



THE THOMASIAN ALUMNI COMMUNITY

VOL. NO 7 - ISSUE NO. 1

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE UST ALUMNI ASSOCIATION, INC.

Newsletter

THE UNIVERSITY OF SANTO TOMAS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION, INC. CELEBRATES EXCELLENCE: 63 OUTSTANDING ALUMNI HONORED AT THE 8TH DISTINGUISHED THOMASIAN ALUMNI NIGHT

The University of Santo Tomas Alumni Association, Inc. (USTAAI) proudly recognized 63 outstanding alumni from various colleges and faculties of the University of Santo Tomas during the 8th Distinguished Thomasian Alumni Awards (DTAA) Night held on November 18, 2023, at the Dr. Robert Sy Grand Ballroom in the Alumni Center, BGPOP Building in UST. This year, the DTA Awards Committee added a new category for Young Achievers, and screened nominees from the different member alumni associations. Honored for their significant and exemplary contributions to society and the Church, these distinguished Thomasians make all Filipinos proud. Now in its 8th year, the award continues to highlight the remarkable achievements of individuals who have made a lasting impact in their respective fields.

The 2023 Distinguished Thomasian Alumni Awardees include:

Tomasinong Bikolano Alumni Association

Engr. Eleanor Areola
Jose C. Rañola, MD.
Leticia B. Guillermo, MD

Tomasino Ilocano – La Union

Manuel C. Ortega
Fernando A. Astom, MD.
Geraldine Ramos-Ortega

Tomasino Kapampangan

Rev. Fr. Jesus Miranda, OP

UST Alumni Priests Association

Msgr. Nilo Peig, JCD
Most Rev. Manolo Alarcon delos Santos, DD

UST Atelier

Ramoncito de Ocampo Cruz
Manuel Dailo Baldemor
Salvador Javier Ching

UST College of Architecture

Ar. Lucille Chua
Ar. Daniel Go
Ar. Consuelo C. Buencamino

UST College of Commerce

Leonardo M. Canoy, Jr.
Rafael G. Ayuste, Jr.
Hon. Maria Cristina C. Angeles

UST College of Education Alumni Foundation, Inc.

Candida C. Agcaoili
Ma. Nenita C. Umali
Esmeralda B. Brodeth

UST College of Science

Maribel G. Nonato
Wilfredo F. Sevilla
Jovenal M. Francisco, Jr.

UST Conservatory of Music

Renato B. Lucas
Rodel F. Colmenar
Fr. Leo Nilo C. Mangusad

UST Education High School Graduates

Mary Caroline N. Castaño
Joseph C. Bautista

UST CRS

Armando Philip S. Paez
Louis S. Rivera
Thomas Tan

UST Engineering

Engr. Elvira N. Arceo
Engr. Restituto A. Cabrera

UST Medical Alumni

Gil Y. Gamilla, MD.
Ramon R. Panlilio, MD.
Olga Sangalang-Vinoya, MD

UST Faculty of Pharmacy Alumni and Scholarship Foundation, Inc.

Anna Liza U. Lopez
BGen. Vincent B. Incognito
Sr. Marissa R. Viri, RVM

UST Golden Cross and Saber

Rodrigo D. de Mesa, MD.
Ar. Christopher C. Cueto

UST High School Alumni Alliance Foundation, Inc.

Atty. Pacifico G. Eusebio, Jr.
Ar. Reynald P. David
Alvin R. Matulac, MD.

UST Law Alumni Foundation, Inc.

Atty. Maria Elena Francisco
Atty. Maria Liza Lopez-Rosario
Atty. Renato Jacinto S. Cuisia

UST Nursing

Senen DC. Cabalfin, RN
Luzviminda B. Banaria, RN
Nancy N. Hoff, RN

UST Pax Romana

Jesus P. Querubin, MD.
Egidio Elio, MD

UST Philets and Artlets

Josephine Esperanza A. Placido
Hon. Imelda Calixto-Rubiano
Wilma Monserrat V. Palafox

UST PMT CAT

Jose M. Simon, Jr.

Continued on page 5

UST Family Jazz Festival: A Magical Night of Jazz and Christmas Cheer



The University of Santo Tomas (UST) campus was alive with the enchanting sounds of jazz and the festive spirit of Christmas during the inaugural Family Christmas Jazz Festival held on December 16, 2023. Organized by the UST Alumni Association, Inc. and the UST Conservatory of Music Alumni Association, Inc., this event marked a splendid fusion of international jazz talent, familial legacies, and the soulful harmony of the season.

The spotlight shone brightly on the internationally acclaimed and multi-awarded jazz vocalist, Ms. Lorna Cifra, a distinguished artist and sister to the renowned composer and director, Pipo Cifra. Gracing the stage alongside her were jazz virtuosos who added their magic to the night. Jazz royalty, Ryan Villamor, brought his notes to life on the piano, not only showcasing his musical prowess but also revealing his talents as a certified therapeutic harp practitioner.

The rhythm section was anchored by the noted principal bass player, Gerald Flores, known for his contributions to both the UST Symphony Orchestra and the Peninsula Manila Jazz Band. Completing the ensemble was the skilled jazz drummer and licensed professional teacher, Fernando Mendoza, Jr. His rhythmic expertise brought an added layer of dynamism to the performance, and it's worth noting that he is the son of a fellow Marian schoolmate, Ferdie.

As the musical notes filled the Dr. Robert Sy Grand Ballroom of the Buenaventura Garcia Paredes, O.P. (BGPOP) Building, the atmosphere transcended time and space, creating a Birdland Jazz Club vibe minus the drinks. The audience, comprised of jazz

Continued on page 5



ALUMNI ASSOCIATION IN BRUNEI DARUSSALAM INDUCTS NEW OFFICERS AND MEMBERS IN FOUNDING ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

The UST Alumni Association in Brunei Darussalam (USTAAB) commemorated its 7th founding anniversary with an annual gathering and induction ceremony in Pondok Sari Wangi Restaurant located at Brunei-Muiri, Brunei on November 11, 2023. The event was graced by Her Excellency Marian Jocelyn R. Tirol-Ignacio, the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Philippines to Brunei Darussalam. She was accompanied by Vice Consul Jacqueline Ong and Welfare Officer Maria Cristina Mallare. Also present in the event was UST Alumni Relations Director Asst. Prof. Fredeswindo R. Medina, MACHs as the lead inducting officer in the ceremony.

Ambassador Tirol-Ignacio commended the association's strong connection with each other through their shared values shaped by the University of Santo Tomas. Her Excellency, who was raised by a Thomasian alumna and educator, was also influenced by the university's teachings making the institution have a special place in her heart. She congratulated the outgoing officers of USTAAB for their job well done and gave well wishes to the incoming officers.



(L-R) USTAAB officers Michelle Centeno, Joji Languido-Castillo, Katrina Reyes Ignacio, Christheart Anthony Corral, together with HE Ambassador Tirol-Ignacio and OAR Director Asst. Prof. Medina

Newly elected USTAAB president Mr. Corral presented the group's past activities and involvement in the Filipino Association. Corral plans to continue his predecessors' projects and increase the association's participation and contribution to the Sultanate and the Filipino community.

USTAAB OFFICERS 2023-2024

President: Christheart Anthony Corral
(BS Architecture, 2009)
Vice President: Joji Languido-Castillo
(BFA Interior Design, 1991)
Secretary: Michelle Centeno
(BSC Accountancy, 1999)
Treasurer: Ma. Katrina Reyes Ignacio
(BS Nursing, 2009)
PRO: Lucy Formoso Velez
(BSC Accountancy, 1996)

NEW MEMBERS 2023

Nathan John Taal Sia
(BS Architecture, 2021)
Ernesto Chua, Jr.
(BS Education, 1997)
Maria Angelica Gala-Belen
(BS Biology, 2005 and Doctor of Medicine, 2009)

OUTGOING OFFICERS 2022-2023

President: Joji-Languido Castillo
(BFA Interior Design)
Vice President: Renz Victor Gonzales
(BS Mechanical Engineering, 2011)
Secretary: Jesusa "Joy" Estrella
(BS Tourism, 1995)
Treasurer: Dominic Cordova
(BS Architecture, 1997)
PRO: Deogracias Garcia
(BFA Advertising, 1991)

Medina of Alumni Relations shares alumni engagement expertise in THE Campus Live SE Asia

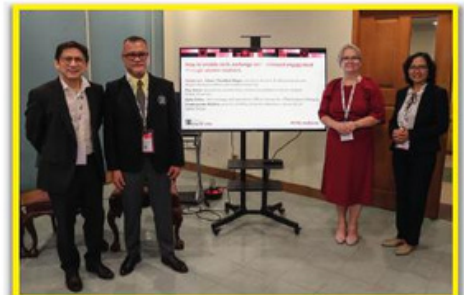
Alumni Relations Director Asst. Prof. Fredeswindo R. Medina, MACHs represented the University of Santo Tomas in the Times Higher Education (THE) Campus Live Southeast Asia hosted by De La Salle University Manila on November 23, 2023.

Asst. Prof. Medina was chosen as one of the resource speakers in the panel session about the enabling of skills exchange and increased engagement through alumni relations of different educational institutions. The panel included Gadjah Mada University's Director for Partnerships, Alumni and Global Initiatives Puji Astuti, and University of Nottingham Malaysia's Chief Strategy and Operations Officer Kylie Colvin.

The session was moderated by De La Salle University Executive Director of Advancement and Alumni Relations Office Edwin Theodoro Reyes.

The best practices of handling and establishing alumni relations were thoroughly discussed during the session. Challenges of filling the gap between graduates' competency and industry standards and how to solve it were also added to the discourse.

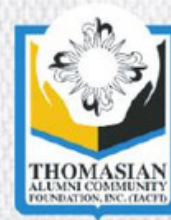
The THE Campus Live Southeast Asia was a two-day affair held at DLSU Manila. The event aims to gather academic and administrative higher education leaders, industry partners, and policy experts to explore more ways to achieve institutional success.



(L-R) DLSU Panel Session Moderator Edwin Theodoro Reyes, UST OAR Director Asst. Prof. Fredeswindo R. Medina, MACHs, UNM representative Kylie Colvin, and UGM Puji Astuti

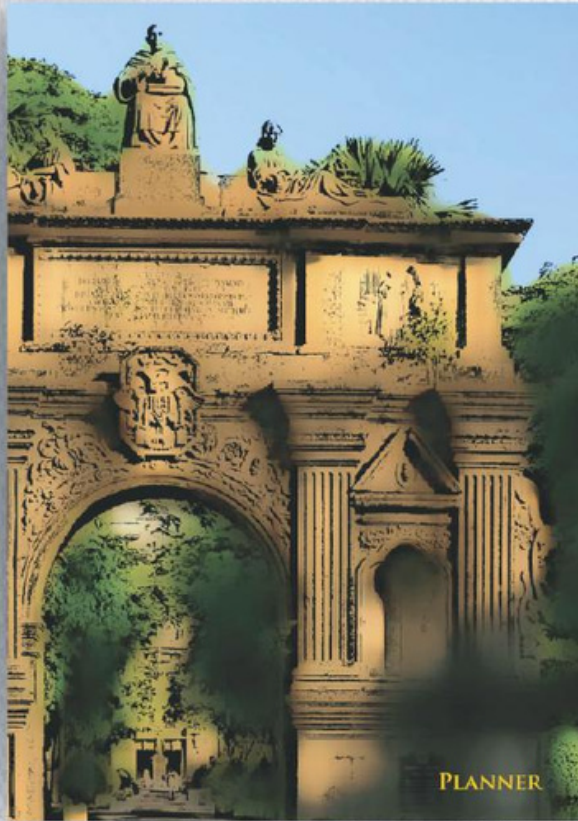


NOW AVAILABLE!



Inside:

- 2024-2025 Calendar
- Day to day notes
- Prayer guide
- Postcards
- Stickers



Php 500.00

Onsite payment and pick-up:
Visit USTAAI Office,
Room 321, BGPOP Bldg., UST
(M-F, 10AM-4PM)

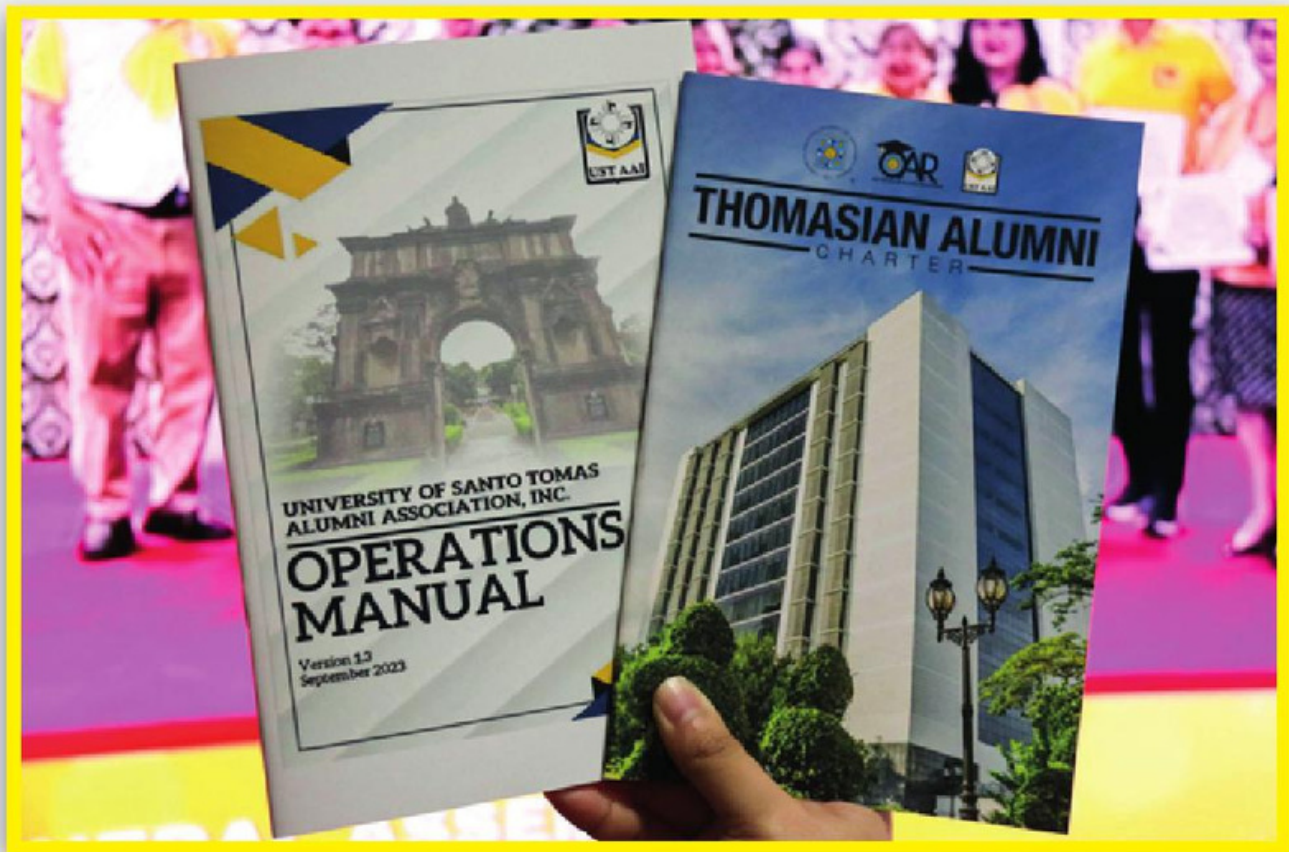
Bank/Gcash payment and delivery: Send message via
Viber at 0917-523-1522



THOMASIAN
planner



OAR and UST AAI Launch First Alumni Charter and Operations Manual



Distributed copies of USTAAI Operations Manual and the Thomasian Alumni Charter

The UST Office of Alumni Relations (OAR) and the UST Alumni Association, Inc. (UST AAI) officially launched the Thomasian Alumni Charter and the USTAAI Operations Manual on October 27, 2023 at the George S.K. Ty Function Hall of the Buenaventura Garcia Paredes, O.P. Building.



Alumni associations, groups, and chapter representatives with USTAAI and OAR.

Representatives from different college-based alumni associations, interest-based groups, as well as local and international alumni chapters from Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Guam, and Hong Kong, gathered to witness the historic introduction of the first two codified documents about the working relationship, best practices, and operations of the university through OAR collaborating with the alumni community through UST AAI.

OAR Director Asst. Prof. Fredeswindo R. Medina, MACHs presented the Thomasian Alumni Charter to the representatives. The charter clearly defines the roles and responsibility of OAR and UST AAI as they share the common purpose of serving the Thomasian alumni community. The document proactively addresses the future needs and issues concerning the university and determines the accountability and regulatory procedures of both offices. It also shows their

standardized processes in line with the alumni associations' needs and requests from the university.

UST AAI Corporate Secretary Atty. Ma. Elena R. Enriquez discussed the Operations Manual and briefly explained the association's organizational structure, protocols, membership dues, and support fund. UST AAI President Atty. Dwight M. Ramos envisions the association to operate sustainably with a solid and reliable manual of operations designed for success. It is intended to be revised whenever necessary to adjust to the changing landscape of the organization.

UST AAI Chairman of the Board of Trustees Evelyn A. Songco, PhD called the two documents a work-in-progress, and looks forward to a harmonious and productive partnership of OAR and AAI in improving the charter and the manual in the years to come. She thanked the university for always fostering the alumni community. According to Dr. Songco, the two gestures implied the importance and value of the community, inspiring the organization to work harder in service to the university, the community, the Church, and the country.



USTAAI Collaborates with Ecclesiastical Faculty of Philosophy Activity in Quezon City

The UST Ecclesiastical Faculty of Philosophy in collaboration with the UST-Faculty of Philosophy Students' Forum, UST-Simbahayan, and the UST Alumni Association, Inc., had their off-campus community development program with the Sisters of the Poor of Saint Catherine of Siena in Quezon City last November 12, 2023.

This activity is the first off-campus activity of the Faculty after the COVID-19 Pandemic and is part of the week-long celebration of College Week of the Faculty. Among those who facilitated the Community Development Program were the brothers from the Order of Preachers--Santo Domingo Convent, Order of Saint Benedict--Abbey of Our Lady of Monserrat, and the Diocesan Seminarians --UST Central Seminary.

The program began with the celebration of the Holy Eucharist celebrated by Rev. Fr. Mhandy Malijan, OP, followed by the Animation activity and the Catechism. The Catechism proper made use of Rev. Fr. Edgardo Alaurin, OP's book of *Cargassus: The Flying Carabao*, inculcating the triumph of Good over Evil. The book revisits forgotten Filipino values teaching the value of friendship, faith, hope, and love. Copies are available at the TAC Exchange or the USTAAl office.

The activity ended with the feeding program and the giving of goods consisting of 2 kilos of rice, dried fish, fresh eggs, and slippers courtesy of the UST Alumni Association, Inc. - *From FPSF News*



(photos by Sem. Hartnell D. Madarang; Br. Febrian Malage, OP; Br. Cornelius Liewengsa Putra, OP / The Owl)

UST Family Jazz Festival:... from page 1

enthusiasts and music aficionados, found themselves immersed in the captivating tunes of Christmas, creating an unforgettable experience.

Kudos were in order for the USTAAl, the UST Conservatory of Music Alumni Association, and the sponsors who orchestrated this memorable festival. This groundbreaking event, a first of many to come, showcased the exceptional musical talent that defines the Thomasian community.

The night was not only about the individual brilliance of the performers but also about the collaborative magic they conjured on stage. Ms. Lorna Cifra's impeccable voice, complemented by the improvisation and harmony of Ryan Villamor, Gerald Flores, and Fernando Mendoza, Jr., elevated the concert experience to new heights.

As the final notes resonated and the applause echoed through the hall, the organizers expressed their gratitude to all attendees, promising an exciting lineup of events and activities throughout 2024. The Family Christmas Jazz Festival had successfully captured the essence of the season, leaving everyone eagerly anticipating the next chapter in UST's musical journey.

In the glow of the holiday lights, the UST community bid farewell to 2023 with a heart full



of jazz and the promise of more musical celebrations to come. Here's to another year of harmonious melodies and festive cheer!

- ATTY. MARIZ MANALO, *Juris Doctor*, 1995

The 2023 Distinguished Thomasian Alumni Awardees...

from page 1

UST Graduate School
Marilu Ranosa-Madrurnio, PhD

UST SOCCSKSARGEN
Anna Katrina Garcia, MD

UST Thomasian Alumni Leaders
Solon L. Sy

UST Alumni Association, Inc.
CG Rear Admiral Armando A. Balilo

Young Thomasian Achiever Awardees
Capt. Rainier Vincent F. Dy
Denise Angelo M. Prudencio, RN

Congratulations to all the Distinguished Thomasian Alumni Awardees for their exceptional achievements and contributions to the University and society. The USTAAl looks forward to continuing its tradition of honoring and celebrating the accomplishments of its esteemed alumni.

For media inquiries, please contact:
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PRO, USTAAl
attymarizmanalo@gmail.com



-CLICKER-RAZZI-



Launching of OAR Alumni Charter and USTAAI Operations Manual

TOMASInno Center Bootcamp





USTAAI and OAR Christmas Party



UST TALA Induction of Officers



TACFI Christmas Party



USTAAI and UST Thomasian Alumni Leaders Association "TALA NG PASKO"



USTEAAI General Assembly



USTFPAASFI Grand Alumni Homecoming



USTHS Class '61



USTHS Class '63



USTHS Class '84





UST Alumni Relations Holds Onsite Appreciation Day for Industry Partners, Benefactors, Organizations

The UST Office of Alumni Relations celebrated thriving collaborations with its partner organizations, companies, and benefactors on December 1, 2023 at the Dr. Robert C. Sy Grand Ballroom of the BGPOP Building (Thomasian Alumni Center). The Appreciation Day is a gathering to thank and acknowledge the university's supporters who have helped the office in its projects of forging ties and cultivating relationships with the alumni community.



OAR Director Asst. Prof. Medina during the welcome remarks.



Asst. Prof. Medina with the representatives from Le Soleil Boracay, Winford Hotel & Casino, and Holiday Inn Express Manila.

(From left) OAR Director Asst. Prof. Medina and Alumni Engagement Officer Carla Romina Ricarte (leftmost) with USTAAI Officers (from left): President Atty. Dwight Ramos, Financial Comptroller Emelito Malabanan, Secretariat Katherine Bundang, Corporate Secretary Atty. Ma. Elena Enriquez, Treasurer Arnellito Ocampo, Chief of Staff Ana Marie Fernandez, and Asst. PRO Maria Carmela Royeca



AT A GLANCE October - December 2023

By: Myrna Plata-Munda

USTHS '61

A well attended and lively welcome luncheon gathering was held on December 15 upon the arrival of Balibayan from Canada Batchmate ARABELLA GONZALES. There was non-stop catching-up exchanges while enjoying their native fare meal. Class '61 has also sponsored the Divine Mercy Apostolate headed by Rafael Pascual Jr. and his wife Levie, through the propagation of the 3 O'Clock Habit among families at the Immaculate Conception Parish in the Vista Verde Executive Village, Diocese of Antipolo.

USTHS '63

A celebration of life for our November-born classmates CECILE BEJASA-SAAVEDRA and LETTY JACINTO-LOPEZ was held on November 10 with a luncheon at the MESA Restaurant, Rockwell Power Plant Mall in Makati, hosted by their classmates: Evelyn Paz-Cu, Carmelita Catangay Javier, Alma de Jesus, Susana M. Calalay, Myrna Plata-Munda, Yola Arce-Pilar, Perla Evangelista-Roy, and Meldy Dela Cruz. Dessert and coffee at MARY GRACE Restaurant followed courtesy of CECILE SAAVEDRA.

Continued on page 10

During his welcome remarks, OAR Director Asst. Prof. Fredeswindo R. Medina, MACHs reported the growing number of partners throughout the years. In the first-ever OAR Appreciation event in 2018, there were 24 industry partners and benefactors who were recognized. This year, OAR was able to connect and further strengthen relationships with 77 partners composed of six UST departments, 67 private companies, two organizations, and two individual benefactors.

The UST departments and private companies offer perks and privileges to thousands of Thomasian alumni across the country who register with the OAR and are issued the Thomasian Alumni Card.

Some of the partners who were recognized during the event included the UST Museum, UST Miguel de Benavides Library, Santisimo Rosario Parish, Astoria Hotels, Cabean Cafe, George Optical, Highlands Coffee, Holiday Inn Express Manila, Hotel San Marco, Le Soleil De Boracay, Luxent Hotel, Makati Medical

Care Access Araneta City, Movenpick Boracay, Reddoorz Philippines, Shinagawa Diagnostic & Preventive Care, Tinapayan Festival Bakeshoppe, and Winford Hotel & Casino.

Also recognized were the partner organizations of OAR that included UST Alumni Association, Inc. for alumni events and Prosple for career development programs of the alumni community. Generous benefactors Drs. Jose & Stella Evangelista and Dr. Anselmo Unite were also honored during the event.

Asst. Prof. Medina gave his heartfelt thanks to everyone who has given their trust and confidence to OAR in continuing its purpose to serve the alumni community. He assured the partners of the improvements and innovations OAR is working on to make the collaboration and partnership more sustainable and engaging for the years to come.



Thomasian Dominance: UST FACULTY OF CIVIL LAW Secures Top Spot in 2023 Bar Exams



In a remarkable display of legal prowess, the University of Santo Tomas Faculty of Civil Law is celebrating the outstanding achievements of its law graduates in the recently concluded 2023 Bar Examinations. Among the 3,812 successful examinees out of the 10,387 who completed all the tests during the three days of intense scrutiny, Ephraim Bie emerged as the topnotcher, securing an impressive 89.2625% rating.

The Thomasian community marked this extraordinary accomplishment with a grand parade, a sumptuous supper, and a spectacular fireworks display. The jubilant atmosphere was further enhanced by the commendable performance of Pio Vincent Buencamino, who claimed the 8th spot with an outstanding rating of 88.25%.

The duo's exceptional scores reaffirm UST's historical prominence in producing topnotchers, with notable alumni such as former Chief Justice Roberto Concepcion, former President Diosdado Macapagal, Senator Jose W. Diokno, and Arlene Maneja.

The University of Santo Tomas itself solidified its



standing as the 5th top-performing school, boasting an impressive 85.25% passing rate—significantly higher than the national passing rate of 36.77%.

In a heartwarming ceremony during the thanksgiving mass and testimonial dinner on December 14, 2023, sponsored by the UST Faculty of Civil Law under the leadership of Dean Nilo Divina,

Atty. Ephraim Porciuncula Bie, the No. 1 in the 2023 Bar, was presented with a plaque of recognition and substantial cash gifts. The DivinaLaw Foundation contributed P1.250 Million, the UST Law Alumni Foundation, Inc. provided P200,000.00, and Atty. R. Oben of The Oben Group of Companies donated P500,000.00 to support the accomplished topnotcher.

Atty. Pio Vincent R. Buencamino, the No. 8 Bar Placer, was also honored with a plaque of recognition and received substantial cash gifts. The DivinaLaw Foundation granted P530,000.00, UST Law Alumni

Foundation, Inc. contributed P100,000.00, and Atty. R. Oben of The Oben Group of Companies offered an additional P100,000.00 in recognition of Buencamino's remarkable achievement. As the festivities concluded, the new Thomasian Lawyers were pleasantly surprised with individual cash gifts of P5,000.00 each and an all-expense-paid trip to Japan, generously provided

by Dean Nilo Divina—a fitting tribute to their hard-earned success.

The University of Santo Tomas remains a beacon of excellence in legal education, producing not only competent lawyers but also leaders in the field.

– ATTY. MARIZ MANALO, *Juris Doctor, 1995*

UST Tops September 2023 Elementary and Secondary Education Licensure Exams

The College of Education Alumni Foundation, Inc. (CEAFI) joins the UST College of Education in celebrating the achievements of its alumni who passed the September 2023 Board Licensure Examination for Professional Teachers (BLEPT) administered by the Professional Regulation Commission.

UST was named the Top 1 performing school in both the elementary and secondary levels with 100% and 98.56% passing rates, respectively, producing 228 newly licensed teachers.

Thomasian educators Dulce Arellano and Chelsea Taiga led the elementary topnotchers with a score of 94.40%, sharing the No. 1 spot nationally. Likewise, Monica Acosta and Rae Villena shared the No. 8 place, with Joyce Mangibin securing the No. 10 spot.

Earlier this year, UST also topped the March 2023 BLEPT, producing 116 elementary and secondary teachers, and the November 2023 Nutritionist-Dietitians licensure exams with 137 passers. UST likewise produced newly registered librarians last September 2023 and professional

food technologists in its inaugural exam last August 2023.

May their success inspire the current

and future members of CEAFI, reflecting the foundation's testament in providing support for quality education and commitment

to academic excellence. CEAFI looks forward to celebrating more milestones and successes with its members, fostering a community of accomplished professionals with significant contributions to society.



TOP 1 PERFORMING SCHOOL
100% Passing Rate | 91 passers
ELEMENTARY EDUCATION



Photos courtesy of the University of Santo Tomas.



Artlets: Memories

Fr. Ranzilio Callangan Aquino

When I remember the Faculty of Arts and Letters, I remember the people who made it what it was – the Artlets with which I was familiar and that remains etched in my memory.

I remember the loving but firm, brilliant but caring Dean Magdalena Alonso Villaba. She taught Oriental Philosophy to us who majored in Philosophy, but she also taught other philosophy subjects to other students in other departments. Because of her, Artlets offered an "A.B. major in Translations" course – probably, the first of its kind. In one of our conversations after I had graduated, she recalled that one day, on entering the building that housed Artlets (frequently referred to as "the Commerce Building" – which was definitely a misnomer, as there were two colleges lodged there), she was met with what she took to be the ruckus of a disorderly class. It turned out to be the class in Mandarin – the very class she brought into existence. She also designed the "Asian Studies" course that took the students through the culture, the philosophies, the history, and the languages of the East.

Dr. Ariston Estrada was definitely one of the more prominent members of the Artlets family. He was towering – both physically and intellectually, though slightly bent, as he was already advanced in years. But he could be counted on to meet his classes – impeccably dressed in business suit, with a well-worn but still elegant carry brief-case and a long umbrella. He kept the bus tickets on which he rode (he once remarked to me – in response to my suggestion that he take the cab – that the shortest way to the poorhouse was the taxil) and on which he jotted the mistakes of the unfortunates who he called upon to recite – in shorthand. He was an expert at rhetoric and his logic was formidable. He was not one to retreat from a debate, when he considered the proposition worth defending – particularly propositions from Thomas Aquinas.

There were other wonderful and truly wise professors. Great literary figures were Prof. Piedad Rosales, Dr. Ophelia Dimalanta, and Prof. Milagros Tanlayco. Dr. Dimalanta distinguished herself as a poetess – writing several books of poetry, but it was Prof. Rosales who made the longest-lasting impression on me, even if I never took a course with her. She taught her students not only literature but also the humanities and once asked me to play for her class the theme from the third movement of Rachmaninoff's Piano Concerto No. 2. She was approachable and amiable – and that, I liked a lot about her. Prof. Corinta Barranco graduated summa cum laude and was highly regarded. She died relatively young though, after a botched surgery for her infected tonsils!

One of the most "colorful" figures was the inimitable Jose David Lapuz. He taught his "loves" – Rizal and

"political philosophy" – but I was never sure where he taught the latter subject because he did not teach us, who majored in philosophy. I presume he taught the political science students. He made sure that all his foreign trips were published in one of the national dailies, and saw to it that his students knew about his foreign invitations by requiring them to cut out the newspaper articles documenting his foreign lectures.

Prof. Zenaida Elepaño was the de facto choir leader of Artlets and I still remember the time she was supposed to accompany Prof. Inma Topacio on the piano but the miserable Sra. Topacio never caught the correct tune. Prof. Elepaño would move on to become an RTC Judge and later on Court Administrator of the Supreme Court.

They were simple days – and the Faculty was small enough to be a "family," but big enough to provide that diversity of personalities that made it interesting and that allowed one the thrill of meeting new people.

I have memories of persons with whom I wanted so much to be friends, but was either too bashful or diffident about approaching them. And now, all I have is regret at missing the opportunity of having gained a friend or other for a lifetime.

I competed once in an Extemporaneous Speech Contest, and was really flattered to have virtually the whole of Artlets rooting for me and cheering wildly when I won. That is a memory I hold dearly, not really because of the prize (I have forgotten what it was!) but because of the honor of having received the adulation of my peers, and the profuse encouragement of my dean, Dr. Villaba.

Fr. Albert Alejo, SJ who has distinguished himself by his output on Philippine studies was my contemporary – a year younger – but our paths often crossed at Artlets.

Artlets was my first experience at university life – for, until I was dismissed from Maryhurst Seminary in my third year, I have lived the sheltered life of a seminarian. Lining up to have a grumpy University Registrar – then the late Dr. Norberto de Ramos – scribble his initial on my transfer form was an experience in itself. I joined a queue and when, at last I reached the window that everyone approached with almost the same reverence as one approaches the tabernacle, his secretary peremptorily shut it with the single dismissive word: "Lunchbreak!"

Bishop (later Archbishop) Leonardo Legaspi was rector then, succeeded by Fr. Frederik Fermin who I greatly admired. He, in fact conscripted, me to do some work for him – preparing his bibliography for his class at the Faculty of Theology on "Justice", and we remained friends till the end of his days. Mine was the pleasure of having him attend the

defense of my master's thesis in philosophy.

There are some Dominican priests I wish to mention. Fr. Pedro Luis Gonzalez was our regent – and later on, when he had become Dean of the Faculty of Theology at the Angelicum in Rome, he became chairman of the panel of oral examiners for my master's thesis in philosophy. He taught us Ethics. There was Fr. Norberto Castillo who was a licensed chemist and a philosophy professor who impressed us with the doctoral dissertation he wrote – *The Unity of the Atom* – and who once marked my test paper: 1+! Then there was Fr. Maximiliano Rebollo who chaired the panel that examined me on my baccalaureate thesis on links between existentialists and Aquinas in the theory of knowledge – my attempt to bridge my existentialist leanings from Maryhurst Seminary with the Thomism into which I was transplanted at UST.

Do I have happy memories of UST? Of course, I do – and particularly of the Faculty of Arts and Letters. And when the story of my life is finally written – I do not know by whom, as I am not minded to write an autobiography – Artlets should be one of the great chapters of that story!

AT A GLANCE..... from page 8

Later, four of them (Myrna Plata-Munda, Susan Calalay, Yola Pilar, and Alma de Jesus) passed by the Namit Namit Food Festival at the ground level of the Power Plant Mall. Yola, Susan, and Alma joined the food buying spree and went on to end the day with a shopping spree and a light dinner at Landers in Balintawak, Susan's treat. What a wonderful day for the septuagenarians!

USTHS '84 (as reported by AGNES PAGGABAO JULIAN)

In preparation for the 40th (RUBY) anniversary of USTHS Class '84 in 2024, a Christmas party was organized on December 7 to drum up the Batch's "FEARLESS AT 40" RUBY JUBILEE. Seventy four alumni and guests gathered at DAPO BAR and RESTAURANT in Quezon City for an evening of fun, bonding, and catching up among batch mates and friends. The party started with a prayer, including special intentions for batch mates who are sick, and for those who have passed on. Attendees were recognized with group photos per section, against their original (VERITAS) class photo projected in the background. Graduates from the UST Elementary School and from the Dominican School were also acknowledged. Dinner was enjoyed with catching up sorties while 80's music played. Games and raffle prizes added to the fun. Section 425 was given an award for having the most number of attendees for the night. There was singing and dancing that capped the night until dawn. Truly a wonderful night to break the ground for their Ruby anniversary!



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

Doing our best....

As we start another year, our hearts are filled with hope and enthusiasm for the coming days and months believing that the best is yet to come in our lives.

Here at UST AAI, it is the beginning of my second year of service as president. Our thoughts are now focused on the past and where we are now, as compared to where we want to be succeeding and doing the things we enjoy. In other words, we are having great plans, once again with renewed energy. And of course, ready to begin and to make the best of everything by avoiding the mistakes of the past. We are determined to do the right things in order to achieve and fulfill our dreams. But for how long? Until we feel again the pressure of our day to day grind...when once again we suddenly wonder where has yet another year gone? Was it not just yesterday when we thought we had another year before us, until it yet once again quickly went by leaving us tired with still so much to do?

That brought to mind an interesting book that I read recently entitled, "If You Want It Done Right, You Don't Have to Do It Yourself." The author, Dr. Donna M. Genetic, talked about the power of effective delegation and promised that by implementing six simple, immediately applicable steps, you will both prosper in your career and have increased time and energy for the off-hours activities you enjoy most like serving in the Alumni community. Quite a big promise, but for those who feel overwhelmed and exhausted from the pile of work in their desks and find less time than they would like for the things they enjoy most, they would probably benefit from the book.

The book talks about two characters, cousins John Jones, Jr. and John James, Jr. who came from the same background and practically grew up together in very similar environments, including their education. However, as their careers progressed, they were now leading quite opposite lives. The difference is that one stuck to the old adage that if you want something done right you have to do it yourself. He therefore fell into the quagmire of an overwhelmed life. The other one

found an ally in being able to effectively delegate his work and therefore got more done with less stress both at work and in his family.

I say yes. It is true and any manager would certainly benefit from the practical tips given on how to let your subordinates do much of the work for you specially those they are very good at, saving you time and energy to do not only those you are very good at but also those you enjoy doing the most. But let me also say that this is not enough. Because whatever you and your subordinates do, but if they are without God's grace, then you cannot fulfill anything. You will still end up spending all your time and energy but end up with nothing. Soon, your relying solely on yourself will make you exhausted. This is because your quest to do things right and always ensure to get the things you want for yourself will drain you because you won't. Soon, you will realize that if it is to be, it is not up to you but to God! What you need is really just to do your best and let God do the rest. You will certainly save a lot of yourself by surrendering to the Grace of God in our lives!

CEAFI Hosts Regular Assembly, Strategic Planning and Annual Christmas Festivity



CEAFI Board holds regular meeting and strategic planning session.

The College of Education Alumni Foundation, Inc. (CEAFI) held a three-fold gathering last November 27, 2023 at Club Filipino, encompassing its regular monthly assembly, strategic planning session, and Christmas party.

The gathering involved committee presentations on their key result areas and key performance indicators, along with an extensive discussion about CEAFI's accomplishments and upcoming projects designed to benefit its members. One noteworthy aspect of the monthly meeting was the successful implementation



The CEAFI Board joyfully gathers for a festive photo op at their Christmas celebration.

of the enrichment and review sessions for licensure exam takers from the College of Education. Through the strategic planning session, CEAFI aims to sustain its efforts in fostering connections and organizing activities for the UST College of Education alumni community in the coming years.

A fun-filled Christmas party followed this, echoing with warm laughter, holiday tunes, delectable treats, festive gifts, and lively activities for merriment and camaraderie of the attendees. – by SYMON LAGAO, PRO



UST Faculty of Engineering and USTEAAI hold the 2023 UST Engineering Alumni Conference and General Assembly

BY: MARVIN IVAN DILLA & JUSTINE URBAN, THOMASIAN ENGINEER (TE)



Aiming to nurture knowledge and collaboration in the engineering alumni community, the UST Faculty of Engineering and the UST Engineering Alumni Association, Inc. (USTEAAI) held its 2023 UST Engineering Alumni Conference and General Assembly at the Dr. Robert C. Sy Grand Ballroom, Buenaventura G. Paredes, O.P. (BGPOP) Building last October 07, 2023.

With the theme "Engineering Alumni Excellence: Redefining Boundaries and Redesigning Solutions for a Sustainable World," the event featured talks from Engr. Rolando R. Evangelista, San Miguel Global Power Holdings Corporation - Deputy General Manager, (BSME 1980) and Engr. Leilani G. Kanapi, Arthaland Corporation - VP-Procurement, Philippine Green Building Council (PGBC) - Board of Trustee, (BSCE 1997) about integrating principles of sustainability into engineering solutions for real-world problems. This is the first time that a conference was organized, coinciding with the general assembly for the alumni.

Following the conference was the induction into and unveiling of markers for the Thomasian Engineering Hall of Fame held at the lobby of the Fr. Roque Ruaño, O.P. Building for Engr. Rolando R. Evangelista (BSME 1980) and Engr. Juanito P. Rosales (BSME 1966). It was also commemorated with a live video feed underscoring the event shown to guests at the BGPOP Building.

Awardees for the "2023 Outstanding Thomasian Engineers," which include Engr. Josefin S. De Alban Jr. (BSCE 1979), Jose L. De Jesus (BSCE 1977), John Paul D.P. Pe (BSCE 1987), and Jonathan P. San Juan (BSME 1983) were also honored during the event.

The general assembly also facilitated the formal induction ceremony led by the UST Faculty of Engineering Regent and Vice-Rector for Finance, Rev. Fr. Roberto L. Luanzon Jr., O.P., SThD, DL, of the newly-elected Board of Trustees for the individual Department Alumni Associations (USTCEAA, USTCHEAA, USTMEAA, USTECEAA, USTEAAI, USTIEAA) of the USTEAAI.

In addition, the installation of USTEAAI President for Academic Years (AY) 2023-2025 Engr. Mario Rommel A. Diño was highlighted as he succeeded USTEAAI President for AY 2019-2023, Engr. Jason L. Ong.

In attendance during the alumni general assembly is the Honoris Causa awardee, Dr. William T. Belo-Wilcon Depot, Inc. - Founder and Chairman Emeritus (USTECE 1973), who was also recognized during the event.

Former USTEAAI President Engr. Jason L. Ong also awarded the USTEAAI Presidential Awards to Engr. Jose Efren P. Bagamasbad (BSChE 1979) for International Master Title Championship in Asian Seniors Chess - 65-and-over Category and Engr. Mark Elson C. Lucio (BSCE 2003) for being elected as President of the Association of Structural Engineers of the Philippines (ASEP), 2023-2024. USTEAAI's Director for AY 2023-2025 and Scholarship Committee Chair Engr. Agnes Cecilia V. Pabillo presented the organization's new slate of 15 engineering student-scholars for AY 2023-2024.

The event formally concluded with the recently installed USTEAAI President Engr. Diño's inaugural speech and closing remarks.

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