



# THE THOMASIAN ALUMNI *Newsletter*

SEPTEMBER 2019 ISSUE



VOL. 2 NO. 3

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF UST ALUMNI ASSOCIATION, INC.



## 1ST THOMASIAN ALUMNI BALL

Dinner and Dancing celebrations at the 1st UST Thomasian Ball August 10, 2019. We welcomed over 200 plus UST alumni to the Robert Sy Grand Ballroom for our extra-special celebration of solidarity and social evening.

Alumni joined us from all over Manila, as well as from provincial chapters to catch up with old friends and enjoyed the food whilst swapping stories about University life and catching up on life after graduation.



It was smiles and laughter all round as people shook off their dancing shoes and cha-cha thru to reunite with former classmates and reminisce about happy times shared as students at the University.

The band set an energy filled songs which got our alumni fired up for more dancing and filled the dance floor. Pop tunes from their youth bringing back many a fond memory into the late hours of evening.

After a quick room turnaround it was time to party the night away with the band who played non-stop songs from the 70s, 80s.

For those who needed a break from dancing, alumni enjoyed striking a pose for photo offs.

Everyone were reluctant to go home.

See you again next year!



1st Thomasian Alumni Ball King and Queen of the Night  
Dr. Marienella Francisco and Mr. Bayani "Yannie" Bitantos Rumbaoa

## NEW ARTLETS, GRADUATE SCHOOL, NURSING & CTHM DEANS NAMED



UST Rector Fr. Herminio Dagohoy, O.P. has appointed new deans for the following colleges:  
From left: Prof. Marili Madrunio - Faculty of Arts and Letters, Prof. Michael Anthony Vasco - Graduate School and Prof. Rowena Escolar-Chua - College of Nursing, Prof. Gezzez Giezi G. Granado - College of Tourism and Hospitality Management



## Thomasian Nurses-led “Alay ng Puso” Mission Captures Jomaligans' Hearts!



The University of Santo Tomas Nurses Association International (USTNAI), together with other nursing and various civic and humanitarian organizations in the USA and the Philippines, have answered the call of service through a Medical, Surgical, Dental and Outreach Program dubbed, “Alay ng Puso” to the municipality of Jomalig, Quezon. The island of Jomalig is a fifth-class municipality and is considered as one of the smallest and farthest island municipalities of Quezon Province. Situated at the easternmost part of the Polilio Group of Islands, almost at the Pacific borderline. A group of 40 Thomasian doctors, nurses and other volunteers headed by Reginald Antonio, MSN, RN, PCCN of the UST College of Nursing batch '93 based in Houston, Texas and Amory Godwin Grijaldo, MSN, AG-ACNP-BC, APRN batch '94 from Peoria, Arizona traveled 5 hours by bus from the UST campus to the Port of Real, Quezon and another 5 hours boat ride to reach the island.

About 500 patients were seen during the two-day mission. Over 300 patients received medical services, and approximately a third of those were children. The surgical team, headed by Dr. Tatad H. Kalbit, MD, a urologist, BSN batch 1993, performed a total of 71 minor surgical procedures, which primarily involved cyst excision and circumcision. In addition, over a hundred dental patients were seen by the sole dentist in the group, Dr. Victorino Medrano III from Shelter for Mankind Foundation, and performed over 150 tooth extractions. Furthermore, Dr. Kerwin Gubantes, MD, an ENT, BSN batch 1993 also provided ear screening on more than 200 school children. Moreover, the team travelled to barangay of Apad, the farthest barangay in the municipality, and distributed school bags with supplies, conducted oral hygiene education, and dispensed dental and personal hygiene kits to 200 elementary students as part of the outreach program. Finally, the group donated medicines, medical supplies and equipment like patient monitors, defibrillator, nebulizers, surgical supplies and equipment to help equip the Rural Health Unit in the island.

“God is on our side!”, according to Alfredo Sagisi, BSN batch of '91, one of the USTNAI Executive Board Member. From its conceptualization to its full implementation, support from various individuals and other organizations have been truly an inspiration. Volunteers from different regions of the United States, Australia, and the Philippines have banded together to share their knowledge and expertise to provide service to our underserved fellow Filipinos in this remote island community. A genuine demonstration of a Thomasian - Nurses with Excellence and Heart. And this is just the beginning of more Alay ng Puso Medical Missions to be conducted. **RBA**



# A TRULY GRAND HOMECOMING FOR THE COLLEGE OF EDUCATION



The College of Education Alumni Foundation Incorporated (CEAFI) organized a truly grand Alumni Homecoming last 20 July 2019 at the Dr. Robert Sy Ballroom of BGPOP from 10am-4pm. The organizing committee led by George Cuevas and ably supported by Cheree Buendia, Kaye Bundang, Maureen Pickering and Ces San Juan, made sure there were lots of take-home goodies and prizes, yummy food, exciting activities and nostalgic jubilarians in attendance.

The event attracted around 320 alumni, among them those celebrating their milestone jubilee: 2 Diamond, 71 Golden, 7 Sapphire, 4 Ruby, 11 Coral, 75 Pearl and 72 Silver. Regina Carbonilla, a 1954 BSE major and Felicitas Francisco, 1958 BSE PE major were the much applauded Diamond jubilarians. Marcy Ramos, BSE English 1969 gave the response on behalf of the jubilarians.

The celebration of the Holy Eucharist opened the homecoming, with Fr. Lauro de Dios, OP (1994 BSE Biological Science major)



as homilist, together with College of Education former regents Fr. Romulo Rodriguez, OP; Fr. Maximo Gatela, OP and Fr. Efren Rivera, OP as concelebrants. Claude Despabiladeras, BSE English 2003, hosted the fun-filled activities that followed. Jubilarians were awarded medals while former administrators, faculty and staff of the College of Education were presented with rose bouquets.

Proceeds of the homecoming will benefit CEAFI scholarships and advocacies.





## NDAP and ICPD Gateway Contract Signing

Contract signing with Zenaida F. Velasco, Nutritionist-Dietitians' Association of the Philippines (NDAP) National President and Dean Jordan Sagalongos, CEO of ICPD Gateway - a new platform on CPD announcements and engagement. Members can use this portal to register in seminars, conferences and Annual Conventions via an online payment system. Certificates of Attendance (with authentic bar code) can also be downloaded with number of CPD units earned. This is also the platform for NDAP's ONLINE COURSES and WEBINARS.



## UST SINGERS NAMED 'CHOIR OF THE WORLD CHAMPION OF CHAMPIONS'

In a feat that made them the only three-time champions in this prestigious competition, the University of Santo Tomas (UST) Singers recently won the 'Choir of the World Champion of Champions' in an online voting contest presented by the Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod. The contest was presented through its newest on-demand streaming service, Llangollen TV, featuring performances of contestants in over 20 competitions in the festival.

The Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod also showcases its annual choir competitions, the oldest and one of the most prestigious choral competitions in the world based in Wales, the United Kingdom.



The 'Choir of the World', established in 1987, is the final choir competition at the annual festival featuring all first prize winners from five categories, namely, mixed choirs, youth choirs, female voice choirs, male voice choirs and open choirs. They all vie for the grand prize, the 'Luciano Pavarotti Choir of the World' trophy named after the legendary Italian tenor, who competed as a choir member at the festival in his youth.

The festival, in its 72-year history, opened an online voting poll for the 'Choir of the World Champion of Champions,' allowing the public to choose the best choir from all the past 32 grand prize winners since its inception in 1987. Some of the countries represented in this competition were the United States, Germany, South Africa, Australia, Hungary, and Bulgaria. The voting period started from the first week of June until the second week of July, leading to the culmination of the festival. (News article and photo source: [businessmirror.com.ph](http://businessmirror.com.ph))



### UST NURSING ALUMNI ASSOCIATION Newly Elected Officers

<b>President</b>	: Inocencia Ida S. Tionko '70
<b>VP Internal Affairs</b>	: Rouena Villarama '80
<b>VP External Affairs</b>	: Edgar Zaragoza '80
<b>Secretary</b>	: Rowena Escolar- Chua '93
<b>Assistant Secretary</b>	: Valerie Meryse Gan '07
<b>Treasurer</b>	: Rolisa Almario '98
<b>Assistant Treasurer</b>	: Wendy Acevedo
<b>PRO</b>	: Hazel Tan '14
<b>Auditor</b>	: Coleen Castaneda '97
<b>Director</b>	: Mila Delia Llanes '79
<b>Ex-Officio Member</b>	: Dean Susan Maravilla '78
<b>NOMELEC</b>	: Dennis Cuadra
<b>Spiritual Director</b>	: Rev. Fr. Julius Paul Factora, O.P. '95



USTMAA Traditional Activity, to start engaging with our Faculty's new students, we distributed their first nameplates, during the Orientation Ceremony at the Medicine Auditorium - July 31, 2019

## USTMAA IN ACTION



USTMAA PHILS 6th AHOC Meeting, finalizing events for the 80th Alumni Homecoming. 4th Board Meeting. Exciting New Directions for Our Alumni



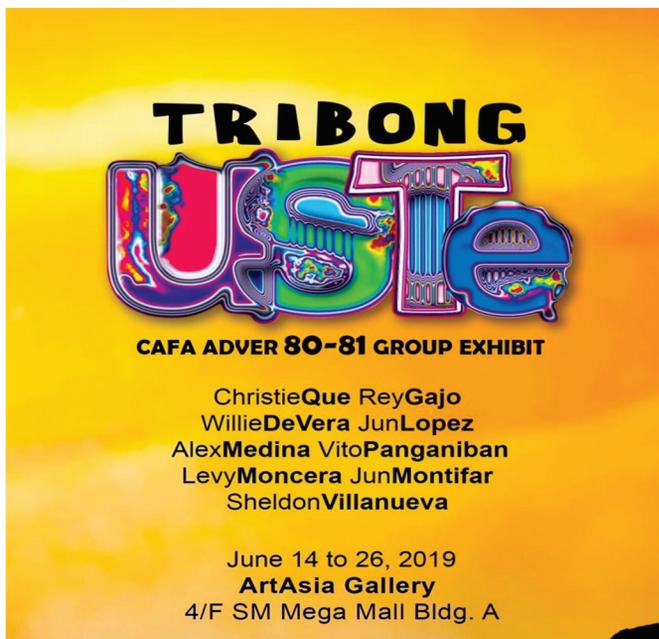
## DESIGNING THE BLUEPRINT OF A MISS UNIVERSE: AR. CARLOS CALOY BUENDIA, JR.

**The new Miss Universe is PHILIPPINES!**

Blackout. The IMPACT Arena was raucous with applause and cheers, but to Caloy, who fell on his knees, things just went dark and silent. It had happened.

“I remember nung nasa Archi. pa ko, sinabi ko sa isang classmate ko na gusto kong makapag-produce ng isang Binibining Pilipinas or Miss Universe, at tinawanan niya lang ako. Pero nangyari,” Caloy remembers, failing to mask the sense of awe and wonder that half a year later, he still feels looking back at Steve Harvey’s rousing announcement.

It took several minutes for Caloy to regain his senses, and what he remembered next was how Team Catriona was jostling at the arena lobby, belting out cheers of seemingly endless euphoria. They had done it. “I have no treasure to offer; I can only offer my time and talent. Catriona’s victory was a team effort, and people who supported her pitched in to make this happen,” recalls Caloy, underscoring how Catriona’s success for the country was no one person’s feat alone.





# Dominican Father Gérard Timoner, the first Asian leader in history of the Order of Preachers



Photo source: ust.edu.ph



Photo source: cbcpnews.net

The new global leader of the Dominican mission is a Filipino priest.

According to an article posted in the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) news website, Fr. Gerard Francisco Timoner III was elected to the position, which he will serve for nine years.

He was elected during the General Chapter of the religious order in Biên Hoà, Vietnam. It is the first-ever meeting of the order's priors provincial in a non-Christian country.

Timoner is the first Asian to serve as the master of the Order of Preachers, also known as the Dominican Order.

The Catholic priest was previously socius or assistant for Asia and the Pacific of the outgoing master, the Frenchman Bruno Caderè, and head of the Filipino Dominicans.

Timoner was born on Jan. 26, 1968 and is from Daet in Camarines Norte.

He obtained his philosophy degree from the Philippine Dominican Center of International Studies, and his theology from the University of Santo Tomas (UST). He was ordained a priest in 1995.

In 2004, Timoner finished his licentiate in sacred theology at the Catholic University of Nijmegen in the Netherlands.

He also served as vice rector for religious affairs and rector of the UST Central Seminary from 2007 to 2012.

In 2014, Pope Francis appointed him to the International Theological Commission, a 30-member commission tasked to examine questions on doctrinal matters. (Article source: [www.pna.gov.ph](http://www.pna.gov.ph))



Up close and personal.... Congratulations Fr. Timoner!!!

# 1ST ANNIVERSARY SOCCSKSARGEN

UST AAI joins the 1st Anniversary Celebration of UST SOCCSKSARGEN (South Cotabato, Cotabato, Sultan Kuldarat, Sarangani, General Santos) in their outreach program by spreading the love to their chosen community, the Bilaan Baranggay Elementary School. Students from Kinder 1 to grade 6 pupils were gifted with necessary school supplies.

A tree planting activity along the school road followed after students' dance presentation.

We were also very fortunate to meet a National Artist Weaving awardee 2017 who is now 105 years old.





## USTAAI BOT took their Oath

The induction of the USTAAI Board of Trustees 2019-2020 took place in the historic Club Filipino on June 12, 2019, the day the Filipino nation commemorates Philippine independence day. As the new Board of Trustees took their oath, they hope to further strengthen Thomasian alumni solidarity and fidelity to the Alma Mater. Fr. Pompeyo de Mesa, O.P., Adviser of the USTAAI, presided over the oath taking-ceremony.



## UST Faculty of Medicine and Surgery's Solemn Investiture

Congratulations to the Graduates and Their Proud Families.  
148 years of a Noble Legacy! Premiere Medical Faculty in the Country.



**Congratulations to  
Dr. Gretha Mangahas Pabustan  
RN, UST BSN Batch 2014  
for topping No. 1, in the recent  
Optometrist Licensure Exam!**

*Your Thomasian family  
is very proud of you!*

# UST-EHS 69<sup>TH</sup> FOUNDATION WEEK



The UST Education High School Alumni Association has joined the whole UST-EHS Administration, Faculty, and Students in celebrating its 69th Foundation Week. The said annual event was highlighted by the Caridad Sevilla Memorial Lecture featuring Mr. Nestor Atienza of Batch '63 who presented his career history, unforgettable EHS experience, personal achievements, as well as his success story.

It also featured the EHS Batch '63 sponsorship of deserving EHS Students for AY 2019-2020. The said UST-EHS Alumni Batch has been supporting UST-EHS students since 2000. This achievement will be featured in the upcoming UST-EHS Alumni Homecoming on January 26, 2020.

# UST-EHS MOVING-UP 2019



The UST-Education High School Administration has recently conducted the Moving-Up Ceremony for Grade 10 students at the Albertus Magnus Auditorium. This annual activity encompasses the welcoming of the Grade 10 students into the UST-EHS Graduates Association, as well as conducting inspirational talk for their upcoming entry into the Senior High School.



## UST AAI CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**COUTURE + CULTURE** A Unity Fashion Show  
Oct. 26, 2019 | Dr. Robert Sy Ballroom BGPO

**CEAFI BINGGO Social**  
October 19, 2019 | 3rd Flr., Lobby Albertus Magnus Bldg.

**The Distinguished Thomasian Alumni Night**  
Nov. 29, 2019 | Dr. Robert Sy Ballroom BGPO

**Velada Tomasino**  
January 27, 2020 | UST Grounds

For inquiries please contact:  
**Maureen Pickering** at 09175445599  
or **Kaye Bundang** at 02 406 1611 loc 8589



UNIVERSITY OF SANTO TOMAS  
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION, INC.

*Couture + Culture*  
A Unity Fashion Show

October 26, 2019  
Dr. Robert C. Sy Grand Ballroom  
Buenaventura Garcia Paredes O.P. Bldg.

For Inquiries, please contact  
Ms. Maureen Pickering at  
0917-5445599 / (02) 4061611 loc. 8589

4:00- 9:00 PM

# CLICKER-RAZZI



# CLICKER-RAZZI



# CLICKER-RAZZI



Courtesy call to SBMA Chairperson and Administrator Atty. Wilma "Amy" Eisma, marked by a sumptuous lunch meeting with Thomasian Alumni's from various UST colleges. Next will be the establishment of the USTAAl Chapter in Subic.

# CLICKER-RAZZI



CEAFI Board meeting and Birthday Celebration of CEAFI President Ms. Evelyn Songco and CEAFI Secretary Ms. Nanette Fernandez



USTAAl Alumni Associations PRO preliminary meeting, July 13, 2019



Ms. Evelyn A. Songco and TALA

We were treated with an Impromptu Song Medley by UST MED Batch 85, Pedia Cardiologist Consultant, Dra Marienella Francisco Mallari, at our First Thomasian Alumni Ball. She drew the cheers and admiration of the Audience, with her flawless voice and showmanship. She was crowned Queen of the Night! for her performance and Confidently Graceful Presence!



The UST ALUMNI Outreach team visiting the Sacred Heart Jesuit Mission Station.



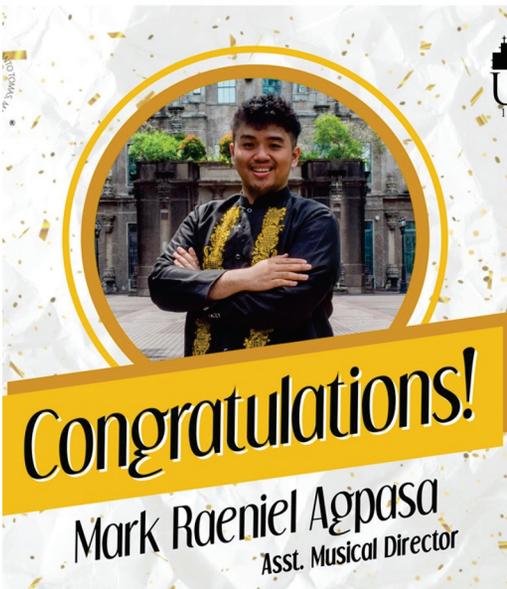


Arch of the Centuries Annual Thomasian Welcome Walk, August 6, 2019



In this episode of Zoomed In, notable Thomasian alumnus Dr. Robert C. Sy reflects on his career as a doctor who demonstrated his compassion to help less fortunate people.

**zoomed in**



Award of recognition to Tomasining Bikolano, Cam Sur chapter in conducting the Nutri-Ataman and Nutri-Nanay Project of the city govt of Naga. Free prenatal check-ups and vitamins to indigent pregnant women of the 27 Barangay of Naga City. Free consultation and meds to the indigent malnourished children of the 27 Barangays with the goal to rehabilitate their malnourished status

**1ST PRIZE at the Composition Competition of the 2019 Busan Choral Festival & Competition!**

His work, "Jubilate Deo", bested 59 other entries from over 29 countries, a true testament to Thomasian artistry and musical excellence! Your UST Singers family is truly proud of you!...

*Congratulations*  
to our newly Licensed Nutritionist-Dietitians

**99.05% PASSING RATE SECOND TOP Performing School**



*Sean Frances P. Barredo, RND*  
**Rank 3**  
**89.70%**

The Pontifical and Royal UNIVERSITY OF SANTO TOMAS The Catholic University of the Philippines COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

# CLICKER-RAZZI



A testimonial dinner was also given to honor Fr. Gerald Timoner III, OP, by Fr. Rector Ernesto M. Arceo, OP the next day, Aug. 15 at UST Legazpi, Daragang Magayon Hall. The testimonial dinner was also attended by Bishop Joel Z. Baylon, DD, Bishop of the Diocese of Legazpi, as well as members of Tomasinong Bikolano - Albay & Sorsogon chapters



Tomasinong Bikolano joins the Diocese of Daet in the Thanksgiving celebration for Fr. Gerard Francisco Timoner III, OP in his installation as the Master of the Order of Preachers. And the installation of the founding president of Tomasinong Bikolano - Camarines Sur, Bishop Rex Andrew Alarcon, DD as the new Bishop of the Diocese of Daet, Camarines Norte.

UST College of Education Alumni Foundation Inc.

## CEAFI Prayer Ministry

*Don't be anxious about anything,*  
but **IN EVERY SITUATION**  
by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving,  
**PRESENT YOUR REQUESTS TO GOD.**  
And the *Peace of God,*  
which transcends all understanding, will  
**GUARD YOUR HEARTS & MINDS**  
in *Christ Jesus.*  
PHILIPPIANS 4:6-7



Presidential Award given by the CamSur Med Society to Tomasinong Bikolano, Cam Sur chapter for its relief operation to the Usman landslide victims of Iraya, Buhi, Cam Sur and the free medical consultations to the Usman victims.



Things we take for granted, like running water, may be a rare luxury for many of our marginalized communities. USTMAA Phils, and Community Outreach Program, UST Faculty of Medicine and Surgery's SesquiCentennial Celebrations, under the Anargyroi Foundation, Inc, Turnover Ceremony of our mobile wash sink to the North Bay Elementary School, Navotas.



## Featured THOMASIAN

### ROLLO MILANTE, M.D.

#### A THOMASIAN'S GIFT OF VISION FOR ALL BICOLANOS

Rollo Milante pursued higher education at the University of Santo Tomas in Manila, obtaining a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology in May 1982 and proceeded to medical school at Faculty of Medicine and Surgery also at the University of Santo Tomas where he earned the degree of Doctor of Medicine in 1986. He spent a year of post-graduate internship at the Santo Tomas University Hospital and after passing the Philippine Medical Board Examination in 1987, took up residency training in Ophthalmology at the Santo Tomas University Hospital and became the chief resident during his senior years.

In November 1991 he acquired his Diplomate in Ophthalmology from the Philippine Board of Ophthalmology.

The years at the University of Santo Tomas undoubtedly deepened Rollo Milante's spirituality, values and sense of mission that continue to guide his life to this day as a family man, a doctor, and a Filipino citizen.

Doctor Rollo Milante has kept an unwavering eye for his Bicolano roots and a commitment to service to the land and people who helped him nurture his dreams of finishing and practicing the medical profession. Guided by his vision "to bring within reach of all Bicolanos the highest level of quality eye care," he set out to establish step-by-step what is now the Bicol Region's most complete and sophisticated eye care facility, the Legaspi Eye Center. Today, the Legaspi Eye Center, which operates in the cities of Legaspi and Naga, serving the region enhanced



by the most modern and state-of-the-art equipment and facilities in eye care outside of Metro Manila.

Beyond Legaspi Eye Center where he serves as President and Medical Director, what truly defines Rollo Milante's career is his inspired leadership, sincerity and compassion which have fuelled the same spirit of service among his younger Thomasian colleagues: To practice in resource-challenged areas, expand their services to make ophthalmic treatment available to more people, and carry out the mission to share the best of their abilities in caring for the less fortunate without counting the cost. His kindred Thomasian colleagues have conducted numerous missions to save the eyesight of those who have less in life or have distant access to government health facilities.

Indeed, for Rollo Milante, it is humbling as well to realize that in order to make a difference in society, one needs an inspired community that encourages each other, sustains each other's sense of mission, and grow together spiritually as a responsible citizen who are best nurtured at home.

#### Years of dedicated work and service

Since becoming an ophthalmologist in 1991, Dr. Milante has personified veritas et caritatum in 25 years and counting, of dedicated work and service to the Bicol Region and the whole Philippines as well.

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