



THE ACADEMIA

Official International Bulletin of the University of Santo Tomas

Vol. LV No. 1

January 2025

ISSN0117-0083





THE ACADEMIA

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About the Cover

January holds special significance for the Thomasian community as it marks the feast of Saint Thomas Aquinas, the esteemed theologian and philosopher after whom the University is named.

The teachings of Saint Thomas Aquinas have profoundly shaped the University's approach to education and formation throughout the years. This month's cover features an image of Saint Thomas Aquinas as displayed at the UST Museum—a tribute to our patron and his enduring wisdom. May we always be guided by his words: *Domine, non nisi Te*—"Lord, nothing but You."

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4



14



22



9

- 4 Vatican prelate Most Rev. Pagazzi celebrates St. Thomas Feast Day Mass at UST
- 9 UST joins ABS-CBN's Halalan 2025 initiative
- 10 UST Manila, UST Legazpi ink new academic partnership
- 14 Honorary Professor Cordell lectures on scholarly publishing, ethical research
- 20 Austrian media studies scholar lectures at UST Graduate School
- 22 Architecture alumnus Paul Quiambao mounts exhibit on West Philippine Sea
- 24 Board Topnotchers
- 24 University Visitors

Vatican prelate Most Rev. Pagazzi celebrates St. Thomas Feast Day Mass at UST



(From left:) Rev. Fr. Felix delos Reyes, Jr., O.P., Rev. Fr. Jannel Abogado, O.P., Very Rev. Fr. Richard Ang, O.P., His Excellency Most Rev. Giovanni Cesare Pagazzi, Fr. Hruday Pudhota, SCJ, Rev. Fr. Isaias Tiongco, O.P., and Rev. Fr. Louie Coronel, O.P.



Most Rev. Pagazzi presides over the Mass, with the Prior Provincial of the Dominican Province of the Philippines Very Rev. Fr. Filemon I. Dela Cruz, Jr., O.P. as a concelebrant

“Thanks to the light, things are [made distinct] from darkness... [Light] causes every form and color of the world to appear. It allows each thing to be itself, distinguished from everything else. The light desires things to be and to reveal their beauty,” explained the Archbishop, who emphasized that “The starting point of all theology is friendship with Christ and love for his brothers, his sisters, his world. This world! Dramatic,

VATICAN PRELATE TO PAGE 5



UST Secretary-General Rev. Fr. Louie R. Coronel, O.P., EHL, His Excellency Most Rev. Giovanni Cesare Pagazzi, D.D., UST Central Seminary Acting Rector Rev. Fr. Clarence Marquez, O.P., S.Th.D. and Dicastery Official Fr. Hruday Pudhota, SCJ [Photo courtesy of UST ALPA]

The Secretary of the Dicastery for Culture and Education His Excellency Most Rev. Giovanni Cesare Pagazzi, D.D., Titular Archbishop of Belcastro, graced the University of Santo Tomas campus on January 28, 2025. His visit coincided with the feast day of St. Thomas Aquinas, where he led a Eucharistic Celebration at the Santísimo Rosario Parish Church (UST Chapel) for the said solemnity as well as the 88th alumni homecoming of the UST Alumni Lay Priests Association (ALPA).

In his homily, he likened wisdom to light and urged Thomasians to be a light for the world: “May the intercession of St. Thomas Aquinas whom we are all devoted... make us discreet like the light, discreet like Christ.”



The Secretary of the Dicastery for Culture and Education His Excellency Most Rev. Giovanni Cesare Pagazzi, D.D., (with mitre and baculo) after the Eucharistic Celebration, where Thomasian bishops and priests from ALPA, the Central Seminary, and the Priory of St. Thomas concelebrated

UST Rector Very Rev. Fr. Richard G. Ang, O.P., Ph.D., presents a University token to His Excellency Most Rev. Giovanni Cesare Pagazzi, D.D.



VATICAN PRELATE FROM PAGE 4

magnificent, full of suffering and moving beauty. Be Light! Place in the light the things that join us and those that tell us apart. Those things that divide are darkness. Theology has, therefore, such beauty and such injustice to bring to the light, to bring to Christ.”

The Archbishop also highlighted the importance of common sense, which is at the core of wisdom, saying “Common sense is the concrete intuition of a familiarity between the desire to do and the things that make up the world. The sensation of such a practical affinity encourages one to action, granting enthusiasm in the beginning, and confidence in success.”

Most Rev. Pagazzi arrived in the Philippines for the 25th anniversary of the Loyola School of Theology (LST). He was accompanied by Fr. Hruday Pudhota, SCJ, official of the University Section of the Dicastery, and several officials of LST, led by then-President Fr. Enrico Eusebio, SJ.

Before the Mass, Most Rev. Pagazzi also paid a courtesy call

to the UST Rector Very Rev. Fr. Richard G. Ang, O.P., Ph.D., at the Main Building, and was welcomed to the UST Central Seminary by the Acting Rector Rev. Fr. Clarence Marquez, O.P., S.Th.D.

A Triduum was also held in honor of the solemnity of the Feast Day of St. Thomas from January 22 to 24, with an Institutional Mass on January 27, 2025. The theme, “St. Thomas Aquinas: Illumined by Truth, Anchored in Hope,” emphasizes the Angelic Doctor’s dedication to divine wisdom and truth, which inspires and strengthens Christian hope. It also expresses solidarity with Pope Francis’ declaration of 2025 as the Jubilee Year of Hope.

His Excellency Most Rev. Napoleon B. Sipalay, Jr., O.P., D.D., Bishop of Alaminos, presided over the Institutional Holy Mass and Closing of the St. Thomas Aquinas Double Jubilee Celebration on January 27, while the Triduum Masses were presided by Rev. Fr. Jayson R. Gonzales, O.P., Rev. Fr. Felix F. Delos Reyes, Jr., O.P., and Rev. Fr. Manoj Rasanjana Angodage Don, O.P., respectively. ■

UST places second among PH Schools for 2025 Times Higher Education World Rankings by Subject



World University Rankings

The University of Santo Tomas in the 601-800 bracket of the THE Rankings by Subject for Medicine

The University of Santo Tomas (UST) ranks second in the Philippines for the Times Higher Education (THE) World Rankings by Subject 2025, particularly for Medicine and Health.

With its overall score of 26.8-32.3, UST is in the 601-800 bracket out of 1,150 higher education institutions (HEIs) from 102 countries and territories around the world. Medicine and Health rankings evaluated medicine, dentistry, nursing, and other disciplines in healthcare.

The rankings, according to THE's

Rank ▲	Name Country/Region ◆	Overall ◆	Research Quality ◆	Industry ◆	International Outlook ◆	Research Environment ◆	Teaching ◆
501-600	University of the Philippines 📍 Philippines	32.4-35.4	53.3	30.2	44.9	13.2	22.9
601-800	University of Santo Tomas 📍 Philippines	26.8-32.3	44.4	22.4	68.2	8.2	13.8

website, were carefully analyzed through the following major pillars of criteria separated into [18 performance indicators](#): Research Quality (*citation impact, research strength, excellence, and influence*), Industry (*industry income, patents*), International Outlook (*international students, staff, and co-authorship, studying abroad*), Research Environment (*research reputation, income,*

and productivity), and Teaching (*teaching reputation, student:staff ratio, doctorate: bachelor ratio and doctorate:staff ratio, institutional income*), with UST scoring 44.4, 22.4, 68.2, 8.2, and 13.8 respectively.

These measurements can help universities gauge their standings and understand the various points which they may improve upon for future endeavors. ■

7 Dominican priests named Professors Emeriti

Seven Dominican priests and veteran educators of the Ecclesiastical Faculties were conferred the title of Professor Emeritus in a solemn investiture on January 31, 2025, at the Dr. Robert Sy Grand Ballroom.

Endorsed by the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Theology and approved by the Rector of the University to hold the title of Professor Emeritus were:

Rev. Fr. Rodel E. Aligan, O.P., S.Th.D., who has dedicated over four decades to the pursuit of theological excellence and moral guidance. He has demonstrated commitment to academic and pastoral growth as Dean of the Faculty of Sacred Theology for a total of nine years (2008-2011; 2011-2014; 2016-2023), as Vice Rector for Religious Affairs (2008-2011), Secretary-General (1995-2001), Regent of the Faculty of Arts and Letters (1991-1995; 2015-2021); and Conventual Prior of Priory of St. Thomas Aquinas (2001-2008; 2018-2021; 2024-present). Fr. Aligan also has over 20 published works in various publications;



Rector Very Rev. Fr. Richard G. Ang, O.P., Ph.D., delivers the address of concession and reads the formula for the conferment of the Professor Emeritus title

PROFESSORS EMERITI TO PAGE 7

PROFESSORS EMERITI FROM PAGE 6

Rev. Fr. Angel A. Aparicio, O.P., a pillar of the UST Library for 37 years, who has served as Prefect of Libraries since 1992 and Assistant Prefect of Ecclesiastical Libraries from 1987 to 1992. He has also been a devoted educator at the Ecclesiastical Faculties for 45 years and served as Faculty Secretary from 1980 to 1982. He has written over 40 articles including contributions to the Life Today magazine, the Library News in Print, and the Lumina Pandit. He was also the editor of over 11 books including the *Honora Medicum*, and translated into English the *'Ensayo de una síntesis de los trabajos realizados por las Corporaciones religiosas Españolas'* (Essay of a synthesis of the works accomplished by the Spanish religious corporations in the Philippines by Fr. Valentin Morales Marin, O.P.);

Rev. Fr. Norberto A. Castillo, O.P., Ph.D., who displayed his dedication and expertise in his service as the 91st Rector of the University of Santo Tomas for two consecutive terms (1982-1986; 1986-1990) and as the Dean of the Faculty of Philosophy in the same university (1994-1996; 2008-2012). He has actively contributed to the advancement of philosophy, science, and theology as a Research Grantee in Philosophy of Science at the Catholic University of Leuven on 1990, and a Research Grantee in Philosophy of Science and the Classics at the Katholischer Akademischer Ausländer-Dienst (1991);

Rev. Fr. Rolando V. De La Rosa, O.P., Ph.D., who served three distinguished terms as Rector of the University of Santo Tomas (1990-1994; 1994-1998; 2008-2012) with visionary leadership and unwavering dedication, including steering the University of Santo Tomas through the celebration of the University's Quadricentennial Anniversary in 2011. His prolific writing and scholarly achievements have been widely recognized, earning him prestigious honors such as the National Book Award in History (1992), Catholic Authors Award (1997), and Outstanding Manilan Award in Ministry and Spirituality (2010). He has also been internationally lauded with accolades like the Medal of Highest Honor from Kyung Hee University in Korea (1996) and the Outstanding CEO Award in Education (2012), while his weekly column in the broadsheet Manila Bulletin



(From left:) Vice Rector for Research and Innovation and Faculty of Theology Dean Rev. Fr. Jannel Abogado, O.P., DThPatSc, UST Rector Very Rev. Fr. Richard G. Ang, O.P., Ph.D., Rev. Fr. Fausto Gomez, O.P., S.Th.D., and Prior Provincial of the Dominican Province of the Philippines Very Rev. Fr. Filemon I. Dela Cruz, Jr., O.P., S.Th.L.

has won multiple times in the Catholic Mass Media Awards.

Fr. De La Rosa was also President of the International Council of the Universities of St. Thomas Aquinas (ICUSTA) (1996 to 1998; 2009 to 2011), Chairman of the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) (2004-2005), President of the Association of Catholic Universities of the Philippines, Inc. (ACUP), Vice President of the Catholic Educational Association of the Philippines (CEAP) (1997 to 1999) and founding president of the Network of Dominican Schools, Colleges, and Universities in the Philippines (DOMNET) in 1995;

Rev. Fr. Fausto B. Gomez, O.P., S.Th.D., who has been assigned to UST since 1965 and taught Fundamental Moral Theology, Grace, Virtues, Justice, Social Doctrine of the Church, and Bioethics for almost 60 years. He generously served the University in various capacities as Secretary-General (1966-1977), Director of the Office of Public Affairs (1975-1977), Dean of the Faculty of Sacred Theology (1979-1985; 1998-2004), Director of the Social Research Center (1979-1991), Regent of the Faculty of Medicine and Surgery (1988-1998) and the College of Rehabilitation Sciences (1989-1994; 2004-2009), and founding chair of the Department of Bioethics (1991-2001). His

many books and exemplary contributions have been recognized globally, with the conferment of the Gran cruz de Caballero de Isabela la Católica (Royal Order of Isabella the Catholic), knighthood first class in 1974 and the Outstanding Catholic Author award by the Asian Catholic Book Fair in 1989;

Rev. Fr. Javier I. González, O.P., J.C.D., who demonstrated his dedication through his service as Regent of the Faculty of Engineering (1995-2003), Faculty of Civil Law (2003-2005) and the College of Commerce (2005-2006). He has also served as Dean of the Faculty of Canon Law (1997-2006). Aside from being a long-serving professor, he imparted valuable knowledge while advancing the study of Church law and served as an editor for publications such as *Philippiniana Sacra* (1991-2008), *Philippine Canonical Forum* (1999-2009), and *The CLSP Gazette*, ensuring the proper dissemination of vital scholarly works. Fr. Gonzales was a Master of Students at the *Convento de la Santa Cruz* in San Juan, Metro Manila, as a Prior Provincial of the Province of the Holy Rosary (2009-2013), and is currently the newly-elected Prior of the Priory of Saint Dominic in Macau (2024); and

PROFESSORS EMERITI TO PAGE 8

Architecture student places fourth in the international competition in Vietnam



Tacbian (center) holds his work

Kristian Rome Tacbian, a fourth-year Architecture student at the University of Santo Tomas (UST), achieved a fourth-place finish at the 13th Asian Contest of Architectural Rookie's Award (ACARA) held at Danang Architecture University (DAU) in Danang, Vietnam, last December 6-8, 2024. This marked the second consecutive year of participation for the College of Architecture (CA) in this prestigious competition.

The competition, held on the last day of the three-day event, featured student presentations critiqued by a distinguished jury composed of prominent Asian architects, professors, and members of the Asia United Architecture Association (AUA)—the organization that has hosted ACARA for thirteen consecutive years.

Tacbian's impressive presentation of his work, titled "Oddities," earned him an internship offer at Bio-architecture Formosana in Taiwan.

The event commenced with an opening ceremony on the first day, followed by a site visit that served as the focus of the student workshop in the succeeding days. The twenty competition participants from thirteen countries, including Tacbian, collaborated with select DAU students during the workshop to develop design proposals for the redevelopment of the two ends of the Trang Thi Ly Bridge crossing the Han River.

The next ACARA is scheduled to take place in China in 2025. ■

PROFESSORS EMERITI FROM PAGE 7

Rev. Fr. Jose Ma. B. Tinoko, O.P., J.C.D., who exhibited his steadfast dedication to academic and ecclesiastical service with his roles as Dean of the Faculty of Canon Law, Regent of the Conservatory of Music, Faculty Secretary of the Ecclesiastical Faculties (1973-1975), and Vice Rector of the University of Santo Tomas (1982-1988). He has also contributed to the study and practice of Canon Law as Editor of the *Boletín Eclesiástico de Filipinas* (1969-1970), and as a Member of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines' Commission on Canon Law Experts. ■



(From foreground:) Fr. Javier González, O.P., Fr. Norberto Castillo, O.P., Fr. Jose Ma. Tinoko, O.P., Fr. Rodel Aligan, O.P., Fr. Angel Aparicio, O.P., Fr. Rolando De La Rosa, O.P., and Fr. Fausto Gomez, O.P.



The University of Santo Tomas (UST), represented by its Vice Rector Rev. Fr. Isaias D. Tiongco, O.P., JCD, signed a covenant on January 14, 2025, that promises the peaceful, clean, and orderly conduct of the midterm elections this coming May. This was part of ABS-CBN's Halalan 2025 initiative that brings together the Commission on Elections (COMELEC) with other stakeholders from government, media, academe, and civil society groups. ■

UST Vice Rector Rev. Fr. Isaias D. Tiongco, O.P., JCD with representatives of ABS-CBN, the Commission on Elections (COMELEC), and other stakeholders from government, media, and civil society groups



UST Vice Rector Rev. Fr. Isaias D. Tiongco, O.P., JCD (center) with the ABS-CBN executives, including News and Currents Affairs Head Ms. Francis Toral, COO Ms. Cory Vidanes, CEO and President Mr. Carlo Katigbak, Chairman Mr. Mark Lopez, and COMELEC Chairman George Garcia



Fr. Tiongco during the signing

UST Manila, UST Legazpi ink new academic partnership



(From left:) UST Legazpi Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Susana C. Cabredo, Vice President for Administration and Finance, Rev. Fr. Junel C. Pedroso, O.P., Rector Rev. Fr. Edwin Lao, O.P., DBA, University of Santo Tomas Rector Very Rev. Fr. Richard G. Ang, O.P., Ph.D., Vice Rector Rev. Fr. Isaias D. Tiongco, O.P., JCD, and Vice Rector for Academic Affairs Prof. Cheryl R. Peralta, DrPH

UST Manila and UST Legazpi expanded their cooperative academic partnerships through a Memorandum of Agreement signed between the two institutions, represented by Very Rev. Fr. Richard G. Ang, O.P., Ph.D. and Rev. Fr. Edwin Lao, O.P., DBA on January 24, 2025.

Witnesses included the Vice Rector Rev. Fr. Isaias Tiongco, O.P. and the Vice Rector for Academic Affairs Prof. Cheryl R. Peralta, DrPH from UST Manila, and the Vice President for Administration and Finance, Rev. Fr. Junel C. Pedroso, O.P., and the Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Susana C. Cabredo from the University of Santo Tomas-Legazpi.

Also present were UST Manila Vice Rector for Research and Innovation Rev. Fr. Jannel N. Abogado, O.P., UST Secretary-General Rev. Fr. Louie R. Coronel, O.P., UST Legazpi Vice President for Religious Affairs Rev. Fr. Roberto S. Castellano Jr., O.P., and the Assistant to the Rector and Director of the Office of Media, Alumni, and Public Affairs Rev. Fr. Siddharta Chiong, O.P.

Research cooperation, joint academic or scientific activities, and other academic exchanges can result from this agreement. ■



University of Santo Tomas Rector Very Rev. Fr. Richard G. Ang, O.P., Ph.D. (seated, right) and UST Legazpi Rector Rev. Fr. Edwin Lao, O.P., DBA (seated, left), with (standing, from left:) UST Legazpi Assistant to the Rector and Director of the Office of Media, Alumni, and Public Affairs Rev. Fr. Siddharta Chiong, O.P., UST Office of Public Affairs Assistant Director Ms. Katherine Patrice B. Sibug, Executive Secretary of the Office of the Rector Prof. Marciana Agnes Ponsaran, Ph.D., UST Secretary-General Rev. Fr. Louie R. Coronel, O.P., EHL, UST Legazpi Vice President for Administration and Finance, Rev. Fr. Junel C. Pedroso, O.P., UST Vice Rector for Academic Affairs Prof. Cheryl R. Peralta, DrPH, Vice Rector Rev. Fr. Isaias D. Tiongco, O.P., JCD, UST Legazpi Vice President for Religious Affairs Rev. Fr. Roberto S. Castellano Jr., O.P., UST Vice Rector for Research and Innovation Rev. Fr. Jannel Abogado, O.P., DThPatSc, and UST Office of Public Affairs Director Ms. Michaela Lagniton

Carreon of GS wins Best Oral Presentation in ACCS 2024

UST Graduate School (UST GS) student Ms. Beatrice Marie R. Carreon, a candidate for the Master of Science in Chemistry of the UST GS, was one of the participants recognized for best oral presentation at the Asian Conference on Chemical Sensors 2024 (ACCS 2024) held in Kitakyushu, Japan from November 17 to 20, 2024.

With her research titled “Phage-modified Screen-printed Carbon Electrodes for the Detection of *Listeria monocytogenes* in Ready-to-Eat (RTE) Meat Buffer Extracts”, her presentation focused on using screen-printed carbon electrodes modified with a locally isolated bacteriophage to detect *Listeria monocytogenes* in artificially spiked salami and ham buffer extracts.

Her research, under the supervision of Prof. Jose H. Bergantin, Jr., Ph.D., and Assoc. Prof. Donna May D.C. Papa, Ph.D., aims to develop biosensors utilizing the highly specific bacterial virus, bacteriophage. Bacteriophage Iv-BEATS11 is a locally isolated bacteriophage that is purified and characterized by the UST Bacteriophage Ecology, Aquaculture, Therapy and Systematics (BEATS) Research Group from chicken fecal matter obtained from a poultry farm in Bulacan.

Carreon’s thesis was part of the research findings of the DOST-PCHRD project of Bergantin and Papa titled, “Bacteriophages in Food Safety: Biosensing and Biocontrol of Food Pathogens.”

Bergantin’s research group, Bacteriophage EIS-biosensor Research Group (BERG), focuses on the development of electrochemical biosensors using bacteriophages in the detection of foodborne pathogens (i.e., *Listeria monocytogenes*, *Salmonella enterica* ser. Typhimurium) for food safety applications. Papa’s BEATS Research Group spearheads bacteriophage research in the country for applications such as biocontrol and antibiotic-resistant pathogen elimination.

Carreon’s recognition was given by the event’s organizing committee and the journal Chemistry Letters. Her thesis was also previously awarded the Best Poster Award at the Philippine Chemistry Congress (38th PCC) held in Davao City last July 2024.

In the same parallel session, invited speaker Academician Fortunato Sevilla III, Ph.D., presented the research titled, “Amperometric Sensor for Iodate in Food Grade Salt Based on Screen-printed Carbon Electrode.” Meanwhile, Dr. Ernesto Paruli III also presented the findings of



Awarding ceremony for best presentations



Ms. Carreon during her presentation

his dissertation titled, “Tailoring the 3D Design of Molecularly Imprinted Polymers via Two-photon Stereolithography and Photoiniferter Polymerization.”

The 2024 ACCS was organized by the Japan Association of Chemical Sensors (JACS) and the Electrochemical Society of Japan. The conference was held at Kitakyushu International Convention Center (KICC) Kitakyushu, Fukuoka, Japan. ■

CBCP-UST Research Team sheds light on synodality at 129th CBCP Plenary Assembly

Research Director and Member of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) - University of Santo Tomas (UST) Research Team Fr. Vladimir Echalas, SOLT, and Project Co-Lead Investigator and academic staff of the UST Faculty of Pharmacy Dr. Florence C. Navidad presented updates on the study, "The Lights and Shadows on the Present State of Catholic Christianity in the Philippines Toward Becoming A Synodal Church," during the 129th Plenary Assembly of CBCP on January 27, 2025, in Santa Rosa, Laguna.

The project is a nationwide study commissioned by the CBCP to understand the current state of Christianity and provide a basis toward becoming a synodal Church. The research study is a joint project of the bishops' conference and the UST Center for Theology, Religious Studies, and Ethics. In response to the report, the bishops directed the research team to work with the CBCP Committee for the National Synodal Transformation for the implementation of the final document of the synod on synodality in the country.

The Synod on Synodality concluded in October 2024 but its implementation continues. In his Accompanying Note to the Final Document on the Synod of Synodality, Pope Francis urged the local churches and groupings of churches "to implement, in their different contexts, the authoritative proposals contained in the document through the processes of discernment and

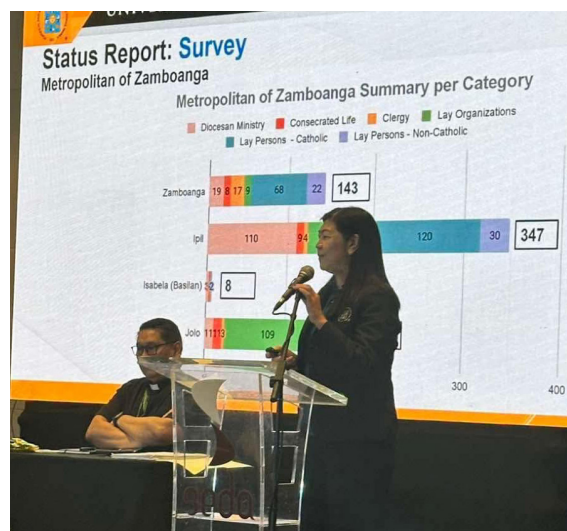


Fr. Vladimir Echalas, SOLT presents during the assembly

decision-making provided for by law and by the *Document* itself."

The initial findings are expected to be presented at the national synodal discernment conference tasked to craft the national synodal implementation framework in June 2025.

The CBCP-UST research team also includes Assistant Director of the UST Institute of Religion Assoc. Prof. Allan A. Basas, S.Th.D., Theology Program Lead of the UST Graduate School Prof. Pablito



CBCP-UST research team Project Co-Lead Investigator Prof. Florence C. Navidad shares results from the survey the team conducted.

A. Baybado, Jr., Ph.D., Asst. Prof. Marites R. Redoña, Ph.D., and Asst. Prof. Philip L. Fuentes, Ph.D. The UST Secretary-General Rev. Fr. Louie R. Coronel, O.P., EHL, and the Director of the Center for Theology, Religious Studies, and Ethics Prof. Joel E. Sagut, Ph.D. serve as consultants. Fr. Echalas and Baybado are both members of the UST-CBCP Research team and the Committee for the National Synodal Transformation. ■

Internationalization

CRS OT students, academic staff experience global immersion program in California



(From left:) Kathrin Dominique Oliva, Aneeza Angela Ramos, Asst. Prof. Nikka Karla R. Santos, OTD, Sherry Althea Sabularse, Cristian Bueno

The University of Santo Tomas College of Rehabilitation Sciences (UST CRS), Department of Occupational Therapy (OT) academic staff Asst. Prof. Nikka Karla Santos, O.T.D., along with OT interns Cristian Bueno, Kathrin Dominique Oliva, Aneeza Angela Ramos, and Sherry Althea Sabularse participated in a three-week global immersion in partnership with the University of Southern California - USC Chan Division of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy from January 13 to 31, 2025.

Students observed firsthand the evidence-based and innovative approaches OTs use to address diverse client needs during their visits

GLOBAL IMMERSION PROGRAM TO PAGE 13

GLOBAL IMMERSION PROGRAM FROM PAGE 12



(From left:) Aneeza Angela Ramos, Kathrin Dominique Oliva, Cristian Bueno, USC Chan Director of Global Initiatives Dr. Danny Park, Sherry Althea Sabularse, UST OT alumna and current USC master's student Katelyn Dagdag.

to institutions such as Carrico Pediatric Therapy and Momentum Pediatric Therapy Network, Gateways Hospital and Mental Health Centers, Children's Ranch Foundation, Braille Institute, Center for the Neuroscience of Embodied Cognition, Keck Hospital of USC and Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, and Mychal's Learning Place. These visits provided the students a comprehensive understanding of how OT is applied in different practice settings, including but not limited to pediatrics, mental health, visual rehabilitation, physical dysfunction, and prevocational training.

The visits also offered insight into how traditional and modern therapeutic interventions are used to promote the client's independence, well-being, and quality of life. Furthermore, these reinforced the importance of client-centered care, highlighting how OT is rooted in a holistic approach that considers the individual's unique circumstances, preferences, and goals.

A series of lectures broadened the students' perceptions of OT across diverse settings, beginning

with the exploration of Occupational Science by Dr. Daniel Park, exploring occupational therapy's theoretical foundations and the Theory of the Human Need for Occupation.

Occupational therapists Dr. Stephani Gharehptian and Dr. Janis Yue then discussed trauma-informed care within a Violence Intervention Program, demonstrating how occupational therapists support survivors of abuse in regaining independence through meaningful activities.

The Admissions Information Session delivered by Dr. Catherine Shin highlighted various academic pathways, research opportunities, and professional development resources available at USC, while other lecture sessions explored specialized areas of practice such as Sensory Processing in Daily Life and Medical Complexities. These diverse learning experiences enriched the students' perspectives on global OT practices and strengthened their commitment to advancing the profession in the Philippines.

The USC Chan Global Initiatives office, led by Dr. James Lee and

Dr. Park, offers various programs to allow international students to immerse themselves in the current and emerging OT practices in the United States. While USC has been facilitating the global partnership for a few years, this was the first time that UST has participated. Joining the UST students in this program were other undergraduate OT students from Taiwan, such as Asia University and Kaohsiung Medical University, and from South Korea, such as Soonchunhyang University, Inje University, and Yonsei University.

The global immersion experience served as an avenue for the Thomasian OT students to enrich their knowledge and skills through exposure to various clinical settings, innovative and evidence-based therapeutic approaches, and emerging practices in the field of OT. By engaging with experts across California, the students were equipped with better tools and insights to bring back to the Philippines, eventually enhancing the level of care they can provide in the future as members of the Occupational Therapists' workforce. ■

Honorary Professor Cordell lectures on scholarly publishing, ethical research



Dr. Cordell during his talk

The University of Santo Tomas (UST) College of Science, through the Department of Chemistry, successfully hosted the Honorary Professor Lecture Series, featuring the esteemed Professor Emeritus Geoffrey A. Cordell, Ph.D. A world-renowned expert in natural products research, Cordell serves as an Honorary Professor in the UST Department of Chemistry and is also affiliated with the University of Illinois at Chicago.

Held on December 4, 2024, at the UST Central Laboratory Auditorium, the lecture titled, "C.A.R.E.: The Writing and Publishing of Manuscripts, and Beyond," gathered academic staff, researchers, and students from the College of Science and other academic units of the University.

Cordell's engaging presentation provided an essential framework for upholding ethical research practices and achieving excellence in scholarly publishing. The talk also underscored the importance of integrity and innovation in research writing, resonating with the audience and sparking meaningful discussions throughout the event. The lecture was particularly impactful for the 3rd and 4th-year BS Chemistry students as this was an essential part of their academic training.

Adding to the day's highlights, the Department of Chemistry Chair Assoc. Prof. Alan Rodelle M. Salcedo, Ph.D., together with Acad. Professor

Emeritus Maribel G. Nonato, Ph.D., Prof. Christina A. Binag, Ph.D., Prof. Mario A. Tan, Ph.D., and Asst Prof. Melfei E. Bungihan, Ph.D., held a consultative meeting with Cordell to discuss potential improvements to the UST BS Chemistry curriculum. The discussions focused on integrating sustainability topics and initiatives, aligning the program with global trends and the pressing need for sustainable scientific practices. ■



Consultative meeting with Dr. Cordell

Center for Thomistic Studies celebrates 750th death anniversaries of St. Thomas Aquinas, St. Bonaventure

The University of Santo Tomas Center for Thomistic Studies (CTS) commemorated the 750th anniversary of the deaths of St. Thomas Aquinas and St. Bonaventure by joining an international colloquium in Rome from December 5 to 7, 2024, and holding a local forum in honor of the two intellectual luminaries of the Catholic Church on December 18, 2024, at the UST Main Building.

To honor their enduring contributions, the Centre Saint-Louis des Français, in collaboration with Franciscan and Dominican academic institutions, organized a colloquium that explored

their intellectual and pastoral legacies. The event was structured along two lines: one examining their philosophical and theological teachings and the other analyzing the historical re-appropriations of their doctrines. Each session sought to renew people's approach to their works and better define the specificity of their sanctity.

The USTCTS Coordinator Fr. Felix delos Reyes, Jr., O.P., participated in the forum. His attendance underscores the CTS's commitment to engage with global scholarship and contributing to the ongoing

CENTER FOR THOMISTIC STUDIES TO PAGE 15



CITED highlights SDGs in Faculty Training



Dr. Peralta



Most Rev. Alminaza

The University, in its efforts to strengthen the integration of the different Sustainable Development Goals in the teaching and learning process, highlights sustainability as the core theme of the Institutional Faculty Training Program for the second semester held last January 7 to 10, 2025.

Through the Center for Innovative Teaching and Educational Delivery (CITED), which is under the Office of the Vice Rector for Academic Affairs (OVRAA), and the Educational Technology Center, supported by the UST-Alfredo M. Velayo College of Accountancy, a forum with the theme “Thomasian Education for Sustainable Development and Internal Ecology,” was held online for all academic staff of the University. The goal of the forum was to (1) inculcate appreciation in Thomasian educators in promoting sustainable development and integral ecology as part of a Catholic institution, (2) engage in a reflective assessment of the readiness and capacity to embrace sustainability as individuals and as an institution, (3) realign and redesign curricular and operational practices with sustainable development goals, (4) promote Good Life Goals that encourage individual action toward achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by integrating sustainable development into students’ curricular experiences, and (5) explore interdisciplinary collaborations for sustainable development.

In his keynote address, Most Rev. Gerardo A. Alminaza, D.D., Bishop of the Diocese of San Carlos stated that educational institutions like the University of Santo Tomas “play a pivotal role in molding current and future generations in emphasizing sustainability.” Bishop Alminaza also pushed for the adoption of the Laudato Si Schools Framework, inclusion of the rights of nature in the curriculum, and development of the internal ecology framework, based on local contexts.

The training program consisted of multiple technical sessions, covering topics related to the integration of sustainable development into the curriculum and its implication to the overall learning environment. Round-table discussions were also held to discuss sustainability in office practice and further interdisciplinary collaboration with academic units to achieve sustainability.

Several resource speakers like Ms. Bernadette Balamban, Chief Statistical Specialist of the Poverty and Human Development Statistics Division of the Philippine Statistics Authority; Dr. Yew Kee Ho, Deputy Dean of Chow Yi Ching School of Graduate Studies at the City University of Hong Kong; Mr. Santosh Khatri, Chief of Education of the UNESCO Regional Office; and Dr. Maria Assunta Cuyegkeng, Executive Director of the Lily Gokongwei

CITED TO PAGE 16

CENTER FOR THOMISTIC STUDIES FROM PAGE 14

discourse on the works of Aquinas and Bonaventure.

In addition to participating in the international colloquium, CTS also organized a local celebration through the 4th Academic Discourse of the Center for Theology, Religious Studies, and Ethics (CTRSE), that featured papers that tackle the works of Aquinas, Bonaventure, and Boethius. Dr. Angeli Francis Rivera presented a paper on Aquinas, Mr. Joshua Cedric Gundayao discussed Bonaventure, and Prof. Jovito Carino explored the contributions of Boethius.

Saints Thomas Aquinas and Bonaventure, both scholars and mendicant friars from central Italy, have left an indelible mark on Western thought. Aquinas, on the one hand, is known for integrating Aristotelian philosophy with Christian theology; Bonaventure, on the other hand, is celebrated for his

mystical and theological works. Aquinas and Bonaventure both contributed significantly to the understanding of how intellectual life, particularly the life of study, is intertwined with holiness. Their lives attest that the life of study and intellectual engagement can be not only compatible with holiness but also an essential path toward it. Their writings demonstrate that intellectual pursuit and contemplation are not merely intellectual exercises but avenues for deepening one’s relationship with God and growing in holiness.

The international colloquium and the local academic discourse collectively paid tribute to the holiness of intelligence and the intelligence of holiness embodied by Thomas Aquinas and Bonaventure. These events celebrate their profound insights and hope to encourage continuing engagements with their thoughts by scholars and thinkers worldwide. ■



GS Food Science Program welcomes International Guest Lecturers from Taiwan, Japan

Two international guest lecturers were featured in the Advanced Food Engineering class of the UST Graduate School. Dr. Lester Geonzon, a research fellow at the Institute for Solid State Physics at the University of Tokyo, Japan and Dr. Mohsen Gavahian an Associate Professor at the National Pingtung University of Science and Technology, Taiwan were the two guest lecturers.

Geonzon, who specializes in correlating mechanical properties and spatiotemporal hierarchical structure of biopolymer-based hydrogels using rheological measurements, nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR), and small angle (*neutron*, *X-ray*, and *light*) scattering techniques, discussed Food Rheology through a hybrid-flexible (HyFlex) learning session last November 27, 2024.

Dr. Mohsen Gavahian delivered an onsite lecture titled, “New Frontiers in Non-Thermal Food Processing,” on October 19, 2024, at the Tanghalang Teresita Quirino. His areas of expertise include emerging food technologies, ohmic heating, sustainable food processing, and food waste valorization.

This event was also attended by other MS Major in Food Science students and academic staff and selected classes from the BS Food Technology program of the College of Education. ■

How to evaluate texture?



Rheology:

deals with the deformation and flow of materials, both solids and liquids.

Synchronous online Zoom lecture of Dr. Lester Geonzon.



Advanced Food Engineering students and GS Food Science Program Lead – Dr. Elizabeth H. Arenas – with Dr. Lester Geonzon.



Dr. Mohsen Gavahian



GS Food Science students and academic staff with Dr. Mohsen Gavahian (center).

CITED FROM PAGE 15

Ngochua Leadership Academy of the Ateneo de Manila University shed light on the different aspects of sustainability in the context of an academic institution.

Created in 2017, CITED is responsible for the planning, implementing, and monitoring of faculty development training programs, with the aim of enhancing the teaching proficiency of academic staff. It plays a central role in coordinating training programs and logistics at both university-wide and unit-specific levels, meeting the unique needs of units. ■



Academic staff from the UST-AMV College of Accountancy participate in a parallel session of CITED.

RCNAS sparks interest in Chemistry in interactive seminar



Participants of the interactive chemistry workshop

The Department of Chemistry and the Research Center for the Natural and Applied Sciences (RCNAS) proudly hosted “Spark Science: Igniting the Power of Chemical Reactions,” a two-day interactive workshop held on November 26 to 27, 2024, at the UST Central Laboratory and Thomas Aquinas Research Complex. Designed to ignite curiosity and enthusiasm for chemistry among basic education students, the event brought science to life through engaging experiments and hands-on activities.

Participants from UST Junior High School, UST Education High School, Victorino Mapa High School, and Cayetano Arellano High School explore the fascinating concepts in chemistry, with the guidance of UST Chemistry students and researchers. The event aimed to introduce fundamental chemical concepts, inspire young minds to pursue STEM, and demonstrate real-world applications of electrochemistry.

Students engaged in interactive experiments, including the Flame Test, Chromatography, Surface Chemistry (Bubbles), and Electrochemistry, gaining firsthand experience in chemical reactions and their everyday significance. Through these activities, they not only learned scientific principles but also developed an appreciation for the role of chemistry in innovation and technology.

More than just a workshop, Spark Science served as a platform for fostering scientific curiosity and strengthening the bridge between academia and aspiring young scientists. With its success, the event reaffirmed the importance of hands-on learning in shaping the next generation of chemists and innovators. ■



Students engage in the workshop with testing different chemical reactions`

UST Graduate School discusses Influencer Marketing at GRWM Symposium



Official poster of the event (top left), student registration booth (bottom left), appreciation giving to speakers namely, Mia Arias and Irish Vistans (top center), Mito Dizon, Andrea Celebre, and Gianne Hinolan (center) with Prof. Dr. Eduardo Ong, advisor, and Joycelyn Cacao, chairman of the Marketing Management class, poster of sponsors (top right), and class picture of the Marketing Management class along with Prof. Dr. Ernesto Dimaculangan (bottom center).

The UST Graduate School led the *GRWM: Growing Brands with Modern Influencers* symposium on November 23, 2024, at the Thomas Aquinas Research Complex (TARC) Auditorium. The symposium explored the vital roles of social media influencers in marketing.

The event featured six distinguished speakers, each offering unique insights into the developing landscape of influencer marketing. Marketing and Research Head of F2 Logistics Philippines Inc. Mr. Mito Dizon discussed transitioning from traditional to influencer marketing. Assistant Marketing Manager at Watsons Beauty Ms. Andrea Celebre provided a brand's perspective on influencer partnerships, emphasizing their impact on awareness and sales.

Other social media influencers such as Lady Martin, Mia Arias, Irish Vistan, and

Gianne Hinolan also shared their strategies for effective brand collaborations, explored emerging trends in influencer marketing, and highlighted creative approaches to content creation for authentic audience engagement while maintaining brand integrity.

The event, which attracted students, professionals, and brand representatives from companies such as Maybank Philippines and F2 Logistics, was designed to foster engaging discourse, interactive question-and-answer segments, and networking opportunities. This interactive format allowed the audience to actively participate and learn, driving home the compelling nature that influencer marketing possesses today and highlighting the benefits of fostering genuine human connection for brands. ■

Fuentes of GS, IR joins 6th APSPA International Conference at Assumption University in Thailand



Dr. Fuentes (right) with Prof. Dr. Panch Ramalingam, President of APSPA

UST Institute of Religion and UST Graduate School (GS) Academic Staff Assoc. Prof. Philip L. Fuentes, Ph.D., represented the Graduate School at the recently held 6th APSPA International Conference 2024. The conference, themed

“Multidisciplinary Perspectives on Human Development and Learning: Navigating the Nexus of Education, Psychology, Business, Language, and Philosophy,” was jointly organized by the Asia Pacific School Psychology Association (APSPA) and Assumption University (AU) in Thailand from November 28 to 30, 2024.

Fuentes’ participation was a way to renew the partnership between the GS and AU, where he also presented his paper at the conference. Titled “The Catholic OFW’s Faith Experiences and Their Perceptions of the Philippine Church’s Mission of Pastoral Care for Filipino Migrants: A Descriptive Study,” his paper emphasizes the vital role of faith in supporting Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs), particularly during challenging times. The study’s findings and recommendations provide valuable insights for the Catholic Church in the Philippines, aimed at enhancing her pastoral care for Filipino migrants.

The conference featured esteemed scholars as keynote speakers who provided valuable insights into the issues of mental health within the academic realm. The alarming incidents of student suicides in the world, particularly in Asia, exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, was also a central topic during the Roundtable Discussion. Panelists emphasized the role of the academic community in addressing mental health concerns, advocating for robust guidance and counseling services

with well-trained personnel to support students.

The conference also featured the Parallel Sessions, in which the academicians, practitioners, and graduate students were provided a platform to present the highlights of their diverse findings in addressing mental health. In their presentations, they highlighted various approaches to mental health, stress, and depression, including strength-based interventions, AI applications, and multidisciplinary methods for managing learning disabilities.

During the closing ceremony, the organizing committee presented the resolutions from the 8th APSPA General Body Meeting and the 6th APSPA International Conference, as outlined in the conference proceedings. The organizing committee has resolved to promote school psychology research, lobby the governments to establish school counseling centers staffed with qualified psychologists to enhance student well-being, form a council within the Asia Pacific region to regulate and license school psychologists effectively and recommend that universities introduce undergraduate and postgraduate programs focused on school psychology.

Fuentes actively participated in the cultural and networking activities, allowing new connections with other universities to be formed. ■



Dr. Fuentes (right) with AU President Rev. Br. Sirichai Fonseka, F.S.G., Ph.D. (fourth from left), and APSPA Prof. Dr. Panch Ramalingam (leftmost)

Austrian media studies scholar lectures at UST Graduate School

Prof. Michael Prieler, Ph.D., an Austrian professor of media studies at Hallym University in South Korea, delivered a lecture last December 7, 2024, at the Tanghalang Teresita Quirino, UST Benavides Building. Prieler, a tenured professor at Hallym's Media School, discussed the timely topic of the study and practice of communication and media in an age saturated by artificial intelligence (AI) technology.

His lecture, "Diversity in the Age of AI: A Study of AI-Generated Models on Instagram," revolved around examples of how AI-generated models and influencers take advantage of Instagram to forge their identity and to carry on with their business or online presence. While AI may have a positive role in this information age, this online activity may also impact the inclusion, non-inclusion, and misrepresentation of specific sectors in the virtual sphere. The issues the study explored were the following: "diversity" in Instagram posting, and how AI figured out which information to use in representing specific individuals and groups online. As Prieler's abstract states, "the project aims to uncover patterns and trends in how AI-generated content portrays human-like diversity."

Prieler has been a visiting professor at various universities, such as the University of Illinois, City University of Hong Kong, and Temple University, Japan. He has published in various reputable journals and ranked among the top 1% of advertising scholars worldwide. His research interests include advertising, new media, and diversity in the media.

The lecture was delivered before an audience of communication and journalism majors in the UST Graduate School and BA Communication students from the Faculty of Arts and Letters. Present during the event were academic staff of GS Dr. Beyan Hagos, Program Lead Dr. Joyce Arriola, and Dr. Elizabeth Hashim Arenas, Faculty Secretary of the Graduate School. ■



Dr. Prieler with Dr. Arriola and Dr. Arenas in the certificate awarding

Balik USTe 2024: "ChemBonding Tayo Muli" – A Grand Chemistry Alumni Homecoming



The UST College of Science's Department of Chemistry celebrated their Alumni Homecoming, reuniting its alumni from across different batches last December 1, 2024 held in different locations within the University. Titled, "*Balik USTe 2024: ChemBonding Tayo Muli*," alumni united in celebrating different generations of Thomasian chemists in a day of reminiscing, reconnecting, and reigniting their Thomasian spirits.

The day began at the iconic UST Main Building, where alumni were greeted with warm welcomes and a nostalgic tour of its historic halls. Attendees then gathered for a grand group photo on the Main Building Grand Staircase—a timeless symbol of their shared legacy.

The main celebration was then held at the Bl. Buenaventura G. Paredes, O.P. Building Function Hall. A Holy Mass, presided over by Rev. Fr. Vergel M. Dalangin, SSS, a proud BS Chemistry alumnus, provided a moment of reflection and gratitude for the guests.

The program officially commenced with inspiring messages from key figures such as the Dean of the College of Science Prof. Rey Donne S. Papa, Ph.D., Chair of the Department of Chemistry Assoc. Prof. Alan Rodelle M. Salcedo, Ph.D., Director of the UST Office of Alumni Relations Asst. Prof. Joreen T. Rocamora, Ph.D. and President of the Thomasian Chemistry Alumni Association

BALIK USTe 2024 FROM PAGE 20



*Alumni from the College of Science
Department of Chemistry*



*Asst. Prof. Joreen T. Rocamora, Ph.D.,
Director of the Office of Alumni Relations*

(TCAA) Mr. Errol Angeles. Each speaker emphasized the importance of nurturing and strengthening the Thomasian Chemistry network.

A highlight of the event was the heartfelt recognition of Jubilarians – alumni celebrating milestone anniversaries since their graduation. The Golden Jubilarians (Class of 1974), marking 50 years of excellence and contributions to chemistry, were the stars of the celebration. Joining them were fellow Jubilarians, namely the Sapphire Jubilarians (45 years) from the Class of 1979, Ruby Jubilarians (40 years) from the Class of 1984, Coral Jubilarians (35 years) from the Class of 1989, Pearl Jubilarians (30 years) from the class of 1994, and Silver Jubilarians (25 years) from the Class of 1999.

Each Jubilarian group received a commemorative medal, symbolizing their lasting impact on the Thomasian Chemistry community, their profession, and society. Their presence served as a

powerful reminder of the enduring camaraderie and shared commitment to excellence that defines UST Chemistry.

The festivities continued with a lively lunch program featuring musical performances, captivating video presentations, the TCAA election, special awards, and acknowledgements of various alumni batches. The celebration culminated with a guided tour of the Chemistry Laboratories in the Central Laboratory Building, showcasing the department's advancements in chemistry education and research and offering alumni a glimpse into UST's ongoing commitment to innovation.

Balik USTe 2024 was more than a homecoming; it was a celebration of legacy, community, and the vibrant spirit of Thomasian chemists. As alumni departed with rekindled friendships and strengthened connections, the future of the Thomasian Chemistry network shone brightly, promising more reunions, collaborations, and shared successes for years to come. ■



Architecture alumnus Paul Quiambao mounts exhibit on West Philippine Sea



Mr. Paul Quiambao

Thomasian photographer Paul Quiambao, from the Class of 2011, used his art to recognize the meaning of Filipino independence in an exhibit mounted at the UST Main Building on January 14, 2025.

It included images of life from the municipality of Kalayaan, Palawan, including Pag-asa island, in the West Philippine Sea (WPS), the damage of Chinese vessels to the reefs, a miniature of the BRP Sierra Madre on Ayungin Shoal, and facsimiles of maps like the 1734 Murillo-Velarde Map, which served as critical evidence in the 2016 decision of the Permanent Court of Arbitration at The Hague, which upheld the nation's rights over the West Philippine Sea.

EXHIBIT ON WEST PHILIPPINES SEA TO PAGE 23

The exhibit at the lobby of the UST Main Building



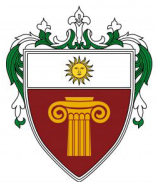


Mr. Paul Quiambao (front row, rightmost) with (front row, from left:) UST Faculty of Arts and Letters Dean Prof. Melanie Turingan, Ph.D., NHCP Member Assoc. Prof. Maria Eloisa P. de Castro, Ph.D., and Mr. Mel Velasco Velarde

“Whether through artistic expression, fact-checking social media content, or simply engaging in discourses, we can all contribute to amplifying the voices of those affected,” Quiambao said. He also emphasized the importance of visual storytelling, particularly photography and cartographic maps, to help Filipinos better understand and take action on our maritime situation today

The launch of “Pag-Asa sa Gitna ng Kalayaan” in UST was organized by the UST Museum, UST Department of History and UST History Society of the Faculty of Arts and Letters, in partnership with the National Historical Commission of the Philippines (NHCP) and National Library of the Philippines. The exhibit at the Main Building ran until February 7, 2025.

The materials were originally exhibited at the National Library in July 2024, and at Adamson University in August 2024. ■



Licensure Examination for Architects

January 2025

UST Passing Rate: 88.10%

National Passing Rate: 58.71%



2nd - 82.70%
Kimberlane
Tang Go



7th - 81.80%
Eileene Joyce
Durana Gatus



7th - 81.80%
Anna Viktoria
Santos Martinez



8th - 81.60%
Kate Mikee
Matutino Mayormita

University Visitors

Chungbuk Health and Science University

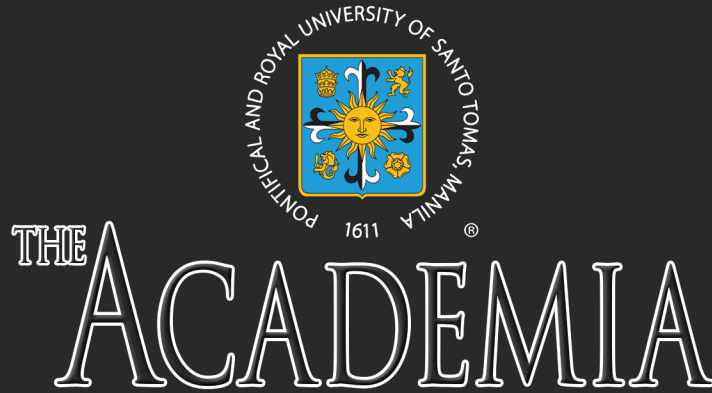


Academic officials from Chungbuk Health and Science University in South Korea led by President Prof. Park Yong-seok, Ph.D. (fifth from left) visited the University on January 31, 2025. OIRP Associate Director Prof. Karen Santiago, Ph.D. (rightmost) and UST Office of Public Affairs Assistant Director Ms. Katherine Patrice Sibug (leftmost) welcomed them and toured the group around the UST Museum prior to the meeting with the representatives of the Office of International Relations and Programs, College of Commerce and Business Administration, and College of Nursing.

Australian Catholic University



UST welcomed 13 students and 2 academic staff from the Australian Catholic University as part of their mobility program with the UST College of Nursing. The OPA Assistant Director Ms. Katherine Patrice Sibug, accompanied by UST College of Nursing Internationalization Coordinator Asst. Prof. Ritzmond Loa, Ph.D. (top right), welcomed the guests at the Main Building, while OPA Senior Writer Ms. Christie Cruz and Junior Writer Ms. Monica Nacionales led the campus tour in two batches, on January 20 and January 24, 2025.



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