



THE THOMASIAN ALUMNI COMMUNITY

VOL. NO 6 ISSUE NO. 2

Newsletter

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE UST ALUMNI ASSOCIATION, INC.

USTAAI ELECTS NEW OFFICERS AT GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The University of Santo Tomas Alumni Association Inc. (USTAAI), on March 11, 2023 held its annual General Assembly, gathering alumni representatives and members to report on the past year's activities and achievements, recognize the outgoing officers and executive committee heads, ratify amendments to its by-laws, and elect a new set of officers. Chairman Henry Tenedero gave the opening and closing remarks.

The event culminated in the election of its president, secretary and treasurer as mandated by the amended by-laws which were ratified earlier in the program. The new officers will be responsible for overseeing the USTAAI operations, planning and organizing events and activities, fundraising in coordination with the Thomasian Alumni Community Foundation Inc. (TACFI), and communicating with

Continued on page 4...



Outgoing President Evelyn A. Songco delivering her report.



Newly Elected Officers of USTAAI (from left): TREASURER: Arnel M. Ocampo; SECRETARY: Atty. Ma. Elena R. Enriquez; and, PRESIDENT: Atty. Dwight M. Ramos



Newly-elected president delivering his first speech to the assembly.

USTAAI BEGINS 2023 WITH RECOLLECTION

To start the year right, the Events Committee of USTAAI tapped the Alumni Priests Association (ALPA) and the College of Education Alumni Foundation Inc (CEAFI) headed by Cristina Sagum, to organize a recollection that was held on January 14, 2023. It was the first hybrid recollection hosted by USTAAI, with some 30 alumni showing onsite at the 3rd floor lobby of the Thomasian Alumni Center. This was simultaneously streamed on USTAAI FB Live. The theme of the recollection was "Hope: Dreaming Beyond Our Seeing."

The recollection began at 8:00am, with the recitation of the Holy Rosary. This was immediately followed by Praise and Worship facilitated by Christopher Maque, an animator in his student days at the College of Education.

Msgr. Bernie Pantin, ALPA president and CBCP Secretary General, spoke on the hope beyond our dreaming through Synodality, the call of Pope Francis to the Catholic church to journey together. He defined a Synodal Church as "a pilgrim community whose members live in communion and participate in Christ's mission as a priestly, prophetic, and kingly people of God."

At the end of his talk, he asked the participants to reflect on their experiences in journeying together in their parish/ community/organization, and where, in these experiences, the voice of the Holy Spirit resound. Onsite participants then shared their answers while partaking of food contributed by the different alumni associations.

The recollection ended with the celebration of the Holy Eucharist which was also streamed online at the USTAAI Facebook page.

- Nanette Fernandez, BSE 1976

AN INVITATION: ORIENTATION ON AMNESTY ON SEC FILING OF DOCUMENTS

The President and Secretary of all USTAAI member-AAs are invited to join a **TOWNHALL MEETING** that will be held at **9am on July 15, 2023**, at the AAI office in Rm 321 BGPOP Bldg., University of Santo Tomas, Manila.

The focus of this meeting will be the corporate status of USTAAI's member-AAs. The intention is to find out how USTAAI can assist its members in resolving their deficiencies with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC). For this purpose, the President, Secretary and Financial Comptroller of USTAAI will be present to answer questions.

As background, please be informed that on March 15, 2023, the SEC launched an amnesty program for non-compliant and suspended or revoked corporations. The deadline for filing amnesty applications with SEC had been recently moved to **September 30, 2023**, as provided under SEC Memorandum Circular No. 9, Series of 2023. Also, SEC has streamlined the procedure by adopting a **Unified Amnesty Application Form** which is web-based and is available on the SEC eFast. Those who are interested to avail of the amnesty are encouraged do so before the deadline as the SEC will be implementing an updated scale of fines and penalties for late and non-filing of the covered reportorial requirements starting October 1.



FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK: *Passing the Torch* by Outgoing President, Dr. Evelyn Songco

The President's Report (2021-2023)

The University of Santo Tomas Alumni Association, Inc. (USTAAI) has remained steadfast in its mission to serve the Thomasian alumni community and has continued to uphold and exemplify the Thomasian core values of compassion, competence, and commitment. It has envisioned itself to be a cohesive, pro-active, and vibrant alumni association that effectively serves its Alma Mater, the alumni, the country, and the Church.

On May 8, 2021, the six Executive Committees of the USTAAI, namely Academics, Advocacy, Events, Finance, Public Presence, and Resource, conducted a strategic planning under the guidance of the Secretariat. The output of this planning period was published in the USTAAI Primer "The Vector," with the theme "Dreaming, Weaving, Believing, Inspiring." It served as the guide of the USTAAI in moving toward its vision 2023.

The Committee on Academics

The Academics Committee, chaired by Inocencia Ida Tionko and co-chaired by Dr. Marilyn Cano, vigorously pursued formal learning through the Academe, Alumni, Industry, Government (AAIG) conversations to address the gap between the academe and the industry. In partnership with UST Graduate School Center for Continuing

Professional Education & Development, CBRC, Globe Telecom, Radius Telecoms, One Meralco Foundation, Inc., Metro Rail Transit Corporation, the Academics Committee, through its AAIG Committee Chaired by Dean Henry S. Tenedero, conducted a summit dubbed as the AAIG National Multi-sectoral Summit for Educational Transformation on September 3 and 17; and October 3 and 17, 2021. Each session was participated in by scholars, school leaders, industry, and government representatives from Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao.

The overwhelming success of the AAIG 2021 as indicated by its rating of "Excellent" from the participants inspired the AAIG Committee to push through with its 2022 AAIG Caravan to cascade the learning gained at the Summit and stimulate the emergence of the AAIG convergence community of champions and advocates in the National Capital Region (NCR), Region 1 and Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR), Calabarzon, Visayas, and Mindanao. A maiden AAIG Caravan was held on April 21, 2022 to herald the beginning of the USTAAI AAIG 2022 Caravan Series. The NCR leg was hosted by UST. The Region 1/CAR leg was hosted by the Don Mariano Marcos State University (DMMSU), while the Calabarzon leg was hosted by FAITH Colleges. The Visayas leg was hosted by Siliman University, and the

Mindanao leg was hosted by the Western Mindanao State University and the Davao Del Norte State College. In all of these caravan journeys, a total of 2,155 participants from the academe, government, and industry, attended the online Caravan Series nationwide.

USTAAI dreams of successfully building communities of practice in Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao that promote partnership among the alumni, academe, industry, and government for the smooth transition of the fresh alumni to the world of work. The preparation for the face-to-face September 2023 AAIG National Multisectoral Summit has begun.

As part of the Academics Committee's life-long learning, BRIDGES was conceptualized and launched on October 4, 2021. This online talk show, which is streamed live on the USTAAI Facebook page and posted on our YouTube channel, provides the Thomasian alumni the opportunity to share their expertise and experiences on various topics in an informal, simple, and down-to-earth manner. It has reached 100 episodes on February 28, 2023 and has featured notable Thomasians in various fields. These alumni continue to be faithful to the core values of competence, compassion, and commitment that the UST nurtured in them. BRIDGES was initially done in partnership with the Carl Balita

Continued on page 4

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK: *At Your Service* by Incoming President, Atty Dwight Ramos

Even before entering the University in 1986, I had always been fascinated by its stature and history. I spent countless hours looking through my late mother's class and graduation pictures, and other school memorabilia since she graduated from the Faculty of Pharmacy in 1959.

Like her, I went on to build my own fond memories of being a true golden Thomasian when I enrolled at the Faculty of Civil Law. I stayed in a boarding house nearby, and walked to my classes every day with, to my surprise, many Ilocano province mates who were also staying just around the vicinity. That was when I realized that UST was the school of choice of the youth coming from the provinces. Those who, like me, were fascinated by its stature and history, and dreamt of being part of it. We were all proud Thomasians, especially every time we went back to our hometowns during summers and school breaks.

From this seemingly superficial and

innocent fascination was where we found the great Thomasian education. One that would not only engrain in us the 3 C's but would truly make us a "Tomasino." For myself, it was the brand of being a Thomasian lawyer of which I had always been proud of as I built my career.

In solidarity with all alumni, it was in 2015 when I found my way back to the University as a Silver Jubilarian. Being the class president of our then Section B, I was tasked by my batch mates to represent our Class of 1990. In the Homecoming that ensued, I was elected as a Board Member of the Law Alumni Foundation. And so began my journey as an active Thomasian alumnus, giving back to the University and the community. This was something I truly enjoyed, and which also brought me to serving in the USTAAI in various capacities. That was when I remembered my fellow Ilocanos who journeyed with me as Thomasian students in the 80s. And this encouraged me to help organize the

Tomasinong Ilocano Alumni chapter in La Union where I come from. And the rest, they say, is history.

In this inaugural note as your USTAAI President, let me say that it is truly important for all of us to make an "IMPACT".

"I" for being "In solidarity with all alumni";

"M" for truly "Making our members proud";

"P" for "Providing opportunities for service";

"A" for Advocating for the community";

"C" for "Coordinating with the University"; and

"T" for truly "Taking care of our members".

And when I say members, I refer to our now almost 30-strong Alumni Associations for whom we must make an impact so that everyone succeeds.

At your service, no Alumni Association left behind!



TIGER DEALS!



Hand Painted Bayong
by THOMASIAN ARTISTS
Php 2,500 each
(20 DESIGNS AVAILABLE)

**FOR ORDERS, PLEASE CONTACT
TESS MEER 09178490467
CES SAN JUAN 09189857314**

KATINKO®



ITEM	Price/Dozen
Katinko 10grams	₱ 462.00
Katinko 30grams	₱ 1,066.80
Katinko Oil 10ml	₱ 602.40
Katinko Oil 35ml	₱ 1,066.80
Sports Spray	₱ 1,680.00

Proceeds of all Katinko products will go to the USTAAI scholarship fund.

Melaleuca

Wellness Products now available!

For orders, contact:
Tess Meer
09178490467

BUY NOW

For only Php 1,200.00



FERN-D
PHP 680 (60s) / PHP 1,280 (120s)
The wonder vitamin. Your daily dose of sunshine even without the sun.



FERN-ACTIV
PHP 900
The harder-working everyday vitamin for stronger immune system.



MILKCA
PHP 1,100
Your daily dose of milk in capsule form. Helps regulate blood pressure and promotes quality sleep.



AURORA HAND & BODY LOTION
PHP 550
With Triple-A age defying ingredients. Hydrates and moisturizes your skin without the sticky or greasy feeling.



AURORA BEAUTY BAR SOAP
PHP 350
With Triple-A age defying, hydrating and moisturizing ingredients that cleanse your skin without leaving it dry.



PROSPERITY IN WELLNESS
The greatest wealth is health



AURORA DAY AND NIGHT CREAM
PHP 950 EACH
Powerful anti-oxidant with dual UV filters for day and night use.



AURORA SERUM
PHP 950
Hypo-allergenic, age-defying face serum fondly hailed as "botox-in-a-box".



AURORA EYE CREAM
PHP 950
Targets fine lines and crows feet around the eyes. This also relieves dark circles and eye puffiness, giving an instant eye lift effect.

LIMITED EDITION SCULPTURE
MAJESTIC

Year: 2022 Size: 15" x 11" x 6"
Cast Marble, Painted in Gold Bronze Finish

Created by:
Artist Seb Chua



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

Proceeds will go to the USTAAI Albertus Magnus Scholarship Program and the Disaster Response Program



Passing the Torch... from page 2

Review Center (CBRC) and later, with the UST Communications Bureau. All these episodes were media of *Tria haec*: faith, hope, and love.

USTAAI also dreams of expanding its collaboration and partnership to maintain its involvement in the academic pursuits of the University and to create an avenue for life-long learning for the alumni, faculty and students, and other related groups.

The Committee on Advocacy

Moved by compassion and by its commitment to provide access to quality education, the Advocacy Committee, chaired by Engr. Jerenato Alfante and Co-chaired by Angie S. Tuazon, launched in 2021 the first Scholarship Program of the USTAAI also under the name St. Albertus Magnus Scholarship Program. This program was able to help two students finish their college education in UST, with both scholars graduating with Latin honors.

On April 21, 2021, the USTAAI Advocacy group launched the project "Bida sa Pandemya" for the doctors, nurses and other frontliners in various hospitals in Metro Manila. Giftbags were given as a sign of our Thomasian love as we cheered the team of health workers in the ER and COVID Wards. The beneficiaries of this project were from the UST Hospital, Chinese General Hospital, San Lazaro Hospital, Philippine General Hospital, V. Luna Medical Center, East Avenue Medical Center, Philippine Heart Center, Veterans Memorial Medical Center, Ospital ng

Sampaloc, De Los Santos Medical Center, and the Manila COVID-19 Field Hospital in Luneta.

In the aftermath of the Typhoon Fabian calamity on July 24, 2021, USTAAI Team Advocacy and UST Thomasian Alumni Leaders Association (TALA) organized a flash response to flood victims through the *Tomasino Para sa Kapwa Pilipino* project. Volunteers were mobilized and dispatched to give food packs to the affected families in various evacuation sites, namely: Brgy. Masambong and Brgy. Apolonio Samson in QC; Brgy. Burgos Elementary School in San Mateo, Rizal; Diosdado Macapagal High School in Brgy. Tatalon; and Brgy. San Jose in Rodriguez, Rizal. On July 27, USTAAI released funds amounting to Php 20,000 to help flood victims, which included the indigenous Mangyan community in Naujan, Mindoro.

On July 31, 2021, USTAAI hosted "Laro Mo, Tulong Mo" online bingo for a cause which raised more than Php 480,000. These funds have been earmarked for the Advocacy Committee's disaster response projects.

In October 2021, the USTAAI Advocacy team responded to the appeals for help in the wake of severe Tropical Storm Maring (Kompasu) in Northern Luzon. Medical and relief efforts were conducted for the affected families in the Municipality of Pudoc East, Tagudin, and Brgy. Langaan, Sta. Maria, both in the province of Ilocos Sur.

On November 23, 2021, USTAAI partnered with the UST TALA and conducted a *Tomasino Para sa Kapwa Pilipino* outreach

activity to respond to the affected families in the fire-hit residential area of Barangay Manresa in Quezon City. Food packs and other supplies were distributed to a total of 300 families at Sto. Domingo Street and C3 Sgt. Rivera Street. This outreach was made possible through the donations from UST alumni Maureen Mocky Bollozos Pickering, Atty. Ellen Francisco, and the Quezon City Dynamics Lions Club. Other sponsors included Baker's Fair, owned by UST Faculty of Pharmacy Alumni, Christopher Ong, which donated bread, and the UST Atelier Alumni Association, through its president Marissa Pe Yang, that donated rubber slippers.

On December 24, 2021, under the leadership of Angie S. Tuazon, Chair of the Committee on *Tomasino Para sa Kapwa Pilipino* Disaster Response, and in partnership with UST TALA, UST SIMBAHAYAN, and through the financial assistance from member alumni associations, USTAAI extended help to the victims of Typhoon Odette by way of sending food packs, water purifiers, water, blankets, and used tarpaulin sheets to the affected communities of Bilar, Bohol. A brand new generator was donated to the Dominican Daughters of Immaculate Mother School through Sr. Eva Abellano, OP. On December 27, 2021, with the help of Angels on Wheels from Tacloban, relief goods were distributed in the municipalities of Tomas Oppus, Libangon and Anahawan in Southern Leyte. The outpouring of assistance and donations continued until the first quarter of 2022, which enabled the USTAAI Advocacy team to extend support to the typhoon victims by shifting to rehabilitation efforts. With the support of the Women in Infrastructures Foundation Inc. (WIFI), whose President is Atty. Ma. Elena G. Francisco, who, at the same time, was the President of the Law Alumni Foundation Inc (LAFI), USTAAI was able to respond to the appeal for assistance of the parish priests in reconstructing their churches. With the help of the Alumni Priests Association (ALPA), several parishes in the different municipalities of Siargao were identified. The beneficiaries included the Sta. Ana Parish & Nature Kids Siargao in Burgos, Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish & SPAR Animal Shelter in Del Carmen, Sta. Tomas de Villanueva Parish in General Luna, Sta. Monica Parish in Sta. Monica, and Our Lady of The Pillar Parish in Pilar. More than 700 pieces of Hardiflex boards and sheets amounting to Php1M were distributed to these parishes.

Under the leadership of TALA and in partnership with member alumni associations, the Advocacy Committee conducted a gift

USTAAI ELECTS NEW OFFICERS... from page 1

alumni for the period 2023-2025.

The new set of officers, elected through the nomination and voting process, comprises of

PRESIDENT Atty. Dwight M. Ramos (from the Tomasinong Ilocano-La Union; alumnus, Faculty of Civil Law 1990);

SECRETARY Atty. Ma. Elena R. Enriquez (from the Law Alumni Foundation, Inc.; alumna, College of Science 1974, Faculty of Medicine 1978, Faculty of Civil Law 1997); and

TREASURER Arnel M. Ocampo (from the Education High School Graduates' Association, Inc.; alumnus, Education High School 1976, AB Liberal Arts 1980).

Nancy Tabirara as COMELEC Chair supervised the process after calling on Emelito Malabanan, Compliance Officer, to explain the changes made since 2021.

Delivering her President's Report,

outgoing President Evelyn A. Songco, highlighted significant achievements of the Association in a video, made possible by the commitment of the USTAAI officers and members. She thanked everyone for giving her the opportunity to serve, and commended the Association for its resilience exhibited especially during the pandemic.

In his remarks, the President-elect, Atty. Dwight M. Ramos, pledged his commitment in the continuation of USTAAI initiatives and projects, and emphasized the need for cooperation among all members of the Association. He also expressed gratitude to the members for their support and optimism for the future.

Certificates of Appreciation were also presented to the outgoing officers and Executive Committee heads in recognition of their dedication and service towards achieving the objectives of the USTAAI.

- Atty. Marissa V. Manalo, *Juris Doctor, 1995*

Continued on page 6



RECTOR'S CUP RESUMES; TEAM MEDICINE & SURGERY MAKES A COMEBACK

The fifth edition of the Rector's Cup: Thomasian Alumni Golf Tournament drew 211 alumni golfers and guests to join the advocacy in funding the university's student-athletes who compete in national and international sports events. The tournament, organized by the Office of Alumni Relations (OAR), was held at the Forest Hills Golf & Country Club in Antipolo, Rizal on February 6, 2023.

This year's tourney intended to re-energize the sense of solidarity with and loyalty of the alumni to the university after the two-year hiatus due to the pandemic. Sponsors such as Wilcon Depot, Divina Law, DATEM, Inc., and Shinagawa Lasik & Aesthetics also rejoined and guaranteed their commitment to the cause. The full day event saw the dedication of the community that brought in the largest turnout of golfers since the tournament's inception.

Tournament Chairman Dr. Ian Laurel highlighted the series' distinction from other tournaments where different college teams host the competition every year. "This fosters the engagement and participation of all alumni, making it more exciting, bigger, more vibrant, and more relevant each and every year," said Dr. Laurel during the post-tournament interview. He also expressed his admiration for the support and leadership of the Rector which inspires them to continue with the advocacy.

A fellowship banquet and awarding ceremonies followed the morning of golf, and was graced by UST Vice Rector Rev. Fr. Isaias



Rector's Cup 5 Champion Team Medicine & Surgery

D. Tiongco, O.P., JCD, and IPEA Director and Regent Rev. Fr. Rodel S. Cansancio, O.P. The ceremony was hosted by Faculty of Engineering Team Captain Engr. Ronaldo Fernando and Dr. Laurel.

Ten teams which consisted of different colleges and a high school department competed over the coveted perpetual championship trophy created by Arch. Ramon Orlina. The teams of the Faculty of Engineering and the Faculty of Pharmacy tied at 571 points. However, the Pharmacy team clinched the third runner up title with 9 birdies in Team Event while the Engineering team only birdied 2 placing them at the fourth place. The first time podium finisher, Faculty of Arts and Letters team, unexpectedly sealed its 2nd runner up finish

with 568 points. A great upset met the College of Science as their team committed a couple of errors, garnering them 562 points which took them a few steps back from defending the crown. Meanwhile, the Rector's Cup 3-time champion Faculty of Medicine & Surgery team made a comeback with only 557 points, thus securing the top spot for this year's event.

For the sixth Rector's Cup, the College of Architecture will host the competition with Arch. Eduardo Casares as Tournament Director. He aims to make it bigger in terms of golfer population and funds collected for the beneficiaries under his helm. He also intends to tap other forms of media to spread more awareness of the cause.

- Office of Alumni Relations

TIKTALKS – TALA Igniting Knowledge Talk Series Launch

The Thomasian Alumni Leaders Association (TALA) recently had a successful launch of TIKTALKS - TALA Igniting Knowledge Talk Series. With the theme 'Leaders Empowering Leaders,' the launch was attended by hundreds of student leaders from the Senior High School and the various student councils and student organizations of the university. The trailblazing youth leadership event was held last February 23 at the Blessed Giorgio Frassati Auditorium of the UST-SHS.

TIKTALKS was designed and conceptualized by TALA to serve as a

powerful and dynamic platform to engage, mold, and motivate current student leaders of the university who in turn will be the future leaders and changemakers of the country. The talk series aims to share leadership stories and life lessons from successful alumni who not only excelled in their respective industries and areas but have likewise served their communities and the nation.

For the inaugural event of TIKTALKS, TALA invited a roster of inspiring alumni leaders who shared their servant-leadership journey to the audience: Ms. Earth 2017 Karen Ibasco, former ABS-

CBN News Reporter Doland Castro, UST-SHS Principal Erika Bolaños, and this writer, Zuellig Pharma Country Head for Communications, Government Affairs and Sustainability. Karen, Doland, Erika and this writer recounted their days back when they were still students and shared their stories of grit, perseverance, courage, and resilience as they worked and represented several institutions in the last two decades. Members of the audience in turn had the opportunity to ask questions as they sought for advice and practical tips ranging from mental health issues to

Continued on page 7



Passing the Torch... from page 4

giving project dubbed as *Tala ng Pasko* on December 16-24, 2021, with nine communities benefiting from this project.

The Advocacy Committee on Sustainable Environment conducted an art competition dubbed as "Kapaligiran." Winners of the competition were awarded at the opening of the exhibit "Kapaligiran" on September 13, 2022. This activity was done in partnership with the UST Research Center for Social Sciences and Education, UST Junior and Senior High schools, and UST Education High School. It was sponsored by BEST, Equipaje and Associates, and Archion Architects.

On November 15, 2022, the USTAAI Advocacy Committee went to the evacuation centers in Bagumbayan Elementary School, San Ildefonso Parish, Filemon T. Lizan Senior High School, and the Centennial Park in C4 to distribute relief goods to 400 families affected by the fire in Barangay Bagumbayan, North Brgy. Navotas West in Navotas City.

At present, there is an ongoing fund raising through the sale of the sculptures Majestic Tiger and Lady Justice under the initiative of Angie Tuazon and Marissa Pe Yang. It shall continue while supply lasts.

The USTAAI dreams of efficiently and effectively serving the marginalized communities and disaster victims, and significantly contribute to a sustainable environment in partnership with the Thomasian Alumni Community Foundation Inc. (TACFI).

The Committee on Events

To promote Thomasian pride and solidarity, the Committee on Events, chaired by Dr. Rollo Milante, and Co-chaired by Assoc. Prof. Evangeline Timbang held various social and spiritual activities. In the last two years, the Committee remained unwavering in conducting the following activities:

The Committee is preparing for a "Thomasian Icons" alumni homecoming featuring Santacruz on May 6, 2023. The activities that are in the pipeline are Cultural Exhibit and provincial tours dubbed as "Trip natin 'to", both under the leadership of the provincial alumni chapters.

USTAAI dreams of promoting the Thomasian identity, strengthening Thomasian alumni solidarity, providing opportunities for the Thomasian alumni community to share their talents.

The Committee on Finance

Financial stability is vital to any organization. The Committee on Finance, chaired by Maria Elena J. Manansala ensures the smooth cash flow and financial stability of the Association through steady collection of revenues and judicious utilization of funds.

It takes charge of the coffee table book entitled "Thomasian Icons: Bridges of Faith, Hope, and Love," a joint project of the USTAAI and the Thomasian Alumni Community Foundation, Inc. (TACFI).

The Committee has maintained transparency by way of efficient recording and clear monthly financial reporting. It dreams of increasing its revenue from the solidarity contribution and other fund-raising activities of the Committee on Resource.

Committee on Public Presence

Today's technology has empowered the Association to reach more Thomasian alumni through various social media platforms. The Committee on Public Presence effectively promotes alumni activities and noteworthy alumni news and stories, and manages and monitors the Association's presence in different media, including this Newsletter, Facebook, Youtube and the USTAAI website.

The USTAAI Facebook page has

dramatically increased its visitors in the past 2 years and has reached a major milestone of reaching 10K followers in June of 2022. It has gained more than 13,500 followers, up by 250% since 2021, with a monthly average gain of 200 followers. With the growing number of followers, our posts on the USTAAI page has reached more than 1.1million people on Facebook and almost 400K engagements gained through post likes, comments and shares.

On March 2, 2021, the USTAAI website went online for the first time. It has provided the member alumni associations a medium to showcase their association's profile information and has been a source of social media materials for various USTAAI events, including the AAIG and the Thomasian Alumni Community newsletters.

The USTAAI Thomasian Alumni Community Youtube Channel was successfully launched on July 10, 2021. More than 300 videos have been published, which includes all BRIDGES episodes and various USTAAI events. Since its launching, the videos have gained more than 12K views.

In 2021, with the help of the member alumni associations, USTAAI was able to mobilize the participation of notable Thomasian alumni in promoting the different social media platforms through "Tomasino Shout-out" recorded video messages which were published on both the Facebook page and Youtube channel.

The Association, through its Public Presence committee, remains committed to build its brand, and to strengthen its social media presence with innovative ideas in improving and creating more content in order to gain more followers, subscribers and viewers on its Facebook page, Youtube channel, and USTAAI website.

Event	Date	Venue
Flores de Mayo	May 29, 2021 May 28, 2022	Parish of Our Lady of the Abandoned (Sta. Ana Church) in Manila Santisimo Rosario Parish, Manila
Online Fellowship Bingo (In partnership with the Advocacy Committee)	July 31, 2021	Zoom
Mass for the dearly departed Thomasians	November 2, 2021 November 2, 2022	Zoom & FB live
Distinguished Thomasian Alumni Night	November 27, 2021 November 26, 2022	Zoom & FB live Robert C. Sy Ballroom, UST BGPOP
National Day of Recollection: Gifted to Give Hope: Dreaming Beyond our Seeing	December 4, 2021 January 14, 2022	Zoom & FB live BGPOP 3 rd Floor lobby & FB live
Mass and blessing of Thomasian alumni candidates for the 2022 National Election	March 17, 2022	Santisimo Rosario Parish
Conferment of Honorary Title Chairman Emeritus of the USTAAI Board of Trustees on Dr. Robert C. Sy Launching of the Thomasian Alumni Community Foundation Inc. (TACFI)	March 25, 2022	Club Filipino, San Juan City



Passing the Torch... from page 6

With the formation of the Correspondents Bureau in 2022, USTAAI dreams to engage more participation and coordination from the PROs of the different member alumni association in order to receive more materials to help maximize the use of the different social media platforms for the benefit of the whole Thomasian alumni community through the Newsletter.

The Committee on Resource

The Committee on Resource, chaired by Teresita Meer and Co-Chaired by Maureen Pickering launched the Thomasian Alumni Community (TAC) Patrons and the TAC Exchange, an online market of the USTAAI in 2021. The TAC Patrons has been temporarily suspended due to the difficulties of the times.

Through the TAC Exchange, Resource Committee was able to sell unique hand-painted bayongs, alumni T-shirts, and is currently in partnership with Melaleuca and I-fern, both selling beauty and wellness products. Melaleuca is also a source of excellent and environmentally friendly cleaning products.

It continues to find ways and means to raise funds for the advocacy of the Association, specifically for scholarship.

As we emerge from the pandemic, the USTAAI Committee on Resource dreams of increasing the number of TAC patrons and increasing the number of transactions in the TAC Exchange.

Secretariat

The Secretariat is chaired by Ana Marie O. Fernandez with Co-chair Nancy Tabirara. It takes charge of all the communications and record keeping of the Association. Aside from these major roles, the Secretariat supervises the production of the TAC Newsletter, the official newsletter of the USTAAI. The Association has issued 5 volumes of the newsletter, made available through our Facebook page and Website. It is now working on the second issue of the 6th volume.

It also led the Association's online Christmas party on December 11, 2021, and the December 10, 2022 USTAAI Christmas party, held in partnership with the Office for Alumni Relations (OAR).

The Committee took charge of the planning and evaluation of the Executive Committees and officers at Royale Estate Club House, Alfonso, Silang, Cavite on February 18, 2022; organized the USTAAI contingent to the Tomasinong Ilokano La Union Alumni Association Launching and Oath taking on June 20, 2022; and initiated the team-building program of the USTAAI at Caleruega, Nasugbu, Batangas on August 30 - September 1, 2022.

It coordinated the Rest and Recreation of the USTAAI at the Munting Paraiso at Lipa, Batangas on February 25, 2023, and supported the AAIG Committee during the MOU signing between the USTAAI AAIG with the DMSU on June 21, 2022.

Partnerships and Collaborations

The USTAAI partnered with the TOMASInno Center (UST Technology Business Incubator), the UST Simbahayan Community Development Office, Carl Balita Review Center (CBRC) and TALA in implementing its various projects.

USTAAI dreams of continually building productive partnerships and collaborations.

Conclusion

It is said that a grateful heart is a joyful heart. As I end my term as President of the USTAAI, I humbly express my gratitude to all those who have unceasingly manifested their solidarity with the USTAAI.

The USTAAI and the member alumni associations are one body. Through good and bad times, we journey together as one big family.

I believe that all those who serve in alumni associations are gifted to give. We are all gifted with time, talent, and treasure to be able to do the noble task of serving. Above all that, we are also gifted with a generous heart.

I thank and congratulate the officers, chairs, co-chairs, and members of the Executive Committees, the Secretariat, and the Presidents of the member alumni associations.

Thank you to Atty. Dwight Ramos, our Assistant to the President, and to Kaye Bundang, our Executive Assistant.

I specially thank our Alma Mater, represented by the Office of the Vice Rector, OAR and the UST Communications Bureau. Every program, project, and activity we did together as an association was a celebration of God's unending grace. We filled the past two years with our SOUL.

S for solidarity. We were able to sustain our solidarity despite the isolation from one another. Thanks to technology, we were constantly connected with one another.

O is for one direction. We took the same road toward one vision. Some of us walked fast; some were running; and some were slow. We may have different speeds, but we always waited for one another.

U stands for unafraid. We were unafraid to try new things in the new normal. We took courage to engage in online shows, in disaster relief and rehabilitation missions, in conducting alumni activities. We turned the pandemic threats into opportunities. Finally, L.

L stands for the Lord who always blesses and embraces us. He is present in everything we do, and all our work is meant to glorify Him.

As we continue our journey, I believe that the succeeding officers and volunteers of the USTAAI shall continue to weave the colorful story of the Association as they joyfully serve the Alma Mater, the Thomasian alumni community, the society, and the church.

As we humbly recognize our weaknesses, we continue to work our way to perfection. Let us together walk, run, and soar high as we joyfully leave memories of friendships and footprints that will guide the next generations of Thomasian alumni associations.

Mabuhay ang USTAAI!

TIKTALKs – TALA Igniting Knowledge... ... from page 12

advocacies and rising from failure. The event was hosted by TV5 News Anchor Mon Gualvez and Kathryn Caday from the Department of Tourism.

TALA's officers led by Chairman Angie Tuazon, Pres. Ban Ang, VP Froi Pitpit and Sec. Ces San Juan were likewise present to

share knowledge to all student leaders who joined this memorable learning session. TALA's advisers, Dr. Evelyn Songco and Dean Henry Tenedero formally welcomed everyone as they shared their messages on transformative leadership and serving with excellence.

TALA intends to continue this talk series and invite more alumni leaders to share their stories to our Thomasian studentry in the coming months. Congratulations to all the men and women behind this successful event!

- Chito Maniago, AB Legal Management 2001

INDUCTION OF USTAAI ELECTED OFFICERS

From left to right:

**Kaye Bundang, Lito Malabanan,
Malou Garganera, Evelyn
Songco, Fr. Rector Richard Ang,
Atty. Dwight Ramos, Atty. Ma.
Elena Enriquez, Arnel Ocampo
and Fredeswindo Medina**





-CLICKER-RAZZI-



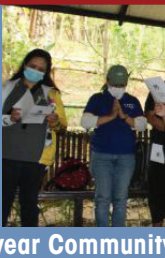
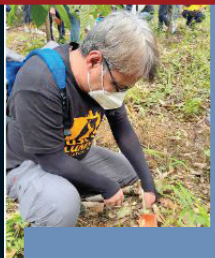
Alumni Recollection with Msgr. Bernie Pantin



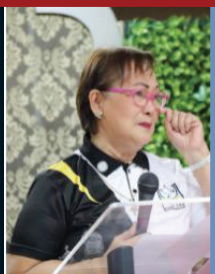
Birthday Celebrations of Atty. Dwight Ramos and Sir Lito Malabanan



5th Rector's Cup, Forest Hills Antipolo



Support for UST Simbahayan Midyear Community Service Day



2023 General Assembly & Election





March birthday celebrators at the TACFI Board Meeting



Courtesy Call to OAR Director Win Medina



Courtesy Call of TACFI & USTAAI to Father Rector Richard Ang, OP





NEW USTLAFI OFFICERS AND TRUSTEES TAKE OATH BEFORE CHIEF JUSTICE GESMUNDO

The UST Law Alumni (USTLAFI) Board of Officers, Trustees, Consultants and Adviser, headed by its Chairperson Justice Angelina Sandoval-Gutierrez, and its newly elected President/Trustee - Justice Ronald B. Moreno, took their oath of office before Chief Justice Alexander G. Gesmundo at the Dignitaries Lounge, New SC Building in Padre Faura Street, Ermita, Manila on February 10, 2023.

In his short message, the Chief Justice urged the USTLAFI Officers and Trustees, to be “faithful to their Lawyer’s Oath and to the Foundation which they represent” as he congratulated them and wished them success in their endeavors.

The rest of the newly elected and appointed USTLAFI Officers, Trustees, Consultants and Adviser are 1st Vice President/Trustee Justice Teresita D. Baldos; 2nd Vice President/Trustee Atty. Frankie O. Magsalin III; 3rd Vice President/Secretary/Trustee- DCA Thelma C. Bahia; Assistant Secretary/Trustee Judge Maria Bernardita J. Santos, Treasurer/Trustee Atty. Rufer D. Tolentino; Assistant Treasurer/Trustee Commissioner Mary Ann P. Daytia; Auditor/Trustee Judge Josefina D. Farrales; Business Manager Atty. Rolando Lamson; Project Relations Officer Atty. Marissa V. Manalo; Trustee Justice Monina A. Zenarosa; Trustee Justice Georgina D. Hidalgo; Trustee Atty. Maria Elena Go Francisco; Trustee Atty. Joseph C. Cerezo; Trustee Atty. Evelyn S.



Enriquez; Trustee- Atty./Dr. Maria Elena R. Enriquez; Trustee - Atty. Enrique V. Dela Cruz, Jr.; Consultant Justice Myra G. Fernandez; Consultant Dean Nilo T. Divina; Consultant Atty. Lutgardo Barbo; Consultant Atty. Dwight Hilarion M. Ramos; and Adviser Justice Oscar C. Herrera, Jr.

- Atty. Marissa V. Manalo, Juris Doctor, 1995



USTLAFI’s new President, Justice Ronald B. Moreno is an Associate Justice of the Sandiganbayan. He is an active officer and trustee of the USTLAFI and chaired the scholarship program of the Foundation before his election as the new USTLAFI President.

Justice Moreno got three university degrees at UST. He first earned his Juris Doctor in 1995, then his Master of Law in 2006, and his Doctor of Civil Law in 2019, Magna cum Laude.

Serving with Justice Moreno in his quest to make the Law Alumni Foundation relevant are the newly elected/appointed officers, trustees, consultants and adviser together with the LAFI Chairperson.





— ❁ ❁ ❁ — *Campus Memories* — ❁ ❁ ❁ —

UST CAMPUS IN MY MEMORY: *Oasis in a Concrete Jungle, Wellspring of Growth and Development*

I was born in the UST Hospital due to its proximity to our grandmother's old business near Padre Campa Street. My father and some of his siblings finished school in UST. That was a foreshadowing, I guess, that I would one day end up a Thomasian. Little did I realize it would be a 28-year stay in the sprawling España campus—and I haven't left since 1995.

Join me in this recollection of the UST campus—from the memories of a 16-year occupant of the Albertus Magnus Building who eventually studied, taught, or held office in the other structures.

Oasis in a concrete jungle

I entered UST as a Kindergarten pupil in June 1995, five months after Saint Pope John Paul II drew thousands to the historic Open Field. Perhaps that's one way to describe several of UST's spaces back in the mid-1990s—Open.

Of course, more structures have sprung forth in contrast to the 60s to the 80s, but still, back then we had the Colayco Park where we performed in 1998, the statues of the Nine Martyrs fronting the old Dapitan Gate (there used to be a gate directly facing Asturias instead of the two gates we now have), the Engineering Sports Complex which was essentially a covered court, and the famous and trusty White Thumb coop. beside it.

As a "Little Thomasian" at the turn of the millennium, we still had field demonstrations in the Open Field and the old PE spaces on which the Quadricentennial Pavilion and Carpark now stand. Speaking of PE, the old Gymnasium still had its old art deco design back then, with the classic spiral staircases on both sides.

Fast forward to the early 2000s, the sprawling space that is the eastern counterpart

of the Open Field and the Grandstand (according to alumni, it was called Area B in the 1980s) began to have structures built on them. Soon, students in the Education and Engineering buildings bade goodbye to the Sports Complex, the Coop., and the Playground. They then said "hi" to the Multi-Deck Carpark with its concessionaires and its first occupant: the UST-Alfredo M. Velayo College of Accountancy. Back in high school, SM Mall of Asia was inaugurated, and we were so amazed that McDonald's, KFC, Ice Monsters, and Beanhoppers were in the carpark, so we said it's UST MOA: the Mall of Accountancy.

After Typhoon Milenyo in 2004 toppled many of the trees in the Benavides Garden (unofficially the Lovers' Lane), the central greenery of the campus also underwent various stages of improvement. In time, what used to be an area filled with diverse trees and bushes became a space where nature blended with art. It soon lit up at night during Paskuhan season and became a scenic spot in its own right.

The Nine Martyrs along Dapitan also gave way to the Tan Yan Kee Student Center, inaugurated in 2006. Though their likeness was in a sense, martyred (pun half-intended), the ground of which their statues were razed became a fertile patch of land for the formation of Thomasian student leaders. A witty Dominican friar shared to us student leaders that he received several questions like: "Where are the martyrs!?" He simply replied: "They're in Heaven!"

The construction works of the mid-2000s is, I guess, best represented though not by an edifice that's tall, but by a space that's flat: the Plaza Mayor. Gone were the days when vehicle exhaust pipes would "perfume" the air in front of the iconic Main Building,

which was fronted for decades by parking spaces. Now, there was nothing but a flat expansive space that removed all distractions from the human eye. The only focus was what lay ahead: the Main Building.

And from that same historic building, specifically its tower, did a grand fireworks display erupt six years later, on January 28, 2011, when UST turned 400. As a longtime student accustomed to fireworks displays at the Grandstand, seeing it erupt from the Main Building was a marvel. And the night before, when the clock struck midnight on January 28, 00:00 hrs., the otherwise dark sky momentarily looked like day, when the blinding fireworks from the Grandstand met the display emanating from the Chapel.

As UST chiseled the 400th line in its counting of years, it also chiseled the name "UNIVERSITY OF SANTO TOMAS" on a rectangular granite marker on the side of the Arch of the Centuries. That marker remains to be the only label near the campus perimeter that says we're UST. That 22-letter name and the slab on which it is chiseled blocks from view a metal cylinder encased in the marker in 2011. It is the Quadricentennial time capsule containing our names (the Quadri. graduates) and various other items that would show what 2011 was to people of 2061 or 2111.

That time capsule would tell Thomasians of memories which we would no longer be able to tell by that time. But that's a tale for another time.

What are my campus memories? Twenty-eight years provided me with plenty, but perhaps by recalling the spaces I once saw, you can share in my memories, too, and remember the good ol' days when we were formed in the oasis of Manila's concrete jungle.

— Philippe Jose S. Hernandez, MEng, 2013



Arts & Letters Grand Alumni Homecoming 2023 Celebrates 127 Years of Excellence



Rev. Fr. Father George Phe Mang, O.P.



Very Rev. Fr. Richard G. Ang, O.P.



Dean Henry Tenedero

The UST Philets and Artlets Alumni Association held its much-awaited Grand Alumni Homecoming, bringing together esteemed alumni from various batches to commemorate the 127th founding anniversary of the Faculty of Arts and Letters. Though celebrated belatedly, the event, themed “Stronger Together,” took place on March 18, 2023, at the Kalayaan Hall of Club Filipino in San Juan City. It was a sentimental trip down memory

lane for hundreds of alumni, and a testament to the enduring spirit of the AB community.

The event kicked off with warm opening remarks from the Regent of the Faculty of Arts and Letters, Rev. Fr. Father George Phe Mang, O.P. He expressed his delight at the gathering of alumni from various generations. He emphasized the need to preserve the AB legacy and encouraged everyone to keep connected

Continued on page 15

THE POWER OF SYNERGY: SUCCESS STORIES

The AB alumni celebration brought the audience back to their student days as some alumni talked about their experiences and journey during their stay in the campus.

Speakers such as Dept. of Migrant Workers Ms. Toots Ople, Dept. of Transportation Mr. Reiner Yabra, Chief Innovation & Inclusion Officer of RCBC Mr. Lito Villanueva, News Anchor Jeff Espiritu, Senior State Solicitor Samantha Camitan and Country Head For Government Affairs Communications and Sustainability of Zuellig Pharma Mr. Chito Maniago took this opportunity to share to the young audience how being a Philets and Artlets student molded them into the wiser version of themselves and how relationships that were established as students were still important even after they have stepped out of the campus gates.

All the speakers shared the challenges they encountered during their student days, the joys they had, and the values they acquired. More importantly, all expressed how being a Thomasian paved the way for their success and made them continue

Continued on page 15

THE AB LEGACY PROJECT



The speakers of the AB Legacy Projects with their certificates of appreciation. From left: Dean Henry Tenedero, Rev. Fr. Father George Phe Mang, O.P. Tita-Datu Puangco, Cecilio Adorna, Dean Atty. Jacqueline L. Kaw, DCL, Oscar Picazo, Mr. Chito Maniago, Ms. Joanna Marique and Mr. Matthew Enriquez.

The Grand Alumni Homecoming on the 18th of March also served to introduce Batch 69’s legacy project and the “Adopt-an-Artlets” Scholarship Fund.

Tita Datu-Puangco from Batch 1969 discussed the AB Competency Leadership Map, developed through focus group discussion among students, alumni, and the administration. The project aimed at contributing to the overall competitiveness and success *Continued on page 15*



Arts & Letters Grand Alumni Homecoming... from page 14

with and be involved in the Faculty's progress.

Following Father George's opening remarks, the Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Letters, Atty. Jacqueline L. Kaw, DCL, took the stage to extend heartfelt welcoming remarks. Dean Kaw expressed her deep appreciation for the contributions of the alumni to society, and highlighted the college's commitment to academic excellence and holistic education. She emphasized the significance of their achievements in various fields, acknowledging their positive impact on the community.

Adding to the inspirational atmosphere, the Rector of UST, Very Rev. Fr. Richard G. Ang, O.P., delivered a moving message to the attendees. He spoke passionately about the rich heritage and values of UST, emphasizing the importance of the AB alumni in upholding it. He commended their commitment to lifelong learning, ethical leadership, and service to society. Fr. Ang encouraged the alumni to continue making a difference in their respective fields, instilling a sense of purpose and responsibility among the attendees.

The event not only brought together Philets and Artlets alumni to celebrate cherished memories, but also highlighted the impact of its legacy projects spearheaded by Dean Henry Tenedero, the president of the Philets and Artlets Alumni Association. These legacy projects are aimed at giving back to and creating a lasting impression on the community. These initiatives include scholarships for deserving AB students, the establishment of mentorship programs, and the enhancement of AB facilities and resources. Through these endeavors, Dean Tenedero hopes to foster a culture of philanthropy and support, ensuring that future generations of AB students have access to quality education and resources.

Dean Tenedero also closed the event with an inspirational message about Life Skills for Life Success, emphasizing the importance of nurturing the compassionate heart (EQ) and not just the thinking mind (IQ), as well as enhancing essential or soft skills, not just academic skills.

The UST AB Grand Alumni Homecoming 2023 was not merely a reunion; it was a celebration of the Artlets spirit, resilience, and lifelong camaraderie. As alumni bid farewell to each other, they carried with them a renewed sense of pride in their alma mater and a commitment to continue making a positive impact in their respective fields. The event served as a reminder that the AB community remains a tight-knit family, united by shared experiences and a passion for excellence.

THE AB LEGACY PROJECT from page 14

of Artlets graduates through the identification of Core Leadership competencies within the context of a volatile, uncertain, competitive, and ambiguous (VUCA) world.

Oscar Picazo, Economics Batch 1978, oriented the alumni on "Adopt-An-Artlets" Scholarship fund that offers aid for the financially-challenged. He encouraged the alumni to support the project so that deserving students may continue to benefit from the UST-AB quality of education.

Cecilio Adorna from Batch 1973 talked about Global Education Leadership, discussing programs that enhance the leadership abilities of individuals through education, and how this can inspire more students of the coming generation to allow themselves to be the leaders they can be.

THE POWER OF SYNERGY... from page 14



From left: Chito Maniago, Toots Ople, Lito Villanueva Jeff Espiritu, Samantha Camitan, and Reiner Yabra.

to keep their feet firmly on the ground despite these successes. Mr. Chito Maniago also shared a story that during his college years, as student council president, he worked with his co-officers from various rival student political parties and they remained the best of friends until this very day.

The event was hosted by four accomplished alumnus from various batches, Kathryn Caday from the Department of Tourism, former ABS-CBN News Reporter Jasfer Pamintuan, Host Extraordinaire Daniella Frigillana and Joanna Manrique from the Manila Hotel.

The Power of Synergy talk certainly rekindled memories and warmed our hearts again. It emphasized the fact that being a



The participants of the Power of Synergy with their certificates of appreciation.

Philets or an Artlets is not confined within the campus, but should be held deep in our hearts as it will forever be significant in our life journey. Blue and white are not just the colors of the uniform, but a symbol of the values imbibed, the knowledge we have been filled with, and the skills and talents that we have developed through our stay in the AB classrooms.

- **Erica Lei A. Mangiliman**, alumni-in-residence, Legal Management; **Gillian Daphne M. del Rosario**, Alumni-in-residence, Sociology

FEATURED THOMASIAN... from page 16

April 2, 2020. The hospital, a level 2 100-bed capacity hospital, is located in General Santos City. Truly a woman with a heart and passion in serving the healthcare needs of the community, Carmela is now its Chief Operations Officer.

Carmela and Wilfredo are blessed with two children. The elder is Margaret, an Industrial Engineering graduate from the De La Salle University, now Carmela's assistant in running their businesses. The

younger one, Wilfredo Aldwin, graduated Bachelor of Science in Medicine from De La Salle University, magna cum laude and Top 8 in the graduating class. He is presently a Post Graduate Intern at the Philippine General Hospital.

Ms. Maria Carmela Royeca is one example of a hardworking and successful businesswoman who was able to balance family and her busy life managing work and community engagements.



FEATURED THOMASIAN:

MARIA CARMELA M. ROYECA

Ms. Maria Carmela M. Royeca is the inaugural president of the UST SOCCSKSARGEN Alumni Chapter. Along with the other officers, she was inducted into office by Fr. Herminio Dagohoy, OP, Rector of the University. She became the Reina de Virgenes in the first UST Alumni Santacruzán, in 2019. She is also one of the founding members of the Thomasian Alumni Community Foundation (TACFI) and presently the Assistant PRO of the UST Alumni Association, Inc.

Carmela graduated elementary as valedictorian and high school as salutatorian from Notre Dame of Siena, Polomolok, South Cotabato. She finished AB Communication Arts from UST, March 1989, while working part time as cashier at Jollibee Cubao Araneta branch. After 2 years in the Corporate World - Asian Oceanic Securities Inc. Makati as Executive Assistant and Filsov Shipping Company as Account Executive - she decided to go home to her province in General Santos City to work in their family woodworking and furniture business - Sultan Wood. After a year, she met businessman Wilfredo Tamayo Royeca and tied the knot on June 9, 1992. After a year as married couple, they started their Rolee Bake Shop first branch in General Santos City. It was not surprising that they would venture into this business because her husband's parents had been in the bakery business since 1969. Through patience and hard work, they slowly expanded their branches in the neighboring towns and cities, even up to Davao and Puerto Princesa, Palawan.



In 2005, while they were expanding their outlets, Ms. Carmela decided to take Masters in Entrepreneurship at the Asian Institute of

Management to hone her skills and widen her knowledge in business principles. Taking the challenge of motherhood and a student, she was going back and forth from Manila to GenSan every other week to see her family. And when she was in the province, she made sure that she applied her learnings to their stores.

In 2012, they diversified into the hotel business - Hotel San Marco, General Santos City, a 28-room Italian boutique hotel. A second branch was opened in October 2022, in Davao City, a 36-room boutique hotel, with the same Italian concept.

Carmela also is one of the founders and a member of the Board of Directors of Sarangani Bay Specialists Medical Center, Inc., which opened during the pandemic, on

Continued on page 15

EDITORIAL BOARD 2023

ATTY. DWIGHT HILARION RAMOS
Editor-in-Chief, Juris Doctor, 1990

JOY VIRAY-GATMAYTAN
Editor, AB Translations, 1980

MICHAEL ANGELO E. MALICSI
News/Feature Editor, BSE 2002

MARISSA PE-YANG
Circulation Manager, BFA Advertising, 1981

ATTY. MARIZ MANALO
Ad and Promo Manager, Juris Doctor, 1995

MAUREEN MOCKY BOLLOZOS-PICKERING
Editorial Consultant, BS HRM, 1988

JUSTICE RONALD MORENO
Legal Adviser

FR. POMPEYO DE MESA, OP
Adviser

KAYE BUNDANG
Executive Assistant, ITCGAPT, 2002

BONG BUNDANG
Layout Artist

ANA MARIE O. FERNANDEZ
Chief of Staff, Secretariat

JONATHAN PERAN
VP for Public Presence