

## United Board Fellows Program 2016-2017

*Profiles are listed by the order of last name.*

### **Annie Abraham**

Women's Christian College, India

*"Good leaders make decisions collectively, using power of influence rather than power of position."*

Annie received her MPhil and PhD from Cochin University of Science and Technology, India, specializing in applied economics. She is currently lecturing in the Department of Corporate Economics at Women's Christian College (WCC), where she has served since 2005. In 2015, Annie took on the post of dean of academic affairs at WCC, where she is chiefly responsible for the curriculum direction of the college and supervises the current academic assessment and evaluation process for the college. She also serves as the coordinator of the American Transfer Program between WCC and Concordia College, New York. Prior to her current role, Annie was heavily involved in the college's service-learning and extension activities and focused on connecting students to opportunities to serve the local community. Annie plans to further develop the college's curriculum and evaluation system and looks forward to her interaction with the Fellows so as to gain a comparative perspective.



### **Juliet Dalagan**

Xavier University, Philippines

*"I consider my role as a leader to be a God-given mission."*

Juliet holds a PhD in chemistry from Ateneo de Manila University (Philippines) and has a wide range of international experience, having worked as a visiting scientist and researcher in Taiwan, the United States, and Japan. She has been with Xavier University for 20 years and currently serves as associate professor within the Chemistry department. She also is dean of the College of Arts and Sciences where, among other tasks, she is responsible for the university's efforts to strengthen research capacity. Juliet believes that good leadership is the means to motivate "a group of people to achieve the mission, vision, and goals" of their institution. As the Philippine higher education situation continues to shift, she hopes to



further increase her understanding of leadership development and team building. She expects to expand her perspective on Christian leadership as a United Board Fellow. No matter how busy she is, Juliet takes time to do Zumba and enjoys watching drama series.

**Francisco Nirmala Gnanapragasam**  
Stella Maris College, India

*“The process of education should cross boundaries and positively impact the student community in ways that will support whole person education.”*

Sister Nirmala holds an MS and MPhil. in physics from Madurai Kamaraj University, India and is currently completing her PhD at the University of Madras, with a specialization in the area of nanotechnology. A faculty member at Stella Maris College since 2004, Sister Nirmala serves as assistant professor focusing on the areas of quantum mechanics, astrophysics, and mathematical physics, among other concentrations. She has also is dean of student affairs since 2015, a role in which she can apply her approach to whole person education and her desire to “build bridges between learning and living”.



**Junjie He**  
Shaanxi Normal University, China

*“A good leader in higher education, first of all, has to be able to provide academic freedom.”*

Junjie holds a PhD in applied linguistics and is currently associatedean of the School of Foreign Languages at Shaanxi Normal University. He was a visiting researcher in phonology at the University of Connecticut in the United States from 2012-2013. He started his academic career in 1993 as an assistant teacher right after college, and was promoted to professorship in 2011. In his current role, Junjie oversees undergraduate teaching, which includes undergraduate curriculum and syllabus design, international and domestic undergraduate exchange programs, and teaching-related research projects. Through the United Board Fellows Program, Junjie hopes to assume greater administrative responsibility and become efficient in organizing, administration, and teaching.



## **Tu Hkawn**

Kachin Theological College and Seminary, Myanmar

*"As a leader, we need to transform our old way of thinking."*

Tu Hkawn is uniquely experienced in the areas of conflict resolution, peacebuilding, and religious studies, having had academic preparation in Myanmar, Singapore, and the United States. He holds an MA in conflict transformation and peacebuilding (Eastern Mennonite University, United States), MMin (Trinity Theological College, Singapore), and MDiv (Myanmar Institute of Theology, Myanmar). He has served as an instructor at Kachin Theological College and Seminary for 17 years and is currently associate dean, and leads the development of KTCS's Liberal Arts Program. An active community peacebuilding advocate, he believes that education can lead to "social transformation" and hopes to encourage students to participate in peacebuilding and reconciliation efforts in Myanmar.



## **Iven Jose**

Christ University, India

*"Evolving hands-on experience to a globe full of challenges"*

Iven received his PhD in 2008 from the Indian Institute of Technology (Mumbai) with a focus in the areas of electrical engineering and biosciences and bioengineering. He serves as associate dean of the Faculty of Engineering and associate professor in the Department of Electronics and Communication Engineering at Christ University since 2011. Under his leadership, Christ University has developed nearly 40 new laboratories and several research facilities specializing in photonics, automation, and advanced materials testing, among other areas. Iven is an accomplished researcher; he has filed a patent for his work in detecting early stage breast cancer and he has presented his research both in India and abroad. At the Faculty of Engineering, he has been instrumental in initiating several national and international projects and collaboration. Iven looks forward to opportunities to network with other administrators and researchers in the Fellows Program and to learn different paradigms for leadership and research.



## **Khin Nyan Linn**

University of Mandalay, Myanmar

*"My immediate goal is to produce outstanding students who have a good attitude, leadership, and a team spirit."*

Khin received her PhD in theoretical nuclear physics from the University of Frankfurt (Germany) and has served as a lecturer at the University of Mandalay since 2011. She has had extensive preparation in nuclear physics and electrical engineering, first in Myanmar, then abroad, and desires to diversify the means through which students are educated in Myanmar. She is particularly interested in dynamic methods of pedagogy and looks forward to assisting with curriculum development in the future. Khin hopes to be exposed to best practices of leadership and management in the Asian context so as to prepare her for future academic leadership roles in Myanmar.



## **Le Hoang Dung**

University of Social Sciences & Humanities, Vietnam National University (Ho Chi Minh City), Vietnam

*"A leader with a real heart of love and devotion toward the advancement of the institution will definitely figure out ways to solve problems."*

Dung is the current dean of the Faculty of English Linguistics & Literature at the University of Social Sciences & Humanities. He is a proud United Board alumnus, having received his PhD in educational leadership and management from De La Salle University-Manila (Philippines) through the United Board Faculty Scholarship Program. In addition to his role as dean, Dung serves as vice director of the Institute of University Governance of Vietnam National University-Ho Chi Minh, where he oversees the university's leadership programs. He has been active in organizing both international and local conferences. Dung recently convened a forum designed to discuss the relationship between internationalization and quality assurance in higher education. He looks forward to enriching his experience in leadership as a United Board Fellow.



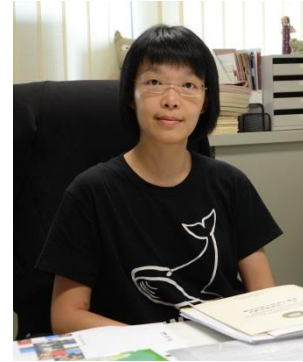
## **Amy Lee**

Hong Kong Baptist University, Hong Kong

*“Good leadership in higher education includes sensitivity, understanding, and trust, and decisiveness.”*

Amy holds a PhD in comparative literature from the University of Warwick in the United Kingdom. She is an associate professor at the Department of Humanities and Creative Writing at Hong Kong Baptist University, and the founding program director for Liberal and Cultural Studies since 2009.

Under her leadership, the program has admitted high caliber students, and become academically strong with a creative curriculum. It was accredited as an Honors Degree Program in 2014. Amy is a firm believer in whole person education, and she would like to play a more substantial role in university administration through enhancing communication among the university’ academic, administrative, and supporting units.



## **Roche Magsayo**

Southern Christian College, Philippines

*“Good leadership in a higher education institution is measured based on what impact and transformation was made by the institution to the community.”*

Currently the dean of computer studies at Southern Christian College (SCC), Roche was an early proponent for the use of a local learner management system within SCC, the use of which continues to this day and has expanded to most of SCC’s faculty. Roche’s MS in information technology) equipped him to serve as a key individual in the founding of SCC’s Information Technology Service Unit (ITSU), which oversees all IT-related matters for the institution. He sees the United Board Fellows Program as a way of aiding both his institution and local government units in providing academic content in simple and accessible ways.



**Dave Marcial**

Silliman University, Philippines

*"Higher education leadership is a ministry to demonstrate, to discover, and to serve. A good leader is the one who can predict the unpredictable changes in higher education!"*

Dave earned a PhD in educational management from Silliman University (Philippines) with specialization in the area of technology integration in higher education. He has served as Silliman University's dean of the College of Computer Studies for a total eight years, during which time he led the establishment of Silliman Online University Learning, the Master in Information Systems Program, as well as the integration of service-learning into Silliman's computer studies programs. During his time in the Fellows Program, Dave hopes to gain new perspectives on research leadership and administration, organizational structure, and educational management from a multicultural perspective, as well as a deeper understanding of the theory and practice of whole person education in other universities. Dave enjoys watching animation and cartoon movies.

**Nguyen Ho Hoang Thuy**

Hue University College of Foreign Languages, Vietnam

*"You must be able to equip yourself with relevant professional knowledge in order to inspire support staff to follow you."*

Thuy completed her MA and PhD in applied linguistics from the University of Queensland (Australia) and is the current head of the Testing and Education Quality Assurance Department at Hue University College of Foreign Languages. She has been with the university since 2000 and in her current capacity also teaches a number of courses within the university's English Department. She is involved in the university's efforts to integrate eLearning and computer-based testing into the curriculum and is navigating the process of ensuring that the new curriculum is paired with new pedagogy. Thuy hopes to explore how educational systems in other Asian countries developed after long periods of war or conflict.



## **Felix Pasila**

Petra Christian University, Indonesia

*“Assessment of vision, effective interpersonal communication, and creative thinking are three qualities of leadership that should be stated and done by leaders of higher education.”*

Felix holds a PhD in robotics and automation from the University of Bologna (Italy) with specialization in the area of artificial intelligence. He is conversant in four languages (Bahasa, English, German, and Italian). In addition to his role as lecturer of electrical engineering, he is head of Petra Christian University's Research Office and head of its Intellectual Property Office. He is keen to learn best practices for developing an internationally recognized engineering department and enrich his academic and research pursuits. He is also co-founder of the Estinnovation Society for researchers in the area of engineering, active on the editorial board of journals; and a member of as the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) Young Professionals, IEEE Communications Society, IEEE Robotics & Automation Society, and IEEE Computational Intelligence Society.



## **Rith Sam Ol**

Royal University of Phnom Penh, Cambodia

*“A leader should have a clear vision and strategies to develop an institution, while appreciating and encouraging innovation, participation, and diversity of thoughts.”*

Sam Ol comes from a diverse academic background with an emphasis on education, tourism development, and the environment. She received her PhD in environment from Simon Fraser University (Canada), with specialization in environmental governance and community development. Sam Ol is a senior lecturer at the Royal University of Phnom Penh and is also the co-founder of Harmony Alternative Vacation and Education (HAVE), a student-led enterprise that promotes quality innovation, collaboration, green performance, and community development in Cambodia's tourism industry. Sam Ol is interested in ways to educate proficient business leaders and managers with integrity, compassion, and social conscience, as well as alternative programs that help students learn responsible entrepreneurship and develop practical strategies to tackle real-world challenges. She hope sto acquire the tools necessary to develop such programs at RUPP through the Fellows Program. Sam Ol enjoys reading, listening to soft music, and organizing programs and events that combine educational and recreational themes.



**Nichanan Sakolvieng**  
Assumption University, Thailand

*“A good leader not only rallies people to achieve common goals, but also inspires people to uplift their performance and go beyond their limitations.”*

Nichanan received her PhD in organizational management from the University of New South Wales (Australia) and is currently a full-time lecturer at Assumption University, a post she has held since 2001. In addition to this role, Nichanan also supports the university’s Internal Quality Assurance Committee. She looks forward to the level of exposure that the United Board Fellows Program will offer her to different cultures and leadership styles and believes that this program will help her prepare for larger administrative roles in the future.



**Marcella Elwina Simandjuntak**  
Soegijapranata Catholic University, Indonesia

*“The growth of international programs is evidence of the increasing awareness of the need for quality education with a global perspective.”*

Marcella is a legal scholar and current vice rector for cooperation and development at Soegijapranata Catholic University, Indonesia. She received her PhD in criminal law at Diponegoro University (Indonesia) with research interests in the areas of criminology, child protection law, and corruption, among other areas. Prior to her role as vice rector, Marcella served as vice dean for student affairs as well as head of SCU’s Centre for Women Studies. She is deeply involved with Indonesia’s national Anti-Corruption and Integrity Education efforts and is an advocate for integrity education within Indonesia. Having experienced training abroad in Europe and Australia, Marcella anticipates the opportunity to “increase and enhance” her leadership understanding through placement in the Asian context. She is half Javanese and half Czech. She enjoys travelling, gourmet food, and making new friends.





## **Ton Quang Cuong**

University of Education, Vietnam National University (Hanoi), Vietnam

*“In the new context of educational reform in Vietnam, new leadership vision, new thinking and skills are crucial to teacher education.”*

Cuong received scholarships to study in Russia for his undergraduate through PhD studies. He received his PhD in philology and has developed expertise in the area of teacher education and the integration of technology into the curriculum. He is particularly interested in e-learning and blended learning as well as ICT in educational management and professional development. He is currently dean of the Faculty of Teacher Education at University of Education, Vietnam National University. He has been with the university for over 15 years.



## **Sheilla Trajera**

University of St. La Salle, Philippines

*“A good higher education leader considers each member of an educational institution an important player in achieving institutional goals and serves as an effective communicator, socially responsible Christian, and a critical thinker given the emerging challenging trends in education.”*

Sheilla holds a PhD in educational management from the University of St. La Salle and has been with the institution in the capacity of research coordinator and professor in the Nursing Program and the Graduate School for over 13 years.

As a registered nurse and a teacher, she is interested in technology-aided education, utilizing virtual laboratory and evidence-based practice education. Sheilla believes that education should be a right for all and is especially interested in seeing how educational innovation is managed and harnessed internationally. Sheilla loves to cook organic food from her backyard garden and sing classical songs.



**Sridevi Venkatachalam**  
Lady Doak College, India

*“Leaders in higher education should comprehend the changes happening globally and apply their knowledge to the needs of the community locally.”*

Sridevi completed her PhD in chemistry from the Indian Institute of Technology, Madras. She is a passionate teacher and an able administrator having served as an associate professor of Chemistry at Lady Doak College for over 15 years and as a founding member and coordinator of Lady Doak’s Centre for Nanoscience. As coordinator of the Centre for Nanoscience, Sridevi has designed nanoscience curricula and courses at the undergraduate level and has a strong desire to better integrate eContent and Information and Communication Technologies ICT into classroom instruction at Lady Doak College. She sees the United Board Fellows Program as a platform to learn more about educational management, teaching styles of Western and Asian universities, and leadership and other necessary skills to become a more efficient teacher and administrator. Sridevi enjoys conducting science clubs for students and reading science magazines.

