Thomasian Alumni Flores de Mayo and Santacruzan **2024 Celebrate Rich Cultural Traditions**

he University of Santo Tomas Alumni Association, The University of Salito Tollias Claims. Selections Inc. (USTAAI) and the Office of Alumni Relations (OAR) successfully celebrated the annual Flores de Mayo and Santacruzan, a cherished cultural and religious event held on May 28, 2024 under clear skies.

The day's festivities commenced at the Santisimo Rosario Church at 2:30 PM with the recitation of the Holy Rosary, followed by floral offerings to the Blessed Mother by various association representatives. The Holy Mass, celebrated after, was con-celebrated by Fr. Jerome Secillano and Monsignor Bernie Pantin who invoked blessings and guidance for the Thomasian community on this joyous occasion.

Following the mass, a grand procession began at 4:30 PM, led by the 2024 Hermana Mayor, Ms. Isabelita "Eisa" S. Paredes-Mercado, an alumna of AB Commerce, Batch 1972. With stunning Thomasian alumni adorned as queens and their escorts, the procession featured a beautifully decorated carossa bearing the image of the Virgin Mother. The procession gracefully wound its way through the University campus, embodying the deeprooted traditions and cultural heritage of the community, with a photo stop at the Arch of the Centuries.

The event culminated in a dinner and program at the Dr. Robert Sy Ballroom, Alumni center. Alumni gathered to share stories, forge new connections, and celebrate the enduring spirit of the Thomasian community. Raffle prizes were given away during the dinner, the top prize being stays at a 5-star hotel in Bangkok and Bali.

A highlight of the evening was the launch of the Academe, Alumni, Industry and Government (AAIG) book entitled "The AAIG Journey through the Years: 2019-2023" which encapsulates the learning points from previous conferences, signifying the continuous pursuit of knowledge and collaboration within the Thomasian

An invitation to join the Pilgrimage on the Path of St. Thomas Aquinas organized by All Points Travel was also announced at the event.

Before the evening ended, Hermana Mayor Eisa Paredes turned over the floral staff, a symbol of transfer of responsibilities, to Ms. Margie Organo Tajon from Galing Science Alumni Association who will be the 2025 Hermana Mayor. Continued on page 4

USTAAI - TACFI -

Caleruega Philippines on a Mission to Serve

The UST Alumni Association, Inc, (USTAAI) headed by Atty, Dwight M. Ramos, and the Thomasian Alumni Community Foundation, Inc., (TACFI) headed by Engr. Frederick Parayno, in partnership with the UST Medical Alumni Association, Inc., Friends for the Love of Service, and Caleruega Philippines conducted the second medical, surgical, and dental mission on 23 June 2024 in Nasugbu, Batangas. Over 350 patients from the barangays of Kaylaway, Aga, Calo, Asis, and Batang were the beneficiaries of this endeavor.

Under the leadership of the UST Medical Association, Inc., doctors of Family Medicine, Ophthalmology, Pediatrics, Dermatology, EENT, OB Gynecology, Surgery, and Child Developmental Psychology extended their services. Dental care was also made available to them.

The opening of the Registration Desk, headed by Rev. Fr. Wilhelm Boñon, OP, heralded the start of the day's mission, and Holy Mass, celebrated by Rev. Fr. Allen De Guzman, OP, solemnly ended it. He thanked the alumni associations and volunteers for sacrificing their weekend to serve the communities in need.

Continued on page 4

Distinguished Thomasian Alumni Awards launched for 2024



Ma. Lourdes S. Garganera, RPh, USTAAI Executive Vice President and Committee Chair of the Distinguished Thomasian Alumni Awards (DTAA), officially launched this year's DTAA during the quarterly Board of Trustees meeting last 8 June 2024 at the Thomasian Alumni Center. Presented to the member alumni association presidents and their representatives were the official DTAA poster and website, and this year's updated guidelines.

The key updates in the guidelines, which were added to provide clarity to questions often received by the DTAA Committee, are the following:

- An alumnus or alumna can be a recipient of the Distinguished Thomasian Alumni Award only once.
- Nominees for the Young Thomasian Achiever Award must not exceed 39 years of age.
- Recipients of the Distinguished Thomasian Alumni Award should be able to attend the ceremony and receive the award in person.

This year's call for award nominations started on June 15 with the deadline for submission set on August 31. All nine committee members will start their deliberations on October 4. Member alumni associations in good standing may nominate a maximum of three awardees. Now on its 9th year, DTAA highlights the remarkable achievements and significant contributions of our Thomasian alumni who embody the University's commitment to producing graduates who lead with competence, compassion, and commitment to making a positive impact through their service to their profession, the community, and the Church.

The Distinguished Thomasian Alumni Awards Night, organized by the USTAAI in partnership with the UST Office of Alumni Relations (OAR), is on 30 November 2024 at the Dr. Robert C. Sy Grand Ballroom, Buenaventura Garcia Paredes O.P. (BGPOP) Building.

For updates and further announcements, visit the USTAAI official Facebook pages or the DTAA website at https://ustalumniassociation.org/dtaan2024

- Jonathan H. Peran, BS ECE, 1996

USTAAI and TACFI Officers Attend UST General Santos Opening

Delegates of the UST Alumni Association, Inc. (USTAAI) and the Thomasian Alumni Community Foundation, Inc. (TACFI) headed by Dr. Robert C. Sy, Chairman Emeritus, joined the solemn blessing and grand opening of UST Gensan last 11 April 11 2024 at Barangay Ligaya, General Santos City.

The event opened with a Mass celebrated by His Excellency Most Rev. Cerilo Alan U. Casicas, DD Bishop of Marbel. A short program followed with messages from Hon. Lorelie G. Pacquiao, Mayor of General Santos City; Very Rev. Fr. Richard G. Ang, OP Rector, University of Santo Tomas; and Very Rev. Fr. Filemon I. dela Cruz, Jr., OP Prior Provincial, Dominican Province of the Philippines, Inc.

After the ribbon cutting, when the attendees had a photo opportunity with the Rector Magnificus, the Bishop, and the Provincial, the USTAAI and TACFI presented the souvenir gift of the sculpture "Magnificent Tiger" to the Rev. Fr. Rector as a symbol of their solidarity with UST

Continued on page 4







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

THE BEST OF BOTH WORLDS

To say that we are all survivors is correct. After the COVID-19 pandemic that hit our generation, we know that being here now means being truly blessed to still be alive at this point in human history. As such, we bring not only the lessons but also the methods we have learned during the pandemic.

And so as present-day Alumni who have gone through the pandemic, we can truly count as one of our many blessings the ability to enjoy the best of both virtual and face to face interactions. This is very inspiring for all of us as we come face to face again for our yearly traditions here at UST, while enhancing our experiences by going online as well. Our excellent traditions are once more being held regularly, bringing us all back to our Alma Mater as one family, with the added bonus of being virtually enhanced with the use of technology.

Inspired by the University's glorious history and tradition of excellence, we in the UST Alumni Association Inc. have committed ourselves to unceasingly promote solidarity amongst the alumni; keep the core values of competence, compassion and commitment in the hearts of the alumni; and nurture alumni loyalty to the Alma Mater.

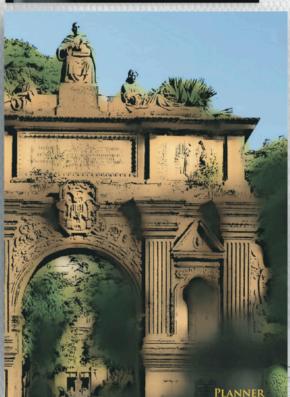
We unceasingly create pathways that will bring home the alumni through set activities throughout the year. We have the Alumni Golf Tournament in January, the General Assembly in March, the Flores de Mayo and Santacruzan in May, the Caleruega Medical Mission and Tree Planting in June, our weekly Bridges talk show program, the Alumni, Academe, Industry, and Government Summit (AAIG) in September, the biennial Alumni Masquerade Ball in October, the Distinguished Thomasian Alumni Awards Night in November, the Christmas Music Festival in December, and a host of many other events that all alumni can join, either virtually or physically, or even both.

Our presence in every association event this year are happy occasions to reconnect and give back. We count on our member associations and their active and supportive members, without which we will not be successful in all our endeavors.

As alumni, we gather again and again not only to draw inspiration from one another, but also to keep the Thomasian spirit alive. We share our life stories that are great sources of hope and inspiration, and we also share our time, talents and resources to enhance our solidarity with one another and with our Alma Mater. We hope to see you all, whether face to face or online, in our next USTAAI event, enjoying the best of both worlds we are privileged to enjoy.











Inside:

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

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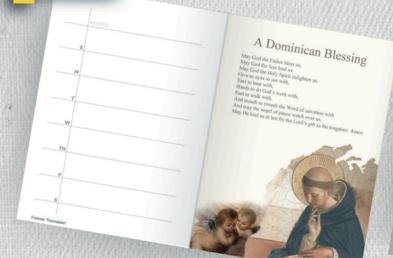
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- Postcards
- Stickers



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 Alumni Flores de Mayo

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The 2024 Santacruzan featured the following queens and escorts:

Ave Maria (Tomasinong Ilocano-La Union)

Alessandra T. Alinio Reisha Heart F. Ragaza Etchel Leinne Perez Erwynne Nicole T. Serrano Cyrille L. Coronado

Gabrielle Kaisha R. Caparas

Angela Maria Tabios Jaymie Marielle P. Ng

Reina Banderada (UST Senior High School Alumni Association) Ms. Jan Therese A. Parcon

Reina Mora (Tomasinong SOCCSKSARGEN Alumni Association, Inc.)
Dr. Antonia Alzona

Reina Esther (Tomasinong Bikolano Alumni Association) Ms. Melba Tomagan Vera Cruz

Reyna Verónica (UST Graduate School Alumni and Grants Association, Inc.)

Ms. Rowena Batoon Escort: Dr. Emmanuel Batoon

Maria Magdalena (UST Nursing Alumni Association, Inc.)

Ms. Jane S. Amistar-Celeridad Escort: Mr. Dennis Cuadra

Reina Fé (UST Tourism and Hospitality Management Alumni Association, Inc.)

Ms. Hershey T. Apelo

Reina Esperanza (UST Education High School Graduates Association, Inc.)

Ms. Careese Arabelle Camille Chong

Reina Caridad (UST High School Alumni Alliance Foundation, Inc.)
Ms. Arlene Dela Fuente

Reina Abogada (UST Law Alumni Foundation, Inc.)

Atty. Lou Wella Mae Bernasor Mendoza Escort: Atty. Jay Tolosa Reina Justicia (UST Law Alumni Foundation, Inc.)

Judge Liezel A. Aquiatan

Escort: Judge Jonathan Moslares Agnes

Divina Pastora (Thomasian Employees Credit Cooperative)
Ms. Francine Nicole J. Silvano

Reina Delas Estrellas (UST Engineering Alumni Association, Inc.) Engr. Jeneleen C. Lansangan

Reina Del Santísimo Rosario (College of Education Alumni Foundation Association, Inc.)

Ms. Ma. Corazon S. Sauz Escort: John Christian Valeroso

Rosa Mystica (Thomasian Alumni Leaders Association, Inc.) Ms. Czarine Cagurangan

Escort: Atty. Joma Vicario

Reina De La Paz (UST Atelier Alumni Association, Inc.)
Ms. Flora M. Urquico

Escort: Mr. Joe Datuin

Reina De Los Profetas (UST Galing Science Alumni Association, Inc.)

Ms. Raizel C. Zaldivar Escort: Mr. Marus Calcetas

Reina De Las Flores (UST Medical Alumni Association, Inc.)
Dr. Joanna Lissa Payuran-Gatchalian

Reina Emperatriz (UST Office of Alumni Relations)
Dr. Joreen Rocamora

Reina Elena (UST Philets and Artlets Alumni Association, Inc.) Ms. Wilma Villanueva-Palafox

Escort: Ar. Felino Albano Palafox, Jr.

Hermana Mayor 2024 (UST Philets and Artlets Alumni Association, Inc.)

Ms. Isabelita S. Paredes-Mercado

🗊 USTAAI – TACFI –

Caleruega Philippines on a Mission to Serve

....from page 1



The presence of the Office for Alumni Relations (OAR) headed by its Director, Dr. Joreen Rocamora with her team; Vice Mayor Mildred Sanchez with her team; and Barangay Captain Rico Fenol with his BHW Team was much appreciated.

This community service was made possible through the generosity of the members of the Thomasian alumni community who donated their time, talent and treasure. Unilab Pharmaceutical Company provided the needed medicines and supplements while George Optical sponsored the prescription glasses.

The medical mission was followed by the blessing of the lanai that was donated by TACFI.

Caleruega Philippines aspires for the sustainability of the project to increase patient turnout and to involve more Thomasian volunteers and sponsors.

The volunteers went home with happy hearts, grateful for the opportunity to serve. The words of Rev. Fr. Christopher Jeffrey Aytona, O.P., Director of Caleruega Philippines were full of appreciation as he said, "Caleruega Philippines is forever grateful to the USTAAI and TACFI and all the partners in providing the much needed medical, surgical and dental services to our people. May the Lord continue to bless all those involved in this act of mercy and compassion."

- Evelyn Songco, BSE, 1973 and the OAR





The University of Santo Tomas Alumni Flores de Mayo and Santacruzan was a resounding success, highlighting the unity, faith, and cultural richness of the Thomasian community. - *Mariz V. Manalo, Juris Doctor, 1995*

USTAAI and TACFI Officers Attend UST General Santos Opening I

The TACFI also joyfully distributed souvenir umbrellas, fans and t-shirts.

The Thomasian alumni community salutes and congratulates their Alma Mater, for bringing the Thomasian quality of education to the Southern Philippines through the opening of UST Gensan.

A day before this event, on 10 April 2024, the USTAAI and TACFI officers took the opportunity to attend the oath-taking of the new Board of Trustees of the SOCCSKSARGEN Alumni Association headed by its president, Architect Antonio Villanueva, at

....from page 1

Rosewood Place Gensan. On this occasion, Rev. Fr. Angel Aparicio, OP, Prefect of the UST Benavides Library received the coffee table book "Thomasian Icons: Bridges of Faith, Hope, and Love". for the UST Gensan library from this writer as the Executive Director of TACFI.

- Evelyn Songco, BSE, 1973







TACFI Donates IV Anesthetic Medicine





The Thomasian Alumni Community, Inc. (TACFI), headed by its president, Engineer Frederick Parayno, donated Profopol Anesthesia to the UST Hospital (USTH) and other hospitals owned or headed by Thomasians.

Dr. Robert C. Sy, the Chairman Emeritus of TACFI, headed the TACFI delegation that turned over the anesthesia to the beneficiaries. Rev. Fr. Julius Factora, Chief Operating Officer of the UST Hospital, together with Dr. Charito Malong-Consolacion, Medical Director of the USTH received the donation of four boxes of Propofol



Anesthesia. Dr. Mildred Mariano, owner of Sta. Rita Hospital in Pampanga; Dr. Rollo Milante, owner of Legaspi Eye Center in Bicol; Carmela Royeca, Board Member of the Sarangani Bay Specialists Medical Center, Inc. in General Santos; and Dr. Ryan Aplicador, director at the Dr. Jorge Royeca Public Hospital in General Santos also received Profopol Anesthesia from TACFI.

TACFI continues its commitment to serve the University of Santo Tomas and its alumni.

- Evelyn Songco, BSE, 1973

The UST Alumni Association, Inc. (USTAAI) soft launched the book of The Academe, Alumni, Industry and Government (AAIG) titled "The AAIG Journey through the Years: 2019-2023" on 28 May 2024 at the Dr. Robert C. Sy Grand Ballroom, Buenaventura Garcia Paredes O.P. (BGPOP) Building. The launch was part of the Thomasian Alumni Flores de Mayo and Santacruzan gala dinner event program.

AAIG lead convener, Dean Henry S. Tenedero, unveiled the book cover and discussed the history, concept, and inspiration for this book which is a product of five years' worth of practical and collaborative ideas shared by the four crucial sectors in society to put into action and to encourage engagement from a wider audience.

In 2018, USTAAI started its conversation on graduates' inclusive life success with the UST curriculum planners headed by the UST Office for Academic Affairs. Realizing that it has found a deeper meaning in its role as an alumni association in providing opportunities for conversations among the academe, alumni, industry, and government, USTAAI decided to embark on a mission to bring together these four sectors to forge strategic alliances and sustained partnerships leading to more relevant quality education and sustainable life success for the alumni and to the development and growth of the country. Thus, the following year, the first AAIG International Summit was held.

The shared knowledge, output, and learning from these AAIG events will all be compiled in the AAIG book, which aims to promote greater understanding

AAIG Book Launched

of the issues and challenges facing the four sectors, to provide a framework for developing collaborative relationships, and to adopt strategies that can generate a positive social impact for the benefit of fresh graduates. Practitioners, researchers, and policymakers alike

should be able to learn and appreciate the wide- ranging discussions included in the AAIG book, set to be published before the end of 2024.

- Jonathan H. Peran, BS ECE, 1996









Tomasinong SOCCSKSARGEN INDUCTS NEW OFFICERS AND MEMBERS

omasinong SOCCSKSARGEN, the regional chapter alumni association of Thomasians in South Central Mindanao, inducted its new officers and members on April 10, 2024 at the Rosewood Place, General Santos City.

Present in the event was UST Rector Very Rev. Fr. Richard G. Ang, O.P, PhD as the guest-of-honor and

The following are the officers inducted during the ceremony.

President: Antonio Villanueva, Jr. Vice President - Internal: Sergio Demontanio, Jr. Vice President - External: Gerard Paul Duremdes Secretary: Rochelle Gajete-Oco

Treasurer: Grace Lim

Public Relations Officer: Ma. Cristina Ramizo Auditor: Marc Dominic Pimentel

Board of Directors:

Ryan Oscar Aplicador Ralph Balan Mayvelyn Urbano Fr. Boyd Sulpico, O.P.

Jovino Aquino Clarissa Alexandria Lee Maria Carmela Royeca Fr. Gerard Zabala, O.P.



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OAR Holds Fundraiser for Thomasian Academic Scholars







The Office of Alumni Relations (OAR) held a fundraising musical play screening of Boublil and Schöneberg's Miss Saigon on 10 May 2024 at the Solaire Resort Entertainment City, Parañaque.

In support of the advocacy, Thomasian alumni and their families watched the critically acclaimed show that will benefit the scholars of the university. Asst. Prof. Joreen T. Rocamora, the OAR Director, explained the rationale behind the project.

"The OAR is receiving requests for financial assistance from students with regard to supporting their academic requirements, international student mobility/visiting abroad, [and] paper presentations among others."

OAR strives to take a step further in raising funds for its beneficiaries by organizing more projects and collaborating with different alumni associations. Apart from the annual Rector's Cup golf tournament, an art exhibit is set to be launched in July, and an international pilgrimage in honor of St. Thomas Aguinas will be held in December.





UST and Tomasinong SOCCSKSARGEN celebrates Eid al-Fitr and campus inauguration with community gift-giving



In celebration of the Feast of Eid al-Fitr and the Inauguration of UST General Santos, the University, through the Office of Alumni Relations collaborated with Tomasinong SOCCSKSARGEN to organize a community gift-giving and feeding program in Barangay Batomelong, General Santos City on May 10, 2024.

Over 150 families received grocery packs and hygiene kits. The children in each household were given vitamins

and candies as treats.

Batomelong Barangay Captain Alikhan Bentaib spoke on behalf of his constituents and thanked UST for choosing their community to hold the donation program.

With the warm welcome of the residents of Batomelong, UST Secretary-General Rev. Fr. Louie R. Coronel, O.P., EHL returned the gesture by introducing the university to the barangay. Then, UST Assistant to the Rector for

General Santos Professor Emeritus Maribel G. Nonato, PhD expressed that the university can be of service to Mindanaoans in terms of scholarships, community service, and research.

The gathering was concluded with a feeding program where University officials, employees, and alumni association officers joined the community for a morning

- OAR

Arki Alumni Career Talk Series

The College of Architecture Alumni Association, Inc., held its Alumni Career Talk Series 1.2024 on May 14, 2024. Architects Maria Mynn P. Alfonso and Miguel 'Mike' C. Guererro of Class 1979, and Mari Louie 'Love' T. De Leon from Class 1999, presented topics that inspired their audience of UST students from the College of Architecture.

Ar. Alfonso spoke mostly about his classmates and their college years and where they are now. Ar. Guerrero shared about the pursuit of an architectural path, while Ar. De Leon's topic was about crossing boundaries within one's career.

The event was well attended by aspiring future architects. The USTCAAAI will continue to guide UST Architecture students in their journey towards building their own careers.

- Henry Felix E. Herrera, 1992



 Ar. Rodolfo P. Ventura, Dean of the UST College of Architecture welcomes the speakers, guests, and students during the Alumni Career Talk Series 1.2024.

Ar. Maria Benita O. Regala and Ar. Henry Felix E. Herrera presented the Certificates of Appreciation to all the speakers and emcee of the Alumni Career Talk Series 1.2024. From left to right: Ar. Jose Marie Tan (emcee), Ar. Herrera (Corporate Secretary), Ar. Regala (President), and the speakers, Ar. Maria Mynn P. Alfonso, Ar. Mari Louie T. De Leon and Ar. Miguel C. Guerrero.



TACFI donates Baxter anesthesia to SOCCSKSARGEN and Tomasinong Kapampangan



UST TALA meet and greet with OSA





UST High School Foundation Day and Alumni Jubilee



USTAAI marks Earth Day in UST Sta. Rosa















Surgical and Dental Mission 2024

























USTHS Batch 1975 donates wheelchairs to the UST Charity Hospital

USTAAI BOT Quarterly Meeting











Arki Alumna Donates Book

Ms. Mary Ellen Florendo-Tan, 1991 graduate of the College of Architecture, donated several copies of her first book, "Works of My Friends" to the College of Architecture through its alumni association.

The book, depicting the different paths, careers, and works of her fellow Thomasians and very close friends, will surely inspire students in the College. One copy has been earmarked for the College office and the others are to be placed at the Architecture Commons, the college library.



Education Alumni Honored at Seat of Wisdom Awards

The College of Education, as part of its festivities for College of Education Week, held its annual Seat of Wisdom Awards on Tuesday, 14 May 2024, at the Dr. Robert Sy Ballroom. The Seat of Wisdom Awards are divided into students, faculty, and alumni categories.

Marielyn Quintana, Vice President of the College of Education Alumni Foundation Incorporated (CEAFI) received three awards under the faculty category: Gawad Punla, Gawad Likha and Gawad Lingkod.

Other alumni were awarded



CEAFI VP Marielyn Quintana awarded with Gawad Lingkod, Punla and Likha

Continued on page 12

UST Singers in Bicol for Series of Concerts and Workshops

Daet, Camarines Norte, June 12, 2024. The University of Santo Tomas (UST) Singers brought their much-celebrated Kislap Concert to the charming town of Daet and their vibrant melodies resonated through the sacred hall of the Most Holy Trinity Cathedral. The event, which took place on the eve of Independence Day, was a captivating blend of talent, culture, and community spirit.

One of the evening's highlights was a special collaboration with the Singing Priests of Daet, who added a unique local flavor to the concert. Led by conductor Fidel Gener Calalang Jr., the choir enchanted the audience with their harmonious blend and impeccable musicality, captivating music lovers and locals alike.

Wearing their uniform TomBiks t-shirt, members of the Tomasinong Bikolano-Camarines Norte Chapter graciously supported the Kislap Concert. The concert drew a diverse audience of music enthusiasts, members of the community,

and esteemed guests like His Grace, Archbishop of Caceres, Most Rev. Rex Andrew C. Alarcon. Likewise, the Tomasinong Bikolano-Legazpi Chapter and Camarines Sur Chapter also lent their support and attended the event, emphasizing the strong bonds and collaborative spirit among UST alumni across different provinces of the region.

The Kislap Concert by UST Singers not only brought world-class music to Daet but also left an indelible mark

The Bicol-Voices Chorale & Tomasinong Bikolano

Balaos

Festuring

The University of Santo Tomas Singers
Prof. Fidel Calalang, Jr., conductor

June 14, 2024, Friday
Seven o'clock in the evening
Cathedral of St. Gregory the Great
Old Albay, Legazpi City

on the hearts of all who attended, reaffirming the profound impact of music in fostering unity and appreciation for the arts. – Tomasinong Bikolano, Camarines Sur Chapter

Sorsogon City, June 13, 2024. For the second leg of its Bicol 2024 Tour, the UST Singers serenaded Sorsogon City on June 13 at the Sorsogon Cultural Center for the Arts. Dubbed "Tinig Tomasino: Harana ng Pag-asa," the concert was organized by the Tomasinong Bikolano

Sorsogon Chapter.

In her welcome message, Dr. Elna B. Fajardo-Banzon, Vice-President of Tomasinong Bikolano, Sorsogon Chapter, thanked the UST singers for bringing world-class music to Sorsogon. This was the UST Singers' second time to perform in Sorsogon City. In 2016, they played before an equally appreciative audience.

Albay, June 14, 2024. Our hearts and souls are full of gladness as we ended the weekend with the success of Balaog: The UST Singers' Albay Concert, our workshops - The Choral Art of the UST Singers and Prof. Fidel Calalang, Jr., and the 1st Albay Regional Choral Festival. - Tomasinong Bikolano, Sorsogon Chapter

Together with other Tomasinong Bikolano, we would like to express our overflowing gratitude to the University of Santo Tomas Singers and to Prof. Fidel Calalang Jr. for filling the hearts and minds of Bicolano choirs and audiences in the last two days.

We would like to especially thank our

city government, sponsors, media partners, and suppliers, whose support has not only made our events possible, but has also fueled the fire of inspiration among choirs to establish our culture and music in the region.

The 1st Albay Regional Choral Festival held on June 15 would not have happened without a home in the form of Divine Word College of Legazpi. The DWCL Community, led by their president, Rev. Fr. Nielo Cantilado,

Continued on page 12





UST High School Foundation Day and Alumni Jubilee 2024: A Memorable Celebration

he UST High School Foundation Day and Alumni Jubilee 2024, held at the Dr. Robert Sy Hall, BGPOP Building, in the UST Main Campus on Saturday, 8 June 2024, was a resounding success.

The festivities began with a solemn Holy Mass at 3 PM, setting a reflective and grateful tone for the day. The program commenced at 4:30 PM, featuring a lineup of esteemed guest speakers.

The special guests who imparted messages on the occasion included Secretary Anthony Castro, representing the UST High School administration; Atty. Dwight Ramos, President of the UST Alumni Association, Inc.; and Asst. Prof. Joreen Rocamora. Director of the UST Office of Alumni Relations. Their speeches focused on the enduring legacy and vibrant community spirit of UST High School.

The highlight of the event was the celebration of the golden jubilee of Class 1974 and the silver jubilee of Class 1999. Also in attendance were jubilee alumni from the classes of 1979, 1984, 1989, and 1994, Each received a Jubilee Alumni Medallion in recognition of the enduring connection to their Alma Mater.

To ensure the smooth transfer to next year's Alumni Jubilee event, a representative from the Golden Jubilarians Class 1974 handed over the symbolic baton to Class 1975, while a representative from the Silver Jubilarians Class 1999 did the same to Class 2000. Class 1975 and Class 2000 will spearhead next year's celebrations.

Special recognition was also given to Ms. Aurora Simbol-Reyes of the Class of 1949, celebrating her 75th anniversary; Ms. Lourdes V. Obillo of the Class of 1954,

celebrating her 70th anniversary; Ms. Patria A. Fineza of the Class of 1959, celebrating her 65th anniversary; and Ms. Emma Yeung of the Class of 1968, celebrating her 56th anniversary. These distinguished alumni were honored for their lifelong dedication and contributions. The evening culminated with a heartfelt closing message from USTHS Alumni Alliance President Ronnie Gomez, who guoted Henry Ford: "Coming together is the beginning, keeping together is progress, and working together is success." His words encapsulated the spirit of unity and collaboration that marked the event.

The celebration continued into the late evening with fun, music, dancing, and live entertainment, leaving everyone with cherished memories and a renewed sense of community. The entire alumni present eagerly

Continued on page 12







=== Celebration in Significance: "MGA Hibik at Himagsik" in the city of Lipa \equiv







Lipa Actors Company



Von Ryan Yu as Gen. Miguel Malvar

President, Antonio Chua-So Jr., former voice professor Maestra Gloria Coronel, and fellow alumni Ima Mamadra, supported "Mga Hikbi at Himagsik nina Victoria Laktaw," a sarswela (in Filipino books, this is spelled as sarsuwela) performed at the Cultural Center of Lipa on June 18, 2024. This was a special offering from the Lipa Actors Company, led by the City Government of Lipa and graciously supported by Mayor Eric Africa, as part of the commemoration of the 419th founding anniversary

The College of Music Alumni Associated led by its

Von Ryan Yu from Cuenca, Batangas and UST Conservatory of Music Alumni Association Inc. VP-

of Lipa and its 77th year as a city.

Internal, played General Malvar. Other talented performers from various parts of Batangas led the cast: MJ Correa from Balavan took on the role of Victoria Laktaw, Vince Conrad from Batangas City portrayed Bindoy, Glenn Ramirez from Lobo played Tino, and Reggie Dizon from Lipa City was Conching. Their diverse backgrounds contributed to a rich and authentic portrayal of the characters, further enhancing the impact of the performance.

The sarswela, originally written by National Artist Bienvenido Lumbera with music by Lucien Letaba, was first performed in Batangas City in December 2023 as part of the support from the Batangas Culture & Arts

Council. The Lipa Actors Company, one of the country's leading community theater companies, led the production under the artistic direction of this writer and musical direction of Fernando Silva.

With Joseph Mateu in charge of lighting, Rique Cabaya as the dance and costume design consultant, Carmel Mariveles as the coach, Carlo Aguila and Israel Mission in production, and Peregrine Santiago as the second director, every aspect of the performance was significant. Art and culture are perhaps the closest paths to the heart of the community, and "Mga Hibik at Himagsik" brought joy and hope to the audience.

Luisito Nario





Tomasinong SOCCSKSARGEN inducts....

Fr. Ang congratulated the group for a successful turnover. He said, "It [the Tomasinong SOCCSKSARGEN] is one of the most close-knit, dynamic, active, warm, and welcoming groups around the world of Thomasian alumni." These attributes of the association led to the success of projects progressing to the establishment and inauguration of the UST General Santos.

Newly inducted SOCCSKARGEN alumni association president Ar. Antonio Villanueva, Jr. lauded the chapter's former head, Ms. Ma. Carmela Royeca, for her efforts and contributions in the past years. He promised the Rector his group's commitment

....from page 6

to the GenSan campus. "We are going to be your partner in promoting UST and any projects na makakatulong yung Tomasinong SOCCSKSARGEN.

He reiterated the association's purpose which is, "Charity born out of gratitude." Officers and members will continue to contribute to the university's mission and vision through volunteerism, marketing efforts, and network building.

For his term as president, Ar. Villanueva aims to organize more charity works and fundraisers for their chosen beneficiaries.

- OAR

Education Alumni Honored at Seat of Wisdom Awards

....from page 10

with the Gawad Tanglaw. Among them were Clotilde Nieva Arcanghel and Celina Bautista Cerda for education; Ma. Eileen Bringas Blanco for nutrition and dietetics; Ma. Estrella Majuelo for library science; and Mady Go Co for food technology.

Dean Pilar Romero also took the event as an opportunity to launch the preparations for the College of Education Centennial in 2026. Before the awards, Fr. Louie Coronel OP, UST Secretary General con-celebrated the Holy Mass with Regent Fr. Max Gatela OP. The event was attended by administrators, alumni and student awardees with their parents or guardians.

- Nanette Ochoa-Fernandez, BSE 1976

UST High School Foundation Day and Alumni Jubilee 2024: A Memorable Celebration

....from page 10

anticipate more events in the coming months, inspired by the success of this memorable gathering.

Special thanks and mention also went out to the USTHS Faculty Members who were present in the event.

Finally, the event would not have been made possible without the tireless and selfless efforts of the officers and Board of Trustees of the UST High School Alumni Alliance who organized and ensured the successful holding of this unforgettable event. Kudos to the USTHS Alumni Alliance!

- Rogel Tapang, 1987

Arki Alumni Career Talk Series

....from page 7



After the awarding of certificates, the USTCAAAI Board, guests, speakers, and emcee posed for a picture with the future architects to conclude the event.

UST Singers in Bicol for Series of Concerts and Workshops

..from page 10

SVD, is a pillar for choral music in Albay and has been a very important partner of the Bicol Voices Choral. The Nativity Chapel is truly a God-sent gem to us choirs. Thank you to the Albay Cathedral for allowing us to hold our concert in the church.

We would like to congratulate and thank all the choirs who participated in the 1st Albay Regional Choral Festival:

- Tingog ni Ina Choir and Mr. Othelo Barrun Daria Jr.
- UNC Glee Club and Mr. Dave Lorenz Delos Santos
- St. Agnes Academy Tingog Chorale and Mr. Edward M. Miranda Jr.
- Gregorian & Camiri Choir and Mr. Billy Malto
- Divine Word College of Legazpi Chorale
- Himig Sorsueños and Prof. Edwin Balgemino
- CBSUA Chorale and Mr. Cris Caryl Yu
- LNHS Voice Chorale and Mr. Celger Venzon
- CORO Bikolano and Mr. Ricky Solero
- Baao Children-Youth Choir and Mr. Emmanuel B. Ramos II

We would like to think that this is a start of something new and exciting for choral music in the Bicol region. We continue to hope that our friendships ever more flourish in the years to come.

From the bottom of our hearts, Diyos Mabalos po!





Solemn Investiture of the Conservatory of Music 2024

The investiture ceremonies last June 5th at the Albertus Magnus Auditorium were no less than a celebration of triumph filled with remarkable musical performances, making them both unique and special as the "Royal Tradition" is still being observed. The candidates must kneel on the "solo kneeler" one-by-one upon conferment of their

live by the orchestra. The full version of the UST Hymn was sung by soloist Jesreel Mangui, BM Voice, Magna Cum Laude.

Other parts of the program were the Address of Petition: Clartrome Jacalan, BM Cello Performance, Magna Cum Laude; Address of Concession: Rev. Fr. Jessie R. Yap, O.P., EHL, ex officio member, UST Mr. Antonio A. Chua-So Jr., BMME, LPT, President; Intermission No.2: Mapagmahal na Pinoy Medley for Horn, Cello and Piano (arranged by Glenn Aquias) with Deiniel Sanchez, French Horn, Clartrome Jacalan, Cello and Reynaldo Gendrano, Piano; and Address of Thanks: Deiniel Sanchez, BM French Horn, Summa Cum Laude. Serving as Master of Ceremonies was Asst. Prof. Mary Rose







respective degrees. The processional music "Pomp and Circumstance March" by Edward Elgar and the "Recessional March" by James Ployhar were performed live by our very own UST Symphony Orchestra under the baton of Assoc. Prof. Herminigildo G. Ranera, Ph.D., DMA. The Coro Tomasino sang the invocation song with Mr. Mark Agpasa conducting. The Philippine National Anthem was also accompanied

Board of Trustees; Presentation of the Candidates: Assoc. Prof. Antonio P. Africa, Ph.D., Dean; Conferment of the Degrees: Rev.Fr. Jessie R. Yap, O.P., EHL, ex officio member, UST Board of Trustees; Thomasian Pledge: Reba Ma. Ysobelle Flores, BM Music Theatre, Magna Cum Laude; Intermission No.1: Sonata No.1 in B minor, JS Bach by Victor Jan Luigi Torres, BM Violin, Magna Cum Laude; Graduates' Induction into the USTCMAAI:

R. Coronel, MA, Conservatory Secretary.

Our conservatory has produced 54 graduates this academic year 2023-2024. This may be the smallest in number, but not in substance, as music is considered to be the strongest and most influential medium. As bearers of the beautiful gifts of music, we shall continue creating harmony for the entire human race.

- Antonio A. Chua-So Jr., 2004

Memorial Mass Celebrates the Life of Mitos Araneta



Monsignor Bernardo Pantin, CBCP Secretary General, celebrated Holy Mass for Thomasian Alumni Community Foundation (TACFI) founding member and Philets & Artlets Alumni Association pillar Milagros "Mitos" Cabrera Araneta on 28 April 2024, the 40th day of her passing. This was held at the chapel of The Garden Columbary, Christ the King Seminary in Quezon City. The West Kamias Holy Family choir provided beautiful music, arranged by friend Emma Yeung.

Attending the memorial service were Philets batchmates and classmates, TACFI board members, and USTAAI friends. The family was represented by daughter Rosanne Araneta.

At the short program that followed, TACFI Chair Emeritus Dr. Robert Sy and Philets & Artlets Alumni Association stalwart Dean Henry Tenedero spoke of her warmth, generosity and commitment. Mitos was in her 80s but was always present in USTAAI board meetings before the pandemic, and hosted many USTAAI events at Alfredo's Steakhouse, which she owned.

Before the program ended, Atty. Jack
Castaneda, Evelyn Songco, and Ellen Manansala
of TACFI presented a gift card to the family for a ciborium
and chalice engraved with her name that could be
donated to the church of their choice.



Mitos was 85 years old when she peacefully passed on in March 2024. She is survived by her children Liza, Fred, Rosanne, and Karin.

- Nanette Fernandez, BSE English 1976





At a Glance APRIL TO JUNE 2024

hen Thomasians meet for an evening of good, clean, wholesome fun, it is surely an affair to remember, with dining, music and dancing! This was what happened at the Dr. Robert Sy Hall , Thomasian Alumni Center (TAC), 2nd floor of the BGPOP Building. on 8 June 2024, when the Board of Officers and Trustees of the USTHS Alumni Alliance, led by President Ronnie Gomez, launched this event of honoring their Alumni Jubilarians and, at the same time, making the second countdown for the Centennial Anniversary of the Foundation of the UST High School.

It will be recalled that on June 3 last year, the first Countdown to the USTHS Centennial of the USTHS Foundation was done at the ground floor of the UST Junior High School Building. At that time, the honorees were the Diamond Jubilarians (USTHS Class '63), the Golden Jubilarians (USTHS Class '73), and the Silver Jubilarians (USTHS Class '98), among others.

Then, there was a merienda-cena and a short program to cap the event.

This year however, the officers of USTAA made

sure that it would really be a memorable affair! It was very much like a sentimental journey to see the Thomasian alumni as they made the rounds of the dinner tables, greeting friends and fellow alumni, updating life stories with them and then posing for photographs. The most visited table was the one assigned to the former USTHS teachers, led by Ms. Pines Manapat, with Ms. Marisa Casas, Ms. Eva Kalaw, Ms. Zeny Roda, Ms. Bel Viray, Ms. Margie Cruz, and Ms. Marcy Pedraza. There was much hearty laughter and joyful remarks and giggles from this table as the teachers were bonding with their former students.

The other most visited table was for the Honorees of the evening: Ms. Aurora Simbol-Reyes, USTHS '49; Ms. Lourdes V. Obillo, USTHS '54; Ms. Patria A. Fineza, USTHS '59; and Ms. Emma Yeung, USTHS '68. It seemed like everyone wanted to have a souvenir picture with these alumni personalities. In fact, the Diamond Jubilarians (USTHS '63) who were recognized and honored in 2023: Ms. Alma de Jesus, Ms. Carmelita Javier, and this writer were at once excited and relieved to know that they were not the oldest alumni of the night. Of course, they would not be outdone in having photographs taken with these alumni VIPs and their

former high school teachers.

Thanks to the present Officers and Board of Trustees of the USTHS Alumni Alliance, the Junior High Thomasian alumni will be looking forward to the forthcoming alumni events.

USTHS CLASS '76 led by Mr. Boyette San Diego and Ms. Bene Meritus earned a feather in their cap as they witnessed the graduation of their scholar, Arron Campilla, at the UST Quadricentennial Pavilion on 28 June 2024. Arron graduated with the Degree of Bachelor of Science in Information Systems from the UST College of Information and Computing Sciences (CICS) with a Silver Medal.

Arron was one of the scholars of the USTHS Alumni Alliance from his 7th Grade up to his Senior High. In College, he kept his grades within the range required by his benefactor, Ms. Meritus, who dutifully paid for his tuition and miscellaneous fees throughout his four academic years, including his other academic needs. Sharing Arron's JOY at his Commencement Exercises were his mother, Ms. Teresa Campilla, and his brothers Alpatrick and Mac Andrie.

- Myrna Munda, USTHS, 1963



Alvin Justiniani VP, Avic Bartilad Trustee , Rogelio Tapang PRO, Myrna Plata-Munda former President USTHS Alumni Alliance, Demie Co, Agnes Julian Treasurer , Ronnie Gomez President.



Demie Co, Myrna Plata-Munda, Alma de Jesus, Emma Yeung, Eva Kalaw, Mariano Carpio . Urbano Agalabia and other former USTHS teachers .

Seated: Aurora Simbol-Reyes '49, Lourdes V. Obillo '54, Patria A Fineza '59.



UST ATELIER GALLERY HOPPING 2024

REMY BOQUIREN • RICHARD BUXANI • MARIO DE RIVERA • FIL DELACRUZ • EDGAR DOCTOR • RAUL ISIDRO • JOSE TENCE RUIZ JULIO JOSE AUSTRIA • JUERT ASEJO MARCO COCHING • RAI CRUZ • MELVIN CULABA • GARY CUSTODIO • THOMAS DAQUIOAG • JANOS DELACRUZ • ANNA DE LEON • ELMER DUMLAO • PEDRO FELIX GARCIA II • CARLA GAMALINDA PATRICK NAVAL • NOLI PRINCIPE MANALANG • WILFREDO OFFEMARIA • JOEY OFLUDO • ABE OROBIA • JAIME PACENA II ROMUALDO ROMMEL PEREZ • ALJO PINGOL • JONATHAN RAÑOLA • MARCELINO RODRIGUEZ • MARK SALVATUS • FRANCISCO SEGISMUNDO JOEL SOLIVEN • MELISSA VILLASEÑOR • RENEE AVILA • SUMMER DE GUIA • ZOE POLICARPIO • RAINIERE RAMIRO DAVID REQUILME • GEAN SOLLESTRE • RANIEL VICAREZ, JR.

ALTRO MONDO CREATIVE SPACE • 1 JUNE - 29

MILMAR ONAL

THE TIDES OF TIME GALLERIA NICOLAS ALABANG TOWN CENTER APRIL 24 - MAY 3

LYDIA VELASCO

UGAT NG LAHI JOSE ART GALLERY MAY 5 - 20

MARIA CECILIA MAGDAMIT

MUSEO NI JESSE ROBREDO MAY 15 - 31

CARLO ONGCHANGCO

ICONS
GALERIE JOAQUIN PODIUM
MAY 28 - JUNE 7

SALVADOR CHING

TIME CROSSING ALTRO MONDO CREATIVE SPACE JUNE 1 - JUNE 29

ANITA DEL ROSARIO

SPECIAL EXHIBITION ARTE BETTINA APRIL 20 - MAY 2

ABE OROBIA

BAYAN KO: GITING AT LAMANG TIYAN MANILA CLOCK TOWER MUSEUM JUNE 1 - JULY 27

GEAN SOLLESTRE

STEEL IN EXISTENCE ARTE PINTURA X PACO CREATIVE SPACE

WILLY TADEO LAYUG

SULI NING BETIS
PHILIPPINE CONSULATE
GENERAL, MILAN, ITALY
JUNE 12 - 27



Ugat ng Lahi Lydia Velasco Jose Velasco

YOU'RE INVITED

- 31 MAY 2024, BICOL X 1.1, PHILIPPINES

MUSEO NI JESSE ROBREDO OPENING

DATE: 16 May 2024, Thursday



TIME GROSSING Salvador J. Ching

A SPECIAL EXHIBITION BY

A NITA DEL ROSARIO







SULI NING BETIS ART EXHIBITION

DOMINIC RUBIO

CASA JUAN (SPECIAL EXHIBITION) GALERIE JOAQUIN ROCKWELL APRIL 30 - MAY 10

ALJO PINGOL

EXCELSIOR: A SILVER LINING GALERIE JOAQUIN PODIUM MAY 14 - 25

CHITO IGNACIO

IT KEEPS BLOOMING ART ELAAN MARCH 27

RAUL ISIDRO

HOMAGE TO NATURE GALERIE JOAQUIN ROCKWELL JUNE 8 - 17

EMMAN ACASIO

RARE ALTRO MONDO CREATIVE SPACE JUNE 1 - 29

RAUL ISIDRO, AUGUSTO SANTIAGO, JUNO GALANG

KULTURA MANILA CLOCK TOWER MUSEUM JUNE 1 - JULY 27

RICHARD BUXANI

LITTLE TREES
ART LOUNGE MANILA MOLITO
JUNE 19 - JULY 2

FIL & JANOS DELACRUZ, EDGAR & YAS DOCTOR, RAMON, ANNA & MICHAEL ORLINA

ROOTS: AN ODE TO FATHER GALLERY 9 JUNE 26

NEMI MIRANDA

ART EXHIBIT &
BOOK LAUNCHING
PHILIPPINE EMBASSY
JUNE 25 - 28



CASA JUAN × DOMINIC RUBIO

SPECIAL EXHIBITION

Event Reception: April 30, 2024 I 6:00 PM

EXCELSIOR

A SILVER LINING

A SOLO EXHIBITION BY CHITO IGNACIO

MARCH 27, 2024 @ 4PM

It Keeps.

Blooming

raul isidro HOMAGE TO NATURE





LITTLE TREES

RICHARD BUXANI





Layout by Juert Asejo





FEATURED THOMASIAN

Ma. Elena De Jesus-Manansala: A Woman of Substance

Dean Ellen, as she is fondly called, grew up in Zamboanga City where she graduated as the high school valedictorian in Pilar College before coming to Manila for her baccalaureate program at UST. She started her teaching career right after graduating from UST with a degree in Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy (Magna Cum Laude) in March 1971, and placing top 7th in the Pharmacists Licensure Examination.

It was her love for imparting knowledge that made her stay for 43 years in the Academe, occupying various positions until her appointment in June 2002 as Assistant Dean. Together with then Dean Rosalinda Solevilla, PhD, they conceptualized the 5-year BS Clinical Pharmacy course as a specialization, following a new trend of pharmacy practice in a hospital setting.

Assoc. Prof. Ellen assumed Deanship in June 2013 until her retirement in May 2015. During her term, she steered the different working committees in the Faculty of Pharmacy to attain the following PACUCOA Accreditation levels: Level 4 - B.S. Pharmacy Program; Level 3 Re-accreditation - BS Medical Technology Program; and Level 1 - BS Biochemistry Program. She oversaw the application and submission of requirements to the Commission on Higher Education for both Pharmacy and Medical Technology Programs to be Centers of Excellence, encouraging all her faculty members to finish their graduate programs, which was realized at the end of her term. She mobilized the Student Exchange Program with Chulalongkorn University and Mahidol University in Thailand, and with Kebangsaan University and Universiti Sains Malaysia. In January 2014, she chaired the 5th Philippine Pharmaceutical Research Congress, where foreign and local researchers in the industry and academe gave lectures on their expertise, and students exhibited their research studies on drugs, plants, and animals.

Along with teaching, Dean Ellen was also active in the UST Faculty of Pharmacy Alumni Association and Scholarship Foundation, Inc. (USTFPhAASFI) and helped in its registration with the Security and Exchange Commission. Through her leadership, the Association was able to publish in 2011 a coffee table book about the history of the Faculty of Pharmacy entitled "Reminiscence, Luminescence, Beneficence" as part of its 140th Foundation. The project was a collaboration among alumni, academe, and students.

After her retirement in 2015, she was elected as President of the USTFPhAASFU, managing the different projects of the Association with the support and cooperation of its Board of Trustees. Another coffee table book, "The Luminaries in the Faculty of Pharmacy" was published coinciding with the celebration of the 150th Foundation Anniversary of the Faculty of Pharmacy in UST. One hundred fifty distinguished alumni were featured in seven different categories. The proceeds of this fund-raising project supported their scholarship and outreach programs in the adopted communities of the Faculty of Pharmacy and the renovation of the UST Botanical Garden.

Endowed with beauty and brains, she holds the distinction of being the first Reina Elena of the initial USTAAI-OAR Santacruzan held in 2019. Due to the COVID pandemic which interrupted this now annual May tradition, she has also become the longest reigning Reina Elena.



She was elected Treasurer of the UST Alumni Association Inc. in 2021 for 2 terms and was a founding trustee in the Thomasian Alumni Community Foundation Inc (TACFI). She spearheaded the initial project of the Foundation, a coffee table book entitled "The Thomasian Icons: Bridges of Faith, Hope and Love." This featured The Outstanding Thomasian Alumni (TOTAL) and the USTAAI Distinguished Thomasian Alumni awardees.

At present, she enjoys her retirement with husband, Ernesto. Weekly lunch with her family and three grandsons, Noah, Manuel and Earl, is always a special treat for family bonding.



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