

2017-2018 United Board Fellows Program

Profiles are listed in order of family name.

Dr. Annabelle C. Balor

University of St. La Salle, Philippines

“Higher education leadership must be characterized by the leader’s commitment to lifelong learning. Lifelong learning brings growth in character. It takes character for the leader, especially in a higher education institution, to develop future professionals and entrepreneurs who are not just skilled in their fields, but likewise grounded in solid Christian values.”



Annabelle earned her doctorate in educational management from the University of St. La Salle (USLS), Philippines. She was dean of the College of Education for five years and has served as assistant vice chancellor for academic affairs from 2011 to the present. Annabelle played a lead role in the accomplishment of many significant initiatives in USLS, especially in the fields of teacher education; educational technology; and faculty, student, and curriculum development. She believes that the Fellows Program will expose her to leadership best practices in Asia and the United States, enabling her to gain global perspectives and relevant experience in leading a higher education institution in the twenty-first century. She likes listening to gospel-centered teachings on faith and leadership on podcasts and YouTube.

Dr. Hercules R. Cascon

Xavier University-Ateneo de Cagayan, Philippines

“Good leadership in higher education leads by example and enables others to succeed. It is also visionary, has high expectations, and is clear on how to implement and manage change to achieve its goals.”



Hercules (Herks) received his PhD in environmental engineering and biotechnology from Myongji University (Yongin Campus), South Korea, specializing in alcoholic biofuel separation through the use of ionic liquid-based membranes in pervaporation process. He is currently serving as the dean of the College of Engineering. He considers himself one of the champions of outcomes-based education (OBE) in the university and is chiefly responsible for the ongoing transition of the College of Engineering from the traditional input-based to OBE-based approach of curricular design, implementation, and management. He also partakes in the university’s effort in strengthening research capacity by leading faculty members in applying for external research funding and in research output publication. Through the United Board Fellows Program, Herks

hopes to learn more about how to efficiently lead his faculty, staff, and students in OBE and research endeavors. He always make time for reading and collecting books, watching movies with his wife and son, and tending to his dogs and garden at home.

Dr. Rully Damayanti

Petra Christian University, Indonesia

“Leaders are not only the ones who receive honors but also wipe tears.”

Rully received her PhD in urban design from the University of Sheffield, United Kingdom, and her MA in urban planning from Curtin University of Technology, Australia. Her interest is in exploring space and place in terms of architecture and urbanism. Her current research is related to understanding space in the setting of Asian cities as compared to Western cities. She has served Petra Christian University since 1998, and now leads the Department of Architecture’s postgraduate program. Teaching is her greatest passion, especially teaching architecture to first-year students. She believes that in becoming a good and trustworthy leader, people should learn not only to receive honors and rewards for their achievements, but also able to stand up for others in difficult circumstances.



Dr. Francis Julius Evangelista

Miriam College, Philippines

“A good leader in higher education is a visionary, a collaborator, and an ethical leader.”

Francis earned his PhD in history and philosophy of education from the University of the Philippines, Diliman. He has been with Miriam College since 1993 where he is currently the acting dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. Prior to assuming this position, he was the associate dean for academic support services of the school’s Higher Education Unit and the chairperson of the Department of Philosophy. As a philosophy professor, he has written books and research articles on the topics of critical thinking and moral education. Francis hopes that through his participation in the Fellows Program he will learn new ideas and perspectives on educational management, liberal arts education, and quality assurance. He is an avid sports fan and enjoys basketball.



Dr. Tony Sam George

Christ University, India

“Good leadership in higher education is motivated by respect for diversity and a consideration of the uniqueness of every individual.”

Tony is currently the head of department of psychology and the director for research at Christ University. Tony is also the director for the Centre for



Academic and Professional Support at Christ University. He is a psychotherapist involved in training, research, and clinical practice. Tony gained his doctoral degree in psychiatric social work from the National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences, Bengaluru; and his doctoral dissertation focused on the role of group therapy in reducing social disability among persons affected by obsessive compulsive disorder. His research interests lie in the areas of family violence, psychotherapy, counselor education, and doctoral supervision practices. He has developed models of support and care for patients suffering from obsessive compulsive disorder and is a featured resource person of the Obsessive Compulsive Foundation, USA. He is interested in evidence-based leadership in higher education.

Dr. Chananporn Jaisaodee
Payap University, Thailand

“Envisioning increased capacity is an important attribute of good leadership in higher education. A good leader demonstrates the ability to cast a compelling vision for the future and, after analyzing a given situation, is able to set goals that encourage people into actions for growth. An effective leader also recognizes that there is always room for improvement in understanding or skill, and values diversity in people.”



Chananporn (Oan) earned her PhD in practical theology with an emphasis on Christian education from Princeton Theological Seminary, United States in 2013. Upon completion of her studies, Oan returned to Chiang Mai, Thailand, to resume her teaching, research, and administration duties at McGilvary College of Divinity. She currently teaches courses in the field of Christian education and its related subjects. Since 2014, she has also served as an assistant to the dean for academic affairs. While participating in the 2017-2018 United Board Fellows Program, Oan is particularly interested in learning more about holistic approaches to education, curriculum design, leadership development, and management skills. She would also like to broaden her knowledge and experience in teaching and research writing, especially in the area of Christian education and spiritual formation. When Oan has free time, she enjoys traveling and spending time with family and friends.

Dr. Yoonsun Lee
Seoul Women’s University, South Korea

“A leader in higher education should have a clear vision, passion, and perseverance to respond to the needs and motivate the team with good communication skills.”

Yoonsun completed her PhD in the field of educational measurement and evaluation at the University of Washington, United States. Her main interest is in implementing an effective management system for education quality in higher education. Additionally, she devoted herself to developing and disseminating a whole person education program for various subjects in the last five years. Her next goal in character education involves working with faculty members from international universities to establish a network system to develop a global citizenship program. In addition to her academic responsibilities, she is currently dean of general affairs at Seoul Women’s University.



Dr. Ying Li

Sichuan University, P.R. China

“A good leader in higher education should be an educator with tolerance of diversity, an innovator, and good at communication.”

Ying holds an MA from Erasmus University, Rotterdam, the Netherlands, and a PhD in business administration from Sichuan University. She was an Erasmus Postdoctoral Researcher at Vrije Universiteit in Belgium in 2014 and a visiting scholar at the University of Pittsburgh in 2015. She currently is assistant director of the Regional Economic Studies and Enterprises Development Research Center, Sichuan University. She teaches undergraduate and graduate programs and leads several provincial research projects; she is also responsible for project management, conference management, and international affairs. With her dedication to higher education and to cultivating students with social responsibility, she is pleased to join the United Board Fellows Program and hopes to achieve her objective, which is to be a leader who simulates and contributes to the innovation of higher education in China.

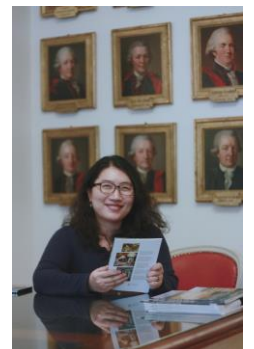


Dr. Jingjie Lu

Ginling College, P.R. China

“The qualities of good leadership in higher education are the globalized vision, the capability to translate this vision into reality, knowing and trusting your people, and never forgetting the mission of education.”

Jingjie received her PhD in English language and literature from Nanjing Normal University, China. As an alumna, she has been working with Ginling College for 12 years. As a senior lecturer in the Department of English, she brings in-depth analysis of literary works to her literature courses and she engages students through her understandable presentation style, her innovative use of technology, and her close connection with students. Jingjie also works as the coordinator of international affairs and helped to launch a number of international collaboration programs for Ginling. She regards the United Board Fellows Program as a precious opportunity to enhance her leadership competence, explore possibilities for future collaboration and exchange between Ginling and other Asian universities or colleges, and learn new trends in education. Jingjie enjoys reading, watching films, and travelling. She often organizes reading club events with her students.



Dr. Thi Phuong Lan Ngo

University of Social Sciences and Humanities,
Vietnam National University – Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam

“Good leadership must include creating a good working environment for all followers to reach the institution’s common goals”

Lan holds a master’s degree in anthropology from the University of Toronto,



Canada and a doctorate in ethnology from the University of Social Sciences and Humanities, Vietnam National University – Ho Chi Minh City. Since 2013 she has been the vice rector of the university, and has led many of the university’s interdisciplinary projects to serve communities in the south of Vietnam, organized various national and international conferences in the field of social sciences and humanities at the university, and helped to create a research culture for the university. She hopes the United Board Fellows Program will help equip her with the necessary knowledge and skills to perform even better in her current and future roles. Her area of interest is economic anthropology, especially the livelihoods of various communities in Vietnam. She enjoys reading books, cooking, and working with people.

Dr. Probo Y. Nugrahedi

Soegijapranata Catholic University, Indonesia

“Leadership in higher education should bring faculty and staff to work synergistically to achieve the vision, lead by example, and inspire students to become the leaders of the future.”



Since 2001, Probo has been working at the Department of Food Technology, Soegijapranata Catholic University (SCU) in Semarang, Indonesia. He received the StuNed scholarship to study for his MSc degree and PhD in food technology at Wageningen University, the Netherlands. Currently, he is the head of the master’s program in food technology, Faculty of Agricultural Technology, SCU. Previously, he was the vice dean for student affairs at the same faculty. As a lecturer and food scientist, his interest is in developing fruit- and vegetable-based food products.

Dr. Jannet Vennila Ruban Ravindran

Karunya University, India

“A good leader should have a clear sense of direction or strategic vision and foster a supportive and collaborative environment.”



Jannet holds a PhD from Avinashilingam University, India, specializing in biochemistry. She has 18 years of teaching, research, and administrative experience. Currently, she serves as the head of the Department of Biosciences and Technology, Karunya University, where she has been employed since 2005. She actively engages in Karunya University’s collaboration with other institutions for joint research and for student and faculty exchanges. She has conducted research at Oslo University, Norway, and Max Planck Institute of Molecular Genetics, Germany, and she played a vital role in introducing the bachelor of kinesiology (BKin) program at Karunya in collaboration with the University of Regina, Canada. She also serves as a member of the Curriculum Advisory Board for Karunya and other academic institutions. Through the United Board Fellows Program, she wishes to learn how to implement holistic education methodologies and revolutionize the education and research system for the betterment of community.

Dr. Samuel Anbu Selvan
The American College, India

“With higher education viewed as the stimulant toward integration of body, mind, and soul with the manifestation of refined behavior in social, business, and personal situations, a good leader should impart experiences to young minds and disseminate information and promote ideas for common good.”



Samuel holds a PhD from Madurai Kamaraj University, India, specializing in commerce and management. He has been with the American College for 17 years and currently serves as the coordinator for the Bachelor of Business Administration Program and is actively involved in the extension activities of the college. Academics and administration are his twin areas of focus, through which he address the needs of students and society with sensitivity and creativity. He has received many other awards for his service in awakening and enabling the student community. Samuel hopes “committed transformational academicians and instructors can bring a revolutionary change by formulating and promoting high standards of professional conduct and practices and thereby impact all stakeholders.” Samuel believes the platform provided by United Board will help him to gather new ideas so that he can pursue the change process that he envisages for his home institution.

Dr. T. Shirmila Stanley
Madras Christian College, India

“A good leader in higher education should be driven by passion with compassion. While the former drives in framing vision and strategies that steer innovation and intellectual progress, the latter helps every stakeholder to be humane and beat with one heart.”



Shirmila holds a PhD in commerce and an MBA from the University of Madras, India. Her passion for teaching found its roots during her collegiate education. She is serving her alma mater as faculty in the Department of Commerce for the past 19 years, teaching undergraduate and master’s program students and guiding research scholars. She has presented numerous research papers at international and national conferences. Some of the administrative positions that she has held include dean of women students, associate coordinator for the Centre for Women Studies, director for the Semester in India Program (2013) of Davidson College, North Carolina; she has also served on various committees. Presently, she is the convener of the Centre for Human Resource Development, where she is involved in training students and faculty at the national level. She looks forward to gaining expertise and learning new skills and techniques through the United Board Fellows Program.

Dr. Merlin Teodosia Suarez
De La Salle University, Philippines

“Good leadership creates an organization that is self-aware, one that knows its strengths and weaknesses. It leverages its strengths and works to overcome its weaknesses.”

Merlin obtained her MS degree and PhD in computer science from De La Salle University. She set up the Center of Human-Computer Interaction to work on automatic behavior analysis and Internet of Things. She has served as dean of the College of Computer Studies since May 2013, and has initiated the curriculum review of all computing programs, strengthened partnerships with international industry partners, and focused efforts on internationalization. She hopes to gain insights on educational leadership, as it is best learned from other university's experiences, engaging fellow administrators from varied educational systems, and crafting a framework customized to one's context.



Dr. Qiang Sun

Shandong University, P.R. China

"Higher education needs to change; I wish I could do something."

Sun Qiang is a professor in the School of Health Care Management (SHCM), Shandong University, China, and was a visiting fellow at Harvard School of Public Health (2006-2007). He is the executive dean of the SHCM; the deputy director of the Key Lab of Health Economic and Policy, Shandong University; the director of Shandong University and Krolinska Institute Cooperative Center for Global Health Studies; and the leading scientist of the Center for Health Management and Policy, a think tank in Shandong Province. His research areas include health economics and policy research, pharmaceutical policy, and hospital management. During the past decade, he has published over 40 articles in international peer reviewed journals, including Lancet Global Health, Bulletin of WHO, Health Affairs and BMC journals.



Dr. Philip Arnold P. Tuaño

Ateneo de Manila University, Philippines

"I consider the ability to harness the different resources – technical, financial, physical – of a university as a mark of a good educational administrator. He or she is able to harness the strengths of the faculty members, professionals, and staff in order to support the students' understanding of society and engagement with the world."

Philip (Randy) is currently associate chairperson at the Economics Department, School of Social Sciences, Ateneo de Manila University, Philippines. He earned his MA degree in development economics at the University of Sussex, United Kingdom, and PhD in economics at the University of the Philippines. He served in various capacities in the social development units of Ateneo – as student formator, researcher, and policy analyst at the community and social policy units of the university – and as a planning director of the Philippine government's anti-poverty commission before working for the academe.



Dr. Mae Brigitt Bernadel L. Villordon

Silliman University, Philippines

“Good leadership in higher education must be visionary, decisive, committed, and motivating; inspire its constituents to give their best, to continue their pursuit for professional development and advancement through collaborative spirit; and have a positive outlook and attitude toward change and the pursuit of excellence.”



Brigitt earned her PhD from the University of Nice, Sophia-Antipolis, France, with a focus on the areas of water and health, as well as community-based flood vulnerability assessment. She is currently associate dean of the College of Arts and Sciences and has been at the University for 15 years, teaching biology subjects, public health, and environmental health courses in the graduate program. With the ongoing educational reforms in the country, she is actively involved in the change process of the K-12 program of the senior high school and the new general education courses in 2018 for the tertiary level. Through the United Board Fellows Program, she hopes to acquire new strategies and approaches to advance whole person education. Brigitt loves music and she is a very outdoor-oriented person who finds walks in nature to be soothing and therapeutic.

Dr. Duo Wu

Soochow University, P.R. China

“As a leader of high education, the primary responsibility is to create appropriate institutional mechanisms to cultivate the talent needed to contribute to social development.”



Duo (Winston) is currently professor in chemical engineering and associate dean (research and international) of the College of Chemistry, Chemical Engineering, and Materials Science (CCEMS), Soochow University. Winston received his master’s degree in Biomedical Engineering at The University of Melbourne, Australia, and he earned his PhD and did postdoctoral research training in chemical engineering at Monash University, Australia. As the associate dean, Winston’s main administrative duty is to efficiently allocate relevant college resources; construct platforms to support faculty applications for government-funded research projects; and promote knowledge transfer, including collaboration with industries and commercialization of pioneering scientific findings and technologies; and foster collaborations of CCEMS faculty with high-level research groups in overseas universities and institutes, including co-funding projects and exchange of students and scholars.

Dr. Pei-Chih Wu

Chang Jung Christian University, Taiwan

“Entrepreneurial spirit with passion in social innovation and sustainability should be key characteristics to good leadership in future higher education.”

Pei-Chih (Peggy) holds a PhD in environmental and occupational health from National Cheng Kung University, Taiwan, and she has had a wide range of experience in administration and United Board for Christian Higher Education in Asia

multidisciplinary research. During her eight years of academic life at CJCU, Peggy has led more than 20 research projects on indoor air quality, the atmospheric environment, and climate change and its impacts on human health. She established the Innovation Incubation Center to bridge the gap between the university and industry. With her innovative mind and passion, she successfully created an ecosystem that integrates creativity, innovation, and entrepreneurship into the education program at CJCU. This allowed her center to become the most socially innovative in Taiwan, and it won the annual gold medal from Ministry of Economic Affairs in 2015. As the dean of the Research and Development Office since 2013, she has been devoting herself to establishing the Entrepreneur's Park in CJCU, in order to create an ecosystem that helps young social entrepreneurs have a greater social impact and play a critical role in social development and transition.

