



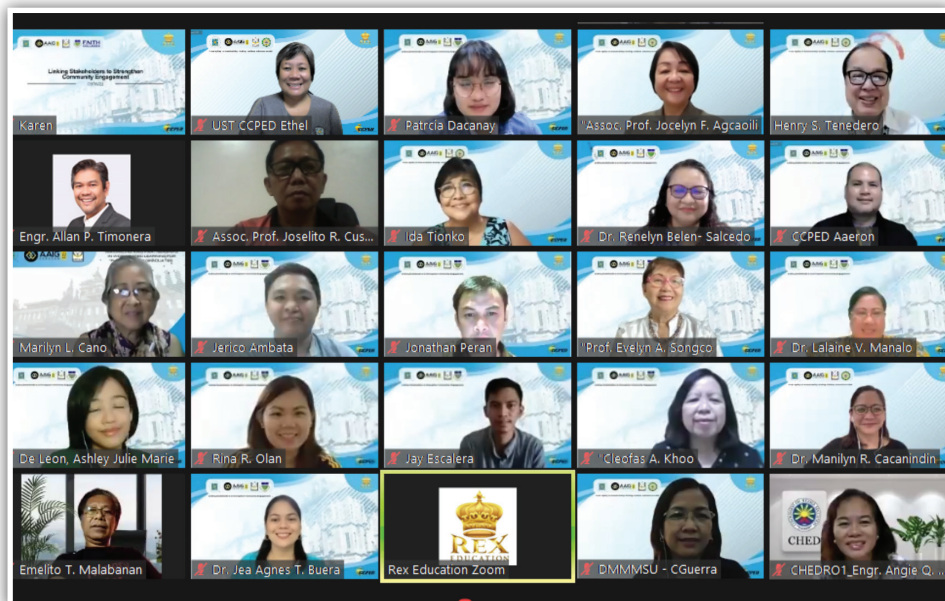
THE THOMASIAN ALUMNI COMMUNITY

VOL. NO 5 ISSUE NO. 4

Newsletter

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE UST ALUMNI ASSOCIATION, INC.

2022 AAIG CARAVAN SERIES SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED



On October 14, 2022, the UST Alumni Association, Inc. (USTAAI) completed the final run of the 2022 AAIG Caravan Series. The Caravan had five runs: National Capital Region (NCR), with the University of Santo Tomas as the host; Region 1 in Northern Luzon, with Don Mariano Marcos Memorial State University; Region 4A in Southern Luzon, with FAITH Colleges as host; Silliman University in the Visayas; and Western Mindanao State University and the Davao del Norte State College serving as hosts in Mindanao.

The Caravan aimed at cascading the learning of last year's AAIG National Multisectoral Summit and to stimulate the emergence of AAIG convergence community of champions and advocates in different strategic areas around the country.

Thus, each run featured the voices of the academe, the industry, and the

government. Every run had its own unique theme that contributed to the attempt to create a community of practice that will stimulate an ecology that nurtures the academe, industry, and government

Continued on page 2

Team Building at Caleruega 2022 Held

The USTAAI, through its Secretariat, organized an overnight team building event for its officers, committee heads, and volunteers at Caleruega from August 31 to September 1, 2022. This was facilitated by Fr. Jeff Aytana, OP and President Evelyn Songco. Present were Assistant to the President and Tomasining La Union President Atty. Dwight Ramos, Treasurer Ellen Manansala, Tomasining Kapampangan President Mildred Mariano, PRO Maureen Pickering,

Secretariat Chair Nanette Fernandez, Resource Chair Teresita Meer, CRSAAI President Jocelyn Agcaoili, Compliance Officer Lito Malabanan with wife Malou, Engineering Secretariat Chair OGie Magahis, and Executive Assistant Kaye Bundang. Chairman Henry Tenedero and Advocacy Chair Jerry Alfante also dropped by to cheer on the participants.

The event began and ended with the celebration of the Holy Eucharist. The theme

Continued on page 4



FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK by Evelyn Songco, USTAAI President

Recollecting, Renewing, Redefining

At my age and as a history teacher, I enjoy looking back. I am amazed at how the past created the path that brought me to where I am today. While contemplating on what to do, I suddenly saw the plaque that I received from the University of Santo Tomas when I retired. All retirees receive this kind of plaque of appreciation from the University. It contains an enumeration of the kind of services the retiree rendered to the University. And mine has a long list of past roles that I performed.

Looking at it made me recollect my experiences specially those years when I was the Head of the Office for Student Affairs (OSA, formerly called Office for Student Affairs and Community Services or OSACS). Those were my most challenging years. As the University student population continued to increase and become diverse, as the buildings continued to fill the spaces in the University, as technology continued to advance in leaps and bounds, and as the increase in tuition fee continued to raise the socio-economic landscape of the students in campus, the OSA had to create innovative ways of reaching out to the students.

It was very clear to me that the most important role of the OSA is student development. To me, it was the most exciting and meaningful part of my job. I encountered many students who were actively engaged in campus life, scholars, students who were financially challenged, students who violated the school rules, students who just loved to come and stay in OSA. For all of them, we made sure that the OSA maintained a welcoming atmosphere and that the UST-Tan Yan Kee Building, the current student center, was a home for them. We made sure that their student life became a meaningful experience to them. I have reasons to believe that they indeed had, because when I encounter them today as alumni, they tell me that they cherish their student life experience.

With us was the Office of the Rector. I worked under four Rectors. First, Rev. Fr. Rolando V. De La Rosa, OP; followed by Rev. Fr. Tamerlane R. Lana, OP; then, Rev. Fr. Ernesto Arceo, OP. The last Rector I worked with was Rev. Fr. Herminio Dagohoy, OP. Fr. Dela Rosa became Rector twice and I

worked with him during both of his terms. I recall that all of them cared for the students. They were all compassionate to them and they liked them to have a great experience as students at the University.

In one of the recent gatherings of former student leaders, one of them said, "I always liked to go to OSA. There was always plenty of food there." That comment gained many agreements from the guests.

The students whom we took care of before are now successful alumni. They are now executives in well-known companies, owners of businesses, church leaders, community leaders and leaders in their chosen profession. Many of them have easily renewed their ties with the University by participating and supporting the activities of the University in general, their college/ faculty/ or department, and the USTAAI.

The alumni do not forget the people in the University who took care of them when they were students. They remember their compassionate and competent teachers, the office staff, and maintenance

staff. I remember that at the height of the pandemic, I asked a former Central Student Council president to send help to one of the maintenance staff whom he knows very well. He readily sent the staff financial assistance.

Memories bind the alumni to their alma mater. They cherish their happy experiences in campus long after they have left its portals. These experiences make them come back. They long to see the places they used to stay in and around the campus.

I have joined the ranks of the alumni who chose to serve the alma mater as part of the alumni association as officers, committee members, or project volunteers. Among us prevail the Filipino spirit of *bayanihan*, the value of *pakiki-isa*, *pagtangkilik*, *pakikipagkapwa-tao*. In the alumni association, I have redefined my role. I am no longer the teacher or the formator. I am simply one of the many alumni, joyfully journeying together with the other alumni in the service of our alma mater, fellow alumni, the community, and the church.

2022 AAIG CARAVAN SERIES ... from page 1

conversations toward the successful transition of the alumni to the world of work.

The 2022 AAIG Caravan was made possible through the partnership between the USTAAI and the UST Graduate School Center for Continuing Professional Education and Development (UST GS CCPED) headed by Assoc. Prof. Jocelyn Agcaoili, who, at the same time, is the President of the College of Rehabilitation Sciences Alumni Association, Inc. Dean Henry S. Tenedero, President of the Philets & Arts and Letters Alumni Association, served as the Overall Convenor of the AAIG. Dean Tenedero believes that the AAIG is about transforming change, catalyzing strategic and sustained partnerships, building appropriate skills and competencies, redefining and

rehumanizing the roles of institutions, nurturing the new roles of the alumni association in forging societal change, coming together and responding together, and advancing sustainability in the pursuit of the common good. In his closing remarks, he encouraged the harnessing of the collective expertise of the academe, alumni, industry and government towards creating a more dynamic and more prosperous level of understanding of the workplace among our students.

The 2022 AAIG Caravan Series was sponsored by REX Education. The video recordings of the event are available on the USTAAI Thomasian Alumni Community (TAC) Youtube Channel (AAIG playlist) at <https://www.youtube.com/USTAAITAC>. – **Jonathan Peran, BS ECE 1996**



TIGER DEALS!



Hand Painted Bayong
by THOMASIAN ARTISTS
Php 2,500 each
(20 DESIGNS AVAILABLE)



Melaleuca

Wellness Products
now available!

For orders,
contact:
Tess Meer
09178490467

FOR ORDERS, PLEASE CONTACT
TESS MEER 09178490467
CES SAN JUAN 09189857314

KATINKO®



ITEM	Price/Dozen
Katinko 10grams	P 462.00
Katinko 30grams	P 1,066.80
Katinko Oil 10ml	P 602.40
Katinko Oil 35ml	P 1,066.80
Sports Spray	P 1,680.00

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



BUY NOW
For only Php 1,200.00



- FERN-D 120s 1,280.00
- FERN-D 60s 680.00
- MILKCA 1,100.00
- FERN-ACTIV 900.00
- FERN COFFEE 330.00
- SILVERFRESH 400.00
- AURORA BEAUTY BAR 350.00
- HAND AND BODY LOTION 550.00
- AURORA FACE SERUM 950.00
- AURORA EYE CREAM 950.00
- AURORA DAY CREAM 950.00
- AURORA NIGHT CREAM 950.00

POWERTRIO SET A: Php3,280.00
FERN-D 120s, FERN ACTIV & MILKCA

POWERTRIO SET B: Php2,680.00
FERN-D 60s, FERN ACTIV & MILKCA

For more info, visit our official
social media accounts



Php 350.00 each

ALUMNI SHIRT



UST ROTC CELEBRATES ITS 86TH FOUNDATION ANNIVERSARY



The University of Santo Tomas Golden Cross and Sabers Alumni Association, Inc. (USTGCSAAI), the alumni association of the graduates of the UST Reserved Officers Training Corps (ROTC), celebrated the 86th Founding Anniversary of the Golden Corps of Cadets on September 28, 2022, with the theme "USTGCSAAI-still strong @86 amid the pandemic."

On that same day in 1936, the first cadet corps consisting of 700 male students was organized as part of the implementation of the National Defense Act of 1935 and gave birth to what is now known as the UST ROTC Golden Corps of Cadets.

Headed by Dr. Rodrigo de Mesa of Class Sinagtala 1988, the National Commander (President) of the USTGCSAAI, this year's celebration was highlighted by the 5th Loyalty Parade, a time-honored tradition where members of the alumni corps donned their immaculate gala uniform, marched as officers of the different parading units during the parade and review ceremony on the parade grounds of UST at 4:00 PM, 28th of September 2022. Before the parade, the Guest of Honor and Speaker, Hon. Jose C. Faustino, Jr. Senior Undersecretary

and Officer-in-charge (USec/OIC) of the Department of National Defense, was accorded with Military Arrival Honors at the Plaza Mayor. This was received by the University Rector, Rev. Fr. Richard Ang, OP.

The event culminated with a Gala Night Dinner in honor of the Golden Jubilarian Class of 1972, the Silver Jubilarian Class of 1997, and other outstanding alumni hosted by the incumbent Board of Directors of the USTGCSAAI at the Robert Sy Grand Ballroom, Buenaventura Garcia Paredes OP (Thomasian Alumni Center) Building. - **Dr. Rodrigo de Mesa, BS Biology, 1988**



UNIVERSITY OF STO. TOMAS
GOLDEN CROSS AND SABER ALUMNI
ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED

5th Loyalty Parade

281530HSEPT22

SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES

1530H Arrival Honors at Plaza Mayor

1600H Parade and Review
Attention Call
Entry of Troops
Presentation of Command and Honors
Inspection / Trooping the Line
Honors to the Nation
Pass-in-Review

PROGRAM

<p>Entrance of Colors</p> <p>Invocation</p> <p>Welcome Address</p> <p>Message and Introduction of the Guest of Honor</p> <p>Address by the Guest of Honor</p> <p>Awarding of Memento</p> <p>UST Hymn/USTGCSAAI Hymn</p> <p>Recessional</p>	<p>UST Campus Ministry</p> <p>Rev. Fr. Richard Ang, O.P. Rector Magnificus University of Santo Tomas</p> <p>Dr. Rodrigo de Mesa National Commander USTGCSAAI</p> <p>Hon. Jose Faustino Jr. Senior USec / OIC Department of National Defense</p> <p>To be represented by: Hon. Franco Nemesio M. Gacal Undersecretary for National Defense Department of National Defense</p> <p>UST Campus Ministry</p>
--	---



Team Building at Caleruega... from page 1

of the event was "The Grace of a Loving and Caring Community," and Fr. Jeff set the tone during the first session using the story of the Samaritan woman at the well. The highlight of the event however was the activity called "Kwentong May Kwenta" facilitated by President Songco. The schedule was kept flexible with many chances to eat, rest, pray, reflect, share, talk informally and take long walks in the vast grounds of Caleruega.

At the last session, President Songco summarized the experience to end the successful program, with participants feeling more closely knit and truly blessed. Before returning to Manila, Advocacy Chair Alfante treated the group to a good lunch at Royale Tagaytay. Before leaving Tagaytay, the group picked up bamboo seedlings to push for USTAAI's sustainability project. --- **Nanette Fernandez, BSE 1976**



UST-CRS OT ALUMNA JONHEL PATRICIA LIM AMPIL RECEIVES HIGHEST ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE MEDAL IN CANADA

UST-CRS Batch 2015 Occupational Therapy Alumna Jonhel Patricia Lim Ampil received the Governor General's Academic Medal on June 24, 2022 in Canada. This Academic Medal is the highest and most prestigious academic excellence award given to outstanding students. This government award is given to a student who achieves the highest grade-point average (GPA) across all programs in the institution. Ms. Ampil garnered 98.046 percent in her Recreation Therapy program.

Her journey started with the goal of becoming a permanent resident in Canada. As suggested by her agency, one way to enter Canada is through the student pathway. This pathway requires that the program that will be taken in Canada is aligned with the student's expertise in her home country. In her case, she decided to take a recreation therapy program, a two-year diploma program that focuses on the promotion, restoration, rehabilitation, and/or maintenance of the quality of life and well-being which are achieved through the use of meaningful recreation and leisure education, counseling, and experiences. According to Ms. Ampil, it was initially challenging due to the



This academic-based scholarship is open to all qualified full-time international students studying at any Niagara College Program. This



pandemic. Some of these challenges were the adaptation to the new online learning setup, the time zone differences, and environmental and social adaptation.

She was surprised when she received the news that she would be awarded the Governor General Academic Medal. She was aiming to only maintaining the Keith Segal-Student Guard scholarship, one of the medical insurances that supports Niagara College international students.

is awarded to those who successfully achieve the highest-grade point average (GPA) per term among all international students. The scholarship provides CAD 1000 each term.

Asked about her views on Thomasian values, she stated that she was able to embody the three Cs of UST in her work:

COMPASSION - She is currently working with older adults in a retirement home. Compassion for her work translates into her genuine care to build relationships with them and to provide them meaningful and purposeful activities.

COMPETENCE - She achieved what she has right now from the knowledge and skills she gained from her undergraduate studies at the UST College of Rehabilitation Sciences.

COMMITMENT - Despite all the struggles, she was committed to finishing her two-year program. It is not enough to simply complete the program. According to her, it was not enough to simply complete the program because it would determine one's career path. One should also be committed to finishing it to the best of one's ability.

As a piece of advice, she said one should "Keep dreaming, believing, and surviving. Dreaming should never stop especially when you want to grow professionally. It would be best if you continuously create dynamic goals. While building your goals, you should never stop believing in yourself. No one can believe in you except you. It would be best if you were confident that you could be at par with other professionals amidst diversity. Never stop surviving. Life is a continuous battlefield. You should always be determined with a strong heart and soul to conquer whatever obstacles you encounter. Never forget to put God at the center of your life." - **Ken Ervin R. Sosa Physical Therapy, 2013**



Proceeds will go to USTAAI Albertus Magnus Scholarship Program and Disaster Response Program

Can be viewed at the
ARTASIA GALLERY SM MEGAMALL
Tel No. 8634-5945





LIMITED EDITION SCULPTURE

MAJESTIC

Year: 2022 Size: 15" x 11" x 6"
Cast Marble, Painted in Gold Bronze Finish

■ For Inquiries: Message Ms. Kaye
Tel No. 09175231522
Email: ustaisecretariat@gmail.com

Created By
Artist Seb Chua



-CLICKER-RAZZI-



Kapaligiran Art Contest...



Ms. May Parson's Homecoming...



Birthday celebration of our dear President Dr. Evelyn Songco...

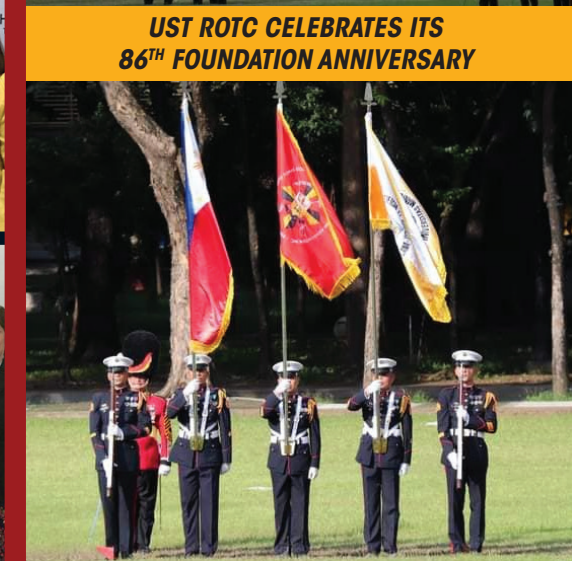




Tomasinong SOCCSKSARGEN 4th Anniversary...



"Glimpses of Ma'am Ida Tionko's Professional Life"

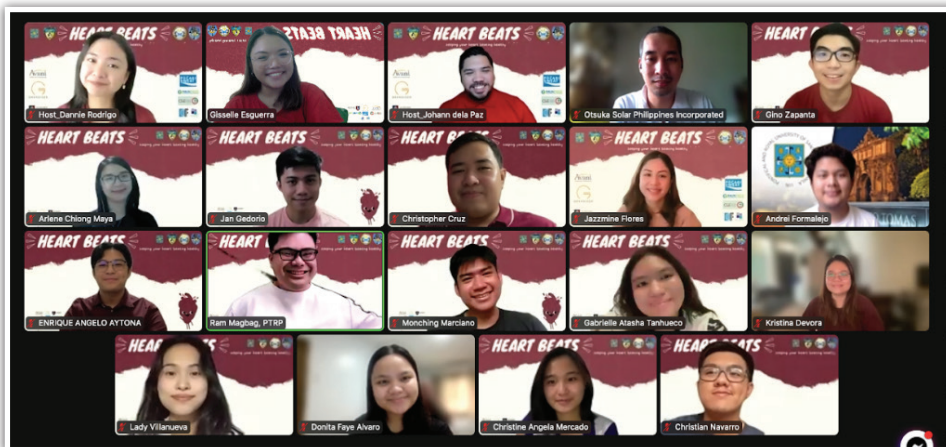


UST ROTC CELEBRATES ITS 86TH FOUNDATION ANNIVERSARY





UST-CRSAAI CELEBRATES WORLD HEART DAY THROUGH HEART BEATS WEBINAR



On September 24, 2022, the UST College of Rehabilitation Sciences Alumni Association, Inc., in collaboration with the College of Rehabilitation Sciences and CRS Student Council A.Y. 2022-2023, conducted a multidisciplinary webinar on nutrition, fitness, and well-being. Entitled HEART BEATS: Keeping Your Heart Beating Healthy, the event was organized to celebrate World Heart Day on September 29, 2022.

The President of the UST-CRS Alumni Association, Inc., Assoc. Prof. Jocelyn F. Agcaoili, PTRP, MSPT, MHPed, opened the program. The first speaker was Edgardo Ebba, MD, section chief of the Philippine Heart Center–Cardiac Rehabilitation Section (CCReP). His talk was focused on the various updates in preventive cardiology. He discussed the impact of the pandemic on cardiovascular health and emphasized the present recommendations of the Philippine Heart Association Council on how to prevent cardiovascular diseases.

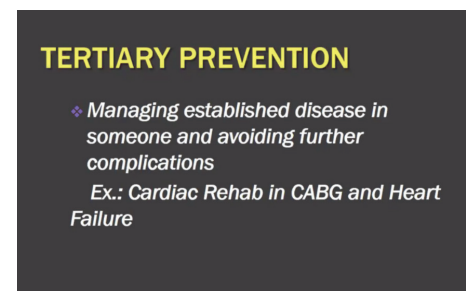
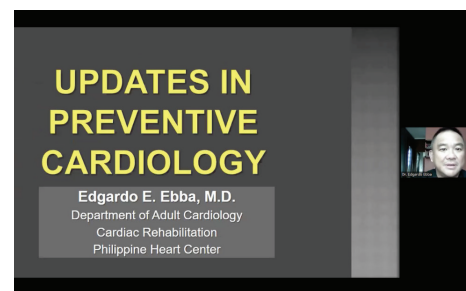
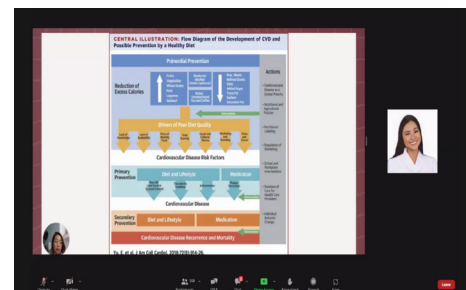
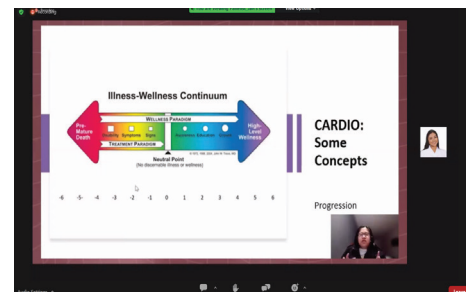
The next topic was cardiac rehabilitation, presented by Trina Presto, PTRP, an Emergency Physical Therapist, also in the CCReP. She explained the current trends and practices in cardiac rehabilitation for physical therapists, including the profession's scopes and limitations.

Coach Stephanie Claire L. Pagarigan, MSHMS, an alumna of UST-CRS Sports Science Department and a Certified Strength and Conditioning Specialist by the National Strength and Conditioning Association of the United States (NSCA, USA), then relayed the latest evidence-based updates on cardiovascular fitness, training assessments and methods for different

populations.

Lastly, Coach Fia Batua-Mambuay, RND, provided a comprehensive discussion on the effects of nutrition therapy on cardiovascular diseases. She enumerated several nutritional recommendations and alternatives that one can use to promote a healthy diet and prevent cardiovascular diseases.

The event successfully ended with 620 participants. The Professional Regulation Commission granted this event with 3.75 units for Physical Therapists, 3 units for Nurses, Nutritionists and Dietitians. Continuing Professional Development units for Medical Doctors are still pending approval but was applied for 4.5 units. The event was also made possible through the help of the following sponsors: Avant Healthcare Professionals, Grandison Management, Fairbright, C & E, Catalyst Review Solutions, GH Premier Review Center, Pocari Sweat, and Painfree Management And Consultation, Inc. The program ended with a closing remark by the Dean of the College of Rehabilitation Sciences, Assoc. Prof. Anne Marie C. Aseron, MSPT, PTRP.





USTHSAA ANNOUNCES NEXT SET OF BOT AND OFFICERS

The UST High School Alumni Association (USTHSAA), as managed by its corporate arm, the UST High School Alumni Alliance Foundation, Inc. (USTHSAAFI) recently announced its next set of Board of Trustees and Officers. This new set of officers will lead the association from September 2022 to August 2025.

Heading the new leadership is President Ronnie Gomez of Class 1982. Aably supporting his leadership is Vice President Alvin Justiniani of Class 1985. Handling the association's purse is Treasurer Agnes Julian from Class 1984. Completing the roster is this writer as Public Relations Officer.

Presiding over the USTHSAA Council is Council Chair Avic Bartilad of Class 1981. Taking care of the Corporate Secretary duties is Dante Lardizabal of Class 1979.

Finally, complementing the leadership team is Senior Advisor Lito Malabanan of Class 1977.

All the BOT and officers of the USTHSAA have been duly nominated and elected by a majority of the Association's current Council Members composed of Class Year Representatives from the 1960s to 1990s. In accordance with the SEC-Registered Rules and Regulations of the USTHSAAFI, the elections were held on May 28, 2022. - **Rogelio Tapang, 1987**

Welcome Our Next USTHS Alumni Alliance BOT and Officers

from Sept. 1, 2022 to Aug. 31, 2025

As nominated and elected by a majority of our Council Members last May 28, 2022 in accordance with our SEC Registered Rules and Regulations.

			
RONNIE GOMEZ President Class 1982	ALVIN JUSTINIANI Vice President Class 1985	AGNES JULIAN Treasurer Class 1984	ROGELIO TAPANG Public Relations Officer Class 1987
			
AVIC BARTILAD Council Chair Class 1981	DANTE LARDIZABAL Corporate Secretary Class 1979	LITO MALABANAN Senior Advisor Class 1977	

VIGNETTES

This is a column that I have requested my Editor to put up in the Thomasian Alumni Community Newsletter for every issue. It will contain newsbits about the activities of the UST (J) HS Alumni Alliance Foundation Inc., which is probably the biggest chapter in the USTAAI in terms of warm bodies. From the first graduates of the Junior High School in 1928, up to the present, there are about 25 active batch years, each with an organizational set-up and activities.

President Ronnie Gomez led and introduced the launching of the KKK: Kaalaman, Kakayahan, and Kabuhayan - a brainchild of the USTHS Official Council, with Rogel Tapang, Batch '87, as one of the moving spirits. This is a project to encourage the alumni to share their business and commercial knowledge so that their fellow alumni can learn something new or be given an opportunity in business.

In Episode 1, Arch. Alvin Justiniani,

owner of Holland Tulips, gave a pep talk on Fresh Cut Flower Business in the Philippines. He stressed the need for patience, perseverance, and persistence in this kind of business - which are all very doable. President Ronnie Gomez has given his all-out support to projects like this.

In Episode 2, May Pera sa Lavada, from our Lava Lava Doo Impresario Rogel Tapang '87, he discussed the reasons for embarking on a laundry business; that it is more than just wash, dry, and fold; that the laundry business can be set up professionally. How much would it cost to set up a laundry business? He is open to answer questions like this. You may visit the official FB page of USTHS Alumni Council for your questions.

The UST High School Alumni Council, through the Board of Trustees of the USTHS Alumni Alliance Foundation Inc., hosted the oath-taking and pinning ceremonies of the newly elected members of their Board of Trustees at the Seascape Village in Pasay City. After the dinner and the oath-taking, everyone

present let their hair down and enjoyed singing in the karaoke bar. This event was jointly hosted by the USTHS '82 Batchmates of President Ronnie Gomez.

Initiated by President Ronnie Gomez, financial assistance was extended to France Elaine Vergara, incoming Grade 10 honor student. It was witnessed by JHS Secretary Tony Castro, JHS Asst Principal Marivic Torres, Ms. Vergara, and JHS Community Development Coordinator Ms. Nadine Obial.

From Boyette San Diego, USTHS '76: Their batch adopted Arron Campilla, an IT student in UST as their scholar, through an anonymous donor, identified only as Ms. BENE MERITUS. Arron was one of the USTHSAAFI scholars from Junior High School to Senior High School. He is now in his senior year, and Boyette asked the help of his fellow batchmates and fellow alumni to help the boy in his academic needs. USTHS Class '68 of Ms. Bebet Gozun donated some financial assistance, while this writer donated a good pre-owned Acer laptop. - **Myrna Plata- Munda, USTHS 1963.**



UST COLLEGE OF COMMERCE AND BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION HOLDS 2022 GRAND ALUMNI HOMECOMING

This year's Grand Alumni Homecoming (GAH) of the College of Commerce, with the theme "Resilient Thomasians in Challenging Times," was held on September 24, 2022 at the Thomasian Alumni Center. GAH is one of the major and exciting activities during Commerce Week held every third week of September. It is made more memorable as this year also marks the 89th founding anniversary of the College.

After months of meticulous planning, reaching out earnestly to the different batches and jubilarians, the first ever face-to-face homecoming event since the pandemic was held successfully. Spearheaded by the GAH Chairman of the College of Commerce Alumni Foundation, Inc. (COCAFI) Estelita Ramos, ably assisted by BOT-PRO Jacob Siyambio, and under the guidance of COCAFI President Cristina Aquino, the Homecoming welcomed some 150 alumni who bonded and celebrated life!

The night's program fittingly started with the celebration of the Holy Eucharist by no less than the College Regent Rev. Fr. Senen Ecleo, O.P. Dean Leonardo Canoy kicked off the affair with his welcome remarks. This was followed by the induction of the new set of Board of Trustees, then by President Tinna Papa's greeting to the alumni and guests. The highlight of the night was the awarding of the Most Outstanding Commerce Alumni for 2022



to Mr. Rafael Ayuste, Jr. (Business Administration, 1986) and Ms. Mary Jean Pacheco (Economics, 1987).

Featured as the guest speaker was Dr. Mary Hildence Baluyot, former CCBA Dean, who gave a meaningful interpretation of what a resilient Thomasian genuinely means, and brilliantly translated the word JUBILARIAN@40 into a life inspiring message.

The night would not have been complete without the jubilarians showcasing their musical talents. One of the most applauded numbers was that of Ferdinand Dumlaog (Batch 1987) who displayed his skill in playing the violin. Constantino "Boi" Bombais, a Golden Jubilarian, who acted as the Master of Ceremonies, wowed the crowd when he gamely rendered a romantic song number.

Nonoy Lopez and his band sparked the



dancing vibes among the attendees with his retro songs and rhythms. The alumni let their hair down and stormed the dance floor with their happy dancing feet up till closing time.

The traditional turnover of the Symbolic Key of Sponsorship from the Golden Jubilarian Batch 1972 to batch 1973 was the finale, and was received with much enthusiasm and eagerness to host next year's homecoming shindig!

IDA TIONKO ... from page 12

Live and the webinar series of the Academe, Alumni, Industry summit in partnership with UST Graduate School Center for Continuing Professional Education and Development (UST GS CCPED). She is also actively involved in the national organization of nurses, the Phil. Nurses Association (PNA), where she has been the Chair of the Committee on Awards & Grants and the Committee on International Relations. She is currently the Chair of the Department of Professional Advancement that conducts continuing professional development programs for nurses. Her commitment to her nursing profession has also found her being appointed as an Evaluator & Monitor of the PRC-CPD Council. She also leads the alumni of the PNA-Phil Nursing Leadership Institute.

As a proud alumna, Ma'am Ida claims that UST is her second home. With 41 years of teaching service and now its alumni association Vice President, her loyalty and love for her alma mater is unquestionable. In fact, asked as to what makes Thomasians stand out,

she says it is how they conduct themselves. *"Commitment, Compassion & Competence are our Thomasian values which others may also hold as their values, but we exercise them with our TRIA HAEC - faith, hope and love. The Thomasian exudes power in the gentleness of his words as he brings forth truth & knowledge that is well thought of and deliberated in charity. A Thomasian cannot be said that he is a 'noisy gong and a clanging cymbal'. Hindi siya maingay at mahilig mag-ingay. Thomasians are loaded with substance in words and deeds,"* she proudly but humbly claims. As a living proof to these words, she recalls one of her most memorable feat in UST: being part of the UST CN Task Force that fought courageously for truth, justice and integrity in the June 2006 Nursing Board Exam Leakage Scandal.

Having taught for more than 40 years, and by being a nurse, Ma'am Ida has considered the apostolate of teaching as her mission in life as not only "nursing minds" but also "nursing the minds and hearts that serve Christ in others." She is one who strongly believes in the



values of Spirituality, Formation and Service. To her there is no limit to "Being More and Doing More" for God and others as long as one's mind and heart are focused on love of God. Everything that you are and have is a gift that is meant to be shared. As this remarkable alumna says, " 'Thank You' is what I love to say and hear that keeps me going. It keeps the river of grace flowing." - **Maria Teresa Casado-Ramos**



CCBA REV. FR. REGENT ECLEO INDUCTS NEW COCAFI BOARD for 2022-2024

The induction of the new set of Board of Trustees 2022-2024 of the UST College of Commerce Alumni Foundation, Inc. (COCAFI) was held during the Grand Alumni Homecoming on September 24, 2022 at the Alumni Center, Buenaventura G. Paredes OP Building. Rev. Fr. Senen Ecleo, O.P. officiated the oath taking ceremony. COCAFI is the college's alumni organization that tracks and unites graduates of the College of Commerce, and administers scholarships and its student assistance program to deserving students. Each year, the association also recognizes college alumni who excelled in their chosen fields.

The Board of Trustees composition has been expanded from nine to 11 members

effective this fiscal year.

In photo, from Left: Fr. Regent Ecleo, Cristina Aquino, President; Lourdes Obillo, Secretary; Carmelita Garcia, Treasurer; Jacob Siyambio, BOT-PR; Dean Leonardo Canoy, BOT-Adviser; Irene Arroyo, BOT-Chair, Membership Committee; and, Estelita Ramos, BOT-Chair, GAH Committee.

Not in photo: Olivia Ferry, VP and Chair, Legal Affairs; Rogelio Decal, Auditor; Maria Paz Foronda, BOT-Chair, Awards Committee; Josefina Sulit, BOT-Chair, Scholarship and



Nominating Committee and former COCAFI President. - **Cristina Aquino - Economics, 1970** and **Irene Arroyo - Banking and Finance, 1976**

UST-LAFI: CONTINUING ITS MANDATE IN THE TIME OF COVID 19

The COVID-19 pandemic has been a life-altering period of time for everyone, regardless of economic status, and whether you contracted the virus or not. The UST Law Alumni Foundation, Inc. (UST-LAFI), well-aware that the pandemic has caused financial disruption to many families, made sure that the scholarship grants would continue for the school year 2022-2023.

To recall, UST LAFI made the scholarship available exclusively to Thomasian undergraduates last year. Out of the seven applicants chosen to be LAFI's scholars for the school year 2021-2022, five were able to continue their scholarship after meeting the high standard set by the Foundation, that is, to maintain a quotient point index (QPI) of at least 85%.

Encouraged by this productive result, the Foundation continued the scholarship program for this school year, albeit still making it exclusive to incoming Thomasian undergraduates. Indeed, prioritizing fellow Thomasians during the present health crisis was not a difficult decision to make. Corollary to this, the policy gives an incentive to the University's finest graduates who are planning to pursue a law degree to consider the Faculty of Civil Law as their top choice.

As Chairperson of the Scholarship Committee, I was tasked to select the qualified students who could best represent the core Thomasian values of competence, commitment and compassion. I knew the undertaking was not a walk in the park since I firmly believe that Thomasian college graduates are among the best in the country. During the first week of August, the Foundation, with the assistance of the Faculty of Civil Law's administrators, posted

its *Announcement* at the University's website. Thirty applicants showed interest by submitting the required documents. Twenty-two underwent a written exam via Zoom on August 22, 2022. The exam consisted of 32 questions with an allotted time of four hours. The questions were crafted in such a way that the applicants' analytical and reading skills, reasoning, time-management skills and writing proficiency could be approximated and gauged. It bears noting that 90% of the applicants were recipients of Latin honors in their respective undergraduate courses.

Out of the 22 who took the exams, 11 were chosen by the Committee. These were those who got the highest scores, and they were then scheduled for an online interview. Six applicants were interviewed on September 14, 2022, while the remaining five had their interview on September 16, 2022. Each applicant was interviewed for at least 30 minutes.

The Committee on Scholarship tallied the results of the written exam and interview, respectively, and then ranked the applicants according to the average score they obtained. The Committee also gave ample consideration to the applicants' respective class standings, Latin honors received, and immediate relatives who were graduates of the University. Although the *Announcement* stated that the Foundation would award scholarships to five highly qualified candidates for the 2022-2023 academic school year, the Committee nonetheless submitted for the Board of Trustees' consideration the names of the seven student-applicants chosen to be UST-LAFI's scholars for the school year 2022-2023. The Board eventually decided to admit six scholars, namely:

1. Austria, Gerome Rafael, D.

2. Suazo, Christian Zeus, S.
3. Licup, Jonida Sofia Cristine, R.
4. Cruz, Rombert Joseph Emiel, D.
5. Mara, Maria Fae, R.
6. Tumolva, Lorraine Marie, D.

The Foundation informed the successful scholars on the first week of October. Consequently, we directed them to forward their tuition fee receipts for the processing of their reimbursements.

As I earlier pointed out, the process of selecting the most deserving student was not an easy task, more so since almost all the applicants had made known to me (via their application letter) their financial struggles. The process of trimming down the applicants and picking out the *crème de la crop* was a hard but a necessary one. The goal is to be able to accommodate more scholars. With the generous support of fellow Thomasian alumni, this could be a reality in the foreseeable future. Truth be told, I found the whole process to be a fulfilling and meaningful experience. The time and effort exerted was all worth it, knowing the lasting impact an educational assistance has on a person's life. As the American author Leo Buscaglia once wrote, "It's not enough to have lived. We should be determined to live for something. May I suggest that it be creating joy for others, sharing what we have for the betterment of personkind, bringing hope to the lost and love to the lonely."

Our patron saint, Thomas Aquinas, lived his life serving others. Kudos to the UST-LAFI's Board of Trustees for helping our fellow Thomasians achieve their own aspirations through the LAFI's scholarship program. I hope that in our own little way, the UST-LAFI has inspired our scholars to give back in the future. - **Ronald B. Moreno**



FEATURED THOMASIAN: IDA TIONKO

Nursing Minds and Hearts For Christ

This pandemic, we give due commendation to the medical and educational frontliners who go out of their way to serve despite the rigors and risks of their respective jobs. An epitome of both is one alumna: Inocencia Ida S. Tionko, R.N. Mhped, wife to Engr. Ronald G. Tionko, mother to Richard, Peter and Kristine Anne, grandmother to six lovely children, and mentor to many Thomasian nurses.

Ida Tionko obtained her BS Nursing degree from the university in 1970 and took 24 units in Master of Arts in Nursing in the UST Graduate School thereafter. Unfortunately, she did not finish the course and transferred to the UP-Manila College of Medicine where she eventually earned her master's degree in Health Professions Education. After graduating from college, she practiced her nursing profession in the country and flew to New York, USA a year later to work as a medical-surgical and intensive care nurse.

When she returned to the Philippines in 1974, she found herself heeding to another calling - nursing education. And this is where her teaching career in the UST College of Nursing started. With her competence and dedication, she rose from being a clinical instructor to becoming Associate Professor 3, handling various Nursing courses for a span of 41 fruitful years. She also taught Advanced Medical Surgical Nursing, a course she claimed to be close to her heart, in the UST

Graduate School for more than 25 years.

As a university academician, she was also tasked with special assignments. She was Level Chair for Levels II, III & IV of the Nursing Program, Chair of committees like Faculty Development, Student Welfare & Development and Alumni Relations. She was Chair of the Area of Instruction for the College's Levels I-IV PACUCOA accreditation. She was a member of the Dean's Council twice, and of the UST Faculty Tribunal for eight years. She retired in May, 2015 after 41 years as a fulfilled nurse educator.

It was not only the Thomasians who were blessed to benefit from the competence of Assoc. Prof. Tionko; she has numerous reviewees and tons of youth to prove it. She has conducted review classes for the Philippine Licensure Examinations all over the country. She was likewise an accomplished yet humble motivational speaker and catechist. In fact, she finds teaching Spirituality in Nursing as the most fulfilling. The love of teaching Spirituality for varied groups is a fruit of years as a catechist from high school up to college, and later as a youth formator and an

adult catechist in parishes, and in the teaching ministries of Bukas Loob sa Diyos Covenant Community, The Family Renewal Movement, the Communio et Missio Formation Institute, and the Mariology Movement where she got most of her spiritual formation. She continues to make herself available to organize and lead small Bible prayer groups, give recollections, formation workshops and motivational talks to students, professionals, and lay people. She loves sharing the Gospel of God's love not only as a catechist and spiritual motivational speaker but most of all, helping young nurses experience and share God's love in their vocation as nurses. *"Be the best nurse you can ever be by seeing, feeling and serving Christ in your patients"* is the core of her teaching in Nursing, whatever subject it may be.

Retirement was not a downer for Ma'am Ida. Instead, it has given her new "tires" and energy to spread her wings and keep her more productive. She continues to play an active role in the alumni affairs in the College of Nursing, having been the President of the UST Nursing Alumni Association, Inc. thrice in different terms, leading its fund-raising drives for its Nursing Bus, scholarships and other advocacies. Currently, she serves as the Vice President of the UST Alumni Association, Inc. heading Team Academics that conducts the weekly *Bridges* talk show on USTAAl FB

Continued on page 10

