



THE THOMASIAN ALUMNI COMMUNITY

VOL. NO 8 ISSUE NO. 3

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE UST ALUMNI ASSOCIATION, INC.

Newsletter

A TAPESTRY OF FAITH AND TRADITION:

UST ALUMNI MARIAN EXHIBIT, FLORES DE MAYO AND SANTACRUZAN 2025

Last 8 May 2025, the University of Santo Tomas Alumni Association, Inc. (USTAAI), in partnership with the UST Office of Alumni Relations (OAR), once again brought to life a beloved Filipino tradition with the grand celebration of its annual Flores de Mayo and Santacruzan. Held within the university grounds, the event honored the Blessed Virgin Mary and highlighted the enduring devotion and unity of the Thomasian alumni community.

To immerse the Thomasian community in the celebration of the Blessed Mother, a Marian exhibit at the BGPOP Lobby was held from 2-8 May 2025, with various images of Our Lady on display, culminating in the Santacruzan gala dinner.

On May 8, the celebration commenced at 2:30 PM at the Santísimo Rosario Parish Church with the recitation of the Holy Rosary led by Pax Romana. This was followed by the Flores de Mayo flower offering of the various *Reinas* representing the participating alumni associations. The solemn celebration of the Holy Eucharist was presided over by Rev. Fr. Jerome Secillano, Rector of the EDSA Shrine, who shared a powerful homily on Marian devotion and its continuing relevance in modern times.



UST alumnus and Aficionado founder Joel Cruz as 2025 Hermano Mayor (Image credit: The Varsitarian)

Continued on page 7

MARIAN EXHIBIT LAUNCH ALUMNI MAY FESTIVITIES



The Office of Alumni Relations (OAR) and the UST Alumni Association (USTAAI) held its first Marian Exhibit from 2-8 May 2025 at the Buenaventura Garcia Paredes OP lobby, leading to the Flores de Mayo and Santacruzan on 8 May 2025.

On display were images of Our Lady of the Holy Rosary, under the care of Rev. Fr. Isidro Abañó, OP. of Santísimo



Rosario Parish Church; Our Lady of Lourdes, under the care of Rev. Fr. Ding Camus, OFM Cap, of the National Shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes; Our Lady of Mount Carmel, under the care of Rev. Fr. Dionesio Balute, OCD of the National Shrine and Minor Basilica of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel; Our Lady of Consolacion y Correa under the care of Rev. Fr. Edwin Hari, OSA of the Archdiocesan



Shrine of Our Lady of Consolacion y Correa; Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal under the care of Rev. Fr. Joel Rescober, CM of the Archdiocesan Shrine of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal; and Our Lady of Loreto, under the care of Rev. Fr. Enrico Martin Adoviso of the Archdiocesan Shrine and Parish of Our Lady of Loreto.

Continued on page 6



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

POPE LEO XIV FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

Pope Leo XIV began his reign after being formally installed at an outdoor Mass in St. Peter's Square as the 267th pontiff of the Roman Catholic Church and sovereign monarch of Vatican City. He spoke of Church unity in the midst of modern challenges as he gave his sermon.

Watching live on the internet, I was excited most specially for two reasons: the first was seeing our very own Cardinal Luis Antonio Tagle giving him the "fisherman's ring", the symbol linking his papacy to St. Peter, while the world was watching. It was surely a proud moment for us Filipinos!

The second was hearing Pope Leo XIV say that he would continue the legacy of Pope Francis on social issues, particularly in protecting the environment. I am sure this was welcome news as well to all other environmental workers like me, and those who advocate for climate and ecological justice. This is a clear and categorical message that our new pope is aligned with his predecessor who issued the church's first encyclical on protecting the earth and "care for our common home," or *Laudato Si*. Making this even more significant is the fact that even before being elected, Pope Leo XIV had already been speaking about moving "from words to action" when it comes to the commitment of protecting the environment.

This is a call to all Thomasians to join the advocacy and take even just small steps toward a more sustainable lifestyle. Let us heed the call for our common home, which is about caring for the planet and the urgent need to address environmental challenges. Let us take action and have a global dialogue about how our actions and decisions impact the future of the planet.

More than this, we need to now prioritize promoting adherence to segregation at source by all waste generators in support of Carbon Neutrality and Sustainability Initiatives toward a circular economy and a zero-waste future.

The Ecological Solid Waste Management Law mandates segregation at source, meaning that from the household level, people should already separate the recyclables and compostable waste, so that only residual wastes will be disposed at the landfills. This is the backbone of ecologically managing our garbage and the kind of action that is called for: taking personal responsibility for our own waste right in our homes or offices, as responsible stewards of the earth and creation.

We thus join the world in welcoming our new pope who is for the environment and say as well, "*Viva il Papa Leone*" (Long Live Pope Leo).

A Prayer for Our National Election Candidates

Editor's Note: This prayer was recited at the end of the Eucharistic Celebration, opening the Marian Exhibit on 2 May 2025, 10 days before the Philippine midterm elections.

Heavenly Father, Source of all wisdom, truth and peace, We come before You with humble hearts, Lifting up our fellow Thomasians who have answered the call to serve our nation through public office.

Grant them courage and clarity of purpose, That they may uphold the truth - Veritas - In every word they speak, and every decision they make. May they stand firm in integrity, even when the path is difficult.

Fill their hearts with compassion, So they may serve, not for power, but for people --- Especially the poor, the marginalized and the voiceless. May they lead with empathy, humility and a sincere desire to build a more just and caring society.

Bless them with excellence in thought, speech and action. May they be examples of moral leadership, Using their gifts not for personal gain, but for the common good.

Lord, guide all Thomasians - candidates, voters and citizens alike - To remain faithful to our values and conscience. Inspire us to choose leaders who reflect Your light And who will work for peace, unity and the dignity of all.

All these, we ask through Christ our Lord,

Amen.



OUTLET

THOMASIAN Planner



Php 500.00



LUCKY CATCH

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

This art piece envisions the youngest years of our conscious existence, when all we knew of was love. Memories are simply stories played on repeat, ever unfolding the same two hours into the vast stretch of eternity.

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.



NEW ITEM!

TIGER DEALS

Php 400.00



FOR ORDERS, PLEASE CONTACT
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.



TOTE BAGS



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Php 150.00

NEW COLLECTION

THOMASIAN ALUMNI
TIGER CAP



Php 400.00



USTSHAA HOLDS FREE CERVICAL CANCER SCREENING

The UST Senior High School Alumni Association, in partnership with Atty. Elena Enriquez from the UST Alumni Association, Inc., and Dr. Jocelyn Mariano from the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology of the UST Hospital, conducted a free two-day cervical cancer screening on 22-23 May at the Benavides Cancer Institute of the UST Hospital.

The project offered free cervical cancer screening through Visual Inspection with Acetic Acid (VIA) to eligible female members of the Thomasian community, including students, faculty, employees and alumni, aged 21 to 65 years old.

Cervical cancer is said to be both preventable and treatable. Part of the prevention protocols includes cervical cancer screening. Under Proclamation No. 368, issued on April 30, 2003, the month of May has been declared as Cervical Cancer Consciousness Month.

Cervical cancer is caused by a persistent infection with the human papillomavirus (HPV). In 2022, over 660,000 women were diagnosed with cervical cancer, and it claimed over 350,000 lives. On average, it takes the lives of 12 Filipino women every day. It has been noted that cervical cancer incidence and mortality are mostly reported and diagnosed in low- and

middle-income countries, most likely due to the lack of access to medical intervention to prevent this illness, such as the HPV vaccine.

This initiative reflects a steadfast commitment to public health and cancer prevention, reinforcing the importance of early detection and accessible healthcare. By offering free cervical cancer screening to the Thomasian community, the organizers not only raised awareness but also provided a life-saving opportunity to many women who may not otherwise have access to such services.



Campus Memories



The Rainmakers' Journey

Revisiting my alma mater during the preparations for the UST Philets and Artlets 60th Founding Anniversary, which I co-chaired with a dear friend, President Dean Henry Tenedero, was like unearthing a treasure chest—that treasure chest filled with old vinyl records, yearbook photos, and a few embarrassing memorabilia. It was an emotional homecoming that transported me back to the days when my biggest worry was whether I'd get enough allowance for campus snacks and whether my hair looked "academic" enough for class.

Our story begins in high school, where a small vocal group was formed—initially to represent UST High School in the Student Catholic Action singing competition. We were young, bold, and blissfully unaware of how terrible some of our early harmonies sounded. Rehearsing under the gentle drizzle (because, of course, singing in the rain is a prerequisite for greatness),



our organizers teasingly claimed we caused the rains. From those playful moments, The Rainmakers was born—an ensemble of ten, which later on in the 90s became a tight-knit trio, with Jojo Gorospe and Ramon Villanueva.

College life amplified our ambitions—and our voice cracked. As students of UST, we continued singing, balancing demanding coursework with the thrill of performing. We guest-starred at countless school events and even appeared on TV—proof that we were destined for something bigger than we had hoped for, or at least, to be the background singers for someone famous like Nora Aunor, The Aldeguer

Sisters or Mercy Molina. We became campus celebrities—known for our harmonies, spirited performances, and that one time we accidentally broke a microphone during a particularly passionate rendition of "Reach Out (I'll Be There)" by Four Tops!

Walking through the campus, I was struck by the timeless architecture. The St. Raymond de Peñafort Building, formerly the Commerce Building, looked like it had been frozen in time—probably because it had. Its historic charm made me feel like I was strolling through a living museum, where each brick whispered, "I remember when the Beatles broke up"… huhuhu. The grand staircases and hallways weren't just corridors—they were the original social media platforms, where gossip, crushes, and plans for world domination were shared in whispers.

Continued on page 13



WITH SINCERE GRATITUDE FROM THE HEART

I am not merely a scholar of the UST Alumni Association, Inc. (USTAAI) through the Thomasian Alumni Community Foundation, Inc. (TACFI). I am a living testament to how the University of Santo Tomas' core values, the 3Cs (competence, commitment, compassion), take form in



the lives of its students.

As someone from a humble background who once relied on a scholarship to sustain my education at the university, but eventually losing it in my final year of college, I was placed at a crossroads. At that critical juncture, I feared my dreams might be delayed. However, TACFI and USTAAI came at exactly the right time—not just as financial aid, but as a lifeline that gave me the opportunity to finish strong and graduate on time.

Your assistance not only helped ease the financial burden of my family but also served as a source of motivation for me to persevere and strive for excellence in my academic journey, ultimately earning my degree, Bachelor of Arts in Legal Management.

Therefore, this milestone and achievement of mine is not mine alone, but is shared by all—all those who supported me in this journey, and all those who believed and continuously believe in me. Thus, it would not have been possible without the foundation's and, overall, the association's commitment to uplifting students and empowering future Thomasian professionals through their compassion.

To all the esteemed members and trustees of TACFI and USTAAI, and to all the alumni who continue to support the programs and initiatives of the foundation and the association, thank you. Your generosity fuels the dreams of students like me, and I carry with me all the lessons, values, and inspiration this has instilled. Hence, I am determined to pay forward the kindness and generosity I have

Message from Our Scholar



received and to likewise contribute to the Thomasian legacy as I embark on my journey to law school.

From the bottom of my heart—as my name speaks for itself—I heartily thank you, TACFI and USTAAI, for believing in my potential and for allowing me to make my dreams possible.

- Heart Kenneth S. Olympia,
BA Legal Management, 2025

UST GCSAAI GOES ON ONE BIG MISSION



The UST Golden Cross and Saber Alumni Association, Inc. (GCSAAI), together with distinguished stakeholders, actively participated in a two-day surgical and medical mission for the indigent residents of Sablayan, Occidental Mindoro. The mission was held at the San Sebastian District Hospital in Sablayan, Occidental

Mindoro on 4-6 April 2025. The main proponent of the mission, Dr. J. Rhoderick Tuazon, is a proud member of the UST ROTC Class of 1985.

Spearheaded by the medical team from Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital-Manila, the mission successfully performed a total of 38 minor and 31 major surgeries. The surgical procedures carried out included thyroidectomy, parotidectomy, breast mass and soft tissue mass excisions. Pre-operation procedures and medical clearances were carried out weeks ahead.

A collaborative effort between Coast Guard District Southern Tagalog Luzon, UST Golden Cross and Saber Alumni Association Inc., Operation Brotherhood Community Foundation, San Pedro Public



Assistance Group, the Provincial Office of Occidental Mindoro and the San Sebastian District Hospital admin and staff formed the support group that provided manpower, logistics and supplies (hygiene kits, medicines and toys) to ensure an orderly, efficient and effective mission.

- Jomar de la Peña, Magsindugo Class 1993



USTLAFI SCHOLARS SHINE BRIGHT IN UST FACULTY OF CIVIL LAW GRADUATION



The elite class of scholars of USTLAFI received their tuition fee and book allowance checks from the Foundation headed by Justice Ronald B. Moreno.



UST LAFI 1st-Year Scholars with their scholarship checks from the association president.

The University of Santo Tomas Law Alumni Foundation, Inc. (USTLAFI), under the dedicated leadership of its president, Justice Ronald B. Moreno, Associate Justice of the Sandiganbayan, continues to uplift the legal profession by investing in future Thomasian lawyers through its prestigious scholarship program.

During the June 2025 graduation rites of the UST Faculty of Civil Law, the academic excellence of USTLAFI scholars was on full display. The top three graduates of the Class of 2025 are all recipients of the USTLAFI Scholarship:

Aliza Adviento – Magna Cum Laude, Class Valedictorian; **Marc Santos** – Magna Cum Laude, Class Salutatorian; and **Ianna Nicole Lucas** – Cum Laude.

These exceptional scholars exemplify the Thomasian ideals of academic excellence, perseverance, integrity and a commitment to public service. Their remarkable achievements speak not only of their individual dedication but also of the meaningful impact of USTLAFI's support.

The USTLAFI Scholarship Program is open every academic year to deserving incoming freshmen of the UST Faculty of Civil Law. It is also exclusively for undergraduate Thomasians from any

discipline or college who aspire to pursue a law degree at UST. This competitive and merit-based scholarship provides full tuition and miscellaneous fees, a book allowance and a monthly stipend.

The scholarship is beyond financial support. USTLAFI scholars become part of a distinguished network of alumni-mentors and legal professionals. The program seeks not only to relieve scholars of the economic burden of law school, but also to inspire a culture of excellence, social responsibility and service to the nation.

Guided by its mission to "pay it forward," USTLAFI envisions its scholars as future leaders in the legal profession—Thomasian lawyers who uphold the rule of law, serve with humility and embody the Catholic and Dominican values of truth, justice, and compassion. With each graduating batch, USTLAFI reaffirms its commitment to building a just and ethical society by empowering the next generation of legal minds.

- Mariz V. Manalo, Juris Doctor, 1995

MARIAN EXHIBIT LAUNCH ALUMNI MAY FESTIVITIES

.....from page 1

Also lending their statues of the Blessed Mother were the UST Pax Romana Alumni Association Inc. (La Purisima Concepcion de Malabon, Mater Dolorosa and Our Lady of Flowers); the UST Senior High School (Our Lady of the Rosary); UST College of Tourism and Hospitality Management (Our Lady of the Smile and Mary, Seat of Wisdom); and Colegio de San Juan de Letran, Manila (Nuestra Señora de Aranzazu).

The other images were from private

collections: Our Lady of Hope of Palo from Willie Layug; La Niña Maria from Juan Paolo Alvarez; Our Lady of Peace and Good Voyage from Gabriel Paolo Peralta and Dr. Darcy Pamulaklak; Our Lady of Sorrows from Dr. Ruth Villanueva; Rosa Mistica from AUX Rear Admiral Jomar de la Peña; Our Lady of Fatima from Dr. Jose Maria Alcasid; Señora de la Paz y Buenviaje from Dr. Clarissa Mendoza; Nuestra Señora Santísimo Rosario from Patrick Naval; Mater Misericordia from

Alejandro Alanano; and Ina Poon Bato, Our Lady of Banneux, and Our Lady of Perpetual Help from Dr. Paul Ablaza.

Before the exhibit was opened on 2 May, Holy Mass was celebrated by Rev. Fr. Ferdinand Bautista, OP, Regent of the College of Tourism and Hospitality Management. Vice Rector Fr. Pablo Tiong, OP, OAR Director Joreen Rocamora and USTAAI President Dwight Ramos awarded certificates to those who shared their images at the exhibit.

- Nanette Fernandez, BSE 1976



A TAPESTRY OF FAITH AND TRADITION:

UST ALUMNI MARIAN EXHIBIT, FLORES DE MAYO AND SANTACRUZAN 2025

.....from page 1

Mr. Joel Cruz, UST alumnus and founder of Aficionado was this year's **"Hermano Mayor"**, while his children led the procession holding the letters that spelled out **"AVE MARIA"**.

At 5:00 P.M., the Santacruzán procession gracefully unfolded across

the UST Campus Grounds, transforming the university into a vibrant tapestry of floral artistry, pageantry and prayer. This year's **"Reinas"** were represented by a new generation of Thomasian alumni from various faculties and regions, each radiating beauty, dignity

and pride in their cultural heritage.

The USTAAI and OAR extend their deepest gratitude to all who made this event meaningful, especially to the organizers, participants and supporters whose dedication brought this year's Flores de Mayo and Santacruzán to life.

- Mariz V. Manalo, Juris Doctor, 1995

BELOW IS THE LIST OF THE 2025 SAGALAS AND THEIR SPONSORS:

Reina Elena: Susan S. Corpus, UST Philets and Artlets Alumni Association, Inc.

Reina Emperatriz : Michaela O. Lagniton, University of Santo Tomas

Reina de las Flores: Ma. Minerva P Calimag, M.D.,

UST Medical Alumni Association, Inc.

Reina del Cielo: Joy Q. Argao,

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

Reina de los Santos: Flerida Kate P. Manodon,

UST Golden Cross and Saber Alumni Association, Inc.

Reina de la Paz: Gianina T. Lee, UST Atelier Association, Inc.

Reina de los Profetas: Gabrielle Marie A. Bugna,

UST Galing Science Alumni Associatio, Inc.

Reina Justicia: Dayne Villanueva, UST Law Alumni Foundation, Inc.

Reina Abogada: Michaela Cecilia Destacamento, UST Law Alumni Foundation, Inc.

Divina Pastora: Ma. Corazon S. Sauz, Thomasian Employees Credit Cooperative

Reina de las Estrellas: Ana Cristina Encarnacion, UST Engineering Alumni Association, Inc.

Reina del Santisimo: Rosario: Ericka Mae Cunanan,

UST College of Education Foundation, Inc.

Reina Mistica: Mars M. Manalili, Thomasian Alumni Leaders Association, Inc.

Reina Caridad: Jane C. Laranjo, UST High School Alumni Alliance Foundation, Inc.

Reina Esperanza: Ma. Magdalena M. Tupalar,

UST Education High School Graduates Association, Inc.

Reina Fe: Praxene Marie Socorro Cortez,

UST Tourism & Hospitality Management Alumni Association, Inc.

María Magdalena: Lyza Assumpta M. Balita, UST Nursing Alumni Association, Inc.

Reina Esther: Dana Coleen A. Pineda, Tomasinong Bikolano Alumni Association

Reina Sheba: Deanna Ysabelle N. Lacbawan,

UST College of Architecture Alumni Association, Inc.

Reina Mora: Stephanie Haw, Tomasinong SOCCSKSARGEN Alumni Association, Inc.

Reina Banderada: Nikki Nelshean T. Marcelo,

UST Senior High School Alumni Association, Inc.



-CLICKER-RAZZI-



FLORES DE MAYO AND SANTACRUZAN 2025



The 1st UST ALPA Golf Tournament



UST College of Tourism & Hospitality Management Alumni Meet 2025



UST Galing Science Alumni Association Executive Board 2025-2027 Oath-taking



UST Pax Romana Alumni Association's Pilgrims of Hope, Jubilee 2025



UST TALA's Thomasian Nexus: Competence, Compassion and Commitment



UST AMV Accountancy Alumni Association giving support to examinees at the CPALE testing centers



The Gift Blooms, a joint art exhibit of UST CAFA and CFAD alumni



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UST GCSAAI TALKS TO GRADUATING CADETS

Last Sunday, 18 May 2025, the UST Golden Cross and Saber Alumni Association, Inc. (GCSAAI) was given the opportunity to interact with the 400+ graduating cadets prior to their Graduation Ceremony from the ROTC program. The event was held at the Frassati Building Auditorium, España, Manila.

The Association was represented by the National Commander, AUX RADM Jomar de la Peña PCGA 1993. In his presentation, the National Commander emphasized the vital role of the reserve force in the mission and functions of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, in nation building and national defense.

He then outlined the possible options open to cadets who would like to continue their service, whether in the regular or reserve Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), the Philippine National Police (PNP) or the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG). He highlighted the accomplishments of distinguished alumni who chose the path of the noble service of arms.



- RM Albert Angel De Jesus 2009, Secretary General

At a Glance

USTJHS ALUMNI ALLIANCE

The UST Junior High School Alumni Alliance Inc. (JSHSAAI) 2025-2027 Board led by Ronaldo T. Gomez invited all the USTJHS Alumni batches to come together and celebrate the 97th Foundation Day of the UST HIGH SCHOOL on 7 June 2025 at the UST Thomasian Alumni Center, Dr. Robert C. Sy Grand Ballroom at the UST University Campus.

The camaraderie, singing and dancing are merely glimpses of what the alumni expect come 2028. All alumni of the UST Junior High School are invited to join the various committees in preparation for the Centennial Celebration in 2028.



Roni Francisco Gomez USTHS 82 - President,
USTHS Alumni Alliance Inc. at the Registration Table.



May & June Diamond Birthday Celebrants and Hosts Clockwise
Yola Pilar, Juris Telmo, Myrna Munda, Cecile Saavedra, Precy de Leon, Lillian Reyes, Paulette A

The Highlights of this event included the following: Welcome Remarks from Vice President Alvin Justiniani; Roll Call by batch year; Message from Atty. Dwight Ramos, USTAAI President; Message from the OAR, Asst. Prof. Joreen Rocamora; Inspirational Message from Ronaldo T. Gomez, JSHSAAI President; Statement of Support from the Principal of the USTJHS, Dr. Marishirl Tropicales, delivered by the School Secretary, Anthony Castro; Presentation of the Blueprint for the Centennial Celebration in 2029, by Grade 10 English Teacher Joram Kim Corcuera; dinner, raffle, music and entertainment numbers; and honoring Batch 2000, the Silver Jubilarians.

USTHS'63

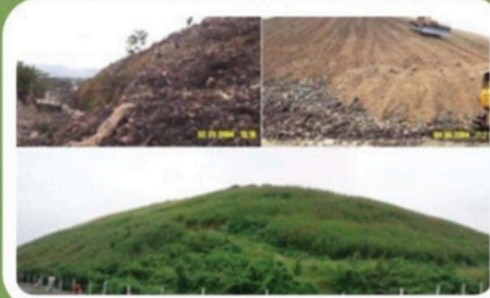
The Diamond Girls honored their May and June birthday celebrants with a sumptuous buffet lunch at the NIU in SM PODIUM: Yola Pilar (May 27) and Susan M. Calalay (June 28). The hosts of this event were: Juris O. Telmo, Alma de Jesus, Cecile Saavedra, Precy de Leon, Lillian Reyes, Paulette Angco, Perla Roy, Cora Florencio, Letty Lopez and Myrna Plata-Munda. Catching them unaware in their unguarded moments was quite a spectacle, indeed - additional features for their memoirs. "Age is just a number," a Diamond Lady will tell you. "Come let's dance and see how many turns I can make without losing my balance."

- Myrna Plata Munda, USTHS 1963



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College of Education Honors Exemplary Alumni in Seat of Wisdom Awards 2025

The University of Santo Tomas College of Education recognized exemplary alumni during the Seat of Wisdom Awards held on 8 May 2025, at the Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati Auditorium. This event honored

graduates who have demonstrated distinguished performance in their respective fields and have made meaningful contributions to society.

The honorees received the Gawad Tanglaw (Tomasinong Alumno na

Nagtataglay ng Galing, Lingap, at Awa), a symbolic recognition given to alumni who embody excellence, compassion, and service in their professions and communities.

This year's recipients include:

- Dr. Marilyn L. Cano (BSE English);
- Ms. Emelita Ong-Lavilla, RND, MHA (BS Nutrition and Dietetics);
- Ms. Sharon Moya Samaniego, RL, MLIS (BSE Library Science); and
- Mr. Royce Gerald L. Chua (BS Food Technology).

The Seat of Wisdom Awards underscore the College of Education's enduring mission to nurture Thomasian educators, librarians and information professionals, nutritionist-dietitians, and food technologists, who exemplify competence, commitment, and compassion.

Dr. Marilyn Cano, who is also a Trustee of the College of Education Association Foundation Inc. (CEAFI), received her award at the 26 May 2025 Board Meeting as she was unable to be at the College ceremony.

Congratulations to all the awardees! Your accomplishment continues to

inspire the Education alumni community to pursue excellence with heart and purpose.

- Symon Lagao, BLIS 2015



Gawad Tanglaw awardees pose for a photo opportunity with Education Regent, Fr. Ramon L. Santos, O.P., College of Education Assistant Dean, Assoc. Prof. Louie B. Dasas, and Dean, Assoc. Prof. Pilar I. Romero.



Dean Romero and Education High School Principal, Assoc. Prof. Marielyn L. Quintana with Gawad Tanglaw awardee Dr. Marilyn L. Cano.

Campus Memories

The Rainmakers' Journey

.....from page 4

I couldn't help but recall my college sweetheart—those fleeting moments of hope and unspoken feelings, wrapped in the scent of freshly photocopied notes and the occasional spilled softdrinks. Every corner seemed to echo with stories—of dreams, heartbreaks, and the innocent optimism of youth. The classrooms, too, were sanctuaries of knowledge, filled with professors who inspired, were intimidating, or just made you wonder how they managed to look so composed after a sleepless night.

Our campus history isn't complete without acknowledging the darker chapters—Pre-Martial Law tensions, underground newspapers, silent protests, and whispered defiance. Our

university became a quiet battleground of hope, where brave faculty members and students risked safety just to stand for justice. It was like a real-life "Mission: Impossible," but with more soft drinks and less Tom Cruise.

And then there were the floods—oh, the floods! Walkways turned into lakes, and we waded through waters like aquatic explorers.

Fashion was another chapter—mini - skirts shorter than your patience during finals week, and uniforms personalized with pins and badges as if to say, "This is me!" Social awareness projects, environmental campaigns, outreach programs—they weren't just extracurricular activities; they were lessons in compassion, activism, and

how to look good while doing good.

Revisiting UST now, I realize it's more than bricks and mortar—it's a living, breathing testament to resilience, friendship and the unbreakable spirit of youth. The lessons learned—courage, camaraderie, and the ability to sing in perfect harmony despite the occasional off-key note—are etched in my heart. As UST continues to thrive, I carry the legacy of those days—the days of The Rainmakers—forever grateful for the journey, the memories, and the occasional rain.

- Joel Macanaya, USTHS 1970;
AB Economics, 1974

Continued on page 14

UST HIGH SCHOOL CELEBRATES 97th Foundation Day and Jubilee Alumni Celebrations



The University of Santo Tomas High School community, led by the **UST High School Alumni Alliance**, came together last June 7, 2025, Saturday, for the **97th Foundation Day and Jubilee Alumni Celebrations**, held at the UST Thomasian Alumni Center, Dr. Robert C. Sy Grand Ballroom, 2nd Floor, BGPOP Building, UST Main Campus, España, Manila. The afternoon began with registration at 3:00 p.m., as alumni from various batches arrived to reconnect, reminisce, and celebrate their shared Thomasian spirit.

The program opened with USTHS Alumni Alliance Vice President **Alvin Justiniani** warmly welcoming all attendees, setting the tone for an evening of fellowship and pride. The roll call, hosted with enthusiasm, energized the crowd before the series of inspirational messages began.

Atty. Dwight Ramos, President of the UST Alumni Association, Inc., shared words of encouragement followed by **Asst. Prof. Joreen Rocamora** from the Office of Alumni Relations. **Mr. Ronaldo T. Gomez**, President of the USTHS Alumni Alliance, further inspired the alumni community, while **Mr. Anthony Castro**, School Secretary, delivered the message of JHS Principal **Dr. Marishirl Tropicales**. Adding to the excitement, **Mr. Joram Kim Corcuera**, Grade 10 English Teacher, presented

the much-anticipated **Blueprint for the Centennial Celebration in 2028.**

After the **blessing of the food**, guests enjoyed a delightful dinner accompanied by raffles, music, and entertainment. The spotlight then turned to **Batch 2000, the Silver Jubilarians**, whose AVP presentation and active participation were among the night's highlights. Their energy and strong turnout made the celebration truly memorable. The awarding of medallions recognized the jubilarians' milestones, followed by the symbolic **Passing of the Baton** to **Batch 2001**

(next year's Silver Jubilarians) and **Batch 1976** (Golden Jubilarians).

The festivities continued with more raffle draws, special performances, and the **Closing Remarks** before the ballroom transformed into a lively party scene.

It was an evening marked by laughter, nostalgia, and camaraderie—a testament to the enduring Thomasian bond. With the bar set high by Batch 2000, the UST High School Alumni community now eagerly looks forward to **an even grander and more memorable celebration in 2026.** Go USTe!

❖❖❖❖❖❖❖ Campus Memories ❖❖❖❖❖❖❖

The Rainmakers' Journey

.....from page 13

BUKOD-TANGING TOMASINO

by: Joel Macanaya

*Ginintuang mga ala ala,
May lungkot at may saya
Puyat, luha, sipag at tiyaga
ang aming inilaga*

*Marating lang ang inaasam asam
Maipagmalaki sa mga magulang
Nagpursige upang ang pangarap
Magkatotoo at maging ganap*

Chorus:

*Bukod-tanging Tomasino
Tinagap ang hamon ng mundo
Mga tagumpay sa amin kumaway
sa Inang Diwa iniaalay*

*Kami ngayo'y nagbabalik
Nagdiriwang nasasabik
Bukod-tanging Tomasino
Pangarap ay nagkatotoo*

Coda:
*Kami ngayo'y nagbabalik
 Nagdiriwang nang buong sabik
 Bukod-tanging Tomasino
 Tagumpay ay nagkatotoo*





UST ATELIER GALLERY HOPPING



VISION SPECTRUM

A captivating exhibition showcasing the dynamic talents of the UST AAA, Inc. Vision Spectrum, organized by Tribong USTE, brought together a rich collection of paintings and sculptures, highlighting the unique perspectives and evolved practices of alumni who share a formative artistic heritage. Held on 14-30 June at the Galerie Joaquin, BGC, the exhibition title itself speaks of the broad array of visual languages on display. From the textured surfaces and three-dimensional presence of sculpture to the layered colors and evocative forms of painting, Vision Spectrum reveals the myriad ways these artists interpret the world around them and the inner realms of their creativity. Visitors experienced the

individual journeys reflected in each artwork and how the foundational training of the UST Atelier has branched out into a vibrant spectrum of contemporary expressions. Whether through bold brushstrokes and nuanced palettes or through the tangible weight and intricate shaping of sculptural materials, the alumni featured in this exhibition demonstrate a mastery of their chosen mediums and a commitment to their unique artistic visions. Alumni-artists who joined the exhibit were: Dante Castillo, Fil Delacruz, Juno Galang, Raul Isidro, Lydia Velasco, Clarisse Aguilera, Astrid Castillo Almario, Jepoy Almario, Cecille Artillaga, Mailah Baldemor-Balde, RV Basco, Gil Bien, Lemuel Blanco, Richard Buxani, Salvador Ching, Ramoncito Ocampo Cruz, Thomas Daquioag, Janos Delacruz, Anna De Leon, Edgar San Diego, Pedro Felix Garcia II, Maryrose Gisbert, Elmer Dumlao, Dondi Fernandez, Jun Impas, Maria Magdamit, Agnes Medina, Patrick Naval, Milmar Onal, Nestor Perez Ong, Abe Orobia, Ino Pagkatipunan, Sonny Palles, Butch Payawal, Abraham Pingol, Aljo Pingol, Jonathan Rañola, Edwin Tres Reyes, Ida Robles, Melissa Villaseñor, Meneline Wong, MD



THEY HAVE FAMILIES TOO Abe Orobia's 10th solo exhibition

Abe Orobia showcased his 10th solo exhibition at Art Verité Gallery (BGC) on June 8-24, 2025. Titled They Have Families Too, the exhibit centered around wildlife empathy and conservation. The theme highlighted the intricate social structures and familial bonds found in the animal kingdom, drawing parallels with human society. By showcasing his artwork featuring various animals, Orobia aimed to promote a deeper appreciation and protection of wildlife, emphasizing that all living creatures share fundamental experiences of family and social bonding. They all experience love, care, anxiety, fear, happiness, and many things just like humans as symbolized by the floating "life orb" present in his compositions. A follow-through exhibit of his solo show titled Spirit of the Wild at the World Art Dubai, this Exhibit encouraged viewers to recognize what Orobia dubbed as "Kapwa Culture" or similarities between humans and animals, fostering a sense of interconnectedness and responsibility towards the natural world. His use of upcycled emptied tube paints and collaborative efforts with National Geographic wildlife photographers added depth to the narrative, making it a powerful call for conservation and sustainability.

PEKTO'S INFERNO Bosche Katzen Infernum

PEKTO'S INFERNO {Bosche Katzen Infernum} is a surreal reimagining of Bosche's classic infernal imagery, where the devils, instead of being grotesque and terrifying, are depicted as cute, mischievous cats with bat wings. This playful inversion of the classical hellish creatures offers a whimsical contrast to the usual depictions of demonic figures as menacing and fearsome. The cats, with their large, expressive eyes and tiny bat wings, seem more playful than sinister, creating a paradoxical visual that both delights and unnerves. In this tableau, created via gallons of caffeine, endless blues music, and the combined smell of turpentine and cat urine, the typical dread of the underworld is replaced by an eerie amusement, where the danger lies not in fiery torment but in the capricious antics of these winged kittens. This juxtaposition of cuteness and malevolence creates an intriguing atmosphere where humor and horror coexist, forcing viewers to confront their own expectations of the infernal realm. The cutesy devil-cats punish the trespassers of the seven deadly sins while Lucipurr, the cat in the high throne, oversees everything. This fantastical surreal landscape is encased in a sculpted wooden frame complete with gargoyles of cats and tarsiers. This is a diorama we created for Spectro Lucid's art pageant at World Art Dubai 2025



Oil on canvas, 48in x 96in, Sculptured Frame, Wood and Plaster of Paris, 60in x 108in Nestor Perez Ong in collaboration with Ding Royales, and Carlo Garrido

Layout by Juert Asejo



FEATURED THOMASIAN

Dr. Rowena G. Javier-Maglaqui

THROUGH THE YEARS... LIFE BEYOND THE FOUR WALLS OF UST

That we will be celebrating the 100th year of the UST Main Building in 2027 brings to mind how those who have passed its hallowed halls, particularly the Alumni, may have fared in their life and career throughout the years after obtaining their academic credentials from the university. With the UST Building being such a symbol of formidable strength, we are sure that Thomasian graduates carry the same character as they embark on their journey beyond the campus. A case in point is Dr. Rowena G. Javier-Maglaqui of UST Medicine Batch 1989 who is now a renowned American physician, specializing in Internal Medicine/ Nephrology, with over 35 years of exemplary medical and leadership experience in the Philippines, New York, and California.

Currently, she is the Assistant Area Medical Director of Downey Service Area of Kaiser Permanente, the largest managed healthcare organization in the United States of America, operating in multiple states and serving more than 12.4 million members. Since 2019, she has held one of the highest administrative

positions ever had by a Philippine-trained, Filipino immigrant physician in the organization in Southern California. She spearheaded the first COVID-19 surge in the ambulatory setting in 2020 and subsequently, the COVID-19 vaccination efforts of Kaiser Permanente in the main medical center in Downey, California and in outlying medical office buildings in Los Angeles County.

With multiple speaking engagements on the fields of hypertension and preventive care, she is an innovative leader who pioneered large community health fairs in Kaiser Permanente Southern California to promote equitable and culturally-responsive care.

Getting to where she is now, it can be said that truly Dr. Rowena G. Javier-Maglaqui has shown that strength as symbolized by the UST Main Building.

Strength is an important character to carry as one steps out of the UST campus after graduation. It will help one in overcoming not only the many challenges he will be facing along the way, but also in going through the daily grind that eventually really



carries him forward in life's journey. It is a strength that builds a life of presence, enough not only to make a difference in the community through his chosen career, but also to build a legacy that every proud Thomasian can truly emulate.



Family



Partnering with African American healthcare professionals

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