

The background features a network of thin yellow lines connecting four large, solid yellow circles. The circles are positioned at the vertices of a roughly square shape, with additional lines extending from each circle towards the corners of the page, creating a sense of connectivity and structure.

2020 ANNUAL REPORT

# PARAMI UNIVESITY

# PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Dear friends,

It is with much joy that I share with you the 2020 annual report of Parami.

If there is one thing that I learned during the year 2020, it is innovative resilience. I would normally say that working in a country such as Myanmar, a young democracy with basic laws and regulations still being developed as we speak, resilience is a must. It is not anything new in Myanmar, but it also conveys a sense of holding onto something that one is used to amidst changes. In such an unprecedented year like 2020, however, resilience is not enough anymore. COVID-19 has challenged us to reach beyond resilience and encouraged us to cultivate innovation. It takes a lot of innovation in the midst of being resilient to withstand the global pandemic disruptions.

This is exactly what we at Parami had to embrace during this year. The students have to learn fast to adapt to an online environment. The faculty have to switch quickly to digital classrooms. The staff have to work closely in virtual meetings. The school itself also had to develop and employ new technological facilities to better provide equitable education for all our students. We have established an e-library with tens of thousands of journals and publications, the subscriptions of which are available through Myanmar Academic Libraries Consortium and Research4Life. We have employed FortiClient as our remote access VPN so that our students can have access to articles from our e-library even when they are off-campus. We are currently setting up Sakai as our learning management system (LMS) to further advance our virtual learning as well as exploring a few university management softwares to solidify all our different components of the institution. COVID-19 has created many challenges, yet it has at once accelerated our innovation.

Going forward into the year 2021, I believe that we can move past innovative resilience towards innovative growth to materialize the vision of Parami as the ultimate institution that cultivates future leaders of Myanmar from all walks of life. Seeing a vision of what could be possible is one thing; 'walking that vision' is another. In that sense, our supporters and donors are walking the vision, without whom nothing could have been achieved within and beyond Parami. For that, I am truly grateful on behalf of Parami students, faculty, and staff. And I couldn't have been more proud to have the kinds of supporters that we do. I hope to keep making a dent in the universe with their support!

I wish you all a Happy New Year ahead!

Yours,



Dr. Kyaw Moe Tun  
President  
Parami University



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# AT A GLANCE

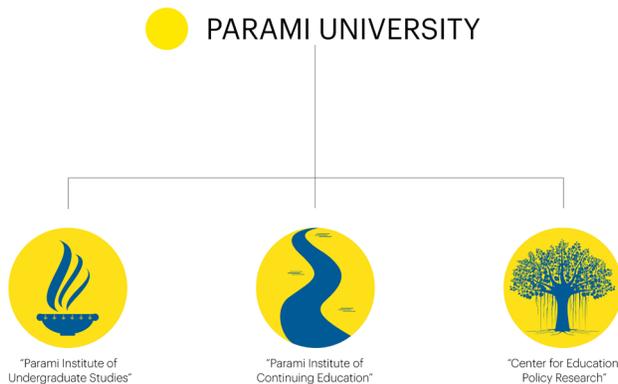
With its operation in fourth year, Parami has grown significantly in many areas of our work. With the mission to bring unprecedented, high-quality liberal arts education to Myanmar, Parami seeks to set a new standard for higher education across the country. Parami University started as a pilot institute, known as Parami Institute of Liberal Arts and Sciences in early 2017. Although this year has been challenging due to the global pandemic, Parami has accomplished some of the milestones for organization evolution and has advanced its organizational structure. In 2020, we restructured our various programs to fit the needs of the university as a whole.

Parami University now operates two learning institutes and one research center: Parami Institute of Undergraduate Studies (PIUS), Parami Institute of Continuing Education (PICE), and Center for Education Policy Research (CEPR). Through all of our institutes and programs, Parami strives to remain as one of the strongest voices advocating for change in higher education in Myanmar, and a hub of intellectual thought and exploration.

Parami University will become the first private not-for-profit residential liberal arts and sciences university in Myanmar, taking place on the 20 acres of the green space in Hmawbi Township, just outside of Yangon city. Providing students from diverse backgrounds with essential skills in critical thinking and global citizenship, Parami University will provide opportunities for Myanmar youths to achieve their potential as change agents of Myanmar.

Despite the impediments due to the global pandemic, Parami University has stayed on track in advancement of the institution. A successful fundraising campaign gala took place in February. We developed and finalized our campus masterplan in March 2020. In October 2020, Parami formed the inaugural Board of Trustees. In addition, Parami University has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with its institutional partner, Bard College, in December 2020. To ensure high standard of education at Parami, local and international accreditation processes of the university are underway. PICE welcomed 7th cohort of the Parami Leadership Program in August 2020 and formed the alumni working group in December 2020. CEPR has also published policy briefs, education newsletters, the first-ever glossary of higher education terminology and the first issue of Parami Journal of Education in 2020.

## ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE





# PARAMI UNIVERSITY

Education plays an important role in a nation's development. For decades, Myanmar has been losing top students due to a significant lack of educational opportunities in the country, a phenomenon commonly referred to as "brain drain." It is the goal of Parami University to revitalize Myanmar's higher education sector, and, in turn, broaden access to these pathways for Myanmar's young people. 2020 was an unprecedented year for our work towards making Parami University a reality in the near future, and we are set to open our doors to Myanmar's next generation of leaders in 2022.

Once opened, Parami will be a national hub of thought, research, and innovation. This year, Parami University has undergone an organizational restructuring to advance and expand its functions as a whole. Parami University now is structured with two learning institutes and one research center, namely Parami Institute of Undergraduate Studies (PIUS), Parami Institute of Continuing Education (PICE), and Parami Center for Education Policy Research (CEPR).

Parami University has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Bard College in New York, USA—an agreement that will highly support the establishment of the full time four-year liberal arts and sciences degree program—in December 2020. By pursuing accreditations from both the Middle States Commission on Higher Education (USA) and the Myanmar government, it is our expectation to award students both locally- and internationally-accredited bachelor's degrees.

## Policy

The Myanmar government is set to release a new Private School Law in the near future, the provisions of which will allow for an institution such as Parami University to operate officially as an accredited educational organization with full degree-granting authority. Our growing policy and advocacy work, outlined elsewhere in this report, has given us a foothold in the conversation around the development of these laws.



# PARAMI UNIVERSITY VISION AND MISSION

## Vision

To become a premier private higher education institution in Myanmar, with a focus on interdisciplinary liberal arts and sciences education and a dedication to excellent teaching and research.

## Mission

To cultivate the future leaders and global citizens of our nation and the world from all walks of life by nurturing critical thinking, inspired leadership, and compassionate service through liberal arts and sciences education.



# BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Parami University now has a Board of Trustees with 14 distinguished and recognized local and foreign individuals. The trustees have been a part of Parami University's journey since 2016 and supported its mission through advising, investing time and financial support. With their diverse expertise in various sectors in academia, business and legal fields, the trustees can provide strategic guidance in the development and governance of Parami University.

The Board of Trustees took on their office duties on October 1, 2020. The formation of the Board of Trustees provides Parami University with effective oversight and leadership necessary to ensure good governance and sustainability of the institution.



**Zali Win**  
Chair  
Managing Director  
Credit Agricole Corporate and  
Investment Bank



**Aung Kyaw Moe**  
Vice-Chair (1)



**Nang Kham Nong (Marlene)**  
Vice-Chair (2)



**Abby Pratt**



**Ba Win**



**Bob Tseng**



**Daniel Siegfried**



**Jonathan Becker**



**Kyle Anderson**



**Lex Rieffel**



**Lynn Lynn Tin Htun**



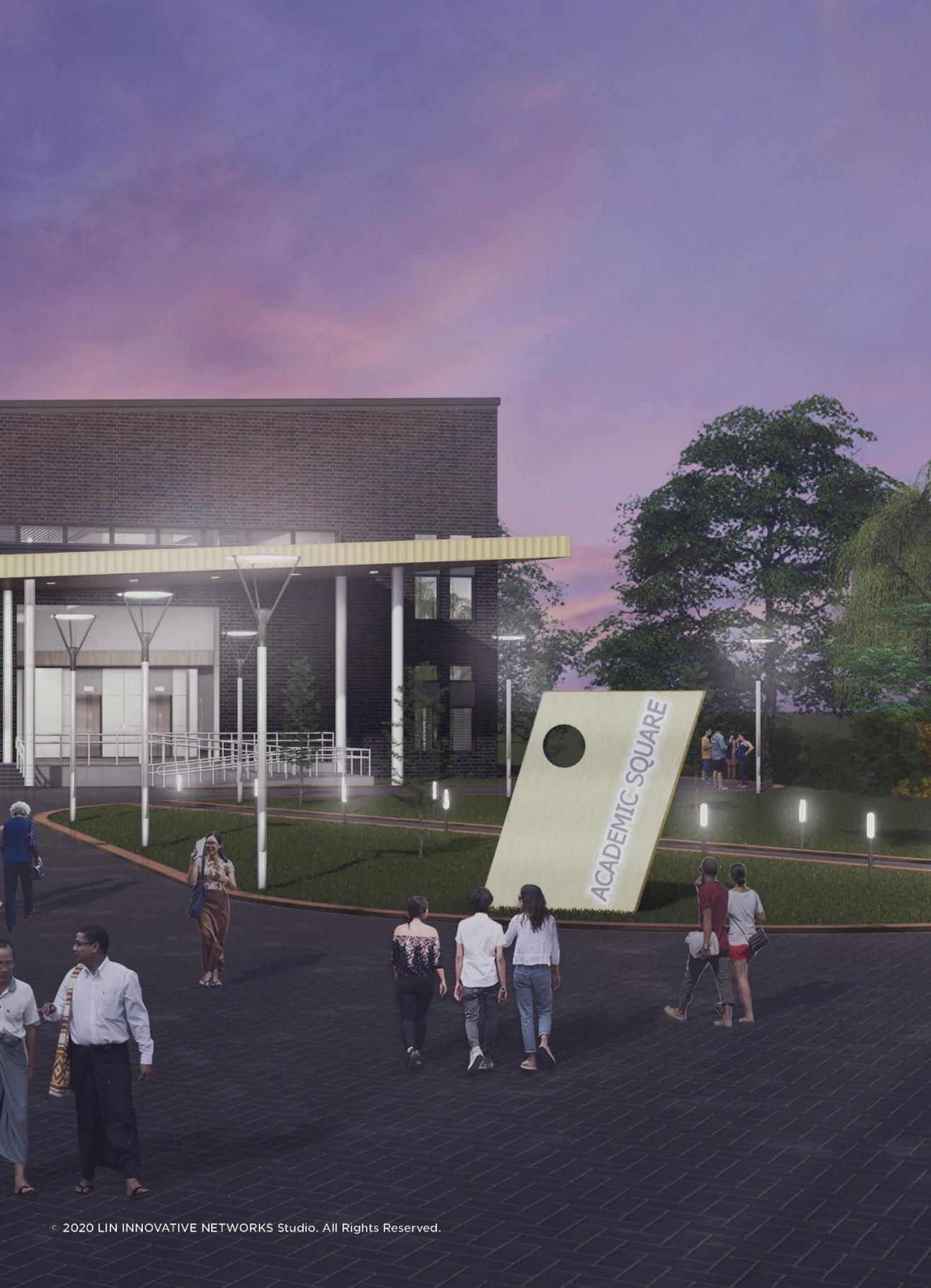
**Nang Khin Khin Gyi**



**Naw Show Ei Ei Tun**



**Stan Sze**



## WHAT ARE THE LIBERAL ARTS & SCIENCES?

Liberal Arts and Sciences, with its emphasis on critical thinking, interdisciplinary analysis, and articulate communications, instill intellectual curiosity, life-long learning habits and leadership skills that are instrumental in solving increasingly complex and multifaceted problems of the world today. Rather than focusing on mastery of a subject matter through rote memorization, liberal arts and sciences education encourages students to develop holistic understanding across disciplines that encompasses science, arts, social sciences and humanities, and apply them through critical analysis, writing and in practice.

Internationally, liberal arts style of learning is distinguished by small discussion-based classes that facilitate dialogue, exchange of knowledge among the students, close reading and critical analysis of materials, and intensive writing and research. Civic engagement and community service are also increasingly becoming an important learning component at global institutions. Parami University incorporates the core values and practices of liberal arts and sciences pedagogy and curriculum to foster visionary leadership and service among the youth to enable them to solve complex challenges facing their communities.





# PARAMI INSTITUTE OF UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES (PIUS)

Aiming to nurture competent and skillful future leaders, Parami University will offer opportunities for young people in Myanmar from different walks of life to fulfill and unlock their potentials through the liberal arts education. The undergraduate education at Parami IUS is best viewed as the lighting of a fire. The education at Parami University will serve to spark students' curiosity so that they are ignited to explore the world and think critically on their own with the skills and habits that they are empowered with.



PARAMI INSTITUTE OF UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES

ပါရမီ ဘွဲ့ကြိုပညာရေး အင်စတီကျု

PARAMI UNIVERSITY

ပါရမီတက္ကသိုလ်

Parami University's Institute of Undergraduate Studies will be open to young high school graduates of Myanmar in late 2022 and offer three undergraduate majors: 1) Politics, Philosophy and Economics; 2) Urban and Environmental Studies; and 3) Computational and Statistical Sciences. Through an interdisciplinary approach, each major will provide students with essential skills and habits during the course of their study that will prepare them for their future. All majors offered at Parami University are subjects highly relevant to the country's development.

600

full-time students  
across four grades

50%

minority students

13:1

student-to-faculty ratio

35%

institutionally-committed  
financial aid

# BARD COLLEGE

## About Bard College

Established in 1860, Bard is one of America's highly prestigious and well-known liberal arts and sciences colleges. Bard College is located in upstate New York and has its main campus in Annandale, New York. Bard operates globally from its satellite campuses in East Jerusalem, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Hungary, and Germany, to name a few. Bard has positioned itself as an international leader in broadening access to exceptional higher education opportunities through its commitment to provide high-quality college education to underrepresented student populations.

## Memorandum of Understanding

Bard College has been Parami's long-standing academic partner. Parami University and Bard College signed a Memorandum of Understanding on December 11, 2020. This MoU will be a collaborative effort in developing a modern liberal arts and science program in Myanmar, and providing academic and research exchange and opportunities for both institutions. Bard's global presence has extended to Myanmar. With the accreditations from Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE) in the US and National Accreditation and Quality Assurance Committee (NAQAC) in Myanmar, it is our hope to award our students dual degrees—one from Parami University and one from Bard College—upon their graduation in 2026.



*"Parami Institute has already established itself as a leader in bringing pathbreaking higher education to Myanmar. Bard is proud to be partnering with Parami to expand that work even further with the establishment of Parami University, an initiative that will offer a Bardstyle education to Myanmar's young people."*

*- Dr. Leon Botstein, President of Bard College*

# PARAMI INSTITUTE OF CONTINUING EDUCATION (PICE)

As symbolized by the continuous flow of the river in the logo, Parami Institute of Continuing Education promises the virtue of lifelong learning. With a belief in progressivism in education through teaching, the Parami Institute of Continuing Education (PICE) will nurture and empower Myanmar's young adults with problem-solving, critical thinking, and analytical skills through a broad range of educational programs. Taught by both experienced Parami and visiting faculty, PICE will continually offer leadership programs, career development courses, and capacity building classes for students, working professionals, and those who wish to continue their learning.

## Parami Leadership Program

The Parami Leadership Program is the initiative of Parami University begun in January 2017. This is a rigorous and deliberate program with courses designed to introduce liberal arts and sciences education to educate recent graduates from Myanmar universities.

It is our strong belief that the most effective way to activate and enhance students' latent skills as thinkers and change agents is through a liberal arts and sciences education. We recruit Myanmar's talented and passionate young people from diverse ethnic groups and social and economic backgrounds each year. The Parami Leadership Program strives to empower our students and nurture their potential as ethical and creative leaders. As a partner organization of both Bard College and Centre College, respected U.S. institutions, we are committed to offering a top-notch, globally-minded education directly from our campus in Yangon.

With its broad-based curriculum and emphasis on experimental, hands-on learning in the humanities, social sciences, natural sciences, and arts, the Parami Leadership Program prepares its students with the critical thinking skills needed to thrive professionally, academically, and personally. The details of courses, electives and research projects are outlined on the following pages.

In August 2020, we welcomed 34 students of the 7th cohort to our program. Due to the global pandemic this year, the majority of the semester took place online through virtual classes, lectures, and meetings. Our faculty and students started to adopt a new normal way of teaching and learning virtually through online learning platforms, such as Zoom application and Google Classroom. Although teaching and learning virtually present some new challenges, the teachers and students have shown great resilience and dynamism while adapting to this new theater of learning. During the semester, technical support classes and additional meetings were offered to ensure that the students have the support that they needed to excel in their studies. Moreover, in order to accommodate the new normal and additional needs of online learning, Parami was able to provide additional funding to the students and faculty with the support of our donors.



# ONE YEAR PROGRAM

The 7th cohort is the second cohort to be a part of the year-long Parami Leadership Program, which was expanded to deepen the level of learning and give students even more time to engage with new and exciting ideas. The rigorous, multi-faceted structure encourages students to develop their critical thinking, analysis, and writing skills across a wide range of subjects and activities.

## Writing & Thinking Workshop

The Bard College Writing & Thinking Workshop, a two-week program focused on inspiring students to broaden their creative and analytical thinking, is an essential part of the Parami Leadership Program. Students are guided through the process of writing, editing, brainstorming, and analyzing. Students engage in their writing process through a variety of highly-developed techniques and guided exercises which improve their abilities to write, edit, brainstorm, and analyze. We are lucky to have Dr. Rebecca Grenato, Associate Vice President for Global Initiatives of Bard College and Maath Musleh from Al-Quds Bard College for Arts and Sciences as our visiting workshop leaders for the 7th Cohort.

## Core Curriculum

Over the course of the year, every student takes three required, interdisciplinary core courses: **Identity & Ethics, Logic & Probability, and History & Power**. These courses tackle some of society's biggest questions using a broad range of approaches and disciplines, ensuring that students are exposed to crucial ideas through a variety of lenses.

## Electives

In addition to core courses, students choose from a wide range of exciting and focused elective courses taught by our faculty, enabling them to deepen their learning across a variety of subjects. Elective offerings this year include:

- Gender in Southeast Asia
- Chinese in Southeast Asia
- International & Community Development
- Energy, Matter, & Life
- Mathematical Modeling
- Education & Teaching Studies
- Theater of the Oppressed
- Love in Literature and Film
- Perspectives on Climate Change
- Food Systems and Agriculture
- Management & Leadership
- Professional Education Studies
- Topics in Music Psychology
- Money Matters: Topics on Global Economics

## Research Design

In order to further develop their analytical skills, students participate in two research projects across the year. In the first semester, students work in small groups led by a faculty mentor. This term's projects included:

- **Children's Books Research Project:** Students produced six hard-copy, multilingual children's books with stories that are relevant and valuable to different ethno-linguistic groups. The students were responsible for writing the stories, translating those stories into different languages (English, Burmese, Mon, Jingpho (Kachin), Sagaw Karen, and Poe Karen), creating images that help tell the story, providing audio readings of the content, digitizing all content, producing the books, and distributing the books to target audiences.
- **Digital Mapping With Google Map And Google Earth:** Two groups of students explored the potential of digital mapping with Google Map and Google Earth, simple tools for creating interactive and collaborative maps on the web. The first group of students compared the impact of air pollution in Yangon during 2020 while the second group of students explored the solar orientation of temples in Bagan.
- **Federalism, Ethnicity And Nationalism: Wa History Since World War II:** Students studied the history of Wa state, from World War II and the beginning of Communist rule, to the formation of the UWSA and the 21st Century Panglong Conference. Students explored the involvement of Chinese and American and how it shaped current politics in Myanmar.
- **Spirits And Occult Creatures Across Religions:** Students carried out interviews to conduct comparative analysis on the role of religious beliefs in everyday life from multiple religious points of view.

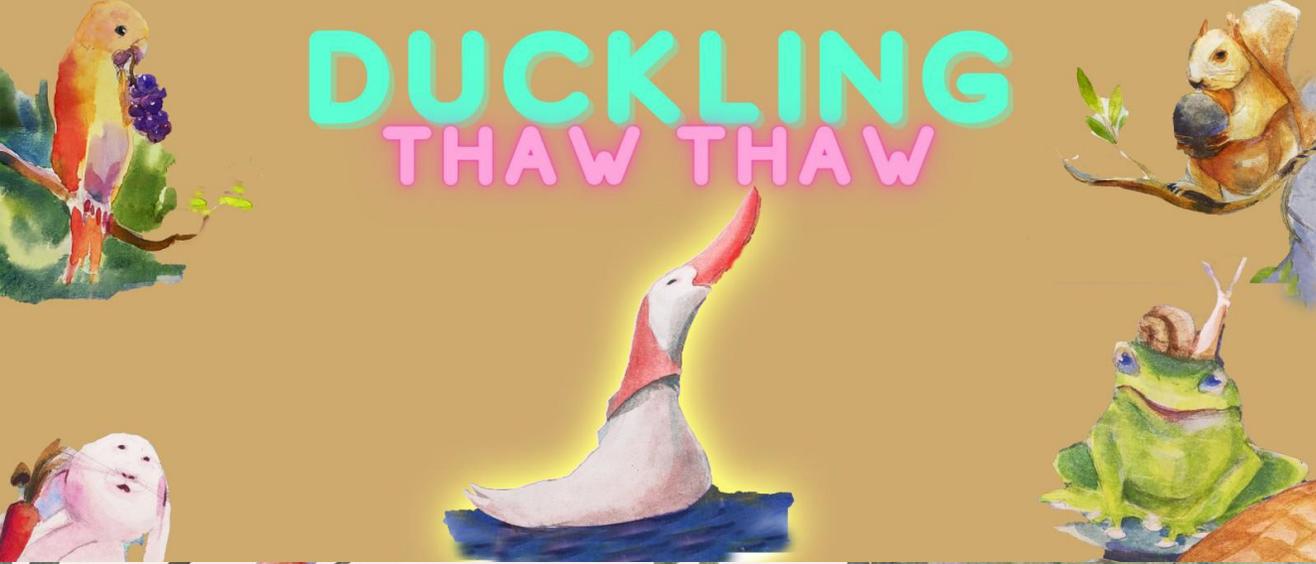


- **The Matriculation Exam In Myanmar:** Students researched and reviewed the history of the matriculation exam in Myanmar. They shared this knowledge with a wider community by producing and launching a podcast series via Facebook and YouTube.



# DUCKLING

## THAW THAW



# Ko Ko and Bog



SUPER HERO

စွမ်းအားရှင်

ဂံင်ဘိကတ်

ညောင်ညွှာ

ဟောင်းရှာဆာ

Ngun Ja Wa





# OUR STUDENTS

Parami students are exemplary leaders who are eager to broaden the impact and efficacy of their work. This year, 30 students from the 6th cohort graduated in May 2020, and 34 new students entered the 7th cohort in August 2020. We recruited our 7th cohort students through virtual info sessions and interviews. We were able to find engaged, ambitious and passionate leaders across Myanmar who are ready to take their skills to the next level. The 5th and 6th cohort students are no exception to this. This year's students come from all walks of life and all parts of the country. They come from a diversity of backgrounds and professional expertise, including NGOs, engineering, medicine, research think-tanks, and teaching.

52%  
of students are from ethnic minority groups

86%  
receive full scholarship

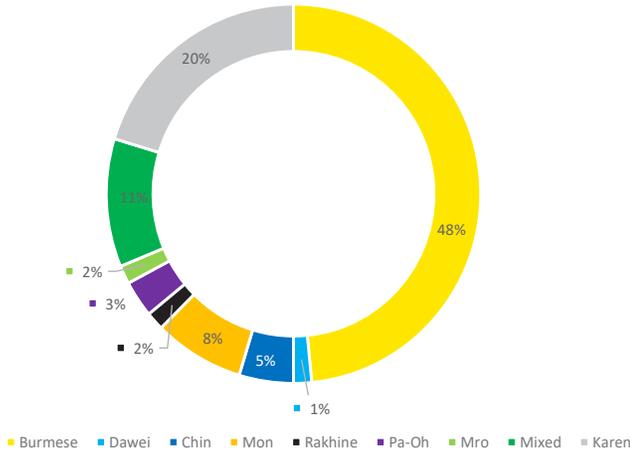
7:1  
student-to-faculty ratio (7th cohort)

23  
average age of students entering the program

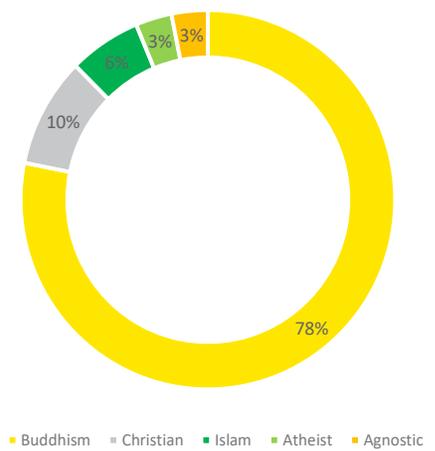
33 | 31  
female | male students

\$104,000+  
provided in financial aid\*

### Ethnicity



### Religion



Note: Data reflect demographic information from the 6th and 7th cohort.  
\*Includes waived tuition fees, housing, and living stipends.





# OUR FACULTY

Faculty members at Parami are passionate and committed in providing quality education and engaging with students, in-person or virtually. The materials and content that they teach challenge and improve our students' analytical and critical thinking skills. This year demanded our faculty in many ways to offer group activities and hands-on activities through virtual classrooms and meetings. However, they overcame such obstacles through their creative teaching skills. As excellent educators and academics, they bring their expertise, knowledge, and enthusiasm to every class and every discussion, ensuring that students carry with them a love for learning long after they leave our program.



**Joe Decker**

*B.A., English & Educational Studies, Carleton College  
Faculty in Humanities; Academic Director*

Joe has been a part of building alternative school programs in Myanmar since 2012. He has taught and administered in a variety of schools and contexts but has most notably served as the Academic Director of the Chin Institute of Social Science where he pioneered a democratic and project-based school model, the first of its kind in the region. He now serves as the Academic Director of the Parami Institute of Continuing Education where he works on developing the program's curriculum and teaches courses on identity, ethics, theatre, and literature.



**Frances O'Morchoe**

*Ph.D., History, University of Oxford  
Faculty in Humanities*

Dr. Frances O'Morchoe is a historian of nineteenth and twentieth-century Myanmar. Her Ph.D. at the University of Oxford focused on the making of the borders between Myanmar, China, and Thailand. She also holds degrees from the University of Cambridge and the University of Edinburgh. In 2018 she was a visiting lecturer at the University of Mandalay, where she taught classes on South-east Asia and modern China. At Parami she teaches interdisciplinary courses on global history, frontiers, and modern Southeast Asia.



**Mark Brown**

*Ph.D., Philosophy, Murdoch University  
Faculty in Social Science*

Dr. Mark Brown has a Master in International and Community Development and a PhD. His professional passions are education and community development, specifically on issues related to social inclusion and sustainable livelihoods. He spent many years in Lashio, Shan State, where he established a school for rural youth. The school now operates as a social enterprise, and is proudly owned and managed by local staff. At Parami, Mark is currently teaching classes on educational studies and community development.

“Integrating sciences and arts, without boundaries, can enhance students' ability to look at complex real-world situations and make better decisions. There is no doubt quality education can make a country better than before. Everyone should be aware of the vital importance of quality education to ensure our country is not left behind in the modern world.”

- Dr. Win Maw Hlaing Oo, Faculty in Science



**Mark Stanford**

*Ph.D., Social Anthropology, London School of Economics  
Faculty in Social Science*

Dr. Mark Stanford is a cognitive anthropologist specializing in moral psychology and problems of human co-operation. He has conducted ethnographic and psychological fieldwork in China and Myanmar, and holds degrees from the University of Oxford and the London School of Economics. He has held posts as a teaching fellow at King's College, London, and a postdoctoral researcher at the University of Oxford. At Parami, Mark teaches courses related to quantitative approaches in the social sciences.



**Win Maw Hlaing Oo**

*Ph.D., Materials Science, Washington State University  
Faculty in Science*

Dr. Win Maw Hlaing Oo obtained his Ph.D. in Materials Science from Washington State University and worked as postdoctoral researcher at the University of Utah and Nanyang Technological University, Singapore. In 2014, he was selected as a fellow in ASEAN-US Science and Technology Fellowship Program, which aimed to empower scientists to lead the efforts of fostering science-based policy making. At Parami, Win Maw teaches the role of science and mathematics in society.





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## AFTER PARAMI

After their time in the Parami Leadership Program, many of our students work in a range of sectors while some go on to study abroad with prestigious scholarships. Each year, our alumni community is growing, taking a part and having an impact in different communities.

Furthering their education:

Parami alumni know the value of education. A number of our students are pursuing advanced degrees at institutions around the world, including:

- M.A. in Cultural Practice in Education, University of Syracuse (USA)
- M.A. in Education, Flinders University (AU)
- M.A. in Politics, Philosophy and Management, Lancaster University (UK)
- M.A. in Political Science, Central European University (EU)
- M.B.A. in International Business, Shih Chien University (Taiwan)
- M.Sc in Urban Strategies, Chulalongkorn University (Thailand)

Starting their own organizations:

Parami alumni are leaders and doers in their own right. Our students have gone on to found or are leading their own programs, companies, and organizations across the country:

- Binary Lab (Technology)
- WEstay Hotels and Hospitality (Business)
- Noor Education and Community Center, Bago (Education)
- Bards Company (Technology)
- Aidi Weaving House (Social Enterprise)
- Bikes in Yangon (Social Enterprise)
- Great English Learning Center, Kyauk Phyu (Education)
- Burmah Games (Business)
- Lucky Star Mattress (Business)
- Dinger (Finance)

Advancing their careers:

After Parami, our students are offered high-level jobs at leading organizations and companies across a wide range of sectors. Our students have gone on to work at a number of impressive NGOs and businesses across the country:

- Article 19 (INGO)
- AIA Group Myanmar (Insurance)
- Center for Operational Analysis and Research (Research)
- Center for Social Integrity (NGO)
- Coca-Cola Myanmar (Business)
- Emerging Markets Entrepreneurs Myanmar (Finance)
- Koe Koe Tech (Social Enterprise)
- Myanmar LGBT Rights Network (NGO)
- National Economic Coordination Committee (Government)
- NEX4 ICT Solutions (Technology)
- Oxford Policy Management (Research)
- Phandeeyar (Social Enterprise)
- Prudential Myanmar (Insurance)
- Proximity Designs (Social Enterprise)
- Renaissance Institute (Research)
- Search for Common Ground Myanmar (INGO)
- Yoma Bank (Business)
- Zabai Myanmar (Technology)



# PARAMI ALUMNI

With 114 former students, Parami’s alumni community is expanding, taking various roles in the society, and making an impact. Alumni have lasting connections with our institution and it is our aim to produce more competent leaders to take charge and create change in their societies. Our alumni play an important role in contributing to our institution's growth and providing our current students with valuable knowledge as well as career and further study opportunities. In December 2020, we held a virtual alumni reunion and formed the Alumni Working Group. The main goal of the Alumni Working Group (AWG) is to form an Alumni Association in the near future. Currently, the group has representatives from all 7 cohorts of PLP. The AWG was established with the following objectives:

- To encourage, foster and promote relationships among the alumni themselves
- To promote a sustained sense of belonging to Parami Institute among the Alumni by being in regular contact with them
- To provide a forum for the Alumni for exchange of ideas on academic, career and professional development by organizing and coordinating networking events

One of the major events planned for Parami Community in 2021 is the 4th Anniversary Event of Parami Institute, which was founded on January 9, 2017. To celebrate the 4th anniversary of Parami, the Alumni Working Group held their first event virtually on January 16, 2021 with the aim of fostering the Parami alumni relationship and providing a space for them to strengthen their network.

- Zin Myo Kyaw
- Htet Aung Hlaing Myint (Pedro)
- Jessica Khin
- Htet Arkar Kyaw (Cohort 1)
- La Woon Yan (Cohort 1)
- Yan Naung Myint (Cohort 2)
- Zwe Pyae (Cohort 2)
- Sa Phyo Arkar Myo Hlaing (Cohort 3)
- Hsan Winn Hlaing (Cohort 3)
- Ye Htet (Cohort 4)
- Moh Moh Nay Wynn (Cohort 4)
- Than Htoo Naing (Cohort 5)
- Aung Khant Zaw (Cohort 5)
- Kyaw Zin Myo (Cohort 6)
- Ca Hlei lang (Cohort 6)
- Saw Char Kabyu Htoo (Cohort 6)
- Htet Arkar Latt (Cohort 7)
- Han Thuya (Cohort 7)
- Myo Hlaing Myint (Cohort 7)
- Yee Mon Wai Oo (Cohort 7)





# PARAMI X

## What is ParamiX?

Parami Institute of Continuing Education has introduced ParamiX, offering a range of interactive online classes accessible worldwide. Courses will take 4 weeks, and include 8 online sessions with one of our professors as well as instruction videos and learning materials.

June–July

### INTRODUCTION TO DATA ANALYSIS

*Dr. Christina Hans, Data Science Consultant, Ph.D. in Finance*

# ParamiX

Parami Institute's Interactive Online Courses



# PARAMI TALK SERIES

Parami seeks to foster intellectual curiosity and awareness of the public on salient local and global issues.

The Parami Talk Series is an important element of our mission to promote intellectual discussion and engagement with global concerns in Myanmar. It is a free monthly public lecture event that hosts prominent speakers from a wide range of sectors and backgrounds to share their work and expertise with the community in Yangon. For most of the year 2020, we were not able to host in-person talk series events and opportunities. However, taking advantage of increased connectivity through the use of technology during the pandemic, we were able to reach beyond geographic boundaries and invite global thought leaders to our doorstep to share their knowledge and expertise with a wide audience from all over Myanmar. For the inaugural session of the new online Parami Talk Series in December 2020, we invited a leading international financial expert to give a talk via Zoom, which was broadcasted live to the general audience via Facebook. In 2021, we hope to invite more thought leaders of the world, and connect the public audience in Myanmar to the intellectual community worldwide.

JAN

## IMPORTANCE OF INNOVATIVE THINKING IN SCIENTIFIC DISCOVERIES

*Dr. Roberta Ness*

Dean of the University of Texas School of Public Health

FEB

## CHANGE LEADERSHIP

*Prof. Dr. Aung Tun Thet*

Economist

MAR

## FOREIGN INVESTMENT, NATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY, AND NATIONAL IDENTITY

*Priscilla Clapp*

Diplomat and Chief of Mission in Burma (1999-2002)

DEC

## STRATEGIZING FINANCE IN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (Online)

*Prof. Andrew Sheng*

Former Chairman of the Securities & Futures Commission of Hong Kong



# CENTER FOR EDUCATION POLICY RESEARCH

The Center for Education Policy Research (CEPR) was founded in late 2019 to focus on higher education policy research in Myanmar. Through research, advocacy and signature Parami Conferences, CEPR aims to change the landscape for both private and public higher education institutions in the country, and thereby support the creation of more meaningful education opportunities for young people. By inducing a systemic change in education via advocacy for effective evidence-based policy, CEPR seeks to have a wide impact on the education ecosystem and the society.

In the first year of its founding in 2020, CEPR published a series of policy briefs and newsletters, a higher education glossary, and the first issue of bilingual Parami Journal of Education.

**Parami Journal of Education:** The first issue of Parami Journal of Education featured general articles, news, and original researches on diverse topics in the education field, ranging from teaching ethnic languages to providing equitable access to education for children with disabilities to higher education in the global context. PJE is a peer reviewed bilingual journal published twice a year in English and Myanmar. Original articles are accepted in either language, as well as in ethnic languages from researchers, academics and professionals working in the field of education. The Journal is published both online and offline, and disseminated to education stakeholders from all over the country as well as the general public.



CENTER FOR EDUCATION POLICY RESEARCH

ပညာရေးမူဝါဒ သုတေသနစင်တာ

PARAMI UNIVERSITY

ပါရမီတက္ကသိုလ်

**Higher Education Glossary and Online Glossary Platform:** An English-Myanmar glossary on higher education terminology was curated and published in collaboration with the Myanmar government's National Education Policy Commission (NEPC) to facilitate consensus and understanding of concepts and terminology among stakeholders, and subsequently, promote effective dialogue. An online platform for the glossary has also been set up to offer a more dynamic user interface empowered by a search engine, and regular updates.

**Policy Brief Series:** CEPR's policy briefs focus on thematic issues of high relevance to Myanmar's current developments in higher education policy reform and legal framework. Six bilingual policy briefs published in 2020 featured the following topics: 1) Higher Education Curriculum Autonomy 2) Myanmar's Current Higher Education Funding Model and its Alternatives 3) University Foundation: A Proposal for Speeding Up Financial Autonomy 4) What Kind of University Councils will be Envisioned in Myanmar's Public Universities 5) Non-Profit Higher Education Institutions: A Kind of Civil Society Organizations, and 6) Internationalization of Myanmar Public Universities. The briefs are disseminated to policy makers, relevant ministerial officials, authorities from public universities, and other education stakeholders.

**Newsletters/Interview Series:** CEPR also engages with policy makers and leaders in higher education reform, such as the leadership of National Education Policy Commission, and the rectors and professors of public universities, to identify trends and key topics in higher education, and to share their views, opinions and experiences among stakeholders.

# PARAMI JOURNAL OF EDUCATION

ပါရမီ ပညာရေးဂျာနယ်



**ENVIRONMENTAL  
LEARNING(S) IN MYANMAR:  
GOVERNANCE, RESISTANCE,  
AND LITERACY**

Pg. 108

**HOW MANY CHIN LANGUAGES SHOULD BE  
TAUGHT IN GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS?**

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On **Coming Home: To  
My 22-Year-Old Self**  
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**Guinea Pig**  
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**Shan-ni Language**  
Pg. 27

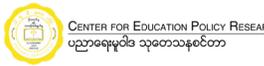
Barriers for **the Rights of  
CWDs to Education**  
Pg. 32



**Online Journal Management System:** The articles submission and review process for Parami Journal of Education are now managed via CEPR's in-house online journal management system. The system is based on an open source software employed by world-renowned journals such as Cultural Anthropology, and allows streamlining of workflow management processes as well as enables easier access of the journal to readers, libraries and the public.

**Online Webinar:** Parami Conferences were postponed in 2020 due to restrictions on mobility and international travel during the pandemic. However, a webinar on Forming University Councils was organized in October 2020, with the participation of international experts with hands-on experience on the matter, and over 100 university administrators and public officials from Myanmar. The webinar aimed to share technical knowledge and best practices to promote the formation of effective governing bodies at Myanmar's public universities.

**CEPR  
EDUCATION  
NEWSLETTER**  
September 2020  
VOLUME 1, ISSUE 4



**CEPR  
EDUCATION  
NEWSLETTER**  
November 2020  
VOLUME 1, ISSUE 5



## TEACHING & LEARNING (PART 1) သင်ကြားသင်ယူမှု

BY THIRI NYO & TINT SABEL SOE WIN

- လက်ရှိသင်ကြားသင်ယူမှုတွင် ကြုံတွေ့ရသော အဓိကစိန်ခေါ်မှုများ
- သင်ကြားသင်ယူမှုနှင့် ပတ်သက်သော ကြိုတင်ပြင်ဆင်မှု၊ စာသင်ခန်းတွင်း နည်းပညာအသုံးပြုမှု
- ဆရာ၊ ဆရာမများအတွက် အကူအညီအထောက်အပံ့များ
- ဦးစားပေးလုပ်ဆောင်သင့်သော ပြုပြင်ပြောင်းလဲမှုများ

## TEACHING & LEARNING (PART 2) သင်ကြားသင်ယူမှု

BY THIRI NYO & TINT SABEL SOE WIN

- လက်ရှိသင်ကြားသင်ယူမှုတွင် ကြုံတွေ့ရသော အဓိကစိန်ခေါ်မှုများ
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ဆရာမတွေအနေနဲ့ ကျောင်းသားတွေထက် အများကြီး ပိုကြိုးစား၊ ပိုလို့သလို ကျောင်းသားတွေ့ဘက်ကလည်း သင်ယူလို့ခက်ပြင်းပြနေနို့ လိုအပ်တယ်။

မိုနိုထီရောက်တဲ့ သင်ကြားသင်ယူမှုနဲ့ သူတေသနတွေ လုပ်ဆောင်တဲ့အခါမှာ နည်းပညာရဲ့ အရေးပါမှု

သင်ကြားသင်ယူမှု ပတ်ဝန်းကျင်ကောင်းပြင်ဖို့ ရန် နိုင်ငံတော်အနေနဲ့ ပိုပိုး ကူညီမှု (အခြေခံအဆောက်အအုံများ၊ ဇွမ်းရှည်မြို့ငှောင် သင်တန်းများနှင့် ဘတ်ဂျက်ထောက်ပံ့မှု)

- ၁-၃ ခေါက်တာလေးစီး နှင့် အင်တာဗျူး၊ အင်တာနက်ရရှိမှု၊ နိုင်ငံစိတ်
- ၄-၆ ခေါက်တာသန္တာနေ့ညီပညာ အပလီကေးရှင်းများအသုံးပြုမှုနှင့် သင်ရိုးညွှန်းတမ်းဆိုင်ရာတွင် စိန်ခေါ်မှုများ
- ၇-၉ ခေါက်တာကျော်စွဲ နှင့် အင်တာဗျူး

ကောင်းမွန်သောသင်ကြားသင်ယူမှုပြုစေရန် ဆရာ၊ ဆရာမအရေအတွက်၊ သင်ထောက်ကူပစ္စည်းများနှင့် အခြေခံအဆောက်အအုံများတွင် လိုလောက်မှု၊ ပြည့်စုံမှု ရှိရန် လိုအပ်ပါသည်။

ဇွမ်းရှည်မြို့ငှောင်သင်တန်းပို့ချမှုများ၊ စိတ်ဓာတ်ခွန်အားပြုစေည့် ကူညီပံ့ပိုးမှုများနှင့် တက္ကသိုလ်တွင်း လုံခြုံရေးအားကောင်းစေရန် ကြပ်မတ်မှုများကို လုပ်ဆောင်ပေးရန် လိုအပ်ပါသည်။

- ၁-၂ ခေါက်တာလေးစီးရမိနိုင် နှင့် အင်တာဗျူး
- ၃-၄ ခေါက်တာမလာယူဆောင် နှင့် အင်တာဗျူး
- ၅-၆ ဦးဟန်သိန်းမောင် နှင့် အင်တာဗျူး



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# Policy Brief



Issue 5: December 2020

## Internationalization of Myanmar Public Universities

Tint Sabei Soe Win and Thiri Nyo



# INSTITUTIONAL ADVANCEMENT

## Campaigns

In 2020, Parami held successful campaigns to fund the construction of our campus set to open in 2022. While this year set us back with our ambitious financial goals, we would like to thank our generous donors and supporters for their continued support during this unprecedented time.

### Parami University Initiation Campaign Launch Gala

We held our first-ever capital campaign, Parami University Initiation Campaign, on February 8, 2020, with great support and hard work from Parami University Fundraising Committee. The gala had a successful turnout and we raised nearly \$4.5 million in cash and pledges from generous local and international donors.

Special thanks to initiation campaign fundraising committee members Zaw Lin Myat, Aung Tun Lin, Daren Myo Paing, Andy Myo, Thar Htet Aung, Htet Arkar Kyaw, Angela May Pan Oo, Su Wai Yee, Su Yee and Su Win Htet.

### 21 Friends for 2021 Campaign

Towards the end of 2020, we began a new matching campaign to be run from December 2020 to February 2021 with the generous support of an anonymous donor. The 21 Friends for 2021 aims to welcome new donors to be honored as Parami Friends (\*Parami Friends are donors who donate \$10,000 or more towards campus development). In this matching campaign, every \$5,000 donation is to be matched in an equal amount by an anonymous donor, which doubles the contributions and enables the new donors to be honored as Parami Friends. At the end of December 2020, with two more months to go in the campaign, we were able to raise \$9,000 in cash and pledges from nine new donors, marking 42% of the fundraising goals for this campaign.



To become friends of Parami University, please visit <https://parami.edu.mm/giving>

For more information, please contact  
Advancement Team  
Institutional Advancement Officer  
[advancement@parami.edu.mm](mailto:advancement@parami.edu.mm)



PARAMI UNIVERSITY  
INITIATION CAMPAIGN  
LAUNCH GALA

ပါရမီတက္ကသိုလ်  
ပထမခြေလှမ်း မိတ်ဆက်ပွဲ

KANBAWZA HALL  
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MY DREAM  
WEDDING DRESS, VIDEO & PHOTO STUDIO

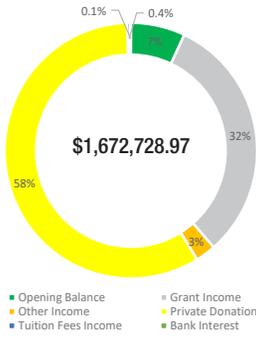




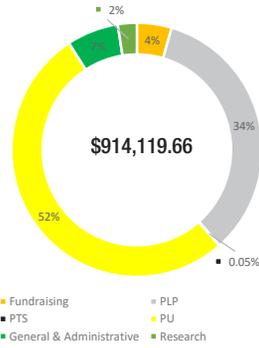


# FINANCES

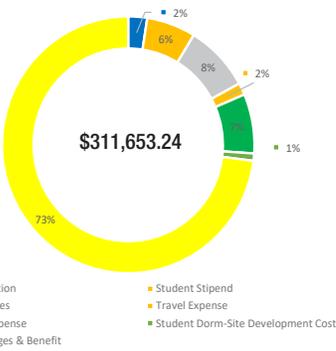
## Revenue



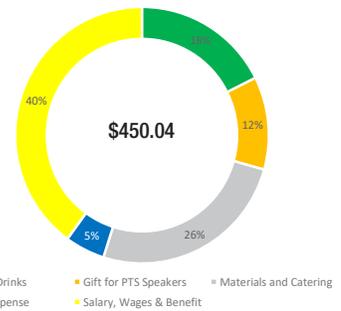
## Expenses



## Parami Leadership Program Expenses

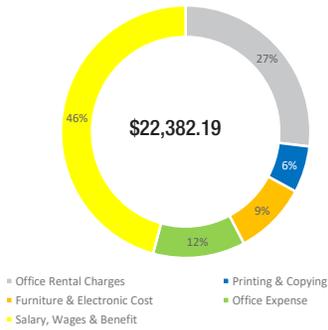


## Parami Talk Series Expenses

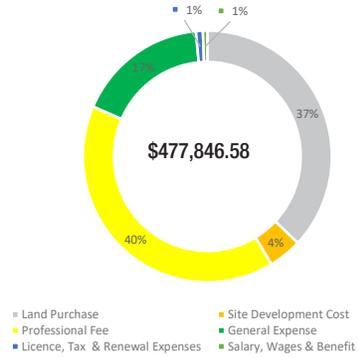




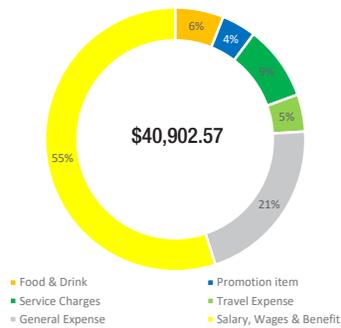
### Research and Advocacy Center Expenses



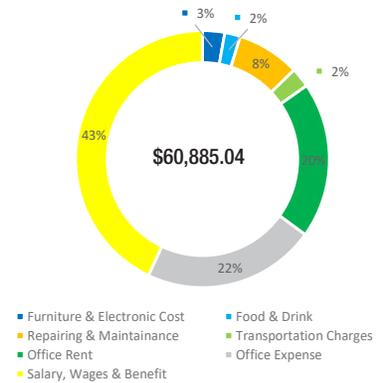
### Parami University Expenses



### Fundraising Expenses



### General and Administrative Expenses



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None of our work over the last year would have been possible without the generosity of the individuals, organizations, and foundations which have continued to offer their trust and support to us. Whether through partnerships, in-kind contributions, or financial support, the following partners and donors have been instrumental in keeping Parami true to its mission.

## Major Financial Supporters

- B.K. Kee Foundation
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If you would like to become a supporter of Parami Institute, please visit our website or email us at [advancement@parami.edu.mm](mailto:advancement@parami.edu.mm). Help us continue to bring transformative educational opportunities to Myanmar!



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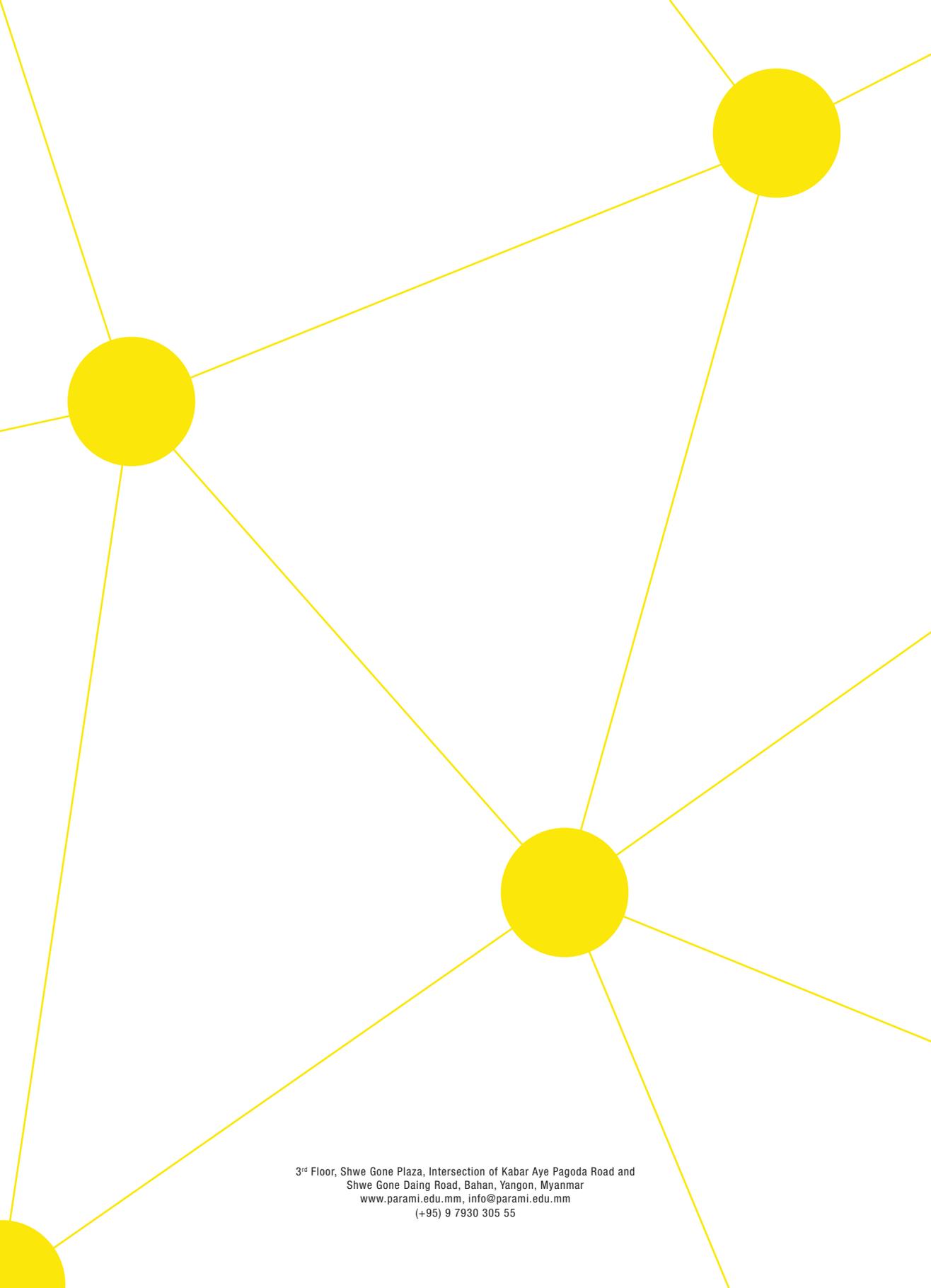
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