

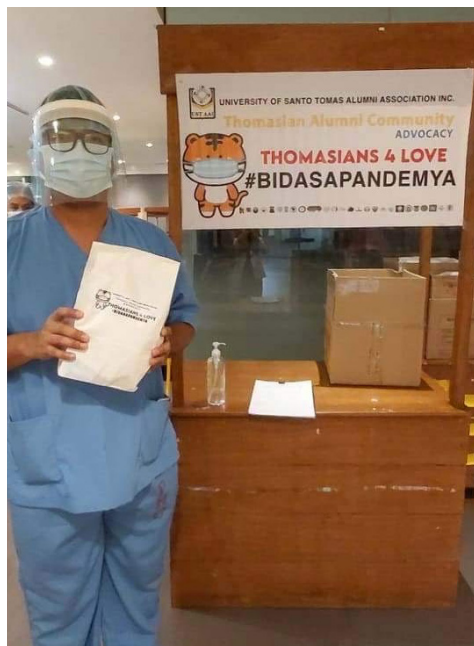


THE THOMASIAN ALUMNI COMMUNITY

VOL. NO. 4 ISSUE NO. 3

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE UST ALUMNI ASSOCIATION, INC.

Newsletter



USTAAI's #BIDASAPANDEMYA Project

On April 24, 2021, the USTAAI Advocacy group, headed by Engr. Jerenato Alfante, with Ms. Angie Tuazon, vice chair of the UST Thomasian Alumni Leaders Association (UST TALA), launched a new project called #BIDASAPANDEMYA. Frontliners of various hospitals were given gift bags to show our Tomasian love and our commitment to help and to cheer on our health workers in the ER and COVID Wards fighting against COVID-19. This project is part of the USTAAI Team Advocacy campaign #THOMASIANS4LOVE.

The distribution started with Rev. Fr. Christopher Jeffrey Aytona, O.P. giving goods to UST Hospital. These were received by Prof. Analin Porto, Director for Administration, and all the heads of the different concerned departments.

On April 28, in celebration of UST's 410th Founding Anniversary, the USTAAI Team Advocacy went to the Chinese General Hospital and Medical Center to kick-start the weekly distribution activities which was eventually scheduled every Wednesday for the succeeding 8 weeks. The other recipient hospitals are as follows: San Lazaro Hospital, Philippine General Hospital, V. Luna Medical Center, East Avenue

(Continue to page 4)

2021-2023 Board of Trustees Inducted INDUCTION CEREMONY 2021 NEWLY ELECTED BOARD OF TRUSTEES



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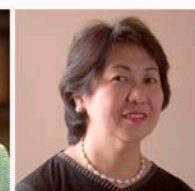
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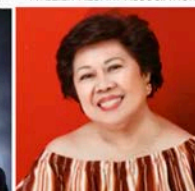
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MS. LOURDES V. OBILLO
COMMERCE ALUMNI FOUNDATION

The members of the new Board of Trustees 2021-2023, led by their elected president Evelyn Songco and vice-president Ida Tionko, were sworn into office by Office of Alumni Relations Director Fredeswindo Medina on April 11, 2021 via Zoom. Once inducted, President Songco also inducted the appointed officers of the new Board and the Chairpersons of the Executive Committee.

The fifteen board members who took their oath of office were Msgr. Bernardo Pantin of ALPA, Atty. Maria Elena Francisco of Civil Law, Dr. Jocelyn Mariano of Medicine, Ma. Elena Manansala of Pharmacy, Inocencia Tionko of Nursing, Engr. Jason Ong of Engineering, Emelito Malabanan of Junior High School, Henry Tenedero of Philets & Artlets, Marissa Pe Yang of Atelier, Lourdes Obillo of Commerce, Evelyn Songco of Education, Jocelyn Agcaoli of CRS, Fernando Pedrosa of Graduate School, Dr. Rollo Milante of Tomasining Bikolano, and Dr. Mildred Mariano of Tomasining Kapampangan.

The Committee Chairs who form the implementing arm of USTAAI were inducted by President Songco. These were Inocencia Tionko for Academics, Engr. Jerenato Alfante for Advocacy, Dr. Rollo Milante for Events, Ma. Elena Manansala for Finance, Dr. Jocelyn Mariano for Public Presence and Teresita Meer for Resource. Their co-chairs took the oath with them.

The hour-long virtual ceremony was presided over by UST COMELEC Chair Atty. Dwight Ramos. This was the first time the USTAAI Board was inducted virtually via Zoom. In spite of this, attendees wore their formal Filipiniana outfits and the mood was celebratory.

Secretariat Chair Nanette Fernandez opened the ceremony with the Invocation which was flashed on screen. The Philippine National Anthem, sung acapella, was led by Elisanta Cortes of the Conservatory of Music Alumni Association. USTAAI Chair Henry Tenedero formally welcomed the participants who were invited from the member associations of USTAAI. The Induction Ceremony then followed. After the rites, a musical number on video from the Conservatory of Music's Eugene de los Santos and Thea Perez delighted the audience. In closing, reelected President Songco gave her address which inspired everyone to continue "dreaming, believing, weaving, and inspiring." - Nanette Ochoa Fernandez, BSE 1976



From the President's Desk

And the story lives on.

During the oath-taking of the members of the Board of Trustees and the officers of the USTAAI last April 10, 2021, I took a few steps to see what we had been doing together in the recent years. We started our journey in 2018 and celebrated every milestone that we reached. Every milestone inspired us to continue our mission of serving our alma mater, the alumni, the community and the church. I felt good looking back at our journey from 2018 to 2021.

As we took our oath of office, we vowed to continue our journey with even greater passion. To my mind, the oath that we just took is a commitment to continue dreaming, weaving, believing, and inspiring together as one.

Our first commitment is to continue dreaming. The USTAAI and the member associations is a power-packed assemblage of men and women who can make a difference in the world. All of us are leaders, ready to help create a better world. If we dream together and pursue our dream together, there is no reason for us to fail when God looks with favor on us.

For every milestone we reached is a step towards the realization of our dream of a cohesive, powerful, and vibrant alumni association that effectively serves its alma mater, the alumni, the country, the church, and the family.

Our second commitment is to continue weaving the story of the alumni associations. Many of us are familiar with the poem *The Dash* where Linda Ellis focused on the beginning and the end of life. What is important according to her is the dash between the beginning and the end because it represents the life of the person.

The USTAAI was founded in 1992. From 1992 till today is a dash that represents the life of the USTAAI. But this dash has no definite ending. The ending depends on us and the generations of alumni who will come after us. From 1992, the men and women in the USTAAI have been weaving the story of the Alumni Association.

The oath we took is a commitment to continue weaving the story of USTAAI and all its member alumni associations. We can make the story insignificant, dull, or uneventful. But we can choose to make the story colorful and exciting, worthy of emulation. I am inviting every Thomasian alumna/alumnus to contribute to the fiber of the alumni story of stories. Gawin nating ginto ang bawat hibla ng kasaysayan ng alumna'y nating mga Tomasino!

From the RECTOR



University of Santo Tomas
OFFICE OF THE RECTOR

MESSAGE

USTAAI Website

It has been more than a year that the Covid-19 pandemic has changed the way we live, but despite the many challenges posed by this global malady, we have managed to survive and adjust to the demands of the situation. We missed those days when we had all the time to see each other, especially during important University events. We are hopeful that things will get better now that more and more people are getting vaccinated. Although we can see some light at the end of the tunnel, this does not mean that we can already afford to be careless and complacent. It still pays to be alert and watchful, especially when it concerns our health and the health of our loved ones. The pandemic may have created some difficulties, but this did not deter the University from continuing its operations and finding ways to address its stakeholders' needs. In my inaugural address during my installation as the 97th Rector of the University of Santo Tomas, I emphasized the vital role of the alumni since Industry-Academe-Alumni Partnership is one of my significant leadership thrusts.

As Thomasians, we are constantly looking after the welfare of our beloved alma mater. Through the centuries, our alumni have continuously supported the projects and programs of the University. I would like that the bond between the University and the alumni be further strengthened through vibrant, and dynamic collaboration which involves engaging in a healthy dialogue that is based on the spirit of collegiality and mutual respect as well as having the capacity to exhibit sensitivity to the signs and needs of the times. Your invaluable contribution means a lot to the University as it serves as one of the driving forces for realizing the institution's goals and objectives. It is a fact that our alumni have carved an enviable niche in every field or discipline, making Thomasian professionals paragons of excellence that they can pass on to the next generation of Thomasian professionals. The collaboration involving the industry, academe, and alumni will serve as the impetus to further strengthen the areas of knowledge production and acquisition, research and innovation, community development, development of infrastructure, and local and foreign industry partnership, and we are indeed looking forward to working with you in future endeavors. This partnership will undoubtedly be an exciting journey as we traverse new paths and soar to even greater heights. I wish all the Thomasian alumni the best. Stay safe and healthy. May our dear Lord continue to bless you with His unending grace. See you soon!

(sgd)

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

Mailing Address: Second Floor, Main Building, España, Manila 1015 Philippines
Telephone Numbers: 632-731-3123 / 632-406-1611 local 8210/8573 Fax Number: 632-732-7486 Email Address: rector@ust.edu.ph

Our third commitment is to continue believing in one another. Let's continue believing that we can do things together. Let us nurture faith in one another. Let our oath bind us together even more strongly. I believe that our "yes" is a commitment. Let us continue believing in God's unending grace.

Our fourth commitment is to continue inspiring each other. Our group chat is filled with inspiring words, inspiring videos, inspiring prayers, kind words, good wishes, words of wisdom. It is a great source of inspiration.

Our oath is a commitment to continue inspiring one another by our words and actions. Our dedication is contagious. Personally, I am inspired

by the commitment of the Presidents to come during meetings, by their commitment to share, by their commitment to support the USTAAI activities. I am inspired by reassuring words such as "*Basta, you have my support.*" "*Hindi kita iiwan.*" "*Narito lang ako.*" "*Sabihin mo lang.*" I will walk with you; run with you, soar with you." "We are here to support you." And believe me, those words are not empty. Those words are full of action as well. I can see their commitment in every activity that followed after our oath of office.

Dreaming, weaving, believing, and inspiring - these are the commitments we made - the commitments that will bring the USTAAI to greater heights and let the story of the Alumni Associations live on.

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UST Alumni Relations, Careers and Counseling Center Launch Career Fair

The Office of Alumni Relations (OAR) and Careers & Counseling Center (CCC) under the Office of the Vice Rector for Academic Affairs conducted the first virtual career fair for the Thomasian community last May 31, 2021 via Zoom. The said event was powered by Prosple, an Australia-based company that specializes in careers and education technology.

Over 2,000 participants composed of junior, graduating students and alumni registered prior to the event to meet and interact with 60 partner-companies from different industries

such as Proctor and Gamble (P&G), Coca-Cola Beverages Philippines, Inc., Amazon Operation Services Philippines, GMA Network, and Unilab Inc.

Vice Rector for Academic Affairs Prof. Cheryl R. Peralta, DRPH, discussed in her welcoming remarks that the work ecosystem and global economy have shifted to accommodate the impact of the global pandemic, and the system of industries have been challenged.

"The stress of the situation probably created a feeling of loss, demotivation, and uncertainty

for our graduating students," added Dr. Peralta. Despite these challenges, the University looks forward to its graduates being able to find meaningful careers, dreams and expectations with God's unending grace.

Department of Labor and Employment Asec. Dominique Rubia-Tutay, CESO III addressed during her keynote speech the realities of the labor market that fresh graduates will experience.

"The lingering pandemic has brought our economy down to its knees. Employment is likewise affected. [There's an] imbalance of supply of workers and the demand of businesses," explained Asec. Tutay. An increase in natural or long term rate of unemployment is expected even with the recovery of the economy in the future. She shared tips and advice to the participants on how to traverse this rough path ahead to employment which include improving critical thinking and problem-solving skills that employers believe will grow in prominence in the next five years.

The short program was followed by the live exhibitors' booth where students and alumni can choose from different company Zoom meeting rooms to join. Participants were able to connect with employers through on-cam interactions and consultations. Few alumni from different companies also joined their colleagues in Zoom meeting rooms to share their work experience.

For next year, OAR and CCC aim to make the virtual career fair bigger with more exhibitors and participants, and longer duration for employee-applicant interactions.
- OAR Team

USTAAI's #BIDASAPANDEMYA Project

(From to page 1)



Medical Center, Philippine Heart Center, Veterans Memorial Medical Center, Ospital ng Sampaloc and De Los Santos Medical Center. The last distribution of gift bags was held during the inauguration of the Manila COVID-19 Field Hospital in Rizal Park.

More than 1,200 gift bags were given to the frontliners throughout the duration of this project.

Thanks to all our sponsors for making this project a huge success: Mitsui Trading Phils, QC Dynamic Lions Club, Great Labs, AKB Digital Printing, Baker's Fair and Pinnacle Technologies, Inc. And special thanks to all the doctors, nurses and other frontliners for assisting us, and to the volunteers from USTAAT Team Advocacy and UST TALA. - Jonathan Peran, BS ECE, 1996

BRIDGES: Spanning the Web to Reach More

BRIDGES was conceived as the brainchild of the members of the UST Alumni Association. Since it first aired last October 4, 2020 on UST Alumni Association, Inc.'s Facebook page and Dr. Carl Balita's Youtube channel, the program has successfully aired 34 episodes, with several hundred and even thousands of views for each episode.

The hardworking alumni behind this successful project have come up with interesting topics about health, the family, religion, and the environment among other things, and the UST AAI is a deep pool of resource speakers who can share their knowledge and expertise on just about any topic under the sun. Not only is Bridges an avenue to showcase brilliant UST alumni, but it now features sponsors who find the program a great way to advertise and market their businesses and products.

After a run of 9 months, our CBRCTV USTAAI show every Sunday at 6pm on Facebook and Youtube, Bridges has grown in popularity due to the very interesting and varied topics featured in every episode. True to what our host always reminds us, at "Bridges we do not build walls we build knowledge..."

Let us now recap the episodes of the last quarter.

For the first episode, we wanted the focus to be on how the UST community has drum beaten activities to celebrate 500 Years of Christianity. Fr. Esteban "Bong" Lo graced our April 11, 2021 show where he explained the historical and spiritual aspects of the celebration by discussing the meaning of the logo of the 500 Years of Christianity and the theme: GIFTED TO GIVE. Fr. Bong left us with a reflective statement, "500 Years of Christianity does not only mean a lot, but it means EVERYTHING." He also explained that 5G is not only a term used in technology, but it also applies to our mission as Christians. The 5Gs of mission means: God, Graces, Gratitude, Generosity, and Gladness; and this is how we, as Christians, must live our faith, visible in anything and everything we do. Fr. Bong is the Chaplain of the Megamall Chapel and the Head of the Pontifical Mission Society.

This episode, 500 YEARS OF CHRISTIANITY: WHAT IT MEANS TO US? was generously sponsored by the UST Alumni Priests Association (ALPA) with Msgr. Bernardo Pantin as its president.

The episode last May 30, BIYAYA KO, HANDOG KO, introduced us to The Kindness Station initiated by Fr. Paul Talavera, OP, Parish Priest of Santisimo Rosario Parish in the UST campus. This community pantry was inspired by the generosity and kindness of the parishioners who volunteered religiously to help the needy and the disabled from the area. As Parish Priest, Fr. Paul gave back the donations he gets because of his belief that we need to be generous as God is generous. He shared with us an important reminder that ATTITUDE IS GRATITUDE. God, who is so good to us, can best be honored by our kindness and gratitude by sharing generously our blessings. Fr. Paul's generosity is both expressed materially and spiritually. He ends his Kindness Station by blessing with holy water all the people who lined up to get their share, not just providing them their material needs, but also nourishment of their souls.

Our May 2 episode, LAKBAY GABAY KASAMA SI INANG MARIA, gave us a walk through our Filipino tradition of honoring the Blessed Virgin Mary as refuge and our great intercessor, the Queen of Heaven and Earth. Our guest, Fr. Max Gatela, OP, expounded on her many titles. To the Dominicans, her prominence is centered on the devotion to the holy rosary in La Naval, Our Lady of Piat, and Manaog. Our Lady is presented as Queen, a Mother, and Principal of Unity. The various titles stemmed from the various needs of devotees like Our Lady of Lourdes for the sick and Our Lady of Montserrat shown seated ready to listen to all

(Continue to page 6)



THOMASIANS 4 LOVE

THOMASIANS 4 LOVE was launched on August 8, 2020 by the UST Alumni Association Inc. under its ADVOCACY Committee. It aims to connect and inspire all Thomasian alumni and students through their "Expressions of Love."

THOMASIANS 4 LOVE is a Facebook site to share inspiring short stories, anecdotes, articles, phrases, memes, poems, songs, works of art, charitable works and creations that warm the heart. These can be posts lifted, borrowed, read or even originally created by Thomasians. The site ensures that credit is given to owners for borrowed works.

Its official Facebook page is THOMASIANS 4 LOVE which was launched last April 21, 2021.

Apart from this, it has an official public Facebook group named T4L Advocacy USTAAI which helps inspire others by sharing posts that show that we are Thomasians for love. It was officially created and launched on April 27, 2021.

#THOMASIANS4LOVE - Mildred Mañalac-Mariano, M.D., UST Faculty of Medicine and Surgery, 1990

BRIDGES: Spanning the Web to Reach More

(From page 5)

our needs. As Queen, she is a loving Ruler who brings us peace and unity at all times. This episode was sponsored by the Pax Romana Alumni Association through the leadership of its President, Dr. Dong Elio.

May 9 is our celebration of Mothers' Day and in this episode, TOMASINONG NANAY, we learned the story of a Thomasian mother to two sons who lost their father at a young age. Our guest, Ginia Domingo, is a full blooded Thomasian who had to put on many hats to make life normal despite the untimely demise of her husband. One of the most important traits she instilled in her 2 sons is to be very responsible in their day-to-day tasks as brothers, as students, and sons to a widowed mother who needs to fend for their family's needs. Proudly, she claims to have come from a simple family exposed to so many challenges that had strengthened her as a widowed mother. She emphasized that she never assumed to play the father's role as that was not necessary. She just had to be a mother filled with love and gratitude for having her 2 sons. Ms. Ginia looks back with gratitude to the guidance of her own parents and her teachers especially in the UST Education High School. This episode reminds us of how we can be grateful to mothers who play a big role in shaping the youth to be the future leaders of tomorrow.

If there is a Mothers' Day special, then there has to be an equal celebration for the Fathers of the world, so we also featured another Thomasian: A TOMASINONG TATAY, in the person of Dr. Rollo Milante. He is the Chapter Coordinator of Tomasinong Bikolano better known as TOMBIK. Dr. Milante is an ophthalmologist and an active civic leader in Bicol, whose sons followed his footsteps. Being a Tomasinong Tatay, he espoused the belief that the best way to be a good father is to give and live an exemplary life. A busy doctor like him sees to it that he lives a balanced life where he always makes time for his family, especially for his children. As a hands-on, he literally has had his hands full from diaper days up to the present. This, he said, is his way of contributing to building our nation as these young ones will be the hope of our future. Thank you DCI TV of Tomasinong Bicol for sponsoring this episode.

Really a good variety of topics have been explored in Bridges. In the field of health as wealth we have shared researchers, scientists, and health professionals who have contributed to help Filipinos in various fields. Dr. Josephine Lumitao on life preservation, Dr. Cristina Binag in the wonders of Virgin Coconut Oil, Dr. Agnes Castillo in Botica sa Paso and Nurse Accupressurist, Ms Rosario Tan.

April 25, 2021 was the airing of the episode entitled: BUHAY MO, BUHAY KO: MAHALAGA, with our esteemed guest speaker Dr. Lumitao who talked about the importance of human life. As a bioethics professor, she views life as God's gift, and as a gift to us, it should be respected and treasured from conception to natural death. Every action that we do should be meaningful and fruitful to be the best version of ourselves. However, there are some practices that violate human dignity and human rights that are unconsciously done, especially towards those who are not perceived as productive or who don't contribute to society, like embryos or children, the weak and sick, and the marginalized. During this pandemic, the disregard for human dignity and life has been negatively affected. Dr. Lumitao stated examples such as discrimination of COVID-19 patients and their families, not giving support to medical frontline workers, increased violence against women due to quarantine, and the economic crisis brought about by the pandemic that saw the parents selling their children for prostitution. But we must remember that dignity is inherent in each person regardless of gender, race, age, or status. Even St. John Paul II

himself said, "A person's rightful due is to be treated as an object of love, not as an object for use." In the end, Dr. Lumitao lended us with the call to action to be influencers for human life and dignity.

The May 16 episode explored The Wonders of VCO (Virgin Coconut Oil). In this time of the pandemic, it's about time to think of available natural remedies to increase our immune system as part of our daily habits. The Philippines is one of the biggest sources of authentic organic VCO, a local product that has been studied and endorsed by DOST to help us be healthy and strong to fight Covid-19. UST takes pride that one of those who took the initial efforts to study VCO is one of our professors in the College of Science, Dr. Cristina Binag.

According to its findings, VCO comes from highly selected coconuts to ensure its sweet taste. It is processed cold pressed and has lauric acid that gives VCO its anti-oxidant, anti-viral, and anti-bacterial properties. It also has anti-fungal properties that boost our immune system and increases metabolism. It heals and moisturizes skin and improves brain function, and more importantly it helps lower blood pressure and regulates blood sugar. We would like to thank this episode's sponsors, the College of Science led by Mr. Joel Chavez, President.

BOTIKA SA PASO was a 2-part episode about health that were aired on June 6 and 20, 2021, with Dr. Agnes L. Castillo, PhD of the College of Pharmacy as our expert resource person. Part 1 introduced us to 10 plants already approved by DOH as medicinal plants, and in the second episode, she discussed the way to properly prepare these plants to ensure its efficacy.

The plants featured in Part 1 are: ampalaya often used as supplement for the diabetics, acapulco and its anti-fungal properties can be a remedy for alipunga. Bawang is not only a great ingredient for garlic fried rice, but it is also good for the heart. Bayabas is used as an antiseptic, lagundi is best for cough, tsaang gubat is good for stomach infection, the niyog-niyugan can be used for intestinal worms. We also have the Yerba Buena used for arthritis and pansit-pansitan for skin diseases.

Part 2 of this episode tackled how to process halamang gamot properly. Dr. Agnes' warning was to consume them immediately and not to store or refrigerate them as deterioration can happen as they have no preservatives. She also advised never to use aluminum kettles or containers.

Dr. Agnes, being a scientist researcher, is continuously discovering, studying and developing other plants that may possess medicinal properties. She hopes one day, she will be granted financial aid for her studies to help produce cheaper herbal medicines for the Filipinos. Many thanks to the sponsor, the College of Pharmacy Alumni Association headed by their President Dr. Ellen Manansala, the former Dean of said college.

The last Sunday of May featured a Nurse from the UST College of Nursing who turned around her profession through further studies in Accupressure in the episode HEAL AT HOME. Nurse Rosario "Charrie" Tan has her own clinic in Quezon City where she has helped a lot of clients maintain a good balance of their yin and yang to keep one in the pink of health. The process is done by applying pressure on certain points of the body to clear the body's meridian that blocks the flow of blood that may cause some health issues.

She even took the effort to demonstrate how we can do it by ourselves to address aches and pains in our body. She shared 5 pressure points where accupressure can be applied and thus, relieve us of some pains like headache, stomach pain, arthritis, and other common blockages. This show gave us very encouraging comments, so thanks to our sponsor, the College of Nursing led by their President Dr. Carl Balita.

UST featured also 2 talented alumni who are gifted

with various talents in the field of Arts; one in sculpture of religious images and the other in visual arts that focus on historical and heroic subject matters.

The first was featured in PAG-UKIT: Biyaya ng Panginoon Para sa Panginoon, that was aired last April 18, 2021. This featured Ecclesiastical artist Mr. Willy Layug from Betis, Pampanga. He gained his popularity in carving altars and ceilings of many churches, initially in his hometown, then later in Metro Manila. He is recognized as the sculptor of a number of images of Mama Mary including Our Lady of Hope de Palo, which was featured during the mass of Pope Francis in Leyte after the great devastation due to Typhoon Haiyan. His giftedness in carving is a common trait of the residents of Betis. Based on what he shared, almost every family has a sculptor because of a good supply of lumber from their river that freely flowed in, and Willy is no exception. His great grandparents even made galleons for the traders.

Mr. Layug initially opted not to finish his course in UST but later on he was given a scholarship by then, Father Regent of the College of Fine Arts and Design (CFAD), so he formally graduated with his son who is fast catching up with in his footsteps as an international figure in the same field. His family takes care of perpetuating the art by encouraging and supporting young artists through workshops and seminars and competitions here and abroad. A pride and a gift to us Filipinos. Long live Sir Willy!

Another gift to us Filipinos in visual arts is Nemie Miranda from the Art capital of the Philippines, Angono, Rizal. He concluded this quarter's episode, SINING, KASAYSAYAN, AT KABAYANIHAN, by sharing with us an interview from Los Angeles, California where he is currently doing a series of exhibits on 500 years of Patriotism upon the invitation of our consular office there. Sir Nemie finished his studies in UST in 1970 and immediately, at a very young age of 25, was commissioned by the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) to do a mural to show the traces of its history. This is a 175-meter mural which he had to do with 6 other young artists to meet the deadline given to him. His interest and experience as a visual artist began when he was a child where he would borrow comics and just look at characters' faces, which later he would draw on the walls of their house using charcoal from their earthen stove as he did not even have a pencil. This is what he unconsciously did every day to sharpen his skill that made him excel in his craft. He is now given the title as the Father of Imaginative Figurism which was attributed to him because of the quality of his art. Making a clear image is not in all visual arts it needs a soul to communicate a true message to the viewers. Sir Nemie has been well known as a makabayan at makabayaning mural artist, with his art work displayed in various places in our country and internationally, making them important landmarks. In spite of this, he said he has no favorite artwork because he loves to excel in every new work he does. What made him very successful is his passion for his craft. This one you can do only if one puts his soul in his work, thus he quotes "You must not put money before your passion and dream." Further, his advice is when you fail, never quit; a beautiful sage for all, especially the budding artists.

One notable novelty of this quarter is showcasing the paintings of various Filipino artists in the episode posters, through the initiative of CFAD Alumni Association President, Marie Pe Yang.

The UST AAI and the alumni behind the production of the program would like to express their gratitude towards all the viewers, Thomasians and non-Thomasians alike, for the success of the episodes for the past quarter. We hope that you have gained new knowledge and useful insights from the 12 topics presented by our distinguished panel of resource speakers. Fredrik Nael said, "It takes both sides to build bridges", so please continue supporting and watching our shows, and we, in return, promise to deliver more engaging and exciting episodes of BRIDGES. - Marilyn L. Cano, PhD, BSE English, co-major in Philosophy, 1970

Building, Binding and Blessing: A CEAFI Teacher Training Program for the Mission Schools

While the country is still far from recovering from the ill effects of the pandemic brought by COVID-19, teachers have not wavered from their dedication and passion in continuously educating themselves to cater to the needs of their students in online classes.

As part of CEAFI's mission to dedicate itself to service towards building the church, nation, and family, the CEAFI Apostolate Committee, headed by Assoc. Prof. Marielyn C. Quintana, LPT, PhD., partnered with the UST College of Education in providing a three-day Teachers Training Program 2021 for its partner schools: Holy Rosary College Foundation, Dominican School of Apalit, and Dominican School of Angeles. There were around 65 participants of the program that was held from June 9 to 11,

Various topics were discussed by the esteemed academic staff of the UST College of Education: Assoc. Prof. Andres Julio V Santiago Jr., LPT, PhD. for Constructive Alignment; Asst. Prof. Alvin Ringgo C. Reyes, LPT, MA for Testing and Measurement; Assoc. Prof. Maria Mercedes C. Buendia, LPT, MA for Educational Technology; Assoc. Prof. Marielyn C. Quintana, LPT, PhD for Classroom Management; Mrs. Michelle Rose Y. Cornes,
(Continue to page 2)

The UNIVERSITY OF SANTO TOMAS
COLLEGE OF EDUCATION ALUMNI FOUNDATION INC.
(UST CEAFI) APOSTOLATE COMMITTEE
TEACHERS TRAINING PROGRAM for the
HOLY ROSARY COLLEGE FOUNDATION, DOMINICAN SCHOOL OF APALIT and
DOMINICAN SCHOOL OF
ANGELES CITY, PAMPANGA in cooperation with the
UST COLLEGE OF EDUCATION
June 9-11, 2021

Building, Binding and Blessing: A CEAFI Teacher Training Program for The Mission Schools

Assoc. Prof. Andres Julio V Santiago Jr., LPT, PhD.
SECONDARY EDUCATION DEPARTMENT
CHAIR, UST COLLEGE OF EDUCATION
DIRECTOR, CENTER FOR INNOVATIVE TEACHING AND
EDUCATIONAL DELIVERY

Asst. Prof. Alvin Ringgo C. Reyes, LPT, MA
CHAIR, FILIPINO DEPARTMENT
UST COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

Mrs. Michelle Rose Y. Cornes
GUIDANCE COUNSELOR, UST EDUCATION HIGH SCHOOL

Assoc. Prof. Marielyn C. Quintana, LPT, PhD
PRINCIPAL, UST EDUCATION HIGH SCHOOL
VICE-PRESIDENT (INTERNAL CEAFI)

Assoc. Prof. Maria Mercedes C. Buendia, LPT, MA
E-LEARNING SPECIALIST, UST COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

Assoc. Prof. Mary Erika N. Bolanos, LPT, PhD
PRINCIPAL, UST SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

The 2021 UST Junior High School Alumni Jubilees

"DANCE, DANCE, DANCE!" That was the usual "Come On" phrase written all over the previous grand alumni homecoming (GAH) letters, cards, and tickets so that the attendees could stay after dinner.

But Lo and Behold! The Corona Virus (COVID-19) came lurking like the proverbial thief in the night from Wuhan, China – and the nightmare turned into a catastrophe, and before anyone could blink an eye – into the pandemic that the whole world is reeling through at present.

What the alumni of the UST High School look forward to is the annual Grand Alumni Homecoming (GAH). In the 2017 GAH, there was an added attraction: instead of the traditional Jubilarian Alumni Walk through the Arch of the Centuries, a Flores de Mayo in February Santacruzán was held, featuring the Reinas and Sagalas of the Jubilarians. This was repeated in the GAH 2018, with a greater number of Reinas and Sagalas who joined.

However, due to the pandemic, the 2020 GAH which was supposed to be held at the Plaza Mayor was not allowed, so that their OrgCom had to make a swift change of venue and settled for the Manila Hotel.

Still with the pandemic, what the USTHS alumni will celebrate this year is The 2021 USTJHS Alumni Jubilee. This was ushered in on June 6 at 10:30 a.m. by the Holy Mass officiated by Rev. Fr. Orlando C. Aseron, O.P., Regent, UST Junior High School, at the Santissimo Rosario Parish, LIVE in Facebook, in commemoration of the USTJHS 93rd Anniversary and the 2021 USTJHS ALUMNI JUBILEE. A light merienda to be hosted by Class 1996 (Silver Jubilarians) after the Holy Mass was planned, but due to the restrictions of the times, it did not happen.

However, President Lito Malabanan of the UST JHS Alumni Association made an announcement that there would be a program via zoom that will feature the video greetings from the UST Administration as
(Continue to page 13)

USTAAI Joins the Celebration of the Country's 500 YOC

The celebration of the 500 Years of Christianity in the Philippines is in the heart of the USTAAI. As an association, it wants to join the celebration by way of highlighting the religious practices of the Filipinos that are close to the hearts of the people. Last 2019, it held the first Alumni Santacruzán. Because of the pandemic, the Velada Alumna Tomasina, the grand alumni homecoming that was scheduled for 2020 has to wait for an appropriate time.

This year, USTAAI continued with the Flores de Mayo, a beautiful religious practice among the Filipinos. It is an expression of love and reverence for Mother Mary by offering flowers on her altar in the month of May.

Dr. Rollo Milante, Chair of the USTAAI Events Committee and President of the Tomasining Bikolano Alumni Association, together with Msgr. Bernie Pantin, O. P., Co-Chair for Religious Events and President of the Alumni Priests Association led the preparation and execution of the event.
(Continue to page 13)



UST Nursing Alumni Association, Inc.

**Would like to thank the donors for the
USTNAAI FOR PGH Campaign**



P36,000 raised in 24 hours and distributed
May 17, 2020 within 48 hours from PGH fire.

1000 Disposable Gloves	50 Flanelas
200 IV Cathula	20 Gallons of Alcohol
900 Diapers	450 Bottles of 500 ml Distilled Water
300 Face Shields	2 Boxes of Cup Noodles
450 Facemasks	2 Boxes of Canned Tuna

UST Nursing Alumni Association, Inc.



UST Nursing Alumni Association Inc.



UST NURSING ALUMNI ASSOCIATION, INC.

is calling for

VOLUNTEERS

(Doctors, Nurses, Allied Health Course Graduates)

to form the **THOMASIAN VACCINATION TEAMS**
for Barangay Payatas as part of USTNAAI
Nakiki-isa sa Bakuna Campaign.



Final Schedule of Vaccination Events are between **June 15 to 30**.

For pooling, text full name, email address and available
schedule/s to volunteer (we will match) to
USTNAAI 0956-0249690

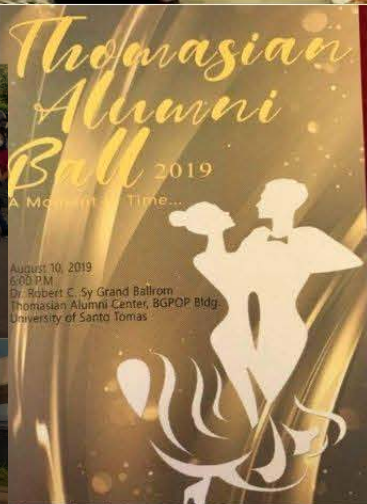


Tomasinong Bikolano



CLICKER-RAZZI

SPECIAL Supplement August 2021



Faculty of Philets & Faculty of Arts & Letters Celebrate Quasquicentennial Founding Anniversary

Design Elements

The main feature of the emblem is a stylized version of the Faculty seal (Athena, owl, quill, and scroll), following the form of the Hindu-Arabic number 125.

The "CXXV" (125) inscribed in the breastplate of Athena alludes to the Greco-Roman tradition of Classical Studies.

Sun of Saint Thomas Aquinas symbolizes the auspices of the University and the Faculty's adherence to Thomistic philosophy.

"LIFE LOVE LORE" is a line from the AB Hymn using the alliteration literary device. Alliteration starts with A and L (signifying Arts and Letters).



Founded in 1896, the University of Santo Tomas Faculty of Arts and letters is celebrating its 125 years of existence with the theme: **"Life, Love and Lore Brimming to the Full."** Aptly called, Quasquicentennial, the yearlong programs and activities, from March 2021 - March 2022, formally started off with a virtual Eucharistic Celebration last April 19, 2021 presided over alumni-priests, Fr. Rodel Aligan, OP and Fr. Christopher Jeffrey Aytana, OP at the Santissimo Parish Church.

Tracing its roots from the founding of the Faculty of Philosophy and Letters in 1896 with the exception of wartime years, the Faculty is in continuous operation as a constituent academic unit of the University of Santo Tomas. Through the years, the Faculty of Arts and Letters has produced at least five National Artists, namely: Nick Joaquin for Literature, Bienvenido Lumbera for Literature, Cirilo Bautista for Literature, Rolando Tinio for Theatre and F. Sionil Jose for Literature.

The UST Philets and Artlets Alumni Association started its modest conceptualization and preparation of this momentous activity early part of 2018 upon the initiative of Julius Payawal Fernandez of Communication Arts Batch 2013, following the holding of a tribute event to Philosophy and Letters (Philets) alumni entitled, **"Grandeur and Glory: A Homage to Philets by Artlets"** on December 1, 2017 at the Thomasian Alumni Center, BGPOP.

Challenged by the absence of "face-to-face" encounters due to the pandemic, the Alumni Core Group has established strategic alliances with the AB Administration headed by Dean Marilu Madrunio and the current leadership of the AB Student Council (ABSC) Executive Committee headed by Julliana Flores to forge an alumni-admin-student collaboration with the main task of identifying programs and activities to highlight the Quasquicentennial celebration.

For their part, Dean Marilu Madrunio has already presented to the Alumni Core the following activities to be championed by the different Programs, to wit:

Legal Management: A webinar on How to Become a Happy Lawyer!

Philosophy: Monthly online Philosophy Conferences

Behavioral Science: A Compendium of BEST Practices and Talents Development and Management

History: 10th Year Anniversary of the UST BA History with the theme, Tomasining Historyado, Nasaan na Tayo!

Journalism: Natatanging Gawad Tomasino sa Pamamahayag and the launching of the Centennial of Journalism Education in the Philippines

Modern Languages: A webinar with the Language Assistant Alumni

English: International Conference on Forensic Linguistics

Journalism: UST Leadership in Journalism Lecture

Sociology: UST Sosyolohiya Tayong Kamanlalakbay Action Research

Communications: Ramon Osorio Memorial Lecture and a webinar Communication Success in Expanding Frontiers of Knowledge

Literature: Creative Writing - The Paz Latorena Memorial Lecture

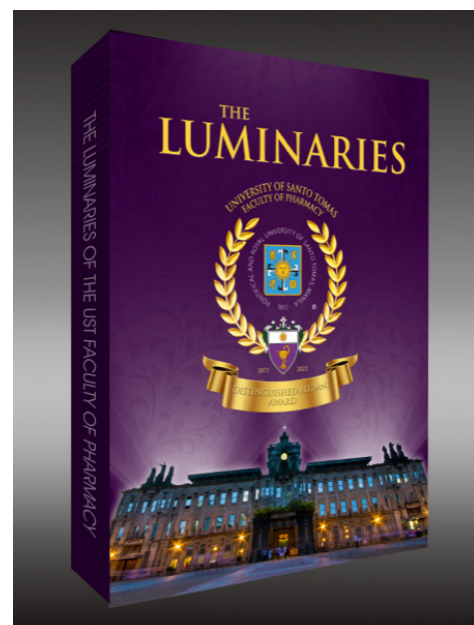
Economics: A webinar on the Economics of a Global Pandemic

Asian Studies: Young Professional Asian Studies Career Talks

Political Science: Outstanding Political Science Alumni Award and Monthly Lecture Series by the Alumni Awardees

Arts and Letters: St. Thomas More Lecture; Special Recognition Honoring AB's Past Deans and Regents; Academic Lectures of Faculty who recently completed their PhD degrees in offshore

(Continue to page 13)



Faculty of Pharmacy celebrates its 150th

Adopting for its theme the title of the Coffee Table Book published in 2011 by the Faculty of Pharmacy and its Alumni Association entitled "Reminiscence, Luminescence and Beneficence", the Faculty of Pharmacy made a three-year preparation of college activities and programs to culminate on May 29, 2021, the 150th Foundation Day of the Faculty of Pharmacy in the University of Santo Tomas. This momentous occasion started with a Thanksgiving Mass with Rev. Fr. Pompeyo de Mesa, O.P., Regent of the Faculty of Pharmacy as main celebrant with Rev. Fr. Larry Singian, O.P. and Rev. Fr. Joaquin Valdez, O.P. former regents and BS Pharmacy alumnus, now Rev. Fr. Roman Santos, O.P. as co-presiders.



This was followed by a wreath laying ceremony for Rev. Fr. Lorenzo Rodriguez, O.P. in the UST Botanical Garden. Fr. Rodriguez served as the Dean of the Faculty of Pharmacy from 1946 to 1968. It was during his deanship that the college saw its heights and went beyond being a school of pharmacy. He introduced and

(Continue to page 12)

PAX ROMANA AA CELEBRATES MILESTONES



Fr. Eugenio Jordan, OP., Rector 1941-1948



Msgr. Michael G. O'Doherty, Archbishop of Manila

The UST Pax Romana Alumni Association celebrates two milestones this year: the 80th founding anniversary of the Pax Romana movement in the country and the first founding anniversary of the Alumni Association. Both events will be held in November this year. The Pax Romana International Movement started in 1921 in Switzerland. The UST Pax Romana was formally established on November 4, 1941, with the approval of its constitution by Rev. Fr. Eugenio Jordan, O.P., Acting Rector Magnificus of UST, and Msgr. Michael G. O'Doherty, Archbishop of Manila. Rev. Fr. Francisco del Rio, O.P. was appointed its Director.

Since the statutes of the Pax Romana International required that the national affiliate should be a federation of Catholic university organizations in the country, the Philippine University Catholic Students' Federation was organized in UST. The UST Pax Romana was made a member of this

(Continue to page 14)

Beyond Leadership, Illuminating with Excellence: UST Nursing Alumni Association Inc. (USTNAAI) Welcomes New Set of Officers



UST Nursing Alumni Association, Inc. BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2021 - 2022

President	Vice President Internal Affairs	Vice President External Affairs	Secretary	Treasurer	Auditor	Public Relations Officer
 Carl E. Balita, RN, RN, LPT, EdD, OHSUM, CFE	 Glen Carlo Torres, RN, PhD	 Maria Cherry Gotcholson, Tomasian, RN, MAN	 Mary Jane Arriola, Caterpillar, RN	 Ana Marie Peralta Barrios, RN, MAN	 Maria Victoria Valdez, Bongas, RN, MPhil	 Aileen De Ocampo, Ortigas, RN
Assistant Secretary	Assistant Treasurer	Board of Director	Board of Director	Ex-Officio	Spiritual Advisor	
 Dennis Solisador Cuadros, RN, MAN	 Juan Paolo V. Serrano, RN	 Mabel Cadiz San Juan, RN, MSAH	 Rowena Lai Escobar Chua, RN, PhD	 Inocencia Simon Tionko, RN, MPhil	 Rev. Fr. Julius Paul C. Factora, OP, JCD	

The UST Nursing Alumni Association Inc. took pride and pleasure as they welcomed the newly elected officers for 2021-2022. With the zeal of service, these Thomasian Nursing leaders aim to serve with committed hearts beyond leadership, brilliance and excellence.

The USTNAAI envisions itself as dynamic association of Thomasian Nurses, transforming the nursing profession, the nation and the world, with the passion for nursing quality, integrity, truth and justice, imbued with the Christian values of commitment, compassion and competence, as leaders, role models and mentors in the various fields of nursing.

On May 14, 2021, the new set of officers of the Association and the Board Members were inducted in a virtual event organized by new president, Dr. Carl E. Balita. The program began with a short blessing from Father Julius Factora, OP, JCD; inspirational messages from Mr. Fredeswindo Medina, Director, Office of Alumni Relations and Mrs. Inocencia Tionko, Ex-Officio for USTNAAI.

Inducting Officer was Dr. Evelyn Songco, President of UST Alumni Association and a virtual candle lighting ceremony was offered for nurses in their battles amid the Covid-19 pandemic.

Highlighting the event is the introduction of the landmark projects which includes the following:

Launching of Two New Memorial Lectures- There are two current memorial lectures conducted annually in the College of Nursing: the Dean Jesus Bacala Memorial Lecture on Nursing Leadership and Education and the Dean Sor Paz Marfori Memorial Lecture on Nursing Spirituality and Service. To give due recognition to the outstanding and significant contributions of our Thomasian Nursing leaders in the various fields of Nursing, the USTNAAI launched last May 14, 2021 the C.Maceda & Z .Famorca Memorial Lecture on Public Health Nursing. Also launched was the Fr. Antonio A. Cabezón, OP Memorial Lecture on Bioethics. These memorial lectures are all held annually for the faculty, alumni, students and other registered nurses.

USTNAAI Website Launch- The website contains information about the organization with the inclusion of activities and updates. To add, this portal will be an avenue for the alumni to renew their membership, strengthen ties with UST friends and the Thomasian Nursing community. The website will also allow the association to assist the members with any of their concerns in which USTNAAI can be of help.

(Continue to page 15)

Faculty of Pharmacy celebrates its 150th Foundation Day

(From page 10)

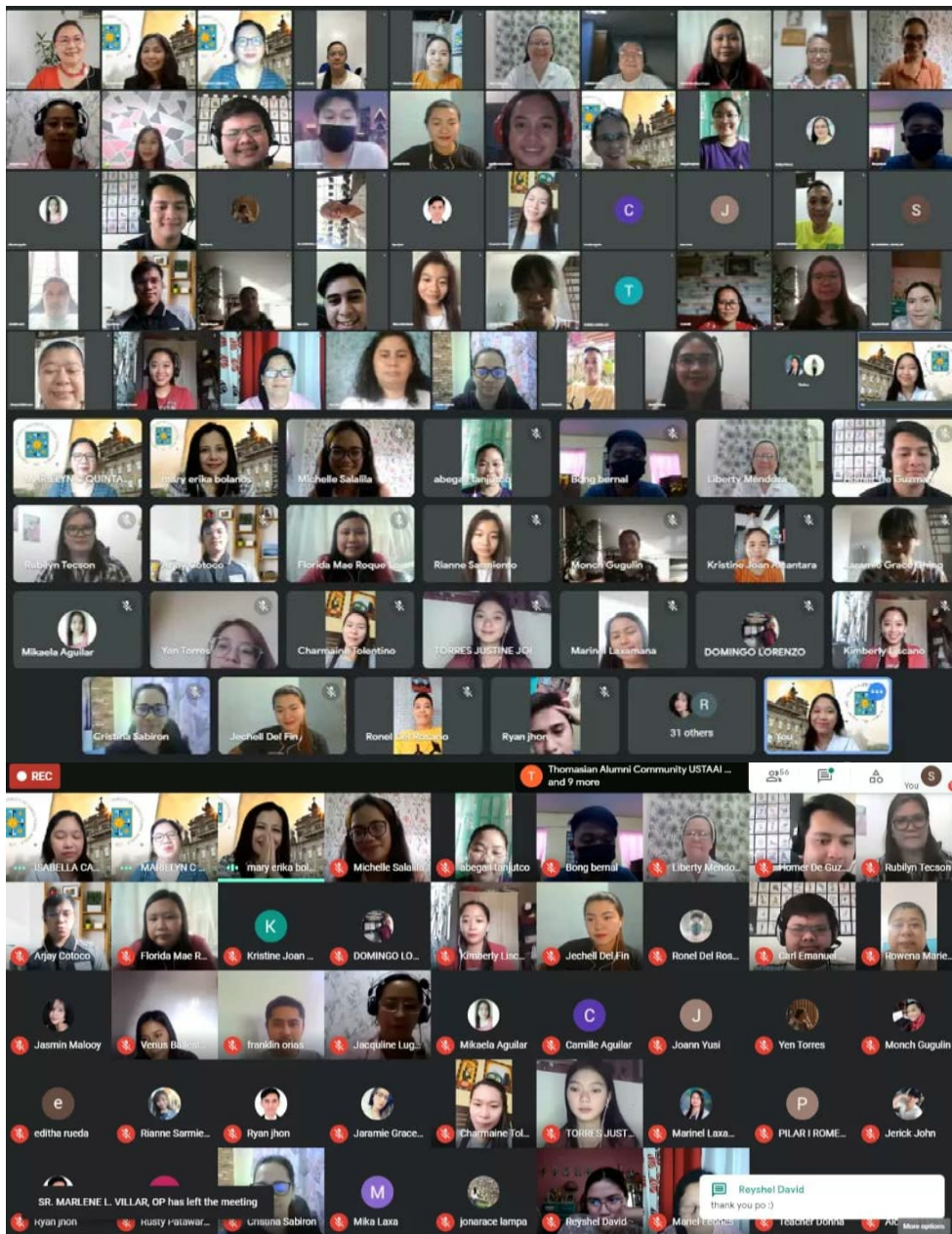


worked for the approval of both the Medical Technology and Biochemistry programs in 1966 and 1968 respectively.

Fr. Rodriguez was a lover of plants and he established once more the UST Botanical Garden which was destroyed during the war. He published the article "That Plant is Your Cure" which discussed how plants can be used not only as food but as remedies against illnesses. He encouraged researches to be done on Philippine plants. He was the one who proposed the idea of a UST research center in 1961 and was appointed the following year as its first director. His works and contributions to pharmacy were worth the admiration and a source of inspiration to all.

This was followed by a virtual ceremony honoring the 150 Distinguished Alumni of the Faculty of Pharmacy. Messages of congratulations were delivered by the Rev. Fr. Richard Ang, O.P., Rector of the University and Prof. Aleth Therese L. Dacanay, PhD, Dean of the Faculty of Pharmacy, while an overview of the award was given by the former Dean, Associate Prof. Ma. Elena J. Manansala, President of the UST Faculty of Pharmacy Alumni Association and Scholarship Foundation Inc. There were seven categories: Service to the Church, Arts and Media, Education, Science and Technology, Industry and Entrepreneurship, Public Service and Governance and Health and Community Service. Medals of recognition were given to the awardees and copies of a book entitled "The Luminaries of the Faculty of Pharmacy" were made available to document the different contributions of the distinguished alumni to their communities and countrymen.

- Ma. Elena de Jesus-Manansala BS Pharmacy 1971



Building, Binding and Blessing: A CEAFI Teacher Training Program for the Mission Schools

(From page 7)

RGC for Student Wellness; and Assoc. Prof. Mary Erika N. Bolaños, LPT, PhD for Teacher's Role. The training program ended with a thanksgiving mass presided over by the Regent, Rev. Fr. Maximo P. Gatela O.P., followed by an inspirational message from the Dean, Assoc. Prof. Pilar I. Romero, LPT, PhD and closing remarks from the CEAFI President, Prof. Evelyn A. Songco, PhD.

It is with fervent hope, that through this program, teachers may be able to perform their duty and deliver instruction to their students with better competence and renewed compassion. As what Dr. Bolaños mentioned, it is the role of the teachers, as Dominican teachers, to speak with intelligence and confidence about their subject matter but most importantly, to create a learning environment centered on Christ and His teachings.

May this training program start the growing partnership between CEAFI and the Dominican schools around the country and the world. After all, we are considered a family under St. Dominic's ideals. - Isabella B. Cabrera, LPT, BSE, 2019

Faculty of Philets & Faculty of Arts & Letters Celebrate Quasiquicentennial Founding Anniversary

(From page 10)

universities Arts and Letters in Cooperation with the Secretary-General's Office: The Fr. Valentin Marin, OP Professional Chair in Communication; The Teodoro F. Valencia Professorial Chair in Journalism.

As of this writing, the AB Student Council, just inducted into office, is refining its contribution to the celebration.

Meanwhile, the Alumni Core Group is awaiting the completion of a "legacy project" initiated by the graduates of Batch 1969 led by Organizational Development (OD) experts, Eyra Lourdes Umali and Tita Datu Puamgco. The Competency Identification Mapping Project is looking at the Artlets' Behavioral and Leadership Competencies needed to enhance the capabilities for an Artlets graduate to succeed in his/her chosen profession.

This Study, when completed, is aimed at influencing the future state of an AB alumnus as it is intended to facilitate a more purposive career planning initiatives for and by the graduates. The Study is likewise envisioned to be integrated in the curriculum and student leadership development, provide inputs for the learning development of the teaching and non-teaching personnel, and more importantly, initiate the AB branding character through the competency-based curriculum and leadership formation program.

The Alumni Core Group is encouraging all other batches to champion a "legacy project" of sort to make the yearlong festivities meaningful.

- Henry S. Tenedero, AB General, 1980

USTAAI Joins the Celebration of the Country's 500 YOC

(From page 7)

The USTAAI Flores de Mayo was held at the National Shrine of Our Lady of the Abandoned at Santa Ana, Manila as Fr. Esmeraldo Enalpe, OFM, an alumnus of the UST Ecclesiastical Faculties and the Parish Priest of the Shrine graciously welcomed the Thomasian alumni.

The event started with the online opening remarks of Dr. Milante, followed by the recitation of the Holy Rosary. Claude Despabiladera served as the annotator of the rosary prayer. This was followed by the mass during which the floral offering took place. Thomasian alumni and parishioners reverently offered white and red roses to Our Lady of the Abandoned as Dr. Eugene de los Reyes, President of the UST Conservatory of Music Alumni Association beautifully sung the Salve Regina. Msgr. Pantin presided over the mass with Fr. Carlos del Rosario, Fr. Carmelo Arada, Fr. Enalpe and Fr. Knox Garcia as concelebrators. Fr. Arada delivered a very inspiring homily.

Other members of the Committee were Eligio Elio, MD, President of Pax Romana Alumni Association, Dr. Evangeline E. Timbang, PRO of UST Graduate School Alumni Association and Mr. Gerold Gacula, President of the UST College of Tourism and Hospitality Management Alumni Association, Cecilia San Juan, Secretary of the Thomasian Alumni Leaders Association, Engr. Jonathan Peran also from the Thomasian Alumni Leaders Association, and Kaye Bundang from the UST Education High School Alumni Association.

Thomasian alumni who are interested to know more about the USTAAI Flores de Mayo 2021 may view it at the USTAAI YouTube Channel.

- Evelyn A. Songco, Ph.D, BSE History & Religion, 1973



The 2021 UST Junior High School Alumni Jubilees

(From page 7)

well as from Dr. Evelyn Songco, the President of the USTAAI, and from Assoc. Prof. Windo Medina, Director of the OAR. The Highlight of this program will be the Audio-Visual Presentation (AVP) of the Jubilarians Classes this year: 1961, 1966, 1971, 1976, 1981, 1986, 1991, and 1996 - featuring their class activities during the last FIVE years.

President Malabanan also spearheaded the creation of the Official USTJHS Alumni Association YouTube Channel. For the first time, alumni activities can now be shared and viewed through this channel. Everyone is invited to visit, like, and subscribe to the channel at www.bit.ly/ustjhsalumnichannel.

Class 1961 - the Diamond Jubilarians

Led by Alumni Council member Rafael B. Pascual Jr. - have locally based as well as foreign-based members. Aside from hosting balikbayans in various



resorts and restaurants, they made parallel activities of donating clothes to the Manila Boys Town Complex; donating 40 kg. chicken to the Lualhati Home for the Aged for their Christmas Day meal in 2016; and celebrating their milestones also at the said place. They were also concerned about their health; hence a presentation by Dr. Renato Reyes on Health and Well-Being. In 2017, they celebrated the 50th Foundation Day of Lualhati Home for the Aged. In 2018, they gave gifts of shawls for the Lolos and shorts for the Lolos in Lualhati. In 2019, they sponsored several elementary and high school boys in the Pangrap Foundation in their tuition fees and other needs.

Class 1976 - the Sapphire Jubilarians

Led by Alumni Council Member Boyette San Diego - they likewise have a merry mix-up of parties and civic work.

At Bahay Aruga, they donated to the Pediatric Cancer patients and gave them the message of



hope. For those in need, they made Van-Trikes that could carry more passengers.

Blood-letting Day was on November 22, 2014; a Mini Library was donated to the San Agustin Elementary School in Malolos, Bulacan; they have also reported having scholars: Erica Balatbat in elementary and high school; Arron Campilla in the College of Information and Computing Sciences in UST (3rd year). Now in pandemic times - a Webinar on Prevention and Treatment of Muscular pains by Dr. Perpetuo Gabriel Gutierrez III; Webinar on The Philippine Financial market Outlook by Henry Herrera; Project Tulay for the homeless and jobless; and Timbog Balay Tolosa - post Yolanda. They are also involved in mass housing projects.

Class 1996 - the Silver Jubilarians

Led by USTJHS Alumni Council Member Doland Castro of ABS-CBN - state that they are more than just a merry group of people because they know many of their countrymen are suffering due to lack of means for a decent life. On their 20th Jubilee, they donated to the Tulay ng Kabataan Foundation and to other beneficiaries. During these pandemic times, they distributed rice packages to the depressed areas, including Masbate and Cordillera, streets in Project 6 QC. Truly, they have a strong and well-grounded friendship - that is needed in the world today. - Prof. Myrna Plata Hilario-Munda,





TOMASINONG KAPAMPANGAN: UST PUNLA PANTRY

On May 22, 2021, the Tomasining Kapampangan held the UST PUNLA PANTRY at the Sta. Rita de Cascia Parish Church in Sta. Rita, Pampanga. Three thousand two hundred seedlings were given to churchgoers. The seedlings are of tomatoes, eggplants, and chili pepper.

This different and all-green-and-alive kind of community pantry was enthusiastically welcomed by the parishioners as their curiosity was tickled. In the end, a festive mood was felt in the atmosphere of the parish church.

The said event intends to encourage Riteñans to grow and cultivate crops at the comfort of their own homes. Moreover, it aims to help the benefactors to save money during these times of crisis brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic in a self-sustaining manner. Most importantly, the project was meant to promote a healthy lifestyle with the certainty of fresh and clean products available - directly from their own backyards.

- Mildred Mañalac-Mariano, M.D., UST Faculty of Medicine and Surgery, 1990; President, Tomasining Kapampangan



LET'S LOOK BACK

Let the Thomasian Alumni Community Newsletter take you back to your days in the campus. Send us pictures of your days in UST - alone, with friends and / or teachers. We will post them, as long as they were taken anywhere inside the campus. They may be pictures of you while studying in the library, celebrating the mass in the chapel, having your snack of cheese sandwich in the canteen, or in the classroom....

Send us these photos with the appropriate caption and the approximate year. Identify yourself as the sender of the photo please, with your program and batch. Including your ID number will be great!! Let's look back and enjoy reminiscing the UST days.

PAX ROMANA AA CELEBRATES MILESTONES

(From page 11)

federation. All activities had to, unfortunately, be shelved because of the war.

With the liberation, a notice was received from the Washington Secretariat which had jurisdiction over Asia for the resumption of Pax Romana activities. Immediately, Rev. Fr. Eugenio Jordan, O.P. appointed Rev. Fr. Aniceto Castañon, O.P. as Moderator and instructed him to reorganize UST Pax Romana.

Since the Philippine University Catholic Students' Federation was not revived, UST Pax Romana attempted to establish subsidiary chapters in other universities. The plan for expansion did not prosper. In 1978, UST Pax Romana established its first affiliate at the University of San Agustin in Iloilo City. This writer, 1976-1977 President of the Central Coordinating Council, attended the inauguration.

In the 1950s, the Philippine Hierarchy endorsed the establishment of Student Catholic Action (SCA) in all schools in the country. UST SCA absorbed the functions of the UST Pax Romana. In 1955, at the college level, the work of both organizations were merged, the ultimate ideal being the same, into an entity bearing the name UST PAX ROMANA. SCA remained in UST High School.

Decades later, in June 2020, now a physician, this writer gathered the former officers and members of UST Pax Romana and started the steps towards the formation of the UST Pax Romana Alumni Association.

The alumni association was formally recognized by the University on November 28, 2020. On the same occasion, the first set of its Board of Trustees, headed by this writer as president, was inducted. - Dr. Dong Elio, Faculty of Medicine & Surgery, 1981

ROLLO MILANTE, M.D. A THOMASIAN'S GIFT OF VISION FOR ALL BICOLANOS

(From page 16)

also a graduate of the UST Faculty and Medicine and Surgery.

Richard, 26, the youngest and the only non-medical member of the family, is presently pursuing an MBA on Health Care Management at Duke University in Durnham, North Carolina. He graduated Cum Laude at the Ateneo de Manila University in 2016 with a degree in Management Engineering, and worked in the corporate world for 3 years before leaving for further studies in management last year. The Milante's hope that the children will continue on the family tradition of serving the Bicolanos and will someday upgrade and expand the health care facilities that their parents started way back in 1994.

In 2011, during the celebration of the UST Quadricentennial, Dr. Milante was asked by Fr. Rector Roland De la Rosa, OP, himself a Bikolano, thru Prof. Evelyn Songco, who was then the director of the UST Alumni Relations Office to organize the UST alumni in Bicol Region as part of the program of Simbahayan 400. Dr. Rollo Milante then convened and organized what now is the Tomasining Bikolano, one of the most active provincial chapters of the Thomasian alumni community. There are now 3 chapters, Albay, Camarines Sur and Sorsogon, which serve as venues for Thomasians to come together and serve the Church and their respective communities to fulfill the programs of Simbahayan 400.

Behind the scenes, however, Dr. Rollo Milante's humanitarian work in Bicol is evident in the numerous medical missions and free cataract operations that he has conducted in the province of Albay as well as in other parts of the country. Since 1991, he has mobilized hundreds of medical missions and free cataract operations, thus gaining the recognition of local chief executives, religious leaders, health agencies, and other community stakeholders as well as the trust of sponsors and foundations such as the Tzu Chi Compassion Relief Foundation, Lions Club, Cataract Foundation Phils, Inc., Simon of Cyrene Foundation for the Disabled, and the Dios Mabalos Foundation, Inc.

He is a recipient of various prestigious awards and recognitions, among them the 2015 Outstanding Albayano Award for Tourism, Culture and the Arts for his pioneering contribution in the emerging industry of medical tourism in the province of Albay. In the same year, his Legazpi Eye Center was recognized in the Albay Green Awards for utilizing eco-friendly facilities, energy & water efficiency, and waste management initiatives as an important contribution for "a sustainable, environment- friendly daily operation that will be worthy of emulation among peers in the health care industry."

Notably, "for his exemplary works that propelled the medical profession to a prestigious rank in his community and his region," the Philippine Medical Association awarded Dr. Milante the Governor's Award in Bicol as The Most Outstanding Bicolano Physician for the year 2013-2014. In 2008, the Halyao Awards of the Metro Naga Chamber of Commerce and Industry named him Bicolano Businessman of the Year for Albay. In 2007, he was a recipient of the Outstanding Alumni-Albertus Magnus Science Award during the 80th year anniversary celebration of the UST College of Science. The UST Biology Society gave him the Outstanding Alumni-BIOSOC Medal of Recognition in 2006, and in 2002 he was a nominee for The Outstanding Young Men of the Philippines of the Jaycees Club.

Doc Rollo serves as chair of the USTAAI's Events Committee 2021-2023, and pioneered the virtual Flores de Mayo now available in our USTAAI TAC YouTube Channel. Asked why he continues to serve USTAAI in spite of his busy schedule he said, "It is my continued link to my Alma Mater, my family in the university where I see alumni who are genuinely dedicated to serve the university even if they are no longer physically part of UST anymore."

He is indeed a gift that continues to give, a true Thomasian who lives out the best of UST. - based on the official profile of Dr. Milante, by Nanette Ochoa-Fernandez, BSE 1976



USTNAAI in Action:
Vaccinator Volunteers & PGH Donation Drive

Beyond Leadership, Illuminating with Excellence: UST Nursing Alumni Association Inc. (USTNAAI) Welcomes New Set of Officers

(From page 11)

USTNAAI Online Helpline- The online community helpline of USTNAAI is one significant feature of the website geared to foster camaraderie, hope, faith and love with the primary purpose of extending a helping hand to the Thomasian Nursing community. It's a call of working together, becoming strong and courageous in any circumstance a Thomasian nurse shall face, guided by the Thomasian core values and faith in God.

USTNAAI International Chapters- Thomasian nurses are making a difference locally and around the globe and establishment of linkages is essential to strengthen and foster relationships to continuously allow the Thomasian Nursing community growth in a positive practice environment.

USTNAAI Foundation- As part of social responsibility, the foundation will serve to fulfill civic duties and responsibilities for the welfare of the Thomasian Nursing community.

Journal of Innovations in Nursing (JIN)- This initiative is a professional, scientific journal committed to promoting nursing knowledge by disseminating the unique ideas and models that nurses can develop to address various nursing problems in the nursing profession's clinical, academic, and leadership areas.

Apart from the aforementioned projects, USTNAAI officers are working hand in hand to come up with meaningful occasions and achieve the organization's desire. In this time of pandemic, Dr. Carl Balita (USTNAAI President) and Dr. Rowena Escobar-Chua (Dean, UST College of Nursing) led vaccination volunteers in two events that vaccinated more than a thousand of people in Quezon City. In relation thereto, a promotion to unite for the vaccine was created by joining the health associations in "Sa Bakuna, Nagkaisa" campaign. This engaged the nursing deans and other UST nursing luminaries in an audio visual campaign for healthworkers to volunteer in vaccination centers. To add, USTNAAI involved itself in a donation drive for Philippine General Hospital (PGH), raising a helpful amount to the institution and a research grant for UST Alumni and students was opened to assist young individuals in quality improvements and research studies.

The UST Nursing Alumni Association commits itself to strengthen the bonds of solidarity and fellowship of the worldwide Thomasian Nursing alumni community and fortify the core values as Thomasian Nurses.

Above all, the new set of leaders envisions Nursing to continuously be the center of excellence with a unique way of developing and implementing programs for the alumni through numerous channels to advance engagement opportunities and promote stronger alumni relations.

"USTNAAI for UST Nurses, formed by heart and illuminating with excellence."
- Aileen Victoria de Ocampo, BSN 2003

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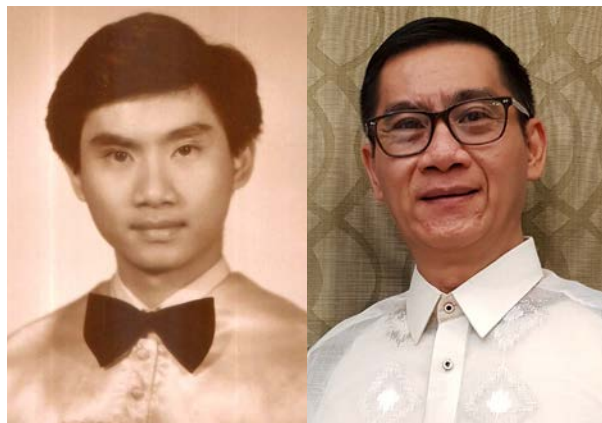
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FEATURED THOMASIAN

ROLLO MILANTE, M.D.

A THOMASIAN'S GIFT OF VISION FOR ALL BICOLANOS

This issue features an exemplary Thomasian who served as vice-president of USTAAI from 2018-2020 representing Tomasining Bicolano or TomBik. Indeed, what we see in Rollo Milante is a quiet Thomasian at work -- an eye doctor who enables others to see the beauty of service to community, and to discover the innate leadership and generosity that resides in each one.



Rollo Milante obtained his primary and secondary education in Legaspi City, Albay. He then went to pursue higher education at the University of Santo Tomas in Manila, obtaining a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology in May 1982 and proceeded to medical school at its Faculty of Medicine and Surgery where he earned the degree of Doctor of Medicine in 1986.

He spent a year of post-graduate internship at the Santo Tomas University Hospital and after passing the Philippine Medical Board Examination in 1987, he took up residency training in Ophthalmology there, where he was the chief resident during his senior years. He acquired his Diplomate in Ophthalmology from the Philippine Board of Ophthalmology in November 1991. These years at the University of Santo Tomas undoubtedly deepened Rollo Milante's spirituality, values and sense of mission that continue to guide his life to this day as a family man, a doctor, and a Filipino citizen.

Since becoming a doctor, Rollo Milante has had an unwavering eye for his Bicolano roots and a commitment to service to the land and people who helped him nurture his dreams of finishing and practicing the medical profession. He retained his Dominican link by practicing at Aquinas Hospital where he also served as a member of the Board of Directors for 12 years.

Guided by his vision "to bring within reach of all Bicolanos the highest level of quality eye care," he set out to establish step-by-step what is now the Bicol Region's most complete and sophisticated eye care facility, the Legaspi Eye Center. Today, the Legaspi Eye Center, which operates in the cities of Legaspi and Naga, serves the region with the aid of the most modern and state-of-the-art equipment and facilities in eye care outside of Metro Manila. Majority of his team of eye doctors are graduates of the Faculty of Medicine and Surgery of the University of Santo Tomas, and trained in their sub-specialties in renowned medical centers in countries such as Canada, Singapore, Spain and the United States.

Beyond Legaspi Eye Center where he serves as President and Medical Director, what truly defines Rollo Milante's career is his inspired leadership, sincerity and compassion which have fuelled the same spirit of service among his younger Thomasian colleagues. These young doctors have now chosen to take the road less taken: to practice in resource-challenged areas, expand their services to make ophthalmic treatment available to more people, and carry out the mission to share the best of their abilities in caring for the less fortunate without counting the cost. In Bicol, he and his kindred Thomasian colleagues have conducted numerous missions to save the eyesight of those who have less in life or have distant access to government health facilities and have provided them care from diagnosis to post-operation.

In pursuit of health sustainability and empowerment, he and his colleagues have organized free medical symposia for local health practitioners from various parts of the region sharing their knowledge and expertise on the prevention and treatment of eye diseases. Indeed, for Rollo Milante, it is humbling as well to realize that in order to make a difference in society, one needs an inspired community that encourages one another, sustains other's sense of mission, and grows together.

Spirituality and responsible citizenship are also best nurtured at home. Together with his wife, Rosita, an optometrist who doubles as an administrator of Legaspi Eye Center, they have raised four God-loving, brilliant and multi-talented children, ages 25 to 32. Rachel, 33, is presently working as a pediatric ophthalmologist in Legaspi Eye Center. She finished her pediatric ophthalmology subspecialty training at the Johns Hopkins University Hospital in Baltimore, Maryland last 2019. She was the topnotcher in the Phil. Board of Ophthalmology Diplomate Board Exam in 2018. She also graduated Magna cum laude in the UST Faculty of Medicine and Surgery and the Rector's awardee for academic excellence of the UST College of Nursing when she graduated in 2009.

Riza, 32, recently returned from her Dermato Pathology fellowship at University of California, San Francisco campus. She took her residency training in Dermatology at the Jose Reyes Memorial Hospital. She also graduated Cum Laude in 2014 at the UST Faculty of Medicine and Surgery.

Rainier, 30, is currently a senior resident in Ophthalmology at the East Avenue Medical Center. He is

(Continue to page 15)

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