



THE THOMASIAN ALUMNI COMMUNITY

VOL. NO. 4 ISSUE NO. 1

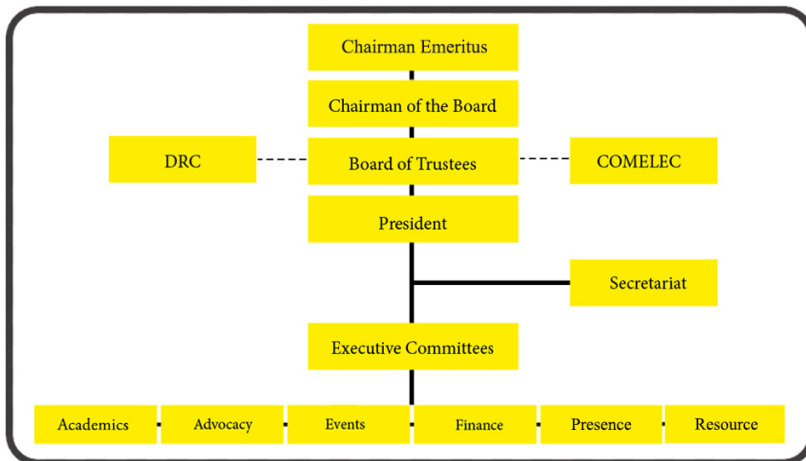
THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE UST ALUMNI ASSOCIATION, INC.

Newsletter

Building Structures and Institutionalizing Practices Towards the UST Alumni Association Inc. Vision

by **Dr. EVELYN SONGCO** *President, UST AAI*

UST ALUMNI ASSOCIATION INC. ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



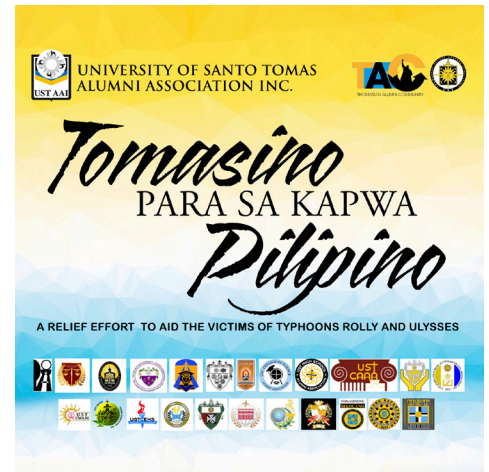
UST
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Finally, in its October Regular Meeting, the Board of Trustees approved the USTAAI organizational chart that defines the structural mechanism that will serve as the backbone behind all the practices of the Association.

The Board of Trustees approves all the programs and projects of the Association for the implementation of the Executive Committees, namely: Academics, chaired by Ms. Ida Tionko, President of the College of Nursing Alumni Association and Secretary of USTAAI; Advocacy, chaired by Engr. Jerenato Alfante, Former Vice-President of USTAAI; Events, chaired by Dr. Rollo Milante, Chapter Coordinator of the Tomasining Bikolano and Vice President of the USTAAI; Public Presence, chaired by Dr. Jo Mariano, President of the Faculty of Medicine and Surgery Alumni Association and PRO of USTAAI; and Resources, chaired by Ms. Maureen Pickering, USTAAI's Business Manager.

The Academics Committee launched Bridges, a regular Sunday show at CBRC.tv at 6 pm last October 10, 2020. The Advocacy Committee, committing to quality education and access to quality education, launched the first Scholarship Program of the USTAAI under the name St. Albertus Magnus Scholarship Program. The Public Presence Committee initiated the development of the website (of USTAAI) that was just made public. The Resources Committee launched the Thomasian Alumni Community Exchange (TAC Exchange), an online market where Thomasian sellers and buyers meet. All the events

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*A Testament to the Servant - Leadership,
Resilience and Selflessness
of our Thomasian Alumni*

Aristotle once said: "It is during our darkest moments that we must focus to see the light!". Indeed, the month of November has been one of the darkest in our country's history this year. As if the COVID pandemic has not been enough, the Philippines was battered by extremely strong and devastating typhoons

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TAC Exchange: Dynamic USTAAI Project

The Thomasian Alumni Association Inc. (USTAAI) has launched an online store, aptly named the Thomasian Alumni Community Exchange (TAC Exchange). This buy-and-sell platform allows alumni to order

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From the RECTOR



CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

Christmas is just a few days away and we can already feel the spirit of Christmas in our own homes and wherever we go despite the sad reality that the Covid 19 pandemic is not yet over, but deep in our hearts we know that God's love for us will give us the strength to go on and be thankful for all the blessings that we continue to receive from Him. The Christmas season ignites a profound feeling inside us that evokes a kind of happiness and exhilaration like no other. It is both indescribable and inexplicable; we cannot put words into it, but it is something that we deeply understand. Pope Francis said that *Christmas is joy, religious joy, an inner joy of light and peace*. Christmas is indeed the perfect time to celebrate the love of God and family and to create memories that will last forever. Jesus is God's perfect, indescribable gift. The amazing thing is that not only are we able to receive this gift, but we are able to share it with others on Christmas and every other day of the year.

In the words of Charles Dickens, one the greatest writers of all time, *I will honor Christmas in my heart, and try to keep it all the year*. We know for a fact that Christmas is not an event at all, but a piece of one's home that one carries in one's heart. And as Thomasians we selflessly give our best despite the many challenges we are currently facing. Christmas constantly reminds us of what Jesus Christ himself said – *And know that I am with you always, to the end of time*. These words we take to heart always because we know that His birth is the most wonderful manifestation of His love for us. I wish to extend my warmest greetings to our dear Thomasian alumni who continue to love and support their beloved alma mater, the University of Santo Tomas. You are indeed paragons of competence, compassion, and commitment. I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!


REV. FR. RICHARD G. ANG, O.P.
Rector

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From the President's Desk

Happy New Year to all the members of the Thomasian alumni community around the world!

Another year just ended. It has been filled with challenges that pained us as individuals, as a family, as a community, and as a nation. Amidst these challenges, the UST Alumni Association Inc. remained steadfast in its commitment to serve the alma mater, the alumni, the nation, and the church. Thanks to the advancement in technology, the Association is able to unceasingly conduct activities that provide opportunities for alumni solidarity under the new normal. The dynamism and synergy of the member associations can be easily seen in the interactions and actions of its various Executive Committees, namely: Academics, Advocacy, Finance, Public Presence, and Resources. Its Secretariat documents, coordinates, and communicates everything going on in the Association.

The Association reaches the Thomasian alumni global community through its activities. Through the Team Academics, it conducted the webinar dubbed as God's Unending Grace: Now and Beyond, and launched a regular life-long learning Sunday show dubbed as Bridges in partnership with CBRC.TV. The Association adopted its brand name Thomasian Alumni Community (TAC) that can be seen in its Team Resources' online store called TAC Exchange, where the Thomasian alumni sellers and buyers meet.

Team Advocacy distributed Logistics Indoor Service Assistant (LISA) to hospitals. Just as the year was about to end, the typhoons that battered Luzon left many of our *kababayans* in a miserable state. The Association's Advocacy Committee became busy with the contribution drive, relief, and rehabilitation activities. Tomasino Para sa Kapwa Pilipino alumni volunteers braved the challenge of CoVid-19 just to reach the affected typhoon victims.

With the effort of the Team Public Presence, the UST Alumni Association Inc. website, the virtual home of the Thomasian alumni community, has just been launched to welcome alumni from all over the world.

As we say goodbye to the year, let us pray for a year of resting, reflection, re-learning, and renewal. May God give us rest from brain-blowing and heart-breaking stresses, and, may we learn how to de-stress ourselves. May He give us opportunities for reflection, and, may we find that moment of reflection in our daily schedules. May our life experiences give us much learning, and, may we re-learn from the past. Finally, let our learning lead us to a life renewed.

Every package of challenges comes with the package of blessings. The USTAAI is a package of blessings, big and small. It serves in the spirit of gratitude to the alma mater and to God's unending grace.

Mabuhay ang Tomasino saan man sa mundo!



USTFPAASFI President Ma. Elena J. Manansala handed over to Asst. Dean Ma. Frieda Z. Hapan PhD, Scholarship Committee Chair the checks for financial assistance and Scholarship Program of the Association.

13 Scholarships from FPAASFI

In anticipation of the financial difficulties of students to enroll for school year 2020-2021 brought about by Covid-19, the Board of Trustees of UST Faculty of Pharmacy Alumni Association and Scholarship Foundation Inc. (USTFPAASFI), through a resolution, approved to give financial assistance of P20K to 50 students from the Faculty of Pharmacy.

Selection was based on financial need, scholastic grades and year level with priority given to third and fourth year students. After screening 257 applications, the Board shortlisted 117 for the final interview that went through the whole month of June.

The Scholarship Committee of the Faculty of Pharmacy headed by Asst. Dean Ma. Frieda Z. Hapan, PhD, with members, Assoc. Prof. Ma. Cristina Doria PhD, Assoc. Prof. Ma. Rosario Aranda, MA and Ms. Myreen Cleofe, MA together with USTFPAASFI VP - Scholarship Asst. Prof. Vivian D. Asuncion and VP - Internal Prof. Angelita S. Sarile, PhD used a rubric for selecting the highest ranking 50 students. The names of the successful applicants were submitted to the Office of Student Affairs.

USTFPAASFI also awarded scholarships of P80K per academic year to 10 students - 4 from the Department of Pharmacy, 4 from the Department of Medical Technology and 2 from the Department of Biochemistry. In addition, it received donations from generous alumni and came up with the Que Scholarship for 2 Medical Technology interns and Primo Scholarship for 1 graduating Pharmacy student bringing the total number of scholars to 13.

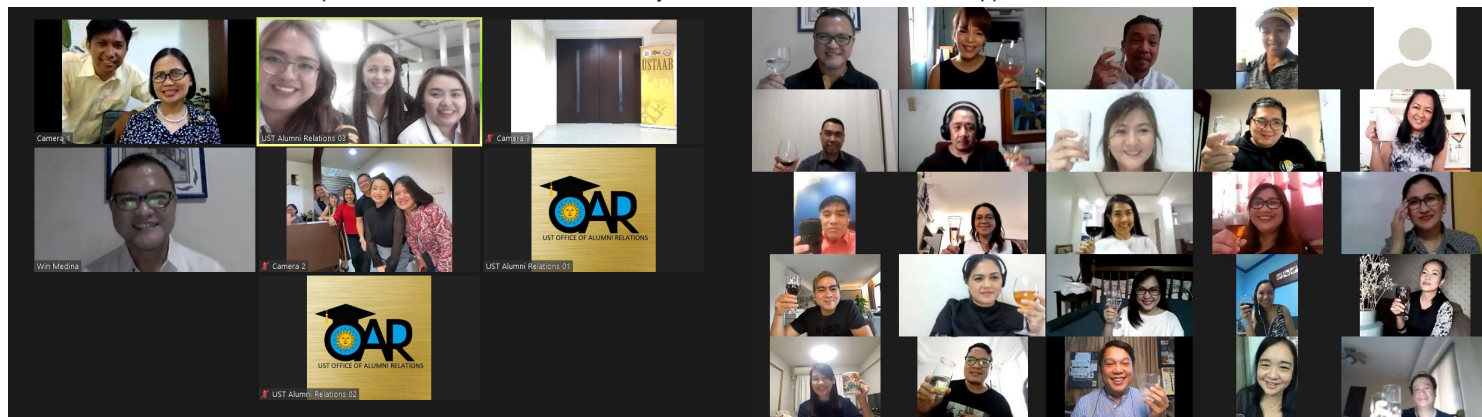
While scholarship is the flagship project of USTFPAASFI, the Association also awards monetary incentives to its graduates who place in the top 10 in the Pharmacy, Medical Technology and Chemistry Licensure Examinations. It also gives support to the different clinics of the Clinical Pharmacy Society for their outreach programs. - Ma. Elena de Jesus-Manansala, BS Pharmacy, 1971



OAR Launches "Online TALK" by the - UST Office of Alumni Relations

The UST Office of Alumni Relations (OAR) launched "Online TALK – Thomasian Alumni Libangan at Kwentuhan" in September 2020. The initiative is a series of online homecomings and general assemblies offered to the Thomasian alumni community who have not been able to celebrate their jubilarian anniversaries, reunions, or ceremonies due to the health crisis brought by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Alumni Relations Director Asst. Prof. Fredeswindo R. Medina, in his speech during the first installment of the virtual series, said that OAR is glad to be of service to its stakeholders. He hopes to further enhance the university's connections and create more opportunities for future collaborations with its alumni.



(L - R) UST AAB Induction Ceremony and UST Tourism Batch 1995 Virtual Get Together. UST OAR Screenshot.

In its first two months, the Online TALK has been able to host and air three batch reunions for the UST Tourism & Hospitality Management Alumni Association, Inc., and an anniversary celebration with an induction ceremony of officers for the UST Alumni Association in Brunei Darussalam.

The said online gathering program is being held in Zoom and streamed via Facebook Live. Any alumni associations, chapters, and groups may avail of the service subject to approval by the office. For more information, interested groups may leave a message at alumnirelations@ust.edu.ph.

Tomasino Para sa Kapwa Pilipino

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recently, leaving hundreds or even thousands dead, agriculture and infrastructure heavily destroyed, livelihoods stopped, and families hungry and helpless.

Typhoon Rolly was reported in the news as the strongest to hit the planet in 2020, leaving mostly the Bicol region and central part of Visayas scrambling for resources. Houses and communities were left in shambles, children wept while mothers begged for food and water. A few days after Rolly, the country was caught by surprise as Typhoon Ulysess came like a thief in the night – destroying everything on its path and leaving major provinces and regions like Rizal, Marikina and NCR exhausted. A major city in Cagayan was almost erased from the map as unprecedented levels of water flooded streets and barangays. Everything was in disarray and Filipinos were overwhelmed with the gravity of these calamities which came one after another.

These incidents presented an important opportunity to serve and to reach out to several UST alumni members and they wasted no time in mobilizing and doing something quick to help our kababayans in dire need. Thus, 'TOMASINO PARA SA KAPWA PILIPINO' was born. This massive relief aid effort was envisioned and led by Angie Tuazon, Chairman Emeritus of the UST Thomasian Alumni Leaders Association (TALA) and its current officers headed by its President Ban Joseph Ang, in cooperation with the bigger USTAAI (UST Alumni Association Incorporated) umbrella network, championed by its

President Dr. Evelyn Songco.

As co-chair of the Advocacy Committee of USTAAI, the leaders of UST TALA brainstormed overnight and came up with immediate actions to jumpstart what seemed as a daunting and almost impossible undertaking. Crucial questions and valid concerns were raised – how do we mobilize amidst the COVID 19 pandemic? How do we ensure the health and safety of our volunteers? Who do we coordinate with and how will we roll-out our barangay and community efforts? There were a lot of challenges and issues in mind but the team was fully determined to help.

Tuazon recounts, "We hit the ground running. We told ourselves, here we are sleeping in the comfort of our homes, eating delicious food and watching Netflix movies...but how about our brothers and sisters in Rizal? In Cagayan? Where are they sleeping tonight? What are they eating tomorrow? It was extremely painful seeing their photos in social media and we felt and realized, we need to do this, and we need to do it fast. We are not Thomasians for nothing...we are called to serve!"

Tuazon, together with other UST Alumni, identified underserved areas and the remotest barangays in several affected provinces where help was needed the most. Coordination with various local government units and NGOs then started, as well as resource mobilization – e-posters were published in various UST alumni groups, media friends from TV5 and ABS-CBN were tapped and the UST alumni

network was invited to actively participate. The action was swift, procurement of goods was done, donors were invited to take part, and as they say, the rest was history.

Prof. Evelyn Songco is truly proud of what our alumni leaders have achieved in such a short time, "You can really see the sincerity of each and every alumni volunteering in all our relief operations. The spirit of bayanihan is evident and one is truly inspired that all the Thomasian teachings and values imbibed among our former students are now all put into concrete, meaningful action."

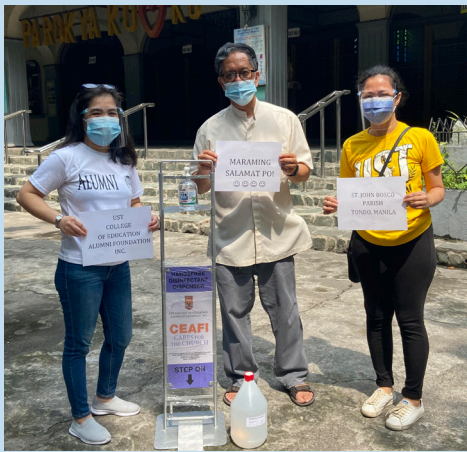
Thousands of families benefitted from this noble undertaking: Kasiglahan Village in Rodriguez, Rizal (November 14), San Mateo Rizal, (November 14), Lambakin in Marilao, Bulacan (November 16), St. Peter Metropolitan Cathedral in Tuguegarao, Cagayan (November 16), Sto. Tomas in Isabela (November 19), partnership with the UST Simbahayan Office (November 20), Sitio Magata-Mangahan in Tanay, Rizal (November 21), Tibag, Emmaus, Lower Curayao, and Burgos in Rodriguez & Montalban, Rizal (November 22), and most recently, Amulong West in Cagayan (December 1), Sitio EEA and San Rafael in Rodriguez, Rizal (November 29) and Capalonga in Camarines Norte (November 25). Food packs containing rice grains, bread and canned goods were distributed, as well as hygiene kits, blankets and towels, clothes, small appliances, cleaning aids, portable toilets as well as tents.

Aside from the mentioned barangays, UST TALA likewise donated food and other supplies to the office of the Vice President. Partnerships were forged with other like-minded individuals and groups such as Bangon Isabela, Share-a-Smile, Project Yakap, Philippine Hardware Foundation, QC Dynamics Lion's Club, PICPA NMMC, Mitsui Trading Group, NBI Sanlahi, NMMC Hyundai Home Appliances, UNO Batch '83, Dr. Robert Sy, Marco and Kristine Calubad, Wilson and Sally Neria, among others.

Jeffrey O. Tarayao, an officer of TALA, affirms the commitment of the group to continue helping our distressed brothers and sisters most especially during this time that Christmas is approaching. It is during this time that we should be able to make them feel that they are not alone in their predicament and that there is still hope despite all the unfortunate things that happened this year. Indeed, UST AAI and UST TALA focused to truly seek the light during these dark and challenging times. The message and call to serve was clear and our dynamic alumni members heeded the call! The task is not yet done and according to Ms. Tuazon, the group will continue to do its best to reach out to more families and communities in the days to come. Congratulations and our deepest gratitude to all our alumni leaders! UST is very proud of you! – Chito S. Maniago, AB Legal Management, 2001

CEAFI Responds to Need of “New Normal”

The College of Education Alumni Foundation Incorporated (CEAFI) Apostolate Program Committee led by Internal Vice-President Marielyn Quintana (BSE '89), responding to the post quarantine need for disinfection, proposed to the CEAFI Board a Hand Sanitizer Project for chapels and churches that will also allow alumni to donate an alcohol dispenser stand with signage, and a gallon of alcohol to churches of their choice. In a virtual meeting via Zoom and Messenger, the Board approved her proposal and listed select chapels and churches as beneficiaries. Initial funding for the project came from Batches '89 and '90.



With Fr. Rey Daguita, St. John Bosco Parish, Tondo Manila.

As soon as the dispensers were available, Ms. Quintana donated the first two sets on 2 June 2020 to Fr. Jericho Habernal, OSM, for Our Lady of the Abandoned Church and Fr. Deogracias Alejandria, OSM, for St. Peregrine Laziosi Parish, both in Muntinlupa City. Meanwhile, Cristina Carbonilla Sagum (BSND '88) donated one set to the Caloocan Mission Station of Fr. Willie Samson S.J.

On 10 June, Ces San Juan and Tirso Rabena (BSE '94) and USTAAl office secretary Kaye Bundang distributed more dispensers to the following: Fr. Willie Samson for Sacred Heart Jesuit Mission Station, San Vicente Ferrer Mission Station and San Roque Cathedral Parish, Kalookan; Fr. Sanny De Claro, Sto Nino de Pandacan; Fr. Jerome Secilliano, Nuestra Senora del Perpetuo Socorro, Sampaloc Manila; Fr. Joey Bustillos, Nuestra Senora de Salvacion, Sta Mesa, Manila. Ms. Jocelyn Rubia (BSHRM '89) brought the donation to Fr. Odair Novais for Immaculate Conception Parish and San Pedro Calungsod Parish, both in Antipolo.

In September, 3 more churches received donations given by CEAFI Director Emma Yeung. These were to Fr. Gaudencio Carandang for St. John Bosco Parish in Tondo; Fr. Noel Bacasnot for San Pedro Calungsod Mission Area in Payatas; and Fr. Reynaldo Daguita for San Pablo Apostol Parish in Tondo.

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SOCCSKSARGEN Alumni Chapter Gives Assistance to GenSan Schools



The teachers of P. Kindat ES and Team DayonTun pose with the donations of learning and sanitation materials for elementary students. (September 14, 2020)

In response to the challenges of the pandemic, the Tomasino heart acts with compassion through community extension programs.

The University of Santo Tomas SOCCSKSARGEN Alumni Chapter joined the fundraising campaign DayonTun: The Continued Learning Initiative to help deliver learning and sanitation materials to public schools in General Santos City.

DayonTun, also led by Thomasian undergrads, is a response to the evolving needs of education as schools this year had to forego traditional face-to-face learning in the classroom to prioritize health and safety in line with the protocols and restrictions related to CoVid 19. Through selecting and featuring schools in the locale, these Thomasians help beneficiaries reach their specific resource necessities.

Under the leadership of alumna Maria Carmela Magtoto Royeca (AB Communication Arts, 1989), the association has donated Php 20,000 to support the initiative. This fast-tracked the project's progress to serving two out of the five target school beneficiaries as of September 2020, just one month after the start of the campaign.

The schools are P. Kindat Elementary School and Buayan National High School, both public schools in General Santos City. These learning institutions, located in far areas from the city's center, house the education of students of the Muslim and Indigenous People community. As beneficiaries, both schools have received student learning kits, stacks of bond paper for learning modules, and health safety supplies.

P. Kindat received 60 reams of paper (30 each of A4 and long size), 350 student kits (with one envelope, two Mongol pencils, two notebooks each), two gallons of alcohol, and one roll of plastic cover. Buayan, on the other hand, accepted 28 reams of long bond paper, two staplers, and 250 student kits (containing a yellow pad and a pen each).

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Team DayonTun poses with the teachers of Buayan NHS and the delivered modular learning essentials, student kits, and alcohol for high school students. (October 10, 2020)

ANNUAL ADVENT RECOLLECTION GOES VIRTUAL

For the past few years, the College of Education Alumni Foundation Inc. (CEAFI) Prayer Ministry led by Eva Kalaw has been partnering with the University of Santo Tomas Alumni Association Inc. (USTAAI) to prepare the faculty, students, and alumni for Christmas. In spite of the pandemic this year, on Saturday 21 November 2020, the tradition continued by going virtual via Facebook Live of the UST Center for Campus Ministry. From there, it was shared in the USTAAI Facebook page and with the different alumni groups on Facebook and Messenger by those who joined the recollection.

This year's Recollection Master was Fr. Luciano Felloni of the Almusalita fame, speaking on the theme, "Rediscovering the Essence of Christmas." While waiting for more people to log in at 9:00 am, he introduced himself as coming from Argentina, but spending his entire priestly life (except for a year in South Korea) serving in the Philippines. He is the parish priest of Kristong Hari Parish Church and the Director of the Social Communication Office of the Diocese of Novaliches. He then asked his audience to get their Bibles as his talk would be based on Scripture.

After a short prayer, he directed the audience to Romans 8:28, then expounded on this passage by speaking of our present situation in the midst of the pandemic which he likened to the Apostle Peter's experience of the storm. He said that while many of us pray that the Lord stop the pandemic and to calm the storm, what we need to pray for is the strength to walk through it and to use whatever storms we have in our lives to gain purpose from it.

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Building Structures and Institutionalizing Practices Towards the UST Alumni Association Inc. Vision

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of the Association such as the TAC Santa Cruzan, TAC Ball, TAC Fashion Show, TAC Distinguished Thomasian Night, TAC Grand Alumni Homecoming and others shall henceforth be under the Events Committee.

The Secretariat, chaired by Ms. Nanette Ochoa-Fernandez, works closely with the Office of the President. It has four sections, namely: Communications, Thomasian Alumni Community Newsletter (TAC Newsletter), Archives, and Announcements. It assists all the Member Associations and Executive Committees, and monitors, keeps track, and records all the activities of the Association. Asst. Prof. Nancy Tabirara takes charge of the Communication of the Association; Ms. Rovil Labrador Cainglet heads the Archives. Ms. Fernandez takes charge of the announcements of the Association; and Ms. Joy Viray-Gatmaytan serves as the new Editor of the TAC Newsletter. We are grateful to Ms. Maureen Pickering for accepting the challenge of starting the Newsletter and being its first Editor.

The Association has also institutionalized the Dispute Resolution Commission, chaired by Justice Angelina Sandoval-Gutierrez and the COMELEC that is headed by Atty. Dwight Ramos, Vice-President of the Faculty of Civil Law Alumni Foundation. Both bodies decide independently from the Board of Trustees.

The Ecclesiastical Adviser is Rev. Fr. Pompeyo de Mesa, OP, while the Legal Adviser is Atty. Jack Castañeda, President of the Faculty of Civil Law Alumni Foundation.

To support its operation, programs, and projects, the USTAAI invites chosen Thomasian Alumni Community Very Important Persons (TAC VIP) and Thomasian Alumni Community Champions (TAC Champions).

With God's unending grace, the USTAAI has been blessed with dedicated and untiring volunteers who generously contribute their time, talent, and treasures to accomplish the mission of the Association to unceasingly promote unity, solidarity, honor, valor, and dignity amongst its members; to nurture in their hearts the core values of competence, compassion and commitment; and to imbibe and keep burning amongst the alumni the eternal flame of loyalty to the alma mater.

As a power-packed Association, USTAAI has taken the first leapfrog towards its vision: a cohesive, pro-active and vibrant alumni association that effectively serves its alma mater, the alumni, the country, and the church.

2020 has been a painful turning point in human history. But USTAAI vowed to turn the pains of 2020 into joy and its threats into opportunities. Completing its organizational structure and institutionalizing its practices shall propel USTAAI towards a great future – its vision.



Have you ever watched a series produced by Thomasians for fellow Thomasians? Look no further!

On the 4th of October of this year, a 30-minute program hosted by our UST AAI President, Dr. Evelyn A. Songco was launched. This series of webinars is part of the Thomasian Academic Series (ThomAS) that provides Thomasian alumni the opportunity to share their expertise and experiences on various topics in an informal, simple, and down-to-earth manner. Thus “Kuwentong Alumni” was conceptualized and was given the name “Bridges.”

Headed by the Secretary and Chair of Team Academics Ida Tionko, Bridges is the result of a partnership with alumnus Carl Balita's CBRC TV. The project hit the ground running with the College of Education Alumni Foundation Inc. (CEAFI) in charge of broadcasts for October, which is also International Teachers' Month. After running 4 episodes in October, with the maiden broadcast reaching 15,000 viewers (with more viewing the episodes on YouTube), and very encouraging reviews and comments, Team Academics is determined to keep going with different alumni associations taking turns to host the weekly broadcast.

The first episode, “Values Education in the New Normal,” covered a topic for educators in line with the celebration of World Teachers' Day on October 5. The talk show featured the Dean of the UST College of Education Dr. Pilar Romero. She spoke on values that teachers, students and parents must have in the new online classroom setting, given the new environment forced on us by the Covid-19 pandemic. The Dean categorically stated that resilience without hope is nothing because every individual must learn how to adjust and be committed to the tasks on hand. When asked about how we can teach compassion, a value that should accompany resilience and hope, her answer was simple but profound: “One has to live it in every way possible.” This maiden episode was co-hosted by Dr. Carl Balita himself who also shared practical nuggets of wisdom.

The second episode, “Productive Retirement,” featured a retired educator from batch 1976 of the UST College of Education, Mrs. Nanette Ochoa-Fernandez. Sharing her practical experiences as a recent retiree from the Ateneo de Manila University where she taught English courses, she organized her sharing with the acronym LIVE which summarized the practical tips she wanted to share. Her acronym means L-love God and neighbor, I - inspire others, V-vitality requires effort, and E-enjoy the journey. In an easy exchange with the hosts Dr. Balita and Dr. Songco, covering all stages of retirement, the time went quickly with viewers participating through the comment section on Facebook where the show was livestreamed.

A young but highly experienced educator-psychologist took center stage in the third episode, “Embracing Wellness.” Mr. Gab Kintanar, who shared his expertise and experience on issues of Wellness during this pandemic, is an example of holistic well-being. He also shared tips on how to deal with stressors at this difficult time of social isolation due to

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TEAM ACADEMICS Webinar Series

“Unending Grace: Now and Beyond” - Building and Rebuilding

“Unending Grace: Now and Beyond” Webinar Series is a series of three free sessions for the Thomasian community and other interested parties aimed at sharing knowledge, guidance, and inspiration especially during this COVID pandemic. It was a collaborative project of the USTAAI led by Team Academic Pursuits chaired by Dr. Ma. Ellen Manansala in partnership with Dr. Carl Balita, a 2017 TOTAL Awardee, and with the Office for Alumni Relations with Director Win Medina.

The webinar provided a virtual gathering for the Thomasian community and other interested parties in the spirit of the Tria Haec - faith, hope, and love for cognitive, affective and spiritual exchange. Discussants were the alumni from various professions who shared their lived

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UNENDING GRACE: NOW AND BEYOND

WEBINAR SERIES 1: BUILDING ON FAITH

MAIN DISCUSSANT:		DISCUSSANTS:	
BISHOP REX ALARCON D.D. Bishop, Diocese of Cagayan	DR. CARMELA FUENTESSELLA Catholic TV Journalist	DR. CHRISTIAN "DERRY" LIBATÓN People's Advocate & Multicultural Speaker	ARCH. FELINO PALAFEX JR. Pastor, Evangelical Church and Urban Planner
PANEL OF REACTORS:		MODERATOR:	
DR. RAUL DESTURA Philippine Catholic Church	DR. JOSE "YOY" MENDEN Senior High School Teacher	ANNA MARIA SAMONTE Catholic Church	DR. CARL BALITA UST TOTAL Awardee for Entrepreneurship

WEBINAR SERIES 2: #REBUILDingourHOPE with focus on #WellBeing #Economy #FutureWork

MAIN DISCUSSANT:		DISCUSSANTS:	
FR. GERARD TIMONER FAC-ATA, ng Sambayanan sa Cebu ng Pandemic	DR. RAUL DESTURA Philippine Catholic Church	ENGR. ARMAND ALARANTE Philippine Catholic Church	ANGELITO "LITO" VILLVERDE Philippine Catholic Church
PANEL OF REACTORS:		MODERATOR:	
REV. FR. FILEMON I. DELA CRUZ, O.P. Pastor, UST Vice Rector for Religious Affairs	MYLENE A. SANTOS, M.D. Health Educator, Environmental Advocate	DR. RAUL DESTURA Philippine Catholic Church	DR. CARL BALITA UST TOTAL Awardee for Entrepreneurship

WEBINAR SERIES 3: “REBUILDing our LOVE”

“You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all our mind; you must love your neighbor as yourself” (Mt 22:37,39)

MAIN DISCUSSANT:		DISCUSSANTS:	
REV. FR. FILEMON I. DELA CRUZ, O.P. Pastor, UST Vice Rector for Religious Affairs	MYLENE A. SANTOS, M.D. Health Educator, Environmental Advocate	DR. RAUL DESTURA Philippine Catholic Church	DR. CARL BALITA UST TOTAL Awardee for Entrepreneurship
PANEL OF REACTORS:		CLOSING MESSAGE:	
REV. FR. FILEMON I. DELA CRUZ, O.P. Pastor, UST Vice Rector for Religious Affairs	MYLENE A. SANTOS, M.D. Health Educator, Environmental Advocate	DR. RAUL DESTURA Philippine Catholic Church	DR. CARL BALITA UST TOTAL Awardee for Entrepreneurship

Pax Romana Alumni Association Formed; Officers Inducted



It is indeed noteworthy, that in the midst of intellectual and professional undertakings you continue to help realize your calling as true and genuine Christian

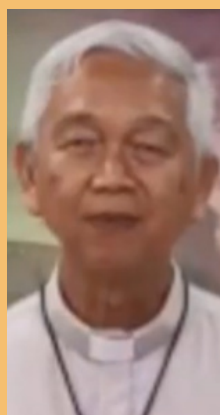
apostles for Christ, in your workplace in your community, in the church, as well as in every place you find yourself.

Rev. Fr. ISAIAS TIONGCO, OP JCD
Vice-Rector, University of Santo Tomas

The alumni and professional group of UST's oldest religious group was officially organized during an online program held on November 28, 2020. This was the culmination of several attempts at forming the alumni association that started in the 1950's.

The formation of UST Pax Romana Alumni Association took place in time for the 80th foundation anniversary of the student organization and the centennial of the international movement next year. Dr. Mary Jean Guno and Mr. Nonon Baang, both former Central Coordinating Council (CCC) Presidents, presented "The Pax Romana Story" that traced the early beginnings of the movement in the 1880's during the reign of Pope Leo XIII, the foundation of UST Pax Romana and its Alumni Association.

Atty. Danilo Roleda, Vice-President, delivered the opening remarks, which was followed by the



The greater you become in number, in prestige, and even in good works in grace, the more you will able to do your work in society, to be the leaven of society, the light of the world, the salt of the earth.

H. E. Most
Rev. Broderick S. Pabillo
Apostolic Administrator

messages of Rev. Fr. Isaias Antonio Tiongco, O.P., UST Vice-Rector, and Bishop Broderick Pabillo, D.D., Apostolic Administrator of Archdiocese of Manila and Chairman of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines' Commission on the Laity.

Asst. Prof. Fredeswindo Medina, MACHS, Director of UST Office of Alumni Relations presented the university's official recognition while Prof. Evelyn Songco, Ph.D., President of UST Alumni Association, Inc. (USTAAI), announced the admission of USTPRAA to the mother organization.

Rev. Fr. Pablo Tiong, O.P., UST Vice-Rector for Religious Affairs, delivered his message and inducted the Officers and Trustees of the Association, as follows:
Dr. Egidio "Dong" Elio (Doctor of Medicine, 1981), President, CCC President in 1976-1977, former Executive Secretary of Student Organizations Coordinating Council (SOCC) and first president of Medicine Student Council. He is a Urologist practicing at St. Luke's Medical Center;
Atty. Danilo Roleda (Bachelor of Laws, 1981),



" We know that Pax Romana has fulfilled, and continues to fulfill a very crucial role in the Catholic identity of the University. "

Rev. Fr. PABLO TIONG, OP
Vice Rector for
Religious Affairs, UST

Vice-President, former Arts and Letters Unit Vice President and now a partner of Bautista, Roleda, Jabla, Yusi and Tomas Law Offices;
Dr. Elizabeth Magalit (Doctor of Medicine, 1986), Secretary, former CCC President and at present the Vice Chairman of the Department of Anaesthesiology of Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital;
Mr. John Derick De Recto (BS Accountancy, 2019), Treasurer, former CCC President and now the Audit Assistant of Equicom Shared Service;
Mr. Jeremy Evan Balusero (BS Business Administration, 2020), PRO, former CCC President and a recent graduate of the College of Commerce.

Dr. Gerry Catapang (BS Medical Technology, 1987), Trustee, former CCC President and now practicing Physical Therapy in Missouri, USA;
Atty. Ray Espinosa (BS General, 1977), Trustee, former officer of the Science Unit and now the President of Manila Electric Company;
Dr. Ferdinand Martinez, Ph.D., (BS Business

(Continue to page 21)



Tribute to Dr. Fontanilla

On a quiet Sunday morning in this pandemic-plagued year, to make it even sadder, UST lost her face and her voice. That face and voice over the last three decades was no other than that of College of Education and Graduate School alumna Giovanna Villarama-Fontanilla, Ph.D., longtime Director of UST's public affairs unit.

To the public eye, she was the face of UST, being UST's trusted spokesperson in media interviews—whether in times of merriment or crisis. Her longevity, combined with her innate charisma, personable nature, and God-given talents, allowed her to touch base with the members of the diplomatic corps, different educational institutions and associations, and media practitioners, thereby helping spread UST's positive influence in those circles.

Giovanna's lengthy career in administration was complemented by her tenure as a faculty member handling English language courses. Her master's degree in Educational Technology in the early 1990s likewise planted the seeds in what has now grown to be the UST Educational Technology Center, which she served as first Director.

This piece is our alumni family's humble way of paying tribute to someone who spent her years ensuring that everyone who stepped into the campus felt the unique brand of Thomasian hospitality. It is cruel that we lost her at a time when we cannot be together—a stark contrast to how she lived her life: among people.

Eternal rest grant unto Giovanna, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon her. May she rest in peace. - Philippe Jose S. Hernandez, BSE English, 2011

No Stopping the Red Men: The USTGCSAAI in Action

Despite the pandemic, the UST Golden Cross and Saber Alumni Association Incorporation (USTGCSAAI) embraced the new normal and proceeded with its activities in the recent months.

Annual General Assembly 2020. On 27 September 2020 via Zoom, the group held its Annual General Assembly. In spite of the absence of the traditional meet and greet, of foregoing wearing the snappiest uniforms, doing snappy salutes, or performing the traditional march in the sacred parade grounds of UST, the Assembly was well-participated in even if it was just virtually via computers or tiny screens of cellphones. The excitement was felt even prior to the official start of the meet with the members enthusiastic seeing one another after a long time. Joyous greetings were exchanged along with cheers and nostalgic memories.

The report of the National Commander of the USTGCSAAI was given to the members. The launching of the organization's website was highlighted. Then, the 84th Traditional Toast was made, followed by the announcement and opening of candidacy for the BOD 2020-2022 elections. Likewise, the mechanics for the 2020 election of the Board of Directors which was to be done online were announced and the Muy Leal Awards was discussed.

Election of BOD 2020–2022. The elections for the Board of Directors for 2020-2022 was held via online as doing face-to-face gathering was not allowed due of the restrictions imposed by the IATF safety protocol against the Pandemic. Filing of candidacy, campaign, and casting of votes were done 100% online. The winners of the election were announced and none from the members filed an election protest.

Induction of the new BOD. The USTGCSAAI then held its induction and turn-over of command activity on October 25, 2020 for the 2020-2022 Board of Directors at the Misto Restaurant of the Seda Vertis North in a simple meeting attended by the inductees headed by newly-elected National Commander Rodrigo de Mesa of CI '88, outgoing National Commander Yvan Pagulayan of CI '86 and members of the outgoing board of directors. The induction was administered by Past National Commander P/ BGEN JOEY CASTANEDA BANDONG JR., PC (Ret.) '67. Distinguished alumni also graced the affair.

The new alumni leadership is headed by National Commander RM Rodrigo De Mesa



CI '88, with the following members and their positions: RM Xavier Celestial CI '86 (1st Vice National Commander), RM Elmer Sy CI '04 (2nd Vice National Commander), RM Christopher Lawrence T. Dalida C '99 (Secretary General), RM Pamela De Guzman CI '14 (Treasurer), RM Ladislao "Caloy" Carlos Jr. CI '86 (Auditor), RM Bryan Fill CI '05 (Protocol Officer), RM Ranier Vincent Dy CI '12 (Public Relations Officer), RM Thomas Hallare CI '89 (Provost Marshall), and RM Julia Fridée Arroco CI '08 (Liaison Officer).

As witnessed by administering officer P/BGEN JOEY CASTANEDA BANDONG JR., PC (Ret.) '67, immediate past National Commander Yvan Pagulayan turned over to the new National Commander Rodrigo De Mesa, the alumni flag representing the USTGCSAAI organization and the gavel symbolizing his leadership.

MGEN POMPEO LIMBO, AFP (Ret.) '76, spoke to the newly inducted Board of Directors about
(Continue to page 23)



GSAGAI holds its outreach activity

The Graduate School Alumni & Grants Association, Inc. (GSAGAI), despite the pandemic but strictly complying with health protocols, held its annual outreach activity (Feeding and Gift-giving) to about 100 marginalized children of San Lorenzo Ruiz Parish managed by four Dominican priests, headed by Rev. Fr. Franklin Beltran, O.P. its parish priest, in Navotas City, on Dec. 9, 2020. The said activity, spearheaded by the GS alumni assoc. president Dr. Fernando Pedrosa, with the assistance of some alumni officers and volunteers, is in line with the recently-created UST AAI program of "Thomasians for Love" (#T4L), of making a significant difference in people's lives especially among the less-privileged. – Dr. Fernando Pedrosa

ECCLESIASTICAL FACULTIES



My new year's greetings to all the alumni of the Royal and Pontifical University of Santo Tomas especially to the members of the UST - ALPA both the priests and lay associates. As we celebrate this 2021 the Jubilee Year of the 500 Years of Christianity we have so much to be thankful of, not only for the gift of faith that was handed to us but also for the birth of

the Philippine nation occasioned by the coming of the Spanish colonizers. In spite of natural and man-made disasters that always beset us, our Christian faith and unique identity as Filipinos keep us steadfast and resilient, qualities that we need to share to all the world for indeed we have been gifted to give.

Msgr. BERNARDO R. PANTIN
(Alumni Priest Association)

FACULTY OF CIVIL LAW (1734)



To our
THOMASIAN FAMILY,

I wish you all the best for the HOLIDAY SEASON and may 2021 bring us and the rest of the UNIVERSITY

OF SANTO TOMAS SCHOOL ADMIN & STAFF, STUDENTS & OUR ALUMNI FAMILIES good health, happiness, joy & peace & may your expectations be surpassed beyond your dreams. Do stay warm & safe.

Atty. EDWARD "JACK" CASTAÑEDA
President, UST LAW ALUMNI FOUNDATION, INC.

FACULTY OF MEDICINE (1871)



The year 2020 has challenged each one of us to show the best we can be. May it always remind us to be NICE- Nurturing, Innovative, Compassionate and Caring. Have a safe and healthy new year!

Dr. JOCELYN ZAMORA - MARIANO
(Medicine AA)

FACULTY OF PHARMACY (1871)



I join you in greeting the new year 2021 with high hopes for better times to come. Filled with lessons learned in 2020, we place stronger faith in God's loving providence and our care for humanity and the environment.

MA. ELENA J. MANANSALA
(Pharmacy AA)

NEW YEAR

FACULTY OF ARTS AND LETTERS (1896)



HENRY S. TENEDERO
(Philets & Artlets AA)

May we continue to break down the walls of myth, ignorance and complacency in our midst this Christmas 2020 and build bridges of new ways of thinking, doing and being.

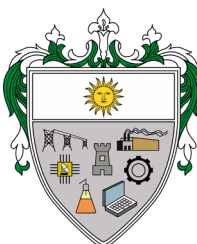
JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL (1928)



EMELITO T. MALABANAN
(JHS AA)

Happy New Year. We look forward to a better year. While the past year tested our resolve, we came out resilient and determined to go on. By the grace of the Lord, let us come together and work towards a stronger alumni solidarity.

FACULTY OF ENGINEERING (1907)



Engr. JASON L. ONG
(Engineering AA)

On behalf of the engineering community of UST, Merry Christmas to all and may the coming year be filled with hope for better opportunities and a healthy disposition.

COLLEGE OF ARCHITECTURE (1930)



Greetings from the UST College of Architecture Alumni Association! May this year bring everyone even closer as we face the challenge of this pandemic. Let us greet 2021 full of hope and faith in God that all his plans are for our good. Happy New Year to all!

Arch. JOEY MANALAD
(Architecture AA)

COLLEGE OF COMMERCE AND BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION (1933)



LOURDES V. OBILLO
(Vice President, Commerce AA)

Let us leave behind all the pain, suffering and heartache that 2020 brought into our lives and may all of us be blessed with love, hope, health, peace, prosperity and happiness in the coming year. Have a great 2021.

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION (1926)



May the new year provide every one of us more opportunities to love and serve; to smile and laugh; to explore and discover all the surprises of the present. Happy new year!

EVELYN A. SONGCO
(Education Alumni Foundation Inc.)

COLLEGE OF SCIENCE (1926)



His love to brighten the lives of others. Have a blessed, safe, and prosperous New Year.

JOEL CHAVEZ
(Science AA)

Peace of mind. Health and well-being. Bountifulness for the coming year. These are our wishes for everyone this New Year. May we find the love of Jesus abundantly. And may we find joy in sharing

GRADUATE SCHOOL (1938)



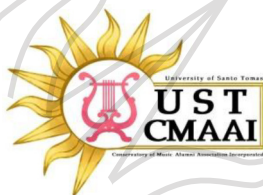
immense blessings throughout the year and the years yet to come, for good health, prosperity. Be blessings to others as well!

Dr. FERNANDO PEDROSA
(Graduate School AA)

Sincerely wishing and praying for a CoVid-free, safe, peaceful, and blissful 2021! And, may the Infant Jesus through His blessed Mother keep on showering us and our loved ones His

GREETINGS

CONSERVATORY OF MUSIC (1945)



The unfailing love of the LORD never ends! By his mercies, we have been kept from complete destruction. Great is his faithfulness;

his mercies begin afresh each day. I say to myself, "The LORD is my inheritance; therefore, I will hope in him!" Lamentations 3:22-24
Happy New Year to all!! As we go forth to the coming new year, may we remember all the lessons we've learned from 2020 and use them to move forward into an awesome and fruitful 2021. May God bless us all!!

EUGENE A. DELOS SANTOS
(Music AA)

COLLEGE OF NURSING (1946)



With thanksgiving to God, let's toast to yesterday's achievements! Despite the pandemic's challenges, it brought out the best in us. We did it! We look ahead

with a stronger faith and powerful hope to 2021's bright future. Imbued with unending grace, we will continue to serve others with excellence and heart. Wishing everyone a joyful and blessed New Year!

INOCENCIA IDA TIONKO
(Nursing AA)

EDUCATION HIGH SCHOOL (1950)



With the New Year here with us now, I wish all the Alumni to embrace it with an open heart and go forward with faith, hope, and love... wishing 2021 be filled with the promises of a hopeful tomorrow.

ARNELITO M. OCAMPO
(Education High School AA)

COLLEGE OF REHABILITATION SCIENCES (1974)



To our Thomasian alumni, most especially to our CRS alumni, I am wishing you a happy and prosperous new year. May this year be filled with hope, love, peace and new beginnings for all of us. May we all be blessed with everything that our hearts desire.

MADelyn A. GABRIELES
(Rehabilitation Sciences AA)

COLLEGE OF FINE ARTS AND DESIGN (2000)



A Prosperous New Year to all. May the Spirit of JESUS be in our hearts always. Let us always BE HOPEFUL and GRATEFUL. PEACE TO ALL. Stay safe and healthy.

MARISSA PE YANG
(Atelier AA)

UST - AMV COLLEGE OF ACCOUNTANCY (2005)



In this season of greetings, Faith makes all things possible, Hope makes all things work, Love makes all things beautiful. May you have all three this Christmas. Merry Christmas!

LOUIE A. TURGO
(Accountancy AA)

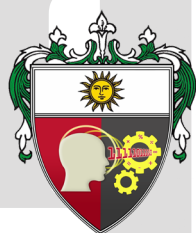
COLLEGE OF TOURISM AND HOSPITALITY MANAGEMENT (2006)



"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future - Jeremiah 29:11 With a grateful heart, the opportunity given to us is an opportunity to reset, restart and refocus our priorities in life. Let us continue to trust in the Lord and with a humble heart, heed His majestic plans.

JERROLD G. GACULA
(CTHM AA)

INSTITUTE OF INFORMATION AND COMPUTING SCIENCES (2014)



Greetings! Despite the challenges that this year has posed, and all of the lives that have forever been changed over the past few months, may we close this chapter of our lives and look to the brilliant light of hope for a better tomorrow. Let us

all welcome the new year with renewed faith and vigor as one community that remains strong in the face of any storm.

MARTIN GABRIEL MARTIREZ LAURETA
(IICS AA)

THOMASIAN ALUMNI LEADERS ASSOCIATION



Looking back at the events of this year, celebrating the yuletide season with our family and loved ones has given us a deeper meaning. In spite of all the challenges that we have faced the last couple of months,

let us be reminded through the birth of Jesus, of how much blessed we are. Merry Christmas and all the best in the year to come!

BAN JOSEPH ANG
(TALA)

UST PMT / CAT



On behalf of the UST PMT CAT AAL, wishing you all 12 months of success, 52 weeks of laughter, 365 days of wellness, 8,760 hours of joy, 525,600 minutes of good luck, and 31,536,000 seconds of happiness. Happy and

Healthy New Year! God bless us all!

JOEY M. SIMON JR.
(PMT / CAT AA)

TOMASINONG BIKOLANO



New year greetings from Tomasining Bikolano. Though 2020 has been a challenging year, we were made stronger and more resilient. We hope that we all learned a good lesson from what is happening. Prayers for calamity- and pandemic-free years to

come! Maogmang bagong taon sa indo gabos!

Dr. ROLLO MILANTE
Chapter Coordinator
(Tomasining Bikolano)

TOMASINONG KAPAMPANGAN



Surviving the COVID - 19 pandemic made 2020 a very challenging year. May the strength we had from these trying times give us hope to face 2021 with optimism and a grateful heart. Masayang Pasku at

Bayung Banua pu kekayu ngan.

Dr. MILDRED M. MARIANO
(Tomasining Kapampangan)

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From Leyte to UST to CBCP

Monsignor Bernardo R. Pantin, PC, JCD, was appointed Secretary General of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines in November this year. He is the President of the Alumni Priests Association of UST. This is his journey.

The second among four boys, Msgr. Bernardo was born in MacArthur, Leyte. Growing up with a normal childhood, Monsi, as the other UST alumni call him, can easily be imagined climbing trees, playing hide-and-seek like the other children in the neighborhood and like his brothers. However, perhaps one thing that was different was that Monsi came from a prayerful family and it was this that surely planted the seed of vocation in his heart.

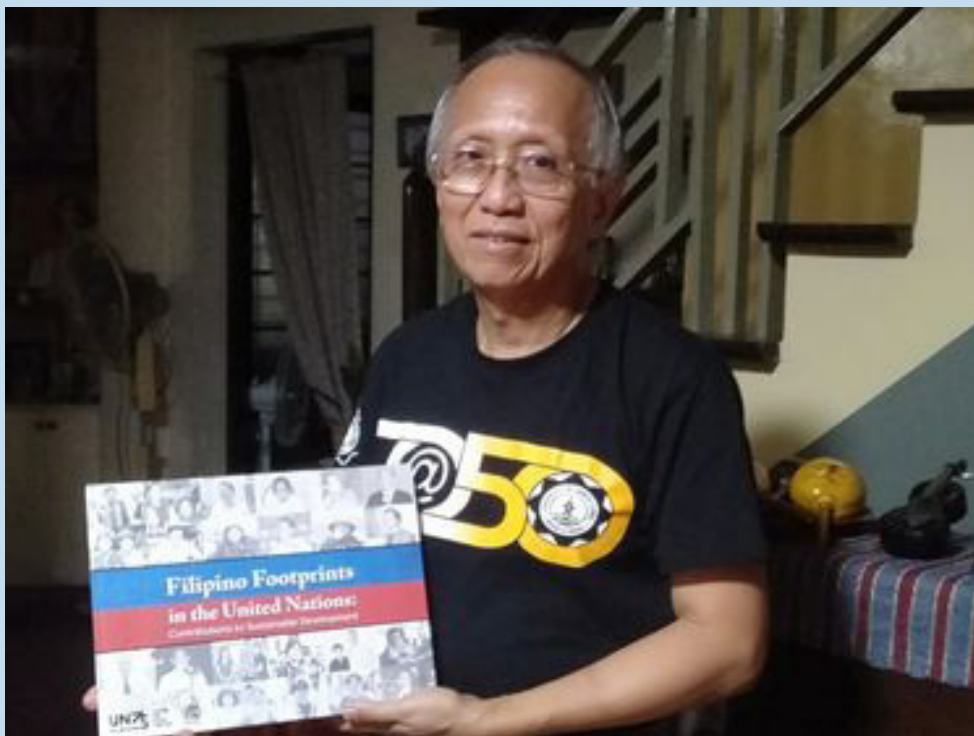
"My family was very prayerful. We had common prayers saying the Angelus every night and we would go to Sunday mass together as a family."

Early education was at the MacArthur Central School in MacArthur, Leyte, where all his siblings went. And like his brothers, he was sent to Sacred Heart Seminary in Palo where he finished his high school. But unlike his brothers, he was the only one who pursued formation to priesthood.



It was at the seminary where his vocation took deeper root and flourished. Inspired by his uncle who was also a priest and greatly, by the parish priest, Monsi nurtured the calling. After finishing Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy also at the Sacred Heart Seminary in 1981, he was sent by the Diocese to the University of Sto. Tomas.

The move from the quaint and quiet Leyte to the noise of Manila was a challenge. "Being a *probinsyano*, I, at first, had a culture shock
(Continue to page 22)



Tony Fernandez, wearing his USTHS golden jubilee shirt, shows off his copy of the book

Thomasians in the UN

In celebration of its 75th founding anniversary, the United Nations launched *Filipino Footprints in the United Nations: Contributions to Sustainable Development* on 23 October 2020. Among the 39 featured UN retirees featured in this coffee table book are 6 Thomasians. Conceived three years ago by Cecilio Adorna, a Thomasian with a 28-year UN career, the book saw completion during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Published by the Association of Filipino International Civil Servants-Philippines, the book is a compilation of the personal recollection of experiences - some life-changing and profound - of Filipino UN retirees. Many contain helpful advice for the younger generation. Each piece is illustrated with photos of people and events, some in black and white and others quite rare, seeing print only for the first time in this book. Side blurbs give readers a glimpse of what the retirees have done, post-UN career, their philosophies and lifelong commitments, and even their hobbies and leisure activities.

The stories likewise provide a rich source of inspiration for this and the succeeding generations. They span almost four eventful decades from the 1970s. Some lives intertwine with another and with the life of some political leaders, in the history of the countries where they were posted. Some served under severe drought or civil unrest.

Mr. Adorna was the UN Humanitarian Coordinator in the UN Transitional Administration of East Timor when conflict necessitated evacuation. He worked directly with Sergio Vieira de Mello, who was described as "a rising star of the diplomatic world" by Kofi Annan, former UN Secretary General. Mr. Adorna graduated from UST with a Bachelor's Degree in Economics, magna cum laude. He joined the UNICEF regional office in Bangkok at the age of 27 and went on to many other posts in several countries that included Sudan, Mozambique, India, Iraq, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Venezuela, the US and gradually rising in the ranks of the UN over a period of 28 years.

Antonio L. Fernandez, BS Chemical Engineering 1975. After graduate studies under a Japanese government scholarship in Osaka, Tony was offered a UN research fellowship, then later, just in his 30s, was offered a job at the United Nations Centre for Regional Development (UNCRD) in Nagoya,



Ces Adorna is the brain behind this coffee-table book

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LISA Robot: Protecting the Hospital Frontliners

Threats are indeed opportunities for creativity and service. Rising above the threat of Covid-19, Engineer Anthony James Bautista, PhD, a faculty member of the UST Faculty of Engineering and an alumnus of the University, invented the Logistic Service Indoor Assistant (LISA) for hospital use. This worthy invention obtained the support of the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) and Engineer Jerenato Alfante, President and CEO of the Macro Wiring Technologies Company, Inc. He was the former President of the Faculty of Engineering Alumni Association and Vice President of the UST Alumni Association Inc. He is currently the Chair of the UST Alumni Association Inc. Advocacy Committee.

Because of his philanthropic heart, Engineer Alfante funded the production and further innovation of the LISA Robot for free distribution to various hospitals. From June to September, he was able to deliver to various hospitals such as the V. Luna Medical Center, Quezon City (two units); Office of Civil Defense (OCD), COVID Facility Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City (one unit) and one unit Food Tray Robot that can bring as many as ten trays at a time; Santo Nino Hospital, Baguio City, (four units); Pampanga Medical Specialist Hospital, Pampanga, (one unit); Sarangani Bay Specialist Medical Center, General Santos City (one unit); and Chinese General Hospital, Manila (one unit).

Believing in the cause of protecting the hospital frontliners by way of reducing their contact with the Covid-19 infected patients, deliveries of LISAs to hospitals in Mindanao will soon be next. Butuan Medical Center, Butuan City (two units); Agusan Del Norte Provincial Hospital, Agusan del Norte (one unit); Democrito O. Plaza Memorial Hospital, Agusan del Sur (one unit) are included in the list.

Jurupa Hills Post Acute Nursing Home, California, USA (two units) is also included among those who will receive the LISA robot.

Supporting the production of the LISA Robot and distributing the products for free is Engineer Alfante's expression of support to the alma mater and the nation. – Dr. Evelyn Songco, USTAAI President



Another LISA robot donated to Chinese General Hospital this month. From (L-R) Ms. Gracita M. Javier (Vice President Deputy Administration Head Information, Admitting, Ambulance), Engr. Jerenato Alfante, Dr. Robert Sy and Dr. Samuel D. Ang (Medical Director)

UST EHS
UNIVERSITY OF SANTO TOMAS – EDUCATION HIGH SCHOOL
GRADUATES ASSOCIATION, INC.
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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Room 318 3rd Floor
THOMASIAN ALUMNI CENTER
Buena Ventura Garcia Parade, O.P. Building, University of Santo Tomas, Espana Manila, 1015

EHS Alumni Welcome 2020 - 2021 Board of Trustees

In line with the 70th anniversary of the UST Education High School, the alumni elected their fifteen-member Board of Trustees for Fiscal Year 2020-2021, on August 1, 2020.

The online meeting, witnessed by no less than EHS Principal Marielyn C. Quintana, PhD, saw the re/election as Trustees of the following:

- Class 1960 - Engr. Arturo Gungon
- Class 1961 - Elvie Caballes
- Class 1970 - Maria Consolacion Exconde - Pingol; Marilu Tagbo-Caballes
- Class 1971 - Felipe Lustre, Jr.
- Class 1973 - Lizbeth Reynes-Jose
- Class 1975 - Leticia Abad-Durens
- Class 1976 - Arnelito M. Ocampo
- Class 1984 - Malou Madrona-Mendoza
- Class 1985 - Shiela Tagbo-Jacinto; Ai Pastrana
- Class 1986 - Gilbert Artificio
- Class 1990 - Arni Manjarres-Agustin
- Class 2000 - Katherine Lou Keyser-Bundang
- Class 2007 - Philippe Jose S. Hernandez

After the meeting, the trustees elected from among themselves the officers of the Association:

President: Arnelito M. Ocampo
Executive Vice - President: Gilbert Artificio
Vice - President for Local Alumni: Malou Madrona - Mendoza
Vice - President for International Alumni: Philippe Jose S. Hernandez
Secretary: Shiela Tagbo - Jacinto
Treasurer: Ma. Consolacion Exconde - Pingol
Auditor: Lizbeth Reynes - Jose
Public Relations Officer: Katherine Lou Keyser - Bundang

The elected officers and trustees will serve until July 31, 2021.

- Philippe Hernandez, BSE English, 2011



Juan Carlos Santo, AB Lit, 1988



Carla Gamalinda, CFAD Advertising Arts, 2012



Jonathan Gamalinda, CFAD Advertising Arts, 2007



Nicole Parungao
SHS MAD Strand
2020



Lexi Margaux Cruz
SHS MAD Strand, 2020



Kim Christine Fababair, CFAD Painting, 2016



Aleana Mel Tomas, SHS MAD Strand, 2020



Michaela Gian Rumbaoa, CFAD Interior Design, 2015



Mark Froilan Laurente, CFAD
Advertising Arts, 2002



Michael Alexander Ocampo, AB CA, 1983



Pauline Dela Cruz
SHS MAD Strand
2018

TAC Exchange: Dynamic USTAAl Project

(From page 1)

TAC-branded items and sell or resell products and services. The project also affords alumni anywhere in the world to support USTAAl's advocacies. As part of its initial offering, TAC Exchange has college souvenir items, jackets, masks, and gift packs.

Through USTAAl's Business Manager and Team Resources chair Maureen Pickering, USTJHS Alumni Association president Lito Malabanan as comptroller and TALA secretary Ces San Juan in charge of merchandising, the TAC Exchange is poised to be a key driver of the growth and sustainability of the Association.

Its latest initiative combines art and merchandise and has already attracted alumni to contribute their talent in hand painting one-of-a-kind bayongs or native tote bags which have become fashionable these days. Ms. Pickering, who leads the project, says that these unique bayongs will be sold starting from Php 3500 each, depending on the artist and the painting itself.

So impressed was one prominent alumnus with the paintings on these bags that he immediately ordered 10 pieces, even though as of this writing, only 7 have been finished. The first bayongs he saw were painted by volunteer artists Maria Zorayda "Daintee" Matias Bulangaqui (CAFA Interior Design, 2020) and Jose Vicente "Jao" Mapa III (CAFA Advertising, 1993) who were initially invited by Ms. San Juan to paint for a cause for the Thomasian Alumni Leaders Association (TALA). The project was then taken up by USTAAl.

Jao Mapa distinguished himself for his generosity and desire to help the USTAAl fundraising efforts by pledging to paint at least 10 bags to support the Association's sustainability and advocacies. Known more widely as a stage and movie actor, singer and host, Jao also paints and considers himself a figurative expressionist. As can be seen in the bayongs he has painted so far, his paintings are colorful and vibrant. He says, "I paint about my experience. If I like what I see, I interpret it on canvass in my own style." Among his subjects are common folk: laundry women, ambulant vendors, cock fighters, mothers and children. His paintings are socially relevant and attract the eye because of his choice of bold colors. Jao has already held one-man exhibitions in Muebles Italiano and at the Ayala Museum.

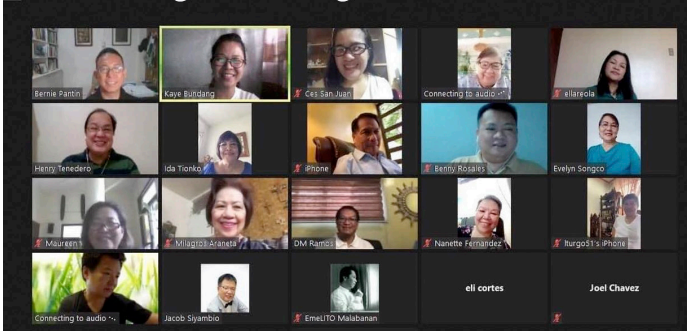
According to Maureen Pickering, these unique bayongs will be limited to fifty and the TAC Exchange team is still looking for more alumni artist-volunteers. So far, 12 more have volunteered.

Those who wish to contribute to this exciting project and accept the challenge as a volunteer painter, please contact Ms. Pickering or Merchandising Head Ces San Juan. Those who can afford to buy one or more of these unique native bags, secure them fast and know that you own a great functional piece of art while helping USTAAl. – Nanette Ochoa-Fernandez, BSE English, 1976

CLICKER-RAZZI



Last face to face Board meeting



First virtual meeting in Zoom



The UST Thomasian Alumni Leaders Association (TALA), thru the leadership of its Chairman Emeritus, Ms. Angeli Sobremonte Huazon (BS Pharmacy 1992), in partnership with the Quezon City Lions Club, donated five COVID-19 test booths to the health departments in different hospitals in Metro Manila.



Maraming Salamat po!

Maraming Salamat AAI for financial assistance

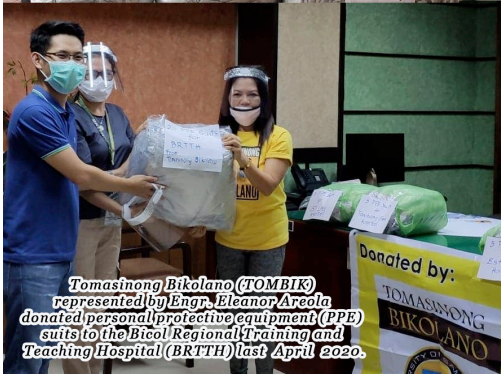


Handog PPE ng Batang USTe Batch '84



UST AAI gives financial assistance to the 20 maintenance personnel of Buenaventura Garcia Paredes OP Building. (BGPOP)

University of Santo Tomas Alumni Association Inc.



Tomasinong Bikolano (TOMBIK) represented by Engr. Eleanor Areola donated personal protective equipment (PPE) suits to the Bicol Regional Training and Teaching Hospital (BRTTH) last April 2020.

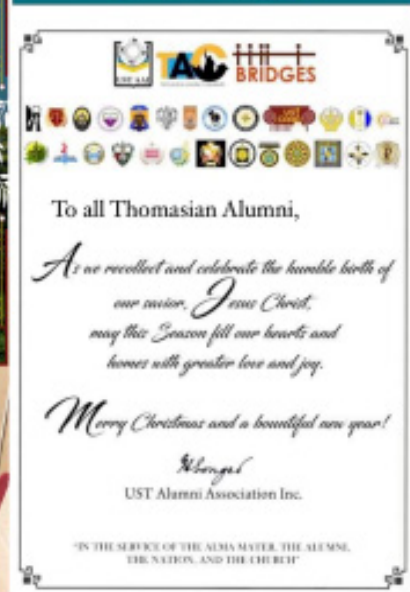
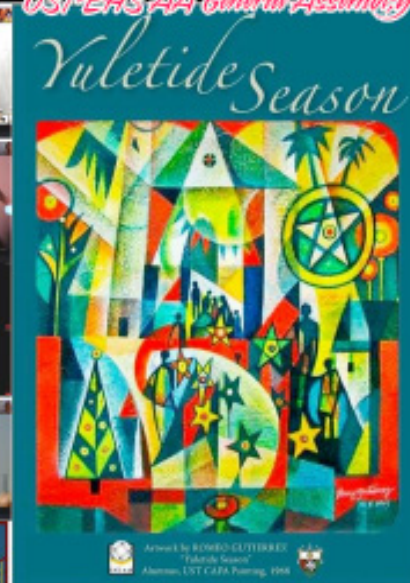
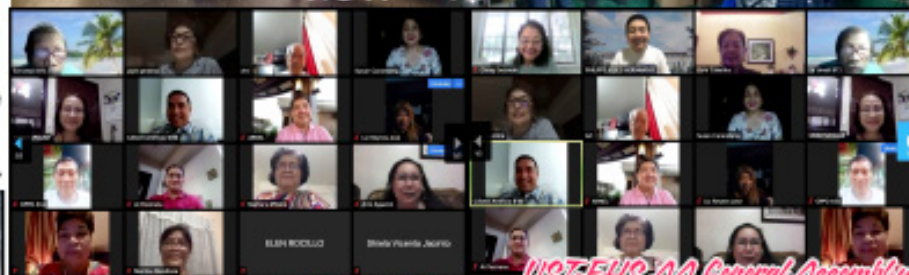
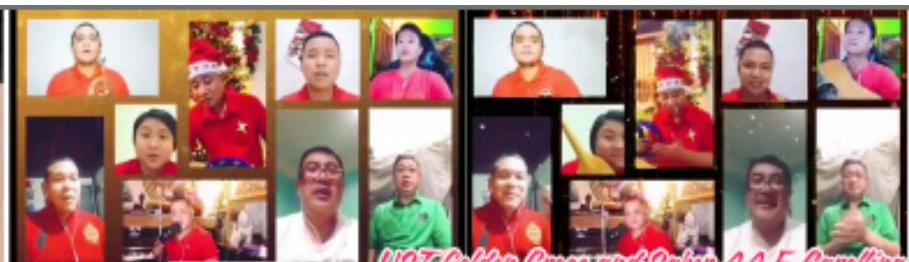


UST Engineering Alumni Association Inc. donated 25 pieces of negative pressure tents and PPEs to the UST Hospital last September 2020



Bayang for Love launching and MOA Signing. (L-R) Ms. Kaye Bundang, UST AAI EA; Mr. Jao Mapa, TAC Exchange featured artist; Ms. Maureen Pickering, UST AAI Business Manager; and Ms. Ces San Juan, TAC Exchange Merchandise Chair

STATE THOMASIAN FUND CALIFORNIA DREAMIN' 2019 MID-YEAR EVENT



SEARCH FOR THE FACULTY OF PHARMACY DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI

The University of Santo Tomas Faculty of Pharmacy launched its year-long celebration to mark its 150th Foundation Anniversary on May 29, 2021.

One of the highlights of the celebration is the awarding of the Faculty of Pharmacy Distinguished Alumni which is the highest honor bestowed upon graduates who have attained distinction in professional achievements, have made substantial contribution to society, and have demonstrated competence, commitment, and compassion.

There are seven award categories: Science and Technology, Industry and Entrepreneurship, Education, Public Service and Governance, Health and Community Service, Arts and Media, and Service to the Church.

Nominees are supposed to be living alumni with high moral integrity and whose leadership and achievements should be evident in their chosen field of endeavor. They should exemplify the Thomasian values of competence, commitment, and compassion for others which have brought about substantial benefits to society and distinct honor to the Faculty as well as to the University.

Screening of nominees is done by an Executive Committee composed of Asst. Prof. Tomas Alferos, MD (Chair), Dean Aleth Therese Dacanay, Ph.D., Asst. Dean Ma. Frieda Z. Hapan, Ph.D., Assoc. Prof. Cristina Doria, Ph.D. and Asst. Prof. Angelica Crisostomo from the Faculty of Pharmacy; Assoc. Prof. Sandra C. Sy (Chair), Dean Ma. Elena Manansala, Asst. Prof. Vivian D. Asuncion, Prof. Ross Vasquez, Ph.D. and Asst. Prof. Rhona Ramos from the Faculty of Pharmacy Alumni Association. Announcement of distinguished alumni will be in December 2020.

All awardees shall receive a plaque of recognition to be presented during the Testimonial Dinner at the 150th Founding Anniversary Celebration on Saturday, May 29, 2021.

For more information and inquiries about UST Faculty of Pharmacy Distinguished Alumni Award, email may be sent to FOPDAAsecretariat@gmail.com. - Elena de Jesus- Manansala, BS Pharmacy, 1971



EHS Regent Celebrates Mass for Deceased Alumni, Loved Ones

Rev. Fr. Maximo P. Gatela, O.P., Regent of the Education High School, celebrated Mass in honor of the deceased members of the EHS alumni family and their loved ones on November 8, 2020, at the Santísimo Rosario Parish.

In his homily, Fr. Gatela emphasized gratitude for the grace of having known our departed loved ones in this world and highlighted the good things that they did while on earth.

The Mass intentions were gathered from batches all over the world and included alumni, former administrators, faculty members, and staff, as well as non-EHS loved ones of the petitioners.

The Mass was streamed live via the Santísimo Rosario Parish Facebook page.
- Philippe Hernandez, BSE English, 2011



The Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati Building

For those who have not yet memorized the names of the buildings in the UST University campus, there is one more coming up: The Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati Building that is on the rise along España Boulevard on the site of the former Isabel Bldg., opposite our University campus. It is a 22-storey institutional structure that has more than 90 classrooms. It will be occupied by four departments, namely, Senior High School, Institute of Information and Computing Sciences, Edtech Center, and Santo Tomas e - Service Providers (STePS).

The construction of this building is being done within the program of the UST Facilities and Management Office (FMO), headed by its Director, Rev. Fr. Dexter Austria, O.P., and its Assistant Director, Engr. Albert Surla, MSCE, who is also a Faculty Member of the UST College of Engineering.

The UST Senior High School Department is ably governed by its Administrators:

Principal: a true gold Thomasian from Grade School to college, Asst. Professor Mary Erika N. Bolanos, LPT, Ph.D.,

Regent: Rev. Fr. Ermito G. de Sagon, O.P.,

Asst. Principal for Curriculum & Instruction: Assoc. Prof. Rofrigo A. Litao, Ph.D.

Asst. Principal for Student Formation: Asst. Prof. Jaезамie V. Ong, MA.

School Secretary: Ms. Jennica C. Wu, MA.

In August of 2019, the Grade 11 of the Senior High School officially transferred to the Frassati Building, while the Grade 12 continued to stay at the Buenaventura G. Paredes, O.P. (BGPOP) – Thomasian Alumni Center (TAC) Building. Hopefully, in the next academic year 2021-2022, the entire Senior High School will be accommodated in this new building.

The multi-storey building will also house the following facilities: Two-level library, canteen, gymnasium, auditorium, function rooms, consultation rooms, laboratories, parking spaces on the 3rd and 4th levels and a chapel. - Prof. Myrna Plata Hilario-Munda, Litt. B. Journalism, 1976



CFAD and Archi Alumni join ManilArt 2020

Several alumni of the College of Fine Arts and Design and College of Architecture and Fine Arts were invited to participate in the ManilArt 2020 held on December 9 to 13 at the SMC Convention Center, SM Aura Premier in Taguig City.

The flagship annual program of the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA), ManilArt showcases the works of Filipino artists such as paintings, sculpture that are appreciated primarily for their beauty and emotional power. ManilArt is considered as the longest running fair of the visual arts. The theme of this year's ManilArt alludes not just to current contexts and concerns, but to the precautions necessary to ensure a better way of moving forward. Just as the organizers stressed, the role of art and culture remains essential to our identity as a people and necessitates an evolution with the times. - Marie Pe-Yang, BFA, Advertising, 1981

(more photos on page 24)



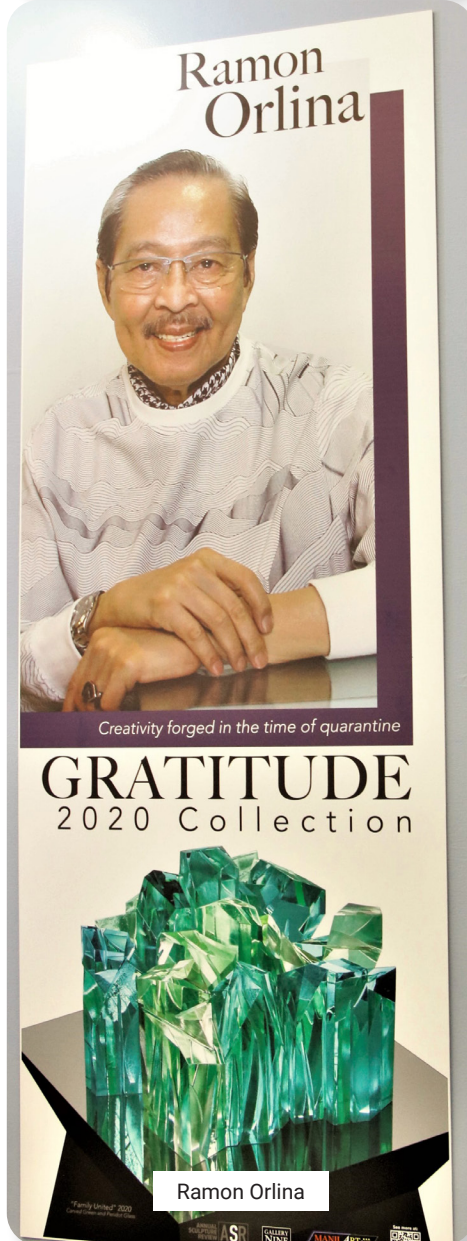
Rene Robles



Anita Del Rosario Rosario



Raul Isidro



Ramon Orlina



Eng'g Scholar and Alumna is Miss Globe New Zealand 2020

College of Engineering alumna and Becarios de Santo Tomas scholar Gazelle Garcia was crowned the first Miss Globe New Zealand. A Filipino-Kiwi, Ms. Garcia also won Miss Mia Belle and Miss Charity in the pageant's coronation night last October 10, 2020, at WOAHI! Studios in Henderson, Auckland.

Graduating cum laude in Computer Science program, Ms. Garcia served as vice-president for the Becarios de Santo Tomas for international affairs for academic year 2010-2011. She afterwards pursued a profession in information technology, an arena where the female population is usually outnumbered.

As the Miss Belle winner, Ms. Garcia will be the brand ambassador of Miss Globe in promoting its business values and earth-friendly products. As Miss Charity, Ms. Garcia will be raising funds for her chosen charitable institution: SCOT Foundation which creates opportunities for orphans and street children in the Philippines. She will be supporting two Filipino children as part of her reign.

The Thomasian Alumni community congratulates Ms. Garcia and wishes her all the best during her reign. May she always carry with her the Thomasian spirit wherever the roads will lead her. - Criselle Corpuz, sophomore AB Sociology student

CEAFI Responds to Need of “New Normal”

(From page 5)



Although chapels and churches were the targeted beneficiaries of the project, CEAFI responded to the requests of two schools for alcohol dispensers. These were USTAAI's adopted mission school: the Holy Rosary College Foundation run by Dominican sisters in Tala, Caloocan City and the Pulo Integrated School in Orani, Bataan under Bryan Buenaventura. The donations were coursed through USTAAI President Evelyn Songco and Alfredo Navarro III (AB Journalism 2014), respectively.

In charge of this initiative are CEAFI's George Cuevas, Cheree Buendia and Ces San Juan. Those who wish to donate to their parish may contact either of them or any CEAFI board member. The project aims to help keep our places of worship CoVid free in this time of the “new normal.” - Nanette Ochoa-Fernandez, BSE English, 1976.

SOCCSKSARGEN Alumni Chapter Gives Assistance to GenSan Schools

(From page 5)

Tomasinong SOCCSKSARGEN's commitment to serving the community and supporting Thomasian leadership and the youth is extended through DayonTuon. DayonTuon is led by five students, Bobbie Camille Atendido, Maxine Adrienne Lawas, Virgil Raquedan, Hendrelle Cabel, and Shar Sheik. Atendido and Lawas are students of the Faculty of Medicine and Surgery under its pioneering LEAPMed Program.

The campaign for two more schools, Sansapan County Elementary School and Sinawal Elementary School is on-going.

For more information, those who are interested in supporting the campaign may reach the team at dayontuon.ph@gmail.com or through Facebook at [fb.com/dayontuon.ph](https://www.facebook.com/dayontuon.ph). - Bobbie Camille Atendido, current student of BS Basic Human Studies under UST's LEAPMED program, candidate for graduation in 2021.

ANNUAL ADVENT RECOLLECTION GOES VIRTUAL

(From page 6)

Fr. Felloni's first message was beautifully summed up in the FB Comments section by Clarita de Leon Carillo, “To walk on top of and through the storm...and by discernment, direction, and decision, come out of it better. We can be rest assured that God never fails to save.”

Fr. Felloni also gave practical tips in dealing with the pandemic. Talking about panic attacks at night when he was unable to consciously focus on the Lord, he said he was able to overcome his anxiety by changing his lifestyle. He now gets regular exercise, running 5 kilometers daily; detaching from covid and negative news and turning to classical music instead; and eating a balanced diet on top of focusing on the Lord and our Blessed Mother whose response to the angel's message was to “Rejoice!”

In the Holy Mass, Fr. Felloni used the first reading and the Gospel of the day to console those who speak the truth and are reviled, and those who have recently lost loved ones. For those going through persecution because of the truth, he said, “It will not be forever. The truth cannot be killed, and the Lord will lift you up in the sight of your enemies.” Quoting his own father who he described as a man of simple faith, Fr. Felloni said that when we pray, we are connected with our loved ones who have passed away. For those whose loved ones have died, the Lord assures us that “He is the God of the living.” Those who persevered to reconnect after a couple of technical glitches were rewarded by fresh insights and life-giving messages in his talk and in the homily of the Holy Mass that culminated this year's Advent Recollection. Those who were able to join the Recollection were assured that this year's Christmas in the midst of the pandemic will be much like that first Christmas when the Word was made flesh. “It is up to us now to come and rejoice.” - Nanette Ochoa-Fernandez, BSE English, 1976

Catch BRIDGES @ CBRC TV

(From page 7)

the quarantine. Mr. Kintanar talked about the importance of reflective listening and the role of the Thomasian Mental Health Responders, a group of volunteers he is active in, as a resource for those looking for a listening ear in their search for wellness.

The last episode for October was co-hosted by Dr. Songco and Dean Henry Tenedero (AB General, 1980). The topic “Holyween or Halloween?” was well-handled by a Thomasian alumnus and now priest serving in the Diocese of Novaliches, Rev. Fr. James Nitollama. He enlightened us with the history of Halloween and how mask-wearing on the eve of All Saints' Day began as a way for the living to avoid being recognized by the dead they believed to be after them for some wrong they had done. He said that in the 13th century, the Church declared the day after the Feast of All Saints' as a day to pray, honor and remember those who had departed from this world. Finally, as an alternative to Halloween, he suggested celebrating “Holyween” instead like March with the Saints and other holy activities.

Sharad Vivek Sagar said, “For too long, information, opportunities, and resources have been constraints, they need to be the bridges.” Indeed, BRIDGES was built for the purpose of sharing knowledge and insights, as well as providing development opportunities and resources among peers.

Thomasians who have not watched previous episodes can check it out on Facebook or Youtube via CBRC.TV. We hope you can be one of our regular viewers and join us every Sunday at 6 p.m. Tell everyone and fellow Thomasians about this project of the UST Alumni Association, Inc. and be a BRIDGE of love and learning to all your friends. It only takes 30 minutes of your time, but this is enough to change your life. - Marilyn Cano, BSE English, co-major in Philosophy, 1970.

TEAM ACADEMICS Webinar Series

“Unending Grace: Now and Beyond” - Building and Rebuilding

(From page 7)

experiences of faith, hope and love as they faced particularly the challenges during this time of pandemic.

The Webinar was divided into three (3) series on the following dates namely: Webinar 1 “Building on Faith,” June 27; Webinar 2 “Rebuilding on Hope: Pag-asa sa Gitna ng Pandemya,” July 25 and Webinar 3 “Rebuilding our Love for God, Others and Self,” August 8, 2020.

Invited discussants and reactors were all Thomasian alumni, who are experts and renowned in their respective fields of specialization. The sessions were given “Very Satisfactory” ratings by attendees from all over the world in their evaluation after each series. All sessions were held via Zoom Meet powered by the Carl Balita Review Center (CBRC).

Series 1: Building on Faith

The speakers shared their thoughts and insights on faith in God; faith in oneself and faith in others as one builds his/her work skills to face the new normal. The main discussant was Bishop Rex Alarcon, D.D. of the Diocese of Daet who talked about “Building on Faith.” He emphasized that the unending gift of faith is a divine gift that opens our minds and hearts to the certainty of truth to a closer relationship with God especially during this pandemic.

There were three panel discussants. Dr. Carmina Fuentesbella, RN, MD shared her personal experience of “Faith in God” as a courageous survivor of Covid-19. Motivational speaker and Wellness coach Dr. Christian Lubaton, also an RN, MD, gave an inspiring message about having “Faith in Oneself” as an important tool to brave this pandemic. He said, “We may fail but we learn and never lose.” “Faith in Others” was the talk of multi-awarded architect and urban planner, Arch. Felino Palafox, Jr. He shared how this has driven his work in urban development and in helping a great number of people by allowing the seed of faith to grow in them.

The panel of reactors for this session were Mr. Wilfredo Layug, a multi-awarded liturgical artist, Mr. Jose “Pepe” Herrera, a singer and comedian, and Maria Kharla Giannotti, a school counselor in Lichtenstein. Each prominently proclaimed and testified how faith has guided and inspired their lives knowing one is never alone but that one has God and others that will help along the way.

This first webinar series was organized by the alumni associations of the colleges/faculties of Nursing, Atelier, Engineering, Architecture, Accountancy, Music, Commerce, and the Alumni Priests Association (ALPA), alumni of the Golden Saber, CAT, CMT and the USTAAI chapter in SOCCSKARGEN.

Series 2: Re-Building on Hope “Pag-asa sa Gitna ng Pandemya”

This series was organized by the alumni associations from the Faculty of Civil Law, Education High School, Thomasian Alumni Leaders Association (TALA), Tomasining Kapampangan, Tomasining Bikolano, College of Tourism and Hospitality Management, Junior High School, Philosophy & Letters and the Faculty of Arts & Letters.

The keynote talk was given by Fr. Gerard Timoner, OP, Provincial General, Order of Dominican Fathers direct from Rome. He emphasized that “Hope is the radical refusal to put limit to what God can do.” The panel of discussants was composed of Engr. Jerenato Alfante, Pres & CEO of, Macro Industries, who manages a big number of employees in his electrical firm, expressed his hope by saying, “Covid-19 is everywhere. God is everywhere forever.” Lito Villanueva, Senior VP of RCBC, is remembered in his sharing of hope with “Tiis, Hagilap, Para-paraan.” Leo Riingen, CEO of Informatics, expressed his hope during this pandemic with “Thrive in your business by pruning, consider crisis as a crucial teacher.”

Reactions and personal sharings to the discussions were given by Dr. Oscar Tinio, former President, Phil Medical Association, who said, “The health workers have made the supreme sacrifice - sacrifice life!” Inspiring the audience with their couple power were Doland Castro, broadcaster and Dr. Cris Jovita Castro with their consoling words “Kapit lang kay Lord. Ang Covid-19 di forever. Kay Lord may forever.”

Series 3: “Rebuilding Our Love for God, Others, and Self”

August 8, 2020, the feast day of St. Dominic, founder of the Dominican Order, marked the third series of the Webinar titled “Rebuilding our Love for God, Others, and Self.” In line with the “Tria Haec, with Faith, Hope, and Love, the greatest of which is Love (Mt. 22:37-39), this series gives the message that we can serve as beacon of light to our fellowmen.

Discussants in this series were Rev. Fr. Filemon I. Dela Cruz, O.P. who gave the opening remarks that centered on love and forgiveness; Dr. Mylene A. Santos who shared her experiences on showing love to the community as a health educator and an environmental advocate; Dr. Gia B. Sison, a mental health advocate and a cancer-survivor who shared that when everything seems “hopeless, God is there to rescue us”; and Dr. Joselito V. Sayson, a US-based international educator and founder of Project Michaelangelo, who shared his innermost joy and fulfillment by taking care of marginalized children.

The panel of reactors who shared their insights and personal experiences about love, were Dr. Juliet K. Bucoy, Dr. Cielo Macapagal-Salgado, and Mr. Teddy D. Quizado. Rev. Fr. Richard G. Ang, UST new Rector, gave an inspiring closing remarks, affirming the gospel teaching on love, that is, on “loving God with all our heart, and with all our soul and with all our mind, and that we must love our neighbor as we love ourselves”. This 3rd Webinar, just like the other previous ones on Faith and Hope, was such a tremendous success that this paved the way for the creation of “Thomasians4Love,” open to all Thomasians wherever they are situated, and show love in the community, in whatever way they can.

USTAAI’s Team Academics consider this webinar series very special as they show faith hope and love alive in the discussions and testimonies given by the alumni speakers and sharers. It is with great hope that the sessions helped everyone understand with certitude that the gift of faith, hope and love will bring people closer to God. Imbued with His unending grace, everyone will have the courage to face every challenge that comes with life. - Inocencia Ida Tionko, RN, MHPed, 1970; Fernando R. Pedrosa, S.Th.B, 1977, LI. B, 1985, MA, 2004; and, Henry S. Tenedero, AB General, 1980

Pax Romana Alumni Association Formed; Officers Inducted

(From page 8)

Administration, 1986) Trustee, former Commerce Unit President and now the Asst. Vice-President of Bangko Kabayan Inc. in Batangas City; Engr. Frederick Parayno (BS Civil Engineering, 1987), Trustee, former CCC President, former president of USTAAI and at present, the President of Metro Rail Transit Corporation.

Dr. Jesus Querubin (Doctor of Medicine, 1985), Trustee, former member of Science Unit and now practicing Internal Medicine in Kentucky, USA; and Mrs. Mary Jane Tesoro (AB Communication Arts, 1978), Trustee, former CCC Secretary and presently the principal partner of Tesoro Financial Services based in California, USA;

Dr. Elio’s President’s Address was followed by the recitation of the UST Pax Romana Pledge led by Dr. Willie Lagdameo, Liberal Arts Unit President, 1961-1962. Dr. Lagdameo later expounded on how the Paxies should live the pledge.

Rev. Fr. Norberto Castillo, O.P., UST Rector 1982-1990 and USTPRAA’s Spiritual Adviser, gave his blessing. The program culminated with the singing of the UST Pax Romana Hymn and the UST Hymn.- Mary Jane Tesoro, AB Communication Arts, 1978

NEW YEAR GREETINGS

(From page 11)

TOMASINONG SOCCSKSARGEN



May this New Year bring peace, happiness, and unconditional love to you all. A joyous New Year to Tomasining Soccsargen and USTAA!

MARIA CARMELA ROYCEA
(Tomasining
SOCCSKSARGEN)

GOLDEN CROSS AND SABER ALUMNI ASSOCIATION INCORPORATION



Wishing the UST Alumni Association, Inc. members good health and happiness in the New Year ahead. Happy New Year to all and may 2021 be an extraordinary one for the UST Alumni Association, Inc.

Dr. RODRIGO DE MESA
President
(USTGCS AAI)

PAX ROMANA



I send my most sincere prayer for peace in our world in the tradition of our Pax Romana motto: "Pax Christi in Regno Christi" - The Peace of Christ in the Kingdom of Christ. Let there be peace on earth and love for one another

Dr. EGIDIO "Dong" ELIO
President
UST Pax Romana Alumni Association

A vivid vision of year 2021 projects strong Faith, Hope, and Love for every Filipino. God makes us stronger and braver, inspite of the odds and atrocities we experienced, to face the challenges of the new normal. Wishing and praying that constructive and efficient measures be in place to safeguard our environment, our people, and our country.

Dr. TERESITA C. MEER
USTA AI Treasurer

The start of each new year is a time to reflect on the year just past, and make plans for the future. Cheers to a new year and another chance for us to get it right; here's to the things that are yet to come, and to the memories that we hold. May you have a prosperous New Year. Wishing you a happy, healthy New Year. May the new year bless you with health, wealth and happiness!

MAUREEN PICKERING
UST AAI Business Manager

From Leyte to UST to CBCP

(From page 12)

with the Central Seminary being in the midst of the university and the city of Manila." But it was this *probinsiya* lifestyle and upbringing that made him overcome the culture shock and kept him grounded. "However, coming just from a middle class family, my parents being both public school teachers and with my other siblings also in college, I didn't have enough to spend which perhaps was a blessing in disguise as it always kept me from constantly going out. In fact, I did not have the luxury of hiring a laundry person to wash my clothes. So, weekends were spent doing the laundry before or after our apostolate outside."

"My Dominican formators were very much committed to our formation. I had the privilege of having the last Spanish Rector of the Central Seminary in the person of Fr. Javier Arrazola who was very fatherly to the seminarians. My vocation to the priesthood was strengthened by the exemplary way he lived his vocation as a Dominican and by the way he treated us, seminarians."

In 1984, he earned his diploma in Bachelor in Sacred Theology and two years after, his Licentiate in Canon Law.

On April 25, 1986, he was ordained priest, making him officially part of the Palo Archdiocese. He then proceeded to the Angelicum University in Rome for his Doctorate in Canon Law which he completed in 1990. The continuous education, conscientiousness in his studies, and his firm determination to heed God's call to work in His vineyard prepared Monsi for greater responsibilities in the Church.

Coming back to the country from Rome, he was assigned Chancellor of the Archdiocese of Palo, a post that he was to hold for the next eight years.

Yet, a higher calling was yet to come in 1994 when he was appointed Vicar General of the Archdiocese. "When I was appointed as Vicar General in 1994, my archbishop recommended me to be a Papal Chaplain with the title of a Monsignor. He said that it was more to honor the position that I was given rather than the person." He took on this responsibility in the following 19 years.

At the same time, he taught Canon Law at the St. John the Evangelist School of Theology from 1990 to 2013, was appointed Rector of St. John the Evangelist School of Theology in 1998. Concurrent to these posts, Monsi moved from one parish to another within the Archdiocese to be the Parish Priest: Sto. Niño Church, Tacloban, from January 2001 up to May 2005, Sts. Peter & Paul Parish, Ormoc City, from May 2005 up to December 2010 and Palo Metropolitan Cathedral, from January 2010 up to January 2014.

In 2011, he was elected President of the Canon Law Society of the Philippines, a responsibility he was to take on until 2013. At the end of this same year, he was appointed Asst. Secretary General and Asst. Treasurer of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP), prompting him to move to Manila. The elected Secretary General at this time was Fr. Marvin Mejia. However, he was recalled to his Diocese in Cebu to prepare for the celebration of the 500 years of Christianity in the Philippines. As Monsi explained, "Since the Statutes provide that the First Assistant Secretary will assume the vacated office, my appointment was confirmed by the Permanent Council to finish the term which is until Nov. 30, 2021. The election of the new officers of the CBCP together with that of the Secretary General will be in July 2021."

"The Secretary General heads the General Secretariat of the CBCP which takes charge of implementing under the supervision of the Permanent Council, the decisions made, as well as the orders and instructions given, by the Plenary Assembly. He also acts as liaison with the secular public authorities and other non-governmental organizations when the occasion so demands. He coordinates the work of the episcopal commissions and permanent committees, offices and other agencies of the Conference. He gathers and files the reports and other documents submitted by the said commissions, committees, offices and other entities for record and reference purpose. He brings officially to the notice of the concerned parties, inclusive of the general public if necessary, the decisions and declarations of the Plenary Assembly and of the Permanent Council. He maintains due and proper communication with the Apostolic Nuncio on matters of mutual interest. He prepares the written report on the Acts of the Plenary Assembly as well as the Acts of the Permanent Council and to communicate these to the members of the Conference. He writes down all other acts required by the Permanent Council or the President of the Conference. He communicates certain acts and documents to other Episcopal conferences, particularly those in Asia, when such has been ordered or authorized by the Plenary Assembly or the Permanent Council."

Monsignor Bernardo R. Pantin, PC, JCD, continues to be a Guest Professor at the UST Faculty of Canon Law where he started in 2014. Likewise, he is the President of the UST Alumni Priests Association (ALPA). - Joy Viray-Gatmaytan, AB Translations, 1980

No Stopping the Red Men: The USTGCSAAI in Action

(From page 9)

the "Class System" and "Tulay." He said, "We must bridge leadership, we will respect their opinion, their rights, if we will agree to disagree so be it, but we must work for the common good," emphasizing the challenging but fulfilling role of providing leadership to an alumni association comprised of men and women leaders in their various fields. LT COL JASMINE DE MESA, NC (Res.), the Assistant Commandant, delivered the message of UST ROTC Commandant COL VICTOR LAPITAN, MNSA PA.

Inspirational messages were also given via Zoom live by UST Alumni Association Pres. Evelyn Songco, Ph.D., and a recorded message from Director of Office of Alumni Relations Fredeswindo Medina was played.

Certificates of Recognition were given to the past BOD members and Muy Leal Awards were given to P/BGEN JOEY CASTANEDA BANDONG JR., PC (Ret.) '67 and MGEN POMPEO LIMBO, AFP (Ret.) '76, both members of the Council of Advisers.

Remembering our Fallen Brothers. The USTGCSAAI, in memory of the departed brothers of the association created a video clip. Entitled, "Remembering our Fallen Brothers" with the hashtag "TAPS" which is the sound of the bugle played on the bugle at the end of the day, for the members of the association, the video clip was posted in Association's website. The memorial is for the former ROTC Cadet Officers who led the students and became leaders in their own fields of expertise. They have paraded on the same field and made their Last March to finally salute and be welcomed by the Supreme Saber Commander. Let us keep them in our hearts... FALLEN BUT NOT FORGOTTEN... Muy Leal!

Reaching out to the typhoon victims. Desiring to help the victims of Tropical Storm (TS) Rolly and TS Ulysses in the Bicol province, the USTGCSAAI immediately went to work, through the efforts of the ROTC Officer Graduates Class 1999. From the lessons learned from TS Rolly, the BOD created the "RM Help Corner" with the hashtag #NoRMLetBehind. RM is the abbreviation of Red Man, referring to how the alumni call themselves.

The RM Help Corner helps the association determine who among the RMs are in distress and in need of assistance during and after calamities. All sorts of platforms were used from telephone numbers, Viber, FB messenger, email, and FB groups were utilized in this task.

The Road Ahead. The newly elected National Commander plans to reconnect all the members with one another with the use of the Information-Communication-Technology (ICT). The USTGCSAAI started in 1936 and for 84 years has produced members that can be connected with each other through ICT to be familiar with, to exchange pleasantries, to help each other in times of need, to reminisce.

With the re connection, as the members are the products of the Reserve Officers Training Course (ROTC), the USTGCSAAI is committed to look for the welfare of the ROTC cadets/cadettes. The current BOD will work hand-in-hand with the Department of Military Science and Tactics (DMST), for the betterment and welfare of the cadets/cadettes. It will continue to work well with the UST Office of the Alumni Relations (UST OAR) and the UST Alumni Association Incorporation (USTAAI).

The next two years promise to be exciting as the USTGCSAAI BOD has planned too to continue the projects and advocacies inherited from the previous BODs. It is the hope of this present board that in God's grace, all its objectives would be realized, be fruitful, of benefit of the RMs in particular and for the good of UST, in general. As RMs greet one another, Muy Leal! - Lyndon Soresca (BSC Economics, 1986), Rodrigo de Mesa (BS Biology, 1988), Christopher Dalida (AB Political Science, 1999), and Ranier Dy (BS Medical Technology, 2012)

Featured Thomasian: LAURA SUAREZ ACUZAR

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alive. Indeed, she is a full-fledged Thomasian. Her achievements and contribution to the University has been far and wide. First and foremost, she believes in the partnership between the University and the alumni through the following:

1. She was the co-founder and incorporator of the UST COLLEGE OF COMMERCE ALUMNI FOUNDATION, INC. in 1992. She served as President in 1994, 2003 to 2005, thereafter as Chairperson from 2006 to 2008. It was then that she worked hard and laid crafted the blueprint for the spin-off in 2004 of the College of Accountancy from the College of Commerce, as a separate College. The College was named UST AMV COLLEGE OF ACCOUNTANCY, after naming rights were granted by the University to Mr. Alfredo M. Velayo, co-founder of SGV & Co. and a revered alumnus of the University. This monumental project encompassed a substantial amount of exhaustive work, determination and collaboration among the University's Administrative officials and alumni to make the dream a reality. To demonstrate her commitment to the success of the College of Accountancy, Ms. Acuzar continued to serve as a member of the College's Dean's Council from 2005 to 2008.
2. In 2005, she co-founded and incorporated the UST-AMV COLLEGE OF ACCOUNTANCY FOUNDATION, INC., where she is still a board member up to the present. The Foundation, through the efforts of Ms. Acuzar and its officers raised funds from the alumni and private entities and individuals for the College of Accountancy. The Foundation donated P20M to the University to fund the computer, equipment and furniture requirements of the College of Accountancy. It also provides scholarships for deserving students, financial assistance to needy students who met certain parameters and offers faculty development programs.
3. Ms. Acuzar served as President from 2007 to 2009, and as Vice-Chairperson in 2006 of the UNIVERSITY OF SANTO TOMAS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION, INC. ("USTAA"). Ms. Acuzar's notable achievements as the leader of USTAA included the following, among others: (a) Initiated the reorganization and incorporation of USTAA with the participation of the Presidents of the college alumni associations. (b) Instituted corporate governance measures and drafted the Association's articles of incorporation and bylaws. (c) Initiated the improvements in the TOTAL awards primer by redefining the award categories, the award criteria and streamlined the systematic procedures of the screening process and (d) Introduced the granting of the Meritorious Achievement award to recognize the achievements of Thomasians who did not complete their education at UST due to various reasons.
4. In 2009, Ms. Acuzar co-founded and incorporated the UST- AMV COLLEGE OF ACCOUNTANCY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION, INC.

In summary, Ms. Laura Suarez Acuzar is an embodiment of the tenets of the University Of Santo Tomas. She breathes "compassion," speaks "competence," and lives "commitment" with moral courage and integrity, as a true Thomasian should be. Her contribution to the university is already a legacy passed on, enjoyed and will continue to benefit the young generation and forever become a part of the university's rich heritage.

Thomasians in the UN

(From page 12)

Japan. He was later joined by his family and lived for a total of 20 years in Japan, 12 of which were with the UN. As the title of his narrative "Coming Full Circle" expressed, he has returned to UST to teach and advise architecture graduate students.

Four of the Thomasians in the book had careers of their own when they joined the UN. In many ways, they were trailblazers, women who found their way into a male-dominated work environment.

Lydia Gamboa Ontal, BS Pharmacy 1957. Ms. Ontal was managing her own pharmacy in Negros Occidental when she decided to fly to New York and take the UN clerical test which she passed. It was after Senator Benigno Aquino's assassination and all her six children were student activists then. As she wrote, "The clincher for me was when I saw my only daughter's face at the front page of a daily newspaper." Her doctor-husband and six children eventually joined her. She was already in her late 40s at this time but "with persistence and firm resolve, we all survived all difficulties." Four of her children now also work in the UN.

As a staff member of Department of Public Information at the UN Headquarters in New York, she recalls leading Fidel Castro and Yasser Arafat to their designated spots for a historical photo during the UN's 60th anniversary. Now retired and living in New York, she has been working with the Federation of Association of Former International Civil Servants (FAFICS) for the past 14 years.

Magdalena Lim Arduo, summa cum laude, BSC Accounting, 1965; 7th place, 1965 CPA board exam. These strong credentials landed Marlene, as Ms. Arduo is also called, enviable positions at SGV and Lloyds Bank International. Her latter work experience earned her the UST College of Commerce Golden Award in the field of offshore banking in 1983. She had been working in the private sector for 25 years when, in a brief hiatus in her career, she responded to an ad, later on being hired as UNICEF Manila Operations Officer. She also had a brief posting in Georgia, then went on to UNICEF Beijing where she stayed for nine out of her 15 years in the UN.

Jessie Rose Degala Mabutas BSC Accounting 1974. Ms. Mabutas was the first woman to become an Assistant Secretary-General at the World Food Programme (WFP) in Rome in 2001. At the WFP, the school feeding program "inspired and personally affected" her so she made sure that food aid was given to everyone affected by man-made conflicts and natural calamities. The WFP won the Nobel Peace Prize this year.

Ms. Mabutas also managed the identification and repatriation of staff members and consultants who died when the UN Office in Baghdad was bombed. In her blurb, she wrote, "These days, I am busy with the Global Women Leaders, several executive boards and panels, and also a community food pantry." As in her UN days in the late 1990s, she still often finds herself as the only woman in a meeting.

Nannette Guinto Amorado, BSC Accounting 1975. Her story was in pursuit of a healthy combination of her work and art in her "unplanned 11 years" with the UN. Nannette, already in her 50s, had been busy in her career as auditor at the Private Development Corporation of the Philippines, then at the ADB, when she joined the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in New York in 2005.

She was the first woman in the office management team when she started. She had been doing visual arts in the Philippines, and found her creative side even blooming in the midst of internal auditing at work. She participated in art exhibits, and became active in the Philippines Cultural Society in NY. The UN became her "bridge" as she discovered ways of "taking on human development work to a different level" through her art.

There are many firsts these Thomasians and the other featured Filipinos chronicled in this book. Lessons in the virtues of accountability, integrity and humility abound in the personal vignettes put together here. The retirees recognize their mentors and fellow workers for the lessons learned and for shared experiences. Now, they continue to be useful in different roles for the community and family, and giving back. The message of Edmundo Ortega, President of the Association of Former International Civil Servant, rings true: "Underlying each of our stories is a tribute to our roots—the Philippine institutions, communities and families that nurtured our formative years."

Indeed, for six of these UN retirees, the University of Santo Tomas has definitely contributed to their stories. - Antonio L. Fernandez, BS Chemical Engineering, 1975



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FEATURED THOMASIAN



LAURA SUAREZ ACUZAR

Ms. Laura Suarez Acuzar, with an impressive list of achievements in her profession represents a consummate balance of business success, outstanding civic responsibility, and dedicated service to the University of Santo Tomas.

Ms. Acuzar, a Certified Public Accountant, graduated from the University of Santo Tomas in 1970 with a Degree of Bachelor of Science in Commerce-major in Accounting, MAGNA CUM LAUDE and from the UST High School in 1966. When she graduated in 1970, she was a recipient of the Rector's Award for Academic Excellence. She had completed Advanced Management Courses at the Harvard Business School in Boston Massachusetts and the Asian Institute of Management.

Her business leadership in the accounting profession spans a time frame of fifty (50) years; thirty (30) years of which was with Sycip Gorres Velayo & Co. (SGV & Co.), where she was an International Audit & Business Advisory Partner until her retirement. SGV & Co., a member practice of Ernst & Young Global, is the Philippines' largest multidisciplinary professional services firm in the Philippines. Ms. Acuzar was a member of SGV & Co.'s Management Committee (Board of Directors) from 1998 to 2001. She was likewise a Managing Director of the same firm's Philippine Business Risk and Consulting Service line of practice.

At present, Ms. Acuzar is an independent member of the Board of Directors as well as Head/Member of the Audit Committee of the Board of Directors of certain private and publicly held and listed companies in the Philippines.

In Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada where she currently resides, Ms. Acuzar is a professional business and financial consultant. She is also a Senior Partner of the SHS Consulting Services, LLP, a Vancouver-based professional consulting firm that provides business and advisory services to start-up business enterprises in British Columbia, Canada.

In recognition of her exemplary contribution to the Accounting profession, Ms. Acuzar was conferred the 2014 UST TOTAL award in the field of Business and Accountancy; the recipient of the Diamond Award in Accountancy in 2008, and Outstanding Alumna in the field of Accountancy in 1991, of the UST College of Commerce and Business Administration. She also received the PICPA Presidential Award in 1991 for her outstanding contribution to the Philippine Institute of Certified Public Accountants (PICPA) and the Chapters.

Ms. Acuzar also has an established track record for community service over the years. She capitalizes on her business acumen and accounting/finance proficiency in helping influence and shape the financial and management policies of nonprofit organizations through her volunteer board and committee placements in the following organizations:

1. Board of Trustees member from 2001 to the present and Head of Audit and Finance Committee of COMMUNITY AND FAMILY SERVICES INTERNATIONAL, INC, an international, non-profit and humanitarian organization based in Manila, funded by the World Bank, UNICEF and UNCHR, that is committed to peace and social development.
2. Board of Trustees and Finance Committee member from 2012 to 2015 of KERRISDALE COMMUNITY CENTER SOCIETY (KCCS), a non-profit charitable organization based in Vancouver, Canada that develops a stronger and safer community by providing support programming and recreation facilities for all ages.
3. Board of Trustees member and Finance Committee Chair from 2011 to 2016 of URBAN INK PRODUCTIONS SOCIETY (UI), a non-profit organization also based in Vancouver, Canada whose mission is to encourage and support the collaboration between aboriginal and racialized artists and communities.
4. Board of Trustees and Finance Committee member from 2011 to 2015 of PERFORMING ARTS LODGE (PAL) VANCOUVER SOCIETY, another non-profit organization based in Vancouver, Canada that provides safe and affordable homes and a supportive creative community for seniors and persons with disabilities; and

For Ms. Acuzar, no matter how far and where she is, the University of Santo Tomas has always been in her heart. She has never left her Alma Mater because the love, gratitude and loyalty have always been

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