



USTEAA Newsletter

CHANGING THE WORLD, ONE SCHOLAR AT A TIME

July 2019

Inside This Issue

- 1 From the Editor's Desk:
Cycle of Life, USTEAA Version
- 2 25th Anniversary Update
- 3 Featured Scholar: Ivan
Madlangbayan
- 5 Scholarship Update
- 6 2018 Financial Statement
- 7 Featured Member: Estela Pelayo
- 9 Friends, Food and a Fun Meeting
- 10 Picnic 2018 Group Photo

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From the Editor's Desk

The Cycle of Life, USTEAA(USA) Version

By Evelyn J. Masaoy, ChE '63

The cycle has begun again. January started a new beginning. We, as a group, cannot work together unless we get to gather. And gather we did, for the annual Christmas / New Year potluck luncheon, held this year at Joey and Kathy Lozada's lovely upstate home.

No gathering is complete without work. And so, after enjoying lunch, we looked forward to the future. We buckled down to a planning meeting.

Do you remember the song? *"I have two hands, the left and the right. Hold them up high, so clean and bright. Clap them softly, one, two, three..."* Now allow me to end it this way: *"Hard working hands are good to see!"* Those hands worked the second part of the cycle.

Yes, on April 13, 2019, hard-working hands kept busy at the New Jersey Community Food Bank in Hillside, NJ to fulfill USTEAA(USA)'s annual community service. Surrounded by piles of huge boxes of food and other donations, we carried out the job as instructed. We sorted out the hodgepodge of a variety of goods, threw away all the expired ones, discarded the broken packages and the badly dented ones, then placed the ones which passed scrutiny into designated smaller boxes, which the Food Bank will later make available to the needy.

Although a few of us have just recovered from some ailment, the call for service was so strong that coming to help remained a primary consideration.

Sixteen pairs of hands volunteered. They were Les & Nini Mariano, Kim & George Reich, Ray & Mel Zipagan, Fe & Rey Maximo, Kathy & Joey Lozada, Alice & Robert Coco, Carrie Goze, Feli Izar, Rosanne Silvino & Evelyn Masaoy.

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A working / planning / meeting / luncheon followed at Koki Buffet in Union.

Thus began the USTEAA life cycle this year. And the cycle continues with a picnic in July and probably a few more working meetings before the year ends. ■

"Give your hands to serve, and your hearts to love." - Anonymous



USTEAA(USA) 25th Anniversary & Grand Reunion Preparations are Underway

By Canuto Ciocon, ME '67
25th Anniversary Organizing Committee Chairman

The year 2020 marks the silver anniversary of our association.

To prepare for this milestone event, planning got underway in the spring of 2018. Meetings were held to form the committee and come up with a tentative date agreeable to most. October 23-25, 2020 was the tentative date agreed on. Las Vegas was chosen so we could reach out to many Thomasian Engineers living in the west coast and central regions, who ordinarily are not able to participate in our functions in New Jersey.

Class/batch representatives were assigned to reach out and encourage other classmates/batchmates to attend or to have mini class reunions in Las Vegas to coincide with the 25th anniversary celebrations in 2020. This step appears to have worked well. We are still 14 months away from this celebration and we are pleased by the number, so far, of members/guests who indicated that they are coming to join in the festivities.

Early this year, the organizing committee sent out inquiries to various hotel casinos in Las Vegas for proposal to host this celebration. We received very competitive proposals from the New Orleans and the Gold Coast hotel casinos. Based on their proposed pricing for hotel stay and banquet rooms, we have selected Gold Coast Hotel & Casino.

In addition, we learned that Gold Coast's proposal would save attendees a fair amount of money for hotel stay if we change the date of our celebration from a weekend (Friday to Saturday) to weekdays (Sunday to Thursday). We received overwhelming support from members when we proposed to change the event from the original dates to October 20-22, 2020 (Tuesday to Thursday). An official announcement of the new dates, place of venue, and detailed cost to members planning to attend this celebration will be made shortly.

We acknowledge and give credit and appreciation to two of our members, Angeline Lim-Cambay, ChE '66, who resides in Los Angeles, and Dan de Guzman, ChE '63, who now resides in Las Vegas after retirement. They both helped us tremendously in our search for the venue for this celebration.

Souvenir T-shirts for our 25th anniversary will be unveiled and made available for advance sale at the July 13, 2019 USTEAA picnic. Thanks to Cita Tibay, ChE '76, who undertook the job of soliciting designs from present and past scholars and who ordered the T-shirts made. ■



A Scholar Speaks from the Heart

By Featured Scholar
Ivan Joseph Madlangbayan, ME '2019

"Success is no accident. It is hard work, perseverance, learning, studying, sacrifice and most of all, love of what you are doing or learning to do." – Pele

These are the words I live by. My mantra that helps me push forward in life. Without it, I would never have become who I am today.

I am Ivan Joseph O. Madlangbayan, a graduate of BS Mechanical Engineering from the University of Santo Tomas and a proud scholar of UST Engineering Alumni Association (USTEAA) – USA.

In kindergarten, I was inattentive and not very active in class. My mom tells me I spent my day drawing cartoons and power rangers. But during my elementary days, I slowly grew to like learning. I remember how, after dinner, my mother would review with me some of the day's lessons. She taught me the level of discipline and focus required in studying. She trained me to reach for excellence. With her guidance, I graduated as the class salutatorian.

I started high school focusing on academics. But through the years, I opened myself up to experiences that I felt added to my character and personality. I became a student council officer, an editor-in-chief, and a corps commander of our school's Citizens Army Training. All of these achievements and responsibilities, however, were not just for show. I performed these duties mindful of the legacy that I could bring in those positions. Thankfully, I somehow left a mark and graduated as class valedictorian.

Despite these youthful achievements, I was worried about my future. I was under pressure to choose my path. Clearly, I did not want to be a doctor or a lawyer. I preferred physics over biology, math over language or literature. I also liked creating stuff inspired by what I watched on TV. I remember how I enjoyed making and selling "Iron Man" gauntlets out of wire and cardboard. These little clues made me realize I should take engineering. However, it was not clear to me at the time as to what area of engineering. I had two choices: electrical or mechanical. The former was inspired by the work of my late father, who was an electrical engineer. The latter was closely related to one of the things I wanted to do, mechatronics and/or robotics. For the time being, I settled on electrical engineering.

Choosing a university certainly kept me thinking. I passed the UST entrance exam, but failed the UST Scholarship Exam for valedictorians/salutatorians. I was sad and worried because I did not know how my widowed mom could afford full tuition. But my eyes lit up with hope when I heard about the USTEAA (USA) Scholarship Program.

From the moment when Ma'am Vangie Delena informed me that I got the USTEAA(USA) scholarship, I knew that I was no longer just a regular student. I had a responsibility, not only to my family, but also to myself. I had initially planned that, in college, I would avoid the level of pressure that I experienced in high school, and would not seek honors since I didn't want people having high expectations of me. However, my acceptance of the USTEAA(USA) scholarship completely changed my mind. I firmly resolved to strive harder for excellence.

My journey was not at all easy. I had some hurdles to overcome. I was having a hard time in physics class with regard to electrical engineering concepts. Meanwhile, I excelled at subjects such as thermodynamics and fluid dynamics. I ultimately decided to shift to mechanical engineering because I was more inclined to the machine shop than the electrical engineering lab. Besides, I always thought I would build my own Iron Man suit when the time comes! I do not regret my choice because I enjoyed every moment I spent in this program.

College life was tough. To stay on top academically, there were sweat poured, tears shed, and appendix almost damaged. I ate simply, oftentimes just 'siomai with rice' and canned goods to save money. I missed my brother's graduation in Olongapo because I needed to complete my thesis, constantly needing to travel back and forth between Manila and Laguna. But it was all worth it. I earned respect from my family, gained a lot of friends and experiences, and have the bonus of graduating with Latin Honors as Magna Cum Laude, Rank 1 of UST ME Batch 2019, and Rank 4 of the Faculty of Engineering.

While this journey comes to a close, a new one will open. After our June 7 graduation, I will need to pass the board exams and start work. I am both nervous and excited to finally earn a living for myself. I am hoping that by the time this article is printed, I would already be a board qualified engineer.

I am set to work at Texas Instruments Philippines, Inc. at Clark as a Facilities Engineer. I gained a lot of praise in my 2-month internship there, and so I hope to perform well as an employee. I have a lofty 10-year plan for the future that includes being a Professional Mechanical Engineer, and an Aerospace Engineer for NASA and the newly approved Philippine Space Agency.

I have always believed that success is not measured in pure intellectual skill. I was never a genius. It is also not about the number of friends you make or the money you earn through the years. Success is about achieving a fulfilling goal that is not set by anyone but yourself. It is about being happy in what you have achieved, knowing that you have done your best.

I thank my family, my colleagues, and the USTEAA(USA) for supporting me and believing in what I can do. I am eternally thankful and grateful. And I hope to someday meet the USTEAA folks.

Lastly and most importantly, I thank the Lord for all the blessings He has given me. I owe it all to Him. ■

"Thankfulness is the beginning of gratitude. Gratitude is the completion of thankfulness. Thankfulness may consist merely of words. Gratitude is shown in acts."- Henri Frederic Amiel



USTEAA(USA) Scholarship Update

By Cita Marzan-Tibay, ChE '76
Chairperson, Scholarship Committee

The year 2019 is the busiest and the most productive year for the Scholarship Committee. A new 4-year scholarship grant was awarded to a smart and financially handicapped student at UST. Marichelle Lee was chosen among the 5 semi-finalists who applied for this grant. Beginning SY2018-2019, the Faculty of Engineering has implemented a new 4-year curriculum for all Engineering Programs following the implementation of K to 12 in the Philippines in 2016. Marichelle came from the 1st cohort of K to 12 graduates admitted at the Faculty of Engineering as freshmen in 2018.

On June 7, 2019, Rei Gene Villarosa (BSCE) and Ivan Joseph Madlangbayan (BSME) graduated Magna Cum Laude. Both Rei and Ivan were ranked at the top of their respective department and ranked 2nd and 5th respectively among the entire Engineering Class of 2019. What an impressive academic achievement our two scholars showed! Their success is our success too and we should all be proud of what they have accomplished. Ivan already accepted a job as a Facilities Engineer at Texas Instruments Philippines, where he had his internship last year.

Megan Trinidad and Marichelle Lee both attained grades beyond the minimum GPA required to keep their scholarship grants. Both Megan and Marichelle are Ch.E. majors. Megan will be graduating in June 2020 while Marichelle will be in her 2nd year.

Jacinda Ira Capati, who graduated Cum Laude in 2018, is now a licensed Chemical Engineer. She now works for Unilab, Inc., a leading pharmaceutical company in the Philippines. Jacinda is offering help to assist USTEAA (USA) in preparing publication materials or "PubMats" (millennial speak) for successful scholars as well as info on scholarships that could be posted on official UST and Eng'g social media accounts for information of interested students.

Here are what our scholars are saying about the Association:

"As I write this last letter of gratitude as your scholar, I would like to thank each and every one of you for giving me an opportunity, a hope, a "2nd chance", to prove to myself that I can do it. I am eternally grateful. Without you, I won't even know where I will be going. I hope in the future, I can still be a part of this association, paying it forward to those students who also have big goals and big dreams for oneself and for the society. I look forward to seeing everyone soon. Once again, thank you and may God bless each and every one of you." - **Ivan Joseph Madlangbayan, ME Class 2019**

"Truly, I am beyond grateful for your assistance. All of these would not be possible without your help. I will treasure this academic gift that I have acquired from you as I venture my journey in this profession. I will take this as a seed that I could plant into a tree, and hopefully, in the future, I could harvest and give you back the fruits you once helped me grow. Thank you very much. Again, my sincerest gratitude for your unwavering support. May God bless all of you, my USTEAA(USA) family." - **Rei Gene Villarosa, CE Class 2019 [sponsored by Angelina Bigornia-Hunter, ChE '72]**

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"I can't believe I will be a senior next school year. Time flies really fast. Right now, I am currently looking for companies where I can have my internship. I can't wait to put into practice the skills and knowledge I have acquired so far from my 4 years in UST. Through this opportunity, not only will I challenge my existing skills and knowledge but I will also gain first-hand experiences from the processes, technologies, and people in the industry. Once again, I'm very grateful for the continued support and generosity you and the association have been giving me. Thank you and God bless!" - Megan Trinidad, ChE Class 2020

"I am truly grateful for the opportunity you have given me. I will do my very best in order to maintain my standing and not waste this opportunity that was granted to me. In the future, I will make sure to pay this blessing forward to another student." - Marichelle Lee, ChE Class 2022 ■

"There is no exercise better for the heart than reaching down and lifting people up." - John Holmes

A BIG Thank You

The USTEAA(USA) has many members and friends who generously give funds towards the success of the association. The association is extremely grateful to each and every one of our benefactors.

July 2018 - June 2019 donors: Angelina Bigornia-Hunter, Estela Pelayo, Jose Jorda, Julia Mendoza-Guerrero, Chato Aguinaldo-Safreno, Anthony Laforga, Jocelyn Jalijali, Toots Ciocon, Samson Ortega, Kim Galeon-Reich, Carrie Goze.

Special thanks also go to the many volunteer officers, committee chairs & members, and all who spent time, energy and money in order that USTEAA(USA) can continue to flourish.



USTEAA (USA) 2018 Financial Statement

Prepared by Carrie B. Goze, ChE '65

Not available online



Featured Member: Estela Pelayo

Featured Member: Estela Pelayo

By Jocelyn Jalijali, ChE '65

We all know Estela Pelayo as the successful travel advisor and organizer who generously donates part of her proceeds in support of the USTEAA, USA Scholarship Fund. Her travel itineraries are so well thought out and carefully planned that they are always sold out. Because of its tremendous success, it has become the sole fundraiser for the USTEAA, USA Scholarship Fund, augmented with the membership dues as well as voluntary donations from generous members. All for the good cause of making the world better one scholar at a time.

Estela's travel group started with a small core of 10 former UST Engineering faculty members who migrated to the USA and shared and still share Estela's passion for travel. They coined their group the Obsessive Compulsive Travelers or OCT. Through word of mouth, what started as a hobby has expanded to over 300 clientele making Practical Trips founded by Estela a full-blown travel company catering to all our travel needs. It is a dream retirement job for Estela as her whole family enjoys traveling together. It's what they do for family time.

Estela Pelayo is a retired Chemist, the youngest of 4 children born in Lucban, Quezon to Angel and Carmen Hernandez. Estela attended the University of Santo Tomas College of Science, Department of Chemistry for her undergraduate studies, culminating in a Master's Degree in Chemistry. As successfully as Estela's travel company became through her perseverance to meet her goals with excellence, in the same manner and her God-given gift, she successfully earned the second highest rating in the Professional Chemist Licensure Examination in Manila.

The early years of Estela's career were dedicated to academia with teaching positions that started as a Biology and Chemistry teacher in San Sebastian High School. Fate would have it that her future husband, Willy Pelayo, was a senior working towards a Bachelor's degree in Economics at San Sebastian College. They met when Willy accompanied his friend to visit Estela's roommate. Their relationship blossomed, they married soon after Willy's graduation. Estela was a young bride of 22, Willy was 23. A girl for her and a boy for him, so came Eliza and Wil who fairly recently migrated to the US from Canada and are now living in California, employed by Fortune 500 companies with prestigious positions in their respective fields of expertise.

Estela left San Sebastian High School to teach in the UST College of Nursing, followed by a teaching position in the UST Faculty of Engineering, Department of Chemical Engineering. She taught various Chemistry subjects such as General Inorganic Chemistry, Organic Chemistry, Qualitative and Quantitative Chemistry. In her last 5 years in UST, Estela was

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also the Chemistry Laboratory Supervisor. Estela considers this the most enjoyable period in her teaching career. Here, she co-authored 2 Laboratory Manuals in General Chemistry I and II and one in Analytical Chemistry, and was honored by UST Faculty of Engineering students with the Best Chemical Engineering Teacher Award. Here, she also met friends who would later be the seed in founding Practical Trips.

In 1987 at the end of the EDSA People Power Revolution, Estela and Willy took a gamble to migrate to Ontario, Canada leaving behind their promising careers in Manila. The gamble paid off for the whole family. Estela started Part 11 of her Chemistry career, this time holding various technical positions in Food and Agriculture and in generic Pharmaceutical companies in Ontario. Between 1990 and 1995, Estela co-authored 5 technical papers which were published in the Journal of Agricultural Food Chemistry.

In 2003, Estela's manager who also served as her mentor and motivator, accepted a position as Director of Validation at Schering-Plough in NJ, later to become Merck. Her manager invited Estela to join him. She took another gamble and agreed to move to the US. She and Willy entered the US under an H1B visa sponsored by the company, and quickly, she received her green card. They decided to leave Eliza and Wil, who at that time were young adults starting out with their careers. Again, the gamble paid off.

It was a rough start for Estela and her manager having to deal with the problems of being unwelcomed minorities. Her manager was originally from India and was hired from Canada. Estela was hired with a huge sign-up bonus without having to go through job interviews, making some of her colleagues jealous and resentful. The minority duo from Canada had to work twice as hard to prove that they were deserving of the positions.

Estela's manager later moved to another company, but she stayed on. She worked with different managers and it was only then that her co-workers witnessed the true value she contributed to the company. She was finally accepted by her peers and colleagues. Her career took off from thereon.

Being hired as a Principal Process Specialist became her most fulfilling achievement, having been instrumental in the dissolution of a Consent Decree where the company was fined by the FDA \$500M for manufacturing violations and poor documentation. It was she who worked hard to establish continuous improvement and compliance as part of the company's culture to ensure the quality of their products. Truly a job well done!

From Schering-Plough/Merck, Estela continued to consult with other Pharmaceutical companies in NJ until she decided to fully retire to focus on the demands of Practical Trips and her clients. The best retirement job EVER, she says.

When asked what gives her strength to face life's trials, top of her list is her strong belief that God only gives us problems we can handle. Second in her list is the promise she and Willy made to each other that their life is a journey they will always travel together hand in hand, through thick or thin, while watching each other's back. Third is her high tolerance for stress. She always keeps a cool composure under pressure, my personal observation especially during these trying times.



Friends, Food, and a Fun Meeting

By Katherine Monteza-Lozada, ChE '66

For USTEAA members, the end of year holiday season proved quite busy. All too soon, New Year 2019 came upon us with the celebration of an enormous lighted ball in Times Square, New York City. As in previous years, members organized a Christmas/New Year Party and Meeting to celebrate. This was held on January 5, Saturday, at the residence of Joey & Kathy Lozada, in Orangeburg, New York.

The meeting was held to plan and outline the activities of the association for the year 2019. Foremost in the agenda was to mobilize the organizing committees for the upcoming 25th Anniversary of the USTEAA on October 2020 in Las Vegas, Nevada. Other topics were also discussed, such as those pertaining to the scholarship sponsored by the association. Responsibilities for the coming summer picnic were delegated to the diligent members.

The camaraderie among friends was a pleasure. Updates on recent occurrences among members were also exchanged, and jokes, witty remarks laughed about. A sumptuous lunch, potluck style, highlighted the event. There were two differently prepared pancit palabok, pork belly lechon set on a platter of seafood paella, dinuguan at puto, embutido, menudo, lasagna, sausage with peppers, beef asado, and various yummy Pilipino desserts. Not to forget, there were green veggies and salad for the seriously health conscious.

Attendees were: Feli Izar, Ray & Melanie Zipagan, Emilie Zipagan, Les & Nini Mariano, Joey & Kathy Lozada, Toots & Del Ciocon, Kim & George Reich, Rosanne Silvino, Errol Navata and wife, Jocelyn Jalijali, Estela Pelayo, & Evelyn Masaoy....and please excuse my senior memory if I missed to mention anyone.

Below is a photo from the event which says, "pictures speak a thousand words". ■

"Friendship is the source of the greatest pleasures, and without friends even the most agreeable of pursuits become tedious." - Thomas Aquinas



Continued from Page 8...

Estela's advice to younger USTEAA members is to never stop learning. Take advantage of online resources and tutorials on YouTube. It will open more opportunities for your professional advancement. Estela learned to function as a Chemical Engineer in her career through self-study online. She honed her knowledge to be a travel owner/agent by watching and learning from her favorite travel gurus, the late Anthony Bourdain and Rick Steves. They helped spark her desire to explore the world without fear, daring to do the daring, e.g, hiking the mountains of Bhutan, hot air ballooning in Luxor, Egypt, among other things. She collects key chains from every place she visits. She now owns over 300 key chains and will continue to add more. She wants to be remembered as *"one who explored the world fearlessly and one who covered the earth before the earth covered her"*. ■

"Happiness is not a goal...it's a by-product of a life well lived."- Eleanor Roosevelt



The above article is by Jocelyn Jalijali, ChE '65

USTEAA(USA) 2018 Picnic

June 30, 2018 in Merrill Park, Iselin, NJ



Front Row L-R: Les Mariano, Fe Maximo, Carrie Goze, Evelyn Masaoy, Cita Tibay, Alice Coco, Vic Claridad
Middle Row L-R: Rosanne Silvino, Elizabeth Sienicki, Carmelita Bautista, Nini Mariano, Estela Pelayo, Kim Reich, Susana Tiongson, Linda Cubile, Marilen Eusebio, Virgie Ricablanca, Dick Tibay
Last Row L-R: Toots Ciocon, Flor Cariaga, Ric Bisda, Feli Izar, Boy Tabije, Ron Zipagan, Ray Zipagan, Ofel Carpio, Rey Maximo, Jocelyn Jalijali, Ed Ledesma