



eUSTHOMASIAN

A Publication of the University of Santo Tomas Medical Alumni Association in America

April
2016

Editorial

Even as we prepare for the 24th Grand Reunion and Medical Convention in Long Beach, California at the Hilton Hotel on July 3-6, 2016 there are a lot of happenings that our alumni are involved in. The next few weeks will be very exciting and it is incumbent upon us to keep abreast with these wonderful activities and be participants when at all possible. You will find in the following pages why there is a good reason to be continuously involved with our organization. So here we go!

Southern California Hosts the 24th USTMAAA Grand Reunion & Medical Convention

By Dr. Primo Andres, MD'72
USTMAAA Executive Director

After twenty long years, the University of Santo Tomas Medical Alumni Association in America (USTMAAA) returns to sunny Southern California to celebrate its 24th Grand Reunion and Medical Convention.

The USTMAAA was established in 1987 to bring together the many regional Thomasian medical alumni associations that were formed in the United States in the 1980s following the immigration of



Dr. Primo Andres, USTMAAA Executive Director, inducting USTMAASC Officers

large numbers of Filipino physicians to the United States. It is estimated that over 12,000 doctors did so and over half of them were graduates of the University of Santo Tomas. It was no wonder therefore that Thomasians led the formation of Filipino-American medical associations all over the country from the east coast to the west coast. With so many regional organizations, a dilemma arose where the visiting dignitaries from the Philippines, usually headed by the Rector Magnificus, the CEO of the University, would spend weeks in the United States visiting all these organizations during their annual induction ceremonies. A national organization was therefore formed so that the Thomasian alumni could consolidate their activities and the University representatives would only have to attend one function; and thus was born the USTMAAA.

A significant effort was spent in convincing all the regional organizations across the country to belong to this umbrella organization. An offshoot of this was the establishment of the USTMAAA Foundation that was supported by the majority of alumni that created an Endowment Fund that invested the principal and only spent the earnings to fund its various charitable projects. To date, it was able to accumulate close to \$5million while already distributing over \$5million since its inception in 1990.

While all the regional organizations had elected to be under the umbrella of the

national organization, the University of Santo Tomas Medical Alumni Association of Southern California (USTMAASC) had chosen to remain independent and it created its own Foundation that had also greatly benefited the University of Santo Tomas, especially the Faculty of Medicine and Surgery. And while it is an independent organization, its members have participated in functions of the national organization and were regarded equally as members of the USTMAAA regardless of the region where they came from. After all, all the other chapters under the umbrella were also independent entities who controlled their own affairs and funds with no interference from the National organization.

Recently, under the leadership of Dr. Salvador Abiera, the USTMAASC 2014-2016 President, closer ties have been established with USTMAAA and efforts are now underway to bring in Southern California as a chapter of the national organization, thus finally mending the "fracture" that had been a minor distraction in the history of the



Meeting with USTMAASC Officers

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Officers and Board of Directors of the USTMAASC

Thomasian medical alumni in America.

Dr. Primo Andres, the USTMAAA Executive Director, was a guest of the USTMAASC during its Biennial Induction Ball. The occasion was also graced by the presence of Dr. Mary Lou Buendia, the USTMAAA Foundation President, and her husband, Dr. Antonio Buendia, a previous USTMAA Association and Foundation President himself and the current Chairman of the Finance Committee. Dr. Andres was asked to induct the new set of officers led by Dr. Lino de Guzman as President and Dr. Marilou Dichoso as President-elect at the Marriott Long Beach on March 19, 2016. A meeting with the officers of the organization to lay the groundworks for a more formal relationship making USTMAASC a chapter of USTMAAA was held that night. He requested the Southern California alumni to host the Opening Ceremonies during the 24th USTMAAA Grand Reunion and Medical Convention on July 3-6, 2016 at the Hilton Long Beach.

There are all kinds of positive thoughts and great optimism that such a small step will give rise to bigger rewards as we embark on a brighter future in a spirit of cooperation and closer partnership and as we take on more ambitious projects and greater challenges.

One area that can immediately be addressed and actually already approved by the USTMAAA Board in the July 2015 meeting in Orlando Florida is the membership issue. Currently, membership in the chapter and in the

national organization are separate so that alumni end up paying dues to both entities. The USTMAAA is willing to share half of the membership fees it collects with the different chapters and make membership in one an automatic membership in the other. With closer ties, we can cooperate in promoting the various projects and programs that each entity is trying to accomplish. Chapters can avail of the wider network of the national organization and at the same time the national organization can get closer to the alumni through the more intimate relationship of the chapters with its members. There may be a need to amend our Constitution and Bylaws to accommodate these changing needs as we cope with the rapidly shifting environment.

The Officers and Board Members of the USTMAASC who were inducted into office are:

- President: Lino De Guzman
Vice President: Rafael Villarosa
Pres. Elect & Secretary: Marilou Dichoso
Treasurer: Rexinor Jesus Agtarap
PRO: Maximino Basco
Auditor: Joey Regullano
Immediate Past Pres: Salvador Abiera



Board of Directors:

- Salvador Abiera
Odilon Aquino
Virgilio Castillo
Dwight David
Custodio Galicia
Samuel Reyes
Antonio Romero
Abe Sanchez
Maribel Villarosa
Bien Serrano-Cruz

The schedule during the 24th Grand Reunion and Medical Convention is as follows:

- Sunday, July 3
8AM-1 PM Board meeting
1PM-2PM Thanksgiving mass
2-3:30 PM Opening ceremonies
6PM-12MN Individual class reunions & Board reception
- Monday, July 4
8AM-12PM CME
1-1:45PM Luis Guerrero lecture
1:45-3PM Meeting with UST Administration
3:30-5PM Special meeting on UST Hospital
6PM-12MN Talent Night
- Tuesday, July 5
8AM-4PM CME
6PM-12MN Gala Dinner "Oscars"

Jim Sanchez's
RP Healthcraft Carrier

By Dr. Chona Fernando, MD'80

The Mighty UST Medicine Class of 1980 had a fundraiser for the RP Healthcraft Carrier Project of Jim Sanchez, known as Dr. Charity in the Philippines. We called our drive "March Madness."

After a 13- month hiatus from fundraising for Jim's surgivan, our class decided it was



again time to dig into our pocketbooks for our friend/classmate and our Kababayans. We initially aimed to raise \$20,000.00 over 3 months, ending our drive on May 30 when Jim comes to USA to do his presentations. We thought we faced a steep goal – a record-breaking \$20,000!. BUT, in less than a week our class topped our target! We raised \$22,000! Our class went euphoric!

We thought about ending our fundraiser after we reached our goal. But, some of our classmates suggested we keep on! One even offered to donate an extra 10% of total amount we raised! Chuchi de la Cruz became my generous anonymous donor. Our class did not want to lose the momentum! We were HOT! That was when we called our fundraiser, March Madness and upped the bar– to raise \$40,000 in a month!!

Our class president, Debbie Remorca and myself sent email and text messages asking for contributions. We made telephone calls appealing in behalf of Jim. Our class response was overwhelming for another week. I received 1-3 \$500-\$1000 contributions made through USTMAAA every day that I acknowledged and tracked. And then, sometime after mid-March we lost steam. There were several days of uncomfortable silence. I had the jitters as we were way off target!!

We encouraged maximum class participation for what ever dollar amount any one could give to help us reach our \$40,000 target. We welcomed pledges

payable through USTMAA by 5/30. We asked more from our 2 M.D.- couple classmates. We called on everyone in our class across the oceans to pitch in. And then, we started our excruciatingly slow countdown on 3/21.

3 days before our deadline, Jim sent this to us: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NAe7wJkXIPE&feature=youtu.be>

Jim made a personal appeal for contributions. This powerful video captured why he asked for our support. Our neediest Kababayans lack access to health care. They wait years for life-changing surgery. Thus, it became imperative to launch the 1st 2 buses of the RP Healthcraft Carrier fleet at the soonest. You responded to the urgency of Jim's call!!

We asked you, our friends, to step up when we needed you most especially over the last 48 hours of our March deadline. And, did you come through! You did not lose sight of the fact that we were doing something big and important for our Kababayans in dire need of our help. We all pulled together for our good friend, Jim!

Together, we succeeded! 51 of us participated in this drive-- that's a majority! We raised \$40,250.00 among us. Chuchi would take us to at least \$44,275, with an additional \$4025! All in our month of March Madness! This is certainly worth going crazy over!!

But wait! Some of you, my friends, promised to contribute after tax day-- 2 more weeks and then you can make donations through USTMAAA or make your pledges through Debbie or me. Leo Yason, M.D. would ask for donations to Jim's RP Healthcraft Carrier project in lieu of gifts for his 5/14/2016 birthday! A few of us would be around when Jim does his presentations in May. These venues would be extra opportunities for fundraising. How about if we target \$50,000 for this spring fundraiser through 5/30/2016? That is just another \$5725! Quite, doable? YES!!

As promised, I listed my donors for this March Madness Drive. I am profusely

grateful to you, my Friends, for your generous contributions. Jim, you hear us loud and clear – we have your back! We support you and we want you to succeed helping our Kababayans!! You rock!

TEAM WORK MAKES DREAM WORK!! ARRIBA OCHENTA!!!

Love you all, my Friends and God bless. Enjoy your weekend!!

Chona

Albano, Rita	\$ 1,000
Bacani, Vic	1,000
Borja, Mel Ancheta	200
Bunag, Joji	3,000
Casabar, Ruben	1,000
Co, Ed	1,000
Co, Sally Tan	1,000
Daing, Christie Ramos	100
De Castro, Chuck (in memoriam)	1,000
De Castro, Monet Benito	1,000
Del Carmen, Nats	250
Del Carmen, Ruby	250
De los Angeles, Andy	100
De los Angeles, Sandra Ang	100
De los Santos, Edith	200
DePerio, Alice	1,000
Dorotan, Jaime	1,000
Esparaz, Ben	500
Esparaz, Fe Lapena	500
Feliciano, Ming	100
Fernando, Chona	5,000
Galang, Janet	500
Gamez, Gerry	500
Gonzales, Poten	1,000
Gracia, Emily Ulanday	500
Jaravata, Rudy c/o Debbie	100
Kabigting, Emily Barrido	100
Lim, Alfred	500
Mendoza, Manny	1,000
Muallem, Nabil	300
Negranza, Rollie	1,000
Ornedo, Ed	1,000
Pichay, Honey	1,000
Ramirez, Sally Arcillas	250
Ramos, Elynn Santos	500
Ramos, Ferdie	500
Remorca, Debbie Uylangco	2,000
Reyes, Lito	1,000
Sarmiento, Sam	500
See, Cynthia	1,000
Soberano, Nani	1,000
Soliven, Betty	1,000
Tiamson, Malou	1,000
Tuason, Fely	200

Tupas, Omie Leynes	500
Tupas, Willie	500
Umali, Danny	1,000
Vasquez, Joebert	1,000
Villanueva, Meldit (pledge)	1,000
Yason, Leo	1,000
TOTAL	\$44,275

BEYOND MARCH MADNESS
\$100 K Marathon for the
RP Health Craft Carrier Project
of Jim Sanchez, MD

“An Appeal for Assistance”
Chona Fernando, M.D.’80

Our Mighty UST Medicine Class of 1980 just concluded our drive to raise \$40,000 in a month – a challenge we called March Madness – to help Jim launch 2 buses of the RP Health Craft Carrier fleet.

Although we topped our goal and raised \$44,275.00 the task was not easy. We began by soliciting \$1000 from each classmate. Of the 52 of us who participated in this drive, 26 contributed \$1000, 4 gave more than \$1000 and 22 gave under \$1000. We knew we asked a lot from our friends. But, we are also blessed with so much that we could share – – and, still have enough! After our initial euphoria, we sputtered towards our target – until, Jim sent us this video.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NAe7wJkXIPE&feature=youtu.be>

As you see, my Colleagues, the need is great. Our Kababayans wait extremely long to access healthcare. Through Jim’s noble service, we have this opportunity to help alleviate their suffering. He now asked for our help to launch these initial 2 buses of the RP Health Craft Carrier fleet. We cannot afford to just sit back and squander away our chance to participate in this important Bayanihan effort for our Kababayans. It is imperative that we help!

Jim is trying to raise \$100,000 and this has been his road towards his goal – –

Class 1980 March Madness Drive 2016
\$44,275



Dr. Jim Sanchez and the original DOCS Mobile Surgical Unit, a precursor of the RP Healthcraft Carrier

Class 1980 Surgivan Fundraiser 2014	\$ 7395
UST Medicine Class 1970 Donation	\$15,000
GRAND TOTAL	\$66,670

My Colleagues, Jim is still short \$33,330. Our class goal is to deliver \$100,000 by May 2016 – when Jim comes to do his program presentations in the USA. We appeal to your compassion and generosity to reach our \$100 K target. Our class can no longer do this alone. We ask you to participate in this fundraiser for our neediest Kababayans, the sole beneficiaries of this project. They have very little or none.

We are so close to reaching \$100,000! Sadly, we are not there yet. To get there, we need to ALL pull together. PLEASE, let us all get involved in this project to deliver healthcare to our Kababayans! We need every contribution you can give. Every dollar counts. It would be a mistake to do nothing because you could only do a little. Please send your contributions to:

www.USTMAAAmerica.wildapricot.org.
It is so easy –

Click on “donations” then fill out the form. Under “purpose,” click pass through. Under “comment,” please type for Jim Sanchez, M.D. RP Health Craft Carrier.

Please email me your donation confirmations so I can track our progress, acknowledge your contributions and give you regular updates on our efforts. My email address is: CGFERNANDO55@COMCAST.NET

John Bunyan once said: “You have not lived today until you have done something for someone who can never repay you.”

Let our cry be TEAM WORK MAKES DREAM WORK!!

Thank you for your ACTION. Let us all move towards our \$100,000 goal! Please send in your contributions now. Here is that link again:

www.USTMAAAmerica.wildapricot.org.

God bless you and I look forward to hearing from you, my Colleagues.

Thomasian CNN Hero
By Dr. Primo Andres

How often do we have a chance to acknowledge the wonderful accomplishments of one of our compatriots by shining a spotlight on him on a national, no, international, stage, like the CNN Heroes?

We are very familiar by now with the tremendous work of Dr. Juan “Jim” P. Sanchez in the field of plastic surgery mostly under regional anesthesia that had made it possible for him to do thousands of minor and medium surgeries in less sophisticated settings like classrooms, hotel rooms, houses and any place where he could find a space. Who benefited the most were the hundreds of indigent patients that he had attended to and operated on in several towns



Harelip and palate surgery in Tanay, Rizal

and provinces all over the Philippines, especially those with facial anomalies like harelip and cleft palate in the setting of medical and surgical missions.

Realizing the great need for this service, he had championed the construction of a mobile surgical unit under the auspices of the San Francisco del Monte Rotary Club of Quezon City, partly financed by friends, classmates, fraternity brothers, business partners and anybody else he could grab on to make the project work. And now he is embarking on a more ambitious project that will bring “the hospital” to the patients. The RP Healthcraft Carrier is such a prototype mobile hospital that



DOCS (Doctors Offering Care & Service Mobile Surgical Unit, a precursor of RP Healthcraft Carrier

is designed to render more sophisticated procedures in remote areas of the country where hospital care may be inadequate. It is his hope that this “prototype unit” will be eventually adopted and duplicated by the government to make it sustainable as a public-private partnership (PPP) organization that will benefit the Filipino people. With such lofty goals, he needs a broader support and he is embarking on a whirlwind campaign traveling all over the United States to share his vision with all those who have not forgotten their country of birth and the people who have been left behind.

Dr. Jim Sanchez’s tentative itinerary is as follows:

May 1, Sunday: Fly from Manila to LA.
May 2, Monday: USTMAA Southern California
May 3, Tuesday: Fly to Harrisburg PA Chona Fernando hosting
May 4, Wednesday: Harrisburg, PA. Pick up by Jojo & Candy Prisno.
World Surgical Foundation - Dr. Dom & Vennie Alvear
May 5, Thursday: Drive to Richmond, VA

9-11 AM: Dr. Sarie Laserna
2-4 PM - Washington DC, with Ambassador Cuisia
May 6, Friday: Drive to Baltimore, MD
9-11 AM: Dr Zenaida Bengzon of Assn. of Philippine Physicians in Maryland
7 PM: Toms River, NJ - Dr.Vic & Sandra Bacani/Dr.Debbie Remorca hosting
May 7, Saturday: New Jersey
9-11 AM: Dr. Sam & Gigi Sarmiento/Dr. Chona Fernando, hosting in Cherry Hill
2 PM/Sleepover reunion with Class 1980
May 8, Sunday: drive to New York with Dr. Honey Gupiteo/Dr. Rita Albano
12-3 PM: meet/lunch with Royal Pontifical USTMAANY/APPY arranged by Drs. Malou & Tony Buendia, USTMAAA Foundation President
May 9, Monday: New York . Possible meeting with Dr. Rebecca Rivera (RC Rivera Foundation) and Lito Pernia, NAFFA Region 1 chair.
May 10, Tuesday: New York (medical & non medical groups - Dr. EJ Fernandez)
May 11, Wednesday: - fly to Chicago Afternoon- Dr Jesse & Nora Corres Evening - (FEU group - Dr. Gerry Guzman)
May 12, Thursday: Drive to Indianapolis Morning - Indianapolis, IN (IPMA & Barangay Club of Indiana - Drs. Leo & Ninna Solito)
Evening - Terre Haute, IN (USTMAAA, Barangay Club of Terre Haute - Dr Primo Andres)
May 13, Friday: Drive back to Chicago Courtesy call Consul General Dinner with Fred & Nora Tsai and Faye Mendiola (PCLC/Lions Club President)
May 14, Saturday: Morning (CME PMAC- Dr. Gerry Guzman)
Afternoon/night - Dr. Greg Tolentino
7 PM - guest at the Inter-University musical revue at Hyatt Regency O’Hare, Rosemont,IL
May 15, Sunday: Chicago IL
3pm - Chicago IL - (USTMAAA Midwest Dr Lori Floro)
7pm - dinner with Dr Silverman/Dr Reyes (Classmates)
May 16, Monday: Fly to Wichita, KS (Dr Boy Abay)
May 17, Tuesday: Kansas City, KS
May 18, Wednesday: Fly to Houston, TX (Medical surgical Mission TX Dr Gil Agustin)

May 19, Thursday: Fly to Tampa - drive to Lakeland to spend time with family
May 20, Friday: Drive to Tampa
6 PM: Mekení Cabalen (Lulu Lozano), Phil. Assn of Med Tech/Florida (Lucy Bautista), combined groups of doctors and business leaders: venue at Phillipine Cultural Foundation, Inc./Tampa
May 21, Saturday: Fly to Oklahoma - Fil-Am Doctors (Dr. Nemy Gutierrez)
May 22, Sunday: Fly to San Diego,CA
8 AM Arrival, pick up by Dr. Malou Tiamson to meet with Dr. Lino de Guzman, USTMAA SoCal President
Lunch with classmates to follow
1:30 PM: Fly to LA
6 PM Meet/Dinner with Imelda Borja & classmates/Dr. Rex Agtarap/ Dr.Sal Abiera/Tau Mu Frat brothers(combined)
May 23, Monday: Los Angeles, CA
AM: LA Chamber of Commerce
Consul General Leo Herrera-Lim
PM: SPSA - Drs. Ed Barcelona, Ed Quiros, Bing Quiros
May 24, Tuesday: Night flight to Manila
Ummmp! What a hectic schedule!
Be sure to catch Dr. Jim in any one of the above stopovers and be a part of the phenomenon, the wave of humanitarianism and nationalism that only he can generate, **with our help.**

And with a stroke of genius, Dr. Chona Fernando, the Treasurer of the Mighty Class of 1980, and number one fun of Dr. Jim Sanchez, nominated him for the CNN Heroes of 2016. Not only is he so deserving, he is a sure winner. So do not forget to vote for him as CNN Hero should we be lucky enough that his nomination is accepted. **Mabuhay si Dr. Jim Sanchez! Mabuhay!**

Dr. Mark Asperilla wins
Ellis Island Medal of Honor



Dr. Mark Asperilla with Sec. Colin Powell

(Publisher’s note: For the second year in a row, a Thomasian medical alumnus receives the prestigious Ellis Island Medal of Honor. Dr. Domingo Alvear of the World Surgical Foundation garnered the special award in 2015 for his surgical missions internationally and in the Philippines for over two decades. And now Dr. Mark Asperilla’ receives the same honor. Our heartfelt congratulations to both of them!)

Reprinted from the Florida Weekly

The National Ethnic Coalition of Organizations, known as NECO, has announced that Port Charlotte physician Dr. Mark Asperilla is a recipient of the Ellis Island Medal of Honor. The award pays homage to the immigrant experience and the contribution made to America by immigrants and their children. The medals are awarded to native-born and naturalized U.S. citizens. Approximately 100 medalists are honored each year. Past medalists include six United States presidents, Nobel Prize winners and leaders of industry, education, the arts, sports and government.

The medals were established at the time of NECO’s founding in 1986. The organization’s mission is “to support patriotism, tolerance, brotherhood and diversity.”

The awards ceremony will be held May 7 on Ellis Island. All branches of the United States Armed Forces traditionally participate. Both the United States House of Representatives and United States Senate have officially recognized the Ellis Island Medals of Honor, and each year’s recipients are read into the Congressional Record. The Great Hall, where immigrants were once processed, hosts the gala dinner following the ceremony.

Dr. Asperilla, who was born in the Philippines, is an internist and infectious disease specialist, as well as one of the community’s most recognized philanthropists, whose borders stretch beyondCharlotte County.

The numerous area medical clinics he has co-founded (including the Virginia B. Andes Volunteer Community Clinic, the Englewood Community Clinic, another free clinic in Lehigh Acres and the Charlotte County Hepatitis C Clinic) provide care to about 20,000 poor, uninsured and underinsured patients a year. Dr. Asperilla is also the founder of ACCESS Care, a nonprofit organization that works to improve access to free medical services in other countries. It has served about 30,000 impoverished people in Peru, Ecuador, Guatemala, the Philippines, Colombia and Haiti, by providing free medical treatment.

Dr. Asperilla also founded Southwest Florida Disabilities to provide services to the disabled, the now-dissolved Charlotte County HIV Clinic, the first-ever stand-alone FEMA clinic in the wake of Hurricane Charley. He also founded the St. Vincent de Paul Charity Pharmacy, which is now part of the Virginia B. Andes Clinic. The pharmacy has dispensed millions of dollars’ worth of medications through tens of thousands of prescriptions.

For his efforts, Dr. Asperilla has been recognized with more than a dozen awards, many of them for community service. Included in these are the Caring Award, the nation’s highest honor for volunteerism, as well as the Oscar E. Edwards Memorial Award for Volunteerism and Community Service from the American College of Physicians. In addition, the American Medical Association has recognized Dr. Asperilla with its Pride in Profession and Leadership awards, two of its top honors. |

“Hitch Your Wagon to the Stars”
The Saga of a Tomasino Family

By Primo Andres

It is not too often that we see a family with six physicians especially when five of them graduated from the same medical school. The Ferrers is such a family and what is even more amazing is how they got there.

Let us begin our story with a young girl named Constanca Orenca Asperin. Conching, as she was known to her family and closed friends, was born on June 19, 1901 and grew up in Agoo, La Union raised by very poor parents who could barely afford to send her through primary school. Her dream of becoming a doctor someday drove her to study through the wee hours of the night under the dim light of an oil lamp. She graduated valedictorian of her 7th grade class at age 15 and became a “model teacher” that others came to observe.



Constancia Asperin Ferrer

Pursuing her ambition, she moved to Manila to attend high school. She worked as secretary to the General Manager of the National Waterworks and Sewerage Authority (NAWASA) “winning her job over other well-coiffed applicants”. Undeterred by the challenges in her life, she enrolled in night classes taking pre-medical courses only to find out later that she could not go on to pursue her ambition as there was no night school in Medicine. She shifted to Education at the University of Manila and became a teacher of English and Dramatics at the National University. It was there that she met and fell in love with a struggling law student, Narciso Ferrer, from Mangatarem, Pangasinan and they got married in 1926. They raised nine children in the next fifteen years, losing two of them in infancy.

When WWII broke out, Narciso, who was a Colonel in the Philippine Army, was incarcerated by the Japanese. That left her single handedly fending for the family selling rice in the black market buying it in Cabanatuan and bluffing her way through Japanese check points, risking her life to feed her starving family, actually getting caught once and would have lost her life were it not for the intervention of a kind Japanese officer. The war took its toll on Narciso though and he remained sickly even following



50th Wedding Anniversary of Narciso and Constanca Ferrer

the war and finally succumbing to cancer in 1973.

Constancia was a pillar of strength and the source of inspiration to her children encouraging them to study hard and to “take up a high course like Medicine so that they would not have to worry about money when they got older”. **“Nothing is impossible if you but try”** was her response when the children would mention the obstacles that were almost impossible to



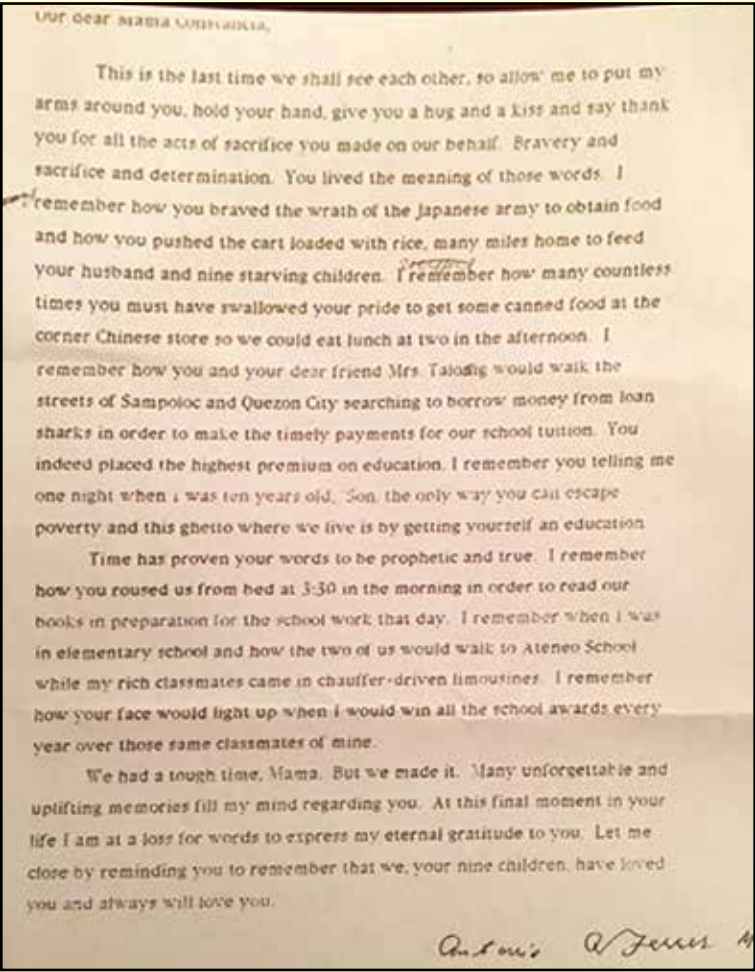
Seated is the matriarch, Constanca Asperin Ferrer, standing from left to right: Lilia Ibabao, Rosemarie Schmidt, Ma. Theresa Rosen, Emma Marquez, Narciso Jr, Jesus, and Antonio Ferrer



Standing from left to right: Lilia Ibabao, Antonio Ferrer, Maria Theresa Rosen & Jesus Ferrer behind their mother, Constanca Asperin Ferrer

overcome. She gathered the Japanese war notes that represented her savings and bought an empty lot in Sampaloc that was close to several schools and built a three story wooden house. She leased out a three door apartment on the ground floor and opened a dormitory on the third floor and the family occupied the second floor.

She promised to her ailing husband that she would pursue her ambition to become a doctor through her children. They mortgaged everything and owed everybody in the neighborhood, “even employing friends to help find loan sharks



Dr. Antonio Ferrer’s letter to his mother on her last days



Mrs. Constanica Ferrer with some of her children and grandchildren

in order to pay for her children’s tuition fees on a timely manner” as written by Dr. Antonio Ferrer in his farewell letter to his mother. He also recalled how he and his mother could only walk to Ateneo elementary school while his rich classmates were chauffeured on limousines but how she beamed with pride when he won all the school awards at the end of the year. She inculcated in her children the importance of education and she would wake them up at 3 o’clock in the morning so that they could study and prepare for school. One of her favorite slogans is *“hitch your wagon to the stars”*.

And hitch they did and so it was that the first born, Lilia, finished medical school. She immigrated to the United States and remitted most of her earnings to help the next child to finish medicine. The succeeding children perpetuated the cycle until all five of them graduated from the University of Santo Tomas College of Medicine, with their parents believing that it was “the best place to be educated in as doctors”. The youngest, Antonio, actually made it as a five-year full scholar of Metro Drug Corporation graduating in 1966, now a Golden Jubilarian. And the two who were not in medicine likewise did very well in their chosen profession. Indeed a parents’ dream come true through sheer diligence and determination.

And this year, we would like to honor the entire Ferrer family with a special award, the *Benavidez Tomasino Loyalty Award*, beginning with our “Supermom”, Constanica Asperin Ferrer, who did not quite make it as a Doctor of Medicine but who definitely is deserving of an M.D. after her name, for Doctor of Motherhood.

Please join me in giving tribute to the amazing Tomasino family of Ferrer!

- | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------|
| Narciso V. Ferrer + | Father |
| Constancia Asperin-Ferrer + | Mother |
| David A. Ferrer + | |
| Lourdes A. Ferrer + | |
| Lilia Ferrer-Ibabao, MD | First doctor |
| Emma Ferrer-Marquez | Businesswoman |
| Narciso A. Ferrer, Jr. | Economist |
| Jesus A. Ferrer, MD UST’58 | |
| | Forensic Pathology |
| Rebecca A. Ferrer, MD UST’57 | |
| | Psychiatry |

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|----------------|
| Jose A. Ferrer | |
| Rosemarie Ferrer-Smith, MD UST’61 | Anesthesiology |
| Ma. Theresa Ferrer-Rosen, MD UST’65 | Anesthesiology |
| Antonio A. Ferrer, MD UST’66 | Anesthesiology |
| Florentino Ibabao, MD UST’51 (inlaw) | Surgery |

**Profile of a Ferrer Physician
Dr. Maria Theresa Ferrer-Rosen**

This is in response to the Publisher’s request for members of the Ferrer family to tell more about their personal story. We thank Dr. Maria Theresa Ferrer-Rosen for coming forward and contributing a brief look at her part of the Ferrer portrait. And here is her story in her own words

I graduated from the University of Santo Tomas School of Medicine in 1965. Within a year, I was recruited to the internship program at Memorial Hospital in Albany, New York and then a year later, transferred to Youngstown, Ohio for residency in Family Practice. After realizing the difficult winter weather in the east coast, I accepted a residency program in Anesthesiology at University of California, Los Angeles.



Dr. Ma. Theresa Ferrer-Rosen, MD’65

After my training, I was invited to join the faculty of Anesthesiology at UCLA Medical Center and stayed 20 years in Academia, teaching residents in training, medical students, research in the new subspecialty of pain management. I rose from assistant professor to full professor Step 3. My main academic interest was establishing the first multidisciplinary pain management center at UCLA, with a fellowship program for anesthesia residents interested in this field. In 1980, I started the first multidisciplinary cancer pain center at the UCLA Johnson Comprehensive cancer center. I was in the forefront in innovating treatments for intractable pain, both non-malignant and malignant pain. I published extensively in the management of pain, producing over 40 manuscripts, book chapters and peer-reviewed journals. I authored a book “Common Problems in Pain Management” published in 1990.

I became active in prestigious pain organizations: President of Western Pain Society, President of Western USA Pain Society, board member of American Pain Society and served in several committees in the International Association for the Study of Pain.

After 20 years of Academia, I retired from UCLA and founded the first Pain Center in Bakersfield, California. My practice grew rapidly with almost 1000 new patients a year. I also started 2 surgery centers with other Physicians, becoming the Medical Director. I became the first

ever woman president of the Kern County Medical Society and got involved with fundraising for abused women.

After 13 years of solo practice, I retired in 2003, moving to Pismo Beach, CA with my husband, Steven Rosen. During my retirement, I volunteered in Hospice of San Luis Obispo as a grant writer, helped the elderly in my church and helped fundraise for women’s shelters. My husband and I are board members of the local Rotary.



In 2007, I attended my 50th High School reunion in St Paul’s College and was surprisingly awarded the Topaz award for my distinguished achievements in the field of Medicine. #

DOCTORS IN CONCERT
By Sandra V. Dee, MD’87

UST medical graduates are known not only for excellence in their respective fields of specialization, but also their involvement in academic education and community service. Many continue to expand their horizon and realize that life is not all about medicine and work. There’s the discovery that we have hidden talents in other areas like sports, arts, photography, dance or music.

Dr. Sandra Dee of UST Med 87, is an interventional Cardiologist, practicing



in Jackson, TN. She works with 11 other cardiologists in a multi-specialty clinic of over 100 physicians. She is also the class representative of her batch and member of the USTMAAA board.

Dr Dee was one of the participants of the recent second annual Doctors in Concert , held on April 18th, 2015. This benefit concert was sponsored by Amro Music and Steinway and Sons for St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital. The concert was held at the Duncan-Williams Performance Hall at the Germantown Performing Arts Center in Memphis,TN. Local physicians from the area volunteered their time and talent, performing to an audience of over 200 people. The event was also participated in by two St Jude cancer patients. St Jude Children’s Research Hospital was founded by Danny Thomas who had the vision that “no child be denied treatment based on race, religion, or a family’s ability to pay”. Dr. Dee performed the Rodgers and Hammerstein’s Sound of Music, which celebrated its 50th anniversary this year and Whitewater Chopped Sticks by Calvin Jones, a fast piano piece usually performed in the talent portion of Miss America Pageants.



Dr. Sandra Dee in Doctors in Concert

It is not the first time that Dr. Dee has performed in fundraisers. She was also one of the performers of the first Amro Music and Steinway and Sons’ Doctors in Concert in 2013 where she played Danza Espanola No.2 by Enrique Granados, one of the most beautiful of the Spanish



Dances and Souvenir de Filipinas by the renowned Francisco Santiago. Souvenir de Filipinas is a classical version of the Philippine folk song Lulay.

Her passion and love for music is shown by her involvement in other benefit concerts for Make a Wish Foundation, Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, Wing Cancer Center of Memphis, Alzheimer’s Day Care Center of Memphis among others. She spends her spare time practicing on her 7 ft “B” Steinway Grand piano, which she considers her baby! Dr Dee recently formed the West TN Filipino-American Association choir and was the pianist for the annual Filipino Mass at St Mary’s Catholic Church in Jackson, TN.

**Sterling Awards Recognize
Outstanding Women of
West Tennessee including a
Thomasian Medical Alumna
Dr. Sandra Dee, MD’87**
By Primo Andres, MD’72

(My apologies to Dr. Sandra Dee for this very late publication of an article that should have been included in the summer 2015 issue of eUSThomasian. Excepts taken from Jackson Sun)

Twenty of West Tennessee’s leading women were honored Tuesday as The Jackson Sun and Jackson Area Business and



Dr. Sandra Dee receives Sterling Award

Professional Women presented the 2015 Sterling Awards.

Launched in 2010, the Sterling Awards look for women from counties all over West Tennessee who have done outstanding and influential work in their communities. With over eighty nominations to choose from, choosing just twenty women can be a challenge.

“Several winners have had twenty-page resumes, and ten letters of support,” said Jacque Hillman, director of the Sterling Awards. “But it is just as important to the selectors to read a one-page resume with three heartfelt letters, describing someone who has always gone above and beyond to help others.”

The Sterling Award winners were honored in a ceremony at the J. Walter Barnes Conference Center at Jackson-Madison County General Hospital Tuesday night. While the recognition was appreciated, many of the women took the opportunity to turn the spotlight back on their peers and communities.

“It’s a humbling thing for me,” said Dr. Sandra Dee, a cardiologist at The Jackson Clinic. “Really, I’m amazed. I did not really expect it, because you do these things for the community, and not for your own recognition.”

The 2015 Sterling Award winners include Jackie Bobbitt, Pam Bowers, Jan Bynum, Daryl Chansuthus, Teresa Crouse, Dr.

Sandra Dee, Constance Douglass, Carolyn Flagg, Sandra Harper, Dr. Clara Hewitt, Linda J. Higgins, Kathy Hooten, Alice Kirkland, Sarah Levy, Elizabeth Lynch, Carma McGee, Kristie Maxwell, Anna Page, Linda Seely, and Lynn Woodside.



Some of the 20 Sterling Awardees

The criteria for selection is that the nominee lives or works in West Tennessee outside of Shelby County, and is a leader in business or her profession. She must serve as a role model to other women in her profession and community. She displays creativity and innovation, and contributes these talents to the growth of her profession. The nominee must contribute time and energy to community betterment. #

25th Grand Reunion
Vancouver

By Dr. Primo Andres
USTMAAA Executive Director

It is never too early to prepare for the 2017 Grand Reunion. For the first time it is going to be in our northern neighbor, Canada, in the Garden City of Vancouver in the Southwestern



Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, the site of the 2017 USTMAAA 25th Grand Reunion

Province of British Columbia. Another country, you might think! But who would feel like a foreigner in the multicultural metropolis of Vancouver that is teeming with Asians? With a very favorable exchange rate and the relatively less expensive cost of running a convention, in addition to the multitude of wonderful places that we can visit, it is indeed a very attractive venue for the USTMAAA 25th Grand Reunion and Medical Convention. Even the concern about the high cost of flying is obviated by early planning, taking advantage of the low fares that often times go on sale months ahead of the scheduled event.

And to make sure that we are going to have a grand time next year, I am going to Vancouver this May for a site visit to make sure that our hotel, Sheraton Downtown, is more than adequate for our needs. My two-way United flight is just for \$400 bought through Expedia with just one stop in O’Hare Chicago from Indianapolis, no more that it would cost me to fly to Los Angeles. I will be hosted by the British Columbia Convention Bureau and I will have a chance to visit various sites in the region. While most of us might have “passed by” Vancouver on our way to somewhere, like when we took a cruise to Alaska, we probably have not immersed ourselves in the many wonderful opportunities that that area of the world has to offer. I have of course already researched the possibilities and have actually experienced a few of them and here are the main activities

that I envision we can potentially take advantage of in addition to our usual convention activities:
June 17-24: Week before the convention. How about an Alaskan Cruise from Saturday to Saturday?



Cruising Alaska



Banff Springs Four Seasons Hotel



Fairmont Chateau Lake Louise



Moraine Lake

June 25-28, Sunday to Wednesday: Week of the convention. Bus tour of the Canadian Rockies and visit the beautiful Village of Banff and meander the Glacial Lake Louise, and my personal favorite, Moraine Lake, and even drive north to Jasper National Park and see wildlife on the roadside.



Wildlife at Jasper National Park



Jasper National Park

June 29, Thursday: Free day in Vancouver to enjoy its many amenities, or even take a short trip up the mountain to Whistler Ski Resort, the site of 2004 Winter Olympics.



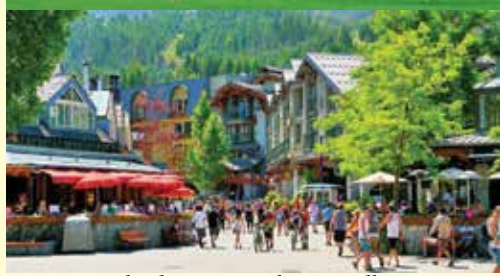
Downtown Vancouver



Vancouver Chinatown



Capillano suspension bridge



Whistler Winter Olympic Village

June 30, Friday: Boat ride to Victoria and spend the day and enjoy lunch at the beautiful Butchart Gardens surrounded by blooming flowers then tour the old city later in the day before heading back to Vancouver.



Butchart Gardens in Victoria



Lunch at the Butchart Gardens

July 1, Saturday: This is the official start of the Grand Reunion and Medical Convention which coincides with Canada Day which happens to be a special one, Canada's 150th Anniversary. How lucky can we be?

150th Canada Day Celebration

July 1-5, Saturday to Wednesday: The USTMAAA 24th Grand Reunion and Medical Convention takes place.

Of course, not everybody can participate in the above activities. That would be too much for most of us, especially those who may not have that much time to spend away from their practice and other commitments. But wouldn't it be nice if

some can do it? Email me (primo.andres@ustmaaamerica.com) if you are interested in any of the above excursions so that I can have some idea whether they are worth pursuing.

- Alaskan Cruise
- Canadian Rockies
- Whistler Olympic Park
- Victoria & Butchart Gardens

While the official celebrants are the Classes ending in 2 and 7 who will be celebrating their jubilees in grand fashion, all Thomasians are invited to come and enjoy what will prove to be an experience of a lifetime that only USTMAAA and its Foundation can provide. So mark your calendar and set your plans to come and celebrate with us. We have a year to prepare and it is never too early. #

Save a Date
July 1-5, 2017
25th USTMAAA
Grand Reunion
VANCOUVER

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