



# USTEAA Newsletter

CHANGING THE WORLD, ONE SCHOLAR AT A TIME

June 2018

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## From the Editor's Desk The Year Flew By So Fast

By Evelyn J. Masaoy, ChE '63

The last time you heard from us was last September 30, 2017, when we celebrated USTEAA's 22<sup>nd</sup> anniversary, inducted the new set of volunteer officers, and honored the graduates of Class 1967 and, belatedly but with as much esteem, the Class of 1966 on their Golden Anniversary.

Because USTEAA(USA) celebrates every other year, we would expect a celebration in 2019. However, we are skipping next year's observance as we look forward to a **grand celebration of our 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2020**. Even now we are **CALLING ALL FELLOW THOMASIAN ENGINEERS: COME LET'S CELEBRATE!**

December 9, 2017 was a day to remember. With his prediction of a severe snowstorm, Mr. Weatherman successfully scared everyone but six brave souls from driving to Kim's house to celebrate Christmas together. Yes, we drove through the snow and the storm. And yes, we did celebrate! And yes, we had a meeting to plan activities for the year ahead. Rain or snow or sleet will not deter our USTEAA(USA) officers from doing their job for the association!

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## Newsletter Staff

Evelyn Masaoy  
Gemma Reich



Officers, members, and jubilarians on September 30, 2017



We braved the snowstorm to celebrate Christmas at Kim's



Volunteers at the Food Bank

Lunch and Meeting with Dean Philip Marcelo

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January 13, 2018. The three volunteer co-Presidents for 2018-2019, several other volunteer officers, and a number of deeply involved members met for the Turn-Over luncheon meeting at Koki Restaurant and Buffet to discuss specific plans for the future. As always, the focus was on our Scholarship Program, our need for more involved members, and our hopes for young blood to take over the functions of our retiring members.

Before we knew it, a quarter of the year was gone. April 14, 2018 was "Helping Hands Day". Brawn and brain joined together to sort out various food articles to prepare them for distribution among our needy brethren. This we did at the Community Food Bank of New Jersey.

The famished work volunteers then proceeded to a restaurant for lunch and more work. Our meeting turned out to be a special one. In attendance to share with us details of the successful programs at the Faculty of Engineering at UST was our current Dean Philipina Marcelo, PhD. She was accompanied by Mr. Emil Punzalan, a faculty member who recently finished his Masters degree on a scholarship grant at Cornell University, NY.

Asked by President Ray Zipagan how USTEAA(USA)'s Scholarship Program stands in comparison to other scholarship programs, Dean Marcelo informed us that we are one of the most consistent grantors. Other programs are need-based. She also assured us that announcements are being made at UST at the beginning of every school year about the availability of these grants.

As we prepare this issue of the newsletter, another Philippine school year has ended. Our scholars have performed far above par. We look forward to jump start the college education of more young future engineers, so that their lives will flourish as a result of the exceptional quality of education which the UST Faculty of Engineering offers.

For the information of our members and benefactors, between the school years 1999 to 2018, our Scholarship Program has donated \$71,340.00. This includes \$16,000 from Angelina Bigornia-Hunter, ChE '72, and \$55,340 from membership fees, donations and fundraising activities.

We are also very proud to mention that 100% of the funds we collect go directly to the scholarship program. All expenses like those at social events, picnics, meetings, etc., are shouldered by the members and officers who attend these events. We are driven by the laudable Filipino practice of "KKB" (Kanya Kanyang Bayad) as part of our service to our association.

Mabuhay ang USTEAA(USA)! ■

*"There are only two lasting bequests we can hope to give our children. One of these is roots, the other, wings."*  
Johann Wolfgang von Goethe



## Blessing From Above

By Featured Scholar  
Rei Gene G. Villarosa, 5<sup>th</sup> Yr CE (2019)

Greetings to my USTEAA family in the US!

I am Rei Gene G. Villarosa, an incoming 5<sup>th</sup> year student in the UST Civil Engineering department.

My first four years as an engineering student went by so quickly yet they were full of learning and experiences. Among the things that stands out is how thankful I am to the USTEAA(USA) for making it possible for me to continue my studies in this prestigious university.

My parents raised my two siblings and me in a simple kind of life, typical for a lower middle-class family. We lived in a rented house and went to public schools during our younger years. Our family considers education important. We rent a house up to now. But my older brother has finished a vocational program and is already working; while my younger sister is an incoming Grade 11 student.

I graduated salutatorian in Grade 6. This enabled me to get a scholarship to a nearby catholic high school. I worked hard to maintain the scholarship for my entire stay in that private school until I graduated in 2014. With determination and hard work, as well as guidance from the Lord, I was blessed to be the batch Valedictorian under the Business High School curriculum. This gave me the ticket to acquire the academic Santo Tomas Scholarship in UST. But this did not stop me from searching for other available scholarships. I found the USTEAA(USA). Scholarship grant. It was the answer to my prayers; a blessing from above for me and my family.

With God's providence and continuous guidance and with the generous help and support from USTEAA, I was able to successfully complete the past eight semesters with the bonus of being a consistent Dean's Lister.

The new academic year will commence this coming August. Meanwhile, I will undertake On-the-Job Training which is a requirement for our fifth academic year. We will also do undergraduate research or thesis, and study major design subjects that we will need in the field of Civil Engineering.

I continue to be grateful and honored to be one of the recipients of the scholarship grant of your generous association. This scholarship grant is very important to me because it is a great opportunity for me to finish my studies in an esteemed educational institution, while at the same time helping lessen the financial burden on my family.



## USTEAA(USA) Scholarship Update

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



Early this year, the USTEAA (USA) and the UST Office of Student Affairs signed a Memorandum of Agreement for a new 5-year Scholarship Grant for incoming freshmen of SY2018-2019. It is the goal of the Association to maintain 3 scholars in a given school year.

The 2017-2018 academic year has been another successful year for all of our scholars and the organization as a whole. All scholars attained grades beyond the minimum GPA required to keep their scholarship grants.

On June 7, 2018, Jazinda Ira Capati, our 5th year ChE major scholar graduated Cum Laude and ranked 2nd among her graduating class of 2018. Once again, Rei Gene Villarosa was awarded a Certificate of Recognition and a medal during the Engineering Week last February 2018 (celebrating the 111th anniversary of the foundation of the Faculty of Engineering), for ranking top 3rd in the Dean's List. Rei will undergo On-the-Job-Training for 240 hours with EEI Corporation. Ivan Madlangbayan will train with Texas Instruments Philippines as part of the school curriculum.

There is no doubt in my mind that our scholars will land good jobs after graduation.

Here are what our scholars are saying about the Association:

*"I and my family would like to extend our greatest gratitude towards the whole organization for giving me this wonderful opportunity. I am eternally grateful. I will continue to do my best not only until I graduate but also until I have fulfilled my purpose, both as a professional and as a person." - Ivan Joseph Madlangbayan, ME Class 2019*

*"This semester is very important to me because I had so many experiences. I went to Bangkok, Thailand for a research immersion in one of their best universities, I also had my industry immersion in a very good company, Emerson Electric Asia Ltd., an instrumentation company. I also had my equipment design defense. This year, I will be having my plant*

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*design defense already. In addition, I competed in UP Diliman for a nationwide quiz competition. Unfortunately, we did not win this year but it was a good game. To sum it all up, it was a good semester and for my remaining 6 months I will continue giving my best. I may always say this but with a sincere heart, this association is one of the best inspiration. I am forever thankful."* - **Jazinda Ira Capati, ChE Class 2018**

**USTEAA(USA) is on  
Facebook**

*It is a closed group.  
If interested to join please  
email*

[gemma reich@gmail.com](mailto:gemma reich@gmail.com)  
or the group's admin  
[ehpelayo1@comcast.net](mailto:ehpelayo1@comcast.net)

*"With God's guidance and through your help and support po, I was able to survive again and successfully pass po this first semester of my fourth year in the Faculty of Engineering. I would like to express my sincerest gratitude to all of you for making this possible po, and I won't get tired po of saying thank you to this institution. I just cannot contain the joy in my heart and I'm just really blessed that I was granted this scholarship. Rest assured po that I'll continue giving my best in everything I do especially in the remaining semesters to come."*  
- **Rei Gene Villarosa, CE Class 2019 [sponsored by Angelina Bigornia-Hunter, ChE '72] ■**

*"Coming together is the beginning. Keeping together is progress. Working together is success."* - Henry Ford



## USTEAA (USA) 2017 Financial Statement

Prepared by Carrie B. Goze, ChE '65

Not available online



## Featured Alumnus: Les Mariano

**Featured Member: Aquiles Mariano, ChE '64**

By Nini Mariano, ChE '66

Aquiles Mariano, familiarly known to friends and family as Les, graduated in 1964 with a Bachelor of Science in Chemical Engineering from the UST College of Engineering.

Shortly after graduation, he was employed by San Miguel Corporation as a Process Engineer at the Farola Container Division. He was responsible

for providing technical engineering support in the manufacture of glass containers, and the injection and compression molding of plastic containers. It was also in this job that he trained in the principles of Project Management.

With a strong desire to further his education, Les decided to migrate to the United States in 1967. Setting foot in Chicago, Illinois, he soon gained employment as a Technical Service Engineer at a facility manufacturing civil and military communications equipment. Pursuing his ambition for further education while gainfully employed, he applied and was accepted into the MBA evening program of Northwestern University in Chicago. For this degree, his focus was in operations management and statistical analysis.

With his technical experience and capable management skills, Les built a thriving career in the employ of companies that provided services in the engineering and construction of process facilities. In various job positions throughout his career, he competently applied the principles of project controls on the engineering and construction of such facilities as phenol plants, ethylene plants, oil refining, facilities for the production of polypropylene, vanillin, ethanol or oil, gas-fueled and peat moss-fueled power plants, co-generation facilities, and pharmaceutical plants producing vaccines and cholesterol-reducing drugs. In a number of these positions, Les was called upon to work overseas assignments in places such as Finland, Ireland, England, Singapore, Venezuela, and Mexico.

Currently, Les is Director of Project Controls for a privately-owned company. His main involvement at the moment is in the construction of a facility for consumer beauty products.

Les has been a member of the USTEAA(USA) since 2006. He also has been a twice-tenured President of our association. He is a consistent and enthusiastic supporter of USTEAA through steady involvement in the activities of the association. Currently, Les is a member of the USTEAA Board of Directors.

On the personal side, Les married Lidivina Pineda Mariano in 1969. Nini, as she is known to friends, is also a graduate (1966) of the UST College of Engineering and an active member of the USTEAA. Together, they have two daughters, Cherie and Nancy, who are both married and blessed with a son and a daughter each.

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The USTEAA(USA) is fortunate to count on Les as one of its staunch supporters. It is through steadfast members like him that USTEAA continues to do well. ■

*"Scientists dream about doing great things. Engineers do it."- James A. Michener*



The above article is by Nini Mariano, ChE '66



## 2017 Christmas Get-Together

By Lilia Jane Conjares, ChE '73

It was a dreary, freezing day on December 9, 2017 when the USTEAA(USA) had their annual Christmas get-together. Hosted by Kim Reich and her husband George at their beautiful home in Atlantic Highlands NJ, the party happened to coincide with the first significant snowstorm of the season.

Despite the frightful weather, with dangerous slippery roads and snow that topped 6 inches by next morning, a few brave folks filled with holiday cheer came to celebrate: Toots and Del Ciocon, Les and Nini Mariano, Evelyn Masaoy, Rosanne Silvino and Lilia Jane Conjares.

As the song goes, "Oh, the weather outside is frightful, but the fire is so delightful...", the atmosphere inside the house was warm and joyous with lots of homecooked and store-bought meals and sweet delicious desserts. It turned out to be a cozy little affair, centered around the dinner table. Everybody shared their stories of wonderful and funny adventures both here and abroad. Evelyn Masaoy was thrilled to know that some of her former students were sending their love from California.

After the meal, some plans for the coming year were discussed. And then it was time to leave and tackle the dangerous roads going home. Thankfully, everyone made it home safe and sound.

Hopefully, the 2018 event will be in fairer weather and will have more members joining in the fun. ■

*"A happy life must be to a great extent a quiet life, for it is only in an atmosphere of quiet that true joy dare live." - Bertrand Russell*



## USTEAA Celebration Marking 22 Fruitful Years

By Gemma Galeon Reich, ChE '73

Every other year, USTEAA(USA) holds a dinner dance to formalize the induction of a new set of officers serving 2-year tenures. The formal event is also a means to celebrate the anniversary of the USTEAA's founding, and to honor the golden and silver jubilarian alumni. On September 30, 2017, a dinner dance held at the Holiday Inn Carteret was one such event which marked 22 fruitful years of the association's existence.

Members came in their fineries - the ladies in cocktail dresses or long gowns and the gentlemen in suits or barongs - to enjoy the food, music and delightful company. The evening ceremony began with Kathy Lozada leading the gathering in singing both the Philippine and US National Anthems. Evelyn Masaoy followed with the invocation. Les Mariano did double duty as master of ceremonies and also delivered the welcome address.

Shortly after the enjoyable buffet dinner, the golden jubilarians were introduced and awarded with commemorative medals. We were graced by the presence of the following jubilarians this year: Canuto Ciocon ME'67, Carmelita Chang-Colatat ChE'66, Natividad Madlangbayan-Cadorna ChE'66, Flor Cariaga ChE'66, Fe Maximo CE'66, and Reynaldo Maximo CE'67. There were no silver jubilarians who could make it to the event this year. Another highlight of the event was the introduction and swearing-in of the in-coming officers for 2018-2019. The new officers pledged their continuing support for the association, as we wished them success and good tenure.

Special Service Awards were given to Toots Ciocon and Cita Tibay in appreciation of their many years of service and support for USTEAA(USA). Closing remarks was delivered by Feli Izar, one of the newly installed co-presidents. And the awarding of 50-50 and door prizes was conducted by Toots Ciocon. The rest of the evening festivities was filled with a good deal of dancing, picture taking, and happy catching up with friends. ■

*"The good life is one inspired by love and guided by knowledge." - Bertrand Russell*



**Golden Jubilarians L-R:** Rey Maximo, Fe Maximo, Flor Cariaga, Natividad Cadorna, Carmelita Colatat, Toots Ciocon  
**Special Service Award Recipients L-R:** Cita Tibay, Toots Ciocon

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I would like to thank Engr. Angelina Bigornia-Hunter for the full sponsorship for my 5-year stay in the university. Thanks also go to Engr. Cita Tibay for regularly keeping in touch with me through email. And of course, my heart is full of gratitude to USTEAA(USA) as a whole. Rest assured that I will continue to strive harder in the last two semesters of my fifth year.

On behalf of my family, I send you my sincerest appreciation. From the bottom of our hearts, *Maraming Salamat po!* May God bless each one of you and may He grant your hearts desires. I hope to visit and see you all in the future! ■

*"Education is the leading of human souls to what is best, and making what is best out of them." - John Ruskin*



### **A BIG Thank You!**

*The USTEAA(USA) has many members and friends who generously give their time, effort and money towards the success of the association. The officers and board of directors are extremely grateful to each and every one of our benefactors.*

*2018 Donors (as of June 2018):*

*Angelina Bigornia-Hunter  
Loida Villanueva  
Jose Jorda  
Gemma Reich*

*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.*