



Prof. María Minerva P. Calimag, M.D., PhD. (third from left) with (from left:) Metrobank Foundation Executive Vice President Mr. Philip Francisco U. Dy, Vice Rector for Academic Affairs Prof. Cheryl Peralta, DrPH, Acting Rector Rev. Fr. Isaias D. Tiongco, O.P., JCD and the Vice Rector for Research and Innovation Rev. Fr. Jannel Abogado, O.P., DTPS

Pharmacoepidemiologist Calimag of UST-FMS is conferred Professorial Chair in Medicine

Prof. María Minerva P. Calimag, M.D., Ph.D., was conferred the Doña Victoria Ty Tan Professorial Chair in Medicine in a solemn investiture held at the Dr. George S.K. Ty Hall of the Bl. Buenaventura García Paredes, O.P. Building on July 19, 2024. The professorial chair is named after Doña Victoria Ty Tan, mother of Dr. George S.K. Ty, who founded Metrobank.

UST Faculty of Medicine and Surgery (FMS) Dean Assoc. Prof. Ma. Lourdes D. Maglinao, M.D., in her message, said “We profoundly thank the Metrobank Foundation (MBF) for providing this relevant venue to promote this initiative in medical education in honor of Doña Victoria Ty Tan. May this occasion inspire continued dedication and provide lessons to shape a more adaptable, irrepressible, and resilient future.”

Representing Metrobank Foundation at the event was its Executive Vice President

Mr. Philip Francisco U. Dy, who extended MBF’s warmest congratulations to the conferee. He shared in his message that the said Professorial Chair aimed to contribute to the global competitiveness of our country’s medical practitioners and that UST and MBF shared the mission of proactively addressing development challenges in the Philippines, particularly in the health sector through research and the conduct of various fora.

The Acting Rector Rev. Fr. Isaias D. Tiongco, O.P., JCD, Mr. Philip Dy, and Vice Rector for Academic Affairs Prof. Cheryl Peralta, DrPH, presented the certificate, while Fr. Tiongco, Mr. Dy, and the Vice Rector for Research and Innovation Rev. Fr. Jannel Abogado, O.P., DTPS, presented the Professorial Medal.

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Dr. Calimag delivers her acceptance speech.



Prof. María Minerva P. Calimag, M.D., Ph.D.. (center) is congratulated by the Acting Rector Rev. Fr. Isaias D. Tiongco, O.P., JCD (fourth from left). With them are (from left:) Metrobank Foundation Executive Vice President Mr. Philip Francisco U. Dy, Vice Rector for Academic Affairs Prof. Cheryl Peralta, DrPH, and the Vice Rector for Research and Innovation Rev. Fr. Jannel Abogado, O.P., DTPS.

The Key to Success

“As I accept the Doña Victoria Ty Tan Professorial Chair, I am reminded of the transformative power of education in shaping competent, committed, compassionate, and ethical medical professionals. I am committed to furthering this legacy by fostering an environment of critical thinking, empathy, and lifelong learning among our students and colleagues,” said Dr. Calimag, who wears many hats as a clinician, academician, research scientist, pharmacoepidemiologist, anesthesiologist, organizational leader, patient safety advocate, and public speaker, among many others.

In her lecture titled “Knowing Oneself Inside and Out: Success Formula for Teachers/Students in Caring Professions”, Dr. Calimag highlighted that health and wellness are not just the absence of disease or distress, but entail thriving physically, socially, and mentally in the personal and professional aspects of life. Hence, socio-emotional skills and competencies are necessary to develop.

These include self-awareness and self-management of emotions, thoughts, and behaviors; social awareness and empathy with others’ perspectives; positive relationship building with diverse groups and individuals; responsible decision-making; and a growth mindset. Such competencies build both resilience and grit, which would be well-supported by a sense of gratitude and humor, said Dr. Calimag, who added that the way to instill and develop these qualities in today’s

generation of medical students is through mentorship.

“The ability to reflect is the beating heart of successful mentorship,” shared Dr. Calimag, for “Mentors help us see what we may not otherwise see in ourselves, help us clarify our career pursuits, and encourage us in areas where confidence may be lacking. They do not necessarily have the answers. Rather, they merely seem to ask the right questions so we may discover the answers within.”

“Study, study, study! Because that will be value added. It is not just the letter after our names. We take risks and tread new career paths. Be different and expand your boundaries! That will be your competitive advantage. Steer away from the traditional and look for the blue ocean, for that will be your market niche!”

The Honoree’s Own Road to Success

Dr. Calimag began teaching at UST in 1986, and is now a Full Professor at FMS and a Professorial Lecturer at the MHPed and MHA programs of the Graduate School.

After graduating magna cum laude from the UST College of Science in 1977, she completed her Doctor of Medicine degree at the UST FMS in 1981. In 2003, she completed her Master of Science in Clinical Epidemiology degree from UP Manila, and obtained her Doctor of Philosophy in Education Major in

Educational Management degree from UST in 2011.

She was the first recipient of the Eric Nubla Award for Excellence in the Professions by the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC). She also received other awards, like the 2014 PSA Dr. Quintin J. Gomez Outstanding Filipino Anesthesiologist Award; the PMA 26th Dr. Jose Rizal Award for the Academe; the 2021 Metrobank Foundation Outstanding Filipino Teacher in Higher Education; the 2022 Gawad Banyuhay ng Kalusugan - Doctor Leader of the Year Award; and the 2022 Outstanding Mother Award by the National Federation of Women’s Clubs of the Philippines.

“Despite all the accolades that come my way, my greatest achievement in life is being a wife and mother. I thank God for having given me the chance to share a full and fruitful life with my beloved husband, the late Dr. Placido Calimag, Jr., with whom I blazed a similar career path, and to be a loving mother to our brood of eight children,” shared Dr. Calimag.

Dr. Calimag’s eight children all grew to become Thomasian doctors themselves, collectively winning The Outstanding Thomasian Alumni (TOTAL) Awards’ “Thomasian Family” award in May 2022.

Aside from her involvement in UST, Dr. Calimag is currently on her fourth term as President of the Philippine Medical

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UST participates in ACUP's first-ever youth gathering

The Association of Catholic Universities of the Philippines, Inc. (ACUP) concluded its first Youth Seminar-Workshop and gathered over a hundred student leaders, student affairs officers, and organization advisers from all over the Philippines. It was held on July 23 and 24, 2024, at the Fr. Francis Gevers Hall of Saint Louis University (SLU), Baguio. The ACUP Youth Seminar-Workshop centered on the youth's role in synodality and social transformation.

The two-day gathering explored ways in which the youth can be involved in synodal efforts in their schools and communities; emphasized the unique roles of the youth in promoting innovative ideas in line with synodality and methods of new evangelization; and empowered the youth to take action in matters of the environment, social transformation, and technology in line with the teachings of the Church.

The two-day gathering had for its keynote speakers the Angat Buhay Chairperson Atty. Maria Leonor "Leni" G. Robredo and the Office for the Promotion of the New Evangelization (OPNE) Director Rev. Fr. Jason H. Laguerta, Ph.D., while Mr. John Rhey Espinoza and Radio Veritas 846 anchor Ms. Hazel Lorraine Icalia from OPNE served as the Masters of Ceremonies.

Day 1

In his welcome remarks, ACUP and Saint Louis University President Rev. Fr. Gilbert B. Sales, CICM, Ph.D. shares that "This conference is both an opportunity and a challenge. It is a chance to deepen our understanding of synodality. It is also a call to action, urging us to work collectively toward social transformation. Your participation here is a testament to your commitment to these principles and we look forward to the innovative ideas and collaborative ideas that will emerge from our discussions. May this conference inspire you, challenge you, and empower you to be catalysts for positive change in our world."

Fr. Laguerta's keynote discussion on the morning of Day 1 centered on "The Youth's Role in Synodality and New Evangelization". His long-established active involvement in the synodal efforts of the Church—including engaging with thousands of faithful at the annual Philippine Conference for New Evangelization, which he serves as the Director—prompted valuable insights to be shared with the participants.



ACUP Secretary-General and UST Office of Public Affairs Director Ms. Michaela Lagniton introduces Fr. Sales and Br. Oca to Atty. Robredo



He interpreted the theme "Tayo-Tayo" in three ways: *Tayô Táyo* (Let us stand), *Tayo-tayo* (we, together), and *Tayô! Tayô!* (Stand! Tumindig!) in calls to action to

ACUP Treasurer and DLSU President Br. Bernard Oca, FSC, EdD, (leftmost) and ACUP Secretary-General and UST Office of Public Affairs Director Ms. Michaela Lagniton (rightmost) present tokens and certificates of appreciation to Mr. John Ryan Huqueriza, Ms. Mari Ernestine Okol, Mr. Yuval Adera, and keynote speaker Fr. Jason Laguerta

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stand up for your beliefs and principles and to become and share good news to your community.

"Never stop questioning things, not with disrespect, but because that is what is needed for us to grow as a Church. We cannot just be quiet bystanders. Do not let life pass you by," Fr. Laguerta encouraged the participants.

Fr. Laguerta called Jesus 'the change that changes everything' and urged participants to open their hearts to encounter Christ, saying "Evangelization is to be so transformed by the love of God so that you are clear about who you are. Be what God has meant you to be, and you can transform the world. We have to go back to that fundamental relationship with God, that basic experience of God's love in our heart. You are loved! You are loved more than you'll ever know. This is more than enough for us to be a seeker, a dreamer, a warrior, and a mess-maker. Young people, I challenge you: Be the change you want to see in the world. You can be that change if you have allowed God to change you."

To facilitate active dialogue among the youth and the Church, Fr. Laguerta's talk had a panel of student reactors from Catholic schools in Luzon, Visayas, and

Mindanao, including San Beda University (Manila) Student Council President Ms. Mari Ernestine Okol, University of St. La Salle (Bacolod) Student Senate President Mr. Yuval Adera, and Notre Dame of Marbel University (Koronadal) Student Government President Mr. John Ryan Huqueriza. They shared insights and comments on Fr. Laguerta's keynote address.

In the afternoon session, Living Laudato Si' Philippines Executive Director and Thomasian alumnus Mr. Rodne Galicha spoke on "The Youth and the Environment: The Road to Laudato Si' Schools." His organization empowers citizens to adopt lifestyles and attitudes that meet the urgent need to care for our common home. It acts towards promoting sustainable development and stopping the climate crisis and degradation through collective action among people from different sectors. Mr. Galicha's talk explored the youth's role as stewards of God's creation and how they can apply this in their own learning environments.

Ms. May Parsons, the UK-based Filipina nurse and Thomasian alumna who administered the world's first COVID-19 vaccine, discussed "The Youth and Social Transformation: Inspirations to Uplift the Community" in her video message. Ms. Parsons is currently the Associate Chief Nurse and Director for Risk, Governance and Compliance at the Buckinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust, United Kingdom, and was awarded the prestigious George Cross by the late Queen Elizabeth II. Since marking her name in history, she has launched a charity to support medical workers, particularly to uplift nurses from disadvantaged backgrounds.

The third plenary speaker for Day 1 is Break the Fake Movement Founder Mr. Gabriel Billones, Jr., the first Filipino who became an Obama Foundation Scholar at Columbia University in New York City. He leads an alliance of over 500 young professionals across Southeast Asia who fight fake news, promote media and information literacy, and encourage responsible digital citizenship. His talk focused on "The Youth and Technology: How to Counter the Information Disorder."

Day 2

The keynote speaker for Day 2, human rights lawyer and Angat Buhay Chairperson Atty. Leni Robredo, discussed "Tayo-Tayo: The Youth's Involvement in Synodality and Social Transformation" at the Fr. Joseph van den Daelen Center for Culture and Arts Theater of SLU. Before, during, and after her term as the 14th Vice President of the Philippines, she has led efforts to implement community-centered and sustainable development initiatives on education, health, community engagement, and disaster response and rehabilitation. It is her seasoned leadership and expertise in such matters that enriched the discussion, which took the form of a fireside chat.

With over 500 Catholic school administrators, teachers, students, and youth leaders from SLU and ACUP in attendance during her talk, Atty. Robredo recommended schools to provide more spaces, time, and opportunities for student involvement in causes they are passionate about. By doing so, they become empowered to express their thoughts and

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ACUP Youth Gathering 2024 participants, SLU administrators, academic staff, and students with Atty. Robredo (seated, center, in pink). With them are ACUP and SLU President Rev. Fr. Gilbert B. Sales, CICM, Ph.D. (seated, front row, third from left), ACUP Treasurer and DLSU President Br. Bernard Oca, FSC, EdD (seated, front row, fifth from left) SLU administrators, and the ACUP Secretariat led by the ACUP Secretary-General and UST Office of Public Affairs Director Ms. Michaela Lagniton (standing, second row, rightmost).





Human rights lawyer and Angat Buhay Chairperson Atty. Leni Robredo shares insights on synodality, education, social transformation, and sustainability, during the fireside chat.

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ideas, and they are encouraged to pursue learning in areas of interest outside their chosen program and curriculum.

Upon being asked if such a change is possible within the current school system in the country, Atty. Robredo answered “This [systemic change in educational mindset] is possible, but it has to start at the basic education level so that the critical thinking of students is well-developed. It will take time to achieve that kind of progressive education system, but even though it will be a time-consuming journey, it needs to be started, considering that the international educational assessments have seen the Philippines at low ranks.”

She also shared her observations of schools abroad, particularly in Helsinki, Finland, which consistently top the international educational assessments, such as the World Economic Forum’s Global Competitiveness Report for Education. She noted that their focus on having greater autonomy and adaptability in schools, lessening bureaucracy, starting formal schooling at a slightly later age (seven years old) so the children can maximize their early development years at home, establishing less strenuous schooldays with only a few academic units in a given week, and giving multiple opportunities and free time for students to pursue their advocacies and interests are the best practices to study and emulate.

On the topic of prioritizing sustainability, Atty. Robredo was asked how to enjoin people from all walks of life, particularly when for many struggling and under-served Filipinos, the “sustainable

option” is unreachable or impractical because that costs more.

“The biggest mistake that we commit when we talk about sustainability is to look at it as a separate matter [from inequity], but we need to view it as part of a larger problem. Ideally, ones who make sustainability policies would also be immersed and well-informed about the day-to-day struggles faced at the grassroots level, and would have the foresight to integrate sustainability policies into larger social welfare initiatives and programs,” shared Atty. Robredo.

“For example, if people have no access to clean water at home, then we can’t fault people for buying bottled water. Potable water is a right, and they have no other choice. It’s easy to say, just save money [to avoid ‘tingi-tingi’ and single-use plastic consumption like sachets], but these people either have no job, or are working three simultaneous jobs with barely any sleep just to provide for their families, so for me, you cannot talk about sustainability without first attacking the many causes of inequity in society,” said Atty. Robredo.

She added, “before we talk of sustainability, we have to search for solutions to the more immediate issues our less privileged citizens face [like hunger, housing, healthcare]. Once these daily struggles are resolved, then they could have the means to turn their focus on sustainability efforts. But if we don’t first focus on meeting their immediate needs for survival and livelihood, then complying would not be important for them and you can’t even fault them for that.”

Following the fireside chat was the plenary discussion on “The Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Journey of the Louisiana Community” by the 2022 Catholic Heroes Awardee of the Catholic Educational Association of the Philippines and SLU Executive Assistant to the President Prof. Joselito C. Gutierrez, Ph.D., who is also the Officer-in-Charge of the SDG and Laudato Si’ Center of SLU. He discussed programs to uplift people and promote the missionary spirit among Louisians, which are attuned to the needs of the people since they truly immerse themselves and journey with their partner community.

In the afternoon, a workshop on Missionary Discipleship was led by Mr. John Rhey Espinoza, with breakout sessions focusing on the environment, social transformation, and technology.

The two-day youth gathering concluded with a collaborative cultural presentation. The CCA Performing Groups of Saint Louis University represented Luzon with their performances of “*Tayong Mga Pilipino*”, “*Pumalakpak*” from the musical *Higit sa Pagibig*, *Koyu no Tebulul*, and *Piliin mo ang Pilipinas*. Holy Name University represented Visayas with their lively performance of the celebratory group dance *Kuradang*, and the University of the Immaculate Conception represented Mindanao with their spoken word poem that invited youth to listen and participate in creating a more sustainable community titled, “*Tayo at Kalikasan*”. For dinner, the SLU Concert Orchestra’s String Quartet enriched the ambiance.

Having celebrated its 50th anniversary last year, ACUP is currently led by its President Rev. Fr. Gilbert B. Sales, CICM, Ph.D., who also serves as the President of Saint Louis University in Baguio City.

UST Rector Very Rev. Fr. Richard G. Ang, O.P., Ph.D., serves as the ACUP Vice President, while the ACUP Secretariat is under the care of the UST Office of Public Affairs, led by the ACUP Secretary-General and UST Office of Public Affairs Director Ms. Michaela O. Lagniton. ■

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Association. Prior to that, she previously led the Philippine Society of Anesthesiologists as well as the Asian and Oceanic Society of Regional Anaesthesia and Pain Medicine,

The Metrobank Foundation, Inc., in partnership with the UST Research and Endowment Foundation, Inc., established the Doña Victoria Ty Tan Professorial Chair in Medical Education in 2019. As the fourth recipient of the Professorial Chair in Medicine, Dr. Calimag now joins the previous honorees Prof. Sandra Teresa V. Navarra, M.D., Prof. Fidela L. Moreno, M.D., and Prof. Angeles Tan Alora, M.D. Upon conferment to 10 medical educators and researchers, UST and the Metrobank Foundation will publish a book containing the collated lectures and research works. ■

Dones of CHRMS now an accredited trainer for JBI



Prof. Dones

Professor Valentin C. Dones III, Ph.D., a core researcher of the Center for Health Research and Movement Science (CHRMS) at the University of Santo Tomas, has successfully completed the training program that accredits him as a JBI Trainer for the Comprehensive Systematic Review Training Program and Scoping Review Workshop offered by JBI of the University of Adelaide, Australia. He completed the program on May 12, 2024.

JBI offers a rigorous five-day training program designed to equip participants with the necessary skills for conducting systematic and scoping reviews. The program begins with an introduction to evidence-based healthcare and foundational aspects of systematic reviews. Participants then explore advanced methods, including meta-analysis, qualitative reviews, and handling heterogeneity. Additionally, the course

covers scoping reviews, focusing on protocol development, literature searching, and data charting. Through practical exercises, group work, and presentations, attendees apply their knowledge under the guidance of expert facilitators. The program, supported by JBI's resources and tools, aims to enhance participants' capabilities in conducting high-quality reviews, culminating in a certification of completion.

JBI is a global organization dedicated to promoting and supporting evidence-based decisions to enhance health and health service delivery. Notably, CHRMS at the University of Santo Tomas stands as the only JBI-accredited research center in the Philippines, underscoring its pivotal role in advancing evidence-based healthcare in the region. ■

Manalad, De Viana of Architecture elevated to UAP College of Fellows; Thomasian architects elected to key positions

Asst. Prof. Jonathan Manalad and Asst. Prof. Lorelei De Viana were elevated to the College of Fellows of the United Architects of the Philippines - the Integrated and Accredited Organization of Architects. They are both recognized for their outstanding contribution in the field of architecture education, professional practice, and service to the organization.

The conferment of the title "Fellow - United Architects of the Philippines" (FUAP) was held during the Investiture of Fellows during the UAP National Convention on April 20, 2024 at the SMX Convention Center Manila.

Apart from being elevated to Fellow, Manalad also won the Election for the position of Area A Vice President held during the UAP National Convention on April 21, 2024. As Area A Vice President, he takes charge of the effective and systematic supervision of UAP Chapters under his jurisdiction—which covers the North of Luzon to Quezon City, and Foreign UAP Chapters based in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia—a total of 86 Chapters under his leadership.

Aside from Manalad, several Thomasians were also elected to key positions in the Architects Organization which includes Ar. Annie C. Pugeda as National Executive Vice President; Ar. Ma. Cecilia C. Viray as Secretary General; Ar. Mary Janessie T. Tumambing as National Treasurer; and Ar. Catherine Balce-Carunungan as Chancellor of the College of Fellows. Ar. Richard M. Garcia was also recognized as the Immediate Past National President who served UAP from 2022 to 2024.

Several academic staff currently serve the organization in various capacities: Ar. Jose Marie S. Tan as Vice Chairperson



Asst. Prof. de Viana and Asst. Prof. Manalad (standing, center)

of the Committee on National and Civic Affairs; Ar. Mary Rajelyn J. Busmente as Vice-Chair of the Committee on Liturgical Architecture & Sacred Spaces; Ar. Vinson P. Serrano as Vice Chairperson of the Committee on Allied Professions and Fields; Ar. David Paul L. Yu as Chapter President of the Manila Atelier Chapter; and Ar. Armando Eugene De Guzman as Vice Chancellor of the College of Fellows (past UAP National President).

The UAP fiscal year begins on July 1, 2024 and will end on June 30, 2025. ■

CRS, Engineering academic staff appointed to editorial boards of science journals

Two academic staff members were appointed as part of the editorial board of two scientific journals.

Assoc. Prof. Ivan Neil Gomez, Ph.D., academic staff from the College of Rehabilitation Science and the Health Research Program of the Graduate School, was recently appointed as Associate Editor for the Journal of Evaluation in Clinical Practice (JECP).

JECP is a high quality international scholarly journal which focuses on the evaluation and improvement of health practices across medicine, nursing, and allied health professions. JECP is a Q2 journal (SCIMAGO) with a 2.4 impact factor (WoS). Gomez brings UST to JECP's editorial board with practitioners and academics from Stellenbosch University, University of West London, and University of Melbourne.

Meanwhile, Asst. Prof. Ryan A. Ramirez, Ph.D., from the Department of Civil Engineering, has been appointed as an Associate Editor for the prestigious International Journal of GEOMATE, a significant recognition of his expertise and contribution to the field.

The International Journal of GEOMATE is a peer-reviewed scientific international journal published by the GEOMATE International Society that encompasses a broad range of



Asst. Prof. Ramirez



Assoc. Prof. Gomez

interdisciplinary research topics, including Geotechnique, Construction Materials, and Environment.

The journal is indexed in Scopus (CiteScore = 1.90, Q3 in Building and Construction) and Web of Science (Impact Factor = 0.90, Q4 in Civil Engineering). ■

Educ student receives CHED-UniFAST Academic Excellence Award



Franco (fourth from left) with CHED Chief Education Program Specialist Victorino P. Datuin (fifth from left), officials of the College of Education led by Dean Assoc. Prof. Pilar I. Romero, Ph.D. (third from left) and UST OSA Assistant Director Asst. Prof. Maria Regina Arriero (rightmost),

The Commission on Higher Education (CHED) and Unified Student Financial Assistance for Tertiary Education (UniFAST), in partnership with the UST Office for Students Affairs, conferred the CHED-UniFAST Academic Excellence Award to Ma. Bianca Lourize V. Franco from the College of Education on July 8.

The prestigious award was given to the most outstanding CHED-UniFAST grantee for the Academic Year 2023-2024. Franco obtained the highest general weighted average of 1.098 among all CHED-UniFAST grantees for the said academic year.

CHED Chief Education Program Specialist Victorino P. Datuin, UniFAST NCR Lead Region Coordinator Leny D. Noraña, and Tulong Dunong Focal Person Fernando Cinco bestowed the award during the ceremony held at the Lourdes J. Custodio Multipurpose Hall of the Albertus Magnus Building.

UST OSA-CHED staff-in-charge Jackielou Martinez, College of Education Dean Assoc. Prof. Pilar I. Romero, Ph.D., and Assistant Dean Asst. Prof. Louie B. Dasas, LPT Ph.D., were also present during the event.

Franco, an English major, graduated Summa Cum Laude of her batch. ■

Biology students, academic staff present Hydrobiology research in Korea



Thomasian delegates at ASH 2024, including (from left:) Cablitas, Estrada, Peralta, Gilles, Aquino, Lumba, and Frias

BS Biology students and academic staff from the Department of Biological Sciences under the College of Science brought home awards from the 6th Biannual Conference of Asian Society for Hydrobiology (ASH 2024) held from July 1 to 4, 2024 at the Hana Square, Korea University, Seoul, South Korea.

Both alumni and academic staff from the College of Science presented their research during the conference. Mary Grace Lumba and Zarina Dawn Cablitas who both majored in Environmental Biology won Best Poster for their research titled *“Diet analysis and risk screening of native and introduced fish species in Angat Watershed Forest Reserve: Implications on protection and management”*. Mr. Elfritzson M. Peralta, MSc served as the pair’s research adviser. The research is co-authored with academic staff from the Department of Biological Sciences namely Mr. Kenneth Xavier Sanchez, MSc, Mr. Allan Gilles, Jr., MSc, Assoc. Prof. Richard Thomas Pavia, Jr., Ph.D., and UST College of Science Dean Prof. Rey Donne Papa, Ph.D.

In the same poster session, Eliza Rose Aquino, Miguel Estrada, and

Hannah Lorraine Frias who majored in Medical Biology presented their thesis titled *“Benthic macroinvertebrate communities reveal urban river health in Batangas and Zambales, Philippines: Does protection status influence urbanized watersheds?”*. This study is co-authored with Lilian Dela Cruz, a BS Biology student from Batch 2024; Ms. Justine de Leon, academic staff from the Department of Biological Sciences; Mr. Dino Tordesillas an academic staff from UST Senior High School; Prof. Emeritus Milagrosa Martinez-Goss, Ph.D. from the University of the Philippines-Los Banos, Laguna; and Prof. Papa, with Mr. Peralta as research adviser.

During the conference, Allan Gilles won Best Oral Presentation based on the research titled *“Current and future risk of invasion posed by non-native freshwater fishes in a mega-biodiversity country (The Philippines)”*. This presentation is co-authored with Jean-Matthew Bate (BS Biology Batch 2023) and his colleagues from the department Mr. Peralta, Dr. Pavia, and Visiting Assoc. Prof. Lorenzo Vilizzi. In addition, Mr. Elfritzson Peralta also won Best Oral Presentation based on

the research titled *“Philippine watersheds in the Anthropocene: Cases of southern urban hydrosystem syndrome and freshwater protected area”*, which was co-authored with Mr. Sanchez and Prof. Papa.

With the theme “New Waves in Hydrobiology towards a Changing World”, ASH 2024 was attended by a total of 243 participants from different countries (i.e., China, India, Japan, Mexico, Mongolia, Nepal, Philippines, Russia, South Korea, Spain, Thailand, Vietnam). Four out of 55 poster presentations and nine out of 63 oral presentations have been awarded as Best Poster Presentation and Best Oral Presentations, respectively, across different sessions. The recognitions received by the students and academic staff of the University of Santo Tomas are testament to the significant contributions of the Thomasian researchers towards the challenges being faced by Philippine aquatic ecosystems.

ASH 2024 also saw the appointment of Dean Papa as one of the new Executive Board members of the international organization in the field of hydrobiology in Asia. ■

Architecture student presents research on urban environment design tool

Xavier Daniel Y. Tan, a third year student of the College of Architecture presented a study titled *SWOT Imaging as a Geographic Synergy Tool for Designing Urban Environments at the Core and Periphery of Mega Manila*. The study was done in collaboration with Asst. Prof. Cecilia May S. Villanueva, MSArch, and fellow third year students Kent Bendrix E. Bantad, Noriel Sharezer A. Fabia, Jelena Elise S. Tumamao, Christian Raphael D. Castillo, Rynne Dorathy S. Macatangay, Rosemary Louise V. Tan, and Josephine Cyjo Lyn V. Tiberio.

It was presented during the International Conference on Geographic Perspectives on Climate Change Mitigation in Urban and Rural Environments that took place at the prestigious University of Salento's Studium 2000 in the city of Lecce, Italy. Xavier Tan, Christian Castillo, Rosemary Tan and Asst. Prof. Villanueva attended the conference virtually from June 25 to 27, 2024.

The study investigates opportunities for partner communities of the University of Santo Tomas located at the core and periphery of Mega Manila. Standard SWOT matrix is supported with open access data in maps, photographs, and charts to articulate the characteristics of the study areas in understanding the ecological implications of both manmade



Tan's presentation

and natural resources. The study aims to present urban design proposals as synergy tools in collaborating with stakeholders.

Results of the preliminary study show the importance of prioritizing walking and biking as a modality; strengthening of existing public utility routes by identifying possible location of public utility vehicle stations; and enriching the urban fabric by converting underutilized space as parks and edible gardens can be ways of providing buffer zones to mitigate climate change threats that are experienced in the communities.

The conference offered insightful discussions and actionable strategies for tackling climate change in both urban and rural settings. International Experts for Research Enrichment and Knowledge Exchange (IEREK), an international institution that is concerned with the exchange of knowledge and enhancing research internationally through organizing and managing conferences, invited all interested environmentalists and university students from all over the world. Discussions that elaborate on topics about climate mitigation in urban and rural environments, specifically in a geographic context were highlighted in the conference. ■

INTERNATIONALIZATION International visiting professors facilitate courses at UST GS

For Term 2 and the Special Term of A.Y. 2023-2024, the University of Santo Tomas Graduate School (UST GS) welcomed four distinguished visiting professors from the United Kingdom, South Korea, Thailand, and Singapore, who are renowned in their respective fields of Philosophy, History, English Language Studies, and Educational Management.

Dr. John J. Lydon, from the United Kingdom, is an Associate Professor and holds several roles at St. Mary's University in London. He also collaborates with the University of Notre Dame, University

of Glasgow, and St. John's Seminary in Surrey. Lydon, who earned his Ph.D. from the University of Surrey, led the "Problem Solving and Decision Making" course in the Ph.D. program of Educational Management and Leadership.

Dr. George M. Jacobs from Singapore, a Ph.D. graduate in Educational Psychology from the University of Hawaii at Manoa, taught "Language Theory and Practice" for the English Language Studies program.

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Dr. John Lydon



Dr. Yaninie Phaithayawat

History Department joins academic exchange in Taiwan; 2 academic staff receive scholarship for doctorate



UST Department of History with the administrators, academic staff and students of Ph.D. in Asia Pacific Regional Studies of the College of Humanities and Social Science, National Dong Hwa University.

The UST Department of History visited National Dong Hwa University (NDHU) in Hualien, Taiwan, for an academic exchange and benchmarking program on July 11, 2024. The delegation, consisting of seven academic staff members, was led by Department Chair Assoc. Prof. Archie B. Resos, Ph.D.

During the visit, the UST delegation presented a series of curated

topics related to the University of Santo Tomas in an academic symposium organized by NDHU administrators, academic staff, and students from the College of Humanities and Social Science.

Assoc. Prof. Resos delivered a lecture on UST during the Japanese Occupation, while Mr. Glenn-Dale John C. Go focused on the life of Jose Rizal at the University of Santo Tomas. Mr. Gian Paolo R. Mayo shared insights on UST Pax Romana, and Ms. Paula Nichole C. Bautista explored the history behind the admission of female students to the University. Ms. Bernadette Poquiz discussed Diosdado Macapagal, and Asst. Prof. Edelberto Bunquin presented his work titled *Harmonization of Immigration Law: The Philippines' Approach to Adapting to Global Best Practices*. Lastly, Asst. Prof. Robert John I. Donesa covered the Dominican Mission in Formosa.

In turn, NDHU academic staff and students also shared their research. Prof. Yan-Shu Lin, Ph.D., led the presentations with her research on *Centralized versus Decentralized Management: A Tale of a Vertically Integrated Producer with Strategic Input Purchasing*. Other notable presentations included Prof. Doo Chul Kim's discussion on ethnic minorities policy in Vietnam, Prof. Hurng-Jyuhn Wang's analysis of environmental disputes and health risks at the Sixth Naphtha Cracker Complex in Mai-Liao, Taiwan, and Asst. Prof. Yung-Yung Chang's exploration of Taiwan's challenges and opportunities in the emerging Indo-Pacific region. Prof. Shih-Yung Liu presented topics on modern medicine in East Asia, and Mr. Danur Condro Guritino discussed *Social Capital as a Survival Strategy for Indonesian Migrant Live-in Care Workers in Taiwan*.

The visit also marked a significant milestone for two members of the UST Department of History, as Ms. Irene Borrás and Asst. Prof. Robert John I. Donesa were accepted into the NDHU Asian-Pacific Regional Studies doctorate program. ■

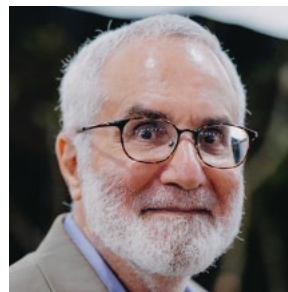
INTERNATIONAL VISITING PROFESSORS FROM PAGE 11

Jacobs is a visiting professor at various international universities, a board member of several organizations, and an editor for academic journals.

The Philosophy Program featured Dr. Alex Taek-Gwang Lee, who taught "Critical Intersection: Philosophy, Art, and Society." Dr. Lee, who completed his Ph.D. in Philosophy and Comparative Literature at the University of Sheffield, currently serves as a Professor and Director at Kyung Hee University in Korea. His work includes extensive publications and grants for teaching and research.

Dr. Yaninie Phaithayawat, a Ph.D. graduate from Waseda University in Japan, teaches at Srinakharinwirot University in Thailand. She offered the "Seminar on Comparative Revolution in Southeast Asia (focused on Thailand)" course.

UST Graduate School aims to enhance the academic experience for its academic staff and students through the expertise of these visiting professors. ■



Dr. George Jacobs



Dr. Alex Taek-Gwang Lee

LECTURES AND CONFERENCES

Bance of GS leads plenary lecture for IOTA PH convention

Dr. Lucila O. Bance of the UST Graduate School served as plenary speaker during the 37th National Midyear Conference and Workshops of the IOTA Phi Counseling and Professional Honor Society, Inc. – Philippine Chapter of the Chi Sigma IOTA Counseling and Academic and Professional Honor Society International. The event was held at the University of the Philippines, School of Labor and Industrial Relations (SOLAIR) from June 20 to 21, 2024. The event was participated in by more than a hundred counselors and counseling psychologists from all over the Philippines.

Bance talked about Managing Suicidal Ideation and Self-Harm Behavior where she explained the many factors that contribute to the thoughts of self-harm, including depression, hopelessness, low self-esteem, peer and parental relationship problems, academic difficulties, social media distress, and substance use. She facilitated a 4-hour workshop focused on the current evidence for psychotherapeutic interventions that include practical information for selecting and implementing programs and practices to treat suicidal ideation, self-harm and suicide attempts among the youth. As an output of the



workshop, the participants developed a suicide management protocol which they presented as part of the culminating activity.

Bance is the Program Lead for Guidance and Counseling of the Graduate School and the 2024 recipient of Distinction Award by the Psychological Association of the Philippines (PAP) and Excellence Awardee for Professional Development by the Philippine Federation of Professional Associations (PFPA). ■

Dr. Bance (third from left) with the PRB Chair for guidance and Counseling Hon. Dr. Guzman and speakers and officers of IOTA PHI

UST SIMBAHAYAN, CCPED partners with Dominican Order for climate change and human rights initiatives

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT



Participants read their copy of the handbook.

The Dominicans for Justice and Peace and Dominican Family for Justice, Peace, and Care for Creation - Philippines launched the handbook "*Climate Change and Human Rights Education for Youth in the Philippines*" at the Buenaventura Garcia Paredes O.P. Building of UST Manila on July 16, 2024. The event was held in collaboration with the UST SIMBAHAYAN Community Development Office (SIMBAHAYAN) and the Center for Continuing Professional Education and Development (CCPED), in partnership with the Misesan Cara (Mission Support Ireland), Taiwan Foundation for Democracy, Colegio de San Juan de Letran - Bataan, Diocese of Alaminos, Santo Domingo Convent in Manila, Dominican Sisters of the Most Holy Rosary of the Philippines, National Collegiate Athletic Association, Colegio de San Juan de Letran - Calamba, Siena College of Quezon City, and Dr. Belen L. Tangco, OP.

CLIMATE CHANGE AND HUMAN RIGHTS INITIATIVES TO PAGE 12

CLIMATE CHANGE AND HUMAN RIGHTS INITIATIVES FROM PAGE 11



Dominicans for Justice and Peace Director and the General Promoter of Justice and Peace and Permanent Delegate to the United Nations Rev. Fr. Aniedi Okure, O.P. during his message



Dominicans for Justice and Peace Program Coordinator Ms. Laurence Blattmer as she responds during the the open forum

Ms. Laurence Blattmer, the Dominicans for Justice and Peace Program Coordinator, emphasized the necessity of providing educators with sufficient resources and training when she said that “Educators can inspire and empower students to become proactive global citizens by understanding the deeply intertwined nature of climate change and human rights.”

The General Promoter of Justice and Peace and Permanent Delegate to the United Nations Rev. Fr. Aniedi Okure, O.P., in his welcome remarks, emphasized the importance of humanity’s future and the instigation of awareness and the call for immediate action against climate change and its impact on human rights. He also highlighted caring for the environment and being stewards of God’s creation. “We who are alive now, we do not inherit land from our ancestors, but borrow it from the future; if you are given land, you are obliged

to take care of it,” he said.

The launch featured insights from human rights advocates, climate change activists, policymakers, and academics, who all emphasized the role of educators as change agents in creating awareness on social issues such as climate change and human rights in the classroom. Attendees were also engaged in a four-day workshop that was held at the Colegio de San Juan de Letran in Bataan on July 16 to July 19. This workshop served as the venue for the discussion on the integration of human rights and climate change into the *Matatag* curriculum.

With the assistance of the SIMBAHAYAN Community Development Office as represented by its Assistant Director Asst. Prof. Christian Rey D. Rimando, MSPT and the Initiatives for Dialogue and Empowerment through Alternative Legal Services (IDEALS)

coordinator Genalyn G. Aquino-Arcayera, Ph.D., the trainees were able to immerse themselves during the four-day workshop as they took a deep dive into the nuances and needs that must be met in order to adhere to the conditions set by both the *Matatag* Curriculum and the published handbook. Teachers were able to exchange ideas and consult coordinators regarding the subject, with the creation of workable strategies that apply the material of the handbook to their teaching during interactive classes.

Initiatives such as this event are vital now more than ever as the world struggles with the combined issues of climate change and human rights. The Dominicans for Justice and Peace is enabling educators to strengthen the next generation of leaders who are prepared to take on these challenges head-on by fostering knowledge and innovation. ■



UST SIMBAHAYAN Director Asst. Prof. Froilan Alipao facilitates the handbook launch

Alumni associations hold medical, surgical, dental mission for Nasugbu residents



Thomasian doctors, nurses, pharmacists, and volunteers from OAR and UST AAI with the administrators of Caleruega Philippines Director Rev. Fr. Christopher Jeffrey Aytona, O.P. (front row, leftmost)

The UST Alumni Association, Inc. and Caleruega Philippines in partnership with UST Office of Alumni Relations, UST Medical Alumni Association, Inc., and Friends for the Love of Service held the second Medical, Surgical, and Dental Mission on June 23, 2024 at Caleruega, Nasugbu, Batangas.

Over 350 patients residing in the nearby barangays of Nasugbu received free medical consultation for Family Medicine, Pediatrics, OB-GYNE, ENT, Dermatology, and Ophthalmology. Patients were also able to avail services such as minor surgeries and dental procedures. Medicines, vitamins, and prescription glasses were given to the patients free-of-charge courtesy of Unilab and George Optical.

The program concluded with a Thanksgiving Mass presided by Rev. Fr. Allen De Guzman, O.P. He thanked the alumni associations and volunteers for their service to the communities in need. ■



Dr. Robert Sy performs surgery for residents of Nasugbu

Volunteer pharmacists hand out medication



***Sentro Turismo*, Clark Development Corporation conduct Pagsibol turnover ceremony in Pampanga**

The College of Tourism and Hospitality Management, through its *Sentro Turismo*'s *Pagsibol* program, did a turn over of the Strategic Management Plan (SMP) 2024-2028 of the Clark Freeport and Special Economic Zone (CFSEZ) Meetings, Incentives, Conventions, and Expositions (MICE) during the 10th Philippine MICE Conference 2024 on July 10-12 at the SMX Convention Center Clark, Pampanga.

The President and Chief Executive Officer of Clark Development Corporation (CDC) Atty. Agnes Devanadera and the Tourism Promotions Board Philippines Chief Operations Officer Ms. Maria Margarita Montemayor Nograles highlighted the said turnover during the Plenary Closing Ceremony of MICE Con 2024.

The CFSEZ MICE SMP's primary purpose is to provide strategic direction and develop a roadmap specifically for the MICE industry of Clark and its key stakeholders. The strategic management plan is aligned with the vision, mission, and objectives of the CDC, the Regional Department of Tourism, and the goals and objectives of the private sectors within Clark. It also helps identify the different external, internal, and competitive factors and trends that can influence and impact the delivery of MICE services in Clark; recommend a formal structure or committee focused on MICE to be implemented by the CDC; create guidelines and strategies that aim to provide direction for the implementation and delivery of MICE services in Clark; and develop institutionalized action plans for Clark's MICE committee.

The project team was headed by its Project Director and Dean of CTHM, Atty. Gezzez Giezi G. Granado, DCL together with its members, Asst. Prof. Jame Monren T. Mercado (Project Coordinator), Asst. Prof. Jane G. Devanadera (Academic Project Consultant), Ms. Ma Darlene Joyce C. Loquias (Industry Project Consultant), Mr. Arnulfo Ricardo A. Bution (Writer/Researcher), Ms. Kathrine Camille A. Nagal (Writer/Researcher), Ms. Nikki Ciara S. Almirez (Research Assistant), and Ms. Ruby Ann I. Lucina (Graphic Artist).

It was also during this conference that the MICE Youth Challenge 2024 was held where students from the College of Tourism and Hospitality Management bagged the 1st Runner-up for an event business proposal titled "*MANGAN! Biyaheng Pampanga, a Dine and Ride Adventure!*".



Project Director and CTHM Dean Atty. Gezzez Giezi G. Granado, DCL (fifth from left) and the CTHM team turn over the SMP to Atty. Agnes Devanadera (fourth from left)



The UST Team

The proposal was conceptualized by BS Tourism Management students Kyle Alexandra A. Mararac, Krishna Andrei O. Martinzo, Alyssa Shane P. Paguio, and Solomon M. Santiago.

The team was under the guidance and supervision of their academic advisers Asst. Prof. Maria Concepcion A. Ang, MBA and Mr. John Jerick C. Santos, MLdrshpOrgLrng. Additionally, the Tourism Promotions Board appointed Mr. Anton Magpantay as an industry coach to better

align the wholeness of the event business proposal to the practice of the industry.

The college's constant support to LGUs through the *Sentro Turismo* and the commendable performance of the students at this year's Philippine MICE Youth Challenge underscores the institution's commitment to excellence and the promising future of its students in the MICE industry. ■

Thomasian art exhibit **Vision: Paradigm** is mounted for UST scholars' benefit



The organizers and Thomasian artists during the ribbon-cutting ceremony

The Office of Alumni Relations (OAR), in collaboration with UST Atelier Alumni Association, Inc. (USTAAAI) of the College of Fine Arts and Design, launched the all-Thomasian art exhibit called “Vision: Paradigm” on July 2, 2024 at the Art Lounge Manila in Molito, Ayala Alabang.

Prolific and award-winning Thomasian visual artists featured their works. These include Norma Belleza, Remy Boquiren, Richard Buxani, Joe Datuin, Fil Delacruz, Edgar Doctor, Raul Isidro, Derrick Macutay, Justin Nuyda, Emman Acasio, Dino Blanco, Yeye Calderon, Caña, Dante Castillo, Nelson Castillo, Nixxio Castrillo, Seb Chua, Ben Cruz, Elmer Dumlao, Maryrose Gisbert, Jun Impas, Patrick Naval, Milmar Onal, Sonny Palles, Melchor Sabariza, Edgar San Diego, Danny Santiago, Francisco Segismundo, CJ Tañedo, Carlos Esteban Trinidad, Lydia Velasco, Melissa Villaseñor, medical doctor Meneline Wong, and Rudy Yu. The exhibit was curated by Thomasian Visual Artist Janos Delacruz.

Aligned with the association’s motto “Aspire to Inspire”, “Vision: Paradigm” was created to be

an avenue of artistic expression for Thomasian artists while also advocating to provide quality education to deserving students.

OAR Director Asst. Prof. Joreen T. Rocamora, Ph.D. said this exhibition is “a source of inspiration, and a reminder that the power of arts, like the spirit of our Alma Mater, lives on within us.”

The opening and ribbon-cutting ceremony was also graced by the world-renowned contemporary glass sculptor Ramon Orlina, UST Alumni Association, Inc., Corporate Secretary Atty. Ma. Elena R. Enriquez, and Art Lounge Manila Owner and Managing Director Susanne Tiasaus.

USTAAAI President Marissa Pe-Yang was able to gather over 35 Thomasian artists for this exhibition. “We called for your support, and you continued to help our Alma Mater,” she said in gratitude to these artists.

Since its inception in 2021, the Vision series has launched four other installments called, “Vision: Interpolation”, “Vision: Insight”, “Vision: Propel”, and “Vision: Compendio”. ■

SHS MAD, CCP highlight Bl. Frassati's life through musical stage play



The cast of Verso L'Alto [Photo by Jake Rovin Morales]

The UST Senior High School - Music, Arts, and Design (SHS MAD) track collaborated with the Cultural Center of the Philippines (CCP) to stage an original musical production about the SHS patron, Bl. Pier Giorgio Frassati, O.P. The play premiered on Bl. Frassati's feast day, July 4, at the Frassati Auditorium, and had additional shows on July 5 and 6, 2024.

Titled “Verso L’Alto! Ang Buhay at Kabanalan ni Pier Giorgio Frassati”, the play was directed by Remus Villanueva and written by Eljay Deldoc, with music composed by TJ Ramos and choreographed by Larra Nicavera. SHS MAD Strand Chair Juan Carlos Santos and Mr. Melchor Berja of CCP served as the Overall In-Charge of Production and Production Manager, respectively.

The cast featured a mix of students and academic staff, including Alfredo Jaranilla as the young Frassati, Efraim



The chorus [Photo by Jake Rovin Morales]

BL. FRASSATI'S LIFE TO PAGE 15

BL. FRASSATI'S LIFE FROM PAGE 14

Fernandez in the dual role of the adult Pier Giorgio Frassati and Alfredo Frassati, Mena Angela Oliveros as Adelaide Ametis, Allyson Romualdo as Luciana Frassati Precious Isamel Cervana as Laura Hidalgo, and Rod Allen Samut as Padre Pietro Lombardi.

Bl. Pier Giorgio Frassati, O.P., was born in Italy on August 6, 1901, to Adelaide and Alfredo Frassati. A young man of faith and action, he was a generous and active member of Catholic organizations and various charitable activities who became known for his dedication to Catholic social justice. He joined the Third Order of St. Dominic in 1922.

While caring for the sick, Frassati

contracted polio and passed away at the young age of 24, in the year 1925. His final message was a plea to help another poor man in need, leaving behind a powerful testament to his compassion. He was beatified in 1990 by Pope John Paul II, who named him "The Man of the Eight Beatitudes". It was announced by Cardinal Marcello Semeraro that Bl. Frassati would be canonized in 2025. ■

Efraim Fernandez as Pier Giorgio Frassati, O.P. [Photo by Jake Rovin Morales]



**VERSO
L'ALTO!**



Frassati and his friends [Photo by Jake Rovin Morales]

BOARD TOPNOTCHERS



Interior Designer Licensure Examination

July 2024

UST Passing Rate: 30.51%
National Passing Rate: 29.75%



9th - 81.35%
Jemimah Eve
Manlapaz Aldecoa



10th - 81.00%
Jon Lee
Cristobal Cachola



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