



USTEAA Newsletter

September 2013

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From the Editor's Desk: Our Scholars Speak

By Evelyn J. Masaoy, ChE '63

At the end of School Year 2012 - 2013, the Scholarship Committee headed by our Co - President Cita Tibay, received emails from our current scholars. Their grateful messages will surely warm the hearts of the officers, members friends and benefactors of the USTEAA(USA).

Here are excerpts from those messages.

February 18, 2013
Greetings!

In a few weeks' time, this semester will come to its end. I can say that my knowledge about civil engineering is continuously growing and I am more than excited to learn more things about my field.

Last February 13, we, the USTEAA(USA) scholars, were invited to meet Engr. Gemma Reich when she visited the campus. Together with my fellow scholars we joined Engr. Reich, Dean Marcelo, Fr. Luanzon and some faculty members for lunch.

This week, we celebrated Engineering Week. One of the highlights was the recognition of students and professors. I received two certificates, one of which came as a surprise to us scholars, since we did not expect to receive a certificate of appreciation for being a recipient of the USTEAA(USA) Scholarship. The other certificate is recognition for being in the Top 5 of the Dean's List. A medal was also awarded to me.

Once again, I would like to extend my sincerest gratitude and appreciation for giving me the opportunity to be one of your scholars. I promise to do my best this semester and not waste what you have entrusted to me. Good Day and God Bless!

Newsletter Staff

Evelyn Masaoy – Editor-in-Chief
Gemma Reich – Associate Editor &
Producer

Respectfully yours,
Aldous Regin M. Respicio
4th Year, BS Civil Engineering
UST Faculty of Engineering

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March 13, 2013

A warm Thomasian greeting to all!

It has been ten semesters since I found the USTEAA(USA) notice posted on one of the pillars outside the Roque Roaño Building. Since then, my life changed drastically. I had no clue that I would find the most wonderful gift printed on that piece of paper. I could not have asked for a more wonderful blessing. Through the course of my study, you have provided not only my financial needs but also gave me support through Mr. Les Mariano, my mentor, when I was about to lose faith in myself.

I could not have made it this far without my USTEAA Family. Therefore I believe that it is not going to be "my" graduation alone, I think it is more of "yours" too. It is "ours".

My certificate of grades from the Dean's Office shows that my average for this semester is 1.6625 and I will be graduating on April 4, 2013 with a general weighted average of 1.849. Right now, I am reviewing for the November board examinations.

USTEAA(USA) is very much part of my past, my present and, hopefully if chances permit, my future. My family, especially my mother, would like to extend our gratitude to the USTEAA Family. I would like to thank you so very much for your support and for having faith in me. Thank you for making my dreams a reality. I hope that you will continue to help more future Thomasian engineers reach their goals. Thank you very very much and God bless USTEAA(USA)!

Sincerely yours,

Mary Grace Lim Casuncad

USTEAA, USA Scholar

5th year Civil Engineering Student

UST Faculty of Engineering

You probably remember the Engineering student to whom we sent a one-time Christmas gift to help out with his tuition fee at a time when the family was in dire need. Do you remember that we skipped the usual practice of exchanging gifts and collected money instead so we could pay for his tuition fee?

Last December 2012, he took his oath to become a Professional Chemical Engineer.

December 23, 2012

Good day po.

Thank you so much po for helping me realize my dream. You were the first ones to extend help to me and to my family and that meant so much to us. We are truly grateful. Maraming, maraming salamat po and may God bless you and the whole USTEAA.

Dax Bigornia

And now on our 18th year, the USTEAA(USA) continues to "help change the world, one brilliant Thomasian Engineer at a time!" ■

"Learn what is true in order to do what is right." - Thomas Huxley





USTEAA Annual Picnic 2013

By Jocelyn Mijares-Jalijali, ChE '65

June 22, 2013 turned out to be a most gorgeous day for a picnic. The weather was to perfection: sunny, cool, and dry, like it was made to order. For the third consecutive year, the picnic was held in Iselin's Merrill Park, Pavilion C. This venue has become the clear favorite because of the conveniences of electrical outlets, water fountain and rest rooms with running water just across the picnic pavilion. In addition to the roof over the pavilion, there are shade trees all around. This venue is a popular place for many picnickers that to secure our spot, Kim Reich had to be at the park's office on the first business day of January to make the reservation and pay the fees.

Rick Bisda, acting as this year's picnic chairperson, did a great job organizing the picnic which made an already perfect day even better.

True to picnic tradition, USTEAA members and some guests came bearing food to add to the picnic feast. Three picnic tables were quickly filled with a huge assortment of food and desserts. The lechon this year was extra crisp, tender and tasty and already pre-chopped, thanks to the generosity of Kathy and Joey Lozada, and Boy Tabije. Flor Cariaga was Bacchus god, supplying the wine and beer.

Speaking of generosity, Estela Pelayo donated a generous check, a portion of her commission acting as travel agent for some USTEAA-sponsored trips; Alice Coco donated half of her 50/50 cash prize, and Evelyn Masaoy donated a portion of her book sale proceeds. The USTEAA Scholarship Fund is a bit richer after the picnic.

The picnic formally opened with an invocation led by Evelyn Jara-Masaoy. There was music set up by Ray Zipagan. The games were led by Evelyn Masaoy; ladies team vs. men's team, UST style.

Some things never change! Cita and Dick Tibay manned the registration desk. Carrie Goze and Nini Pineda-Mariano went around selling 50/50 tickets. Numerous door prizes were donated by Jocelyn Mijares-Jalijali.

Grandchildren were running all over the place. Their presence was heartwarming. Those who were not able to bring their grandchildren to the picnic had photos to share. There were different groups of old and new friends huddled together, intently sharing stories or just catching up with what's new. Of course, all of these activities were documented pictorially by our ever-ready photographer, Bong Alcid. Check out our website to view the photos.

There were familiar folks who could not make it to the picnic, but new faces somewhat made

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up for their absence. We warmly welcomed the first-time attendees, Val Panganiban (ME'77), Jun Cuevo (ECE '78), Tad Tandoc (IE '91), and John Young (EIE '76).

Through Cita's invitation, Efren Terrible and his wife flew in from Southern California to join the picnic. Pat Villaruel acted as their guide. It was also a pleasure to once again see Avec and Ron Zipagan from Massachusetts.

Instead of the usual election of officers, the picnic highlight was finding volunteer officers for the calendar years 2014 and 2015. The roster of officers was quickly filled with members ready and able to move the USTEAA (USA) forward. With the willingness of many members to act as officers, we can now be assured that our beloved association will be here to stay for years to come. Please see the list of Volunteer Officers below.

The picnic ended with everyone wearing ear-to-ear smiles on their faces. Tummies were full, and there were doggy bags to go around. It was a day worth remembering. Till next year!! ■

"Let us be grateful to people who make us happy, they are the charming gardeners who make our souls bloom." - Marcel Proust

VOLUNTEER OFFICERS FOR 2014 & 2015

Co-Presidents:	Joey Lozada, Constante Palad & Ray Zipagan
Vice-Presidents:	Bhoie Lopez, Rosanne Silvino & Eljay Munding
Secretary:	Evelyn Masaoy
Asst. Secretary:	Marilen Eusebio
Treasurer:	Carrie Goze
Asst. Treasurer:	Alice Tolentino-Coco
Auditor:	Fe Maximo
Asst. Auditor:	John Young & Tad Tandoc
PRO:	Jun Cuevo, Jr., Kathy Lozada, Estela Pelayo & Karl Young



Featured Alumnus: Nitoy Canete

Featured Member: Juanito Canete, ChE '63

By Gregorio 'Bong' Alcid, ChE '63

Half a century ago at UST, Espana, Manila... The engineering graduates of Class 1963 marched to receive their diplomas. Among the several hundred graduates was a young man named Juanito "Nitoy" Canete. Like most of his co- graduates he was ready to face the world as an engineer. Much has happened between then and now.

This year 2013, we are honoring the graduates of Class 1963 after fifty long and fruitful years.

This year's Golden Jubilarians have a very special bond with USTEAA(USA). In 1994, Nitoy, together with Dan de Guzman, Bong Alcid and Mar Arquero decided to organize social and fun-filled activities which brought together their co-graduates. This became an annual event which, in 1997, led to the formation of the association which we now know as the USTEAA(USA). Nitoy served as its first elected Vice President for 1998 -1999, then consequently elected President for 2000 - 2001.

Nitoy was born in Cainta, Rizal, Philippines. His education started at the Cainta Elementary school where he graduated with flying colors as "first honorable mention". He received his high school diploma as "valedictorian" from Pasig Catholic College. He then enrolled at the Faculty of Engineering, University of Santo Tomas, Manila, where he became an active member of the Kappa-Kappa Fraternity. In 1963, after five years of tedious academic work, he received his degree of Bachelor of Science in Chemical Engineering. He took and passed the board examinations for chemical engineers and was sworn in on January 1964.

In the Philippines he was employed at Puyat Steel, Inc., La Tondena, Inc., and Singer Industries, Inc.

In 1966, Nitoy joined the "Brain Drain" or the exodus of engineers from the Philippines to the United States. His Chemical Engineering degree from our prestigious university, together with his work experiences in the Philippines , enabled him to land a job at the R&D facilities of Geigy Chemical Corporation in New York.

Nitoy worked for 37 years in various chemical companies namely, Mobil Chemical Corp., Hatco Chemical Division (W.R. Grace & Co.), Syncon Resins, Inc., Shielding Technologies, and Reichhold, Inc. Most of his responsibilities were in the laboratories and process departments.

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Nitoy is married to Cora Javier-Canete, RN. Their union is blessed with two boys. The older son, Jonathan, is a general surgeon/colorectal surgeon and assistant professor of surgery at the Albany Medical Center. He is also with the Albany VA hospital. He is married to Nora Szeto, a pediatrician. The couple is blessed with two girls Joia and Kimi. Their younger son, Christopher "Jay" is a business major, working as a sales executive for Box.com. He is married to Ching Sabili a medical technologist.

Nitoy retired from Reichhold, Inc. in 2004 after 20 ½ years of employment. His retirement is spent with his wife. Together, they visit their children and grandchildren, or indulge in various sports such as bocci, bowling and golf. Every Monday he works as volunteer at the Ocean Medical Center. He lives with his wife at the Renaissance Adult Community, Manchester, New Jersey.

Nitoy is a most valuable active member of the USTEAA (USA). Having been the first Vice President of the association, the succeeding officers look up to him for guidance, advice and help in many aspects of the association's activities. His faithfulness to USTEAA is beyond reproach. Through emails, he is always available for advice even when he is out of the country.

We laud Nitoy for being the dedicated husband, father and grandfather to his family and for his dedicated service to the USTEAA(USA). ■

"I don't want my life to be defined by what is etched on a tombstone. I want it to be defined in what is etched in the lives and hearts of those I've touched." - Steve Maraboli - Life, the Truth and Being Free



The above article is by Bong Alcid, ChE '63

Current USTEAA (USA) Scholars

Mary Grace Casuncad
2013

BSCE, graduated April

Aldous Regín Resnicio

5th yr CE (Courtesy of Angelina





USTEAA Membership Strong and Growing

By Benedict Tibay, ChE '76

Who says USTEAA (USA) is a group of mostly old and retired alumni? Guess what? We just signed-up four new members. One of them is my classmate, John Young - EIE '76. Then we have Val Panganiban – ME '77, Jun Cuevo Jr. – ECE '78, and Tad Tandoc – IE '91. Let us welcome our new members and encourage more alumni to join.

The Membership Committee's campaign for 2012 and 2013 membership renewal was successfully executed through a mailed-in letter of appeal to its members. It brought in \$2,275 and \$1,275 to our coffers for the calendar years 2012 and 2013, respectively. Our 2012 campaign is larger than 2013 because we offered an optional two-year membership plan and many of our members opted to pay the two-year plan.

So far, we have 65 paid active members. There are still a few active members who need to send their membership dues. We also have a number of lifetime members who made a one-time payment many years ago and are exempted from paying the yearly dues.

USTEAA (USA) continues to be active primarily due to the loyal support of its members and the tireless work of its officers and committee chairs. Thank you for all your contributions and support to the association. ■

"The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others." - Mahatma Gandhi

Keep your contact information current

*Send any changes in your postal
or email address to
webmaster@usteaa.org*

*For previous editions of the USTEAA (USA) Newsletter
and photos of USTEAA (USA) activities,
visit our website at usteaa.org*



Making a Difference in the Community

By Evelyn J. Masaoy, ChE '63

Event: USTEAA (USA) Annual Community Service - 2013

Volunteers Present: Cita Tibay, Dick Tibay, Eljay Mundin, Feli Izar, Carrie Goze,
Alice Francisco, Rosanne Silvino, Kiara Masaoy, Jayna Masaoy & Evelyn Masaoy

Venue: New Jersey Community Food Bank, Hillside, NJ

For the first time in many years of USTEAA community service events, the day was sunny, breezy and simply weather-perfect. There were no pools of water around the facility, nor any signs of the unpleasant weather which seemed to be the norm during our previous volunteer work schedules. This time we were brought to a section of the NJCFB where we have never been before. It was the "Kids Section". Although there was much work to be done, it was not a back-breaking kind. We sorted out school supplies and kids' stuff.

As in years past, the volunteers took satisfaction in knowing that in some small measure we have made a difference in the lives of some folks in need. When the work was done, the personnel-in-charge at the Food Bank expressed her sincere gratitude to the volunteers. We all came away feeling good; we had enjoyed ourselves while also giving back to the community.

Hungry but not exhausted, we gathered for a short luncheon meeting at Koki Buffet, Union, NJ, with Mel and Ray Zipagan joining in. At lunch we discussed the forthcoming activities of the association.

April 27, 2013, was a productive day indeed ... a day when helping hands went to work!

We urge you join us next year. We need your helping hands and a bit of your time. ■

"No one is useless in this world who lightens the burdens of another." - Charles Dickens





Christmas Party & Raffle Drawing

Gemma Galeon-Reich, ChE '73

Last year, USTEAA's holiday celebration came early in December, coming in the heels of Thanksgiving and barely a month after the distressing visit by super-storm Sandy. The early date was a deliberate decision by the co-presidents, who were mindful of the tough times - financial, weather and otherwise - that members endured in 2012. We deserved some time to be with good friends, family and associates in celebrating the Christmas season and reflecting on the year's blessings and challenges.

So on Sunday, December 2, 2012, USTEAA (USA) members gathered for our annual Christmas Party luncheon at the Picnic Garden Korean BBQ Buffet in Edison, New Jersey. Organized by the USTEAA Fundraising Committee, the luncheon included a 50/50 Raffle Drawing. In recognition of the economic times, the raffle served as the only major fundraising event of the year.

Unlike the typical buffet, this Korean BBQ provided a portable grill at each table and a large selection of uncooked meats and vegetables, sauces for our own mixing, as well as some pre-cooked food options. Servers come by frequently to help cut up and grill our choices, and bring soup and drinks upon request. Members had a wonderful time picking out, grilling and enjoying the mouthwatering, delicious food, as well as catching up on each other's news. The restaurant had an assortment of desserts, but we all thoroughly enjoyed the cake that Jocelyn Jalijali brought for the occasion.

There were three raffle winners, splitting the \$1814.18 prize equally among them. Jim Vicente and John Young are two new very lucky members who each won. We thank the third winner, Myrna Lagman-Carreon, who generously donated half of her winnings to the USTEAA Scholarship Fund.

Special mention to the following:

- Alice Tolentino Coco for helping file the application for license, among other things
- Carrie Goze our meticulous and able Treasurer, who not only collected payments but also kept track of all the ticket numbers received
- Nitoy Canete our long-time advisor and off-premise 50/50 raffle expert
- Rick Bisda, Ray Zipagan, and Les Mariano who conducted the raffle drawing
- And last but not least, Bong Alcid for documenting the raffle drawing operation through photography

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We thank all our members, family and friends who helped make this fundraiser a success. We appreciate your untiring support of the USTEAA (USA).

To the guests who came to our Christmas Party/Raffle Drawing last December 2, 2012, thank you for making the occasion a heart-warming and fun-filled one. ■

"It is far better to grasp the universe as it really is than to persist in delusion, however satisfying and reassuring." - Carl Sagan

