



# FIL-AM BULLETIN

The Official Newsletter of the  
**Filipino-American Association of Greater Columbia, SC**  
(A Non-Profit Organization to Promote Inter-Cultural Education and Understanding)

**"Together  
We Make A  
Difference"**  
[www.FilAmSC.org](http://www.FilAmSC.org)

★ Volume 23, Number 1

★ P.O. Box 24112, Columbia, SC 29224

★ Summer 2013 ★

## Cecille Jacobsen Elected 2013-15 FAAGC President

**Cecille Jaccobsen** was elected President of the Columbia Fil-Am Association during the election of FAAGC officers held at the annual spring picnic at Sesquicentennial State Park on Easter Sunday, April 24, 2013.

She now heads the 2013-2015 FAAGC Executive Board that blends experience, continuity and lots of new blood. The new board includes three officers from the 2011-2013 Executive Board (two re-elected to the same positions, one elected to a new position), two other past officers, and seven first-time officers.

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## FAAGC Annual Gala Set for September 21

The Filipino-American Association of Greater Columbia (FAAGC) will celebrate its **23rd Annual Gala & 15th Induction Ball** on **September 21, 2013**. The gala will be held from 6:00 p.m. to midnight at the downtown **Columbia Marriott Hotel** (1200 Hampton St., Columbia, SC 29201).

The formal affair (*coat and tie or barong required*) includes a sit-down dinner and an entertainment program featuring Philippine folk dances performed by four generations of Fil-Ams in the **Columbia Fil-Am Cultural Dance Troupe**. Dancers representing neighboring Fil-Am associations are also scheduled to perform. The

newly-elected 2013-2015 Executive Board will be inducted into office and the new lifetime members and Fil-Am scholarship recipients will be recognized.

**Until September 14**, tickets are \$50 per adult (\$35 per student). **After September 14**, tickets are \$60 per adult (\$45 per student). Tickets for children ages 8-12 years are \$25 each. There is a 5% discount for a full table of 10. For a small fee, baby-sitting services for children aged 2 to 8 will be available on-site so parents with small children can enjoy the festivities.

Due to hotel requirements, we would  
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## FAAGC Officer Honored as CIF 2013 "International Volunteer of the Year"

**Alma Talens Robichaud**, a newly-elected FAAGC Executive Board Member, was named the 2013 "International Volunteer of the Year" during the 18th annual Columbia International Festival (CIF) held on April 13-14, 2013.

The annual award is given to a qualified, foreign-born SC resident who has used his/her gifts/talents/skills/resources to help the community in tangible ways, currently volunteers time/services without pay through a community-oriented service organization, and has served in this capacity for at least 10 years (in the Midlands or elsewhere).

Alma's selection marks the fourth time a Columbia Fil-Am has been honored as *Volunteer of the Year*, and the eighth time overall in the 18 years of the festival that a **Columbia Fil-Am Association** member has

been recognized.

Previous "International Volunteer of the Year" awardees were **Noel Alon** (FAAGC Lifetime Sustaining Charter member and *Fil-Am Bulletin* Editor), **Grace Collins** (2003-2005 FAAGC President), and **Peter Liunoras** (2001-2003 FAAGC President) in 1998, 2002, and 2004, respectively.

**Dr. Francisco Sy** (a long-time FAAGC benefactor and member and a former public health professor at USC), **Dr. Nieves McNulty** (1997-2001 FAAGC President and the math department chair at Columbia College), and **Dr. Marj Peña** (2009-2013 FAAGC President and biological sciences associate professor and Mouse Core Facility director in the Center for Colon Cancer Research at USC) received the "International Professional of the Year" awards in 1997, 2001 and 2012, respectively.

**Dr. George McNulty** (2001-2007 FAAGC Treasurer and math professor at USC) was named the "International Community Ambassador of the Year" in 2006.

Alma has been volunteering  
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## New FAAGC Lifetime Members

Five more families have now joined the growing ranks of FAAGC Lifetime Members. **David & Odess Brinkman, Carlton & Carmelisa Edwards, Don & Evelyn Liester, Edsel & Marj Peña, and Warren & Myrna Whitmire** will be officially recognized as *Lifetime Sustaining Members* during the upcoming gala, joining the 15 families and eight individuals who are already Lifetime Members.

As part of its 20th Anniversary celebration during the

21st Annual Gala on September 10, 2011, FAAGC honored its long-time charter members who have been continuously dues-paying members since 1991 by recognizing them as *Lifetime Sustaining Charter Members*.

The Lifetime Membership is now available to members and others interested in supporting the Association when an amendment to the By-laws was adopted on June 9, 2012. As stated in the By-laws, "lifetime membership may be  
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## FAAGC Donates to Philippine Red Cross

FAAGC 2011-13 Asst. Treasurer **Maribel Tijning** hands over the \$2000-check donation to Philippine Red Cross (PRC) staff at the Manila chapter office on June 24, 2013. Representing fundraising results over the past two years, the donation was made as FAAGC's contribution to the PRC for its assistance to Philippine calamity victims and for its special educational projects.



*From the President* ..... by Cecille Jacobsen  
**Together, We Will Work Towards Our Goals**

*Hello everyone,* I would like to introduce myself as the new president of FAAGC. I am here because you believe and trust in my ability to lead the organization. It sounds overwhelming, but with the help of my Executive Board, we can fulfill the responsibilities entrusted to us.

It's been eight years since I became a member and almost immediately after I joined, I became active and started attending the functions, meetings and other get-togethers. And before I knew it, all the meetings, the cooking, traveling and other activities felt like a part-time job. *Go fig-*

*ure!* I may have missed some functions, but the camaraderie is nice and I have enjoyed each function I attended.

It is quite an honor to have this position you entrusted to me and I would like to thank you all for the opportunity to serve and represent our organization. There's so much to do, my mind is getting filled with ideas already, as I look forward to working with my team. Together, we will be diligent and will work toward the important goals within the organization.

It looks like I will need to clear my calendar. Picnics and meetings will surely dominate my schedule, which also includes basketball games, but to me, these are perfect times to have wonder-

ful get-togethers with our Fil-Am members and friends.

Speaking of activities, our biggest fundraising event is fast approaching. The *Annual Gala* is on **Sept. 21, 2013**. Tickets are being sold now, and once again it will be held in the Columbia Marriott Hotel. I personally invite everyone to support the organization and have a night of great fun at the gala.

On behalf of the 2013-2015 incoming Officers and Executive Board Members, I thank you and ask for your continued support. And feel free to offer us your ideas about the Association and what we can do together. ♦



*From the Past President* ..... by Marj Peña  
**The GOOD Things and People in the FAAGC**

has ended. With certainty, I can say that four years flew by so fast, but as they say, time flies when you are having fun! Indeed, my two terms as President has been filled with fun, purpose, and accomplishment. Each term comes with the good and the bad, but I find it difficult

to list the "bad" because as soon as we encountered difficulties, my Officers and Executive Board quickly found solutions and turned problems into opportunities to grow and establish new standards and goals.

What are etched in my mind and are easy to list are the many **GOOD** things and people that I found in the community and among fellow compatriots that made me very proud, honored, and humbled to be entrusted with this organization by

you. *Among these are:*

▶ **My fellow officers and Executive Board Members:** Lisa, Grace B, Grace C, Nieves, Bambi, Odess, Faye, Pete, Bong, Rio, Carlos, Shirley, Cecille J, Cecille G, Wyda, Jojo, and Dan. A President is only as good as the people working closely with her and I couldn't have asked for a more talented, hard working, outspoken, and eager group as these folks.

▶ **The Dance Coordinators:** Odess, Tessie K, Joette, Jojo, *(continued on Page 10)* ▶



**Giving Thanks!**

by **Faye Colley**, 2013-15 First Vice-President, 2011-2013 Assistant Secretary

The 2011-2013 Executive Board's term has just recently concluded, while the 2013-2015 Executive Board's term has just begun. From the 2013 Easter Picnic to now, transition has been smooth, and the newly elected officers are all thankful. I am privileged to have worked with the outgoing officers and with the newly-elected officers.

This article is dedicated to the outgoing FAAGC Officers & very active members who have made FAAGC a success within the past two years, and those who have made it possible for the 2013-2015 FAAGC Executive Board's term start with a bang.

**Marj Peña**

As FAAGC President for two consecutive terms, she has definitely put her heart into our organization. She has been

most generous with her time, talent and monetary donations. She is to be admired for her leadership and diplomacy. She has been a very hands-on President, yet brave and trusting to delegate tasks to others. Within the past two months, she has given the 2013-2015 Executive Board a big hand to give the incoming officers a head-start on the *23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Gala*. Her continued support of the FilAm *(continued on Page 10)* ▶

**How To Contact Us**

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**FILIPINO-AMERICAN**  
**Association of Greater Columbia, SC**  
 P.O. Box 24112  
 Columbia, SC 29224

The **FIL-AM BULLETIN** is one vehicle of the Association to achieve its objectives and maintain regular communications with its members and interested parties. Contributions of articles (as well as financial donations) are most welcome; contact the Editor for more details.

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 Photographers

# MOTIONS & TRANSITIONS

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS



ESCHENFELDER Family



RABACA Family



SHEARER Family

★ **CHRISTIAN ARELLANO** of Lexington, SC. A Business Communications graduate from Bowling Green State University, he recently moved here from Cleveland, OH. Working for TD Bank as Store Manager and Small Business Development Manager, his “passion and desire is to help Asian American businesses succeed in the Greater Columbia area. He wants to “help and guide prospective business owners in starting up their businesses, in selecting the right accounts, and in building credit for their businesses.”



★ **CHRIS & EVA IMPERIAL CHESSICK** of Elgin, SC. They have two children: Reyna, 6 (who is interested in Philippine folk dancing) and Rylee, 2.

★ **AL & LEILA COCKEREL** of Columbia, SC. Originally from Bogu City, Cebu, she is with the US Army at Ft. Jackson. Originally from Louisville, KY, he is now retired. They have joined the Association for the “chance to meet new friends.”

★ **GEORGE & MERCEDES DIA** of Lexington, SC. Originally from Paranaque City, Metro Manila, she is a nurse at Palmetto Health Baptist. From Cavite, he is self-employed. Longtime area residents, and past FAAGC individual members, they have three children: Megan, 14; Mia 12; and JJ, 8.

★ **CHRISTOPHER & MIRIAM ESCHENFELDER** of Columbia, SC. Originally from San Jose del Monte City, Bulacan, she has been in the U.S. for 19 years but only nearly three years in Columbia. She is currently finishing her social work degree at USC. They have two sons: William, 12, and Matthew, 10.

★ **CLAY (“Clay Agom”) LINGERFELT** of Elgin, SC. Newly arrived in the area from North Carolina, he is a former US Air Force loadmaster and now works at Belk. He likes sports, contemporary and ethnic dancing, and “Filipino food, especially *lumpia*.”



★ **JON & RHODA MCGHEE** of Columbia, SC. They have lived in Manila and Davao City, working with the Resources for the Blind International (RBI), a non-government Christian organization serving blind people all over the Philippines since 1988. He is director of the RBI U.S. office located in Columbia.

★ **KATHERINE “Kate” MORALES** of Columbia, SC. In the area for four years now, she hails from Angeles City, Pampanga and is a project manager at Blue Cross. She has three children: Jaya Jones, 12; Adrian, 5; and Analiz, 1.

★ **GENTRY PAUL & CHERYL GRACE PELTIER** of Forest Acres, SC. She is originally from Subic, Zam-

bales. Originally from St. Martinville, LA, he is with the US Army at Ft. Jackson. Recently arrived here from West Virginia, they have joined the Association to meet new friends, get involved in charitable events to help the community, and “provide [him with] some Filipino cultural knowledge.”

★ **PHILIP & ANNA RABACA** of Columbia, SC. A former *Fil-Am Dance Troupe* performer, she is a registered nurse at Life Care Center. While he is a machine operator at FN Manufacturing. Longtime area residents, they have four daughters: Alisha, 13; Ashley, 11; Phina, 7; and Phia, 6.

★ **SCOTT & SHEENA SHEARER** of Columbia, SC. Originally from San Miguel, Bohol, she has been in the U.S. for only two years and is a customer service rep with Convergys. Originally from Titusville, KF, he is a federal paramedic. Less than a year in Columbia, they have two children: Tiffany, 12, and Scott, Jr., 11.

★ **DAVID & JUDYLENE STRELOW** of Columbia, SC.

★ **ROBERT & GRACE THOMPSON** of Columbia, SC.



★ **MAUREEN YON** of Newberry, SC. Originally from Cagayan de Oro City, and in the area for a few years now, she works as a phlebotomist at the Newberry County Memorial Hospital. ❖

## CONDOLENCES

✠ *Our condolences to the family of:*

➤ **MAUREEN YON** of Newberry, SC on the death of her spouse **Nathan Yon** on May 15 in Columbia, SC.

➤ **CARLTON EDWARDS, Sr.**, of Eastover, SC, on the death of his mother **Marjorie S. Edwards** on August 10 in Columbia, SC. Born on Oct. 5, 1927, she had two children (Carlton Sr. and Jewell), three grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren. ❖

## ~ CONGRATULATIONS ~

✿ to **JIMMY & JANET HARRIS** of Gilbert, SC, on the birth of their daughter **Olivia** on August 13, 2013.

✿ to **MARJ PEÑA**, 2009-2013 FAAGC President, on her appointment as a tenured associate professor at the Department of Biological Sciences at the University of South Carolina effective August 16, 2013.

✿ to **JESLIE ANN CUARESMA** on her upcoming marriage to Paul Kessenich on October 19, 2013 in Columbia, SC. A former pioneer *Columbia Fil-Am Dance Troupe* performer, she is the eldest daughter of FAAGC Lifetime Members **Manny & Leah Cuaresma** of Columbia, SC. ❖

# ★ ★ ★ A ★ C ★ H ★ I ★ E ★ V ★ E ★ M ★ E ★ N ★ T ★ S ★ G ★ A ★ L ★ O ★ R ★ E ★ ★ ★

Although the 2013-2014 school year is now starting, for posterity sake and historical record, we would be remiss if we don't carry on our annual tradition of recognizing high-achieving children (*and adults too*) in the extended Fil-Am community during the immediate past school year (2012-2013). Belated this may be, **CONGRATULATIONS** to the following graduates and awardees — and all others not mentioned here due to our lack of details on their individual accomplishments — despite repeated telephone, e-mail, snail-mail and verbal reminders, only a few families submitted the needed information and/or photos in time for inclusion in this issue.

★ **FRANCISCO S. SY, MD, DrPH**, received the National Institutes of Health (NIH) *NIH Director's Award*



on July 18, 2012 for his work with the trans-NIH research coordination committee on LGBT health.

He was also given the Harvard School of Public Health *Outstanding Alumnus Award* on Sept. 29, 2012 in recognition of his leadership in public health practice.

A longtime FAAGC sponsor and member and a former USC public health professor, he is the director of the Office of Extramural Research Administration, National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities (NIMHD), NIH, in Bethesda, MD. ♦

★ **KEITH SEYMOUR** self-published through Xlibris his first illustrated children's book, *The Magical Gift*, in February 2013. It is a story about a six-year old boy who cannot afford the present he wants to purchase for his mother. But to his surprise, something strange and wonderful happens that makes the present he does give her even more valuable.

Currently Seymour is finishing a book of poems, "*Search for... Serenity*," due for publication by Xlibris this year.

An independent life insurance agent for World Finance Group, and a certified paralegal, he obtained his SC notary public certification on July 12, 2013 and has started part-time work for the Reddick & Kasier law firm in Columbia. ♦

✎ **JESSAMINE CUAR-ESMA** graduated on May 10, 2013 from the USC Darla Moore School of Business with



the degree of Bachelor of Science in Business Administration. She had double majors in management and marketing

and a minor in integrated information technology with emphasis on human resources. She was a consistent Palmetto LIFE scholar and a member of the Alpha Delta Pi.

She now works at DP Professionals as a technical recruiter. She is the youngest daughter of Manny & Leah Cuaresma of Columbia, SC. ♦

✎ **PRINCE BRYAN MAGSINO** graduated *cum laude* from the University of California San Diego with a

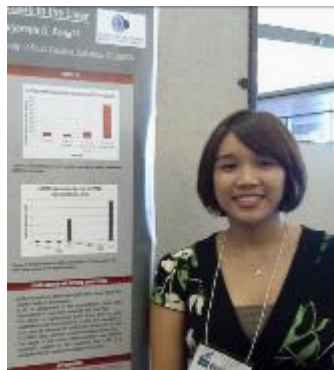


Bachelor of Science in Chemical Engineering on June 16, 2013. Preparing to take his engineering board exams, he is an intern in the Center for Magnetic Research with the Department of Defense. He is the son of Barbara Proctor of Columbia, SC. ♦

✎ **FIDES ELAMPARO** received the American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (ASBMB) Undergraduate Affiliate Network Travel Award to represent the USC chapter at the ASBMB Annual Meeting on April 20-24, 2013 in Boston, MA, where she was invited to compete in the poster competition.

She also won second place at the USC Discovery Day

poster competition where she presented her project examining the mechanisms of colorectal cancer metastasis to the liver, the main cause of death in colon cancer. She carried out this project in the laboratory of Dr. Marj Peña under the auspices of the USC Magellan Undergraduate Scholarship Program. A junior pre-med scholar in the South Carolina Honors College, she is the daughter of Butch & Dhel Elamparo of Columbia, SC. ♦



✎ **JANELLE MAY BUNIEL** graduated with a



4.0 GPA and in the top 15% of her high school class from Home ward Education Association (a statewide

home school organization). A member of Eta Sigma Alpha (the National Home School Honor Society), she holds the position of Cadet Commander at the local Civil Air Patrol squadron. She played on a high school varsity soccer team and a club soccer team, both in Lexington, SC.

During the spring semester of her senior year, she was selected to travel across the country with TeenPact Leadership Schools to teach various state classes. She attended a two-week, intensive student leadership conference with Summit Ministries and has participated in Christian ministries locally and abroad in Mexico, Haiti, Puerto Rico, Trinidad, and Canada. She plays piano for her church and youth group.

A full-tuition scholar, she plans to major in broadcast journalism at USC-Sumter. She is the daughter of Robert & Olga Buniel of Sumter, SC. ♦

✎ **JUSTINE FRANCES FLORA**, with a 4.30

weighted GPA and ranked in the top 6%, graduated from Spring Valley High School on June 5, 2013. A Discovery Math & Science Magnet Program student, she was a member of the National Honors, National Art Honors, National Latin Honors, and National Technical Honors societies. A member/officer of the Health Occupation Students of America (HOSA), she won first place in biomedical debate at the State Leadership Conference

✎ **DARRYL AREVALO** graduated from Ridge View High School on June 5, 2013.



He plans to major in exercise sciences at USC. A

2010-2013 *Columbia Fil-Am Cultural Dance*

*Troupe* performer and a past member of RVHS Fil-Am Youth Club, he is the eldest son of Carlos & Cathy Arevalo of Columbia, SC. ♦

✎ **LAUREN COLLINS** graduated from White Knoll HS on June 8, 2013. She is



older daughter of Ronnie & Tammy Collins, and a granddaughter of Grace Collins, of Lexington, SC. ♦

**A★C★H★I★E★V★E★M★E★N★T★S★ G★A★L★O★R★E★**



and competed in the HOSA National Conference in 2013. She was Consul (President) of the Latin Club and placed second in Latin Derivatives at the 2012 State Leadership Conference of the National Classical League.

Justine was a four-year member of Spring Valley varsity swimming team and an eight-year participant in the Columbia Swimming League. She was involved with the International Club and Outdoor Adventure Club at SVHS and in the Youth Group at St. John Neumann Church. She served as a volunteer for the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation and Life Care Center of Columbia and as a student tutor at SVHS and Lonnie B. Nelson Elementary school.

A summer research intern at USC in 2011 and 2012, she has a research paper published in the scientific journal *Chemosphere* in 2013. She also garnered first place for research paper at the 2013 South Carolina Junior Academy of Science. With several Advanced Placement (AP) college credits, she will attend Barnard College (Columbia University) in New York City to study architecture. A 2008-13 *Columbia Fil-Am Cultural Dance Troupe* performer, she is the older daughter of Jojo & Joette Flora of Columbia, SC.

**CHRISTINE PEÑA**



graduated from Lexington HS on June 8, 2013. She is the daughter of Jun & Cora Peña, of Lexington, SC.

**MARIE SILVER**



graduated from Cardinal Newman HS on May 25, 2013. She is the daughter of Maria Silver of Columbia, SC.

**KHOI NGUYEN**



graduated from Ridge View High School on June 5, 2013. A 2012 national taekwondo champion, he was the captain of the varsity swim team and a member of the varsity soccer team. He will attend Wofford College to major in chemistry and hopes to pursue a film and dance career later. A past member of the RVHS Fil-Am Youth Club and a 2010-13 *Columbia Fil-Am Cultural Dance Troupe* performer, he is the son of Lien Le of Columbia, SC.

**MICHAEL SANCHEZ**

graduated from Ridge View HS on June 5, 2013. He was a member of the varsity soccer and football teams as well as the school dance team and the National Dance Society. He will attend USC-Columbia and hopes go to medical school later. He was a past member of the RVHS Fil-Am Youth Club and a 2009-13 *Columbia Fil-Am Cultural Dance Troupe* performer.



**SHANNIN HAILEY SCOTT**



graduated from Richland One Middle College (ROMC) on June 2, 2013. She was the American Red Cross Club president, a senior class representative to the Student Government, and an ROMC Near-Peer Mentor volunteer at Heyward-Gibbes Middle School. She plans to attend Columbia College and major in either biology or chemistry to prepare for a career in forensic science. A frequent volunteer helper at various FAAGC events since middle school and a one-time *Columbia Fil-Am Cultural Dance Troupe* performer, she is a daughter of Sean & Annika

Scott, and a granddaughter of Edith Alston, of Hopkins, SC.

**JEREMY BRINKMAN**

after seven years of home-schooling, satisfactorily completed the middle school course on June 7, 2013. With his academic accomplishments, he has been accepted to the ninth grade at Cardinal Newman High School. He has a First Class rank in the Boy Scouts of America Troop 312 (Indian Waters Council) chartered to the Saint Simon & Saint Jude (SSSJ) Episcopal Church in Irmo, SC. A *Columbia Fil-Am Cultural Dance Troupe* performer, he is the son of David & Odess Brinkman of Columbia, SC.

**ANGELICA "Clover" TALENS ROBICHAUD**

completed eighth grade with honors at Cardinal Newman School. A CN Junior Scholar, she received Presidential Academic Excellence Award, CN Outstanding Achievement in



Mandarin Chinese II citation, and CN Honor Roll award. She placed first in the individual

competition of the 2013 Math and Science Day for Middle School Girls sponsored by the Columbia College Mathematics and Computing department.

She was given state and grand recognition by the Johns Hopkins University Center for Talented Youth (CTY). She had her work published in the Richland County Public Library's 2013 *Kids in Print*. She is the older daughter of David & Alma Robichaud of Columbia, SC.

**ANDREA TALENS ROBICHAUD**

finished sixth grade on the *All A Honor* roll at St. Peter's Catholic School. She received awards for Presidential Outstanding Academic Excellence, having the school's highest *Accelera-*

*ted Reader* points, Most Musical Dedication, Spanish



Achievement, and All-Around Outstanding Effort & Ability in English. She also got a Lifetime Achievement

Award for Honorable Service in *Capella Pueri*. She placed first among sixth graders in the 10th Annual Congaree Swampfest Art Contest. A *Columbia Fil-Am Cultural Dance Troupe* performer, Andrea is the younger daughter of David & Alma Robichaud of Columbia, SC.

**SACHIKO JOY MANGACCAT**



who arrived in the U.S. just in June 2012, completed fifth grade at Lake Murray Elementary School on the A honor roll.

She was student of the month in mathematics and English Language Arts. She will be a sixth grader at Chapin Middle School. She is the daughter of Walter & Tess Hill of Chapin, SC.

**Filipinas = Good Wives**

by Faye Colley

In this year's "Achievements Galore" issue of the FAAGC Newsletter, I decided to highlight a different kind of achievement that we, Filipinas, have attained and need to be proud of — that is, the title of being good wives. From my personal experience, and through conversations with American spouses of my Filipino friends, it is clear that we are sought after for our beauty, body, brains and, most of all, virtues.

It is apparent that our features are distinct from our Caucasian spouses. Most of us have the effortless tan that many of them desire. Many of us also have the long black hair that is very feminine-looking. Our traditional Filipina look, as they say, sets us part from other races. I believe our uniqueness is something to celebrate.

To naysayers, please don't take offense about me mentioning the body. This is not to say

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## MARAMING SALAMAT SA INYONG LAHAT! *Thanks Y' All!*

The Filipino American Association of Greater Columbia proudly acknowledges with gratitude the following for volunteering time, talents, and services to the organization during the 2012-2013 term. The FAAGC certificates of appreciation were presented during the annual *Columbia Fil-Am Summer Picnic and FAAGC Volunteer Appreciation Day* held on June 15, 2013 at Ft. Jackson's Weston Lake Recreation Area.



Helen	ALON	Membership Committee, Newsletter Production/Circulation, Gala Organization, International Festival, Christmas Party, Basketball Tournament
Noel	ALON	Newsletter Editor, Gala Souvenir Program Editor, Webmaster, International Festival, Basketball Tournament
Edith	ALSTON	International Festival, Basketball Tournament, Christmas Party
Carlos	AREVALO	Gala Organization, International Festival, Christmas Party, Basketball Tournament, 2011-2013 Executive Board Member
Grace	BALANQUIT	Gala Organization, 2011-2013 Executive Board, International Festival, Christmas Party
Mary	BARRADAS	International Festival
Jake	BOLOTANO	Coordinator of Children's Choir for Christmas Program
Odess	BRINKMAN	Gala Organization, Dance Coordinator and Choreographer, International Festival, 2011-2013 Executive Board
Ginalyn	CASTANEDA	Columbia Fil-Am Dance Troupe Support
Joy	CLARK	Columbia Fil-Am Dance Troupe Support
Faye	COLLEY	Gala Organization, 2011-2013 Executive Board, International Festival, Christmas Party, Basketball Tournament
Grace	COLLINS	Gala Organization, International Festival, Basketball Tournament, 2011-2013 Executive Board
Leah	CUARESMA	Gala Organization, Christmas Party
Nicole	DAQUILANEA	Columbia Fil-Am Dance Troupe Support
Rio	DAQUILANEA	Gala Organization, International Festival, Christmas Party, Basketball Tournament, 2011-2013 Executive Board Member
Carmelisa	EDWARDS	Gala Organization, International Festival, Dance Coordinator, 2011-2013 Executive Board
Carlton	EDWARDS	Photography, International Festival
Sally	ELLIS	Gala Organization, Christmas Party
Jojo	FLORA	Dance Troupe Practice Coordinator
Joette	FLORA	International Festival, Columbia Fil-Am Dance Troupe Coordinator
Reyna	FUNDERBURK	Columbia Fil-Am Dance Troupe Support
Imelda	GO	Gala Organization, Newsletter Contributions
Yani Irag	GOULD	Columbia Fil-Am Dance Troupe Dance Coordinator
Cecille	JACOBSEN	Gala Organization, International Festival, Christmas Party
Tessie	KENERSON	Gala Organization, Christmas Party
Jim	KENERSON	Christmas Program
Olga	LIUNORAS	Gala Usher
Peter	LIUNORAS	Christmas Party, 2011-2013 Executive Board, International Festival, Christmas Party, Basketball Tournament
Alan & Jennifer	LUCILLO	Columbia Fil-Am Dance Troupe Support
Alan	MATIENZO	Gala Emcee
Nieves	MCNULTY	Gala Organization, 2011-2013 Executive Board, International Festival, Christmas Party, Basketball Tournament
George	MCNULTY	Gala Organization, International Festival
Polly	PEARSON	International Festival
Marj	PENA	Gala Organization, 2011-2013 Executive Board, International Festival, Christmas Party
Edsel	PENA	Gala Organization, Christmas Party, International Festival
Bong	RANCES	Gala Organization, International Festival, Christmas Party, Basketball Tournament, 2011-2013 Executive Board Member
Alma	ROBICHAUD	Columbia Fil-Am Dance Troupe Support
Eric	SOSA	International Festival, Christmas Party
Celyn	SZOKE	Photography, Columbia Fil-Am Dance Troupe Support
Jenna	SZOKE	International Festival
Maribel	TIJING	Gala Organization, 2011-2013 Executive Board, International Festival Exhibit, Christmas Decorations
Neil	TIJING	International Festival
Myrna	WHITMIRE	Gala Organization, Christmas Party

### 2012-2013 COLUMBIA FIL-AM DANCE TROUPE

Youth Group	
Jason	AREVALO
Jeremy	BRINKMAN
Jaxen	CASTAÑEDA
Brandon	CLARK
Shane	CLARK
Taryn	CLARK
Erik	DAQUILANEA
Cristina	DEAN
Casey	FUNDERBURK
Joy	HILL
Jela	LUCILLO
Andrea	ROBICHAUD
Brayden	SOSA
Ethan	SOSA
Julia	SZOKE
Lara	TIJING
Lanz	TIJING

Teen Group	
Leigh	APAN
Darryl	AREVALO
Denise	DAQUILANEA
Justine	FLORA
Jasmine	HYUHN
Jennie	HYUNH
Khoi	NGUYEN
Michael	SANCHEZ
Alex	VOIT
Adult Group	
Josephine	BATTLE
Marie	BROOME
Faye	COLLEY
Vivian	ELDER
Cecille	GEOGHEGAN
Yani Irag	GOULD
Janet	HARRIS
Carmella	MANANSALA
Veronica	MCGLAUGHLIN
Haidee	SOSA
Richel	VAULES
Teresa	ZIEGLER

### Fil-Ams Design for Recycled Fashion Show

Outfits designed and made out of recycled materials by two FAAGC members were among the 60 entries modeled at the 2013 *Runaway*



Runway Fashion Show held on April 6, 2013 at the Township Auditorium. Organized by the Columbia Design League to raise awareness about recycling and "prove that green can be fun, fashionable and fabulous," the show featured fashion designs made with "used or post-consumer [materials] on the way to the landfill."

Judged as one of the Top 20 finalists, **IVY SUMAYDENG-BRYAN's** design (worn by a model in the left photo above) was made with discarded dress patterns from *Simplicity*, *Vogue*, and other magazines. (In 2012, Ivy's design was in the Top 10). A show participant for several years now, **IMELDA "MEL" GO** (right) also modeled her own design made from cotton T-shirts and VHS tapes. ❖

*Photos: Jeff Salter*

(continued from Page 1)

Here's a quick look at the leaders (mostly in their own words) who will guide the Filipino-American Association of Greater Columbia for the next two years.

### **CECILLE JACOBSEN (President)**

Previously, she was FAAGC 1st Vice-President in 2009-2011 and an Executive Board Member in 2007-2009. Since becoming a member in 2006, she has been actively involved in Association activities, especially during the Columbia International Festivals. She became a Lifetime Sustaining Member in 2012.

As President, she says she would like, among others, to "build up the camaraderie in the whole membership" and find more "ways to recognize members." She welcomes suggestions about the Association from members.

Originally from Subic, Zambales, she has been in the U.S. for 28 years now. A Georgia Tech graduate and a former Department of Defense (DOD) employee, she owns and operates the *Fil-Am Store* in Sumter, SC. She is married to Pete Jacobsen from Canton, Ohio. They have four children (two sons, two daughters) and six grandchildren.

### **FAYE COLLEY (1st VP)**

Faye was the 2011-13 Assistant Secretary. Active in the *Columbia Fil-Am Cultural Dance Troupe*, she has been performing with the adult group since 2009 and now also coordinates/choreographs the youth group.

As an officer, she would like for FAAGC "to continue our traditional get-togethers.... We should also continue our fundraising activities, especially the Annual Gala and the basketball tournaments, to raise funds for victims of calamities in the Philippines or for a deserving Philippine organization, as well as funds for our scholarship program and dance troupe."

To make the Association more vibrant, she notes "we can strive to reach out more to all our members and showcase members not just through their achievements but with their talents. I think oftentimes we are unable to give special recognition to older members (who may be retired or those not in school). We can definitely showcase such individuals."

## THE 2013-2015 FAAGC EXECUTIVE BOARD



Faye Colley, Prescy Ramirez, Tess Hill, Bong Rances, Cecille Jacobsen, Eric Sosa, Sheena Shearer, Miriam Eschenfelder, Jocelyn Locke. Not in photo: Edith Alston, Carlos Arevalo, Alma Robichaud. Photo: DC Locke

In terms of being more effective, "reaching out to members is key, and consequently so does our newsletter, Facebook page and website.... We can strive to reach out to those who are no longer members, and to our current members to become more active and volunteer within the association. We need to be very specific in asking what kind of help we need [to align with members' talents and interest] rather than just asking members to contact us if they want to volunteer."

In the U.S. for eight years and originally from Quezon City, Faye has a Master of Arts in Teaching Elementary Education from USC and is a 4th grade teacher at Edisto Elementary School in Orangeburg. She is also a real estate agent and rental property manager. A "great supporter" of FAAGC, her husband Ronald is a licensed SC master electrician and residential and commercial builder. They have a son, Ronnie, 5, who "has already taken interest in maybe dancing with the youth dance troupe when he gets older."

### **ERIC SOSA (2nd VP)**

Since joining the Association less than two years ago when they first arrived in Columbia, Eric and his family has been active volunteers in FAAGC activities.

As first-time officer, he would like to "continue to grow FAAGC's presence/visibility in Columbia" and have the Association "explore opportunities to connect more closely with the younger Fil-Am generations and those born here in the States."

Born and raised in the U.S., with Chicago, IL, as his hometown, he graduated with a B.S. Civil Engineering from

the U.S. Air Force Academy. Just retired from US Air Force, he is transitioning to the private sector, working at Shaw Air Force Base for Portage Inc.

His wife Haidee is from Quezon City and is *Columbia Fil-Am Cultural Dance Troupe* performer. They have two sons, Ethan and Brayden.

### **PRESCY RAMIREZ (Treasurer)**

She and husband Marc have been regular attenders of FAAGC events since becoming members six years ago.

As a first-time officer, she "would like the Association to promote further awareness of Filipino American contributions to the Columbia community. She would also like "to encourage more activities which promote friendship and goodwill opportunities for Filipinos and Americans." She hopes FAAGC will "continue and expand scholarship opportunities for Filipino American youth and continue to promote awareness of Filipino culture amongst our younger members," as well as "grow support for fundraising activities and solicit new members."

Originally from Mabini, Batangas, Prescy has been in the U.S. for 43 years and in Columbia for the past six years. With a Masters in Public Administration from Long Island University, she is now retired after 42 years in the healthcare field, including 28 years as a director of patient care services at Columbia Presbyterian Medical Center in New York City.

She and husband Marc, also a retiree, have three children (who reside in New York City, Dublin, Ireland and Lisbon, Portugal) and five grandchildren. Her parents and her sister live very close by her Southeast Columbia home.

### **JOCELYN LOCKE (Secretary)**

Originally from Oriental Mindoro, she has been a member since arriving in the area two years ago and is one of the first-time officers.

She is the Laboratory Safety Manager with the USC Environmental Health & Safety (EHS) department. She is married to Alabama-native DC Locke; they have a daughter, Tehyalani.

### **MIRIAM ESCHENFELDER (Asst. Treasurer)**

A very recent member, and originally from San Jose Del Monte, Bulacan, she has been in the US for 19 years and in Columbia for nearly three years.

As a first-time officer, she would like the Association "to recruit more members and to expand the Greater Columbia area's understanding of and exposure to the Filipino culture." She would like to have FAAGC "continue the dance troupe and the basketball and other public events, and start an active community service committee or group."

A senior at USC finishing her Bachelor of Science in Social Work, she plans to continue her studies towards a Master of Social Work. Consistently in the Dean's List, she has been inducted into the Phi Theta Kappa Honors Society and is the vice-president of the College of Social Work student association. Also active with her local church and children's activities, she has been married to Christopher Eschenfelder for 19 years; they have two sons, William, 13, and Matthew, 11.

### **SHEENA SHEARER (Assistant Secretary)**

A very recent member, and originally from San Miguel, Bohol, she has been in the US for about two years and in Columbia for a year.

As one of the first-time officers, she "would like the Association to maintain its stability and continue its great projects and activities" and "looks forward to [getting] more and more members." Noting that "the former administration did such a wonderful job," she thinks that for FAAGC "to be effective, cooperation and unity from the officers and members

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## THE 2013-2015 FAAGC EXECUTIVE BOARD

(continued from Page 7)

are very essential in achieving its objectives."

With an associate degree from a Bohol college, she works as customer service representative / work-at-home agent for Convergys. She is married to Scott Shearer, "a 'giant' husband with a great sense of humor," from Titusville, FL; she has two step-children, Tiffany, 12 and Scotly, 11.

**EDITH ALSTON****(Executive Board Member)**

A "forever (since the beginning)" FAAGC member, She previously served as Assistant Secretary twice (1999-2001 and 2005-2007) and as a Board Member (1997-1999) and became a Lifetime Sustaining Charter Member in 2011. A regular, reliable volunteer/participant in all Association events/activities, as officer she would like FAAGC to "keep our regular activities and have a garage sale" as a fundraiser.

From Masbate, she has been in the U.S. for over 40 years. An Osmeña College (Masbate) graduate, she is now retired as a mental health specialist from the Bryan Psychiatric Hospital (Columbia, SC). She has two

sons (Sean and Shannon), five grandchildren and one great grandchild.

**CARLOS AREVALO****(Executive Board Member)**

Originally from Daet, Camarines Norte, he has been here since the mid-1990s. Since becoming an Executive Board Member in 2011-2013, he has been a co-coordinator for the FAAGC basketball tournaments. He and his wife Kathy, a registered nurse originally from Zambales have three (Darryl, Kathleen and Jason) who have been performing with the *Columbia Fil-Am Cultural Dance Troupe* for a few years now.

**TESS HILL****(Executive Board Member)**

Originally from Aritao, Nueva Vizcaya, she has been in the US for six years. She has been a FAAGC member since arriving in the Columbia area two years ago.

A teacher trainer and mathematics textbook writer in the Philippines, she has been teaching for 18 years and has taught all grade levels from high school to graduate school. With a Ph.D. in mathematics from Hiroshima University (Japan), she now teaches at

the Columbia campus of Strayer University. She is married to Walter Hill of Chapin, SC; they have a daughter, Joy.

**FRANCISCO "Bong" RANCES****(Executive Board Member)**

Originally from Tigaon, Camarines Sur, he has been a FAAGC member since coming to the U.S. (and Columbia) in 2006. Since becoming an Executive Board Member in 2011-2013, he has been the main organizer and co-coordinator for the FAAGC basketball tournaments.

With a B.S. in Physical Therapy from the University of Northeastern Philippines (Iriga City), he has worked in South Korea as a production supervisor in an electronics manufacturing company. Now working at Accutech Machine (Blythewood, SC), he is married to town-mate Rosa Victoria, a nurse at Lexington Medical Center. They have a daughter, Victoria Maristella.

**ALMA ROBICHAUD****(Executive Board Member)**

Originally from Carmen, Cebu, she has been in Colum-

bia for over 20 years. Since joining in 2009, she has been a very active, performing with the adult group and assisting with the youth group of the *Columbia Fil-Am Dance Troupe*, of which daughter Andrea is a member of.

As a first-time officer, she would like to "continue the ongoing [regular] activities and possibly explore an additional event around February." She would like to have FAAGC to "especially continue [its] presence in the Facebook and cyber world" and "reach out more and continue increased exposure to [recruit] more members."

A marine biology graduate of Cebu City's USC (University of San Carlos), she now works in property management with Carter Haston Real Estate. A volunteer since 1993 with Palmetto Health Hospice, she was named the "International Volunteer of the Year" at the 2013 Columbia International Festival. She is married to David Robichaud; they have two teenage daughters, Clover and Andrea. ♦

**Lifetime Members** . . . . . (continued from Page 1)

extended by the Executive Board to any member who has paid or willing to pay the equivalent of twenty (20) years of membership. Lifetime members do not have to pay membership dues afterwards and are entitled to all the rights and privileges of membership.

Those who may be eligible or interested to become *Lifetime Members* should contact the Membership Committee chair, **Helen Alon (738-0372; helenqda@yahoo.com)**. ♦

**Volunteer of the Year** . . . . . (continued from Page 1)

since 1993 for the Palmetto Health Hospice Program, a program that provides medical, social, emotional and spiritual support to terminally ill patients of all ages. She has become the face of the hospice as indicated by her photo being used on the front cover of a recent hospice brochure.

A mother of two teen-aged daughters, Alma has given the program over 2,000 hours of her time. She has also helped with the fund-raising activities of the Lights for Hospice.

Another program of the Hospice that she has helped is the Brett's Rainbow Bereavement Camp, a camp offered free to children who have experienced the death of a family member. She has done this even before

her own children were born and continued until now up to a point that her own children join her in volunteering.

A native of Carmen, Cebu, who has been in Columbia for 21 years, she has also been a regular volunteer in various capacities for the FAAGC for several years. She has been a performer and has served as a technical assistant with the *Columbia Fil-Am Cultural Dance Troupe*. ♦

**Waraming Salamat !****Recent Membership Renewals:**

\*Rodel &amp; Wendy BOBADILLA

\*Larry &amp; Delia SMITH

We hope others will also continue their support of the Columbia Fil-Am Association !

**Filipinas = Good Wives**

(continued from Page 5)

Filipinas are sex objects. It is to say however, that our built is quite petite and is easily appreciated. Most men like being taller than their wives. Plus, our built reflects our good health and physical fitness. And yes, although our bodies may have changed since we have been here in the US, we still remain as wives for keeps because of our brains and virtues.

Now here comes the bigger factor of our desirability, our brains. We can be loud and proud that we are well-educated. It is quite common for us to have our bachelor degrees from reputable schools in the Philippines. Some of us have even obtained masters and PhDs. We may or may not be actively seeking careers or practicing a profession but one thing for sure, we are putting our brains to good use by keeping our homes' finances in order, and always finding ways to keep our spouses and children happy. We also put our street smarts to good use. We are able to adapt to our environment. Our spouses don't need to babysit us. We come to America with the ability to find a job and

support our family financially.

Lastly, we are very desirable wives because we have virtues. We are innately good, sweet, and loyal. Marriage means commitment to us. Our cultural and religious upbringing has molded us to be faithful to our spouses. Coming from a poverty-stricken country, money is not the main thing that holds our marriages together. We stick with our spouses even if they are low on funds. We are with them because we love them. And even though there are age differences, age doesn't matter because many of us admire our older spouses for their knowledge and past experiences. We vow to take care of our partners in sickness and old age because that is the right thing to do and that is what our heart desires.

To me, it is very important that we Filipinas have been labeled as good wives. We didn't come to America for mere green cards or US citizenship; we came to start our own family. It feels good to have that label because to me it equates to trustworthiness. We, Filipinas, are beautiful, smart, virtuous and trustworthy. We are good wives. Cheers! ♦



I had the pleasure of recently visiting Tagaytay City, Cavite in March

2013. Tagaytay is second only to Baguio as the summer capital of the Philippines. (*Note: Baguio City is elevated at approximately 1500 meters above sea level. It was named the summer capital of the Philippines via a resolution on June 1, 1903 by the American colonial government.*) Due to elevation, it is cooler in Tagaytay than in Metro Manila. Given its proximity to Metro Manila, Tagaytay is a convenient nearby destination for locals and tourists who want a break from the Manila city heat.

When time permits, I have managed to visit Tagaytay every few years during my visits to the Philippines. I am always amazed at how the Tagaytay area is transforming each time I visit it. The Tagaytay City area has definitely grown and expanded. It used to be that only a handful of establishments dotted the road with the best view of the valley. These days there's plenty to see along this road including new restaurants, shopping areas, and high-rise condominiums.

### Taal Volcano

There is no doubt in my mind that the Taal Vista Hotel ([www.taalvistahotel.com](http://www.taalvistahotel.com), formerly known as the Taal Vista Lodge) offers one of the best views of Taal Volcano from its vantage point. Looking at this fantastic scenery, the untrained viewer will probably not realize that there is an Island within a Lake on an Island within a Lake on an Island.



The University of California in Santa Barbara's Geology Department notes that "Vulcan Point in the Philippines is the world's largest island within a lake (Main Crater Lake) that is situated on an island (Volcano Island, aka Taal Island) located in a lake (Lake Taal) within an island (Luzon). It also happens to be one of the cones of the active Taal Volcano, so Vulcan Point is also the world's largest volcano in a lake (Main Crater Lake) on a volcano (Taal Volcano). And Main Crater Lake also happens to be the largest lake on

## Taal Volcano

An Island within a Lake on an Island within a Lake on an Island

by I.C. Go

an island (Volcano Island) in a lake (Lake Taal) on an island (Luzon). Got that?"

### Sonya's Garden

Sonya's Garden Bed & Breakfast ([www.sonyasgarden.com](http://www.sonyasgarden.com)) is a popular Tagaytay getaway. I've taken the trek to Sonya's Garden a number of times to enjoy fine dining and/or overnight accommodations. I feel I am on a nature retreat when I am at Sonya's Garden. I am surrounded by flowers, greenery, and fresh air that you just can't find in the megacity of Manila. (*Note: A megacity is defined as a metropolitan area with a total population exceeding 10 million.*)

The owner, Sonya Garcia, has lived in North America and Europe and has succeeded in offering a memorable experience to its visitors whether local or from overseas. She lives on the premises and is often seen interacting with her guests. I had the pleasure of speaking to her once more this past visit.



Through the years, Sonya's Garden has expanded and now offers even more products and services including a restaurant, bed and breakfast, spa, weddings, event hall, *panaderia* (bakery), and store. I am currently enjoying my supply of Neem & Gugo Bark herbal shampoo from Sonya's Garden, which has a wonderful collection of soap, preparations, and other specialty items to help you relive the Sonya's Garden spa experience at home.

### Hacienda Isabella

Just nearby is Indang, Cavite, where Hacienda Isabella ([www.haciendaisabella.com](http://www.haciendaisabella.com)) offers another type of getaway experience. The Hacienda is also a bed and breakfast that is a popular venue for weddings, team-

building seminars, and retreats. It is owned by

Kuh Ledesma. Many will know Kuh as a singer who first



Kuh Ledesma (right) with daughter Isabella

launched into fame in the 1980s. Still active in the singing world, Kuh is the primary architect and interior designer of Hacienda Isabella. Everything is done according to her specifications. The Hacienda displays many of her antique finds from all over the Philippines. The Hacienda also displays pieces recently made but in the antique style.

The highlight of my visit to Hacienda Isabella was, of course, meeting Kuh herself. Given her strong faith as a Christian, she spoke of the Hacienda as a spiritual retreat. She also shared that she showed promise in art and how she lost her art portfolio prior to embarking on a professional singing career. Years later, she is now tapping into her artistic self as a painter. She's had a number of successful one-woman art shows and has a showroom "Gallerie Kuhl" in Mandaluyong, Metro Manila. *How cool is that?* You can see Kuh in action painting one of her pieces on YouTube through the IZPECTACULAR, her daughter Isabella's channel.

In the future, I will not hesitate to have another excursion to Tagaytay and its surrounding areas. Whether it be Taal Vista Hotel, Sonya's Garden, Hacienda Isabella, or other establishment, I know I will be greeted and enveloped by the warmth and comfort of Filipino hospitality. I'm looking forward to my next visit to the Philippines already.

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## Some Thoughts on FILIPINO AMERICAN HISTORY

by N.P. Jacobsen

In 2009, both the United States Senate (on October 1) and House of Representatives (on November 2) passed simple resolutions officially recognizing October as *Filipino American History Month*. The month of October was chosen because the first recorded presence of Filipinos in the continental United States occurred on October 18, 1587, when some "Luzones Indios" came ashore from a Spanish galleon at what is now Morro Bay, California. That is **20 years before** the English settlement at Jamestown and **33 years before** the Pilgrims landed at Plymouth Rock.



In 1763, Filipinos established their first permanent settlement in the marshes and bayous of Louisiana. These Filipinos, also known as "*Manila men*," sought to escape the harsh working conditions aboard the Spanish galleons, and built houses on stilts along the gulf ports of New Orleans. These Filipinos were the first in the United States to introduce the sun-drying process for shrimp. And in 1781, a Filipino was chosen as a member of the first group of settlers to establish the city of Los Angeles, California.

The early 1900s brought a wave of Filipino laborers to work on the Hawaiian pineapple and sugarcane plantations, California farms, Washington lumber mills, and Alaskan salmon canneries. This wave of immigrants also brought the "*pensionados*" from affluent families to be educated in the United States. Some of the laborers returned to the Philippines, but most found the wages too low to save money for a return voyage. In an effort to retain their cultural heritage, the Filipinos formed associations to conserve their identity. In 1912, the Filipino American Association of Philadelphia was founded and is perhaps the oldest Filipino organization in continuous existence in the United States.

(continued on Page 12) ➤

Youth Dance Troupe is much appreciated. She has also made FAAGC proud by being honored in the 2012 International Festival as *International Professional of the Year*. Again, many thanks to you Marj, for all that you do!

### Carmelisa Edwards

Supportive and dedicated are a few words that come to my mind that describe our outgoing FAAGC First Vice-President. She and Marj absolutely make a wonderful team. Her no-nonsense personality and timeliness are qualities I feel any FAAGC officer needs to have. I am amazed with the support she has given and continues to give to the FAAGC Youth Dance Troupe.

FAAGC is also thankful to Lisa's family. They are as supportive of FAAGC as Lisa is. Lisa's husband, Carlton, is always ready with his camera to take as many candid pictures as he can in all the FAAGC events. Lisa's daughter, Celyn Szoke, has been an emcee for the gala, and Celyn's children have been active with the dance troupes. On behalf of FAAGC, we thank Lisa Edwards and her family!

## The GOOD in FAAGC ..... (continued from Page 2)

Bernadette, Imelda, and Yani as we welcome Faye on board. The **Columbia Fil-Am Dance Troupe** is our best ambassador to the community and without the tireless effort of our coordinators, my job would have been a hundred times harder.

► **The Dancers:** Andrea, Casey, Ina, Jela, Julia, Lara, Taryn, Brandon, Eric, Jason, Jaxen, Jeremy, Lanz, Shane, Josh, Leigh, Darryl, Nicole, Dominique, Jamie, Joan, Kathleen, Kirk, Mico, Denise, Chinky, Mikko, Alex, Justine, Taylor, Ryo, Onie, Bernadette, Gina, Imelda, Reyna, Alma, Grace B, Yani, Faye, Teresa, Marie, Janet, Veronica, Rachel, Haidee, Cecille G, Vivian, and Josephine. *I am sure I have left some names out and I apologize ... but you have all been the most wonderful, dedicated, hardworking, and graceful dancers! You are the face of the FAAGC!*

► **The Basketball Team and coordinators** headed by Bong, Rio, Carlos, and Pete. For a long time, the FAAGC had wanted to sponsor a sporting event, and these guys made it happen.

► **The Filipino Food Sale** during basketball tournaments which has raised over \$2000 to support the *FAAGC Scholarship Fund*.

► **The Kapeng Barako and Philippine Dessert Booth** at the Columbia International Festival which has raised over \$1500 to support FAAGC Scholarships.

► **Carlton Edwards** who has beautifully documented FAAGC

## Giving Thanks! ..... (continued from Page 2)

### Grace Balanquit

Grace's financial support to FAAGC is undeniable. She has made it a commitment to support our Annual Gala and *Fil-Am Bulletin* through her advertisements. She has donated other items to FAAGC as needed. Putting up balloons and signs to direct members to various picnics has also been her contribution to our organization. Even with her very tight professional schedule, she has found time to make FAAGC part of her life. Thank you so much for being our 2011-2013 Second Vice-President!

### Nieves McNulty

Detail-oriented is the kind of work that our outgoing Treasurer, Nieves McNulty, did. FAAGC truly owes her thanks for keeping our organization's finances on track. Because of her hard work, FAAGC financial reports were always updated. The organization's expenses were always transparent and clearly stated. I tremendously en-

joyed working with her in making sure our picnic supplies were replenished, and in coordinating our volunteer time/shifts in various FAAGC fundraising events. FAAGC would also like to thank Nieves' husband, George, a past three-term FAAGC Treasurer, for allowing Nieves to serve another term, and for always being in charge of the grill during the picnics. *Maraming salamat* Nieves and George!

### Odess Brinkman

Our outgoing Secretary, Odess, has been with FAAGC for many years and has been very active in recruiting members and officers. Her friendliness and vibrant personality are contagious. In fact, it is through Odess that I became part of FAAGC. I am personally thankful to her for that. FAAGC thanks her for having dedicated so many years to the Youth Dance Troupe and now has directed her efforts to the Teen Dance Troupe. Her creativity has been a genuine asset to FAAGC. Thank you, Odess!

### Maribel Tijing

Bambie did not just function as an Assistant Treasurer, she also served as head decorator for the previous two terms' gala, Christmas parties and Columbia International Festival displays. She was and still is very involved in the selection and purchase of costumes for the Youth Dance Troupe. Perfection is what we always get from Bambie's work. In Bambie's hands, our Youth Dance Troupe will always look as respectable cultural ambassadors. *Salamat* Bambie, for being a perfectionist!

### "The Boys" (Peter Liunoras, Carlos Arevalo, Rio Daquilanea, Francisco Rances)

These outgoing Executive Board Members were the brains and brawn to FAAGC's newest fundraising events, the basketball tournaments. Their idea is simply amazing. It reflects Filipino culture (many of us are fans of PBA and NBA), promotes good health and sportsmanship, promotes Philippine food, and, of course, raises funds for the *Fil-Am Scholarship Fund* and the FAAGC basketball team. Through the basketball tournaments, FAAGC is able to create and/or maintain rapport with other Filipino-American organizations in South Carolina.

FAAGC is also thankful to these men for being the "muscle" of the organization. They set-up and clear the set-up for FAAGC's displays at the Christmas parties and Columbia International Festivals. Thanks so much, Pete, Carlos, Rio and Bong!

### Grace Collins

An outgoing Executive Board Member, Grace is the unofficial cheerleader of our FAAGC basket-

ball team. She is very committed in keeping our team motivated. She travels with our basketball team to out-of-town tournaments and generously provides them with food and drinks. Other than that, Grace has made the presence of Filipino-Americans in the Columbia International Community really strong. She has been a longtime member of the Columbia International Festival organizing committee that has been hosting the three-day event for many years. Thank you Grace for making us proud and for being a big FAAGC supporter!

### Yani Irag-Gould

Yani is our current FAAGC Adult Dance Troupe coordinator. Starting last year, she has willingly stepped-up to the plate when the vacancy for the position came up. I am very delighted to be working with her as part of the FAAGC Adult Dance Troupe. Her very joyful personality has allowed our group to grow and to stay strong. Through her efforts, FAAGC has acquired new members and real friendships have been built within the dance troupe. Her open-mindedness, recognition, and appreciation of others' talents are among her strengths. Adult Dance Troupe members are eager to participate and choreograph as requested and it benefits FAAGC performances. *Maraming salamat* Yani!

### Jojo & Joette Flora

Jojo and Joette Flora are our outgoing FAAGC Teen Dance Troupe coordinators. FAAGC is thankful to them for not only taking their time to teach and chauffeur the teens to various events/performances in the past two years, but also for opening their home for costume storage and practices. Thank you very much, Jojo and Joette, for taking the most challenging cultural coordinator roles!

### Noel & Helen Alon

Helen & Noel Alon have recently been re-instated by the 2013-2015 FAAGC Executive Board, respectively, as FAAGC Membership Committee chair and FAAGC Newsletter & Gala Souvenir Program Editor.

There is **no** such thing as the "Helen & Noel Show" but there is a such thing as Helen & Noel's commitment to FAAGC's success. Regardless of whose term it is, they offer their services. They never assume their positions, they have been officially asked regularly from time to time by FAAGC Executive Boards to serve in such capacity. I am very thankful for them because they offer insight to the past without imposing their ways to the Executive Board. Their unflinching support for FAAGC is undeniable and we thank them for that. ❖

**"Together  
We Make A  
Difference"**



# CONTINENTAL

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***We'll make sure our service is an  
experience you will look for over  
and over again!***



**Columbia FIL-AM****CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

\* **September 21, 2013** (Sat., 6:00 p.m.)

▶ **Columbia Fil-Am 23rd Annual Gala**

◆ **Columbia Marriott Hotel**

1200 Hampton St., Columbia, SC 29201

\* **October 19, 2013** (Saturday)

▶ **Columbia Fil-Am 5th Basketball Tournament & Filipino Food Sale**



◆ *Details to be announced later.*

\* **October 26, 2013** (tentative)

▶ **Columbia Fil-Am General Membership Meeting & Halloween Party**

◆ *Details to be announced later.*

\* **December 14, 2013** (tentative)

▶ **Columbia Fil-Am Christmas Party**

◆ **St. John Neumann School gymnasium**

721 Polo Road, Columbia, SC 29223

**Mark Your Calendars Now!**

**\*\*\* Just A Reminder \*\*\***

Membership renewal for the Fil-Am Association is now due for many members. Please check the mailing address label below — *if there are three asterisks ( \*\*\*) on the line above your name, then your membership has expired or will expire on the date specified after the asterisks.*

Your membership renewal and prompt payment of dues are crucial to the continued operations and success of the FAAGC in our community. Please send your membership dues as soon as possible. Dues can also be paid at the Annual Gala. If there are membership renewal questions, contact Helen Alon (738-0372; helenqda@yahoo.com).

**Fil-Am History**

(continued from Page 9)

Today there are nearly four million Filipino Americans in the United States. These are defined as immigrants from the Philippine Islands and their U.S.- born descendants.

Filipino Americans have made significant contributions in all facets of American life. *A few examples:*

◆ **Eduardo San Juan**, the concept designer of the Lunar Rover (moon buggy) used in the NASA Apollo program on the moon in the early 1970s;

◆ **Roman Gabriel**, the first Asian-American to start as an NFL quarterback, who as the Los Angeles Rams quarterback was named the NFL MVP in 1969;

◆ **Ben Cayetano**, the first Filipino American governor of a state in U.S. history when he was elected governor of Hawaii in 1994;

◆ **Lillian Lim**, the first Filipina judge in the U.S., who retired in 2007 as a San Diego Superior Court of California judge.

And the list goes on and on. From all walks of life, Filipino Americans are making history every day. **What kind of history will you make?** Only time will tell.

For more information, visit the Filipino American National Historical Society (FANHS) on the web at [www.FANHS-NATIONAL.org/filam](http://www.FANHS-NATIONAL.org/filam) ♦

**Annual Gala . . . (continued from Page 1)**

like all guests to **confirm their reservation** and remit payment by **September 14**. Guests wishing to stay at the Columbia Marriott can reserve a standard or double room (with or without breakfast) at reduced rates. Please contact the Marriott at **(803) 771-7000** or online at [www.marriottcolumbia.com](http://www.marriottcolumbia.com); mention your stay is in connection with the *Columbia Filipino-American Gala*.

**Souvenir Program**

The gala is the Association's main annual fundraiser to support its various projects and activities such as the Philippine cultural dance troupe, scholarship fund, charitable endeavors, and other educational and multi-cultural activities in the South Carolina Midlands. As such, we are also soliciting all kinds

of contributions in the form of advertisements and donations for inclusion in the printed souvenir program.

Deadline for all ads or donor messages to be included in the printed gala souvenir program is **September 12**. Advertisers and donors can have their ads/messages/photos printed in **color** for an additional \$50 per page.

**Contacts**

*For tickets or more details about the Fil-Am Gala*, contact **Cecille Jacobsen** at (803) 562-0272, **Faye Colley** at (803) 238-3296, or any other officer listed on *Page 2* of this newsletter.

For hotel directions and updated information, visit the Columbia Fil-Am website at

[www.FilAmSC.org](http://www.FilAmSC.org) ♦

**If you and/or your child or children would like to join the COLUMBIA FIL-AM DANCE**

**TROUPE**, contact the dance coordinators:

▶ *Youth:* **Faye Colley** (803-238-3296)

▶ *Teens:* **Odess Brinkman** (803) 210-7577)

▶ *Adults:* **Yani Irag-Gould** (803-920-0007)

The volunteer dancers perform during the Annual Gala, Christmas Party, Columbia International Festival, and other community events.

**FIL-AM BULLETIN**

**"TOGETHER WE MAKE A DIFFERENCE"**

of the **Filipino-American Association of Greater Columbia, SC**

P.O. Box 24112, Columbia, SC 29224



Summer 2013



Volume 23, Number 1



**Don't Forget:**

*See U' All There!*

\* **Columbia FIL-AM 23rd ANNUAL GALA** will be held on **Saturday, September 21, 2013** at the Downtown **Columbia Marriott Hotel**.



## TICKET ORDER FORM

### Enter No. of Tickets on blank:

- x \$50 [Adult - until September 14, 2013]  
 x \$60 [Adult - after September 14, 2013]  
 x \$35 [Student - until September 14, 2013]  
 x \$45 [Student - after September 14, 2013]  
 x \$25 [Child ages 8-12 yrs old]  
 5% discount for a Full Table of 10

### I would like to sit with the following guests:

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

### Meal Choices:

- Pork Medallions with Jack Daniels Bourbon Sauce, Jasmine Rice, Vegies  
 Herbed chicken with Orzo and Vegetable Medley  
 Vegetarian: Portobello Mushroom  
 Child: Chicken Tenders, Fries, Salad

### Name or Company:

\_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Tel. No.: \_\_\_\_\_ FAX: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person: \_\_\_\_\_

Your tickets can be mailed to you if ordered before **September 14, 2013**. After that, you can get them personally from the officers or at the door. Due to requirements of the Marriott Hotel, please confirm your reservation and remit your payment by **September 14, 2013**.

Please do not write below this line. For office use only.

Total Amount Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Check # \_\_\_\_\_ Cash \_\_\_\_\_

No. of paid tickets: \_\_\_\_\_

No. of Complimentary tickets: \_\_\_\_\_

Ticket Nos: \_\_\_\_\_

Date Sent: \_\_\_\_\_

Ad size: [ ] Whole Page [ ] Half Page

[ ] Quarter Page [ ] Business Card

## FAAGC 2011-13 EXECUTIVE BOARD

### President

Cecille Jacobsem  
eshj256@msn.com  
(803) 562-0272

### Assistant Treasurer

Miriam Eschenfelder  
mveschenfelder@gmail.com  
(757) 802-2810

### First Vice President

Faye Colley  
fcb8221@yahoo.com  
(803) 238-3296

### Executive Board Member

Edith Alston  
(803) 201-4365

### Second Vice President

Eric Sosa  
EricSosa71@me.com  
(850) 803-4432

### Executive Board Member

Carlos Arevalo  
Carlos52168@yahoo.com  
(803) 699-9729

### Secretary

Jocelyn Locke  
celynbc@gmail.com  
(352) 672-0720

### Executive Board Member

Tess Hill  
Tesshill4769@yahoo.com  
(205) 753-1092

### Assistant Secretary

Sheena Shearer  
sheshearer@gmail.com  
(803) 552-9515

### Executive Board Member

Bong Rances  
vmcr24@yahoo.com  
(803) 788-6271

### Treasurer

Prescy Ramirez  
priramirez44@yahoo.com  
(803) 647-1418

### Executive Board Member

Alma Robichaud  
adtrobi@aol.com  
(803) 782-0340

Photos courtesy of Carlton Edwards and Bambi Tijing.



## THE FILIPINO AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF GREATER COLUMBIA, SC

PO Box 24112  
Columbia, SC 29224  
Webpage: [www.filam.sc.org](http://www.filam.sc.org)

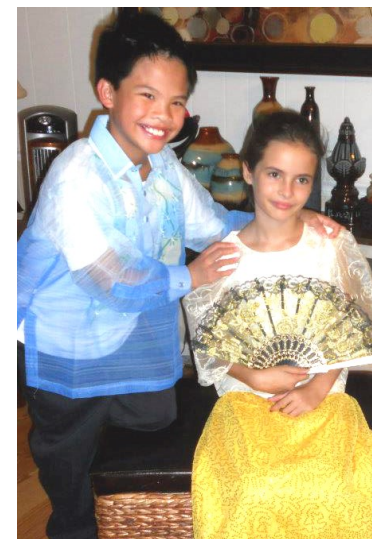
A non-profit organization to promote intercultural education and understanding.

*Together we make a difference!*

## THE FILIPINO AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF GREATER COLUMBIA, SC

*invites you to:*

# THE 24TH ANNUAL GALA



SEPTEMBER 21, 2013  
(Saturday - 6-12 PM)  
THE MARRIOTT HOTEL  
1200 Hampton St.  
Columbia, SC 29201  
(803) 771-7000

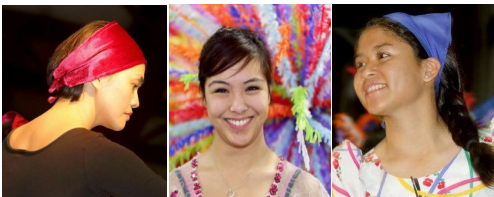


# YOU ARE INVITED!

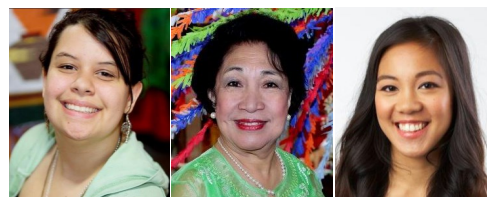
## The FAAGC will celebrate its 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Gala and 15<sup>th</sup> Inaugural Ball!

We will hold a formal dinner-dance ball on **September 21, 2013 from 6 PM to midnight at the Marriott Hotel, 1200 Hampton St., Columbia, SC 29201.**

We invite you and your friends to join us on this happy occasion



The Columbia Fil-Am Cultural Dance Troupe will perform **Philippine Folk Dances**. **DJ Mike Lamb** will provide lively music to dance the night away. A **Raffle** will be held to benefit the Scholarship and Building Funds.



Out of town guests may reserve rooms at reduced prices at the Marriott Hotel by calling 803-771-7000.



## The Gala is our major annual fund-raising activity.

Your generous contribution will support our **educational and cultural activities** such as the Scholarship Fund, the Philippine Cultural Dance Troupe, Youth Development Program, and the establishment of a Philippine Cultural Center in the Midlands of South Carolina.

### In the past we have also donated to:

- The Catholic Relief Services for the relief of the flood victims of Typhoon Ondoy
- San Vicente de Paul Orphanage in Manila
- SOS Village in Tacloban, Leyte
- Boys and Girls Home in Marikina
- The ERDA Foundation helping children in Metro Manila
- The Hospicio de San Jose Orphanage in Metro Manila.

### PLEASE DONATE AT THE LEVELS LISTED IN THE NEXT PAGE.

*Don't forget to order your tickets! Order by Tables of 10 to ensure that you will be seated together with your friends.*

### THANK YOU IN ADVANCE FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

**We look forward to seeing you!  
MABUHAY!**

**CECILLE JACOBSEN**  
**FAAGC President, 2013-2015**



## DONOR LEVELS

Benefactor (minimum of \$350)  
Includes **3 complimentary gala tickets** and the option of a free full page photo/message/ad in the souvenir program. **Please include a photo and/or a message or advertisement.**  
Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Sponsor (minimum of \$250)  
Includes **2 complimentary gala tickets** and the option of a free half page photo/message/ad in the souvenir program. **Please include a photo and/or a message or advertisement.**  
Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Patron (minimum of \$150)  
Includes **1 complimentary gala ticket** and the option of a free full quarter page photo or message/ad in the souvenir program. **Please include a photo and/or message or ad.**  
Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Donor (Any amount under \$150)  
No **complimentary gala ticket**. Donors will be acknowledged in the souvenir program.  
Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

## ADVERTISERS

- Full Page - \$200  
 Half Page - \$150  
 Quarter Page - \$100  
 Business Card - \$50

**Please attach your message/photo and preferred layout. No complimentary ticket.**

All messages/advertisements and payments must be turned by September 12, 2013 to be included in the printed gala souvenir program.

