



USTEAA Newsletter

CHANGING THE WORLD, ONE SCHOLAR AT A TIME

July 2016

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From the Editor's Desk: Service the USTEAA(USA) Way...

By Evelyn J. Masaoy, ChE '63

The long cold winter of 2016 extended herself up to mid-April. But the 16th of April proved to be different. The warmth of spring greeted our day!

Eighteen pairs of hands arrived at the Community Food Bank of New Jersey. All were eager to do whatever they could to serve. USTEAA members led by President Les Mariano, included Nini Mariano, Toots Ciocon, Joey & Kathy Lozada, Rey & Fe Maximo, Alice Coco, Dick & Cita Tibay, Mol Barredo, Rosanne Silvino and Evelyn Masaoy.

Friends and family also came to lend their helping hands. Alice Coco was joined by her husband Robert, Mol Barredo came with his wife Jaycee, Cita & Dick arrived with their engineer twin daughters Ria and Rio, and a friend Joyfen Tolentino.

We started by lining up on both sides of what looked like a long warehouse table. Zipped plastic bags were stacked at one end of this long table. Instructions were given on what to pack and how to pack certain stuff.

Our able-bodied gentlemen carried the boxes of food from where they were stacked near the wall to the long table. They then opened the boxes and emptied them on the tabletop.

The assembly line started with those who unzipped the empty plastic bags. It ended with those who constructed three dimensional boxes out of folded flat cardboards and filled them with the bagged food.

Newsletter Staff

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

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The open plastic bags moved forward to be filled consecutively with two boxes of milk, a can of beef stew, a can of chicken sandwich and 2 small bags of oatmeal. The plastic bag, now stuffed with goodies, was passed on to the bag sealers who deftly sealed each bag. This, they passed on to the box-fillers. The latter carefully counted and placed each bag into the box. Finally, the box was closed and lifted from the assembly line to the pallet.

The eighteen pairs of able hands loaded up 3 pallets of 24 boxes each, containing 15 bags per box. Thus after about two hours of work, our group was able to put together 1080 breakfast bags. This we did amid the fun, the banter, the laughter and the smiles!

Soon ... somewhere ... sometime... these bags will satisfy the hunger of 1080 kids who would otherwise have spent the day in school without a meal. ■

"I planted daffodil bulbs ... as a reminder that hope for better times is not enough.... that one must be an active participant in the quality of the future." - Robert Fulghum



2016 Community Service Volunteers

Kneeling: Les Mariano

Front L-R: Rosanne Silvino, Ria Tibay, Cita Tibay, Jofen Tolentino, Rio Tibay, Alice Coco, Fe Maximo, Nini Mariano, Evelyn Masaoy, Kathy Lozada

Back L-R: Mol Barredo, Robert Coco, Dick Tibay, Jaycee Barredo, Rey Maximo, Toots Ciocon, Joey Lozada

Photo was taken April 16, 2016 inside the NJ Community Food Bank warehouse



Our 20th Anniversary Celebration

By Felicitas Villegas-Izar, Ch.E '69

On October 3, 2015, the University of Santo Tomas Engineering Alumni Association [USTEAA(USA)] held a dinner dance at the Ramada Plaza Hotel in Newark, New Jersey. It was a triple-purpose event. The 20th anniversary of the association was celebrated, new officers were inducted, and the Silver and Golden Jubilarians were honored.

What started out as a social group twenty years ago has evolved into a powerful supporter of engineering students at its alma mater, the University of Santo Tomas in Manila, Philippines. To date, USTEAA has graduated eight scholars, five of whom have graduated with honors and are now full-fledged engineers. Currently, USTEAA(USA) is sponsoring three deserving engineering students who have dreams of becoming engineers too.

USTEAA(USA) is embarking for a third time with Volunteer Leadership Support. This means that none of its officers are elected, but are volunteers who willingly give their time. Volunteer officers serve a 2-year stint managing the association. This is a testimony to the commitment of its members. As you can see from the list, the names look very familiar.

The following are the Volunteer Officers for 2016-2017.

- Co-Presidents: Les Mariano, Kim Reich, Karl Yang
- Co-Vice Presidents: Estela Pelayo, Alice Francisco
- Secretary: Evelyn Masaoy
- Assistant Secretary: Fe Maximo
- Treasurer: Carrie Goze
- Assistant Treasurer: Alice Coco
- Auditors: Rosanne Silvino, John Young
- Public Relations: Kathy Lozada, Nini Mariano, Jun Cuevo

The dinner started with beautiful renditions of the National Anthems by Ed Ledesma and Melody Bustos, a welcome address by its current Co-President, Ray Zipagan, followed by invocation from our very own "Sister/Mother" Evelyn Masaoy.

Induction of the Officers was officiated by USTEAA(USA) friend and benefactor, Mr. Norman S. Karpf. It should be specially noted that we missed Toots Ciocon, who has officiated the induction of officers numerous times in the past.

Les Mariano, incoming Co-President, talked about what we can look forward to for the next two years: support for our scholars, commitment to keep the organization alive and always have FUN in everything we do. Cita Tibay and Kim Reich led the honoring of our Golden Jubilarians. Present to grace the event were Golden Jubilarians Ramon Abary, Carrie Goze, Ed Ledesma, Joey Lozada, Jo Jalijali, Kathy Lozada, Nini Marino, and Manny Palma.

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Joey Lozada presented the first Lifetime Service Awards to Evelyn Masaoy and Carrie Goze. Well-deserved award, Ladies!!!

50/50 and door prizes were awarded By Kathy Lozada, Alice Coco and Nini Mariano. Thanks to Ray Zipagan's daughter, Rachel and her husband James, who donated their winnings to our Scholarship Fund.

As always, special THANKS to Jocelyn Jalijali for coordinating the event and to Ray Zipagan for the great job on the beautiful souvenir JOURNAL.

It was a truly successful evening and an opportunity to meet new friends and see old and dear ones! ■

"Happiness is an attitude. We either make ourselves miserable, or happy and strong. The amount of work is the same." - Francesca Reigler



Swearing in of 2016-2017 Volunteer Officers

L-R: Alice Coco, assistant treasurer; Carrie Goze, treasurer; Fe Maximo, assistant secretary; Evelyn Masaoy, secretary; Estela Pelayo, vice president; Kim Reich, co-president; Karl Yang, co-president; Les Mariano, co-president; and Mr. Norman S. Karpf, who officiated the swearing in of officers.



USTEAA(USA) Scholarship Update

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



The Scholarship Committee had a challenging task this year in selecting the scholar for the new 5-year scholarship grant. Three students tied for the spot as finalists. Hence, a list of questions related to the family financial status and their activities was sent to the finalists. Based on the additional information obtained, the Committee unanimously selected Megan Trinidad, a 1st year Chemical Engineering major student, as the recipient of this scholarship grant.

For the coming academic year 2016-2017, we have committed to sponsor four scholars at the UST Faculty of Engineering, namely:

- Jazinda Ira Capati, 4th year ChE student
- Ivan Joseph Madlangbayan, 3rd year ME student
- Rei Gene Villarosa, 3rd year CE student (sponsored by Angelina Bigornia-Hunter, ChE '72)
- Megan Trinidad, 2nd year ChE student

Another successful academic year has passed for all our scholars and the organization. All scholars were not only able to meet the minimum GPA requirement to keep their scholarship grants but all were also on the Dean's list. Moreover, two of the scholars, Rei Gene and Jazinda Ira were awarded medals during the Engineering Week Recognition Ceremonies on February 2016, for ranking at the top of their classes.

Each of our scholars did an outstanding job in their studies. We at USTEAA(USA) are very proud of them.

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Let us now read what our current scholars say about the USTEAA(USA):

USTEAA(USA) is on Facebook!

It is a closed group.

If interested to join or
just to check it out, please email
gemmaareich@gmail.com
or the group's admin
ehpelayo1@comcast.net

"I have been receiving so much blessings lately but being a USTEAA scholar is still the best blessing I ever had throughout my three years of stay in the university. No words could express how thankful I am and my family to the association for giving me this chance. For the remaining two years, I vow to continue giving my best and I will never waste this opportunity. In the near future, I wish to be like you, I would also like to help financially disabled but hardworking and outstanding students. May you continue being a blessing to others". -
Jazinda Ira Capati

"As always, thank you for this wonderful opportunity. I hope I could maintain my scholarship until my graduation and also help students like me succeed in their studies". -
Ivan Joseph Madlangbayan

"Once again, my sincerest thanks to you, my USTEAA Family, for the scholarship you've bestowed on me. I am sure that God will surely bless all of you a hundredfold.. I, in turn, will commit myself to study harder and give always my best to the next semesters to come." -
Rei Gene Villarosa

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

"I am writing to express my gratitude for and acceptance of your generous financial support towards my higher education. Receiving the scholarship motivates me to maintain my GWA and complete my degree. I look forward to being able to give back to the community once I begin my career. I thank you for your willingness and support to help me achieve my goals." -
Megan Trinidad ■

" Very little is needed to make a happy life; it is all within yourself, in your way of thinking." -
Marcus Aurelius Antoninus

A Special Thank You

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

We would like to make particular mention here of a special individual who contributes to the USTEAA(USA) in a unique way. **Estela Pelayo** is a former faculty member of UST Engineering and current Vice President of the USTEAA(USA) who, through her passion for travel and 'sideline' travel agency business, has organized and sponsored rewarding fund-raising events for the USTEAA(USA).

To Estela and those who travel with her, and to our many generous supporters, our heartfelt thanks!!

Our special thanks go also to **Angelina Hunter** and **Jose Jorda** for the cash donations they sent our association this year.

Special thanks also go to our Co-President **Kim Galeon Reich** for making possible the printing and distribution to individual members of Newsletter 2015.



Lifetime Service Awards

Lifetime Service Awards recipients Evelyn Masaoy (2nd from L) and Carrie Goze are flanked by outgoing 2014-15 co-presidents Ray Zipagan (L) and Joey Lozada.

2015 is the first year that USTEAA(USA) gave out Lifetime Service awards.

USTEAA (USA) 2015 Financial Statement

Prepared by Carrie B. Goze, ChE '65



Not available online



Updates from a Grateful Scholar

**By Featured Scholar
Mary Grace Casuncad, CE 2013**

Greetings to my USTEAA Family!

My name is Mary Grace L. Casuncad, USTEAA(USA) Scholar, schoolyear 2008-2013.

Since January 2014, I have been working with AMH Philippines, Inc. where I currently hold the position of Design Engineer. My first assignment was in the field of Water Resources Engineering. Most of my work was involved with land developers who were performing their Technical Due Diligence (TDD), which is mainly divided into: Hydrologic and

Hydraulic Study, more commonly known as Flood Study, Geotechnical Assessment and Geohazard Assessment.

Our group of interns was made to rotate within the different fields of engineering. This gave us much exposure in performing functions related to Hydrologic and Hydraulic Study.

After 6 months on the job, I was transferred to the structural department, where my projects have so far been mostly in the design of reinforced concrete water retaining structures such as those utilized for the operations of Maynilad and Manila Water Company. I was assigned as a civil / structural designer for multiple structures at a time.

At the start of 2015, while continuing my assignment as civil / structural designer, I was designated Technical Project Coordinator for a team performing the detailed engineering design of Fort Bonifacio Sewage Treatment Plant. The scope of our work for the said project covers all the areas needed for detailed structural, civil works, sanitary, geotechnical engineering design and construction assistance. We are working alongside M.E. Sicat Corporation under a Design and Build contract. We are looking forward to the project completion by late summer of 2016. This project I am working on has taught me a great deal towards the understanding of how the different fields of engineering interact and how each field forms a piece of a puzzle which exists as a part of a greater whole.

All these would not have been made into reality without the help, support and generosity of my USTEAA(USA) Family; the constant aid and reminders of Engr. Evangeline Deleña; and the mentoring by Engr. Les Mariano. I am also very thankful to Engr. Cita Tibay who has regularly kept in touch with me. I hope very much that I will be able to visit my USTEAA Family in the near future.

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Featured Alumna: Cita Tibay

Featured Member: Cita Marzan-Tibay, ChE '76

By Canuto Ciocon, ME '67

As a charter member of UST Engineering Alumni Association [USTEAA(USA)], Cita Tibay needs no introduction. Members old and new, as well as scholars, know her steadfast support of the USTEAA (USA). Her participation and input during the formative years of the organization which included setting up the Association By-laws, membership directory, election procedure, and scholarship program, were instrumental in our journey to obtaining the USTEAA USA Certificate of Incorporation as a non-profit, tax-exempt organization under Section 501(a)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

For twenty-one years - and going, Cita's loyalty and dedication to USTEAA has been a great help in the success of the association. Through the years Cita has served in various leadership roles: as Secretary, Chairperson of Membership Committee, Chairperson of Scholarship Committee, and ultimately as Co-president of the Association.

To this day, the unwavering service Cita has given to USTEAA continues. She remains very active serving as one of the Board of Directors. She is currently the Chairperson of the Scholarship Committee, a position vital to the success of the Association's main goal of providing scholarship grants to deserving engineering students at the UST Faculty of Engineering. She does all these work on top of her other volunteer work as Eucharistic Minister and as committee staff for the annual parish festival at St Valentine Church in Bloomfield, NJ.

I first met Cita at Foster Wheeler where, at present, she is still working as senior computer programmer. With her expertise in the information technology field, she became the management's go-to person for process related issues with programming at Foster Wheeler. When I first told Cita we were having a USTEAA(USA) organizational meeting, without any hesitation she came to the meeting, bringing with her two other classmates to provide their input. Cita unfailingly demonstrates a willingness to volunteer her services for a good cause.

Cita is a Chemical Engineer from Class 1976 of the UST Faculty of Engineering. After graduation she pursued a Master's Degree in Nuclear Engineering. She is married to Benedict Tibay, an Electrical Engineer who graduated the same year Cita did. From the beginning, Cita created sparks in the electrical engineering student's heart. His determined pursuit was rewarded when he ended up working with Cita in the same company in the Philippines. The results of the chemistry between the two are three wonderful children: Jude who has a degree in Computer Science, Rio who is a Civil Engineer, and her twin sister Ria who is a Mechanical Engineer.

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It is Cita's caring and support that makes her the heart of this admirable Tibay family of accomplished engineers and computer experts. They are the same attributes she brings as part of the bigger family that is the USTEAA (USA). ■

"One of the sanest, surest, and most generous joys of life comes from being happy over the good fortune of others." - Robert Heinlein



The above article is by Toots Ciocon, ME '67



2015 Golden Jubilarians

L_R Ramon Abary, Carrie Goze, Jocelyn Jalijali, Ed Ledesma, Joey Lozada, Kathy Lozada, Nini Mariano, and Manny Palma.



It's What Friends Do

Join the USTEAA(USA)

By Gemma Galeon-Reich, ChE '73

I lived in New Jersey for 14 years and never knew about any UST engineering alumni groups in the area. It wasn't until 2009 that I first heard about USTEAA(USA) when I was, ironically, in the Philippines. I was visiting my dear friend Minnie Escultura who had heard about it from her friend Bhoie Lopez, at that time the association's PRO. So my involvement with this organization stemmed from a casual mention about the USTEAA(USA) by a friend of a friend.

I have tried to pay Minnie and Bhoie's helpful deed forward to other alumni friends that I keep in touch with. In the beginning, I hesitated reaching out to them because none of them live in the east coast. But I later realized that, though they may not be able to join social events and community services, their membership nevertheless helps advance the association's ability to support UST engineering scholars. I asked and they joined. Because they are my friends and that's what friends do.

Of course, it isn't just being friends that motivate engineering alumni to become members and to stay engaged. The social aspect is easy to understand. The annual picnic is always a blast, with scrumptious food, fun games and - on occasion - even line dancing. The dinner-dances and induction balls are not to be missed. These are events with deliciously good food and merry dancing in more formal attires.

The annual community service activity gives the civic-minded members a chance to give back to the local community. Then there's the opportunity to travel. When you join a fund-raising travel activity, you get to see many interesting places in the company of fellow-members and friends, while at the same time generating some funds for the scholarship program.

The scholarship program is of course the most important reason. All members recognize the outstanding job that USTEAA(USA) is doing to help academically qualified but financially disadvantaged students at the University of Santo Tomas, our alma mater.

These scholarships are possible because of membership fees and other fundraisers. If there is ever any doubt as to the power of your annual \$25 membership fee, just read the articles and notes from our scholars that are in the previous issues of our newsletter. Their stories are inspiring and their

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gratitude deep. The scholars who have graduated are now professionals and have successful careers or are clearly in the path to success due not only to their hard work but also in no small measure to the financial help from USTEAA(USA). In this year's issue we feature an update from Mary Grace Casuncad, a recent graduate.

We want to keep that worthy cause going. And to keep it going strong, we want to make our presence known to the wider universe of alumni out there in order to attract more members. USTEAA(USA) now has a Facebook group page. We encourage all members to check it out. If you know a friend is a member but is not yet in the FB group, add them in. If you have alumni friends who are not members, invite them to join. When you run into alumni friends anywhere, mention the USTEAA(USA).

You never know what benefit can come from a simple good word from friends. ■

"It is literally true that you can succeed best and quickest by helping others to succeed." - Napoleon Hill



► continued from page 8 [Updates From a Grateful Scholar]

The financial assistance which USTEAA(USA) has provided for me and my family is only but a small part of the good they brought into my life. The inspiration they have bestowed upon me and the knowledge they have imparted in me of who and what a Thomasian Engineer ought to be, motivate me to lead a life of unceasing search for knowledge.

I would like to thank my USTEAA(USA) Family for instilling in me the conviction that with the opportunity of being blessed comes greater responsibility, so that in time, I too, may be of service to those in need. It has been and will always be a great privilege to have been one of your scholars.

More power to the USTEAA(USA) Family!

Thank you very, very much. ■

"You can teach a student a lesson for a day; but if you can teach him to learn by creating curiosity, he will continue the learning process as long as he lives." - Clay P. Bedford