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The I-Witness hosts (seated, onstage, from left:) Mr. John Consulta, Mr. Atom Araullo, Mr. Howie Severino, Ms. Kara David, and Ms. Mav Gonzales with the audience at the Bl. Frassati Auditorium

## GMA's multi-awarded documentary show I-Witness celebrates 25th anniversary at UST

For the first time, the five regular hosts of the multi-awarded documentary series I-Witness jointly appeared together to celebrate the show's 25th anniversary at a gathering held on August 20, 2024, at the Bl. Frassati auditorium.

Called "i-25: The i-Witness Talks," the seasoned documentarists Howie Severino, Kara David, Atom Araullo, Mav Gonzales, and John Consulta shared their experiences as journalists as well as lessons they learned during some of their most memorable documentaries.

i-Witness first premiered in 1999 and featured some of the finest journalists in Philippine media such as Jessica Soho, Vicky Morales, Cheche Lazaro, Luchi-Cruz Valdes, and the late Mike Enriquez. The long-running series has been a staple in educational settings and well-known not just in Filipino households, but abroad. The program has earned awards and accolades including two George Foster Peabody Awards, multiple New York Festivals world medals, Asian TV Awards, Asia-Pacific Child Rights Awards, and finalist status at the Emmy Awards, and many more.

UST Secretary-General Rev. Fr. Louie R. Coronel, O.P., EHL, in his welcome remarks, commended I-Witness' contributions to the educational landscape and the discourse around societal issues, saying "Let us acknowledge the courage it takes to bring important issues to the forefront, the dedication to uncover stories, and the commitment to make a difference."

Atom Araullo was the first journalist to talk. In his seven years with I-Witness, he currently has over 50 documentaries that aired, which broadened his experiences as they sometimes involved a range of circumstances, from danger and hunger, to thrills and fulfillment.

"Experience is more precious than gold. Experience becomes stories, and stories are very powerful," shared Araullo, who won the 'Most Trusted Field Reporter Award' from the Platinum Stallion



UST Secretary-General Rev. Fr. Louie R. Coronel, O.P., EHL, delivers his welcome remarks

Media Awards in 2015, as well as the Student Leaders Choice for TV Personality from the USTv Awards in the same year.

"It is our sacred duty to bear witness to history," emphasized Araullo, who has shone light on incidents of violence, calamity, tragedy, not just in the country, but also globally, including the plight of the Rohingya people in Myanmar.

Mav Gonzales followed up by sharing lessons she has learned from exploring new stories. Having been a reporter since 2012, she

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is one of the most recent hosts to join the series as she began her stint in I-Witness in 2023.

"There are so many stories to tell, you just have to find your angle," advised Gonzales in Filipino. She has done documentaries ranging from the labor of children who collect mud for planting frog grass, to the use of cadavers as silent mentors in the medical education field.

"If possible, make documentaries with concrete impacts in society," she shared.

Multi-awarded veteran journalist Howie Severino, meanwhile, shared his tale and love for storytelling. Having been active in the journalism field since 1985, the self-confessed 'analog native' has led over 200 documentaries and highlighted that to document is to record for history.

"There are a lot of truths in our world that happen without anyone noticing, and documentarists can capture those moments for posterity," Severino emphasized, adding that documentaries make people think about what is important, gather evidence, create records, make life more interesting and let the journalists telling the tale know more about themselves. They are also curated products that can be avenues for community-building and an educational tool.

"If I really wanted to get to know our country, our people, then I really needed to become a journalist," shared Severino, who has been to almost every province in the Philippines in the course of his career.

"Journalists are trained to highlight not just what you (viewers) want to know, but what you need to know. It's an educational tool, and one of the beautiful things about I-Witness is that many of our documentaries are shown in classrooms."

John Consulta, a journalist who has spent over 10 years in the law enforcement beat, shared his insights on the power of storytelling and how it can be a way to serve. He highlighted his encounter with Bonita Baran, a domestic helper who was being mistreated by her employers.

Justice was served by her abusers being jailed, and a law protecting *kasambahays* was then passed months after the story aired.

"It's possible that there are stories around you that you do not notice. All it takes is a little time and attention. Listen. Observe. If



Students were eager to ask questions during the forum.

you want to be a good storyteller, be a good listener first," advised Consulta.

Documentaries can serve as bridges to amplify the voices who need to be heard or give platforms to those who need it, to shed light and bring awareness to relevant and timely issues, and bring meaningful change to the lives and communities that they show or affect, shared Consulta.

Consulta also acknowledged the efforts of each team member who supports the documentarists behind the camera, saying, "Our show is named 'I'-witness, but it's always been a team effort. We (documentarists) may be in front, but this would not be possible without them. I believe in the meaning of TEAM: Together Efforts Are Multiplied."

Kara David, a journalist for almost 30 years who also serves as chair of the Department of Journalism at the UP Diliman College of Mass Communication, capped the event with her talk,

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UST Secretary-General Rev. Fr. Louie R. Coronel, O.P., EHL (third from left), exchanges tokens of appreciation with the I-Witness hosts Ms. Mav Gonzales, Mr. Howie Severino, Ms. Kara David, Mr. Atom Araullo, and Mr. John Consulta





The UST Office of Public Affairs Director Ms. Michaela Lagniton presents tokens of appreciation to Mr. Atom Araullo (left) and the GMA Assistant Vice President for Public Affairs Mr. Johnson Tam (center).

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which emphasized the need to tell stories that are both new and changebrining (*bago at nakakapagpabago*).

David urged future documentarists to remember that “You are not the story. You are the storyteller. [Documentaries can] be the microphones for those who have not yet been heard, be mirrors of truth, and be bridges for those whom society cannot reach.”

In her travels in pursuit of these stories, she has told the tales of children who have experienced dire circumstances and led harsh lives. This led her to set up her foundation “Project Malasakit,” which funds scholarship projects.

She also cautioned budding journalists to get into the practice of sharing complete stories and to carefully discern their chosen angle.

“Tell stories that uplift the poor, uplift their dignity, not just stories that generate pity. So when we [filmed *Ambulansyang de Paa*], my team and I were conscious of not just focusing the story on the lack of access to healthcare, services, and medical facilities. We did not just focus on an angle that showed their poverty, but rather highlighted their efforts that, despite this situation, the Mangyan families had community-driven initiatives to mitigate the lack of government support.”

David also shared a lesson she has taken to heart, which she learned from the Mangyan community and their collective approach to community care. “*Ang mabigat ay gumagaan kapag marami ang pumapasan* (The heavy load is made lighter when many are bearing the weight).”

In its milestone year, I-Witness aired a special documentary series featuring powerful and uncommon stories of community heroism and selfless people on a mission. With their respective teams, the five program hosts Kara David, Howie Severino, Atom Araullo, John Consulta, and Mav Gonzales venture from Mindoro to



Mr. Atom Araullo answers questions from students in the forum moderated by the UST Assistant to the Director for Publication Ms. Katherine Patrice Sibug.

Sulu to tell various stories that aired on Saturdays, from September 14 until October 12.

#### Storyteller's Spotlight

An offshoot of the partnership among GMA Network, GMA Public Affairs and the UST Office of Public Affairs for I-Witness’ 25th anniversary was an inaugural activity titled “Storyteller’s Spotlight,” which brings media personalities and journalists of different beats closer to Thomasians who want to become journalists.

“We invite you to immerse yourselves in this exploration of storytelling’s enduring legacy and its vital role in our shared human experience. On behalf of the Father Rector Very Rev. Fr. Richard G. Ang, O.P., thank you for your continued commitment to the power of storytelling. I hope that all of us Thomasians may say that I believe, I hope, I love, *I witness*,” said Fr. Coronel, who also congratulated the documentary series on its 25th anniversary.

The first featured guest was Mr. Atom Araullo, who presented practical tips for becoming a responsible journalist based on his extensive experience. After his talk, he answered queries from student participants in a forum moderated by the Assistant to the Director for Publication Ms. Katherine Patrice B. Sibug on August 19, 2024, at the Bl. Frassati Auditorium.

Students from the Senior and Junior High School departments were very eager to converse with the featured speaker as they tackled various topics during the open forum. Questions ranging from how documentaries are made, to the most unforgettable project were graciously answered by Mr. Araullo.

All in all, the first Storyteller’s Spotlight proved to be an effective way to provide students with an opportunity to interact with practitioners—an innovative way to bridge the real world to the classroom. ■

## UST welcomes over 13,500 freshmen for Academic Year 2024-2025 onboarding season; UST GenSan’s pioneering batch is warmly welcomed



The Bishop of Alaminos, His Excellency Most Rev. Napoleon B. Sipalay, Jr., O.P., D.D., (center) with the Prior Provincial of the Dominican Province of the Philippines Very Rev. Fr. Filemon I. Dela Cruz, Jr. O.P., UST Rector Very Rev. Fr. Richard G. Ang, O.P., Ph.D., and the Thomasians at the Santísimo Rosario Parish Church (UST Chapel) during the Misa de Apertura

The 413-year-old University of Santo Tomas (UST) opened its gates to new Thomasians. Over 13,500 first-year students in the basic and higher education levels began their student life at UST by joining several onboarding activities, including an opening mass and lecture, the ROARientation, and the Thomasian Welcome Walk from August 2 to 5, 2024.

The Opening Exercises on August 2, 2024 highlighted the University-wide Mass of the Holy Spirit (*Misa de Apertura*) and the Inaugural Lecture (*Discurso de Apertura*). Both events were available for livestreaming on the official UST Facebook

Page (/UST1611official) and the UST YouTube channel (/UST1611Manila).

The Bishop of Alaminos, His Excellency Most Rev. Napoleon B. Sipalay, Jr., O.P., D.D., served as the main presider of the *Misa de Apertura*, which was concelebrated with the Dominican priests at the Santísimo Rosario Parish Church (UST Chapel) at 9:00 AM.

The *Discurso de Apertura*, delivered by UST Faculty of Arts and Letters Dean Prof. Melanie D. Turingan, Ph.D., immediately followed the Mass of the Holy Spirit that formally opened the Academic Year 2024 to 2025.

The *Discurso* is an inaugural academic lecture that has been essential in the opening exercises of universities across Europe. UST adapted this practice to conform with the tradition of the Dominican houses of studies of starting every school year with a conference called *Lectio Prima*, or first lecture, based on the UST statutes drafted by Fr. Juan Amador, O.P., in 1785. For this year, Dean Turingan’s lecture was titled “Imbued with Unending Grace: A History and Legacy of the University of Santo Tomas”.

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UST Vice Rector for Finance Rev. Fr. Roberto L. Luanzon, Jr., O.P. and Assistant to the Rector for UST General Santos Academician Professor Emeritus Maribel Nonato, with administrators, staff, and students at the Misa de Apertura in UST General Santos



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The Bishop of Alaminos, His Excellency Most Rev. Napoleon B. Sipalay, Jr., O.P., D.D., presides over the Misa de Apertura in Manila.



UST Faculty of Arts and Letters Dean Prof. Melanie D. Turingan, Ph.D., delivers the Discurso de Apertura, where she presented the history of UST, including its roots in Intramuros. Visible in her presentation is the Arch of the Centuries, back when it still functioned as the gateway of the first UST building in Intramuros.

Dean Turingan detailed the rich history of the University, from Archbishop Benavides bequeathing his books and a modest amount for the foundation of a seminary-college, the initial founding of the Colegio de Nuestra Señora del Santísimo Rosario in 1611, the transfer to the Sulucan (now Sampaloc) campus, up to its deliberate expansion efforts at present in Santa Rosa City and General Santos City.

“In the first decade of the American regime, the Dominicans had to confront the problem of accommodating its students in the very small building constructed in 1619. Intramuros itself could no longer expand even one inch more. Sulucan was one of the 10 *barrios* that made up the *arrabal* of Sampaloc,” Dean Turingan introduced the impetus for the transfer.

Dean Turingan shared that in July 1911, a donation was given to the Dominican Fathers, a 220,000 square meter land located in the Sulucan Estate from Doña Francisca Bustamante Bayot. Rev. Fr. Buenaventura Garcia Paredes, O.P., was the Dominican Provincial, while Fr. José Naval, O.P. was the Rector at the time. By December 1911, the laying of the first cornerstone for the Main Building was made by University stakeholders and the Dominican Fathers, with the design and construction headed by the engineer-friar Fr. Roque Ruaño, O.P.

The Main Building would rise in 1927 as the first building at the heart of the Sampaloc campus—the oldest among almost 30 structures within the 21.5-hectare UST Manila today.

“The structures we once had, we currently have, and we will soon have are not just tangible cultures that we see and set foot in,” said the Dean, who added, “These edifices symbolize UST’s rich history, values, and aspirations.”

The University has now leapt to different cities of the Philippines, with the Main Building in UST General Santos recently inaugurated in 2024, and the Ricardo S. Po Integrated Innovation and Research Laboratories soon to rise in the Mindanao campus. In Santa Rosa, The Tony Tan Caktiong Innovation Center was inaugurated in 2023, while the Dr. William T. Belo Interdisciplinary Research Institute broke ground in 2024.

On the same day, UST General Santos held its own Eucharistic Celebration with the UST Vice Rector for Finance Rev. Fr. Roberto L. Luanzon, Jr., O.P., as presider and homilist. The Dominican Fathers concelebrated the Mass at the Main Building of UST General Santos. The Thomasian Community in General Santos also participated virtually during the Declaration of the Opening of AY 2024-2025 and the *Discurso de Apertura* in UST Manila.

After the official opening of the academic year on August 2, the Virtual ROARientation on August 3, 2024 shared informative sessions that covered relevant University services on various topics, such as Health and Wellness, Spirituality, Academics and Research, Technology, Communication and Media, Student Comfort and Safety, Finances, and Student

Life. These sessions aired via the students’ respective Canvas course sites.

Following the virtual sessions was the in-person ROARientation 2024 “Embracing the Thomasian Spirit: Roar Your Way In!” on August 5, which builds the Thomasian school spirit and identity among the freshmen through various activities like games, performances, and the introduction of school cheers. It was held at the arena of the Quadricentennial Pavilion at 8:00 AM, including a Welcome Mass presided by UST Rector Very Rev. Fr. Richard G. Ang, O.P., Ph.D. (morning batch) and UST Vice Rector Rev. Fr. Isaias Antonio D. Tiongco, O.P., JCD (afternoon batch).

Immediately following the in-person ROARientation was the traditional Thomasian Welcome Walk at 11:00 AM for the morning batch. Since 2002, hundreds of thousands of Thomasian freshmen have walked through the Arch of the Centuries at the start of each academic year. For the freshmen of 2024, their entry on August 5 begins the cycle that will end in a few years at their Baccalaureate Mass, when they will exit through the Arch. UST upholds its traditions involving the Arch of the Centuries because the Arch was the original gateway of the University back in its Intramuros campus. It was reassembled piece by piece in the Sampaloc campus after World War II and serves as a reminder of the University’s rich history. There was also an afternoon batch for the in-person ROARientation and Welcome Walk.

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Other activities include the Thomasian Welcome Concert on August 6 at the Quadricentennial Pavilion, the Triduum Prayers and Mass in honor of St. Dominic de Guzman from August 5 to 7 at the UST Chapel, and the Onboarding Fair with various food stalls and game booths at the UST Practice Gym from August 5 to 9. Regular classes officially commenced on August 9, 2024

### The Pioneers of UST General Santos

The inaugural batch of first-year students from UST General Santos also went through their own Welcome Walk as a rite of passage on August 29, 2024.

One hundred and twenty-six new Thomasians walked through the front gates, accompanied by the school administrators led by Academician Professor Emeritus Maribel Nonato and the Dominican Fathers, including UST Secretary-General Rev. Fr. Louie Coronel, O.P. EHL, and the Associate Vice Rector for Religious Affairs Rev. Fr. Gerard Z. Zabala, O.P.

UST Rector Very Rev. Fr. Richard G. Ang, O.P., Ph.D. served as the main presider of the Eucharistic Celebration at the UST General Santos Main Building.

“We are very happy and honored to welcome you to the newly opened UST General Santos campus,” The Father

Rector greeted the pioneering batch, adding that “[You] are setting the trend, and paving the way for future Thomasians in this institution. We strongly believe you will invigorate this campus with your brilliant ideas, ardent passions, and dynamic energies. There is no other way to go but up and there is no other direction but to move forward, and today marks your new beginning as freshly-minted college students. Our Mass and welcome rites serve as signposts indicating that you are empowered to make changes and take your life into an exciting new direction, so

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UST Rector Very Rev. Fr. Richard G. Ang, O.P., Ph.D. delivers the homily at UST General Santos



Associate Vice Rector for Religious Affairs Rev. Fr. Gerard Z. Zabala, O.P. and UST Secretary-General Rev. Fr. Louie Coronel, O.P. EHL, (in Dominican habit) accompany the pioneer batch of UST GenSan in their Welcome Walk



Dean Prof. Leonardo Canoy, Jr., Ph.D. and students from the School of Business and Accountancy





The Salinggawi Dance Troupe performs during the ROARientation



Senior High School students present their dance performance during ALAB

my dear students, do not be afraid to take the first steps.”

The 97th Rector also reaffirmed that “I believe this campus should be a more diverse campus. We are open for all, not just for Catholics... The 21st century is a time of diversity and openness. Let us take our cue from Pope Francis, who wrote ‘No one should be afraid that God has allowed there to be different religions in the world, but we should be frightened if we are not doing the work of fraternity, of walking together in life as brothers and sisters of one human family.’ While UST is Catholic, we respect and welcome people from other religions, most especially our Muslim brothers and sisters in Mindanao. It is not Christ-like to disregard someone just because he is different from the rest of us. In this campus, no one will be left behind.”

“As you step into this new chapter of your academic life, we encourage you to develop these three attitudes: Let resilience be your stronghold. Let faith be your beacon. Let humility be your safeguard,” Fr. Ang advised the young Thomasians in General Santos.

“My dear students, you are all now part of the UST story and you will be making history beginning today. The world is at your feet and the sky is the limit. Have a wonderful extraordinary journey ahead! God bless you all,” he concluded. ■



Thomasians joyfully enter the Arch of the Centuries in Manila



## HTCH, UST ink MoU for research partnership

Hualien Tzu Chi Hospital (HTCH) in Taiwan and the University of Santo Tomas (UST) signed a Memorandum of Understanding for a research partnership on August 14, 2024 at the Rector's Hall.

Signatories include UST Rector Very Rev. Fr. Richard G. Ang, O.P., Ph.D. and HTCH International Medical Center Director Dr. Chi-Cheng Li. Witnessing this event were officials from the UST Office for International Relations and Programs, the College of Science, and the Faculty of Medicine and Surgery. This is an offshoot of the “Telomere Clinical Research and Taiwan Medical Humanities Exchange Workshop” that UST joined, which took place at HTCH in October 2023. ■



UST Rector Very Rev. Fr. Richard G. Ang, O.P., Ph.D. (fourth from left) and HTCH International Medical Center Director Dr. Chi-Cheng Li (third from left), with witnesses from both institutions, present the signed Memorandum of Understanding.

## UST Architecture Alumni Association signs MOA with Angat Buhay



(From left, back row:) UST CAAAI Past President and UST Architecture academic staff Asst. Prof. Jonathan Manalad, Angat Buhay Chairperson and President Atty. Leni Robredo, NU College of Architecture Dean and UST alumna Ar. Chona Ponce, Ar. Norma Alarcon, with UST CAAAI President Ar. Ma. Benita O. Regala (leftmost), Angat Buhay Executive Director Mr. Raffy Magno (second from left), and Ar. Consuelo Buencamino (rightmost) (Photo courtesy of Aica Dioquino from the Angat Buhay Pilipinas Facebook page)

The UST College of Architecture Alumni Association, Inc. (UST CAAAI) signed a Memorandum of Agreement with Angat Buhay, together with C.C. Buencamino Architect - headed by Ar. Consuelo Buencamino of UST Batch '80 and National University Manila College of Architecture headed by its Dean by Ar. Chona E. Ponce of UST Batch '80 (who also served as Acting Dean of the UST College of Architecture from 2004-2006). The agreement was formally signed on August 9, 2024, for the Angat Sining Arkitektura Internship Program.

This internship program is designed to equip future architects to become positive contributors to their communities and the environment by emphasizing ethical practice, collaboration, and social responsibility in their profession. Through mentorship, workshops, lectures, and developmental activities from September 2024 to April 2025, it aims to bridge the gap between theory and practice, culminating in a collective project intended to uplift marginalized communities by the end of the program.

Some academic staff of the UST College of Architecture will join the program in various capacities. Asst. Prof. Jonathan Manalad has been tapped as resource person and Ar. Jose Marie Tan as coach-mentor/ facilitator. ■



## Obiena takes 4th place at 2024 Paris Olympics

The World's Number 3 pole vaulter and Thomasian Engineering student Ernest John Obiena made his Fellow Filipinos proud as he improved upon his performance in the 2020 Tokyo Olympics by leaping from 11th place to 4th place in the 2024 Paris Olympics on August 6, 2024.

Prior to the Summer Games in Paris, the 28-year-old Obiena held the World Number 2 spot for 46 weeks, beginning in July 2023.

In a statement released on social media days after the competition, Obiena shared his enduring commitment to his training, saying that "I commit to everyone now, I am back in training, I am back in the game, and I am going to attack the rest of the season and make you proud. You are going to see more from me, and see the Philippine Flag raised and raised on a global stage. Let's get on with it!"

Obiena's personal best record stands at 6.00 meters, which he achieved at the Sparebanken Vest Bergen Jump Challenge in June 2023 and the World Athletics Championships in Budapest in August 2023.

His 2024 pole vault season has also had many podium finishes, including first place at the Memorial Josip Gasparac in Croatia (5.83m), ISTAF Indoor 2024 in Germany (5.93m) last February, Irena Szewinska Memorial (5.97m) and Czeslaw



Obiena in Paris [Photo courtesy of Obiena's Instagram page]

Cybulski Memorial (5.87m) in Poland last June, second place at the Oslo Bislett Games (5.72m) in Norway last May, and most recently as of writing time, third place at the Diamond League in Lausanne (5.82m) on August 21, 2024. ■

## CTHM students bring home awards at 2024 Philippine Culinary Cup



Penoliar, Judrial, and Lara bring home the silver medal for the Dream Team Challenge

Culinary Entrepreneurship students from the College of Tourism and Hospitality Management garnered medals at the 14th Philippine Culinary Cup. The competition was held from July 31 to August 3, 2024, at the SMX Convention Center in Pasay City.

In the Dream Team Challenge, Ben Patrick B. Judrial, Danica A. Lara, and Patricia Beatrice D. Penoliar, with assistance from James Michael M. Araneta, won silver. Chef Ramona Olga D. Ko and Chef Kathlyn Tisha G. Ortaliz served as coaches.

Sofia Angela M. Paja brought home silver for the Plant-Based Desserts Category. She was assisted by Miguel Luis Rodriguez and coached by Chef Kathlyn Tisha G. Ortaliz.

Adrian G. Zapata and Thomas Angelo E. Monasterio IV won the bronze for the Young Chef Challenge. They were assisted by Amie Margaret Nazareno and coached by Chef Ramona Olga D. Ko.

Mikaela Margaret N. Dimaano also won the bronze in the Dress the Cake category. She was assisted by Arianna Ysabel A. Pascual and coached by Chef Everest De Leon and Chef Maria Karmel Grace A. Labay.

For the Wedding Cakes Display Category, Sophia Lorenz P. Aga won bronze. She was assisted by Atasha Bettina T. Delgado, Zyd

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### PHILIPPINE CULINARY CUP FROM PAGE 12

Marcee Esguerra, Joaquin Gabriel C. Robles, and Sean Gabrielle B. Sunga. Chef Reinald A. Andaya served as her coach.

Daniel Zoe V. Dalipe won bronze in the US Poultry category and was assisted by Earl Joshua Lipata and coached by Chef Ramona Olga D. Ko.

The Philippine Culinary Cup is an internationally recognized platform that highlights the skills and talents of Filipino Chefs and is the only World Chefs Certified Competition in the country. ■



Paja wins silver for her plant-based dessert



Dimaano wins bronze for the Dress the Cake challenge



Zapata and Monasterio with their bronze medal for the Young Chef Challenge



Aga wins bronze for the Wedding Cakes Display challenge



Dalipe wins bronze for the US Poultry category



## Dones of CRS, Archi alumnus Padilla named PRC's 2024 Outstanding Professionals

Prof. Valentin C. Dones III was honored as the Outstanding Professional of the Year 2024 in Physical Therapy by the Professional Regulation Commission. The award ceremony took place on August 2, 2024, recognizing his significant contributions to the field.

Dones expressed his gratitude for the recognition and emphasized the importance of being motivated by a passion to serve others. He dedicated this achievement to God and his family. He highlighted the value of prayer and viewing every action as a form of worship. He encouraged his fellow Thomasians to approach their duties with love, extend gratitude to their supporters, forgive those who have wronged them, and consider every task as an opportunity to honor and thank God.

Throughout his career, Dones has consistently demonstrated exceptional dedication to advancing physical therapy. He has held various leadership roles, including Professor at the University of Santo Tomas (UST) College of Rehabilitation Sciences, Research Supervisor of the Center for Health Research and Movement Science, and CEO of PainFree Management and Consulting, Inc. and PainFree Foundation. His commitment to his profession and excellence in service have earned him several honors, such as the 2023 DOST-PCHRD NCR Best Mentor in Health Research Award (Junior/Early Career Researchers Category), recognition for his contributions to the COVID-19 Living Clinical Practice Guidelines in the Philippines, the 2024 Australia Awards Fellowship, and multiple UST publication awards, including the Gold Series Publication Award (2020-2022) and several Silver Series Publication Awards (2016-2020).

On the same occasion, Architecture alumnus, Ar. Edison Ching M. Padilla was also awarded as the Outstanding Professional of the Year in the field of Architecture. Ar. Padilla is currently the National President of the Philippines Association of Building Officials. In 2018, he was honored with the ASEAN Architect title by the PRC-International Affairs Division – ASEAN Architects Registry and the Royal Institution of Architects - Singapore conferred him the title of Fellow.

A notable contribution by Ar. Padilla was his development of the country's first automated building and construction permits application system – the 3S Plus Electronic Terminal. This groundbreaking system revolutionized the permit application process, showcasing his commitment to efficiency, transparency, and professionalism.

The 3S Plus Electronic Terminal system did not only streamline procedures but also earned him notable accolades, including the UAP Plaque of Appreciation in 2014. His innovation set a benchmark for future developments and was instrumental in shaping the online governance and the creation of One Stop Shop for Construction Permits (OSCP) at the Office of the Building Official (OBO) in Valenzuela City.

These recognitions awarded to two outstanding Thomasians truly reflect the values of competence, commitment, and compassion. ■



Dr. Dones



Ar. Padilla

## UST-AMV Accountancy academic staff, officials named officers of NACPAE

Four academic staff of the UST-Alfredo M. Velayo College of Accountancy will serve as officers of the National Association of Certified Public Accountants in Education (NACPAE). Accounting Information System chairperson Mr. Louie Gene G. Marasigan will serve as NACPAE's

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Vice President-Internal. Ms. Dyan Nicole M. Francisco, an academic staff at the college was elected as the association's treasurer. Management Accounting chairperson Mr. Albert D. Cruz will also sit as a member of NACPAE's board of trustees. As the immediate past president, Asst. Prof. Francisco M. Caliwan Jr. will serve as the

association's ex-officio. They will serve for the fiscal year starting July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025.

The association's officers took their oath on July 18, 2024 during the Accountancy Week Celebration at the Far Eastern University. NACPAE is the sectoral organization of accounting teachers and academics in the Philippines. ■



Ms. Dyan Nicole M. Francisco (third from left) and Mr. Louie Gene G. Marasigan (fourth from left) [Photo courtesy of the NACPAE's Facebook page]



Mr. Albert D. Cruz (sixth from left) and Asst. Prof. Francisco M. Caliwan Jr. (rightmost) [Photo courtesy of the NACPAE's Facebook page]



## UST delegates present papers at 25th World Congress of Philosophy in Rome

The University of Santo Tomas participated in the 25th World Congress of Philosophy (WCP) from August 1 to 8, 2024. This year's congress, held at Sapienza University of Rome, underscored Rome's long standing role as the crossroads of civilizations.

This theme of interconnectedness was echoed in the opening remarks of Prof. Luca Maria Scarantino, President of the *Fédération Internationale des Sociétés de Philosophie* (International Federation of Philosophical Societies) and Prof. Antonella Polimeni, Rector of Sapienza University, who highlighted the integration of humanistic and scientific cultures in philosophical discussions. Among the distinguished participants were several scholars from the University of Santo Tomas (UST), who significantly contributed to the Congress's diverse and inclusive dialogue.

Throughout the week, prominent academics tackled urgent topics that reflected ethical, social, cultural, political, and spiritual themes, among others. Presentations ranged from artificial intelligence's ethics to spirituality's role in secular societies. The Congress included plenary sessions and symposia, contributed paper sessions, endowed lectures, invited sessions, round table discussions, society sessions, students sessions, and the FISP General Assembly. These discussions aimed to break down traditional boundaries within philosophical thought, addressing contemporary global challenges such as inequality, gender and cultural diversity, and sustainability.

In line with the Congress's commitment to diversity, UST scholars presented papers and participated in panels that expanded the conversation on Filipino philosophy and its place in global discourse. Prof. Jove Jim S. Aguas of the Philosophy Department and Center for Theology, Religious Studies, and Ethics played a significant role in the Congress. Aguas participated in the Center for Research in Values and Philosophy Round Table Discussion on National Values, presenting his paper titled "The Ambiguity of the Filipino Sense of Nationalism and Filipino Identity." He also contributed to the PAP Society Session titled "Filipino Philosophy in Dialogue: Expanding the Conversation," serving as moderator and session chair.

During the Contributed Paper Sessions, Thomasian scholars presented their respective papers. Prof. Fleurdeliz R. Altez-Albela of the Department of Philosophy and Center for Theology, Religious Studies, and Ethics presented her study "What Is Levinasian in Sustainability?: Sustainability in the Economy of Being Through Levinas' Third." Senior High School academic staff and Ecclesiastical Faculties Academic Collaborations Officer Mr. Blaise D. Ringor shared his study "Education, Christian Values, and the Voiding of Reason: John Henry Newman's Personalist Education." Mr. Christian U. Solis from the Senior High School Department and UST Graduate School gave a talk on his paper "Towards Understanding Fidelity in Marriage and Family: Paul Ricoeur on Man's Capacity to Promise." From the Graduate School, Mr. Charles Aldrin A. Delgado presented his paper "Christianity as Discomfort: Kierkegaard's Philosophy of Religion." Academic staff Mr. Ivan Efraim A. Gozum gave a glimpse of Filipino family ties through his study "Understanding Filipino Close Family Ties Through Gabriel Marcel's Mystery of the Family." Prof. Jove Jim S. Aguas and his paper "The Relevance of the Metaphysics and the Notions of Being and Analogy of St. Thomas" was also part of the session.

These presentations highlighted the depth and diversity of philosophical inquiry at the University, showcasing how Filipino scholars contribute to global philosophical discussions. The Congress also provided a unique opportunity for Filipino academicians to strengthen bonds and establish trust among themselves through personal exchanges. This experience underscored the importance of collaboration and support among Filipino scholars, especially those pursuing challenging endeavors abroad.

As the Congress concluded, the UST delegation returned home with a renewed commitment to their mission as educators, emphasizing developing critical thinking



The UST delegates in Rome

skills in their students while preserving their unique philosophical identities. Their participation in the 25th World Congress of Philosophy gave them the opportunity to interact with foreign scholars, expand their academic networks, and reinforce their role in shaping the future of philosophy in the Philippines and in the global stage.

The WCP is organized by the International Federation of Philosophical Societies every five years. The WCP is a big event that gathers academic philosophers, professors, students, and philosophy enthusiasts across the globe for a week-long congress discussing a particular theme. The 25<sup>th</sup> WCP served as a global stage for philosophical discourse, drawing scholars worldwide to discuss the theme, Philosophy across Boundaries. ■

## Collaborative research of FMS, AB, IR academic staff provides post-reflective examination of suffering during COVID-19

Academic staff from various academic units namely, Assoc. Prof. Mary Anne D. Chiong (Faculty of Medicine and Surgery), Mr. Hermenegildo C. Ceniza (Faculty of Arts and Letters), Mr. Hansson G. Labisig, Mr. Benjohn B. Espares, and Assoc. Prof. Allan A. Basas (Institute of Religion) published an article titled, "A Post-Reflective Examination of the Physical and Mental Health Suffering During COVID-19 Through the Lens of Christ's Kenotic and Redemptive Act" in the *Journal of Religion and Health* on August 20, 2024.

This newly published article explores the profound physical and mental suffering endured by COVID-19 patients, contextualized through the spiritual framework of Pope John Paul II's *Salvifici Doloris*. The authors examine the intersection of health challenges and

spiritual reflection, offering insights into how patients navigated the pandemic's difficulties by finding redemptive meaning in their experiences. The study emphasizes the importance of pastoral care and the transformative power of suffering when viewed through the lens of Christ's own redemptive suffering.

Drawing from medical journals and patient testimonies, it highlights how individuals framed their suffering as divine retribution or punishment. However, through the theological lens of Pope John Paul II's *Salvifici Doloris*, the authors propose that suffering can be understood as redemptive—an invitation to participate in Christ's own sufferings, offering a path to spiritual conversion and healing. The study also underscores the importance of providing holistic pastoral care, addressing

not only the physical and psychological needs of COVID-19 patients but also their spiritual well-being. Using Pope John XXIII's See-Judge-Act methodology, the paper calls for an approach to care that integrates medical treatment with spiritual and emotional support, encouraging deeper engagement with the redemptive possibilities of suffering.

This reflective examination provides a unique theological and spiritual perspective on the unprecedented health crisis caused by COVID-19. It contributes to ongoing discussions about the role of faith in times of suffering and encourages deeper engagement with the redemptive potential of human suffering. The article calls for more integrated pastoral care that respects the complexity of physical, psychological, and spiritual pain during illness. ■

## Filipino Department celebrates *Buwan ng Wika* with research presentations, talks

The UST College of Education's *Departamento ng Filipino* engaged the Thomasian community for its Buwan ng Wika celebration through a showcase of research outputs and webinars that highlighted the importance and relevance of Filipino as our language.

Inspired by this year's Buwan ng Wika theme, "*Filipino: Wikang Mapagpalaya*," the department underscored the power of Filipino as the language of the free in its webinar "*Wikaakuhan 2024: Tomasining Pagdiriwang ng Buwan ng Wika*" on August 22.

Assoc. Prof. Ma. Althea T. Enriquez, Ph.D., from the *Departamento ng Filipino at Panitikan ng Pilipinas*, University of the Philippines, Diliman lectured on "*Mga Kabatiran sa Kayarian ng Wika Tungo sa Pagpapahalaga sa Filipino Bilang Mapagpalayang Wika*," while Prof. David Michael M. San Juan, Ph.D., from De La Salle University, Manila, talked about "*Ang Papel ng mga Unibersidad sa Pagtataguyod ng Filipino bilang Mapagpalayang Wika*."

Discussing the role of language as a vehicle of transferring culture in



Panayam speakers and organizers

communities, Enriquez explained that when a part of culture is lost or forgotten, the words and linguistic patterns attached to it will vanish or take on new meanings.

Meanwhile, San Juan pointed out that the use of English is the language policy of the current administration since "foreign employers have always favored Filipino workers because of our command of the language."

He also said that research works in Filipino should be incentivized to encourage the intellectualization of our national language.

The webinar can be viewed on the Facebook page of the UST *Departamento ng Filipino*.

BUWAN NG WIKA TO PAGE 20



## Food Tech students bag best poster prize at food forum in Singapore



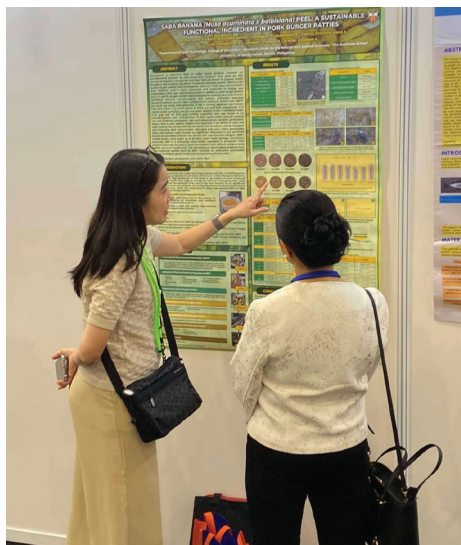
Department of Food Technology Chair Asst. Prof. Essence Jeanne L. del Castillo (sixth from left) and Prof. Elizabeth H. Arenas, Ph.D. (fifth from left) with Thomasian student researchers

A research paper on saba bananas by the students from the Department of Food Technology received the Best Poster Award at the inaugural Singapore International Food Forum (SIFF) on August 1 and 2, 2024 held at the National University of Singapore (NUS).

The poster presentation “Saba Banana (*Musa acuminata* × *balbisiana*) Peel: A Sustainable Functional Ingredient in Pork Burger Patties” a study by student researchers Jaila D. Balmeo, Assumpta Marie S. Barin, Ysabelle Nikki B. Cabagnet, Christine Diana A. Fabros, Kenneth Earl A. Flores, and Chelsea M. Lumaban was presented by their research adviser and presenting author Prof. Elizabeth H. Arenas, Ph.D.

Another research paper, titled “Extraction of Crude Gelatin from Tilapia (*Oreochromis niloticus*) Fish Scales by Microwave-assisted Extraction and Its Utilization in Fish Longganisa,” was selected for oral presentation.

Led by their research adviser and presenting author Asst. Prof. Essence Jeanne L. Del Castillo, LPT, PFT, MSc, the student researchers include Cheennie S. Banaag, Khristine Lyra P. Campos, Ma. Joana Kyra N. Escobal, Jeric Marzel S.



Dr. Arenas (left)

Esperanza, Marcus Gabriel I. Goguanco, Janelle Faith T. Norberte, and Genevive C. Santos.

SIFF, organized by the NUS and the Singapore Food Agency (SFA), is a scientific platform where international and local researchers and stakeholders from government, industry and academia convene to share and discuss the latest



Asst. Prof. Del Castillo

developments, challenges, and opportunities in the area of food science and technology.

Renowned speakers from the Asia Pacific region, the United States, and Europe shared some of the challenges in emerging food technologies and urban food solutions. ■

## UST English Language Studies academic staff, students present papers at AILA 2024 World Congress

Four academic staff members from the Department of English Faculty of Arts and Letters and the UST Graduate School (GS) together with seven students from GS, along with an alumna from the Faculty of Arts and Letters, showcased their research at the Association Internationale de Linguistique Appliquée or International Association of Applied Linguistics (AILA) 2024 World Congress with the theme, “Linguistic Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Sustainability”, held from August 11 to 16, 2024 at the Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre in Malaysia.

UST GS and Faculty of Arts and Letters Professor Marilu R. Madrunio, Ph.D presented her paper titled “Memorandum of Agreement on Research Production: How Binding is It?” Her study explored the legal implications of contracts signed between researchers and research center directors at a comprehensive university in Manila, focusing on the specific provisions that are either upheld or neglected in practice. Findings of her study revealed that while the signed contract is valid with essential requisites, gaps in its preparation

and enforcement were identified, prompting recommendations for a review of the provisions and research management strategies to improve effectiveness and prevent future litigation.

Meanwhile, Prof. Alejandro S. Bernardo, Ph.D, also from UST GS and Faculty of Arts and Letters, shared his research titled “A Survey of Pedagogical Models for Teaching English in the Expanding Circle.” In this study, he examined instructional frameworks used in regions where English is not the primary language but is increasingly taught, aiming to identify effective teaching approaches suited to these communities. His study showed that although pedagogical models in the Expanding Circle promoted positive attitudes toward English varieties and awareness of its diversity, these models still struggled to achieve coherence and alignment in their instructional design.

During the world conference, Asst. Prof. Joram Kim Corcuera, an academic staff from the UST Faculty of Arts and Letters and a Ph.D student from the UST GS, also presented a part of his dissertation

titled, “The Bridge Between Language and Sports: Examining Sportscasting Biases in the Construction of Filipino Athletes’ Identity.” His study examined media biases in sportscasting through analysis of media coverage and interviews, revealing a duality of biases that shaped athletes’ portrayals and influenced public perception. Corcuera also presented his study in the first AILA Early Career Researchers’ Symposium as the representative of the Philippines, where he highlighted the need to manage biases in media practices to better understand their cultural impact and the role of media in shaping the identities of various sports personalities.

English Department Chair Prof. Rachelle Lintao, Ph.D., who is also the English Language Studies Program Lead in the UST GS, also led her students in the Graduate School, namely: Maria Danielle Albano, who also serves as the English Supervisor of Immaculate Conception Academy, along with Fermina Vergara of UST Senior High School, in presenting

AILA 2024 WORLD CONGRESS TO PAGE 20



(From left:) Asst. Prof. Joram Kim Corcuera, Maria Danielle Albano, Christine Paula Pedro, Fermina Vergara, Prof. Rachelle Lintao, Ph.D., Prof. Dr. Shameem Rafik-Galea – Chair of AILA 2024 Organizing Committee, Prof. Marilu Madrunio, Ph.D., Prof. Alejandro Bernardo, Ph.D., Edmund Angelo Glory, Krizza Mae Balisong, Pauline Mae Lim, and Asst. Prof. Kreisler Fontamillas





Assoc. Prof. Ma. Althea T. Enriquez, Ph.D.



Prof. David Michael M. San Juan, Ph.D.



Panayam keynote speaker KWF  
Chair Dr. Arthur Casanova

In another event held on August 31, the department organized a research colloquium Panayam Manuel L. Quezon 2024 at the Lourdes J. Custodio ICD Room, Albertus Magnus Building as a fitting end to the month-long celebration.

In his keynote address, *Komisyon sa Wikang Filipino* chairperson Dr. Arthur Casanova explained that language has long been serving as an instrument against oppressive and abusive individuals, societies, and countries.

Filipino professors Dr. Catherine Cocabo-Yao and Dr. Angelica F. Morales shared their methods and interview data from their research “*Kapatid Mentor Me (KMME) Program at ang Paglinang ng mga Kultural, Panlipunan, Simbolohikal*

*at Emosyonal na Kapital ng mga Mentee sa Lungsod ng Bulacan*” and “*Pamana: Kahulugan, Pagsasabuhay, at Pagsasalin ng Pagiging Makabayan sa mga Pamilya ng mga Gurong Pilipino*,” respectively.

Meanwhile, Assoc. Prof. Myra de Leon, Ph.D., Assoc. Prof. Amalia Castro, Ph.D., and Instr. Mark Anthony Etcobañez discussed the development of their research on UST-SIMBAHAYAN Community Development Office’s University Community Development Program (UCDP).

The research expo also allowed students to impart their familiarity with the country’s educational system.

Fourth year Filipino major students Paul Andrew Juanillo and Aizel Mae

Caigoy’s lecture “*Gaano Katatag ang MATATAG?: Preliminaryong Pagsusuri at Pagninilay sa MATATAG Curriculum Guide sa Filipino ng Baitang 4 at Baitang 7*” detailed their assessment of the current basic education curriculum, as well as their direct experiences from their teaching internship.

In her closing remarks, *Departamento ng Filipino* chair Prof. Zendel Taruc, Ph.D. listed the department’s feats for the Thomasians and for the advancement of the Filipino language.

The University, under its *Departamento ng Filipino*, also features *Sentro sa Salin at Araling Salin*. Both work together for the promotion, preservation, and proper use of the Filipino language. ■

language challenges faced by students.

Krizza Mae C. Balisong, a Ph.D student at the UST GS, also shared a part of her dissertation titled, “Investigating the Linguistic Features and Metafunctions of Peace Pacts.” This analysis of the linguistic features of written peace pacts from Sadanga and Bontoc, Mountain Province, revealed that while these legal documents contained features shown in previous studies of the language of the law, they also have unique characteristics that described the indigenous communities’ context and culture.

In the six-day international research conference, Kreisler Fontamillas, a UST GS Ph.D student and an assistant professor at Romblon State University, also presented a part of his dissertation titled, “Credibility and Admissibility of Forensic Linguists in Philippine Jurisprudence: Legitimizing Their Role as Expert Witnesses.” His paper proposed a legal framework for the engagement of forensic linguists as expert witnesses in Philippine courts, aiming to enhance their credibility and admissibility, which could lead to more accurate and just outcomes in cases involving forensic linguistic evidence.

Ma. Kaela Joselle Madrunio, an alumna from the UST Faculty of Arts and Letters,

who is currently an MA Forensic Linguistics student at Aston University, also shared her study titled “Evidentiality and Epistemicity: Stance Taking of Courtroom Interactants in Select Philippine Court Trials.” Her research analyzed the use of stance markers and the interplay of evidentiality, epistemicity, and stance taking in Philippine court trials, which highlighted the importance of stance in ensuring credible and reliable statements. Her initial findings revealed that courtroom participants in Philippine trials predominantly use Filipino stance markers over English, which highlight the influence of cultural and social nuances on bilingualism in legal settings and its potential impact on perceived credibility.

Organized by the Malaysian Association of Applied Linguistics, the 21st AILA World Conference attracted over 1,700 delegates from 69 countries. As part of a trilogy of World Congresses celebrating 60 years of AILA, the event sought to understand the pivotal role of applied linguistics in addressing global challenges and fostering a more equitable world.

The next AILA World Congress, which will be hosted by the Canadian Association of Applied Linguistics, will take place in Vancouver, Canada, from August 8 to 13, 2027. ■

## Andres of Music, GS presents paper at music education conference in Finland



Dr. Andres

Assoc. Prof. Dolores T. Andres, Ph.D., an academic staff of the Conservatory of Music and the Graduate School presented her research paper titled “Navigating Challenges: Perspectives and Motivations of MAPEH Teachers in the Philippines” at the 36th International Society for Music Education (ISME) World Conference on July 28 to August 2 held in Helsinki, Finland. This paper offers crucial insights into the current state of music education, particularly the factors influencing the motivation of music teachers within MAPEH (Music, Arts, Physical Education, and Health).

The session was well-attended

by international scholars and music educators. The audience showed interest in the study’s implications for educational policy and teacher motivation, posing questions that further enriched the discussion. The experience underscored the importance of global collaboration and dialogue in addressing common challenges in music education.

The ISME Conference had 1200 participants from different parts of the globe. Furthermore, the conference emphasized the role of music education in enhancing individual, community, and societal well-being, particularly in the context of belonging, equity, inclusion, and ecological sustainability. ■

## Internationalization

### CRS underscores internationalization with global partnerships

The College of Rehabilitation Sciences has actively engaged both their academic staff and students in internships and academic encounters with partner institutions outside the Philippines, strengthening their internationalization initiatives.

Under the Department of Occupational Therapy, eight student interns participated in the Global Initiatives Summer Occupational Therapy Immersion (SOTI) Program of the University of Southern California Chan Division of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy from July 1 to 31.

Onsite participants were Regina Lianne Castro and Noel Remi Pineda while Danielle Josephine Ang, Geordee de Guzman, Frances Therese Ureta, Mariella Sofia Palo, Keiana Louise Lazaro, and Mary Catherine Anne Olegario participated in the same program virtually.

This program aims to facilitate the development of a more global perspective of occupational therapy, health, and wellness.

Meanwhile, the Department of Speech-Language Pathology (SLP) contributed to the row of internationalization efforts by initiating a partnership with the Hanen Centre to bring certification and workshops to the Philippines. Several of the academic staff, clinical supervisors, and alumni from SLP have successfully completed the More Than Words Certification Program from July 22 to 24.

The Hanen Centre is a charitable organization geared towards helping professionals, parents, caregivers and



Regina Lianne Castro (middle row, third from left) and Noel Pineda (back row, third from left) with other participants of the SOTI program





The delegation from Mahidol University with administrators from CRS and OIRP

educators to have the skills to promote the best possible language, social and literacy skills in young children including those that are differently abled. Specifically, the program offered focuses on empowering parents of children with Autism Spectrum Disorder to improve their social communication skills.

Among the academic staff who participated were Mr. Paul William D. Jacinto, MRS-RSLP, Ms. Mary Ann Gisselle O. Esquerro, MHPed, RSLP, and Mr. Daniel Ymmanuel E. Puri, RSLP. UST Communication Sciences Center clinical supervisors Mr. Lord Andre Ardeña, RSLP, Ms. Jana Maitina Ysabelle Batoy, RSLP, and Mr. Ian Francis Peralta, RSLP also joined the workshop.

Lastly, CRS also welcomed Lect. Supatida Sorasak Siangchin, Ms. Hudasa Mila Da-Oh, and Mr. Peerayut Saardaiam of Mahidol University as they participated in a month-long Global Immersion Program (GIE).

Lect. Siangchin had an academic encounter with occupational therapy interns where she shared with them her study titled, "Experiences of Thai older adults regarding smartphone usage in daily activities" during their pre-internship activity.

Siangchin, Da-Oh, and Saardaiam also paid a courtesy visit to the UST Vice Rector for Academic Affairs Prof. Cheryl Peralta, DrPH, and UST Office of International Relations and Programs Director Prof. Lilian Sison, Ph.D., during which other possible collaborations were discussed.

These internationalization efforts display the commitment of the college in improving the overall academic experience of both students and academic staff. ■



Program poster

## CTHM partnership with Ritz-Carlton Hong Kong provides opportunities for international hotel internship

The College of Tourism and Hospitality Management starts the academic year with internationalization as they underscore student experience on a global landscape. They sent off 32 students on a five-month internship at The Ritz-Carlton Hotel in Hong Kong. The internships began on August 5, 2024, and will end on December 20, 2024.

The student group, together with CTHM academic staff Mr. Wyatt White T. Lee and Ms. Katherine Camille Nagal, together with the Hospitality Management Department Chairperson, Dr. Fhamela F. Sarmiento and CTHM Dean, Atty. Gezzez Giezi G. Granado, arrived in Hong Kong with their first stop at the Philippine Consulate where they met with Consul General Atty. Germinia V. Aguilar-Usudan, a Thomasian alumna, as well as two other CTHM graduates currently employed at the consulate.

As part of the students' internship experience, they were introduced to Ritz-Carlton's renowned service culture having the chance to work in different departments and experience management styles from diverse supervisors and managers.

As the biggest delegation of interns leaving the University for international internship since the pandemic, the partnership between CTHM and The Ritz-Carlton is a promising endeavor for future Thomasian Tourism and Hospitality Professionals. ■

(From left:) Mr. Wyatt White T. Lee, Ms. Kathrine Camille Nagal, Dean Gezzez Giezi G. Granado, Consul General Atty. Germinia V. Aguilar-Usudan, and HM Chair Dr. Fhamela F. Sarmiento



The CTHM team at the Ritz-Carlton Hong Kong



## UST FMS joins Interprofessional Education (IPE) Training Course at Gunma University, Japan

The core group of University of Santo Tomas Faculty of Medicine and Surgery (FMS) attended the 11th Interprofessional Education (IPE) Training Course that was held on August 20-23, 2024 at Gunma University in Maebashi, Japan, a WHO Collaborating Center for Research and Training on IPE. The participating group from FMS was led by the Dean, Dr. Ma. Lourdes Maglinao. The delegation included Assistant Dean Dr. Remedios Chan, Faculty Secretary Dr. Dexter Clifton Pe, Clinical Program Officer Dr. Citadel Castro, and several department chairs namely, Dr. Melvin Marcial (Medicine), Dr. Karl Morales (Surgery), Dr. Ma. Teresa Tricia Bautista (Preventive Medicine), Dr. Maria Angela Cumagun (Dermatology), Dr. Larry King (Anesthesia), and Dr. Patricia Leticia Syson (Legal Medicine). They were joined by academic staff members Dr. Pauline Ramos (Preventive Medicine) and Dr. Joseree-Ann Catindig (Neurology).





Dean Maglinao (second row, tenth from left) and the FMS core group with IPE participants and the officials of Gunma University

The course was conducted by Dr. Hiromitsu Shinozaki, Director, and Dr. Bumsuk Lee, Vice Director of the Gunma University WHO Collaborating Center for Research and Training on IPE.

Part of the training included a visit to Mihara Memorial Hospital, a specialized 189-bed facility focusing on neurological disorders, particularly stroke and dementia, with attached geriatric health services. The visit provided insights into interprofessional and collaborative practices in a real-world healthcare setting.

Throughout the course, various aspects of Interprofessional Education and Collaborative Practice (IPECP) were explored, including its necessity and challenges, program evaluation, development, operation, adaptability, and future expectations. The training also featured presentations on the Patient Safety-Focused IPE Training Program at Gunma University, IPE initiatives at Chiba University, and the Community-Based IPE Program of Sapporo Medical University.

Each institution shared an overview of the challenges they face in introducing and enhancing IPE within their respective contexts. Participants engaged in a simulated interprofessional training workshop based on a case scenario, highlighting practical application of

collaborative skills. On the final day, each institution presented a strategic action plan to advance IPE, informed by the insights gained during the course.

FMS formulated the following action plans on Interprofessional Education (IPE):

- 1. Committee Formation and Program Development:** FMS will establish a Committee on Interprofessional Education (IPE) responsible for developing a structured, curriculum-aligned IPE program. This program will integrate all levels of education, focusing on the clinical clerkship. Furthermore, the IPE program will be incorporated into simulation-based learning to enhance practical application;
- 2. Fostering Collaboration:** The plan includes establishing and strengthening interdepartmental, intercollegiate, and international collaborations, all centered around fostering mutual respect and collaborative practice;
- 3. Faculty Development:** The initiative will enhance faculty development in IPE through targeted seminars and by exploring opportunities for faculty to attend IPE training courses, such as those offered by Gunma University.
- 4. Dedicated Space for IPE:** Identify and allocate physical space within the new simulation center specifically for IPE workshops;
- 5. Stakeholder Engagement:** Maintain ongoing and assertive

communication with key stakeholders, especially leaders, to address logistical and resource-related challenges, including budget allocation;

- 6. Expanding Community-Based Networks:** Strengthen and expand community-based networks, focusing on elderly care, home care, and maternal and child care;
- 7. Research and Information Campaigns:** Promote research collaborations on IPE and launch information campaigns designed to improve patient care, patient safety, and psychological safety through enhanced interprofessional collaboration; and
- 8. IPE Program Evaluation:** Create a more comprehensive and inclusive evaluation on both macro and micro level (especially on the attitude domain) following the Kirk-Patrick's model to see IPE's overall impact.

The training course was attended by 28 participants from nine academic institutions across Asia, including Choonhae College of Health Science (Korea), International Medical University and Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (Malaysia), Mahidol University and Thammasat University (Thailand), Pham Ngoc Thach University of Medicine (Vietnam), Universitas Muhammadiyah Sumatera Utara (Indonesia), and from the Philippines, UST Faculty of Medicine and Surgery, and De La Salle Medical and Health Sciences Institute. ■

## Tan of CRS collaborates with researchers at Fudan University summer school on climate change

Mr. Gabriel C. Tan, MSc, PTRP, an instructor at the Department of Physical Therapy, attended the International Summer School on Climate Change and Related Risks at Fudan University, Shanghai, China from July 21 to August 8 as a scholarship recipient.

The program was hosted by Fudan University, with the support of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), the Monitoring, Analysis, and Prediction of Air Quality International Research Program

(MAP-AQ), and the Integrated Research on Disaster Risk International Program (IRDR).

The summer school aimed to nurture young scientists and leaders in climate governance through intensive exposure to cutting-edge climate change research and fostering inclusive collaboration and holistic, integrative problem-solving approaches.

As part of the program, Tan collaborated with fellow researchers from the University of Chinese Academy

of Science (China), National Institute of Technology Patna (India), Sam Ratulangi University (Indonesia), Fudan University (China), and Renmin University of China (China) on a small scale project centered on the health implications of climate change. Their project focused on the impact of extreme heat events on the years of healthy life lost in Indonesia.

The team's outstanding work was recognized with a 3rd place award among 15 competing teams. ■

## UST Graduate School forges stronger partnership with Thai universities



Assumption University Rector Rev. Bro. Bancha Saenghiran with the UST Graduate School officials led by Dean Vasco and the Regent Fr. Rodel Aligan, O.P.

The UST Graduate School (GS) strengthened its ties with Srinakharinwirot University (SWU) in Bangkok, Thailand, and initially met officials from the Assumption University in its Suvarnabhumi campus on July 25 and 26, 2024.

The GS delegation, led by Dean Prof. Michael Anthony C. Vasco, Ph.D., and Regent Rev. Fr. Rodel E. Aligan, O.P., together with Assistant Dean Prof. Camilla J. Vizconde, Ph.D., Prof. Lino N. Baron, Ph.D. (Coordinator for International Relations) and Prof. Augusto Deviana, Ph.D. (Program Lead for History) met with officials of the two universities.

Warmly met by the Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences, Assoc. Prof. Poom Moolsilpa, S.J.D., the UST delegation also

discussed with the Head of the History Department, Asst. Prof. Dr. Nathaporn Thajongrak, how the partnership between the two universities can be supported and sustained. The existing Memorandum of Agreement between the universities is in place and previously, a delegation of history academic staff visited and held lectures last March 2024. This visit further strengthened the ties between the two universities with possibilities for transnational education and transnational research for academic staff and students. Besides the Department of History, other possible academic staff exchange can be implemented in Education with the social studies academic staff, in public administration and geography. Furthermore, a visiting lecturer, Dr. Yaninie Phaithawayat, from SWU will again be

coming for the first term of AY 2024-2025 to teach Comparative Contemporary Histories of the Philippines and Thailand. This has also been implemented previously in the second term of AY 2023-2024 where a class in Seminar on Comparative Revolution in Southeast Asia with Dr. Deviana was conducted.

In addition to the discussion, the UST team toured around campus, which was originally established as a teacher-training school in 1949 until it was established as Srinakharinwirot University in 1974. As promised, Prof. Deviana also donated to the main library two copies of books, Fifty Years of Philippine Independence Stories from a Half Century and Stories from the





The UST Team led by Dean Vasco and Fr. Aligan with the SWU Dean of Social Sciences, Dr. Moolsilpa

Other Side and Other Narratives (Revised Edition), which he authored. These two books are the very first books written by a Filipino donated in the library. These books were also two of the very rare English written books in the library. In an earlier visit last March 2024, Dr. Deviana donated a book, New Ink on the Parchment: A Guide for Writing Philippine History.

The UST team headed to the Assumption University (AU) of Thailand in Bang Na on July 26, 2024, where they were warmly met by the Director for Internationalization Affairs, Mr. Glen Chatelier. Mr. Chatelier held a short meeting with officials of the University who presented their programs. The presentations included the Architecture program by Satanan Chanowanna, PhD; the Master in Business Administration (MBA) by Bhumiapat Gilitwala, PhD; the Economics Program by Asst. Prof. Dr. Dhanoos Sutthiphisal, the Dean of Martin de Tours School of Management and Economics and Asst. Prof. Uree Cheasakul, PhD, the Deputy Vice President for Academic Affairs. The presentations highlighted the areas where collaborations between the two academic institutions can take place.

Dean Vasco identified the transnational programs in Architecture/Built Environment which partners with the University of Reading, United Kingdom and the MS in Chemical Engineering/ Master in Professional Engineering (Metallurgical Engineering) with the Curtin University of Australia as UST's partner. These are existing programs with graduates who are teaching now in the Graduate School.

Dean Vasco also presented the programs offered by the UST Graduate School, highlighting the programs in

Psychology and Business, which have the bigger number of students for the past years. Since the interest of many remains to be Psychology and this is the banner program of the UST Graduate School, students may also take their practicum or on-the-job training in the Assumption University, further providing them with experiences in another context. Since the medium of instruction in the Assumption University is English, faculty and students of UST will not have difficulty in engaging with teachers and students of AU.

Prof. Salvatore Moccia, the Head of Education and Skills of EIT Digital, Europe was also there to present some opportunities in career advancement for digital-related graduate programs. These programs can be connected with many universities since they offer digital programs and these programs can be accessed anywhere at any time. Opportunities for professional development and employment were also discussed.

After the meeting, the UST team was able to meet Rector Magnificus Rev. Bro. Bancho Saenghiran, f.s.g., Ph.D., the Rector of the University. The Rector recalled the times that he visited the UST campus and had enjoyed playing soccer in the field during his younger days. The strong partnership between the two universities may be attributed to the Catholic faith that both universities continue to practice as evident in the curricula and the university activities.

After meeting the Rector, the UST Team was led to the Monfort del Rosario School of Architecture and Design where exhibits of student outputs were on display, providing insights on how students are provided with a curriculum that provides



Dr. Deviana signs the books he donated to the library

them with opportunities for honing their crafts. Exhibits of painting and works of art were displayed in the lobby of the building. The same practice is observed in the UST Graduate School where students hold exhibits as part of their terminal requirements. On the other side was another building for the communication arts, the Albert Laurence School of Communication Arts where impressive auditoriums, studios and broadcast equipment were housed. These two buildings are considered as two of the most prominent of the structures, displaying the fusion of art and technology.

The visit ended with the invitation of Dr. Kittikorn for the conferences that the Assumption University is hosting on November 2024 and March 2025.

The visits provided more opportunities for the UST Graduate School and the Thai partner universities to conduct more faculty/student exchanges. ■

## Lintao of AB, GS delivers lectures on plain language in New Zealand



Dr. Lintao

UST Department of English Chair and the English Language Studies Program Lead at the UST Graduate School Prof. Rachelle B. Lintao, Ph.D., served as a guest lecturer on plain language in contracts at the Massey University in Auckland, New Zealand on July 24 and August 2, 2024.

The two-day lectures were attended by about 200 students pursuing Masters of Construction with Specializations in Construction Project Management, Quantity Surveying, and Construction Law and those taking the Bachelor of Construction program from the School of Built Environment at the Massey University Auckland Campus. The hybrid event covered the principles of plain language, how plain language has

progressed over the years in varied domains and the prospects of plain language in the construction industry.

Lintao also featured some of her research on plain language and initiatives in promoting the use of plain language in the Philippines. She is the Country Representative of Clarity (an international organization that advocates for the use of plain language in contracts and other documents) to the Philippines. She is also the Philippine Language and Country Lead of the International Plain Language Federation Standard Localization and Implementation Committee.

Plain language is writing designed to make written outputs comprehensible and easily understood by its intended audience. ■

## GS Law mentors speak at the LEB's training on Interdisciplinary Research Methodologies

UST Graduate School of Law Dean Jacqueline O. Lopez-Kaw, incoming Thesis GS Law Coordinator Dr. Glenn R. Luansing, and the UST Law Journal Editor-in-Chief Dr. Irene D. Valones served as distinguished speakers during the law professors' training on Interdisciplinary Research Methodologies, held on July 4 and 5, 2024, at the University of Asia and the Pacific, Pasig City. This event was an initiative of the Legal Education Board.

Dean Lopez-Kaw provided an insightful session on Legal Research Pedagogy. She discussed the evolution of Legal Research teaching methods and explored implications of artificial intelligence to Legal Research. Dr. Glenn R. Luansing followed with an engaging discussion on the practical application of citation rules, while Dr. Irene D. Valones discussed the practical steps of the publication process.

The combined expertise of Dean Lopez-Kaw, Dr. Luansing, and Dr. Valones created a comprehensive program that covered multiple facets of legal research and publication.

The event concluded with the awarding of certificates to the participants, recognizing their dedication to improve their research methodologies. The training was a resounding success, setting a benchmark for future initiatives to advance legal education. ■



Dr. Luansing speaks about citation rules [Photo courtesy of the Legal Education Board Facebook Page]



Dean Lopez-Kaw receives her certificate of appreciation [Photo courtesy of the Legal Education Board Facebook Page]

Dr. Valones discusses the publication process [Photo courtesy of the Legal Education Board Facebook Page]



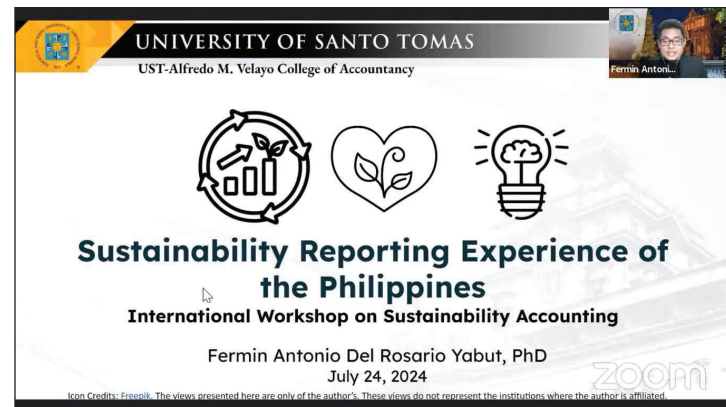
## Yabut of Accountancy delivers sustainability lecture at Indonesian webinar

**M**r. Fermin Antonio Del Rosario Yabut, Ph.D., College Secretary of the UST-Alfredo M. Velayo College of Accountancy, delivered an online lecture before the academic staff of the Faculty of Accounting and Business of the *Universitas Negeri Surabaya* (UNESA; Surabaya State University) on July 24, 2024.

Aligned with the theme *Perspective on Sustainability Disclosure: The Trend of Corporate Reporting in an Emerging Market*, Yabut discussed the demand for accountants to develop sustainability-related competencies. This was followed by an examination of the evolving sustainability reporting landscape in the Philippines, together with the underlying sustainability strategies of Philippine corporations.

Finally, Yabut presented some recommendations for accounting and business academics as they develop a sustainability integration plan for the existing curricula.

Surabaya State University is a public university in Indonesia. The lecture is part of UNESA's annual workshop that aims to address pressing issues in the fields of economics and business. This year's theme centered on the Sustainable Development Goals and corporate sustainability. ■



## USTGS-CCCPET, Archdiocese of Cagayan de Oro host Heritage Forum



NCCA Executive Director Dr. Eric Zerrudo (front row, seated, rightmost), CCCPET OIC Ms. Beverly Bautista (front row, standing, second from left), officials of UST and participants of the Heritage Forum

**T**he UST Graduate School Center for Conservation of Cultural Property and Environment in the Tropics (USTGS-CCCPET), in partnership with the Archdiocese of Cagayan de Oro, hosted the Heritage Forum "Considerations on Nomination of Places of Religion and Ritual to the UNESCO World Heritage Sites" from August 5 to 7, 2024. The forum was attended by the esteemed members of the Association of Religious Church Heritage (ARCH), an organization established in 2023, during the gathering of church world heritage experts to assist South Korea in

its bid for the UNESCO World Heritage nomination of Mission Churches.

Prior to the actual day of the conference, a special tour of the San Agustin Church was conducted by Prof. Regalado Trota Jose, Chair of the National Historical Commission of the Philippines.

With sessions held in Cagayan de Oro on August 5-6, participants had the unique opportunity to explore the Opol Ruins, Our Lady of Candelaria Chapel, Talisayan Church, Balingasag Old House, Jasaan

HERITAGE FORUM TO PAGE 29

## UST Library, *Instituto Cervantes* celebrate grammarian Antonio de Nebrija through exhibit

**T**he University of Santo Tomas Miguel de Benavides Library and Instituto Cervantes de Manila, in partnership with the Embassy of Spain in the Philippines, Antonio Nebrija Foundation (Madrid), Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID), and the National Library of Spain, has unveiled a significant exhibition titled "*Nebrija en Filipinas. La Importancia de ser gramático.*" This notable event marks the celebration of Antonio de Nebrija's quincentennial death anniversary, a important figure in the history of grammar and linguistics.

The exhibit is an adaptation of the "*Nebrija (c.1444-1522). El orgullo de ser gramático (grammaticus nomen est professionis)*" exhibition organized by the National Library of Spain in 2022. Originally curated by Dr. Teresa Jiménez Calvente, with scholarly additions from Assoc. Prof. Marlon James Sales of the University of the Philippines Diliman, the exhibition here in the Philippines offers a comprehensive exploration of Nebrija's profound impact on Philippine grammar and linguistic studies. It also underscores his influence on the preservation and development of language in the Philippines, weaving his work into the broader narrative of the nation's linguistic heritage.

The exhibition features a rich collection of literary works and historical documents,



including the works of Nebrija and some of the rare grammars and dictionaries housed in the Antonio Vivencio del Rosario UST Heritage Library. These books, instrumental for missionaries working in various Philippine provinces, illustrate not only the diverse array of languages in the

(From left): Chief Librarian Sr. Lib. Ma. Cecilia Lobo, UST Secretary-General Rev. Fr. Louie Coronel, OP, EHL, Deputy Head of Mission of the Embassy of Argentina in the Philippines Leandro Waisman, Instituto Cervantes Director Javier Galvan Guño, Deputy Chief of Mission of the Embassy of Spain in Manila Pedro Llinas Almadana, UST Prefect of Libraries Rev. Fr. Ángel Aparicio, O.P.

ANTONIO DE NEBRIJA TO PAGE 31

### HERITAGE FORUM FROM PAGE 30

Ruins and Church, among other sites. During this time, Prof. Ayako Fukushima of Kyushu University, Matthieu Masson from the Diocese of Hong Kong, and Dr. Eric Zerudo, Executive Director of the National Commission for Culture and the Arts, shared their expertise in a presentation centering on catholic church world heritage sites, nominations, and conservation approaches.

On August 7, another forum continued at the UST College of Tourism and Hospitality Management-Sentro Turismo. On this day, additional presentations, including "Updates on the Case of Naepo Church: Journey to the UNESCO World Heritage Site Nominations" by Fr. Kim Sungtae, Director of Naepo Church History

Institution of Daejeon Diocese, "Status of Church Heritage in the Philippines" by Fr. Milan Ted D. Torralba, Executive Secretary of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines Episcopal Commission for the Cultural Heritage of the Church (CBCP-ECCHC), "Rebuilding Sto. Domingo: Contexts and Goals in Post-War Philippines" by Rev. Mervin Lomague, Member of the Dominican Province of the Philippines Cultural Heritage Committee, and the "Status of Boljoon Church on its Bid for UNESCO World Heritage Site Nomination" by Fr. Brian Brigoli, Chair of the Archdiocese of Cebu Commission on Church Heritage were shared with the group. The open forum was facilitated by Dr. Zerrudo.

Apart from ARCH members, they are joined by representatives from the UNESCO National Commission of the Philippines, National Historical

Commissions of the Philippines, National Commission for Culture and the Arts, and ICOMOS Philippines. Their presence was acknowledged by Ms. Beverly Bautista, Officer-in-Charge of USTGS-CCCPET. Dr. Lilian J. Sison, Director of UST Office for International Relations and Programs and Prof. Michael Anthony C. Vasco, Dean of the UST Graduate School were also present during the event.

The event concluded with a tour of Santo Domingo Church and San Sebastian Church for the ARCH members. The Heritage Forum, with its diverse and comprehensive range of presentations and discussions, provided valuable insights and recommendations for preserving church heritage. The robust network established during the event will continue to facilitate collaboration and knowledge sharing among international and local heritage specialists and practitioners. ■



## USTGS-CCCPET conducts Pamanaraan Seminar-Workshop for Northern Samar



CCCPET OIC Ms. Beverly Bautista



CTHM academic staff Asst. Prof. Jame Monren Mercado

The UST Graduate School Center for Conservation of Cultural Property and Environment in the Tropics (CCCPET) and the Provincial Government of Northern Samar collaborated to present a unique Seminar-Workshop titled “PAMANARAAN: Cultural Mapping, Cultural Planning, and Heritage Utilization.” This event was held on August 15 and 16, 2024, in Catarman, Northern Samar.

The seminar workshop’s primary objective was to enhance participants’ knowledge of cultural mapping and equip them with the skills to apply it in their communities. This comprehensive approach aimed to create a detailed inventory of cultural assets, assess their significance, and identify their potential for community development, including enhancing tourism, education, and economic growth.

The seminar also introduced cultural planning as a strategic framework for integrating cultural assets into broader sustainable development efforts, addressing community needs and objectives. Additionally, it emphasized heritage utilization, which leverages cultural mapping and planning outcomes to benefit the community through tourism, education, and local economic development.

The event included not only

lectures but also hands-on workshops. Sangguniang Panlalawigan Member Dexter Galit, a committed advocate for cultural development, welcomed the guest speakers and participants. Ms. Beverly Macayan-Bautista, the Officer-in-charge of CCCPET, who took the helm of conceptualizing the *Pamanaraan* program, shared a lecture on ‘Cultural Mapping: Laws, Process, and Utilization’ and facilitated a workshop on cultural mapping. Assistant Professor Jame Monren Mercado, academic staff from the College of Tourism and Hospitality Management and Coordinator of Sentro Turismo, shared his insights on ‘Cultural Development Planning’ and led the workshop on cultural planning.

The final part of the workshop, focusing on heritage utilization and the creation of a museum, was led by Dr. Eric B. Zerrudo, Executive Director of the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA).

The seminar-workshop underscores the Provincial Government’s unwavering commitment, under the leadership of Governor Edwin Ongchuan, to preserving Northern Samar’s rich history, culture, and heritage, including the establishment of the Ibabao Museum of Northern Samar, the envisioned provincial museum of Nortehanon. ■

ANTONIO DE NEBRIJA  
FROM PAGE 29



Assoc. Prof. Marlon James Sales gives an exhibit overview



Guests view the exhibit

Participants of the lecture



archipelago but also the influence of Spanish during the colonial period.

The exhibition has two phases: ensuring maximum public engagement and educational reach. The first phase ran from March 12 to June 12, 2024, at the Instituto Cervantes in Intramuros. The second phase, now showcased at the UST Miguel de Benavides Library from August 22 to November 22, 2024, is of particular importance as it reflects the exhibition’s relevance in historical and contemporary contexts. It underscores the pivotal role of grammar in shaping cultural identity and fostering community connections, offering a valuable opportunity for reflection on the intersection of language, history, and heritage.

The inauguration was attended by Sr. D. Pedro Llinás Almadana, Chargé d’Affaires and Deputy Head of Mission of the Embassy of Spain in the Philippines; Sr. D. Javier Galván Guijo, Director of Instituto Cervantes de Manila; Hon. Arthur P. Casanova, Ph.D., Commissioner of the Komisyon sa Wikang Filipino; Minister Leandro Waisman, Chargé d’Affaires of the Argentine Embassy; and many other library benefactors.

As part of the exhibition, a learning session was also held on August 30, 2024, featuring Assoc. Prof. Sales and Assoc. Prof. Jorge Mojarro. This session delved into the significant contributions of the Dominican Order to missionary linguistics in the Philippines, highlighting the enduring influence of Antonio de Nebrija, Blancas de San José, and many other missionaries. ■



## USTGS-CCCPET collaborations with LGUs continue, festival management workshop, conservation management plan among projects

The UST Graduate School Center for Conservation of Cultural Property and Environment in the Tropics (CCCPET) conducted a row of cultural projects with various LGUs in the second quarter of this year.

### The Samar Festival Management Workshop

On May 20, 2024, the center facilitated the unique and highly anticipated “Pamamahala ng Pistang Pamana: Festival Management Workshop for Samar Province”. The workshop, with the primary objectives of promoting culture and research-based festivals and sharing successful festival management strategies, is an exclusive platform that offers the rare opportunity to share examples of successful festival management strategies, case studies, and valuable lessons from academic and industry experts.

A variety of lectures, case studies, and workshops—ranging from scriptwriting, festival planning, scenography, choreography, and other aspects of event management—were tackled during the week-long workshop which was held at Catbalogan City in Samar Province.

It opened with a plenary lecture on Festivals in the Philippines delivered by Hon. Eric Zerrudo, Ph.D., the newly appointed Executive Director of the National Commission for Culture and the Arts and the former director of CCCPET. The week-long event also featured Thomasian speakers including Prof. Melanie D. Turingan, PhD, Dean of the UST Faculty of Arts and Letters and Prof. Joan Christi Bagaipo, a academic staff of UST Institute of Religion.

The festival management workshop recognized the challenges in conducting festivals in the Philippines, which have sometimes become overly commercialized, misappropriated, and misrepresented. Such an event is a reflection of CCCPET’s strong advocacy for culture and research-based festivals, offering an inspiring vision for the future of cultural celebrations.

### The Betis Conservation Management Plan

In collaboration with the different colleges in the University, the conservation management plan of Betis Church, which began on June 22, 2024, continued with another site visit on August 10, 2024. Ms. Beverly M. Bautista, Officer-in-Charge of the Center, led the team from UST College of Architecture, UST Faculty of Engineering, UST Faculty of Arts and Letters, UST College of Tourism and Hospitality Management, UST College of Science, and UST Graduate School Cultural Heritage Studies for an on-site data gathering and assessment of Betis Church.

The Conservation Management Plan (CMP) is a structured document that outlines strategies and guidelines for the preservation, maintenance, and sustainable management of historic buildings, structures, and sites.

The Betis Church CMP Team is a powerhouse of specialists from different disciplines in the University. Together they bring their unique expertise to complete the historical narrative, social analysis, architectural analysis, site development plan, structural analysis, and wood and paint analysis of the Church. Their



Representatives from the College of Science gather specimens at Betis Church



Representatives from the Faculty of Engineering during the structural assessment of Betis Church

collective knowledge and skills ensure a comprehensive and successful project.

The CCCPET still has several projects lined up for this academic year, proving the importance of the preservation, conservation, and development of cultural heritage. ■



## Medical Technologist Licensure Examination

August 2024

UST Passing Rate: 95.25%  
National Passing Rate: 69.47%



1st - 92.30%  
Riana Beatriz  
Tungol Siron



3rd - 91.30%  
Noreen Anne  
Conde Corpuz



5th - 91.10%  
Reigne Kristy  
Ortiz Cañada



6th - 91.00%  
Julius Miguel  
Austria Tizon



7th - 90.90%  
Kristine Mae  
Dancel Servañez



9th - 90.70%  
Ma. Ruth  
Naomi Beltran



## Food Technologists Licensure Examination

August 2024

UST Passing Rate: 68.32%  
National Passing Rate: 51.26%



8th - 86.25%  
Claire Louise  
Tan Sy



9th - 86.00%  
Reina Mari  
Abundo Acanilado





## Psychometrician Licensure Examination

August 2024

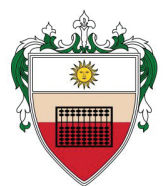
UST Passing Rate: 96.80%  
National Passing Rate: 69.78%



6th - 86.20% Marc David Pardinez Domanais	6th - 86.20% Mary Noriene Sumundong Ramirez	7th - 86.0% Chase Nicole Atienza Junio	8th - 85.80% Yara Criselda De Guzman Inductivo	9th - 85.60% Mikael Yari Asibor Abiog
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9th - 85.60% Patricia Anne Caquilala Chan	9th - 85.60% Shaeena Aquino De Castro	9th - 85.60% Luisa Ann Marie Buenaventura Saplala	10th - 85.40% Nicole Kiyomi Mallari Labrador
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## International Certified Management Accountants Examination

January-February 2024

UST Passing Rate: 96.80%  
National Passing Rate: 69.78%



Bronze Certificate - 3rd  
Ranier Lance  
B. Balistoy



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