

Editorial

By Dionisio B. Yorro, MD'68

It is gratifying when one feels things were accomplished and changes were made for the better. That was our feeling after visiting our University last January 2015. The experience of course was highlighted by the visit of Pope Francis whom we saw up close at the UST grandstand. That was a once in a lifetime experience and we were lucky enough to be at the right place at the right time.

At the highly spirited tripartite meeting at the Dean's office we brought up several issues of concern to our alumni, medical students and staff members. In the process of expanding the hospital emergency room, the offices of the ancillary services were eliminated including that of the Lingkod-ER, which also doubles as the office of the USTMAAA.

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This office was ordered vacated without notifying our association and depriving the Lingkod-ER staff of a place where they can continue their work of subsidizing indigent patients in the ER. This unilateral decision which also disregarded the MOA (Memorandum of Agreement) with the previous Rector, we felt was improper. Our interest in this issue is not only because of the removal of our office but also because the Lingkod-ER project is one of our budgeted programs every year. Fortunately this was corrected after a meeting with the Hospital and ER directors who were presented with the information and significance of the project by Dr. Luisa Ticzon-Puyat, Co



Pope Francis waving to the UST crowd

Founder of Lingkod-ER. The Hospital Executive committee agreed to reassign a place for Lingkod-ER in the old facility and a permanent one once the new hospital is finished in 2016.



Meeting with USTH Medical Director, Dr. Vicente Caguioa, Lingkod ER Co-Founder, Dr. Luisa Ticzon-Puyat and Lingkod ER adviser, Dr. Oscar Tagulinao attended by former Dean, Dr. Grace Gonzaga and the Emergency Room Director, Dr. Marilyn Mateo

The low salary for Residents in training at our hospital results in losing our best medical graduates to other hospitals. This ultimately leads to less future teachers to

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educate our medical students.

The administration has been aware of this issue and they are to implement the increase in the salaries that will be comparative to the other non-government hospitals. We have strongly voiced our support for this change to attract our top graduates and thereby reassuring a succession of good teachers for our future students.

We have also seen diminishing patient load in the ER and charity hospital. The end result of course is inadequate training



Chance meeting with former FMS Regent Rev. Fr. Faustino Gomez

diminishing patient load in the ER and charity hospital... end result of course is inadequate training of our interns and residents.

of our interns and residents. This will also jeopardize our training accreditation specially in surgery if the caseload requirements are not achieved. The Lingkod-ER is one solution for the ER patients who cannot afford the lab tests or x-rays who would otherwise be sent to North General hospital. Our association is proposing to help by organizing and subsidizing in-house medical missions on a regular basis in collaboration with the interns and residents and retaining good teaching cases. This will be similar to the Save-a-Heart and Save-a-Sight missions currently being done annually by our US Thomasian cardiologists and ophthalmologists.

We were told that our hospital will be designated as a disaster center and needs to have the proper resources and training for this purpose. The hospital director, Dr. Vicente Caguioa, has solicited our support and we feel that this is a worthy project. If approved by the Board, we will partner with the hospital staff to work on this endeavor.

The Thomasian Alumni Center is like a jewel in the crown. We are indeed delighted to be a factor in its construction and very proud to have this as one of our US Thomasian legacies. Almost fully functional, it prides of specifications likened to a five star hotel. The \$1.7 million donations by the US Thomasians was the spark that triggered the construction. Donors have often asked about the value of their donations and here is some clarification. When a significant amount is donated, the donors are given naming rights to a certain area. This does not mean however that the donor owns or has a right to use that room as he/she pleases. The room will have a plaque with the donor's name or dedication but will be assigned for a certain function as determined by the TAC administration. There will be rental



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fees for the use of the function rooms which are intended to defray the cost of maintenance. Rental fee schedules and perks for the alumni donors are to be discussed by administration and the Thomasian Alumni Association. We have suggested designating a special reception area for the alumni, special ID cards for donors and members, and



Thomasian Alumni Center

possibly reserved parking areas. These are not definite yet but we will try and work on this with the able prodding of our Executive Director, Dr. Primo Andres. Primo also has voiced novel ideas for encouraging and attracting alumni from all colleges to utilize the TAC for effective networking and camaraderie among themselves. Several floors of the TAC are being used by the Hotel Management School for their classrooms. This had to be implemented so as not to lose the tax



exemption on the building if not used for education. The TAC has separate elevators and doors for the students so as not to interfere with the alumni functions. With the ballrooms ready for use, our association may be holding future functions in the TAC. Limited hotel rooms will also be convenient whenever they are ready.



Meeting with Fr. Rector Herminio Dagohoy, OP

The various meetings with the Rev. Fr. Rector Herminio Dagohoy, Dean Jesus Valencia, USTMAA Philippines Officers, Hospital Director Dr. Vicente Caguioa, ER Director Dr. Marilyn Mateo, and TAC Administrator Ms. Fides Carlos were very productive and gratifying. This portends better communication with and responsiveness from them. We are now more confident that our association can accomplish more as a liaison between our alumni and the University in regards to attaining our common goals. #

USTMAAA Alumni Homecoming 2015

The Makati ShangriLa ballroom was packed to full capacity and several tables were set up in the foyer to accommodate more than 1000 attendees. The stage was compact but elaborately decorated complete with theatrical lights. Space was a premium and so the dance floor was kept as small as possible. Large projection screens were strategically located and the whole program was professionally videographed and projected live to ensure that even those who were far away from the stage, especially those in the foyer, could still enjoy the performances. The program started on time and speeches were kept short. The induction of officers went quickly and without too much fanfare.



Newly elected USTMAA President, Dr. Antonio Leachon, MD'90

There was plenty of time to watch the different classes perform who faithfully adhered to the theme of "Doctors on Broadway". The Diamond Jubilarian Class of 1955 started by dancing a waltz to the tune of the Blue Danube with Westside Story for a back draft. Then came the Golden Jubilarian Class of 1965 mesmerizing the audience with a luminescent black light rendition of the Lion King then flooding the entire



Golden Jubilarian Class of 1965



Diamond Jubilarian Class of 1955

stage and dance floor with overflowing celebrants holding on to chirping and flying birds. The energetic Silver Jubilarian Class of 1990 followed with enough stamina and physical endurance as they performed "Grease" following a class video presentation. Not to be outdone, the Emerald Jubilarian Class of 1960 performed en mass and with *mucho gusto* the "Sound of Music". The Coral Jubilarian Class of 1980 did "South Pacific" while the Ruby Jubilarian Class of 1975 danced away the night with their version of



Who that?



"Mama Mia". The Pearl Jubilarian Class of 1985 followed with "Chicago" complete with blazing submachine guns. The Silver Jubilarians rendered an encore presentation with another dance number to end the evening presentation.

It was indeed a wonderful evening punctuated by spectacular jubilarian presentations that kept everybody hopping and not minding too much the overcrowded space with little leg room to do much more. We hope to duplicate the fun during the USTMAAA 23rd Grand Reunion and Medical Convention in Orlando, Florida on July 1-5, 2015. *



Ruby Jubilarian Class of 1975

Pope Francis visits UST

By Primo Andres

It was the most awaited and anticipated occasion in the Philippines for quite sometime. The pope had visited the Philippines on three different previous occasions, first by Pope Paul VI in 1970 when I was lucky enough to be one of the Tau Mu Sigma Phi fraternity ushers in the Medicine building. Pope John Paul II came twice, in 1981 and 1995 setting record attendance everywhere he went. And now an even more enigmatic and down-to-earth pontiff, Pope Francis, who has endeared and captivated the world with his more encompassing and inclusive approach and his love and very special interest for the welfare of the poor, it is no wonder that every Filipino wanted to be a part of this historic journey to our beloved country.



And why not a selfie with the Pope

We were a day late for his arrival, which was probably a blessing because flying to the Philippines on January 15, 2015 was chaotic because of the no fly zone order for security reasons. Reading the papers on the plane about the welcome the Filipinos gave made our heart pump even faster as we anticipated seeing him when he went to the UST campus to meet the youths from all over the Philippines. His swing to Tacloban, Leyte was monitored with grave concern for his safety due to inclement weather caused by a tropical



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storm that he elected to ignore despite warnings from the weathermen and airline personnel. True enough there were some mishaps including an accident that caused the death of a young lady volunteer and a plane with cabinet members on board caving in at the Tacloban airport causing the closure of the facility for a few days.

We were fortunate to finally receive confirmation that the VIP passes that we requested from the Secretary General's office through Professor Fides Carlos of the Office for Alumni Relations were ready to be picked up. They were delivered to us by Ms. Abba Urbina-Llaguno of the USTMAA office during the Alumni Homecoming Gala Dinner in ShangriLa-Makati. Finding the right people was one thing but getting them to the campus was something else.

Zita and Oni Yorro and my wife, Sylvia, and I got up at 2 AM after a brief snooze following the Gala Dinner to meet up with the rest of our party to be at the Espana gate by 3 AM where the VIPs were supposed to enter. Weaving through small streets to avoid traffic and roads that were closed to traffic, we made it to within a block from Lacson Avenue on the USTH Clinical Division side. The Lacson gate was supposed to be only for the youth. We tried to get to the Espana gate but it was impossible to get through the shoulder to shoulder sea of humanity. We went back to the Lacson gate sporting



Going through the eye of a needle to get in to UST

our VIP badges as we squeezed though in a single file but we could only manage to get several heads away from the gate, except for Zita Yorro who got in before the guards could close the gate with the help of additional support to prevent the crowd from stampeding in. It took almost one and one half hours before the guards finally opened the small side gate where we slowly were allowed in after proper screening through a metal detector and additional hand check if necessary. I was made to shoot my camera three times to make sure it was the real thing. We could



Tarpaulin covered sports grounds

finally breath easier once we were inside the campus.

Searching for our VIP spot was likewise an adventure unto itself. There were barricades everywhere. The badges were color-coded and it took sometime before we could get to our assigned area. Realizing how difficult it would be to get around once everybody got in, we made sure we made a pit-stop at the Main building where an Emergency Room was set to help take care of any medical condition that was sure to arise. We soon realized that although we were given VIP badges, the real VIPs, as per wishes of the Pope, were the youths who were selected to come from all over the Philippines and therefore were front and center while we were off to the side. We accepted this as an appropriate act and made us admire even more this awesome successor of St. Peter who is showing us by example the message that he wants to impart to all of humankind.

By 5 AM, Fr. Roland de la Rosa, the



Fr. Roland de la Rosa saying mass at 5 AM

former Rector, celebrated a mass complete with a choir and with a wonderful homily that we have known him to give and has been famous for. Next came the rosary in all dialects led by the Secretary General, Fr. Winston Cabading, the former Regent of the Faculty of Medicine and Surgery. We were kept busy by the on the spot rehearsals in preparation for the vespers that Pope Francis was anticipated to give.

And finally the most awaited moment came after the Pope met with religious leaders from all kinds of denominations. The motorcade with Pope Francis enthusiastically waving from side to side weaved through the barricaded aisles with the crowd following him from section to section just to get a longer glimpse of the "SuperPope". It was hard for me to keep my video camera on steady focus because of excited people jostling me around. But it was all in good spirit and a part of the pontifical experience to be that close to a living saint who is sure to leave a positive mark on the rest of the world, certainly in the Philippines.

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There was an intermittent light drizzle through most of the early morning hours and it rained a little harder towards the end of the vespers but nobody moved out despite getting soaked in the cold rainwater accepting it as a blessing for the little sacrifice that we made just to be with Pope Francis, our hero. Thanks to the orange tarp that covered the entire sports grounds, we were not wallowing in mud.

Perhaps we can be lucky one more time to see the Pope in our lifetime but none will equal our experience in this one blessed day. We continued to enjoy this intoxicating weekend by watching the



A rally and camp out for the SuperPope

television to monitor the progress of the rest of his visit including the motorcade to and brief departure ceremony at Villamor Air Base. Good bye Pope Francis! We love you Santo Papa! We hope you will make it back next year during the “International Eucharistic Congress” in Cebu City. #

Save A Heart Mission

By Primo Andres MD'72

Save A Heart mission has been conducted continuously since its inception following 9/11/2011 when Drs. Jose Evangelista, Dionisio Yorro and Primo Andres, all Cardiologists, were stranded in Lima, Peru with their wives while vacationing in South America and they could not reenter US airspace as a result of the terror attack on the twin towers of the World Trade Center of New York City. From that tragedy was born the idea of holding medical missions concentrated on cardiovascular diseases. Now on its 11th year, the Section of Cardiology of UST Hospital, in cooperation with Cardiothoracic Surgery and Anesthesia, and supported by USTMAAA, it began screening for potential patients towards the end of 2014.

Tuesday, January 20, was the official start of the three-day “Save A Heart” mission but I could only spend one day, conducting the pre-interventional conference with the Cardiology fellows, residents and medical students and leaving the rest of the mission to the Section of Cardiology under the efficient hands of Dr. Mila Yamamoto, the Chairman of the Section of Cardiology, and Dr. Wilson Tan de Guzman, the head of the Cardiac Cathlab. In addition to the drug-eluting stents and catheters given by Medtronic AVE that we brought with us from USA, several pacemaker and defibrillator devices were donated by the Medtronic Pacemaker Division that was released through the local distributor for use at UST Hospital for indigent patients. The USTMAAA Foundation budgets \$10,000 a year for this permanent project of the organization but it can



11th Edition of the annual Save A Heart mission at UST Hospital starting w/ Pre-Interventional conference



Eleven years of Save A Heart Mission, with Cardiologists, fellows, residents, students, patients

only continue to succeed with the help of various services and specialties and with the support of the device industry such as Medtronic. #

Tacloban A Year After Haiyan

Next in our itinerary was the USTMAAA medical mission in Southern Leyte. But first we chose to go through Tacloban instead of Cebu mainly to see what had been accomplished since the

devastation wrought by Typhoon Haiyan over a year ago.

Getting up very early Wednesday morning to catch the 5 AM Cebu Pacific flight to Tacloban, Leyte was a chore. Oni and Zita Yorro were already checked in and they saw to it that we had the necessary help to facilitate our check in process as it was getting late and we were about to miss our flight. Alvin de la Cruz was waiting for us at the Tacloban Daniel Z. Romualdez airport with a rented van that brought us to a restaurant, “Dahil Sa Iyo Fastfood”, where we enjoyed native



Mac Arhtur Landing Memorial in Palo, Leyte

food for breakfast. We toured the ruins of Tacloban seeing the aftermath of Typhoon Haiyan still very evident especially along the seashores and more rural areas. The ship that was awashed to shore along the main road was now just a skeleton with only the front end remaining as a testament to the power of the surge that killed thousands of residents, and the rest of it having been salvaged for scrap and recycling. In the background were the



Not much had changed at the Tacloban seashore

shanties that were still in various stages of disrepair. The drive to Divisoria Village felt longer than I could remember from our last visit a year ago, a month after the typhoon. The roads were still washed out by seemingly incessant rain. It was

disappointing to see that not much more was done to the homes that we pledged to help rebuild, not so much because of lack of funds but rather because of lack

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of workers. The bread earners of the families had to look for more lucrative jobs in the city as there was not much livelihood opportunities in the area. The transformation into a dream USTMAAA Nicolo Bautista GK Village is still far



Divisoria Village not yet meeting the USTMAAA expectations for a “Nicolo Bautista GK Village”

from getting realized. The Mac Arthur Memorial Park was refurbished however and was already fit for tourist to see. The San Juanico bridge connecting Samar to Leyte was magnificent after all these years. While there was more time to look



San Juanico Bridge

around, we were too tired to do anything else after a sumptuous lunch at the high end downtown restaurant “Ocho Seafood and Grill”. We checked in at the Hotel Alejandro and spent the rest of the day catching up on sleep. Zita and Oni were even too tired to get up for dinner.

It was time to meet the rest of the Southern Leyte missionary group early the following morning consisting mostly of Tau Mu Sigma Phi fraternity brothers led by Dr. Elvis Llarena of Class 1987, a General Surgeon and a faculty member of USTFMS. The Southern Leyte



Mac Arthur Landing Memorial in Palo, Leyte

provincial bus was on hand to shuttle the missionaries from the Tacloban airport to Anahawan District Hospital but not before having a tour of Tacloban and a brief stop at the Palo Cathedral where a mass grave for the victims of Typhoon



Memorial to victims of Typhoon Haiyan in the Palo cathedral courtyard & original tomb crosses

Haiyan is located in the courtyard. This made us realize how fragile and vulnerable the region is to natural catastrophe especially typhoons that touch the area at least ten times a year on the average. And on a somber note we move on to Southern Leyte.*



Southern Leyte Provincial bus

USTMAAA Medical Mission
Southern Leyte

Anahawan District Hospital was three hours south of Tacloban City. It was late on Thursday afternoon, January 22, 2015 when the missionary team arrived in front of the hospital where the staff headed by the Chief of Hospital, Dr. Ionne Castellones, welcomed the team enthusiastically. After a brief orientation, the surgeons did not waste time in evaluating the surgery patients that were already in line

the following morning. A mass was held right in the lobby of the hospital attended by patients, visitors, nurses and the missionaries with no less than two priests from adjacent parishes officiating.



Drs. Jerome Paler and Ionne Castellones welcomed the missionaries to ADH

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patients

The medical mission was funded with donations to the USTMAAA Medical Mission and Disaster Relief Fund by generous benefactors from not only members of the organization but also their friends and families and business associates that received a big boost following Typhoons Haiyan last year and Ruby this year. It was coordinated by Dr. Jerome Paler of the Gawad Kalusugan arm of Gawad Kalinga in cooperation with the Provincial Government, the Anahawan Local Government, the Modulator Action



Group of Maasin, Inc (MAGMA) and of course USTMAAA and Tau Mu Sigma Phi Fraternity

The welcome party at the Kissbone Cove Resort Hotel where the missionaries dined in was simple, yet very warm and entertaining. The sumptuous food was prepared and served by the “Azotea de Maasin” that employed GKaterers whose lives are impacted positively by this chance at livelihood opportunities. They fed the missionaries all three days of the mission serving all meals and snacks in the hospital and in the hotel.

The missionary team was made up of representatives of the USTMAAA Board, Dr. Dionisio Yorro, a Cardiologist, and his wife, Dr. Zita Yorro, a Family Medicine doctor, and Dr. Primo Andres, the Executive Director and Mission Director, another Cardiologist, and his wife, Sylvia, an RN. They were joined by the members of the Tau Mu Sigma Phi fraternity including Dr. Luis Kodumal of Class 1968, a Gastroenterologist from Pennsylvania and Dr. Emmanuel “Manny” Asuncion who practices Family Medicine in Cavite. The surgical team consisted of Drs. Edmundo “Cado” Mercado, a Plastic surgeon, Anthony Laurence “Toto” Escovidal, a Urologist acting as the team leader, Aristotle “Aris” Roque, another Urologist, and Alfonso “Ponch” Villaroman and Manuel Ng (friend of Tau Mu) and Dr. Elvis Llarena, the surgical



Kissbone Cove serviced by Azotea de Maasin GKaterers



The Dirty Baker's Dozen

team coordinator, who are all General Surgeons. Anesthesia was provided by Dr. Fides Duyan, also a Thomasian who covers Southern Leyte hospitals, aided by a Nurse Anesthetist.

The missionary team was complimented by volunteers who drove for 10 hours all the way from Davao del Norte, Dr. Helen Anajao, a Family Practitioner, and her husband, Salvador “Buddy” who is a nurse, and Lela Consolacion, also an RN, who are both sisters of Sylvia Andres. With them were her nephews, Andrew Consolacion and Jan Anajao who are also nurses. There were three French Gawad Kalinga interns who helped in the pharmacy.

Despite the seemingly small team the amount of work generated was incredible.





BS check screening for DM by Andrew & Jan
Sixty six major, medium as well as minor operations were done in two days including fifteen harelips and cleft palates, ten goiters of various sizes, and several hernias. And to think that there was only one heroic Anesthesiologist, albeit assisted by a Nurse Practitioner and a bunch of dedicated and wonderful surgical staff, it was indeed an admirable feat although accomplished with a lot of sacrifice with all the team members operating until midnight the first night and well into the morning hours the second day. This was made lighter by the constant bantering and karaoke entertainment provided by the team members themselves.

The medical part of the mission saw close to 2000 patients and the ears of the missionaries were sore from the constant rubbing of the earpieces of their stethoscope. All adult patients were pierced for blood sugar by our young nurses, Andrew and Jan, screening for Diabetes, and hypertensives were identified and counseled prior to being given starter medications. The sight of a young boy with Kwashiorkor and non-healing periumbilical wound tore our hearts and arrangements were made to get him more nutritious food enterally and parenterally.

Although there was supposed to be a "rest and recreation" on the third day that



Ancestral home of Dr. Ionne Castellones

was planned in a nearby hot springs, the weather was not conducive to an outing being unusually wet and cold from the incessant rain. It was a good thing we had a chance to visit and enjoy the resort-like parental home of Dr. Ionne Castellones earlier and had even more appreciation of how beautiful and hospitable the region was. A frantic arrangement for an earlier return to Manila was made to allow for those still in active practice to return to work that Monday. After the Manila contingency left, we had a chance to visit the Filipino-Chinese GK Village in St. Bernard where the survivors of the huge landslide that covered three villages in 2006 were relocated. Dr. Helen Anajao even performed an instant curbside medical mission taking care of children with respiratory infection using left over medicines from the Anahawan mission.



Filipino Chinese GK Village in St. Bernard

We cannot be anymore pleased with the outcome of the medical mission and none more appreciative than the people of Southern Leyte who could not express enough words of gratitude to the whole missionary team.

*Our heartfelt gratitude to all the participants of the medical and surgical mission in the Anahawan District Hospital. **

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Tanay Medical Mission A Centennial Celebration

By Dr. Primo Andres, MD'72

Celebrating a centennial birthday is quite an undertaking. After all it takes 100 years to make it happen. And so it was that the Andres clan prepared for the special day of the matron of the family, Lola Catalina Andres.

Part of the preparation is a medical mission that was done in Tanay, Rizal at the Sacramento Village Resort on February 6-8, 2015 where they own a vacation house. A family friend, Jingle



Andres vacation home & Santo Rosario chapel

and the Sacramento clan, were generous enough to offer practically the entire resort for their use. Not only was there

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adequate accommodation for all the missionaries and volunteers, there was also very generous space for the patients to congregate in while they waited for the



Dr. Luisa Ticson-Puyat of ABS-CBN welcomes Lola Catalina Andres to Sacramento Village Resort



Jingle & Vangie Sacramento, Primo & Sylvia Andres

services to be delivered.

Hosted and funded by the ACS Foundation (Andres Corpus Salazar families) and Acclaimed Charity in cooperation with USTMAAA (University of Santo Tomas Medical Alumni Association in America), the medical mission went on to take care of over two thousand medical patients and operate on eighty six medium and minor surgeries in a span of three days.

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Tau Mu Sigma Phi, the Thomasian Medical Students' Fraternity, the premier



Sacramento Village Resort

fraternity in UST to which Dr. Primo Andres belongs, provided the bulk of the physicians and surgeons, joined by their younger brothers who were still medical

students who took the opportunity to observe and learn practical medicine from their elders.



Tau Mu Sigma Phi brothers

Medical professionals and volunteers from the Andres, Aquino, Baysa, Salazar and Sacramento families including all the surviving children and grand children,



Andres, Aquino, Baysa, Salazar families

and providers from the local community and Department of Social Welfare and LGU, pitched in to manage droves of patients in need of medical attention. This would not have been possible without the able assistance of our good friends, Drs. Dionisio and Zita Yorro and Gerry and Elvie Balbin, and the family of Sylvia Andres who came from Panabo, Davao del Norte, including Helen and Buddy Anajao and their son Jan who got a chance to assist Dr. Jim Sanchez in his surgeries.

ABS-CBN's DZMM, TLC and Lingkod Kapamilya programs took care of the first day through the intercession of their



The Yorros, Balbins and Anajaos

ABS-CBN's DZMM, TLC and Lingkod Kapamilya programs took care of the first day

youngest Board member, a Thomasian, Dr. Luisa Ticson-Puyat of "Magandang Gabi Dok" and "Bantay Bata" programs, and brought with them PCSO providers and also monitored the progress of the



Dental extraction and fitting and distribution of corrective eyeglasses

mission by radio broadcast. Dental extraction and giving away of corrective eye glasses were done and medicines were provided to needy people. Close to 900 elementary school children were served a delicious meal complete with chocolate for dessert. A traveling library was wheeled in and books were read by eager boys and girls. A book reading session was conducted by no less than their Teleradyo News star, Jasmin Romero, mesmerizing the young kids who now have a new heroine and role-model.



Lingkod Kapamilya Feeding Program



ABS-CBN Teleradyo News anchor Jasmin Romero giving chocolate for dessert after feeding



Reading session with Jasmin Romero

Medical patients were screened for diabetes and hypertension and appropriate counseling was given for prevention and dietary management



Diabetes Mellitus screening with BS check

before medications were given. Fifty patients with skin diseases were seen by the ABS-CBN Dermatology Clinic's very own Dr. Luisa Ticson-Puyat. Patients with surgical lesions were searched for and appropriately sent to our waiting surgeons led by Drs. Jim Sanchez and Elvis Llarena, both Tau Mu members, under the "Operation bukul, bingot at luslus" program.

An instant surgical service was provided by the Rotary Club of San Francisco del Monte bringing in the

Patients with surgical lesions were searched for and appropriately sent to our waiting surgeons led by Drs. Jim Sanchez and Elvis Llarena, both Tau Mu members, under the "Operation bukul, bingot at luslus" program.

Mobile Surgical Unit, a shipping container that was converted into a two bed operating room complete with general anesthesia capability. However, Dr. Jim Sanchez' expertise in regional block, with the help of his surgical team, made it possible to operate on complicated medium surgery patients without needing to put them to sleep. And so several cleft lips and palates and even inguinal hernia operations were



Rotary Club of SFDM Mobile Surgical Van with officers and benefactors

done without need for general anesthesia. Minor surgeries were likewise done by several Tau Mu brothers in two hotel rooms that were converted into operating theaters with two surgical beds each, with only ambient light from the window and dim ceiling lights for illumination. It was here that the younger brothers who were still in medical school rotated to see how mission surgeries were done. What better way to learn than from the masters of medical mission.



Minor surgery in hotel rooms

There was nobody happier than our own mother who had dreamed of being a doctor in her earlier years but could not due to financial constraints. She had hoped that her children would set up practice in their hometown in Cordon, Isabela but then circumstances were such that all of them are now spread all over the world. Seeing them do this medical mission in her honor, even for a few days out of a hundred years, put a twinkle in her eyes that we all appreciated and were glad to see. It was made even more memorable when three van loads of families and friends came all the way from Cagayan Valley to greet Lola Talin

TAUAN RALLY





Families and friends from Cagayan Valley

could not spend all three days in Tanay as she had to be rushed to the Philippine Lung Center early the second day. Your prayers have helped her go through the ordeal and is now ready to get out of the hospital to spend precious moments with her children, grandchildren and great grandchildren. *Maraming maraming salamat po!*

PS: Our mother, Catalina Aquino Andres, had since succumbed to her illness and expired on March 22, 2015, one century one month and nine days past her first birthday.

Love at First Sight
The story of our Poster Patient

By Dr. Primo Andres

Despite the rush of preparing for the surgical mission the keen eyes of Dr. Jim Sanchez, a plastic surgeon par excellence, did not miss the young girl coming up the hill as she approached the gate of the Sacramento Valley Resort. The Rotary Club of San Francisco del Monte Mobile Surgical Unit was parked just outside the entrance because it could not maneuver up the steep and rocky hill and neither could it squeeze pass the low ceiling below the administrative office's hanging floor. He called my attention right away and excitedly said: "Kuya kuya, tignan mo

iyong bata. Kaya ko iyan. Kaya ko iyan." (Brod brod, look at the kid. I can do that. I can do that.)

ABS-CBN's DZMM had been broadcasting the Tanay Medical Mission for days and the community and religious leaders and social services had been announcing it to their constituents as well. But it was not after the mother of Nicole Bolante was actually falling in line to be seen in the medical part of the mission that she realized that there was surgery being offered by Tau Mu Sigma Phi Fraternity surgeons for patients with harelip and cleft palate as a part of the "Operation bukol, bingot at luslus". She quickly called her daughter from school to come up for consideration.

Nicole had been to three other medical missions in the past only to be turned down for various reasons. The closest she came to getting operated on was when she was admitted to a hospital but it was canceled because of a respiratory infection at the time of the scheduled operation. Despite these repeated disappointments she did not lose hope, praying everyday for a chance at this life-changing operation. In the meantime she was delayed in school for at least two years quitting a few times due to her classmates teasing her. It was only through her resolve and sheer determination that she persisted on.

Dr. Jim Sanchez and I talked to her even before she had a chance to meet with

her mother. She was then told to go on up to her mother to get her permission to have the surgery done. She was also sent to the dining room to have breakfast as the surgery was not until later that day. Witnessing her eat made us even more decided on operating on her. Her bilateral harelip and wide cleft palate caused food to spurt down her nose. It was no wonder that despite her being a 14 year old, a young woman by chronological age, she appeared like a 9 year old girl. She then started crying. Those who were around asked her why she was weeping. Was she worried about the operation? She answered "naiiyak po ako sa tuwa kasi sa wakas maooperahan na ako". (I am crying with joy because finally I am going to be operated on.)

The operation barely took 1 1/2 hours, all done under local anesthesia and regional block, an expertise that Dr. Sanchez is so willing to share with the uninitiated. Most surgeries like this are done under general anesthesia making it less accessible in a medical mission done outside a hospital setting. The surgery went smoothly under the watchful and admiring eyes of medical students, medical doctors like me and even members of the media who were amazed by it all. It was a masterpiece of art tempered with love by an inspired surgeon.

While Nicole was still very self-conscious immediately following the



Drs. Luisa Ticson-Puyat, Primo Andres & Jim Sanchez with Nicole Balante



Our poster patient with bilateral harelip and cleft palate saying "Hail Tau Mu" with deep gratitude

operation, she went down the steps with her face mask on and was surprised to see a bunch of people waiting, her supportive classmates and friends who did a vigil outside the mobile surgical van. They all cheered and clapped as she came down to join them and eventually she found the confidence to take her mask off to show a muted smile with a twinkle in her eyes realizing that she was now a different person, a young pretty woman with perhaps a brighter future because of the miracle that will transform her life. To show her gratitude she posed with her friends and Dr. Jim Sanchez sporting the Tauan sign.

She came for a follow up visit the following day showing off a broader smile with definitely an extra spring in her steps as she even danced briefly to show her elation. And to think that she was not the last to receive this gift. One young boy



One was retouched in a matter of minutes while the other one is scheduled in the near future for another classic miracle of an operation by a Master Surgeon

needed a redo harelip and another with bilateral harelip and cleft palate, just like our poster patient, was promised a repair in the very near future. Thank God! And Hail Tau Mu!

And to think that she was not the last to receive this gift.

Thank you everybody who participated in the Catalina Andres Centennial Mission!

NB: The above article is reprinted from the Andres Chronicle with permission.

Celebrating Silver Anniversary of USTMAAA Foundation

It is not very often that we reach a milestone in our history as an organization. A Silver Anniversary is definitely the first big one that we run into. Even in the short time that we have existed, there has been so much that we have accomplished, all because of the foresight of our founding fathers who thought it wise to leave a lasting legacy even when they are all gone.

Credit to this thinking goes to Dr. Jose "Boy" Vijungco, who gave the first dollar and practically cajoled and begged for the first few thousands from his colleagues and contemporaries. This would not have gone very far without the receptive partnership of Dr. Jose Evangelista, the Founding Father of USTMAAA and Dr. Gregorio Tolentino, then the President of USTMAA Midwest, the largest regional Thomasian medical alumni association, who risked his neck in supporting the project despite the objections of other influential people. For his courage and sacrifice, Dr. Greg Tolentino was made the first President of the USTMAAA Foundation in 1990. Behind the scene was the strong and reliable leadership of Dr. Stella Evangelista who has been the Executive Director from the very beginning to the this day that stirred the helm that set the Foundation straight on its path. And not to be forgotten are the strong oars that paddled the ship, so to speak, year in and year out, Drs. Dionisio

and Zita Yorro. We thank all the many benefactors who have been the wind that kept the sail tight for us to get to where we are today.

Through the years, the Foundation has amassed over \$15 million through its Endowment Fund that invested the donations and spent only its earnings, distributing over \$10 million through the years to finance its various projects and programs that benefited the UST Faculty of Medicine and Surgery and its students, the UST Hospital and its indigent patients and the Filipinos in general through its various outreach programs. Perhaps the biggest single project undertaken by the Foundation was the support for the construction of the Thomasian Alumni Center by providing the seed money, a gift given in conjunction with the celebration of the Quadricentennial Anniversary of the University of Santo Tomas. The Foundation pledged \$1 million and delivered \$1.7 million through the generous donations of its members.

There is indeed every reason to celebrate the Silver Anniversary of the USTMAAA Foundation having surpassed the initial expectations of the founding fathers. This is the very reason why we should not miss the 23rd USTMAAA Grand Reunion and Medical Convention in Orlando, Florida at the J.W. Marriott/Grande Lakes Resort Hotel on July 1-5, 2015. This is one party that we will all remember for some time to come. While the main celebrants are the classes ending in 0 and 5, all Thomasian medical alumni are welcome to join us in this *fiesta*. It is not too late to make arrangements and register for the different event that we have in store for you. #

Souvenir Program for the 23rd USTMAAA Grand Reunion
By Primo Andres, MD'72

Once again we appeal to all members, especially the jubilarians, to support the solicitation of advertisements for the Souvenir Program of the 23rd Grand Reunion and Medical Convention on July 1-5, 2015. This is one of the few opportunities for USTMAAA

Call for Articles for the Silver Anniversary Issue of USThomasian

In conjunction with the Silver Anniversary of the USTMAAA Foundation, a special issue of the USTMAAA newsletter, **USThomasian**, will be published in a print form. This is probably going to be the last printed issue since the organization had long decided to go electronic in almost all its publications to save on cost as well as have a more efficient distribution through the cyberspace yet avoiding the waste of undelivered and probably unread traditionally printed issues.

We therefore invite all of you to participate in this grand gesture to have a comprehensive publication that includes articles from all the different classes. Please do not get left out by missing this opportunity that may never come around again.

Each class is invited to provide a two-page article including representative pictures that tells the story of the class. The recommended font size is 12 and using Minion Pro or Cambria. Pictures should be submitted as separate JPEG files with a resolution of 300 dpi (dots per inch) to ensure adequate printing resolution. Print-ready articles in PDF format will also be accepted but should fit into a 7.75 x 10.25 inch box to allow for adequate margins for the printing. If you need help in laying out your article, just email your text in a word format and your pictures and we will take care of preparing your article for you. Since this is a story of the class, it is highly recommended that you involve as many of your classmates in proof-reading and critiquing the article before you submit it. In this way we are assured that it is your class that is being presented in a form that is agreeable to everybody.

The Silver Anniversary commemorative issue of the USThomasian will only be as good as the extent of cooperation that we get from all the different classes. Let us make this happen by having as many of you submit an article by May 15, 2015 so

that we can have time to publish it and have ready for the 23rd Grand Reunion and Medical Convention in July 2015.

To help you prepare your article, we are enclosing a copy of the article that was submitted by Class 1963 in the last two pages of this newsletter. #

Last Call for the Cruise of a Lifetime XI - Lourdes, Santiago de Compostela, Fatima

There are not too many openings left for the pilgrimage/tour that covers the two most important Marian shrines in the Catholic religion.

An ambitious itinerary that goes to three countries, this is nonetheless a trip of a lifetime that no other tour agency offers as a single trip.

Imagine flying from different staging airports in the United States (New York, New Jersey and Chicago) and meeting in Bilbao, northern Spain to board buses that will bring us to southern France to visit Lourdes, perhaps the most famous and important shrine of the Blessed Virgin Mary. And thus begins the trip that you will be talking about the rest of your life.

Following the Camino Santiago, we begin our bus tour stopping in key cities including Logrono and Leon as we head to Santiago de Compostela in northwest Spain which, in the middle ages during the days of the Crusaders, was the second most important site in Christendom next to Rome. We will get a taste of how it was when pilgrims from all over Europe would trek the Camino Santiago as we walk portions of this foot highway with actual pilgrims, perhaps even just a kilometer for the uninitiated, and maybe as much as five kilometers for those who are more fit.

After absorbing the mystique of Santiago de Compostela where St. James established his ministry following the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, we head down south to Portugal and explore the exquisite city of Porto. We then board the newly commissioned river ship, MS Gil Eanes, for a seven-day cruise on the UNESCO World Heritage site "Douro

River" (River of Gold) and enjoy the fantastic landscape and scenery as we experience and enjoy the luxury offered by river-cruising.

We then head south in Portugal stopping by Fatima to visit and pray in another Marian shine that up to now we have just been hearing and reading about. This time we can soak in the experience and be one with our Blessed Mother as we pray for her intercession in our life.

There is time to explore Lisbon for a day before heading back to the United States. Realizing that this is a city that is begging for more time to be enjoyed, we are offering a two-day extension as an option for those who might have the time to do so.

Now if that is not a trip that you have been dreaming about, I wonder what else to say to convince you that now is the time to make that commitment before all the slots are taken. For more information, visit our website: www.ustmaaamerica.wildapricot.org or copy and paste this link to get a copy of the brochure:

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/70avzc3m1caojmj/Cruise%20of%20Lifetime%20Portugal%20Brochure.pdf?dl=0>



Three country tour from Lourdes, France to Santiago, Spain to Porto, Fatima & Lisbon in Portugal



French route of the Camino de Santiago



Our Lady of Lourdes Grotto in Southern France at the foot of the Pyrenees mountains where the Blessed Virgin Mary appeared to Bernadette Soubirous on several occasions in 1858



Lucia Santos with Francisco & Jacinta Marto

to raise funds to run the organization.

While we have pretty much cut down our operational cost to bare bones, mostly relying on more than 80% volunteer workers and minimal use of paid part timers to help with clerical work, there is still maintenance items that we need to finance and support through fund-raising campaigns that are separate from the USTMAAA Foundation.

The Souvenir Program has been a favorite place to introduce your families to your classmates and friends and to greet them on their special occasions or perhaps acknowledge them for their accomplishments. It is also a good medium for classes and chapters to list their officers and board members for all to know and remember.

May we also request those of you who might have associates or contacts that you deal with to ask for their support by putting an ad.

Let us make this a wholehearted effort to make sure that we survive the daily grind of our operation from year to year. After all this is OUR organization, OUR USTMAAA.

For details on how to advertise, please visit our registration website: www.ustmaaamerica.wildapricot.org or copy and paste this link: <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/11qsysb-67nolfw4/AAC3wCXUoLN1BMZDw-5phAQXZa?dl=0>

We are looking forward to receiving your advertisements. #

Excerpts of the Unforgettable
Class 64 Chat Room Email

By Dr. Marylou Javier

Our Yearly Medical Missions ...Some news! Yes.... “they are no Spring chickens.” ..and yet they still go on...and on...and on.....!!!!

Drs. Renato Rivera and Erlinda Cue Rivera’s mission at Melinda Regner Borja’s Family Hospital in Bohol, their 9th Tour, on Feb.14-20th gave them a surprise as there were some 16 USA surgeons and 1 RN from Canada, who came to participate, composing their 20 operative team completing a total of 120 cases this time...patients came from Cebu and Leyte too! They were the second wave.



Biliran Mission w Roger Basa, Jason Burgos and Butch Castro and team

The USTMED Class 64 Surgeons-Drs. Roger Basa, Jason Burgos, Homer Bunag, Cesar Co, and Heraclio Castro-who have done annual and bi-annual surgical missions since 1994, probably 3,500 harelip repairs by now, completed the Feb. 1st- 8th- medical, dental and surgical mission in Biliran, Leyte. Not considered among their plans...they even extended a surgical clinic in Palompon Hospital on Feb. 10th-14th, upon short notice request of the Vice Mayor. I had scheduled to join them for R&R ... as my arrival was late to be in Biliran.

Well...blessings in disguise came my way. I have witnessed and got a great review about the main project of USTMS Class 1964 Foundation Inc., which started supporting it since 2003.

The lady Vice Mayor, Dra. Georgina Laurente Arevalo, an OB-GYN

practitioner, acting Mayor then, made a late request for some surgeries at Palompon. Butch Castro had an emergency departure and guess who got involved for surgery assist.....ME ! My last surgery assist during my private practice was way back 1993. Then Homer had also to leave 2 days earlier....as the Palompon schedule was impromptu



Scrubbing...with Homer Bunag and Jason Burgos

My personal experience, first time with the Medical missions, was unremarkably rewarding! My legs however almost gave way after the 3 1/2 hours assist in two of the surgeries.” Halatang hindi na sanay!...”

Being there gave me a closer and personal insight on the sacrifice, dedication and personal commitments, even financial, given by our compassionate classmates who render and/or participate in this laudable project.

Lately...Palompon has been their favored place outside of Gumaca, Quezon and Samar. Some of you made some comments on this. Why Palompon...why the same places??? They had negative experiences in certain areas. So, most of our medical mission leaders have limited it to fewer spots. There are reasons for this:

First...the cooperation given to them both by the government and by the hospital. In other areas, there is lack of cooperation among the practitioners of the hospital...obviously “professional jealousy” or “we are getting their business” mentality... ..maybe?... and there are other reasons better kept confidential.

Secondly, their expenses are placed at minimum.With the large and comfortable Basa residence, which I call “The Basa Hilton”, the guys shared two bedrooms downstairs. I shared the master BR with Nenita Basa in two queen sized beds;

another bedroom for Jason who came with his RN wife, Gail. The house was “very comfy city living home” in reality on an acre lot leading to the beach behind. The guys got their morning walks easily with Cesar so early dealing with the fishermen. We had housekeeping assists, and van transportation anytime. That solves the lodging problem.

Half of the town, I am not surprised at all...., seemingly were Dra. Nenita Basa’s relatives. Our dinners were sponsored every night by families so eager to get an RSVP for the chance to be our hosts. On Dec. 9th, barely arriving after an hour flight to Cebu, a 1 ½ hr. ferry ride to Ormoc plus 2 hrs. drive to Palompon, the team had finished screening cases appropriate for surgery....mainly harelip repairs and thyroidectomies and hernias. They were all ready to leave for dinner from our first hosts..the Ibarra family.

The next night was at the Whispering Beach resort by Juanita Ocobillo. Oh the seafood-the fish, crabs, shrimps, mangoes..Yummy! Then the Cachilla family on the third night....then at the Pizza place owned by Dra. Arevalo seemingly like California Pizza kitchen in miniature. On our fourth night even after a long surgery day...we dined at our tentative home....we had Chicken Fajitas served in the appropriate grill plate on wood...cooked by a Chef in the making..??(he forbids release of his name or else!) ...and the improvised Mexican salsa with mangoes, by yours truly... amidst other delicacies....the special dried Flounder fish...the tiny fried langonisas from our hosts. Saturday night after Mass at the St. Francis Xavier church...was a big birthday party of the Yap family for daughter Marichu.

Then...the R& R activities we had on the weekend....our “banka” rides to the small islands around and picnic at the



Dinner- Roger Jason, Homer and Cesar at front

“Bantay Dagat” bamboo-made sturdy shed in the middle of the waters, taking along the local masahista with us! ... and that sunny-at-first Saturday when after a sudden change of weather, we met the slashing storm and rough waves coming home in a speedboat after lunch at the white sand beach of an uninhabited island 1 km long and 1/2 km. wide (they said)...and a cool dip at the sea. I was glad to be sitted in cushioned place, as the bumpy ride was some 25 minutes, with rain pricking on my face...a free facial massage! That was an ordeal especially for the others who were sitted on the usual uncushioned seat of the speedboat. We arrived wet and dripping! So much for an R&R!



R&R- Banka rides - Marylou, Gail and Jason Burgos, Cesar Co, Roger and Nenita Basa

Thirdly, even in the hospital, lunch and snacks for the surgical crew were provided by the Vice Mayor....obviously catered.

I have observed further:

1. That there was no bureaucracy, no oppositions from the hospital administrators and staff, and mutual cooperation between our mission MDs and their hospitalists. There was total support from the government leaders and hospital staff. The doctors are sought for and welcomed tremendously. There were clerks helping organize the medicines and supplies donated.

2. The Vice-Mayor was very much involved in soliciting for Anesthesiologists which seem to be one of the major problems of our surgeons. One exemplary one was requested from the Dept. of Health, and the other one did not do any inductions...but limited herself to spinal and local. So two tables were only functional per time frame. At the end of the surgeries, with their low salaries.... guess who provides the honorarium

for each one of them...and the nurses assisting?...Yes...from the surgeons..from their own pockets!

3. I saw the private room for the surgeons, small and clean.....and the updated toilet they added to it....on their expense some years ago.

4. There were no x-rays available in that hospital...nor lab facilities to do the Thyroid panel. The chest x-ray they required plus the thyroid panel if needed were done in Ormoc, 2 hrs. away. Our surgeons pay for those. Our surgeons brought their surgery equipments to supplement what the hospital had...and usually their thermostats for one are not at par. Jason often requests donations from the USA for surgical supplies with every mission.

5. The medicines that were donated to the public in Biliran were recorded by photos....and I witnessed the donated medications and supplies in Palompon hospital. At least P 165,000 was their worth this year!

5. I witnessed the remarkable cooperation, interaction, funny most of the time, Q & A competitions among the surgeons and us...their professionalism in surgery..... and brotherhood of these 5 guys, so divergent in personalities from each other.....most of all... the diligent, reliable, efficient and leadership qualities of Dra. Nenita Basa, who has managed all their missions through all these years since they have grouped together from 1994 as a trio...and in 1998 as a quartet... and in 2002 as the Faithfully Serving Five!

Well dear Class 64 members.....Your yearly donations for the foremost project of USTMS Class 64 Foundation Inc..... went into great use and compassionate help for the needy!

THANKS to you all! Hope to receive your annual support!

One item we probably should focus on.....A PORTABLE X-RAY for Palompon Hospital!even pre-owned!!!!

As I have asked our surgeons...will this Medical mission continue yearly still? Jason, our voted Most Outstanding Goldie quipped.... ”While we are strong and healthy, I guess...it is the smiles I get from the patients the next day, that inspires me to go on.....!”

NOW..we had our euphoria from our Golden Jubilee celebration in Manila January 2014 and our Orlando Blast in July 2014...our recorded memories in a Golden Souvenir Album Directory. Still we lingered on celebrating..and had the UAE/Dubai and India trip on Nov. 2014 and an Asia Cruise this Feb. March 2015. We are unforgettable ...but not forgetful in serving the impoverished while we are strong and able through God’s help. More power to Class 64! #







On the occasion of their Golden Jubilee at Hilton Hawaiian Village in Honolulu, Hawaii

FABULOUS CLASS OF 1963

Fifty two years earlier in 1958, freshmen from all over the country that had nurtured hopes of being healers of men, staked their claim at the newly inaugurated Medicine Building of the University. Thus, this batch comprised the historic first occupants of the new Medicine Building. The dean then was Dr. Virgilio Ramos and his assistant Dr. Antonio Gisbert.

Class 1963 was a privileged group. It broke the all-time record for having the largest number of honor graduates- 1 Summa Cum Laude; 5 Magna Cum Laudes and 35 Cum Laudes.

Class '63 is also noted for being the group with the biggest number of U.S.T. graduates leaving the country. To date, Class '63 remains one of the largest groups of graduates currently practicing in the mainstream of American Medicine.

On its silver jubilee celebration in 1988, Class '63 donated to the University 1.2 million in the form of 5 professorial chairs namely: Dr. Lourdes Andaya Professorial Chair in Neurology, Dr. Honorio Ronquillo and Dr. Teresita Ibasete-Ronquillo Professorial chair in Physiology; Dr. Alfredo L. Legaspi Professorial Chair in Anesthesiology; Dr. Estelito Madrid Professorial chair in Biochemistry; and the UST Medical Class 1963 Professorial Chair in Basic Sciences.

Dr. Ma. Teresa Guerrero-Bissonette and Dr. Leonard Bissonette were major donors to the Medical Library Trust Fund together with a substantial donation from our class.

In keeping in the technology era, Class '63 donated to the first computer-learning center later renamed Learning Resource Unit/Medical Informatics in the year 2002. In addition, it undertook the complete refurbishing of lecture Rm. 404 in the Medicine Building including acoustic sound and audio-visual aids. The Class '63 also established Learning Resource Unit TRUST FUND.

Class '63 has been generous in its donations to the USTMAAA Foundation entering the Rector's Circle of Endowment with its donations over \$50,000 and additional \$29,000 for the UST Alumni Center for which it received recognitions.

It is not alien to the needs of its own. Its foundation set up a Day Care and Feeding Center in the aftermath of the Mount Pinatubo eruption called Sta. Ursula Feeding Center in Betis, Pampanga which it maintains to the present time in collaboration with the City Government and Department of Education. In addition through generous donations from class members two Gawad Kalinga Villages were established comprising of more than 60 homes in San Jose del Monte, Bulacan which it also maintains to this day. Currently class 63

is involved in helping barangay Gupa in Dipaculao, Aurora Province under the initiative of Dr. Hector Mendez. This includes continuing medical and dental services and over-all community well being and development.

Class 63 is a multi awarded class. Individually UST has conferred the following awards to Class '63:

Dr. Vay Liang W. Go, Thomas Awardee in Medical Science and Research 1988

Dr. Brenda Agagan-Lopez, Thomas Awardee in Government Service 2008

Dr. Rhandy PeBenito, UST Dangal Award for Best Book ("Easy and Practical Pediatric Neurology") 2003

Dr. Jacinto Bautista, Quadricentennial Awardee 2012 and 2013 Thomas Awardee in Leadership Health & Health Related Issues.

Dr. Rena Magno Nora, USTMAAA Awardee, Most Outstanding Sapphire Jubilarian

Dr. Manuel Estioko, Outstanding Academic Achievement, USTMAAA

Dr. Bibiano Ouano Jr., Outstanding Community Service for Pioneer UST Medical Mission Physician (Kalinga, Ifugao, Mountain Province)

Dr. Josefina Peñas Ouano, Most Outstanding Jubilarian

Dr. Josefina Enriquez, Most Outstanding USTMAAA Alumnus in Service to Community.

Drs. Frisca Yan and William Go Vay Liang, Most Outstanding USTMAAA Alumni Award for Academic Achievement 2013

Dr. Edgardo P. Ragaza, , Most Outstanding Alumnus in service to Alma Mater, 2013 and recipient of the Distinguished Silver Cross Service Award & Lifetime Achievement Award, Knights of Rizal, International 20th Assembly, Vigan, Ilocos Sur



Dr. Edgardo Ragaza, Service to Alma Mater



Dr William Go Vay Liang and Dr. Frisca Yan, Academic Achievement



Dr. Josefina Enriquez, Service to Community



Dr. Josefina Peñas Ouano, Golden Jubilarian of the Year

Class'63 has also distinguished itself in the local and international medical circles. Numerous members have become presidents of their respective areas of specialty, professors and renowned scientists in the field of research, and recognized authorities in the medical field. They are respected members of the community, having headed civic and governmental societies and agencies thus gaining national and international prominence. Indeed UST Class '63 has been privileged group, blessed with fulfilled and distinguished careers, ideal life members of the Thomasian Community.

MABUHAY FABULOUS CLASS '63!!!

-Asuncion Abella-Reloza, M.D.