



THOMASIAN NURSE INTERNATIONAL

Official Newsletter of the University of Santo Tomas Nurses Association International

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Bernal Inducted as the 12th President in USTNAI's Virtual Ceremonies



Danilo Bernal '91 led the inductees for the 2021-2022 term of the University of Santo Tomas Nurses Association International in an all virtual ceremonies last September 26, 2020. He was sworn

into the presidency by outgoing President, Jane Macagba. In a new concept adopted at this year's induction ceremonies, Bernal then installed the rest of his Executive Board into their positions. Danilo Bernal holds a DNP and is currently working as a nurse practitioner and as a professor.

Ronaldo Verian '92 is the new president-elect. A seasoned leader whose involvement with Sigma Theta Tau chapter has gained national recognition because of his chapter's impressive activities towards the national organization's direction. His vision is to challenge the status quo by embracing an innovative approach to governance while maintaining the excellent culture of caring among fellow nurses and members.



The Regional Vice Presidents are Reggie Antonio '93 (Central), Rose Estrada '64 (Eastern) and Mary Jane Neri '95 (Western).

One of the pioneering nurses in the informatics arena is Rose Estrada '65 who had been the guru of maintaining the USTNAI website. She shares her massive experience having held the posi-



tion as a webmaster and informatics chair of the PNA of America. She is currently working on updating the USTNAI website, its membership database to conform to the increasing practical embrace of the digital world.

Reginald Antonio '93, is the new Central Vice President. Currently Chair of USTNAI Outreach Program Committee and Board Member for Central. He co-lead USTNAI's 2019 Medical/Surgical and Outreach program in Jomalig, Quezon Philippines. He will advocate to continue the legacy of USTNAI in providing services to the underprivileged member of the community here and abroad towards the implementation of projects such as Medical, surgical and outreach program through the Alay ng Puso Committee. He envisions bridging the generational gap between alumni, and move forward a close collaboration with other Nursing Association in providing services to the nursing profession.

From the Central Region, Jane Neri '95 moved to California is the newly-inducted Western Region Vice President. She is the Executive Director Cardiovascular and Surgical Services at Providence Little Company of Mary Medical Center in San Pedro and Torrance.



Divina Sirokie '79 was elected The Executive Secretary. She has functioned as the Zoom conference moderator during this past year, "I have great pride in being a Thomasian. She describes USTNAI is an extension of ideals UST inculcate in each one of us. The opportunities USTNAI create to collaborate with other nursing, professional, community, and civic organizations are boundless. Sirokie will endeavor to champion the mission of UST-



President's Message

My fellow Thomasians and friends, we have plenty of reasons to celebrate! Amidst the pandemic crisis, fires, hurricanes, floods, protests, one great news – USTNAI's 25th anniversary – truly a milestone!



Congratulations to all who have been part of this wonderful journey! Let's hope for the best in the coming years. As I reach the end of my term, I thank you for this honor of leading this organization. A few are given such responsibility and it's been a privilege. I am blessed beyond measure.

Thank you to the outgoing officers — the doers that make this organization work. A toast to the Executive Board for your commitment, hard work and unconditional dedication and to the Advisory Council, especially my two Executive Directors, Lorna Schneider and Phil Mangahas for your invaluable experience, insights and advice. You laid a strong foundation that reflects on our organization today. My deep gratitude, too, to the organizing committee for planning and organizing this virtual fundraising and induction event.

I extend my best wishes to the incoming officers headed by Dan Bernal, who with unbridled enthusiasm, is ready to forge ahead, inspiring new horizons. You are all such dedicated Tomasinos for promoting the growth and viability of USTNAI. May God's graces be with all of you!

I would like to thank my wonderful “classmates” of Class 1975. Yes, we coined that word, “classmates.” You are a bunch of adorables . . . my profound gratitude. Lastly, I would like to acknowledge my main supporters, my husband Sammy and our four children. This organization has taken us to a whole new height with all the successes in 2019. USTNAI partnered with our College of Nursing and the local alumni association for the very first international nursing conference and outreach program. We collaborated with PNAA through sponsorship during its 40th Anniversary in Atlanta.

This year 2020, in spite of the covid crisis, we witnessed USTNAI grow tremen-

continued from page 1..Bernal Leads Inductees

NAI set for the future and shall strive to assist in filling the gaps in advocacy and effective decision making.

Alfredo Sagisi, Corresponding Secretary '91 Succinct and clear communications can define an organization's depth. Provision of general correspondence that meets the needs of the organization and its members can help fortify timely decision making, discuss pressing issues and communicate important matter. Participation and power in numbers. Explore avenues to promote and expand reach of the organization through collaborative work and knowledge sharing.



Amory Godwin Grijaldo '92, Recording Secretary he would bring excellence in service and innovation in USTNAI. He believes that the field of nursing is akin to service. Delivery of excellent service and innovation to the members and to the community. We have achieved this through the “Alay Ng Puso” Jomalig Outreach Project continuing and broadening these endeavors will be the organization's mission. He would want to work on collaborating with other members of the organization and strengthen the organization's network by encouraging partnerships with other professional organizations.



Consolacion Galang '79 from current auditor position to treasurer brings in a lot of experience in handling finances from the USTNA of California. Had been a very active member for several terms now having held several positions within the organization. Endeavors to handle the organizational's funds and finances with transparency.



Gwendolyn Astudillo '79 is the assistant treasurer for

the 2021-22 term. A nurse practitioner at the Phoenix VA Medical center she brings in a lot of experience through various positions she has held with USTNAI.

Roland Santos '81 as Auditor will bring in a lot of management experience being a chief nursing officer of hospital chains for several years now. Currently, he is the chapter president of the PNA of Southern California. He has served as national secretary of the PNA of America. As the auditor, he would like to be a role model for members of our organization and alumni to ensure that we maintain the reputation and respect we continue to achieve now and for years to come. He likes to mentor members of the USTNAI by helping them succeed in their chosen field of expertise by providing assistance and mentorship using my many years of proven exemplary clinical and leadership skills.



Central Board Members

Edgardo Aguila is a certified nurse anesthetist who would provide fresh new vision to enhance and make current USTNAI engage current and future UST nursing alumni. He would provide a different perspective, new innovative ways to make USTNAI adapt and adjust to our profession that continuously evolving due to the current health care system



A seasoned **Maria Sallie Poepsel '74**, has been elected as a Board of Member for Central Region. Her broad-based experience in Nursing and Healthcare for approximately 45 years afford me an excellent opportunity to give back and



contribute to the mission and vision of USTNAI. She believes that with the changing and constantly evolving landscape in the nursing profession, she will be a perfect fit in the transformation of USTNAI. Furthermore, she stated, "as a profession we remain agile, highly responsive and relevant not only to the members we serve but more importantly to the patients and families who entrust us with their care." As a thought leader, she will be open to the possibilities of moving USTNAI forward, with a keen eye to its core values, mission and vision.

Liezl Sumalinog Rodas '92. Her intent is to work with the organization in promoting and assisting in the implementation of the organization's professional, religious, educational, and civic goals and objectives as well as helping increase the organizations' societal impact. She will work on increasing the organization's societal impact by introducing new ideas and broadening connections.



Eastern Board Members

Joey Cruz III '91 did not hesitate to run for a leadership position in the USTNAI. He describes this opportunity as an extension of his continuing commitment to serve the College and the University. He was a clinical instructor and an Administrative Official for almost 20 years and he would be able to offer USTNAI, a unique perspective to the association, not only as an alumni but also as a former University official.



Along with the vast social capital, built through the years, within the College, the University and more importantly among the graduates who were his students from the early 90's up until 2014. He thinks these are of value to help continue to expand the membership of USTNAI and align some of the association's programs with that of the College and University."

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The youngest in this year's crew is **Jim Eduard Trinidad '08** who describes himself as a full-fledged Thomasian Nurse and aims to give back to the Thomasian Nursing Community. He would be contributing to USTNAI's efforts in conducting educational, medical, socio-civic, and charitable projects. A promising entrepreneur, he wants to expand his horizons by collaborating and coordinating with fellow Thomasians here in America and abroad. He would be an asset as he intends to be a liaison between USTNAI and the new generation of Thomasian Nurses who commonly have a misconception that alumni associations are only for seasoned professionals.



Having been a multi-award recipient from this year's PNAA National Convention, **Mary Dioise Ramos-Tamayo** joins the USTNAI board for the first time. An experienced leader in education, service, and professional organizations, her leadership came to the forefront when she was the hosting Chapter President of PNA Georgia hosting 40th PNAA National Convention. She describes herself as a motivated transformational leader with genuine concern for everyone. I have good strategic and tactical skills as evidenced by my accomplishments in research (grants and publications), education, and service.



Western Region Board Members

Sheryl Antido '00 wants to contribute to fulfilling the mission of USNAI. She will bring her batch to the Association for longevity of USTNAI in the many years to come.



Minda Banaria '64 returns for another term of service as a Board Member. A retired Nurse she has been engaged in coordinating medical missions. She also has been the award committee chairperson for several years now. She is excited to serve in Alay ng Puso Community Outreach Program of USTNAI.



Joanely Sibayan will be able to create a more profound impact in our respective communities and for UST. Standing true to our mission, we will act as a unifying and supportive force for all UST nurses outside the Philippines. I wish to help recruit more Thomasian Nurses, especially from the 90's graduates and beyond, to make a stronger sense of commonality for Filipino nurses working around the globe.



Calling themselves as the Transformative Team, this new Executive Board collectively look at moving the organization forward. So far, the team has presented and offered their expertise from their various participation in projects, professional organizations and their current positions. This Board represents five decades of experiences that will certainly move the Association forward.



Joining the USTNAI Officers on the day of the Induction and Alay ng Puso webinar at the Los Angeles Downtown Intercontinental hotel are associate members PNAA Western Region Vice President Marlon Saria and Past PNAA President Dino Doliente. From L-R, Marlon Saria, Danilo Bernal, Dino Doliente, Mindy Ofiana, Pete Calixto and Roland Santos

Alay ng Puso Put Thomasians Behind the Masks: Perfect Strategy to Unity



Everyday on Facebook, there has not been a day where a Thomasian Nurse post their pictures behind the UST mask. Since the project was launched, there was an unprecedented popularity causing the ordering site to crash as the USTNAI posted an apology on facebook. This visionary project came so timely as the COVID-19 pandemic raged in cities around the world.



The USTNAI, through its visionary project leader- Reginald Antonio of To93ther obtained exclusive permission from the University. It is now the envy of other alumni organizations from UST asking for the same permission. The Philippine-based USTNAA is also exploring ways of having the mask being distributed in the Philippines. Currently, the masks are mailed from Houston, Texas.

Mask Class Wars

Classes have been engaged in trying to “outdo” other classes in this exciting healthy competition. Class 1979 continues to be the model-class to emulate on their on their collective support to the mask project proudly displaying that sense of unity towards their support to the Alay ng Puso Community Outreach Project. In no time, Class 79 posted this on the USTNAI Facebook page.

The Mask Gesture

In addition to a huge UST initials on the mask with various iconic figures from the UST campus, wearing the mask has become a unifying item. To complete the mask gesture is putting one’s palm over the heart. Right now the mask symbolizes unity, “we are all in this together” and putting your right palm over the right chest simply takes over the hand shake (the oldest acknowledgement act/gesture) that seems to be a practice that is fast fading observing the principles of social distancing.

Wearing the Mask with Pride

With its classy design and the quality of the masks, the endorsement have been very positive. Made of a nylon-like material, it is soft and non-suffocating. There is also an internal pocket where a surgical mask can be inserted. Its appearance in the Philippines-mask wearing public especially within the UST campus have caught the attention of its exclusive and distinct design and thus the desire to have one. Alay ng Puso conceived this perfect strategy that for a small donation of \$35 for the Outreach and Community Project, three masks is sent to the donor and another two masks is donated to any UST Hospital frontliner.

An Everyday Casual Wear

With the pandemic’s progress and control still uncertain, the mask will continue to be worn especially now that mandatory usage is legislated by local, state and federal au-

thorities with limited flexibilities. The demand will continue until statistics will definitely indicate that the pandemic is under control.



Alay ng Puso Webinar SAVE OUR STUDENTS Fundraising Event

Marissa enrolled at the UST College of Nursing on the first year. This was with the guarantee that her aunt, an OFW promised her that she would fully support her when she goes to college before she went to the Middle East in 2008. Marissa showed a lot of promise as she consistently topped her grade school and high school classes. The unfortunate turn of events is that the aunt had a stroke and had to return to the Philippines needing full time care. To augment family income, Marissa participated in selling vegetables at their stall at Tandang Sora market just enough for the family's day to day needs. Reenroling to become a nurse was sidelined in lieu of family's priorities. Marissa's story is not unique to those students who have enrolled at the UST College of Nursing most especially during these pandemic times.

The Alay ng Puso (now a USTNAI brand) has extended its project towards this cause. As the USTNAI embarks on its new direction of establishing a solid scholarship program, this is going to be an exciting initiative that the new administration will embark on, the realization of dreams and aspirations of those who have been de-

terred by personal circumstances and hardship.

Last September 26, 2020 this Alay ng Puso segment of the back-to-back celebration of the USTNAI induction of officers, USTNAI is appealing for financial support for this project. "Let us have our younger brothers and sisters remain to realize their dream of becoming nurses at the UST College of Nursing." When this initiative was brought up for discussion to the USTNAI Executive Board meeting recently, the Board unanimously approved this initiative.

The event was hosted by multi-awarded entrepreneur by the AsiaCEO Entrepreneur of the Year Circle of Excellence, Dr. Carl Balita (UST College of Nursing Class 1991). His network also provided the complimentary ser-

vices to carry the event live streamed on facebook.

The program began with Reginald Antonio '93 introducing host Carl Balita for the first part of the evening's event. Highly experienced as a radio and TV anchor, Balita hosted the program flawlessly plugging in update of the fundraising and introducing the celebrity guests- Florante who before rendering his song, "Gift" appealed to the audience to donate generously. Jessica Sanchez, an American Idol runner up was the other celebrity performer.

Jim Eduard Trinidad '08 was the fundraiser monitor who kept the audience updated of the amount. Past President Nancy Hoff



Parang kailan lang
Ang mga pangarap ko'y kay hirap abutin
Dahil sa inyo
Napunta ako sa aking nais marat-ing
Kaya't itong awiting aking inaawit
Ay nais ko kayo ang handugan
Parang kailan lang
Halos ako ay magpalimos sa lansangan
Dahil sa inyo
Ang aking tiyan at ang bulsa'y

nagkakalaman
At dahil dito ay nais ko kayong pasalamatan
Kahit man lamang sa isang awitin
Tatanda at lilipas din ako
Nguni't mayroong awiting liwanan sa inyong ala-ala
Dahil, minsan, tayo'y nagkasama
Parang kailan lang
Ang mga awitin ko ay ayaw pakinggan
Dahil sa inyo
Narinig ang ang isip ko at naintindihan

At dahil dito'y nais ko kayong ituring Na isang matalik kong kaibigan
Tatanda at lilipas din ako
Nguni't mayroong awiting liwanan sa inyong ala-ala
Dahil, minsan, tayo'y nagkasama

HANDOG
Lyrics

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2020 USTNAI Virtual Induction Ceremonies: The Celebration of Many Firsts

2020 Year of the Nurse and Midwife was going to be a yearlong recognition celebration of nursing with WHO's recognizing the 200th birthday of Florence Nightingale. Instead of jubilation, this was the year that pushed nurses to the ultimate test of the profession making them a testimony of heroism, resiliency and dedication. This year also introduced so many firsts - the disappearance of the the oldest and classic form of greetings (the handshake and hugs), adopting new health habits, mandatory and controversial wearing of personal protective devices, the shortage and hoarding of major commodities and saying- it is the NEW NORMAL. The new normal and its many firsts.

The 2020 Induction has ushered a new normal to the Association. In a virtual ceremonies, the swearing in of the incoming USTNAI president Danilo Bernal by the outgoing president, Jane Macagba. The second, was the installation of the rest of the Executive Board by the newly sworn in president. This is the start of a new tradition that will be an ongoing practice for the future. This ceremony is to emphasize the importance to the roles being assumed. The third, was the reciting of the traditional pledge that was replaced by a question and answer format with the new officer responding with, "I will."

The Gavel ceremony during this virtual coverage was passed by the outgoing president striking her gavel three times (symbolizing this term has concluded) and the gavel striking once by the incoming president indicating that "this authority has just begun."

NOMELEC Chairperson Jean Uy '79 called the roll of the incoming Executive Board in preparation for the Oath Taking with each one stating their names and their class. Stole Advisory Council Investiture Ceremony indicates the immediate past president being welcomed to the elite group of the Advisory Council that is composed of USTNAI's past presidents. The stole is a green sash worn around the neck bearing USTNAI and Advisory Council. As the Founding President, Mindy Ofiana performed the celebration of welcoming the new member of the Advisory Council. In its twenty-five year of existence the USTNAI has eleven past presidents Mindy Ofiana '75, Ampy de la Paz '65, Ernesto Rosas '76, Lorna Schneider '79, Nancy Hoff '66, Phil Mangahas '71, Ferdie Luyun '66, Peter-Reuben Calixto '77, Edna De Leon and Jean Uy of Class 1979.

There were two awards given during this program. The Presidential Award for Outstanding Service was given to Fr. Julius Paul Factora and the first Advisory Council Distinguished Award in Excellence to Reginald Antonio for his community outreach projects including the popular UST mask project.

The program will also recognized the jubilarians who were in attendance. The presence of the USTNAA (Philippines) and the UST College of Nursing will be heavily felt with the presence of Dean Rowena Chua, Father Julius Factora (the Regent of the UST College of Nursing and newly-appointed as the Chief Executive Officer of the UST Hospital and USTNAA President Ida Tionko.

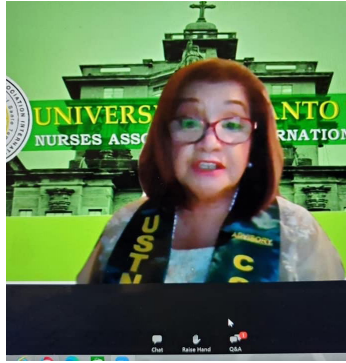
Serving as hosts were past USTNAI presidents Mindy Ofiana '75 and Peter-Reuben Calixto Spirit of 77.



Looking Back: USTNAI Was a Dream and is now a Successful Reality

Mindy Ofiana '75, USTNAI Founding President

In the summer of 1995, Mindy Ofiana was a member of the PNA Southern California delegation to attend the Philippine Nurses Association of America (PNAA) National Convention that was held at the San Francisco Westin Hotel on Union Square. On arrival and as the PNA of Northern California (PNANC) was busy putting in the finishing touches to prepare for the convention, the local UST Nurses Association of Northern California invited all the Thomasians that were in attendance. The USTNA of Northern CA treated the Thomasian delegates coming from all over the country to a dinner in a Chinese restaurant around Chinatown.



At that restaurant, the group decided to nationalize USTNAI. A spontaneous election of officers for the future UST Nurses Association of America. Per advise of the late Vicky Pacal Alegre from Chicago, to omit in the name the word “alumni” as it would pose non-profit application in the future. Since then, the name of the Association has been the USTNA of America.

Mindy Ofiana, was then the director of the chapter's presentation for the PNAA's Networking Night was elected President at this casual gathering. Officers were then informally nominated. At the end of the dinner, founding officers of the USTNAI were identified and volunteered. A membership fee was decided in which Thomasians present at the dinner paid their membership fee of \$30- a fee that has not increased since 1995.

At the PNAA's Networking Night, the swearing in of the founding officers of the USTNAI were inducted by then PNAA President Carmen Galang. This induction carries a lot of significance on USTNAI's relationship with PNAA. As one PNAA officer commented, “you have stolen the scene of the networking night.” With her PNASC team, they then performed a well-choreographed, “Age of Aquarius” that then served as a benchmark performance in a PNAA Networking Night. It then elevated the quality of performances from sponta-

neous roll call of performers to one that is rehearsed, choreographed and conceived quality numbers. Ever since, PNAA Networking Nights have been a model for almost all Filipino organizations where nurses are involved.

Mindy Ofiana '75 has held several nurse executive positions including Chief Operations Office, chief nursing officer at various work places. (chief operations officer)n She has also been involved actively with PNAA on both at the local and national level.

A leader and a role model, she is a worker bee making it so easy to work with. No matter how difficult the task is, she had come through over and over again.

The successful production of the Alay ng Puso webinar could easily be claimed to her credit. Acting as a conductress of a symphony, she made sure that everything was in order. She wrote the script for proper sequencing of the flow. Despite the so many individuals who were involved, she conducted meetings individually with the stakeholders anticipating possible situations that could happen during this virtual telecast. She keeps saying, “it takes a village.”

Moving forward, Mindy Ofiana has been picked to be the Executive Director of this new term where he is joined by two other USTNAI two past presidents- Peter-Reuben Calixto '77 and Jean Uy '79 as the Leadership Advisory team. Her prolific vision of how to place the organization forward will make the USTNAI a beneficiary of her expertise. With her profound experience and her keen attention to details USTNAI cannot go wrong.

It is then up to the new officers to resource her feedback on the nuances of their committees or their plans as active and dedicated stakeholders in this administration.

One thing for sure, “it takes a village” meaning that the input of everyone is valuable and it is only us that can limit our direction and achieve goals to a productive outcome. The sleeves have to be rolled up and keep those creative ideas keep coming.

provided the information on how and where to donate.

“Handog” the Philippine top billboard song in the 70s by Florante was presented by selected members and officers of USTNAI in a virtual is a song that is perfectly appropriate for the overall theme of this proceedings as it is a song that expresses gratitude of how the song got to where it dreamed to go heavily recognizing those on his trail to success.

Other highlight was the acapella singing of the national anthems by Past President Lorna Schneider (Star Spangled Banner and Western Region VP Jane Neri (Lupang Hinirang).

Reflections written in English by Past President Ampy de la Paz, portions of which were recited in two dialects- Ilocano (Past President Pete Calixto '77), Cebuano (President-elect Ronaldo Verian '92), Tagalog (Eastern Board Member Mary Diosie Ramos '98).

Welcome messages were from Professor Ida Tionko, the current president of USTNAAI and an inspirational message from newly-promoted Chief Nursing Officer and UST College of Nursing Regent Fr. Julius Paul Factora.

Batches (classes) rallied their group to donate to the fundraising with some classes pledging as much as \$2500. It became a class competition.

The live fundraising may be over but the link for donation will be actively open for more donations. <https://form.jotform.com/202621219607449>

As the event came to a close, the fundraising generated \$20,000 plus with more coming in. Host Carl Balita also donated to sponsor a student.

The transition to the next Induction Ceremonies was a video of those who supported the the Alay ng Puso mask project. Thomasian nurses from all classes proudly wearing their UST masks. As per Mindy Ofiana's announcement, there were hundreds who ordered and supported

Thomasian Behind the Mask Receives USTNAI's Most Prestigious Award Advisory Council Award in Excellence

He was totally caught offguard when he received his plaque at home two days before the 2020 USTNAI Induction Ceremonies last September 26, 2020. At the 2019 USTNAI Annual Convention and Leadership Summit held in New York, he already received the award for Community Service because of the very successful Jomalig Medical Mission.



This year, the past presidents of USTNAI conceived an award dedicated to a Thomasian who has gone above and beyond expectations. They unanimously decided to conceive the most prestigious award the Association has ever given in its 25 year history.

Reggie was overwhelmed of emotion as he humbly accepted this surprise award with a shaky voice.

RESOLUTION FOR REGINALD ANTONIO

WHEREAS, Reginald Antonio is a graduate of the University of Santo Tomas College of Nursing, Class of 1993.

WHEREAS, he has led and united his class TO93THER to embark on projects not only to his class, but also to his Alma Mater and USTNAI

WHEREAS, he has envisioned the annual "Alay ng Puso" to render health services to an isolated island of Jomalig, off the coast of Quezon in 2018, a 5th class municipality deprived of health services except during these medical missions

WHEREAS, he initiated to offer to the USTNAI Executive Board to adopt the **Alay ng Puso Program** that was approved and accepted as the Association's Ad Hoc Committee – USTNAI Community Outreach

WHEREAS, he envisioned the **Alay ng Puso's**, "Face Mask Project" to raise funds for the Community Outreach Program that was overwhelmingly received by USTNAI members, friends and families and has unprecedentedly unified USTNAI members.

Be it RESOLVED that Reginald Antonio '93, the USTNAI Advisory Council unanimously honor a **Distinguished Thomasian** for his leadership, passion, foresight, innovation, impeccable character that embodies the true and ultimate Thomasian qualities.



Mindy Ofiana '75, Ampy de la Paz '61, Ernesto Rosas '76, Lorna Schneider '79, Nancy Hoff '66, Phil Mangahas '71, Ferdie Luyun '66, Peter-Reuben Calixto '77, Edna de Leon '79, Jean Uy '79, Jane Macagba '75

Jubilarians' Spotlight Class of 1965 - 2020 55th Jubilarian



UST College of Nursing Class 1965 participated at the National Songfest Festival at the Araneta Coliseum, Philippines and won the first prize trophy.



UST College of Nursing Class 1965 celebrated their 30th Reunion Anniversary at the Sheraton Meadowlands in Rutherford, New Jersey



UST College of Nursing, Class '65 with Dean Natalia Maralit and Dr. Teresita Irigo Barcelo.



50th Anniversary Reunion during the 5-days Caribbean Cruise on April, 2015

Meet the USTNAI *Thomasian Nurse International* Editorial Board



Ferdie Luyun '66 is past president of the UST Nurses Association International and has held multiple leadership positions including a stint as Board member of the Philippine Nurses Association of America. Active community advocate in Philadelphia where he is also a past president of the Ilocano Cultural Association of Greater Philadelphia. He maintains a position on the PNA of America Foundation as Board of Trustee and as an Associate Editor of the PNA of America newsletter, INSIDE PNAA.



Carmencita C. Santiago '73 worked for Doctors Hospital in Tucker Georgia upon arrival in 1974. After 39 years of service with Northside Hospital she retired in 2014. In her career, she had been a staff nurse, infusion nurse, clinician, manager in case management and oncology and bone marrow transplant department. She was certified in ONC and CRNI. She is currently the editor in chief of the PNA Georgia's newsletter, StethoScoop and is a regular article contributor for PNAA's Inside PNAA. She has also served as an officer, PRO of PNA Georgia. She enjoys traveling, gardening and writing poetry.



Gian Carlo Torres '02 is a faculty of the University of Santo Tomas College of Nursing and a faculty researcher. Prior to this he has held multiple positions with the College. A prolific researcher, he has published extensively. He is a member/officer of multiple professional organizations including his current position on the Board of Governors of the Philippine Nurses Association, NCR. He teaches professional nursing courses in adult health nursing and nursing research course. As a researcher his interest involve areas such as patient readiness , health education , program development , health literacy , capacity building and nursing interventions.



Franz Vergara '03 is a current nurse manager of Wellstar Health System in Greater Atlanta area. Extensive experience as a nurse clinician, nurse educator and case manager. A member of the National Association Orthopaedic Nurses and Sigma Theta Tau, he has published extensively. He has also been a recipient of multiple awards and scholarships that includes the OPAL Scholarship from Johns Hopkins University, Graduate Scholarship from the American Assembly for Men in Nursing and the Dean's Cholar Program Award from Barnes Jewish Hospital.



Your picture will be here on the next issue. There is a position for three more then the Editorial Board will convene a meeting to draft the policies, layout and the direction of this publication. If you can relate your stories in writing, you can very well be a part of this group. Relate your stories on college life that includes experiences when your were students, talk about iconic professors- their style of teaching and their distinct characteristics, your former classmates, your reunions and many more to share. This will make this newsletter more interactive and interesting. If interested, send an e mail to ustnai@yahoo.com

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dously in membership and professional influence. Some of the "firsts" include subscription to software platforms to realize our goals, organization's first online election. And now, another first — the virtual fundraising, induction and celebration of our 25th Anniversary. I thank Carl Balita for this wonderful endeavor. There is ongoing work (1) writing the history of USTNAA/USTNAI and (2) the revision and updating of our Bylaws.

Through USTNAI's Covid initiative program, we donated \$1500 to frontline healthcare workers in the Philippines. Other chapters and individual members followed with donations on their own. Alay ng Puso project, spearheaded by Reggie Antonio, launched a successful fundraising drive for the UST Hospital frontliners. We succeeded in negotiating for the cancellation of our contract with JW Marriott for our supposed-to-be-anniversary celebration in Chicago this year.

I choose that mantra "Kaya Natin" at the start of my term because it symbolizes our cohesiveness in working together as a team in reaching our myriad goals and objectives. I hope that you will continue to join us in this mission of "Kaya Natin" to foster growth, and to take action for a better tomorrow, to share our blessings and ideas, time and talent from now and beyond. We are all Thomasians. We are a united Thomasians. Let's make tomorrow better together and support our alma mater. Giving assistance to UST College of Nursing is a "payback" on our part for the exceptional nursing training and Christian education we received. As in times past, we will unite, progress, and hope always.

God bless us and God bless USTNAI.
Kind regards,

Jane Macagba USTNAI President 2019-2020
RN, MBA, Class 1975

USTNAI EXECUTIVE BOARD 2020-2022

President Danilo Bernal
President Elect Ronaldo Verian
Central Vice President Reginald Antonio
Eastern Vice President Rosario Estrada
Western Vice President Mary Jane Neri
Executive Secretary Divina Sirokie
Corresponding Secretary Alfredo Sagisi
Recording Secretary Amory Goldwin Grijaldo
Treasurer Connie Galang
Assistant Treasurer Wendy Astudillo Tee
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Central Board Members

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Liezl Sumalinog Rodas

Eastern Board Members

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Mary Diosie Ramos Tamayo

Western Board Members

Sheryl Ann Antido
Minda Banaria
Joanely Sibayan

Advisory Council

Mindy Ofiana
Ampy de la Paz
Ernesto Rosas
Lorna Schneider
Nancy Hoff
Phil Mangahas
Ferdie Luyun
Peter-Reuben Calixto
Edna De Leon
Jean Uy
Jane Macagba

Before the virtual induction behinds the scenes with the USTNAI 's Alay ng Puso production crew in Los Angeles' Intercontinental Hotel

