



THE THOMASIAN ALUMNI COMMUNITY

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Newsletter

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE UST ALUMNI ASSOCIATION, INC.

TACFI AND USTAAI HOLD FIRST THOMASIAN ALUMNI CUP GOLF TOURNAMENT



On January 15, the Thomasian Alumni Community Foundation, Inc. (TACFI) and the UST Alumni Association Inc. (USTAAI) held its inaugural Thomasian Alumni Cup Golf Tournament at Beverly Place Golf Club in Mexico Pampanga. The golfers were welcomed by a marching band, sponsored by the Tomasining Kapampangan alumni chapter.

The event started with a ceremonial tee off led by TACFI President, Engr. Frederick Parayno, alongside USTAAI President Dwight Ramos and USTAAI Sports Committee Head, Judge Froilan Pitpit. It was then followed by a shotgun tee off for all the golfers.

132 golfers, Thomasians and guests alike, gathered at the pristine golf course, not only for a fun round of golf but also to raise funds for USTAAI's scholarship program. The proceeds will help young Thomasians with their academic fees.

After everyone had finished playing their round, the fellowship began with a hearty lunch. The program was hosted by Dr. Evelyn Songco, TACFI Executive Director, and Engr. Resty Cabrera, the tournament coordinator.

TACFI President, Engr. Frederick Parayno, opened the awarding ceremony by sharing what the road looked like leading up to the day of the event. He expressed his appreciation to the golfers who attended, and congratulated them for a great turn-out.

This was followed by Tomasining Kapampangan Alumni Chapter President Dra. Mildred Mariano who warmly welcomed all attendees to her home province. She highlighted her joy in having the First Thomasian Alumni Cup Golf Tournament in her hometown.

New UST Office of Alumni Relations Acting Director, Asst. Prof. Joreen Rocamora, PhD. was also present during the event. She congratulated the Foundation for a successful first golf tournament.

Various prizes such as tumblers, wine, golf balls, Katinko gift sets, appliances, hotel vouchers and many more were drawn for the raffle. Two golfers, Rico Duya and Richard Lau, were the lucky winners of the major prizes, a personal refrigerator and a 43-inch smart TV respectively. Unique trophies were awarded to the tournament winners. The winners per division are as follows:

Overall Champions

- Low Gross: Rhodel Rivera
- Low Net: Teddy Quizon

Class A Division

- Champion: Eugene from Tomasining Ilocano-La Union Chapter
- 1st Runner-up: Ed Yabut
- 2nd Runner-up: Jan Joshua Francia

Class B Division

- Champion: Noel Crista
- 1st Runner-up: Sonny Vega
- 2nd Runner-up: Engr. Bong Fernando

Class C Division

- Champion: Mark Gabriel
- 1st Runner-up: Angelo Roa Yu
- 2nd Runner-up: Rommel Camara

Ladies' Division

- Champion: Mitch King
- 1st Runner-up: Helly Henry
- 2nd Runner-up: Atty. Elena Enriquez

Fun holes were also awarded to the following golfers:

- Most Accurate Drive: Resty Cabrera - 1 inch
- Longest Drive: Sonny Vega - 275 yards
- Nearest to the Pin: Sam Suarez - 6 feet
- Longest Putt: Atty. Frankie Magsalin III - 57 feet

USTAAI-TALAB offers Notary Service



The UST Alumni Association, Inc. (USTAAI) and the Thomasian Alumni Legal Assistance Bureau (TALAB) has started providing notarial services since January 8, 2024. This service is available to all alumni, students, academic and administrative staff of UST at a reduced cost. USTAAI, which has long been committed to giving back to the university, sees the potential of TALAB in offering the convenience of notary services on campus to the Thomasian community. Since January, majority of the documents notarized included parental consents and student undertakings.

The USTAAI-TALAB notary service is available from 2PM to 5PM, Monday to Friday (except holidays) at the USTAAI office, Room 322, UST Buenaventura Garcia Paredes, O.P. Building (BGPOP). Those availing of this service are advised to bring at least 2 copies of the document to be notarized, originally signed by the parties (wet signature, not electronic), and a photocopy (back & front) of a valid government ID with picture, signed 3 times along the margins. For parental consent and student undertaking, a photocopy of a valid government ID of the student and the parent or guardian is required.

- Jonathan H. Peran, BS ECE, 1996

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

REHOMING.....

For those with pets, rehoming is a familiar word. Even more so for those who have experienced trouble with their pets and have thought about parting with them just like me. During the pandemic, our family decided to take in a pet dog as we were struggling with being confined to our home during the lockdowns. School and work were done purely online and so Max, in all his cuteness, was a welcome addition to the family, providing respite from the new daily grind that each one of us faced. We were oblivious of the warnings about his size and breed that reputedly were hard to handle. And so, for the whole of the pandemic years and even after, Max was the household favorite even earning the monicker as the "One Spoiled Dog" even if he actually looked like a bear. He virtually owned the house, running everywhere and being in any room he wanted to sleep in at any given time. None of us minded, especially after the pandemic when our family members started going out and we thought of Max as now the perfect guard dog.

Yes, he was quite territorial which was why we no longer accepted visitors at home. However, he bit one of our relatives when she tried to touch his water bowl. My son and daughter also got bitten, but we continued to adore him. We would jokingly say that he owned us instead of the other way around.

While I was walking him one day, he got agitated and attacked the friends of my daughter who

were walking near us. When I prevented him, he suddenly turned to me and bit me. Worse, I stumbled and hit my head on the ground so I immediately rushed to the hospital. Good thing that except for the bite, I was alright. That night, he was easily forgiven and things immediately went back to normal.

The day after, he walked up to me to be petted which I did. When I stopped, he apparently wanted more and got so agitated that he tried to bite me again. This time, I escaped and we locked him up in the garage.

We would learn later that he became so spoiled that he now would bite even us anytime he did not get what he wanted. Fearing for our safety, I already contracted the City Pound to get him the next day. But my wife and children intervened. Instead, we contacted a dog training school to discipline him. So, we decided to give it a chance, but after almost a month, we were ready to give up because he remained aggressive. But, we extended his stay but already started contemplating about rehoming him. The practice is prevalent abroad but it seemed there are no such facilities here. So, some pet owners would just ask relatives in the province if they could accept and take care of their pets on their behalf.

In the meantime, we got to learn from the dog trainer that most of Max's bad attitude was a result of our inability to discipline him and of the environment which we provided. In short, it was our fault for spoiling him. That he was just being a dog and we were



Celebrating Max's birthday at home

actually confusing him with our mixed messages by rewarding bad behavior and not reinforcing good ones.

It was at this point that we realized that the rehoming we needed was a change in our home environment suitable for responsible pet ownership. We built a cage for Max, but more importantly, we built a new nurturing but disciplined home environment for him as we finally welcomed him to our house again.

So now I am thinking that perhaps, similar to some of our situations in life when we feel like kicking out a trouble maker or even escaping our very own home, office or school for a better place, there might not really be a need to do that. It would be good to see if the problem may lie in adjusting instead how we treat and deal with each other...a change in relationship dynamics might just be the key!



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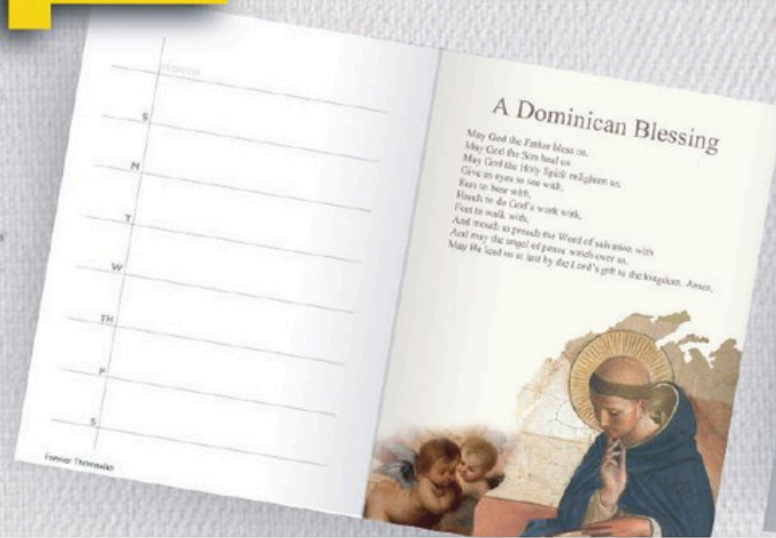
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- Day to day notes
- Prayer guide
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USTAAI HOLDS GENERAL ASSEMBLY



The UST Alumni Association, Inc. (USTAAI) held its General Assembly on 9 March 2024, at the Kalayaan Hall of the Club Filipino in Greenhills, San Juan City. The event was attended by officers and representatives from 21 member alumni associations. Dean Henry S. Tenedero gave the opening remarks, on behalf of USTAAI Chairman Dr. Evelyn A Songco, while UST Office of Alumni Relations (OAR), Acting Director Asst. Prof. Joreen T. Rocamora, Ph.D., gave the inspirational message in a pre-recorded video shown during the event.

In his first General Assembly as USTAAI's president, Atty. Dwight M. Ramos highlighted the association's key activities undertaken in the past year and the achievements of the officers and members. Some of the activities included the launching of the Operations Manual; the Academe, Alumni, Industry and Government (AAIG) Summit; the 8th Distinguished Thomasian Alumni Awards Night; the Family Christmas Jazz Festival; and

the most recent first Thomasian Alumni Cup Golf Tournament. He thanked everyone for participating in the events and activities, and encouraged continuous support as he presented this year's lineup of activities. He also thanked the member alumni associations for regularly participating in the meetings of the board of trustees and for their commitment in maintaining their membership.

In a move to recognize the member associations in good standing, each was given a Certificate of Membership during the event. After his President's Report, and presiding as the inducting officer, Atty. Ramos proceeded with the induction of this year's Corporate Officers, Committee Heads and Committee Officers. Because of their invaluable contributions to USTAAI, last year's officers and committee heads were re-appointed and will all continue their term in 2024.

During a short break, the UST Faculty of Arts and Letters batch 1974 led by Ms. Wilma Villanueva

TACFI AND USTAAI HOLD FIRST THOMASIAN ALUMNI CUP GOLF TOURNAMENT

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This event would not have been possible without the support of our generous sponsors: Cafe Aurora, Ford Pampanga of the Laus Group of Companies, Metro Development Corp., Brewing Point Neighborhood Cafe, IPM Construction and Development Corp., Archipelago Builders Corp., Macro Wiring Technologies Co. Inc., Imperial Nova, Basic Environmental Systems & Technologies, Inc., APO PI Alumni Association, Inc., Boysen, Radius, Rotary Club of QC, Tomasining Bikolano Alumni Chapter, Tomasining Ilocano - La Union Chapter, UST SOCCSKSARGEN, College of Education Alumni Foundation, Inc., Tomasining Kapampangan Alumni Chapter, Katinko, Mitsui Trading, Seda Hotel, Luxent Hotel, San Mig Coffee, All Points Travel Services, Nitro, Manor Hotel, Aficionado, and Armscor Shooting Center, Inc.

Janelle Erika Santos, BSBA HRDM, 2013

Palafox and one of the lead vocals of Rainmakers, Mr. Joel Macanaya, presented a generous check donation for the UST Philets and Artlets Alumni Association, Inc. Scholarship Program in celebration of their Golden Jubilee.

Toward the end of the event USTAAI Treasurer Arnel M. Ocampo presented the year-to-date Treasurer's Report while USTAAI Financial Comptroller Emelito T. Malabanan led the presentation and approval of the audited financial statement for 2023. UST College of Education Alumni Foundation Inc. (CEAFI) president Dr. Evangeline E. Timbang took the hosting duties at this year's event.

- Jonathan H. Peran, BS ECE, 1996

Journalism Alumna Named Best Presenter In SEA Conference

A Journalism alumna has been recognized as one of the best presenters in an international conference for media studies in Malaysia.

Anne Jeanette Priela won the award for delivering her master's thesis, "Engaging the Unengaged: Drivers of Gcash Adoption and Continuance Intention Among Unbanked Consumers in the Philippines" in the Southeast Asian Media Studies Association Conference on March 1 at Sunway University, Malaysia.

Priela finished her bachelor's degree in journalism in 2012 and her master's degree in marketing communication cum laude in 2023, both at UST.

A facilitator of the University's National Service Training Program, she teaches courses under the Civic Welfare Training Service.

Only two outstanding media research presenters among 90 participants received the award. The other one was conferred to University of the Philippines Diliman faculty member Kate Ashlyn Dayag-Nonay for her paper, "Filipino Grandparents Representation and Intergenerational Relationships in Children's Storybooks."

Established in 2017, Southeast Asian Media Studies Association Conference reviews presented studies through a panel of international experts and recognizes quality academic papers on



Southeast Asian countries' mass media culture and practices.

Carrying the theme "Interrogations of Media Sustainability, Development, and Power in ASEAN,"

the event ran from Feb. 29 to March 2.

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USTAAI HOLD MEETING OF MEMBER ALUMNI ASSOCIATIONS' SECRETARIES



On February 17, 2024, the secretaries of the member alumni associations of the University of Santo Tomas Alumni Association, Inc. (USTAAI) gathered at the alumni office to discuss matters important for the Association, including the AA's corporate status and the status of their amnesty application, if they had filed one with Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC). Atty. Ma. Elena R. Enriquez, the Corporate Secretary of USTAAI, showed the AA secretaries how to –

1. Navigate the SEC website so that they could view

the documents that they have filed and request for copies if needed;

2. Comply with SEC Memorandum 28, which is the requirement to inform the SEC regarding the primary and alternate email address and mobile numbers of their respective alumni associations; and
3. Register with the SEC electronic filing and submission tool (eFast) where they will file their annual mandatory reports such as the General Information Sheet (GIS) and Audited Financial

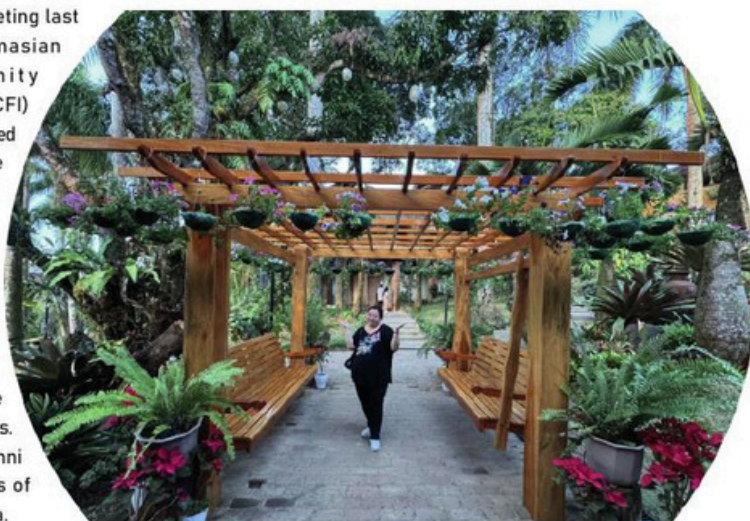
Statement (AFS) as well as the NSPO forms that are supposed to be attached to it;

The group also went over the format of the GIS, particularly the page on beneficial ownership, and the deadline for uploading the report to eFast. On the whole, this initial meeting was productive. The group created a Messenger thread so that they could stay in touch with one another, exchange information, and extend assistance whenever needed.

– Ma. Elena Enriquez, Bachelor of Science, 1974;
Doctor of Medicine, 1978; Juris Doctor, 1997

TACFI EXTENDS HELP TO CALERUEGA PHILIPPINES

In its last quarter meeting last December, the Thomasian Alumni Community Foundation, Inc. (TACFI) Board of Trustees approved the motion to provide financial assistance to Caleruega, Philippines for the construction of a lanai in the middle of the Gazekubo and the Veritas Hall, a place where people stop awhile and exchange pleasantries and stories. Many Thomasian alumni have joyful memories of this area in Caleruega.



Today, people enjoy resting and having joyful conversations in this lanai. This place serves as a testament of the lasting gratitude of Thomasian alumni to the Dominicans who have nurtured them.

The TACFI is the partner of the UST Alumni Association, Inc. in all its advocacies.

– Jonathan H. Peran, BS ECE, 1996

CEAFI and ALPA Partner with USTAAI for Lenten Recollection



The College of Education Alumni Foundation Inc. (CEAFI) organized a Lenten Recollection with the Alumni Priests Association (ALPA) president Fr. Jerome Secillano as Recollection Master, in partnership with the USTAAI on March 16, 2024. Simultaneously streamed on the Thomasian Alumni Community FB Live, the hybrid recollection hosted by USTAAI, with some 18 alumni attending onsite at the Tan Yan Kee Chapel. The theme of the Recollection

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RECTOR'S CUP DONATES GOLF TOURNAMENT PROCEEDS TO IPEA



(L-R) OAR Director Asst. Prof. Joreen T. Rocamora, PhD, Team Junior High School Captain Mr. Clarence Aytona, Team Civil Law Captain Atty. Frankie Magsalin III, USTAAI President Atty. Dwight Ramos, TACFI Chairman Dr. Robert Sy, IPEA Athletics Moderator Asst. Prof. Rodrigo A. Sambuang Jr., MA, Tournament Director Dr. Adrian Laurel, Team Medicine & Surgery Captain Dr. Alberto Paulino, and Team Accountancy Captain Nelson Tan-Afuan.



Rector's Cup Committee together with coaches and student-athletes.



Team Medicine & Surgery receives the championship trophy

The sixth edition of the Rector's Cup: Thomasian Alumni Golf Tournament raised over 3 million pesos for the benefit of Thomasian student-athletes. The proceeds were turned over to the Institute of Physical Education and Athletics (IPEA) on March 18, 2024 at the George S.K. Ty Hall at the Buenaventura Garcia Paredes, O.P. Building (Thomasian Alumni Center). The funds support critical areas in need of development programs for the student-athletes who compete in national and international sports events.

Rector's Cup Tournament Director Dr. Adrian Laurel said the tournament, held on February 12, drew 280 golfers which is the largest player turnout throughout the project's run. It is a large leap compared to its player population since its establishment in 2016. The tournament has been consistently recruiting more alumni and supporters every year.

"You bear the logo and name of UST at the front of your uniform and your surname at the back. You represent the university. Always remember that there is a strong alumni [community] behind you,"

he said, assuring the student-athletes of the community's continued support during his inspirational speech.

Thomasian Alumni Community Foundation, Inc. (TACFI) Chairman and Rector's Cup head pioneer Dr. Robert Sy also reported the financial history of the tournament. Since its inception, the Rector's Cup has been able to garner and turn over 18 million pesos of donations to IPEA. He looks forward to the unending commitment of the project to its beneficiaries.

"You are all this is all about... And to the next generation of athletes," said Dr. Sy before he ended his message.

Over 10 college-based teams joined this year's tournament which includes College of Accountancy, College of Architecture, Faculty of Arts & Letters, Faculty of Civil Law, College of Commerce & Business Administration, Faculty of Engineering, Junior High School, Faculty of Medicine & Surgery, Faculty of Pharmacy, and the College of Science. Guests and

friends from different industries also participated in solidarity with the tournament's advocacy.

For this year, Team Medicine & Surgery clinched their 3rd straight championship followed by Team Pharmacy in second place and Team Engineering for the third place.

Monetary sponsors included Wilcon Depot, Inc., DivinaLaw, City Service Corporation, and Pacific Paint Boysen Philippines.

In-kind sponsors included Skynet Travel Corp., Philippine Airlines, Argos, Ibarra, Cabean Cafe, Hotel 1611, Winford Manila Resort & Casino, Holiday Inn Express Manila Newport City, Makati Medical Center Care Araneta City, GetGo, Jetour, AUG Manila, Lydia's Lechon, JYL Athletica, UniGear Clothing, Wingfinity-UST, Ar. Eduardo Casares, Dr. Adrian Laurel, Atty. Frankie Magsalin III, and Marissa Pe-Yang.

The seventh installment of Rector's Cup is set to take place in the 2nd semester of AY 2024-2025.

- UST Office of Alumni Relations



BRIDGES KICKS-OFF 2024 WITH ENVIRONMENTAL TOPICS

After last year's Christmas holiday break, BRIDGES resumed with back-to-back topics tackling environmental issues, beginning with "The Plastics Era: Boon or Bane" on 16 January 2024. Guest Dr. Joseph Ross S. Jocson, MNSA, Commissioner of the National Solid Waste Management Commission and president of the Asian Packaging Federation, shared the benefits and challenges in plastic waste reduction, and the need for an urgent local, national, and global response. On January 23, Engr. Sherwin B. Valeroso, Supervising Environmental Management Specialist of the General Trias City Environment and Natural Resources Office (CENRO), took the guest seat during the episode "Sustainability & Climate Change: When It Is All Greek To Us" to discuss climate change and how governments, companies, and the public can contribute to the creation of sustainable solutions and the necessary actions to curb its worst impacts. Bridges capped its January line-up of shows with the episode titled "Usapang Innovation at Start-ups", featuring Mr. Jonald Justine Itugot, Founder and CEO of Cerebro and TOMASInno Center (TIC) Incubation graduate, who tackled the role of start-ups in innovation, and vice versa, and how to introduce products to the market that enhance value for customers. Sponsored by TIC, this episode was hosted by Mr. Claude Despabiladeras and TIC Assistant Manager Engr. Celso Noel Aban, MEntrep, who encouraged the guest to give his insights on the role of TIC as a leading Technology Business Incubator (TBI) in the Philippines and as UST's hub for innovation and technopreneurship.

On February 6, in the episode "The Office of Alumni Relations (OAR): Nurturing the Thomasian Alumni Community", Asst. Prof. Joreen T. Rocamora, PhD, newly appointed Acting Director, gave her vision and plans for OAR under her leadership anchored on its mission of establishing and enhancing a continuing relationship between the University and its alumni, and the collaboration efforts between USTAAI and OAR. For the Valentine's Day episode "Must Love Earth: My Perfect Valentine", Dr. Arlen A. Ancheta, faculty member of the UST Faculty of Arts and Letters and Sustainability Studies Academic Researcher of the Research Center for Social Sciences and Education (RCSSED), delved into reigniting the passion for the environment and discussed ways we can help to create a more sustainable future for our planet. Bridges continued its February's theme about love with the episode "Love Means ..." on February 20, bringing into the forefront the story of a husband and wife and their challenging journey of having a child on the autism spectrum. Architects Victor and Catherine Cham shared how their love and acceptance helped nurture their son to grow up and to develop his gifts and talents to become more independent. Towards the end of the show, in a heart-warming family moment, both parents allowed their son Vico to talk on camera to share his achievements as a young and exceptional creative artist, to show his artworks, and to personally thank his parents for their unconditional love and support. "Lent, Love & Life", aired on February 27, featuring Mr. Raymond Daniel "Jun" H. Cruz, Jr., former president of the LAIKO (Council of the Laity of the Philippines), as guest. This episode looked into the many different ways of how Lent is

WE BUILD BRIDGES OF FAITH, HOPE & LOVE

BRIDGES SEASON 4

TUESDAYS 5:00 PM

www.facebook.com/USTAAI
www.facebook.com/USTAAIBridges

celebrated, to allow the viewers to have a meaningful season of reflection refocusing on Jesus' journey to the cross, His resurrection and the purpose and meaning behind His ministry.

In March, the UST Atelier Alumni Association, Inc. sponsored two consecutive shows of Bridges. Starting with the episode "Kalansing ng Pera at Medalya", Mr. Paul C. Balan, sat on the guest seat on March 5 and shared his life story and journey as an artist, which culminated in his success in designing coins and medals. His craft led him to be recognized worldwide, winning numerous awards, becoming the first Filipino and first Asian U.S. mint and commemorative coin designer. In a break from the usual zoom livestream, this episode was recorded onsite at the UST Thomasian Alumni Center, with both the guest and the host (Mr. Janos Delacruz) sitting side by side during the interview. This episode was followed by "Manlilikok: Apoy at Bakal" on March 12, which featured the modern and contemporary artist Richard Buxani, an Imus-based sculptor with a degree of BS Architecture from UST. This show delved into the art of metal sculpting, with Buxani sharing his bend and weld method in creating his sculptural works, integrating pop art, religious icons, and architectural know-how to achieve his style. In celebration of Women's Month, Bridges invited Ms. Visitacion Asiddao as its guest on March 19 to give insights on how women have made significant progress in recent decades towards equality, recognition, and respect. In this episode titled "Women as Ambassadors of Cultural Understanding and Unity", Ms. Asiddao, a 40-year veteran of the Department of Foreign Affairs and an attaché at the Philippine Permanent Mission to the United Nations in Geneva, shared the challenges and opportunities of being a diplomat, and her

experiences and contributions to the diplomatic missions around the world.

Bridges capped this year's first quarter with a total of 10 episodes, with Dr. Evelyn A. Songco, Atty. Dwight M. Ramos, Mr. Gene Kenneth M. Ilagan, Ms. Thelma S. Marana, and Dr. Evangeline E. Timbang sharing hosting duties. Now on its 4th season, BRIDGES has significantly increased its viewership last year, up by about 30% compared to 2022.

BRIDGES reached its 4th milestone when it celebrated its 3rd anniversary during the 128th episode, titled "Mental Health, and why you should care," on October 3, 2023. The show tackled the mental health issues affecting millions of people across the globe, with featured guest, Ms. Michelle Rose Yabut-Cornes, MA, RGC, a Registered Guidance Counselor at the UST Counseling and Career Center. Since its initial launch in 2020, BRIDGES has produced 148 episodes. As with the previous year, the USTAAI member alumni associations will take turns this year in sponsoring the episodes of BRIDGES, providing the guests and the topics for discussion. Last year alone, 53 notable Thomasian alumni have graced the show as guests, with a total of 43 alumni sharing the limelight while performing excellent hosting duties, showing their passion and keenness especially when challenged with serious and thought-provoking topics.

You can watch BRIDGES livestreaming every Tuesday at 5:00 PM via the Facebook pages <https://www.facebook.com/USTAAI> and <https://www.facebook.com/USTAAIBridges>. BRIDGES is also available on the USTAAI Thomasian Alumni Community Youtube Channel (USTAAI TAC) <https://www.youtube.com/c/USTAAITAC>

- Jonathan H. Peran, BS ECE, 1996



TACFI, USTAAI and OAR donate boxes of Propofol to the UST Hospital and SarMed Hospital



-CLICKER-RAZZI-



TACFI AND USTAAI'S FIRST THOMASIAN ALUMNI CUP GOLF TOURNAMENT



UST Philets and Artlets AAI Golden Anniversary Batch 1974





St. Thomas Aquinas Double Jubilee Retreat



UST Architecture Reunion



UST College of Architecture "Balik España Na!" Grand Alumni Homecoming





Artlets Golden Jubilee: 50 Years of Friendship and Beyond

Class 1974 of the Faculty of Arts and Letters held its Golden Jubilee Homecoming on February 23 & 24, 2024. Coinciding with the 60th anniversary of the Faculty, this event came to fruition after 17 months of intensive planning, preparation, and search for alumni from 1970 to 1974 numbering 169.

With the theme "Lasting Friendships and Memories," batch mates from all over the world got in touch with each other through the Facebook page "Taralets Mga Ka-Artlets '74".

A Thanksgiving Mass was held at the Santisimo Rosario Parish with Rev. Fr. Rolando de la Rosa, O.P. (Rector Magnificus 1990-1998 and 2007-2012) as Main Presider. Co-celebrants were our batch mates Rev. Fr. Joesel Quan, Reverend Deacons Leon Decena and Noel Rivera. This was followed

by a meet-and-greet brunch and an optional campus tour. Indescribable feelings of being reunited after more than 40-50 years were evident in everyone's faces and smiles.

The Gala Night the following day was held at The Manila Hotel. More than 80 alumni and guests, dressed to the nines, filled the Centennial Hall. The program consisted of a production number of singing and dancing (six were in Artlets uniform), and a fashion show. Atty. Jose Lina and the Rainmakers serenaded the guests who later danced the night away to the music of the Da Voice Version Band.

Atty. Cynthia Roxas del Castillo of Class 1972 (a former Dean of the Ateneo Law School for more than a decade) was Guest of Honor and Speaker.

Another highlight of the evening was the donation of P230,000 to the Adopt-an-Artlets Scholarship Fund (AASF) from Class 1974. This was received by Artlets Regent George Phe Mang, O.P., Artlets Dean Melanie Turingan and Philets/Artlets Alumni Association President Henry Tenedero. This was followed by the "passing of the baton" from Class 1974 to Class 1975 who will be the next Golden Jubilarians.

The chairperson of the homecoming was Joel Macanaya with Steering Committee members Wilma V. Palafox (Chairman), Lena S. Vergara, Nestor Cuartero, Cecile Pesayco, Flora Saballa, and Michael O'Conner.

- Wilma Villanueva-Palafox, AB Economics, 1974



HONG KONG ALUMNI CHAPTER LAUNCHED



Thomasian professionals in Hong Kong collectively launched the pioneering University of Santo Tomas Alumni Association Hong Kong Chapter (USTAAHK) on 19 January 2024, one month after being formally recognized as a registered society by the Hong Kong government and a duly registered Philippine organization with the Consulate General of the Philippines in Hong Kong.

USTAAHK is made up of 13 founding members namely Jan Yumul, president; Nobel Gabasan, vice president; Erwin Regalado, secretary; Byron Agarano, treasurer; Joel Almeda, auditor and Anna Pendry, PRO as officers. Other members are Tanya Sales

Manzano, John Go, Joy Alba, Maureen Pickering, Jenely de Ocampo, Michelle Rea Yongque and Victorino Baltazar. All the founding members are actively involved in the 6 committees of the association namely: Advocacy; Communications and Marketing (with two sub-committees: internal and external); Finance; Membership and Presence; Socio-Cultural Events, and Sports and Games.

The induction ceremony was held at The Hive in Sheung Wan, with newly designated Philippine Consul General to Hong Kong Germinia Aguilar-Usudan, a UST Juris Doctor alumna, as keynote speaker and inducting officer.

USTAAI Chairperson Evelyn Songco graced the

event, and gave the opening remarks.

Other guests who flew in from Manila were UST Office of Alumni Relations' Joreen Rocamora, acting director; Carla Romina, alumni engagement officer; and Margot Ira Coleen Ngo, web data management officer.

The event was well supported with more than 100 Thomasian alumni, community leaders, representatives from the business, academic and nonprofit organization sectors present.

(Reprinted from From USTAAHK Press Release)



ARTLETS ALUMNUS BAGS NATIONAL AWARD FOR PH IN GLOBAL PHOTOGRAPHY

AN ALUMNUS of the UST Faculty of Arts and Letters (AB) has emerged as the National Award winner for the Philippines at the 17th Sony World Photography Awards. Reginald James Lorico, a legal management graduate from batch 2013, won the gold in the open competition category for his entry depicting a sunlit building in Tehran, Iran.

Lorico said the image's focal point took inspiration from the monolith in the 1968 film, "2001: A Space Odyssey."

According to him, UST paved the way for his dedication to photography both as a hobby and professional endeavor.

"[I]t was during my time as a student of our [U]niversity when I developed my love for photography thanks to the help of Thomasian student photographers such as Paul Quiambao among others," Lorico said in an email to **The Flame**.

Lorico attributed his pursuit of photography to his Artlets friends who made significant contributions to his growing interest in the craft when he was still a student in AB.

"At the time, I did not have any camera gear of my own but it did not stop me from learning the craft since my friends would lend me their gear and even take me to events around Manila where I could practice it," the UST alumnus said.

"Every success I achieve in this field can always be traced back to my time at our alma mater," he added.

A native of Eastern Samar, Lorico also took pride in his hometown, saying the award is a "testament to the ability" of the Borongan locals.

"They can dream big and share the stage with the best in the country and even the world," he said.

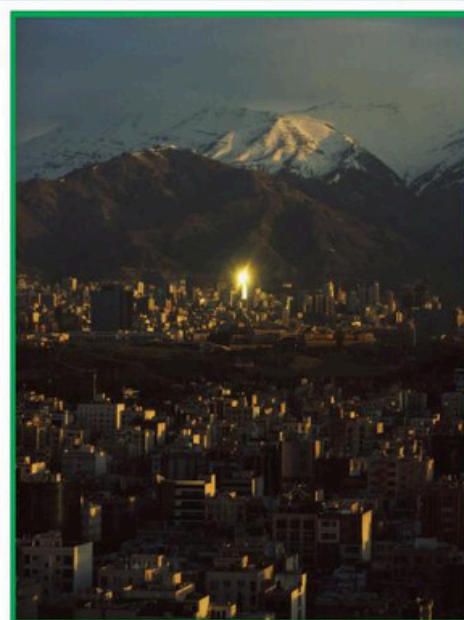
The award-winning photographer has received accolades from several photography competitions, including the Nikon Club Philippines where he ranked first place in the photo of the month (August) category in 2014; the Aigle Philippines Outdoor Photography Contest in 2017; and the #OishiASEANJP Campaign, ASEAN-Japan Centre where he came in first place last year.

The Sony World Photography Awards received nearly 400,000 submissions from more than 220 countries and territories worldwide.

The 54 countries that emerged as winners of the National and Regional Awards will receive a Sony digital imaging equipment. The winning entries will be displayed in an exhibition at Somerset House in London from April 19 to May 6.

All winners in the student, youth, open and professional contest will be revealed on April 18.

Launched in 2007, the Sony World Photography Awards is a globally renowned photography competition which champions both established and emerging artists with the most notable contemporary photographs around the world.



Artlets alumnus Reginald James Lorico's winning image of a sunrise in Tehran which bagged the first place for the Philippines in the 2024 Sony World Photography Awards.

- Reprinted with permission from **The Flame**, the official student publication of the UST Faculty of Arts & Letters.

ARKI' 74 GOLDEN JUBILEE

The UST Architecture Batch of 1974 celebrated its 50th Year Anniversary with the pomp and splendor expected from a happy and very well-fulfilled class of Golden Jubilarians. The Batch Organizers lined up several activities to mark the event, the highlight of which was their attendance as Golden Jubilarians in the Homecoming dubbed as "BALIK ESPAÑA NA," on March 2 at the BGPOP Bldg.

Below is the list of activities to celebrate the Golden Jubilee of Batch 74:

February 22: Golf Fellowship at Manila Southwoods, attended by some avid male golfers in the Batch.
February 26-27: Overnight stay at the Las Casas Filipinas De Acuzar in Bagac, Bataan.

February 29: Walking Tour of several sites within the UST Campus, starting from the Exhibit Hall/Art Gallery of the Beato Angelico (Architecture Bldg.) then to the Arch of the Centuries, passing by the Benavides Statue, to the UST LOGO in Plaza Mayor, and then to the Main Bldg. to visit the Museum. The group was also fascinated by the significance of the Quattromondial Monument near the Quadricentennial Square. They then visited and said their prayers at the Santisimo Rosario Church (UST Chapel). This activity was capped by an early lunch at Seattle's Best Coffee within the Quadricentennial Pavilion.

February 29: The Batch Reunion Party was held at The Grove in Rockwell Power Plant in Makati with good food and music for singing and dancing, made even better because of the good company sharing stories and laughter.

March 2: The Golden Batch attended the Architecture



Alumni Homecoming "Balik España Na," dressed up in their choice of Filipiniana-themed formal wear for both male and female.

March 7-8: The Batch made an overnight trip again, this time to Acutaco Beach Resort in Laiya, Batangas.

March 8: Fellow batchmate Ar Mandy Mendoza and his wife Myrna hosted a sumptuous lunch at their Bahay Marikit in San Juan, after their welcome drink of buko juice in Marru Farms, also owned by the Mendozas. This was followed



by a tour of their environment-friendly house.

March 8: From San Juan, the Batch went straight to the Novotel Hotel at the Araneta Center for a festive dinner to close their Jubilee year activities. The occasion likewise served as their despedida for classmates going back to their places of residence. With new memories to treasure, the Golden jubilarians thanked God:

ALL IS WELL THAT ENDS WELL.

- Myrna Plata-Munda, USTHS, 1963
with Lorna de Lara Plata,
B. S. Architecture 1974



At a Glance



Clockwise, Cora Florencio, Yola Pilar, Myrna Plata-Munda, Josefina Rabadon-Camaganacan



L-R: Myrna Plata-Munda, with her husband Reynaldo behind her, and Josefina Rabadon-Camaganacan with her husband Mauro behind her.

USTHS '63

There was a very warm and touching reunion of these USTHS'63 Diamond girls with a classmate whom they had not met face to face since their graduation: Josefina Rabadon-Camaganacan. Josie had not yet attended any alumni event that was organized by the USTAAI or by her class because she was in Canada and tied up in her work and family schedules there during these alumni events. But she was in viral touch with her classmates through social media. So, when finally she and her husband, Mauro, were able to make a

schedule to visit the country, she lost no time in contacting her classmates about her desire to see them face to face!

On March 7, Josie, together with Mauro, invited her classmates for lunch at the Abe Garden Restaurant in Trinoma, with native dishes served. What a raucous scene followed while the ladies were savoring their meal! Josie, with her typical sweet smiles and an unassuming personality as recounted by her classmates from way back, readily answered queries about her and her family. Of course, Mauro was there to answer questions, too, and to liven up the conversation.

An alumni event would not be complete without the

usual photo-ops, so that before they had to part ways and bid one another with "See You again!" and "God bless you", the ladies had photo-ops with the kind assistance of the restaurant assistants.

Their Class verdict? "70 is the new 40!" Whether or not one agrees with it - "Life begins at 40" will always be a welcome motto for people who would like to stay young at heart! - Myrna Munda, USTHS, 1963

CEAFI and ALPA Partner with USTAAI for Lenten Recollection

....from page 5

was "Let Us Journey Together" with Fr. Jerome speaking specifically on morality, conscience, mercy, and compassion.

The recollection began at 8:15am, with the recitation of the Holy Rosary led by Marielyn Quintana, CEAFI Vice-President. Cristina Sagum, CEAFI Prayer Committee head, and Evangeline Timbang, CEAFI President, welcomed the participants.

Apart from being ALPA President, Fr. Jerome was also introduced as executive secretary of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines' Permanent Committee on Public Affairs and a broadcaster at Radio Veritas. In the first session which began at 9am, he talked about morality and conscience, with members of the audience answering his questions in an interactive style. The second part of his talk, after a 30-minute break, focused on mercy and compassion, followed by audience sharing on questions he posed for the participants to reflect on.

The Recollection ended with the celebration of the Holy Eucharist which was also streamed online. Atty. Dwight Ramos, USTAAI President, closed the activity with a videotaped thank you message. A potluck lunch allowed participants to enjoy each other's company before parting ways at 1:30pm.

- Nanette Ochoa-Fernandez, BSE 1976

USTAAI ATTENDS ST. THOMAS AQUINAS DOUBLE JUBILEE RETREAT



The officers of UST Alumni Association, Inc. (USTAAI) attended the University-wide 3-day St. Thomas Aquinas Double Jubilee Retreat on March 5 to 7, 2024 at the UST Quadracentennial Pavilion. The Double Jubilee Retreat was in celebration of the life of St. Thomas Aquinas - the 700th Anniversary of his Canonization and the 750th Anniversary of his Death (Dies Natalis). This year's event carried the theme "Lord, nothing but you": Faith, Hope, and Love in the Heart of Saint Thomas ("Domine, non nisi Te": The Tria Haec in the Heart of St. Thomas).

With full support and encouragement of Rector Very Rev. Fr. Richard G. Ang, O.P., and with the technical and support team who worked tirelessly for this event, this successful gathering was attended onsite by over a thousand non-academic and administrative officials, academic staff, priests,

seminarians, lay ministers, members of the religious orders, students, volunteers, and the alumni. It was also streamed online and made viewing available to the whole Thomasian community.

During the three-day retreat facilitated by Rev. Fr. Carmelo P. Arada Jr. and Rev. Fr. Carlo P. Del Rosario, the participants were helped to reflect on the example of St. Thomas Aquinas and on the virtues of faith, hope and love, with day one focusing on the family, day two on the students and the youth, and day three on the teachers and educator-shepherds. Top church leaders, namely Papal Nuncio Archbishop Charles John Brown, Malolos Bishop Dennis Villarojo and Manila Archbishop Jose F. Cardinal Advincula, took turns in celebrating the daily Eucharistic Mass.

The participating USTAAI officers were led by its president Atty. Dwight M. Ramos and its chairman Dr. Evelyn A. Songco. Other USTAAI officers were

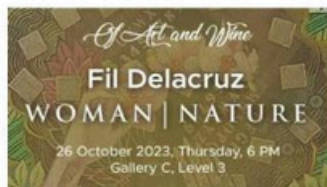
also involved in the retreat program. UST College of Education Alumni Foundation Inc. (CEAFI) President and USTAAI Events Committee Over-all Coordinator Dr. Evangeline E. Timbang took part in leading the Thomasian participants in praying the Via Crucis (the Way of the Cross) on day two. Ms. Nancy M. Tabirara, USTAAI Deputy Chief of Staff for Communication, was part of the day three "Witnessing" session, representing the Faculty of Arts and Letters as a faculty member. The event concluded with a candle lighting ceremony and singing of the UST hymn, and with the retreat parting message, "May we all reap and share the fruits of our contemplation, which we sowed during the three-day retreat, as we go on with our mission."

Jonathan H. Peran, BS ECE, 1996



UST ATELIER GALLERY HOPPING

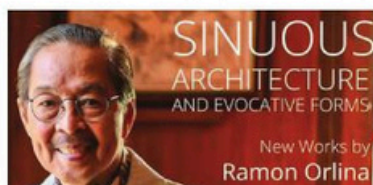
FIL DELACRUZ
WOMAN | NATURE
GALLERY C, CONRAD MANILA
OCT 26, 2023 - JAN 6, 2024



JOSE TENCE RUIZ
DRAWINGS OF LOVE, HATE
AND PAINED ABIDING
VMECE CONTEMPORARY
FEB 25 - MAR 25, 2024



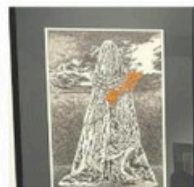
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Campus Memories *Embracing the Golden Years: My Unforgettable Journey at UST*



In the rich tapestry of my school life, there is a thread that shines brighter than all others—the golden days spent at my beloved Alma Mater, the University of Santo Tomas (UST). Within the hallowed halls of the Faculty of Pharmacy, where I pursued my Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy degree, I discovered not just education but a sanctuary of growth, camaraderie, and boundless opportunities.

Every day dawned with palpable excitement as I eagerly set foot on campus. As an active participant in both academic and extracurricular pursuits, I consider my university years as a whirlwind of activities. Balancing the rigors of academia with the demands of student leadership, I found myself immersed in a tapestry of responsibilities that shaped my character and fueled my aspirations.

From serving as President of the Scholia Tutorial Club to holding officer positions in esteemed organizations like the UST Junior Pharmaceutical Association (JPA-Gamma Chapter), Officer of Pharmacy Student Council, and the school-wide mother organization of all clubs called the Student Organizations Coordinating Council (SOCC), every role I undertook was a stepping stone towards personal and professional growth. Winning the Pope Leo XIII Award from UST as part of the SOCC Team was worth all the sleepless nights of preparing various student activities that benefited the whole university.

In UST, I was trained to write letters, make project proposals, plan and execute projects to the best of my ability and these led me to being honored with various leadership awards. I learned that academics were not everything;

extracurricular activities made my college days truly enjoyable. The thrill of multitasking became my constant companion as I navigated the intricate web of organizing contests, seminars, and advocating for student initiatives.

Yet, amidst the hustle and bustle of balancing several roles, it was the bonds forged with friends from diverse backgrounds that truly defined my university experience.

These friendships transcended year levels and courses, forming a robust network of support and camaraderie that continues to thrive even decades after graduation.

In the heart of campus life, the Office of Student Affairs and Community Services (OSACS) became my second home—a nurturing sanctuary where mentors like Dr. Evelyn Songco and Ma'm Rowena "Eng" Castro served as guiding lights. Their wisdom and



Campus Memories *Embracing the Golden Years: My Unforgettable Journey at UST*

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encouragement fueled my journey, instilling in me the values of service and leadership that would shape my future endeavors.

Getting stranded during heavy rain and flooding inside the school twice while working on a project is something Thomasians have certainly experienced. But the most important thing was that we were taken care of by the University which provided shelter and food at the time of need.

Having graduated from a non-sectarian high school, I am grateful that I learned a lot about God, prayer, the Bible, and my Catholic faith while in UST. Spiritual nurture was an essential part of my growth.

Within the confines of the Faculty, I found not only academic excellence but also a nurturing environment where professors imparted knowledge that transcended textbooks. Dean Norma Lerma was like a mother to me, giving me valuable advice, as

well as Ate Dory Sumague, our guidance counselor, who kept encouraging me to do my best even when sometimes I was down. Their guidance paved the way for my success, culminating in my achievement as the Top-20th Placer in the 1992 Licensure Board Examination for Pharmacists.

But beyond academic accolades, UST bestowed upon me a treasure trove of intangible gifts—love, happiness, resilience, and a deep sense of belonging. It was here that I learned the true essence of leadership—that it is not inherited but cultivated through service and compassion for others.

As I traverse the path of life as a successful entrepreneur, I carry with me the invaluable lessons learned at UST. It is where my heart finds solace, where my memories reside, and where my blood runs yellow—a testament to the indelible mark it has left on my journey of growth and fulfillment. In

the tapestry of my life, the golden threads of my university days at UST will forever gleam brightly, guiding me towards a future imbued with purpose, passion, and gratitude. With every step I take, I am reminded of the profound impact of my Alma Mater—an impact that continues to shape not only my success but also my outlook on life and my commitment to making a difference in the world.

As I look back on those cherished years, I am filled with profound gratitude for the privilege of being a part of the UST community—a community that has shaped me into the person I am today and continues to inspire me to strive for excellence in all that I do.

I am Angeli Uy Sobremonte-Tuazon, BS Pharmacy 1992 and MBA, a successful entrepreneur, a wife, and mother of three children—a proud Distinguished Thomasian Alumni Awardee both from my own Faculty of Pharmacy and of its prestigious mother organization, the UST Alumni Association, Inc.





FEATURED THOMASIAN

Atty. Maria Elena Go Francisco: A Legal Luminary and Community Leader

Atty. Maria Elena Go Francisco, a prominent figure in the legal community, stands as a testament to dedication, expertise, and community engagement. With a career spanning decades, Atty. Ellen, as she is fondly called, has left an indelible mark on the legal landscape through her extensive experience, leadership roles, and unwavering commitment to service.

A graduate of the University of Santo Tomas with a Bachelor of Laws degree, Atty. Ellen was admitted to the Bar in 1975, laying the foundation for a remarkable journey in the field of law. She also holds a degree in Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from the same institution, reflecting her multifaceted approach to understanding legal and societal dynamics.



Atty. Ellen with Officers and USTALI

Atty. Ellen with Officers and Trustees of USTLAFI

Throughout her illustrious career, Atty. Ellen has held various key positions in both the public and private sectors, demonstrating her versatility and depth of expertise. As a solo practitioner at the Francisco Law Office, she has navigated complex legal matters with precision and integrity. Additionally, her roles as Managing Partner in esteemed law firms Abbas Alejandro-Abbas Francisco & Associates and Francisco Manlapaz Perez & Quisumbing Law Offices underscore her leadership in legal practice.

Not content with merely excelling in legal practice, Atty. Ellen has also made significant contributions to professional organizations and community initiatives. Her tenure as President of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines Manila II Chapter showcased her dedication to advancing the interests of legal professionals and promoting access to justice.

Furthermore, Atty. Ellen's commitment to community engagement is evident through her involvement in various foundations and alumni associations. As president of the Women in Construction Foundation, Inc., and Women in Infrastructure Foundation, Inc.,

she has championed gender equality and empowerment in traditionally male-dominated industries. Moreover, her leadership roles in alumni associations such as the UST Law Alumni Foundation, Inc., and UST Alumni Association, Inc., highlight her dedication to nurturing future generations of legal professionals.

Beyond her professional endeavors, Atty. Ellen has been a sought-after speaker, lecturer, and resource person on a wide range of legal topics. Her expertise has been instrumental in shaping legislative initiatives and fostering dialogue on pressing legal issues.

In recognition of her contributions, Atty. Ellen has received numerous accolades and honors throughout her career, cementing her status as a respected figure in the legal community. Her legacy serves as an inspiration to aspiring lawyers and community leaders alike, embodying the values of integrity, excellence, and service.

As Atty. Maria Elena Go Francisco continues to make an impact in the legal profession and beyond, her unwavering commitment to justice and advocacy remains a guiding light for future generations.

- Mariz V. Manalo, Juris Doctor, 1995

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