



# THE ACADEMIA

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## Justice Carpio discusses Philippine territories at St. Antoninus Lecture of USTGS

*Justice Carpio (center) receives University tokens from the UST Graduate School administrators including (from left:) Prof. Belen Tangco, OP, Ph.D., Dean Prof. Michael Anthony Vasco, Ph.D., Prof. Noel Lansang, Ph.D., and Prof. Elizabeth Arenas, Ph.D.*

In celebration of the University of Santo Tomas' 413th founding anniversary, the UST Graduate School (GS) held this year's St. Antoninus of Florence Lecture on April 27, 2024 at the Thomas Aquinas Research Center (TARC) Auditorium, featuring the retired Justice Antonio T. Carpio, who served as the Distinguished Lecturer.

As an expert on the issues surrounding the West Philippine Sea, Justice Carpio discussed how the Philippine territories in the area are determined and clarified some misconceptions. He explained that if we are to look at the map from the Treaty of Paris, we can see the Philippines and the lines that denote its territory—supposedly with all of its islands—and yet, we do not see the islands that are at the center of the dispute between China and the Philippines, namely the Kalayaan Group of Islands (Spratly Islands) and the Scarborough Shoal (*Bajo de Masinloc*). Such a map is the one being used by the Chinese and some Filipinos to point out that we do not have the rights to the Kalayan Group of Islands and the Scarborough Shoal. According to Justice Carpio, this is wrong.

Carpio further explains that according to Wang Yi, Foreign Minister of China, the territory of the Philippines has been defined through three treaties; the 1898 Treaty of Paris, the 1900 Treaty of Washington, and



*Justice Carpio (right) is welcomed by USTGS Secretary Prof. Elizabeth Arenas, Ph.D. and OPA Director Ms. Michaela Lagniton.*

the 1930 Convention between the United States and Great Britain. The Philippine claim to these islands existed all the way since 1734 through the Murillo Velarde map, an official map from Spanish royale that included the Island of Panacot (Scarborough Shoal), and *Los Bajos de Paragua* (the shoals of Palawan) also known as the Spratly Islands.

According to Carpio, the Philippine claim to the Spratly islands had not been challenged until 1933 by the French, but it was not pursued.

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# NEWS

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Later in 1939, Japan occupied the islands but renounced it after WWII, and finally in 1947 China asserted that they have a claim to the Spratly Islands through the nine-dash line, as well as the Scarborough Shoal which they left unnamed then. Interestingly, they also acknowledged the Philippine's claim of Spratly. This last part is particularly important, as it indicates China's acknowledgment of an existing claim of the Philippines over Spratly, as well as the critical date of the case where the facts that can only be used in the case are those from that date and before it.

Justice Carpio argues that aside from the mother of all Philippine maps, that is the Murillo Velarde Map, there were also other Spanish maps that proved Philippine claim to the islands such as the 1792 chart of Alessandro Malaspina's route of navigation which included the Scarborough Shoal, and the 1875 Carta General del Archipelago that included both Scarborough Shoal and Thitu (Pagasa) Island of the Spratly Island groups.

The 1875 map was later adopted by the US and issued four editions that then also included the Itu Aba and Loiata islands. These official maps by Spain outlined the territory of the Philippines and our claim's historicity towards the Spratly Islands and Scarborough Shoal. It is important to note that during the 1898 Treaty of Paris forging, the Americans used the 1875 map that included the Spratly Islands, as well as Scarborough Shoal.

With the precedent cases such as the Islas Palinas case, Clipperton Island case, and the Eastern Greenland case, Spratly Islands as uninhabitable is not an issue to retain sovereignty and is shown to be within the Philippine territory under the 1875 Carta General del Archipelago and the 1900 Treaty of Washington. Therefore, with all the evidence, Justice Carpio argues that the Scarborough Shoal and the Spratly Islands belong to the Philippines. Moreover, the presented facts by Justice Carpio promote our country's foreign policies to a credible level for the welfare of the Filipino people and peace in the region towards legal rights on the Philippine Island Territories in the West Philippine Sea.

A panel followed the lecture of Justice Carpio. The panel of reactors was led by USTGS Coordinator for Internationalization Prof. Lino Baron, Ph.D. The other members of the panel were USTGS Public Administration Program Lead Prof. Noel Lansang, Ph.D., and Ph.D. graduate student of the Political Science Program Ms. Jennylyn Cabbuag.

Also present during the event were UST Faculty of Arts and Letters Regent and



Justice Antonio T. Carpio delivers the 2024 St. Antoninus Lecture.



UST Purchasing Office Director and Faculty of Arts and Letters Regent Rev. Fr. George Phe Mang, O.P., leads the invocation and delivers an opening message.



USTGS Political Science Program Lead Prof. Belen L. Tangco, O.P., Ph.D., gives the welcome remarks.



Purchasing Office Director Rev. Fr. George Phe Mang, O.P., USTGS Political Science Program Lead Prof. Belen L. Tangco, O.P., Ph.D., and UST GS academic staff Judge Charito Sawali, D.C.L.

The St. Antoninus of Florence Annual Lecture 2024 ended with the closing statement of the UST Graduate School Dean Prof. Michael Anthony C. Vasco, Ph.D. ■

The Panel of Reactors include (from left:) USTGS Public Administration Program Lead Prof. Noel Lansang, Ph.D., USTGS Coordinator for Internationalization Prof. Lino Baron, Ph.D., and Ph.D. graduate student of the Political Science Program Ms. Jennylyn Cabbuag.



Rector's Awardee Ms. Averille Sacapaño (fifth from left) with (from left:) Registrar Mr. Cesar Velasco, UST Acting Rector Very Rev. Fr. Isaias D. Tiongco, O.P., JCD., Institute of Physical Education and Athletics Director/Regent Rev. Fr. Rodel Cansancio, O.P., her guardian, IPEA Secretary Asst. Prof. Gigi Kamus, and Bachelor of Physical Education Program Chair Prof. Jerome Porto, Ph.D.

## 86 individuals, 67 groups reap honors at 2024 Student Awards Day

The University of Santo Tomas conferred distinctions on its student achievers at the annual Student Awards Day held on May 24, 2024, at the UST Quadracentennial Pavilion Arena.

UST Acting Rector Very Rev. Fr. Isaias D. Tiongco, O.P., J.C.D., commended the awardees, saying "Amidst constantly evolving and unprecedented challenges that our social environment faces, the significance of their achievements transcends accolades and applause. It is a testament to their ability to adapt, to innovate and lead with empathy and integrity. Their journey at the University of Santo Tomas has equipped them with more than just academic knowledge, it has instilled in them the virtues of hard work, self-discipline, perseverance, and a profound sense of responsibility towards their community and society."

Serving as the guest speaker was Ms. Alice G. Eduardo, the founder of the Sta. Elena Construction and Development Corporation, who is an alumna of the College of Commerce and Business Administration in 1986. Blazing a path forward in an industry traditionally dominated by men, the known philanthropist was recently named PeopleAsia's Lifetime Achievement Awardee in 2023.

Eduardo shared the five keys to her success "Firstly, build yourself. Success is not about skill and talent, but hard work, discipline, patience, and relentless pursuit of your dreams. It's about waking up with a determination to be better than you were yesterday. It's about pushing boundaries, embracing challenges, and learning from failures."



UST Acting Rector Very Rev. Fr. Isaias D. Tiongco, O.P., JCD., commends the student awardees.

"Build your courage. Along the way you will face setbacks, but with enough courage, you will overcome them. Third, build your relationships. To succeed in life, build good relationships in your personal and professional life. Being open, positive, honest, sincere helps establish trust and rapport. Always stay humble and grateful."

2024 STUDENT AWARDS DAY TO PAGE 4





St. Thomas Awardee Deiniel H. Sanchez (fourth from left) with (from left:) Student Awards Committee Chair and Secretary-General Rev. Fr. Louie R. Coronel, O.P., EHL, UST Acting Rector Very Rev. Fr. Isaías D. Tiongco, O.P., J.C.D., his parents, Conservatory of Music Dean Assoc. Prof. Antonio Africa, Ph.D., and Conservatory Secretary Asst. Prof. Mary Rose R. Coronel.

“Next, build your faith. Faith provides comfort in challenging times, resilience in the face of adversity, and support through fellow members of our Catholic Church.”

“Lastly, build for others. Success only means something when it is shared. After you have made something of yourself, contribute to the community. Find causes that mean something to you. Help now that you can. Be generous!”

The construction magnate also emphasized the importance of recognizing the valuable support system that has helped the achievers along their way, such as parents, mentors, and friends. “Their belief in you has been instrumental in your success and today we celebrate their contributions as well.”

“As you bask in your well-deserved honor, keep in mind: This is just the beginning. The road ahead is filled with opportunities and challenges waiting to be conquered. Stay curious, stay hungry for knowledge, and never lose sight of your passion. You are the future leaders, innovators, nation-builders, changemakers of tomorrow. Trust in your abilities and always dream big. Congratulations to all the awardees and may your journey be as bright and inspiring as you are. God bless us all!” concluded the philanthropist.

The top academic achievers from the 18 tertiary and post-baccalaureate academic units received the Rector’s Academic Award, conferred by the Father Acting Rector Very Rev. Fr. Isaías D. Tiongco, O.P., J.C.D., assisted by the Registrar Mr. Cesar Velasco.

The valedictorian for the Class of 2024, who achieved the highest general weighted average of 1.050, was Averille S. Sacapaño from the Institute of Physical Education and Athletics.

The Aklan-born tennis athlete delivered the response on behalf of the student awardees. Reflecting on the sacrifices

necessary for success through the metaphor of pruning plants, Sacapaño shared, “We had to trim the things we needed to truly cultivate a life that is healthier, more fulfilling, and flourishing, so I want to acknowledge all our efforts, because each one of us has exemplified dedication, intellect, and commitment.”

“The knowledge and skills we acquired here are not only tools for personal success, but also instruments for positive change. And of course, we must recognize that our successes are not solely due to our own efforts, they reflect the support and guidance of our professors, coaches, friends, and family. Thank you po because this success is not ours alone, but yours and the University’s,” acknowledged Sacapaño.

Nine exemplary officers of recognized organizations received the Quezon Leadership Award for their service, while the Pope Leo XIII Community Development Award was given to two individual students and four organizations for their outstanding involvement in community development.

Eight individuals and 17 groups



Sta. Elena Construction and Development Corporation founder Ms. Alice Eduardo inspires the students with a motivational talk.

received the Benavides Outstanding Achievement Award, which is given to students who have academic or scientific accomplishments of national or international significance.

Thirty-four students and ten groups received the Pope John Paul II Outstanding Achievement Award for six organizations that held activities of significance to the entire University.

Thirty-two individuals and 30 groups received the St. Albertus Magnus Award for excelling in research. Among them was Marri Jmelou Roldan from the Graduate School, who published six

# UST-CCC holds 3-day University-wide Career Fair



Vice Rector for Academic Affairs Prof. Cheryl Peralta, DrPH, delivers her welcome address during the Career Fair Opening Ceremonies.



Ms. Janice Ocray, Ms. Yohanne Esguerra, Dr. Cheryl Peralta and Ms. Christine Quita formally open the event.

After three years of online implementation, the UST Career Fair was held onsite from April 17 to 19 at the Plaza Mayor. Spearheaded by the UST-Counseling and Career Center (UST-CCC) and co-presented by Prosple, a career and education technology platform that has been UST’s partner in mounting the online career fair since 2021, the event marked its return to the in-person format after three years of being carried out virtually.

With the theme “Empowering Thomasians to M.A.P (Meaningful and Purposeful Careers)”, the career fair served as an opportunity for Thomasian students and alumni to explore the various employment and internship offerings of the 64 participating companies representing a diverse array of industries including banking and finance, information technology, construction, manufacturing, health-allied and hospitality management. Likewise, the event served as the UST-CCC’s contribution to the slate of activities in celebration of the University of Santo

Tomas’ 413<sup>th</sup> Founding Anniversary.

Career Fair 2024 kicked off with an opening ceremony with Prof. Cheryl Peralta, DrPH, Vice Rector for Academic Affairs, Ms. Janice Ocray, M.A, RGC, UST-CCC Director, Ms. Christine Quita, UST-CCC Chair for Career Services, Ms. Yohanne Esguerra, Philippines Country Manager and Head of Partnerships of Prosple in attendance. The different academic and administrative unit heads, student organization officers, participating company representatives and the UST-CCC guidance counselors were also present. Delivering the keynote address was Mr. Mark Anthony Bercando, Chief Human Resource Specialist of the Civil Service Commission. Thereafter, a recognition ceremony for all the companies that participated in the Career Fair was held. Recognitions were also given to companies that successfully made it to Prosple’s list of Top 100 Employers for Fresh Grads and to those that nabbed the Top Sector prizes in their respective industry categories.

The career fair was also an opportunity

for some academic units to conduct consultative meetings with representatives from select participating companies. The consultative meeting was held as part of the University’s efforts to align its curriculum and instruction with the trends and needs of the industries. Industry and academe cohorts participated in a dynamic exchange with the goal of finding avenues to leverage the strengths of Thomasians in the workplace and effectively address areas for improvement.

The 3-day event was attended by more than 3,000 Thomasians who interacted with industry professionals, submitted their resumes, and participated in some of the exciting activities prepared by the companies.

A rousing success, the UST Career Fair 2024 is just one step in the University’s mission to mold Thomasian learners into outstanding and upstanding professionals who make a positive and lasting impact in their chosen fields. ■



Guidance counselors and representatives from partner companies and academic units with Ms. Janice Ocray and Prof. Cheryl Peralta (center)



# RESEARCH

## Baldia of USTGS presents study on phytoplankton communities' diversity in Angat Dam

UST Graduate School Professorial Lecturer Susana F. Baldia, Ph.D., presented a paper titled "Phytoplankton Communities' Diversity and Its Related Spatio-temporal Trends in Angat Hydroelectric Dam, Norzagaray, Bulacan, Philippines" at the 9<sup>th</sup> Asian Pacific Phycological Forum (APPF) 2024 held from April 14 to 18, 2024 at Hokkaido University in Sapporo, Japan.

In a parallel session, Dr. Baldia presented her paper that dealt with the importance of phytoplankton in maintaining the ecological balance of the freshwater ecosystems such as lakes, ponds, and dams. Angat Hydroelectric Dam (AHD) which is one of the largest freshwater dam in the Philippines has been in existence for over 50 years supplying potable water in Metro Manila, irrigates farmlands in Bulacan and Pampanga provinces, and generates hydroelectric power in Luzon Island. The study investigated the diversity of the phytoplankton community structure in Angat Dam and its relationship with the changes of the water quality of the reservoir. Thus, a monthly sampling on the phytoplankton diversity coupled with water quality analyses in AHD was conducted from June 2018 to May 2019. This study was beneficial for monitoring the health of

the reservoir ecosystems, as well as the conservation of environment functions.

She shares authorship of the paper with her former graduate thesis advisee, Michelle S. Agustin, who is now a graduate of Master of Science in Biology. The research was supported by the UST Research Center for the Natural and Applied Sciences, and by the Commission on Higher Education and Bulacan State University through Ms. Agustin.

The 9<sup>th</sup> Asian Pacific Phycological Forum (APPF) 2024 is a gathering of scientists, professors, engineers, and even students for exchange of ideas and garnering new information in the field of phycology (study of algae). This was attended by over 240 participants, the sessions included the following topics: Harmful Algal Blooms, Seaweed Cultivation, Algae and Climate Change/ Ecology, Taxonomy, Phylogeny and Evolution.

The University of Santo Tomas joins six other Philippines universities who also were present in the conference delivered oral presentations, served as chairs of the different sessions, and acted as judges of oral and poster presentations of student participants. ■



Dr. Baldia

### 2024 STUDENT AWARDS DAY FROM PAGE 4

research papers.

Rector's Awardees from the remaining academic units listed in unit establishment order include Br. Gian Linardo Mari T. Estrella from the Faculty of Sacred Theology (1.127), Br. Wesley Kim D. Soguilon from the Faculty of Philosophy (1.118), Kharam B. Molbog from the Faculty of Medicine and Surgery (95.602), Kyle Andrei C. Cabatit from the Faculty of Pharmacy (1.055), Kyla Jane P. Purcil from the Faculty of Arts and Letters (1.083), and JF Nichols G. Cortez from the Faculty of Engineering (1.151).

Shane C. Mia from the College of Education (1.064), Vinz Ymmanuelle C. Tatad from the College of Science (1.070), Paul Cesar S. Catama from the College of Architecture (1.314), Andrea Mae Nicole S. Ariola from the College of Commerce and Business Administration (1.184), Deiniel H. Sanchez from the Conservatory of Music

(1.079), Angelo B. Urfano from the College of Nursing (1.243), and Tricia Pascual from the College of Rehabilitation Sciences (1.143) were the top students of their respective academic units.

Also achieving the highest GWA in their academic units were Rita Corazon Ma. B. Layug from the College of Fine Arts and Design (1.103), Alexia Nichole R. Guadalupe from the UST-AMV College of Accountancy (1.241), Maridel Ann P. Capistrano and Patricia Nicole S. Sacay from the College of Tourism and Hospitality Management (1.052), and Athena Bianca R. Patricio from the College of Information and Computing Sciences (1.062)

Finally, winning the St. Thomas Aquinas Award was Deiniel H. Sanchez from the Conservatory of Music, for being a Rector's Awardee who also achieved two or more personal awards within the duration of his program. Fr. Tiongco and Student Awards Committee Chair and Secretary-General Rev. Fr. Louie R. Coronel, O.P., EHL, conferred this prestigious award. ■

## CTHM students' ecotourism research recognized in ATHSRC at UP

**"H**iyas Sa Dulong Katagalugan: Uncovering the Potentiality of Ecotourism Destinations in the Lens of the Local Community of Tagkawayan, Quezon" is a research study from the College of Tourism and Hospitality (CTHM), which was hailed as one of the Top 10 Best Research Works during the 10th Annual Tourism and Hospitality Student Research Conference (ATHSRC) held at the University of the Philippines-Diliman Asian Institute of Tourism on May 11, 2024.

The research explored the hidden gems of Tagkawayan through the lens of the local community. Their study has three objectives, each echoing sustainable development's socio-cultural, environmental, and economic aspects. Beyond the academe, this study has significant implications, defining the path for long-term growth that goes beyond economic investments, serving as a foundation for future researchers in conducting quantitative research, which can strengthen ties and break barriers between stakeholders and the environment through conscious stewardship and mutual understanding in the community.

The study is authored by BS Tourism Management major in Travel Operations and Service Management students, Joan R. Acosta, Rio Ferdinand G. Arnaldo, Holly G. Fernando, Allyssa Bernice R. Mosquera, Aaron R. Pajo, and Jovelle N. Villamayor. It was advised and co-authored by Asst. Prof. Maria Concepcion A. Ang. The research is in partnership with the Municipal Government of Tagkawayan, Quezon.

The event, organized by the Philippine Association of Researchers for Tourism and Hospitality, Inc. (PARTH), saw a submission of 86 research manuscripts from 44 academic institutions. ■



The UST CTHM team, with adviser Asst. Prof. Ang (top right window on projector screen) and Asst. Prof. Mercado (standing, left), during the presentation of the certificate

## LECTURES AND CONFERENCES

### College of Education's 4th PSALM int'l conference focuses on Transformative Teacher Education



College of Education officials, led by Dean Romero, open the research poster exhibition [Photo courtesy of the Education Courier]

The College of Education gathered over 400 educators nationwide in its 4th PSALM (Passion for Scholarship and Love for Mission) International Conference for Teacher Education and Formation last May 4 at the Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati Auditorium and online through Zoom.

Carrying the theme "Beyond Vision: Embracing Change for Transformative Teacher Education," the conference underscored best practices for implementing transformative changes in teacher education programs in the Asian region.

The conference was organized in partnership with Atma Jaya Catholic University of Indonesia, University of the Philippines Open University Faculty of Education, and Saint Louis University.

Dr. Jennie V. Jocson, Standing Committee Member of the Subcommittee on Teacher Education and Development, EDCOM 2 - Second Congressional Commission on Education, delivered her Keynote Address "Teacher Quality using the EDCOM2 Year I Findings as Lens," following the Opening Remarks by UST Vice Rector for Academic Affairs Prof. Cheryl R. Peralta, DrPH.

Prominent academics here and abroad lectured on the current landscape of transformative teacher education.

4TH PSALM INT'L CONFERENCE  
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UST Acting Archivist Rev. Fr. Gaspar Sigaya, O.P. (front row, tenth from left) with participants of the National Summit of Church Archives and Heritage Workers

The National Summit of Church Archives and Heritage Workers was held on May 8 to 11, 2024, at the Multi-Function Room, 8th Floor, Buenaventura García Paredes O.P. Building at the University of Santo Tomas (UST). The four-day summit gathered diocesan and religious archivists, parish secretaries, diocesan chancellors, and religious congregation secretaries, those appointed and directly involved in archiving roles, to participate in an academic and professional capacity-building event aimed toward the conservation of church archival heritage.

This summit reorganized the Society of Ecclesiastical Archivists of the Philippines (SEAP) membership from around the nation, reinforced the involvement of the archdiocese, dioceses, religious archivists, parish secretaries, and records custodians in the implementation and fulfillment of the Church records preservation, discussed existing practices and explored the pivotal role of archivists and heritage workers, and provided knowledge and skills in managing the Church's cultural heritage records.

The National Commission for Culture and the Arts Chairman Victorino Manalo graced the event and delivered a special message.

On the first day of the summit, UST Faculty of Civil Law Dean Atty. Nilo Divina, JD, delivered the keynote address on "Intellectual Property Law - Applicable to Ecclesiastical and Archival Record and Domain", Prof. Regalado Trota José

discussed "The Status Quo of the Catholic Church Heritage in the Philippines", and Commission on Cultural Heritage Executive Secretary Fr. Milan Ted Torralba tackled "Archives and Canon Law".

Archdiocese of Manila Chancellor Fr. Isidro Marinay spoke about "The Interplay of the Work of Diocesan Chancellors, Parish Secretaries, and Archivists", while the "Panel Discussion on Government Archives" was led by NCCA National Committee on Archives Head Ms. Emma Muñoz-Rey, Ms. Jacklyn Joyce Delgado from the National Archives of the Philippines, and Ms. Vilma Rodriguez from the Senate of the Philippines Archives.

Also included were lectures from Fr. Jonas Awayan of the Archdiocese of Cagayan de Oro, who headed the discussion on Diocesan Archives.

Meanwhile, Sr. Wilma Bumangbang, O.P. from the St. Catherine of Siena Archives, Rev. Mervin Lomague, O.P. from the Dominican Archives, and Fr. Nestor Impelido from the Salesian Archives jointly discussed the topic of Religious Archives, and Family Search Philippines Field Relations Manager Mr. Felvir Ordinario spoke about "The Impact and Issues of the Genealogy Project of the Church of Jesus Christ".

Capping off the first day of the event was a Eucharistic Celebration at the Santísimo Rosario Parish presided by the *Archivo de la Universidad de Santo Tomas* Acting Archivist Rev. Fr. Gaspar Sigaya, O.P.

The lectures for Day 2 included "Ethics and Accountability in the Management of Archives and Records Management" by Ateneo de Manila University Archives Director Asst. Prof. Francis Navarro, Ph.D., which was followed by "Development of Archives and Records Management Profession and Training in the Philippines" by the Board for Librarians Chairperson Hon. Yolanda Granda and "Data Privacy for Ecclesiastical Documents" by the Executive Assistant for the Office of the UST Secretary-General Assoc. Prof. Emmanuel Batulan, Ph.D.

A tour of the UST facilities, including the oldest school-based museum in the country, the UST Museum and its laboratory, the *Archivo de la Universidad de Santo Tomas (AUST)*, and the Antonio Vivencio del Rosario UST Heritage Library occupied the afternoon session.

Day 3 activities included lectures by the UST Prefect of Libraries Rev. Fr. Angel Aparicio, O.P. regarding the Antonio Vivencio del Rosario UST Heritage Library, "Disaster Resilience and Post-Disaster Recovery for Cultural Heritage" by UST College of Tourism and Hospitality Management academic staff Mr. Karl Baroro, and "Sustainability in Conservation in the Philippine Setting" by Okada Manila Records Specialist Ms. Lulu del Mar.

This was followed by a workshop on Archives Management conducted

CHURCH ARCHIVAL HERITAGE  
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Dr. Romero (center) with (from left:) Dr. Charisse Y. Reyes, Keynote Speaker Dr. Jennie V. Jocson, Dr. Dorothy Silva, and Dr. Dasas [Photo courtesy of the Education Courier]

4TH PSALM INT'L CONFERENCE  
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Plenary sessions in the morning were led by Dr. Edizon A. Fermin, Chair of Technical Panel for Teacher Education, Commission on Higher Education (CHED), with his lecture "Evolving Teachers' Competencies"; Dr. Joseph M. Velarde, Deputy Director of Education for All Impact Laboratory, Taylor's University, Malaysia, who talked about "Transformative Education: Perspectives from Malaysia"; and Dr. Kamonwat Phuwuchit, Head of International Relations of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Kamphaeng Phet Rajabhat University, Thailand, who presented "Transformative Education: Perspectives from Thailand."

In the afternoon, Prof. Jacklyn Santiago, Head of Educational Psychology Area, College of Education University of the Philippines Diliman, delved on "Evolving Learners' Characteristics," while Dr. Joanne V. Serrano, Dean of the Faculty of Management and Development Studies, University of the Philippines Open University, talked about "Microcredentials as the Driver to Addressing Emerging Teacher Competencies."

Two panel discussions were also set to assess national and international situations.

The first panel "Transformative Education: Perspectives from the Asian Region" was led by Prof. Piyanat Chantakhat, Assistant Dean of the Faculty of Education, Chiang Mai Rajabhat University, Thailand; Dr. Abdul Rahman, Vice Dean of Academic Affairs of the Faculty of Teacher Training and Education, University of Bengkulu, Bengkulu, Indonesia; and Prof. Paulina Chandrasari, Head of Teacher Professional Program Development of Atma Jaya Catholic University, Indonesia.

On the other hand, the panel "Transformative Education: Perspectives from Philippine Schools" included Asst. Prof. Eleanor



Prof. Paulina Chandrasari from Atma Jaya Catholic University, Indonesia during the first panel

L. Bahrami-Hessari from the College of Education, University of Santo Tomas; Dr. Charisse Y. Reyes from the Faculty of Education, University of the Philippines Open University; and Dr. Dorothy D. Silva from the School of Teacher Education and Liberal Arts, Saint Louis University.

Selected participants also shared their studies on innovative and effective teacher education through parallel paper presentations and poster exhibits.

PSALM 2024 Conference Chair Dr. Louie B. Dasas, who is also Assistant Dean of the College of Education, provided the synthesis for the whole-day event.

Dr. Pilar Romero, Dean of the College of Education, gave the Closing Remarks.

The conference is part of the 98th Founding Anniversary of the College of Education, with the theme "#EduGREATat98: Gratitude, Resilience and Excellence Amidst Transitions." ■



# GALACST 3rd International Conference zooms in on Empowering Communities through University Partnerships in Public Health



Participants of the GALACST 3rd International Conference

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Gender, Adult Literacy, and Active Citizenship for Social Transformation (GALACST) International Conference was held on April 25 – 26, 2024 at the UST Thomas Aquinas Research Center. The UST Research Center for Social Sciences and Education (RCSSSE), together with the UST Graduate School, Journal of Social Health (JoSH), Faculty of Medicine and Surgery, UNESCO Chair in Adult Literacy at the University of East Anglia and University of Sussex in United Kingdom, and Tribhuvan University in Nepal, led this hybrid conference attended by over 3,000 participants from across the globe.

According to Prof. Ma. Teresa Tricia Guison-Bautista, MD of the Faculty of Medicine and Surgery, who also serves as chair of the conference, the 3<sup>rd</sup> GALACST was designed to “raise awareness on the diverse ways universities can collaborate with communities to improve public health outcomes, share best practices and innovative approaches to public health challenges, foster dialogue between stakeholders including academicians, community leaders, policymakers, and practitioners, and explore sustainable solutions that prioritize community needs and empower individuals and communities to take charge of their health and well-being.”

The conference commenced with a welcome message from Assoc. Prof. Michael Peralta, MSc, MSPT, LI.M. on behalf of Rev. Fr. Jannel Abogado, OP, D.Th.Sc.Pat, Vice Rector for Research and Innovation where he highlighted that the “nexus between active citizenship and the SDGs is profound. Active citizens play a vital role in holding governments and institutions accountable for their commitments to sustainable development”. He also shared about the integral role of gender equality, adult literacy, and active citizenship to advancing the UN SDGs. The opening remarks of Prof. Michael Anthony Vasco, PhD, Dean of UST Graduate School stressed that “public health concerns should be given priority since any challenges and problems in public health greatly affects the day-to-day functions of society. It may disrupt the economic, political, social, and academic functions which affect the stability of nation-states”. Assoc. Prof. Lourdes Maglinao, M.D., MHPEd, Dean of the Faculty of Medicine and Surgery further explained that “by fostering gender and adult literacy and promoting active citizenship, we equip them with the tools to advocate for themselves and their communities”.

GALACST TO PAGE 11

## CHURCH ARCHIVAL HERITAGE FROM PAGE 8



Participants during the workshop

by Ms. Lulu del Mar, Ms. Jocelyn Marcos, and the AUST staff; a Eucharistic Celebration with Fr. Mequiades Serrao and Fr. Ric-Zeus Angobung as presider and homilist; “SEAP Moving Forward Workshop and Planning” session led by UST Acting Archivist Fr. Gaspar Sigaya, O.P. and SEAP Secretary Ms. Jocelyn Marcos; and the Fellowship Night.

For the fourth and final day of the summit, the Assistant to the UST Rector for Information and Communications Technology Asst. Prof. Jerralyn Padua delivered a lecture on “Parish Registry Portal: E-Records Management of Sacramental Books”, while NCCA Executive Director Hon. Eric Zerrudo, Ph.D. delivered the concluding lecture “Alikabok, Access, and Animating Archives”

Concluding the four-day National Summit was a concelebrated Mass with the Dumaguete Bishop Most Rev. Julito Cortes, D.D., as the main presider and homilist. ■



Dr. Anna Robinson-Pant



Prof. Ma. Teresa Tricia Guison- Bautista, MD



Prof. Eva Irene Maglonzo, MD

## GALACST FROM PAGE 10

In her keynote address, Prof. Anna Robinson-Pant, Ph.D. (UEA – UNESCO Chair and University of Sussex Research Professor) discussed the assumptions relating to literacy empowerment and health, focusing on the gap between policies and practical experiences. She concluded with a call to pilot a more democratic model of partnership between universities and communities, especially in decolonizing global health research and addressing public health challenges.

Plenary speakers included Prof. Eva Irene Maglonzo, M.D. (UST-FMS), who discussed the Philippine context of health professions education, followed by Assoc. Prof. Bishnu P. Choulagai, MPH, Ph.D., and Assoc. Prof. Poojan Sharma Choulagai (Tribhuvan University) who shared about the current approaches and proposed modality of community-university partnership in public health education. Lastly, sharing about current and innovative approaches to community engagement in health education was Prof. Surendra Giri, M.Ed, Ph.D. (Tribhuvan University).

The afternoon session started with a panel discussion with the UST SIGLANG TOMAS Cluster, composed of Assoc. Prof. Marlon Mallillin III, MPH (Pharmacy), Assoc. Prof. Ma. Margarita Leticia Gellaco, M.D. (Medicine and Surgery), Asst. Prof. Jayson Punzal, RN (Nursing), and Ms.

Diane Allison Lotho, OTRP (Rehabilitation Sciences), moderated by Assoc. Prof. Christian Rimando, PTRP, where they talked about the UST Community-based programs and how these coordinators make these programs work. The afternoon session of Day 1 concluded with three parallel workshops: Ethnography in Health Research by Prof. Sushan Acharya (Tribhuvan University) and Dr. Laura Burke (University of Sussex); Participatory Action Research by Asst. Prof. Kamal Raj Devkota, Asst. Prof. Sudha Ghimire, and Ms. Ambika Thapa Pachya (Tribhuvan University); and Writeshop for Journals: Supporting innovative works that impact social health equities through data and research by Assoc. Prof. Les Paul Valdez (UST).

The second day of the conference started with the launch of the Journal of Social Health (JoSH) followed by the fourth plenary session by Dr. Najibullah Habib of the Asian Development Bank, where he discussed reducing health disparities from local to global. After this, the 5th and 6th plenary sessions were led by the Nepal and Philippine teams to share the key results from the study being conducted in Nepal and the Philippines. Assoc. Prof. Choulagai, Asst. Prof. Devkota, and Prof. Acharya presented the Nepal findings. As for the Philippine findings, these were reported by Prof. Tricia Bautista, M.D., Prof. Camilla Vizconde, Ph.D., and Prof.

Elizabeth Arenas, Ph.D. Prof. Pant and Dr. Burke added to the discussion as they talked about co-constructing knowledge and some reflections from the team’s collective experiences.

The afternoon session resumed with a World Café session on formulating actionable steps in university community engagement. The program closed by presenting various research papers on Healthcare Access and Quality and Social and Community Context. The papers presented may be accessed through their microsite, [Empowering Communities – A PAR Public Health Project \(wordpress.com\)](https://empoweringcommunities.wordpress.com).

This conference is part of a larger study funded by the Medical Research Council on Public Health Intervention Development (MRC-PHIND) in the UK. The symposium concluded with a synthesis and future directions by Prof. Pant and the closing remarks of Assoc. Prof. Jeremiaiah Opiniano, Ph.D., Director of the Research Center for Social Sciences and Education.

GALACST 3 ended with the hope that through the conversations and exchange of insights in the two-day conference, the participants and all stakeholders found renewed hope and inspiration to mobilize curricular and institutional changes and encourage more publications and collaborations. ■



# UST Energy Forum urges closer adherence to conservation measures, discusses sustainable energy management systems

The University of Santo Tomas and UST Hospital held a joint Energy Forum to review and improve current practices in energy conservation measures (ECM) among the 27 Energy Accounting Centers (EACs) within the Manila campus. The discussion was held on May 23, 2024, at the Frassati Building's Learning Studio 1.

With the theme "Harnessing synergy towards sustainability", the forum included an overview of historical milestones of UST's Energy Management System (EnMS), a discussion of the guideline format of the working manual and tools, and a presentation of ongoing and new initiatives for saving energy within the campus including POWERWISE (person-oriented energy savings campaign) and Luntiag Tomasino.

Engr. Oliver Gagarin, author of the UST Sustainable Energy Management Systems Manual, introduced GRT-76, which refers to "Go! Renewable Time" and the solar power harvest from 7 AM to 6 PM on selected building rooftops via the installation of solar panels.

As of 2024, solar panel installation has begun on top of the Albertus Magnus building, with the Fathers' Residence compound, the UST Hospital Pope John Paul II Building, and the St. Raymund de Peñafort Building to follow next year. Steady work is planned for an eventual in-campus, independent, and renewable

power supply through GRT-76.

Engr. Gagarin shared that "small appliances" drew the highest load consumption. He also cautioned against the "phantom load" or any electronics that remain plugged into the university power supply that still uses electricity or "standby power" even when turned off.

This year, the USTH Clinical Division, the Main Building, and the Benavides Building had the most energy savings among the 27 EACs, while the USTH St. John Paul II Building, the Quadricentennial Pavilion, and the Frassati Building consumed the most power. The unprecedented recent heat index was also a contributing cause to the power consumption of the structures.

Assistant to the Rector for Information and Communications Technology Asst. Prof. Jerralyn Padua discussed how to help each energy accounting center (EAC) identify saving and conservation measures through the working manual and tools, namely, the operational guide, process map, work instruction, log sheet, and calculation sheet.

She also presented ongoing plans for an Energy Online Dashboard that can predict and visualize energy consumption among the 27 EACs, which is planned to be incorporated into the official portal dashboard.

This University initiative aligns with SDG 7 which calls for affordable



Engr. Gagarin

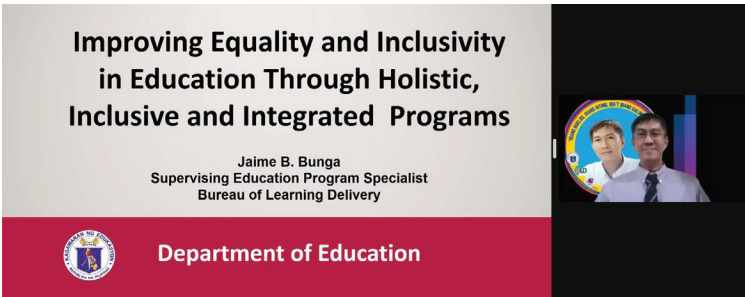
and clean energy. The programs and activities discussed in the Energy Forum underscores the University's goal to achieve energy efficiency (SDG 7.3) among all energy accounting centers.

In attendance were academic and administrative officials, academic staff, and support staff. The opening remarks were delivered by USTH Director for Administration Prof. Analin E. Porto, DEM, while UST Office for Grants, Endowments and Partnerships in Higher Education Director Rev. Fr. Maximo Gatela, O.P. gave the closing remarks. ■

# Elementary Education Department highlights inclusivity in education webinar



Dr. San Antonio's presentation [Photo courtesy of the Education Courier]



Mr. Bunga's presentation [Photo courtesy of the Education Courier]

The UST College of Education Department of Elementary Education held a seminar "Transforming the Future through Holistic, Inclusive and Integrated Early Childhood and Elementary Education" online through its Facebook page on May 2, 2024.

The virtual seminar served as the 5th Nenita Caralipio Honorary Lecture, in celebration of the 98th Foundation Anniversary of the College of Education.

Asst. Prof. Rose Marie Cordura, MA, Bachelor in Early Childhood Education Supervising Teacher, explained that Caralipio inspired teachers and would-be-teachers "with her significant contribution in the university's research initiatives and as principal of the UST Grade School for 25 years."

Assoc. Prof. Carmina Vicente, Ph.D., Chair of UST Elementary Education Department, gave the Opening Remarks.

Dr. Diosdado San Antonio, Manager of the Educational Research and Innovation Office – Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization – Regional Center for Educational Innovation and Technology (SEAMEO INNOTECH), delved on "Transforming the Future through Holistic & Integrated Early Childhood & Elementary Education."

San Antonio discussed a future-focused leadership paradigm after enumerating 21st century realities in basic education and the main features of Key Stage 1 in the MATATAG Curriculum.

Meanwhile, Mr. Jaime Bunga, MA, Ed., Supervising Education Program Specialist, Teaching and Learning Division, Bureau of Learning Delivery, Department of Education Central Office, had a talk on "Improving Equality and Inclusivity in Education through Holistic, Inclusive and Integrated Programs."

Reactors included reputable academics, including Assoc. Prof. Celina Cerda, MA, Dean of University of Rizal System, Angono Campus and a UST graduate of Bachelor of Elementary Education (BEEd) Batch 1990; Asst. Prof. Louie Dasas, Ph.D., Assistant Dean of UST College of Education; and Maria Theresa Abesamis, MA, Instructor from the UST College of Education and an alumna of BEEd Major in Special Education (SPED) Batch 2019. ■

# UST PolSci, UNESA hold joint webinar on democracy in PH, IDN



Mr. Hazmi

The University of Santo Tomas Department of Political Science and Universitas Negeri Surabaya (UNESA) hosted the Webinar on Democracy in Southeast Asia: Practices of Democracy in the Philippines and Indonesia, held on May 13, 2024, via Zoom.

The webinar featured a keynote speech delivered by Dr. Wiwik Sri Utami, M.P., Dean, UNESA Faculty of Social and Political Sciences, and Prof. Melanie D. Turingan, Ph.D., Dean, UST Faculty of Arts and Letters.

UST Political Science Department Chair Dr. Dennis C. Coronacion and Mr. Adli Hazmi from the UNESA Department of Political Science served as the resource speakers of the webinar for the comparative and scholarly examination of the practices of democracy in the Philippines and Indonesia.

Coronacion discussed the state of democracy in the Philippines, particularly its democracy index, showing the

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country's flawed democracy, with corruption as the top issue. Political dynasties, media infringement, and human rights issues, particularly on red tagging, are among the issues of governance that contributed to the country's flawed democracy.

Hazmi discussed the perspectives of democracy in Indonesia, focusing on leadership, religion, and identity politics that influence Indonesia's decision-making process and issues on transitional justice. Furthermore, Dr. Moch Mubarak, M.IP., Chair of the UNESA Department of Political Science, provided his insights on the issues.

There were a total of 300 students, academic staff, administrators, alumni, and guests from UST and UNESA who participated in the webinar. The discussion served as an opportunity to gain critical understanding of comparative politics on governance and democracy between Indonesia and the Philippines which is relevant not just in their respective countries but within the ASEAN Region itself. ■



Dr. Dennis C. Coronacion



## Fernandez-Arias of International Monetary Fund presents paper at the UST Graduate School

The UST Graduate School (GS), in collaboration with the International Monetary Fund (IMF), held an insightful event titled “Trading Place: Real Spillovers from G20 Emerging Markets” on May 3, 2024, hosted at the Tanghalang Teresita Quirino.

UST Graduate School Dean Prof. Michael Anthony C. Vasco, Ph.D., delivered the opening remarks, shedding light on the Philippines’ aspiration to ascend to an upper middle-income economy status since the 1980s. He underscored the projected 5.9% growth rate of the Philippine GDP for 2024 and underscored the imperative for the nation to address pivotal factors for economic expansion, including geopolitical stability, robust governmental institutions, judicious economic policies, an equitable business environment, a competitive skilled workforce, transparent economic practices, and the relentless fight against corruption.

The event featured a presentation on the IMF’s seminal publication, the World Economic Outlook (WEO). Nicolas Fernandez-Arias, Ph.D., a Princeton University alumnus and lead contributor to Chapter 4 of WEO, discussed the spillovers from G20 emerging markets. Fernandez-Arias expounded on the significant impact G20 emerging markets have had on the global economy over the past two decades, boasting an average annual growth rate of 6% and now constituting approximately 30% of the global economy and a quarter of global trade. Their deeper integration



(From left:) USTGS Economics Program Lead Prof. Ronaldo Cabautan, Ph.D., Prof. Jeannette Isabelle Loanzon, Ph.D., USTGS PhD student & Economic Analyst of the IMF Resident Representative Office Mr. Micholo Andrei Gabriel Cucio, Dr. Nicolas Fernandez-Arias, USTGS Dean Prof. Michael Anthony Vasco, Ph.D., USTGS student Mr. Gabriel Gan, and USTGS PhD student and UST College of Commerce academic staff Mr. Peter Jeff Camaro

into the global economy, particularly through Global Value Chains (GVCs), has accentuated their global influence.

The event’s overarching objective was to examine how a conceivable acceleration in growth within G20 emerging markets, excluding China, could fortify global

growth in the medium term and permeate into other nations. Moreover, discussions centered on how policymakers in recipient economies can fortify their policy frameworks and maintain adequate buffers to navigate potential larger shocks stemming from G20 emerging markets. ■



## AB PolSci, UST-GS hold Campus Caravan on West Philippine Sea

The Department of Political Science under the UST Faculty of Arts and Letters in collaboration with the UST Graduate School, National Security Council, Local Government Development Institute, and The Political Science Forum conducted its Geopolitical Field Researchers 3 on Peace Studies with the theme “Waves of Contention: Issues, Prospects, and Challenges of the West Philippine Sea” as part of its campus caravan.

The webinar began with a brief background and overview about the Campus Caravan by the Local Government Development Institute Executive Director Prof. Eric Daniel De Torres. He notes the

rising issues and concerns in relation to the West Philippine Sea as the focal point of the campus caravan as this topic is important for students, practitioners, and members of the academe. The campus caravan hopes to create awareness of the actions of China towards disputed territories.

The International Development and Security Cooperation President Dr. Chester Cabalza served as the first speaker. He lectured on the strategic alliance of Philippine Foreign Relations in maritime security and safeguarding the Philippine Sea in the South China Sea.

The second speaker is Comm. Roy Vincent Trinidad, PN, who expounded on the political discussions between

China and the Philippines to measure transparency strategy in the West Philippine Sea, specifically protecting the rights of the fisherfolks who experience harassment among Chinese ships, which would proceed to proper investigation.

The third and last speaker National Security Council Assistant Director General Jonathan Malaya further expounded on the theme of the webinar by giving a thorough examination of the impact of the malign influence of the Philippines and its influence on the country’s democratic process, social and economic landscape, and its impact to the overall public trust and national security of the country.

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## Food Technology, Nutrition and Dietetics hold lecture on benefits of cereals

The Departments of Food Technology and Nutrition and Dietetics, under the College of Education, conducted a seminar on the value of cereals on May 4, at the Medicine Auditorium, San Martin de Porres Building.

The event, dubbed as “Grains for Gains: Exploring the Potentials, Applications, and Benefits of Cereals as a Functional Food,” marked this year’s 5th Helen Ocampo Memorial Lecture Series.

Prof. Young-Rok Kim, Ph.D., from the Department of Food Science and Biotechnology, College of Life Sciences, Kyung Hee University in Seoul, South Korea discussed “Starch-Based Functional Materials and Its Applications in Food Sciences.”

Asst. Prof. Sheba Mae M. Duque, PFT, Ph.D., from the Institute of Food Science and Technology College of Agriculture and Food Science, University of the Philippines - Los Baños talked about “Reimagining Starch: Modification of Structure and Function with Pulsed Electric Fields.”

Meanwhile, Asst. Prof. Diane S. Mendoza-Sarmiento, RND, M.Sc., doctoral candidate from the UST Graduate School and academic staff of the Department of Nutrition and Dietetics, focused on “The Role of Pigmented Rice on Cardiometabolic Risk Factors.” The study investigated the role of pigmented rice on cardiometabolic risk factors through (1) a systematic review and meta-analysis to examine its effect on antioxidant status, lipid profile, glucose, and weight; (2) an assessment of sensory acceptability and perceived health benefits; and (3) a six-week randomized



College of Education Dean Assoc. Prof. Pilar Romero, Ph.D. (seated, second from left), with the speakers and organizers

clinical trial to determine its effect on lipid, glucose, weight, and waist circumference among Filipino adults.

Aside from the academic staff and students of both departments, the seminar was attended by alumni, academic staff and students from other schools and universities, and colleagues in the industry.

The lecture series coincided with the 98th Founding Anniversary of the UST College of Education, with the theme “#EduGREATat98: Gratitude, Resilience and Excellence Amidst Transitions.”

### Food for Thought

On the same day, the UST Graduate School Food Science program launched its

forum titled “Food for Thought: Episode 1” on May 4, 2024 at the Tanghalang Teresita Quirino.

This event also featured Kyung Hee University Professor Dr. Young-Rok Kim, along with the Assistant Director of the Institute of Food Science and Technology of UP-Los Baños Dr. Sheba Mae Duque.

Dr. Kim’s research primarily revolves around food safety and the innovation of new food materials. His lecture on “Nanomaterial based-detection of pathogenic microorganisms in food” discussed the characteristics of selected nanomaterials and their applications in

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### CAMPUS CARAVAN FROM PAGE 14

The Panel of Discussants included Asst. Prof. Emmanuel Batoon of the UST Graduate School and Ms. Jennylyn Cabbuag from the PhD in Political Science program.

For the concluding part of the program, Faculty of Arts and Letters Secretary Asst. Prof. Louie Benedict Ignacio, Ph.D., gave a message of gratitude to the speakers followed by Department of Political Science Chair Assoc. Prof. Dennis Coronacion, who delivered the closing remarks.

Also present during the online gathering were UST Graduate School Regent Rev. Fr. Rodel Aligan, O.P., SThD, Faculty of Arts and Letters Dean Prof. Melanie D. Turingan, Ph.D., and Political Science Cluster Lead Prof. Belen Tangco, O.P., Ph.D.

The Caravan served as a platform to advance political education on the



country’s state of national security and encourage discourse among security experts, researchers, scholars, and students. ■

Comm. Trinidad (center window), Mr. Malaya (fourth from top), and Dr. Chester Cabalza (bottom window) with the moderators



# CTHM *Sentro Turismo* hosts 2nd leg of the PITH-ReCon 2024



Student awardees with CTHM officials and Dr. Andy Nazarechuck (eighth from left)

The College of Tourism and Hospitality Management (CTHM), through its *UST Sentro Turismo* and three 3<sup>rd</sup>-year BS Tourism Management events classes, organized the 2<sup>nd</sup> Philippine International Tourism and Hospitality Research Conference (PITH-ReCon) 2024. With the theme “Tourism and Hospitality Green Investment: The Future of the Industry”, this event was held on April 22 and 23;

and May 7 and 8, 2024 at the University of Santo Tomas. A research conference marked the beginning of the event on April 22, that served as a means of collaboration among academics, researchers, and professionals in the field of Tourism and Hospitality who talked about innovations, green investments, and the industry's future. Distinguished academic and industry

resource persons were invited, such as Dr. Andy Nazarechuck (Former Senior Vice President for International Relations, Taylor’s University Malaysia) and Dr. Denise Holly Molintas (General Manager, Hilton Clark Sun Valley Resort, Pampanga) delivered insightful keynote addresses, discussing sustainable investment strategies and the role of artificial intelligence in the future of the industry.

Day 2 of the conference saw the official turnover ceremony of the CTHM Research Collaborative Output. This event aimed to foster academic and partner institution collaboration to advance the fields of tourism and hospitality management through various basic and applied research and innovative practices. The event started with a plenary session focusing on the UST initiatives for community development and aligning it to the Salamanca Process. During the event, several student-academic staff research collaboration and academic staff-led research projects were presented and officially turned-over to 10 partner institutions from the private and public sector, namely, Calamianes Expeditions Ecotours, City Government of Baguio, City Government of Biñan, Laguna, City Government of Muntinlupa, Department of Science and Technology – National Research Council of the Philippines, Intramuros Administration, Municipal Government of Atimonan, Quezon, Municipal Government of Paranas,

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(From left:) Tourism Management Department Chair Asst. Prof. Christine Concepcion C. Fajardo, CTHM Secretary Asst. Prof. Maria Margarita P. Cruz-Ireneo, SIMBAHAYAN Director Asst. Prof. Froilan Alipao, and Assistant Dean Assoc. Prof. Evangeline E. Timbang, Ph.D., and Department of Hospitality Chair Mr. Juanito Luis Reyes during the turnover of research outputs

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Asst. Prof. Mendoza-Sarmiento, Dr. Duque, and Dr. Kim



food, and placed focus on the monitoring of biological and chemical contaminants in food. Meanwhile, Dr. Duque presented her research work on “The Cocoa-loca Project Journey: Development of functional food products and ingredients from cocoa bean shell waste”. This collaborative project with DOST and Malagos Agri-Ventures Corporation hopes to promote countryside development and boost the competitiveness of local chocolate industry in the global market through food innovation by leveraging on science- and evidence- based strategies on the company’s pursuit towards responsible food production. Participants, which included UST graduate and undergraduate academic staff and students, were welcomed by GS Secretary and Program Lead of MS major in Food Science Dr. Elizabeth Arenas and USTGS Food Science professors. Dr. Mario Capanzana introduced the speakers, while Dr. Rosario Sagum served as host and moderator. The event was formally closed by the Graduate School Dean Dr. Michael Anthony Vasco. This forum provided an avenue where recognized experts could share the recent advances and new frontiers in the field of food science and technology. ■

UST Graduate School Food Science professors with the speakers and Dean Vasco (From left:) Prof. Elizabeth H. Arenas, Ph.D., Prof. Young-Rok Kim, Ph.D., Asst. Prof. Sheba Mae M. Duque, Ph.D., Prof. Michael Anthony C. Vasco, Ph.D., Prof. Rosario S. Sagum, Ph.D. and Prof. Mario V. Capanzana, Ph.D.



UST Food Science graduate students with the speakers



## UST GS hosts UEA UNESCO Chair Day



Facilitators and Participants at the UNESCO Chair Day

The UST Graduate School (GS), in collaboration with the University of East Anglia and University of Sussex, hosted the UNESCO Chair Day titled, “Advanced Training in Participatory Action Research in Global Contexts” on April 27, 2024, at the Thomas Aquinas Research Center. The workshop was led by Professor Anna Robinson-Pant (University of Sussex), the UNESCO Chair on Adult Literacy and Lifelong Learning for Social Transformation.

The workshop tackled the introduction to Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) methods and debates, case studies in participatory research from Nepal and the Philippines, designing participatory approaches, and an evaluation of the current participatory projects.

The one-day intensive workshop recognized that participation, transformatory action, impact and engagement are central to a wide range of research methods. While new to the exciting world of participatory research, the early career researchers present were encouraged by Prof. Robinson-Pant and the rest of the UNESCO Chair team to incorporate the PRA methods to their respective research endeavors. Medical doctors present in the workshop plan to use their newly learned approaches to the evaluation and assessments of their current and future public health efforts; while participants from the social sciences and the academe noted its potential as a tool for classroom use and as an evaluation tool for various programs and projects.

### PITH-ReCon 2024 TO PAGE 18

Samar, Municipal Government of San Nicolas, Ilocos Norte, and the Municipal Government of Tagkawayan, Quezon.

Day 3 of the conference saw the presentation of 4<sup>th</sup>-year students’ undergraduate thesis through written, oral, and poster presentations during the 14<sup>th</sup> Saint Hyacinth Research Colloquium. 21 research teams from BS Tourism Management and 25 research teams from BS Hospitality Management were presented to a diverse panel composed of representatives from different universities and colleges in the Philippines. A total of eight (8) research clusters were formed to scrutinize the research findings and results of the students based on the topic and specialization.

The last day of PITH-ReCon 2024 concluded with an awarding ceremony to recognize exemplary research teams based on the result of the assessment from the colloquium. CTHM gave awards such as Best Research Poster, Best Oral Presentation, and Best Research Manuscript per cluster. The Dean of CTHM, Assoc. Prof. Atty. Gezzez Giezi G.

Robinson-Pant was accompanied by her co-chair, Prof. Catherine Jere from the University of East Anglia. UNESCO Chair Coordinators Prof. Sushan Acharya from the Tribhuvan University, Nepal and Prof. Camilla J. Vizconde, Assistant Dean of the UST Graduate School were also present.

Granado, DCL, CHE, gave an inspiring and motivational concluding speech, which emphasized the importance of research in expanding knowledge and realizing constructive social change. He took the time to applaud the students for what they had done in their respective sectors and expressed his gratitude to them for their commitment and diligence to execute their research projects. The speech emphasized the need for interdisciplinary research methodologies and teamwork, while urging participants to continue working across disciplines to solve these certain issues and take up new opportunities for creativity.

The event was held in partnership with the Research Center for Social Sciences and Education (RCSSed) – Tourism and Hospitality Studies RIG and the Simbahayan Community Development Office. It is in line with the celebration of the 413<sup>th</sup> Founding Anniversary of the University. The conference was an avenue to discuss urgent issues and emerging trends in the tourism and hospitality sector through research, innovation, and extension services.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> PITH-ReCon will be held on April 21 to 24, 2025. ■

The workshop was attended by UST Graduate School students and medical doctors from the UST Hospital’s Department of Family and Community Medicine (DFCM), Rizal Medical Center DFCM, and Quirino Memorial Medical Center DFCM. ■

## GS Marketing Management stages conversations on cancel culture

CancelledtGPT, an event directed towards the discussion of the impact of “cancel culture” across industries, was held on May 4, 2024. Organized by the Marketing Management class of the UST Graduate School, the event brought together 200 attendees to the Thomas Aquinas Research Center Auditorium wherein several notable speakers were invited to share their insights and experiences.

Speakers for the forum were Ms. Regina R. Asa, a seasoned professional in the Filipino food service industry; Ms. Maria Chele D. Mendoza, a former disk jockey turned public relations practitioner; Mr. James Deakin, an automotive journalist and opinion columnist; and Ms. Dimples Romana, an actress, author, and television host. Their collective experiences in their respective industries shed light on how to handle cancel culture, which is a phenomenon where a person who has done something objectionable or unacceptable is shunned, boycotted, or becomes the target of online hate for a time.

Mendoza and Romana’s life in the spotlight highlighted resilience in the face of adversity—especially in an industry where



(From left:) James Deakin, Dimples Romana, Regina Asa, and Chele Mendoza share their insights and experiences.

cancel culture is very rampant. Romana also emphasized her advocacy of creating an authentic and positive community in the digital sphere.

Asa reflected on her exposure in the food service industry and how effective leadership can help navigate the challenges posed by cancel culture.

Meanwhile, Deakin spoke of his multifaceted career and how his many roles reflect the complexities of navigating cancel culture in the digital age.

The forum was organized to highlight the importance of engaging with cancel culture in an informed, constructive, and open-minded manner that sets a precedent

for future discussions on the topic.

Attendees left with a deeper understanding of cancel culture’s implications and the importance of resilience and authenticity in navigating online criticism. CancelledtGPT served as a platform for thought provoking discussions, highlighting the potential for social transformation amidst the tepid waters of cancel culture.

As society continuously evolves, along with the technological advances in this day and age, events like CancelledtGPT play a pivotal role in fostering informed dialogue and empowering individuals to navigate the digital landscape with confidence. ■

## ARTS AND CULTURE

### USTPH holds *Sinag* 2024 at Philippine Book Festival



USTPH Deputy Director Paul A. Castillo, USTPH Director Benedict B. Parfan with National Artist for Literature Virgilio S. Almario

The UST Publishing House (USTPH) mounted *SINAG* 2024: The USTPH Annual Grand Book Launch on April 25, 2024 during the Philippine Book Festival at the World Trade Center.

The event kicked off with a presentation of titles from the current academic year, followed by a group book signing event. The launch brought together acclaimed and award-winning authors in one stage including National Artist for Literature Virgilio S. Almario, Cristina Pantoja-Hidalgo, Raphael Atienza Coronel, Michael M. Corozza, Rino D.A. Fernandez, Paul Alcosoba Castillo, Jaileen F. Jimeno, Eva Irene Yu Maglono, Fr. Cecilio Vladimir Magboo, O.P., Josel Nicolas, Joel M. Toledo, Jose Victor Z. Torres, Enrique S. Villasis, and Gem Deveras Mañosa.

The launch also unveiled three new titles: *KalapatingLeon: Isang Kuwento ng mga Diwata Para sa Ating Panahon* by Eileen R. Tabios, translated into Filipino by Danton Remoto; *Benedicta Takes Wing and Other Stories* by Veronica Montes; and *A Book of Dreams: A Novel (Second Edition)* by Cristina Pantoja-Hidalgo.

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Other book signing events were also held during the four-day book fair. Former USTPH Director John Jack G. Wigley, Dawn Marfil-Burris, and Josel Nicolas joined in for a meet and greet on April 26, 2024; followed by Joselito D. Delos Reyes and Chuckberry J. Pascual on April 28, 2024.

The four-day book fair, spearheaded by the National Book Development Board, was held from April 25 to 28, 2024. The event mounted panels featuring discussions on craft and literature with esteemed authors and artists, and was attended by fellow publishers and book lovers.

The launch is also USTPH's contribution to the celebration of UST's 413th founding anniversary. ■



Meet & Greet with former USTPH Director John Jack G. Wigley, Dawn Marfil-Burris, and Josel Nicolas



Presentation of titles with USTPH authors, including (from left:) USTPH Deputy Director Paul A. Castillo, USTPH Director Benedict B. Parfan, Rev. Fr. Cecilio Vladimir Magboo, O.P., Rino D.A. Fernandez, Eva Irene Yu Maglonzo, Jose Victor Z. Torres, Josel Nicolas, Gem Deveras Mañosas, Jaileen F. Jimeno, Cristina Pantoja-Hidalgo, Michael M. Corozza, Raphael Atienza Coronel, Joel M. Toledo, and Enrique S. Villasias

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

CCCPET, IR roll out  
One Values Project in Samar Province

The One Values Project, a collaboration between the Provincial Government of Samar, the UST Graduate School - Center for Conservation of Cultural Property and Environment in the Tropics (CCCPET) and the UST Institute of Religion (IR), began its series of community consultations from April 29 to 30, 2024.

Four community sessions were held in four different sites: Catbalogan, Calbayog, Hinabangan, and Gandara. Selected academic staff from IR facilitated the group discussions. Also part of the team in charge of module development are IR Assistant Director Assoc. Prof. Allan A. Basas, S.Th.D. and Mr. Ivan Efreaim A. Gozum. Joining them are Prof. Eric Zerrudo, Ph.D., and Ms. Beverly Bautista of CCCPET. Among those who participated in the sessions include representatives from the youth, national agencies, educators, entrepreneurs, interreligious representatives, security forces, professionals, farmers, and fisherfolks.

The One Values Project is a pioneering endeavor focused on the values formation of young people in Samar. It is guided by the seven commitments of the Global Compact on Education, a framework championed by Pope Francis, and follows the innovative matrix of Dominican-Thomistic Education by Design, a signature pedagogy of IR. The project's ultimate goal is to develop a series of research-based, highly interactive values formation modules that will have a profound impact on the youth of Samar province. ■



Community consultations

GS, Simbahayan lead Mental Health Seminar  
for Philippine Army



Prof. Montaña introduces the seminar to the participants.



Prof. Bance gives the overview of the lecture to the participants.

The UST Simbahayan Community Development Program, in partnership with the UST Graduate School Guidance & Counseling Program conducted a mental health seminar titled, "Lakas ng Isipan at Kaloooban, Lakas ng Sandatahan," at the Philippine Army - Civil Military Operations Regiment at Fort Andres Bonifacio, Taguig City, which was attended by military officers, enlisted personnel, and civilian employees on May 3, 2024.

The seminar began with the welcome remarks of the Chief of the Philippine Army

- Civilian Affairs Office, Major Jill Taguba. It was then followed by the introduction of the seminar by USTGS Community Development Research Coordinator Prof. Robert Montaña, Ph.D., who shared that this activity was a result of the collaborative efforts of the UST Graduate School and the Armed Forces of the Philippines - Philippine Army. It was followed by the overview and rationale of the Seminar-workshop by UST GS Guidance & Counseling Program Lead Prof. Lucila O. Bance Ph.D.

Under the supervision and guidance of Bance, four Graduate School students of the

Guidance and Counseling Program, facilitated the seminar-workshop. Ms. Angelique Alferez and Ms. Dorothea dela Cruz, served as workshop facilitators while the importance of mental health and techniques on how to handle stress were shared by Fr. Jestoni Macapas and Ms. Bianca Erese.

Another talk titled "Mental Health Matters" was given by Fr. Macapas. He shared essential information about mental health focusing on how to promote positive mental health in the military. The second lecture was given by Erese, "Managing Stress and Building Resilience", where she imparted some stress management techniques. She also shed light on ways to build resilience. To wrap-up the seminar, a synthesis was provided by Dela Cruz.

Operation Officer Chief, Philippine Army - Civilian Affairs Office, Major Jill Taguba, an alumna of the UST College of Education expressed her desire for a continued collaboration with the UST Graduate School. Talks about future plans include research initiatives and other seminars on mental health. ■



PHOTO NEWS



The University of Santo Tomas inked a memorandum of understanding for academic and research cooperation in the areas of Forensic Science and International Law with the Central Police University in Taoyuan City, R.O.C. (Taiwan). UST Acting Rector Very Rev. Fr. Isaias D. Tiongco, OP, JCD and CPU President Yuan-Ming Yang were the signatories for the two institutions, with UST Secretary-General Rev. Fr. Louie Coronel, OP, EHL, and CPU Provost of Academic Affairs Prof. Tyan Muh Tsai serving as witnesses, during the signing on May 6, 2024 at the Rector's Hall. TECO Deputy Representative and Minister Teng-Shi Yang and Taiwan Coast Guard Attaché Cdr. Arthur Yang graced the event.



The DivinaLaw Foundation and the UST Research and Endowment Foundation, Inc., signed a memorandum of agreement to offer scholarships for academic staff of the Faculty of Civil Law who will further their legal education through the Master of Laws and Doctor of Civil Law programs of the UST Graduate School of Law. Atty. Nilo T. Divina, Atty. Lean Jeff Magsombol, the UST Rector Very Rev. Fr. Richard G. Ang, O.P. and UST GS of Law Dean Atty. Jacqueline Lopez-Kaw inked the agreement on April 8, 2024, at the Rector's Hall.

UNIVERSITY VISITORS



2024 Pritzker Architecture Prize Laureate Ar. Riken Yamamoto

The 2024 Pritzker Architecture Prize Laureate and International Academy of Architecture Academician Riken Yamamoto (front row, third from left) graced the University of Santo Tomas campus a day prior to his lecture at the 13th National Architecture Symposium organized by the Architecture Network at the PICC. He was welcomed by officials and students of the UST College of Architecture, led by Dean Rodolfo Ventura (front row, fourth from left), while the Office of Public Affairs Director Ms. Michaela Lagniton (front row, fifth from left) and her team had the privilege of giving him a brief tour of the campus on May 3, 2024.



Otsuka Solar Philippines and Otsuka Pharmaceuticals Philippines

Otsuka Solar Philippines President Mr. Ken Saito (leftmost) and Otsuka Pharmaceuticals Philippines President Ms. Hisayo Nishihara (rightmost) visited the University of Santo Tomas as part of the Faculty of Pharmacy's health and wellness initiative "UST Rx: Prescription for Wellness-Refresh, Recharge, and Rejuvenate" on May 10, 2024. UST OPA Director Ms. Michaela Lagniton (second from left) assisted Dean Prof. Aleth Therese Dacanay, Ph.D. (third from left), in welcoming the guests.





### Austrian Embassy in Manila and WORK in AUSTRIA

A delegation from the Austrian Embassy in Manila (@AustriInPH), including Ms. Margit Kreuzhuber (fifth from left), Head of the Austrian Business Agency ‘WORK in AUSTRIA’, with the UST Office of Public Affairs Director Ms. Michaela Lagniton (second from left), Assistant Head Librarian for Digitization Mr. Symon Lagao (fourth from left), Assistant Head Librarian for General Reference and Information Ms. Kaori Fuchigami (rightmost) and OPA Office Assistant Ms. Shenine Pascual (leftmost) on May 14, 2024

### Manga artist Masakazu Iwasaki and Philippine Nikkei-jin Legal Support Center Representative Director Norihiro Inomata

Manga artist Masakazu Iwasaki and Philippine Nikkei-jin Legal Support Center Representative Director Norihiro Inomata (fourth from right) visited the University of Santo Tomas for a meeting with officials of the College of Fine Arts and Design. UST OPA Director Ms. Michaela Lagniton gave them a tour of the campus on May 17, 2024.



### Embassy of the Republic Indonesia in Manila and Universitas Negeri Surabaya



Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia in Manila Education and Culture Attaché Prof. Dr. Ir. Aisyah Endah Palupi and delegates from the Universitas Negeri Surabaya led by UNESA Faculty of Engineering Dean Prof. Dr. Suparji visited UST on May 28, 2024. They met with UST officials from the Office of International Relations and Programs and UST Faculty of Engineering, led by Dean Emeritus Prof. Lilian Sison, Ph.D. and Prof. Angelo dela Cruz, Ph.D., respectively. UST OPA Director Ms. Michaela Lagniton welcomed the guests and led the tour of the campus, which included visits to the UST Museum and Antonio Vivencio del Rosario UST Heritage Library. The meeting was an offshoot of the UST Ambassadors Lecture Series held in April 2024.



# THE ACADEMIA

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