

PREZ MARCEL reports

# I. Planning strategies

Last January 26, 2014, the USTMAA Board held its first activity for the year in Punta Fuego, Batangas hosted by Dr Noel Chua, Past President of USTMAA. The strategic planning 2014 consisted of revisiting the mission, vision and goals of USTMAA and the inputs/outputs and strategies set forth during the 2008 strategic planning. Then, the planning of activities for 2014 were discussed and set with an emphasis on a major paradigm shift in the direction of the Association. The Board would want to embrace change, doing things differently, and “thinking out

of the box” to make USTMAA relevant, dynamic and responsive to the needs of its members. The following morning session after a hearty breakfast, the group formed and finalized the various committees and summarized all the outputs into a timeline.

Thank you so much, Noel, for hosting us in your beautiful home! The food and drinks and company made all the difference in making this working holiday more relaxing and productive! Till the next planning session.



AT THE ORLANDO REUNION (left to right). Office for Alumni Relations Director Asst. Prof. Fides F. Carlos, Prez Marcel, UST Vice Rector Rev. Fr. Richard G. Ang, OP and USTMAA Ecclesiastical Adviser Rev. Fr. Raymund Fernando P. Jose, OP

## II. Reunion In Florida

In support of and in mutual cooperation with our fellow Thomasians based in the United States, we attended the 22nd Grand Reunion and Medical Convention of USTMAA America at the famous Ritz Carlton / JW Marriot Resort and Convention Center in Orlando, Florida last July 2-6, 2014. With me were our Treasurer Dr Judy So and Director Dr. Gil Gonzalez.

A whole day was spent for our meetings with USTMAAA Board and USTMAAA Foundation officers. These meetings are traditionally held to strengthen relations, foster open communication, and uphold broader cooperation among all Thomasian stakeholders. Developments and on-going projects in the University, the Faculty of Medicine and Surgery and UST Hospital were discussed. I presented updates on our preparation of the grand homecoming, the new USTMAA ID/Debit card, the new USTMAA office, medical mission reports, among others. We were unanimous that by working together, united and steadfast we will achieve our dreams for our beloved University, our students, our patients, and our alumni members.

The Scientific Program was very informative and practical, with lectures by world class Thomasian doctors. The Conference on Medical Volunteerism,

one of the highlight sessions, tackled disaster relief and preparations, medical missions and its regulations. The guest of honor was no less than renowned social entrepreneur Antonio Meloto of our local Gawad Kalinga. He gave an inspiring talk about his movement and urged us to bring back the dignity and honor of the Filipino people especially the poor.

The social program was much fun, very entertaining. The Fireworks Extravaganza on the Fourth of July was a visual treat! The daily Zumba dance exercises invigorated our jet-lagged bodies and perked us up. The Gala Dinner Night was a night to remember with the great company, good food and drinks, live band music, lively batch presentations, non-stop sing-alongs to everyone's delight.

Overall, it was a successful and memorable reunion of the Thomasian community in the world of Disney where dreams do come true! Kudos to the organizing committee and the officers of USTMAAA for a job well done. We were truly honored by the VIP hospitality accorded to us. Mabuhay ang USTMAA America, Mabuhay ang Tomasining Manggagamot! See you all in January 2015 for our 75th Alumni Homecoming as well as the much awaited Pope Francis' visit to the Philippines!



USTFMS Dean Jesus V. Valencia (fourth from left) with Drs. Daniel Rigor, USTMAA America Director Delilah Paragas-Tapia, Remedios Rigor-Valencia, Alfonso Q. Estrada and USTMAA Prez Marcelino D. Banzon. Photo at the left: Prez Marcel with USTMAA Executive Director Dr. Primo A. Andres.

