



(From left:) UST Vice Rector for Academic Affairs Prof. Cheryl Peralta, DrPH, Vice Rector for Research and Innovation Rev. Fr. Jannel Abogado, O.P., UST Board of Trustees Member Rev. Fr. Boyd Sulpico, O.P., Vice Rector for Finance Rev. Fr. Roberto Luanzon, Jr., O.P., Vice Rector Rev. Fr. Isaias Tiongco, O.P., Dr. William T. Belo, UST Rector Very Rev. Fr. Richard G. Ang, O.P., Sta. Rosa City Mayor Arlene Arcillas and Vice Mayor Arnold Arcillas, UST Facilities Management Office Director Rev. Fr. Dexter Austria, O.P., Monolith Construction Assistant to the President and Operations Head Kevin See Diet, Ar. Ana Mangalino Ling, UST Secretary-General Rev. Fr. Louie Coronel, O.P., Assistant to the Rector for Planning and Quality Management Prof. Clarita Carillo, Ph.D., Assistant to the Rector for UST General Santos Professor Emeritus Maribel Nonato, Ph.D., Assistant to the Rector for UST Sta. Rosa Prof. Philipina Marcelo, Ph.D., and UST Office for Grants, Endowments, and Partnerships Director Rev. Fr. Maximo Gatela, O.P.

UST-Sta. Rosa breaks ground on new research institute named after William Belo

The University of Santo Tomas held the groundbreaking of the UST-Dr. William T. Belo Interdisciplinary Research Institute (UST-WiTBIRIn) in its rising Sta. Rosa City campus on January 26, 2024. UST Sta. Rosa is being developed as a venue for the Research, Innovation and Entrepreneurship (RIE) programs of the University.

UST-WiTBIRIn will provide research work stations and collaboration spaces for researchers in six interdisciplinary research areas, namely, (1) food security and safety, (2) health and wellbeing, (3) clean energy, (4) environmental sustainability, (5) information, communications, and emerging intelligent systems and technologies, and (6) advanced materials, engineering design, and product innovation.

Sta. Rosa City Mayor Arlene Arcillas and Vice Mayor Arnold Arcillas graced the blessing rites and groundbreaking ceremony, which included the burying of a time capsule containing a rosary, a Dominican Cross,

that day's newspapers, and the WiTBIRIn blueprint.

UST Vice Rector for Research and Innovation Rev. Fr. Jannel Abogado, O.P., DTPS, thanked Dr. William Belo for the donation that made establishing the WiTBIRIn possible, saying that "The knowledge pursuit motivated by charity contributes to the conservation of the world and the growth of the people in the community. This has been the motivation that governs the conduct of research in our University. [UST WiTBIRIn] will aid us in implementing our thrust to impact the lives of people more efficiently through our research and innovation goals."

UST Rector Very Rev. Fr. Richard G. Ang, O.P., Ph.D., expects the rising WiTBIRIn "to be a beacon of change and development for the Calabarzon region. It is our way and manner of nurturing intellectual curiosity and fostering practical innovations. This will be a

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Dr. William T. Belo, for whom the rising building is named, delivers a message.



Fr. Ang (center) leads the blessing rites for items within the time capsule, including a rosary, a Dominican Cross, a newspaper, and the WiTBIRIn blueprint, assisted by (from left:) the Center for Campus Ministry Director Ms. Ma. Lourdes Antonio, Vice Rector Rev. Fr. Isaias Tiongco, O.P., Assistant to the Rector for UST Sta. Rosa Prof. Philipina Marcelo, Ph.D., and Wilcon Depot Chief Operating Officer & Senior Executive VP Ms. Rosemarie Bosch Ong

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legacy that will transcend our generation because research outputs in this institute will create a ripple effect that will be felt for generations to come in the continuing evolution of science, technology, and other fields.”

“The trajectory of research is geared towards sustainability, accessibility, inclusion, and equitability. Together let us look forward to the future of boundless discoveries and collaborations to address local, regional, and global challenges, with the goal of uplifting the quality of human life,” said Fr. Ang.

Ar. Ana Mangalino-Ling, FUAP, co-founder of JSLA Architects who designed the WiTBIRIn, gave a description of the soon-to-rise structure. With a floor area of 8,311 square meters, the WiTBIRIn will have four floors containing 25 laboratories. Ar. Mangalino-Ling also shared a video presentation of the 3D renderings. Monolith Construction and Development Corporation will serve as the contractor.

Class of 1973 alumnus Dr. William Belo said he looks forward to returning soon to join UST in the inauguration of the interdisciplinary research institute, which he envisions “to provide a setting for professors and students to work in synergy together.”

Dr. Belo shared that he expects the WiTBIRIn to be a venue where “great minds and eager learners can get together to advance knowledge for dissemination and application, to contribute in the upliftment of life.”

UST Sta. Rosa is currently in the first phase of development, which is building



Sta. Rosa City Vice Mayor Arnold Arcillas, Mayor Arlene Arcillas, UST Rector Very Rev. Fr. Richard G. Ang, O.P., Dr. William T. Belo, Ar. Ana Mangalino Ling, and Mr. Kevin See Diet

the UST-Sta. Rosa Research Complex (UStaRRCo), intended to accommodate more faculty and student researchers as well as visiting scientists and research collaborators. The UStaRRCo will have three Research Institutes based on the current and developing research strengths of the University. The UST-William T. Belo Interdisciplinary Research Institute will be the first to rise, and soon to follow will be the Research Institute for Health and Biomedical Sciences, and the Research Institute for Data Science and Cybersystems, thus comprising the “UStaRRCo Trinity”.

The UST WiTBIRIn follows the UST-Dr. Tony Tan Caktiong Innovation Center, which was inaugurated in April 2023. ■

Bance of GS, Reyes of Science honored at PFPA Excellence Awards



Dr. Bance (center) receives her award [Photo courtesy of the UST Department of Psychology Facebook page]



Dr. Reyes (center) during the awarding [Photo courtesy of the UST Department of Psychology Facebook page]

Prof. Lucila Bance, Ph.D., Program Lead of the Guidance and Counseling Cluster of the UST Graduate School and Prof. Marc Eric Reyes, Ph.D. academic staff of the College of Science Department of Psychology earned awards at the Philippine Federation of Professional Associations, Inc. Excellence and Distinction (PFPA Exceed) Awards 2024. The awards were conferred on February 25, 2024 at the University of the Philippines Bahay ng Alumni.

Bance was the recipient of the Distinction Award and Excellence Award for the Psychology Profession (Professional Association Development Category), while Reyes received the Distinction Award for the Psychology Profession (Global Filipino Practice and Service Category)

Bance has served for over 40 years as a guidance counselor, academic staff, psychologist, and administrator. She was the first Director of the Counseling and Career Center, and previously served as Secretary of the College of Science and as Director of the Office for Student Admissions.

Reyes is a former President of the Psychological Association of the Philippines (PAP), who received a Presidential Citation by the American Psychological Association in 2022 for his "dedication to social issues and his commitment to mentorship". Aside from the College of Science, he also teaches at the UST Graduate School. ■

Manalad of Architecture is new Chairman of ARCASIA Committee of Architecture Education

Ar. Jonathan Manalad, an Assistant Professor from the College of Architecture, has been elected as the Chairman of the ARCASIA Committee of Architecture Education (ACAE) for the years 2024 and 2025. To mark the beginning of his term, a formal turnover ceremony was held on January 20, 2024 at the Malaysian Institute of Architects (PAM) Center. The ceremony symbolized the transfer of responsibilities and the start of Manalad's leadership in the ACAE.

Under his guidance, the ACAE aims to enhance architecture education in Asia by collaborating with the architectural institutes of the 21-member countries in the region. With a focus on inclusive design and the importance of architectural research in support of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals, Manalad plans to craft programs that will contribute to the advancement of architecture education in Asia.

The ARCASIA Committee of Architecture Education (ACAE) plays a crucial role in promoting and reinforcing the architecture curriculum in the region. It serves as a platform for sharing knowledge, best practices, and fostering collaboration among architectural professionals and educators. ■



Ar. Jonathan Manalad (left) during the handover ceremony with Ar. Adrianta Aziz, Chairman, ACAE

Navidad of MedTech receives PAMET research award

The Philippine Association of Medical Technologists (PAMET) awarded Prof. Florence Navidad, Ed.D., the 2023 Crisanto G. Almario Memorial Award for Research “for her exceptional contributions in the field of Medical Technology and Social Science Research, and her exemplary service in her profession as member of PAMET Committee on Research.” The award was conferred on December 5, 2023, during the 59th PAMET Convention at the Manila Hotel.

Navidad, an academic staff of the Department of Medical Technology, serves as the inaugural Chair of the University’s Institutional Research Ethics Board, which existing Ethics Research Centers, and helps establish new research ethics committees for accreditation by the Philippine Health Research Ethics Board (PHREB). She is also a member of the Social Health Studies research interest group of the Research Center for Social Sciences and Education.

Previous awardees include Asst. Prof. Giovanni Milanez, Ph.D., Prof. Edilberto Manahan, Ph.D., Prof. Pia Marie Albano, Ph.D., and Assoc. Prof. Maria Ruth B. Pineda-Cortel, Ph.D., among others. ■



Dr. Navidad (center) receives the award.

Hong Kong Chapter of Alumni Association is launched, officers take their oath



Newly inducted officers of USTAAHK, led by Ms. Jan Yumul (center), with OAR Acting Director Asst. Prof. Joreen Rocamora, Ph.D. (leftmost), USTAAI Chairman Dr. Evelyn Songco (rightmost)

Thomasian professionals in Hong Kong have collectively launched the pioneering University of Santo Tomas Alumni Association Hong Kong Chapter (USTAAHK), joining more than a dozen other overseas Thomasian alumni associations. An induction ceremony was held at The Hive in Sheung Wan on January 19, 2024.

The USTAAHK is led by Ms. Jan Yumul, president of USTAAHK; Mr. Nobel Gabasan, vice president; Ms. Anna Pendry, public relations officer; Mr. Erwin Regalado, secretary; Mr. Byron Agarano, treasurer; and Mr. Joel Almeda, auditor. ■

Newly designated Philippine Consul General to Hong Kong Germinia Aguilar-Usudan, a *Juris Doctor* graduate from UST, graced the event as keynote speaker and administered USTAAHK’s founding officers’ oath.

The induction ceremony was also supported by guests who flew in from UST Manila, namely the UST Office of Alumni Relations Acting Director Asst. Prof. Joreen Rocamora, Ph.D., UST Alumni Association Inc. (USTAAI) Chairman Dr. Evelyn Songco, OAR alumni engagement officer Ms. Carla Ricarte, and web data management officer Ms. Marlot Ira Coleen Ngo. ■

AB Dean Turingan lectures on Santo Tomas Internment Camp



Prof. Turingan during the lecture

Historians and history enthusiasts, including “Rampage” author James Scott, visited the University of Santo Tomas on February 2, 2024, for a lecture by the UST Faculty of Arts and Letters Dean Prof. Melanie Turingan, Ph.D., focusing on the Santo Tomas Internment Camp.

The Office of Public Affairs team, led by Ms. Michaela Lagniton, welcomed the guests. Following Turingan’s lecture was a tour of the UST Museum and a discussion on internment camp life led by the Collection Management and Documentation Assistant Ms. Maita Oebanda. ■



Author James Scott (right) and Ms. Oebanda discuss the historic Main Building plaque



Faculty of Arts and Letters officials and the Office of Public Affairs team with the foreign guests.

Aguas of CTRSE presents paper on corporeality at int'l conference in Poland



Prof. Aguas presents his paper.

Prof. Jove Jim S. Aguas, Ph.D., of the Center for Theology, Religious Studies, and Ethics, and the Philosophy Department presented a paper during the 16th International Congress held in Toruń, Poland, from November 24 to 25, 2023. The International Congress, “Catholics and Corporeality,” encouraged deep reflection on the relationship between the Catholic faith and human nature, body and spirit.

The conference was organized by the Academy of Social and Media Culture (AKSiM) in Toruń, the Regional Center for International Debate in Toruń, the Department of Philosophy of Culture and Foundations of Rhetoric of the John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin, and the “Memory and Identity” Institute - Saint John Paul II. It was held in the AKSiM auditorium at Droga Starotoruńska 3, 87-100 Toruń and broadcast on TRWAM TV and Radio Maryja, Poland.

[Aguas delivered his paper titled “Karol Wojtyła’s Notion of the Body: Corporeality and Human Sexuality” on the first session of the conference.](#) Present during the session were His Eminence Cardinal Gerhard Ludwig Müller, former Prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith; Prof. Fr. Marcin Kowalski, professor at the John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin, a member of the Pontifical Biblical Commission; and Prof. Fr. Jarosław Merecki, SDS of the John Paul II Institute for the Sciences of Marriage and Family.

Aguas focused on Karol Wojtyła’s (later known as Saint Pope John Paul II) concept of the body, human corporeality, and sexuality. He stressed that the human body is the basis of biological, health, social, cultural, and religious issues. It can be both a blessing and a curse for a person. However, as Karol Wojtyła taught, regardless of the perspective adopted, the body is part of personal identity and has value and dignity.

According to Aguas, the human body is of particular interest to Karol Wojtyła, who considers the body to be part of the psychosomatic unity of the human person as the body manifests the somatic constitution of man and forms the basis of man’s affinity with nature. Even in his later writings as Pope John Paul



Prof. Aguas appears on a Polish television program.

II, he emphasizes that man must be understood as corporeal and that the basis of being male and female is a man’s corporeality. Aguas further shed light on the proper understanding of the human body and dispelled the notion that the body is a source of corruption and that it is just an object that can be used or manipulated for whatever purpose. He concluded that Wojtyła’s understanding of the dignity of the human body is anchored on Christian teachings and traditions and justifies the Catholic belief that, indeed, the body is the “temple of the Holy Spirit.”

Aguas’s travel is part of the Staff Mobility for Teaching Mobility Agreement under the Erasmus+ Program between the University of Santo Tomas and the University of Social and Media Culture in Toruń, Poland.

During his stay in Toruń, he also guested in the [television program Unfinished Conversations: Catholics and Corporeality on TRAWM TV and Radio Maryja](#). He also traveled to Lublin and visited the John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin (KUL) to explore a possible academic linkage between UST and KUL. ■

LECTURES AND CONFERENCES

PCNE X at UST urges faithful to continue embracing synodality



Thomasian alumnus and Manila Archbishop His Eminence Most Rev. Jose F. Advincula, D.D., O.P., presides over the Eucharistic Celebration [Photo courtesy of RCAM Archdiocesan Office of Communications].



UST Rector Very Rev. Fr. Richard G. Ang, O.P., Ph.D., delivers the welcome remarks [Photo courtesy of RCAM Archdiocesan Office of Communications].



PCNE Founder and current Pro-Prefect for the Section of Evangelization of Dicastery for Evangelization His Eminence Luis Antonio Cardinal Tagle [Photo courtesy of RCAM Archdiocesan Office of Communications].



The Philippine Conference for New Evangelization returned to its original home for its tenth edition. Over 2000 lay and religious faithful gathered for the three-day conference on synodality at the Quadricentennial Pavilion of the University of Santo Tomas from January 19 to 22, 2024.

Centering on synodality, a process of collaboration and understanding that means “journeying together as the People of God”, the keynote address was delivered by His Eminence Mario Cardinal Grech, the Secretary-General of the Synod of Bishops.

With the theme “*Salya*: Let us cross to the other side (Mk 4:35)”, PCNE X emphasizes the way synodality is evident in Filipino Catholic Traditions practiced today.

On the first Eucharistic Celebration of the conference, Thomasian alumnus and Manila Archbishop His Eminence Most Rev. Jose F. Advincula, D.D., O.P., in his homily, reflected on the concept of “*Salya*”, a devotional practice that means ‘pressing forth’, which is also a word traditionally cried out in rhythmic unison by the crowd

during the *Traslacion* of the Nazareno.

“For devotees, *salya* refers to the act of periodically sprinting forth behind the carriage of the Nazareno, in order to ram their bodies against it. From an outsider point-of-view, it may seem that they are only trying to push forward the *andas*. But devotees say that *salya* is not only meant to drive the *andas* of the Senyor forward; it is also an act whereby they bring each other closer to the Senyor. As they press forth towards the carriage of the Senyor, they press themselves more closely towards the Lord,” said Archbishop Advincula.

Most Rev. Advincula further shared, “Synodality expands our vision to make us look beyond personal interests, blood ties, locality, business gains, and political parties, towards recognizing the sacred presence of the Lord within ourselves, within each other. Synodality is Jesus accompanying us in the path of personal, social, and ecclesial conversion. Pressing forth and crossing over, solidarity and conversion, *salya* at *Traslacion*. These are the graces we seek as we celebrate PCNE X, and as we continue in our synodal journey as a local Church.”

In the keynote address, Cardinal Grech shared some key points from the general assembly of the Synod of Bishops in Rome in October 2023 and discussed relevant points from its [Synthesis Report](#).

(From left:) PCNE X Director Rev. Fr. Jason Laguerta, the Secretary-General of the Synod of Bishops His Eminence Mario Cardinal Grech, and UST Secretary-General Rev. Fr. Louie Coronel, O.P. EHL [Photo courtesy of Kennett Roger Garcia]

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Highlighting that the majority of the world's youth population lives in Asia, he mentioned that the Catholic Church in Asia and the Philippines is well-placed "to provide leadership to the Universal Church in responding to what the First Session of the General Assembly referred to as 'making [the Church] a preferential option for young people.'"

Further, the Cardinal urged that "None of our enthusiasm for evangelization of the youth, for seeking to actualize their unique contributions, for inviting them to share co-responsibility in the Church's Mission, should blind us to the many social, cultural, and personal challenges that young people face today, which are well-documented in *Christus Vivit*. We need to learn from young people themselves how to respond to their needs, and so in a special way, we need to listen to them."

Aside from the main plenary gatherings at the Quadracentennial Pavilion, the University also hosted concurrent workshops and discussions among the different sectors like the youth, the educators, the clergy, catechists, and different focuses such as digital and social media, interreligious and ecumenical dialogue, and the Filipino family, among others, in the different buildings within campus.

"We welcome with enthusiasm the return of PCNE to its original home, UST. Nothing will give the UST community a more profound sense of mission and identity than to be of service to the Church, nation, and global community. May the conference allow us to discern God's message in the spirit of active listening and dialogue, and to have a meaningful encounter with the Lord as well as each other," said UST Rector Very Rev. Fr. Richard G. Ang, O.P., Ph.D. in his welcome remarks.

"As educators, we do not forget that we are just instruments of God. We let go and let God and allow the Holy Spirit to come and lead us to a deeper life of prayer, communal discernment, collaborative service in the mission of evangelization," shared Sr. Aileen Bonifacio, SPC during the concurrent workshop for educators.

For the concurrent workshop for digital and social media, Ms. Jane Patiño said that "By listening to different perspectives, ideas, and experiences, the Church can better understand the needs and concerns of the audience and tailor its digital evangelization efforts accordingly. To be effective in digital media evangelization, it is important for the Church to be bold, authentic and circular in each approach."

Meanwhile, Ted Toledo and Sr. Genevieve Rubio, MCST, shared during the concurrent workshop for youth that "Leaders of the Church must step on the same ground as the young people, become more accepting and uplifting, impartial and encouraging. The Church needs to continue youth empowerment programs and proper spiritual accompaniment so that we could all be heard, listened to, and understood."

PCNE Founder and current Pro-Prefect of the Section for the First Evangelization and New Particular Churches of the Dicastery for Evangelization His Eminence Luis Antonio Cardinal Tagle, also continued the "Heart to Heart" series in the tenth PCNE. He interacted with the Bishop of Kalookan Most Rev. Pablo Virgilio David, Archbishop of Manila Most Rev. Jose Advincula, CBCP Vice President and Bishop of Pasig Most Rev. Mylo Hubert Bergara, and Dr. Estella Padilla, where they discussed the transformative power of listening, characterized by humility and openness.

PCNE has been held at UST since its start in 2013—initiated by Cardinal Tagle, who was then the Archbishop of Manila—until PCNE VI in 2019. PCNE X is the first to be held in-person since the onset of the pandemic. ■



UST Office of Public Affairs Acting Director Ms. Michaela Lagniton welcomes the Apostolic Nuncio to the Philippines His Excellency Most Rev. Charles John Brown [Photo courtesy of Kennett Roger Garcia]



The Nuestra Señora de la Paz y Buen Viaje de Antipolo is enthroned [Photo courtesy of RCAM Archdiocesan Office of Communications].



Participants join the Traslacion of the Nazareno [Photo courtesy of RCAM Archdiocesan Office of Communications].



UST, AdMU collaborate on int'l theology conference on priestly vocation



Cardinal Ouellet delivers the first keynote address and receives tokens from UST Rector Very Rev. Fr. Richard G. Ang, O.P., Ph.D., and Ateneo de Manila President Rev. Fr. Robert Yap, S.J., Ph.D.



Prof. Batan and Archbishop Villegas

The University of Santo Tomas and the Ateneo de Manila University jointly held the International Conference on the Theology of the Priesthood on February 13 and 14, 2024, at the auditorium of the Bl. Pier Giorgio Frassati O.P. Building.

Bringing almost 400 members of the clergy and lay religious, discussions focused on the vocation and pastoral service of priests in service of the Lord and the communities to which they belong.

The Prefect Emeritus of the Dicastery of Bishops His Eminence Marc Cardinal Ouellet delivered the Day 1 keynote address discussing “What is the Future for Priesthood?” while Prof. Dr. Philippe Capelle Dumont, a French priest and philosopher who served as president of the Catholic Academy of France, served as the Day 2 keynote speaker. He discussed “Here I am! Theology of the Call, Anthropological Challenges, and Pastoral Vocations”.

Joining the discussions online from Rome was the Pro-Prefect of the Dicastery for Evangelization His Eminence Luis Antonio Cardinal Tagle, who presented the “Priestly Ministry in Social Media and the New Evangelization” and the Master of the Order of Preachers Very Rev. Fr. Gerard Francisco Timoner, III, O.P., who shared reflections on “Integrity in Ministry”.

UST Department of Sociology Chair Prof. Clarence Batan, Ph.D., shared “A Sociological Reflection on the Selected Research Narratives of Priest Catechists and Young Filipino

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Catechized” and Archbishop of Lingayen-Dagupan Most Rev. Socrates Villegas, D.D., O.P., discussed “Vocation and Formation of Priests in the Philippines”.

Emmaus Center for Psycho-Spiritual Formation Executive Director Fr. Jordan Orbe, S.J., Psy.D., spoke on the “Care for Clergy: Addressing Stress, Burnout, and Wellbeing among Priests”, Fr. Fabio Baggio, CS, of the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development, shared the “Role of Priests in Ministering to Migrants”, Sr. Ma. Anicia Co, RVM, from the Loyola School of Theology discussed “Women’s Contributions to the Priesthood”, and Dr. Carmen Valdés talked about the “Role of Priests in Ecological Stewardship”.

Both days of the conference were capped by Eucharistic Celebrations. ■



Prof. Dr. Capelle delivers the second keynote address



Cardinal Tagle and Very Rev. Fr. Timoner lead discussions and join the conference remotely from Rome.



Dr. Valdés



LST President Fr. Eusebio, Fr. Baggio, Sr. Co, and Fr. Coronel

Ancheta of GS lectures on Intersectionality of Environmental Governance, Zero Waste and SDG in the ASEAN Region

UST Graduate School Professor, Prof. Arlen A. Ancheta, Ph.D. was invited to give an online lecture at the Department of Public Administration, National Chengchi University (NCCU). Held last 21st and 28th of November 2023, the lecture titled “Intersectionality of Environmental Governance, Zero Waste and SDG in the ASEAN Region” was delivered to students from a graduate course on Global Environmental Politics by Prof. Natalie Wong.

Ancheta, a researcher and advocate of zero waste gave engaging lectures to Taiwanese students on solid waste management in the ASEAN context using Philippine cities which have been the loci of her research projects in partnership with environmental NGOs such as the Mother Earth Foundation and the Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives (GAIA).

This partnership is in line with the current standing Memorandum of Agreement of international academic partnership between UST and NCCU. ■



Prof. Ancheta

IR, CTRSE host environmental lecture series and research forum

The Institute of Religion and the Center for Theology, Religious Studies, and Ethics of the University of Santo Tomas with the University of Fribourg held the 10th Archbishop Leonardo Legaspi, O.P. Lecture Series and *Saliksikan* on November 13, 2023.

Themed “Cultivating Global Citizenship within the Framework of Caring for Creation,” the hybrid event heard speakers from the Dominican University Ibadan, Nigeria; University of Fribourg, Switzerland; and University of Santo Tomas, Manila.

Prof. Joel C. Sagut, Ph.D., the Director of UST’s Center for Theology, Religious Studies, and Ethics, delivered a talk that focused on the “unique place of the human person in God’s creation.” In his presentation, Sagut states that man’s God-given “position of authority, royal mission, and priesthood entails a heavy responsibility of serving and working for those entrusted to (his) care.”

Prof. Rey Donne S. Papa, Ph.D. dealt with the topic of integral ecology citing research findings from the UST College of Science where he serves as Dean. “Man was given the faculties to care for creation,” Papa said, “and those faculties need harnessing for communities to live the Church’s call for integral ecology,” he added.

Prof. Dr. Helmut Zander from the University of Fribourg underscores the realities in finding a solution to the

problems surrounding our environment. He concludes that the most we can do is to increase our perception of the ecological crisis we are facing. Zander cited realizing ways globalization affects countries like Nigeria, Switzerland, and the Philippines with unique beliefs, traditions, and socio-cultural contexts. Reducing such complexities is a clear goal, but reducing complexities necessitates acknowledgment and acceptance, he concluded.

Speaking on “Ecological Challenges: Intersectionality of Plastics and Climate Change,” Prof. Arlen Ancheta, Ph.D. of the UST Faculty of Arts and Letters and the Research Center for Social Science and Education showed ways by which plastic has compromised the natural environment and human health. Ancheta urges creative, critical, and holistic thinking so that communities can identify opportunities and develop strategies to address the abusive use of plastic as well as the impacts of climate change.

Dominican Friar Hans Ulrich Steymans from the University of Fribourg presented the writings of Catholic eco-theologians advocating care for creation, including Sean McDonagh, SCC, and Dawn M. Nothwehr, OSF. Biblical studies on the environment were also cited like the works of Norman C. Habel and Niels Henrik Gregersen.

Dominican Friar Fr. Dokun Oyeshola from the University of Ibadan in his talk titled, “Effects of Corruption and

Addressing Climate Change in Nigeria,” discussed the effects of corruption as it halts mitigation measures to address climate change. He also called upon the Church to work vigorously to impact on the morality of global politics. “The Church must work vigorously in upholding the planet’s heritage as a gift to all human beings,” he emphasized.

Prof. Ivo Wallimann-Heimer from the University of Fribourg finally discussed “Injustice in Renewable Energy Transmission” where he outlined the challenges posed by government-sponsored moves towards renewable energy generation and consumption. On community participation, the scholar favored substantial equality where individuals are given access to education, information, and a fair share of economic resources. On the decision-making end, however, Wallimann-Heimer suggested that all those affected by environmental risks must be involved in making meaningful decisions.

The *Saliksikan* and Archbishop Leonardo Legaspi, O.P. Lecture Series were jointly conceived as a platform for intellectual discussions on themes affecting the human person’s integral development.

This year’s event coincided with the “Symposium on Global Catholicism: Ecology and Climate Change” organized by CoMIF or the Collaboration of Manila, Ibadan, and Fribourg. ■

CHRMS supervisor Dones of CRS conducts workshop on pain management

“Releasing the Fascia: The PainFree Pathways” workshop, held on December 16-17, 2023 in Tseung Kwan O, Hong Kong has been a noteworthy event in the promotion of manual therapy and pain management.

Organized through a collaboration between Prof. Valentin C. Dones III, Ph.D., academic staff of the College of Rehabilitation Sciences and research supervisor at the Center for Health Research and Movement Science of the University of Santo Tomas, and CEO of PainFree Management and Consulting, Inc.; and HEMAX Health Products Company Limited CEO, Mr. Lau Siu On, this event marked a contribution to the advancement of manual physiotherapy.

The workshop drew the participation of 20 physiotherapists from Hong Kong, offering them a unique opportunity to enhance their understanding of fascia kinematics and its role in musculoskeletal health. Emphasizing the often overlooked significance of fascia within the human body, the workshop shed light on how lifestyle choices and physical trauma can lead to chronic pain conditions. The attendees were introduced to the innovative PainFree Fasciocutaneous Scanning techniques, a method designed for the effective assessment and treatment of fascial dysfunctions. Additionally, they delved into the PainFree Taping and Release Techniques, which are at the forefront of contemporary pain management strategies.

Structured to facilitate an immersive learning experience, the workshop commenced with an exploration of the fundamental principles concerning the role of fascia in the musculoskeletal system, subsequently advancing to the practical implementation of PainFree techniques on various parts of the body. This



HEMAX Health Products Company Ltd. CEO Mr. Lau Siu On and CHRMS research supervisor Prof. Valentin C. Dones III, Ph.D.

pedagogical approach ensured that participants not only gained theoretical knowledge but also acquired practical skills, significantly enhancing their competency in the field.

This workshop stands as a testament to the commitment of the University of Santo Tomas and its collaborators in fostering innovative practices and professional development in the healthcare sector. ■

UST, NTHU collaborate on sensing, clean tech symposium for SDGs

The University of Santo Tomas (UST) and National Tsing Hua University (NTHU) in Taiwan conducted a “Joint Symposium on Sensing and Clean Technologies for Sustainable Development Goals” on January 29, 2024 at the TARC Auditorium. [It was also live streamed on the official Facebook page of the College of Science.](#)

Clean technology, such as renewable energy and carbon capture and storage, avoids environmental damage and eliminates or reduces the creation of pollutants or wastes, while sensing technology uses sensors to acquire information by detecting physical, chemical, or biological property quantities and converts them to readable signals, much like wearable sensors for health monitoring.

“I hope that everyone will take this opportunity to learn from the experts from NTHU and UST, to be able to craft ideas that would help promote sustainable

development not just in the Philippines and Taiwan, but the entire world,” shared UST College of Science Dean Prof. Rey Donne Papa, Ph.D., in his opening remarks.

NTHU College of Nuclear Science Dean Prof. Chi-Shiun Chiang, Ph.D., from the Department of Biomedical and Environmental Science, discussed “Progress of Boron Neutron Capture Therapy in NTHU”, which focused on how the tumor-treating radiotherapy was being used in trials.

Asst. Prof. Roland Cristopher F. Caballar, Ph.D., from the UST Department of Mathematics and Physics and Research Center for the Natural and Applied Sciences (RCNAS), presented “Dissipative Preparation of Many-Body Steady-State Spin States using Ultracold Atoms for Quantum Computing and Quantum Sensing Applications.”

**CLEAN TECH SYMPOSIUM
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**CLEAN TECH SYMPOSIUM
FROM PAGE 12**

Prof. Yu-Fen Huang, Ph.D., and Prof. Tsu-Chin Chou, Ph.D., from NTHU's Institute of Analytical and Environmental Sciences, discussed "Multifunctional Nanomaterials for Biomedical Applications" and "Electrochemical CO₂ Utilization", respectively.

Assoc. Prof. Dharmatov Rahula B. Albano, Ph.D., from the UST Department of Chemistry and the RCNAS, tackled "Multifaceted Potential of Aptamers for Dengue Diagnostics".

Prof. Ting-Wei Wang, Ph.D., from NTHU's Department of Biomedical and Environmental Sciences, discussed "Biomedical Electronic Sensors", Engr. Divine Angela Sumalinog, Ph.D., from the

UST Department of Chemical Engineering spoke on "Exploring the Potentials of Biochar in Environmental Remediation: Insights into Adsorption Mechanisms and Enhanced Properties", and Assoc. Prof. Felicidad Christina Peñafiel, Ph.D., from the UST Department of Chemistry, presented "Electroactive Textiles for Supercapacitor Electrode Applications".

The symposium was organized by the UST College of Science and the Department of Chemistry, the UST Research Center for the Natural and Applied Sciences (RCNAS), The UST Graduate School, and the National Tsing Hua University through International Symposium Chair Prof. Ruey-An Doong, Ph.D., Local Chair Assoc. Prof. Alan Rodelle M. Salcedo, Ph.D., Co-chair Prof. Bernard John V. Tongol, Ph.D., Prof. Christina A. Binag, Ph.D., and Assoc. Prof. Dharmatov Rahula B. Albano, Ph.D. ■

National Tsing Hua University (NTHU) College of Nuclear Science Dean Prof. Chi-Shiun Chiang, Ph.D. (center) with International Symposium Chair Prof. Ruey-An Doong, Ph.D. (leftmost), Local Symposium Chair and UST Department of Chemistry Chair Assoc. Prof. Alan Rodelle M. Salcedo, Ph.D. (eighth from left), Academician and Professor Emeritus Fortunato B. Sevilla III, Ph.D., UST RCNAS Director Prof. Bernard Tongol, Ph.D. (tenth from left) with symposium speakers and organizing committee members.

Education hosts SDG workshops leading to UK global youth forum



Experiences and insights are discussed during the workshop

College of Education Dean Assoc. Prof. Pilar Romero, Ph.D. and Graduate School Assistant Dean Prof. Camilla Vizconde, Ph.D. detailed the outcomes of participatory workshops at the webinar "Youth participation, intergenerational learning and sustainable livelihoods" on December 13, 2023.

Co-hosted by the University of East Anglia (UEA) and the United Kingdom (UK) Research and Innovation-Arts and Humanities Research Council, the workshop series was organized by the UNESCO Adult Literacy and Learning for Social Transformation (ALLST).

The program aimed at developing stronger synergies between sectors which engage with adult literacy, skill development

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ARTS AND CULTURE

GS-CCCPET, CTHM Sentro Turismo turned-over Biñan City culture and development plan



The Graduate School Center for Conservation of Cultural Property and Environment in the Tropics (GS-CCCPET) and the College of Tourism and Hospitality Management, through its UST *Sentro Turismo*, officially turned over *Cumpas, Biñan! City Cultural Management and Development Plan* for 2024 to 2033. It was held during the celebration of *Araw ng Biñan Thanksgiving Dinner* last February 2, 2024 at the historic Alberto Mansion.

The project was geared towards the conceptualization of a 10-year Cultural Management and Development Plan for the City of Biñan in Laguna. Specifically, it analyzed the background of the study

site based on geographic, historical, demographic, politico-administrative, and policy-based initiatives; evaluated the cultural heritage resources of the study site about resources, infrastructure, workforce, linkages, programs, and sustainability; assessed the issues, constraints, and opportunities of the study site based on its strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats; and developed directional principle, programs, and projects for culture-based management and development of the study site.

The GS-CCCPET Director, Assoc. Prof. Eric B. Zerrudo, Ph.D. and Project Coordinator Ms. Beverly M. Bautista

headed the UST Project Team. The research team from the UST *Sentro Turismo* was led by Asst. Prof. Jame Monren T. Mercado with team members Asst. Prof. Avi Ben P. Andalecio, Ms. Catherine C. Mondejar, Mr. Alec P. Bagcus, Ms. Andrea Nicole D. Hernandez, Ms. Jhoa Nna A. Quinsayas, and Mr. Sean Maynard M. Solis.

Representatives of the City Government were led by Hon. Atty. Walfredo “Arman” R. Dimaguila, Jr., together with the members of the Sanggunian Panglungsod and Dr. Bryan Jayson T. Borja, Department Head of the Biñan City Culture, History, Arts, and Tourism Office (BCHATO). ■

UK GLOBAL YOUTH FORUM FROM PAGE 13

and learning, integral to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

Vizconde serves as the Philippine-team representative for the UNESCO ALLST.

In the Philippines, the UST College of Education hosted a participatory action research workshop on November 28, with the youth coming from partner parish schools, the Education High School, and the pre-service teachers at the College of Education.

The workshops provided insights into queries about the Filipino youth, their engagements, and their participation regarding livelihoods, indigenous knowledge, and the attainment of the sustainable development goals.

World Café and the flower tool were used as methods for eliciting the responses from the youth, who expressed their self-identity, their roles at home and

the community, and their priorities.

In another workshop, stakeholders, parents, and leaders from partner communities were invited to share their insights and experiences with the youth through another world café and panel discussion.

Asst. Prof. Louie Dasas, Ph.D., assistant dean of the College, and Asst. Prof. John Christian Valeroso, Ph.D., chairperson of the Department of Secondary Education, also helped facilitate the workshops.

Similar workshops were held in Ethiopia, Malawi, and Nepal.

Dr. Gina Lontoc, from the Research Center for Social Sciences and Education (RCSSSED), paved the way for the inclusion of the UST Team in the program.

The global dissemination webinar, which served as a culmination of the workshops, also marked the 2023 International Volunteering Day celebration. ■



Workshop participants respond through the flower tool

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

CBCP-ECIP, OVRRA, SIMBAHAYAN celebrates indigenous cultures



Most Rev. Valentin C. Dimoc, D.D. with participants during the tribal dance



Mangyan tribe during their tribal performance

The Episcopal Commission on Indigenous Peoples - Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (ECIP-CBCP) partnered with the UST Office of the Vice Rector for Religious Affairs (OVRRA) and the Simbahayan Community Development Office (SIMBAHAYAN) for the *"Isang Puso para sa Katutubo: Celebrating Indigenous Cultures,"* a celebration of fraternity and warm friendship between indigenous peoples (IPs), ECIP-CBCP friends, and guests who support the advocacy and concerns of the IPs.

The event, which was held on the 13th of December 2023, coincided with the Paskuhan Mass and Agape. IP representatives from Ayta (Zambales), Dumagat (Quezon), Kalanguya (Ifugao), and Mangyan (Mindoro) tribal communities shared their stories of struggles and triumphs and showcased their indigenous products at the UST Central Seminary Gymnasium. A poster exhibit was also prepared by Alyssa R. Contreras, Meryl Aila M. Ongsotto, Angela Marie G. Ubac, and Assoc. Prof. Mary Ann Venturina Bulanadi, Ph.D. of the College of Fine Arts and Design.

Most Rev. Valentin C. Dimoc, D.D., the Chair of CBCP-ECIP, highlighted in his opening remarks that *"isang puso"* means

"walang iwanan para sa mga katutubo." It is a strong call to humbly join in the preservation of human dignity, working collaboratively for the greater good of IPs, and conserving the environment through alternative means of sustainable development. As the IPs continue to safeguard their culture despite numerous plights they face, such as poverty, discrimination, lack of access to basic social needs, development aggression, and red-tagging, they need assertive assistance and protection of their communities and their rights. Furthermore,

Rev. Fr. Earl Alan Cura, CICM, stated that it is essential for the younger generation to deepen their awareness and appreciation of who they are as it is rooted in the culture and identity of a person and member of society.

The event was capped off with a symbolic tribal dance to underscore solidarity. Lastly, Rev. Fr. Pablo T. Tiong, along with the officials of SIMBAHAYAN Asst. Prof. Froilan A. Alipao, MCD, Asst. Prof. Christian Rey D. Rimando, MSPT (SIMBAHAYAN Assistant Director), and Junior Teacher Frederick F. Prevosa, MA (OVRRA Executive Assistant) distributed sixteen (16) Noche Buena packages to the IP groups present from the NINGNGING 2023, a UST Paskuhan gift-giving project. ■



Kalanguya tribe together with the Vice Rector for Religious Affairs Rev. Fr. Pablo T. Tiong, O.P. (in Dominican habit), OVRRA Executive Assistant Frederick F. Prevosa (leftmost), SIMBAHAYAN Director Froilan A. Alipao (fourth from right), and SIMBAHAYAN Assistant Director Christian Rey D. Rimando (fifth from right) during the distribution of Noche Buena packages

UNIVERSITY VISITORS



Dezhou University

(From left:) UST Office of Public Affairs Acting Director Ms. Michaella Lagniton with academic staff from Dezhou University in China, including secretary Xu Wei, composer Xu Xueji, and vocal professor Wang Lou, accompanied by Ms. Lulu Moguel on January 18, 2024



Australian Catholic University (ACU)

UST OPA Assistant to the Director for Publication Ms. Katherine Patrice Sibug (leftmost) and College of Nursing Internationalization Coordinator Asst. Prof. Ritzmond Loa, Ph.D. (rightmost) with eight guests from the Australian Catholic University (ACU) who visited the University of Santo Tomas as part of the UST College of Nursing's international inbound mobility program on January 19, 2024



Universitat de Barcelona

(From left:) Prof. Regalado Trota José, Universitat de Barcelona art historian Sr. José Alonso Simón, UST Museum Director Rev. Fr. Isidro Abaño, O.P., anthropologist Sr. Alberto López Bargado, and UST Museum Assistant Director Ar. John Carlo Sayco on January 22, 2024.



Instituto Cervantes de Manila

Guests from the Instituto Cervantes de Manila, including its director Javier Galván Guijo (second from left) and Ph.D. Architect Álvaro Leonardo Pérez (center) of the University of Alcalá (UAH) in Spain with the College of Architecture Secretary Ar. Vinson Serrano (fifth from left) and Office of Public Affairs Acting Director Ms. Michaela Lagniton (third from left) visited the University of Santo Tomas on January 25, 2024.



Duke University School of Nursing

(From left:) Asst. Prof. Ritzmond Loa, Ph.D., administrators from Duke University School of Nursing, USA, Prof. Eleanor Stevenson Ph.D. and Asst. Prof. Emily Funk, Ph.D., and UST Office of Public Affairs Acting Director Ms. Michaela Lagniton on January 29, 2024



University of South Australia

Eight students from the University of South Australia, accompanied by Assoc. Prof. Matthew James Sykes, Ph.D. (front row, second from left), with UST Office of Public Affairs Assistant Ms. Shenine Pascual (front row, sixth from left) and two students from the UST Faculty of Pharmacy on January 29, 2024



Embassy of Indonesia in Manila

Guests from the Embassy of Indonesia in Manila, including Minister for Information of the Social and Cultural Affairs section Ms. Avi Dewani Sari Harahap (fourth from left) and Ms. Chot Reyes (second from left), with UST Department of Interdisciplinary Studies Chair Ms. Regina Agustin (center), UST Office of Public Affairs Acting Director Ms. Michaella Lagniton (rightmost) and Assistant to the Director for Publication Ms. Katherine Patrice Sibug on February 1, 2024.



Architectural Association School of Architecture

Mr. Ricardo Carvalho de Ostos, Mr. Nicolas Zembashi, and 12 students from the Architectural Association School of Architecture in London with College of Architecture Secretary Ar. Vinson Serrano (front row, fourth from left) and Office of Public Affairs Acting Director Ms. Michaella Lagniton (front row, rightmost) on February 3, 2024



Diocese of Alaminos

Guests from the Diocese of Alaminos, Pangasinan during their courtesy visit on the Bishop-Elect of Alaminos Most Rev. Napoleon B. Sipalay, Jr., O.P. (center), the Vice Rector of the UST Central Seminary, on February 5, 2024

Diocesan Seminary of the Heart of Jesus

Guests from the Diocesan Seminary of the Heart of Jesus in San Fernando, La Union, with their Thomasian Rector Rev. Fr. Kenneth Amate, and brothers from the UST Central Seminary led by Chancellor Br. John Sioson on February 6, 2024





Ambassador Elizabeth Buensuceso

UST Office of Public Affairs (OPA) Acting Director Ms. Michaela Lagniton, Foreign Affairs Adviser of the Department of Foreign Affairs Her Excellency Ambassador Elizabeth Buensuceso, Department of Interdisciplinary Studies Chair Ms. Regina Agustin, and OPA Asst. to the Director for Publication Ms. Katherine Patrice Sibug on February 15, 2024



University of Gyeongnam Geochang

(From left:) UST Graduate School Dean Prof. Michael Anthony Vasco, Ph.D., College of Education Dean Assoc. Prof. Pilar Romero, Ph.D., President of the University of Gyeongnam Geochang in South Korea Dr. Kim Jaegu, UST Office of International Relations and Programs Director Dean Emeritus Prof. Lilian J. Sison, Ph.D., and Associate Director Prof. Karen Santiago, Ph.D.



Architect Licensure Examination

January 2024

UST Passing Rate: 82.09%
National Passing Rate: 61.7%



4th - 84.4%
Franchesca Tabobo
Lopez



5th - 84.3%
Nicole Carl Erika
Aunario



5th - 84.3%
Andrea Marie
Mauhay Ugay



6th - 84.2%
Jene Miguel
Carrillo Macam



7th - 83.6%
Angel Lyn
Buensuceso Balastigue



Licensure Examination for Professional Teachers - Elementary Level

September 2023

UST Passing Rate: 100%
National Passing Rate: 47.01%



1st - 94.4%
Dulce Angeline
Hernandez Arellano



1st - 94.4%
Chelsea Lipana
Tiaga



8th - 93%
Monica Clarisse
Esquires Acosta



8th - 93%
Rae Alexandra
Tan Villena



10th - 92.6%
Joyce Ann Marie
Feir Mangibin



THE ACADEMIA

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