



THE THOMASIAN ALUMNI COMMUNITY

VOL. NO 6 ISSUE NO. 1

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE UST ALUMNI ASSOCIATION, INC.

Newsletter

TOMASINO PARA SA KAPWA PILIPINO SUPPORTS FIRE VICTIMS IN NAVOTAS

On November 17, 2022, the USTAAL Advocacy group and the UST Thomasian Alumni Leaders Association (TALA) donated and distributed relief goods with bread, noodles, bottles, bags, slippers and shirts at the Centennial Park C4, Navotas to 400 families who were affected by the fire last November 14 in Brgy. Bagumbayan North and Brgy. Navotas West. Five passed away as a result of the fire. More than 1500 people were affected.

Thanks to all the donors, including the Neria Family, QC Dynamic Lions Club, and Mitsui Trading Phils.



USTAAL and OAR Honor Distinguished Alumni in an Onsite Recognition Ceremony

Two years after conducting online recognition ceremonies, the UST Alumni Association, Inc. (USTAAL) and the Office of Alumni Relations (OAR) celebrated onsite The Distinguished Thomasian Alumni Night (TDTAN) on November 26, 2022 at the UST Buenaventura Garcia Paredes, O.P. Grand Ballroom.

The annual celebration was called by USTAAL President Dr. Evelyn Songco "a statement to the world that UST has produced unlimited men and women of distinction whose works and actions resonate in their professional field and the community."

"The USTAAL dreams that a time will come



that we can bring together more distinguished Thomasian alumni who shall be branded as [an] elite community of practice," said Dr. Songco. "For us, elite is a brand that stands for Excellence, Love, Illuminate, Timeless, and Empowering," she added.

There are no strict qualifications to be included in the roster of distinguished alumni. The alumni associations, chapters, and groups may nominate honorees whom they see fit. However, nominees must be presented to USTAAL where they are assessed if they have an excellent track record proving they are a cut above the rest. For this year, 103 alumni made it to the list. Honorees were presented at the ceremony according to the alumni association which nominated them.

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OAR Presents the Thomasian Alumni Charter to Alumni Associations and Groups

The UST Office of Alumni Relations (OAR), in collaboration with the UST Alumni Association, Inc. (USTAAL), called for a general assembly of all alumni associations, chapters, and interest-based groups to present the working draft of the Thomasian Alumni Charter on December 10, 2022 at the 4th Floor of the Buenaventura Garcia

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TIGER DEALS!



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Your daily dose of sunshine
even without the sun.



FERN-ACTIV

PHP 900

The harder-working everyday
vitamin for stronger immune
system.



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Your daily dose of milk in
capsule form. Helps regulate
blood pressure and promotes
quality sleep.



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With Triple-A age defying
ingredients. Hydrates and
moisturizes your skin without the
sticky or greasy feeling.



AURORA BEAUTY BAR SOAP
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hydrating and moisturizing
ingredients that cleanse your skin
without leaving it dry.



**PROSPERITY IN
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The greatest wealth is health



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AURORA EYE CREAM
PHP 950

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



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

Created by:
Artist Seb Chua



For Inquiries:
Look for Ms. Kaye
09175231522 / ustaaiscretariat@gmail.com

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



ALUMNI GOLFERS GEAR UP FOR THE RESUMPTION OF THE 5TH RECTOR'S CUP

The Alumni Golfers Committee with the Office of Alumni Relations drumbeat the upcoming fifth series of the Rector's Cup: Thomasian Alumni Golf Tournament with a courtesy visit to the UST Rector, Very Rev. Fr. Richard G. Ang, O.P., PhD on November 9, 2022. Also present in the

meeting was the IPEA Director and Regent Rev. Fr. Rodel S. Cansancio, O.P.

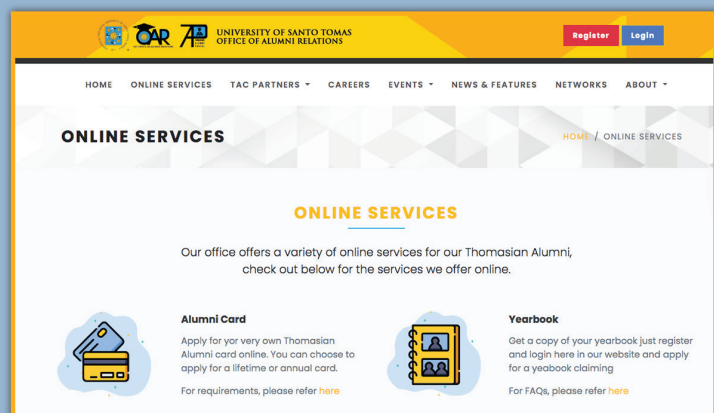
The 5th edition of the Rector's Cup was supposed to happen in May 2020, but it was finally decided to hold it on February 6, 2023 at the Forest Hills Golf and Country Club, Antipolo, Rizal. Tournament Chairman

Dr. Adrian Paolo Laurel pledged the group's support to the university and its student-athletes. Despite the venue change of the tourney, the committee made a firm decision to still hold it on a two-course golf club with 36 holes to accommodate more players and gather bigger funds for their advocacy. For this year, the organizers are expecting 200 participating golfers from different alumni associations, groups, and chapters.

IPEA Athletics Moderator Asst. Prof. Rodrigo I. Sambuang, MEd, proudly introduced the captains of the different winning UST sports teams in the UAAP to the tournament committee. The student-athletes greeted and thanked the alumni for their dedication. Dr. Laurel, a former student-athlete himself, gave a word of advice to them about being resilient during these trying times and being focused on playing for the university, but not sacrificing their studies in the process.

UST was able to bag the UAAP General Championship this season 84. Asst. Prof. Sambuang shared with the group that their goal is to continue this winning streak, and further the development and training of its athletes. - **Office of Alumni Relations**

OAR Opens Alumni Card Applications Online; Onsite Services Resume for Limited Time



The UST Office of Alumni Relations resumed its online services at the Thomasian Alumni Portal (TAP) with a new feature real-time payment system powered by Maya. The alumni can now apply for an alumni card and/or request yearbook delivery service anytime, then have their payment through credit/debit cards and e-wallets verified fast and secured. This improvement will shorten the turnaround time of the whole application and delivery process from 2 months from the payment verification date of the user to just 2 weeks.

After a two-year suspension of face-to-face transactions, OAR also opened its doors to the alumni who wish to apply and claim their alumni cards and/or yearbooks physically for a limited time in preparation for the return of Paskuhan onsite. The alumni card is required to enter the University campus during the Paskuhan festivities. QR codes can also

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OAR Presents the Thomasian Alumni Charter ... from page 1

Paredes, O.P. Building-Thomasian Alumni Center.

OAR Director Asst. Prof. Fredeswindo R. Medina, MACHs introduced the charter to the assembly and shared his vision and motivations in creating this initiative with the cooperation of the USTAAI. The said charter underwent an intensive writeshop and series of revisions before it was discussed to its stakeholders.

The Thomasian Alumni Charter is a handbook and guide for the University and USTAAI where roles, relationship, and responsibilities of both parties are defined as they share a common objective of serving the

alumni community. It also includes standardized accountability and regulatory procedures concerning the operations of all parties involved, such as the formation and recognition of alumni groups, organizing alumni-related activities, and homecoming and reunion celebrations. The project also aims to proactively address future issues that may be encountered along the way.

After the presentation, the presidents and representatives of the alumni groups were given the opportunity to raise questions and voice their concerns and suggestions during the session.

The points discussed will be taken into



consideration in the revision of the charter.

The final manuscript of the Thomasian Alumni Charter is set to be launched next year. - **Office of Alumni Relations**

HONOREES, UST 7TH ALUMNI NIGHTUST Alumni Priest Association, Inc.

- **BP. LEONARDO Y. MEDROSO, D.D.** (Licentiate in Canon Law, 1973)
- **MSGR. ACHILLES DAKAY** (Licentiate in Philosophy, 1956)
- **MSGR. JOSEFINO S. RAMIREZ** (Doctorate in Sacred Theology, 1983)

UST Law Alumni Foundation, Inc.

- **COUNCILOR RAUL ROSERO CORRO** (Bachelor of Laws, 1987)
- **JUSTICE ESPERANZA FABON-VICTORINO** (Bachelor of Laws, 1982)
- **JUDGE MARIA BERNARDITA J. SANTOS** (Bachelor of Laws, 1979)
- **MAYOR FERDINAND TRINIDAD** (Bachelor of Laws, 1988)

UST Medicine Alumni Association, Inc.

- **EDGAR LERMA, MD** (Doctor of Medicine, 1991)
- **ELVIRA MAYO MILO, MD** (Doctor of Medicine, 1977)
- **ESPERANZA RIVERA, MD** (Doctor of Medicine, 1954)
- **CONSUELO SUAREZ, MD** (Doctor of Medicine, 1986)
- **NENA ENG TAN, MD** (Doctor of Medicine, 1952)
- **CRISTINA LOYOUNG, MD** (Doctor of Medicine, 1958)

UST Faculty of Pharmacy Alumni Association and Scholarship, Inc.

- **DELIA R. CHIONG-WONG** (BS Pharmacy, 1982)
- **LEILA LANY MONSERRAT-FLORENTO** (BS Medical Technology, 1977)
- **HENRY SAAVEDRA OH** (BS Medical Technology, 1982)
- **MARI-ANN CHAN TEE** (BS Pharmacy, 1992)
- **PRISCILLA M. TORRES, PHD** (BS Medical Technology, 1970)

UST Phillets and Artlets Alumni Association, Inc.

- **CECILIO ADORNA** (AB Economics, 1973)
- **CARLOS "CHARLIE" A. AGATEP** (AB Journalism, 1950)
- **FR. RANHILIO C. AQUINO** (AB Philosophy, 1978)
- **ATTY. JOSE D. LINA, JR.** (AB Economics, 1975)
- **DR. BELEN L. TANGCO** (AB Political Science, 1971)
- **JOSE VICTOR Z. TORRES, PHD** (AB Journalism, 1987)

UST Engineering Alumni Association, Inc.

- **ENGR. RICARDO SOGUILON BALOG** (BS Mechanical Engineering, 1980)
- **ENGR. JOHN PAUL DE LAS PEÑAS PE** (BS Civil Engineering, 1987)
- **ENGR. ELIZABETH PAREJA ROMUALDO** (BS Chemical Engineering, 1969)

UST College of Education Alumni Foundation, Inc.

- **MARGARITA CRUZ-CARLOS** (BS Food Service Admin, 1982)
- **MARGARITA STA. ANA CRUZ** (BSE major in Filipino, minor in Library Science, 1965)
- **MA. SOCORRO ENDRINA-IGNACIO** (BS Education, 1977)
- **PILAR ISIDORO-ROMERO** (BSE major in Guidance and Character Education, 1981)

UST College of Science Alumni Association, Inc.

- **CECILLE ARENAS-TERRIBLE** (BS Psychology, 1976)
- **NEOGIN A. EVANGELISTA** (BS Chemistry, 1982)
- **LINNIE MAYORALGO-DINOPOL, MBE, PHD** (BS Psychology)

UST High School Alumni Association, Inc.

- **ENGR. MARIANO STA. ROMANA AGONCILLO** (1974)

- **JOSELITO "JOEL" S. CRUZ** (1982)
- **ENGR. EMMANUEL LAZARO R. ESTRADA** (1977)
- **MA. ASUNCION G. FUGOSO** (1982)
- **REAR ADMIRAL JUAN MANUEL F. RAMOS JR.** (1984)
- **MARIA JULIA AMORSOLO VALDES** (1984)

UST Architecture Alumni Association, Inc.

- **AR. TOBIAS ADOR BONAORA** (BS Architecture, 1975)
- **MR. RICHARD P. BUXANI** (BS Architecture, 1994)
- **AR. ROBERT MEDINA MIRAFUENTE** (BS Architecture, 1983)

UST College of Commerce Alumni Foundation, Inc.

- **OLIVIA A. FERRY** (BSC Management Marketing, 1960)
- **JOSEFINA SULIT** (BS Banking and Finance, 1966)
- **DDG. ROSANNA A. URDANETA** (BS Economics, 1984)
- **MARIA PAZ M. WARREN-FORONDA** (BSC Business Administration, 1958)

UST Graduate School Alumni Association, Inc.

- **JOYCE L. ARRIOLA, PHD** (PhD Literature, 2003)
- **REYNALD RYAN D. BARRION, MBA** (MBA, 2008)
- **TOMAS S. TIU, PHD** (PhD Commerce, 2019)
- **MELINDA D. TORRES, PHD** (PhD Commerce, 2009)
- **ERIC BABAR ZERRUDO, PHD** (PhD Development Studies, 2018)

UST Music Alumni Association, Inc.

- **ENRIQUE D. BARCELO** (Bachelor of Music, 1968)
- **JULIE ANN ANGKICO HALLAZGO** (MA in Piano Performance, 1978)
- **PILAR R. JIMENEZ** (Master of Music, 1956)

UST Nursing Alumni Association, Inc.

- **DANILO CINCO BERNAL, RN** (1991)
- **MARIA IRMA CUCIO BUSTAMANTE, RN** (1979)
- **MAY RICHELLE A. CESTINA-PARSONS, RN** (2000)
- **PROF. ROWENA LEI ESCOLAR-CHUA, PHD, RN** (1993)
- **AMELITA S. SISON-NAVARRO, RN** (1965)

UST EHS Graduates' Association, Inc.

- **NESTOR M. ATIENZA** (1963)
- **JAIME V. BANTOLO** (1959)
- **ELVIRA B. CABALLES** (1961)
- **TERESITA VERGARA DAVID** (1957)
- **THELMA U. MANGUBAT** (1963)

UST Rehabilitation Sciences Alumni Association, Inc.

- **LILY ANN DURAN BAUTISTA** (BS Physical Therapy, 1994)
- **ROD CHARLIE DELOS REYES** (BS Occupational Therapy, 2014)
- **ARTHUR BHENEDICT KO KING** (BS Physical Therapy, 2003)
- **DONALD S. LIPARDO** (BS Physical Therapy, 1999)
- **MA. SHEEN YMEL S. PARIDO-CENIDOZA** (BS Physical Therapy, 2015)

UST Atelier Alumni Association, Inc.

- **ROLANDO L. ALIB** (BFA, 1959)
- **NORMA BELLEZA** (BFA Painting, 1962)
- **DANILO E. DALENA** (BFA Advertising Arts, 1964)
- **BRILLANTE M. MENDOZA** (BFA Advertising Arts, 1982)
- **JOSE TENCE RUIZ** (BFA Painting, 1979)
- **RONALD VENTURA** (BFA Painting, 1993)
- **JOSE "PINGGOT" V. ZULUETA** (BFA Painting, 1982)

UST Accountancy Alumni Association, Inc.

- **ANTONIO J. DAYAG** (BSC Accounting, 1988)

UST Tourism and Hospitality Management Alumni Association, Inc.

- **ANGEL ALVAREZ-LAO** (BS Tourism, 1996)
- **JOCELYN CAGUIN-RUBIA** (BS HRM, 1989)
- **JOSE MARIE ERNESTO DELGADO OUANO III** (BS HRM, 1993)
- **JOCELYN R. SOCAO** (BS Tourism, 1993)

Golden Cross and Saber Alumni Association, Inc.

- **MANSUETO G. AMOLAT** (BS Business Management, 1979)
- **ATTY. MISAEL DOMINGO C. BATTUNG III** (BSC Business Administration, 1986)
- **LTC XAVIER C. CELESTIAL** (BM Music Education, 1986)

Thomsonian Alumni Leaders Association, Inc.

- **RYAN OSCAR M. APLICADOR, MD** (Doctor of Medicine, 2004)
- **CHRISMA BANGAOIL** (AB Behavioral Science, 1992)
- **MARY ERIKA N. BOLAÑOS, PHD** (PhD Theology, 2016)
- **PETER PAUL OMALLAO CIFRA** (BM Composition, 2000)
- **ATTY. FROILAN B. PITPIT** (AB Legal Management, 2004)

Tomasinong Bikolano

- **MONINA ABRANTES FAJARDO-LUZURIAGA, MD** (Doctor of Medicine, 1961)
- **MOST REV. LUCILO BARRAMEDA QUIAMBABO, DD** (BS Education, 1964)
- **JOSE CHAVEZ RAÑOLA, MD** (Doctor of Medicine, 1969)

Tomasinong Kapampangan

- **ENGR. ISAAC S. DAVID** (BS Civil Engineering, 1972)
- **FILOMENA M. MERCADO-PINEDA, MD** (Doctor of Medicine, 1962)

UST PMT/CAT

- **COMMODORE EDWIN M. MACKAY, PN** (UST EHS, 1977)
- **DTI ASST. SECRETARY JEAN T. PACHECO** (MBA, 1999)
- **AR. INOCENCIO SD. SONGCO II** (BS Architecture, 1978)

Tomasinong SOCCSKSARGEN

- **ROCHELLE GAJETE-OCO, MD** (BS Biology, 1998)

UST Pax Romana Alumni Association, Inc.

- **MARY JEAN VILLA-REAL-GUNO, MD** (Doctor of Medicine, 1982)

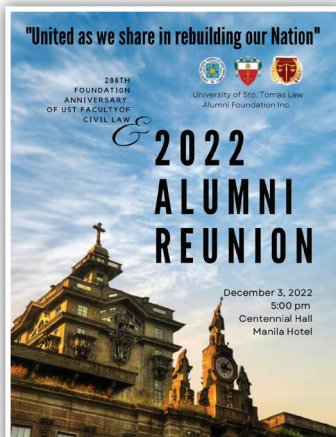
Tomasinong Ilokano – La Union

- **HON. MENCHIE L. DE GUZMAN, MD** (BS Biology, 1989)
- **AR. RONALD S. DY** (BS Architecture, 1993)
- **MR. EDUARDO V. REGALA** (BS HRM, 1988)

DTAN Honorees (From USTAAI Facebook page)

Dr. Songco expressed her wish to see all distinguished alumni, including the past batches, at the TDTAN Homecoming in 2023. This event aims to connect the honorees to each other and have a collective voice in supporting the mission of the University in forming competent and compassionate persons committed to the service of the Church, the nation, and the global community.

– **Office of Alumni Relations**



Alumni Awardees pose for a photo.

UST-LAW ALUMNI HOMECOMING: FROM VIRTUAL TO FACE-TO-FACE

The alumni homecoming event is a time-honored tradition for many universities and colleges. After two years of virtual gatherings due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the UST Faculty of Civil Law alumni finally had the opportunity to come together in person for the much-anticipated face-to-face event.

The event was held in the evening of December 3, 2022 at the Centennial Hall of the Manila Hotel, and brought together UST-LAW graduates from different classes, batches and backgrounds to celebrate the 288th Foundation Anniversary of the Faculty of Civil Law. The transition from virtual to in-person was a joyous occasion for all who attended.

Around 200 persons registered and attended the 2022 Homecoming under the theme "United as we share in rebuilding our Nation." It was a welcome return to the face-to-face celebration after the Covid-19 pandemic canceled the 2020 celebration with then Class of 1995 as Silver Jubilarians.

Despite the challenges and limitations brought about by the pandemic, the Class of 1995 remained strong in spirit and virtually gathered with some of their batch mates and friends, joining forces with the Class of 1996 in order to push through the first and only



Attys. Marie, Meliz and Mariz pose for a photo.

joint virtual homecoming of the UST Faculty of Civil Law held last December, 2021. The 2022 homecoming was hosted by the Class of 1997 as they celebrated their Silver Jubilee. It was

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BA COMMUNICATION, JOURNALISM PROGRAMS AWARDED AUN-QA CERTIFICATIONS



The Department of Communication and Media Studies has become the first in the UST Faculty of Arts and Letters to obtain international quality seals, with its two programs now certified by the ASEAN University Network-Quality Assurance (AUN-QA).

The B.A. Communication and B.A. Journalism programs received the coveted AUN-QA certifications on Nov. 29, 2022 in an official communication from Dr. Choltis Dhirathiti, executive director of the ASEAN University Network.

"We take this opportunity to congratulate UST for achieving the requirements of the AUN-QA standards and completing the program assessment," Dr. Dhirathiti said in his letter to UST Rector Fr. Richard G. Ang, O.P., Ph.D.

Formed by the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) to raise educational standards in the region, the AUN "recognizes the importance of quality in higher education, and the need to develop a holistic quality assurance system to raise academic standards and enhance education, research, and service among its member universities."

Art and Letters Dean Prof. Marilu Madrunio, Ph.D. said the Communication and Journalism programs were assessed based on eight criteria: expected learning outcomes, program structure and content, teaching and learning approach, student assessment, academic staff, student support services, facilities and infrastructure,

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GSAGAI Holds its Annual Pasko Ipadama Program

The Graduate School Alumni and Grants Association Inc. (GSAGAI) held its 6th "Pasko Ipadama Outreach Program" in the form of feeding and gift-giving activities to around 120 marginalized kids around San Lorenzo Ruiz Parish in Dagat-Dagatan, Navotas City on December 6, 2022. The activity was spearheaded by GSAGAI President Dr. Fernando R. Pedrosa, assisted by his predecessor Dr. Teresita C. Meer, some GS alumni, and parish volunteers. The event was followed by an impromptu Kapihan headed by the San Lorenzo Parish priest, Fr. Allan Lopez, O.P. - **Fernando Pedrosa, Batch 2004 Ph.D Dev Studies**

-CLICKER-RAZZI-







Alumni Event Attendees



USTLAFI Trustees, Officers and Consultants

UST-LAW ALUMNI HOMECOMING... ... from page 5

indeed a success.

The main event was the gala dinner where alumni gathered for a delicious meal and lively conversation. The atmosphere was upbeat, with everyone eager to catch up with old friends and make new ones. It was amazing to see how much everyone had changed and grown, yet how the bond between them all remained strong. There was a buzz in the air as everyone reconnected after many years apart.

After dinner, there were speeches from the USTLAFI President - Atty. Maria Elena Go-Francisco, and a special guest speaker - Hon. Justice Amy C. Lazaro-Javier, Associate Justice of the Supreme Court, who shared their experiences and memories from their time at the Faculty. Worth remembering was the inspirational message of Justice Angelina Sandoval-Gutierrez, USTLAFI Chairman who said, *"So, let us be united and do our part in healing our shattered nation. Let us rise to this challenge. But how? Remembering the mission of the Faculty of Civil Law - 'to be worthy members of the legal profession and the community, particularly in the pursuit of truth and the promotion of justice' will be our starting point. What follows is that we must adhere to and continue to share with*

others our commitment to spread love, truth, and justice in order to rebuild our country. Hopefully and expecting it must be so, light will triumph over darkness."

The Dean of the UST Faculty of Civil Law, Atty. Nilo T. Divina, in his special report provided an update on the post-COVID operations of the Faculty. He emphasized the importance of ensuring the health and safety of students, faculty and staff as the university begins to open. He also highlighted the Faculty's efforts to provide students with a high-quality education, despite the challenges posed by the pandemic.

Another highlight of the night was the presentation of awards to alumni who had made significant contributions to their communities and to the legal profession. It was inspiring to see the impact that these alumni have made and the successes they had achieved.

The Centennial Hall of the Manila Hotel that night was filled with fun, laughter, fond memories and rekindled friendships as alumni relived their time in the Faculty. Many left the event feeling reconnected and reinvigorated, ready to continue making new memories and building new relationships. - **Atty. Marissa V. Manalo, Civil Law, 1995**

BA COMMUNICATION... from page 5

and output and outcomes.

"This was a very rigorous assessment as the two programs were scrutinized by AUN-QA assessors based on the latest version of the AUN-QA program-level assessment model, Version 4.0, which placed heavy emphasis on the design of intended learning outcomes, how they were measured, and how well they were achieved," Madrunio explained.

The team of AUN-QA assessors was composed of Asst. Prof. Dr. Sharul Tazrajiman Hj Tajuddin (University Teknologi Brunei) and Dr. Le Thi Giao Chi (University of Danang - Vietnam), lead assessor and assessor, respectively, for B.A. Communication; and Assoc. Prof. Dr. Pham Van Tuan (University of Danang - Vietnam) and Assoc. Prof. Dr. Pornpun Prajaknate (National Institute of Development Administration), lead assessor and assessor, respectively, for B.A. Journalism.

The assessors conducted a remote visit and interviewed college administrators, faculty, students, alumni, and industry representatives from July 4-8, 2022, using videoconferencing facilities.

Asst. Prof. Jose Arsenio J. Salandanan, M.S., the department chair, noted that the AUN-QA certifications were obtained despite the challenges posed by the Covid-19 pandemic.

"Preparing the documents during a pandemic was never easy. Add to this the fact that we did not formally train in Bangkok, Thailand for the SAR (Self- Assessment Report) writing. All we had was a firm resolve to do our best in gathering the necessary documents that will make a decent and impressive assessment report," he said.

Journalism Program Coordinator Felipe Salvosa II, M.A. said the assessors recognized that the two programs were among the top in their respective fields and possessed qualified and competent faculty, and were able to adapt quickly to the demands of the virtual learning setup.

"Obtaining these certifications however is only the beginning of a continuous cycle of improvement. Both programs commit to work on the recommendations made by the team of assessors, which are very helpful and constructive," he said.

Communication and Journalism were assessed along with the University's Tourism and Hospitality Management programs, which also received the AUN-QA quality seal. The latest certifications brought the total number of AUN-QA certified UST programs to 18. UST obtained institutional-level certification from AUN-QA in 2019.

The two high-flying programs are both Centers of Development as declared by the

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PISTANG PAX

The UST Pax Romana Alumni Association Inc. (USTPRAAI) held its first Pax Alumni Homecoming last November 27, 2022, at the Dr. Robert Sy Ballroom of the Thomasian Alumni Center, Buenaventura Garcia Paredes, O.P. (BGPOP) Building, more popularly known to the alumni as the original gymnasium. It was a blast seeing old friends, familiar faces, and new acquaintances, especially after years of social distancing.

Thanks to the leadership of outgoing president and now Chairman of USTPRAAI, Dr. Egidio "Dong" Elio, the beloved vice president and Homecoming Chairman and now President of the Thomasian Alumni Community Foundation Inc. (TACFI), Engr. Frederick "Pakoy" Parayno, and the industrious and charming new president, Dr. Ferdinand "Ferdie" Martinez, this much awaited, first face-to-face activity, came to fruition.

The event began with a con-celebrated mass led by Bishop Rex Andrew Alarcon, D.D., together with Rev. Fr. Pablo Tiong, O.P., Rev. Fr. Roberto Luanzon Jr., O.P., and Fr. Ronnie Banaria, CMF.

Bishop Alarcon reminded the Paxies that "we live in a different world... we speak of multiplicity, pluralism, [and] diversity; and in this situation, we continue our quest for peace. Our quest for peace has not ended." The bishop added, "things are changing in a very rapid manner, yet we continue to beat the battle between good and evil—a battle that we experience deep in our hearts." He stated that as disciples of Jesus, it is our challenge to bridge the gap between words and action, intention and action, to bring faith in God. Bishop Alarcon also reminded everyone, "the uncertainty of the future prevails, but when

we prepare ourselves with the faith, we can synergistically work together. And when our efforts seem vague and lacking, always remember, Christ is our peace." The Bishop congratulated the newly elected officers and wished them all the best in the future endeavors of the organization. As he ended the homily, he wished for God's blessing to the newly elected officers and all alumni Paxies.

After the First Advent Sunday Eucharistic Celebration, the Induction of the Incoming Board of Trustees followed. The new board of trustees are:

- **Dr. Egidio Elio** - *Chairman*
- **Dr. Ferdinand Martinez** - *President*
- **Olga Ramona Kho** - *Vice President*
- **Karen Gan Pineda** - *Secretary*
- **Arlene K. Talaue** - *Treasurer*
- **Ma. Theresa S. Cuasmasa** - *PRO*
- **Jephthe O. Munez** - *Auditor & Compliance Officer*
- **Dr. Jesus Ken Querubin** - *Trustee*
- **Jacqueline B. Maniquis** - *Trustee*
- **Marilou M. Mendoza** - *Trustee*
- **Dr. Mary Jean Guno** - *Trustee*

The homecoming was hosted by Olga Kho, Sean Matthew Sison and Alyssa Marie Cabiling. Icebreakers got the crowd excited as they named and sang the tune played from different genres.

Dr. Dong Elio welcomed the guests and gave a bit of background on how the former board of trustees organized the USTPRAAI during the pandemic. Dr. Elio emphasized to the alumni that "if, as a student group, we were able to make our presence felt within the university, this time as a professional group, we will always strive to make a difference in the lives we touch – not only as Thomasians, but as Thomasian Paxies as well. We will always be guided by the core values and the aspirations of our alma mater." He also reiterated the words of Fr. Leonardo Legaspi back in 1976 during their induction when Fr. Legaspi said, "UST



has invariably considered you [Pax Romana] as the most important organization in the university, why she has always lavished the best attention and care on you. For indeed Pax Romana, among all student organizations, stands closest to her mission and therefore closest to her heart." Dr. Elio ended his speech by reminding the alumni that "the UST Pax Romana Alumni Association will always stand closest to the mission and to the heart of the University of Santo Tomas."

College of Commerce Pax Alumni Batch 1987 and a member of the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra, Mr. Ferdie Dumlaog gave an extraordinary violin rendition. After this, the MERJ Band, composed of graduates of UST, entertained the alumni while they enjoyed their merienda cena prepared by notable caterer Ricci Ang of Ricci's Kitchen.

A UST Pax Romana audio-visual presentation entitled "Timeless" was played to give a glimpse of Pax Romana history, activities from different colleges, and the direction where it is headed through the leadership of the next batch of officers and board of trustees.

Incoming President Dr. Ferdie Martinez became emotional during his closing remarks, as he thanked the organizers, the outgoing board of trustees for the trust and confidence of the attendees to make Pax Romana a vision of camaraderie as we glorify the Lord through acts of service to our brothers and sisters. Homecoming Chairman Engr. Pakoy Parayno gave words of appreciation to the attendees, the volunteers and everyone who made this special occasion possible.

The organization is grateful for the hard work and commitment of its committee volunteers and handed certificates of appreciation to alumni Rhogie Medina-Feliciano, Gina Lazaro-Manuel, Jessielyn Punzalan, Arlene Kintanar Talaue, Racquel A. Castro, Marissa Uycoco Bacsa, Marilou Mendoza, Jackie Maniquis, Ma Theresa S. Cuasmasa, Olga Ko, Elaine Hufano, Cean De Vries, Jerem Balusero and Jephthe Munez for making the event possible.

Mr. Anton Go and Mr. Jojo Garcia, who made the arrangement of the Pax Romana Hymn, led the singing of the Hymn which was wholeheartedly sung by the crowd from the College/Faculty of Arts & Letters, Accountancy, Commerce, Science, Pharmacy, Engineering, Education, Fine Arts, Tourism & Hospitality Management, Nursing and Medicine. - **Karen Gan Pineda, Bachelor of Arts in Communication '88**

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Commission on Higher Education (CHED).

The latest program recognitions are among the major achievements of Dean Madrunio's tenure in Arts and Letters.

In 2021, Communication and Journalism, along with Asian Studies, Behavioral Science, Political Science, and Sociology, were re-accredited at Level III by the Philippine Association of Colleges and Universities – Commission on Accreditation (PACUCOA). B.A. in History, and B.A. in English Language Studies were granted a Level 1 Formal-Accredited status until June 2024.

B.A. Economics, Legal Management, Literature, and Philosophy (a CHED Center of Excellence) were previously given Level IV accreditation.

Communication and Journalism have also been instrumental to UST's seven straight "School of the Year" Award from the Philippine Student Quill Awards. - **Felipe F Salvosa II AB Econ, 2000**

OAR Presents the Thomasian... from page 1

be generated from TAP should alumni fail to present the alumni card.

According to OAR Director Asst. Prof. Fredeswindo R. Medina, the office is expecting to receive a heavy volume of alumni card applications both online and onsite for the next few weeks. He highly encouraged graduates who prefer to visit the office to come in earlier to avoid long queues and early cutoffs.

Graduates from all batches including the Class of 2022 are welcome to drop by the Buenaventura G. Paredes, OP Building-Thomasian Alumni Center to process their requests from November 15 to December 7 this year. - **Office of Alumni Relations**



AT A GLANCE

4th quarter 2022

- The UST Alumni Association, Inc., in partnership with the UST Office of Alumni Relations, presented the 7th DISTINGUISHED THOMASIAN ALUMNI NIGHT (DTAN November 26, 2022). The DTAN honors and recognizes UST Alumni who have excelled and shown exemplary work in their respective fields and career. Seven of the honorees are alumni of the UST Junior High School: Engr. MAURICIO "Morris" AGONCILLO, USTHS '74 - CO-OWNER of DATEM Construction, Inc.; JOSELITO "Joel" CRUZ, USTHS '82 - OWNER of AFFICIONADO; Engr. EMMANUEL "Manny" ESTRADA, USTHS '77 - VICE PRESIDENT of GLOBE TELECOM; MA. ASUNCION "Re" FUGOSO - USTHS '82 - DIRECTOR, DSWD Manila; Rear Admiral JUAN MANUEL "Jojo" RAMOS, USTHS '85 - PHILIPPINE COAST GUARD; JULIA "Eula" VALDEZ - USTHS '85 - MOVIE ACTRESS; JOCELYN R. SOCAO, USTHS '89 - PRESIDENT & CEO, HEALTHCORE INTERNATIONAL.
- The honorees were joined during the ceremonies by the UST HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI ALLIANCE FOUNDATION, INC. (USTAAFI) Officers for 2022-2025: President RONALDO "Ronnie" GOMEZ, Vice President ALVIN JUSTINIANI, Treasurer AGNES JULIAN, Council Member AVIC BARTILAD, and Senior Adviser EMELITO MALABANAN.
- The PRESIDENT'S CUP GOLF TOURNAMENT was launched by the USTAAFI on November 29, 2022 at the CAMP AGUINALDO GOLF COURSE. The TEE-OFF time was 6:00 a.m. onwards. Hole Sponsorship was P20,000 per hole with one free ticket; while the ticket price was pegged at P3,500 with the following inclusions: green fee, caddy fee, lunch, raffle ticket, and giveaways.
- It was a successful event and President Ronnie announced jubilantly that the NET proceeds would be used to fund the USTHSAFI SPECIAL ASSISTANCE FUND for alumni members who might need financial support due to calamities, tuition fee support for their children, and other personal emergency financial needs.
- Congratulations to PRINCESS GINA FRIAS ZARA ZARINA URDUJA, USTHS '81, an international fashion designer, for being awarded by the GAWAD PILIPINO AWARDS on December 21, 2022 as "THE UNSUNG HERO OF THE YEAR". Through her fashion business, she has opened jobs for underprivileged and economically



challenged individuals. She has likewise pursued an advocacy in humanitarianism, saving the environment, and women empowerment.

- Christmas parties galore blossomed in December 2022, ushered in by the USTAAFI Christmas party on December 10, which was attended by officers and members of the various Chapter Member Associations. It was a colorful and fun-filled occasion with a bountiful buffet table and lots of raffle prizes, music, and dancing.
- USTHS Class '63, the DIAMOND JUBILARIANS for 2023, held their Christmas Party at The TIU Restaurant along Connecticut Street in Greenhills, San Juan City on December 14. Laughter and banter filled the air even as there was so much food and so much to catch up with one another through the years. This event was led by Septuagenarians Bienvenido "Pet" Bautista, Cecile Bejasa-Saavedra, Letty Jacinto-Lopez, and Myrna Plata-Munda, among others.
- USTHS Class '71 of SONNY MARQUEZ sponsored its Christmas party on December 11 at The Sangkalan in Visayas Avenue. They were filled with excitement for the holidays



and their forthcoming SUBIC HOLY LAND PILGRIMAGE scheduled on January 26-27, 2023.

- USTHS Class '81 of Batch President ALEX VERGARA and USTHS Official Council Chair AVIC BARTILAD wouldn't be left behind as they caught up with the Christmas Party fever on December 21 at PIO'S GARDEN in Las Pinas City. In spite of the heavy traffic and the lingering fear related to the pandemic, a record number of more than 50 attendees came and partied away as they enjoyed the evening with games, the inevitable raffle draws, and of course, line dancing to the max. And proudly wearing their new UST GROWLING TIGERS T-shirts, the boys and girls of Batch '81 posed for their class pictures.
- There were more Christmas reunion parties sponsored by other classes, but they were not reported anymore due to the frenzy, plus the hustle, and bustle of the holidays.

May the New Year 2023 bring more lively and beneficial projects and activities for our UST (J) High School Alumni Association and USTHS Alumni Alliance Foundation, Inc. - **Myrna Plata-Munda, UST HS 1963.**



MY MEMORIES AT/OF UST



If you visit the UST campus these days, you will feel like it is a huge parking lot almost overflowing with cars. Back in the early 70s, you could walk around the 32-hectare campus without worrying that a car might hit you. Back then, you would always feel like you were walking around under the moonlight even in broad daylight. Very few students and faculty members drove cars into and around the campus. These days, even the campus street around the UST grandstand has become a tight parking lot.

But the grand thing about the campus these days happens during the Christmas season: at night, the campus is ablaze with twinkling lights hanging from the tall trees which had always been there but were never decorated with thousands of little lights in the 70s. I think it was in 2018 that the campus began to be adorned with twinklers at night during the Christmas season. Those who pass along España Avenue at night during the height of the pandemic surely felt marvelous at the sight of the glittering UST grounds.

I was a UST student in the early 70s, specifically at the Faculty of Arts and Letters (Artlets), where I took up Journalism, otherwise called Journ. I was already a Thomasian when Martial Law (ML) was declared in September 1972. Newspapers and radio-TV stations were shut down upon ML imposition and that must have been the reason there were less than

20 who majored in Journ (though MassCom majors made up two sections). Journ majors had to be combined with the handful of Literature and Philosophy majors in common subjects during our junior and senior years.

The UST rector in my freshman year was Fr. Leonardo Legaspi, O. P., who was appointed in 1970 as the first Filipino rector. The Artlets dean then was the brilliant Dutch diplomat, Fr. Frederick Fermin, O. P., who replaced Fr. Legaspi as rector in 1977. Fr. Fermin was (he passed in 2014 at the age of 90, same year as Fr. Legaspi did at a much younger age) naturalized as a Filipino for choosing to live and work here for decades. In fact, he died here, at a Dominican house in Baguio City.

Despite the presence of ML, student activism was alive in the 70s. Rallies were being held even inside the UST campus but in the late afternoons so I did not experience joining a demo since my classes in the morning. After my last class until my sophomore year, I usually stayed in the library until 3 or 4 pm (which meant I was taking lunch at the once very famous UST Coop in front of the Commerce Building whose first two floors were occupied by Artlets). UST libraries (aside from the central library at the Main Building, each faculty or college building had a library) were required to have several copies of textbooks in every subject, a big favor for students like me who did not want to buy textbooks). Sometimes,

instead of hanging out in the library, I would watch any of the free-admission shows either at the Education Auditorium or the Medicine Auditorium. I remember watching performances of Irma Enrile-Potenciano and Gloria Coronel there. I watched a lot of plays mounted by fellow Thomasians during student drama fests.

I joined Goldies Sing-Out in my sophomore year, and we had concerts at the Medicine Auditorium and at the Raha Soliman Theater at Fort Santiago. The renowned Miss Saigon actor Leo Valdez was a member for one semester. All because he decided to quit his Architecture studies and become a full-time professional singer. The Goldies Sing-Out seemed not to have lived beyond the 70s. I quit the group in my third year because I had the fine luck of being recommended by one of my Journ professors (the late Ramon Francisco of Manila Bulletin) to take over one of his senior Journ students as a student employee at the UST Office of Public Affairs (OPA). It was a writing-editing job, of course. I was editing an 8-page newsletter called Academia.

One of the events I got to cover while working at OPA was the visit at UST in 1974 of then Prince Juan Carlos Borbon and his wife Sofia. He was to receive an honorary doctorate. I had the chance to see up close and personal not just the royal couple, but also then First Lady Imelda Marcos, who turned out to be a very approachable woman. I was just a few feet away when I overheard journalist-faculty member Josephine Acosta introducing herself to Mrs. Marcos and requesting her for an appointment for a private interview. The First Lady immediately said "yes," and told the close-in aide a few feet around her to get Ms. Acosta's number. "I will call you soon!" Mrs. Marcos beamed. And she did. Ms. Acosta's series of feature articles began to appear in one of the newspapers just a week or two after Mrs. Marcos promised to call her. – **by Danny Vibas, AB Journalism (1975)**

Danny Vibas currently writes a twice-a-week entertainment and lifestyle column for *Daily Tribune*. He had been in the staff of *Manila Times and Malaya*. He obtained his Master of Arts in Teaching English Language and Literature from the Ateneo de Manila University as a scholar of the Commission on Higher Education. He taught College English at Far Eastern University-Manila where he was also University Publications Editor for 8 years. Currently, too, he hangs out a lot with members of the UST Atelier Society headed by Ms. Marie Pe Yang. He met the mid-80s alumni of the Atelier while covering the first exhibit in the country of Jordan-based Thomasian artist Elmer Dumlaog.



FEATURED THOMASIAN:

DWIGHT RAMOS



Our Man Dwight M. Ramos

Atty. Dwight Ramos is a steady and reliable presence at the USTAAL boardroom and events, and even virtually in the online show featuring outstanding Thomasians, *Bridges*, which he periodically hosts.

He is a founding member of Tomasining Ilocano La Union (TLU), one of the newest chapters of USTAAL, and has the distinct honor of being its first elected president. This, according to him, is his most important contribution so far: adding to the ever-growing family of associations under the UST Alumni Association, Inc. In his words, *"Tomasining Ilocano - La Union or TLU 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 La Union."* He is proud to have been an active part of this endeavor.

Beyond USTAAL however is a busy man with many responsibilities, fully committed to the environment and sustainability, a USTAAL advocacy. He is Senior Vice President of Basic Environmental Systems & Technologies (BEST), Inc., Executive Director of the

Solid Waste Contractors Association of the Philippines, Executive Vice President of the Solid Waste Management Association of the Philippines, and the spokesperson of the Coalition of Solid Waste Management Providers.

He started his career in 1990 with the Tax Division of SGV & Co., and became in-house legal and business development head, forming part of the senior management team of leading companies in the country. At the publicly listed IPM Holdings, Inc., their group made it to the Asia CEO Awards Circle of Excellence for the 2019 Executive Leadership Team of the Year. He also served as President of the Institute of Management Consultants of the Philippines in 2010 and 2011.

He has been a member of the Rotary Club of Quezon City since 2004, and a Faculty of the Rotary Academy and Rotary Center for Leadership. A Paul Harris Vocational Excellence Awardee in 2013, he has served as Governor of Rotary International District 3780 in 2016-17, as District Trainer in 2019-20, and as a Director of the Philippine College of Rotary Governors. He has taught at the UST Faculty of Civil Law and De La Salle College of Saint Benilde, and has also

authored the book, "Business Licensing and Registration" (Central Books, 2006).

As far as his education goes, Atty. Dwight graduated Cum Laude from UST with a Juris Doctor degree, from the Polytechnic University of the Philippines with a degree of Master in Public Administration, and from Saint Louis University in 1986 with a degree of Bachelor of Arts in Political Science. He was honored as an outstanding alumni awardee of the UST Law Alumni Foundation in 2015.

Atty. Dwight is married to Rose Anne "Angie" L. Ramos who is a teacher by profession. They have two children, Don Angelo who is a medical clerk at the Ateneo School of Medicine and Public Health, and Dianne Nicole who is a 3rd Year law student at the UST Faculty of Civil Law. He is actively present in his children's lives, and supports them by serving in their schools too. He is past president of the Ateneo Schools Parents Council (ASPAC) and consultant of the UST Law Alumni Foundation.

Truly, all those who know him are blessed to have a go-to man in their midst. USTAAL honors him for his dedicated service and true Thomasian values of compassion, competence and commitment. - **Nanette Fernandez BSE 1976**