



THE

ACADEMIA

Official International Bulletin of the University of Santo Tomas

Vol. LIV No. 10

October 2024

ISSN0117-0083



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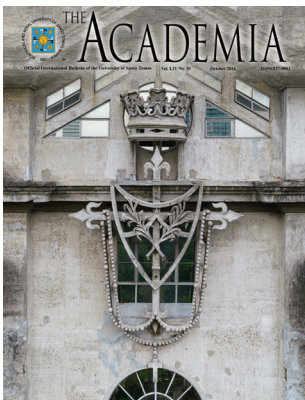
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MR. KENNETT ROGER T. GARCIA

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ABOUT THE COVER (Photo by Paul Quiambao, 2023)
For the month of the Most Holy Rosary, the cover focuses on a feature of the Main Building rarely seen when viewed from the street level. Right below the Cross Tower is a massive stone rosary that is draped on the tower façade. The Order of Preachers holds their devotion to the Holy Rosary close to their hearts, which is reflected in the fact that the Rosary is held aloft at the very heart of UST's Manila campus.

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Henry Sy Sr. Hall is unveiled; Medical simulation and research center opens in UST

Continuing their efforts to elevate medical education in the country, the University of Santo Tomas (UST)—through the support of the SM Foundation, Inc., and the Henry Sy Foundation, Inc.—inaugurated the seven-floor Henry Sy Sr. Hall on September 28, 2024, at its historic campus in España, Manila, ahead of the SM Founder's centennial birth anniversary on October 15, 2024.

Completed in collaboration with Anargyroi: FMS Foundation Inc., FMS Alumni Associations, and other benefactors, the Henry Sy Sr. Hall will serve as a hub for simulation in medical education, interactive student-centered learning, collaborative multidisciplinary research, and interprofessional education. It was named after the late businessman at the request of his daughter, Ms. Teresita Sy-Coson, who donated P300 million to the project.

Standing near UST Gate 10 along Dapitan Street, the new structure houses the Saints Cosmas and Damian Center for Simulation and Research, which will have simulated emergency rooms, surgical theaters with observation areas, delivery rooms, ultrasound skills laboratory, adult

and pediatric intensive care units, medical wards, and consultation/mentoring rooms fully equipped with low, medium, and high-fidelity mannequins, control rooms to provide different situations that academic staff can modify according to the complexity of medical cases, and debriefing rooms capable of real-time observation and assessment of learners as well as playback of events for discussion, among other features.

Various study spaces, like the Eduardo Gotamco Tan, M.D. Study Hall, will also be available for students for extended hours to prioritize their safety. Offices of the Research Ethics Board and the Anargyroi Foundation, Inc., and the William F. Austin Center for Ear and Hearing Healthcare will also be in this building.

In her message, UST Faculty of Medicine and Surgery Dean Ma. Lourdes Maglinao, MD expressed her deep gratitude to all those who collaborated to make the Henry Sy Sr. Hall a reality.

Dean Maglinao also reminded the medical students, "You are the lifeblood of this institution. You are the reason we build, the reason we innovate, and the reason we

HENRY SY SR. HALL TO PAGE 5

The Dominican Province of the Philippines Prior and UST Vice Chancellor Very Rev. Fr. Filemon Dela Cruz, Jr., O.P. (fifth from left), UST Rector Very Rev. Fr. Richard Ang, O.P., PhD (sixth from left), SM Foundation Executive Director Ms. Debbie Sy (eighth from left), Henry Sy Foundation Executive Director Dr. Lydia Echaz with Rev. Fr. Eñen Rivera, O.P. from the Priory of St. Thomas Aquinas, UST Faculty of Medicine and Surgery Regent Rev. Fr. Angel Aparicio, O.P., UST Facilities Management Office Director Rev. Fr. Dexter Austria, O.P., UST Secretary-General Rev. Fr. Louie Coronel, O.P., UST Vice Rector Rev. Fr. Isaias Tiongco, O.P., JCD, UST FMS Dean Assoc. Prof. Ma. Lourdes D. Maglinao, MD, and AIMM Builders Owner Engr. James Liong, conduct the ribbon-cutting ceremony of the new Henry Sy Sr. Hall.



Henry Sy Foundation Executive Director Dr. Lydia Echaz



Dr. Lydia Echaz, Very Rev. Fr. Richard G. Ang, O.P., Ph.D., Ms. Debbie Sy, and Dean Ma. Lourdes Maglinao, MD



The facade of the Henry Sy Sr. Hall

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strive for excellence. You are the future physicians, future healthcare workers, and the healers of tomorrow. Within these walls, you will begin to shape the world you will one day inherit. The education you will receive here is unparalleled. You will have access to the best resources, the brightest minds, and advanced technologies. But remember, with privilege comes responsibility. You have chosen a noble path, a path that requires not just knowledge, but also humility, compassion, and an unshakable commitment to the well-being of others."

FMS Regent Rev. Fr. Angel Aparicio, O.P., in his welcome remarks, expressed his hopes for the Thomasians who will make use of the new facilities. "We pray and hope that our faculty, mentors, students, researchers, and experts will be imbued with unending grace manifested in gentleness and kindness, contented with what they have received from their predecessors in the art of healing, and eager to enhance the skills and knowledge for this profession that is continually expanding and demanding of new technologies."

The Henry Sy Foundation Executive Director Dr. Lydia Echaz also spoke on the importance of the philanthropist's

legacy. "[Henry Sy, Sr.] believed in the transformative power of learning and the role it played in building a brighter future. Today, this hall embodies that belief, serving as a beacon of excellence for medical education research, not just for UST, but for the entire nation. We are proud to collaborate with the UST Research and Endowment Foundation, Inc. and Anargyroi UST FMS Foundation Inc. in bringing to life a state-of-the-art facility designed for the needs of modern medical education."

The UST Rector Very Rev. Fr. Richard G. Ang, O.P., Ph.D., shared his reflections that, "It was not too long ago when we had a topping-off ceremony [in October 2023]. Now standing on the site of this completed edifice, I can't help but think about all the people who would soon walk through its doors. The students from FMS are eager to learn, the faculty, the doctors excited to teach, and the many who will benefit from the advanced facilities and technologies. Seeing the building come to life floor by floor was not just about watching a construction project. It was about experiencing the realization of our vision. It reminded me of the power of shared vision, collaboration, and commitment. And I look forward to seeing the many ways this building, the Henry Sy Sr. Hall, will enrich not just UST, but our Filipino community. As the building

acquires its final form, we invoke the Lord's guidance to inspire us to work towards building the legacy of healing and service."

The Prior Provincial of the Dominican Province of the Philippines Very Rev. Filemon I. Dela Cruz, Jr., O.P., also expressed gratitude in his message, saying, "This blessing, this inauguration, gives us the opportunity to renew our commitment to the mission of the University, to continue to educate better, especially in the field of health sciences. Development in technology brought new challenges, but opportunities too. This is a big upgrade for the University. [UST] hopes to accomplish more and carry on her mission better. Indeed, God's grace is unending. Thank you to all of you. We can only ask God to return your generosity a hundredfold, but we can assure you that this building and its facilities will bless many people in the years to come."

In close collaboration with the Facilities Management Office, the seven-storey structure was designed by CA Ventura & Architects, led by UST College of Architecture Dean Ar. Rodolfo Ventura and his wife, Ar. Anna Rivera-Ventura, and built with AIMM Builders & Construction Supply led by Engr. James Liong, and JCV & Associates Project Management Firm, led by Engr. Jason Valderrama.

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Prior Provincial of the Dominican Province of the Philippines Very Rev. Filemon I. Dela Cruz, Jr., O.P.



UST Rector Very Rev. Fr. Richard G. Ang, O.P., Ph.D.



Thomasian doctors of the FMS and USTH with Very Rev. Fr. Richard G. Ang, O.P., Ph.D. and Very Rev. Filemon I. Dela Cruz, Jr., O.P.

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UST FMS Regent Rev. Fr. Angel Aparicio, O.P.



UST FMS Dean Ma. Lourdes Maglinao, MD

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Aside from the Henry Sy Foundation and the SM Foundation, the esteemed benefactors and friends of the University of Saint Tomas, through the UST Research and Endowment Foundation Incorporated (REFI), and Anargyroi: UST FMS Foundation, Inc., who were present onsite and virtually include Drs. Peter and Linda Fang and representatives of the UST Medical Alumni Association and UST Medical Alumni Association in America (USTMAAA).

Also gracing the event were Ms. Zenaida Gotamco Tan, sister of the late Dr. Eduardo Gotamco Tan, Ms. Josephine Gotianun-Yap of Filinvest Development Corporation, William and Tani Austin of Starkey Hearing Technologies, the family of Dr. Alfredo Ang Kian To, family of Tanya Lim Ong, family of Eng Ho Tan & Kee Hui Eng, family of Cua Bun Kim and Delfina Co Cuaso, Dr. Visitacion Alcalde Aromin and Ms. Irene Safran, the Sesquicentennial Watch group, representatives of the distinguished Medicine Alumni classes of 1982, 1986 and 1990, and other alumni groups of the UST FMS.

The Henry Sy Sr. Hall originally broke ground in January 2020 and it was topped off in October 2023. ■



Ms. Debbie Sy and Dr. Lydia Echaz observe the facilities and equipment inside the Henry Sy Sr. Hall



UST Rector Very Rev. Fr. Richard G. Ang, O.P., Ph.D., blesses the facilities with holy water



Secretary-General Rev. Fr. Louie R. Coronel, O.P., EHL, Center for Campus Ministry Director Ms. Maria Lourdes Antonio, FMO Director Rev. Fr. Dexter Austria, O.P., and Thomasian doctors during the blessing rites

Sustainable power, real estate tackled at joint Manila Bulletin, UST focus session



Keynote speaker and Makati Mayor Abby Binay (eighth from left), with Manila Bulletin President Dr. Emilio Yap III (seventh from left), MB Publisher Sonny Coloma (ninth from left), MB sustainability Forum Project Lead Philip Cu Unjieng (leftmost), MBrand Head Irish Lorenzo (sixth from left), MB Business Development Head Jordan Tan (tenth from left), and MB Creative Head Rey Ilagan (eleventh from left). With them are UST administrative and academic officials and academic staff, including (from left:) Ar. Vinson Serrano, Ar. Charisse Ong, Atty. Marlon Cariño, Ms. Michaela Lagniton, Dr. Alain Jomarie Santos, Dr. Bernard Tongol, Dr. Maria Natalia Dimaano, Engr. Nestor Ong, and Asst. Prof. George Chao, Jr. during the morning session



UST Secretary-General Rev. Fr. Louie Coronel, O.P., EHL, delivers the closing remarks



Ar. William Ti, Jr., class of 2002 alumnus

The Manila Bulletin and the University of Santo Tomas held an [industry-focused sustainability session](#), this time highlighting the role and responsibility of energy and real estate leaders in the country in caring for our shared world and future. With the theme “Power and real-estate in a green-centric future,” the discussions were held on September 30, 2024 at the Bl. Buenaventura García Paredes, O.P. Building of UST Manila.

The morning session began with a talk by the Thomasian alumnus and internationally acclaimed architect William Ti Jr., founder and principal architect of WTA Architecture and Design Studio. With global accolades, such as the Jury’s and People’s Choice Awards at the Architizer A+Awards in 2017 and the BCI Asia Top Ten Architectural Firm in 2018, his expertise on eco-conscious infrastructure and community planning was shared with students.

Arthaland Senior Vice President and Chief Sustainability Officer Oliver Chan discussed “Race to 2030: The 1.5°C challenge”, or how their efforts contributed to various mitigation methods designed to limit global warming to 1.5° Celcius above pre-Industrial levels, as stipulated in the Paris Agreement.

Aboitiz Power Vice President for Corporate Communications Mr. Suiee Suarez shared experiences on the topic “Navigating the energy transition: A bespoke path for the Philippines,” particularly since Abotiz Power has committed to achieving a 50:50 ratio of renewable and thermal sources by 2030, lowering emissions, and incorporating sustainability within the business process.

Shell Fleet Solutions Business Development Manager Mr. Nate De Jesus discussed how Shell helps support the Philippines’ clean energy needs through its EV charging stations, which are fully powered by renewable energy. In the coming years, the company seeks to achieve the following: reduce the net carbon intensity of its energy products by nine to 13 percent by 2025, 15 to 20 percent by 2030, and 100 percent by 2050. It also involves buyers in its pursuit of emission reduction, aiming to help cut customer emissions from using its oil products by 15 to 20 percent by 2030.

Megaworld Hotels & Resorts Managing Director Ms. Cleofe Albiso emphasized their *sampaguita* brand of Filipino hospitality, which involves partnering and collaborating with local communities and allowing people to develop a genuine appreciation for rich cultural heritage.

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(From left:) UST Office of Public Affairs Director Michaela Lagniton, UST Secretary-General Rev. Fr. Louie Coronel, O.P., EHL, MBrand Head Irish May Lorenzo, UST Rector Very Rev. Fr. Richard G. Ang, O.P., Ph.D., MB Business Development Head Jordan Tan, and MB Sustainability Focus Session Project Lead Philip Cu Unjieng during the signing of the MoU at the Rectors' Hall

Guest speaker and Makati Mayor Abby Binay urged the collaboration of Metro Manila municipalities beyond their individual borders on issues such as flooding. She also addressed the critical role of the local governments in addressing environmental challenges, particularly in disaster preparation and waste management.

Lobien Realty Group, Inc. CEO Ms. Sheila Lobien, in her keynote speech during the afternoon session, emphasized the vital importance of sustainability in the real estate industry, from pressing challenges brought about by climate change and urbanization, to the sustainability efforts being made by

the public and private sectors. She also noted that the country is far behind in terms of its sustainability ranking, and that more research and development efforts on housing issues and the deficiency of mass public transportation options should be done. For their part, the real estate industry is increasingly constructing ‘green buildings’ and encouraging advocacy for sustainable communities and 15-minute cities.

SM Development Corporation (SMD) Lead Executive for Design, Innovation and Strategy Ms. Jessica Sy shared plans to integrate solar panels into its residential communities. By 2040, they aim to go net

zero. RLC Vice President and Business Development and Design Head Ms. Stephanie Ann Go also talked about the use of renewable energy sources in its developments. The company strives to attain net-zero carbon by 2032.

Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development (Technical Team for Pasig River Urban Development) Landscape Architect and Environmental Planner Ar. Marione Comboy discussed efforts to clean and develop the Pasig River, which accumulates 63,000 tons of plastic wastes per year due to urbanization

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UST Secretary-General Rev. Fr. Louie Coronel, O.P., EHL (eighth from left), Ms. Sheila Lobien (ninth from left), Ar. Marione Comboy (seventh from left), Ms. Jica Sy (tenth from left), Mr. Hans Lopez-Vito (twelfth from left), MB sustainability Forum Project Lead Philip Cu Unjieng (rightmost) during the afternoon session. With them are officials of Manila Bulletin and UST administrative and academic officials, including College of Architecture Dean Ar. Rodolfo Ventura (fifteenth from left) and Ms. Michaela Lagniton (second from left).

Starkey partners with UST for three-day Hearing Mission, provides 3000 free hearing aids



Patients receive and have their hearing aids adjusted to their needs.



The University, through the UST Health Service and the UST Faculty of Medicine and Surgery, in collaboration with the Starkey Hearing Foundation, held a three-day Hearing Mission at the UST Central Seminary Gym from September 24 to 26, 2024.

The Hearing Mission, themed 'UST is here: UST Hears', shared the gift of hearing to those in need, empowering them to their potential. Three thousand free hearing aids were provided to those who qualified after an initial hearing assessment, aligning with the University's Institutional Wellness Program and Starkey's mission of 'So the world may hear.'

The Chairman of Starkey Technologies and the Starkey Hearing Foundation (SHF) Mr. William F. Austin, a UST Golden Cross awardee, was personally among the medical professionals and volunteers sharing the gift of hearing with those in need within the Thomasian community and nearby communities in Metro Manila. SHF Vice Chair and Chief Philanthropic Officer Ms. Tani Austin and the leadership of SHF were also participating.

Earlier that same month, over thirty medical students also completed the Certification Course for Ear and Hearing Health Care sponsored by Starkey Hearing Foundation under the Clinical Audiology Program of UST-FMS. They also served as volunteers.

In a thanksgiving dinner hosted by the University on September 26, Mr. Austin shared his words of inspiration, saying "Well, 'so the world may hear' is not about hearing aids. We could give away millions of hearing aids if we just put them in

boxes and send them around the world, but they also need to be energized with care. 'So the world may hear' gives us the opportunity to reflect God's love through our caring, and that's more important than hearing. We find our humanity through our caring. We're all in this together and I am so blessed to have the opportunity to, once in a while, be in such a nice place, with the University of Santo Tomas, working with such nice people that reflect God's love so well. Thank you so much for this."

The UST Rector Very Rev. Fr. Richard Ang, O.P., Ph.D., also expressed gratitude and said, "We honor the tireless efforts of everyone involved in this medical mission and of course the boundless generosity of the Starkey Hearing Foundation. Together, these efforts have made this three-day hearing mission a success, a mission that has touched, transformed, and empowered countless lives through the gift of hearing."

The Father Rector also reflected on the common history of UST and the Starkey Hearing Foundation, which launched the '400 years, 4,000 ears' project in time for UST's quadricentennial anniversary 13 years ago. Since 2011, the partnership with SHF has led to numerous missions benefitting many Filipinos including members of the UST community, he shared, adding that "Small actions matter. Together, many people can turn a difficult and impossible task into a remarkable success. This is the power of our collective action. Alone, we may feel overwhelmed by the world's problems and restricted by what we can accomplish, but when we

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and industrialization. She also pointed out the importance of cleaning it to serve as a major trade and tourism route that connects Manila Bay and Laguna Lake, promoting connectivity, commercial viability, and community building. Key strategies for these efforts include sustainable catchment development, riparian and floodplain rehabilitation, streamflow management, water quality remediation and protection.

Ayala Land Head of Brand Experience & Brand Strategy for Residential, Estates and Corporate Group Mr. Hans Lopez-Vito first acknowledged Ayala Land's environmental impacts from their project development processes, operational activities, and emissions, before sharing the "Step by Sustainable Step: How Ayala Land Integrates Sustainability in its Business Model". He detailed their decarbonization strategies for the supply chain and renewable energy use for 111 commercial properties, resource efficiency and circularity programs, and their Net Zero 2050 roadmap.

During the closing remarks, UST Secretary-General Rev. Fr. Louie Coronel, O.P., EHL, invited participants to reflect on how "industries, the academe, individuals, and communities, can unite for a sustainable future. What we can carry forward from today is not just a collection of ideas but a profound challenge and invitation to embody the wisdom shared, and integrate these lessons into our professional and personal lives."

Fr. Coronel also pointed out how the concept of collaboration resonates deeply with the University, since "Our Rector always inspires us to seek synergy—the notion that we can create something far greater than the sum of our individual efforts. Let us expand on this by considering another concept called synodality, which literally translates to walking together, emphasizing not just collective action, but also the importance of listening to everyone, reflecting and discerning, as we pursue shared goals and objectives in this journey towards sustainability. We must recognize that it is a path forged in unison, not isolation. Sustainability transcends mere objectives; it represents a way of being in the world, a shared responsibility that compels us to act with compassion and commitment to ensure that our planet remains habitable for the generations to come." ■

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come together, each contributing our own small efforts, we have the power to change not just one life, but the lives of many."

"UST is one with Starkey Hearing Foundation in bringing the gift of hearing to those who are in need. Transforming lives and empowering individuals to engage more fully with their communities one step at a time and one life at a time. And I remember what Bill Austin told me yesterday when we had a three hour conversation in my office. There are four things that are important in this life: Time, talent, treasures, and teamwork. Above all these four factors, the most important thing is that we love and care for the people whom we serve. So I would like to thank Bill and Tani Austin, as well as Richard Brown, and all the volunteers, donors, benefactors, supporters for this mission, and all the people behind the success of our collaborative efforts," the Father Rector emphasized.

The Starkey Hearing Foundation President Richard Brown also addressed the medical students who completed certification for Ear and Hearing Health Care. "Our founder Bill Austin has always taught us a simple yet powerful philosophy, 'Better today than yesterday, better tomorrow than today.' This mindset of continuous improvement is something that I hope each one of you will carry with you throughout your careers, never stopping to be better for yourselves, for your patients, and for your communities. You now have the great responsibility

and privilege to help your fellow Filipinos, or wherever your work may take you. You are not just graduates, you are ambassadors of hope and change. Armed with the skills and compassion you develop, you will bring sound into the lives of those who need it most. As you step out into your new chapter, remember the core mission we all share, 'so the world may hear'. Thank you and congratulations once again."

The SHF Chief Philanthropic Officer Ms. Tani Austin also shared how happy she was to see familiar faces and see the improvement in the quality of life that their hearing aids bring. She said, "We've been coming here in UST since 2011 and working with the wonderful audiology and ENT services here. We had several, I want to say children, but they were children in 2011 and young adults now. They were showing us the pictures of when they first got their hearing aids 13 years ago, and now they're 18, or 20 years old, they have speech, they're going to school or they have jobs. They were so thrilled to come over and see Bill and take a picture with him almost exactly like they did 13 years ago. So we remain parts of their life that they never forget, and they stay in our hearts—each and every life that we touch."

The Starkey team also graced the inauguration and blessing of the UST Henry Sy Sr. Hall on September 28, 2024, where the William F. Austin Center for Ear and Hearing Healthcare is set to open on the top floor. ■



UST Rector Very Rev. Fr. Richard G. Ang, O.P., Ph.D. (sixth from left) with Mr. William Austin (seventh from left) and Ms. Tani Austin (fifth from left). Also with them are (from left:) Dr. Robert Ang, Anargyroi FMS Foundation, Inc. Treasurer Dr. Norberto Martinez, SHF Board Member Dr. Gyl Kasewurm, and SHF Clinical Director Dr. Carla Rondeau

UST *Sentro sa Salin* translates FDA Philippines' Vigimobile app into Filipino



The Vigimobile app

(From left:) Department of Nutrition and Dietetics Chair Asst. Prof. Kathleen N. Cruzada, SSAS Chair Assoc. Prof. Wennielyn F. Fajilan, PhD, Center for Drug Regulation and Research (CDRR) Director IV Maria Cecilia Matienzo, Pharmacovigilance Section Head Mark Ryann Lirasan, FDA Philippines Director General Dr. Samuel A. Zacate and Assoc. Prof. Amalia M. Castro, LPT, PhD

UST *Sentro sa Salin* at Araling Salin (UST SSAS) translation council members tied up with the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Philippines in translating the government agency's VigiMobile app into Filipino.

Launched on October 21, VigiMobile is a mobile application that will enable

healthcare professionals, consumers, patients, and the general public to report suspected adverse drug reactions (ADRs) directly, enhancing the FDA's capacity for health product monitoring.

The team included Charlotte Malinao, LPT, MA, who translated the text, Assoc. Prof. Amalia M. Castro, LPT, PhD, who served as the language evaluator, and UST SSAS Chair Assoc. Prof. Wennielyn F. Fajilan, PhD, as the adjudicator.

They were joined by FDA Philippines' Julia Anne Capuchino, the team's content evaluator, and Mark Ryann A. Lirasan, head of the agency's Pharmacovigilance Section of the Center for Drug Regulation and Research (CDRR).

VigiMobile is also designed to strengthen post-market surveillance for medicines, vaccines, and other health products.

The project was coordinated in partnership with the World Health Organization (WHO). ■

Peñamante of Science recognized by Boston Congress of Public Health



Dr. Criselle Angeline Penamante

Master of Science Candidate
Global Health Delivery
Harvard Medical School

[Photo courtesy of BCPH website]

Dr. Criselle Angeline C. Peñamante, an academic staff from the Department of Psychology under the College of Science, was chosen by the Boston Congress of Public Health (BCPH) as one of the recipients of the 2024 *40 under 40 Public Health Catalyst Awards*. The award "recognizes the next generation of leaders, entrepreneurs, researchers, scientists, activists, intellectual provocateurs, authors and directors who inspire and catalyze us all to a more just and equitable world."

BCPH is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to make public health accessible through the lens of social justice and envisions itself as transcending the traditional boundaries of academia and medicine by supporting emerging and established thought leaders, researchers, and advocates committed to social justice and health equity, and democratizes access to evidence-based public health thought through their Harvard Public Health Review Journal. BCPH was established in August 2021 by Dr. Candice Carpenter and Dr. Circe Gray Le Compte where they conduct educational and policy-related training, a television series, and a fellowship program.

Peñamante, who is currently at the final stages of her Master of Science in Global Health Delivery at the Harvard Medical School (HMS), teaches psychology and psychiatry courses in the College of Science and Faculty of Medicine and Surgery. For her second master's degree, she is a Global Health Research Scholar in the HMS Program in Global Primary Care and Social Change, and a Graduate Student Researcher at Massachusetts General Hospital's Department of Psychiatry. She previously earned her B.Sc. in Psychology, M.A. in Clinical Psychology, and Doctor of Medicine degrees at the University of Santo Tomas. ■

3 CRS mentors receive 2024 Australia Awards Fellowship in evidence-based healthcare

Prof. Valentin C. Dones, III, Ph.D., Asst. Prof. Nikka Karla Santos, and Mr. Jon Timothy Rivero from the UST College of Rehabilitation Sciences were awarded the 2024 Australia Awards Fellowship. This prestigious fellowship is part of the Australian government's initiative to foster international partnerships and enhance professional capacities.

The grant aims to improve the skills of Filipino health professionals in evidence-based healthcare and systematic reviews. The program includes pre-course assessments, workshops in both the Philippines and Australia, self-paced learning, and the development and presentation of systematic review projects. Additionally, it offers networking and cultural exchange opportunities with Australian experts and institutions.

In collaboration with Joanna Briggs Institute (JBI) of the University of Adelaide, the fellowship is designed to equip participants with essential skills for healthcare policy and practice, thereby contributing to the advancement of Universal Health Care in the Philippines. The fellowship will take place from 2024 to 2025. ■



Dones (back row, fourth from left), Santos (front row, 6th from left), and Rivero (back row, sixth from left) are the UST recipients of the 2024 Australia Awards Fellowship. The JBI training was led by Bianca Pilla (front row, fourth from left), Edoardo Aromataris (front row, fifth from left), and Sonia Hines (front row, seventh from left)

Ar. Alarcon of GS is honored for Lifetime Achievement by UAP

Each year, the United Architects of the Philippines (UAP), through the College of Fellows (COF), presents the Lifetime Achievement Award to members who have demonstrated a long-standing commitment to the UAP-COF. These individuals have advanced the profession in their unique ways and consistently supported the institution. The annual ceremony, called "*Balik Tanaw*," celebrates the lives and professional practices of the awardees.

This year's ceremony took place on October 5, 2024, at the Osmeña Hall of the National Museum of Fine Arts, where five members were honored for their contributions. Ar. Norma I. Alarcon, Ph.D., FUAP, was the sole female architect among the recipients. Alarcon is an academic staff of the UST Graduate School where she has been teaching for several years now.

In her speech, she reflected on her experience designing low-rise buildings, noting that she had yet to work on high-rise structures or large-scale horizontal projects. However, she emphasized the importance of her role in mentoring many architects who have gone on to shape skylines not only in the Philippines, but around the world.

Quoting the prominent Filipino educator Dr. Luis Reyes, she remarked, "No teacher becomes a millionaire, but our riches come when our students become successful in life." Remarkably, nearly half of the audience, composed of COF members, were her former students from the UST College of Architecture. She acknowledged that her students were the highlights of her career, the "feathers in her cap."



Ar. Norma Alarcon receives her plaque with her husband Engr. Eloy Alarcon (left) and their son, UST SHS academic staff Mr. Francis Alarcon, MSECE (right)

Alarcon concluded her speech with two poignant quotes, the first from American historian Henry Adams: "A teacher affects eternity; he can never tell where his influence stops" and the second, from an anonymous author: "To teach is to touch a life forever." ■

CTHM student Cheng is named 2024 Whiskey Live Manila Champion

Two UST College of Tourism and Hospitality Management students, Mr. Louis Anjello Cheng of class 3HHL1 and Ms. Samantha Dominique Pineda of class 1H6, competed with representatives of different schools at the 2024 Whiskey Live Manila held at Shangri-La the Fort, Bonifacio Global City from November 8 to 9, 2024.

The first night required each student, mentored by an industry coach, to prepare 40 servings of an original cocktail using Nikka Coffey Grain Whisky. From there, only the top three advanced to the championship round the following night. Among those who made the cut was Mr. Cheng alongside other finalists from *Pamantasang Lungsod ng Marikina* (PLMar) and Enderun Colleges.

For the Championship Title held on the second night, Cheng emerged as the 2024 Whiskey Live Manila Champion.

Each student-mentor pair was given the task to prepare an original cocktail good for 50 servings within 16 hours still using Nikka Coffey Grain Whisky. The drinks must be inspired by a story, must taste savory, and must adhere to zero waste or sustainability principles.

Cheng, alongside his industry mentor, Mr. Leonard Albao of Big Fuzz, came up with the drink called “*Ikigai*,” named after the Japanese concept of finding one’s purpose. Cheng shared his own story of how he found his *Ikigai* through the industry, experiencing the magic of seeing customers truly appreciate what he serves. ■



Hospitality Leadership third-year student Mr. Cheng

UST GS Alumna honored for groundbreaking dissertation on Yogad folk songs



Dr. Sabio

University of Santo Tomas Graduate School (UST-GS) Class of 2017 alumna Dr. Divina Gracia S. Sabio was honored by the Local Government Unit of Echague, Isabela for her exemplary contribution to the preservation of the Yogad community’s cultural heritage. Her dissertation, which focused on the retrieval,

translation, and analysis of traditional Yogad folk songs, represents a significant effort in safeguarding regional culture. The award was presented on October 4, 2024, during the Grand Opening of the Mengal Festival, held at the Banchetto Sports and Events Compound in San Fabian, Echague, Isabela.

Sabio’s dissertation titled, “*Cansion nu Yogad, Cansion nu Luta (Retrieval, Translation, and Analysis of Yogad Folk Songs)*,” was supervised by the UST Department of Communication Chair Prof. Joyce L. Arriola, Ph.D., and was crafted in response to the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA) mandate under Republic Act 7356. This law emphasizes the urgency of preserving and promoting regional cultural heritage across the country, a mission Sabio’s work directly supported.

Sabio’s research has gained both national and international recognition. Her work, “*Tropes, Topics and Themes as Aid in Analyzing Yogad Folk Songs*,” was featured in the NCCA’s *Reading the Regions 2*,

while her other studies have been widely published. These include “*The Portrait of Filipinas in Selected Philippine Folk Songs*” in *PalArch’s Journal of Archaeology of Egypt/Egyptology* in 2021 and “*Yogad Folk Songs of Echague: Reflections of Life and Love*,” presented at the 2016 Asian Conference on Literature, Librarianship, and Archival Science. Sabio also presented a paper titled “*Filipinas as Maid(en)s Based on Folksongs and Social Reality*,” which is accessible online.

This recognition highlights Sabio’s pivotal role in promoting and preserving regional literature, underscoring the vital importance of protecting the cultural identity of indigenous communities such as the Yogad.

Sabio was appointed Director for Student Affairs and Services of Quirino State University (QSU) upon her graduation from the UST Graduate School in May 2017, then she was designated Administrator of QSU Diffun Campus last October 7, 2024. Currently, she is an Associate Professor of Literature in her university. ■

Herrera of GS, Archi presents study on urban lifestyle mobility

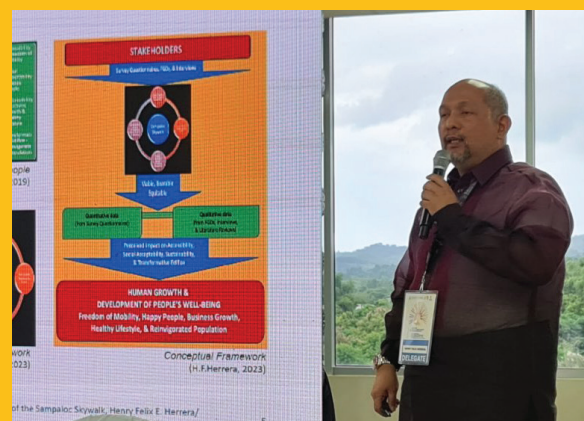
Ar. Henry Felix E. Herrera of the UST Graduate School and the College of Architecture attended the 60th International Society of City and Regional Planners (ISOCARP) World Planning Congress Diamond Anniversary and the 1st International Conference for New Cities with the theme: Planning New Regenerative Cities. This event took place at the New Clark City, Tarlac together with foreign delegates from Europe, U.S.A., South Africa, and Asia, from September 10 to 13, 2024.

Herrera presented his dissertation titled “*Reinvigorating Urban Lifestyle Mobility: A Convenience-Value Evaluation of the Social Architecture and Planning of the Sampaloc Skywalk*”. He shared the study of integrating an innovative elevated walkway from España Boulevard up to the Light Rail Transit (LRT) 2 - C.M. Recto Station in the City of Manila.

His work focused on the socio-cultural and people-centric growth, the politico-economic and community development, and the environmental and urban development needed to achieve human growth and well-being through an elevated seamless walking experience. The walkway will be interconnected with mass transportation hubs such as the North-South Commuter Railway, the LRT2 - C.M. Recto Station, and LRT1 - D. Jose Station and will also be linked to the various buildings and establishments in the area promoting economic growth.

Herrera further reported that through the conducted surveys, focus group discussions, and interviews, the proposed structure gained existential and inclusive support from society.

The paper is published in [Volume 9 of The Antoninus Journal](#). ■



Ar. Herrera

AI, machine learning studies presented by CICS delegation at int’l conference in Indonesia

Academic staff and students from the College of Information and Computing Sciences (CICS) showcased their research in the fields of Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning at the 10th International Conference on Smart Computing and Communication (ICSCC 2024), held in UNDIKNAS University, Bali, Indonesia in July 2024.

Assoc. Prof. Donata Acula, Ph.D., presented her team’s paper titled “Sentiment Analysis on Filipino COVID-19 Tweets During the Pandemic Period Using Modified K-Means and Ensemble Model with Supervised Machine Learning Algorithms as Base Estimators.” This research work focused on sentiment analysis using Natural Language Processing (NLP) methods in tweets on COVID-19 that were written in Taglish, English, and Filipino. It employed clustering algorithms, specifically Modified K-Means with Principal Component Analysis (PCA), Percentile Method, and Weighted Average, and explored various classifier algorithms, including the Combination Ensemble Model and Base Estimators like Complement Naive Bayes, Support Vector Machine (SVM), Logistic Regression, and Random Forest. The Modified K-Means approach categorized the dataset into six clusters, achieving Silhouette Coefficient (0.4276), Calinski-Harabasz (15334.6503), and Davies-Bouldin scores (0.8361).

The Combination Ensemble Model produced impressive results, with mean accuracies ranging from 56.48% to 96.13% based on cluster performance. Statistical tests, such as the paired t-test, revealed that while the modified K-Means method did not significantly outperform the weighted average approach, the Combination Ensemble Model marked a significant improvement over Multinomial Naive Bayes.



Dr. Acula receives her award

Alejandro of Science, GS presents research on indigenous medicinal plants at Humboldt Conference in Indonesia

Prof. Grecebio Jonathan D. Alejandro, Dr. rer. Nat, Director of the Office for Graduate Research of the UST Graduate School, participated in Humboldt-Kolleg's "Transformation in Addressing Climate Change and Sustainability Challenges in Southeast Asia." The event was held from September 18 to 21, 2024, at the Swiss-Belinn Manyar in Surabaya, Indonesia.

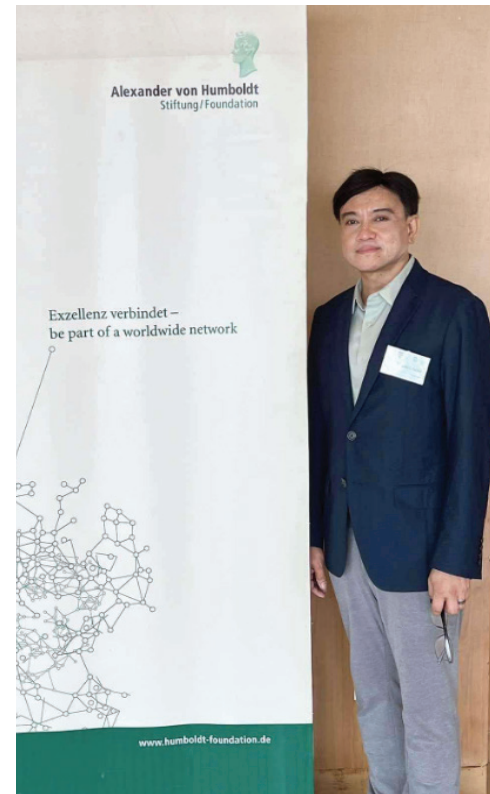
The four-day meeting gathered German experts, junior researchers, and almost 85 Southeast Asian Humboldtians to discuss and find common ground in addressing climate change and sustainability challenges in SEA. The sessions covered various aspects of studies including but not limited to earth, environment and biodiversity, urban transformation, medical and public health, agriculture and food security, economics, business, and entrepreneurship. Alejandro was assigned to moderate sessions on biodiversity and food security.

Alejandro also presented his research titled, "Leveraging Indigenous Medicinal Plants for Sustainable Health Solutions and Climate Resilience in the Philippines," which emphasizes the dual potential of indigenous medicinal plants in the Philippines in contributing to sustainable

health solutions and enhancing climate resilience.

The study was a decade's summary of ethnobotanical research that encompassed ten sites across the country's three major island groups, including six indigenous peoples' communities and four rural communities. The findings underscored the rich ethnobotanical knowledge within these communities and the potential of native medicinal plants to foster sustainable health solutions and enhance climate resilience. The integration of indigenous knowledge with modern scientific approaches was highlighted as a pathway to promote sustainable development, improve public health, and strengthen environmental conservation in the Philippines. Overall, the sustainable cultivation and utilization of these plants would be explored as strategies for climate adaptation and mitigation, contributing to the resilience of local communities against climate change.

The gathering was sponsored by the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation and organized by the collaborative efforts of Indonesian Humboldtians from Ciputra University, Petra Christian University, and Widya Mandala Surabaya Catholic University. ■



Prof. Alejandro

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The paper was co-authored by Carlo Danilo V. Sindayen, Fernando Luis C. Gaité, and Francis Thomas G. Rogando, all BS Computer Science alumni from the Data Science Track. Their collaborative efforts and hard work were evident in the results of this study, which provides valuable insights into sentiment analysis in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. Acula received the Best Presenter Award under the Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning track during the closing and awarding ceremony of the event.

At the same conference, another research paper under the mentorship of Acula was presented. "Mental State Recognition Through Speech Analysis Using Bidirectional Long Short-Term Memory Network and Convolutional Neural Network Hybrid Model" was showcased by Axl Julian B. Erquiza, alumni of BSCS Batch 2024 under the Data Science Track. This study explored the effectiveness of deep learning architectures, specifically Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs) and Bidirectional Long Short-Term Memory (Bi-LSTM) networks, in recognizing mental states through speech analysis. Using the DAIC-WoZ audio dataset, the team classified mental states across five levels, experimenting with three CNN architectures: ResNet50, VGGNet16, and InceptionV3, and their corresponding Bi-LSTM hybrids. The study revealed varied results,



Mr. Erquiza presents his group's paper

showing that ResNet50 with Bi-LSTM improved in precision but did not significantly enhance training accuracy, VGGNet16 maintained stable performance, and InceptionV3 gained little

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Lee of CTHM presents research on AI in hospitality education in Qatar



Mr. Lee and Ms. Noranitiphadungkarn

Academic staff Mr. Wyett White T. Lee of the College of Tourism and Hospitality Management presented his research titled, "Advancing Academic Innovation: Examining the Impact of Generative AI in Hospitality, Tourism and Service Management Education a Cross-Cultural Study on Fostering Collaborative Learning and Best Practices" on November 11, 2024, at the International Panel of Experts (IPoE) conducted at the Al Rayyan International University College in partnership with the University of Derby in Doha, Qatar.

The presentation highlighted the findings of an exploratory study conducted by the University of Santo Tomas - College of Tourism and Hospitality Management (UST-CTHM) in collaboration with Sunway University (Malaysia) and Dusit Thani College (Thailand). The team was composed of Prof. Marcus Stephenson, Dr. Sara Abhari, and Assoc. Prof. Dr. Alexander Trupp from Sunway University, Ms. Pichaya Noranitiphadungkarn from Dusit Thani College, and Lee from UST-CTHM.

Findings emphasized the importance of the appropriate use of Generative AI in learning, as well as the dangers

and limitations it presents towards its use in Hospitality, Tourism, and Service Management Education. Such dangers and limitations are balanced by the strengths of AI, where swift and accessible means of information allow students to better express their academic potential and be aided in research and project support, multilingual environments, and language enhancement.

The study was awarded a grant worth AUD3500 under the International Centre of Excellence in Tourism and Hospitality Education (THE-ICE) Research Grant Scheme 2024. THE-ICE was established in 2004 by the Australian Federal Government to develop benchmarks and promote excellence in tourism, hospitality, and events (TH&E). THE-ICE accredits public and private universities, hotel schools, institutes, and vocational colleges.

UST-CTHM continues to engage with THE-ICE in various forms, including accreditations, Student surveys and contests. In 2022, UST-CTHM attained the No. 1 ranking in THE-ICE student satisfaction global index across 44 members within 19 countries. ■

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benefit from the Bi-LSTM integration.

This research contributes significantly to the field of speech-based mental health assessment by highlighting the complexities of optimizing deep learning models for such applications. The co-authors of the paper were Russel Janzen E. Mamaclay and Elisha Francia L. Platon, all from the CICS Computer Science Department.

Both research outputs are now available via IEEE Explore and indexed in Scopus.

In addition to her paper presentation, Acula served as the IEEE Young Professional Meet-Up Event moderator. This event, which was hosted in conjunction with ICSCC 2024, was designed to expose the IEEE Young Professional community to graduating students and early-career professionals who were interested in

learning more about AI applications. The gathering offered a venue for networking with people in the government, business, and academic sectors, encouraging partnerships and career advancement.

CICS's commitment to knowledge sharing and cutting-edge research is highlighted by the faculty and student participation in the ICSCC 2024, which highlights the college's role as a major collaborator. Acula served as one of the Technical Program Committee (TPC) members and was the conference's Chair of External Communication.

Other CICS academic staff such as Dr. Eugenia R. Zhuo (IT Department), Dr. Janette E. Sideno (IS Department), Dr. Maricel A. Balais (IT Department), Dr. Mylene J. Domingo (IT Department) and Dr. Noel E. Estrella (IT Department) were among the academic staff who made additional contributions as members of the TPC. ■

Cabauatan of GS presents financial sector development research in Hong Kong



(From left:) Dr. Cabauatan with Dr. Bandopadhyaya and Mr. Gomez

The UST GS Program Lead for Economics Prof. Ronaldo R. Cabauatan, Ph.D. attended the Society of Interdisciplinary Business Research (SIBR) Conference, organized by Hong Kong Polytechnic University, where he presented his paper “Financial Sector Development and Foreign Direct Investment-Growth Nexus in

the Philippines,” co-authored with Mr. Ariston Gomez. Held last September 21 to 22, 2024, Cabauatan's presentation explored the relationship between financial sector development, foreign direct investment (FDI), and economic growth in the Philippines. The research received valuable feedback from the conference participants, which provided insights for further improving and refining the research. The interactive discussion following the presentation underscored the topic's significance in the context of emerging economies similar to the Philippines.

Dr. Arindam Bandopadhyaya from the University of Massachusetts Boston, whose expert guidance ensured a fruitful exchange of ideas, moderated the session. His inputs, alongside those from other scholars, greatly enhanced the quality of discussions, particularly in addressing the impact of FDI on developing economies. A key learning from the conference was the importance of the role of financial sector development in attracting FDI and fostering sustainable economic growth, particularly in emerging markets. Overall, the international perspectives shared by presenters from Europe and Southeast Asia broadened the comparative understanding of regional economic policies and their effects on FDI inflows.

The event provided an ideal platform to engage with international academics and practitioners and to gain insights from interdisciplinary perspectives.

Cabauatan is an academic staff from the College of Commerce of Business Administration, a researcher from the Research Center for Social Sciences and Education (RCSSSED), and is also affiliated with the Social Sciences Division of the National Research Council of the Philippines. ■

Internationalization

CRS researchers join telerehabilitation training in Belgium

Researchers from the UST College of Rehabilitation Sciences (CRS) engaged in a capacity building training at the Thomas More University of Applied Sciences in Belgium with the aim of strengthening skills in line with telerehabilitation. The training took place from September 30 to October 4, 2024.

The research team was led by Asst. Prof. Christian Rey D. Rimando, and was composed of members from various allied health departments namely Mr. Christopher G. Cruz & Ms. Jordan Barbra P. Nava from the Physical Therapy Department; Ms. Diane Allison I. Lotho from the Occupational Therapy Department; Mr. Raymond Kenneth D. Ramos from the Sports Science Department; and Assistant Dean Ma. Georgina D. Mojica.

The training is an off-shoot of the project initiative titled, “Promoting health equality: Interprofessional Telerehabilitation for Persons With Disabilities in the Philippines.” This initiative was approved by the *Vlaamse Interuniversitaire Raad - Universitaire Ontwikkelingssamenwerking* (Flemish Interuniversities Council - University Development Co-operation) (VLIR-UOS).

This initiative is set to benefit rural barangays from Talim Island, which is part of the Municipality of Binangonan in the province of Rizal, to pave the way in developing an effective telerehabilitation program to improve the healthcare accessibility among persons with disabilities



The Ambassador of the Philippines to Belgium His Excellency Jaime Victor B. Ledda (center) receives a token from the University presented by UST CRS Assistant Dean Assoc. Prof. Georgina Mojica (left) and CRS academic staff and UST SIMBAHAYAN Community Development Office Assistant Director Asst. Prof. Christian Rey Rimando

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Pharmacy officials establish academic ties with DKICP in Hawaii

In a significant academic exchange, the Dean, Prof. Aleth Therese L. Dacanay and Assistant Dean, Asst. Prof. Renz Kenneth G. Cadiang of the University of Santo Tomas Faculty of Pharmacy visited the Daniel K. Inouye College of Pharmacy (DKICP) at the University of Hawaii in Hilo from September 19 to 25, 2024. This visit aimed to strengthen collaboration between the two institutions and to explore innovative approaches in pharmacy education. The delegation focused on key objectives, including touring DKICP's educational facilities and engaging in discussions regarding curriculum design and experiential learning.

The visit commenced with a meeting between the FOP leaders and Dean Rae Matsumoto at DKICP, where they explored shared goals and future collaborations. The following day, the delegation toured the Hilo Benioff Medical Center and affiliated clinics, guided by Dr. Jarred Prudencio, Director of Experiential Education. This firsthand experience provided insights into the clinical training environment and highlighted the importance of experiential learning in pharmacy education.

A highlight of the visit was a round table discussion centered on the implementation of Introductory Pharmacy Practice Experiences and Advanced Pharmacy Practice Experiences. Participants, including Dr. Prudencio, Dr. Matsumoto, and Dr. Lara Gomez, Associate Dean of Academic Affairs, delved into accreditation expectations and strategies for effective student training. The dialogue underscored the significance of integrating practical experiences into pharmacy curricula to better prepare students for real-world challenges.

On September 23, the UST delegation participated in another round table discussion that focused on the Doctor of Pharmacy



DANIEL K. INOUE COLLEGE OF PHARMACY
UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I AT HILO

DKICP Dean Rae Matsumoto, UST Faculty of Pharmacy Dean Prof. Aleth Therese Dacanay, and Assistant Dean Asst. Prof. Renz Cadiang

program's curriculum design. They examined the implementation of hybrid teaching methods and sought consultation on the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education accreditation process, particularly the new 2025 guidelines. This collaborative exchange allowed both institutions to share insights and strategies for enhancing pharmacy education.

The visit concluded with further clinical observations at Pali Momi Medical Center and the JABSOM Family Medicine Clinic,

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TELEREHABILITATION IN BELGIUM FROM PAGE 18



The UST team including Assistant Dean Mojica (fourth from left) with Dr. Kirsten Schraeyen (seated, left), Dr. Dorien Vandendorre (standing, sixth from left), Dr. Nele De Witte (seated, right), and Dr. Tom Van Daele (standing, fifth from left)

(PWDs). With the municipality being a partner in this project, a representative from Binangonan also joined the training, Mrs. Ma. Sheen Ymel P. Ceñidoza.

Bringing together a mix of healthcare expertise is aligned with the principle of 'Interprofessional Collaboration' to provide comprehensive quality healthcare

service, which includes disability profiling and telerehabilitation. The creation of an interprofessional team is crucial for the implementation of this community-engaged project as it brings together diverse perspectives, fosters teamwork, enhances resource sharing, and leverages unique expertise for a better community health outcome.

The training was hosted on several campuses of Thomas More University with sessions facilitated by Dr. Kirsten Schraeyen, Dr. Dorien Vandendorre, Dr. Nele De Witte, and Dr. Tom Van Daele.

This mobility training included the contextualization of the implementation of the Unified Theory of Acceptance and Use of Technology (UTAUT) tool. The program offered immersive experience on effective techniques and exposure to best practices in digital health, with the goal of fostering innovative solutions to the healthcare challenges in remote islands in the Philippines. This tailor-made training

TELEREHABILITATION IN BELGIUM TO PAGE 20

CRS PT students, academic staff join immersion in Thailand

From October 7 to 31, 2024, University of Santo Tomas College of Rehabilitation Sciences academic staff Ms. Catherine Joy Escuadra, Ph.D., and Physical Therapy program students Christopher Sebastian Azarraga, Nicole Dela Cruz, Frances Kyla Mendoza, Mari Leenor Ong, and Jillian Evonne Sy participated in a Global Immersion at Saint Louis College, Thailand.

The program began with a warm welcome from the President of Saint Louis College (SLC) Sr. Christophe Bhekanan, alongside esteemed faculty members such as the Dean of the SLC Faculty of Physical Therapy Dr. Rattanaporn Sonpeayung, and Deputy Dean of the SLC Faculty of Physical Therapy Dr. Chathipat Kruapanich, to foster a collaborative and enriching atmosphere.

Students engaged in cadaveric studies and clinical training, addressing conditions such as spinal cord injuries and cardiopulmonary diseases, under the mentorship of Thai professors.

The community immersion in Suphan Buri Province was a highlight, where students worked on rehabilitation programs, strengthening their clinical, leadership, and cultural competence. Cultural activities together with Thai students, including exploring Bangkok's landmarks and learning traditional Thai massage, further deepened their appreciation of cultural influences in healthcare.

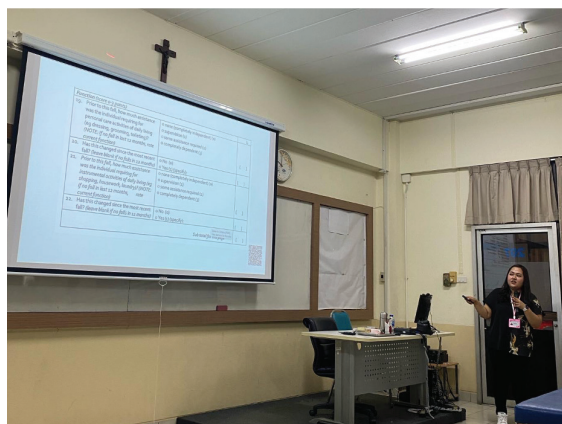
During the immersion program, Dr. Escuadra delivered a lecture on "Physical Therapy Assessment and Management for Falls Prevention among Older Adults". The session, attended

by several SLC students and faculty, highlighted the latest data on falls among older adults in the Philippines and Thailand. Escuadra reviewed current research on falls assessment, management, and prevention strategies, emphasizing the value of sharing best practices between both countries. The lecture underscored the importance of evidence-based, culturally-tailored interventions to improve outcomes for aging populations with diverse healthcare contexts.

This immersion embodied the spirit of global collaboration, equipping participants with critical skills and perspectives for globalized healthcare. ■



The UST CRS PT team led by Dr. Escuadra (third from left) with SLC President Sr. Christophe Bhekanan (fourth from left)



Cadaveric studies

Dr. Escuadra discusses assessment and management for falls prevention

PHARMACY OFFICIALS FROM PAGE 19

where the UST team shadowed clinical faculty and interacted with pharmacy students. A final meeting with Dr. Nicole Young, Chair of the Department of Pharmacy Practice, provided additional perspectives on student experiences and practice education. This visit marks a pivotal moment for UST and DKICP, laying the groundwork for continued collaboration and innovation in pharmacy training, ultimately benefiting students and the communities they serve. ■

TELEREHABILITATION IN BELGIUM FROM PAGE 19

experience provided an opportunity for the researchers to further develop their skills in research and to influence curriculum development by integrating telerehabilitation. The use of the UTAUT model helped the researchers identify facilitators and barriers for the implementation of telerehabilitation in rural areas.

In-depth discussion on the Implementation Research Logic Model (IRLM) was a key activity in the training because it is critical for the strategic development of online telerehabilitation toolkits. By adapting the IRLM strategies, a policy tailored for telerehabilitation in Binangonan may be created. The exposure at the Experience Hub at Thomas More – Campus National offered hands-on insight into cutting-edge virtual rehabilitation practices.

A courtesy visit to the Philippine Embassy in Brussels led by His Excellency Jaime Victor B. Ledda was also done to foster collaboration and support for this project. The meeting also highlighted the importance of partnership with research institutions and centers. ■

UST Publishing House titles, authors featured in world's largest book trade fair in Germany



USTPH Director Parfan joins the panel



(From left:) USTPH Director Benedict Parfan, USTPH author and Ateneo Press Director Rica Bolipata Santos and UP Press Director Galileo Zafra

Books published by the UST Publishing House (USTPH) were featured on the exhibit and in the official catalogs of the National Book Development Board (NBDB) for the Frankfurter Buchmesse (FBM), the largest book trading and rights selling fair in the world, which ran from October 16 to 20, 2024 in Frankfurt, Germany.

As part of the official Philippine delegation to the fair, USTPH Director Benedict Parfan participated in panel discussions at the Asia Stage. He was a speaker in the session "How free is academic publishing in Asia?" with Loren Agaloos of the University of the Philippines Press, Michael Duckworth from Hong Kong University Press, and Wei-Han Yvonne Chen from National Taiwan University Press, where the panel delved into how their respective challenges are being addressed, and how they are navigating complex political landscapes. He also moderated the session "Freedom to Publish, Freedom to Read: Banned Books in Asia," where speakers from the Philippines, Singapore, Egypt, and India talked about how institutions exhibited subtle and concrete examples of censorship.

Several USTPH authors were also present in their various roles as creatives, speakers, cultural workers, and publishing professionals. These included Jose Dalisay, Jr., Ambeth Ocampo, Cecilia Manguerra Brainard, Sir Anril Tiatco Pineda, Andrea Pasion-Flores, Khavn dela Cruz, Edgar Calabia Samar, Kristian Cordero, Angelo

Lacuesta, Mookie Katigbak-Lacuesta, and Eric Zerrudo, the Executive Director of the National Commission for Culture and the Arts which funded the grants for the Philippine delegates. Thomasian publishers Nida Ramirez of Avenida Books and Jun Matias of Lampara Books also represented their respective publishing houses at the fair.

Translation Grants

To entice foreign publishers to pick up Philippine titles, the NBDB is providing translation grants for Filipino-authored works. Assoc. Prof. Chuckberry J. Pascual of the UST Department of Creative Writing, also a USTPH author and member of the Philippine delegation to Frankfurt, said that we can learn from South Korea "because they were able to effectively disseminate Korean culture worldwide because of strong government support. Han Kang won the Nobel Prize because of her talent, but also because the Korean government put up the Literature Translation Institute of Korea, an agency dedicated to translating Korean literature into different languages, especially English."

Collaborations among university presses

On the sidelines of the Asia Stage, the USTPH attended business meetings with international publishers and distributors along with delegates from the Ateneo de Manila University Press and the University of the Philippines Press.

Speaking on their collaborative efforts, Ateneo Press Director Rica Bolipata Santos, also a USTPH author, said "there's a tension between being faithful to our mandate as academic presses and the opportunity to share our books with a wider market. As academic presses we must continue to support our researchers and writers; engage in our specific and local contexts, enrich conversations with our work. But we must also find ways to engage with the larger world and the wider market because our interconnectedness as countries and societies remind us that we cannot make decisions and choices solely from our own contexts." Furthermore, "Frankfurt Book Fair allows us to see these rich opportunities and also these very complex dynamics. The fact that the conversation happens through the written word means that we are in the sphere of thinking, philosophizing and creating."

On the role of university presses at the fair, UP Press Director Galileo Zafra stated, "Kasabay ng paglahok ng Pilipinas sa Frankfurt Book Fair, lalo na sa paggayak sa FBM 2025, nagiging mas masigla at maigting ang ugnayan ng mga publisher, manunulat, manilikha, ahensiya ng gobyerno, at iba pang bahagi ng paglilimbag ng mga aklat. Samantalahin sana natin ang pagkakataong ito para matalakay at masuri ang iba't ibang usaping may kinalaman sa papel ng bawat sektor sa produksiyon ng karunungan—

PUBLISHING HOUSE TO PAGE 22

UST hosts National Physics Conference

The University of Santo Tomas, through the College of Science and the Department of Math and Physics, hosted the 26th Samahang Pisika ng Visayas at Mindanao National Physics Conference (SPVM NPC) from October 17 to 19, 2024, at the Dr. Robert Sy Grand Ballroom of the Bl. Buenaventura García Paredes, O.P. Building and the third Floor of the UST Main Building.

This year's 26th SPVM NPC was held with the 2024 International Conference on Advanced Functional Materials and Nanotechnology, the 2024 International Meeting on Complex Systems, and the 2024 International Conference on Particles and Radiation. The hosting of the 26th SPVM NPC is part of the centennial activities of the College of Science as it celebrates its 98th year this 2024. The local organizing committee was headed by Asst. Prof. John Andrew Albay, Ph.D. of the UST Department of Mathematics and Physics, and was ably supported by the academic staff and students of the department. The conference saw 430 participants from different parts of the Philippines, with foreign participants from Australia, France, Germany, India, Japan, New Zealand, Singapore, Spain, Taiwan, Thailand, and the USA.

The opening ceremonies started with Prof. Cheryl R. Peralta, DrPH, welcoming the participants to the University of Santo Tomas on behalf of the Rector Very Rev. Fr. Richard G. Ang, O.P., Ph.D. This was followed by the keynote address by Dr. Enrico Paringit, Executive Director of the Philippine Council for Industry, Energy, Emerging Technology Research and

Development of the Department of Science and Technology (PCIEERD). He stressed the importance of conducting high-level research with applications to industry, energy, and emerging technologies to support innovation and development. He updated the audience on several research projects in physics that PCIEERD had funded.

The opening ceremonies ended with the message of Prof. Alizedney M. Ditucalan, JD, LLM, Chancellor of the Mindanao State University – Iligan Institute of Technology (MSU-IIT), which was delivered by Prof. Dr. Ephrime B. Metillo, Vice Chancellor for Research and Enterprise of MSU-IIT. The SPVM traces its origins to the Mindanao State University – Iligan Institute of Technology, specifically its Department of Physics.

The conference saw the lectures of well-respected physicists, including Dr. Andrew Holle of the National University of Singapore, Acad. Dr. Christopher Bernido of the Research Center for Theoretical Physics in Jagna, Bohol, Prof. Hsuan-Yi Chen of the National Central University in Taiwan, and Prof. Ting-Hua Lu of the National Taiwan Normal University, among others. Prof. Bernhard Egwolf and Asst. Prof. John Andrew Albay represented the University of Santo Tomas in the roster of speakers in this well-attended conference.

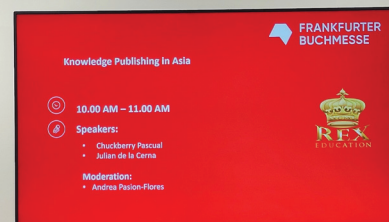
The three-day event was not only a significant learning opportunity for our country's top physicists, physics educators and students, but it also highlighted the importance of collaboration and networking to uplift the status of physics research in the Philippines. ■



Participants of the National Physics Conference
[Photo courtesy of Joaquin Andal from the UST Applied Physics Society]

PUBLISHING HOUSE FROM PAGE 21

Stage



Dr. Pascual at the Asia Stage

kabilang na ang pangangalaga sa karapatan ng mga manunulat at manlilikha; ang tunguhin ng paglilimbag para mag-ambag sa pag-akda ng bansa; at sa partikular na konteksto ng mga university press, ang pagtatanggol sa kalayaang akademiko. (Along with the participation of the Philippines at the Frankfurter Buchmesse, especially in preparation for FBM 2025 (when the Philippines will be Guest of Honour), the links between publishers, writers, creators, government agencies and other publishing professionals become stronger and more vibrant. We should take this opportunity to discuss and assess the various issues that relate to the role of each sector in knowledge production—including the support for the rights of writers and creatives; the objective of publishing in contributing to the writing of the nation; and in the particular context of university presses, the upholding of academic freedom.)"

Onward to FBM 2025

Charisse Aquino-Tugade, NBDB Executive Director said UST's representation in Frankfurt is important, citing UST's unique standing as the oldest university press in the country. She said she is hoping for a bigger participation from the University next year. She mentioned the possibility of funding the production of facsimiles of treasured titles from the UST Archives, to be part of the national exhibit next year when Philippines will take center stage as Guest of Honor. ■

CRS begins golden anniversary milestone celebrations with post-graduate conference



Erna I. Blanche, Ph.D. (second from left) with CRS Dean Assoc. Prof. Anne Marie Aseron (leftmost), OT Department Chair Asst. Prof. Kathlene Anne Hernandez, and SLP Department Chair Mr. Paul William Jacinto [contributed photo]

The College of Rehabilitation Sciences, through the departments of Occupational Therapy and Speech-Language Pathology, kick-started its 50th-year celebration by holding a post-graduate conference titled, "Convergence: Pathways Towards Self-Regulation" from October 4 to 6, 2024, at the Bl. Buenaventura García Paredes, O.P. Building.

This three-day post-graduate conference focused on the role of self-regulation in supporting children with special needs. The event featured a diverse range of topics related to self-regulation, including sensory processing, executive functions, co-regulation, and feeding difficulties.

Erna Imperatore Blanche, Ph.D., from the University of Southern California, conducted two workshops. Her first workshop, "Understanding the Impact of Sensory Processing on Self-Regulation and Participation," delved into the fundamental principles of sensory integration theory and how it influences a child's behavior. The other workshop, titled "The Impact of Sensory Processing and Sensory Integration on Self-Regulation and Participation," discussed the relationship between sensory processing, executive functions, and self-regulation in supporting children with disabilities.

In addition, Dr. Blanche built upon concepts that provide practical strategies for addressing self-regulation and sensory processing challenges in pediatric practice by applying a systematic clinical reasoning model and integrating evaluation data to develop comprehensive intervention plans. She also presented evidence-based practices in her presentation titled, "Systematizing Clinical Reasoning: A Clinical Reasoning Model." In this presentation, she zoomed in on identifying and addressing children's needs followed by the utilization of a systematic clinical reasoning model to develop comprehensive intervention plans.

Another speaker, Cynthia Yuen Yi Lai, Ph.D., from the Hong Kong Polytechnic University, held a Self-Regulation and Executive Functions workshop, which provided a comprehensive



Cynthia Yuen Yi Lai, Ph.D. (center screen) with CRS Dean Aseron, Asst. Prof. Hernandez, and Mr. Jacinto [contributed photo]

understanding of how executive functions impact a child's daily functioning.

Dr. Lai, in her presentation focused on discussing conceptual frameworks of executive functions and self-regulation, assessment tools, and evidence-based interventions designed to address and improve executive function regulation in children.

Moreover, Dr. Lai explored the application of foundational concepts of executive functions to manage dysregulated behaviors in children in a parallel session. Here, she focused on the relationship between self-regulation and executive functions,

POST-GRADUATE CONFERENCE TO PAGE 24

Departamento ng Filipino hosts *Suri, Saliksik, Sanay 6*



Louie B. Dasas, Ph.D.
Tagapagsalita

"Pagbuo ng mga Polisyang Pangklasrum sa Integrasyon ng AI sa Filipino"



College of Education's *Departamento ng Filipino* played host to *Suri, Saliksik, Sanay 6*, organized by Pambansang Samahan sa Linggwistika at Literaturang Filipino, Ink. (PSLLF), from October 24 to 26.

With the theme "Pedagogy and Research in the Era of Strong Curriculum, EDCOM 2, and Artificial Intelligence," the annual national seminar-workshop and conference gathered 280 Filipino language teachers, researchers, and scholars across the country. Plenary and parallel sessions were held via Zoom and at the Albertus Magnus Building.

In her welcoming remarks, College of Education Dean Assoc. Prof. Pilar I.

Romero, Ph.D. expressed her confidence that educators have the wisdom and fortitude needed to face the challenges posed by the Second Congressional Commission on Education (EDCOM II), MATATAG Curriculum, and Artificial Intelligence (AI).

Former *Departamento ng Filipino* Chair Asst. Prof. Alvin Ringgo C. Reyes, this year's conference director and PSLF treasurer, enlightened the participants on the objectives and program flow of the national seminar-conference.

Plenary lecture-workshops immediately followed, with *Departamento ng Filipino* chair Prof. Zendel Rosario M. Taruc, Ph.D.'s "Maikling Oryentasyon tungkol sa Matatag Kurikulum sa Filipino," Philippine Science High School Main Campus special Science teacher V Dr. Christine Joy D.R. Aguila's "Pedagohiya sa Filipino sa Matatag Curriculum," former PSLF President Dr. David Michael M. San Juan's "Pedagohiya at Saliksik sa EDCOM II," and by College of Education Assistant Dean Asst. Prof. Louie B. Dasas' "Pagbuo ng mga Polisyang Pangklasrum sa Integrasyon ng AI sa Filipino."

Day two opened with PSLF president Dr. Jonathan V. Geronimo's plenary lecture "Pananaliksik sa Filipino sa Matatag Curriculum" and Mr. Edwin S. de Guzman's plenary workshop "Mga Estratehiya sa

Integrasyon ng AI sa Filipino." De Guzman currently teaches at the UST College of Information and Computing Sciences.

Parallel sessions were simultaneously held in the afternoon.

A special panel on translation, led by Assoc. Prof. Wennielyn Fajilan, Ph.D., head of UST Sentro sa Salin at Araling Salin (UST SSAS), was joined by UST SSAS council members Mr. John Dale Trogo, Mr. Mark Anthony Angeles, and Prof. Arvin Eballo, Ph.D.

Fajilan discussed "Mga Hamon at Oportunidad sa Pangangasiwa ng Serbisyong Salin sa Akademya: Kaso ng UST Sentro sa Salin at Araling Salin," while Trogo, Angeles, and Eballo presented "Papel ng Target Awdyens sa Pagbuo ng isang Kolaboratibong Salin," "Lipat-Salin sa Panulaan: Isang Pagsisiyasat sa Salin ng PAKSA sa 'Pilipino' ng Apat na Tula ni Hô Chí Minh," and "Pagsusuri sa Pagsasalin ng Epigrammatang Nakasulat sa Wikang Latin na Alay ni Bartolomé Saguinsin sa Kabayanihan ni Don Simón de Anda y Salazar Taong 1766," respectively. Fajilan, Trogo, and Angeles are faculty members of *Departamento ng Filipino*, while Eballo is from the Institute of Religion.

Happening at the same time was the parallel session on basic and tertiary education.

DEPARTAMENTO NG FILIPINO TO PAGE 25

POST-GRADUATE CONFERENCE FROM PAGE 23

effective assessment and intervention strategies, and tailoring approaches for diverse childhood populations.

Audrey Michelle L. Lim from the Alternative Learning Resource School in the Philippines, led a workshop focusing on advanced strategies for addressing fussy feeding in children.

Additionally, Justine Anne G. Cua and Raymond Angelo A. Gonzales empowered teachers with the knowledge and tools to support self-regulation in students with special needs. Their session emphasized the role of self-regulation in a child's academic and social success, providing practical strategies for creating supportive classroom environments and implementing effective interventions.

On the last day of the conference, Desiree L.R. Wen from Magic Beans Feeding & Speech Therapy, Singapore talked about the sensory aspects of fussy feeding, focusing on how sensory integration and self-regulation impact feeding behaviors in children.

This was then followed by a series of talks and parallel sessions led by experts in self-regulation, intervention strategies, and assessment. This three-day workshop was attended by occupational therapists, speech-language pathologists, allied health professionals, teachers, and parents. ■



Desiree L.R. Wen (center) with Asst. Prof. Hernandez and Mr. Jacinto [contributed photo]

DEPARTAMENTO NG FILIPINO FROM PAGE 24

In the said panel, Ronnel B. Agoncillo Jr. shared his insights on "Paghahanap ng Nasyonalismo sa mga Lunsarang Teksto ng Batayang Edukasyon MATATAG Kurikulum Baitang 8 ng DepEd," Marco Nathaniel G. Fidel presented "Libreng Edukasyon, Rey! o Fakeh?: Pagsusuri sa Implementasyon ng RA 10931 o Universal Access to Quality Tertiary Education sa mga Piling Pampublikong Pamantasan sa Pilipinas," Marjorie T. Marco talked about "MATATAG o MATAAGTAG?: Pagsipat at Pagsusuri sa mga Polisyang Pangwika sa Ilalim ng K to 12 at MATATAG Curriculum bilang Batayan sa Pagbuo ng mga Adyenda sa Pagpaplanong Pangwika sa Sektor ng Edukasyon," and Asst. Prof. Catherine C. Cocobo with "Inang-Guro sa Panahon ng Pandemya: Mga Isyu at Hamon sa mga Ina sa Paggabay sa mga Anak sa Kanilang Online Learning"

Agoncillo and Fidel are from De La Salle University Manila (DLSU), while Marco and Cocobo are from UST Senior High School (SHS) and *Departamento ng Filipino*, respectively.

Another panel session saw Thomasian students of Bachelor of Secondary Education (BSEd) majoring in Filipino. They are Mark Anthony Viernes and Marvin Reyes, who talked about "#FIL(AI)PINO: Mga Mungkahing Artificial Intelligence Bilang Kagamitang Panturo sa Pagtuturo at Pagkatuto ng/sa Filipino" with Mr. Mark Anthony J. Etcobanez, an academic staff of *Departamento ng Filipino*.

The session also included Medania T. Malagsic from Iloilo Science and Technology University, who presented "Pagbuo at Pagtataya ng Modyul sa Panulaang Pilipino Bilang Kagamitang Pampagpagtuturo sa Kolehiyo," and Marbeth G. Aringay and Raphy V. Abang from Central Mindanao University and Kidapawan City National High School, respectively, who talked about "Wika sa Klasrum: Pagsusuri sa Pagpapalit-Koda ng mga Mag-Aaral sa Bag-Ong Kinaiya."

Another batch of students presented in the panel session on cinema and internet access followed suit.

Marcus M. Paredes and Eyre Angelique L. Pasion, who talked about "Tekstuwal-Intertekstwal-Kontekstuwal na Analisis sa mga Website ng Big 4 Universities ng Pilipinas sa Panghihikayat ng Enrollees," are SHS students from DLSU, while Angel L. Jalmasco, who presented "Pagtuklas at Pagmulat: Pagsusuri sa Karanasan sa Pagsapit ng Kamuwangan sa Piling Coming of Age Film ng Cinemalaya Philippine Independent Festival," is a BSEd student

majoring in Filipino from Rizal Technological University.

Proto Teacher Mary Angeline F. Moraga from UST High School, who presented "Wika at Social Media: Panimulang Pagsusuri sa Lengguahe ng mga Kasapi ng Piling Facebook Group," and Junior Teacher Maurice John E. Ramos from UST SHS, with his "Pang-aabuso at Pagsasamantala sa Pinansyal ng mga Matatanda: Kahalagahan ng Digital Literacy para sa mga Senior Citizen sa Panahon ng Krisis ng COVID-19 at Higit pa" were in the same panel.

Parallel sessions on the third day of the conference were also conducted online.

Paper presenters from Luzon and Visayas flocked to the panel session on Filipino and native languages in the country.

Mariyel Hiyas C. Liwanag from Unibersidad ng Pilipinas Los Baños presented "Suring Istruktural ng mga Postwar na Diksyunaryong Monolingwal ng Wikang Pambansa."

She was joined by Norlyn L. Borong from Southern Leyte State University-Tomas Oppus, who presented "Ponolohikal na Pagsusuri sa mga Piling Bayan ng Southwestern Leyte," Natalie U. Gamuyao from Iloilo Science and Technology University, who talked about "Inati: Pagsusuri sa Estructura ng Wika ng mga Aeta," and Evelyn D. Amano from University of Northern Philippines, who presented "Sosyo-Kultural na Paggalugad ng mga Piling Pagsasao ti Ilokano: Basehan sa Pagbuo ng Kagamitang Pampagtuturo."

Presenters for the panel session on popular culture and social justice included Shannen Grace M. Nellas, with "Ang Lengguahe ng Hustisya: Pagdalumat sa Kahalagahan ng Pagsasalin ng Batas sa mga Wikang Katutubo Bunsod ng Patuloy na Inhustisya sa Karapatang Panlupa," Shaun Louis B. Unicruz, with "PAMANA AT PAKIKIBAKA: Isang Panimulang Pagsasalaysay sa Renacimiento Manila bilang Heritage Activism Organization tutol sa Paggawa ng Pasig River Expressway (PAREX) sa Lungsod ng Maynila," and John Christopher C. Avelino with "Si Regine Velasquez-Alcasid, ang Asia's Songbird, at ang Papel ng Pop Diva sa Neoliberal-Global-Kapitalistang Lipunang Pilipino". Nellas, Unicruz, and Avelino are from DLSU. Meanwhile, Mae Oliva M. Piano, from University of Northern Philippines, joined the panel with her presentation "Pagsusuri at Pagsasalin sa mga Piling Tula at Awiting Nailathala sa Panahon ng COVID-19."

Selected educators also presented their innovative lessons, including Ronnel B. Agoncillo, Jr. of Caloocan National Science and Technology High School-

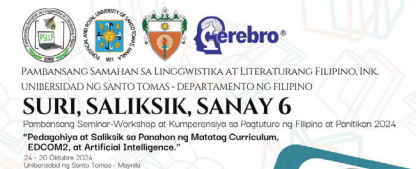
Caloocan City, Zainorah O. Agoncillo of Antonio Luna High School-Caloocan City, Ian M. Cristobal of Doroteo S. Mendoza, Sr. Memorial National High School-Oriental Mindoro, John Noel O. Nisperos of Don Mariano Marcos Memorial State University South La Union Campus, and Angela Mae A. Pamaos of De La Salle University Manila.

The panel discussion "Pedagohiya at Saliksik sa Panahon ng Matatag Curriculum, EDCOM 2, at Artificial Intelligence (AI)," held at the UST Education Auditorium, was led by *Dalumat E-Journal* editor-in-chief Dr. Henry Leen A. Magahis, College of Education's Department of Secondary Education chair Asst. Prof. John Christian C. Valeroso, Ph.D., and KADIPAN-Philippine Normal University Manila president Arriane Jhane B. Talana.

Prof. Rhoderick V. Nuncio, Ph.D., former dean of DLSU's *Kolehiyo ng Malalayang Sining* and *Dalumat E-Journal* founding editor, gave his closing keynote address "Pedagohiya at Saliksik sa Panahon ng Matatag Curriculum at Artificial Intelligence (AI)."

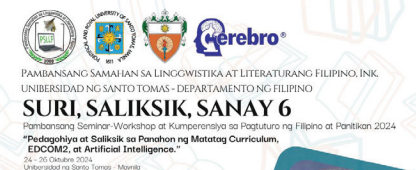
The rest of the academic staff of *Departamento ng Filipino* served as session moderators and emcees.

Suri, Saliksik, Sanay 6 was held in partnership with Cerebro Solutions, Inc. ■



Rhoderick V. Nuncio, Ph.D.
Susing Tagapagsalita

"Pedagohiya at Saliksik sa Panahon ng Matatag Curriculum at Artificial Intelligence (AI)"



Zendel Rosario Manaois-Taruc, Ph.D.
Tagapagsalita

"Ang Filipino sa Matatag Curriculum: Mga Apdeyt"



UST, Universiti Utara Malaysia hold quantitative sciences conference



The UST delegation led by UST Mathematics and Physics Department Chair Assoc. Prof. Josephine Bernadette M. Benjamin, Ph.D. (seated, center)

The University of Santo Tomas, through the Department of Mathematics and Physics, together with the Institute for Youth Research Malaysia and the hosts, Universiti Utara Malaysia School of Quantitative Science, organized the 8th International Conference of Quantitative Sciences and its Applications. With the theme, “Powering Sustainable Future through Quantitative Sciences” the event was held from September 16 to 20, 2024, at the EDC Hotel, Universiti Utara Malaysia (UUM) in Kedah, Malaysia.

The conference covered various areas of mathematics, operational research, and statistics, which aimed to provide a platform to exchange recent and innovative concepts, theories, problems, and practices in the quantitative sciences. The UST College of Science and the UUM School of Quantitative Science have an active Memorandum of Agreement on academic and research cooperation through the initiatives of Prof. Ma. Carlota B. Decena, Ph.D., of UST and Prof. Dr. Haslinda Ibrahim of UUM.

The chair of the UST Department of Mathematics and Physics Assoc. Prof. Josephine Bernadette M. Benjamin, Ph.D., led the UST delegation consisting of eight academic staff and four alumni of BS Applied Mathematics majoring in Actuarial Science. The UST contingent took the opportunity to present and highlight their research findings to an audience comprising delegates from Malaysia, Uzbekistan, Indonesia, Qatar, Nigeria, India, and Saudi Arabia.

The UST delegation presented ten research papers during the conference, including undergraduate theses and research outputs by academic staff of the UST Mathematics and Physics department. ■



Academic staff Mr. Paul Vitus De Jesus presents his dissertation in Malaysia



Class of 2024 alumnus Mr. Reymart John Paragoyo presents his group's thesis

Alipao represents UST at Uniservitate Regional Training in Taiwan



Asst. Prof. Alipao shares UST Service Learning practices

As a new member of Uniservitate, the University of Santo Tomas SIMBAHAYAN Community Development Office (SIMBAHAYAN) participated in the Uniservitate Regional Training & Learning Session held in New Taipei City, Taiwan from September 23 to 26. Its Director, Asst. Prof. Froilan A. Alipao, represented UST at the four-day event organized by the De La Salle University (DLSU) as the Uniservitate Asia and Oceania Regional Hub, together with the host university, the Fu Jen Catholic University (FJCU).

Through this insightful experience, the SIMBAHAYAN continues strengthening its global partnership with Catholic Higher Education Institutions (CHEIs) from across the region. Amongst the activities include an FJCU Service-Learning (SL) community partner site visit mainly on Taiwanese aborigines and a hybrid discussion of SL pedagogy, assessment methods, and sustainability by Dr. Andrew Furco, a

prominent educator and researcher of SL. Furthermore, Asst. Prof. Alipao was among the attendees who presented their university experiences, challenges, and strategies in SL institutionalization.

The concluded training and learning session will benefit the University in fostering SL collaborations, developing curricula and institutional frameworks, and committing to advance Thomasian stakeholders' community engagements and social initiatives.

Uniservitate is a global network initiated by Porticus and coordinated by the Latin American Centre for Solidarity Service-Learning to generate a systemic change in CHEI through the institutionalization of SL as a tool to achieve its mission of offering an integral education to the new generations and involving them in an active commitment to the challenges of our time. ■

English Department spearheads linguistically informed investigative interviewing training

The UST Department of English, in collaboration with the Indonesia University of Education, Universitas Pendidikan Centre for Forensic Linguistics, and the Philippine Association of Forensic and Legal Linguistics, conducted a training session on linguistically informed investigative interviewing held at the Thomas Aquinas Research Center Auditorium on October 4, 2024.

English Department Chair and UST Graduate School English Language Studies Cluster Program Lead Prof. Rachelle B. Lintao, Ph.D., led the training facilitators and discussed investigative interviewing in the Philippines. She was joined by Asst. Prof. R. Dian Di-an Muniroh, Ph.D., who provided a talk and workshop on the relationships between memory, investigation, and language.

Muniroh is a lecturer in linguistics at both the English Language and Literature Study Program and the Linguistics Program at Universitas Pendidikan Indonesia (UPI). She also serves as the Director of the Centre for Forensic Linguistics at UPI and Vice President of the Indonesian Association of Applied Linguistics. The last part of the training was a workshop on conducting investigative interviewing, which was facilitated by Dr. Rudy Gahar. He is a criminologist by profession, a retired investigator of the Philippine National Police, currently the Dean of Criminology at Polytechnic College of La Union, and the Chairman and Training Director of the Philippine Investigation and Forensic Science Academy (PIFSA).

About 50 participants traveled from as far as Tarlac City in Luzon and Lanao del Norte and Zamboanga del Norte in Mindanao to UST just to participate in the event. Representatives from various academic institutions, government agencies, and private companies were also present during the event. ■



(From left:) Dr. R. Dian Di-an Muniroh, Dr. Rachelle B. Lintao, Dr. Rudy Gahar, and Dr. Eri Kurniawan

Dones of CRS leads discussions on AI, evidence synthesis, rehabilitation research in Prague



Dr. Dones (standing at podium) during a plenary session

Prof. Valentin C. Dones III, Ph.D., received an award, presented research, and led discussions at the 2024 Global Evidence Summit held from September 10 to 13, 2024, in Prague, Czech Republic.

The summit's theme, "Using Evidence to Improve Lives," resonated with Dones' extensive work in evidence-based practice and research synthesis. He was honored with the highly regarded "Special Programme for Research and Training

in Tropical Diseases: Low- and Middle-Income Countries" stipend, recognizing his active role in global health research. This award enabled him to lead a workshop titled "Systematic Review Meets Artificial Intelligence: A Modern Review Technique," where he provided valuable insights into leveraging artificial intelligence to enhance the efficiency of systematic review methodologies.

The Special Programme for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases is a global collaborative initiative, supported by the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Development Programme, the World Bank, and the World Health Organization, aimed at combating diseases affecting impoverished populations.

During the summit, Dones also chaired sessions on critical topics such as collaborative efforts in evidence-based policy and practice, and methodological advancements in research.

Dones presented two major studies: one examining the effectiveness of cognitive behavioral therapy versus conservative pain management in individuals with chronic lower back pain, and another exploring the use of foot orthoses in patients with flat feet.

In addition, Dones contributed as a debater in a plenary session, successfully advocating that artificial intelligence should not fully replace human involvement in evidence synthesis. ■

Arts and Culture

National Artists, debut authors, Thomasian writers hold MIBF book signings; UST PH joins the Asian Rights Fair

Authors' book signings were once again the highlight of the UST Publishing House's annual participation at the Manila International Book Fair (MIBF), held from September 11 to 15 at the SMX Convention Center in Pasay City.

Book enthusiasts fell in line for National Artist for Film and Broadcast Arts Ricardo "Ricky" Lee on September 12, while National Artist for Literature Virgilio S. Almario was joined by UST Center for Creative Writing and Literary Studies (CCWLS) Director Cristina Pantoja Hidalgo on September 13.

CCWLS Resident Fellows Joel M. Toledo, author of *Planet Nine* and Paul Alcoseba Castillo, author of *Kondenado*, also held book signings during the fair, along with Thomasian alumni Michael M. Corroza, author of *Dili't Dilim & Mga Lagot na Liwanag*, and Louie Jon A. Sanchez, author of *Abangan*. Novelist and translator Danton Remoto also signed copies of *KalapatingLeon*, his translation of Eileen Tabios' *Dovelion*, on September 14.

MBIF BOOK SIGNINGS TO PAGE 29



USTPH Director Benedict Parfan at the Asian Rights Fair



Allan Pops and USTPH Deputy Director Paul Castillo sign copies of their books at the UST Authors Book Signing event



USTPH Director Benedict Parfan and Deputy Director Paul Castillo with poet Mark Cayan, and USTPH authors Louie A. Sanchez and Danton Remoto



MBIF BOOK SIGNINGS FROM PAGE 28

Debut authors who also sat down for autographs were among the bestsellers at the fair, since their books were made available for the first time during the five-day book event. They are lawyer Rolando A. Bernales, general surgeon Alyza Taguilaso, and journalist Ivan Emil Labayne. Also in the lineup for book signing was Gem Devaras Mañosa, whose book *Under the Aratiles Tree*, launched last year, was a bestseller as well.

On the sidelines of MIBF was the Manila leg of the Asian Rights Fair (ARF), where USTPH Director Benedict Parfan participated in networking events with delegates from India, Turkey, Myanmar, Malaysia, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Singapore and Thailand. It was held from September 12-13 on the second floor of the SMX Convention Center, taking advantage of the convergence of publishing industry professionals at the venue. The delegates presented updates on their practices and the state of publishing in their respective markets. ARF-Manila was organized by the Book Development Association of the Philippines where Parfan serves as a member of the Board of Trustees, in collaboration with the National Book Development Board. ■



USTPH Deputy Director Paul Castillo and Director Benedict Parfan with National Artist for Film and Broadcast Arts Ricky Lee and Adelbert Abrigona

USTPH Deputy Director Paul Castillo with Joti Tabula, president of Linangan sa Imahen, Retorika at Anyo (LIRA), and USTPH authors Professor Emeritus Cristina Pantoja Hidalgo, and National Artist for Literature Virgilio S. Almario

Peruvian Embassy marks 50th anniversary of diplomatic relations with PH through masterclass, exhibit at UST



Her Excellency Cecilia Zunilda Galarreta Bazán (seated, front row, seventh from left), Deputy Head of Mission of the Embassy of Peru in Thailand Mr. Alvaro Salcedo Teullet (front row, fifth from left), Chef Carlo Huerta Echegaray (front row, eighth from left) with UST CTHM Regent Fr. Ferdinand Bautista, O.P. (front row, sixth from left), officials of the CTHM, UST Office of Public Affairs Director Ms. Michaela O. Lagniton (front row, second from left) and student participants.

To celebrate 50 years of diplomatic relations between the Republic of Peru and the Republic of the Philippines, the Honorary Consulate of Peru in Manila and the Embassy of Peru in Thailand held two cultural initiatives at the University of Santo Tomas.

On October 3, 2024, a month-long photo exhibit that highlights one of Peru's most historically significant places, the Qhapaq Nan (Great Inca Trail) was launched at the Main Building Lobby in partnership with the UST Museum and the UST Office of Public Affairs.

Her Excellency Cecilia Zunilda Galarreta Bazán, the Ambassador of Peru to Thailand and Non-resident Ambassador to the Philippines, graced the event and personally led a tour for attendees of the launch.

The photo exhibit showcased breathtaking landscapes, rich cultural heritage, and the remarkable engineering that earned Qhapaq Nan its status as a UNESCO World Heritage site. It was available for viewing until November 8, 2024.

Earlier that week, on October 1, 2024, another partnership with the Embassy and Consulate was conducted in collaboration with the Office of Public Affairs and the UST College of Tourism and Hospitality Management.

Chef Carlo Huerta Echegaray, the Executive Sous Chef of Samba at Shangri-La The Fort, Manila led a masterclass CTHM students in making ceviche, a dish whose preparation and consumption practices are considered a UNESCO intangible cultural heritage of humanity.

PERUVIAN EMBASSY TO PAGE 31



Chef Carlo Huerta Echegaray (center) leads the student participants in preparing ceviche



Mixed seafood ceviche

PERUVIAN EMBASSY FROM PAGE 30

Aside from the preparation of the dish, he also discussed the history of ceviche, the many different kinds of corn in Peru and how it made its way to the Philippines via the galleon trade, as well as sustainable practices of obtaining fresh fish. He also shared that knowing how to make ceviche opened doors in his career, with his first restaurant in Ecuador having the dish as its specialty.

Her Excellency Cecilia Zunilda Galarreta Bazán, and the Deputy Head of Mission of the Embassy of Peru in Thailand Mr. Alvaro Salcedo Teullet also graced this class at the CTHM Demo Kitchen. ■



Ambassador Galarreta presents a Peruvian nativity scene as a token of appreciation for the UST Museum Director Rev. Fr. Isidro Abaño, O.P.



(From left:) Honorary Consulate of Peru in Region IV-A Consul Bryan Ang, DFA Office of American Affairs Assistant Secretary Jose Victor Chan-Gonzaga, UST Museum Director Rev. Fr. Isidro Abaño, OP, the Ambassador of Peru to the Philippines Her Excellency Cecilia Galarreta, and Deputy Head of Mission of the Embassy of Peru in Thailand Mr. Alvaro Salcedo Teullet lead the ribbon-cutting ceremony to open the exhibit.



(From left:) Tourism Management Department Chair Asst. Prof. Christine Concepcion C. Fajardo and Hospitality Management Department Chair Dr. Fhamela F. Sarmiento, Her Excellency Cecilia Zunilda Galarreta Bazán, Chef Carlo Huerta Echegaray, UST CTHM Regent Fr. Ferdinand Bautista, O.P., and UST Office of Public Affairs Director Ms. Michaela O. Lagniton



The UST Office of Public Affairs Director Ms. Michaela Lagniton introduces the UST Office of International Relations and Programs Associate Director Prof. Karen Santiago, Ph.D. (right) to the Ambassador of Peru to the Philippines Her Excellency Cecilia Galarreta (left)

Indigenous culture, tradition honored in *Araw ng Katutubo* 2024



Loida Punzalan of Sitio San Martin shares the struggles faced by Aetas [Photo courtesy of STS and Transcend Daily of UST CTHM]

Indigenous culture and tradition took center stage during the celebration of *Araw ng Katutubo* 2024 on October 22, 2024 at the Bl. Buenaventura García Paredes, O.P. Building. This year's theme, "Sari-saring Tradisyon, Sari-saring Saya," sought to highlight and safeguard the cultural heritage of the University's partner indigenous people communities. The organizers, the SIMBAHAYAN Community Development Office (SIMBAHAYAN), together with the Students Tourism Society and Hotel and Restaurant Management Society of the College of Tourism and Hospitality Management (CTHM), were thrilled that this year's activities focused on a face to face cultural exchange and a leap forward from the previous four years of online celebrations caused by the pandemic.

87 Aeta Mag-antsi community members from Sitio Malasa, Sitio Mabilog, Sitio Buok, Sitio Sta. Rosa, and Sitio San Martin of Bamban, Tarlac joined in a variety of activities, including storytelling on Aeta life, an open forum on indigenous struggles, an arts and crafts exhibit, cultural performances, parlor and indigenous games, and a showcasing of livelihood products. They were joined by the students, administrators, academic staff, and support staff of CTHM, Institute of Religion, Faculty of Arts and Letters, Conservatory of Music, Institute of



A 'boodle fight'-style lunch [Photo courtesy of STS and Transcend Daily of UST CTHM]

Physical Education and Athletics, Faculty of Engineering, College of Commerce and Business Administration, College of Architecture, Senior High School, National Service Training Program (CWTS/LTS), Miguel de Benavides Library, and Office of Alumni Relations.

The unwavering recognition and practice of indigenous peoples' rich culture, such as their dance and music, is an



Aeta members and UST students play games [Photo courtesy of STS and Transcend Daily of UST CTHM]



Storytelling session with Aeta children [Photo courtesy of STS and Transcend Daily of UST CTHM]

expression of continuous efforts to amplify their voices. As Mrs. Rowena David-de Guzman, an Aeta teacher from Sitio Buok, mentioned, this seeks to ensure that their ancestors' way of life is not forgotten and that it remains relevant and appreciated in the modern world.

This year's *Araw ng Katutubo* marked the culmination of the Season of Creation 2024 celebration at the University. ■

Yayasan Santo Dominikus, Indonesia



A group of Dominican sisters and high school students from the Yayasan Santo Dominikus in Indonesia and Siena College of Taytay, led by SCT President Sr. Daisy Fornan, O.P. (standing, fifth from left), visited the University of Santo Tomas on October 26, 2024. With them are Santísimo Rosario Parish Church Deacon Rev. Johnny Luntungan, O.P. (back row, fourth from right), and the UST Office of Public Affairs team led by Director Ms. Michaela Lagniton (standing, second from left), who welcomed the guests.

PET Lamp Project Co-founder and Head Designer Álvaro Catalán de Ocón



The PET Lamp Project Co-founder and Head Designer Álvaro Catalán de Ocón (sixth from left), winner of the 2023 Spanish National Design Award, visited the University on October 17, 2024 for a lecture with students from the CFAD Industrial Design Program. He was accompanied by the Embassy of Spain in the Philippines Cultural Counselor and First Secretary Mr. Alvaro Garcia Moreno (seventh from left). The UST Office of Public Affairs Director Ms. Michaela Lagniton (rightmost) assisted CFAD officials, led by the Dean Asst. Prof. Mary Christie Que (fifth from left), in welcoming the guests.

Berkley Center for Religion, Peace, and World Affairs at Georgetown University



Two of the world's leading scholars from the Berkley Center for Religion, Peace, and World Affairs at Georgetown University visited UST on October 8, 2024. The Salzburger Hochschulwochen Theology Prize winner Prof. Dr. José Casanova (sixth from left) and the inaugural holder of the Ignacio Ellacuria Chair of Catholic Social Thought Prof. Dr. Peter Phan (fifth from left) were welcomed by officials of the UST Institute of Religion (IR), the Center for Theology Religious Studies, and Ethics (CTRSE), the Research Center for Social Sciences and Education (RCSSED), UST Faculty of Arts and Letters, assisted by the UST Office of Public Affairs Director Ms. Michaela Lagniton (rightmost).

Asian Journal Network



Participants of the Asian Journal Network, hosted by UST through UNITAS, Kritike, and Philippiniana Sacra, had a tour of the UST campus on October 2, 2024. The Office of Public Affairs Director Ms. Michaela Lagniton and Senior Staff Writer Ms. Christie Cruz shared the history of the University during their tour, which included the UST Museum. The guests were accompanied by the UST Scholar-in-Residence and UNITAS EIC Dr. Maria Luisa Reyes (front row, with white scarf) and the Philippiniana Sacra Editor Rev. Fr. Jesus M. Miranda, Jr., O.P., Ph.D. (sixth from right)



Physicians Licensure Examination

October 2024

UST Passing Rate: 89.29%
National Passing Rate: 58.27%



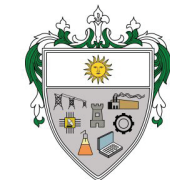
2nd - 89.25%
Rolter Lorenz
Mispeñas Lee



5th - 88.83%
Kiel Christian
Dimaculangan Alday



10th - 87.67%
Chelseah Denise
Hernandez Torres



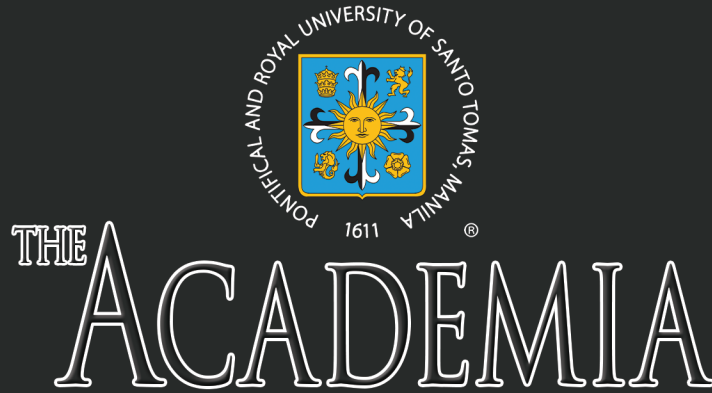
Electronics Engineers Licensure Examination

October 2024

UST Passing Rate: 70.75%
National Passing Rate: 45.99%



10th - 87.90%
Nathan Earl
Jabonete Millado



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