



# THE ACADEMIA

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## UST gets ABET accreditation for six Engineering programs

The University of Santo Tomas Bachelor's degree programs in Engineering have been accredited by the Engineering Accreditation Commission of the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET), the global accreditor of college and university programs in applied and natural science, computing, engineering, and engineering technology.

ABET accreditation assures that programs meet standards to produce graduates ready to enter critical technical fields that are leading the way in innovation and emerging technologies, and anticipating the welfare and safety needs of the public.

Faculty of Engineering Dean Prof. Philipina A. Marcelo, Ph.D., said: "Being the first engineering school in the country, this accreditation is another evidence of the University's 'excellence that is timely, relevance that is timeless.' Innovative strategies are in place to allow our programs to evolve with the constantly changing demands of the global professional practice of engineering without losing the Thomasian Identity.

Dean Marcelo further explained, "We have been eager to show how our programs produce graduates with training and achievements that are suitable for seamless transition to engineering professional practice worldwide. This accreditation confirms that. Most importantly, we are glad how this adds value to the Thomasian Engineering degree, which can open many doors for our graduates."

Sought worldwide, ABET's voluntary peer-review process is highly respected because it adds critical value to academic programs in the technical disciplines, where quality, precision, and safety are of the utmost importance.

Developed by technical professionals from ABET's member societies, ABET criteria focus on what students experience and learn. ABET accreditation reviews look at program curricula, faculty, facilities, and institutional support and are conducted by teams of highly skilled professionals from industry, academia, and government, with expertise in the ABET disciplines.

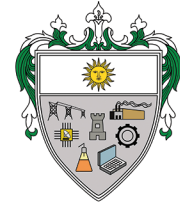
ABET is a nonprofit, non-governmental organization with ISO 9001:2015 certification. It currently accredits 4,144 programs at 812 colleges and universities in 32 countries.

More information about ABET, its member societies, and the accreditation criteria used to evaluate programs can be found at [www.abet.org](http://www.abet.org).

The Faculty of Engineering, established in 1907, is the oldest engineering school in the country. Its program offerings and their year of establishment are: Civil Engineering (1907), Chemical Engineering (1934), Mechanical Engineering (1940), Electrical Engineering (1946), Electronics Engineering (1963), and Industrial Engineering (1977).

The Commission on Higher Education has recognized all six Engineering programs. Chemical Engineering is a Center of Excellence, while Civil, Mechanical, Electrical, Electronics and Industrial Engineering are Centers of Development. Both Chemical Engineering and Electronics Engineering are certified by the AUN-QA while all six programs are accredited by the Accreditation and Certification Board for Engineering and Technology of the

**UST GETS ABET TO PAGE 2**



Dean Marcelo



Fr. Luanzon, O.P.



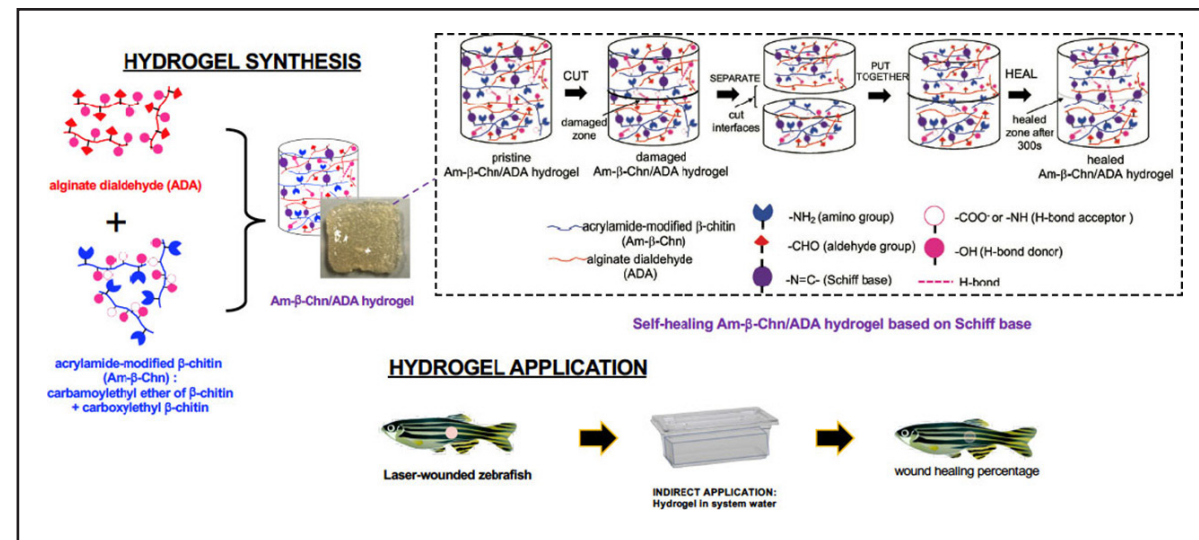
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## RESEARCH

## UST researchers develop wound-healing hydrogels from sustainable marine-food wastes



The graphical abstract of the study shows how the hydrogel is synthesized and applied to zebrafish for testing. [Photo courtesy of the International Journal of Biological Macromolecules obtained from <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijbiomac.2020.06.129>]

Shifting from waste *reduction* to waste *utilization*, the University of Santo Tomas College of Science faculty members and researchers Asst. Prof. Jolleen Natalie I. Balitaan and Prof. Karen S. Santiago, Ph.D., recently developed self-healing injectable hydrogels for wound healing application. They synthesized 'modified  $\beta$ -chitin' from a marine bio-waste product, squid pens, and fabricated acrylamide-modified  $\beta$ -chitin/alginate dialdehyde, which can be used for accelerated healing of wounds.

This study's biorefinery of a renewable resource like squid pens (*Uroteuthis duvauceli gladii*) to a wound-healing hydrogel is a new way to approach the ecological imbalance from the seafood industry's waste by-products. Squid pens, in particular, were chosen because these discards, aside from being abundant, also contain high amount of chitin in  $\beta$ -form.

Experimental procedures on zebrafish, which were approved by the Committee for Animal Experimentation of the Chung Yuan Christian University, showed that application of the synthesized hydrogels to laser-ablated full-thickness wounds led to accelerated healing, "more than twice the wound healing percentage (WHP) of the control."

The resulting hydrogels possess excellent swelling ratio, injectability, biocompatibility, and self-healing property, which mean that they can "absorb wound exudates, provide a moist environment to the wound bed and promote the diffusion of nutrients, bioactive molecules and wastes within their network."

The research project was done in collaboration with Chung Yuan Christian University researchers Prof. Jui-Ming Yeh, Ph.D., who was Balitaan's dissertation co-adviser during her Manila Economic and Cultural Office and Taiwan Economic and Cultural Office (MECO-TECO) Sandwich Scholarship Program in Taiwan, and Prof. Chung-Der Hsiao, Ph.D., who aided with the methodology on laser ablation of zebrafish and imaging software.

Asst. Prof. Balitaan is currently a Ph.D. Chemistry candidate at the UST Graduate School and teaches at the Department of Chemistry. Prof. Santiago, who also teaches at the Department of Chemistry and is a resident researcher of the Research Center for the Natural and Applied Sciences, is her dissertation co-adviser, and also serves the University as the Associate Director of the Office of International Relations and Programs.

### UST GETS ABET FROM PAGE 1

Philippine Technological Council (ACBET-PTC) and the Philippine Accrediting Association of Schools, Colleges and Universities (PAASCU).

The academic officials include Dean Philipina A. Marcelo, Ph.D., Regent and UST Acting Vice Rector for Finance Rev. Fr. Roberto Luanzon, Jr. O.P., Assistant Dean Ricardo S. Balog, and Faculty Secretary, Engr. Evangelina E. Deleña. Assisting the academic officials for the accreditation process were the Program Chairs and Engineering Accreditation and Continuous Quality Improvement Program Coordinator Asst. Prof. Ma. Luisa T. Asilo.

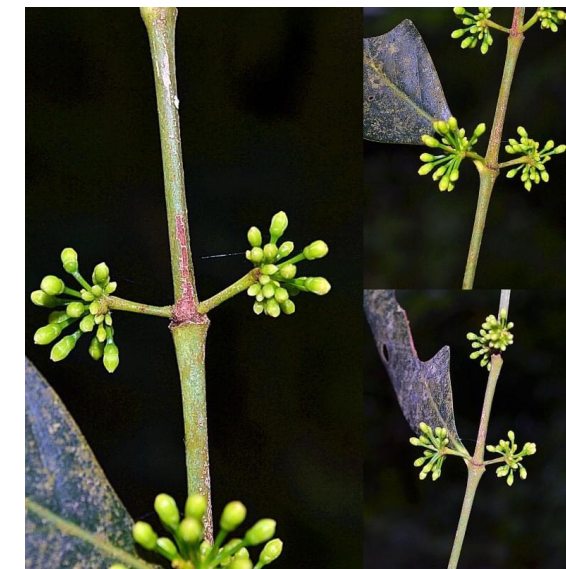
The Faculty's numerous alumni have established themselves in the various areas of engineering and other fields, among others, in business, entrepreneurship and government service. To name a few, the roster includes alumni such as Dr. Tony Tan Caktiong, the founding President and current Chairman of Jollibee Foods Corporation, William T. Belo, the CEO Emeritus of Wilcon Corporation, and Dr. Lydia G. Tansinsin, former Assistant Secretary of the Department of Science and Technology (DOST).

For more information about UST's bachelor's degree programs in Engineering, visit [engineering.ust.edu.ph](http://engineering.ust.edu.ph)

## UST GS, CS graduates discover new endemic Philippine species *Pyrostria arayatensis*



Dr. Marlon Suba (in blue shirt) processes collected samples with students. [Photo courtesy of Dr. Arriola]



The newly discovered *Pyrostria arayatensis* [Photo courtesy of Dr. Arriola]

After three years of botanical exploration, a team of student researchers from the University of Santo Tomas (UST) discovered a new plant species endemic to the Philippines, *Pyrostria arayatensis*, in Mount Arayat National Park (MANP) in Pampanga.

The discovery was one of the four topics from the doctoral dissertation of Dr. Marlon D.L. Suba who obtained his Ph.D. from the University of Santo Tomas Graduate School. It was published in the international scientific journal of *Annales Botanici Fennici* on August 10, 2020.

The exploration was conducted by UST Graduate School researchers Dr. Marlon D.L. Suba and Dr. Axel H. Arriola, who both finished their doctoral degrees in Biology under the supervision of Prof. Dr. Grecebio Jonathan D. Alejandro, the director of the UST GS Office for Graduate Research. Also assisting the team were UST College of Science students under the B.S. Biology program who graduated in 2018, Nicolas Raphael Arcangel, Jomari Jalipa, Joaquim Gerardo Jurilla, and Jose Manuel Villaseñor, who were Dr. Alejandro's advisees in their undergraduate thesis. Suba is concurrently the Dean of the Angeles University Foundation College of Arts and Sciences, while Arriola is a faculty member at the University of the East.

The first sample of *P. arayatensis* was initially found by the team in 2017 in the lowland forest of the 3,715-hectare area of MANP after securing clearance from the Protected Area Management Board of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

The MANP, considered as one of the centers of biodiversity in the Philippines, is a protected area that is still not well-explored and with very few published studies that are available, explained Alejandro. A respected scientist in the field of Botany here and abroad, he added that "The dearth of the scientific studies led us to consider the said mountain to search for possible new species as well as medicinal plants."

According to Alejandro who was interviewed online, with this discovery of a new species from the family *Rubiaceae*, it is not unreasonable to say that "[MANP] has ideal qualities as habitats for endemic species," and its protected status and dormant stratovolcano are possible contributing factors for the presence of endemic species.

In the Philippines, the genus *Pyrostria* is currently represented by *P. elmeri*, *P. obovatifolia*, *P. oligophlebia*, *P. ramosii*, *P. subsessilifolia* and *P. triflora*, while the conservation status of *P. arayatensis* is still unknown, the study stated. All belonging to the *Rubiaceae* family (coffee plant), it is the fourth largest flowering plant family in the world with over 500 species present in the Philippines.

### NEW ENDEMIC PHILIPPINE SPECIES TO PAGE 5



## UST Research Center launches portal to help students survey HEIs nationwide



UST Secretary-General Rev. Fr. Jesús M. Miranda, Jr., O.P. (second row, third from left), UST RCSSED Director Prof. Belinda De Castro, Ph.D. (top row, leftmost), and Project CLEAR Co-investigator Assoc. Prof. Rene Luis Tadle (top row, rightmost) with the participants of the website launch

Event poster

The University of Santo Tomas (UST) Research Center for Social Sciences and Education (RCSSD) launched a portal on September 25, 2020 that allows students to survey universities nationwide for their levels of quality education. The launch was conducted through a webinar carrying the theme “Expanding tertiary-level education insights” attended by 128 participants from 38 HEIs nationwide.

Funded by the Commission on Higher Education, the website of Project Connection on Learning and Employment Assistance Report (CLEAR) allows students to scan the levels of education by Philippine higher education institutions (HEIs). The URL is <http://52.74.106.151/stat>.

Prospective and current university students can now compare HEIs nationwide using fresh data through surveys from these colleges and universities. The emphasis of the data in the CLEAR website is capturing students’ experiences within these HEIs on quality teaching, skills development, learner engagement, student support, and learning

resources.

For example, a graduating senior high school student can browse the CLEAR website—as a customer—to make assessments on which HEI, or even a technical-vocational school, she or he can experience the most optimal education.

Even enrolment data and the extent of an HEI’s graduates to penetrate the local job market can be accessed in the CLEAR website. The website also contains pieces of information on the degree programs that students find interesting.

Participating HEIs wishing to be included in the CLEAR website may have to provide robust, timely and transparent information using CLEAR survey questionnaires administered to their current students.

Project CLEAR was courtesy of RCSSD’s project team led by Director Prof. Belinda de Castro, Ph.D., with the project implemented in cooperation with St. Paul University – Surigao headed by President Sr. Ma. Rosanne Mallillin, SPC.

Senior Lecturer Chin Uy, Ph.D., Assoc. Prof. Rene Luis Tadle, Assoc. Prof. Ronald Fernandez, and Asst. Prof. Les Paul Valdez are members of UST RCSSD’s Project CLEAR team.

At the launch, Tadle, Fernandez and Valdez explained CLEAR, the functionalities of the website, and how users can compare HEIs using the data that are available.

De Castro said the website now allows HEIs to determine aspects of their work as educational institutions that warrant improvement and further strengthening.

Parents who wish to send their children to their desired HEIs and degree programs will now be able to use the CLEAR website to make comparisons and best optimal choices, de Castro added.

Project CLEAR was a two-year research project that adapted the framework Quality Indicators for Learning and Teaching (QILT) from Australia. QILT had allowed Australian students to compare study experiences and employment outcomes of differing “unis” or universities.

## PACUCOA grants UST BS Accountancy Level III 1st Re-accreditation



Dean Empleo



Rev. Fr. Reynaldo J. Adalid, O.P.

The Bachelor of Science Accountancy program of the UST-Alfredo M. Velayo College of Accountancy was granted Level III 1st Re-accreditation by the Philippine Association of Colleges and Universities Commission on Accreditation (PACUCOA). The BSA program will enjoy its five-year 1st Re-accreditation status until 2024.

In the report received from PACUCOA accreditation team headed by Dr. Rosita L. Navarro, the accreditation group highlighted the College’s clear definition and alignment of the accountancy program’s intended learning outcomes with the University’s mission, vision and core values, formulated in consultation with the curriculum advisory group composed of administrators, faculty members, alumni, students, industry partners, representatives from professional organizations, and other interested parties.

The report, according to College Secretary Francisco M. Caliwan, Jr., also recognized the College’s abilities of providing quality instruction with its highly qualified roster of faculty members who are both industry practitioners and leaders in the accountancy profession, of producing top performers in the licensure examinations, and of fostering excellence with its students, alumni and faculty members for garnering national and international awards in various academic competitions.

Dean Patricia M. Empleo, Ph.D., thanked the UST-AMV COA community and other administrative units for their unrelenting support and commitment to elevate the status of the College and its academic programs. The college is one of the country’s top-performing schools in licensure examinations for Accountants.

## NEW ENDEMIC PHILIPPINE SPECIES FROM PAGE 3

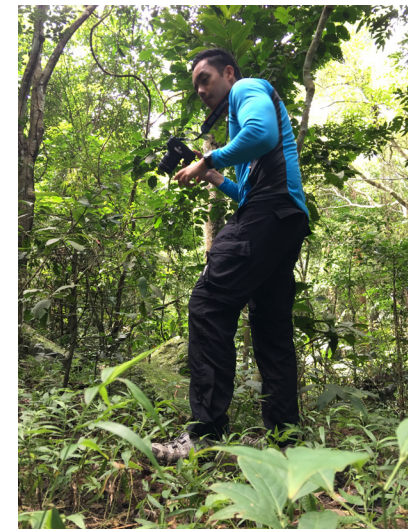
“This family is very complex in terms of its classification, and that makes it interesting for research,” Alejandro added.

Alejandro, a NAST 2006 Outstanding Young Scientist of the Philippines, explained the process that *P. arayatensis* was subjected to in order to establish the fact that it was a new species: upon being collected in 2017, the sample of *P. arayatensis* underwent a comparative morphology with other existing species of the genus, and the team further verified its difference using molecular techniques. A thorough morphological examination in the laboratory was conducted by comparing the collected specimen to other similar species using herbarium specimens from the museums or institutions, as well as descriptions, and illustrations in published literature either in print or online. He was also part of the team that discovered the *P. triflora*.

Sharing his personal advocacy, Alejandro ended the interview with this quotation, which is an excerpt from Margaret Mead: “We won’t have a society, if we destroy the environment.”



UST Graduate School Office for Graduate Research Director Prof. Dr. Grecebio Jonathan D. Alejandro (seated) with undergraduate students under the B.S. Biology program included in the authorship of the published paper [Photo courtesy of Dr. Alejandro]



Dr. Suba during the botanical exploration



## UST topnotchers take oath at first virtual oath taking ceremony for new architects; UST is named top performing school

The United Architects of the Philippines (UAP) organized the first virtual oath taking and induction ceremony for the new architects held on September 26, 2020 for those who took the January 2020 Architect Licensure Examination.

The University of Santo Tomas, which had a passing rate of 85.29%, had two graduates in the top ten: Ar. Austin Carl S. Equipaje (Top 4) and Ar. Maria Regina Victoria M. Polotan (Top 9). UST was also named as the top performing school in the January 2020 Architect Licensure Examination.

Ar. Charisse Jermaine Ong, faculty member and former College Secretary of the UST College of Architecture, delivered the inspirational speech as a Guest of Honor and Speaker.

Ong shared how a proper mindset is important to achieve one's goals. This is could be achieved with a clear vision and a positive attitude to keep moving forward, even amidst adversities like the present pandemic. She encouraged the new batch of architects to continue learning, constantly collaborate, and design for people—not for the ego nor for the social media feed. Lastly, she urged the young architects to love the profession, uphold its value, and work for its improvement.

The ceremony was co-organized with the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) and the Professional Regulatory Board of Architecture (PRBOA) and was held at the UAP Head Quarters at Quezon City. It was graced by the presence of PRBOA Chairperson Hon. Robert S. Sac and PRC Commissioners Hon. Jose Y. Cueto, Jr and Hon. Yolanda D. Reyes.

The recording of the presentation may be followed through this link: <https://web.facebook.com/uapkeepingyouposted/videos/377255953302455> with Ar. Ong's speech at 1:52:30 and the Awarding of the Top Ten at 2:45:30.



Austin Carl Sugui Equipaje



Maria Regina Victoria Morada Polotan



The Plaque of Recognition received by the UST College of Architecture for being the top performing school in the January 2020 Architect Licensure Examination



Ar. Ong delivers her speech

## Manlapaz of CRS is PRC '2020 Outstanding Professional of the Year for PT'



Dr. Manlapaz

The Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) recognized University of Santo Tomas Department of Physical Therapy (PT) Department Chair Asst. Prof. Donald G. Manlapaz, Ph.D., as the '2020 Outstanding Professional of the Year for the field of PT.' The conferment of the award will be held online on December 4, 2020, according to a letter from PRC Commissioner Yolanda Reyes dated September 18, 2020.

Manlapaz, who in 2015 received a Special Citation by PRC for contributions to his field, mentioned in an online interview that he did not expect that he will be chosen as the most outstanding professional because the first comment of the esteemed panel was 'You are so young.'

"However," he said, "I'm thrilled and fulfilled. I was happy since my fellow physical therapists recognized my work again."

Having obtained his Bachelor of Science in Physical Therapy degree from the UST College of Rehabilitation Sciences (CRS) in 2006, and later in 2010, his Master of Science degree from the same University, this year's Outstanding PT has now been in the field for 14 years.

Manlapaz shared that his passion for the profession stems from his core and his desire to improve Physical Therapy education. It is based on an idea of quality and opportunity. He stressed that he wants to value his service to the profession in three-fold aspects: positively contributing to teaching and learning strategies, research productivity, and empowering his colleagues to deliver quality education to (our) stakeholders.

It is this commitment to his passion that drives him to do his best as a mentor. Manlapaz explained, "If I teach my students well, then the skills they acquired can be translated to patients in the hospitals and

clinics. It is an opportunity to give students a solid backbone to treat patients with a signature of Thomasian care," he said.

After obtaining his doctoral degree in 2019 at the University of Otago in New Zealand, a school renowned for its PT program, the new graduate returned to UST to share what he has learned.

A forward-thinking leader and educator, the current PT Department Chair remains focused on steady improvement, saying that the department is aiming to work on the application for the PT program for the Center of Development recognition given by the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) and to maintain the status as the only PT program in the Philippines with Level IV status awarded by the Philippine Association of Colleges and Universities Commission on Accreditation (PACUCOA). The department is also preparing to be assessed by the ASEAN University Network-Quality Assurance (AUN-QA) network this year.

Concurrently, Manlapaz is also part of the World Health Organization working group on Rehabilitation Package 2030 for Osteoarthritis and continuing his research on game-based exercises. Projects on the pipeline include telerehabilitation in the community among individuals with hypertension and international collaboration with other experts from the United Kingdom, Sweden, and Tanzania regarding persistent low back pain.

Previously recognized by PRC as Outstanding Professionals in the field of PT were former CRS Dean and now Continuing Professional Education and Development Director Assoc. Prof. Jocelyn F. Agcaoilil in 2007, former CRS Dean and now Vice Rector for Academic Affairs Prof. Cheryl R. Peralta, DrPH in 2009, and faculty researcher Assoc. Prof. Donald S. Lipardo, Ph.D., in 2015.



## De Castro of Education receives Gawad Dangal ng Wika 2020 from *Komisyon sa Wikang Filipino*

Department of Filipino faculty member Prof. Imelda Pineda De Castro, Ph.D., and research associate of the Research Center for Culture, Arts and the Humanities was awarded the *Gawad Dangal ng Wika 2020* by the *Komisyon sa Wikang Filipino* (Commission on the Filipino Language), the sole government agency for language mandated to advocate the promotion, dissemination, and preservation of the Filipino language and other indigenous languages in the Philippines.

The *KWF Gawad Dangal ng Wika* is given to a distinct individual, organization, office or institution or a government or private agency that has made a significant contribution to the advancement, propagation, cultivation or preservation of the Filipino language and other indigenous Philippine languages in various disciplines or domains such as law, economics, philosophy, science and technology, social sciences, cultural studies, education and other branches of knowledge. The award was bestowed upon de Castro on September 21, 2020 through a virtual ceremony livestreamed via the official social media pages of KWF.

De Castro was recognized for her outstanding accomplishments in her 40-year career as an educator, researcher and administrator, which include her international publications on lexicography and cultural studies; authorship of textbooks on the teaching of basic Filipino for foreign learners; initiation of projects in UST that contributed to the intellectualization of the Filipino language such as the *Hasaan* National Conference, Jose Villa Panganiban Lecture Series, Jose Villa Panganiban Award, among others; and service as officer of national organizations in Filipino, such as being a member of the Executive Council of the National Committee on Language and Translation of the National Commission for Culture and the Arts from 2008-2012 and from 2017-present, and being a board member of the *Sanggunian sa Filipino* (SangFil).

Currently, de Castro also serves as the Editor of the *Hasaan* Journal, the official journal in Filipino of the University of Santo Tomas. The UST Department of Filipino, whose chair is Asst. Prof. Alvin Ringgo C. Reyes, is under the UST College of Education.



Poster of the Department of Filipino

## UST Alumni Association celebrates National Teachers' Month with College of Education Dean Pilar Romero

In celebration of Teachers' Month this October, the UST Alumni Association Inc. (UST AAI) and Carl Balita Review Center TV (CBRC.TV), presented "Values Education in the New Normal" on October 4, 2020, the day before World Teachers' Day.

For the first episode of CBRC.TV's series "Bridges," hosts radio personality Dr. Carl Balita, a Class of 1991 graduate of the University of Santo Tomas College of Nursing, and CEO and president of Dr. Carl E. Balita Review Center, and UST AAI President Dr. Evelyn A. Songco interviewed the special guest, UST College of Education Dean Pilar I. Romero, Ph.D.

Songco, also a graduate of the UST College of Education, stressed the timeliness of the topic of Values Education, saying that "With this flexible learning during this pandemic, the partnership between school and home was given more emphasis, especially because values formation really begins at home. The teacher accompanies [the students] in this journey and they will be partners

because values formation is always a 'work in progress.'"

Dean Romero added that, "We have been so bombarded with the idea of teaching our young people resilience. That has often been the emphasis now. But without hope, resilience is nothing. It is hope that we should be teaching them. We are in difficult times, but with hope, we know that this will not remain forever. When we say hope, it's not just 'waiting for good things to come,' but no. We are talking about active hope and teachers can impart this to their students if they themselves are positive and hopeful."

Upon being asked by Balita to share examples of how teachers can share this value with students, Dean Romero said that when she uploads materials for her students, she also includes greetings and small pep talks.

"In that way, you do not only talk to them about official or academic matters, you also talk to them about snippets of life and you can inject hope into your lesson. You maintain that positive stance

so you can also communicate that to your students. This is very different from the concept of toxic positivity [or the insistence on ineffective overgeneralization of a happy, optimistic state across all situations, which invalidates the range of authentic human emotional experiences]. No, we are aware that times are hard. We don't deny that. We just also trust that these will not last and there is a bright future ahead. It may not be now, but the certainty remains [that this will pass]," explained the Dean.

Balita, an educator, well-known entrepreneur and radio personality, agreed and recalled a lesson that was taught by Master of the Order of Preachers and UST Chancellor Very Rev. Fr. Gerard Francisco Timoner, III, O.P. in one of the talks he attended. "I learned from him that 'Hope is the radical refusal to believe in God's 'limited' power. With hope, we refuse that God's power has limits.'"

The full conversation is available on YouTube through this link: <https://youtu.be/bfjqzqF1RgE>



Dr. Romero (center, lower photo) and program hosts Dr. Balita (left) and Dr. Songco

## Two UST Graduate School alumni are 2020 Gregorio Zara awardees for Basic, Applied Science



[Photo courtesy of the DOST-PH Facebook page]

Two graduates of the University of Santo Tomas Graduate School (USTGS) Dr. Jonel P. Saludes and Dr. Annabelle V. Briones, received the Gregorio Zara award at a ceremony held during the 69th Philippine Association for the Advancement of Science and Technology (PhilaAST) Convention organized by the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) and National Academy of Science and Technology (NAST).

The theme for the 2020 Annual meeting was “Science, Technology and Innovation as Drivers of Growth in the Regions.” This year’s convention was livestreamed via DOSTph Facebook from September 9 to 11, 2020.

In recognition of his contribution to the chemical biology of natural products from organisms and synthetic peptides for the detection of nanoparticles taking part in cell signaling and cancer metastasis, Dr. Jonel P. Saludes was awarded the 2020 Gregorio Y. Zara Award for Basic Science. Saludes graduated *Summa Cum Laude* in 2000 with a degree in MS Chemistry. He is currently

a Professor of Chemistry and Associate Vice President – Office of the Research and Global Relations of the University of San Agustin in Iloilo City.

Meanwhile, Department of Science and Technology–Industrial Technology Development Institute (ITDI) Director Dr. Annabelle V. Briones, is this year’s recipient of the 2020 Gregorio Y. Zara Award for Applied Science.

Briones is known for her role in the development of mosquito ovicidal/larvicidal trap system eventually helping in the reduction of Dengue cases in the country. She is also responsible for the design and prototyping of salt-processing equipment that included an evaporator set-up, washer, and iodizer which assisted the MSMEs to provide adequate supply of iodized salt that complied with the ASIN Law. She also conducted studies on utilization of carrageenan in drug and gene delivery systems serving as anti-bacterial coating for biomaterial surface. Briones earned her MS in Chemistry degree in 1993.

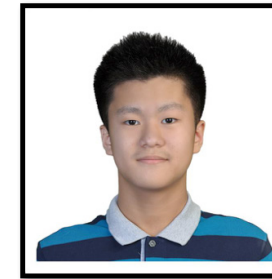
## UST Med Tech students emerge champions in PAMET, PASMETH First Virtual National Quiz show

The University of Santo Tomas (UST) Faculty of Pharmacy Department of Medical Technology set a milestone in the recently concluded First Virtual National Quiz show spearheaded by the PAMET and PASMETH during its 48th Medical Technology Week Celebration. It was held on September 25, 2020 via Zoom. A three-peat back-to-back champion since 2018, UST has been consistently demonstrating academic excellence among the different schools of Medical Technology nationwide.

Justin Victor G. Ang received the Special award having been the top scorer among all competing students. The whole team received a cash prize, trophy, medals and certificates apart from the Key of Excellence that is awarded to the champion school.

This year’s team is composed of 4th year students who hurdled a tough screening process and interview: Justine Victor G. Ang, Alain Kenny N. Chong, Natalie Regina K. Cu and Daphne Sophia T. Javellana. Seventeen schools participated and aimed for the much coveted Key of Excellence.

The UST team is headed by Dr. Gregorio L. Martin along with other coaches, Dr. Edilberto Manahan, Asst. Prof. Alvin Rey Flores, Mr. Clarenz Concepcion, Mr. Earl Adriane Cano and Ms. Diana Mendoza. Former PAMET winners helped the team by conducting coaching sessions.



Justin Victor G. Ang



Alain Kenny N. Chong



Daphne Sophia T. Javellana



Natalie Regina K. Cu



Dr. Gregorio L. Martin  
(Head Coach)



# LECTURES AND CONFERENCES

## UST Graduate School 2nd Postgraduate e-Forum on Adult Education tackles role of family literacy in meeting SDGs



Event poster

The Family Literacy Team of the University of Santo Tomas hosted its 2nd e-Forum on Adult Education on September 17, 2020, via Zoom. The forum theme was "Families and sustainable communities: The role of family literacy in meeting the SDGs."

The e-forum which is now second in the series was in response to the need to break barriers between formal, non-formal and informal learning contexts, specifically to support the learning that takes place at home and in the community. The program opened with welcome messages from the International Promoter of the Justice and Peace and Integrity of Creation (JIPC) of the Dominican Sisters International (DSI), Rome, Italy Sr. Cecilia Espenilla, O.P., and from the UST Graduate School Assistant Dean Prof. Camilla Vizconde, Ph.D.

This was followed by the talk by Dr. Ulrike Hanemann titled 'Promising experiences of intergenerational approaches to literacy teaching and learning at the international level.' She emphasized the need to make

learning relevant and useful for adult learners through integrated programs, such as embedding literacy and numeracy, or linking the program with social and health services.

Hanemann also added that learning through community-oriented projects, recruiting facilitators from the learners' community, and choosing topics in collaboration with local communities are promising strategies in the development of adult literacy. Hanemann is an International Consultant and Former Senior Programme Specialist of the UNESCO Institute for Lifelong Learning (UIL), Hamburg, Germany.

The program included presentations from three speakers from different institutions who, through their research and experiences, have integrated adult literacy, family learning and community development into their projects. They discussed that the concept of family must go beyond biological determination. It must expand its definition to the social context of families, and look into the aspect of gender, environmental, ecological, and indigenous practices to address learning within sustainable communities.

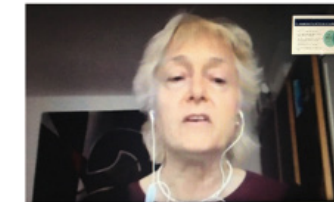
The members of the panel were Prof. Sushan Acharya, Ph.D., Professor of Education from Tribhuvan University, Kirtipur, Kathmandu, Nepal; Ms. May Cinco, National Coordinator of E-Net Philippines; and Christopher Millora, Chairperson of the British Association for Literacy in Development (BALID) and PhD Scholar to the UNESCO Chair in Adult Literacy and Learning for Social Transformation, University of East Anglia, Norwich, United Kingdom.

The closing remarks were delivered by UST Vice Rector for Research and Innovation Prof. Maribel G. Nonato, Ph.D.



e-Forum participants

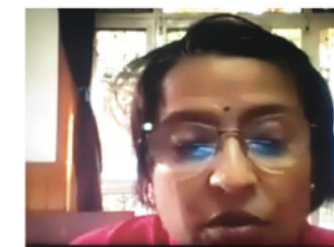
### E-FORUM ON ADULT EDUCATION FROM PAGE 12



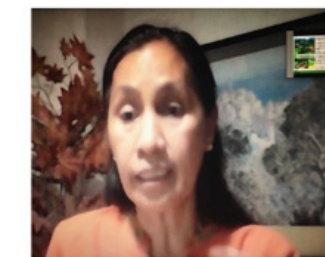
Dr. Ulrike Hanemann



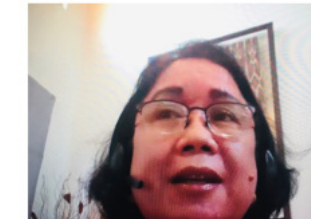
Mr. Christopher Millora



Dr. Sushan Acharya



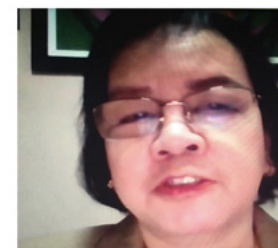
Ms. May Cinco



Prof. Maribel G. Nonato, Ph.D.



Prof. Camilla Vizconde, Ph.D.



Prof. Belinda de Castro, Ph.D.



Sr. Cecilia Espenilla, O.P.

The online activities spearheaded by the team were funded by the Global Challenges Research Funds (GCRF) which was awarded to Asst. Prof. Gina Lontoc, Ph.D. and Prof. Vizconde, for the research project titled, Family literacy and sustainable development: how can we build on indigenous intergenerational learning? A total of 112 participants from the UK, Nepal, Vietnam, Myanmar, Italy, Germany, Taiwan, and the Philippines attended this online event.

The University of Santo Tomas Graduate School, in partnership with the Asia-Pacific Dominican Promoters of Justice, Peace & Care of Creation, the UST Research Center for Social Sciences and Education (RCSSSE) and the UNESCO Chair in Adult Literacy and Learning for Social Transformation at the University of East Anglia, organized this event with the aim to provide educational opportunities to families and communities in vulnerable situations.

### E-FORUM ON ADULT EDUCATION TO PAGE 13



## Authorship analysis takes center stage in UST Dept. of English webinar on Forensic Linguistics



Webinar poster

Dr. Shaomin Zhang of Guangdong University of Foreign Studies in China lectured on Authorship Analysis: Categories, Methods, and Pilot Studies for the second installment of the Webinar Series on Forensic Linguistics organized by the UST Department of English. This was held on September 17, 2020 via Zoom and streamed on the UST Department of English Facebook page.

Zhang's lecture focused on authorship attribution analysis and her pilot study's preliminary results in China. She also discussed the excellent work of linguists on several criminal cases in the United Kingdom that eventually led to the International Association of Forensic Linguistics' foundation in 1993. Zhang presented the case of other countries where forensic linguists or experts on authorship analysis are sought as expert witnesses in court procedures in legal cases.



Dr. Zhang

According to UST Department of English Department Chair Prof. Rachele B. Lintao, Ph.D., who also acted as Moderator of the Open Forum, more than 500 participants from 19 different countries joined the webinar including those from the USA, Germany, England, Australia and the Channel Islands.

## Oandasan of Arts & Letters introduces linguistic schoolscape as tool for critical language awareness

What is a linguistic schoolscape? How can it promote critical language awareness?

These questions were answered by Faculty of Arts and Letters mentor Dr. Richard L. Oandasan from the Department of English when he delivered a special lecture titled "Linguistic Schoolscape: A Potential Pedagogical Tool for Increasing Critical Language Awareness" via Zoom on September 28, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.

Oandasan explained that the linguistic schoolscape is the language usually found in signs such as posters in public spaces within some 600-meter perimeter range from a particular school. These signs can be used as learning materials in language classes and since they manifest language in its actual use, language learners can be asked questions that provoke critical

OANDASAN TO PAGE 17



Dr. Oandasan (top row, leftmost) interacts with participants.

# COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

## Thomasian community development in new normal: maximizing people and technology



Romer Peñamora from the Agricultural Training Institute speaks on urban/backyard gardening in an online sustainability seminar. [Photo courtesy of the UST SIMBAHAYAN Facebook page]

The one good thing that happened during the pandemic was the outpouring of assistance to and compassion for vulnerable communities and the less privileged members of the society. This act of altruism and selflessness has become more noticeable and amplified by and through media. The innate goodness of man shared gave birth to more narratives of people uplifting the lives of other people in different communities in various forms. In the meantime, the Filipinos had to continue with their lives, amidst COVID. And so did the education of the youth that had been reshaped by the pandemic and redesigned to become online, virtual, blended or modular, as the case may be.

With this set-up, and with the minimum protocols set by government to protect the people from further contamination, not to mention disallowing assemblies, one could not help but ask how would community development activities proceed in this kind of new normal?

Thomasian Community Development efforts aim to foster warm and genuinely responsive partnerships, so in times where

the general directive is to literally keep our distance and student activities are confined to computer-based activities, academic or otherwise, and access to digital connectivity is still a privilege, SIMBAHAYAN's mission of empowering partner communities and at-risk sectors will now have to take on a different form.

As the new UST SIMBAHAYAN Director, Asst. Prof. Froilan Alipao, affirms, "At present, amid the COVID-19 pandemic, we will continue our mission, commitment, and concrete expressions of love and solidarity with our partners through blended strategies. Meaning, we will maximize the presence of people and technology. We will support our partners to have resources to advance our connectivity with other partners for enriched collaborations and partnerships. The vital requirement for this is to sustain the development process of our paradigm and ways of doing things amid our pandemic challenges toward a better normal."

The University shifted to the "Enhanced Virtual Mode" of learning this August and is not holding classes in campus, but rather

online. With faculty members and students both teaching and learning from home, Alipao remains confident that "there are many opportunities that will open to all stakeholders of the University, not only for the students and faculty members but to administrators and academic support offices as well. This is mutual for all stakeholders and can be blended and coordinated."

Alipao, who has served twice as Assistant Director of UST's community development arm, has been with the office since 2002. He clarified that "We are continuing our community development and advocacy engagements from the part of UST SIMBAHAYAN, community development coordinators and team members representing the academic units, and student organizations through remote/digital technology."

"Partner communities also continue their different development programs depending on their local context (urban poor communities, rural communities, and indigenous communities), resources, and creativity. We open the processes of conceptualizing, developing, implementing, and evaluating community development and advocacy projects by including the remote and digital approaches," he explained.

### SIMBAHAYAN projects prior to the pandemic

Prior to the pandemic, the SIMBAHAYAN Office, in collaboration with the academic units, developed social transformation programs and projects to deliver further coordinated community engagement and advocacy projects such as Pistang Tomas, Dunong Tomas, AlerTomas, and Siglang Tomas. The National Service Training Program (NSTP) has also been an avenue for both

### THOMASIAN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT TO PAGE 16



**THOMASIAN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FROM PAGE 15**

academic and service learning. Another was the formation and organization of Samahang Kamanlalakbay, a community-based umbrella organization of all partner communities of UST in terms of community development. With these engagements, the University was recognized by different institutions and accrediting bodies, one of which was Quacquarelli Symonds (QS), which awarded a five-star recognition to UST for Social Responsibility in 2017.

“We are not working solely to attain [accolades], but this will go with the actual process of developing programs and working with our partners. As a Catholic and Pontifical University of the Philippines, we are guided by Gospel-truths, foundations, tradition, identity, vision, and mission. As a Higher Educational Institution (HEI), we are mandated to develop and implement community extension. We will continue to be conscious of the inclusion of Sustainable Development Goals and *Laudato Si* challenges in all our programs and engagements. The processes and standards will be sustained in the next phases of UST SIMBAHAYAN,” shared Alipao. UST’s community service office is under the office of the Vice Rector for Religious Affairs, Rev. Fr. Pablo T. Tiong, O.P.

“Still, there are a lot of practices [in Thomasian community development] that we are most proud of,” Alipao continued, saying that “I think the key to our community development and advocacy programs is our partnership with communities and institutions. They are partners and not beneficiaries. The learning and development are mutual and dynamic in partnership.”

Since the beginning of the academic year, SIMBAHAYAN has organized a number of webinars on various topics, such as household sustainability, backyard farming, *botika sa paso* (medicinal potted plants) in partnership with the *Inang Lupa* Movement and the Agricultural Training Institute; zero waste living and the papal encyclical *Laudato Si* with the Dominican Family for Justice, Peace, and Care for Creation – Philippines (DFJPPC), and the Fellowship for the Care of Creation Association Inc. (FCCA).

Recently, rice subsidy and relief distribution were also initiated by the office through Tulong Tomasino, where 500



Community leaders from Brgy. Sibulan, Laguna receive sacks of rice. [Photo courtesy of the UST SIMBAHAYAN Facebook page]

sacks of rice were distributed to 22 partner communities.

**Plans: strengthen and institutionalize service-learning**

After being appointed director, Alipao shared his goals for SIMBAHAYAN: “The very first consideration is how we will respond during this pandemic and to the complex realities of our partner communities and society at large. Another is to develop and strengthen the Family and Household Development program and projects. This will be integrated into the on-going programs and with partner communities.”

“We are targeting to strengthen and institutionalize service-learning in the university as additional potential space and opportunities for enriched and developed community engagements in phases,” Alipao mentioned.

Asst. Prof. Froilan “Ka-Puroy” A. Alipao is a development worker, educator and a researcher with communities and community leaders. He initiated his development work in 1991 with the Social Action Center of Zambales (SACZ) of the Diocese of Iba in the midst of the impact of Mt. Pinatubo’s eruption where he was able to enrich his engagement in different socio-pastoral work designations/functions



Asst. Prof. Alipao

(disaster response worker; community organizer; justice, peace, and Alay Kapwa) with the sectors of farmers, urban poor, fisher folks, women, youth, students, indigenous peoples and Church peoples.

In 2002, Ka Puroy joined the University of Santo Tomas, specifically the office then known as the UST-Office for Community Development (OCD) prior to the quadricentennial celebration of UST. It was at that point when it was merged with UST SIMBAHAYAN 400 and became the UST SIMBAHAYAN Community Development Office.

“For (18) years now, I have been working and have been involved in this office. Community development is my life, passion, and mission. It is my way of life,” shared Alipao.

# ARTS AND CULTURE

## UST-CCCPET holds forum on planned demolition of heritage structures in Manila

The University of Santo Tomas Graduate School-Center for Conservation of Cultural Property and Environment in the Tropics (USTGS-CCCPET) held on September 15, 2020 a forum among heritage stakeholders coming from various institutions and concerned groups streamed live via the center’s Facebook page.

The forum discussed the controversial planned demolition of the Philamlife Theater on United Nations Avenue and the Old Sunico House in San Nicolas both located in Manila. Completed in 1961, the Philamlife Building in International Style architectural gem designed by Architect Carlos Arguelles, the dean of the UST School of Architecture from 1954 to 1959. The Sunico House, meanwhile was built in the 19th century and housed the foundry of Hilario Sunico, the famed bell caster of the late 19th to early 20th centuries.

Sunico produced more than 180 bells for churches in the country, which are still being used today. Both structures are going to be demolished as approved by national cultural agencies to give way to new development.

USTGS-CCCPET Director Dr. Eric B. Zerrudo said the forum served as an academe- industry linkage which seeks to set examples on discussions on heritage issues in the country.

Erik Akpedonu of Ateneo de Manila University presented the significance of the Old Sunico House while architectural scholar Lorelei de Viana presented the importance of the said edifice. The heritage contexts of both structures was meanwhile presented by researcher and journalist EA Sembrano, an alumnus of the cultural heritage studies program of the UST Graduate School.

The forum was attended by a

number of concerned groups and academic institutions all over the country. Among those that attended were the Philippine Institute of Interior Design, Philippine Institute of Architects, Council of Interior Design Education, Heritage Conservation Society ICOMOS Philippines, Escuela Taller, Tropiks Design, Vigan Conservation Council, Iloilo’s Coalition of the Willing, and *Grupo Kalinangan*, among others.

Representatives of schools such as Mapúa University, University of Santo Tomas, University of San Carlos Cebu, University of Mindanao, National University, La Consolacion University Negros also attended the online heritage conservation event. These groups gave their sides on both buildings and heritage conservation in general, stressing the importance for the preservation of these historic structures.

**OANDASAN FROM PAGE 14**

thinking, whether the questions are on the content or the grammar of the sign or poster.

The lecture tackled the gap of linguistic schoolscape in increasing critical language awareness and promoting language development in a Philippine public elementary school. His study showed that linguistic schoolscape is a dynamic space for language learners that can be fully optimized in language classes. His work also presented that linguistic schoolscape has a great potential to tackle issues of inequality, gender, and discrimination at schools.

The special lecture, which is part of the Department’s faculty development program, was opened to other participants aside from the faculty members of the Department of English. Non-Thomasian participants were from the different parts of the country like Surigao, Rizal, and Bataan, from both government and private institutions. Asst. Prof. Michelle Desierto moderated the webinar.

**LECTURES AND CONFERENCES**

UNIVERSITY OF SANTO TOMAS  
FACULTY OF ARTS AND LETTERS  
Department of English  
Faculty Development  
Special Lecture Series  
"Linguistic Schoolscape: A Potential Pedagogical Tool for Increasing Critical Language Awareness"  
Dr. Richard L. Oandasan  
September 28, 2020  
6:00-7:00 PM  
via Google Meet

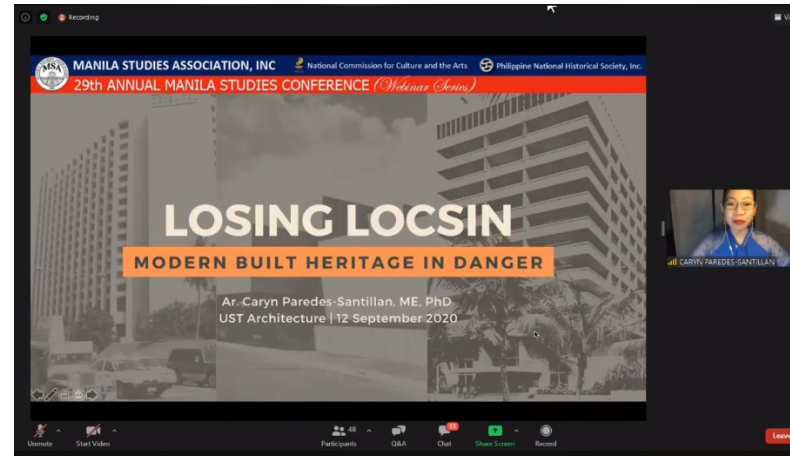
Webinar poster



## Santillan of Architecture presents paper on Leandro Locsin's 'lost works' at Manila Studies Conference



Event poster from the Manila Studies Association Facebook page



Ar. Santillan during her presentation.

In light of the numerous issues and threats toward modern built heritage in the Philippines, University of Santo Tomas (UST) faculty member Ar. Caryn Paredes-Santillan, Ph.D., presented her research paper, "Losing Locsin: Modern built heritage in danger," during the Manila Studies Association (MSA) 29th Annual Manila Studies Conference held via Zoom on September 12, 2020.

The MSA Webinar series was held on September 12, 19, and 26, 2020, co-hosted by the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA) and the Philippine National Historical Society. The event was held through Zoom and was aired live on their Facebook page. This year's conference centered on three main themes: Manila's Built Heritage, Manila's History and Culture, and Manila during and after World War II and featured speakers such as EA Sembrano, Santillan, Timothy James Vitales, Rodio Batayen, Martin

Gaerlan, Mary Josefti Nito, Marcelino Macapinlac, Jr. and Kinna Mae Kwan.

In her presentation, Santillan, a Research Associate of the Center for Conservation of Cultural Property and Environment in the Topics of the UST Graduate School, reviewed three 'lost' works of the 1990 National Artist for Architecture Leandro V. Locsin, namely: Ayala Museum, Hyatt Regency Hotel, and Mandarin Oriental Manila. She discussed her analysis of their object form and spatial form and how this data could be utilized to derive the significance of the buildings. She further underscored the importance of the academe taking an active role in conservation, as we are losing important buildings despite them being protected under the Philippine Heritage Act of 2009 or the R.A. 10066.

Architect Leandro V. Locsin, the subject of Santillan's research, is a celebrated alumnus of the UST College

of Architecture from batch 1953. Locsin's architectural genius has produced designs for residences and buildings, churches and chapels, public and commercial buildings, major hotels, and an airport terminal building.

One of Locsin's most famous works is the Cultural Center of the Philippines Complex which includes the Cultural Center of the Philippines, Folk Arts Theater, Philippine International Convention Center, Philcote, and the Westin Hotel (now Sofitel Philippine Plaza). He is also known for the Istana Nurul Iman, the palace of the Sultan of Brunei, a massive single work with a floor area of 2.2 million square feet.

The proceedings of the papers presented during the webinar series will be published in "Manila," the official publication of the MSA. Editors of this annual journal include Ar. Lorelei D.C. de Viana Ph.D., a faculty member of UST College of Architecture, and Dr. Marya Svetlana T. Camacho, Ph.D.

The presentation can be viewed through this link: <https://web.facebook.com/118544369976497/videos/336688937530753/> Santillan's presentation is from 1:31:00 to 2:01:00.

## Roldan of Music holds interactive NAMCYA webinar on part-singing for choirs



Roldan during her online workshop

Conservatory of Music faculty member Maria Theresa Vizconde-Roldan, Ph.D., conducted an interactive online workshop via Zoom on September 22, 2020. The workshop was "Groundwork for Part-Singing." Her talk was part of the "Tingog sa Paglaum (Sounds of Hope)" webinar series organized by the National Music Competitions for Young Artists Foundation, Inc. (NAMCYA) and the National Commission for Culture and the Arts.

NAMCYA President and UST Conservatory of Music faculty member Assoc. Prof. Renato B. Lucas, Ph.D., in his opening remarks,

shared that "We hope that these web seminars will enrich not just musicianship, but reinforce our faith in the value of our art, especially in these trying times."

"Among the many aspects of choral singing like voice training and music literacy, developing the part singing skill of a choir is also essential," emphasized Roldan, who has worked with children's choirs for 21 years now.

For conductors and trainers, she recommended integrating fun and engaging activities that will supplement the part-singing exercises in a developmental approach, because the gamification eases the learning of young choristers without them noticing.

Roldan, who teaches with the Choral Conducting Department, is the conductor of the internationally acclaimed and multi-awarded Hail Mary the Queen Children's Choir, the first-ever Children's Choir of the World winner at the Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod in North Wales, United Kingdom.

Roldan also serves as conductor for the Young Voices of the Philippines and Kantabella. She teaches Music Education, Conducting and Large Ensemble Class at the University of Santo Tomas (UST) Conservatory of Music, where she finished both her Bachelor of Music and Masters of Arts in Choral Conducting degrees.

The 90-minute webinar was made publicly available for viewing on YouTube the day after it was held: <https://youtu.be/ZUWUOiKxi2U>.

## PHOTO NEWS

### Obiena succeeds over world's best pole vaulters in Czech Republic; records new season best in Rome

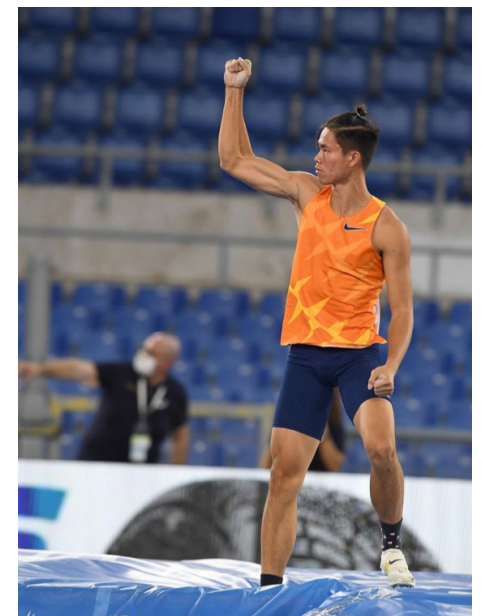
The ace Thomasian pole vaulter EJ Obiena beat some of the world's best in the 59th Ostrava Golden Spike Tournament in Czech Republic with a 5.74 meter jump in his first attempt on September 8.

The 24-year old Obiena, the first Filipino athlete to qualify for the 2020 Tokyo Olympics which has been re-scheduled for next year due to the COVID pandemic, won over the 2012 Olympics gold medalist Renaud Lavillenie of France who bagged silver, the 2017 World Champion Sam

Kendricks from the USA who got bronze, and the 2016 Rio de Janeiro Olympics gold medalist Thiago Braz who ranked fourth.

"Thank you, God, for the long-awaited win. I offer this to Your given grace. Truly grateful for the gold medal win at the 59th Ostrava Golden Spike Tournament held at the Czech Republic, against the world's bests in pole vault. Thank you, Philippines! Truly proud to represent you," posted Obiena on social media.

**OBIENA TO PAGE 20**



Obiena in winning form in Rome [Photo courtesy of EJ Obiena's Facebook page]



**OBIENA FROM PAGE 19**

Weeks later, on September 18, 2020, Obiena recorded his new season best of 5.80 meters and won bronze in the 2020 Rome Diamond League.

The Rome competition is Obiena's sixth podium finish in eight tournaments since he started his 2020 season in August 2020. He has ended his season with a total of one gold, two silver, and three bronze medals. This includes his third place finish at the 2020 Poznań Athletics Grand Prix at Poznań, Poland on September 12, 2020.

In September 2019, Obiena first set the Philippines' new national record of 5.81 meters, still his personal best, by winning gold in Italy, making it his ticket to the Tokyo Olympics. He is an Electronics Engineering student of the Faculty of Engineering but is on official leave of absence to pursue his training in Italy.



Obiena attempts his jump in Czech Republic. [Photo courtesy of E] Obiena's Facebook page]

# BOARD TOPNOTCHERS



## Physician Licensure Examination

March and September 2020

UST Passing Rate (Overall Performance): 86.96%  
 UST Passing Rate (First-time Examinees): 85.71%  
 National Passing Rate: 56.18%



2nd – 88.00%  
John Marlon Bunag Lintan



7th – 87.08%  
Erika Anne Cabildo Pañgan

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