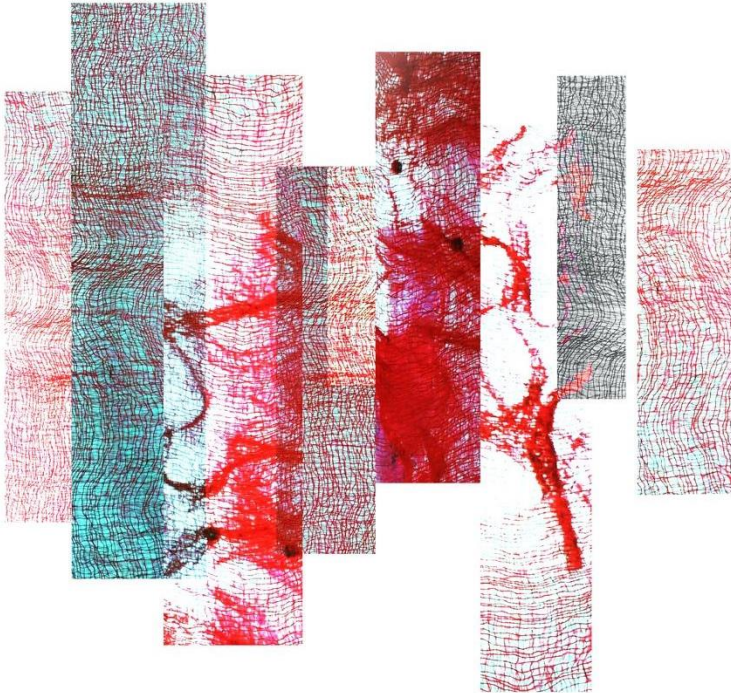




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FOREWORD

This issue of the University of the East Research Journal features three articles on responses to disaster such as the recent devastating COVID-19 pandemic and how education is moving on in its aftermath and the survival strategies reflective of the Filipino resilience in the face of the African swine flu. A closer look at the transportation situation in the country is made through a study comparing public and private transportation and how UE Caloocan students choose their mode of transport. In another article, jeepney drivers become the subject of how their inflation awareness affects their financial stability.

Two articles reveal high school students' difficulty with two very important subjects in their curriculum which are English and Mathematics. Recommendations are proposed to reduce the anxiety level of students with regards to the English subject and to increase preparedness of students in mathematics for tertiary education.

Academic outputs of graduate students are also included in this issue. A Research Management System was developed to facilitate research data management that will particularly facilitate operations at the Office of Research Coordination. Another article looked into how human resource management (HRM) practices relate to faculty job satisfaction and retention intention in three Nantong universities.

The article "Frontliners na Tagapamahala ng Kapayapaan at Kaayusan sa mga Piling Barangay sa Lungsod ng Malabon at Valenzuela: mga Kuwento ng Buhay" detailed the extreme challenges encountered by the frontliners in maintaining peace and order in the face of the uncertainties and dangers of the COVID-19 pandemic. Most of them were barangay *tanod* who sacrificed several days without seeing their families; being quarantined because they themselves got sick with COVID-19; and facing the wrath of fellow barangay residents who refuse to comply with lockdown regulations.

“The Impact of Swine Flu Outbreak in Retailing Pig Business in Malabon Central Market” showed that in spite of the declines in pork demand and rising production costs, small and mid-scale pork retailers successfully coped with the impact of the outbreak through informal supplier networks, consumer education efforts, and diversification into processed products and alternative sales channels. These grassroots initiatives were crucial in mitigating fear and stabilizing market operations during this health crisis.

“*Silaw ken Tarabay: Exploring Parental Experiences on In-Person Instructions*” investigated the realities faced by parents at San Vicente Elementary School during in-person instruction that followed on-line instruction after the pandemic. Using Epstein’s theory of parental involvement, six themes were generated namely on parenting, on communicating, on volunteering, on learning at home, on decision making, and collaborating with the community. The challenges faced by parents as they get actively involved in their children’s education can actually be addressed by school heads in terms of making interventions that would enhance their involvement in the academic excellence of their children.

“Public and Private Transportation: Basis for Assessment on the Accessibility, Conveniency, and Economical Ways for UE-Caloocan Students” compared public and private modes of transport to determine which was more advantageous. The results showed that 54.69% of the respondents use public transportation exclusively, 7.81% use private transportation exclusively, and 37.50% who use both. Private transportation turned out to be more advantageous in terms of accessibility and convenience. In the end, however, it is the cost that determines why private transportation is most frequently used by the respondents.

“Inflation Awareness and Its Relation to the Financial Stability of Caloocan City Jeepney Drivers” examined how inflation awareness relates to the financial stability of jeepney drivers in Caloocan City, a sector which is very highly vulnerable to rising fuel costs and fluctuating daily income. It was found that even if the drivers demonstrated the ability to manage essential financial responsibilities, their stability remained sensitive to income unpredictability and operational costs. Their understanding was very limited involving only basic concepts that limits how effective their decisions are during economic shifts. Aside from understanding inflation, the study proposed offering financial education programs that would develop practical financial management skills to help jeepney drivers better cope with inflationary challenges.

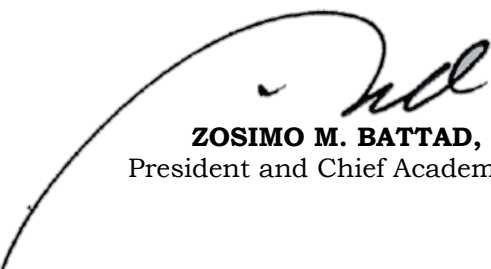
“Designing an English Language Proficiency Program to answer the English Language Anxiety of Junior High School Students” revealed that the prevailing level of language anxiety among Junior High School students learning the English language is “anxious,” indicating the lack of self-confidence in speaking the language among the students because of their fear of negative evaluation. Such high anxiety level is found to subsequently affect the student’s learning and speaking of the English language in the English classroom. The study designed a Speaking Program for Effective Communication at Home (SPEECH) to address the speaking anxiety of junior high school students.

“College Mathematics Readiness of Students in the Philippine Senior High School” evaluated the preparedness of 758 SHS students from public and private schools across Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao during the 2022-2023 school year. The results showed that most of the students’ proficiency level was at the “Beginning” stage and so these students were considered “Not Ready” for college level mathematics. A further probe into the data revealed that the students had poor understanding across nearly all tested competencies. Several factors were mentioned by teachers who were interviewed in the study that are responsible for these gaps. It was stressed that targeted interventions such as implementing standards-aligned assessments and tailoring the curriculum to reflect varying computational skill should be adopted. Deeper mathematical training could benefit STEM and ABM students while non-STEM/ABM students could use more analytical and reasoning skills to better prepare for college-level demands.

“Development and Evaluation of UE – Research Management System” developed and evaluated a data-driven Research Management System (RMS) for the University of the East (UE) to expedite and hasten documentation caused by the deficiency of a centralized research platform. The system was particularly designed to streamline research submission, approval workflows, integration of external research profiles, and reporting functions. Fifty respondents—including faculty, department chairs, deans, and administrators—were asked to assess six quality characteristics of the system namely Functional Suitability, Usability, Performance Efficiency, Reliability, Security, and Overall Satisfaction. Results proved that the UE RMS is an efficient, secure, and user-friendly platform that improves transparency, accountability, and research productivity. The positive evaluation obtained by the system confirms its strong alignment with ISO/IEC 25010 standards and its potential as a sustainable digital solution for higher education institutions.

“Developing Sustainable HRM Strategies: Lessons from Nantong Universities” looked into how human resource management (HRM) practices relate to faculty job satisfaction and retention intention in three Nantong universities. The HRM dimensions that were analyzed included Recruitment and Selection, Training and Development, Performance Evaluation, and Benefits and Compensation together with demographic covariates. The results of the study point to a set of sustainable HRM strategies emphasizing transparent performance standards, tiered training pathways, and stronger Benefits and Compensation-performance alignment.

Proceedings of the 19th University of the East Research Forum was also included in this issue. The forum was held on October 1, 2025 at the Briefing Room of UE Manila and attended by 167 participants; 50 of whom are faculty and employees of UE and 79 students from the morning session and 38 students from the afternoon session. Ten presentations by faculty research grantees who completed their works were made in four sessions.



ZOSIMO M. BATTAD, PhD
President and Chief Academic Officer

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