

## ***The Contributors***

**Gémino H. Abad**, a University Professor Emeritus of literature and creative writing at the University of the Philippines, is a poet, fictionist, literary critic and historian, and has won various honors and awards. He has more than thirty-six books to his name. He obtained his Ph.D. in English from the University of Chicago in 1970, and continues to teach at UP where he has served as Secretary of the university, Vice-President for Academic Affairs, and Director of the UP Creative Writing Center (now an institute). He also teaches at the Ateneo de Manila University and at the UST Graduate School.

**Augusto Antonio Aguila** received his Ph.D. in Literature from UST. He is currently the Executive Assistant of the Rector of UST, and a Resident Fellow of the UST Center for Creative Writing and Literary Studies. He teaches literature, English, and film theory at the UST Graduate School, the UST Faculty of Arts and Letters and the UST Faculty of Pharmacy. His areas of interest include fiction writing, popular culture, music, postmodernism, and post-colonialism. His first book, *The Heart of Need and Other Stories* (2013) was published by the UST Publishing House.

**Virgilio Almarino**, one of the Philippines' foremost poets, is also a literary historian, editor, translator, publisher, and teacher. He has written more than fifty books, almost in equal halves poetry and literary history/criticism. His poetry appears under his well-known pseudonym Rio Alma, while his literary criticism and scholarship carry his real name. All of his works are written in the national language, Filipino, although several have been translated into English. In 2003, he was named National Artist for Literature.

**Vijae Alquisola**, a native of Sampaloc, Quezon was a writing fellow of the following national workshops: KRITIKA 2015, the 18<sup>th</sup> Iligan, and the 9<sup>th</sup> IYAS National Writer's Workshop. He was the National President of the College Editors Guild of the Philippines (2008-2010). Aside from teach-

ing Literature in UST, and writing poetry and children's poetry, he is currently finishing his Ph.D. in Filipino (Philippine Literature) in UP Diliman.

**Ma. Ailil B. Alvarez** is a Resident Fellow of the UST Center for Creative Writing and Literary Studies. She writes literary criticism and theory, specifically focused on Catholic spirituality and women's studies. Aside from being a faculty member with the UST Department of Literature, she also works as the Deputy Director of the UST Publishing House, which was named 2012 Publisher of the Year by the National Book Development Board and the Manila Critics' Circle. Her first book of critical and literary essays is forthcoming from the UST Publishing House.

**Fr. Angel Aparicio, O.P.**, born in La Puebla de Valdivia, Palencia, Spain, was ordained priest in 1973. He arrived in the Philippines in 1979 and has handled various administrative positions in the University of Santo Tomas. He is a regular professor of New Testament in the Faculty of Sacred Theology (1979-2015) and served as Director of the UST Museum of Arts and Sciences from 1985-1991. As Prefect of Libraries (UST Miguel de Benavides Library) since 1992, Fr. Aparicio has edited several Library publications: *Lumina Pandit: A Continuum* (Manila, 2015); *Catalogue of Rare Books Vol. 2, Part 2* (Manila, 2015); *Catalogue of Rare Books Vol. 2, Part 3* (Manila, 2015); *Catalogue of Rare Periodicals Vol. 4, Part 1* (Manila, 2015); *A Century of Pharmacy Dynamics, Ethics, and Significs: A Filipino-Spanish Contributions to the History of Pharmacy* (Manila, 2013); *Lumina Pandit: A Collection of Historical Treasures* (Manila, 2011); *First International Conference on the History of Medicine in the Philippines* (Manila, 2008); *Catalogue of Rare Books Vol. 2, Part 1 (1600-1699)* (Manila, 2006); *Catalogue of Rare Books Vol. 3, Part 1 Filipiniana (1610-1945)*, (Manila, 2005); *Catalogue of Rare Books Vol. 1. (1942-1600)* (Manila, 2001). He wrote and published *The University of Santo Tomas Museum of Arts and Sciences* (Manila, 1981). Fr. Aparicio has also been a regular contributor to *Life Today*.

**Gina Apostol** was born in Manila and lives in New York. She went to college at the University of the Philippines and earned her MA in writing from Johns Hopkins University. She was writer-in-residence at Phillips

Exeter Academy and a fellow at Civitella Ranieri in Umbria, Italy, among other fellowships. Her essays and stories have appeared in *The New York Times*, *Los Angeles Review of Books*, *Foreign Policy*, *Gettysburg Review*, *Massachusetts Review*, and others. She lives in New York City and western Massachusetts and grew up in Tacloban, the Philippines. She teaches at the Fieldston School in New York City. Her first novel, *Bibliolepsy*, won the 1998 Philippine National Book Award for Fiction. Her third novel, *The Revolution according to Raymundo Mata*, is a comic historical novel-in-footnotes about the Philippine war for independence against Spain and America in 1896. Her latest novel, *Gun Dealers' Daughter*, recently won the PEN/Open Book Award and was shortlisted for the 2014 William Saroyan International Prize. She is working on *William McKinley's World*, a novel set in Balangiga and Tacloban in 1901, during the Philippine-American War.

**Romulo Baquiran, Jr.** teaches literature and creative writing at the College of Arts and Letters of UP Diliman. He has published three poetry collections – *Mga Tula ng Paglusong* (1992), *Onyx* (2003), and *Kung Nainaisin* (2012), a book of personal essays – *Sagad sa Buto: Hospital Diary at Iba Pang Sanaysay* (UST, 2010), and a book of critical essays and reviews – *Hiwatig: Pagsipat sa mga Tekstong Poetiko at Popular* (UST Publishing House, 2014). He was awarded the SEAWrite Award in 2011 and is a Resident Fellow of the UP institute of Creative Writing.

**Dr. Francisco B. Benitez** (“Kiko”) is the 9th president of Philippine Women’s University, and only the second man to hold this position. He has a Ph.D. in Comparative Literature from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He has taught at the University of Wisconsin, the University of Washington – Seattle, PWU, and the University of Asia and the Pacific. He belongs to the 4th generation in the Benitez family, a family of distinguished educators.

**Jhoanna Lynn B. Cruz** is a Palanca award-winning writer who teaches literature and creative writing at UP Mindanao. She completed a Master of Arts in Language and Literature and a Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing, both with high distinction, at DLSU Manila. Her first book, *Women Loving. Stories and a Play* was published in 2010 by DLSU and

Anvil Publishing, Inc. Cruz is president of the Davao Writers Guild and Regional Coordinator for Eastern and Southern Mindanao in the National Committee on Literary Arts. She currently makes her home in Davao City with her partner, their two children, and three cats.

**Ralph Semino Galan** is an Associate Professor in the UST Faculty of Arts and Letters, and Assistant Director of the UST Center for Creative Writing and Literary Studies. He has a B.A. in English (Major in Literature) *magna cum laude* from MSU-Iligan Institute of Technology, and an M.A. in English Studies (Major in Creative Writing) from UP Diliman. He is presently pursuing his Ph.D. in Literature at UST. His poems in English and Filipino have won prizes in the *Philippine Panorama* (1993) and *Home Life Magazine* (1998) poetry contests. His works, both creative and critical, have been published in numerous national and international anthologies and literary journals. His first book, *The Southern Cross and Other Poems*, was published by the NCCA in 2005 as part of its UBOD New Authors Series. His second and third books, *Discernments: Literary Essays, Cultural Critiques and Book Reviews* (2013) and *From the Major Arcana* (2014) were both published by the UST Publishing House.

Poet and screenwriter, **Jerry B. Grácio** was born in Tondo, Manila but spent his childhood in the small rural village of Nenita, in Mondragon town, Northern Samar. He has won Palanca Awards for his poetry, fiction, and screenplay; the Makata ng Taon 2005 given by the Komisyon sa Wikang Filipino; and the UP Centennial Prize for Literature. He is the author of two books of poetry, *Apokripos* and *Aves*, which both won the National Book Award from the Manila Critics Circle and the National Book Development Board. His screenplays have received awards and citations from various industry award-giving bodies. He is currently senior writer for ABS-CBN and Commissioner for Samar-Leyte Languages at the Komisyon sa Wikang Filipino.

**Ferdinand Pisigan Jarin** is the author of *Anim na Sabado ng Beyblade at iba pang Sanaysay*, which won a National Book Award for Nonfiction in Filipino in 2014 from the Manila Critics Circle and National Book Development Board, and was a finalist for the Madrigal-Gonzales First

Best Book Award administered by the University of the Philippines Institute of Creative Writing (UP ICW). He has published several children's books; won three Carlos Palanca Awards; and was a Writing Fellow for Sanaysay in both the Palihang Rogelio Sicat 5 (2012) and 53rd UP National Writers Workshop. Currently, Jarin is Professor of Philippine Literature, World Literature and Popular Culture at the Philippine Normal University -Manila and the President of KATAGA, a Filipino writers' organization.

**Arnie Quibranza Mejia** works as the Human Resources VP of his family's logistics services company. He recently earned a Masters in Business Administration at Manuel L. Quezon University. Mejia has spent a good part of his early life living in different cities in the United States and is currently working on a memoir based on his life there. He was a fellow for nonfiction in the 52nd Silliman National Writers Workshop and in the UST National Summer Writers Workshop 2014.

**Ned Parfan** has an A.B. Journalism from UST where he won five USTetika Awards for his poems and short stories in Filipino and in English. He earned his M.F.A. in Creative Writing at DLSU, where he received an outstanding M.F.A. Thesis Award. He is currently taking up a Ph.D. in Creative Writing at UP Diliman. A finalist in the Maningning Miclat Awards for Poetry in 2009 and 2011, he teaches literature and humanities at UST and is a Resident Fellow of the UST Center for Creative Writing and Literary Studies. He has been published in *The Philippines Free Press*, *Sunday Inquirer Magazine*, *Kritika Kultura*, *High Chair*, *Crowns and Oranges*, and *Under the Storm*. His first book of poetry is *The Murrmur Asylum* (UP Press, 2014).

**Deedle Rodriguez-Tomlinson**, born in Manila and currently lives in Brooklyn with her husband, fiction writer and poet Tim Tomlinson. Aside from New York, she has lived in Thailand, Florence, London and Shanghai, visiting the Philippines on a regular basis. Her poems, which reflect her peripatetic life, have appeared in *Under The Storm: An Anthology of Contemporary Philippine Poetry* and the centenary issue of the *Silliman University Journal*. She has read her work in South Dakota, New York, Tacloban, Baguio, and Dumaguete, among others. Her essays

and recipes have appeared in *Potluck: Hidalgo Bonding: A Family Heritage Cookbook* edited by Jaime C. Laya and Adelaida Lim.

**Ninotchka Rosca** is a transnational Filipina writer, journalist, feminist organizer and political analyst. She has seven books published, including the classic novels *State of War* and *Twice Blessed*, which was given the American Book Award. She has been the recipient of numerous literary and journalism awards, as well as honors for her activism. She is credited with having opened up mainstream publishing in the West to writers of Philippine ancestry. She is based in New York City but travels constantly. She works with the women's organization AF3IRM and helps with a number of other organizations.

**Alice M. Sun-Cua** is a practicing obstetrician-gynecologist at the San Juan de Dios Hospital, Pasay City. She is a graduate of the UST Faculty of Medicine & Surgery, and did her internship at the UST Hospital. She is a poet, translator, travel narrative writer, Tai Chi practitioner, and Er-Hu student. She has published six books, the latest of which, *Autumn in Madrid (UST Publishing House)*, was short-listed for the National Book Award in 2014. Alice was born in Manila, but grew up in Iloilo City. She finished her elementary and high school studies at the Sun Yat Sen High School (Mapa St.) and B. S. Pre-Medicine at the University of San Agustin, in the same city.

**Alfred A. Yuson**, a.k.a. Krip, writes a weekly Arts and Culture column for *The Philippine Star*, a monthly column for *Ilustrado* magazine, and occasional essays for GMA News.TV online as well as a host of other publications. He has authored six poetry collections, three novels, and over a dozen other books of short fiction, essays, children's stories and biographies, apart from having edited many other titles, including literary anthologies as well as travel and corporate coffee-table books. Distinctions include entry into the Hall of Fame of the Carlos Palanca Memorial Awards for Literature, the SEAWrite Award, the Patnubay ng Sining at Kalinangan Award from the City of Manila, and the Gawad Pambansang Alagad ni Balagtas from UMPIL or Writers Union of the Philippines for lifetime achievement.

## ***The Editors***

Prof. Emeritus **Cristina Pantoja Hidalgo, Ph.D.** is the director of the UST Center for Creative Writing and Literary Studies. Her latest book, *To Remember to Remember: Reflections on the Literary Memoirs of Filipino Women*, was released by the UST Publishing House in October 2015. The author describes it as a mongrel – part creative nonfiction and part literary commentary. She has published more than 33 books and won numerous literary awards. She has also served as Vice President for Public Affairs of the University of the Philippines System, Director of the UST Publishing House, Director of the UP Press and Director of the UP Institute of Creative Writing. She continues to teach graduate creative writing courses in UST and UP.

**Associate Professor John Jack G. Wigley, Ph.D.** is the author of two memoirs, *Home of the Ashfall* (UST Publishing House, 2014) and *Falling into the Manhole* (UST Publishing House, 2012), winner of the Best Book (Gawad San Alberto Magno) in the 15<sup>th</sup> *Dangal ng UST*, and a finalist in the 13<sup>th</sup> Madrigal-Gonzalez Best First Book Award. He is also the co-author of *In Synch: Edith Tiempo Made Easy* (UST Varsitarian, 2009) and *Philippine Literatures: Texts, Themes, Approaches* (UST Publishing House, 2008). He is the Director of the University of Santo Tomas Publishing House, a literature professor at UST Graduate School, College of Rehabilitation Sciences, and the UST Faculty of Arts and Letters. He is also a Resident Fellow of the UST Center for Creative Writing and Literary Studies. He has an AB English (Holy Angel University, 1989), an MA Literature (UST, 2004) and a PhD Literature *Cum Laude* (UST, 2012). He served as panelist in the 2013 and 2014 Silliman National Writers and the UST National Writing workshops, and was a writing fellow of the 2013 UP National Writers Workshop. His third book is forthcoming.