes, discussing the rhetorical and political factors behind their virality and how they represented indignation and assault to both local meme personalities and Filipino netizens.

Asst. Prof. Paul A. Castillo, Deputy Director of the UST Publishing House, explored the influence of Russian literature on Filipino cinema by reimagining Fyodor Dostoevsky's works. He discussed how filmmaker Lav Diaz incorporated Filipino culture and challenged the original narrative through extended takes and slow movements in "Dostoevsky's Influence on Lav Diaz's Cinema: Reimagining Crime and Punishment."

Academic staff and former coordinator of the Creative Writing Program, Assoc. Prof. Chuckberry J. Pascual, PhD, conducted a cultural exploration of cabinets/closets in the Filipino context in his presentation, "Opening the Aparador: Exploring the Cultural History of Cabinets in the Philippines."

Mr. Jose P. Mojica investigated the impact of mobile



Dr. Delos Reyes, Asst. Prof. Castillo, Mr. Mojica, and Dr. Pascual

photo editing apps on the cultural identity of Filipino youth in his presentation, "Mobile Photo Editing Apps and Cultural Identity: Filipino Youth Perspective." He analyzed how these apps influenced

YOGYARTA CULTURAL CONFERENCE TO PAGE 18

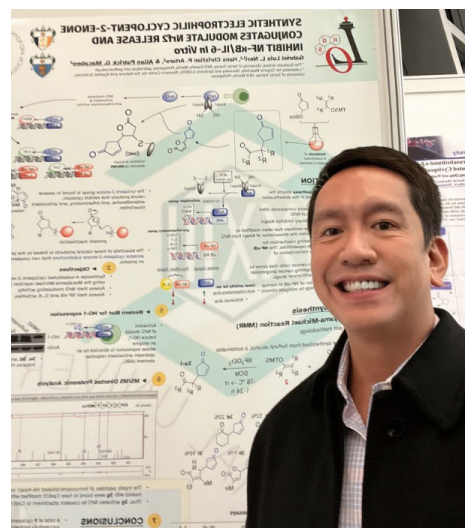
Macabeo of GS presents study on anti-inflammatory substances at Shanghai conference

UST Graduate School Department of Chemistry academic staff Prof. Allan Patrick Macabeo presented a paper titled “Synthesis of Cyclopentenone Conjugates with Nrf2 Modulatory and NF-κB/IL-6 Inhibitory Activity.” The presentation was held at the 23rd International Conference on Organic Synthesis (23-ICOS) in the vibrant science district of Pudong, Shanghai, People’s Republic of China from October 15 to 20, 2023 at the Zhangjiang Science Hall. The paper was co-authored by graduate student, Gabriel Luis Neri and College of Science alumnus, Hans Christian Arturo.

In the paper, a library of novel, natural products-inspired cyclopentenone derivatives were prepared synthetically using a newly developed synthetic methodology, characterized spectroscopically, and assessed for their effect on inflammatory response mediators such as Nrf2, NF-κB, and IL-6 via cell-based reporter assays. The synthetic substances presented incorporate Michael acceptor structures which activate the Nrf2/Keap1 signaling pathway through covalent modification of cysteine residues on Keap1. Nrf2 activation confers cytoprotection to normal cells by expressing genes involved in the antioxidant response and therefore an important aspect to explore in discovering

new substances with anti-inflammatory action. The results of Prof. Macabeo and his co-workers point to their compounds being effective chemical templates for anti-inflammatory drug designs.

23-ICOS with its theme “Synthesis for our Future” was jointly hosted by the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC) and the Shanghai Institute of Organic Chemistry (SIOC) and was chaired by Academician of Chinese Academy of Sciences, Professor Dawei Ma. With the main goal of center staging frontiers in organic synthesis, ICOS was initiated by IUPAC in 1976 as a biennial meeting of synthetic organic chemists which has showcased numerous advances in organic chemistry worldwide. The Conference was held in PR China for the first time and provided excellent platforms for world-leading organic chemists to present latest advances in total synthesis, catalysis, reaction methodology development and chemical biology. The opening ceremonies was highlighted by a plenary talk of 2021 Nobel Laureate Chemist Prof. Dr. Benjamin List of the Max Planck Institute for Coal Research, Germany with the title, “Universal Organocatalysts



Dr. Macabeo

for Our World”. Over 1,000 delegates attended this prestigious conference. The four congresses were previously held in Mumbai (India for 21-ICOS) in 2016, Budapest (Hungary for 20-ICOS) in 2014, and Melbourne (Australia for 19-ICOS) in 2012. ■

YOGYARTA CULTURAL CONFERENCE TO PAGE 18

beauty standards and questioned their effect on Filipino national identity.

Castillo, Delos Reyes, Mojica, and Pascual presented their papers in Indonesia.

In her paper “Communicating Ecology and Advocacy: John Iremil Teodoro’s ‘Sa Yakap ng Gubat at Dagat ng Palawan’ as a Tool for Ecological Literacy,” Asst. Prof. Jenny Ortuoste examines John Iremil Teodoro’s eco-essay collection, focusing on its role in promoting ecological literacy and advocacy while also emphasizing the potential of literature and storytelling to ignite environmental activism and societal change in the archipelagic context of Palawan and the Philippines.

Ms. Vae Dadia’s “Ecopoetics of the Archipelagic Space and the Islandic Subject” defined “ecopoetry” in the context of the Philippines, exploring its connection to the nation’s maritime environment and island identity, highlighting the tensions, connections, and interactions within the complex ecological and cultural landscape.

Aside from the academic exchange, the conference provided a unique

platform for establishing international connections. With 51 participating institutions spanning 10 countries, along with 13 collaborative partners in organizing the event, it brought together 123 presenters and participants, each contributing to a roster of 107 diverse presentation titles.

During breaks, attendees had the opportunity to engage in discussions. Assoc. Prof. Delos Reyes introduced the Creative Writing Program and explored potential collaborations with other universities. Asst. Prof. Castillo highlighted some titles available in the UST Publishing House and Assoc. Prof. Pascual distributed copies of TOMAS Journal, the peer-reviewed journal of the UST Center for Creative Writing and Literary Studies, to some of the heads of literature departments.

Prof. Luisa Torres-Reyes, the UST Scholar-in-Residence, also participated in the conference, representing Philippine universities within the Critical Island Studies Consortium. ■

UST PolSci Dept., Philippine Political Science Association launch lecture caravan

The Philippine Political Science Association (PPSA), in partnership with the UST Political Science Department launched its lecture caravan titled “Voices of the Powerless” at the Thomas Aquinas Research Complex (TARC) Auditorium on October 24, 2023.

Hosted by the PPSA NCR Chapter, the event was attended by political science students from the University of Santo Tomas, Far Eastern University, Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila, Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Muntinlupa, Universidad De

LECTURE CARAVAN TO PAGE 21

Accountancy holds 18th Washington SyCip Lecture



(From left:) Dean Empleo, Ms. Ching, Mr. Fonacier, Prof. Marcelo, Ms. Lipana-Gomez, Atty. Casals-Diaz, Mr. Leaño, and Asst. Prof. Caliwan



Ms. Lipana-Gomez

LECTURE CARAVAN FROM PAGE 18

Manila, Centro Escolar University, Adamson University, University of Makati, and representatives from the National University - Clark, Pampanga Campus.

Acting Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Letters Atty. Jacqueline O. Lopez-Kaw, DCL, welcomed the delegates, and former PPSA president Dr. Dennis C. Coronacion of the UST Political Science Department delivered the opening remarks. Meanwhile, PPSA president Dr. John Robert Go thanked all the delegates for their attendance, and the university for hosting the on-site event.

Dr. Anthony Lawrence A. Borja of De La Salle University’s Department of Political Science and Development Studies delivered the first lecture titled “Analyzing the Essence of Democracy: On the Question of Popular Sovereignty.” The second talk, titled “Politics of and at the Margin: Issues and Manifestations of Power through Nodal Governance” was presented by UST Political Science Department Chair Dr. Louie Benedict R. Ignacio. ■

With a roster of expert speakers, the UST-Alfredo M. Velayo College of Accountancy held the 18th Washington SyCip Lecture last November 7, 2023. Following the theme *Adaptation, Innovation, and Integration: Building and Sustaining Intelligent Organizations*, this year’s lecturer, Ms. Catherine H. Lipana-Gomez, a deals and corporate finance partner at Isla Lipana & Co./PwC Philippines, primarily delved into the attributes of intelligent organizations.

In her lecture, Lipana-Gomez highlighted the role played by integration of innovation and adaptation in organizational cultures and people-centered approaches in building intelligent organizations. She also emphasized organizational intelligence as a means for altruistic and sustainable outlook for stakeholders.

A multi-stakeholder panel then gave their synthesis and insights about the main lecture. Atty. Ma. Gracia Casals-Diaz, risk management, ethics and independence partner at R.G. Manabat & Co./KPMG Philippines and chairperson of the sustainability committee of the Philippine Institute of Certified Public Accountants, explained the need for organizations’ structural and systemic elements to promote organizational

intelligence and sustainability. Mr. Hentje Leo L. Leaño, global compliance and reporting partner at SGV & Co./EY Philippines, discussed the role of perspective change in addressing costs, culture, and complacency barriers faced by many organizations. Prof. Philipina A. Marcelo, PhD, assistant to the rector for UST Santa Rosa, exemplified the role played by innovation in higher education institutions by discussing UST Santa Rosa’s journey to becoming a research and innovation center. Mr. Edwin C. Fonacier, Jr., UST’s comptroller, contextualized the centrality of purpose in innovation-related strategies and projects. Finally, Ms. Shanelle Ann P. Ching, a senior student in the BS Management Accounting program of the College, challenged aspiring accountants to go beyond the classroom as they adaptively and innovatively solve societal problems.

The lecture is part of the 19th Foundation Anniversary Celebration of the UST-AMV College of Accountancy from November 8 to 11, 2023. Named after an alumnus of the University, this lecture commemorates the legacy of the late Washington SyCip. The recording of the lecture can be viewed through this link: <https://bit.ly/ustamvcoa18thwsl>. ■



Quezon City Performing Arts Development Foundation Inc. Concert Chorus

A Christmas Heritage Comeback



UST Junior High School Glee Club

December 6 and 7 marked the return of Christmas performances under the UST Museum's *Christmaseum*. With this year's theme "*Gloria Christi, Gaudium Creationis*," (Glory of Christ, Joy of Creation) the UST Museum partnered with the UST Junior High School Glee Club and the Quezon City Performing Arts Development Foundation Inc. (QCPADFI) Concert Chorus led by conductors Ms. Maria Lulu P. Orlina and Mr. Nicanor Infante,

respectively.

Guests were in for a musical treat as they were welcomed by an ensemble of traditional ethnic instruments from QCPADFI playing as they entered the UST Museum. Renditions of Original Pilipino Music (OPM) Christmas songs and Christmas classics were performed in the museum during the two-day concert.

In addition to the musical performances, students from the College of



UST Museum Director Rev. Fr. Isidro C. Abaña, O.P.

Fine Arts and Design, under the programs Interior Design and Industrial Design, came up with installations for the yuletide season that transformed the museum gallery into a mystical-themed forest garden filled with varying paper lanterns that lead to the nativity scene depicting the glory of Christ and the joy of creation – this year's exhibition theme.

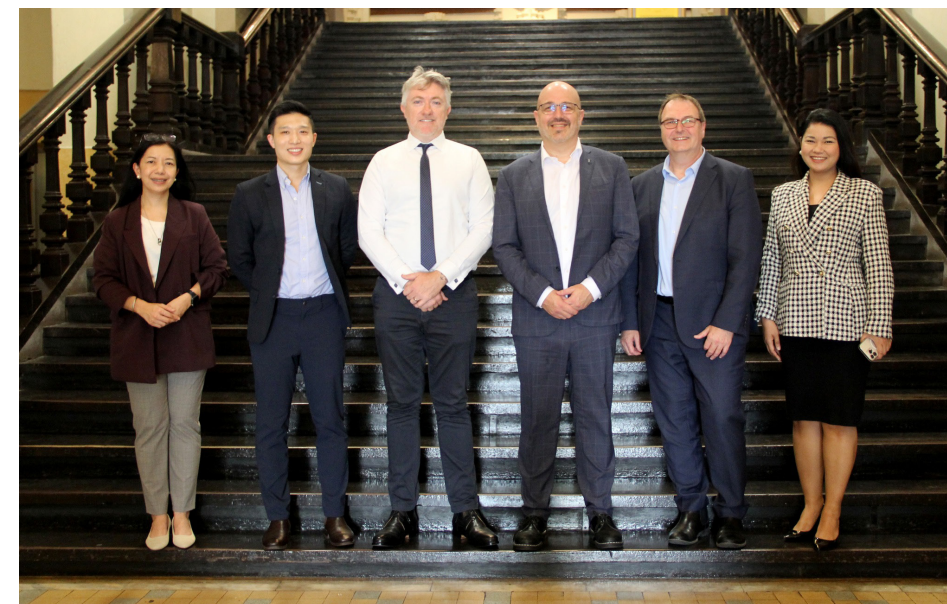
Since 1998, the UST Museum has been hosting Christmas Collaborations with the College of Fine Arts and Design and this year marked the return of Christmas installations in the museum.

The installations, now transferred at the UST Faculty of Civil Law Lobby, can be viewed until January 10, 2023. ■



International Organization for Health, Sports, and Kinesiology (IOHSK)

IOHSK Founder and CEO Prof. Hosung So, Ph.D. (center), from the Department of Kinesiology, College of Natural Sciences of the California State University, San Bernardino, USA, with (from left:) IOHSK Vice President for Asia Dr. Arvin A. Andacao, UST IPEA Regent/Director Rev. Fr. Rodel Cansancio, OP, UST Rector Very Rev. Fr. Richard G. Ang, O.P., Ph.D., Secretary-General Rev. Fr. Louie R. Coronel, O.P. EHL, Physical Education Program Chair Prof. Jerome A. Porto, Ph.D., and Institute Secretary Asst. Prof. Gilda Ma. Paz R. Kamus



Queensland University of Technology, Australia

(From left:) UST OIRP Associate Director Prof. Karen S. Santiago, Ph.D., QUT International Regional Manager (Southeast Asia) Mr. Daniel Chin, School of Teacher Education and Leadership Head Prof. Dann Mallet, QUT International Executive Director Mr. Paul Bolt, Faculty of Business and Law Deputy Dean Prof. Cameron Newton, and UST Office of Public Affairs Director Asst. Prof. Joreen T. Rocamora, Ph.D. on November 13, 2023.



**Royal Roads University,
Canada**

Royal Roads University President Dr. Philip Steenkamp (center) met with officials of the UST College of Tourism and Hospitality Management led by its Dean Assoc. Prof. Gezzez Giezi Granado, DCL (fourth from left) on November 9, 2023.



Hong Kong Polytechnic University

The Hong Kong Polytechnic University School of Design Dean Prof. Kun-Pyo Lee, Ph.D. (second from left), accompanied by the Internationalisation Advisor and Student Exchange Officer Mr. Stefan Sonntag (fourth from left), visited the University of Santo Tomas on November 9, 2023 to meet with UST College of Fine Arts and Design Dean Asst. Prof. Mary Christie D. Que (center) and CFAD officials.



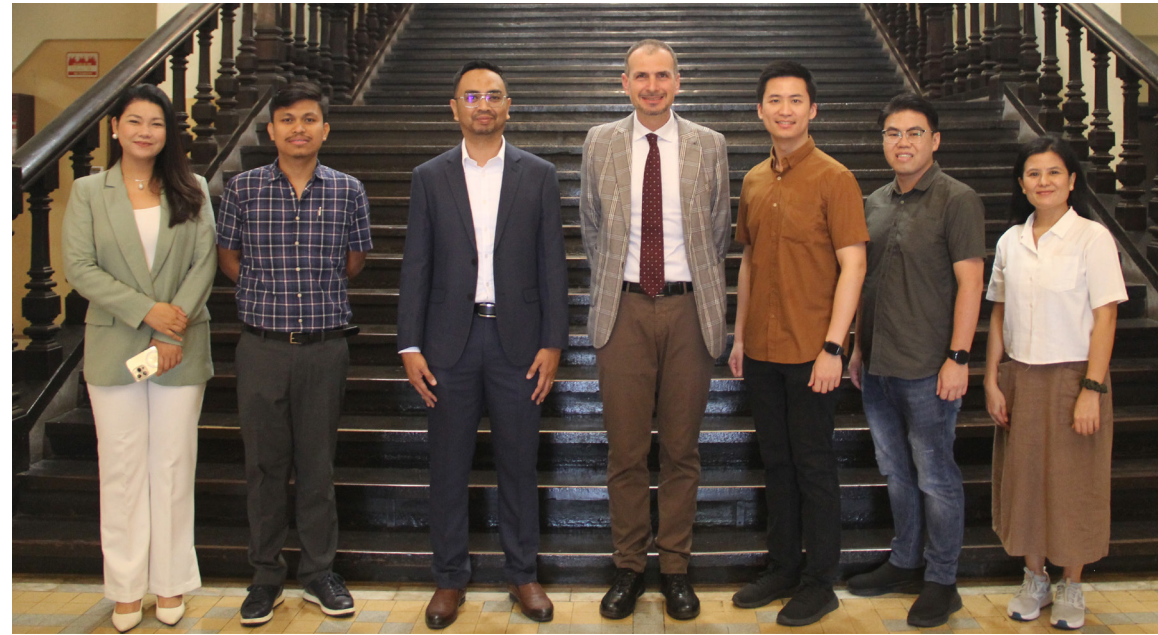
University of San Carlos School of Healthcare Professions

Assoc. Prof. Gerard Lee L. Lee, Ph.D. (fifth from left), the Dean of the University of San Carlos School of Healthcare Professions, together with administrators and faculty members from USC, visited the University of Santo Tomas on November 9, 2023, and was welcomed by the UST Assistant to the Director for Public Affairs Ms. Michaella O. Lagniton (rightmost) and the Assistant to the Director for Publication Ms. Katherine Patrice B. Sibug (leftmost).



Legal Education Board of the Philippines

Commissioner Josefe C. Sorreza-Ty (fourth from left) and guests from the Legal Education Board of the Philippines visited the University of Santo Tomas on November 8, 2023 for collaborative research with the UST Graduate School of Law, led by its Dean Assoc. Prof. Maria Liza Lopez-Rosario, DCL (fifth from left).



Gemelli-ART (Advanced Radiation Therapy) Center of Policlinico Universitario Agostino Gemelli

Dr. Luca Tagliaferri (center), the Interventional Radiotherapy Unit Head at the Gemelli-ART (Advanced Radiation Therapy) Center of Policlinico Universitario Agostino Gemelli, and delegates from the delegates from the Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore visited the University of Santo Tomas for a conference at the UST Hospital (St. John Paul II Building) on November 7, 2023.



Nutritionist-Dietitians Licensure Examination

November 2023

UST Passing Rate: 98.5%
National Passing Rate: 73.42%



4th - 91.1%
Ruth Ann Malanum



Nurses Licensure Examination

November 2023

UST Passing Rate: 100%
National Passing Rate: 80%



3rd - 90.6%
Aleck Hans Ison



8th - 89.6%
Alyssa Andrea Reyes Corpuz



8th - 89.6%
Jeffrey Louis Velasquez Din



8th - 89.6%
Ivan Luis Gamboa Martinez



9th - 89.4%
Troy Angelo Miguel Bisa



10th - 89.2%
Julia Marie Valenzona Baltazar



10th - 89.2%
Ma. Frances Regina Gamio Paat

BOARD TOPNOTCHERS



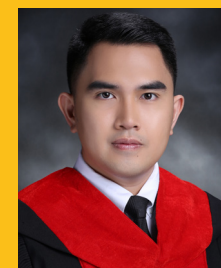
Bar Examinations

September 2023

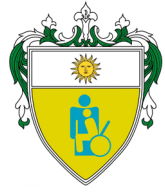
UST Passing Rate: 72.39%
National Passing Rate: 36.77%



1st - 89.26%
Ephraim Porciuncula Bie



8th - 88.25%
Pio Vincent Roura Buencamino



Speech-Language Pathologists Licensure Examination

November 2023

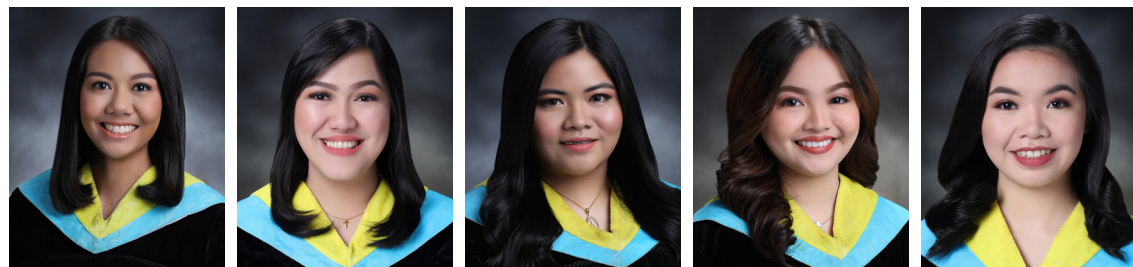
UST Passing Rate: 100%
National Passing Rate: 99.63%



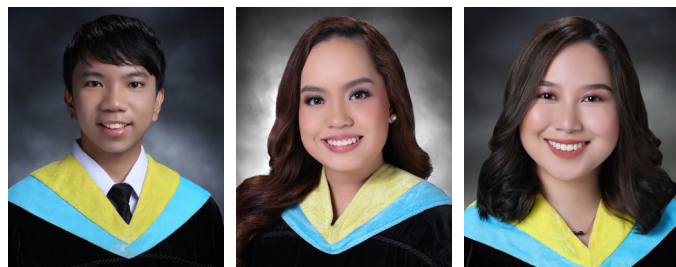
2nd - 93.5% Sofia Teodoro Ordinante	4th - 92.75% Katrina Amelie Arnan Ligtom	4th - 92.75% Ranielle Marie Monzon Malonzo	4th - 92.75% Erin Mae Bathan Triste	4th - 92.75% Corinne Francesca Chua Yu
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5th - 92.5% Darla Zhana Manalo	7th - 92% Andriana Roxas Perez	7th - 92% Darla Janelle Dela Cruz Saldi	7th - 92% Keeyana Marie Miles Sanchez	8th - 91.75% Kirstie Ann Mae Gattud
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8th - 91.75% Justine Marie Rodriguez Masangcap	9th - 91.5% Katrina Francesca Dacanay Martinez	9th - 91.5% Rexie Ann Marie Banas Marty	10th - 91.25% Rein Matira Albances	10th - 91.25% Aliana Luz Alivia Dayrit
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10th - 91.25% Isaiah Daniel Morales Espiritu	10th - 91.25% Samantha Silvestre Foja	10th - 91.25% Juztine Mae Sabino Ongtangco
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Physical Therapists Licensure Examination

December 2023

UST Passing Rate: 97.44%
National Passing Rate: 68.37%



3rd - 89.35% John Sundiam Ramos	4th - 89.3% Anna Nicole Baroquillo Mantuano	5th - 89.05% Precious Louvelle Noche Carambas
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Occupational Therapists Licensure Examination

December 2023

UST Passing Rate: 70.73%
National Passing Rate: 58.3%



5th - 82.6% Marie Angelica Narcelles Limon	8th - 81.8% Elyssa Santos Manuel	10th - 81.4% Kyle Wesly Geolagon Lao
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PHOTOGRAPHERS


Address all communications
to the Office of Public Affairs,
University of Santo Tomas
España Boulevard, Manila,
1008 Philippines

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email us at
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