



THE THOMASIAN ALUMNI COMMUNITY

VOL. NO. 8 ISSUE NO. 5

Newsletter

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE UST ALUMNI ASSOCIATION, INC.

TEN YEARS OF STORIES WORTH TELLING: The 10th Distinguished Thomasian Alumni Awards Night

There is something quietly powerful about gathering Thomasians in one place—stories unfolding in conversations, familiar faces greeting one another, and a shared understanding that each person in the room carries a piece of the University’s legacy.

On 22 November 2025, the University of Santo Tomas Alumni Association, Inc. (USTAAI) marked a meaningful milestone as it celebrated the 10th Distinguished Thomasian Alumni Awards (DTAA) Night. What began a decade ago as an initiative to

honor outstanding alumni has become an evening that tells the continuing story of what it truly means to be Thomasian.

The night opened with a Thanksgiving Mass, grounding the celebration in gratitude. It was a fitting way to

2025 Distinguished Thomasian Alumni Awardees



(Photos by The Varsitarian)

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UST Office of Alumni Relations and UST Alumni Association, Inc. Honor Partners, Sponsors and Volunteers in Annual Appreciation Event

The Office of Alumni Relations (OAR), in partnership with the UST Alumni Association, Inc. (USTAAI), capped off the year with Appreciation Night with the theme, “Threads of Gratitude: A

Christmas Celebration,” held last 3 December 2025 at the Sheraton Hotel Manila, Newport World Resorts, Pasay City. The evening brought together over 73 organizations and

offices, comprising alumni association leaders and members, institutional partners, sponsors, media partners, volunteers, and friends, in a celebration of collaboration and a shared mission



Rev. Fr. Ang during his message.

Dr. Rocamora offers a toast to celebrate the University’s legacy of excellence.

Atty. Ramos extends his gratitude to all alumni leaders and volunteers.

Representatives from the University’s internal offices

Representatives from the Rector’s Cup Captains and sponsors

Representatives from media partners, Sixteen Eleven editorial board, and Thomasian Alumni Virtual Mentorship Program

USTAAI together with its supporters and member alumni associations, groups, and chapters

Thomasian alumni card partners

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AAIG TACKLES URGENT UNIVERSAL HEALTH CARE GAPS



The University of Santo Tomas Alumni Association, Inc. (USTAAI), in partnership with the UST Graduate

School Center for Continuing Professional Education and Development (GS CCPED), held its Academe, Alumni, Industry and Government (AAIG) Collaboration Summit focusing on Healthcare on 7-8 October 2025 at the UST Thomas Aquinas Research Center (TARC) Auditorium. Now in its sixth (6th) year, the 2025 Summit carried the theme, “The AAIG Working Towards Universal Health Care: Bridging Gaps.

Collaborating Actions. Sustaining the Gains.”

The main objective of this Summit was to catalyze the transformation of the Philippine healthcare landscape by bringing together the alumni, academic, industry and government sectors in dialogue to adopt innovative and collaborative practices in bridging the academic and industry gap for the implementation of the Universal

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FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK: *At Your Service*

by Atty. Dwight Ramos

IF I WERE A BOOK...

I was recently privileged to receive the Excellence Service Award at the "Human Library: Philosophy and Social Sciences Section, Series 4 - Human Library Forum and Awards," organized by the Bicol University College of Social Sciences and Philosophy, in partnership with JRB Business Technical Consulting Company. I was also invited to serve as a resource speaker at the same event, and was added to their roster of "living books" sharing diverse perspectives, personal narratives and expertise within the Humanities, Social Sciences, and Philosophy. I was both intrigued and thrilled by the prospect of being seen as a book while fostering dialogue and promoting understanding among the participants.

Human Library: Philosophy and Social Sciences Section event draws inspiration from the global Human Library initiative that encourages dialogue and personal connections through storytelling. Unlike traditional libraries filled with books, the Human Library features people as "living books," who share their personal narratives and expertise in various topics within the field of Philosophy and the Social Sciences. Through the "living books," the hope is that philosophy and the social sciences will continue to empower individuals and societies. Unlike traditional lectures, the event creates a space for active engagement. The invited guests, as a reflection of a "human book," share their insights that can help the participants shape their understanding about the

insights that can help the participants shape their understanding about the topic. With this, the participants are encouraged to ask questions, engage in open dialogue and explore the subject matter on a deeper level. This makes the learning process both collaborative and interactive.

Truly, this undertaking is not just an academic exercise but a transformative experience. Through the sharing of wisdom from the invited human books, participants gain a unique learning experience about philosophy and social sciences that make their learning in the school more meaningful. For me, the best thing about it, however, is that the book can also learn from the readers!

AAIG TACKLES URGENT UNIVERSAL HEALTH CARE GAPS

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Healthcare (UHC) Law. This Summit was designed with a clear framework, using its theme to follow a structured approach to guide both panelists and participants, and to achieve the intended learning outcomes.

UST Rector, Very Rev Fr. Richard Ang, O.P., gave the opening address, offering his full support to the Summit, and speaking to more than 100 delegates from different organizations who attended this two-day learning event. Prof. Evelyn A. Songco, Ph.D., USTAAI Chairman of the Board and one of the conveners of the Summit, set the tone in her welcome remarks and direction setting, with a brief history of the AAIG journey as she outlined the purpose and expected outcomes through a clear path for the future by creating a shared vision, establishing goals, and aligning resources and teams toward a common purpose.

The Day 1 session kicked off with a video message from Hon. Teodoro J. Herbosa, MD, Secretary of the Department of Health, who provided an overall understanding of the state of implementation of UHC in the country. He challenged the participants to critically analyze the specific roles of the academe, alumni, industry and the

government in achieving positive healthcare outcomes.

The first plenary session's main speaker was independent health advocate Dr. Anthony C. Leachon, on the topic "Bridging Gaps in Local Health Systems and the Health Human Resource Supply and Demand Scenario for Universal Health Care" and its Implementation and impacts. This was followed by the first panel discussion, moderated by Carl E. Balita, RN, Ph.D., on "Supply Chain & Academe: Competencies for Health Care" with the speakers presenting their topics, namely: for Medicine, Dr. Charlotte M. Chiong, Dean of the UP College of Medicine, "Challenges of Medical Education"; for Nursing, Pearl Gonzales-Po, RN a consultant of Career Progression and Specialization Program Credit Accumulation and Transfer System Program Management Committee (CPSP-CATS PMC), "Competencies for Health Care: Nursing"; and for Allied Health, Prof. Ieth Therese L. Dacanay, Ph.D, Dean of the UST Faculty of Pharmacy, "Strengthening Competencies in Pharmacy Education for an Efficient Supply Chain Under Universal Health Care". In the afternoon, the second panel discussion was moderated by Ritzmond F. Loa, RN, Ph.D on Collaborating Actions,

with the following speakers and their presentations: for the Academe, Prof. Cheryl R. Peralta, DrPH, UST Vice-Rector for Academic Affairs, "Chain of Health"; for Government Hospital, Dr. Gerardo D. Legaspi, Director of the Philippine General Hospital, "Collaborations For UHC: Adapting a Specialty Centric Teaching Hospital to Primary Care Reforms"; for Private Hospital, Wendy Rodriguez Acebedo, RN, MAN, Ed.D., Assistant Vice President of St. Luke's Medical Center, "Private Hospitals as Innovators"; and for the Industry, Dr. Diana M. Edralin, DPCOM, General Manager of Roche (Philippines) Inc., "Making medicines universally accessible: contributions of the R&D-based pharmaceutical industry to UHC".

Day 2 commenced with a recap of Day 1 by Assoc. Prof. Jocelyn Agcaoili, MHPEd, MSPT, Director of the GS CCPED and Over-all Coordinator of AAIG for the Health Sector. This was followed by a back-to-back keynote talk with Dr. Carmencita D. Padilla, MHPS, Professor Emeritus of the UP Manila College of Medicine, tackling the topic "Leveraging Higher Education to Resolve Healthcare Constraints", and

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USTHS ALUMNI ALLIANCE PRESENTS: BINGO PARA SA TOMASINO 2025!

WHAT AN AMAZING AFTERNOON OF FUN, LAUGHTER, AND TOMASINO SPIRIT!

On 29 November 2025, the UST High School Alumni gathered at the Barangay Marianas Multi-Purpose Hall in Quezon City for their annual Bingo Para Sa Tomasino - Play Time, Fun Time for a Cause. It was truly a celebration of community and camaraderie.

From the excitement of every bingo call to the joyful noise of the winners claiming their prizes, the energy in the room was a reminder of what makes the UST High School Alumni family very special — unity, generosity, and shared memories that continue to grow. Congratulations to the winners of P500-1000 pesos: Henry Herrera, B76 (won in 3 games); Carlo Lometillo, B85 and

Rogel Tapang, B87; Norman De Leon, B85; Doc Vic Samson, B85 and Gen. Aldy Nieves, B85; and Dr. Carlos Ranin, B85 and Cheryl Lorenzo, B90.

The 3rd prize of P 5000 went to Noel De Vera, B85 while the 2nd prize of P 10,000 was shared by Margot Sanchez Pablo, B85; Norman De Leon, B85; and Allan Colico, B88. The 1st prize of P 20,000 was split as well among Obet Pascual, B85; Dr. Carlos Ranin, B85; Avic Bartilad, B81; and Cheryl Lorenzo, B90.

The organizers thank everyone who joined, supported, donated, volunteered and helped to make this event a success.

- Rogelio Tapang, USTHS 1987

Welcome to USTHS ALUMNI ALLIANCE Bingo Para Sa Tomasino 2025 event - Play Time, Fun Time, for a Cause. This is the 2nd year of this fund raising event for the USTHSAA. For the benefit of Alumni Scholars and other socio-civic and outreach activities of the Association.



The USTHSAA Officers together with the other members of the BOT spearheaded the event. Shown in the picture from L-R Standing, this writer, -Ex Officio Lito Malabanan, President Alvin Justiniani, Chairman Ronnie Gomez, (seated) PRO Ruth Felipe, Vice President Avic Bartilad, and Treasurer Agnes Julian

CEAFI Goes to Rizal Jubilee Churches on Pilgrimage

Fr. Art Vincent Panganiban, OP, acting regent of the College of Education, led the pilgrimage organized by the Prayer Ministry of the College of Education Alumni Foundation Inc. (CEAFI) to seven Jubilee churches in Rizal on 4 November 2025, with Dakila Prime Travel and Tours Corporation as our provider.

The churches visited were St. Michael the Archangel Parish in Jalajala; San Ildefonso de Toledo Parish in Tanay; St. Jerome Parish in Morong; International Shrine of our Lady of Peace and Good Voyage in Antipolo;

Minor Basilica and Parish of St. John the Baptist in Taytay; Diocesan Shrine Parish of Our Lady of Light in Cainta; and the Diocesan Shrine Parish of St. Therese of the Child Jesus in Antipolo where we attended the Mass and special veneration of the relic of St. Therese. Lunch, included in the tour, was at a popular local eatery in Morong.

A special side trip to the Antipolo Museum in the compound of the Antipolo Cathedral gave a historical perspective as well. The tour began and ended at the UST campus in Manila.

- Nnette Fernandez, BSE 1976



CICSA OFFICERS INDUCTED

On 25 October 2025, the UST College of Information and Computing Sciences Alumni Association, Inc. (CICSA) hosted an induction ceremony on the 3rd floor of the UST Alumni Association, Inc. Boardroom, located in the Buenaventura Garcia Paredes, O.P. Building. This significant event was chaired by President Francis Noel Alarcon, marking a new beginning for the association.

Atty. Dwight M. Ramos, President

of the UST Alumni Association, Inc. inducted the new officers. Presidents of other alumni associations were present, not only to welcome new leaders but also to strengthen the bonds within the alumni community, fostering collaboration and support among them.

The newly inducted officers for the term 2025-2028 include:

Francis Noel Alarcon- President
Sophia Nicole Loste- Vice President

Ainah Gail Reyes- Secretary
Ares Jared Dela Cruz- Sergeant at Arms.

- Dwight Ramos, Juris Doctor, 1991





UST OAR and USTAAI Hold Special Screening of WICKED for Good!

On 19 November 2025, the vibrant atmosphere of Fishermall Cinema in Quezon City came alive as alumni and supporters gathered for "A Night of Magic and Music: WICKED for Good!" This spectacular event was organized in partnership with the UST Alumni Association Inc., aimed at achieving crucial fundraising goals for the Office of Alumni Relations.

The evening was filled with enchanting performances, camaraderie, and the spirit of giving back to the community. With great enthusiasm, the event sold out all 157 VIP seats, showcasing the dedication and passion of those attending. Guests eagerly awaited the magical experience that Wicked offers, eager to enjoy this beloved musical that explores themes of friendship and self-discovery.

A special note of appreciation is extended to our generous sponsors, SMDC Heights and Vision Express. Their support was instrumental in

bringing this event to life, embodying the commitment to foster educational initiatives and community ties that the UST Alumni Association strongly champions.

The event was not merely an evening of entertainment; it served as a platform to rekindle connections among alumni and raise essential funds for future projects. Such gatherings exemplify how art can unite people while supporting meaningful causes. As the remarkable performances enthralled the audience, attendees were transported into the enchanting world of Wicked, celebrating not only the magic of the story but also the power of alumni collaboration and support.

In summary, "A Night of Magic and Music: Wicked for Good!" was an extraordinary success, reaffirming the strength of the UST alumni community in driving positive change and ensuring a lasting impact for future generations. The partnership between the UST Alumni

Association Inc. and the UST Alumni Relations proves that together we can achieve great things by supporting our ALMA MATER and each other. Beyond the magic on screen, the fundraiser successfully raised a total of P70,632 which will directly support the programs and future alumni initiative of the University.

- Dwight Ramos, Juris Doctor, 1991



UST TALA Conducts Year-end Activities

The UST Thomasian Alumni Leaders Association (UST TALA) organized events at the end of their operational year to commemorate their accomplishments and to promote team spirit through gift-giving activities.

On 29 November, UST TALA hosted its Christmas Party at the McKinley Pavilion located in North Greenhills, Quezon City. This gathering was attended by both former and current Thomasian student leaders from various university-wide organizations, which included the UST Central Students Council (CSC) and the UST Student Organizations Coordinating Council (SOCC), along with their mentors and both past and present leadership, as well as administrators and staff from the UST Office for Student Affairs. More than 100 guests enjoyed a celebration filled with games and activities, which made for a festive, engaging, and memorable occasion. In recognition of their hard work and successes, UST TALA's Chairperson Angie Sobremonte-Tuazon and President Judge Froilan Pitpit provided gifts to everyone present through a lavish Christmas party raffle.

UST TALA, Thomasian Alumni Community Foundation, Inc. (TACFI)

and USTAAI held its annual Tala ng Pasko gift giving for the UST security, maintenance and FMO staff on 5 December at the BGPOP lobby entrance. Included in the 200 gift packs given were storage boxes, bihon noodles, hygiene kits, Katinko, packs of soap and towel, bottled water, umbrellas and other items. This activity was made possible through the donations from TACFI, Tomasinong Ilocano-La Union, APOPI Alumni Association, UST Faculty of Pharmacy Alumni Association and Scholarship Foundation, Inc., Katinko through mam Emma Yeung from CEAFI, AKB General Merchandise and Angie Sobremonte and friends. In attendance during this gift giving were the officers of UST TALA, USTAAI Chairman of the Board, Dr. Evelyn A. Songco and Vice-Rector for Religious Affairs Rev. Fr. Pablo T. Tiong, O.P.

On 6 December, the officers and members of UST TALA made their way to the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology-Quezon City Jail Male Dormitory in Payatas for an additional gift-giving activity aimed at approximately 200 Persons Deprived of Liberty (PDLs) who were given essential items such as hygiene kits and food. UST TALA aspires to promote

rehabilitation and humane treatment of these individuals, particularly during the holiday season, in line with the association's core mission. In return, the facility gifted the association with handcrafted bags (bayongs) made from woven plastic or eco-friendly materials. These products are part of BJMP initiatives that focus on rehabilitation, skill-building, and providing income for PDL families.



UST TALA at the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology - Quezon City Jail Male Dormitory



UST TALA ng Pasko gift giving activity for the UST security, maintenance and FMO staff



UST TALA Christmas Party



Tomasinong Dabawenyo Organized



On 17 November 2025, a group of dedicated Thomasian alumni from Davao gathered with representatives of the UST Alumni Association, Inc. and the UST Office of Alumni Relations to establish the Tomasinong Dabawenyo Alumni Chapter. This important event took place at the UST General Santos Library, where alumni shared their

experiences and discussed ways to foster a strong network among members. The meeting brought together a diverse group of alumni, all eager to contribute to the development of the Thomasian community in Davao. The formation of the Tomasinong Dabawenyo Alumni Chapter marks a significant step towards strengthening ties among

alumni, providing opportunities for collaboration, professional growth and community service. This chapter aims to create a supportive environment for members to stay connected, share resources and promote the values instilled by the University of Santo Tomas.

- Dwight Ramos, Juris Doctor, 1991

TEN YEARS OF STORIES WORTH TELLING: The 10th Distinguished Thomasian Alumni Awards Night

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begin—acknowledging that every achievement recognized that evening was shaped not only by talent and hard work, but also by faith, formation and community.

As the program unfolded, one theme became clear: DTAAN is no longer just about recognition; it is about remembrance. It is about looking back at journeys shaped by a Thomasian education, and recognizing how those journeys, in turn, have shaped communities, professions, and lives.

For ten years, DTAAN has honored alumni who have excelled in their respective fields while remaining anchored in the values of competence, commitment and compassion. The awardees come from diverse disciplines, yet share a common thread—the decision to use their success in the service of something greater than themselves.

A particularly moving moment of the evening was the recognition of the Young Thomasian Alumni Achievers, whose stories remind us that the Thomasian legacy continues to grow and evolve. Their presence affirmed that the future of Thomasian leadership is already unfolding, guided by the same

values that have defined generations before them.

As reflected in the message of the DTAAN Chairman Emeritus, Dr. Robert Sy, the Awards Night is not only a celebration of individual milestones, but a tribute to the collective strength of the Thomasian community. Each honoree's story is a reminder that excellence, when grounded in values, leaves a lasting imprint far beyond titles and accolades.

* 2025 Distinguished Thomasian Alumni Awardees *

UST Alumni Priests Association

- Most Rev. Antonio Realubin Tobias, JCL, DD
- Most Rev. Jose Serofia Palma, DD, STD
- Rev. Fr. Francis Vincent Olivia Gustilo, SBD

UST Law Alumni Foundation, Inc.

- Justice Gabriel Tadena Robeniol

UST Medical Alumni Association, Inc.

- Pedro Laki Lantin, III, M.D.
- Teresita de Leon Altre, M.D.
- Bernardita Cruz Navarro, M.D.

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

- Rowen Tayag Yalo, M.D., MHPed, FPSP
- Fr. Roman Lim Santos, O.P.

UST Philets and Artlets Alumni Association, Inc.

- Faye Martel Abugan
- Atty. Marivic Laurel Garcia
- Maria Yolanda Calaguas Crisanto

UST Engineering Alumni Association, Inc.

- Engr. Fortunato Cusi Leynes
- Engr. Jerenato Bardos Alfante
- Engr. Joseph Ross Salvaacruz Jocson

UST College of Education Alumni Foundation, Inc.

- Fr. Marlon Bobier Vargas, SVD
- Ma. Jovina Abadilla-Sandoval, RND
- Susan Osorio Pador

UST Galing Science Alumni Association, Inc.

- Jaime Sta. Domingo Songco, M.D., MBA, FPUA, FPSC, FPSUO
- Ladie Christine Arana-Domondon, M.D.

UST High School Alumni Alliance Foundation, Inc.

- Alexander Yatco Vergara
- Hon. Ma. Theresa Parreño Lazaro

UST College of Architecture Alumni Association, Inc.

- Ar. Emelito Crisostomo Naval
- Ar. James Galias Jao, FUA, FAPSA, PID

UST College of Commerce Alumni Foundation, Inc.

- Bryan Go Teng

UST Graduate School and Grants Association, Inc.

- John Hubert Cabasag Pua, PTRP, MD, MHPed, FPOA
- Maria Vida Gabutero Caparas, Ph.D., Rpsy
- Antonio Estrada Etrata, Jr., Ph.D.

UST Nursing Alumni Association, Inc.

- Lonar Anthony Miralles Umadhay, PhD, CRNA, APRN, FAANA
- Prof. Susan N. Maravilla, DNM, RN
- Rosario De Perio Estrada, DNP, RN, NPD-BC, CPN (Ret.)

UST Education High School Graduates Association, Inc.

- Engr. Carlito Carpo Claudio
- Engr. Jeanette Evangelista Abad
- Felipe M. Lustre Jr.

UST College of Rehabilitation Sciences Alumni Association, Inc.

- Erdie Cruz Fadreguilan, M.D.
- Jose Rommel Dela Rosa Bajar, PT, DPT, MS
- Jeannette Que Lee, PT, Ph.D., CSCS, CLT

UST Atelier Alumni Association, Inc.

- Danilo Palomer Santiago
- Rodney Segura Martinez
- Rodolfo Serrano Samonte

UST AMV Accountancy Alumni Association, Inc.

- Luis M. Chua

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Pax Alumni Honor Mary, Mother of Hope, at La Naval de Manila



Members of the Pax Romana Alumni Association, Inc., together with their families and friends, joined the Eucharistic Celebration and La Naval Procession on Sunday, 2 October 2025.

As they honored Mary, Mother of Hope, they prayed the rosary with deep devotion, offering each mystery for our country—amid the flood of corruption and the trials brought by natural calamities such as floods, earthquakes, and fires.

Pax Alumni from various colleges, many meeting for the first time, walked together as if they had long been friends—united by their shared veneration and love for the Blessed Virgin Mary. Despite the passing showers, they persevered and completed the procession, their faith shining through every step. Many participants shared that the experience renewed their faith and strengthened their hope for the nation.

The devotion to Our Lady of the Rosary, La Naval de Manila, traces its

roots to the miraculous victories of the Spanish and Filipino forces against the Dutch in 1646. Against overwhelming odds, their fervent prayers to the Blessed Mother were believed to have brought triumph, earning her the title “La Naval” (of the navy). This historic event remains at the heart of the annual La Naval festivities, a timeless testament to faith, unity, and the power of prayer.

*Mary Jean Villa-Real – Guno, UST BS General 1978,
Doctor of Medicine 1982*

Pax Romana Alumni Association Holds Third Alumni Homecoming

The UST Pax Romana Alumni Association (USTPRAAI) celebrated its Third Alumni Homecoming on 30 November 2025 at the Dr. Robert C. Sy Grand Ballroom, Buenaventura G. Paredes, O.P. Building (BGPOP), University of Santo Tomas, Manila. The homecoming was a joyful affirmation of identity and mission—rooted in faith, strengthened by fellowship, and committed to service—uniting Paxies across generations in hope and purpose.

Guests were welcomed into a festive atmosphere as dance instructors ushered attendees in the spirit of “Twirl and Tango, Paxies.” The celebration formally opened with a Eucharistic Celebration concelebrated by Rev. Fr. Efrén Rivera, O.P., and Rev. Fr. Franklin Beltran, O.P. Fellowship and joyful interaction followed, led by hosts Vice President Olga Ko and Thomas Dominic Zambrano through an engaging round of Human Bingo, encouraging Paxies to reconnect and build new bonds.

A key highlight of the afternoon was the conferment of the Frassati Path of Service Award, bestowed upon past and present officers in recognition of their dedication and faithful service to the Association. The awards were conferred by Rev. Fr. Roberto Luanzon, Jr., Spiritual Adviser, together with Rev. Fr. Efrén Rivera, O.P. The award honors the legacy of Saint Pier Giorgio Frassati, the Italian Catholic layman who, at the age of 20, helped organize the first convention of IMCS–Pax Romana, a

worldwide Catholic student movement committed to peace and social responsibility. From an ordinary life lived with extraordinary faith, Frassati was canonized by Pope Leo XIV on 7 September 2025.

The homecoming also recognized the 2025 Distinguished Thomasian Alumni Paxies: Ferdinand Martinez, PhD; Dr. Elizabeth Cheng-Magalit; Dr. Engr. Nelson Maynigo; and Young Thomasian Alumni Achiever Dr. John Paul de la Peña.

Throughout the program, participants viewed videos featuring past homecomings; Jubilee of Hope pilgrimages; Project First 1000 Days initiatives; the social action program for children with special needs at J.P. Rizal Elementary School, Tayuman, Manila; and reports from the 2025 Board of Trustees and committees on formation, fellowship, and service. These were complemented by highlights of the tree-planting activity at the UST Santa Rosa Annex, where 60 eucalyptus trees were planted under the theme “From Laudato Si’ to Action: Trees for Life, Trees for Tomorrow,” inspired by Pope Francis. Musical intermissions were rendered by Anton Go and Abigail Cuaresma.

The culminating moment of the celebration was the thanksgiving for the

acceptance of USTPRAAI as a Constituent Organizational Member of the International Catholic Movement for Intellectual and Cultural Affairs (ICMICA Pax Romana). This milestone was formally granted on 15 November 2025, during the 38th ICMICA Plenary Assembly in Lisbon, Portugal. The Association was represented on site by Jesus P. Querubin, Jr., MD, with Mary Jane Mateo-Tesoro, Jephthe Muñoz, Dr. Madeleine Valera, and President Dr. Mary Jean Guno participating virtually. The occasion united 80 delegates worldwide—40 on site and 40 online—officially welcoming USTPRAAI into a global community of Catholic lay intellectuals and professionals. ICMICA Pax Romana, present in over 60 countries, is an NGO with consultative status at the United Nations and a partner of the Dicastery for Laity, Family and Life. This affiliation strengthens the Association’s mission to integrate faith, intellect, and action for the common good, and deepens global solidarity among Paxies.

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CLICKERRAZZI

The 10th Distinguished Thomasian Alumni Awards Night





Threads of Gratitude: A Christmas Celebration 2025





TOMASINONG QUEZONIAN ALUMNI CHAPTER EYED

On 1 October 2025, Thomasians from the Quezon Province met at Casa Melania Restaurant, Lucena City, Quezon with representatives from the UST Alumni Association, Inc. and the Office of Alumni Relations. This pivotal meeting focused on the preparations to establish the inaugural Tomasinong Quezonian Alumni Chapter, marking a landmark step in fostering connections among graduates from the region.

The assembly aimed to build a strong network of alumni residing in Quezon Province, providing them with a platform to collaborate, share experiences and support one another in various endeavors. Participants expressed their enthusiasm about the potential benefits of an alumni chapter, including opportunities for mentorship, professional development and community engagement.

The assembly was attended by some alumni of the University, namely Maria Mercedes C. Buendia, who earned a BS

in Education degree in 1994, and was a former faculty member of the University of Santo Tomas; Ma. Bella Quisao Castro, an alumna of BS in Foods and Nutrition of class 1981, a retired Agricultural Center Chief of the Provincial Government of Quezon, who is now affiliated with the Nutritionist-Dietitian Association of the Philippines (NDAP) as Vice President for South Luzon; Joey Kathlyn Lopez Samonte, a BS in Nutrition and Dietetics graduate in 2009, who is also with NDAP and is now a Nutritionist at Lucena United Doctors Hospital; Marie Antoniette D. Rama, a holder of a degree in BS in Pharmacy in 1998, previously a Medical Representative and is now engaged in business; and Marita Vistra L. Villanueva, BS in Nutrition and Dietetics holder in 2015, who is also affiliated with NDAP. The alumni who attended all hailed from Lucena City.

Key discussions during the meeting included the objectives of the new chapter, potential activities to promote alumni involvement, and strategies for outreach and recruitment. The collaboration between the UST Alumni Association and the Office of Alumni Relations was highlighted as a crucial element in ensuring the chapter's successful establishment and sustainability.

This initiative reflects the commitment

of the UST community to strengthen ties among its members, transcending geographical boundaries. By creating a dedicated space for Thomasians from Quezon, the alumni chapter aims to enhance the sense of belonging and pride among graduates, fostering collaboration that contributes to the advancement of both individual careers and the broader community. The enthusiasm and commitment demonstrated by the attendees set a positive tone for the chapter's formation, paving the way for future meetings and activities that will unite Thomasians in Quezon Province. As plans progress, the Tomasinong Quezonian Alumni Chapter is poised to be a valuable addition to the UST alumni network, promoting camaraderie and collective growth among its members.

- Dwight Ramos, Juris Doctor, 1991;
Maria Mercedes C. Buendia, BS Education, 1994



UST Office of Alumni Relations and UST Alumni Association, Inc. Honor Partners, Sponsors, and Volunteers in Annual Appreciation Event

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that binds the Thomasian community.

Present at the event was UST Rector Very Rev. Fr. Richard G. Ang, OP, who formally welcomed the guests. In his message, he highlighted the spirit of thanksgiving that defines the season and the enduring role of alumni in advancing the University's mission and vision.

"We gather not only to celebrate the joy of the holidays but to honor our devoted alumni associations. We recognize your invaluable contributions..."

Following this, OAR Director Assoc. Prof. Joreen T. Rocamora, PhD, emphasized that gratitude is expressed not only through words but through sustained action and partnership.

"Gratitude is not merely felt or

spoken... It must be lived. Your support is not simply a donation but an investment in the future legacy of the Thomasian community and society."

The message of USTAAI President Atty. Dwight M. Ramos echoed the evening's theme of interconnectedness, comparing the community to a beautiful tapestry woven by shared experiences and collective service.

"Here's to many threads we continue to weave, reinforce our bond and commitment to one another."

Representatives from internal offices, associations, organizations, and companies were formally recognized for their contributions to various University and alumni initiatives.

THE THOMASIAN ALUMNI CARD PARTNERS INCLUDE:

- * Astoria Hotel & Resorts
- * A-Care Medical Aesthetics
- * ActivGreen PH
- * Banwa Private Island
- * Brewing Point Neighborhood Café
- * Chevrolet Cainta Rizal
- * Dr. Tooth Smile Dental Clinic
- * Draft Coffee by Lews
- * Enchanted Kingdom
- * Grand Westside Hotel
- * Hotel 1611
- * Hue Hotels and Resorts Boracay
- * HSOG
- * H&H Make-Over Salon
- * Highlands Coffee

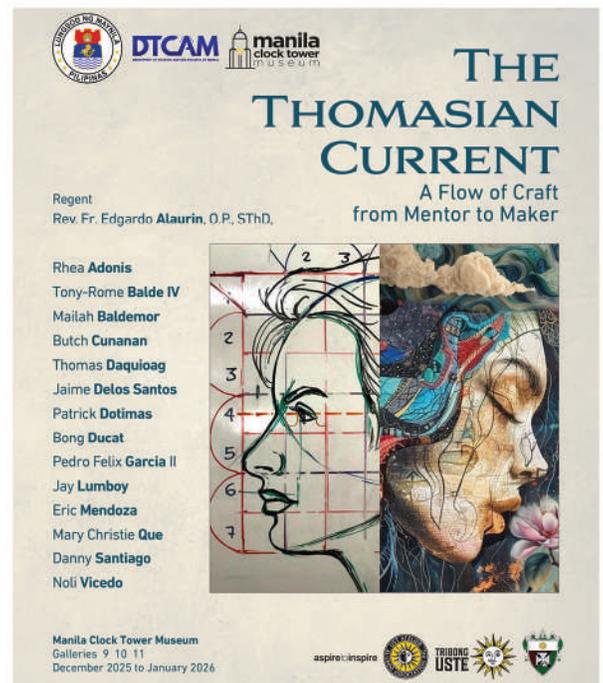
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Atelier's The Thomasian Current: A Flow of Craft, From Mentor to Maker

The Thomasian Current: A Flow of Craft, From Mentor to Maker,” is an exhibit organized by Tribung USTe under the auspices of the UST Atelier Alumni Association Inc. (USTAAAI), opened on 6 December 2025 at the Manila Clock Tower Museum at the Manila City Hall.

This month-long exhibition occupies Galleries 9, 10 and 11, transforming the city’s most iconic timepiece into a vessel of timeless artistry. The exhibition features the works of 15 distinguished professors and educators, all alumni of the University of Santo Tomas. It is more than a display of technical prowess; it is a visual dialogue on the cycle of creativity, exploring the dual role of the artist-educator: the Mentor who guides the stream of knowledge, and the Maker who navigates the waters of contemporary expression.



Guided by the theme “Aspiring to Inspire,” the collection showcases how these 15 educators have sustained their personal studio practices while shaping the next generation of Thomasian artists. The works range from traditional techniques that honor the UST Atelier’s storied past to modern experimentations that push the boundaries of the “Thomsonian School” of art. “The current never stops flowing,” said a representative from Tribung USTe.

Just as the Manila Clock Tower watches over the passage of time, this exhibition marks a specific moment in history—where the teachers who once sat in the classrooms of the Beato Angelico Building now stand as pillars of the art community. “The choice of the Manila Clock Tower Museum—a symbol of resilience and history—mirrors the enduring legacy of the USTAAAI. Visitors who move through Galleries 9, 10 and 11 will experience a curated journey that highlights the distinct “current” that flows through every Thomsonian artist: a blend of competence, compassion and commitment to the craft.

Written by Patrick Naval CAFA '88
Article layout by Juert Asejo CFAD '07



UST Office of Alumni Relations and UST Alumni Association, Inc. Honor Partners, Sponsors, and Volunteers in Annual Appreciation Event

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THE THOMASIAN ALUMNI CARD PARTNERS INCLUDE:

- * Hilton Manila
- * Holiday Inn Express Manila
- * JM Talon Diagnostics, Inc.,
- * JPark Island Resort & Waterpark
- * Le Monet Hotel
- * Life Science Center
- * Manila Hotel
- * Motociclo Café
- * P&S Commercial Leasing
- * Red Planet Hotels
- * Reddoorz Philippines
- * Seda Vertis North
- * Shinagawa Diagnostic & Preventive Care
- * Shinagawa Lasik & Aesthetics
- * Talon General Hospital
- * UST Santisimo Rosario Parish
- * Vision Express
- * Vitalis Villas
- * Vitalis White Sands

- * Sweetums Tasty Delight Catering Services
- * iCampus/Senco Link Technologies, Inc.
- * Prime Lash PH
- * Intuit Coffee,
- * Tinapayan Festival Bakeshoppe

SPONSORS OF OAR AND USTAAI FROM DIFFERENT ALUMNI INITIATIVES WERE ALSO PRESENT AND RECOGNIZED:

- * Aficionado
- * Mitsui
- * Carl Balita Review Center
- * MRT
- * Basic Environmental System Technologies
- * Archipelago Builders
- * JSLA Architects
- * IPM
- * Macro Wiring
- * Katinko
- * Skynet Travel Corporation
- * Divina Law
- * Pacific Paint (BOYSEN)
- * City Service Corporation
- * Accel Peal Logistics Solutions, Inc.
- * Security Bank

Group photo sessions captured the breadth and unity of the Thomasian network, while games and a raffle draw added warmth and celebration to the program.

The Appreciation Night 2025 stood as a meaningful reminder that gratitude is a living thread that continues to weave together service, collaboration and the enduring Thomasian legacy of excellence.

USTEAAI DEPARTMENT ALUMNI ASSOCIATIONS HELD ITS ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLIES

The last quarter of 2025 saw a flurry of activities, with four of the Department Alumni Associations of the UST Engineering Alumni Association, Inc. (USTEAAI) conducting their annual general assembly.

First was the UST Electronics Engineering Alumni Association (USTECEAA) General Assembly and Alumni-Mentor Recognition "ECEgaw" held last 4 October, at the St. Pier Giorgio Frassati, O.P. Building Auditorium. With a theme "ECELudo: Our Success, Legacy," Prof. Angelo R. Dela Cruz, Ph.D., PECE, Dean of the UST Faculty of Engineering, and Assoc. Prof. Edison A. Roxas, Ph.D., PECE, Department of Electronics Engineering (ECE) Chair, led the Alumni-Mentor Recognition segment of the event with their opening remarks and welcome address. Prominent ECE alumni from the graduating classes of 1970 to 2025, who have served or are currently serving as Faculty academic staff, received awards and certificates of recognition for their significant contributions to the ECE Department. The General Assembly began with a message delivered by USTEAAI Internal Vice President, Engr. Rodrigo C. Gutierrez, and was joined by Engr. Exequiel C. Delgado and Engr. Stewart Lim, the USTECEAA President and Treasurer, respectively, as they presented their individual reports. Key highlights of the event included

the achievements of USTECEAA from 2023 to 2025 and the promotion of the scholarship funding initiative "paECEmuno."

The UST Civil Engineering Alumni Association (USTCEAA) held its second general assembly titled "Evolving with Intelligence: Advancing Civil Engineering Through Continuous Development and AI Integration for Sustainability" on 18 October at the UST Central Laboratory. The event began with technical sessions that addressed seismic resilience via base isolation, the application of advanced robotic total stations in surveying and construction, and town planning strategies to accelerate the development of infrastructure projects nationwide by addressing the long-standing issues in the Right-of-Way Acquisition (ROWA). In a departure from conventional messaging, Civil Engineering Department Chair, Asst. Prof. Ryan A. Ramirez, PhD, tackled the pressing issue directly by delivering a speech that underscores the significance of integrity amidst recent corruption concerns in the industry. Outgoing 2023-2025 USTCEAA Officers and Board of Trustees handed over their duties and responsibilities to the new set of officers after Engr. Ana Cristina A. Encarnacion (CE 2000) took helm as the new USTCEAA President, succeeding Engr. Agnes Cecilia V. Pabillo.

On 8 November, the UST Chemical

Engineering Alumni Association (USTChEAA) conducted its annual general assembly titled "MOMENTUM: Celebrate. Empower. Inspire." at the B.G.O.P. Building lobby and mezzanine. The event opened with a business meeting presided over by outgoing president Engr. Nathaniel R. Orillos, during which a roll call was taken and a declaration of quorum was announced. This was followed by the reading and approval of the agenda and the minutes from past meetings. Additionally, the association's status reports and a review of its constitution and by-laws were addressed in this part of the meeting. Incoming president Engr. Romeo P. Sangalang presided over the turnover ceremonies for outgoing members of the Board of Trustees and the inauguration of the new officers. The event's highlight featured a presentation on engineering entrepreneurship by ChE alumna Engr. Joan Tayao-Aguilos (Batch 1991), founder of Aquagen Technologies Inc., the acknowledgment of the topnotcher for the November.

The UST Mechanical Engineering Alumni Association (USTMEAA) also celebrated its 2nd general assembly at the Buenaventura G. Paredes O.P. (BGPOP) building on 8 November. With the theme "GAME NA! Celebrating 85 Years and Beyond!", the event centered

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Campus Memories

Formed in the “Not Yet”

The University of Santo Tomas (UST) has always been more than a place of academic pursuit for me. It was, and continues to be, a sacred space where questions are welcomed, faith is both challenged and strengthened, and vocation is patiently nurtured. Looking back, I realize that UST did not simply prepare me for a profession; it formed me for a life of discernment, service and deep listening to God, to others and to myself.

Like many students who first walked through the Arch of the Centuries, I entered UST with dreams shaped by youthful ambition and a desire to succeed. I pursued a degree in Journalism, drawn by a love for storytelling, a passion for truth and the hope of giving voice to experiences often left unheard. At that time, the desire for the priesthood was present, but not yet a clear horizon for me. My plans revolved around media, writing and communication, and I imagined my future unfolding along a conventional career path in these fields.

Yet even then, God was quietly at work through the rhythms of campus life. Journalism trained me to observe closely, ask difficult questions and listen attentively before speaking. These were not merely academic skills; they gradually became spiritual disciplines. Learning to listen to people's stories, struggles and hopes shaped my heart in ways I would only later understand. In hindsight, I see how UST was forming me for pastoral listening long before I had the courage or clarity to name it as a possible vocation.

Some of the most formative moments of my life in the Faculty of Arts and Letters happened inside the classroom, often through conversations that were both intellectually demanding and unexpectedly joyful. I recall my classes with Sir Christian Esguerra and Sir Felipe Salvosa, two of the most religious professors I encountered in Journalism, and whom I truly look up to. They consistently challenged me class to seek the truth beyond in convenience and comfort. They pushed me to question assumptions, verify narratives and remain accountable for the stories I told.

Through them, I learned that

truth is not merely information to be consumed, but a responsibility to be carried. Over time, I began to recognize how this insistence on integrity resonated deeply with my growing sense of vocation. The call to priesthood and missionary life, I realized, is also a call to proclaim truth not only through words, but through a life lived with humility, courage and love.

Beyond the classroom, one of the most formative experiences of my Thomasian life was my involvement in student leadership. My first attempt to run as an officer in the AB Student Council ended in defeat, a humbling moment for a young student eager to serve. For a time, disappointment lingered. Yet instead of stepping away, I chose to remain involved by volunteering in the Student Council.

That decision changed everything. Volunteering taught me that service is not dependent on position or title. It is rooted in availability, commitment and the willingness to show up even when recognition is absent. I helped in projects, listened to student concerns, assisted officers, and learned how leadership functioned behind the scenes. Slowly, the Student Council became more than an organization; it became a community. Through shared work, meetings and common struggles, I experienced how service builds belonging.

Beyond positions and responsibilities, the friendships I formed with my classmates, Lenina, Jude, Celton, Yuji, Iza, Princess, Myleen, Luigi, Ton and all those who became friends along the way, were equally formative. Through group projects, long discussions, shared meals and moments of laughter, I learned how deeply community sustains us. We carried academic pressures together and listened to one another's stories, often discovering that beneath humor or confidence were real struggles and quiet hopes. These relationships taught me that people long not only to be heard, but to be understood. In many ways, my classmates became my first teachers in pastoral sensitivity, nurturing in me a desire to accompany others and to be present in their joys and wounds.

Encouraged by that year of quiet involvement, I ran again the following year and was elected Vice President for Internal Affairs. The role brought greater responsibility: caring for the internal concerns of societies and interest organizations, sustaining unity and

working closely with fellow officers and administrators. Leadership taught me patience, dialogue and stewardship. Authority, I learned, is not about visibility, but about care. It is about listening deeply and serving faithfully for the good of others.

Alongside student leadership, UST's faith life continued to shape me. Sunday Masses and quiet moments of prayer gently interrupted the busyness of academic schedules. Passing by the chapel, lighting a candle before exams, or sitting silently amid deadlines cultivated in me the habit of turning to God, not only in moments of need, but in the steady rhythm of student life. And years after graduation, my formation continued in a new way when I joined the UST Alumni Association. For a year, I had the privilege of working closely with both students and alumni. This experience extended what I had learned in the Student Council. Ministry is not limited to titles or formal spaces, but happens wherever one listens, accompanies and cares. I helped students navigate campus life, coordinated events and connected alumni with the university community. Through these experiences, I learned that ministry requires presence, patience and empathy, and that building relationships lies at the heart of service.

This same pattern later unfolded in my vocation story. In 2016, I applied to enter San Jose Seminary. Like my first run for student council, I came with hope and readiness, only to be advised to work and wait for another two years. At first, it felt like another “not yet,” another pause in a journey I was eager to begin.

Yet my Thomasian formation helped me understand that waiting is not wasted. Those two years became a gift. They allowed me to serve in different ways, meet more people and grow in maturity and responsibility. Just as volunteering in the Student Council and serving in the Alumni Association had formed me without formal titles, those years outside the seminary formed me without formal formation. They taught me patience, trust and deeper reliance on God's timing.

Finally, in 2018, I entered the seminary with greater clarity and peace. Looking back, I realize that both in leadership and in vocation, the seasons of waiting were not delays but preparation. They were invitations to

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TEN YEARS OF STORIES WORTH TELLING: The 10th Distinguished Thomasian Alumni Awards Night

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* 2025 Distinguished Thomasian Alumni Awardees *

UST Tourism and Hospitality Management Alumni Association, Inc.

- Atty. Janalyn Soller Martinez — Gutierrez
- Melanie Siy-Pagkalinawan
- Judge Atty. Maria Lourdes Cesario Gutierrez

UST Thomasian Alumni Leaders Association, Inc.

- Charles Julius Lauz Bautista
- Fr. Christopher Jeffrey Lejano Aytana, O.P., STL-MA
- Atty. Christer James Ray Almada Gaudiano

UST Golden Cross and Saber Alumni Association, Inc.

- PBGEN Rogelio Pablo Simon

Tomasinong Bicolano Alumni Association

- Ronaldo Ramores De Jesus, M.D.
- Roslyn Eustolia Galgal-Romano, BSMT, RMT

UST Pax Romana Alumni Association

- Elizabeth Halabi Cheng-Magalit, M.D.
- Ferdinand Lejano Martinez, Ph.D., CPS, MP
- Engr. Nelson Bautista Maynigo

University of Santo Tomas Alumni Association, Inc.

- Francisco Yu Romualdez

Young Thomasian Alumni Achiever

- **Fermin Antonio Del Rosario Yabut, Ph.D.**
- UST AMV Accountancy Alumni Association, Inc.
- **Mon Argel Lazaro Gualvez**
- UST Thomasian Alumni Leaders Association, Inc.
- **John Paul Escama Dela Peña, RN, M.D.**
- UST Pax Romana Alumni Association
- **Diane Carmela Torres Querrer, CPA, MBA**
- UST AMV Accountancy Alumni Association, Inc.
- **Carla Tolentino Gamalinda**
- UST Atelier Alumni Association, Inc.
- **Brikko Iyanev Martillo Dumas**
- UST Atelier Alumni Association, Inc.
- **Francis Exequiel Miciano Laxamana, M.D. DPT, MS**
- UST College Rehabilitation Sciences Alumni Association, Inc.
- **Renz Christian Canlas Argao, Ph.D.**
- UST Graduate School and Grants Association, Inc.
- **Hon. Mayor Hanna Katrina Lapuz Andres**
- UST College of Commerce Alumni Foundation, Inc.
- **Jerickson Abbie Sapno Flores, M.D., FPCR, DPBR-RO**
- UST Faculty of Pharmacy Alumni Association and Scholarship Foundation, Inc.

As the evening drew to a close, a quiet sense of pride was shared by everyone there—a recognition that ten years of DTAA is not merely a marker of time, but a testament to lives well lived and values faithfully carried forward.

As USTAAI looks to the years ahead, the Distinguished Thomasian Alumni Awards Night continues to serve as a reminder that while success may take many forms, the most enduring achievements are those that reflect the heart of a true Thomasian: excellence with purpose, leadership with humility, and service rooted in compassion.

- Mariz Manalo, Juris Doctor, Class of 1995

AAIG TACKLES URGENT UNIVERSAL HEALTH CARE GAPS

.....from page 2

Dr. Antonio Miguel L. Dans, Vice President of the St. Luke's Medical Center's Health Equity and Research Foundation, discussing the "The Philippine Primary Care Studies – Lessons Learned in Universal Health Care". Carl E. Balita moderated the succeeding panel discussions of the day focusing on how to sustain the gains of UHC, with the following lineup of speakers and their topics: Leah Primitiva G. Samaco-Paquiz, RN, MAN, MPH, Ed.D., Chairman, of the PRC Board of Nursing, "Sustaining the Gains of Universal Health Care: The Role of the Professional Regulation Commission and the Board of Nursing"; Dr. Jose Rene D. De Grano, M.D., MHA, President of the Private Hospitals Association of the Philippines, Inc., "The Role of Private Hospitals in Sustaining Universal Health Care Gains in the Philippines"; Josephine H. Hipolito, RM, Ed.D., Former Member of the Board of Midwifery and a Consultant of the Philippine League of Government and Public Midwives, "How are Midwives Sustaining the Gains of UHC?"; Dr. Sam Joseph C. Cirilo, President of the Association of Municipal Health Officers of the Philippines, "Roles of the LGU in UHC Implementation"; and Dr. Manuel M. Dayrit, Chairman of Zuellig Family Foundation, "Sustaining Universal Health Care Gains In Public Health: Concept and Scope of the

Health Care Provider Network".

Each of the panel discussions for day 1 and day 2 was preceded by interactive and reflective sessions to encourage participation from the attendees. This became fruitful during the final building bridges session, where the participants shared their personal experiences with UHC. The final plenary session featured presentations and a workshop in which participants were organized into groups to develop and showcase their workshop results, as well as a roadmap reflecting their comprehensive understanding and insights on UHC. The whole summit concluded with a clarion call and a manifestation of solidarity, led by Dean Henry S. Tenedero, the main organizer and convener of the AAIG Summit.

The event, hosted by Lyza Assumpta M. Balita, RN, and Jose Antonio Avellana,

RN, was made possible by its sponsors: Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO); Unilab; Dr. Carl E. Balita Review Center (CBRC); RiteMed; Mercury Drug; Reckitt; Thomasian Alumni Community Foundation, Inc. (TACFI); UST Medical Alumni Association, Inc.; UST AMV Accountancy Alumni Association, Inc.; Katinko; MediQ Pharma; Atty. Dwight M. Ramos; Atty Ma. Elena R. Enriquez; and the UST Faculty of Pharmacy Alumni Association and Scholarship Foundation, Inc. Participants who are PRC License holders were given certificates of attendance and participation, and earned Continuing Professional Development (CPD) units, which are a mandatory requirement for the renewal of their Professional Identification Card.





USTEAAI DEPARTMENT ALUMNI ASSOCIATIONS HELD ITS ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLIES

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on building and strengthening connections within the community while also acknowledging the past accomplishments and honors attained by the association and the UST Mechanical Engineering department. Rev. Fr. Roberto L. Luanzon, Jr., O.P., SThD, DL, UST Vice-Rector for Finance and Regent of the UST Faculty of Engineering gave the Welcome Remarks while Engr. Bernard Jose S. Lachica, who extended his term as USTMEAA

President until 2027, reported the association's updates. This year's event took it a step further from its usual general assembly by launching of the most anticipated scholarship fund and by honoring notable Thomasian Mechanical Engineering alumni with the first ever MEASURE Awards which recognizes those who have excelled in their respective professions and have contributed immensely to the

community. Engr. Rolando Paulino Jr., an alumnus from Batch of 1994 and the Chief Engineer and Projects Officer at AboitizPower - Thermal Business Group, provided the closing remarks. He took a moment to reflect on the 85th anniversary of the Department of Mechanical Engineering, reminiscing about its past successes and looking forward to future opportunities.



UST Electronics Engineering Alumni Association (USTECEAA) General Assembly



UST Civil Engineering Alumni Association (USTCEAA)



UST Chemical Engineering Alumni Association (USTChEAA)



UST Mechanical Engineering Alumni Association (USTMEAA) General Assembly

Campus Memories

Formed in the "Not Yet"

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serve more generously, listen more attentively and trust more deeply. UST was the place where I first learned this lesson well: service does not stop when plans fail, and that God often works most powerfully in the "not yet." For this formation, for the friendships, the faith and the lessons in patient service, I remain deeply grateful.

As I continue my journey in the

seminary, I carry with me the lessons, the cross and the sun of my beloved Alma Mater. I pray that they will guide and sustain me, shaping my future ministry through the truth I sought in the classroom, and the charity I encountered in the Thomasian community. In this way, I hope to listen more deeply, accompany more faithfully and serve where God is calling me.

Veritas in Caritate - Alfredo E. Navarro III (Tots) AB Journalism, 2014

Editors Note:

Tots is currently in seminary formation at San Jose Seminary. He is involved in education and parish ministry, with interests in faith, culture, arts, and socio-political issues. A natural joker, he's known for bringing humor and light to any room.



Doing the thumbs up, during his Student Council days



Giving his inspirational message in place of the homily

UST Pax Romana Alumni Association Holds Third Alumni Homecoming

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The program concluded with the address of President Dr. Mary Jean Guno, who invited members to participate more fully in the mission of the Church as lay professionals; to deepen their faith through continuing Marian devotions; and to study and live out Catholic Social Teachings in today's world. She further challenged the

Association to send a Thomasian delegation to World Youth Day 2027 in Seoul (3-8 August 2027) and to make a radical option for the poor in response to Pope Leo XIV's apostolic exhortation Dilexi Te. The event closed with the official World Youth Day Prayer, led by Secretary Karen Gan Pineda.

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FEATURED THOMASIAN

Justice Gabriel T. Robeniol:
A Thomasian Who Quietly Shaped Generations

I first came to know Justice Gabriel T. Robeniol not from a citation, a decision or a headline—but from the classroom.

He was my Professor in Property when I was in my second year of law school at the University of Santo Tomas, Faculty of Civil Law, some thirty years ago. Like many law students then, I approached Property with a mix of apprehension and curiosity. It was one of those subjects that demanded discipline, patience, and clarity of thought. Justice Robeniol brought all three into the classroom—calmly, firmly, and without unnecessary flourish.

There was nothing theatrical about his teaching. No intimidation, no grandstanding. Yet, you listened. You paid attention. Because he had a way of making the law feel anchored in principle, fairness, and real life. Concepts that once felt abstract suddenly made sense—not because they were simplified, but because they were explained with precision and purpose.

Years later, seeing him conferred the



Distinguished Thomasian Award for Law, the award feels both fitting and deeply affirming.

Justice Robeniol's career reflects the quiet excellence that UST has always stood for. He began his legal career in public service as an Associate Solicitor at the Office of the Solicitor General from 1988 to 1991, after which he went into private practice and became a partner at Feria Tantoco Robeniol Law Offices. He was later appointed Associate Justice of the Court of Appeals, where he currently serves as the Senior Member of the First Division—a role that speaks not only of seniority, but of trust earned over time.

Beyond the bench, Justice Robeniol has remained a true educator. He has taught Property, Land Laws, and Alternative Dispute Resolution at UST, served as a Bar Reviewer, lectured in the Mandatory Continuing Legal Education, and contributed significantly to the development of ADR or Alternative Dispute Resolution in the Philippines—including authoring respected works on the subject. His involvement with the Philippine Judicial Academy and various committees of the Court of Appeals further reflects his commitment to strengthening the justice system from within.

But for many of us who once sat in his class, his impact goes beyond titles and credentials. He modeled what it meant to be a lawyer—and later, a justice—who is grounded, prepared and principled. He reminded us that mastery of the law does not require arrogance, and that



authority can be exercised with humility. Long before we encountered him in case law or court decisions, we encountered him as students—forming the foundations of how we would think, argue and practice.

In honoring Justice Gabriel T. Robeniol as a Distinguished Thomasian for Law, the University honors not only a jurist of distinction, but a teacher who helped shape generations of Thomasians—often without them fully realizing it at the time.

As one of his former students, I take pride in seeing a familiar name now celebrated on a much larger stage. And as a Thomasian, I am reminded once again that the quiet ones—the steady mentors, the consistent servants—often leave the deepest and most lasting marks.

Congratulations, Justice Robeniol. Your legacy lives not only in jurisprudence, but in the many Thomasians you have taught, inspired and quietly guided along the way.

– Mariz V. Manalo, Juris Doctor, 1995