



USTEAA Newsletter

September 2014

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From the Editor's Desk: A Potpourri of Gifts and Goodwill

By Evelyn J. Masaoy, ChE '63

Between September 2013 and August 2014, USTEAA got involved in numerous activities, most of which were a sharing of gifts and goodwill.

On September 21, 2013, during the induction of the three gentlemen volunteer co-presidents and other officers, Bong Alcid, Ch.E. Class '63, came up with the brilliant idea of honoring the UST Engineering Golden and Silver Jubilarians. Twenty members of Class '63 and a lone member of ECE '88 (Rosanne M. Silvino, one of our co-Vice-Presidents) came to this precedent-setting event which was highlighted by having Puring Fernandez Romualdo, Ch.E. '63, as the principal speaker.

We look forward to honoring the Golden and Silver Jubilarians during each of our forthcoming annual dinners.

Then, November came. Remember catastrophic Haiyan? USTEAA flexed her muscles to collect donations for the typhoon victims in the Philippines. Donations came pouring in, not only from our very generous members, but also from strangers and unexpected sources. Ali Hameed, a high school kid gave his savings of \$100; a retired friend Connie Tolentino gave \$2000, among others. Total donations amounted to \$5390.00. This was coursed thru the St. Francis Children's Foundation in California, a non-profit organization run by a USTEAA member, Emilia O'laco Serrano, Ch.E. '75, who in turn personally sent the donations to Rev. Fr. Neil Tenafrancia of the Archdiocese of Borongan, East Samar. Thereafter, we received numerous hand-written and hand drawn thank you notes from the recipients.

On Jan. 4, 2014, at the Christmas / New Year luncheon, the reigns of the USTEAA were handed over to the new set of volunteer officers.

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Newsletter Staff

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

On May 3, 2014, the annual service at the NJ Community Food Bank was attended by 10 members, and 4 friends. We folded hundreds of thousands of NJCFB Newsletters and fundraising letters, and had them ready for mailing. The work was light, but the most needed gift of helping hands was what we offered.

Just as we have shared with others, so others have shared with us. During the year, unsolicited special donations ... coming from generous hearts ... were received. Most of them came from unexpected donors who "came to us bearing gifts and goodwill to all men". Our Scholarship Fund became richer with donations from Estela Pelayo, a former faculty member; Dante & Epifania L. Cantal, M.E. '77 & Ch.E. '76, respectively; Julia M. Guerrero, Ch.E. '76, Jose L. Jorda, Ch.E. '68, Bong Alcid, Ch.E. '63 and Arturo Bermudez, M.E. '66.

Angelina Bigornia Hunter, Ch.E. '72, whose 5-year scholarship grant to Aldous Regin Respicio culminated with the latter's graduation, B.S.C.E. Cum Laude, has unselfishly committed to another 5-year grant for another scholar.

The year of generosity, of gifts and donations, was fittingly capped with the annual potluck picnic attended by a happy bunch of more than 50 joyful members, families and friends. Thanks to Alice T. Coco, Ch. E. '69 for keeping it organized.

And so ... USTEAA (USA) marches on ... and through its Scholarship Program ... kept alive by a potpourri of gifts and goodwill ... keeps changing the world, one scholar at a time! ■

"The pessimist complains about the wind; the optimist expects it to change; the realist adjusts the sails." - William Arthur Ward



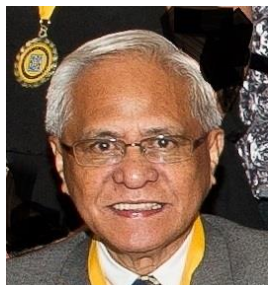
THE JUBILARIANS: The Golden Goldies and a Silver One

Front: Bong Alcid, Pol Villanueva, Raul Villanueva, Nitoy Canete, Deo Tantay, Danny Henson, Bayani Pahati

Back: Jun Cabrera, Ex Santillan, Rene Ricafort, Nympha Serapio-Alama, Rosanne Masoy-Silvino (Silver Jubilarian), Aurora Aganon-Schminske, Ito Cancio, Tessie Syquia-Gallahue, Puring Fernandez-Romualdo, Evelyn Jara-Masaoy, Roly Catfis, Nancy Ventura -Garcia, and Danny de Guzman.

Not in the Picture: Loloy Romualdo

Attended the luncheon at Nitoy's the next day: Benny Santiago, Mar Arquero and Dante Tinitigan



A UST Reminiscence Chemical Engineering Class of 1963

By Apolonio L. Villanueva III P.E., ChE '63
2013 Golden Jubilarian

As a senior chemical engineering student back in 1963, I never imagined I would be attending two separate events celebrating a major milestone of an engineering career - the 50 year anniversary of my college graduation from my beloved Alma Mater, the University of Santo Tomas Faculty of Engineering.

You see back then, as a final hurdle of a 5-year Chemical Engineering course, the senior class had to undergo a rigid and stressful review of the curriculum, all compressed in a time frame of a couple of months in the summer of 1963. The famously called Integration Course was a prerequisite to a June graduation and subsequent admittance to the government Licensure Board Exam. Failing the Integration Course meant no diploma and the five years of educational endurance and sacrifices all will come to naught. There was no way out but to buckle down to it - and pray hard that the cut-off threshold favored the inclusion of one's name to graduate. When the list of successful candidates was finally published, I exhaled the deepest and yelled the biggest "yes!" in total relief - very grateful indeed for realizing that a dream had come true. Confident that with the diploma received, the ticket of a lifetime's travel in the engineering world was safely tucked under my belt. Emboldened by successfully passing the Philippine Licensure Board Exam and the US Professional Engineering Exam (Illinois), I confidently faced the world with its challenges.

It was 48 years later, at the Quadricentennial Celebration - the 400 years founding anniversary of UST in January of 2011 - that I found myself at the campus of UST again. I found myself asking: can I still recognize some of my classmates if I meet them and would they recognize me? Would we still look the same? Would it matter at all to know that some became wealthy businessmen or tycoon owners of conglomerates?

As I spent my first day walking around the UST campus, I saw new buildings and constructions, but a similar multitude of students promenading along the twin fountains and the 'Arch de Triumph' at the España Gate. A feeling of nostalgia enveloped my whole being while visiting the Main Building, the Chapel of Nuestra Senora del Rosario, the Grandstand where I spent 4 semesters as ROTC cadet officer. At the Main Building's massive stairway leading to the museum, I wondered how its sturdiness, beauty and longevity still fondly beckon us alumni after all these years. At the second floor, I imagined myself in queue in front of the grilled rows of windows for registration and payment of tuition fees.

The urge to visit the Engineering building became irresistible. With my wife and sister in tow, I entered the familiar glass doors of the Building. I went straight ahead towards the Dean's office only to realize that it has been converted into a small chapel. There, I spent a few minutes of

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recollection and thanksgiving. I continued looking around. Near the back fence, along the former Forbes Ave., the canteens and stores were gone, replaced by new buildings. On the second floor, I walked the hallway towards what had been the Drawing Room, expecting to see the library and various classrooms. I saw, instead, cubicles of offices with the sign "The Dean's Office". I knocked on the door and went inside. I met a youthful handsome gentleman - Dean Josefin S. de Alban, Jr. I introduced myself as a graduate of Ch.E Class of 1963. As excited as I was, I asked rapid fire questions about our former professors. Are they still around? - Fr. de Juan, OP, Jose Inocencio, F. Ty-Hoanchay, M. Natividad, Tronqued, Mijares, Ignacio, Evangelista, de Guzman, Valencia and others. His bewildered look indicated the obvious response.

Witnessing the final magnificent festivities of the Quadricentennial celebration that evening, the pontifical solemn mass attended by close to a million alumni and students at the grandstand, the colorful pageantry, the sumptuous dinner, the resplendent lights all over the branches of the manicured trees, and the awesome fireworks, I was mesmerized. In my life, I had never felt as exceedingly proud of being a UST alumnus as I did that night. From that point on I made a personal commitment to look forward to attend the celebrations of my golden jubilee milestone as a grateful manifestation of affection to my Alma Mater and as a fitting conclusion of a professional career.

Fast forward to year 2013. Two memorable celebrations: the February 16, 2013 "Eng-Gahling 2013" Homecoming Annual Grand Reunion at the UST campus in Manila and the September 21, 2013 Dinner Dance Gala held and hosted by the UST Engineering Alumni Association(USA) at the Ramada Plaza Hotel in Newark, NJ filled me with great joy and anticipation.

I met close to three dozen classmates out of about 130 original class members. During both festivities, I kept re-introducing myself to most of them, and they to me, for obvious reasons. It was surreal to see familiar but slightly faded images of these once youthful engineering classmates from more than half a century ago (1958 -63). I saw the faint semblance of previously recognized faces now showing signs of the passing years; familiar faces and voices honed by the challenges of living a career in a competitive world. I heard their stories of joy raising families and their children's successes in life. I came to know, for the first time, of classmates who have passed on to the other life, prayerfully enjoying their heavenly rewards. One thing was certain though. I noticed we had mellowed, preferring to talk softly about our interests like travel, civic participation, favorite charities, and our hobbies like writing, photography, painting, gardening. Except for the introduction of special guest speaker who happened to be one of our very successful female classmates, I heard no one boasting about individual professional achievement or attainment. Mostly retired now, we have grown to simply become doting grandparents, savoring a lifetime well lived!

As I bid adieu at that gala evening in Newark, I sensed that the probability of us attending future milestone celebrations is growing slim. Realizing this, I must confess for the first time, as my wife and I were going to our hotel room, I felt tearfully sentimental. I thanked the Lord for the opportunity to be with my classmates and to see them once again face to face even for only a brief moment of camaraderie that rekindled priceless memories. The decision to attend the golden jubilee Reunions was well worth it!

We are all grateful to be tagged the "Proud Thomasian Engineers"! The excellent education we received, the Aquinas culture inculcated in our hearts and minds, the amazing and unending grace brought forth by the Dominican spirituality, have sustained all alumni of this Pontifical University. It has surely made our individual life's travel easier, very satisfying and fruitful indeed! ■

"We do not remember days, we remember moments." - Cesare Pavese



USTEAA (USA) Dinner-Dance and Induction of Officers, September 21, 2013

Front Row: Jun Cuevo Jr, Bhoie Lopez, Ric Bisda, Deo Tantay, Les Mariano, Pol Villanueva, Danny Henson, Raul Villanueva, Jun Cabrera, Bong Alcid

Middle Row seated: Fe Maximo, Nini Mariano, Jocelyn Jalijali, Puring Romualdo, Tessie Gallahue, Evelyn Masaoy, Aurora Schminske, Nympha Alama, Nancy Garcia

Back Row: Tante Palad, Ray Zipagan, Dick Tibay, Marilen Eusebio, Unidentified, Cita Tibay, Estela Pelayo, Flor Cariaga, Roly Catiis, Karl Yang, Bayani Pahati, Ex Santillan, Loloy Romualdo, Alice Coco, Ito Cancio, Kim Reich, Roseanne Silvino, Alice Francisco, Rene Ricafort, Pat Villaruel



USTEAA (USA) Membership Update

By Benedict Tibay, ChE '76

The Membership Committee's campaign for 2014 membership renewal was successfully executed through e-mail and then followed by mailed-in letter of appeal to its members. A total of 66 members renewed their membership for 2014. We offered an optional two-year membership plan again this year and 7 of our members opted to pay the two-year plan. A total amount of \$1,825 was collected from our membership drive.

USTEAA (USA) today is still active, , primarily due to the loyal support of its members and the relentless work of its officers and committee chairs. Thank you for all your contributions and support to the association.

"Nothing in life is to be feared, it is only to be understood. Now is the time to understand more, so that we may fear less." - Marie Curie

*MEMBERS: 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***



USTEAA Continues to Support Scholars

By Cita Marzan-Tibay, ChE '76

This year, USTEAA (USA) awarded a new 5-year scholarship grant to Jacinda Ira M. Capati, chosen among five (5) semi-finalists who applied for this grant. With a GPA of 1.727, Ms. Capati is a Dean's lister and actively involved in extra-curricular activities, where she is a member of the CHE Quiz Team representing UST for the inter-university competitions and the Chemical Engineering Society.

Because of the unwavering financial support and generosity of its members, the Association will be able continue its work in helping more smart but financially handicapped students fulfill their dreams to become Thomasian Engineers.

These are what some of our scholars has said about USTEAA (USA) -

"Truly, I feel very much blessed to be chosen as the recipient of this scholarship. You became an instrument for me to pursue my studies, to reach my dreams, and to become successful in my chosen field. Most especially, this will really be a big help to my parents. I salute you for helping students like me who are financially disabled. I wish you could help more students in the future who also have great dreams. I will do my best to maintain this scholarship so everything will be worth it. Again, thank you for awarding me this kind of opportunity." - **Jazinda Ira M. Capati, Ch.E, 2013-2018**

"It has been more than 3 years since I have been chosen as an USTEAA scholar, and I am still very grateful for this opportunity. 8 semesters of nonstop hard work have passed and I am just so happy that I am now closer to reaching my chosen career. I am very thankful in the association for always believing in me no matter what, and it fuels me to strive more. As they say, fourth year is the hardest year in civil engineering program, and I can now proudly say that I have surpassed these 2 semesters in spite of that." - **Elaiza Marie Atienza Bernardo, C.E., 2010-2015**

"I would like to tell you that USTEAA-USA is one of the reasons why I made it this far. April 3, 2014 marked one of the best days of my life. I am very proud that out of 1200+ graduates I am one of those who will graduate with honors. This award is a proof of never giving up despite the hardships and sacrifices. I want to thank you for everything that you have given me. For the opportunity, and most importantly for the trust and for believing that I can do it. I hope I was able to fulfill it and was able to make you all proud." - **Aldous Regin M. Respicio, C.E. graduated 2014**

"Thank you very much for all the support and prayers. God has worked wonders in my life and having the USTEAA Family throughout this journey is but one of the best gifts I have received from Him. My journey as a student will not end here for I have learned from my mentors and professors that learning is an unending process. I am glad that I have USTEAA Family as a guiding light. I could not have had a better second family. From the bottom of my heart I am very, very thankful. My family especially my mother who cried upon the news of the recent board exams, more than anyone will be eternally grateful." - **Mary Grace Lim Casuncad, USTEAA Scholar 2008-2013, Professional Civil Engineer**

We are indeed very proud of our scholars! ■

"Success is to be measured not so much by the position that one has reached in life as by the obstacles which one has overcome." - **Booker T. Washington**

Current USTEAA (USA) Scholars

Aldous Regin Respicio BSCE, graduated 2014
(Courtesy of Angelina Bigornia Hunter)

Elaiza Marie Bernardo 5th yr CE

Jacinda Ira Capati 2nd yr ChE



USTEAA (USA) 2013 Financial Statement

Prepared by Carrie B. Goze, ChE '65

Unavailable online



Members Travel to Help Fund Scholars

Kim Galeon-Reich, ChE '73

The travel bug has definitely caught a growing number of USTEAA (USA) members and friends. Unlike other bugs, this one leaves those who succumb to it with gigabytes of photos, memories of remarkable places, new and continuing friendships, and a renewed appreciation of the world.

Such was the experience of the 32 travelers who went on the recent USTEAA fund-raising travel event to Greece last June 11-22, 2014. I was lucky enough to be able to join 31 colleagues from Canada, California, Arizona, and the New Jersey/New York area for an exciting cruise of select Greek islands, followed by a land tour of the Peloponnese and portions of mainland Greece.

As the cradle of our western civilization, Greece is endlessly fascinating. Places and events that we've only encountered in travel magazines or in history and literature books came to life as we visited each of our itinerary stops. We admired the Parthenon as we walked the Acropolis, climbed the sacred way in Delphi, pretended to conduct a race at ancient Olympia. We marveled at the dizzying heights in Meteora, and were surprised at how advanced the Minoan civilization in Crete was for their time.

As a travel destination, Greece is stunningly beautiful. We watched the breathtaking sunset at Oia in Santorini, braved a climb to the top of the volcanic crater in Nea Kameni, marveled at the distinctive blue of the Aegean Sea. We visited a traditional Greek icon painting workshop, explored the winding alleyways of Mykonos, enjoyed Greek food, sampled Greek wine and olive oils, and shopped for jewelry and mementos every chance we got, including at the Plaka in Athens. All the while we were forming friendships and enjoying experiences that fellow travelers uniquely share.

What made the travel experience more rewarding was that by joining the tour, we were contributing to the USTEAA scholarship fund. Estela Pelayo, our first-rate tour organizer who is a former instructor at the Faculty of Engineering, generously donated a portion of her commission for each cabin booked. For this trip Estela donated \$800 to the association's coffers, which comes close to a semester's expense for one scholar.

Through the courtesy of Estela, USTEAA is once again hosting another travel fund-raising event in 2015. This will be a 3-day Amsterdam tour followed by a cruise of the fjords of Norway. It promises to be another memorable trip to which those who have signed up are eagerly looking forward.

There will most likely be other fund-raising travels in the future, and we encourage members to consider joining us. Indeed, we urge everyone to go on any travel at all that catches your interest. There is no experience quite as mind-opening and inspiring as seeing a part of the world that you have never been to before. We are certain you won't regret going. ■

"Travel and change of place impart new vigor to the mind." - Seneca



USTEAA Picnic Fun in 2014

By Jocelyn Mijares-Jalijali, ChE '65

August 12, 2014 was supposedly one of the dogged days of summer but just like last year's June 2013 annual USTEAA (USA) picnic, we were again gifted with another beautiful day: sunny, cool and dry. It was a perfect day for a picnic in Merrill Park in Edison, NJ. The annual picnic date has been significantly delayed from the traditional June to August because of conflicting dates with our fundraiser travels for the USTEAA (USA) Scholarship Fund. Many of the travelers are regular attendees of the picnic.

This year's Picnic Committee consisted of Alice Coco, Ray Zipagan, and Joey Lozada. Ray supplied the music reminiscent of the good old college days which added to the ambiance; Joey, together with Boy Tabije, donated the crisp and scrumptious lechon, the centerpiece of our potluck table; Alice Coco coordinated the potluck menu and the picnic area setup. It was a well-attended picnic with many new faces, thanks to the persistence of Alice Coco, who was relentless in following up her invitations of her batch mates and other alumni. After 2 years of absence, it was good to have Del and Toots Ciocon back, gracing the picnic with their presence. USTEAA (USA) functions are never the same without them.

Evelyn Masaoy led the blessing before the meal, and the parlor games after the meal. Everyone must have had more than their fill of food because nobody wanted to get up to join the games unless they were promised a prize. The participants nevertheless had fun, with lots of teasing and laughing during the games.

We had many, many things to be thankful for at this picnic. Not just the bountiful table and good company, but our cancer survivors who overcame their difficult ordeals and are now looking more radiant and beautiful than ever. God is good! The big surprise was when Bong Alcid arrived unexpectedly after his recent major heart surgery. Everyone gathered around him, wanting to hear his experience. What drama! But Bong came without his third arm: his camera. He jokingly said that following his doctor's orders, he was not allowed to take pictures yet.

But no event is ever complete without photos, so members and guests gamely posed for group photos for the many photographers in the group. So many, in fact, that after a while it seemed like we were all wearing pasted smiles on our faces. To date, I have yet to see one photo. Next time, we will require Bong to bring an excuse slip from his doctor.

Till next year! ■

"In all of living, have much fun and laughter. Life is to be enjoyed, not just endured." - Gordon B. Hinckley

