



THE THOMASIAN ALUMNI COMMUNITY

VOL. NO 6 ISSUE NO. 4

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE UST ALUMNI ASSOCIATION, INC.

Newsletter



UST FACULTY OF CIVIL LAW MAKES HISTORY WITH LANDMARK JD CONFERMENT CEREMONY

In a historic moment that defied heavy rainfall, the University of Santo Tomas (UST) Faculty of Civil Law made its mark on July 29, 2023, as it held its first-ever Juris Doctor Conferment Ceremony at the UST Quadricentennial Pavilion. UST law alumni from far and wide returned to their beloved Alma Mater to witness the official substitution of their Bachelor of Laws degrees with the prestigious Juris Doctor degree, signifying a pivotal moment in UST's legal education history.

This ceremony marked a significant milestone, uniting the largest assembly of Thomasian law graduates to date, with more than 800 standing tall as proud witnesses. The Quadricentennial Pavilion reverberated with excitement as attendees rekindled old friendships, reconnected with the faculty members, and mingled with prominent guests, including legal luminaries.

Leading the charge was the Dean of UST Faculty of Civil Law, Atty. Nilo T. Divina, a towering figure in the legal realm, as he delivered the address petitioning for the conferment of the

coveted JD degree. Overseeing the ceremony was UST Secretary General Fr. Louie R. Coronel, O.P., adding a sense of solemnity to the proceedings.

The evening's crescendo arrived with the inspiring speech delivered by Supreme Court Associate Justice Amy C. Lazaro-Javier, herself a proud UST Law alumna. Her words resonated deeply with the audience as she explored the need for changing from a Bachelor's Law Degree to a Juris Doctor degree. The solemn Thomasian pledge was led by Sandiganbayan Associate Justice Ronald B. Moreno, President of the UST Law Alumni Foundation, Inc.

Distinguished guests gracing the occasion included UST Law Regent Fr. Isidro C. Abañe, O.P., UST Law Faculty Secretary Arthur B. Capili, and Legal Education Board (LEB) Chairperson Anna Marie Melanie B. Trinidad. Former LEB chairpersons Emerson Aquende and Zenaída N. Elepaño, along with Reginaldo A. Oben, Chairman of the Oben Group of Toyota Dealers, also attended the ceremony.

Yet, this wasn't merely a celebration; it

symbolized a profound transformation in the realm of legal education within the Philippines. Traditionally, UST had bestowed upon its law graduates the degree of Bachelor of Laws (LL.B.). However, Legal Education Board's Memorandum Order No. 19, Series of 2018, heralded a new era, erasing the boundary between LL.B. and JD degrees, thereby harmonizing Philippine legal education with global standards.

This mandate compelled all law schools across the nation to confer the Juris Doctor degree to their graduating students. It signified more than just a name change; it represented a comprehensive shift in legal education.

The UST JD Conferment Ceremony stood as a testament to the university's unwavering commitment to leading the charge in legal education. It recognized the evolving needs of the legal profession and the imperative of equipping graduates with the skills, knowledge, and ethical foundation required to excel in an ever-evolving legal landscape.

Continued on page 2



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

Happiness is...

Many of us alumni are at various stages of our lives now, asking ourselves if what we wanted to be growing up is what we are now in our careers. The answer to this question will probably also tell us whether we are happy or not regarding where we are at the moment.

In his column *Business Matters* at the Philippine Star, Francis J. Kong talked about the difference it makes in asking the question "What do you want to do?" instead of "What do you want to be?" earlier on in our lives as we look to a happy grown-up future. He went on to cite the famous psychologist Dr. Denis Whitley who said, "Think back to the one thing you liked doing best in your childhood days that made you happy. The question now is are you doing it, and if not, why not?" According to Kong, it is easy to reply to the "be" question with a job title or a tag without understanding how and why. Answering the "do" question, on the other hand, requires abandoning labels and tags to reach the core activities.

Focusing on what you want to be - a doctor, a businessperson, an engineer, or social media TikTok influencer - makes it easier to wind up confusing what you want to do with what others want you to do. He suggests instead in focusing on the "what to do part" in order to be able to develop your skills, natural talents, and competence. With this, you will surely thrive in a changing world without being locked into a title or a tag, and you can do what you do relevant to the needs of the changing times.

Citing his daughter who took an unpopular college course but which aligned with her love for dabbling with technology and creating art, Kong says she is now an accomplished technopreneur. She understands technology, accounting, sales and marketing, and she enjoys what she is doing and is happy doing it. That is why, according to him, she improves her craft constantly. Like her siblings who answered the "do" question, she loves what she does. And they are all doing what they do very well.

And so I guess it is the same with our Distinguished Thomasian Alumni Awardees this 2023. Those who, under one Thomasian

spirit of solidarity, we are glad to once again honor for having gained respect and admiration in their life and work after passing through the Arch of the Centuries into the world. They answered the "do" question correctly and so they are thriving in this VUCA world... and if I may dare say, happily at that!

It is therefore with great pride that we have the 8th Distinguished Thomasian Alumni Night 2023 happening on November 18, 2023 at the Dr. Robert C. Sy Grand Ballroom, BGPOP Building, UST Campus from 6:00 to 10:00 PM. And with this we hope that once again, this undertaking will continue to inspire our alumni in the post pandemic era.

Congratulations and thank you to all our honored guests who will be gracing the gathering with their presence. Thank you too in advance to all the organizers, sponsors and members of the working committee, without whom the event would not be possible. Very importantly, we thank our different alumni associations for nominating from their ranks our Distinguished Thomasian Alumni 2023. We are definitely happy!

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UST FACULTY OF CIVIL LAW MAKES HISTORY... from page 1

As rain poured outside the Quadricentennial Pavilion, the significance of the event became apparent: the legal community in the Philippines was undergoing a transformation, and UST, with its storied history and esteemed faculty, was at the forefront. The memories forged during this ceremony will serve as a reminder of the transformative potential of education and the enduring legacy of UST's graduates from the Faculty of Civil Law.

The Fellowship Dinner

The festivities at the Quadricentennial Pavilion didn't end with the historic Ceremony. After the inspiring and solemn event, attendees had the opportunity to come together for an unforgettable Fellowship Dinner.

The Dinner was a chance for all the attendees to catch up, reminisce about their law school days, and forge new connections within the legal community. It was an evening filled with camaraderie and laughter, where friendships were rekindled and new bonds were formed.

However, the highlight of the night was undoubtedly the thrilling raffle prizes. The anticipation was palpable as lucky attendees



had the chance to win fantastic prizes, including a brand new car - Toyota Veloz G.

Congratulations echoed through the venue as the lucky winners claimed their prizes, adding an extra layer of excitement to an already exhilarating evening. Gratitude permeated the atmosphere as attendees expressed their appreciation for the meticulous preparation led by Dean Nilo Divina, the head of the Faculty of Civil Law, which played a pivotal role in the success of this momentous event.

The UST Faculty of Civil Law extends a big thank you to everyone who joined this wonderful celebration and to its generous sponsors who made this event possible. It was an evening to remember, marking not only the beginning of a new chapter for our JD degree holders but also a testament to the strong bonds and enduring legacy of the Thomasian legal community. - **Mariz Manalo**, *Juris Doctor*, 1995

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We welcome sponsorship of the printing cost.



AAIG 2023 INTERNATIONAL MULTI-SECTORAL SUMMIT STAGED

The University of Santo Tomas Alumni Association, Inc. (USTAAI), in partnership with the UST Graduate School Center for Continuing Professional Education and Development (GS CCPED), has once again affirmed its commitment to bring together the Academe, Alumni, Industry, and Government sectors to collaborate in a strategic thinking and sharing of ideas in the AAIG 2023 International Multisectoral Summit, held on September 29 & 30, 2023 at the Dr. George S.K. Ty Function Hall, Buenaventura Garcia Paredes, OP (BGPOP) Building, UST.

This year's AAIG Summit carried the theme, "AAIG Nexus: New Visions, New Frontiers, New Strategies and Practices" that serves as a powerful catalyst to align industry and government leaders, and school administrators to develop solutions to problems, introduce new strategies, and to fuel cooperation across the different sectors. The two-day learning event is 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.

Day 1 kicked off with welcome remarks by USTAAI President, Atty. Dwight M. Ramos who emphasized the need to *"leverage and advance the use of technology-driven approaches with humanistic strategies in community development."*

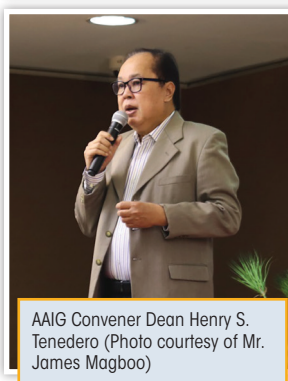
UST Rector, the Very Rev. Fr. Richard G. Ang, O.P., graced the event with an opening address where he highlighted the importance of promoting and sharing winning best practices *"towards concrete and practical actionable implementation of collaborative engagements through humanizing education."* *"AAIG is aligned with one of the seven pillars of my rectorship to create partnerships with different relevant sectors for inclusive success,"* he said.

Dean Henry S. Tenedero, AAIG Lead Convenor narrated the five-year journey of AAIG as it continues to bridge the proverbial gap between the academe and industry towards forging a meaningful transition of new graduates to the world of work. He emphasized that *"AAIG is our contribution to the current thrust of the Department of Education's MATATAG Curriculum."*

Dr. Ethel Agnes P. Valenzuela, ASEAN Adviser on the Future of Education, delivered the



(L-R) AAIG Convenor Dean Henry S. Tenedero; UST Rector Very Rev. Fr. Richard G. Ang, O.P.; USTAAI Chairman of the Board Dr. Evelyn A. Songo; USTAAI Vice President for Academics Ms. Inocencia Ida S. Tionko, MHPed, RN; USTAAI President Atty. Dwight M. Ramos. (Photo courtesy of Mr. James Magboo)



AAIG Convenor Dean Henry S. Tenedero (Photo courtesy of Mr. James Magboo)



(L-R) UST GS CCPED Director Assoc. Prof. Jocelyn F. Agcaoili, MHPed, MSPT; AAIG Convenor Dean Henry S. Tenedero; USTAAI Secretary Atty. Ma. Elena R. Enriquez; Globe Telecom Senior Vice President & Head of Regulatory Development & Strategy Engr. Emmanuel R. Estrada; UST Vice-Rector for Academic Affairs Prof. Cheryl R. Peralta, DrPH, PTRP; Vice Dean of UST College of Hospitality and Tourism Management Dr. Evangeline E. Timbang; ASEAN master and Commission on Higher Education (CHED) Technical Committee member on Tourism and Hospitality Management Dr. Ma. Christina G. Aquino; USTAAI Treasurer Mr. Arnelito M. Ocampo; USTAAI Chairman of the Board Dr. Evelyn A. Songo (Photo courtesy of Mr. Arnel Ocampo)

Keynote address on Day 1 and talked about the theme of the Summit. She rallied the delegates to *"reimagine the education space and look for innovative solutions to the most pressing problems impacting learning and teaching."*

This was followed by the Plenary Speakers who unselfishly shared their knowledge on their topics. These were :

Dr. Rosalina Ora'a-Fuentes, Founding President of the Loyola Institute of Positive OD (LIPOD) - *"Understanding the Current Visions and language of leadership"*;

Dr. Margarita C. Ballesteros, Director of External Partnership Service of the Department of Education (DepEd) - *"Developing How-To-Be" Leaders for Impactful Grassroots Leadership"*;

Engr. Armand Cacacho, Adjunct Professor at the Asian Institute of Management (Philippines) and a Faculty member of the Institute of Corporate Directors (Philippines) - *"Reconfiguring the Organization for the 21st Century Digital Economy"*;

Rev. Fr. Jesus M. Miranda, O.P., PhD, Assistant Professor at the UST Graduate School and Columnist of The Manila Times, - *"Augmenting Humanity Through Artificial Intelligence"*;

Mr. Donn Emmanuel Gonda, Lecturer in the Faculty of Education at the University of Hong Kong, - *"In-Depth Humanistic Look at Artificial Intelligence"*;

Dr. Donald Lim, Philippine blockchain guru, former President of the Philippine Marketing Association, and current Chief Operating Officer of DITO Communications - *"Deep Diving into the Frontiers of Digital Organizational Development"*; and Ms. Maria Luz "Yayu" E. Javier, Vice Chairperson of the United Nations Global Compact Network Philippines - *"Embracing New Strategies and Practices of Leadership, Organization and Community from the UN Global Compact Perspectives."*

Day 2 opened with remarks from Dean

Continued on page 4

**AAIG 2023 INTERNATIONAL... from page 16**

Michael Anthony Vasco of the UST Graduate School. In his message, Dean Vasco presented socio-economic demographics warranting the need to have an intrinsic partnership among the four sectors to spell inclusive growth and success for all.

The Keynote Address was delivered by Mr. Norman Agatep, President and CEO of Grupo Agatep, who focused on "Effectively Communicating Your Messages Beyond the Syntax of Language."

Plenary Speaker Dr. Carl E. Balita, Board of Director and Over-all Chairman of the Franchise Asia Conference and President of the UST Nursing Alumni Association, spoke on "Education 5.0: Towards Future Ready Graduates."

The plenary session concluded with a talk on the "Good, Better and Best News in Tourism and Hospitality" delivered by Dr. Maria Christina G. Aquino, ASEAN master and Commission

on Higher Education (CHED) Technical Committee member on Tourism and Hospitality Management.

In the afternoon, the participants were divided into four sub-groups - Academe, Alumni, Industry, and Government and were guided by their Facilitators: Dr. Cheryl Peralta R. Peralta, UST Vice Rector for Academic Affairs (Academe); Atty. Ma. Elena Enriquez, USTAAI Secretary, and Mr. Arnelito Ocampo, USTAAI Treasurer and bank executive of Sterling Bank of Asia (Alumni); Engr. Emmanuel R. Estrada, SVP and Head of Regulatory Development and Strategy, GLOBE Telecom (Industry); and Dr. Aquino and Dr. Evangeline Timbang, Vice Dean of UST College of Hospitality and Tourism Management (Government). The members of the different breakout groups tackled two directional thrusts: to identify five best practices for each sector from the various speakers (collective work) and to identify three action plans to concretize their commitment to the AAIG advocacy (individual).

After the Workshop Presentations, the Summary and Clarion Call was delivered by Dr. Evelyn A. Songco, Chairman of the Board of USTAAI and an AAIG Core Officer. Dr. Songco led the recitation of the MANIFESTATION OF SOLIDARITY which reads in part, "AAIG shall continue its conversations, collaborations, and initiatives with significant Academe, Alumni, Industry, and Government partners to create synergies and drum up greater awareness on its significance to nation building..."

Present during this 2-day event were the two AAIG co-conveners: Ms. Inocencia Ida S. Tionko, MHPEd, RN, USTAAI Vice-President for Academics, and Assoc. Prof. Jocelyn F. Agcaoili, MHPEd, MSPT, Director of CCPED.

This event was sponsored by Rex Education, Globe Telecom, and by Atty. Nilo T. Divina, Dean of the UST Faculty of Civil Law.

The launch of the AAIG Report "Five Years and Beyond!" is scheduled for release in the first quarter of 2024. - **Jonathan H. Peran, BS ECE, 1996**

CALERUEGA MEDICAL MISSION 2023

The University of Santo Tomas Alumni Association, Inc. (USTAAI), in partnership with the UST Medical Alumni Association, Inc. (USTMAA), conducted a medical and dental mission on August 13, 2023 at the Veritas Hall of the Caleruega Church in Nasugbu, Batangas.

The medical outreach was for the benefit of the children, indigent, and elderly people of the Municipality of Nasugbu, specifically those from Brgy. Kaylaway and its surrounding sitios and barangays. More than 300 recipients, ranging from infants to senior citizens, benefitted from this project and received free medical (internal medicine, family medicine, ENT, pediatric, obstetrics, ophthalmic, minor surgery) and dental consultation and services, as well as free medicines. This activity aided those in need of medical attention, but are financial-challenged to avail of the needed services.

Dr. Edmund Advincula from USTMAA led the medical mission team, in coordination with Fr. Jeffrey Aytona who organized the logistics and on-site coordination. Present during this

activity were the USTAAI and Thomasian Alumni Community Foundation, Inc. (TACFI) officers and board of trustees members, which included Dr. Robert Sy (USTAAI Chairman Emeritus and TACFI Founding member and Trustee), Atty. Dwight Ramos (USTAAI President), Dr. Evelyn Songco (USTAAI Chairman of the Board), Engr. Jerenato Alfante (USTAAI VP for Advocacy), Ms. Inocencia Ida Tionko (USTAAI VP for Academics and UST Nursing Alumni Association representative), Ms. Malou Garganera (President of the UST Faculty of Pharmacy Alumni Association and Scholarship Foundation, Inc.), Dr. Arnold Pineda (President of USTMAA), Assoc. Prof. Jocelyn F. Agcaoili (President of the UST College of Rehabilitation Sciences Alumni Association, Inc.), Mr. Arnel Ocampo (President of the UST Education High School Graduates Association), Ms. Angie Tuazon (Chairman Emeritus of Thomasian Alumni Leaders Association) and Dr. Mildred Mariano (President of Tomasining

Kapampangan).

The medical mission which was held from 9 AM to 2 PM, culminated with a thanksgiving mass celebrated by Rev. Fr. Winston F. Cabading, O.P.

This event was made possible through the invaluable support of Engr. Frederick Payrno (TACFI President), Asst. Prof. Fredeswindo Medina (Director of the Office of Alumni Relations), Dr. Rollo Milante (Tomasining Bikolano Alumni Association - Regional Coordinator & Chairman), and by the generous donors and volunteers from the following: Caleruega Philippines and the House of Mary Magdalene, Office of Alumni Relations, UST Medical Alumni Association, Inc., UST Faculty of Pharmacy Alumni Association and Scholarship Foundation, Inc., UST Nursing Alumni Association, Inc., UST College of Rehabilitation Sciences Alumni Association, Inc., UST Thomasian Alumni Leaders Association, UST Engineering Alumni Association, Inc., Tomasining Ilocano-La Union, UST Education High School Graduates Association, Tomasining Kapampangan Alumni Association, UST Graduate School Center for Continuing Professional Education and Development, Friends for the Love of Service (FLOSS), Swabwheels Diagnostics & Medical Services (SDMS), Tzu Chi Eye Center, Unilab and Globe Telecom, Inc. - **Jonathan H. Peran, BS ECE, 1996**



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CEAFI INTRODUCES NEWLY ELECTED BOARD OF TRUSTEES 2023-2025

The College of Education Alumni Foundation, Inc. (CEAFI) elected its new set of Board of Trustees for 2023-2025 during the annual General Assembly held on 8 July 2023 at the UST Albertus Magnus Building. Prior to the election, CEAFI posted a call for nominations through its official social media pages.

This year's election result saw movements in leadership with the following designations:

President: Evangeline E. Timbang

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Asst. Prof. Fredeswindo R. Medina, MACHS, Director of the UST Office of Alumni Relations, and Atty. Dwight M. Ramos, President

of the UST Alumni Association, Inc., led the induction ceremony held on 18 September 2023 at the Blessed Buenaventura Garcia Paredes, O.P. Building. The trustees shall serve the Foundation from 2023 to 2025, just before the celebration of the College of Education's centennial anniversary.

The ceremony was attended by the newly-elected officers and appointed members of its committees: Apostolate, Fellowship, Membership, Prayer, Study and Advocacy. A special committee was also formed for Special Projects. Likewise, CEAFI Thomasian Icons Emma R. Yeung, Clarita D. Carillo, and Pilar I. Romero were also recognized during the program for their distinct contributions to the profession, the community, the nation, and the church.

Guided by competence, commitment, and compassion, the board continues to strive in establishing meaningful and harmonious connections with the alumni community of the UST College of Education. - **Symon Lagao, BLIS 2015**



TOP: The CEAFI Board 2023-2025 with Education Regent, Fr. Maximo P. Gatela, O.P., UST Office of Alumni Relations Director, Asst. Prof. Fredeswindo R. Medina, and USTAAI President, Atty. Dwight M. Ramos.



BOTTOM: CEAFI Thomasian Icons were recognized for their outstanding contribution to their Alma Mater.

TACFI AND UST TALA EXTEND HELP TO ST. BARTHOLOMEW PARISH



In light of the damages brought about by super typhoon Egay that hit the Calayan municipality in the province of Cagayan last July 2023, USTAAI Advocacy Over-all Coordinator, Ms. Angeli S. Tuazon, spearheaded a donation drive for the St. Bartholomew Parish of Calayan Island.

The Thomasian Alumni Community Foundation, Inc. (TACFI), through its President, Engr. Frederick C. Parayno, donated solar-powered fans, solar panels, batteries, and digital kits to the parish. Rev. Christopher Jeffrey L. Aytona, O.P. received the donations on behalf of the Parish Priest, Rev. Fr. Rommel P.

Olivar, O.P., during the Caleruega Medical Mission on August 13. Aside from Ms. Tuazon, present during the turnover were UST Alumni Association, Inc. (USTAAI) President, Atty. Dwight M. Ramos; USTAAI Chairman of the Board, Dr. Evelyn A. Songco; USTAAI Treasurer, Arnelito M. Ocampo; USTAAI Vice President for Advocacy, Engr. Jerenato B. Alfante; TACFI Board of Trustees member, and Dr. Mildred M. Mariano.

Businessman and owner of Triton Paints, Mr. Solon Sy, representing the UST Thomasian Alumni Leaders Association (UST TALA), also donated materials for the repainting of the St. Bartholomew Student Dormitory. These were received by Rev. Fr. Rommel P. Olivar, O.P. on September 8, 2023. - **Jonathan H. Peran, BS ECE, 1996**





UST and Prosple to further strengthen career services and portal for alumni and students

The UST Office of Alumni Relations (OAR) and Counseling & Careers Center (CCC) welcomed the courtesy visit of Prosple on September 12, 2023 to further strengthen their career services to the university for its students and alumni.

The said partnership with the Australian education platform technology company began in 2021. During the height of the pandemic, Prosple assisted the university and its industry partners in transitioning its career services online with activities such as the virtual career fair, employer panel sessions via Zoom, and the career directory listing website.

During the dialogue, both parties agreed on the necessity to innovate services now due to the changing education and workplace landscape. With the universities shifting heavily to onsite classes and more companies implementing frequent to full return-to-office arrangement policies, the university aims to enhance its collaboration with industry partners through linkages network building, incentives for employers' active participation, and improved data analytics reporting.



Prosple Team (L-R) Aiza Oco, Sarah Marco, Yohanne Esguerra, OAR Director Asst. Prof. Fredeswido R. Medina, MACHS, Sam McDonald, Grant Robson, Greg Halal, and Frimcel Ayala

For this academic year, UST and Prosple are looking forward to an upgraded Career Directory Listing website with a developed functionality for the benefits of its users. They will also conduct more interactive and specialized road shows and career seminars out in different colleges. From being purely virtual, the career fair in 2024 will be both onsite and online to cater to more graduating students and alumni as well as recruiters. – OAR

VISION/INSIGHT



VISION / INSIGHT, from 8-23 July 2023 at the Artist Space, Ayala Museum Annex, was a major art exhibition of some of the top UST visual artists in the Philippine art scene today. The art exhibition comprised of works of art ranging from paintings, sculptures, digital art, and fine prints. It represented the diverse and unique styles of the exhibiting Master Thomasian Visual Artists.

The exhibition featured the works of Fil Delacruz, Edgar Doctor, Raul Isidro, Edgar Lantin, Elmer Dumlaog, Salvador Ching, Jun Impas, Richard Buxani, Andres Barrioquinto, Remy Boquiren, Anita Del Rosario, Ramon Orlina, Dominic Rubio, Justin Nuyda, Manuel Baldemor and Marcelino Rodriguez. The exhibition notes were written by our fellow Thomasians, renowned writer Mr. Lito Zulueta and the exhibit itself was curated by Visual Artist Janos Delacruz.

As part of the exhibition's opening ceremony, Senator Grace Poe who was the guest of honor, exalted the important role of art in our society and our rich Filipino cultural identity.

Organized and spearheaded by UST Atelier Alumni Association Inc. (UST-AAAI) President Marie Pe-Yang, the exhibit is part of the UST-AAAI's commitment in promoting Visual Artists from the UST School of Fine Arts.

The organization continuously creates art exhibitions, art workshops and the UST Atelier Alumni Honours, whose aim is to not only support our Alumni Visual Artists but help inspire the next generation of Thomasian art students. It is the fervent hope of the Association to continue with this mission and follow its creed, "Aspire to Inspire". – **Abe Orobia**, BFA Painting, 2005



UST FACULTY OF *J.D. CONFIRMATION*



CIVIL LAW CEREMONY



Clicker Razzi



JURIS DOCTOR CONFERMENT CEREMONY





Clicker Razzi



VISION PROPEL

Despite pandemic limitations, the UST Atelier Alumni Association Inc., (UST-AAAI) led by its president, Marissa Pe-Yang, was able to successfully stage the first VISION exhibition series in 2021 in collaboration with Art Anton Gallery. The exhibition, titled VISION Interpolation, featured senior, mid-career, and emerging Thomasian artists who highlighted UST as the pioneer of Philippine Modernism in Art. VISION Interpolation was a success due to strong media channel support, which included coverage in Art+ Magazine and live airing at the USTAAI talk show Bridges, with extensive discussion of Thomasians' contributions to modern art. Furthermore, the UST-AAAI was able to obtain cash to continue important programs, with artists who participated volunteering to contribute a portion of the proceeds from their sold pieces.

This year, on August 8-25, the UST-AAAI, in collaboration with Art Anton Gallery at the Mall



of Asia Complex, welcomed the public to participate in the third installment of the VISION project series, dubbed VISION Propel. The show includes visual storytelling based on the participants' personal or general world perspectives on the question, "What

motivates or drives people?"

The presentations in this show are not confined to concept or philosophical points of view, but also to material studies and debates alluding to innovation. As offspring of Edades, Ocampo, and Francisco, this group is a

ON ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY:

A look at Trash to CashBack

In the recent Strategic Planning done by the USTAAI, one of the key result areas emphasized by the Advocacy Committee focused on the environment and sustainability. It was also thought that the BEST way we, alumni, can contribute is through businesses led by Thomasians.

One such business is that one of Isabelita Paredes-Mercado, a Thomasian Alumna. Ms. Mercado is the President and Chairperson of Basic Environmental Systems & Technologies, Inc. (BEST). BEST helps in Saving the Environment while Helping the Community, by promoting segregation at source as mandated by Republic Act 9003. It supports BEST's Carbon Neutrality and Sustainability Initiatives toward a circular economy and a zero-waste future. A waste diversion project of BEST is the Trash to CashBack program.

Ms. Mercado emphasized the importance of changing the mindset of waste generators from Not in My Backyard or NIMBY attitude, to taking personal responsibility of their own waste right in their homes or offices as Eco Warriors. The Trash to CashBack program, according to her, allows everyone, Thomasians or not, to help in the effort of saving the environment one recyclable at a time without waiting for somebody else to do it. Already with more than 70,000 Eco Warriors, the entry of more people into the Trash to CashBack

recycling initiative will further boost the drive to protect the environment.

Through this sustainable and innovative program, communities are able to become interconnected through an incentivized waste collection system that promotes proper waste segregation at source and supports a circular economy. Ordinary individuals are able to earn Environmental Points (EP) upon exchange of recyclables at My Basurero Eco-Community Centers. The EP they earn can then be used to purchase products from bXTRA Partner Outlets. Through this ready-made system, they are able to help sustain local businesses, especially SMEs, during the pandemic while helping the environment through eco-friendly means.

At the heart of this program is the setting up of My Basurero Eco-Community Centers (MBE-C) in strategic areas in order to serve the Eco Warriors who wish to participate by bringing them to the center, registering an account, exchanging for points, and redeeming their Environmental Points. From there, BEST's integrated system is able to divert waste to recycling, composting and Refuse Derived Fuel. This program maximizes the levels of Composting, Re-Use and Resource Recovery as mandated by RA 9003.

Trash to TrashBack Eco Warriors segregate their solid wastes both at home and in the office,



bring their recyclables and residual plastics to a My Basurero Eco Community Center and exchange them for Environmental Points that they can either redeem thru community enterprises or donate to a cause.

This project answers the need for specific and doable ecological solid waste management practices in the communities in order to help address the pressing environmental problem besetting the country's river system that is causing pollution of the world's oceans. Participating in this project supports the primary objective to change people's behavior by providing for an incentivized solid waste collection system to help minimize riverine plastics emission through the promotion of proper waste segregation at source and support to a circular economy by the waste generators themselves. The program augurs well with AAI's focus on Environmental Sustainability as part of its main advocacies, and we call on the alumni to take a look at this program to help save the environment while helping the community one recyclable at a time. - **Dwight Hilarion Ramos**, Juris Doctor, 1990



Jonathan Rañola, Edgar San Diego, CJ Tañedo, Carlos Esteban Trinidad, Lydia Velasco, Sheldon Villanueva, and Lisa Villaseñor.

This show embraces both form and content by narrating not only straight futuristic or neo-modernist goals, but also portraits of personal reminiscence that make the sentiments truly authentic. "I don't think humanity just replays history," Kage Baker put it simply, "but

we are the same people our ancestors were, and our descendants will face a lot of the same situations we do." It's interesting to speculate on how people react with different technologies on different worlds."- **Abe Orobia, BFA Painting, 2005**

source of continuity, its artists carving their own path and reinventing the current aesthetic environment. They are Juert Asejo, Flor Baradi, Art Bermido, Nixio Castrillo, Melvin Culaba, Gary Custudio, Anna de Leon,



Pedro Felix Garcia II, Maryrose Gisbert, Linds Lee, Agnes M. Medina, Alex Medina, Patrick Henry Dennis Naval, Milmar Onal, Fel R. Plata, Rainiere Ramiro, Ronna Lara-Bes,

Anita del Rosario, Elmer Dumlaog,

AT A GLANCE



Two Myrnas of USTHS Class '63: Myrna Plata-Munda and Myrna Agawin- Militante.

The July-born ladies of USTHS Class '63 were treated to a hearty lunch by their classmates on August 8 at the Vikings in the Podium. The honorees were Myrna Agawin-Militante, Precy De Leon, Myrna Plata-Munda, and Perla Evangelista-Roy.

The birthday girls had their hands full as they received the gifts and wishes from their classmates as they blew the candles on their birthday cake. Each of them offered her thanksgiving prayer to God Almighty for another year of blessing granted to them.

There were so many stories to share, so many jokes to tell, and so much updating to give!

Appreciation and thanks, of course, to Cecile Bejasa-Saavedra who organized this event, and also to Susana M. Calalay who assisted her.

The September-born diamond ladies of USTHS Class '63 were honored by their classmates at a luncheon held at The Xiu Restaurant on Connecticut, Greenhills on September 28. They were Ms. Alma de Jesus and Ms. Elvie Gonzalez. This milestone event was organized by Cecile Bejasa-Saavedra who was ably assisted by Susana M. Calalay. This event was jointly hosted by the class members who have always been active and present in occasions such as honoring birthday celebrants.

There was the usual tete-a-tete and happy banter as the honorees received the gifts and birthday wish from their classmates. And of course, not to be missed is the birthday song as the birthday girls blew the candles on their birthday cake after whispering their

wishes and giving thanks to God for another year given to them.

From Rafael Pascual Jr. of USTHS Class '61: His Batch donated twenty thousand pesos (PhP20,000.00) to The Pangarap Foundation on September 29. Thanks a lot to USTHS Class '61!

More acts of kindness:

One of our former scholars in Junior High and Senior High, Arron Campilla is now taking up Information Technology at the College of Computing Sciences, with a scholarship from Ms. Bene Meritus, USTHS Class '78. Mr. Campilla made an appeal recently that, as an intern now, he would like to request for an allowance because his mother's salary would not be enough to sustain his daily expenses and the upkeep of his four siblings who are all studying too (two in high school and two in grade school). His mother is a single parent who works in a private clinic.

Following this appeal was the immediate surge of response from the following: Myrna P.

Munda, USTHS Class '63; Sonny Marquez, USTHS Class '71; Angel Castro, USTHS Class '80; Avic Balagtas-Bartilad, USTHS Class '81; Del Zamora-Bernabe, USTHS Class '70; and Vince Ricarte, USTHS Class '92.

Thank you to our generous USTHS alumni for reaching out to help Arron Campilla. - **Myrna Munda, USTHS, 1981**



USTHS Class '63 hosts for the July- born celebration: Susana Calalay, Baby Javier, Yola Pilar, Lefty Lopez, Evelyn Paz-Cu, Alma de Jesus, Cecile Saavedra, and Meldy dela Cruz.



THE JOY AND COURAGE OF TEACHERS: A PRELUDE TO THE TEACHERS MONTH

Prof. Belen L. Tangco, Ph.D., one of the Distinguished Thomasian Alumni awardees of 2019 and President of the Catholic Teachers Guild of the Philippines (CTGP) convened a webinar on September 16, 2023, with the theme: The Joy and Courage of Teachers as a prelude to the Teachers Month in October. The CTGP is a member association of the Union Mondiale des Enseignants Catholiques (UMEC) - World Union of Catholic Teachers (WUCT).



The participants from the public and private schools were dazzled by the message of UMEC - WUCT Special Advisor Prof. Giovanni Peronne and the Keynote speech of Prof. Dr. Jan de Groof, the UMEC President. Rev. Fr. Maximo P. Gatela, O.P., CTGP Ecclesiastical Adviser and Regent of the UST College of Education, and Ms. Marilyn G. Trinidad, O.P., Faculty - Guidance Counselor of Allen National High School of Northern Samar, Philippines delivered thought-provoking and moving stories about the joy and courage of teachers.

Among the panel of reactors were Prof. Dr. Evelyn A. Songco, Chairman of the Board, UST Alumni Association, Inc., and CTGP Vice-President; Dean Clotilde N. Arcangel of Divine Wisdom College; Dr. Patrick Dave Q. Bugarin, OP, Faculty of the Dominican International School (DIS), Taipei, Taiwan; Supervisor Marietta S. Caballero, Values Education Program, City Schools Division, Quezon City; and Prof. Loreto Sauz, OP, CTGP Treasurer, Faculty Member, UST College of Education. Chat Moderators were Prof. Leo-Martin Angelo Ocampo, OP, Eiselle Joyce Hidalgo, OP and Vince Henry Salles, OP. Dr. Marielyn Quintana, OP, CTGP National Board Secretary, and Principal, UST Education High School, served as Host-Moderator. Mr. Vicente P. Libo-on, OP, Mr. Irineo Hernandez III, OP, and Mr. Christopher T. Alcantara, OP, served as Technical Team.

Prof. Dr. Tangco is UMEC-WUCT Councilor & Regional Coordinator for Asia. As such, she gave the opening remarks that was followed by the warm welcome of the UST Secretary General, Rev. Fr. Louie R. Coronel, OP and the inspiring message of the UST Vice-Rector for Academic Affairs, Prof. Dr. Cheryl R. Peralta, Ph.D.

The College of Education Alumni Association, Inc (CEAFI) proudly supported this webinar with great appreciation for the leadership of Prof. Dr. Tangco. - **Evelyn Songco, BSE, 1973**

FEATURED THOMASIAN... from page 16

lost, then indeed there will be nothing worth saving." Ladies, and gentlemen, live in such a way that when your loved ones think of integrity, they think of you. Of course, financial stability is our objective. In our pursuit of this goal, let me remind you that money is not in itself bad. The Holy Bible tells us that the love for money is the root of all evil. Yes, my friends.... not the money itself, but the love for money. Thus, avoid financial gain through unscrupulous means for it shows that you are controlled by worldly desires.

My dear Thomasian attorneys, do not allow your loyalty pledge to become a mere empty rhetoric. **Remember that you are not only lawyers, but Thomasian lawyers**, hence molded to live out the core Thomasian values of **competence, commitment and compassion**. As Thomasian lawyers, it is expected of you to carry the **SEAL** of Thomasian education: a **Servant leader**, an **Effective** communicator and collaborator, an **Analytical** and creative thinker, and a **Lifelong learner**. Always strive to serve the Almighty, country and humanity. As such, make it your mission to give voice to the voiceless; to take the cudgels for the exploited; and to stand up for truth and justice no matter what the cost. The feeling you will experience in living an honorable life will be more fulfilling than any accolade or degree conferred upon you.

My dear colleagues in the legal profession, may your JD degree also be a constant reminder to give back to your alma matter. For those who are not yet aware, the UST Law Alumni Foundation, Inc., - an offshoot of the former UST Law Alumni Association, Inc. - had been founded in 1984 by concerned alumni and alumnae of the Faculty of Civil Law, to foster closer relation between graduates of the Faculty. The Foundation has been active in undertakings aimed at promoting fraternity and camaraderie among the alumni, as well as in doing socially relevant activities such as legal aid, book donations, webinars and seminars. The Foundation, in fact, had already been offering fully-funded scholarships to qualified and deserving applicants for many years already. In 2021, during my time as Chairperson on the Committee on Scholarships, the Foundation made the scholarship available exclusively to Thomasian undergraduates, and this has been the policy until now. At present, the UST-LAFI has 12 full scholars. To be candid, it breaks our hearts to reject deserving applicants on account of our limited 'quota' for scholars. The Foundation's goal in the future is to be able to accommodate more scholars. On behalf of the Foundation, I kindly ask that you consider supporting our cause. I assure you that your generosity will go a long way. Believe me when

I say that the satisfaction of helping someone in need is second to none. Truly, we are blessed so that we can be a blessing to others. I totally agree with the notable Japanese writer, Haruki Murakami, when he wrote in one of his novels: *"What happens when people open their hearts? They get better."*

To those interested to join our cause, you can coordinate with me or any LAFI officer, and we will give you channels or avenues for your contribution. With your support, we could help more Thomasians finish their law degree. Let us remember that the happiest people are not those getting more, but those giving more. As one saying goes, *"We can't help everyone, but everyone can help someone."*

I have been informed that there are more than a thousand attendees here today. As UST-LAFI President, I would like to take advantage of this huge opportunity to invite you all to the upcoming activities of the Foundation. *First*, there will be a golf tournament at the Wack Wack Golf and Country Club in Mandaluyong City on October 24, 2023. The proceeds of this event will go to the LAFI Scholarship Fund and to our outreach programs. My invitation extends not only to the golf aficionados but to everyone who wants to support our cause. *Second*, there will be an Alumni Homecoming on November 25, 2023 at the Rizal Park Hotel. This will be a great and grand opportunity to revive old memories. Kindly take note of these dates.

I would not also let this opportunity pass without informing you that the LAFI, in coordination with Dean Divina, is currently brainstorming for a new and distinct toga design for Faculty of Civil Law Graduates. If this project comes into fruition, the new toga will give a fitting visual image to a JD degree holder; it will also do away with the annual renting out of a generic toga design.

Panyeros and panyeras, today is also an appropriate time to apprise you that initial talks have begun for the possible construction of a Civil Law Building. This sounds like a daunting task, indeed, but as one maxim goes, *"If your dreams don't scare you, then they are not big enough."* Pray for the realization of this huge undertaking. Of course, this project will only come into fruition if all of us will work together.

Kindly relay all this information to our fellow Thomasian lawyers who were unable to personally attend today's conferment.

Again, on behalf of the UST Law Alumni Foundation, I congratulate all of you on your JD conferment. May this degree ignite the Thomasian flame in you to make a difference in the lives of others. Thank you and I look forward to exchanging pleasantries with all of you later at the Faculty of Civil Law lobby. - **Mariz Manalo, Juris Doctor, 1995**



Campus Memories

When was the last time you talked to your college friends? I just talked to them last night! And we just had a reunion, all five of us, in March 2023! Every meeting, every video call would always be a "coming home" to the College of Education where our friendship began and where our life's goals and dreams were no longer amorphous. And from those hallowed grounds, we pursued our dreams passionately, accompanying one another. I always have my dear friends and professors and mentors to thank for until the end of time.

As a teacher and educator, I think I'm genetically wired to be one. My grandmother was a teacher during the American regime; three of her children became teachers (one of them is my Mama), and their cousins and their cousins' children also are teachers. It is for sure not a surprise to them when I took up Education. Honestly, it was I who was surprised! Providentially, my professors were the best ones and I moved around with like-minded people so they all nailed my vocation.

I have a very vivid memory of each professor I had in college and each classroom we occupied. The first one who made an impression on me was my Psychology teacher, Prof. Piedad Noblejas, because I was more interested in Psychology than in Education. She laid down the foundations of my being people oriented. Many classmates were not as calm as a dove with how she administered her examinations but I learned how to hack them. She always dictated her exams, whether short or long ones. After giving a question, she would specify the number of lines on the UST Exam Booklet (that Thomasians used which we bought at the Campus Bookstore) where the answer was to be written. Then, she would give the next question. Secret? Write on all the lines specified for the answers! But be sensible just the same. Some classmates said they wrote lines from popular songs. I never wondered why they did not land on the Dean's List.

I fancied literature and drama! Prof. Gloria Hernandez and Prof. Evelyn Tirol floored me with their mastery of the subject matter. If I were not sane, I would think they were contemporaries of the literary characters whom they gave much life to during discussions. Prof. Hernandez was a thespian that I even joined her Drama Guild and we staged "My Family" by Fr. Reuter, S.J., among others. It was in our Philosophy of Education taught by Professor Evelyn Songco that the loftiness of my course, BS Education, dawned on me. From that moment on, it was clear that I wanted to be an

educator in the real sense of the word.

Choosing my Major was a "major-major" decision.



Professor Pilar Isidoro (now Romero) in our Theology classes embodied God's love. She likewise inspired me to join Pax Romana of whom she was the adviser. Later on, I became the President of Pax Romana in our College.

Professor Teresita Cendana and Professor Giovanna Fontanilla were gurus in English. Class discussions with them were always jaw-dropping to me. I ended majoring in English. Prof. Cendana gave me the Fourth Year Pilot Section as my first teaching assignment as a Student-Teacher. (But Ma'am Pilar, you won! I now teach Religion!)

Mentors were not yet in style when I was in college. But I had them in flesh and blood, in good and bad times, rearing me until I could fly. Providence gave me Father Ramonclaro Mendez, O.P. and Dean Minerva Gonzales. Both were popular yet unpopular. Both were strong yet soft. Both were intellectuals but very spiritual. With them, I was a child to be taught, to be nourished. With their guidance and recommendation, I had a teaching position in UST right after graduation.

My dear friends, who are all English Majors and all Paxie officers, are the treasures I found in the college - Camille, Suzette, Weng, and Vero. Long before Pope Francis preached "accompaniment," we had lived it day by day. It was our secret to surviving college life! For the Spanish skits, we shared with one another the comic strips of Larry Alcala. We cheered one another in our Drama class. We stayed up for our Newspaper in Journalism and pushed one another to be her best self. We helped one another check

papers of students and coached each other how to compute the grades. Pax Romana projects of each one was supported - catechism, outreach activities, Marian exhibit, Christmas Caroling Contest, weekly Mass and Bibliarasa. And we also supported the projects and activities of our students in UST Education High School! We camped out with them in the school grounds. And we danced in their programs!

That was our training ground. Our vocation as educators was and is beyond questioning. We continue to support and comfort one another. Our dear Vero has gone home three months ago after battling courageously with the big C. She was the one comforting all of us!

Our witnessing helps us deepen our faith in God and in humanity. For all these and more, I have my Alma Mater to thank deeply.

Sarah Josefa M. Laragan

Sarah Josefa M. Laragan is a BS Education graduate, SY 1988. She taught at UST from 1988 to 2000 and was the Assistant Executive, Office of Public and Alumni Affairs from 1995 to 2000. She is currently the Vice-Director for Student Affairs and a teacher in Banilad Center for Professional Development, a school for underprivileged young women in Cebu City.



FEATURED THOMASIAN:

JUSTICE RONALD B. MORENO, DCL

Our featured Thomasian, Justice Ronald B. Moreno, the current President of USTLAFI and an Associate Justice of the Sandiganbayan, is actively involved as an officer and trustee of the USTLAFI. He also chaired the scholarship program of the Foundation before his election as the new President of USTLAFI.

Justice Moreno holds three university degrees from UST. He earned his Juris Doctor in 1995, followed by his Master of Law in 2006, and most recently, his Doctor of Civil Law in 2019, magna cum laude.

Instead of focusing on his persona, this article will highlight the speech delivered by our Featured Thomasian during the UST Juris Doctor Conferment Ceremony on July 29, 2023, at the UST Quadricentennial Pavilion.



The full text of his speech follows.

Rev. Father Isidro C. Abaño, Regent, Faculty of Civil Law, Rev. Father Louie R. Coronel, UST Secretary-General, incumbent Supreme Court Associate Justice Amy C. Lazaro Javier, LEB Chairperson Atty. Anna Marie Melanie B. Trinidad, Dean Nilo T. Divina, Atty. Arthur B. Capili, Faculty Secretary, former and present magistrates of the Court of Appeals, Court of Tax Appeals and the Sandiganbayan, members of the Alumni Board, officials of the Faculty of Civil Law, distinguished guests, fellow Thomasians, ladies and gentlemen, good afternoon!

It is my honor and privilege to speak to you all on this auspicious day, and to later lead you in reciting the Thomasian Pledge. Although I was already expecting a large turn-out this afternoon, I am still overwhelmed by the sheer number of Thomasian lawyers gathered here today. The response to the invitation for today's event was so tremendous that the venue had to be changed just to be able to accommodate us all. I see familiar faces everywhere: a large number were my students; some were my professors; a few were my classmates; and some were my colleagues in the judiciary and in the UST-LAFI. It truly warms my heart to see you all – Baby Boomers, Generation X, Millennials

and Generation Z! I am looking forward to reminiscing our time in the Faculty later at the dinner. I am sure many of you vividly recall your recitation time with Dean Aligada or Dean Ortega. Who could forget our revalida before Dean Dimayuga and Justice Benipayo? How can we not remember our own experiences on the generosity of Dean Divina? Indeed, our talking points will be endless.

More importantly, we are gathered here today to take part in a momentous event – the UST Faculty of Civil Law Juris Doctor Conferment Ceremony. As the President of UST-Law Alumni Foundation, Inc., allow me also to give a brief update on the accomplishments and projects of the Foundation. Before anything else, let me first discuss the significance of today's JD conferment ceremony, vis-à-vis the loyalty pledge that you will recite later.

My fellow Thomasians, while it may be true that today's conferment is being held in compliance with the Memorandum Order of the Legal Education Board, may I remind everyone here that this event is not a mere formality, or what we call in legal parlance as 'pro forma'. Your conferment is a validation that you are ready, capable and responsive to the current needs of the legal profession vis-à-vis the changing



conditions of society. The JD degree is a recognition that you are not only good on legal theory and principles, but you possess practical skills needed to legal practice, including a good grasp on legal research, writing and negotiation. The JD degree is also a shout-out to the world that you are adept in analyzing complex legal issues quickly, and that you possess certain specialization on some aspects or fields of law like human rights, consumer protection and environmental law. Simply put, your JD degree, more than anything else, is a testament of your hard work, competence, ability and integrity. Thomasian attorneys, please do not prove me wrong.

As I earlier mentioned, I am tasked to lead you today in the recitation of the Thomasian Pledge. Usually, this pledge marks a student's transition to becoming an alumnus of the University. Today, however, you will be reciting this pledge to reaffirm your commitment to uphold the UST's noble traditions and values, and as your vow to stand by the University and what it represents. More importantly, the pledge is an allegiance on your part to bring recognition to our dear alma mater. By being the best and most ethical lawyer in your respective fields, you are in fact already bringing honor to the UST Faculty of Civil Law.

Please bear in mind that while titles and accolades are desirable, it is your character that will ultimately define you. As you receive your JD degrees today, remember to always take the high road and never compromise your integrity. For emphasis, let me say that again: never compromise your integrity. Behave ethically even when no one is watching, not only in your professional life but in your personal dealings, as well. What good is your JD degree when your name is tarnished? As the British author Samuel Miles said, "If character be irrecoverably

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