



2019-2020 United Board Fellows Program

Profiles are listed in order of family name.

Heads of Institutions

Dr. Betty CERNOL-McCANN
Silliman University, Philippines

“To me, good leadership in higher education entails a set of abilities and traits that mobilizes people to carry out a common vision in the face of changing conditions and varying resources.”

Dr. Betty Cernol-McCann assumed the presidency of Silliman University on 1 June 2018, as the university's thirteenth and first woman president. She is currently also president of the Association of Christian Universities and Colleges in Asia (ACUCA) and the Asian Universities Digital Resource Network (AUDRN).



Betty spent the better part of her academic career (1972–2002) at Silliman University, actively engaged in teaching and training, research, community engagement, and administrative work. She is a registered psychologist and a certified specialist in social psychology. She joined the United Board for Christian Higher Education in Asia in 2002, and served as its vice president for programs in 2007 until her optional retirement in 2013.

Dr. Djwantoro HARDJITO
Petra Christian University, Indonesia

“Leadership is influencing others, especially the whole members of the team, to strive together for the mission. Leadership is also encouraging and facilitating the team members to achieve their fullest potential.”

Dr. Djwantoro Hardjito has been rector of Petra Christian University (PCU) since December 2017. He previously served as



the vice rector for academic affairs (2013-2017) and the head of the Research Office (2010-2013) of PCU. Aside from his managerial duties, he is also a professor in the Department of Civil Engineering. Dr. Hardjito obtained his first degree in civil engineering from PCU and master of engineering degree in the field of structural engineering at the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT), Thailand under the Japan-ADB Scholarship Program. His PhD is from Curtin University, Australia under the Australian Development Scholarship Program. Prior to joining PCU, Dr. Hardjito was affiliated with Curtin University, Sarawak, Malaysia (2005-2009), and with Widya Mandira Catholic University, Kupang, Indonesia (1988-2000). His research interests are mainly in the areas of geopolymer concrete and the utilization of industrial waste as construction materials.

Abraham Vettiyankal MANI, CMI, PhD
CHRIST (Deemed to be University), Bangalore, India

“A good higher education leader needs to have a personal influence on the academic leaders and administrators in the institution so that they are able to lead in the vision and mission of the institution. Since higher education institutions cater to generations, it is also important to ensure that the leadership is shared in order to build an institution of interdependency rather than a person-dependent institution.”



Fr. Abraham Vettiyankal Mani has been an academic for 30 years and currently holds the faculty designation of professor in the Department of Mathematics. He has master's degrees in mathematics and computer science, and his PhD and paper publications are in the area of graph theory. Fr. Abraham has extensive leadership and administrative experience, having served as principal of Christ Junior College, as well as finance officer, vice principal, and pro-vice chancellor of Christ University. He assumed office as vice chancellor of Christ University in March 2019.

Through the 2019-2020 Fellows Program, Fr. Abraham hopes to gain a better understating of higher education governance and administration, to know himself better as a person and as a leader, and to develop a better vision of leadership in higher education. In his spare time, he likes to watch sports, walk, and promote research and sports on campus.

Dr. Aye Aye TUN

Bago University, Myanmar

"Higher Education leaders need a combination of leadership and management competencies in order to address the challenges. He/She must adjust his/her style to fit the development level of the followers he/she is trying to influence so as to accomplish set task goals by inspiring, motivating and maintaining moral of the team or the group."



Dr. Aye Aye Tun is the rector at Bago University. She joined the Ministry of Education (MoE) as a demonstrator in 1986. She had been working as a pro-rector at Maubin University and Dagon University for nine years before joining Bago University in November 2017. She initiated Service-Learning course with the support from the United Board when she worked at Dagon University. She participated in the DIES International Deans Course Asia 2016-2017 and was awarded a grant to conduct National Multiplication Training in Myanmar through the support of DAAD Germany. Recently, she has been assigned by MoE as a GBM of SEAMEO SEN, a principal trainer for National Institute of Higher Education Development and a core member of corruption prevention unit at the ministry. Dr. Aye Aye Tun received a doctoral of science in organic chemistry from Kyushu University, Japan in 1998.

Fellows

Dr. Amelberga Vita Noor Prima ASTUTI

Atma Jaya Catholic University, Yogyakarta, Indonesia

"Leadership goes beyond servitude. It inspires and empowers others with its challenge and liberation to grow."

Dr. Amelberga Vita Noor Prima Astuti is currently the head of the Public Relations Office at Atma Jaya Catholic University in Yogyakarta; she is also responsible for the secretariat and protocol office. She is a faculty member of the Communication Department; her teaching and research interests are in language, culture, communication, and media studies. She received her PhD in literary and cultural studies from Monash University, Australia, in 2015. In her leadership experiences, she has been successful in empowering the staff to perform innovative programs to stay current with students' interests and needs. She wishes to develop her own leadership skills so that she can help others attain international standards of effective leadership. She enjoys writing and gardening. Her first novel, *HER Story Not HISStory*, was published in 2015.



Dr. Rafael A. CABREDO

De La Salle University, Philippines

“In a fast-paced information age, leaders need to be agile and adaptive to the changing educational landscape. All decisions and actions should be supported by verified data and be grounded in established values of the institution.”

Dr. Rafael A. Cabredo is an educator with 18 years of experience teaching computer science students. He obtained his bachelor’s and master’s degrees in computer science from De La Salle University and his PhD in information science and technology from Osaka University, Japan. His research is in the areas of intelligent systems and music emotion recognition. He also served as the research director of the Advanced Research Institute for Informatics, Computing and Networking, as well as the department chair overseeing computer science degrees at the university. He currently serves as the dean of the College of Computer Studies. He has also been involved with various organizations that cater to the needs of the IT and game development industries, as well as the education sector.



Through the United Board Fellows Program, he intends to share ideas and experiences with peers, develop management skills, and discover innovations for higher education institutions.

Dr. Chingya Adeline CHIU

Chang Jung Christian University, Taiwan

“Good leaders in higher education are courageous in exploring innovative ideas to set goals, responsive in communicating with the team to practice the action plans, and responsible for the decision making. With these attitudes, good leadership is able to bring chance and change to higher education.”

Dr. Chingya Adeline Chiu earned her master degree from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, U.S.A., with a TESOL focus. Later, she received her PhD in curriculum and instruction from National Chia-Yi University in Taiwan. She has been appointed to various administrative positions, including chairperson of the Department of Foreign Languages, executive secretary in the School of Liberal Arts, director of the Language Education Center, and director of the Chinese Language and Culture Center. During her administrative service, she has led a team in reforming the English curriculum from EGP (English for General Purpose)



to ESP (English for Specific Purpose). Adeline also led another team to receive accreditation from the Ministry of Education in Taiwan in 2018.

She would like to utilize this great opportunity to foster the development of leadership skills, to refresh the experience of cross-cultural awareness, and to interact with fellows from different institutions.

Dr. Fan FENG

Nanjing University, P.R. China

“Leadership in higher education is an ability to create a great mission, define several goals around the mission, and inspire members to achieve the goals efficiently, happily, and correctly.”

Dr. Feng Fan is deputy director of the Office of Strategic Planning and Discipline Administration of Nanjing University (NJU), China. In addition to her administrative role, she also teaches management courses as associate professor in the Business School at NJU. Previously she served as director of the Sino-Dutch International Business Center NJU, where she was responsible for cultural and academic exchanges between Maastricht University and NJU. Dr. Feng received her PhD in business administration from NJU. She obtained a scholarship to attend the Institute of Social Science, Netherlands, where she received her second master’s degree, in economic development.



Through the United Board Fellows Program, she wants to learn about how to retain the competitive advantages of NJU through effective administration, so as to bring forth the best part of this centennial university and lead it to first-tier global university status.

Dr. Heny HARTONO

Soegijapranata Catholic University, Indonesia

“Good leadership is inspirational and impactful. It requires good leaders who encourage people to dream more, learn more, and do more. They do not just tell what to do but they show how things are done.”

Dr. Heny Hartono currently serves as the associate director of the Institute of Research and Community Service at Soegijapranata Catholic University in Semarang, Indonesia.



Previously, she held a number of managerial positions at the faculty. Since starting her faculty career in 1998, she has been appointed as the vice dean of student affairs, vice dean of academic affairs, and vice dean of financial affairs. From 2005 to 2013, she led the faculty as the dean for two terms. She obtained both her master's and doctoral degrees in English language education from Semarang State University. During her doctoral studies, she joined a joint program funded by the Indonesian Ministry of Research, Technology, and Higher Education at Ohio State University, U.S.A.

She hopes by joining the Fellows Program that she can develop herself as an educator as well as a leader. Her main research interests are in second language acquisition and language teaching.

Dr. Endang HARYANI

Satya Wacana Christian University, Indonesia

“Leadership is about serving people and community through an inspiring and resourceful attitude, which is born from a positive personality and servant characteristics.”

Dr. Endang Haryani is currently the manager of the Bureau of Accounting and Finance at Satya Wacana Christian University. She has also served as an assessor of the Indonesian National Accreditation Agency for Higher Education since 2010. Endang previously led the Computerized Accounting Program for three periods of service. She completed her PhD in advanced management at Kwansai Gakuin University, Japan, and her main areas of research are accounting systems and nonprofit organizations.



She believes that the program will equip the Fellows as both educational and administrative leaders with strategic management skills and help them to build leadership qualities, in terms of both personality and character. She is also active in volunteering and interested in nonprofit organizations and not-for-profit communities.

Ms. Xiaohong LIN

Fujian Hwa Nan Women's College, P.R. China

“Good leaders in higher education should commit to their responsibilities in fostering first and foremost good persons, and then knowledgeable or skillful persons.”



Ms. Xiaohong Lin is currently dean of the Department of International Business and Management, as well as a member of the board of directors of the college. One of her achievements is winning the first prize of Provincial Teaching Accomplishment in 2017 with the project "Entrepreneurial Educational System for Higher Vocational Students." Xiaohong obtained her master of business administration degree from Centenary University in the United States in 2006. Last year she started an actual business in order to create an operational platform for both teachers and students to practice knowledge, skills, and business transformation. She is now working on launching different business projects.

Through the Fellows Program, she hopes to meet peers who share her commitment to excellence and acquire innovative ideas for her future work. She enjoys gardening, cooking, and traveling in her spare time.

Dr. NGUYEN Thanh Trung

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

"Good leadership in higher education involves enhancing learning and teaching with very effective professional nourishment of all staff."

Dr. Nguyen Thanh Trung is director of the Center of International Studies at the University of Social Sciences and Humanities in Ho Chi Minh City. He is currently doing research on Vietnam's foreign policy, regional security studies, and institutional reforms. He previously was dean of the Faculty of International Relations, where he introduced several curricular reforms to make learning and teaching more meaningful and effective. Before that, he received his PhD in political science from Hong Kong Baptist University under the Hong Kong PhD Fellowship Scheme Award. Trung is a strong believer in the concept that all-around staff development is one of the key factors to education and research management.



He also believes that the 2019-2020 United Board Fellows Program is a great chance for him to further strengthen his management capacity and skills.

Dr. Kyi Chan NYEIN
Bago University, Myanmar

“Great leaders in higher education inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more, and become more. They must have empathy, integrity, and expertise that can lead others on the road to success in the most effective way, thereby enabling them to achieve their greatest dreams.”

Dr. Kyi Chan Nyein is currently professor and head of the English Department at Bago University. She previously served as associate professor at Yangon University from 2015 to 2016. She received an MA in 2001 and a PhD in 2010 from Yangon University, Myanmar, specializing in English. She received a postgraduate diploma in computer science from Yangon University of Computer Studies, Myanmar in 1998. She was a participant in the United Board’s 2018 Whole Person Education Academy. She also attended “TF-RELC English Language Training program for teacher leaders in Myanmar”, held in Singapore in 2013. She has been working in the English language teaching field for more than 20 years as a teacher, trainer, and researcher.



Through the United Board Fellows Program, she hopes to build up educational leadership competency, global perspectives, and innovation in higher education, and enhance future collaboration and knowledge exchange with universities from other Asian countries. She enjoys reading and traveling.

Dr. Michael RATNAPALAN
Yonsei University, South Korea

“Good leadership in higher education involves always being ready to listen to and learn from others, and having the confidence to take responsible decisions on behalf of those you represent at your institution.”

Dr. Michael Ratnapalan received his doctorate in history from the University of London. He has taught at Underwood International College, Yonsei University since 2012. During this time, he has served in a number of administrative positions, including on college hiring committees, on a team overseeing the reorganization of the curriculum and personnel review, and as the college’s representative at the University Faculty Senate.



As a United Board Fellow, he especially looks forward to learning about intercultural relationships in higher education and about building collaboration and interdisciplinary

consensus among faculty. Michael believes that teaching is a vocation, and he is grateful to the United Board for giving him the opportunity to learn and grow in the company of like-minded people.

Dr. Amalanathan SAMINATHAN
CHRIST (Deemed to be University), India

“Leadership in higher education is not a position but an opportunity to lead from the front by inspiring, and mentoring from behind. Leadership is a collective effort to achieve common goals.”

Dr. Amalanathan Saminathan completed his master’s degree in commerce from Loyola College, Chennai. He completed his doctorate in commerce in 2016 from the University of Madras. He joined CHRIST in 2013 in the Department of Commerce as an assistant professor. He was appointed as faculty coordinator of the Student Council for the Deanery of Commerce and Management in June 2016 to mentor committed student leaders. In May 2017 he also was appointed as program coordinator for the master of commerce program, a two-year graduate program. Based on his track record, he was promoted to be the chair of the Department of Management Studies in February 2018.



He sees leadership not as a position but as a greater responsibility. He also believes that a leader with humility and openness to learn will be able to transform co-leaders. He hopes that the United Board Fellows Program will strengthen these values in him and inspire people he encounters in the future both in his professional and personal lives.

Raymond Nung-Sing SZE
The Hong Kong Polytechnic University, Hong Kong

“A good leader in higher education should require himself/herself to become a lifelong companion for students and should motivate his/her teammates to do the same. He or she should be committed to nurturing the next generation of leaders.”

Dr. Raymond Nung-Sing Sze is associate professor in the Department of Applied Mathematics at The Hong Kong Polytechnic University. He obtained his PhD in mathematics at the University of Hong Kong. He has been actively involved in program management, curriculum development, and learning and teaching projects at PolyU.



Through the Fellows Program, Raymond hopes to enhance his leadership skills, especially in team management and communication, as collaboration and teamwork are critical to the university service.

Dr. Anita Christine TIPHAGNE

Lady Doak College, India

“A student-centered leadership model, with a focus on transforming and empowering students, is imperative to higher education. In the current globalized scenario, I believe a visionary leader should be granted agency to rise to the occasion and facilitate his/her team to greater heights of personal effectiveness and academic excellence, and thus inspire a journey of self-discovery with a conscious commitment to social change.”



Dr. Anita Christine Tiphagne has a PhD in sociology from the Madurai Kamaraj University, and her core academic disciplines are sociology and social work. Her areas of research interest are human rights and issues of marginalization and exclusion. She is also involved in strengthening international collaboration at Lady Doak College.

Anita expects this opportunity as a United Board Fellow will be a touchstone for her growth as a people-centered leader. She hopes to learn from the program, the people she meets, and more significantly from the experiences she will gain.

Dr. Ricky WANG

Petra Christian University, Indonesia

“Higher educational leaders are those who serve others through their excellent academic work, which includes inspirational teachings, insightful research, and impactful community development. The first and foremost priority of these leaders is the holistic transformation of their followers.”



Dr. Ricky Wang has been serving at Petra Christian University for more than 20 years. He is currently dean of the Faculty of Business and Economics. Ricky received his doctorate of education in the field of educational leadership from the University of Birmingham, UK. His research interest is in leadership in both the education and business sectors. He believes that being a professor means fulfilling the divine calling from God by serving the people who are studying on campus and those who are already on their

professional journey. Besides serving as dean, he has been given the chance to train leaders in schools, churches, and business organizations.

He hopes that his participation in the United Board Fellows Program will enable him to learn more about how to lead his academic colleagues, so that they will be committed to transforming their students holistically, and to create fruitful international collaboration. .

Dr. Ricver P. URETA

University of St. La Salle, Philippines

“Good leadership in higher education merges the mind and the heart. It is a humanistic leadership that considers the individual as a person imbued with the potential for becoming a great leader himself.”

Dr. Ricver P. Ureta has been dean of the College of Education at the University of St. La Salle since June 2016. He previously served the college in various capacities, such as chair of the Secondary Education Department; moderator of the Student Council; and coordinator of the Institutional Community Extension Program, whose focus is to train day care center teachers. Given his extensive involvement in academic affairs and educational leadership, the Commission on Higher Education appointed him as a member of the Regional Quality Assessment Team for the Teacher Education Programs. Recently, he was named a representative of the university for Project FORTH (Formation of Teachers in Emerging Challenged Areas in the Philippines), a project cofunded by the European Commission and the Erasmus+ Program of the European Union. Ricver earned his PhD in science education with a concentration in biology from West Visayas State University and his master’s degree in education, concentrating in general science, from De La Salle University, Manila.



He aspires, through the United Board Fellows Program, to broaden his knowledge and perspective on leadership, particularly in the areas of management, alternative delivery systems, and global perspectives and practices in education.