



University of Santo Tomas Nurses Association of America

Thomasian Newsletter

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September 2002 *

Second USTNAAM Grand Reunion Draws

Big Turnout: *By. Rosita Medina Cruz, RN,BSN,MA*



UST College of Nursing Alumni from Canada and all over the USA came to Michigan for the second grand reunion of the University of Santo Tomas Nurses Alumni Association of America (USTNAA) at the Westin Hotel in Southfield, Michigan on September 28 - 30, 2001. Officers of the organization who were able to attend were: President Ampy Agapay de la Paz (Class '61) of Texas, President-elect Ernie Rosas (Class '76) of Missouri, Vice-President Merlita Velasquez (Class '64) of Texas, Secretary Annabelle Loyola Cosas (Class '69) of Missouri, Treasurer Martha Evangelista Cabarios (Class '64), of Michigan, Auditor Ric Garcia of Florida, and Board Member Redempta Knotts of Indiana.

The Friendship Night on Friday, Sept 28, held at the Algonquin Ballroom, kicked off the event. Amidst shrieks and giggles, the attendees began to identify each other. Many had not seen each other since graduation so reminiscing the happy college days was what interested them most. The program was opened with the surprise appearance of a bespectacled Sor Paz Marfori personified by Anita Dy (Class '66), one of the emcees of the night. Complete with a white habit and blue veil, she drew a big round of applause and laughter from the alumni. Co-emcee Thelma Apdal Rebutal (Class '68) played the everdocile student nurse ready to say, "Yes, Sor Paz."

After a short welcome address by this writer, an ebullient Pete Calixto (Class '77), PNAA, President, made a roll call by class. Each alumna was made to introduce herself. The music provided by DJ Bahandi inspired the attendees to dance to their hearts desire. The hosts and their spouses entertained the group with a western-style barn dance and each class presented a dance or song. Remy Capati Lazaga (Class '78) and her husband Fred impressed us with their "Chicago Hustle." The latter part of the evening brought another pleasant surprise when former Pediatric Nursing Professor Cora Villanueva (Class '50) and three other classmates arrived. With cameras flashing almost everywhere, it seemed like a night of the stars as each tried to capture the happy moments with each other. A very inspiring closing remarks was given by Ampy dela Paz.

The Educational Session on Sept 29, Saturday, morning was held at the Charlevoix Ballroom with the theme "Celebrating Our Nursing Heritage in the New Century." Fifty enthused attendees listened and learned a lot from the eloquent speakers. Ampy dela Paz, MSN, expounded on the Challenges to Emerging Majority Nursing" and exhorted everyone to face these challenges by being aggressive in

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MARK YOUR CALENDAR: Las Vegas Gears Up For Third USTNAA Grand Reunion

The third USTNAA Grand Reunion will be hosted by the Thomasian Nurses of Nevada on September 27, 28, 29, 2002. The venue for this big gathering will be at the Imperial Palace Hotel in Las Vegas, Nevada. Minda Baguno Banaria is the Over-All Chairperson of the event and Remy-Rigor Caballero is the Co-Chair. Anyone interested for more information call:

Minda Baguno Banaria Tel # 702-222 0305 Email: FTBanaria@aol.com
Remy Rigor Caballero Tel# 702-256-2200 Email: RAFAELRN@aol.com

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

Ampy-Agapay de la Paz, MS, RN

Are we ready for 2002? The 2-day 2nd USTNAA Grand Reunion in Michigan last September was definitely an affair to remember! Thanks to our superb host chapter- USTNA Michigan! Bravo Michigan, keep it up. The events took place in smooth successions from the Welcome Reception Night, to the half-day seminar, the tours, and the colorful Gala Dinner Dance. The attendance of many who came from various parts of the US and Canada was astonishingly amazing, given the fact that this reunion was held just two weeks after the terrorist attack on the WTC in New York. Despite the many Thomasians who backed out of their planned trip to Michigan, there were the brave ones who came from places in Canada as... Calgary, Alberta, Nova Scotia, Ottawa; others who braved to take their seats on their previously booked flights from South Florida, the East and Western seaboard, and still others (like my husband and myself) who drove the distance to Detroit. The atmosphere was electrifying.... Friends meeting friends, students meeting former teachers, former classmates deciphering the faces under the once familiar smiles and laughters... followed by screams of joy, hugs, and kisses! What an event! Are we ready for more reunions?

Oh yes! This year...USTNAA travels to Las Vegas, Nevada!. Our gracious host volunteer is Minda Banaria (Class '64) and her Husband, Frank. Although, currently there is no organized USTNAA Chapter in Las Vegas, the Banarias willingly took on the challenge of hosting the 3rd Grand Reunion on September 27-29th. This decision was made on the very first night during the Welcome Reception, just to demonstrate to those of you who missed the excitement and enthusiasm that prevailed on the very first night of that memorable event. So guys and dolls, mark your calendars! Further details will be forthcoming. Note: This is an election year. The new set of officers for the next term will be elected. At this early date, please consider running for office and/or nominate someone to run for office. We will need a constant supply of leaders who will be willing to carry on the goals and mission of USTNAA. We will be counting on you for your leadership and commitment! Can we? On November 17, 2001... USTNAA Chicago celebrated its 31st Anniversary Celebration As host, they graciously honored various jubilarians such as Class 1976 (Silver), Class 1971 (Pearl), Class 1966 (Coral), and Class 1961 (Ruby). I was one of the Ruby Jubilarians. You should have been there to see Class '61 all dressed in red!

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their educational as well as professional advancement. She concluded her talk with the quote, "Do not follow where the path may lead. Go instead where there is no path and leave a trail."

Pete-Reuben Claxton CCRN (Class '77), dwelt on the topic "Integrating the Wisdom of the Past to Create a Healthy Future" and refreshed our memory of the lay, of nursing as it relates to the present and future challenges of nursing. He, too, shared the group a very relevant saying that goes, "As the music changes, so does the dance." Anita Dacpano Daus, Ph.D. (Class '56) unraveled the mystery of the DNA alphabet when she discussed "Ethical Tensions Created by Genetic Advances: Implications to Nursing Practice." After her talk, the attendees split into groups to discuss a case study, an activity that they found interesting and enjoyable. The attendees earned 3.6 CEUs.

Right after the educational sessions, Ampy, President of the LJTNAAM, presided over a general assembly meeting that lasted for an hour. The group decided that the third grand reunion of the organization would be held in Las Vegas, Nevada in October 2002. Details of the event will be announced. The Gala Night on Saturday night was held at the Algonquin Ballroom with music provided by the Villaruz Sisters Band, courtesy of Dr. Danilo and Mrs. Lourdes Mole Dona (Class '68). This benevolent couple also donated the exquisite flower arrangements. Most of us were in Filipiniana attire with the gentlemen wearing the elegant barong. The night commenced with the welcome address of Ampy. In behalf of the USTNAAM, Thelma Apdal Rebulcal and Martha Evangelists Cabarios presented

Dr. Anita Daus a Lifetime Achievement Award On Sunday, Sept 30, a Mass of Thanksgiving was held at the residence of Dr Jun and Mrs. Lily Rillo Diego of Bloomfield Hills, Michigan. It was officiated by Msgr. John Vargas, also a UST alumnus. This was followed by a sumptuous brunch of lechon donated by Edith Tayao Dimaano and a variety of Filipino delicacies, courtesy of the USTNAAM. When everyone thought there would be no more surprises, former instructor Ellen Pauig showed up beaming with smile. Mentors and former students alike did have a wonderful time. Mentors and former students alike did have a wonderful time exchanging pleasantries and jokes. Once again, lots and lots of picture taking took place to preserve the happy memories of this gathering.

President's message

The Chicago weather was cold that night. but the ballroom was aflame in red! It was hot, hot, hot!

We should have more of these USTNAA events all across the country. Visibility will be key to our continuing growth and viability. Another strategy for visibility will be the creation of a USTNAA Website! A proactive idea coming from Rose Estrada (NJ), our Editor-in-chief, a computer expert and guru. Rose, thank you for your willingness to let everyone know of USTNAA through this innovation. Welcome to the world of Dot Coms! Everyone.... you better get on-line or the world will pass you by! Let us continue to join our efforts in pursuing our goals for the continued growth of USTNAA in every major city of the USA and Canada. Together as a team, we will succeed in making USTNAA a household name. Fellow Thomasians, that is our charge and challenge! Can we do it?YES We CAN!!!!

From the Editor:

This newsletter is a biannual publication of the USTNAA. We welcome suggestions/feedback regarding the newsletter. If you've been promoted, presented a lecture/speech at a conference, earned certification, been recognized for an achievement, or received an honor or award, let your colleagues know. If you wish to publish items in the THOMASIAN NEWSLETTER send your manuscripts and information (via mail in a diskette or email) to: Rose P. Estrada, MSN,RNC,CPN. 27 Zaleski Drive Sayreville, NJ 08872. Email : Rpestrada@aol.com. The Editorial Board reserves the right to edit, revise or condense article(s) for clarity and space .

MARK YOUR CALENDAR! Join the USTNAA reunion in Michigan on the last weekend of September, 2001

USTNAA Membership Application

Name: _____ Year Graduate _____
First Name Maiden Name Last Name

Address: (Home) _____
(Work) _____

Area of Specialty: _____

Telephone: (Home) _____ (Work) _____ (Email) _____

Annual Membership Fee: \$25
Payable to: **USTNAA**

Send Membership Fee and completed application to:
Martha Cabarios
38941 Marlborough, Sterling Heights, Michigan 48310
Tel # (810) 264-8569 Email Address: CMCabarios@aol.com