



Thomasian Newsletter

USTNAA Holds Its Fourth Grand Reunion in St. Louis- September 2003 By: Annabelle Loyola Cosas



Ampy and Ernie (center) acknowledge the St. Louis hosts of the Fourth Grand Reunion of USTNAA at the Saturday gala night. From left: Corazon Tejano-Ortiguero ('50), Harriette Lim-Gacad ('69), Remy Abinoja-Yu ('62), Emy Castro-Floro ('62), Joy Jaurigue-Jaurigue ('79), Grace Cusi-Manuel ('86), Ampy Agapay-Dela Paz ('61), Immediate Past President, Ernie Rosas ('76), President 2002-2004, Annabelle Loyola-Cosas ('69), Nena Jovida-Meneses ('50), Jean Corcega-Reyes (E61), Gemma Villanueva-Flores (E89), Nelia Canlas-De Castro ('70) and Corazon Villanueva ('50).

President Ernie Rosas announces New York as next host. St. Louisan Jean Corcega-Reyes and Annabelle Loyola-Cosas (third and second from right, respectively) pass the Nightingale lamp to New Yorkers (from left) Esther Solano-Laserna ('69), Lorna Tarog-Schneider ('79), Rexie Dator-Tagle ('51) and Carmen Cuizon-Manugas ('61)



The UST nurses of St. Louis, Missouri were hosts to the Fourth Grand Reunion of the USTNAA. The celebration was held at Hilton St. Louis Frontenac on Sept. 26-28, 2003.

It was with much enthusiasm that the St. Louisan nurses, just a handful they may be, accepted the offer from Ernie Rosas, President 2002-2004. With only five months to prepare, September came and "The Gateway Arch to the West" opened its heart and arms to Thomasian nurses from the north, south, east and west of the U.S. and one from the Philippines.

Comments from the President: "The Fourth USTNAA Grand Reunion has come and gone but I know memories of the wonderful weekend in St. Louis will always remain in our thoughts and hearts. "I would like to extend my warmest gratitude to Annabelle and all her committee members and for everyone who came and supported this reunion. Our seminar was very interesting with all those excellent speakers. I am quite excited with what we have accomplished during our meeting with the approval of our By-laws and in supporting our fund raising efforts and our Alma Mater's Outreach program. And, of course, the dinner dance was most enjoyable. However, the most memorable part was the tour to Our Lady of the Snows and to the Pink Sisters' convent. That was quite a treat for all of us, having our private Mass and Eucharistic celebration with Father Andy Chalkey, O.M.I. I am glad that the Pink Sisters were happy to see us. The comments I heard were that it was a very spiritual day to close the Reunion.

"I commend St. Louis hosts for a job well done. We were worried about the money but God is really watchful of us. (See footnotes.) "It was so nice to see all of you. It may not be as big of a crowd but then again, we had the 'cream of the crop' !! (and missing some!)"

The UST Nurses Association of Greater St. Louis forwarded to USTNAA c/o Martha Evangelista-Cabarios, Treasurer 2002-2004, \$2,100.00 from the reunion proceeds and \$1,425.00 from x57 membership fee out of x73 attendees. (Reported by Annabelle Loyola-Cosas, Reunion Committee chairperson).

* PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE * Ernie Rosas, '76 Kansas City, Missouri USTNAA President (2002-2004)

Greetings from the Show Me State of Missouri!

Our 5th Grand Reunion and Convention is just around the corner and as the President of the USTNAA, it is a pleasure to invite you all to this very important gathering. This year Reunion is hosted by UST Alumni Association of the Eastern State and will be held in the lively and moving city of New York. Two previous Reunion in Las Vegas and St. Louis, Missouri were both tremendously successful. So don't be left out. See your classmates in New York.

In January 2003 my wife and I have an opportunity to visit the UST College of Nursing and had a meeting with Professor Glenda Vargas, R.N. M.A.N, Dean UST College of Nursing and Professor Socorro Sanchez-Guanhing, R.N. M.A.N., Assistant Dean and we discussed our intention to help the College.

Upon their recommendation, we are supporting the UST NURSE PROGRAM, which is a holistic approach to Community Development Program. Last year we pledged as Platinum Sponsor and donated Php 70,000.00. The money was received in January 2004 and truly appreciated. It was budgeted for healthcare supplies and transportation costs for healthcare professional volunteers. I would like to express my deep appreciation to all who supported and contributed to this noble project.

As you send me off as your President, allow me to express my thanks for your continued support and for all you do as an alumnus of UST. Thomasians know that service is its own reward but I want to make sure you know how much I respect and appreciate your hard work and tireless dedication. It has been a pleasure and privilege to work with you all. I will always treasure this experience.

My personal thanks goes to all the members of the USTNAA Executive Board and all the Committee chairs especially to Rose Estrada for working on our Website.

Best of luck to my successor, Lorna Schneider as you navigate our Association to a new horizon.

Looking forward to see you all in the Big Apple!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!
Join the USTNAA reunion in
New York on the last weekend
of September, 2004

Welcome to the Big Apple!

by Lorna R. Schneider, MSN, RN, CCRN,
APRN, BC, CA, CCNS

President-Elect

*Clinical Nurse Specialist, Critical Care
Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center
New York, NY*

Welcome to the 5th annual USTNAA grand reunion and welcome to the Big Apple, the Empire State and the city that never sleeps!

The USTNAA serves as a unifying organization of all UST nursing alumni outside of the Philippines for the purpose of enhancing the professionalism of the Thomasian nurse exemplifying the highest standard, quality and compassion in the provision of nursing care guided by the Christian teachings of our university. This is the essence of the mission of the University of Sto. Tomas Nurses Association of America. A noble objective to say the least, but still some people would ask, "why become a member or attend a reunion or why participate, at all?"

Every year for the last five years, UST nursing graduates organized to come together for an occasion like this one to celebrate professional achievements, renew friendships and/or make new ones, discover professional best practices through networking, and discuss practice issues related to our profession. All worthy reasons to come together for a reunion but my involvement in many professional organizations such as this one is based on my personal beliefs on the tenets that in this modern era of globalization, professionals or individuals that organizes itself hierarchically and overcomes ethnic and regional divisions without suppressing individual opportunity for self expression and advancement produces a much superior culture in the midst of a highly competitive society. I further believe that coming together as a group, can maximize our potential, inspires us to be creative, awakens our ambitions to take risks and stimulates our imagination to try new ways without losing our individuality and the virtues it offers and without relinquishing responsibility and control over our own personal outcomes. The USTNAA can serve as a vehicle that helps propels us forward to further achieve individual success, albeit different rates of progress. It is an irrefutable fact that UST have produced some of the best nurses in this country, if not more. In our personal and professional journey, we have come to know with full confidence the joy of having achieved our individual success in the pursuit of the American Dream. On this occasion, it is not only allowed but it is also fair to remember our alma mater and say thanks to this great adapted country of ours as we celebrate the sweet pleasure of our success... and yet the journey continues. As the president of this organization, I hope to inspire, promise to challenge and demand without engendering the moral surrender of our times.

I believe that coming together and sharing "our stories" with one another is a gift of a lifetime.

USTNAA: Are We There Yet?

By Ampy A. de la Paz, MSN, RN
Immediate Past President (1999-2002)

Oh my! The year 2004 is certainly going by so fast. In a few months, USTNAA officers and members will travel east to the Big Apple for the USTNAA 5th Grand Reunion! Our gracious host, USTNAA of the Eastern States of America, Inc. , headed by Lorna Schneider, has been busy at work these past months in preparation for the big event scheduled for September 16-18th.

The memories from the 4th Grand Reunion in St. Louis, Missouri last year is still etched in the minds and hearts of those of us who were there to witness the fun and camaraderie among friends and classmates who, as though transformed back in time to their school days, were screaming, hugging and kissing, laughing, introducing their spouses and children, sharing family pictures, and exchanging information to catch up with lost time of years gone by! What a memorable scene it was meeting people we have not seen for years and trying to recapture the memories of our college days. Everyone did just what they came to do... reminisce the good old days when we were young and gay! After all, that's what reunions are for, right?

With each Grand Reunion , the goal to ensure the growth and stability of USTNAA is rekindled in our minds and hearts. As Thomasians, it is our individual responsibility to spread the word to our fellow alumni and hope that they in turn will spread the word to their classmates and friends. From the first reunion in Houston, Texas, USTNAA has traveled to various places.... Detroit, Michigan, Las Vegas, Nevada, and St. Louis, Missouri. As an organization still in its formative years, USTNAA must travel to different cities every year to bring the USTNAA message to all Thomasians all across America. Our travels and visibility in major cities is a sure way of bringing our message to everyone for them to come and join us. It is when people see the dynamics and the electricity generated by enthusiastic colleagues that they are encouraged to join. As a 5-year old organization, USTNAA has a long way to go..... USTNAA is certainly NOT there yet!

What does this mean for each of us? Building a strong and visible USTNAA is not an easy task. Our challenge has just begun! As USTNAA leaders, we need to take our roles seriously. As we all know, an organization's viability is only as good as the dedication and commitment of its officers and members. Where there are hardworking and dedicated leaders, there are successful organizations. Therefore, it is our vested interest as leaders to ensure that USTNAA spends time in developing new leaders, leaders who will be willing to step up to the challenge of holding the reins and prepared to move our organization forward. As I have said in my previous messages when I was USTNAA President, we all need to get involved! For one, we must strengthen our communication lines by taking full advantage of technological

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innovations.... the USTNAA Website and being! on-line for email messaging. The goal for the continued growth of USTNAA in every major city of the USA and Canada must continue. Incidentally, is there a chapter in Canada yet? When is USTNAA going to Canada? Mobility is the key to our success... let's get moving! Immobility will lead us nowhere... so, we will never get there!

Fellow Thomasians, get your compass ready and help us chart USTNAA's course! Destination? Anywhere and everywhere! USTNAA will continue to travel around until a chapter is formed in every major US city. I can dream... can't I? As the saying goes.... "If you can dream it, you can do it!" Are you ready for the challenge?