



THE THOMASIAN ALUMNI COMMUNITY

VOL. NO. 8 ISSUE NO. 1

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE UST ALUMNI ASSOCIATION, INC.

Newsletter

Celebrating Excellence: The 9th Distinguished Thomasian Alumni Awards Night

► By: Atty. Mariz Manalo, Juris Doctor, 1995

The University of Santo Tomas Alumni Association, Inc. (USTAAI) held the 9th Distinguished Thomasian Alumni Awards Night (DTAAN) at the Dr. Robert Sy Grand Ballroom, Thomasian Alumni Center, Buenaventura Garcia Paredes, O.P. Building, UST Manila on 30 November 2024. This event honored outstanding Thomasians across various fields who have made significant contributions to society, embodying the Thomasian core values of Competence, Commitment, and Compassion.

With each awardee receiving a statue of the iconic Arch of the Centuries, the evening was a momentous occasion that celebrated the achievements of 69 exceptional alumni nominated by their own alumni organization, each making a difference in their respective professions and communities.

The screening committee was headed by USTAAI VP Ma. Lourdes Garganera, with Justice Oscar Herrera Jr. as co-chair. The other members of the committee were Dr. Robert Sy, Dr. Evelyn Songco, Atty. Edward Castañeda, Dr. Angelita Sarile, Ms. Inocencia Ida Tionko, Dean Henry Tenedero and Msgr. Bernardo Pantin.



Honoring the Best: List of 2024 DTAN Awardees

UST Alumni Priests Association

- Most Rev. Bishop Antonieto Dumagan Cabajog, DD
- Most Rev. Bishop Emeritus Emilio Zurbano Marquez, DD
- Most Rev. Bishop Jose Rojas Rojas, DD

UST Law Alumni Foundation, Inc.

- Dean Dr. Jacqueline Onsiangco Lopez-Kaw
- Atty. Ananias Liangco Canlas, Jr.

UST Medical Alumni Association, Inc.

- Winston Aquitania Pe Aguirre, MD, F.A.C.S.
- Avenilo Padernilla Aventura, Sr., MD
- Ma. Corazon Zaida Noblejas-Gamilla, MD

UST Faculty of Pharmacy Alumni Association and Scholarship Foundation, Inc.

- Grace Hermoso-Padilla, MD, FPPS, MHA
- Erlinda Ventanilla Alvarez II, RPh, MBA
- John Thomas Rulivlar Yeung

UST Philets and Artlets Alumni Association, Inc.

- Asst. Prof. Joselito Bravante Zulueta, PhD, MA
- Nestor de Guzman Cuartero
- Piedad Guinto Rosales, MA

UST Engineering Alumni Association, Inc.

- Engr. Jason Lee Ong
- Engr. Mark Elson Caguloa Lucio, MSc
- Engr. Nixon Yap Sioco

UST College of Education Alumni Foundation, Inc.

- Mayor Maria Rosario Ochoa-Montejo
- Rlor Macuray Santos
- Sonia Masil Gementiza, RL, PhD

UST Galing Science Alumni Association, Inc.

- Loraine Kay Dela Rosa Cabral, MSc, PhD
- Col. Dr. Santiago Ombac Rodriguez, Jr.
- Joel Enrico Nebrida Anastacio, MD

UST High School Alumni Alliance Foundation, Inc.

- MGen. Jeffrey Castro Hechanova PAF
- Ma. Lourdes Tamayo Martinez
- Erika Espiritu Gibbs

UST College of Architecture Alumni Association, Inc.

- Ar. Arlen Puzon de Guzman
- Ar. Mariano Delos Santos Arce, Jr., FUAP, AA, APEG AR
- Ar. Chona Elvas Ponce, PhD

UST College of Commerce Alumni Foundation, Inc.

- Elizabeth Ong Dee, CPA
- Asst. Secretary Elizabeth Noriel Lopez de Leon, MBA
- Melesa Dy Chua

UST Graduate School Alumni and Grants Association, Inc.

- John Jack Genavia Wigley, PhD
- George Ang Lu, PhD
- Donald Gutierrez Manlapaz, PhD, PTRP, PT

UST Conservatory of Music Alumni Association Inc

- Antonio Paterno Africa, PhD
- Ma. Alexandra Iñigo Chua, PhD
- Prof. Najib Mabaning Ismail

UST Tourism and Hospitality Management Alumni Association, Inc.

- Eugene Garcia Raymundo
- Jomelyn Melmida-Abuan, DPA
- Zarah Jane De Jesus Juan

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*From The President's Desk:***At Your Service** *by Atty. Dwight Ramos*

The Essential Leadership Skill

In his Business Matters column in The Philippine Star, Francis J. Kong aptly pointed out that in today's fast-evolving world, soft skills have become the backbone of high-performing teams and thriving workplaces. While technology can automate tasks, soft skills remain irreplaceable—driving connection, innovation, and long-term success.

He emphasized that investing in soft skills is an investment in the future, as these are the qualities that machines can never replicate. Soft skills, as he defined, refer to personal attributes that shape how we interact with others and manage both work and life situations. Unlike hard skills—such as coding or accounting, which are technical and task-specific—soft skills include communication, adaptability, leadership, and emotional intelligence. These attributes influence everything from teamwork to conflict resolution, making them invaluable in any organization.

Kong concluded that soft skills are anything but weak. While their impact may not always be immediately quantifiable in ROI metrics, they manifest in happier employees, stronger leadership, and reduced attrition rates—all of which are critical to a healthy, dynamic organization.

This truth becomes even more relevant in volunteer-driven organizations like Alumni Associations. Unlike corporate structures, most individuals in these organizations offer their time, talent, and even financial resources for free, solely to drive the organization's mission forward. In such settings, the traditional command-and-control leadership approach simply does not work. As Kong put it, barking orders as if in a military drama is ineffective and counterproductive.

Instead, the most essential leadership skill in volunteer organizations is the ability to motivate and inspire—beyond just metrics. True leadership is about fostering a culture of service, shared purpose, and genuine connection. It is this leadership mindset that delivers the “psychic income”—the intangible yet deeply fulfilling reward that fuels the passion of volunteers. And in the end, that is what truly matters.





MASQUERADE BALL LAUNCHES FIRST 1000 DAYS PROJECT

► By: Atty. Mariz Manalo, Juris Doctor, 1995



On the evening of 26 October 2024, the Maynila Ballroom at The Manila Hotel was transformed into a grand venue filled with elegance and noble intentions for the "La Tomasina Baile De Máscaras." Hosted by the University of Santo Tomas Alumni Association, Inc. (USTAAI), this masquerade ball combined sophistication with the spirit of charity, embodying the Dominican tradition of service and community care. At the helm of the Masquerade Ball were AAI's Lito Malabanan and Maureen Pickering.

A CELEBRATION FOR A GREATER CAUSE

This was not just a night of revelry but a meaningful occasion dedicated to the "First 1,000 Days" project. This initiative underscores the significance of the first 1,000 days of life, recognized as a critical window for a child's growth and development. The project aims to support marginalized Filipino families by enhancing maternal and child nutrition, education and health support.

USTAAI's commitment to nurturing the next generation was front and center during the event, as alumni and esteemed guests gathered in unity to raise awareness and funds for this noble cause. The venue, adorned with intricate masks and gold embellishments, symbolized the transformative power of generosity and hope.

ADVOCACY THROUGH COMMUNITY AND COLLABORATION

During the ball, the USTAAI highlighted their strategic partnerships with various Thomasian alumni organizations, government agencies, and private benefactors. The "First 1,000 Days" project is a collaboration of the USTAAI Committee on Advocacy, the College of Education Alumni Foundation Inc. (CEAFI), the Faculty of Pharmacy Alumni Scholarship Foundation, Inc. (FPASFI), and other key stakeholders. Their shared vision aims to provide holistic support through seminars, feeding programs, training and medical missions in partner communities.

A NIGHT TO REMEMBER

Attendees, in formal wear and provided with festive masks, enjoyed a meticulously planned evening filled with fine dining, live music, and memorable dance performances. Yet, the highlight of the night remained the steadfast commitment to making a tangible difference in the lives of young mothers and children in need.

LOOKING FORWARD WITH HOPE

The proceeds from "La Tomasina Baile De Máscaras" will directly support programs that empower families during the critical stages of early childhood development. USTAAI remains unwavering in its mission to uplift vulnerable communities and foster meaningful learning experiences through its advocacy efforts.

As the evening drew to a close, the spirit of camaraderie and compassion resonated with every guest. "La Tomasina Baile De Máscaras" was more than a social gathering—it was a beacon of faith, hope, and love, illuminating the path toward a brighter future for Filipino children.


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3rd UST Law Alumni Golf Tournament Raises Funds for Scholarship and Outreach Programs

The University of Santo Tomas Law Alumni Foundation, Inc. (USTLAFI) successfully held its 3rd Golf Tournament on 11 October 2024 at the scenic Pradera Verde Golf and Country Club in Lubao, Pampanga. This event, now in its third year, has become a staple in the Foundation's calendar, aimed at raising funds to support its scholarship and outreach programs.

The event was a joint effort of the USTLAFI trustees and officers, led by the Foundation's President and Associate Justice of the Sandiganbayan, Ronald B. Moreno. The tournament was meticulously organized by Sports Committee Chairman Atty. Frankie O. Magsalin III, whose leadership ensured a smooth and enjoyable event for all participants.

Players teed off at 7:00 AM in a shotgun start, with a P5,000 registration fee that covered lunch, a golf shirt, caddie fees, cart sharing, and entry into the highly anticipated raffle. Numerous raffle prizes were distributed during the awarding ceremony, adding excitement and joy to the occasion.

The Vice Governor of Pampanga, Hon. Lilia Garcia Pineda, known to everyone as "Nanay Baby," graced the event and warmly welcomed the Thomasian community and their guest golfers, ensuring that everyone felt comfortable and well taken care of at Pradera Verde.

The proceeds of the tournament will go toward USTLAFI's scholarship and outreach programs, continuing the Foundation's mission to provide educational assistance and community support. This annual golf event not only raises funds but also strengthens the bond among Thomasian alumni while fostering a spirit of giving back to the community.

With the unwavering support of its alumni and many generous sponsors, the UST Law Alumni Foundation is confident that its initiatives will continue to grow and make a meaningful impact on the lives of scholars and beneficiaries.

ATTY. MARIZ MANALO, *Juris Doctor, 1995*



USTLAFI President, Assoc. Justice of the Sandiganbayan, Ronald B. Moreno, during the ceremonial opening tee shot.



USTLAFI Sports Committee Chairman, Atty. Frankie O. Magsalin III



USTLAFI Officers and Trustees



Campus Memories:

Life at UST was, and always will be, priceless. It never felt like college—except for the tough subjects, of course. I expected a stark contrast from high school, but UST, with its warm Thomasian community, felt just comforting and familial. Unlike other high school friends who had vastly different university experiences, I found a unique sense of belonging on campus.

Block sectioning strengthened our bond—we started as strangers, became friends, and ended up as family. Even our professors grew into lifelong friends. No matter where life takes us, we always reunite over good food and endless laughter, reliving the best memories of our Thomasian years.

The UST College of Science excelled both academically and athletically. I had the honor of representing the college in various sports—as a volleyball player, captain of the women's track & field team, and captain of the women's swim team. Mornings started at 5:30 AM in the UST pool, diving into ice-cold water before sunrise. As team captain, I prioritized my teammates' training over my own, often warming up before they arrived. To complete my training, my coach arranged for me to practice with the Men's Team—previously prohibited—requiring some creative 'smuggling.'

I spent a lot of my time on campus – both in academics and athletics. I can speak extensively on my experiences navigating the corridors of the Main Building from class to class or speak passionately about my training hours at the pool, gym and open field as an athlete of the College of Science. But I think my biggest take away from those 4 years of college would be the bonds we'd created from those years together. I am reminded of this with every reunion, just as we

A Day in the Life... ▶ By Zenaida Enriquez BS Psychology, 1984



had quite recently. We had the pleasure of our former professor's company in her once-a-year visit, plus a surprise visit of one of our batchmates even. A night of endless reminiscing, boisterous laughter like ones we shared in our classrooms over 40 years ago! To quote our lovely professor, Ms Merce Regalado-Eslinger, "Good for the soul! And facial muscles too, which have been raised all the time during the night!"

I rushed from training to lectures, having to switch 'costumes' from training gear to our all white uniform. By my second year, athletes were allowed to attend class in training attire during the season, making mornings much easier. Afternoon training sessions meant I had to practically live on campus—but I wouldn't trade those days for anything.

Those 4 years at the UST College of Science have given me great memories, deep friendships, and a lifetime of laughter!

.....from page 1

Celebrating Excellence: The 9th Distinguished Thomasian.....

Honoring the Best: List of 2024 DTAN Awardees

UST Nursing Alumni Association, Inc.

- Franz Henryk Agno Vergara, PhD, DNP, MAS, RN, CENP, CGM, OMC
- Wilma Badoo Salvador, RN, MSN
- Mary Dioso Mata Ramos, PhD, RN, CNE

UST Thomasian Alumni Leaders Association, Inc.

- Usec. Atty. Allan Batarra Gepty
- Charles Isaac Navoa Delta, PhD
- Rosalie Dumo Wenceslao

UST Golden Cross and Saber Alumni Association, Inc.

- Col. Generoso Ventura Mariano PN(M) (GSC) Ret.
- Jesus Roderick Caramat Tuazon, MD
- Aux Rear Admiral Jose Mari Pantoja de la Peña

UST Education High School Graduates Association, Inc.

- Nicomedes Buccat Alviar, PhD
- Remedios Desales Gaspi, MD

Tomasinong Bikolano Alumni Association

- Mayor Carolyn Cua Sy-Reyes, RPh

UST College of Rehabilitation Sciences Alumni Association, Inc.

- Avenilo Licud Aventura, Jr., MD, FPCS, FACS, FPATACSI
- Anne Marie Co Aseron, MSc
- Cong. Dr. Anthony Rolando Torrillo Golez, Jr.

UST Atelier Alumni Association, Inc.

- Prudencio Villamor Leal Lamarroza
- Maria Victoria Syquia Almarlo
- Florante Tacadena Castillo

Tomasinong SOCCSKSARGEN Alumni Association, Inc.

- Rommel Tomas Manuel Faigui
- Maria Rosario Sira Chiu

UST Pax Romana Alumni Association

- Mary Jane Mateo Tesoro
- Dr. Gerry Porciuncula Catapang, PT, DPT, CMPT, MGS
- Edwin Macario Bernabe, MD

Tomasinong Ilocano – La Union

- Jerome Aquino Gaerlan, MD

Young Thomasian Alumni Achiever Awardees

- Jan Olympus Salvador Buenafior Delacruz
– UST Atelier Alumni Association, Inc.
- Romulo Gabriel Asuncion Kintanar, RPM
– UST Thomasian Alumni Leaders Association, Inc.
- Alphonse de Guzman Estacio, MPM
– UST Phillets and Artlets Alumni Association, Inc.

Special Award - USTAAI

- Engr. Jose Luigi Lagmay Bautista



TALA ng Pasko 2024

The UST Alumni Association, Inc. and UST Thomasian Alumni Leaders Association continue to make a difference this holiday season by bringing joy to the UST maintenance and security personnel through its annual TALA ng Pasko gift-giving event. Held on December 17, 2024 at the Buenaventura Garcia Paredes, OP (BGPOP) Building lobby entrance, the officers and members from both associations gave yellow bucket stools filled with grocery items and assorted packs of Mucho chips.

This event was made possible through the collaborative efforts and generous donations of the partner associations, namely: UST Law Alumni Foundation Inc., UST Faculty of Pharmacy Scholarship & Alumni Foundation Inc., UST College of Education Alumni Foundation Inc., UST High School Alumni Alliance Foundation Inc., UST Artlets & Philets Alumni Association Inc., UST College of Commerce Alumni Foundation Inc., UST AMV Accountancy Alumni Association Inc., UST Architecture Alumni Association Inc., UST Atelier Alumni Association Inc., Tomasinong Ilocano - La Union, Tomasinong Kapampangan and Tomasinong Bikolano.

- Jonathan H. Peran, BS ECE 1996



USTAAI, UST TALA and USTECEAA join Makibata 2024

The UST Thomasian Alumni Leaders Association (TALA) once again participated in the Santisimo Rosario Parish 26th Makibata program at the University of Santo Tomas (UST) P. Noval UST covered court last 14 December 2024. This annual children's Christmas party gave joy and comfort to 300 kids from the surrounding communities.

TALA was represented by its officers Ces San Juan and Jonathan Peran, along with its members Bianca De Mesa and Richard Beljot, and with the help of USTAAI's Kaye Bundang and Bess Asiddao. They gave yellow bucket stools and assorted packs of Mucho chips to the participating children. Joining the event for the first time, the UST Electronics Engineering Alumni Association (USTECEAA), a departmental alumni association under the UST Engineering Alumni Association, Inc. (USTEAAI), gave school supplies and was represented by Engr. Amante Garcia and Engr. John Paul Cantor.

It was a bittersweet moment to see Rev. Fr. Paul Reagan O. Talavera, O.P. spend time with the children and thank the sponsors during the event. After spearheading this program for the past years and instilling a sense of tradition and camaraderie among the donors and the whole Parish community, he will officially end his six-year term as Parish Priest of the UST Santisimo Rosario Parish and is set to move to Gibraltar for a new Dominican mission station.

- Jonathan H. Peran, BS ECE 1996



The Art of Richard Buxani: Magic in Metal at the UST Main Lobby



UST TALA Christmas Party at the Brewing Point Fisher Parkway



"The Distinguished '24" at the ARTISTSPACE, Ayala Museum in Makati

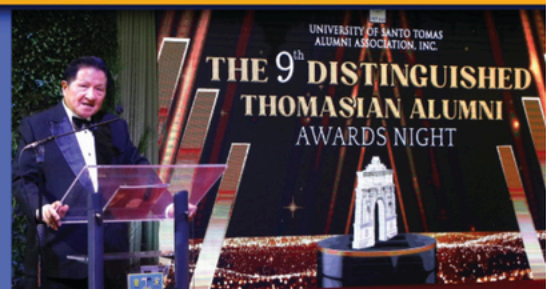


UST Law Alumni Foundation Golf Tournament





-CLICKER-RAZZI-



USTAAI, UST OAR and TACFI Christmas Party



La Tomasina Baile de Mascaras





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THE 1ST UST TALA LUMINA PANDIT AWARD



The UST Thomasian Alumni Leaders Association (TALA) launched its first ever "Lumina Pandit Award" which recognizes and honors the outstanding student leaders whose dedication and stellar contributions have positively impacted our communities, both within and beyond the campus. This year's recipient is Lawyer Danielito "DJ" Jimenez, J.D., LL.M, DCL.

Atty. DJ, also known for his moniker "The Pinoy Street Lawyer," stands as a beacon of the Thomasian tradition, having spent his entire educational journey at UST, culminating in a Doctor of Civil Law. He represented the 2024 Graduates of the UST Graduate School of Law during the imposition of the Thomasian Cross. A distinguished member of the Thomasian alumni community, he has been recognized as one of the ten outstanding Manilans in 2023 for his exceptional contributions to the field of law. This accolade was presented during the 452nd Founding Anniversary Celebration of the City of Manila at the Metropolitan Theatre.

A distinguished private law practitioner and educator, he has made

a lasting impact at UST by advocating for the rights of students and faculty. His leadership roles as President of the UST Central Student Council (CSC), the Arts and Letters Faculty Club (ALFA), and the Founding President of the Thomasian Alumni Leaders, Inc. (TALA), showcase his dedication to transitional leadership and community empowerment.

"The Pinoy Street Lawyer" has proudly served the community for over a decade, providing pro bono legal advice and sharing essential insights on various legal and societal issues. With a remarkable career marked by challenges and triumphs, he has become a trusted voice in the legal community. His appearances on television and radio allow him to address pressing legal and social matters, fostering public understanding.

Through the Lumina Pandit Award, UST TALA recognizes his unwavering commitment to setting the highest standards and consistently demonstrating leadership through action. His ability to navigate challenges with grace and

determination has set a remarkable example for all student leaders. According to Rev. Fr. Christopher Jeffrey L. Aytona, O.P., UST TALA's Spiritual Adviser, this award is derived from the UST Founder's vision, "To spread the light," and he added "That's what student leaders should be. After receiving the Light (Veritas), we don't keep it to ourselves. We share it and become light for others." This is also in line with St. Thomas' insight: "Seeds that are hoarded rot, but seeds that are scattered fructify."

The award, presented by Judge Froilan Pitpit, Ms. Angie Tuazon, Ms. Rowena Castro and Dr. Evelyn Songco, was given during UST TALA's Christmas Party held last 6 December 2024 at the Brewing Point Fisher Parkway in Quezon City. The event was attended by UST TALA officers and members, past and current officers of the UST Central Student Council (CSC) and UST Student Organizations Coordinating Council (SOCC), the past and current administrators and staff of the UST Office for Student Affairs (OSA) and officers of the UST Alumni Association, Inc. (USTAAI).

- Jonathan H. Peran, BS ECE 1996



THOMASIAN ALUMNI COMMUNITY

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"When the world was ageless and anything but ordinary, a mother wrote her child's first adventure.

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Thoughts of yesterday can course like the ocean waves, pushing and pulling the mind and the heart together.

Even the smallest of moments spent with the ones you love, can outlast every single lesson that life may have to offer.

When you try to remember happiness, you create art because time cannot reimagine itself."



Created by:
Artist Seb Chua

Php 48,0000

For Inquiries:
Look for Ms. Kaye Bundang
09175231522 / ustaaiscretariat@gmail.com

Proceeds will go to the Thomasian Alumni Community Scholarship and the Disaster Response Programs.



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MS. KAYE BUNDANG AT
09175231522

Proceeds will go to the USTAAI Scholarship and the Disaster Response programs, and will help the association further its other advocacies.



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Tomasino Para sa Kapwa Pilipino in action

The back-to-back onslaught of severe tropical storms in the months of October and November have left a devastating mark on the Philippines, displacing thousands of families and leaving many without essential resources, including safe water and sanitation.

On 23 October 2024, the Thomasian Alumni Community Foundation, Inc. (TACFI) and the UST Alumni Association, Inc. (USTAAI), in partnership with the UST Thomasian Alumni Leaders Association (TALA), launched the Tomasino Para sa Kapwa Pilipino Disaster Relief Operations in response to the devastation wrought by Typhoon Kristine and Super Typhoon Pepito. Spearheading these efforts were TACFI President Engr. Frederick Parayno, USTAAI President Atty. Dwight M. Ramos and UST TALA Chairperson and USTAAI Advocacy Committee Over-all Coordinator Ms. Angie Tuazon. Heeding the call for donations, several individuals, companies and member alumni associations extended their support by providing cash, supplies, services and other assistance to the people affected by the disaster.

One of the first communities to receive relief goods was the San Guillermo Parish in Talisay, Batangas.



These donations were sent on behalf of the Thomasian alumni community of Hong Kong, through the USTAAI Hong Kong Chapter President Jan Yumul, and with the help of the Rotaract Club of Chinatown which provided logistical support to deliver the goods to Talisay.

Most of the donations made its way to Bicol, particularly those communities in Capalonga (Camarines Norte), Labo (Camarines Sur) and surrounding areas in UST Legazpi. This effort was made possible through the help and coordination of Tomasining Bikolano and UST TALA on-ground support headed by Atty. May Dan Sayco Jalgalado. The

good were brought to Bicol by use of trucks of CM Pancho Construction, in coordination with UST Law Alumni Association former President Atty. Ellen Francisco. The donors included Solon Sy, Jose Tuazon, Bella Sepulveda, Cha Tañedo, Sweet Tan Tañedo, Grace Decker, Brigina Almario, Carlos W. Lemi, Caroline Lemi, Rev. Fr. Christopher Jeffrey Lejano Aytona, O.P., Walter Randolph Jalgalado, Dr. Evelyn A. Songco, Ellen De Jesus-Manansala, Joanne Lim Co, Jenn Sobremonte, Kathie Sobremonte, Nancy Yu and family, Raphael Tan, Noelle Yoga, Charles Julius L. Bautista, Dr. Rollo Milante, UST Office of Alumni Relations Director Joreen Rocamora, Boysen Paints, Titan Paints, Rotaract Club of Chinatown Manila headed by Djoshua Tuazon (logistics, packing of goods and delivery to warehouse) and Judge Edith Santos.

In Tuy, Batangas, Fr. Jojo Aguas received donations from Tau Mu Sigma Phi Alumni Foundation (USA) in the form of bucket stools (water bucket that can be used as a stool), food and school supplies, to be distributed to 50 families affected by Typhoon Pepito.



- Jonathan H. Peran, BS ECE 1996



USTEAAI and IGAARP hold UST Engineering Alumni Summit 2024



The UST Engineering Alumni Association, Inc. (USTEAAI), in partnership with the UST Faculty of Engineering, Industry Government, Academe, and Alumni Relations Program (IGAARP), hosted the 2024 UST Engineering Alumni Summit: Conference, Recognition, and General Assembly on 23 November 2024, at the Dr. Robert C. Sy Grand Ballroom, Buenaventura Garcia Paredes, O.P. (BGPOP) Building. With this year's theme "*EnggPowering Synergy: Connecting Minds, Uniting Expertise, and Shaping Futures to Forge Tomorrow's Engineering Solutions*," this event served as a testament to the strength of the Thomasian alumni community, bringing together engineers, professionals, benefactors and industry leaders from various disciplines to collaborate and innovate, and to honor academic excellence and the vital role of engineering in our society.

UST Faculty of Engineering Dean Angelo R. Dela Cruz, PhD, PECE opened the event highlighting the importance of the summit and reaffirming the significance and

importance of engineering in crafting a sustainable future. This was followed by the message of UST Vice Rector for Finance and UST Faculty of Engineering Regent, Rev. Fr. Roberto L. Luanzon, Jr., OP, SThD, DL.

Two esteemed plenary resource speakers were invited to share their knowledge and insights in their respective fields of expertise during the conference. Engr. Fortunato C. Leynes, MBA, PEE, CPE, APEC, IIEE, talked about the Philippine Energy Plan 2023–2050, and Engr. Paul Ryan S.P. Roque discussed the fundamental principles of fire protection and the importance of fire safety.

During the recognition ceremony, benefactors were given awards for enhancing student development through scholarships and financial aid, and for supporting developmental projects that are instrumental in preparing the students for a successful future. Led by the Faculty Secretary Asst. Prof. Ma. Luisa T. Asilo, MEng, PECE, the awards were given to the following: CRL Environmental Corporation; Department of Corporation; Department of Science

and Technology (DOST); Huawei Technologies Phils. Inc.; Megaworld Foundation Inc.; Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA); Petron Foundation Inc.; Philippine S&T Development (PhilDev) Foundation-Manila, Inc.; Rebisco Foundation Inc.; San Miguel Foundation Inc.; Thomasian Engineers' Club of Southern California (TECSC); and the UST Engineering Alumni Association - USA. A gratitude wall was also unveiled at the Fr. Roque Ruaño, O.P. building lobby as an appreciation to the benefactors for their continuous support to the UST Faculty of Engineering, its alumni and students.

USTEAAI President Engr. Mario Rommel Diño delivered his President's Report, focusing on the successful staging of the Engineering Grand Alumni Homecoming (EngGAHling 2024) held last 17 February 2024. This was followed by the Financial Report from USTEAAI Treasurer Asst. Prof. Amante Garcia. UST Faculty of Engineering Assistant Dean Cristina E. Tiangco, Ph.D., concluded the program with her closing remarks.

- Jonathan H. Peran, BS ECE 1996



❖ 16th Enhinyerong Tomasino Golf Cup ❖

The UST Engineering Alumni Association, Inc. (USTEAAI), in partnership with the UST Faculty of Engineering and the six (6) UST Engineering Departmental Alumni Associations, staged its biggest golf event, the 16th Enhinyerong Golf Cup Tournament, on 12 December 2024 at the Hallow Ridge Golf Course in San Pedro, Laguna.

This year's tournament has gathered one of the most number of players since its launching in 2007. All came together in solidarity and camaraderie for this "Drive for a Cause" event to support the USTEAAI's engineering student scholars and to help further its advocacy in helping less fortunate communities. USTEAAI is currently supporting seventeen (17) Engineering Scholars for the academic year 2024-2025.

The event started with a ceremonial

tee-off led by UST Hospital Director for Pastoral Care Services, Rev. Fr. Arturo P. Pestin, O.P., and USTEAAI President, Engr. Mario Rommel Dino. A total of 108 participants

consisting of Thomasian Engineering alumni golfers, friends and sponsors, gathered at this pristine 18-hole golf course which is nestled on 72-hectares sprawling lush hills.

After the game, a buffet lunch was served at one of the function rooms of the country club. The fellowship and awarding was hosted by this year's tournament coordinators: UST Electronics



Engineering Alumni Association (USTECAA) External Vice President, Engr. Monina Evangelista, and USTEAAI Board of Trustee and Past President, Engr. Resty Cabrera,

A host of unique trophies and raffle prizes were awarded to the winners and participants of the tournament.

- Jonathan H. Peran, BS ECE 1996

At a Glance

USTHS B '71

On December 2, USTHS B '71 held its "Happy Hippie Christmas" Party at the Sangkalan, Visayas Avenue, Quezon City. The event was attended by 60 batchmates, with some coming from the USA and UK. Many wore colorful Hippie attire in line with the festive theme of the night. Their esteemed former teachers - Ms Justiniano, Ms Ramos, and Ms Rebecca De Leon - were also there for a nostalgic reunion. Ms Justiniano delighted everyone with her piano rendition of songs from the yesteryears.

The event began with the welcome remarks of Ms Ruby Paredes, Batch '71 President, followed by a Blessing from batchmate Fr. Raul Sagles. The party activities included parlor games and bingo - with a special Batch '71 Trivia Bingo, an exchange gift, and raffle prizes. There was also a live band that supplied the attendees with 70's hippie hits for dancing and singing along. Because Christmas is a season for gift-giving, the proceeds of this affair were given to the Cottolengo Filipino and Children with Cancer.



USTHS B '63

The NOVEMBER-BORN Diamond Ladies of USTHS B'63 were feted and honored by their peers at CHEF LAUDICO's OK CAFE in Pasay City on the 20th of November 2024. Ms CECILE BEJASA-SAAVEDRA and Ms LETTY JACINTO-LOPEZ could not contain their joy as they were greeted with the ubiquitous birthday song by their energetic classmates who hosted the festive lunch. And as had always been done in affairs like this, the honorees treated their hosts with a very irresistible cheesecake!

On the heels of this event came the Batch Christmas party on the 5th of December 2024 at GUEVARRA's CHEF LAUDICO in San Juan City. The special way of dispensing their exchange gifts was so delightful that they enjoyed the "steals" more than the gifts. Once again, the USTHSB'63 classmates were able to create new memories during the 2024 holiday season. Of course, they remain steadfast in their Faith and Hope, wishing for a better and happier New Year 2025!





FEATURED THOMASIAN

By: Atty. Mariz Manalo
Juris Doctor, 1995

Marge Organo

From Boardroom to Glass Sculpting Mastery

The University of Santo Tomas Alumni Association, Inc. (USTAAI) proudly features Marge Organo, a distinguished Thomasian artist, whose journey from business to the arts is an inspiring testament to passion, perseverance, and the pursuit of excellence.

Marge Organo's career path was anything but conventional. Initially earning her Bachelor's degree in Psychology from UST, she pursued Law but was drawn towards family responsibilities and business. For years, she managed a pharmaceutical enterprise while raising four children in the United States. However, a profound shift came in 2014 when she rekindled her passion for the arts and embarked on a remarkable new journey—sculpting in glass.

Organo's pursuit of artistic mastery led her to train under renowned mentors, including Fernando Sena, who played a pivotal role in shaping her early artistic foundation. She later refined her skills at the Corning Museum of Glass (CMOG) in New York and the Kamenický Šenov Glass School in the Czech Republic, where she was the first and only Filipino accepted into their advanced glass-casting program. Under the mentorship of Czech glass masters Martin Rosol and Pavel Novak, she honed her expertise in cold construction, mold-making, and lamination techniques.

A Rising Star in the Art Scene

Since her first solo exhibition in 2017, Organo's glass sculptures have captivated audiences, earning her international recognition. Her works, celebrated for their ethereal beauty and technical complexity, have been exhibited in prestigious galleries across the Philippines, the United States and Europe. Notable venues include The Westin Manila, Solaire North Resorts, and prominent art galleries in Metro Manila.

Her passion and dedication have led to a continuous stream of solo exhibitions, with works reflecting themes of devotion, femininity, and the dynamic interplay of light and glass. Among her most celebrated exhibits are:

- *Of Cubes, Triangles, and Good Fortune* (2017)
- *Glimmering Illuminations* (2018)
- *Magnum Opus* (2019)
- *Core of Devotion* (2021)
- *Beyond Boundaries* (2024 – Singapore International Exhibition)

Overcoming Challenges and Continuing to Shine

Organo's journey was not without obstacles. In 2021, she suffered a severe case of COVID-19, which temporarily prevented her from sculpting. Yet, her indomitable spirit remained steadfast—she turned to painting, further proving her versatility as an artist. Her resilience paid off, as she soon resumed glass sculpting and continued to showcase her works to an expanding global audience.

A Thomasian Legacy of Excellence

Beyond her artistic achievements, Marge Organo embodies the Thomasian spirit of dedication and lifelong learning. She has received numerous accolades, including the Distinguished Thomasian Alumni Award (2019) and international invitations to exhibit alongside some of the world's most esteemed glass artists.

Her story serves as a beacon of inspiration for aspiring artists and Thomasian alumni, proving that it is never too late to pursue one's passion. As she prepares for her upcoming international exhibitions and the launch of a coffee table book featuring a decade of her works, Organo's artistry continues to transcend boundaries—literally and figuratively.

From the boardroom to the art studio, Marge Organo's story is one of reinvention, mastery, and relentless passion. The USTAAI celebrates her remarkable journey, recognizing her as a true Thomasian visionary whose sculpted dreams have become timeless works of art.

Mabuhay ka, Marge Organo!



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