



## UST CONFERS OUTSTANDING ALUMNI WITH TOTAL AWARD



The University of Santo Tomas through the Office of Alumni Relations and in partnership with the UST Alumni Association, Inc., bestowed the highest honor to its exemplary alumni during The Outstanding Thomasian Alumni (TOTAL) Awards ceremony held last May 14, 2022 at the Dr. Robert C. Sy Grandballroom of the Buenaventura Garcia Paredes, O.P. Building, España, Manila.

### Service to the Church

Among the TOTAL Awards 2022 awardees is the Manila Archbishop Jose Cardinal Advincula for the category Service to the Church. Before his appointment, he has been known for his pastoral programs reaching out to communities and establishing mission stations and schools in far-flung areas

in the country especially in the diocese of San Carlos and Capiz.

### Service to Humanity

After being conferred as the Thomasian Young Achiever of TOTAL Awards 2008, Arts and Letters alumnus Jeffrey Tarayao continues to excel in managing corporate social responsibility and corporate foundations. His role as the Chief Corporate Social Responsibility Office of the Manila Electric Company (Meralco) and the President of One Meralco Foundation paved the way for the expansion of Meralco's community electrification program that served thousands of low-income households and remote public schools across the country.

*Continued on page 4*

## FLORES DE MAYO 2022 HELD

The USTAAI, through its Events Committee, organized the traditional Flores de Mayo 2022 at the Santísimo Rosario Parish last May 28, 2022, in partnership with the Office of the Vice-Rector for Religious Affairs. Different alumni associations honored the Blessed Virgin Mother with the recitation of the Holy

Rosary, Marian songs and floral offerings. The baskets of flowers from the associations with cards bearing the different titles of Mary in Latin were offered together with individual flowers from participants in the anticipated Mass of the Vigil of the Ascension. This was also live-streamed through the Facebook

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## USTAAI KICKS OFF ITS AAIG 2022 CARAVAN SERIES

The resounding success of the Academe, Alumni, Industry, and Government (AAIG) summits in 2019 and 2021 inspired the University of Santo Tomas Alumni Association, Inc. (USTAAI) to run AAIG 2022 Caravan Series to cascade the learning of the summits. In partnership with the UST Graduate School Center for Continuing Professional Education and Development (UST GS CCPED), the Caravan Series is the online echo webinar of the AAIG 2021 National Multisectoral Summit for Educational Transformation: An Academe – Alumni – Industry – Government Collaboration held in September and October. The main aim of the learning series is to stimulate the emergence of AAIG advocates, champions and a community of practitioners (COP) through a collaborative effort among the alumni, government agencies, higher education institutions, and industry. It is a concrete attempt to share the insights of AAIG 2021 to key stakeholders in five different strategic areas around the country, namely: NCR, Calabarzon, Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR), Visayas, and Mindanao.

The Maiden Caravan which served as the pilot run for the Caravan Series was held on April 21, 2022. With over 100 participants in attendance, the program started with Dr. Fe Hidalgo, Former OIC

*Continued on page 2*



## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

by Evelyn Songco, USTAAI President

**T**he emergence of Thomasian alumni associations in the different regions started in 2010 in preparation for the Quadracentennial celebration of our alma mater. The Simbahayan, the centerpiece project of the celebration was launched in the provinces where the alumni organized themselves. From among these alumni associations, the Tomasinong Bikolano remained active until it formally became a member of the USTAAI. Thanks to Dr. Rollo Millante who continues to serve as the Regional Coordinator.

Today, the USTAAI, in partnership with the OAR continues to support the organization of Thomasian alumni in different parts of the country and the world.

On June 20, the Thomasian alumni launched the Tomasinong Ilocano, La Union Alumni Association at the Rose Bowl Restaurant at Bauang, La Union. The launching was hosted by Peter Paul Nang, the owner of the Rose Bowl who serves as the Secretary of the Association. I would like to share with you my message to them.

*Isang mainit na pagbati sa mainit na araw!*

*As I look at you, I can feel you. I can smell you. I smell the power within you. I can feel and smell your power to transform, your power to influence.*

*We are leaders and we can transform and influence because we choose to serve. That is what the alumni association is for. Through service, you are revealing the power in you. To my mind, service means the following:*

**S** is for self-giving. *Alam ko na sa umpsisa, marami sa atin ay naituro lang. Pagkatapos kang pagtulungang ituro, wala ka nang magawa kundi tanggapin ang hamon ng serbisyo. This starts your self-giving. Because of your sense of responsibility, you commit yourself to the Association. Being part of the Association really means giving your time, talent, and treasure; giving your self.*

**E** is for envisioning. *You begin to dream. You share a common vision and you create strategies to achieve your vision.*

**R** is for responding. *Because of your sensitivity to the needs of others, you*

*serve not only the Association but the community. You respond to the felt needs of those around you and of the community.*

**V** is for virtuous. *You may not be perfect, but you can work toward a virtuous life. As you continue to serve authentically, as you continue to give yourself, you continuously develop your character; your life becomes virtuous.*

**E** is for energizing. *Your competence, compassion, and commitment will energize the Association.*

*To the Tomasinong Ilocano La Union Alumni Association, congratulations and all the best! We look forward to a fruitful partnership with you.*

*Dream high. Soar high. You are imbued with God's unending grace  
Mabuhay!*

To all the alumni associations and members of USTAAI anywhere in the world, let us continue to inspire one another as we serve the Thomasian alumni, alma mater, the country, and the world.

### USTAAI KICKS OFF ITS ... from page 1



Secretary/Undersecretary of the Department of Education, giving the opening remarks with the topic "Coming Together to Create Inclusive Success." This was followed by a perspective sharing and clarion call given by Ms. Rosanna Urdaneta, Deputy Director General for Policies & Planning of the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), and by Dr. Michael Anthony Vasco, Dean of the UST Graduate School. The AAIG main convener and USTAAI Chairman of the Board Henry Tenedero served as the host of the event and facilitated the plenary discussion among the

participants. To recognize the important role of the participants in the success of the Caravan Series, USTAAI President Dr. Evelyn Songco led the recommitment to the Manifestation of Solidarity. The closing remarks was given by Associate Professor Jocelyn F. Agcaoili, MHPED, MSPT, Director of the UST GS CCPED.

Prior to this event, five Higher Education Institutions (HEI) were identified to be the partner institutions that would serve as the local convener and host in their respective regions. Fully aware of these institutions' commitment to quality education and

inclusive growth and development, USTAAI is confident that they can influence the emergence of a community of practitioners and will best serve as the AAIG champions in their region. The HEIs are as follows: University of Santo Tomas (NCR), First Asia Institute of Technology and Humanities Colleges (Region IV-A / Calabarzon), Don Mariano Marcos Memorial State University (Region 1 / Cordillera Administrative Region), and Silliman University (Visayas). For Mindanao, both Davao del Norte State College and Western Mindanao State University will share duties as the local conveners.

The AAIG 2022 Caravan for NCR is scheduled on July 13, 2022, with the UST Office of the Vice Rector for Academic Affairs hosting the event. Prof. Cheryl Ramos Peralta, DrPH, PTRP, Vice Rector for Academic Affairs will take the lead as the AAIG champion for NCR. The UST Educational Technology Center (EdTech) will livestream the event on both the USTAAI and GS CCPED Facebook pages. The succeeding Caravans are scheduled in August and September. For more information, visit <https://ustalumniassociation.org/aaig2022caravanseries>

REX Education is a major sponsor of the AAIG 2022 Caravan Series. - Jonathan Peran, BS ECE 1996



# TIGER DEALS!

THOMASIAN ALUMNI ITEMS THAT CONTRIBUTE TO USTAAI'S ADVOCACY

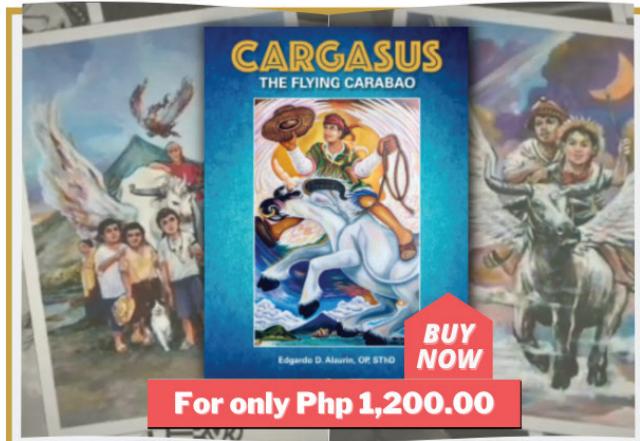
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*Sale proceeds of all Katinko products will go to the USTAAI scholarship fund.*



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# BRIDGES FROM APRIL-JUNE 2022

The weekly Tuesday 5pm show Bridges continues to go strong as it partnered with the UST Communications Bureau in April and May, while going solo in June as the Bureau got busy with graduation rites. Sponsored by different alumni associations which propose Thomasian alumni as guests, Bridges is a program of the USTAAL Academics Team.

As Filipinos were busy preparing for the May national and local elections, Bridges showcased Thomasian candidates for local posts, among them, Engr. Jerenato Alfante, Atty. Joseph Cerezo, Atty. Raul Corro,

Doland Castro, and Herman Salvador, and a voters' education episode featuring Dr. Tita Datu Puangco as guest in its April episodes. An episode on the Synod, with Msgr. Gerry Santos as guest, was also part of its April program.

Exciting May episodes were about travel (Angel Alvarez Lao) and fun summer activities at Sophia School (Ann Abacan) as COVID cases and alert levels dropped. Also featured as guests in May were outstanding Thomasians Dr. Minerva Calimag in Bridges' Mother Day special and Dr. Crispin Maslog on what matters in life.

June had Dr. Clarence Batan in its first episode for the month, talking about *Ambag Tomasino*. Bridges' Father's Day Special featured Dr. George Co with his daughters Valerie and Geonina, and Engr. Ricardo Balog with son Ric Justin Balog. For the 3<sup>rd</sup> June episode, TOTAL awardee Jeffrey Taraya talked about the unending gift of leadership. In its last June episode, Maureen Pickering was featured as she talked about how she accidentally got into farming.

Bridges' can be viewed at the USTAAL Facebook Page and at the USTAAL YouTube channel. - *Nanette Fernandez, BSE 1976 as reported by Marilyn Cano, BSE English, co-major in Philo, 1970*

## UST CONFERS OUTSTANDING ALUMNI... from page 1

### Arts and Humanities

Another TOTAL awardee is communications and journalism scholar Dr. Crispin Maslog for the category of Media and Entertainment. The Philosophy and Letters alumnus has authored 39 books and became the director of Silliman University's School of Journalism and Communication. He served as a professor at UP Los Baños and produced generations of journalists throughout his teaching career.

Painter and sculptor Nemesio Miranda, Jr. was conferred the TOTAL Award for Music, Arts, Literature and Design. Known as the Father of Imaginative Figurism, the Fine Arts alumnus has been considered as an influential art leader in his hometown, Angono Rizal. Recently, he was nominated for the National Artists Award administered by the National Commission for the Arts and Cultural Center of the Philippines.

### Business and Management

In the category of Accounting, Business, and Management, two graduates stood out in their respective fields of expertise among the nominees in this year's TOTAL Awards. UST High School alumnus DTI Sec. Ramon Lopez is this year's TOTAL Awardee for Management while Wilcon Depot founder and chairman emeritus Engr. William T. Belo is the TOTAL Awardee for Business.

Sec. Lopez's solid professional economic, trade & industry development career focused on the development of MSME sector and advocated for the empowerment of youth, aspiring entrepreneurs and underprivileged sectors. He has worked on major reforms for stronger investment inflows in the country such

as the Ease of Doing Business, Corporate Recovery and Tax Incentives for Enterprises to name a few.

Wilcon Depot patriarch Engr. Belo has built a brand trusted by many industry professionals, home enthusiasts and homeowners nationwide. His socio-civic institution named Wilcon Foundation has provided education assistance to underprivileged children and aide to victims of calamities.

### Law and Justice

Another TOTAL Awardee is UST Faculty of Civil Law incumbent dean Atty. Nilo Divina for the category of Law and Justice. With decades of corporate and banking law experience, Atty. Divina continues to contribute to the legal community through publications of books on Commercial Law and articles for his column at the Daily Tribune. His firm, Divina Law, has become one of the country's biggest law firm with a wide clientele base.

### Medicine and Science

Three Thomasian doctors have joined the list of this year's TOTAL Awards.

Makati Medical Center Medical Director Dr. Saturnino Javier was awarded for the category of Health Allied. As an interventional cardiologist, he devoted his time to continuing medical education through lectures and conferences. His commitment made him an active participant in improving the status of medical practice and education in the country.



In the field of Science and Technology, nephrologist Dr. Edgar Lerma is the TOTAL Awardee for this category. The Chicago-based doctor is also a clinical professor at the University of Illinois. He has published 26 books and authored more than 100 peer-reviewed publications about chronic kidney disease, hypertension, bone and mineral disorders.

The 2022 TOTAL Awardee for Medicine is Dr. Maria Minerva Calimag. The full-blooded Thomasian doctor is a practicing anesthesiologist, professor, and researcher. She held many positions in different medical groups, and travelled around the world to conduct research and present papers to fellow scholars and doctors. Recently, she was awarded as Metrobank Foundation Outstanding Filipino Teacher in Higher Education.

The family of Dr. Maria Minerva Calimag is this year's TOTAL Awardee for the Thomasian Family Award. - *Office of Alumni Relations*



# TOMASINONG ILOCANO - LA UNION CHAPTER LAUNCHED



Joining the ever-growing family of alumni associations under the UST Alumni Association, Inc. is a new chapter in the Ilocos Region. Dubbed as the Thomasinong Ilocano - La Union or TLU, it was established to keep the Thomasian Spirit alive in Region 1 by bringing together Thomasians who have roots in or are working or living in the Province of La Union. Other chapters in Pangasinan, Ilocos Sur and Ilocos Norte are expected to follow suit as well.

A Chartering Team from the USTAII and the UST Office of Alumni Relations (OAR) graced the launching event which was held at the Rose Bowl Restaurant in Bauang, La Union. They were welcomed by the enthusiastic charter members who took their oath of membership and now form the core group of the more than 50 members. The following officers were also inducted into office by USTAII President Evelyn Songco: President, Atty. Dwight Ramos; Vice President, Edgardo Regala; Secretary, Arch. Ronald Dy; Treasurer, Dr. Peter Paul Nang; PRO, Dr. Marty De Guzman; Assistant Secretary Hailey Definado; and Assistant Treasurer, Coleen Lay-at. To inspire the participants, messages were given by Dr. Songco, Director Win Medina of OAR, and Dr.



Marty De Guzman, on behalf of his mother who is also an alumna, Mayor Menchie De Guzman of Bauang, La Union.

To cap the event, the USTAII awarded a Certificate of Recognition to the TLU for having successfully launched the USTAII La Union Chapter. Their generous investment of time, talent, and treasure will surely go a long way in strengthening the common desire of: "One Mind, One Spirit, One Thomasian!"

*- Atty. Dwight Ramos, Bachelor of Laws, 1990*





## UST EHSGAI BOT FIRST FACE-TO-FACE MEETING

The Board of Trustees of the UST Education High School Graduates' Association, Inc. and jubilarian representatives held a family-spirited gathering on April 30, 2022 at the UST Alumni Center. It had been two years of virtual meetings headed by the UST EHS BOT President Arnel Ocampo. Important updates were discussed such as the possibility of a physical grand alumni homecoming activity in January 2023, a coffee table book project, and the forthcoming general membership assembly in July 2022.

Aside from the simple lunch shared by the BOT and invited jubilarian representatives, certificates of appreciation were given to individual alumni like Elvira Caballes, trustee from batch 1961, and Teresita-Vergara David from batch 1957. Esther Hermosura from batch 1972 was recognized for her contribution to the association and the EHS solidarity fund. Batches 1971, 1972, and 1976 were also



recognized for their support to the EHS Solidarity fund. Batch certificates were also awarded to representatives of the batches

from jubilarians of the 2021 and 2022 grand alumni homecoming. - *Shiela Vicenta Tagbo-Jacinto, 1985*

## FLORES DE MAYO 2022 HELD... *from page 1*

pages of the parish and the USTAAI.

The event began and ended with Marian songs from the Conservatory of Music. The Holy Rosary at 2:30pm was led by Pax Romana, with representatives from the alumni of Law, Education, Pharmacy, Education High School and Junior High School leading the five Joyful mysteries.

The Holy Mass was presided over by Vice Rector Fr. Pablo Tiong, OP who also shared the homily. This was concelebrated

by CBCP Secretary General and ALPA president Monsignor Bernardo Pantin and CBCP Assistant Secretary General Fr. Carlo del Rosario. The floral offering took place after Holy Communion, cascading at the foot of the image of Our Lady of Fatima. Fr. Carlo del Rosario then blessed the rosaries given out to participants and holy pictures of the Blessed Mother. Before the final blessing, Events Committee Chair Rollo Milante of Tomasinong Bicolano thanked everyone

who made the event possible. He shared the hope that next year, we can resume the Santa Cruzan which has been shelved because of the pandemic.

Refreshments were served at BGPOP lobby with participating alumni associations each contributing to the delicious spread. It was a good opportunity for the USTAAI to reconnect in fellowship after two years of meeting only virtually. - *Nanette Fernandez, BSE 1976*



# 7TH MOVING UP CEREMONY



The UST Education High School had its 7th Moving Up Ceremony on June 28, 2022. With the theme "Overcoming the Challenge, Embracing the Change," the event was held at the Medicine Auditorium. Delivering the inspirational message was

EHS Batch 1977 Girl's Valedictorian and the current dean of the College of Education, Associate Prof. Pilar I. Romero, LPT, Ph.D. This writer, as President of the Association, facilitated the Induction of the Completers to the EHS Alumni Association.

Congratulations to EHS Principal, Associate Prof. Marielyn C. Quintana, LPT, Ph.D. and the rest of the faculty members of EHS for a very successful and meaningful ceremony. - *Arnel M. Ocampo, LiaCom, 1980.*



## SCHOLARS RECOGNIZED AT QUARTERLY BOT MEETING

USTAAI St. Albertus Magnus scholars Emmanuel Luis Obed Abrera (BSE English, Magna cum Laude) and Joshua Palma Rodriguez (BS Industrial Biology, Cum Laude) were honored during the quarterly Board of Trustees meeting on June 30, 2021 at the Club Filipino. Both received Certificates of Recognition and tokens from the Association. Presenting these were

Chairperson Henry Tenedero and President Evelyn Songco. Both were recognized for receiving Latin honors.

In his response, Abrera thanked the USTAAI for the scholarship award, acknowledging that he would not have been able to graduate had it not been for the financial assistance. Abrera is set to leave for Cambodia to teach English at an international school.

For his part, Palma who attended with his mother Gina, thanked the USTAAI for the scholarship which came just after the untimely death of his father. Despite the difficult circumstances he found himself in, Palma managed to graduate with honors, with no less than noted molecular biologist Fr. Nicanor Austriaco, OP as research mentor. - *Nanette Ochoa Fernandez, BSE 1976*

# -CLICKER-RAZZI-



Atelier Distinguished Thomasian Art Exhibit at Ayala Museum



Quasquecentennial Anniversary of the Faculty of Arts & Letters



MOA signing with DMMMSU



Congratulations to our USTAAI Albertus Magnus Scholars.



Congratulations to our USTAAI Student Work Immersion Program (SWIP) volunteers.





2022 Flores De Mayo at Santisimo Rosario Church



First Face to face meeting with our scholars.



In La Union



Welcoming our new Council of Presidents by pinning their trustee pins



In La Union to celebrate a special occasion with Alumni Family



## THE DISTINGUISHED: ALL THOMASIAN ATELIER EXHIBITION



Not just a showcase of exceptional skills and celebration of creative intellects, The Distinguished is also an exposition of talents of different generations who gathered and gave back to their Alma Mater, the University of Santo Tomas (UST).

These Thomasian master artists are Angelito Antonio, Antonio Austria, Tam Austria, Andres Barrioquinto, Rosario Bitanga, Remy Boquiren, Joe Datuin, Fil dela Cruz, India dela Cruz, Anita del Rosario, Edgar Doctor, Jess Flores, Raul Isidro, Willy Layug, Derrick Macutay, Nemi Miranda, Justin Nuyda, and Ramon Orlina.

These artists are not only objectively extraordinary, but are importantly influential in the art community, be it painting, printmaking, or sculpture as their mode of expression, and in terms of style doing figurative, or being nonrepresentational. More so, their rise to fame is a testament of their passion to sustain their relevance in the art community; their successes serve as inspiration to many.

The process of selecting the roster of illustrious and celebrated artists started in 2018 and ended in 2022. It has undergone stringent screening of a Committee from the University, and those chosen are deemed worthy to be an honoree of the Distinguished Thomasian Alumni Award. The noble endeavor is on the progression of the art and design industry in the country and beyond to create a blueprint for everyone with the same passion to follow.

To write only a fraction of the numerous contributions and accomplishments of this magnificent roster is indeed insufficient.



Nevertheless, the exhibition invites viewers to appreciate, study, reflect on and find meaning in the metaphors and the natures imbued into these masterpieces.

Education and learning are easily accessible nowadays while advancement in technology can be contributory to success from which one can claim, "Am I much better than them?" For Abe Orobio, an artist, educator, and curator of this exhibition, he can say that this assertion could be both fair and unkind because one thing we cannot deduct from these bestowed artists: their distinct discipline, hard work, dedication, and determination.

As the art world is continuously evolving, innovating, and becoming competitive, it becomes a marathon of sorts; but values should remain. These intangibles are engraved and reflected in the works of these masters that are worth emulating as they are testaments and yardsticks of longevity and success in the industry.

The DISTINGUISHED: All Thomasian Atelier Exhibition ran from April 29 to May 12, 2022 and was co-curated by Ayni Nuyda. - *Abe Orobio, BFA, Painting, 2005*

## USTAAI ORGANIZES TWO MAJOR EXHIBITIONS AT THE ARTISTS SPACE

From April to May 2022, two major exhibitions were organized by the UST Atelier Alumni Association Inc. under Marissa Pe Yang, its president. It was curated by Abe Orobio and was held at the prestigious gallery of ArtistSpace at the Ayala Museum.

### KAMUKHAMO

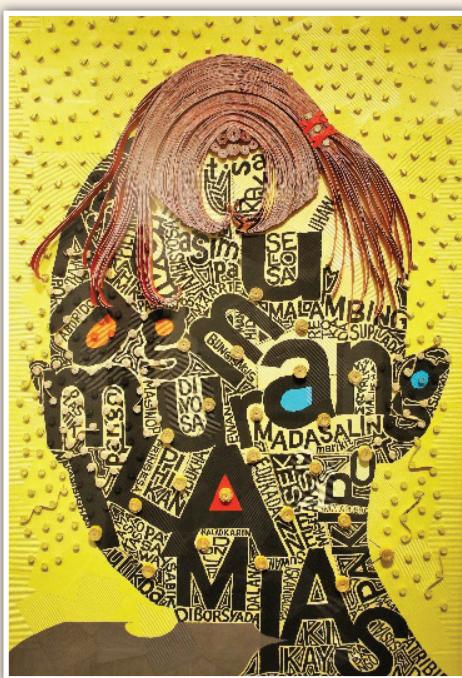
Prejudice is dangerous and unforgiving, and this is what Elmer Dumlao wants us to reflect on in his Kamukhamo series: to be more sensible, fair, cautious, and discerning yet critically caring.



*Doble Kara*

His work entitled, *Kamukhamo: Nagmumurang Kamias* is an allegory for a person of elderly yet behaves and dresses like a youngster. This work greatly implies our conservative nature towards social norms.

Dumlao's central piece *Kamukhamo: Salamin* is an interactive work of multiple mirrors installed on canvas where spectators



*Nagmumurang Kamias*

can view themselves to their gusto, while reading scribbled positive attributes of which one or two more aspects they might wish to possess. We love to be loved, and this piece is what this is all about. It is a moral anecdote on why we tend to criticize even though we do not want to be put in the same situation.

Dumlaor's *Kamukhamo: Doble Kara* not just focuses on what *doble kara* means but on the materials he extracted to add further depth and meaning to his work. The "sakla" card game which composes the portrait signifies how we are viewed differently by people we meet. It is said that people fear what they cannot understand (or they cannot be understood by people around them), and true enough, this infects us all for we rather are perceived as fearful than brave since decisions are not simply black and white or a choice of good versus evil all the time.

Dumlaor as an artist does not judge. On the other hand, he considers himself a spectator and an observer of human interactions. He believes these interactions are neither right nor wrong. They are situational and are simply conditions to be separated, to be different, and to feel great about."

*Kamukhamo: Face the Truth, Truth Is in Your Face* is the 12th solo exhibition of Dumlaor and was on view from May 15 to 28. - *Abe Orobia, BFA, BS Fine Arts, Painting, 2005*

## THREE ATELIER ALUMNI RECEIVE HIGHEST HONORS



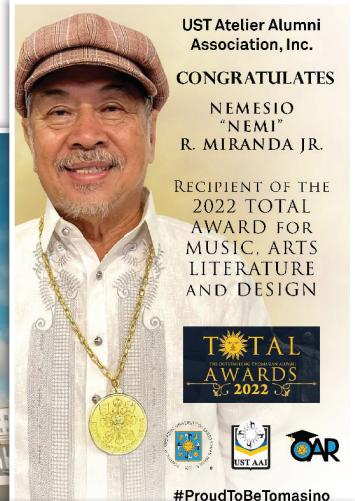
**I**t's only midway 2022 and already, three Atelier alumni have received highest honors from different institutions in their respective fields.

### The Slim effect

Decades of continuous innovation, creativity, and inspiration in the fashion world led Salvacion Lim-Higgins to be the recipient of 2022's National Artist for Design. Popularly known as Slim in the fashion industry, Higgins is a renowned international designer. A contemporary of Christian Dior famed for the 'New Look' and Cristobal Balenciaga, she launched her career in 1947, an era which, until 1957 was lauded as the Golden Age of Haute Couture and the Golden Age of Philippine Fashion. Slim is well-known for innovating the *terno* and introducing it for the global audience.

Her famous works worn by royalty are housed at several museums abroad and featured in movies. This is proof that she cemented her career as the queen and pioneer of Philippine fashion design. Her works are ahead of her time, described as wearable art and highly regarded for its contemporary feel.

Heralded as an advocate of culture, she designed costumes for the Bayanihan Dance Company from the 1960s to 1970s, an endeavor that was seen globally since the dance group travelled across Asia, Europe, Middle East, and the Americas. Since her passing in 1990, numerous fashion shows have been held as a tribute. The National Artist award is the highest honor given by the Philippine president in the creative field. Along with Lim-Higgins, the list of national artists proclaimed this year included Nora Aunor (film), Tony Mabesa (theater), Ricky



#ProudToBeTomasino



Lee (film), Marilou Diaz-Abaya (film), Fides Cuyugan-Asencio (music), and Gemino Abad (literature).

### Overall means TOTAL

Nemesio Miranda, a revered muralist, sculptor, and multi-awarded visual artist, is the 2022 recipient of UST's TOTAL (The Outstanding Thomasian Alumni) Awards for Music, Arts, Literature and Design. Nemiranda, as he is fondly called, has a long-standing career in the art industry. He created not just paintings on various projects but designed stamps as well for the Philippine Post Office, and erected several murals throughout the country, the latest, in Leyte Capitol. The mural is about the Leyte landing of Gen. Douglas Mac Arthur and his own interpretation of the map of the province in the shape of the crucified Christ.

Nemiranda has participated in over 100 exhibitions here and abroad. As the founder of the Angono Ateliers Association in 1975, he continuously promotes on the promotion of the Higantes Festival in Angono, Rizal. To promote art and culture in his hometown, he turned his studio into the Nemiranda Family Art Museum and Café which is a famous tourist destination. He also institutionalized the Angono Atelier where he is training aspiring youth to become professional visual artists.

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# NEWLY-RECOGNIZED THOMASIAN ALUMNI CHAPTER IN AUSTRALIA CELEBRATES UST FOUNDING ANNIVERSARY

The UST Alumni Australia (USTAA) with the assistance of the Office of Alumni Relations (OAR) organized its first project as a certified and duly recognized alumni association of UST on April 30, 2022. The said event titled "Afterglow, A Touch of Nostalgia" headlined by the world-renowned UST Singers was the organization's way of celebrating its alma mater's 411th founding anniversary. This also coincided with the official certification of USTAA by the university as a legit alumni association and the introduction of its founding officers and members to the world.

UST Rector Very Rev. Fr. Richard G. Ang, O.P., PhD, in his opening remarks, greeted USTAA and welcomed them as the newest addition to the growing number of Thomasian alumni associations around the globe.

*"UST Alumni Australia is poised to distinguish itself as a dynamic and robust organization of professionals which will inspire our students and alumni to look back with pride in their roots,"* said Fr. Ang, adding that their enthusiasm for projects and activities will surely provide the impetus to bring all Thomasian alumni closer to the university. He assured the university's support to the goals and missions of the group and left them the challenge of organizing a project that would help their alma mater.

Ambassador of the Philippines to Australia Her Excellency Ma. Hellen B. De La Vega, in her inspirational message, praised USTAA's effort in uniting such a diverse group during the pandemic. The



association has members from different states of Australia, such as New South Wales, ACT, Victoria, Queensland, Western Australia, and South Australia.

*"Less than 6 months in their existence as a community organization, the women and men behind UST Alumni Australia, under the great leadership of Ms. Benjie de Ubago, have demonstrated their strong resolve to live and spread the Thomasian core values of competence, commitment and compassion especially as we face today's global challenges,"* said Ambassador De La Vega, ending her speech declaring herself as a proud Thomasian Asian Studies alumna.

More prominent Thomasian alumni such as John Lapus, Christian Esguerra, and Miriam Quiambao, have graced the celebration and left a few words of inspiration for the group. The virtual concert also featured the performances of music legend Nonoy Zuniga, pianist Hildegarde Palafox-Mendoza, balladeer Jun Polistico, and performer Rie Manaloto.

The program ended with the USTAA President Ms. Benjie de Ubago extending her sincerest gratitude to the people who supported the association's journey. She invited everyone to join them in their upcoming activities and projects. - *Office of Alumni Relations*

## THREE ATELIER ALUMNI RECEIVE HIGHEST HONORS... *from page 11*

### Outstanding in time of the pandemic

Abe Orobio, a former faculty member of the UST College of Fine Arts and Design, is the 2021 recipient of TOYM (The Outstanding Young Men of the Philippines) for Education, Arts and Culture. He received the honor on April 8, 2022, at Okada, Manila along with other honorees from the different fields such as business entrepreneurship, digital media, science and technology, academe, agriculture, and medicine. The TOYM's 2021 theme is

*Everyday Leaders Enabling Extraordinary Impact* selected the honorees for their endeavors before and during the height of the pandemic.

Orobio is a long-time college lecturer and practitioner in the field. His last solo exhibition titled 'Images of Our Nation' at the National Commission for Culture and the Arts Gallery, is a combination of drawing and prose he composed himself giving credit to the frontliners, the farmers and the fishermen, marginalized communities, and the like.

Prior to the pandemic, Orobio worked with elementary teachers of indigenous people groups to mentor them on basic drawing, painting, and design, to support them in their respective schools. Orobio is the third Thomasian in the visual art field to receive the merit. The other two Thomasian artists are Eduardo Castrillo (Sculpture 1971) and Raul Isidro (Fine Arts 1979)

Together, these three Thomasian creatives truly deserve the honor. - *Marie Yang-Pe, BFA, Advertising, 1981*



**S**unday, June 12, 2022 - Tampa, Florida. Filipinos celebrated their Philippine Independence Day with an open-to-all picnic organized by the *Ang Bisaya of Florida* (ABF), one of the member organizations of the Philippine Cultural Foundation, Inc. of Tampa. The picnic was held at the *Ang Bisaya of Florida Pavilion* inside the Philippine Enrichment Complex owned by the Philippine community in the greater Tampa Bay area, where the annual 3-day Philippine festival called "PhilFest" was also held.

Having been one of the original dancers of the UST Salinggawi when it was founded in 1967, right after my graduation at UST in 1970 with a bachelor's degree in fine arts major in Advertising, this writer immediately joined the Bayanihan Dance Company, the pride of the Philippines.

I travelled the world for seven years and eventually settled in Düsseldorf, Germany where I learned my German, the language of my mother. Then, I was employed by one of the richest men in the world, the Baron Arndt Krupp of Germany married to HSH Princess Henriette of Austria. I was their Aide de Camp and was later promoted to the title of Lord Chamberlain. Eight years of living in castles and travelling in private yachts and planes, meeting royalty and celebrities, when the Baron died of cancer. I then decided to join my family in America and settled in Tampa, Florida where I built a house for my parents.

A few years later, I met some Filipinos in Tampa, formed a Philippine dance company, and eventually became one of the founding board members of the Philippine



Cultural Foundation, Inc. (PCFI). I was able to purchase a 10-acre property which we call the Philippine Enrichment Complex. A few years later, we built the Bayanihan Arts and Events Center, truly a one of a kind facility in America.

After being the first Chairman of the Board of PCFI, I stepped down and took the title of Director of Cultural Affairs. My job was to coordinate the 21-member Filipino organization under the foundation with all their events, plan all our annual events a year before, produce cultural exhibits, shows, competitions, including Philippine Independence Day celebrations.

Despite the summer heat, more than three hundred Filipinos from different provinces in the Philippines attended the event. There were adults and teenagers, as well as kids as young as 4 years old, all eager to celebrate our Independence Day here, away from our motherland.

Not like many Filipino organizations in America which celebrate our independence with a grand formal ball or a fiesta type celebration, Tampa decided to make it simple and entertaining this year. Guests gave very interesting storytelling topics to the enjoyment of everybody, particularly the Filipino American youth who were born in America. Stories about the Filipino's fight for freedom, and much more were told. I gave

a brief history about the Philippines as well as the evolution of our Philippine flag. There was even a sharing of Philippine legends like the "Legend of the Pineapple" (*Alamat ng Piña*) that was beautifully and comically enjoyed by all!

But what caught the attention of the young ones in attendance was when members of the organizing committee, the *Ang Bisaya of Florida* took turns introducing and explaining different Filipino games, like *sungka*, *sipa*, *patentero*, *tumba lata*, and even *siatong*, just to mention a few. American guests and Filipino-American kids were delighted to learn such new games they never heard before.

After a sumptuous merienda-lunch prepared by the organization, it was time to play all the games the guests had just learned.

Overall, simple as it may have been, the celebration of our Philippine Independence Day was educational, informative, memorable, and fun. Thanks to the *Ang Bisaya of Florida* which organized this year's event and to the Philippine Cultural Foundation, Inc. of Tampa for always allowing all the Philippine organizations to continue promoting and preserving our Philippine cultures and traditions here in America for generations to come. - *Jose Omila - 1970*



# PHILETS & ARTLETS ALUMNI FELLOWSHIP



The UST Philets and Artlets Alumni Association, Inc. (P&AAAI) and the Faculty of Arts and Letters came together to celebrate the Faculty's quasquicentennial anniversary. The event was held at the Kalayaan Hall of Club Filipino on April 24, 2022. Alumni representatives from the different programs and batches as well as the Artlets Student Council (ABSC) graced the occasion.

The event started with an opening prayer led by Rev. Fr. George Phe Mang, Regent of the Faculty of Arts and Letters. Dean Marilu Madrunio delivered the opening remarks where she recognized the efforts and initiatives of the Association over the past years. This was followed by a warm welcome message from the Very Rev. Fr. Richard G. Ang, O.P., Rector of the University and former Regent of the Faculty. Lastly, Dr. Evelyn A. Songco, President of the UST Alumni Association, Inc. (USTAAI) delivered the solidarity message.

The attendees were also serenaded by the Faculty of Arts and Letters' very own Chorus of Arts and Letters. Afterward, a tribute was given to all the former deans and regents. The honorees who were presented with Plaques of Appreciation were:

## Former Deans

- Prof. Magdalena Villaba, PhD (1976-1987)
- Prof. Milagros Munoz, MA (1987-1990)
- Rev. Fr. Virgilio Ojoy, OP (1990 1<sup>st</sup> Semester)
- Prof. Belen Tangco, PhD (2003-2006)
- Prof. Michael Anthony Vasco, PhD (2009-2019)

## Former Regents

- Rev. Fr. Efren Rivera, OP (1982-1983; 1988-1990)
- Rev. Fr. Virgilio Ojoy, OP (1990-1991)
- Rev. Fr. Joseto Bernadas, OP (2007-2015)
- Rev. Fr. Rodel Aligan, OP (was not able to attend) 1991-1997; 2007, 2015-2021
- Rev. Fr. Rolando dela Rosa (was not able to attend) 1983-1984

During the event, Ms. Tita Puangco (AB Journalism, 1969) oriented the alumni with the legacy project of batch 1969 titled Artlets Leadership Competency ap. This was a collaborative project among Batch '69, the alumni-in-residence, and the faculty, and had the goal of contributing to the overall competitiveness and success of the Artlets graduates in the context of the VUCA world.



Mr. Oscar Picazo (AB Economics, 1978) iterated to the audience the Adopt-an-Artlets Scholarship Fund that aims to support the studies of the students who were affected by the pandemic.

Among those who attended the event were batch representatives from as early as 1968 up to 2018. The alumni-in-residence formed the youngest batch for whom this event provided the occasion to network with those from the earlier batches.

Dean Henry Tenedero, President of the UST P&AAAI and Chairman of the USTAAI, formally closed the event with an inspirational message. The P&AAAI and the Faculty of Arts and Letters are looking forward to the Grand Alumni Homecoming in December 2022. - *Kim Czaccei Dacanay (Alumni-in-residence), AB History, 2024*



## CAMPUS MEMORIES

# Growing in and with UST

Antonio L. Fernandez, Chemical Engineering 1975

**R**eminiscing about UST ultimately draws me to think in terms of my career and much more.

I practically grew up in UST. With a gold loyalty medal to boot, I graduated with a chemical engineering degree in 1975, 15 years after I first entered the university gates. My world expanded as I started attending elementary school. Even now, I could imagine being in that old one-story wooden school building where a parking building now stands.

In the countless times I have been at the campus, I have witnessed its transformation over the years. Particularly, the Plaza Mayor, in its broad sweep, impresses me every time I draw close to the Main Building, a place I frequented before security became an issue.

I would go up the wide wooden staircase inside the Main Building to the musty museum. There, I marveled at the displays - old coins, preserved animals, large paintings, religious images to no end. At this day and age, it would probably be comparable to being in a Harry Potter movie. The UST Chapel was another place I would go to often. Though not a parishioner, I was a Legion of Mary member in the parish. High school memories included sitting under a shady acacia tree and enjoying the peace despite the noise in España Street after the weekly Saturday afternoon meeting.

I have probably explored every nook and corner of the campus except those areas which have now become part of the built-up area of the 25-ha. campus. With the research centers, certain areas that used to be "off limits" are now accessible. That was exactly my thought when I joined the Graduate School as lecturer and became a member of the UK-funded Newton Project research team in 2017.

The team, comprised of teachers and students from the faculties of architecture, arts and sciences, was engaged in a three-year



joint project with the University of Reading (UoR), UK. The research was on mapping eco-social assets in Santa Rosa City, where another UST campus is now rising. It was an exciting engagement which led to another important development in my career - becoming an adviser of a student in the dual PhD Architecture/Built Environment program - also with the UoR.

I am honored to be part of the faculty of the Graduate School and a participant in what might be considered a milestone in the university's academic history.

Through these involvements, I have seen the openness of the university towards advances in transformative learning which is what our country needs. Also, a certain degree of boldness to adapt to global changes is imperative. Encouraging trans-disciplinary research is one of these.

My training as a chemical engineer had done me well through changes in my career. In my five college years, I received the solid foundation I needed, thanks to my excellent teachers. Before graduation, I received an offer

to teach. Though I liked the idea of sharing knowledge, I declined because I wanted to get experience in industry, and I did.

Not long after, I became more environmentally aware as pollution became worse. Eventually, I pursued a master of engineering degree in environmental engineering at Osaka University with a Japanese government scholarship. There, I met my wife, Ana Marie 'Nanette' Ochoa (Education '76) who also was on scholarship. Months after our return in 1981, we got married in December.

Was it the 'red thread' of destiny, as the Japanese would say? It must be God's plan that we, both Thomasians, would meet in Japan. We could have met in campus; after all, the Education and Engineering buildings were beside each other.

I believe our faith and UST years also melded us together. She knows a few teachers during my high school years between 1966 and 1970 since she taught at UST High School after graduation.

Every time I walk past the new USTHS and the all too familiar edifices on my way to the Thomas Aquinas Research Center, I feel a sense of pride swelling within me. I gaze up the Main Building and see the theologians, historians and philosophers on either side of the Tria Haec (of faith, hope and love), the comedians and tragedians facing Padre Noval, and the playwrights facing Gov. Forbes now Lacson. Yes, I knew who those statues were as an engineering student who joined university quiz shows.

There were not many extracurricular activities after martial law was declared. I sought to develop my writing skills as I became part of the Thomasian Engineer board of editors, and pursued Christian formation as a member of Pax Romana (PR). I learned much later that Nanette was the Education PR President and that she was the Education Journal editor-in-chief. We could have met at UST but we had to meet in Japan! Indeed, gratitude fills my heart as I write these recollections.

## Filipinism

### Instead of saying Let us say

Fill up	Fill out	Please fill out this form before proceeding to the next section. Fill up means "make something become full" as in: Fill up the pitcher with orange juice.
Pass by my office	Drop by my office	I need to give you some documents. Please drop by my office on your way out.
It's for free	It's free	There was a long line of students in that booth for a glass of soda. It's free.
Tuck out	Untuck	The professor said that we may untuck our shirts since the weather is too warm.
Open	Switch on	I had to switch on the AC or we would have fainted.



## FEATURED THOMASIAN: RESTITUTO CABRERA

**B**uilding a meaningful and purposeful life is what Engr. Restituto Cabrera proves to be constantly adhering to. Resty continuously advances all aspects of his being for the benefit of not just himself and his family, but for the many lives that he is able to connect with.

A graduate of the UST Department of Civil Engineering batch 1983, Resty is an exemplary Thomasian who truly exudes the core values that the University instills in her ward—competence, commitment, and compassion.

I first met Resty in one of the events of the UST Engineering Alumni Association, Inc. (USTEAAI), him being one of the association's distinguished past presidents. Resty served USTEAAI as the quadricentennial president in 2011 and was instrumental in the strengthening of the Thomasian Engineering Alumni community through several projects that he spearheaded. To date, USTEAAI carries on these projects, such as the scholarship program, community outreach programs, alumni engagements, and student enrichment programs.

One of the more exciting projects that Resty kickstarted was the USTEAAI golf tournament. Golf is one sport that Resty passionately loves and the idea of a golf tournament came to mind aiming to break the monotony of formal alumni gatherings and of engaging out on the greens for a fresh change.

Teeing-off with the main purpose of raising funds to support the alumni projects while inevitably having fun on the fairways continues to be delightful and effective, as the USTEAAI will have its 15th *Inhinyerong Tomasino* Golf Tournament on September 2 this year. Thanks to Resty, alumni gatherings are greener as we *par-tee*. Using the same template, Resty actively organizes similar tournaments for his wife's and their children's alma maters, public and private organizations, and several sports groups. That's commitment.

Competence in Engr. Cabrera's career is not a tall order, as he started and relentlessly grew many companies under his leadership. He is President and CEO of CABRES Builders – a construction, design, and construction management corporation with its Philippine headquarters in Mandaluyong City, and with offshore branches in the states of South Carolina and California in the US, in Guam, as well as in Papua New Guinea. Over the many decades of its operation, CABRES Builders has proven to be a reliable engineering company as it expanded its operations and provided bankable tutelage to the younger engineering generation. The company likewise maintains its excellence by keeping abreast with the advancements in technology and providing world-class service to its clients.

Apart from his construction business, Resty has also built several other businesses such as a food processing facility in Naga for Fil-Am businessman Loida Lewis. The business aims to raise the best quality hogs in the country. Meanwhile, in the Far East, a risk management company that insures businesses, organizations and facilities, is now working on the management of Papua New



Guinea's agricultural program which is for implementation soon. This is part of Resty's advocacy of upgrading agriculture, specifically in rice farming, in view of a foreseen global shortage of rice in the future. He is developing a highly mechanized rice farming facility in Papua New Guinea in partnership with their agriculture department and another Filipino businessman.

All these commissions that Engr. Cabrera us handling may not have been completely occupying his time as he added another feather in his already heavy cap when he heeded the call for public service as Chairman of Barangay Kapitolyo in Pasig for about five years from 2001. He oversaw the development of his community with the kind of management that holds fast to transparency, efficiency, and advancement.

After his stint as Barangay Chairman, Resty has been honed several times to occupy a seat in a higher public office. This is something that he might consider some time in the future, as he constantly has the concern for the improvement of society and for attending to the sufferings or misfortunes of others. He is truly a man of compassion.

Engr. Resty Cabrera, beyond all these accomplishments and achievements, is first and foremost a dependable father to his two daughters with his loving wife Audrey, who is also an alumnus of the UST Faculty of Engineering and his college sweetheart.

Over and above all, Resty is a man of unwavering faith to the Lord Almighty from whom he believes all his successes come from.

- Engr. Monina R. Evangelista, ECE, 1994

