



THE THOMASIAN ALUMNI COMMUNITY

VOL. NO 6 ISSUE NO. 3

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE UST ALUMNI ASSOCIATION, INC.

Newsletter

AAIG 2023 SUMMIT LAUNCHED



The University of Santo Tomas Alumni Association, Inc. (USTAAI) officially launched this year's Academe, Alumni, Industry, and Government (AAIG) International Multi-Sectoral Summit during the USTAAI Board of Trustees Meeting on June 10, 2023 at



Continued on page 4

A Celebration of Tradition and Legacy: Alumni Santacruzán and Homecoming of Icons



This year's Santacruzán was the highlight of the Thomasian Icons' Homecoming held on May 6, 2023 at the university campus, and it was a beautiful spectacle that showcased the creativity and ingenuity of our alumni. Spearheaded by the UST Alumni Association, Inc. (USTAAI) Events Chair Dr. Rollo Milante, in collaboration with the Office of Alumni Relations Director Fredeswindo Medina, the successful event brought together alumni from different generations and backgrounds to celebrate our shared heritage.

The event started with the recitation of the Holy Rosary followed by floral offerings (Flores de Mayo) to our Lady at the Santísimo Rosario Church. Holy Mass followed, concelebrated by Msgr. Bernie Pantin and Rev. Fr. Jerome Secillano of the Alumni Priests Association. After the final blessing, the Santacruzán procession began inside the church. As the descriptions of the different Reinas were read, the solemn procession began to the altar, then to the front of the Church

Continued on page 4

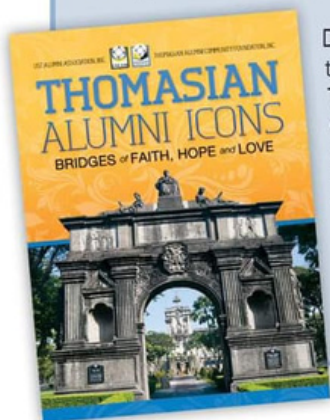
COFFEE TABLE BOOK SHOWCASED IN ICONS' HOMECOMING

The UST Alumni Association Inc. (USTAAI) and the Thomasian Alumni Community Foundation, Inc. (TACFI) launched its first fund-raising project together, with the coffee table book Thomasian Icons: Bridges of Faith, Hope and Love, meant to document the contributions of our TOTAL awardees and those honored as Distinguished Alumni. The launch was the highlight of the Thomasian Icons homecoming dinner program on May 6, 2023 at the BGPOP Alumni Center lobby.

With the Santacruzán reynas and consorts (some of whom are Thomasian Icons themselves) in their finery, and the Icons garbed in Filipiniana, the homecoming dinner was a glittering celebrity event that attracted journalists from the national dailies.

In the program launch, USTAAI Chair and TACFI Executive Director Evelyn Songco explained the project, and acknowledged the Committee and Editorial Board tasked to put the book together. These were Chairperson Ma. Elena De Jesus-Manansala of Pharmacy, with Evelyn Ariola-Songco of CEAFL as co-chair; and Ana Marie Ochoa-Fernandez, Allan Gan Banal, Katherine Lou Keyser-Bundang, Hector Pangilinan Ocampo, Angelita Suarez Sarile, and Nancy Niles-Tabirara as members.

The 200-page legacy book attracted over a hundred participants and donors, classified as Diamond, Gold, Silver and Bronze. The personalized hard bound copies will be distributed in July. - **Nanette Fernandez, BSE 1976**





FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK: *At Your Service* by Atty Dwight Ramos

'Buddy Check' for Thomasian Alumni

We're now upon the post-pandemic era and traveling is back in our lives. We are now also slowly shifting to more face-to-face gatherings, especially among our alumni groups. In her newspaper column, Hyon O'Brien of The Korea Times, talked about her experience in the 'buddy check' system and how she thinks this should be promoted and used by different groups in order to instill in members awareness of others and cultivate the habit of checking on other's well-being and progress in an organization or journey.

Ms. O'Brien said she returned from a trip to Turkey with a tour group. Their tour guide introduced them to the concept of a 'buddy check' where each one was supposed to find a 'buddy' among the group, someone who was not one's spouse or traveling companion. The main reason for the arrangement was to ensure that none of them was left behind each time they came back to the bus after sightseeing,

eating, bathroom breaks, and photo-ops. A married couple might be overlooked, but the buddies would probably not go missing at the same time. It made the head counts much easier, plus it worked to develop a bonding among buddies. Not only were their tour successful and made much more enjoyable, but they also found a new life-long friend out of their buddy.

Inspired by what she saw in the tour, Ms. O'Brien persuaded the pastoral care ministry of their church to apply the 'buddy check' system. They made a list of 16 recently joined members and assigned an old member to each one. They understood that they needed to be in touch with those assigned to them regularly, have an occasional meal with them, check whether they are attending church regularly, and if not, follow-up with calls, texts, and emails. Again, she was very happy with the results as it did not only prevent fall-outs but also inspired deeper commitment among buddies.

As you now start to plan for gatherings and events, you may wish to look at how the 'buddy check' system can work to your advantage and your Alumni Association. Among your co-alumni, you may wish to buddy-up to make sure all of your members and volunteers will make it to your activities and projects so that no one will be left behind. You may wish to ask the senior members of your association to start looking out for at least one new member each. This way, new members are sure to be engaged and it will deepen their commitment and enhance their participation in all Alumni and Alma Mater activities.

In conclusion, Ms. O'Brien went on to quote Oprah Winfrey who said, "Every one of us gets through the tough times because somebody is there, standing in the gap to close it for us." In a way, the 'buddy check' system is a form of standing in the gap for others. There are too many cracks in our life that want to swallow us alive. Having a buddy means that there is someone out there who is willing to make sure we don't fall into a crack.

Rector's Cup Committee Turns Over Tournament Proceeds to IPEA

Thomasian alumni golfers and the Office of Alumni Relations (OAR) officially concluded the 5th edition of the Rector's Cup with a turnover ceremony of tournament proceeds to its student athlete beneficiaries through the Institute of Physical Education and Athletics (IPEA) on April 26, 2023.

OAR Director Asst. Prof. Fredeswindo R. Medina, MACHs, together with the Tournament Chairman and IPEA alumnus Dr. Adrian Paolo Laurel and incoming Tournament Director Arch. Eduardo Casares handed over a check amounting to PHP 1,300,000.00 to the institute. It was accepted by the IPEA administrators headed by Director and Regent Rev. Fr. Rodel S. Cansancio, O.P. The proceeds will be used for the development programs of the athletes.

The committee assured the group of the tournament's improvement with more pledges, sponsorships, and slightly higher playing fee that would benefit the student athletes.

This year's Rector's Cup included playing teams from various alumni batches of the Faculty of Arts and Letters, College



(L-R) Arch. Casares, Dr. Laurel, Rev. Fr. Cansancio, Asst. Prof. Medina, Asst. Prof. Kamus, and Asst. Prof. Sambuang.

of Accountancy, College of Architecture, Faculty of Civil Law, College of Commerce and Business Administration, Faculty of Engineering, Junior High School, Faculty of Medicine and Surgery (Team Champion), Faculty of Pharmacy, and the College of Science.

Monetary sponsors included Wilcon Depot, Inc., Divina Law, Datem, Inc., and

Commerce Asia, Inc.

In-Kind sponsors included Chery Auto PH, Shinagawa Lasik & Aesthetics, Rey Gajo, Edgar San Diego, Skynet Travel Corp., Willie de Vera, Summit Ridge Tagaytay, Hotel 1611, Aficionado, L Three R's Enterprise, and Chevrolet PH.

The 6th Rector's Cup is set to launch in the first quarter of 2024. - UST OAR

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



A Celebration of Tradition and Legacy... from page 1

where they once more assembled for the procession around the UST Campus.

The Santacruzian was led by Engr. Daisy Serrano of Engineering AAI as the 2023 Hermana Mayor, and 20 stunning Thomasian alumnae as queens with their consorts. Among the alumnae who joined the celebration are the following: Reina Elena - Malou Tamayo, JHSAAI; Reina Emperatris - Connie Guanzon, Pharmacy; Reina de las Flores - Risse Aquino Jose, AB/Philets; Reina de las Virgenes - Ma. Minerva Calimag, PMT/CAT; Reina Divina Pastora - Mildred Mariano- Tomasining Kapampangan; Reina de la Paz - Bernadette Aguilar, Tomasining Kapampangan; Rosa Mistica - Teresita Ona Platon, Pharmacy; Reina Santisimo Rosario - Ma Teresa Ramos, CEAFI; Reina delas Estrellas - Eriberta Nepomuceno, Tomasining Bikolano; Reina Justicia - Mary Ana Daytia Plata, LAFI; Reina Abogada - Cecille Terible, Science; Reina Caridad - Ma. Cristina Jovita Castro, AB/Philets; Reina Esperanza - Xialeemar Valdeavilla, TALA; Reina Fe - Elizabeth Arenas, GSAGAI; Maria Magdalena - Bettina Pe from



Alumni Icons

Engineering AAI; Veronica - Aleth Therese Dacanay, Pax Romana; Reina Esther - Barbara Vizmanos, Tomasining Kapampangan; Reina Sheba - Anita del Rosario, Atelier; Reina Mora - Antonia Alzona, SOCCSKSARGEN; and Reina Banderada - Antonia Aurora Moral Valencia, USTMAA.

The Thomasian Icons' homecoming dinner which capped the event was not just a celebration of our culture, but also an opportunity for our distinguished alumni to reconnect with one another and to reminisce about their time in the university. The Icons stood elbow to



elbow with the queens and sagalas, showcasing their pride in their Alma

Mater and their commitment to preserving and promoting Philippine culture in a celebration of the university's rich and diverse community. It was a reminder that the university is more than just a place of learning, but also a community of lifelong learners and ambassadors of Philippine culture and values. - **Mariz V. Manalo**, *Juris Doctor, 1995*

AAIG 2023 SUMMIT... from page 1

the Buenaventura Garcia Paredes, O.P. (BGPOP) Building in the UST Campus. Now on its 5th year, the 2023 AAIG Summit is a partnership with the UST Graduate School Center for Continuing Professional Education and Development (GSCCPED). The theme for this year is "AAIG Nexus: New Visions, New Frontiers, New Strategies and Practices."

The launching was led by AAIG lead convener Dean Henry S. Tenedero, AAIG co-convener Dr. Evelyn A. Songco, GSCCPED Director Assoc. Prof. Jocelyn F. Agcaoli, USTAAI President Atty. Dwight M. Ramos, and USTAAI Vice President for Academics Innocencia Ida S. Tionko. They were joined by the USTAAI officers, members of the USTAAI Board of Trustees, and the AAIG organizing committee members.

The 2023 AAIG Summit is scheduled on September 29-30, 2023 at the 4th floor, George S.K. Ty Function Hall, BGPOP Building. The summit's carefully curated line-up of speakers will focus on and discuss relevant topics anchored on the following objectives: to highlight the intrinsic value and significance of strategic alliances among the academe, alumni, industry and government sectors for inclusive and sustainable success; to leverage and advance the use of technology-driven approaches with humanistic strategies in community development; and to promote and share winning best practices towards concrete and practical actionable implementation of collaborative engagement through humanizing education.

The AAIG Summit and the AAIG Caravan are held alternately every year, and are part of the USTAAI Academic

Committee's goal to provide opportunities for life-long learning for the alumni, the faculty, students, and other interested groups. The Caravan is aimed at cascading the learning of the Summit and is intended to stimulate the emergence of AAIG convergence community of champions and advocates in different strategic areas around the country. Last year's AAIG Caravan series was attended by more than 2,000 participants.

Fully inspired by the unwavering support of UST Rector, Rev Fr. Richard Ang, O.P., the organizing committee has been ramping up its efforts since the preparations began in April. The registration of the participants starts in July 2023.

For more information about the 2023 AAIG Summit, visit <https://ustalumniassociation.org/aaig2023summit> - **Jonathan H. Peran**, BS ECE 1996



Education's 2023 Seat of Wisdom Awards recognizes outstanding alumni

The College of Education, together with the College of Education Alumni Foundation, Inc. (CEAFI), recognized its outstanding alumni who have made significant contributions in the service of their profession and the nation. The recognition ceremony was held during the Seat of Wisdom (SoW) Awards 2023 at the Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati Auditorium on May 20, 2023.

Five alumni were honored with the Gawad TANGLAW (Tomasinong Alumno na Nagtataglay ng Galing, Lingap, at Awa) Award given to the outstanding alumni of the College who contributed their expertise in teacher education, library and information science, food technology, and nutrition and dietetics.

The awardees were:

- **Dr. Evelyn A. Songco** (BS Education major in History);
- **Ms. Ma. Jamelia F. Villanueva** (BS Elementary Education);
- **Dr. Nora J. Claravall** (BS Education major in Library Science);
- **Ms. Ann Margaret Aguila-Dela Paz** (BS Food Technology); and
- **Ms. Geraldine Maglalang-Cabello** (BS Nutrition and Dietetics).

Dr. Songco, the current president of CEAFI and Chairman of the University of Sto. Tomas Alumni Association, Inc. (USTAAI), delivered an inspirational message to the attendees and shared her journey and experiences as a student, a former faculty member of the College, and her current endeavors as an active member of the USTAAI.

CEAFI is immensely proud of this year's Gawad TANGLAW awardees. - *Symon Lagao, BLIS, 2015*



The 2023 SoW Gawad TANGLAW Awardees pose for a photo opportunity with Education Dean, Assoc. Prof. Pilar Romero, and Regent, Fr. Maximo Gatela, O.P.

Dr. Evelyn Songco, CEAFI President, delivering her inspirational message.



Celebrating New Leadership: USTAAI Appoints New Officers and Committee Heads



The UST Alumni Association, Inc. (USTAAI) announces the appointment of the new officers and committee heads of the Association. The appointees took their oath in a ceremony held on May 11, 2023 at the UST Alumni Center. These dedicated individuals pledged their commitment to serve the UST alumni community with passion, integrity, and excellence.

The ceremony was made even more special by the presence of the elected officers:

- President - **Atty. Dwight Ramos**
- Secretary - **Atty. Dr. Ma. Elena R. Enriquez**
- Treasurer - **Mr. Arnelito M. Ocampo**

USTAAI, an esteemed organization that represents the diverse and accomplished alumni of the University of Santo Tomas, recognizes the significance of effective leadership in driving the progress and growth of the Association. With this in mind, a meticulous selection process was conducted to identify capable individuals who embody the core values and principles of UST.

The newly appointed officers bring a wealth of experience, expertise, and fresh perspectives to their respective roles, ensuring the continued success of the USTAAI. Their dedication and passion for serving the alumni community are truly commendable, and confidence in high in their ability to guide the association towards greater heights.

We are pleased to introduce the newly appointed officers and committee heads:

- Executive Vice-President - **Ma. Lourdes S. Garganera**, Faculty of Pharmacy
- Assistant Secretary - **Dr. Mildred M. Mariano**, College of Science and Faculty of Medicine and Surgery
- Press Relations Officer - **Atty. Marissa V. Manalo**, Faculty of Civil Law
- Assistant PRO - **Maria Carmela M. Royeca**, College of Commerce
- Auditor - **Ronaldo Gomez**, Junior High School
- Assistant Auditor - **Antonio Dayag**, College of Commerce
- Financial Comptroller - **Emelito T. Malabanan**, Junior High School and College of Commerce
- Legal Adviser - **Justice Ronaldo B. Moreno**, Faculty of Civil Law
- Business Manager - **Katherine Lou Bundang**, Education High School
- Assistant Business Manager - **Katrina Zyra Igtiben**, College of Science
- Chief of Staff - **Ana Marie O. Fernandez**, College of Education
- Deputy Chief of Staff for Communication - **Nancy M. Tabirara**, Faculty of Arts and Letters
- Deputy Chief of Staff for Publication - **Joy Gatmaytan**, Faculty of Arts and Letters

COMMITTEES: Academics

- Vice President for Academics - **Inocencia Ida S. Tionko**, College of Nursing
- Over-all Coordinator - **Jocelyn F. Agcaoili**, College of Rehabilitation Sciences
- Assistant Vice-President - **Dean Henry S. Tenedero**, Formal Education Faculty of Arts and Letters

COMMITTEES: Advocacy

- Vice-President for Advocacy - **Engr. Jerenato B. Alfante**, Faculty of Engineering
- Over-all Coordinator - **Angeli S. Tuazon**, Faculty of Pharmacy
- Assistant Vice-President for Environment - **Marilyn Quintana**, College of Education
- Assistant Vice-President for Scholarship - **Ellen Manansala**, Faculty of Pharmacy

The newly appointed officers and committee heads expressed their gratitude for the trust and confidence put in them. They are eager to embark on this new chapter and to work collaboratively with the UST alumni community to initiate impactful programs, strengthen alumni engagement, and foster a sense of belonging among graduates.

As UST alumni, let us extend our warmest congratulations to the newly appointed officers and committee heads. Let us rally behind them as they lead us to new horizons, fostering a stronger bond among alumni and further advancing the legacy of our beloved alma mater.

Stay connected, and together, let us continue to make a positive difference in the lives of our fellow alumni and the broader community. - **Mariz V. Manalo**, Juris Doctor, 1995



Dr. Songco, one of the recipients of Gawad Tanglaw Awards

UST SHS Induction of New Officers



Atelier First Distinguished Alumni Awards



Induction of Appointed Officers



ALUMNI SANTACRUZAN AND HOMECOMING OF ICONS



-CLICKER-RAZZI-

UST Conservatory of Music and USTAAI supports Klasikal 125th years of Philippine Independence



Birthday Celebration of Dr. Carl Balita and Launching of Carlito's Collection



Galing Science Induction of New Officers

Launching of AAIG Nexux 2023

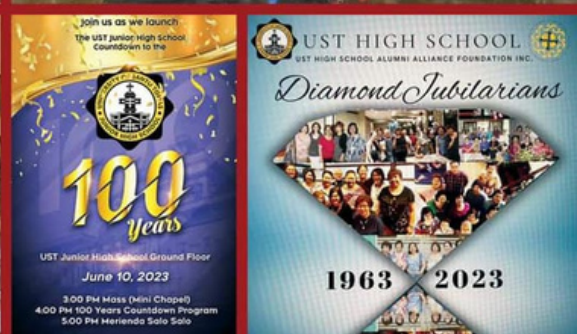


Saphire Jubilarians & Kick off for 100 years of UST High School

New Elected Officers of College of Architecture Alumni Association



USTHS '81





"TRIP NATIN 'TO" PROJECT BEGINS IN BICOL



Officers and volunteers of the UST Alumni Association Inc. (USTAAI) and staff from the Office of Alumni Relations (OAR) headed to Legazpi, Albay on April 22-24, 2023 for the first "Trip Natin 'To" (TNT). Conceived to foster greater solidarity and to showcase the regional chapters of USTAAI, TNT is a project under the Events Committee chaired by Dr. Rollo Milante, who graciously hosted the group of 12 led by USTAAI Chairperson Evelyn Songco and Asst. Professor Fredeswindo Medina, Director of OAR. It was a relaxing, cool afternoon, with a view of the city below, before the visitors headed for the airport to catch the flight back to Manila.

They were welcomed at the Bicol International Airport in Daraga by Tomasino Bikolano (TomBik) Regional Head Dr. Rollo Milante and President Dr. Eriberta

Nepomuceno. Welcome lunch was at Farm Plate in Daraga, Albay while dinner was hosted by the Milante family at Socorro's Lakeside Restaurant in Sumlang Lake, Camalig, Albay. The group paid a courtesy call to Fr. Rector Ernesto Arceo O.P.



at UST Legazpi, formerly known as Aquinas University.

On April 23, after an early morning breakfast at Zoe's Restaurant that is overlooking Legazpi Boulevard, the group headed to the Albay Cathedral. There, a welcome mass officiated by Fr. Gem Penetrante, concelebrated by the former president of the UST Alumni Priests Association (ALPA) and Secretary-General of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Phils. Msgr. Bernie Pantin and other Thomasian priest-alumni, was held as part of the regular Sunday service.

The induction ceremony of the incoming TomBik officers followed after at the La Piazza Hotel. Attending delegates came from Camarines Sur, led by President Dra. Marimil Bombase, and from Sorsogon, led by President Joey Cubias. They were welcomed by TomBik Past President Engr. Eleanor Areola and Incoming President Dr. Eriberta Nepomuceno. The induction was a happy and a fun-filled event, with camaraderie and renewal of acquaintances. Some officers and delegates shared memorable experiences with the association. In the afternoon, the group visited Msgr. Lucilo Quiambao at Bethlehem Retreat House in Bacacay to personally award him with the 2022 Distinguished Thomasian Alumni token of the Arch of the Centuries.

On April 24, the Bridges team headed by Academics Chair Ida Tionko returned to UST Legazpi to film an interview with Fr. Rector Arceo to be aired at the USTAAI Bridges the following Tuesday, on the celebration of the 75th foundation of UST Legazpi. This was followed by a visit to the Mayon Resthouse Viewpoint, perched on the slopes of Mayon Volcano, with a packed lunch prepared by TomBik Secretary Cesar Moran. It was a relaxing, cool afternoon, with a view of the city below, before heading for the airport to catch the flight back to Manila.

The TNT participants brought back home rekindled friendships, many beautiful memories of Mount Mayon, and the warmth of the members of TomBik. - *Vilma Hao, Medicine and Surgery, 1972*

UST Hosts PBA on Tour, Alumni Sponsor Fundraising Event

The Thomasian alumni community gave its full support to the recently concluded PBA on Tour hosted by the University of Santo Tomas on July 5, 2023 at the Quadricentennial Pavilion.

Around PhP300,000 was collected from Thomasian sponsors for this fundraising event. This will be donated to the Institute of Physical Education and Athletics (IPEA) for its student-athletes. Monetary sponsors included Wilcon Depot, Hilmarc's Construction Corporation, and Archipelago Builders.

In-kind sponsors, also the concessionaires in the event, included Manila Cafe, Tinapayan Cafe, and Sweetums Tasty Delight.

The first game was Northport Batang



Pier versus NLEX Road Warriors with the latter collecting the win of the day with a score of 95-87. It was followed by the match of Meralco Bolts against Barangay Ginebra San Miguel where the beermen met an upset with a score of 106-93.

This year, IPEA aims to hold more fundraising events in collaboration with the PBA for the benefit of IPEA's student-athletes. - *UST OAR*





UST Faculty of Civil Law and UST Law Alumni Foundation, Inc. Host 2023 Testimonial Dinner in Honor of Thomasian Lawyers Appointed to Government Service

The University of Santo Tomas Faculty of Civil Law and the UST Law Alumni Foundation, Inc. came together in a remarkable show of support and celebration, hosting the much-anticipated 2023 Testimonial Dinner. The event, held on June 16, 2023, served as a platform to honor and recognize the exceptional achievements of Thomasian Lawyers recently appointed to serve in various government positions. With the esteemed presence of the Dean of the Faculty of Civil Law Atty. Nilo T. Divina, and the President of UST Law Alumni, Inc., Associate Justice of the Sandiganbayan, Ronald B. Moreno, the evening was a grand affair marked by accolades and heartfelt appreciation.

The 2023 Testimonial Dinner celebrated the outstanding accomplishments of a select group of Thomasian Lawyers who have shown unwavering dedication and commitment to public service. The honored awardees, all appointed in different positions in the government, included:

- **Cheloy Velicaria-Garafil** - Secretary of Presidential Communications Office
- **Justice Monina A. Zenarosa** - Commissioner, Commission on Human Rights
- **Rogelio D. Peig, II** - Undersecretary for Strategic Action and Response in the Office of the Executive Secretary
- **Montano T. Nazario, Jr.** - Assistant Secretary, Presidential Management Staff, Office of the President
- **Hector A. Villacorta** - Assistant Secretary, Department of Transportation and Officer-In-Charge of the Land Transportation Office
- **Alberto A. Bernardo** - Vice-Chairperson & Executive Officer, National Police Commission

These remarkable individuals have not only excelled in their respective fields but have also become beacons of inspiration, embodying the values instilled in them during their time at UST.

The joint effort of the UST Faculty of Civil Law and UST Law Alumni Foundation, Inc. demonstrated the enduring spirit of camaraderie and unity within the esteemed institution and the wider legal community.

Under the distinguished presence of the Dean of the Faculty of Civil Law and the President of UST Law Alumni Foundation, Inc., each honoree was presented with a personalized plaque, symbolizing the institution's gratitude and admiration for their remarkable accomplishments. The plaques also serve as the indelible mark they have left on the legal profession.

The 2023 Testimonial Dinner was an evening filled with heartfelt speeches, warm camaraderie, and a deep sense of pride. The event provided an opportunity for attendees to share stories, exchange valuable insights, and reinforce the strong bond that unites the UST community.

Moving forward, the contributions of the honored Thomasian Lawyers are expected to continue shaping the legal landscape and bringing about positive change in society. Their achievements serve as a testament to the high standards set by UST and the unwavering commitment of its alumni to making a difference in the legal field.



The Honorees:
(L-R) Asec. Nazario; V. Chair. Bernardo; Comm. Zenarosa; Usec. Peig; II. Sec. Garafil; and, Asec. Villacorta



Atty. Marissa V. Manalo and Atty. Dwight M. Ramos

The UST Faculty of Civil Law and UST Law Alumni Foundation, Inc. extend their sincerest congratulations to the Thomasian Lawyers recognized at the 2023 Testimonial Dinner. These exceptional individuals serve as role models for aspiring lawyers, inspiring them to uphold the ideals of justice, integrity, and public service. - **Mariz V. Manalo**, Juris Doctor, 1995



Justice Ronaldo B. Moreno
delivering his welcome address.



Dean Nilo Divina
delivering his message.



Justice Monina A. Zenarosa
Commissioner
Commission on Human Rights



Hon. Cheloy V. Garafil
Secretary
Presidential Communications Office



Hon. Hector A. Villacorta
Assistant Secretary,
Department of Transportation
Officer-in-Charge, Land Transportation Office



Hon. Rogelio Peig, II,
Undersecretary,
Strategic Action and Response,
Office of the Executive Secretary



Hon. Montano T. Nazario, Jr.,
Assistant Secretary, Presidential
Management Staff, Office of the President



Hon. Alberto A. Bernardo
Vice Chairperson and Executive Officer,
National Police Commission



NLRC Commissioner
Mary Ann Plata-Dayta



Justice Teresita V. Diaz-Baldos



CAMPUS MEMORIES *Legal Lessons and Lasting Bonds: Reflections on Law School Memories*

Law school is a transformative journey, a crucible of intellectual rigor and personal growth. My alma mater, the University of Santo Tomas, Faculty of Civil Law, provided the backdrop for my formative years in legal education, shaping not only my understanding of the law but also my character and professional aspirations. As I reflect on those cherished memories, I can't help feeling a profound sense of gratitude for the professors, friends, and experiences that have molded me into the corporate law executive I am today.

Nestled within the heart of Manila, the University of Santo Tomas stands tall as an enduring bastion of legal education in the Philippines. Steeped in history, UST's Faculty of Civil Law carries a rich heritage dating back to its founding in 1734. Its sprawling campus, replete with picturesque courtyards and awe-inspiring architecture, evokes a sense of timelessness and scholarly pursuit.

The esteemed professors who graced the halls of UST-Law were the guiding lights of our legal journey. Their erudition and dedication to the law were unmatched, infusing each lecture with a blend of intellectual rigor and practical insights. From Constitutional Law to Criminal Procedure, their teachings ignited a passion for justice within us, inspiring us to explore the depths of legal scholarship.

Law school isn't just about textbooks and unending recitations; it's an experience that bonds students together in a shared pursuit of knowledge. The friendships I forged at UST-Law continue to be an invaluable asset in my professional life. Through late-night study sessions, spirited debates, and even the occasional escapade, my fellow law school comrades became my allies in the outside world.

What makes the UST-Law experience truly unique is the diverse paths that my classmates have embarked upon. Some now don the revered robes of judges, wielding the gavel of justice with wisdom and fairness. Others have embraced the role of tenacious prosecutors, fearlessly advocating for the rights of the oppressed. And then there are those who have emerged as well-known private practitioners, appointed and elected government officials, and those who followed their calling to be public servants.

One of the remarkable aspects of my UST-Law experience is the sense of camaraderie that exists among its alumni. It is an indescribable feeling to realize that my fellow classmates have become my colleagues, trusted legal advisors, and close friends. Whether we cross paths at professional conferences, meetings, or in the courtroom, there is a shared understanding that we are part of a select group who have traversed

the challenging journey of law school together. The diverse legal backgrounds and experiences we bring to the table create a collaborative synergy that enriches our work and broadens our perspectives. The bond we share as UST-Law alumni fosters a sense of trust and mutual respect, making the legal profession feel more like a community than a cutthroat competition.

My memories of law school at the University of Santo Tomas are a treasure trove of knowledge, friendships, and personal growth. The profound impact of the esteemed professors who made us thick-skinned with their nothing-personal insults during hour-long recitations with the entire class bearing witness to such humiliations, the camaraderie with my law school friends, and the knowledge gained within those venerable halls have shaped me into the corporate executive I am today.

As I witness the varied paths my classmates have taken, I am reminded of the extraordinary talent and potential that flourished within our law school cohort. It is a testament to the exceptional education we received at UST-Law.

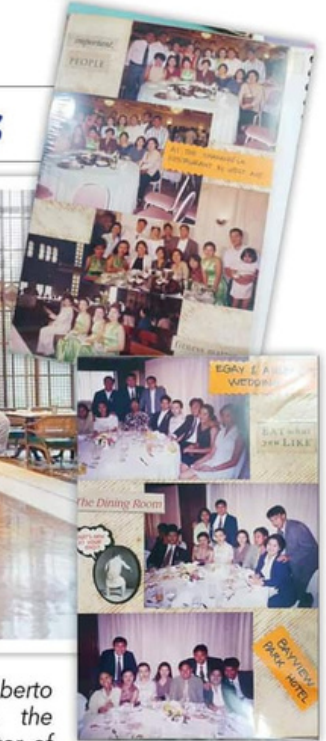
As I reflect upon my time at UST-Law, I am filled with nostalgia and gratitude. The memories of engaging lectures, intense study sessions, and laughter-filled conversations with friends still bring a smile to my face. It is through the transformative experience of law school that I discovered not only the power of the law but also the strength of camaraderie and the lifelong connections forged in pursuit of a shared passion.

UST-Law has played a pivotal role in shaping the legal professionals we have become. Its distinguished faculty, the bonds of friendship formed among classmates, and the experiences gained within its halls have paved the way for successful careers in law. As we navigate our respective fields, we carry with us the indelible mark of UST-Law, forever grateful for the memories that continue to shape our professional and personal lives. - **Rosemarie Tejada-Gonzalez, Juris Doctor, 1994**

[Atty. Rosemarie Tejada-Gonzalez is the Vice President for Legal and the Corporate Secretary of Hino Motors Philippines Corporation. She graduated in 1994 and is married to another



lawyer, Hon. Lamberto A. Gonzalez, Jr., the Provincial Prosecutor of Pampanga, whom she met in law school.]



AT A GLANCE - USTHS'81

Batch-related activities for members of UST HS Batch '81 started even before the summer began to heat up.

In keeping with majority of the batch mate's Catholic upbringing, the group went on a *visita iglesia* or pilgrimage of seven churches in Batangas, including the shrine of the miraculous Our Lady of Caysasay in Taal. The batch has organized all sorts of activities in the past, but this was its first ever attempt to go on a pilgrimage as a group in preparation for the coming Holy Week.

Before April ended, the batch again had another group activity, a much bigger one, when nearly 40 members trooped to Gallerie du Soleil, a newly opened art gallery in Taguig owned by batch mate and one of the group's current BODs Tess Rayos del Sol and her husband Danny, for an afternoon of art appreciation and catching up. The party even featured several speakers who talked on art appreciation, art collecting and art as a form of investment. The event, which extended into the evening, culminated with the raffling of prizes which included several artworks.

Come June, it was balikbayan Egay de Guzman's turn to invite everyone to an informal lunch one fine Sunday in a Filipino fusion restaurant in Eastwood. Egay, a practicing physical therapist, has been based in the East Coast for decades. Looking forward to another event in July! - **Myrna Munda, USTHS 1981.**



A FIRST: UST CAFA/CFAD RECOGNIZES SUCCESSFUL ALUMNI

In recognition of successful and prestigious artists, designers, cultural workers, academicians and individuals who have achieved much in their respective careers since the foundation of the UST School of Fine Arts (CAFA/CFAD) in 1935 to the present, the UST Atelier Alumni Association Inc (UST-AAAI) held its first Outstanding UST-Atelier Alumni Honours (OUAAH) last April 15, 2023 at the Robert Sy Ballroom of the UST Alumni Center. To date, OUAAH is the first-ever institutionalized awarding ceremony honoring alumni of UST CAFA/CFAD.

The OUAAH was a brainchild of President Marissa Pe-Yang (UST-AAAI, 2017-present). The initial plans before the Covid-19 pandemic were shelved since the officers at the time believed it was not yet the right time since the Atelier Association had just started to actively participate into University held events and support individual alumni member projects such as exhibitions and the like. However, by 2021 with the support of newly appointed officers and the ever growing confidence of members due to officially organized activities and exhibitions, and with the death-toll caused by the pandemic that resulted in distinguished and prominent members not being given proper recognition, the project was revisited.

Thus, under the leadership and financial support of Pe-Yang, the Association pushed through with OUAAH. She appointed Abe Orobias, the association's secretary, as the project-head and staff manager, and Janos Delacruz to design and sculpt the medals for the honorees. In her speech at the awards night, Pe-Yang emphasized the importance of aspiring to inspire the next generation of creatives.

The honorees were chosen for their consistent contribution to the advancement of art, design and cultural work; for being influential and inspirational in their individual careers, whether as entrepreneurs or advocates; and/or for serving not only in CAFA/CFAD but also in other institutions for at least a decade. Following these guidelines, the awards were categorized as Extraordinaire Award, Outstanding Artists and Educators, Outstanding in Chosen/Respective Field, and the UST Atelier Edades Award. Posthumous awards were also given to those who deserve recognition but have passed on.





FEATURED THOMASIAN *The Global Filipino Architect:* ARCH. FELINO "JUN" PALAFOX – The First Lifetime Achievement Award

Editor's note: In response to our request, Arch. Jun Palafox wrote this article, a simple chronicle of his journey to being a global awardee.

The Global Filipino Architect: The First Lifetime Achievement Award is a testament to all the labor, dedication, and heart I have put into my plans and designs, spanning decades of worthwhile professional experiences and commitment to lifelong learning. This is the tangible amalgamation of the values held by our firms Palafox Associates and Palafox Architecture Group, Inc. We extend our utmost gratitude to the UAP Dubai Design Awards for this recognition.

Dubai and the Years that Followed

I was invited and name-hired by Sultan Khalifa Al Habtoor on Christmas 1976 to serve as Senior Architect-Urban Planner for the Town Planning Department of the Dubai Municipality. I arrived in Dubai in 1977, the first Filipino and Southeast Asian architect-urban planner, to realize the vision of HH Sheikh Rashid bin Saeed Al Maktoum—the Ruler of Dubai, Vice President and Prime Minister of the United Arab Emirates, and the Founder of Modern Dubai. His vision was to make the desert town of Dubai a first-world city in 15 years. I was encouraged to travel around the world for one month for every year of service to observe best practices from first-world cities in order to create a Garden City in the Middle East, a global pacesetter city out of the desert.

Through my profession, I have been blessed to have been able to visit and observe more than 1,000 cities in 72 countries and 7 territories. I am grateful for my 51 years of professional experience in architecture and 49 years of professional experience in planning. The drive for excellence and the call for sustainable, innovative solutions have pushed me even further.

In my four years in Dubai, I was directly involved in several projects, like the land use plans for the Dubai International Airport and the waterfront development for Deira Sea Corniche, urban planning of the Municipality and Emirate of Dubai, architectural guidelines and control, utilities/services coordination, urban design/landscape, environmental improvement, transportation planning, and industrial planning, to name a few.

Since I established Palafox Associates in July 1989, it has already completed more than 1,800 projects in 40 countries, which include the architecture of more than 20 million square meters of building floor area and the master planning of more than 51 billion square meters of land.

Awards and Citations

We are the first Filipino firm to be included in the world's top 500, 300, and 200 architecture firms; the only Southeast Asian firm included in the top 100 architects as per World Architecture Magazine, London; and the first Filipino architecture firm to be ISO-certified in management and environmental management in the fields of architecture, urban planning, environmental planning, landscape architecture, and interior design, among others. We are the architects and planners of Rockwell Center—the pioneer of mixed-use developments in the Philippines; the Leyte Ecological Industrial Zone—the Philippines' first ecological zone; and the Batangas State University's Knowledge, Innovation, and Science Technology (KIST) Park—the Philippines' first PEZA-registered KIST Park.

Our firms have won more than 200 awards and citations, including first prize awards in design competitions for the following projects: Manila Polo Club, Supreme Court Centennial Building, Bureau of Immigration Building in Fort Bonifacio, Development Bank of the Philippines Executive Office Building, Al Khobar Mixed-Use Development Building in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, American Battle Monuments, Redevelopment of Alabang Country Club, and the Community Center for Ayala Alabang Village, among others.

As a professional Architect, I have also been a recipient of many awards, notable of which are as Ambassador for Peace from the Inter-religious and International Federation for World Peace given in New York City; the "48



Heroes of Philanthropy in Asia" by Forbes Asia Magazine; one of the three Top Outstanding Filipinos awarded by the JCI Senate in 2017; and as the 2019 Most Outstanding Professional of the Year in the field of Environmental Planning given by the Professional Regulatory Commission. In April 2018, I was conferred with the following titles: Honorary Fellow of the Royal Institution of Singapore; Doctor Fellow of the Royal Institute of Architects, Singapore; Doctor Fellow of the Royal Institution of Singapore; Doctorate in Fine Arts, honoris causa, bestowed by the Polytechnic University of the Philippines. This year, it was an immense privilege to be recognized as one of the Thomasian Icons during the UST Alumni Association Inc. and the UST Office for Alumni Relations' Alumni Homecoming for The Outstanding Thomasian Alumni (TOTAL) Awardees and Distinguished Alumni Honorees.

Education

With all of these accomplishments, I am grateful for my education at Christ the King Seminary for classical secondary, BS Architecture at UST, master's degree in Environmental Planning at UP as a UNDP Scholar, and my eight post-graduate studies from the Harvard Graduate School of Design. I also actively participate in conferences, seminars, and fora as I am a firm believer of lifelong learning. This has given me opportunities to deliver lectures in more than 20 countries, including institutions like the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Harvard.

All the endeavors I have undertaken are blessings from God that I will forever be grateful for. As He blesses the work of my hands, He also opens more doors of opportunities to provide more value to the world. I am humbled as an instrument of the Chief Architect, our God and Creator, for His greater glory to plan progress, design projects, and develop opportunities for others, for God, Country, and Planet Earth. - **Felino "Jun" A. Palafox, Jr., BS Architecture 1972**

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