



THE ACADEMIA

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ABOUT THE COVER (Photo by Kennett Roger T. Garcia, 2024)

The Rector's Maces symbolize the weight of the authority and responsibility of the Office of the Rector. As part of the installation traditions, these are entrusted to the Rector and prominently displayed during the rites. The maces, available for public viewing at the UST Museum, hold the 17th-century seal of UST on top.

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5



6



22



28

- 4 UST holds installation rites as Very Rev. Fr. Ang begins his second term as Rector
- 6 UST joins Embassy of Indonesia's celebration of their 79th Independence Day
- 13 Science students participate in 2024 NUS Science Summer Institute; Galindon wins Best Oral Presentation
- 16 CRS PT interns join advanced injury biomechanics summer program in Vancouver
- 20 UST biologists lecture on fisheries resources research in Korea
- 22 Ethical AI expert engages with Science, CICS students
- 28 Grand Prix Glory for UST Singers as first Asian choir to win top prizes at 10th Grieg International Choir Festival in Norway
- 30 University Visitors

UST holds installation rites as Very Rev. Fr. Ang begins his second term as Rector



Fr. Ang (right) signs the appointment decree as witnessed by Prior of the Dominican Province of the Philippines Very Rev. Fr. Filemon Dela Cruz, Jr., O.P. (left) and Registrar Mr. Cesar Velasco



The Prior of the Dominican Province of the Philippines Very Rev. Fr. Filemon Dela Cruz, Jr., O.P., and the UST Central Seminary Rector Rev. Fr. Quirico Pedregosa, Jr., O.P., confers upon Fr. Ang the Rector's Collar



The 97th Rector of the University of Santo Tomas Very Rev. Fr. Richard G. Ang, O.P., Ph.D., addresses the Thomasian community



The Rector's Maces were presented to Fr. Ang by the Vice Rector Rev. Fr. Isaías D. Tiongco, O.P., and the Vice Rector for Academic Affairs Prof. Cheryl R. Peralta, DrPH (left)

The Very Rev. Fr. Richard G. Ang, O.P., Ph.D., was installed for his second term as the University Rector in a solemn investiture rites that were held on September 9, 2024, at the Santísimo Rosario Parish Church (UST Chapel).

Prior to the installation, the *Res Ceremoniales* (Latin for 'and all other things needed for the ceremony') were brought into the Chapel led by the University Registrar Mr. Cesar Velasco and carried by seminarians of the UST Central Seminary.

The *Res Ceremoniales* are part of the installation traditions, and are normally housed in the UST Museum.

As part of the rites, the Prior of the Dominican Province of the Philippines Very Rev. Fr. Filemon Dela Cruz, Jr., O.P., and the UST Central Seminary Rector Rev. Fr. Quirico Pedregosa, Jr., O.P., conferred upon Fr. Ang the Rector's Collar, which symbolizes the authority vested upon him by the Vatican and the Philippine Government. It is the mantle of the

supreme teaching authority of the Rector as a professor of the University.

The *Res Ceremoniales* also include the Rector's Maces, which symbolize the weight of the authority and responsibility of the Office of the Rector. They were entrusted to Fr. Ang by the Vice Rector Rev. Fr. Isaías D. Tiongco, O.P., JCD, and the Vice Rector for Academic Affairs Prof. Cheryl Peralta, DrPH.

UST HOLDS INSTALLATION TO PAGE 5

UST HOLDS INSTALLATION FROM PAGE 4

Also part of the *Res Ceremoniales* are the Book of the Holy Gospel and the Statues of the University, the text of the Profession of Faith and the Oath of Office, the Appointment Decree, and pen.

The rites were witnessed by the Thomasian community in Manila and General Santos, with several guests including the Apostolic Nuncio His Excellency Most Rev. Charles John Brown, Wilcon Depot Founder Mr. William Belo, SM Foundation Executive Director and Trustee Ms. Deborah Sy, Century Pacific Food Inc. President Mr. Teodoro Po, Manila Bulletin Chairman Mr. Basilio Yap and Senior News Editor Ms. Isabel de Leon, and JSLA Architects Founders Ar. Jose Siao Ling and Ar. Ana Mangalino Ling, among others.

“As I begin my second term, I am energized and inspired by your overwhelming trust and confidence. This is a testament to our shared vision for the University. This trust that you gave me reinvigorated my resolve to serve with integrity, dedication, and commitment to

the University mission and vision,” said Fr. Ang in his address of acceptance.

“The new mandate fills me with a renewed sense of stewardship, and therefore, I commit to build on the foundation that we have made together and to steer the University toward even greater heights. The journey ahead is one that I am eager to take with all of you by my side,” he shared.

Fr. Ang’s six-point agenda titled “Vision 2028” will serve as the roadmap for his second term, with a focus on enriching research productivity, sustaining development beyond the Manila campus, optimizing the UST Hospital, enhancing student services, developing more partnerships and collaborations in government and industry sectors, and strengthening public presence. This adds to his seven-point agenda in his first term in 2021.

The first Chinese-Filipino Rector expressed how grateful he was, saying “As I look back and reflect on my first term as Rector, I can say that God has blessed UST with so many favors and guided our path toward success. We pushed boundaries

and achieved several milestones. I do not take sole credit for these milestones. They were made possible through our collective efforts.”

Fr. Ang has emphasized synergy through clear communications, decisive actions, and constant coordination as the core.

“For the next four years, we will strongly encourage the academic units to review and update their respective programs and curricula, incorporating emerging fields and technologies and looking into the possibility of interdisciplinary approaches. We will also motivate the units to develop more niche programs in the various disciplines, aligning with PILOs and CILOs with community development programs to raise social responsibility,” remarked Fr. Ang.

The 97th Rector also seeks to explore ways to increase publications and research funding from external stakeholders. “These efforts aim to inspire high-quality research in areas with significant impact to the world. We will continue to uphold the UN

UST HOLDS INSTALLATION TO PAGE 7



Fr. Ang (fourth from left) with Manila Bulletin Senior News Editor Ms. Isabel de Leon, SM Foundation Executive Director and Trustee Ms. Deborah Sy, Manila Bulletin Chairman Mr. Basilio Yap, Century Pacific Food President Teodoro Po, JSLA Architects Founders Ana Mangalino Ling, Ar. Jose Siao Ling, and Wilcon Depot Founder William Belo

EJ Obiena returns to his second home



Thomasian olympian EJ Obiena



EJ Obiena with UST Office of Public Affairs Director Ms. Michaela Lagniton and Communications Bureau Director Mr. Philippe Jose Hernandez



Executive Assistant of the Office of the Secretary-General Assoc. Prof. Emmanuel M. Batulan, Ph.D., leads officials from the Faculty of Engineering in presenting a lei to EJ Obiena.



EJ is warmly welcomed at the Quadricentennial Pavilion by IPEA Secretary Asst. Prof. Gigi Kamus



EJ and the Obiena Family with OSGEA Assoc. Prof. Emmanuel M. Batulan, Ph.D. (third from left) and officials of the Institute of Physical Education and Athletics, the Faculty of Engineering, the Office of Public Affairs, and the Communications Bureau



EJ is interviewed by students from the College of Education

Asia's number one pole vault athlete and Thomasian Olympian EJ Obiena, was warmly welcomed at the University of Santo Tomas on September 12, 2024.

University officials led by the Office of the Secretary-General Executive Assistant Dr. Emmanuel Batulan witnessed the guestbook signing and presented tokens of appreciation at the Main Building, while the Office of Public Affairs Director Ms. Michaela Lagniton welcomed EJ and his family at the Arch of the Centuries.

He also met with officials of the Faculty of Engineering, the Institute of Physical Education and Athletics, the College of Education, and the Office for Student Affairs. Various student publications of the University also conducted interviews with him. ■

UST reaps bountiful harvest at NAST Annual Scientific Meeting



Dr. Bennett (third from left) with UST College of Science Dean Prof. Rey Donne Papa, Ph.D. (fourth from left) and NAST representatives



Mr. Santos (third from left)

The University of Santo Tomas, represented by academic researchers, students and alumni, won several awards during the Annual Scientific Meeting of the National Academy of Science and Technology (NAST) in July 2024 at the Manila Hotel. The NAST is the highest and most prestigious award-giving body of the Philippines in the fields of science and technology.

Leading the awardees is Asst. Prof. Reuel M. Bennett, Dr.rer. nat., Chair of the Department of Biological Sciences under the College of Science, who received the Outstanding Young Scientist (OYS) Award in Biology for his work on Philippine aquatic fungi-like protists. The OYS Award is given to a scientist not older than 40 years old during the time of the award and is chosen based on their scientific productivity and research contributions.

For the NAST Talent Search for Young Scientists, Asst. Prof. John Andrew C. Albay from the Department of Mathematics and Physics of the College of Science won 3rd prize. Likewise, academic staff members Ms. Katherine Yasmin M. Garcia, M.Sc. from the College of Science and Mr. Jame Monren T. Mercado, MA from the College of Tourism and Hospitality Management were given Special Citations. The NAST Talent Search for Young Scientists is given to a scientist not more than 35 years old after presenting a published paper in a public forum in front of a panel of judges.

Biology alumni Mr. Joe Anthony Manzano, M.Sc. and Mr. Aemer Sultan together with their co-authors along with chemistry alumnus Dr. Henley Galiga and co-author Academician Professor Emeritus Fortunato B. Sevilla III, Ph.D. were recognized with the NAST Outstanding Scientific Awards. Their papers were all published in the Philippine Journal of Science.

The Best Scientific Poster awards given at the end of the two-day event were likewise dominated by Thomasian scientists in the Biological Sciences, Engineering Sciences and Technology, and Mathematical and Physical Sciences Category. The research works titled "Formulation of a Phage Cocktail Prototype for Biocontrol Applications against *Listeria monocytogenes* and *Salmonella enterica* var *Typhimurium* in raw beef" by Ramon Arvin Noriel Santos, M.Sc. and co-authors from the College of Science, Graduate School, and Research Center for the Natural and Applied Sciences; "A Rule-based Model for predicting the

**NAST ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC MEETING
TO PAGE 9**

UST HOLDS INSTALLATION FROM PAGE 5

Sustainable Development Goals as we continue to cultivate a culture of research."

"UST is the oldest existing university in Asia, but it is not sufficient to be the oldest. It should also be one of the most innovative universities in this part of the world," said Fr. Ang, who is pushing to enhance the promotion of UST's brand of quality Catholic education.

The Rector, a *bona fide* Thomasian, obtained his Doctor of Philosophy degree, *Summa cum Laude*, in 2010; Licentiate in Sacred Theology and a Master of Arts degree in Religious Studies, *Magna cum*

Laude, in 1999; a Bachelor of Arts degree in Sacred Theology, *Summa cum Laude*, in 1997; a Licentiate in Philosophy, *Magna cum Laude*, in 1994; and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Philosophy, *cum Laude*, in 1990, all from the University of Santo Tomas. He was ordained to the priesthood in 1998.

Steering the University through the unprecedented health emergency brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic, Fr. Ang's term has seen UST's expansion initiatives bear fruit, particularly the inauguration of the UST-Dr. Tony Tan Caktiong Innovation Center in April 2023, the groundbreaking of the UST-Dr. William T. Bello Interdisciplinary Institute in January 2024, the inauguration of UST General

Santos and the groundbreaking of the UST-Dr. Ricardo S. Po, Sr. Integrated Innovation and Research Laboratories at UST General Santos in April 2024, and the inauguration of the Henry Sy, Sr. Hall later this month.

Under his term, UST became the first Philippine HEI to achieve a 5-star QS rating in 2021. The University also secured a ranking in the Times Higher Education Asia Rankings for the first time in 11 years, and maintained its top 4 position among the nation's universities in the QS Rankings. Recently, UST was also named one of the top five Philippine comprehensive universities in research productivity, based on a study by the Second Congressional Commission on Education (EDCOM II). ■

UST joins Embassy of Indonesia's celebration of their 79th Independence Day

The University of Santo Tomas (UST) joined the Embassy of Indonesia in the Philippines as they commemorated the 79th Independence Day of the Republic of Indonesia at the Dusit Thani Manila on September 5, 2024.

UST, represented by the Secretary-General Rev. Fr. Louie Coronel, O.P., EHL, received one of the “Friends of Indonesia” awards presented by the Ambassador of Indonesia His Excellency Agus Widjojo, who served as the speaker of the 8th Installment of the UST Ambassadors Lecture Series (ALS) last April. UST is the sole higher education institution to receive the award.

Students from the UST Junior High School Musical Ensemble's Angklung group, led by their adviser Mr. Christian Aplao, also performed songs using the bamboo instrument Angklung as part of the cultural show, which included presentations of Indonesian songs and dances from various performing groups. The Embassy's linkage with the Angklung group of the JHS was initiated during the aforementioned ALS session, when the JHS students learned two songs on the Angklung from Ms. Nurul Shafira Husna as part of the cultural exchange workshop preceding Ambassador Widjojo's lecture. ■



His Excellency Agus Widjojo presents the “Friends of Indonesia” award to the UST Secretary-General Rev. Fr. Louie Coronel, O.P., EHL



The JHS Musical Ensemble performs an Indonesian Medley using the bamboo instrument Angklung

Mr. Aplao (kneeling, leftmost) and the JHS Musical Ensemble with their fellow performers



CCCPET leads APHEN-ICH Secretariat

The University of Santo Tomas, through the Graduate School Center for Conservation of Cultural Property and Environment in the Tropics (CCCPET), was appointed as the Secretariat of the Asia-Pacific Higher Education Network for Safeguarding the Intangible Cultural Heritage (APHEN-ICH).

Through this role, USTGS-CCCPET will be instrumental in orchestrating the activities and programs of the network, ensuring its seamless operation and the effective execution of its mission. This significant development was announced during the Intangible Cultural Heritage International Conference and General Meeting at Tribhuvan University, Kathmandu, Nepal, on September 22 and 23, 2024.

APHEN-ICH, a collaborative initiative established in September 2018 in partnership with the International Information and Networking Center for Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Asia Pacific Region (ICHCAP) under the auspices of UNESCO, stands as a testament to the joint dedication to preserving intangible cultural heritage in the Asia-Pacific. Aligned with the 2003 UNESCO Convention, the network is focused on nurturing and reinforcing this capacity through joint programs and activities to promote the 2003 Convention



for Intangible Cultural Heritage. As of 2024, the network proudly counts 23 member universities in the Asia-Pacific Region.

The APHEN-ICH Secretariat is composed of four member universities with the University of Santo Tomas taking the lead. Other bureau members include the University of Dhaka in Bangladesh for South Asia, Vietnam National University-Hanoi in Vietnam for Southeast Asia, and Hankuk University of Foreign Studies in

South Korea for East/North Asia. USTGS-CCCPET, with its wealth of experience and expertise, will serve for two years as the Secretariat of APHEN-ICH. Assoc. Prof. Eric B. Zerrudo, Ph.D.,

APHEN-ICH TO PAGE 10

NAST ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC MEETING FROM PAGE 7

changes in soil pH after subjecting to biochar application” by Louie Alfredrich Ducusin and co-authors of the Faculty of Engineering and Research Center for the Natural and Applied Sciences; and “Innovative fabric-based supercapacitors with biochar integration: A sustainable approach for environmental-energy nexus in the Philippines by Paul Jhon Eugenio, M.Sc. and Prof. Christina A. Binag, Ph.D. of the Graduate School, College of Science and

Research Center for the Natural and Applied Sciences all brought home the top prizes in their respective categories.

The 46th Annual Scientific Meeting (ASM) of the National Academy of Science and Technology, Philippines (NAST PHL) with the theme “Beyond Farm Productivity: Transforming the Philippine Food System to Address Equity, Consumer Health and Environmental Issues” gathered national scientists, academicians, and experts for dialogue and in-depth discussions on critical topics influencing food systems. ■



Mr. Eugenio (third from left)



Mr. Ducusin (third from left)

UST honors new batch of outstanding alumni



UST Rector Very Rev. Fr. Richard G. Ang, O.P. (tenth from left), OAR Director Asst. Prof. Joreen Rocamora, Ph.D. (second from left), and USTAAI President Atty. Dwight Ramos (leftmost) with the awardees

The University of Santo Tomas honored 13 alumni and 1 family who exemplified the Thomasian core values in their fields of expertise at the 2024 The Outstanding Thomasian Alumni (TOTAL) Awards. The awarding ceremony was held on September 27, 2024 at the Dr. Robert C. Sy Grand Ballroom, Buenaventura Garcia Paredes, O.P. Building, UST Manila.

The recipients were hailed as role models of students and younger generations of alumni by UST Rector Very Rev. Fr. Richard G. Ang, O.P.

“May the examples of our honorees motivate us to dream bigger, to strive harder, and never to lose sight of the impact we can create,” said Fr. Ang during his speech. He also commended the awardees of their initiatives to drive progress within communities and bring about meaningful transformations.

The recipients were given gold TOTAL medals and plaques molded after UST Founder Fr. Miguel de Benavides whose religious and education contributions have left a lasting impact for centuries.

Among the awardees was Sta. Elena Construction and Development Corporation founder, Ms. Alice G. Eduardo under the category Accountancy, Business, and Management. Fondly known as the “Woman of Steel”, she forged her path in an industry traditionally dominated by men, breaking barriers, and redefining

what it means to be leader in the field of construction and development.

Catholic Educational Association of the Philippines (CEAP) President Sr. Maria Marissa R. Viri, RVM was named TOTAL Awardee for Health Allied for her commitment in combining her profession as a licensed pharmacist and an administrator of different RVM schools in the country and establishing full-service testing and research laboratories for students.

Associate Justice Amy C. Lazaro-Javier was conferred the TOTAL Awardee for Law and Judiciary. She is the 182nd Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the Philippines. Javier also served as an associate justice of the Court of Appeals where she led its Gender and Development Committee.

Two veteran and award-winning journalists were cited for the category of Media and Entertainment—Nestor Cuartero and Joselito Zulueta.

Cuartero, a former UST educator and book author, worked as a long-time editor for Manila Bulletin. He has garnered several awards such as the 2010 Binhi Awards’ Environment Journalist of the Year and 2023 & 2024 SALUTE Awardee Nick Joaquin Literary Awards.

Zulueta was the former arts and culture editor of Inquirer and continues to write editorials and is a leading voice in journalism, literature, and criticism. His

notable work includes the Inquirer’s special Vatican correspondence for key global events. He teaches at the UST Faculty of Arts and Letters and the UST Graduate School.

The recipient for the category of Medicine is Makati Medical Center’s Chief of Hepatobiliary Pancreatic and Liver Transplant Surgery, Dr. Catherine Teh. She has made great contributions in the field of HPB surgery, multidisciplinary team approach, telemedicine, patient safety, and diversity and inclusion advocacies.

OUTSTANDING ALUMNI TO PAGE 11

APHEN-ICH FROM PAGE 9

the Executive Director of the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA) and Program Lead of the UST Graduate School – Cultural Heritage Studies, will serve as the Head of the Secretariat alongside Ms. Beverly Macayan-Bautista, MAED, who will serve as the International Coordinator of the network.

The election of USTGS-CCCPET was grounded on its successful hosting of the Intangible Cultural Heritage International Conference and APHEN-ICH Field School in the Philippines with the City Government of Mabalacat and other LGU partners in the Pampanga province last 2023. ■



*OAR Director Asst. Prof.
Joreen Rocamora, Ph.D.
congratulates the awardees*



*UST Rector Very Rev. Fr. Richard G. Ang, O.P., Ph.D.
delivers his message*

*TOTAL Awardee for Science and
Technology Mr. Hasan Fard receives
the trophy from the Father Rector*

OUTSTANDING ALUMNI FROM PAGE 10

Two outstanding alumni stood out for the category of Music, Arts, Literature and Design. First is the modern and contemporary artist from Camarines Sur, Edgar Doctor. A prolific artist, Doctor has produced one-man shows and represented the country in several international and local art exhibitions. Architect Jose Pedro Recio was the second recipient to receive the award. He established RCHITECTS, INC. and has been recognized by the Professional Regulation Commission for his contributions in the field of Architecture.

Hasan Fard, the Chairman & CEO of TrendGroup, Inc. and Trends & Technologies, Inc., was named the recipient for TOTAL Awards Science and Technology. He built Trends into a leading systems integrator and technology business services provider. His leadership has garnered the company over 300 awards and recognitions globally and locally.

For the Service to the Church, UST Education dean Assoc. Prof. Pilar I. Romero, Ph.D. was awarded in this category. She is a seasoned textbook writer and editor, religious education program consultant, and a member of the Board of Don Bosco Education System. Her expertise includes catechesis, Catholic education, teacher formation, school administration, and values integration.

The Service to Humanity award was conferred to Jollibee Group Foundation Founder and Chair, Grace Tan Caktiong. Her dedication steered the growth of the foundation's work in areas of agriculture, education, and disaster response which empowered more Filipinos to dream bigger for their families and communities.

UST has also given special awards such as the Young Thomasian Achiever, Posthumous Award, and Thomasian Family.

Assistant Secretary Paul Anthony Pangilinan was named the Young Thomasian Achiever for his commitment to public service since 2007. He continues to make significant impacts in improving the welfare of the Filipino people by serving the Office of the President today.

Former DATEM, Inc. co-founder and president Morris Agoncillo was conferred the Posthumous Award for his achievements in the field of civil engineering. Under his leadership, DATEM has earned various awards and recognitions. Engr. Agoncillo has also been known as a staunch supporter of UST's student-athletes.

The Thomasian Family Award was given to the Ling Family. In 1983, Architect Jose Siao Ling and his wife Architect Ana Mangalino-Ling established the JSLA Architects and has led the company, together with their sons and daughters, to become the leading ISO certified architectural design firm with over 800 completed projects and 50 design

capabilities and master plan.

Health Allied recipient Sr. Viri gave a response message on behalf of her fellow awardees. She identified the award both as an honor and a responsibility for them.

"We are more determined to uphold the ideals of the TOTAL Award as we are expected to continue striving for excellence and serve as role models for future Thomasians. We commit to continuing to use our skills, knowledge, and experiences to make a possible impact in our respective fields and contribute to transforming the communities we serve. We hope to inspire others, to pursue their passion, embrace challenges, and contribute to the greater good just as the Thomasian community has inspired us," said Sr. Viri as she encouraged everyone to strive for excellence and to lead with integrity and compassion. "May the TOTAL Award we receive be a lamp that will guide us in upholding the values of our Alma Mater."

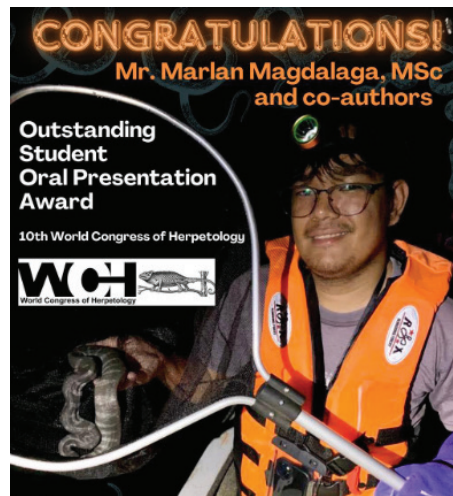
The TOTAL Awards is a biennial event where the University confers its highest honors upon the Thomasian alumni in recognition of their significant and exemplary contribution to the society and the Church. It began in 1993 and has cited over 295 alumni and 10 Thomasian families. Recipients have undergone a comprehensive review process by a selection committee composed of past awardees, University administrators, and UST Alumni Association, Inc. (USTAAI) officers. ■

Thomasian Scientist wins prestigious award in World Congress of Herpetology

Marlan Magdalaga, M.Sc., an alumnus of B.Sc. Biology major in Medical Biology (2022) and M.Sc. major in Biology (2024) of the UST College of Science and the Graduate School, recently bagged the Outstanding Student Oral Presentation Award during the 10th World Congress of Herpetology (WCH) held from August 5 to 9, 2024, at the Universiti Malaysia Sarawak campus.

Magdalaga presented his research on the proteomics, toxicity and venom-prey relationship of the endemic Lake Taal sea snake, *Hydrophis semperi*. This groundbreaking research provided a greater understanding on the venom of one of the most iconic and least-understood species found in Lake Taal.

The World Congress of Herpetology is a prestigious gathering of researchers dedicated to the study of herpetology – the study of amphibians and reptiles which holds its meetings once every three to four years. This year, the WCH saw the participation of 1,400 participants from 70 countries. ■



[Photo courtesy of UST Agos]

Paper by Gozum of IR combines Catholic Social Teaching, AI Ethics to tackle healthcare inequities

Institute of Religion academic staff Mr. Ivan Efreaim A. Gozum introduces a framework combining Catholic Social Teaching and AI ethics to deal with healthcare inequalities. He authored this paper with Ms. Chastene Christopher D. Flake from Angeles University Foundation.

The paper titled *Integrating Catholic Social Teaching with AI Ethics to Address Inequity in AI Healthcare* was published in the September issue of the *Journal of Religion and Health* (Springer Nature). The study explores ethical concerns about the growing use of AI in healthcare, particularly in low-resource settings.

The paper highlights AI's potential to improve healthcare outcomes but warns that its benefits might be unevenly distributed, favoring wealthier urban areas over marginalized communities. The

authors propose a framework based on Catholic social teaching principles like human dignity, the common good, and prioritizing the poor, which align with ethical concerns in AI-driven healthcare. Gozum and Flake call for systemic changes to ensure that AI technologies help all communities, especially underserved ones. They also emphasize that AI should enhance, not replace, healthcare professionals, and that ethical considerations around algorithmic bias must be addressed to avoid harming vulnerable populations.

This research presents a unique intersection of religion, ethics, and technology, urging policymakers and healthcare professionals to consider the social justice implications of AI in healthcare. ■

Science students participate in 2024 NUS Science Summer Institute; Galindon wins Best Oral Presentation



Thomasian delegates Garcia, Galindon, and Quebec [Photo courtesy of UST-Science Facebook page]

Mr. Greville Galindon III, a Batch 2024 alumnus of the BS Biology major in Medical Biology program of the UST College of Science, won best oral presentation during the conclusion of the National University of Singapore (NUS) Science Summer Institute (SSI) 2024 held from July 2 to 11, 2024 at the NUS campus in Singapore. He presented the research he conducted during his senior year in the UST College of Science.

Galindon was one of three College of Science alumni who participated in the inaugural NUS SSI. He was joined by fellow Medical Biology alumni Ms. Marguerite E. Garcia and Ms. Angelica Joyce D. Quebec of Batch 2024.

The participation of UST students in the NUS SSI was made possible after the invitation of the SSI Executive Committee led by Prof. Sow Chong Haur, Vice Dean of the NUS Faculty of Science. The UST College of Science and the NUS Faculty of Science have an existing Memorandum of Agreement for academic and research collaborations.

The NUS SSI 2024 is an event organized by the NUS Faculty of Science, which brought together senior undergraduates from the Asia Pacific region for an intensive experience in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) research and development. SSI participants were given the opportunity to attend thematic lectures and practical masterclasses by renowned experts from NUS and interact with them during the various sessions. ■

Environmental Biology, Applied Physics alumni shine in DOST Scholars Conference

Three alumni of the pioneer batch of B.Sc. Biology major in Environmental Biology class of 2022 who also finished their postgrad studies at the UST Graduate School won during the recently concluded 12th DOST Accelerated Science and Technology Human Resource Development Program Graduate Scholars Conference held in Dusit Thani Mactan, Cebu from September 12 to 13, 2024.

Ms. Anne Parojinog, M.Sc. won first place in the Oral Competition of the Biological and Health Sciences category (M.Sc. level) for her research titled "Integrated Urban Ecology: A socio-ecological overview of Metropolitan Manila and bioecological study of its two urban protected forests". Meanwhile, Ms. Pauline Maglipon, M.Sc. won first place in the Poster Competition of the Agricultural and Environmental Science category for her poster titled "Spatiotemporal distribution and diversity of plant communities in post



The UST delegation to the 12th ASTHRDP Scholars Conference is led by the College of Science Dean Prof. Rey Donne Papa, Ph.D. (eighth from left)

Ormoc LGU partners with UST Biologists to study Ormoc bay and tributaries



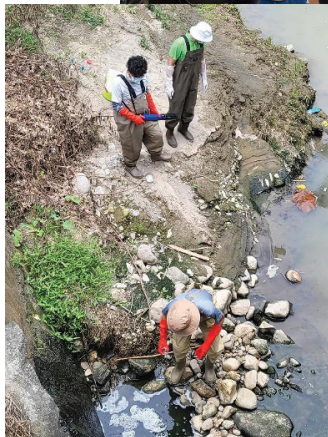
The UST Team, Mayor Lucy Torres-Gomez, and the City of Ormoc officials after the presentation of the team's initial findings

A team of aquatic biologists and microbiologists led by Asst. Prof. Reuel Bennett, Dr.rer.nat., Chair of the Department of Biological Sciences (DBS) and Mr. Elfritzson Peralta, M.Sc. together with DBS academic staff Mr. Allan Gilles, M.Sc., Ms. Eunice Aaron, M.Sc. (Marine Biology team), Ms. Justine De Leon, M.Sc., and Mr. Kenneth Xavier Sanchez, M.Sc. (Freshwater Biology team) led a team of junior research staff to explore Ormoc's watershed area, including mangrove forests, coastal areas, estuaries, streams, rivers, and a freshwater lake - Lake Danao. The study which was conducted on August 11 to 14 covered a total of 26 study sites.

The project aims to assess the impacts of pollution and other anthropogenic stressors in the entire watershed. Initial results of the study were presented by Mr. Elfritzson M. Peralta, M.Sc., Assoc. Prof. Richard Thomas B. Pavia Jr., Ph.D., and Mr. Allan Gilles Jr., M.Sc. on September 17 during an event where City Mayor Hon. Lucy Torres Gomez was present. City Councilors Peter Rodriguez, Caren Torres Rama, Edmund Kierulf, and Bert Pades, together with officials from the City Environment and Natural Resources Office, City Agricultural Office, and representatives from the Protected Areas Management Board also joined the event.

This initiative, which underscores the strong partnership between UST scientists and their government counterparts, is a testament to their shared commitment to bring science to the community. This would help the LGU and other concerned

government agencies in planning steps that will protect and conserve Ormoc Bay and the tributaries draining it. Furthermore, UST scientists are able to contribute their expertise to policy and management initiatives, thereby enhancing the use of scientifically validated data. ■



Academic and research staff of the UST Department of Biological Sciences conduct the water quality monitoring, biological sampling and microbiological analysis of aquatic ecosystems in Ormoc Bay and its tributaries



DOST SCHOLARS CONFERENCE FROM PAGE 13

fire sites of Mts. Iglit-Baco Natural Park, Occidental Mindoro, Philippines". Both Parojinog and Maglipon were under the supervision of Asst. Prof. Nikki Heherson Dagamac, Dr.rer.nat. for their M.Sc. theses. Another Environmental Biology alumna, Ms. Kamille Poblete, M.Sc. won third place in the Poster Competition of the Biological and Health Sciences category for her research titled "Temporal shifts of methane production and methane oxidizing bacteria communities: A limnological assessment in a tropical lake" which she conducted under the supervision of Prof. Rey Donne S. Papa, Ph.D.

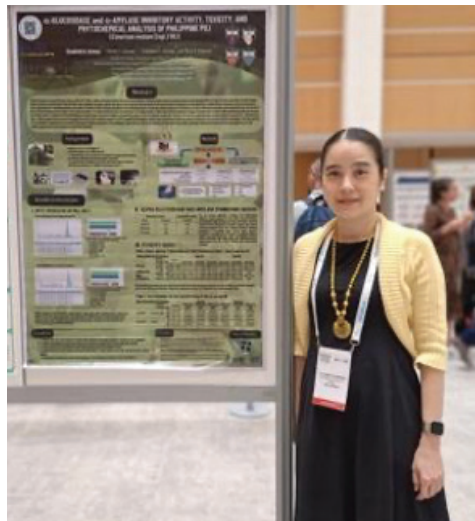
Lastly, Mr. Theo Victor Cavite of the M.Sc. Applied Physics major in Medical Physics program took second place in the Poster Competition of the Physical Sciences Category. His poster, titled "Neutron spectrometry via in-115 activation foil at the Philippines' sole research reactor" was co-authored with his supervisors Dr. Alvie J. Asuncion-Astronomo of the Philippine Nuclear Research Institute and Asst. Prof. Roland Cristopher F. Caballar, Ph.D. of the UST Department of Mathematics and Physics.

These award-winning student researchers are part of the UST delegation composed of 13 DOST scholars, four Graduate School academic staff and two UST DOST-ASTHRDP office project staff who actively participated in the conference. The University of Santo Tomas is a member of the National Science Consortium under the Advanced Science and Technology Human Resources Development Program of the Department of Science and Technology – Science Education Institute which oversees the offering of scholarships in flagship Science and Technology graduate programs. UST is represented in the NSC by Prof. Rey Donne S. Papa, Ph.D., who is also concurrently Dean of the UST College of Science. ■

Arenas, Hidalgo of GS present Food Science studies in Italy

Ms. Eiselle Joyce R. Hidalgo, a Ph.D. Biology student of the UST Graduate School, presented the preliminaries of her dissertation at the 22nd World Congress of Food Science and Technology titled “Optimizing Grain Bran Quality: A Meta-Analysis of Irradiation Dosages’ Impact on Structural, Chemical, and Biochemical Functionalities”. Her study focused on the potential of irradiation, specifically gamma and electron beam technologies, to improve the biofunctional properties of grain brans, including antioxidant activity and shelf life. In collaboration with the Philippine Nuclear Research Institute (PNRI), Hidalgo under the supervision of her research advisers Dr. Elizabeth H. Arenas and Dr. Pia Marie S.P. Albano, aims to explore the sustainability of irradiation as a food preservation method for the utilization of food waste as functional food ingredients.

Meanwhile, Dr. Elizabeth H. Arenas, presented a poster titled “Alpha-Glucosidase and Alpha-Amylase Inhibitory Activity, Toxicity, and Phytochemical Analysis of Philippine Pili (Canarium Ovatum Engl.) Oils,” which highlighted the potential health benefits of *pili* oils. This research funded by the DOST-PCHRD, was co-authored by Dr. Maribel G. Nonato, Dr. Franelyne P. Casuga, and Dr. Ross D. Vasquez.



Dr. Arenas

In addition to their research presentations, Ms. Hidalgo chaired the “Functional Foods 2” session together with Dr. Chin-Kun Wang of the Chung Shan Medical University (CSMU), Taiwan while Dr. Arenas co-chaired a session “Transforming Our Food System, The Importance of Partnership,” alongside Chair Dr. Ian Noble, Food Sector UK KTN Chair, and Senior R&D Director of Mondelez International. Dr. Arenas, a member of the executive council



Ms. Hidalgo

of the IUFOST College of Early Career Scientists, also facilitated a Pre-Congress Workshop on “Youth Action in Addressing Future Food System Challenges”.

This year’s World Food Congress was organized by the International Union of Food Science and Technology (IUFOST) in coordination with the Italian Association of Food Technology (AITA). The Congress was held at the Palacongressi Di Rimini on September 8–12, 2024. ■

Tan of GS presents studies at ENEDA International Conference, PH Data Analytics Conference



Asst. Prof. Tan receives his certificates from the ENEDA International Conference and the 3rd Philippine Data Analytics Conference



Assistant Professor Jackson J. Tan of the UST Graduate School and the College of Commerce and Business Administration presented two research outputs which he co-authored alongside Associate Professor Virginia Ramirez Arceo from the UST College of Science. These studies were presented during the Entrepreneurship Educators Association of the Philippines (ENEDA) International Conference on September 14 and the 3rd Philippines Data Analytics Conference on September 20.

With the theme “Cultivating Innovation: Empowering Entrepreneurship through Technology, Research, and Inclusivity”, ENEDA held its first international conference since the 2020 COVID-19 pandemic halt.

For this conference, Tan presented the study titled *Women driving Philippine entrepreneurship: Social and governance issues as mediated by economic development* published in the Journal of Global

TAN OF GS TO PAGE 16

CRS PT interns join advanced injury biomechanics summer program in Vancouver



Mike Uy, Russell Serranillo, and Ashley Li

Interns from the College of Rehabilitation Sciences (CRS) Department of Physical Therapy, namely, Russell Serranillo, Ashley Li, and Mike Uy, had the privilege of attending the University of British Columbia - Vancouver Summer Program (UBC-VSP) in July.

This was a four-week summer program in BC, Canada, endorsed by the UST Office of International Relations and Programs and CRS. All three students took the “Advanced Injury Biomechanics: From mechanisms, simulations to clinical application” package, which complemented the topic of their thesis. This package covered topics beneficial to student researchers interested in the biomedical design process, mechanisms of musculoskeletal injuries, and collaborative innovation among clinicians, researchers, and biomedical engineers.

The course on the biomedical design process provided them with a systematic approach to product development, emphasizing the importance of addressing the end-user’s needs through careful design specification setting and implementing controls such as verification and validation processes. The program also reinforced their understanding of musculoskeletal injury mechanisms; this guided their approach to problem identification and needs assessment for their product design.

The interns gained valuable insights into the role of biomedical engineers who

specialize in creating medical devices that aim to improve patient outcomes. Before the program, they were unfamiliar with this field, but they now appreciate how vital their work is in connecting engineering and healthcare. The program also includes a component of shadowing medical professionals, allowing the engineers to immerse themselves in the clinical environment and identify real-world challenges that need innovative solutions.

They also had practical experience with wearable sensors, which are increasingly used in the medical industry to enhance patient outcomes by monitoring and analyzing patient biomechanics. They analyzed kinematic data gathered from wearable sensors attached to subjects during activities such as walking, standing up, and quiet standing to assess postural sway.

The field trips were equally interesting, offering them a firsthand glimpse at the Canadian healthcare system and some of the hospitals in Vancouver. They were impressed by the completeness of the hospital’s resources and the strong emphasis on accessibility for persons with disabilities (PWDs). They also observed advanced technologies like the Ekso GT and Lokomat, both used for gait training in individuals with paraplegia. Other notable innovations included the split-belt treadmill, designed to study and rehabilitate asymmetric gait patterns, and

TAN OF GS FROM PAGE 15

Entrepreneurship Research in August 2024. This study highlights the critical role of gender parity in education in the Philippine economy. Specifically, the research demonstrates that higher female enrollment in tertiary education positively impacts the country’s GDP and boosts the growth of small and medium enterprises. With data spanning from 2008 to 2021, the study underscores the economic value of women’s contributions post-Great Recession and COVID-19, urging societal shifts and enhanced support for women’s higher education from both government and private sectors.

For the 3rd Philippines Data Analytics Conference, an event in collaboration with the Development Academy of the Philippines and Project Smarter Philippines through Data Analytics, R&D, Training, and Adoption (SPARTA), Tan presented insights from a study on entrepreneurship in ASEAN’s developing nations—a paper which he again co-authored with Arceo. The study explored the dynamics of new business creation within the ASEAN 5 from 2014-2015, using data from the Global Entrepreneurship Monitor. Findings from the study show that personal mental models towards business, along with experience in entrepreneurship and current employment status, significantly influence the likelihood of starting a new business. Their findings contribute to understanding regional entrepreneurial strategies. The study, *The regional entrepreneurial lens: an ASEAN 5 developing country perspective*, was published in October 2024.

Both conferences drew an audience of more than a hundred composed of educators, students, and industry professionals. ■

the Functional Near-Infrared Spectroscopy (fNIRS) cap, which monitors brain activity during rehabilitation exercises.

The interns described UBC’s Vancouver Summer Program as a well-rounded learning opportunity, saying it was a transformative experience that extended beyond the confines of traditional education. ■

CRS participates in medical welfare exchange program in Niigata

The University of Santo Tomas (UST) recently participated in an enriching international exchange program titled “Enhancing the Attractiveness of Niigata Prefecture through Human Resource Development in Health, Medical Care, and Welfare.” This program, supported by the Niigata Prefecture International Exchange Promotion Fund, brought together students and faculty from Southeast Asia to explore Japan’s healthcare systems and cultural heritage. The participants were composed of 4th year students from the College of Rehabilitation Science namely, Theodore Franxynne Limson, Angelica Phoebe Rane Mendinueto, and Leila Marie Burgos. They were also accompanied by academic staff Mr. Mark Angel Serra, MOH, PTRP.

The program unfolded over a week, featuring a blend of academic lectures, cultural experiences, and practical field trips. Participants attended lectures on Japan’s medical insurance and long-term care systems, rehabilitation and nutrition, and the use of new technologies for movement analysis. Visits to the Niigata Rehabilitation Hospital and nursing care facility were also done. This allowed participants to observe Japan’s healthcare delivery in action. In addition to these experiences, the program included Japanese language lessons, calligraphy workshops, and visits to cultural landmarks like Shibata Castle and Yahiko Shrine. These activities offered participants a deeper appreciation of Japanese culture and traditions.

The program concluded with a summary presentation and a closing ceremony, where participants reflected on their experiences and received certificates of achievement. This exchange not only broadened their academic and professional horizons but also strengthened international ties and friendships. ■



Foreign student delegates trying to perform medical and physical examination in a state-of-the-art patient care simulation laboratory



UST-CRS students and other foreign delegates trying to perform medical and physical examination in a state-of-the-art pediatric patient care simulation laboratory

President Masatoyo Nishizawa handed over certificate of completion to UST delegates for completing the 6 days NUHW International Exchange Program (From Left: Mr. Mark Serra- UST Academic Staff, Ms. Burgos (4th year SLP), Dr. Masatoyo Nishizawa- NUHW President, Ms. Mendinueto (4th Year SPS), Ms. Limson (4th Year PT) and Mr. Arashida (Manager of NUHW Internationalization Division)



UST delegates together with other international delegates visited Sakura no Sato Nursing Care Facility as part of their Japanese Health Care System Immersion



From Left to Right: Ms. Burgos (4th year SLP), Ms. Mendinueto (4th Year SPS), Ms. Limson (4th Year PT) and Mr. Serra (Academic Staff)

International SLP Summer School in Malta welcomes UST delegates



The UST team

Five students and one academic staff from the University of Santo Tomas College of Rehabilitation Sciences Department of Speech Language Pathology participated in the Speech-Language Pathology International Network (SLP-IN) Summer School held at the University of Malta from August 18 to 25, 2024.

The SLP-IN, a global consortium of twenty speech-language pathology departments from fifteen countries across three continents (Europe, Asia, and America), hosts the annual summer school to foster international collaboration. Each year, an institution in the network hosts the summer school program, in which participants learn while making lifelong connections with different SLPs internationally.

This year's event included 74 students from across the world. Among the participants are five students from UST—Mariela Anya Soriño, Kathleen Megan Torres, Emilla Andrea Coronel, Robert Anthony Bertumen, and Vinz Adrian Chan, along with academic staff, Mr. John Arden Romanillos, MHPED, RSLP. UST proudly stands as the sole partner institution from the Philippines and is one of the only three Asian

institutions in the network.

Out of the 20 participating institutions, the UST delegation's achievement was particularly noteworthy. They secured the Best Curriculum Poster Award during the Curriculum Road Show, marking the second consecutive year that the university has won this prestigious award.

"The SLP-IN Summer School program is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity that opens doors for you that you will not be able to open anywhere else. The program inspires you to do what you love and pursue it with passion, knowing that every step forward brings you closer to your dreams," said Bertumen, one of UST's delegates.

The program, featuring a series of workshops on various SLP topics, provided participants with both theoretical and practical knowledge such as advanced technology use in SLP, voice therapy instrumentation, and hands-on intervention for temporomandibular disorders. These sessions, led by faculty members from different universities within the network, equipped students with insights and skills beneficial for their

future roles in the field.

"The workshops and topics we engaged in were truly innovative, offering us a global perspective that will profoundly shape our future as Filipino SLPs," Soriño, another UST delegate added.

Furthermore, the summer school program also emphasized the importance of building international connections. Participants were also allowed to socialize and interact with their counterparts from different countries, emphasizing the importance of fostering diversity and a global community.

UST's participation in the SLP-IN Summer School highlights the university's commitment to advancing speech-language pathology education in the country while enhancing its international presence. As one of the only four institutions in the Philippines offering a Bachelor of Science in Speech-Language Pathology, UST takes pride in being the only Level 1 Accredited PACUCOA SLP program in the country and having a 100% passing rate in the inaugural SLP board exams held in November 2024. ■

College of Education, NCCA-PCEP lead pre-service teachers congress

The UST College of Education, in partnership with the National Commission for Culture and the Arts-Philippine Cultural Education Program (NCCA-PCEP), spearheaded the *Kongreso ng Gurong Mag-aaral (K-Guma) para sa Edukasyong Kultural*, held on August 30 at the Education Auditorium.

Aiming to build the capacity of pre-service teachers (PSTs) in culture-based education in the context of 21st century learning, the event was able to gather around 400 PSTs from its Luzon Cluster.

Participants were trained in creating, developing, and implementing localized, contextualized, and indigenized lessons, learning modules, instructional materials, and other learning resources that ground learners in their culture as Filipinos.



Mr. Patricio [Photo courtesy of the Education Courier]

The congress opened with the welcome message of UST College of Education Dean Assoc. Prof. Pilar I. Romero, LPT, Ph.D. followed by the opening remarks of NCCA Executive Director Dr. Eric B. Zerrudo and the Congress overview of PCEP Director Dr. Joseph J. Cristobal.

Plenary lectures on various related topics, presented by prominent educators, include “Culture-based Education” by Master Teacher Jonah T. Jimenez of Don Vicente Rama Memorial National High School, Cebu; “*Matatag Curriculum*” by Master Teacher Salvador M. Patricio of Ayala Central School SPED Center, Zamboanga City; and “*Ang Etika ng Pagtuturo na Nakabatay sa Kulturang Pilipino*” by the Dean of the College of Arts and Letter of Bulacan State University Dr. Maria S. Bulaong.

Ms. Beverly M. Bautista, Officer-in-Charge of the UST Graduate School Center for the Conservation of Cultural Property and Environment in the Tropics, presented “*Mga Guro Bilang mga Manggagawang Kultural: An Overview of Cultural Mapping*.”

The event culminated with the launching of the *Gawad PCEP sa Paggawa ng Planong Pampagkatuto na Nakabatay sa Pamanang Pangkultura*, a contest that seeks to reinforce the congress outcomes through the construction of a culture-based learning plan. ■



Ms. Jimenez [Photo courtesy of the Education Courier]



Dr. Bulaong [Photo courtesy of the Education Courier]



Ms. Bautista [Photo courtesy of the Education Courier]

UST biologists lecture on fisheries resources research in Korea

Prof. Rey Donne S. Papa, Ph.D. and Asst. Prof. Reuel M. Bennett, Dr.rer. nat. of the UST College of Science - Department of Biological Sciences and the Research Center for the Natural and Applied Sciences, were invited by Prof. Ho Young Soh, Dean of the College of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences to serve as speakers during the second International Symposium on Marine Environment and Fisheries Resources held at the Yeosu campus of Chonnam National University (CNU) held from September 25 to 26, 2024.

The event was organized by the CNU College of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences in cooperation with the Korea Fishery Resource Management Research Institute and the Institute of Fishing Village and Aquaculture. Dr. Papa and Dr. Bennett joined speakers from Korea, Japan, Taiwan, Turkey, and Vietnam who gave lectures on the ecology and life history of economically important aquatic organisms, aquaculture and fisheries including topics on conservation, management, climate change adaptation, and sustainability. A research poster competition was also held during the symposium where graduate students and researchers of Chonnam National University showcased their latest research findings.

Bennett delivered a lecture titled “Oomycetes in Philippine freshwater ecosystems”, highlighting current research developments in taxonomy and potential utilization of oomycetes (aquatic fungi) for aquaculture as a natural food source due to its potential for mass propagation and fatty acid content.

Meanwhile, Papa updated the audience on “Methane Dynamics and Limnological Monitoring in Tropical East Asia: The Case of Lake Yambo”, which emphasized on the importance of routine limnological monitoring for water quality and methane concentrations in tropical lakes such as Lake Yambo as these are closely linked to eutrophication, especially in tropical lake ecosystems—those heavily utilized for aquaculture.

Chonnam National University holds the distinction of having the first and oldest fisheries and marine educational institution in Korea and is known for receiving the most research funding among Korean universities. Its College of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences maintains two research vessels, including the 96.45m ship *Sae Dong Baek* which was launched in 2019. Symposium speakers were given the opportunity to visit and inspect the research facilities of their two research vessels, which routinely conducts research cruises around the Korean peninsula. ■



Dr. Papa and Dr. Bennett deliver their lectures



One of CNU's research ships, the Sae Dong Baek, serves as a research and training facility of the College of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences

Interfaith advocacy conference for UN International Day of Peace is held in UST



Rev. Fr. Sebastiano D'Ambra, PIME (fifth from left), founder of the Silsilah Movement, and His Excellency Most Rev. Gerardo Alminaza, D.D. (sixth from left), Bishop of San Carlos and Vice-Chairman of the Commission on Social Action, Justice, and Peace (ECSA-JP) with officials from the Institute of Religion and CTRSE

In celebration of the 2024 United Nations (UN) International Day of Peace, a diverse gathering of religious leaders, advocates, and educators convened at the University of Santo Tomas on September 20, 2024, for the Advocacy Conference themed *"Together We Dream, Hope, and Act: Educating Toward Dialogue with Creation and Peacebuilding."* Held at the UST Blessed Buenaventura Garcia Paredes, O.P. Building, the event drew participants from various sectors, all united in their commitment to fostering interfaith dialogue, promoting peace, and advancing environmental stewardship.

Rev. Fr. Pablo Tiong, OP, SThL-MA, opened the conference by welcoming participants and collaborators, emphasizing the event's aim to deepen perspectives on relationships with creation and each other. The first keynote address was delivered by Rev. Fr. Sebastiano D'Ambra, PIME, founder of the Silsilah Movement, who spoke on the importance of engaging in dialogue with creation, sharing the story of how the Silsilah Movement emerged as a bridge for peace in their community. Following his address, His Excellency Most Rev. Gerardo Alminaza, D.D., Bishop of San Carlos and Vice-Chairman of the Commission on Social Action, Justice, and Peace (ECSA-JP), presented the integration of peacebuilding into educational frameworks, particularly within religious communities. He emphasized the vital role of peace education in nurturing compassion and building a more harmonious society.

A dynamic panel discussion followed, moderated by Asst. Prof. Val Brillo, academic staff from the Institute of Religion. Panelists included Prof. Arvin

Eballo, Ph.D., President of the Religious Educators Association of the Philippines (REAP), and Imam Ebra Moxsir, President of the Imam Council of the Philippines, who both shared their insights on the responsibilities of religious leaders in fostering education and peacebuilding. Other distinguished contributors to the discussion were Asst. Prof. Froilan Alipao, MCD, Director of UST Simbahayan Community Development Office, Mrs. Aselo Arago and Mr. Ted Arago, National Coordinators of the Focolare Movement, and Ven. Miao Jing Shi, Head Abbess of the Fo Guang Shan Mabuhay Temple. Each offered unique perspectives on how their respective communities promote dialogue and improve relationships both within and beyond their circles.

In the afternoon, Prof. Dean Emeritus Lilian Sison, Ph.D., from Religions for Peace Philippines, delivered a presentation highlighting the crucial role of faith communities in promoting environmental responsibility. Prof. Sison, who also serves as Director of the Office of International Relations and Programs, stressed the importance of collective action in addressing ecological issues. The subsequent panel discussion, moderated by Prof. Joan Cristi Bagaipo, Ph.D., focused on integral ecology and education. Panelists, including Ms. Sonia Mendoza, Chairperson of the Mother Earth Foundation and Rev. Erahvilla Maga-Cabillas from Iglesia Filipina Independiente, shared how religious communities can lead the way in sustainable practices and ecological advocacy. Other contributors, such as Assoc. Prof. Ma. Sanita Quilatan, Ph.D., from the Laudato Si' Movement Philippines, Pastor Alvaro Senturias Jr.



Elder Michael Strong from the Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter-day Saints

of the United Church of Christ in the Philippines, and Ms. Haidi F. Fajardo, Area Director for Public Affairs of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, also underscored the critical need for faith-driven efforts in addressing environmental challenges.

The conference concluded with the landmark Declaration of the First Week of October as *Dialogue with Creation Partners Week*, a significant initiative designed to promote ongoing collaboration between religious and ecological movements. Rev. Fr. Ermito De Sagon, O.P., Director of UST's Institute of Religion, delivered the closing remarks, reaffirming UST's commitment to peace education, interfaith dialogue, and environmental advocacy.

Participants left the event not only with a renewed sense of purpose but also with a shared vision of peace, dialogue, and environmental responsibility. The conference planted seeds of hope and collaboration, promising continued growth and collective action in the months and years to come, with each participant contributing to the shared journey toward a more peaceful and sustainable world. ■

Ethical AI expert engages with Science, CICS students

The University of Santo Tomas, through the College of Science and College of Information and Computing Sciences, hosted the visit of Mx. Ana Arriola – Kanada, founder and CEO of ICMG Next, based in Tokyo, Japan. She has vast experience in Silicon Valley and had previously worked for Adobe, Meta, Apple and other leading tech firms. She is one of the original members of the iPhone design team that worked on its initial design.

Her visit on September 21, 2024, included an official welcome at the Main Building followed by a tour of the UST Museum. She then conducted a brief lecture and dialogue with students of the newest undergraduate degree offering in the university - B.Sc. Data Science and Analytics. This was followed by a tour of the facilities of the UST Educational Technology Center at the Frassati Building and ended with a dialogue with academic staff and officials of the College of Science and College of Information and Computing Sciences, which co-offer the B.Sc. DSA program in the university.

Arriola-Kanada highlighted the unique opportunities for the students of the B.Sc. Data Science and Analytics and their responsibilities in ensuring ethical use of Artificial Intelligence in many industries. She also emphasized that their creativity should begin and be nurtured while they are studying for their degrees.

This visit was made possible through the initiative of the Design Center of the Philippines under the Department of Trade and Industry, which invited Arriola-Kanada as one of the speakers for their International Design Conference as part of their Design Consciousness Week and Philippine Creative Industries Month with the University of Santo Tomas was one of their academic partners. ■



Mx. Arriola-Kanada is in discussion with students of the B.Sc. Data Science and Analytics program [Photo courtesy of Simone Julia Domo, Shaun Mackenzie Reyes & George Emanuel Cruz]



Mx. Arriola-Kanada with participants of the session [Photo courtesy of Simone Julia Domo, Shaun Mackenzie Reyes & George Emanuel Cruz]

Hasaan chief editor joins assembly of Filipino journal editors



Prof. Taruc (second from left) with editors of monolingual Filipino journals (Photo courtesy of DLSU Departamento ng Filipino)

Prof. Zendel Rosario Taruc, Ph.D., editor-in-chief of *Hasaan* journal, sat with fellow editors at the *Samay: Forum ng mga Editor ng mga Monolingguwal na Journal sa Filipino* held at De La Salle University (DLSU) on August 30.

This is the first time that editors of monolingual Filipino journals have come together to talk about their best practices in publishing research papers in Filipino, as well as the challenges

they face, and build collective actions towards increasing the number of publications written in the national language and other indigenous languages in the Philippines.

Dr. Taruc looked back at the history of *Hasaan*, the annual interdisciplinary refereed journal in Filipino produced by the UST *Departamento ng Filipino*, established via a national conference on language and culture.

The current chairperson of UST Departamento ng Filipino was joined by Dr. Alvin B. Yapan of *Katipunan: Journal ng mga Pag-aaral sa Wika, Panitikan, Sining at Kulturang Filipino*, Ateneo de Manila University; Dr. Danielle P. Ochoa of *Diwa E-Journal*, Pambansang Samahan sa Sikolohiyang Pilipino (PSSP); Dr. Rowell D. Madula of *Malay*, DLSU; Prof. Atoy M. Navarro of *Saliksik E-Journal*, Bahay-Saliksikan ng Kasaysayan/Bagong Kasaysayan Inc. (BAKAS); Dr. Rhoderick V. Nuncio of *Dalumat*, Networked Learning PH. Inc. (NLPH); Dr. Romeo P. Peña of *Filipinolohiya: Journal sa Filipino*, Polytechnic University of the Philippines; Dr. Aurora E. Batnag of *Kawing*, Pambansang Samahan sa Linggwistika at Literaturang Filipino (PSLLF); Dr. Raquel Sison-Buban of *SALIN Journal*, Propesyonal na Asosasyon ng mga Tagapagtaguyod ng Salin (PATAS), Inc.; and Dr. Michael Francis C. Andrada of *Daluyan: Journal ng Wikang Filipino*, *Sentro ng Wikang Filipino*, Unibersidad ng Pilipinas, Diliman.

The event was organized by DLSU Departamento ng Filipino, in cooperation with *Sentro sa Pagsasalín, Intelektuwalisasyon, at Adbokasiya* (DLSU SALITA), Andrew Gonzalez Philippine Citation Index, and DLSU Departamento ng Humanidades at Agham Panlipunan. ■

UST, National Dong Hwa University highlight environmental, sustainability studies in joint conference

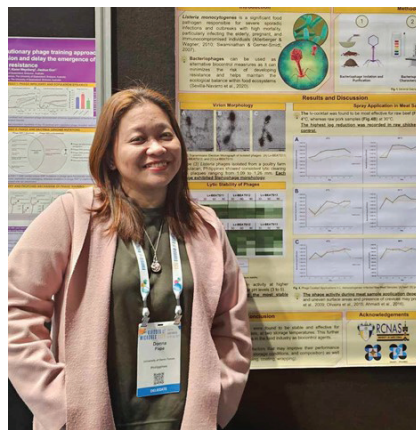
The College of Science, in cooperation with the Graduate School and the Research Center for the Natural and Applied Sciences, recently organized the UST-NDHU Joint Symposium on “The Environment and Sustainability” held on August 19, 2024 at the Central Laboratory Auditorium. The event featured four speakers from the National Dong Hwa University spearheaded by NDHU Vice President Prof. Wen-Yen Chang. Joining him were NDHU Center for Sustainable Development Dean Prof. Chun-Hung Lee, Distinguished Professor of Physics Yuan-Ron Ma, and College of Science and Engineering Deputy Dean Prof. Ruey-Yi Chang.

They shared the stage with five academic staff of the College of Science

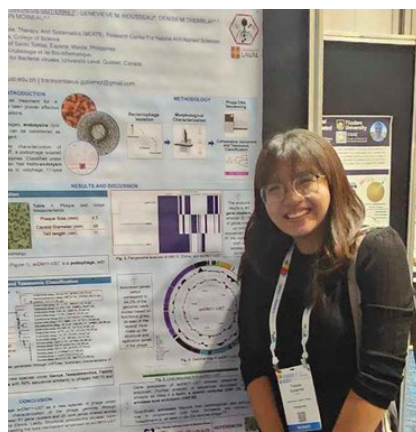


Speakers from the University of Santo Tomas and National Dong Hwa University with the chairs of the organizing committee Dr. Jolleen Balitaan (tenth from left) and Dr. Roland Caballar (seventh from left).

UST research group presents at Viruses of Microbes 2024 in Australia



Dr. Papa



Ms. Gutierrez

The University was represented by the UST Bacteriophage Ecology, Aquaculture, Therapy, and Systematics (BEATS) Research Group during the biannual conference – Viruses of Microbes (VoM) 2024. The research conference was held at the Cairns Convention Center in Cairns, Queensland, Australia and was attended by a diverse audience from around the world.

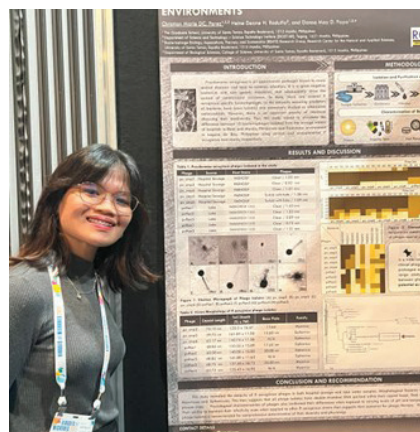
With the theme “Expanding Our Viral Frontiers,” Prof. Donna May D. Papa, Ph.D. the head of the BEATS Research Group, and two of its members, Ms. Tracey Antaeus Gutierrez, MSc. and Ms. Christian

Marie DC. Perez presented their respective papers that highlight their recent discoveries in phage research and applications.

The five-day conference was composed of various activities from a pre-workshop about communication for early career researchers, plenary meetings headed by renowned international phage scientists, oral and poster presentations, and a networking dinner where attendees talked about future grants and collaborations.

Phages are specific bacterial viruses that do not harm humans. Thus, they are now being studied and used as antibiotic alternatives to mitigate antibiotic resistance in different parts of the globe. This has also been the mission of UST-BEATS as they aim for the potential use of their promising phage collection in medical applications. With this, Dr. Papa was then given an opportunity to speak with Dr. Ruby Lin of The Westmead Institute for Medical Research and the head of Phage Australia for future collaborations.

Papa is a recipient of the 2023 Rosalind Franklin Society (RFS) Special Award in Science. Gutierrez is an alumnus of the UST Graduate School, while Perez is currently a graduate student pursuing Master of Science in Microbiology. ■



Ms. Perez

NATIONAL DONG HWA UNIVERSITY TO PAGE 24

whose research interests are on environmental research and sustainability, namely, Assoc. Prof. Felicidad Christina Penafiel, Ph.D., of the Department of Chemistry who discussed renewable energy technologies, Asst. Prof. Jeau Raizza Go who lectured on environmental psychology, Asst. Prof. Kristan Bryan Simbulan, Ph.D., of the Department of Mathematics and Physics who provided an overview of advances in materials physics and from the Department of Biological Sciences, Mr. Allan Gilles Jr. and Ms. Genea Nichole Cortez discussed about non-native fishes and mangrove conservation, respectively.

The event, organized by the International Relations Committee of the college spearheaded by Assoc. Prof. Jolleen Natalie Balitaan, Ph.D. and Asst. Prof. Roland Caballar, Ph.D. of the Department of Mathematics and



UST-NDHU JOINT SYMPOSIUM ON “THE ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY”

RESOURCE SPEAKERS

 CHUN-HUNG LEE CONDUCTING AN EVALUATION FRAMEWORK OF ECOSYSTEM SERVICES UNDER ADAPTIVE CAPACITY PERSPECTIVES <small>DEAN, CENTER FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT</small>	 WEN-YEN CHANG BRIDGING EARTH SCIENCES TECHNOLOGY AND VOLCANIC, OCEAN, TYPHOON, AND EARTHQUAKE COLLABORATIONS BETWEEN DOST & NCTC <small>DEPUTY DEAN, COLLEGE OF SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING</small>	 ASSOC. PROF. FELICIDAD CHRISTINA R. PENAFIEL PH.D. ON RENEWABLE ENERGY TECHNOLOGIES <small>FACULTY, DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY</small>
 YUAN-RON MA APPLICATION OF 2D MATERIALS AND MAGNETIC BILAYER QUBITS <small>DISTINGUISHED PROFESSOR, DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICS</small>	 ASST. PROF. KRISTAN BRYAN C. SIMBULAN PH.D. ON ADVANCES IN MATERIALS PHYSICS <small>FACULTY, DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS AND PHYSICS</small>	 ASST. PROF. JEAU RAIZZA GO M.A. ON PEOPLE AND PLANET <small>FACULTY, DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY</small>
 RUEY-YI CHANG BALANCING ACT: VIROLOGY LESSONS AND ORGANIC FARMING FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE <small>DEPUTY DEAN, COLLEGE OF SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING</small>	 MR. ALLAN GILLES JR. M.SC. ON NON-NATIVE FRESHWATER FISH IN THE PHILIPPINES <small>FACULTY, DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES</small>	 MS. GENE NICHOLE G. CORTEZ M.SC. ON MANGROVE CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABILITY <small>FACULTY, DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES</small>

Physics not only provided a venue for the speakers to update the audience with recent advances in their respective fields of interest but also gave an opportunity for our guests to discuss future areas of

cooperation between the UST College of Science and National Dong Hwa University. UST and NDHU have been partners since 2016 and have an active Memorandum of Understanding. ■

Thomasian alumnus, University of Adelaide herpetologists conduct seminar-workshop on sea snakes

Herpetological research is considered one of the strengths of UST's Organismic and Environmental Biology cluster under its Department of Biological Sciences. Several alumni from this program joined top-notch research groups in herpetology after obtaining their initial training at the University.

Dr. Vhon Oliver S. Garcia (B.Sc. Bio 2011 and M.Sc. Biological Sciences 2013), who, apart from his degrees from UST, also finished an M.Sc. in Integrative Biology from the University of Guelph (Canada) and a Ph.D. from the University of Queensland (Australia) is now a postdoctoral fellow at the University of Adelaide (Australia) where he continues to conduct research on sea snakes - an interest which began when he conducted his M.Sc. thesis on the Lake Taal sea snake, *Hydrophis semperi* under the supervision of Acad. Dr. Arvin C. Diesmos and Prof. Dr. Rey Donne S. Papa.

Vhon, together with renowned sea snake expert Assoc. Prof. Kate Sanders, Ph.D., postdoctoral research fellow Dr. James Nankivell and doctoral student Ms. Amelia Pointon conducted a two-day seminar-



Dr. Vhon Garcia (back row, leftmost), Ms. Amelia Pointon (front row, leftmost), Dr. James Nankivell (front row, second from left), and Dr. Kate Sanders (rightmost) during the round table discussion with the UST DBS Organismic and Environmental Biology cluster and the chair of the International Relations committee Assoc. Prof. Jolleen Natalie Balitaan, Ph.D. (front row, third from left) [Photo courtesy of UST Department of Biological Sciences Facebook page]

SEA SNAKES TO PAGE 26

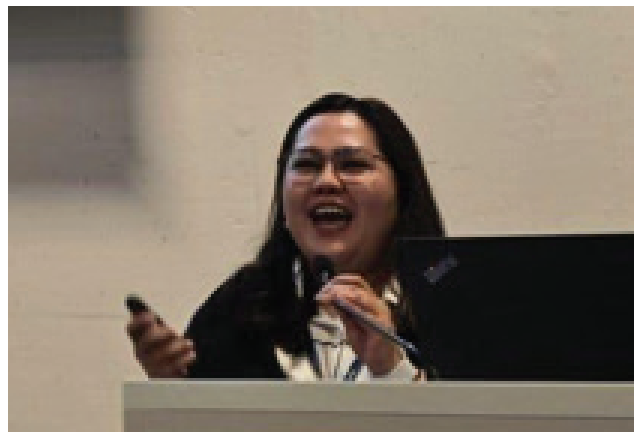
Escuadra of CRS is 1 of 12 finalists for Patil Teaching Innovation Award in Switzerland

Ms. Catherine Joy Escuadra, Ph.D. from the Department of Physical Therapy, participated in the International Association for Health Professions Education Conference (AMEE) held in Basel, Switzerland, from August 25 to 28, 2024. During the conference she presented a learning analytics dashboard, a key component of her recently completed Ph.D. dissertation at Ewha Womans University in Seoul, South Korea.

Hosted by AMEE, an International Association for Health Professions Education, the conference is a leading event in health professions education, attended by over 3,000 global participants, with only 42% of submitted abstracts accepted. The award honors innovative teaching, learning methods, assessment, and curriculum planning excellence.

During the conference, Escuadra was recognized as one of the 12 finalists for the prestigious Patil Teaching Innovation Award at AMEE 2024.

The Patil Teaching Innovation Award celebrates innovation in relation to teaching and learning methods, assessment and curriculum planning. The award is named after Professor Nivritti Patil, the Vice Dean at the Faculty of Medicine, Macau University of Science & Technology. ■



Dr. Escuadra

Arevillaga of GS promotes mental health in Culion Foundation

Culion Foundation, Inc.'s HR and Admin Unit, in collaboration with the Committee on Health and Safety, hosted a Brown Bag Session titled "Promoting Mental Health in the Workplace," led by Dr. Milagros Cortez-Arevillaga, an Associate Professor from the University of Santo Tomas Graduate School, Guidance and Counseling Department.

During the session, Assoc. Prof. Arevillaga provided an in-depth exploration of the critical role of mental health in the workplace. She examined mental health from multiple perspectives, including Neuroscience, Psycho-dynamics, Cognitive-behavioral approaches, Humanistic theories, Socio-cultural contexts, the Biopsychosocial model, Integrative frameworks, and Genetic influences. She further highlighted the significant impact of different types of stress on an individual's mental health and identified key factors contributing to these stressors. The session's primary objective was to enhance participants' mental well-being by equipping them with effective strategies for sustaining positive mental health.

Additionally, Assoc. Prof. Arevillaga focused on building interpersonal resources to improve productivity, foster social connections, and promote empathy and prosocial behavior in both personal and professional settings. ■



Dr. Arevillaga

SEA SNAKES FROM PAGE 25

workshop on sea snakes last August 14 and 15, 2024 at the Thomas Aquinas Research Complex (TARC) Auditorium and the Science Online Learning Environment (SOLE) Room. Garcia and his colleagues visited the university after participating in the World Congress of Herpetology held at the Universiti Malaysia in Sarawak.

Organized by the Department of Biological Sciences of the UST College of Science, both days saw the participation of biology students from the UST College of Science and Graduate School together with participants from the Polytechnic University of the Philippines, Nueva Vizcaya State University and St. Mary's University – Bayombong, Nueva Vizcaya. Meetings to discuss future collaborations under the existing Memorandum of Understanding between the University of Santo Tomas and the University of Adelaide were also discussed between concerned officials from the College of Science, particularly its International Relations Committee and the Department of Biological Sciences. ■



Dr. Vhon Oliver S. Garcia [Photo courtesy of UST Department of Biological Sciences Facebook page]

Guinto of Science serves as panelist in NCMF Climate Change Adaptation Summit

The National Commission on Muslim Filipinos – National Capital Region (NCMF-NCR) recently held the 1st Climate Change Adaptation Summit and Annual MCC Convention with the theme “Muslim Filipinos as Stewards of the Environment and Community” last September 22, 2024 at the Occupational Safety and Health Center, Quezon City. During the event, Asst. Prof. Shea Kathleen P. Guinto, Ph.D., an academic staff of the UST College of Science - Department of Biological Sciences served as one of the panelists during the session titled “Islam, the Environment, and Muslim Perception on Climate Change” which followed a short lecture on the Islamic Principles of Environmental Stewardship and Muslim Perception on Climate Change.

Guinto, who teaches Science, Technology, and Society as well as Environmental Science, shared her expertise and knowledge regarding the basic concepts of climate change and the role of humans in speeding up its processes and effects. She anchored her discussion on the perceptions of Muslims toward climate change which encompasses its causes, social implication, and regional impact. Guinto shared the science behind these perceptions and helped clarify some misconceptions by providing science-based support to current activities toward climate change adaptations that were raised during the event.

The participation of Guinto was made possible through the invitation of Dr. Dimapuno



A. Datu-Ramos, Jr. Director of the NCMF-NCR Regional Office to the UST College of Science to participate in this event. This highlights and recognizes the need for inter-religious and multi-sectoral efforts for effective climate change mitigation and adaptation in the Philippines. ■

(From left:) Asst. Prof. Guinto, Junainah Nuska (NCMF-NCR Muslim Settlement Division Chief), Dalisay Macadawan (NCMF Commissioner), ASec. Elizabeth de Leon (DILG), Dr. Dimapuno Datu-Ramos, Jr. (NCMF-NCR Regional Director), Atty. Benson Thomas Aquino (representative of Senator Francis Tolentino).

Arts and Culture

RCSSEd, CTHM, Sentro Turismo conduct Pagsibol - Isabela under DOST-NRCP policy-funded research

The Research Center for Social Sciences and Education (RCSSEd) and the College of Tourism and Hospitality Management (CTHM) – UST Sentro Turismo officially turned over a 10-year Sustainable Tourism and Strategic Development Plan for Barangay San Miguel, Echague, Isabela. The plan was under the project titled Sustainable Community-based Tourism Potential and Development of Barangay San Miguel, Echague, Isabela in the New/Next Normal.

The project was also part of the 1st batch of the Policy-funded Research Projects under the National Research Council of the Philippines (NRCP) of the Department of Science and Technology (DOST). The Office of Hon. Faustino “Inno”

A. Dy V of the 6th District of Isabela initiated the project and was supported by the Municipal Government of Echague, Isabela. The turnover activity was conducted on August 19, 2024 (Monday) at the Blessed Jane of Aza Lounge, Buenaventura Garcia Paredes, O.P. Building.

The plan aimed to assess the potential of Barangay San Miguel in Echague, Isabela, for sustainable community-based tourism in the new and next normal. It also determined the current situation of the barangay, specifically its community-based tourism industry development, analyzed different related issues, constraints, and opportunities of the barangay for community-based tourism industry

development, assessed the perspectives and views of different stakeholders on the sustainability and development of the barangay's tourism resources, assessed tourism development impacts, specifically on the barangay's economic, socio-cultural, and environmental aspects, and developed a sustainable community-based tourism strategic development framework and sustainability indicators for Barangay San Miguel, Echague, Isabela.

Mr. Louie Simbe, the Municipal Tourism, Culture, and Arts Officer of the Municipality, and Ms. Claire Santiago, the

**POLICY-FUNDED RESEARCH
TO PAGE 29**

Grand Prix Glory for UST Singers as first Asian choir to win top prizes at 10th Grieg International Choir Festival in Norway



The UST Singers triumphantly wave a Philippine flag as their conductor Fidel G. Calalang, Jr. (standing, center) shows the three certificates of the international prizes they won in Norway

The University of Santo Tomas Singers, the acclaimed mixed choral group representing the University of Santo Tomas (UST), recently concluded a triumphant 18-day international concert and competition tour titled “Beyond All Praising” covering Switzerland and Norway held from September 13 to 30, 2024. They have brought home multiple awards from the 10th Grieg International Choir Festival, including the coveted Grand Prix Award.

Their journey began amidst the historic charm and picturesque landscapes of Switzerland, where they captivated audiences in cities like Goldach, Schaffhausen, Winterthur, Stein am Rhein, and Bern. The 32-strong group resonated deeply with both local communities and Filipino expatriates as they shared their artistry and celebrated Filipino excellence. During their visit, the choir had the honor of meeting with His Excellency Bernard Faustino Dy, the Philippine Ambassador to Switzerland, reaffirming their dedication to showcasing the Philippines’ rich cultural heritage through music.

As part of their 37th international tour, they went to the Scandinavian country of Norway, a first for the UST Singers. In Bergen, the “City of Fjords,” they were met with great enthusiasm and support from the Filipino community and His Excellency Enrico T. Fos, the Philippine Ambassador to Norway. The warm welcome further fueled their passion as they prepared to compete in the prestigious 10th Grieg International Choir Festival.

Under the masterful guidance of their founder and conductor, Professor Fidel Gener Calalang Jr., the UST Singers delivered a breathtaking performance that earned them the coveted Grand Prix award on September 29, 2024. Their highly virtuosic rendition of “Sagayan,” a powerful piece from the contemporary Filipino choral work *Mangá Pakalagián* by Nilo Alcala, captivated the audience and judges alike. This contemporary take from traditional music from the Southern Philippines, with its evocative chants and rituals, resonated within the Grieghallen, a 1,500-seat concert hall named in honor of Edvard Grieg.

The UST Singers’ victory extended beyond the Grand Prix. They also secured First Prize in the Mixed Choir category and Second Prize in the Folk Music category. Their winning repertoire included “*Daluyong*” by Ily Matthew Maniano, a poignant tribute to the victims of Super Typhoon Yolanda; “Norwegian Alleluia” by Kim Andre Arnesen, a beautiful piece that seamlessly blends Nordic folk traditions with a modern choral setting; and the contemporary sacred piece “Chariots” by Dutch-born South African Composer Péter Louis van Dijk.

Named after the renowned Norwegian classical composer Edvard Grieg, the 10th Grieg International Choir Festival provided a platform for the UST Singers to compete against 30 other choirs from 10 countries all over the world such as Estonia, Czech Republic, Sweden, Slovakia, Germany, Latvia, Poland, Denmark, and Norway.

UST SINGERS TO PAGE 29

UST SINGERS FROM PAGE 28

As the sole Asian and Filipino representative at the festival, the UST Singers made history by becoming the first Filipino and Asian choir to claim the Grand Prix award in the competition's history. This remarkable achievement underscores their unwavering commitment to cultural diplomacy and musical excellence on the world stage.

Founded in 1992, the UST Singers have become a symbol of Filipino musicality worldwide. Their 37 international tours have taken them from Asia to Europe, to Australia and the United States. They are the first and only choir to clinch the highly-coveted Choir of the World Grand Prize-Luciano Pavarotti Trophy twice at the Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod in 1995 and 2010. As Cultural Ambassadors of Goodwill of the Philippines, they have shared the rich cultural heritage of their homeland with audiences worldwide, from Pope John Paul II and Pope Benedict XVI to the Royal families of Spain and Thailand, and numerous other world leaders. From historic concert halls and churches to prestigious musical festivals, the UST Singers have graced stages where few Filipino choirs have ventured before.

Following their most recent international triumph, the UST Singers are set to continue their mission to inspire and uplift audiences with a series of performances and concerts around Metro Manila. Their journey serves as a testament to the power of music to transcend borders and connect people through shared cultural experiences. ■



The UST Singers conclude their 37th international concert tour with a performance in Bern, Switzerland



The UST Singers conductor and founder Fidel G. Calalang Jr. and the UST Singers right before their final bow in Switzerland

POLICY-FUNDED RESEARCH TO PAGE 28

Political Affairs Assistant under the Office of Congressman Dy officially received the plan. Officials from the DOST NRCP also attended the event. It was headed by Dr. Aimee Lynn Barrion-Dupo (President) and Dr. Bernardo N. Sepeda (Executive Director). The UST RCSSEd was represented by its Director Dr. Jeremaiah M. Opiniano.

#TeamKomunidad of the UST CTHM and Sentro Turismo spearheaded the project under the leadership of Asst. Prof. Jame Monren T. Mercado, with the team members, Asst. Prof. Avi Ben P. Andalecio, Dr. Fhamela F. Sarmiento, Asst. Prof. Maria Concepcion A. Ang, CTHM Assistant Dean Assoc. Prof. Evangeline E. Timbang, and CTHM Dean Atty. Gezzez Giezi G. Granado. ■



The UST team turns over the 10-year Sustainable Tourism and Strategic Development Plan to representatives of the LGU

United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN ESCAP)



Dr. Alice Siragusa from the UN ESCAP (fourth from left), with officials of the University of Santo Tomas led by the Vice Rector for Religious Affairs Rev. Fr. Pablo Tiong, O.P. (fifth from left), and the Voluntary Local Review (VLR) Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Lead Report Specialist Prof. Arlen Ancheta, Ph.D. (sixth from left) on September 13, 2024

Kumamoto University, Japan



(From left:) Kumamoto University Officer of the International Student Office Mr. Shinya Murakami, Deputy Director of the Center for International Education Asst. Prof. Armando T. Quitain, D.Eng, Language Center Officer-in-Charge Ms. Carine Suacillo, and OPA Office Assistant Ms. Shenine Pascual on September 10, 2024

Duke University School of Nursing, USA



(From left:) UST OPA Assistant to the Director for Publication Ms. Katherine Patrice Sibug, UST College of Nursing Internationalization Coordinator Asst. Prof. Ritzmond Loa, Ph.D., Duke University School of Nursing Interim Vice Dean of the Office of Global and Community Health Initiatives Prof. Eleanor Stevenson, Ph.D., and the Dean Prof. Michael Relf, Ph.D., on September 13, 2024

Taiwan Coast Guard Attaché

Taiwan Coast Guard Attaché Lcdr. Chia-Hsiang Yen (center) with the UST Office of International Relations and Programs Associate Director Prof. Karen Santiago, Ph.D., and the UST Office of Public Affairs Assistant to the Director for Publication Ms. Katherine Patrice Sibug on September 18, 2024



Pontifical Biblical Institute in Rome President

The President of the Pontifical Biblical Institute in Rome Fr. Peter Dubovský signs the University guestbook on September 18, 2024, witnessed by UST Central Seminary Vice Rector Rev. Fr. Clarence Marquez, O.P.

ICMG Next Founder and CEO



The ICMG Next Founder and CEO Mx. Ana Arriola Kanada (fourth from left), who is also a lecturer at the California Institute of the Arts and the University of California Berkeley, with officials and academic staff of the UST College of Science led by the Dean Prof. Rey Donne S. Papa, Ph.D. (third from left) and UST Office of Public Affairs Director Ms. Michaela Lagniton (rightmost) on September 21, 2024

Starkey Hearing Foundation



The Starkey Hearing Foundation founders Mr. William Austin (center), who is a UST Golden Cross awardee, and the SHF Vice Chair Ms. Tani Austin (sixth from left) with (from left:) UST Health Service Director Dr. Sheryl Dionisio, Dr. William Olalia, Dr. Salve Olalia, Vice Rector for Religious Affairs Rev. Fr. Pablo Tiong, O.P., Anargyroi Foundation Inc. Treasurer Dr. Norberto Martinez, SHF Vice President and Chief Administrator Mr. Kirk Richards and UST Office of Public Affairs Director Ms. Michaela Lagniton on September 23, 2024

Southeast Asia Ministers of Education Organization (SEAMEO) and the Department of Education Teacher Education Council (DepEd-TEC)

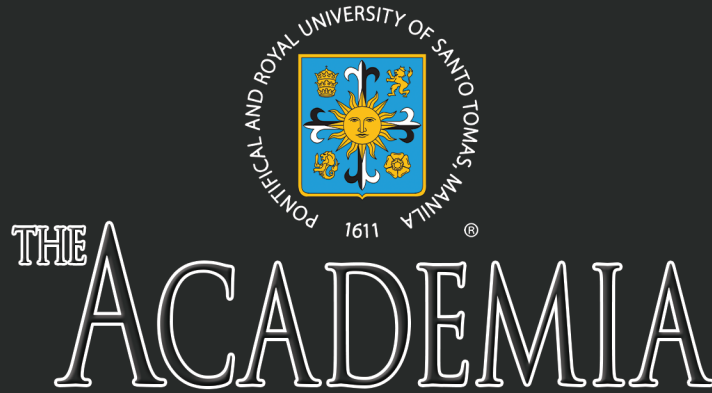


Participants of the DepEd Teacher Education Council event “Policy Dialogue for Teacher Education across SEAMEO member countries” during their learning visit and academic benchmarking on September 26, 2024 in UST with UST College of Education Assistant Dean Louie B. Dasas, Ph.D. (front row, second from left,) UST Office of Public Affairs Director Ms. Michaela Lagniton (front row, rightmost) and UST OPA Assistant to the Director Ms. Katherine Patrice Sibug

National Taiwan Normal University

Delegates from the National Taiwan Normal University, including the Associate Vice President for International Affairs Dr. Hsiu-Mei Hsieh (front row, second from left) with academic staff of the UST Department of Math and Physics led by the Chair Assoc. Prof. Josephine Bernadette M. Benjamin, Ph.D. (front row, third from left) and UST Office of Public Affairs Director Ms. Michaela Lagniton (front row, rightmost) on September 27, 2024





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or call us through 8731-3544.

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