



# 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 24, Number 1

★ P.O. Box 24112, Columbia, SC 29224

★ Summer 2014 ★

## Columbia Fil-Am Membership Meeting, Christmas Party Scheduled

The Columbia Fil-Am annual **Hal- loween get-together, Dance Troupe Appreciation Day, and Fall General Membership meeting** will be on **November 1, 2014, Saturday**, starting at 1:00 p.m. The event will be held at the **Chestnut Hill Plantation clubhouse** (851 Lost Creek Drive, Columbia, SC 29212 — off Broad River Road, near the Harbison State Forest).

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## FAAGC Annual Gala Set for October 4

The Filipino-American Association of Greater Columbia (FAAGC) will celebrate its **24th Annual Gala on October 4, 2014**. 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 the **Columbia Fil-Am Cultural Dance Troupe**. Dancers representing neighboring Fil-Am associations are also scheduled to perform. The new lifetime members and Fil-Am scholarship recipients

will be recognized.

**Until September 27**, tickets are \$55 per adult (\$35 per student). **After September 27**, tickets are \$65 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 like all guests to **confirm their reservation** and remit payment by **September 27**. Those wishing to stay at the Marriott can

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## FAAGC Donates to ABS-CBN for Typhoon Yolanda Victims

by Faye Colley

On November 8, 2013 *Typhoon Hainan* (Philippine name: *Typhoon Yolanda*) hit central Philippines. It was dubbed as one of the greatest typhoons in history. True enough, it hit the Philippines hard and many homes and livelihood were devastated; many lives were also taken.

The international community showed compassion and humanity by giving generous donations to victims through various organizations. FAAGC also came to immediate action as already reported in the Spring 2014 issue of the *Fil-Am Bulletin*. A donation of \$3,740 was made to the Catholic Relief Services (CRS) on January 2, 2014 as part of FAAGC's contribution to assist *Typhoon Yolanda* victims.

As planned, the remaining monetary

donation raised was donated to *Typhoon Yolanda* victims through the ABS-CBN Foundation. On July 1, 2014, FAAGC 1<sup>st</sup> VP Faye Colley handed over a donation check for \$1,220.00 to Ms. Maria Victoria "Vicky" Libao, Supervising Social Worker at ABS-CBN's *Tulong Center*. The amount was received under ABS-CBN Foundation *Sagip Kapamilya* by Virgilio Macabenta, the foundation

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FAAGC 1st VP Faye Colley (left) hands over the \$1,200-check donation to ABS-CBN Tulong Center staff as part of FAAGC's contribution to assist *Typhoon Yolanda* victims.

## CIF Columbia International Festival to Showcase The Philippines

The Philippines will be the featured host country during the 20th **Columbia International Festival** to be held at the Cantey Building of the SC State Fairgrounds on **April 18-19, 2015**.

CIF "showcases the music, culture, food and performing arts of the various cultures, nationalities, races and language groups represented in South Carolina."

The Columbia Fil-Am Association has been closely

linked with the festival since the beginning. FAAGC has consistently participated in the festival's national exhibits, *Parade of Nations*, international bazaar, cultural entertainment, fashion shows, and food booths. FAAGC won the "best country exhibit" award in 1996 and again in 2005.

FAAGC past president **Grace Collins** has continuously served in the CIF coordinating committee since 1996; past

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## Remembrances & Reminiscences

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## Recognizing The Fil-Am Pioneers in Columbia

by I.C. Go

Most of us know of places in the USA that have heavier concentrations of Filipino-Americans. Places in Hawaii, California, Nevada, New Jersey, and Washington may come to mind. South Carolina would not be near the top of this list so imagine how it might have been like in the area decades ago. A number of pioneering Filipino-Americans made it easier for future Filipino-Americans settling in the

area.

In particular, I learned about two of these pioneers recently: **Aurora Sumaydeng** and **Leonor Padua**. I had the pleasure of meeting Mrs. Padua, age 96, and her two sons, Peter and Mike, at the visitation/memorial service for Mrs. Sumaydeng on September 6, 2014. (Note: We will feature the Padua family who came to the area in the early 60s in our next FAAGC newsletter.)

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*From the President* ..... by Cecille Jacobsen  
**Changes for Better Quality Time with Friends**

*Greetings to everyone!* It's nice that hot summer is winding down and giant mosquitoes are getting ready to nestle someplace else. If you happen to be an early riser, the feel of early morning breeze surely dictates that the change of season is right around the corner.

Change of season, change of mood, and change of routines are just a few changes we have to conquer. And how about the change of wardrobe, which is most likely to happen, whether we shop or simply find those sweaters from tucked away totes and boxes.

So much about change, but having said all that, I, myself, shall make certain changes besides changing clothes and changing sunglasses. And this is what I would like to do — I will attend more parties. Folks, this may sound weirdly

funny, but I mean that and here is the reason for that.

I cannot account for how many baby showers, weddings, and birthdays I have missed. Missed opportunities to be with co-members of FAAGC. Anyway, lost time is gone forever; surely there will be more gatherings to come.

I've only mentioned one big change, and that's most important — set up quality time with old and new friends. One BIG Get-together more frequently for all members. It's on me. Announcements will be posted on the FAAGC website and Facebook page.

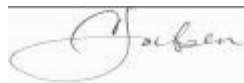
➤ The 7th Columbia Fil-Am Basketball Tournament held on September 6 at the Ridge View High School gym turned out to be a success. Many thanks to all who donated their time and effort to help us out. Thank you, food donors — the players and watchers enjoyed the food. To the dance troupe — good

job. We don't want to forget the trophy donors — Eliezer Billones, Jr., Rio Daquilanea, Norman Capili, Ellier Gervero, and the Columbia Team — thanks a bunch. I would also like to thank the Executive Board for the individual and collective effort and enthusiasm during the journey. That's what I call "teamwork".

➤ There's a lot activities lined up so keep visiting the FAAGC website for details (see also the **Calendar of Events** on Page 8 of this issue).

➤ The Dance Troupe Appreciation activity will be held during the November 1 general membership meeting. This meeting is a good opportunity to gather our old and new members together.

➤ Our annual gala is just around the corner. Remember to buy your tickets to gala as soon as you can. Bring other friends with you.



**Coupon Craze !**

by Faye Colley, 2013-15 First Vice-President

**What's the latest craze that has taken some of our members by storm?** Yep, you got the hint from the title... **coupons!** My husband's mother used to go couponing for groceries many years ago, especially during hard economic times. She passed away when she was 85, which was six years ago. You can do the math about how many years couponing may have existed but it never seems to get old.

The U.S. economy in general is supposedly still down, but unlike my husband's mother, many modern-day "couponers" aren't just about getting the most basic necessities to live through the day. In fact, many of our members

who do couponing live quite a comfortable life in the US. But why spend hours and hours working at scenarios to get the best coupon deals? You know the answer. Filipinos are inherently always after the best deals. The more you stretch your money, the

more opportunities to invest your dough in something else. Also, many of our FAAGC couponers make it an opportunity to start their small retail business or the chance to grab great items to send back to friends and family back in the Philippines.

You must be wondering if it is worth all the trouble if they have to pay for shipping. I have asked the exact question and yes, one of our FAAGC coupon queens, Janet Harris, has figured it out. It is indeed still worth it, even after you factor in the gas it takes to go from store to store.

You see, coupon queens such as Vevian Elder, Rechel Lynn, Veron Encabo, Luz Clifford and Marie Broome, among others, have figured

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**Baby Thea relaxes around Rechel Lynn's recent couponing haul**

**How To Contact Us**

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**FILIPINO-AMERICAN**  
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 P.O. Box 24112  
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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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**MOTIONS & TRANSITIONS**

**WELCOME NEW MEMBERS**

- ★ **RAYMOND BJORK** of Sumter, SC.
- ★ **MICHAEL & MYRA BLEW** of Columbia, SC.
- ★ **JEFF & CRIS CAMERON** of Irmo, SC. He is a science teacher at North Middle School in Orangeburg, while she works from home. They have two children: Simon and Zarina.
- ★ **ANDY & ARLYNE GUIDERA** of Columbia, SC. She is originally from Caba, La Union, while he, a retired US Navy serviceman, hails from Lacombe, Louisiana. They have three children: Rosalie, Remie, and Emily.
- ★ **SETH & DINA O'HERIN** of Columbia, SC. Originally from Cebu City, she is a nurse at the Lexington Medical Center. Originally from Asheville, NC, he is a body shop technician at John Harris Body Shop. Her mother **ANITA M. FIELDS** lives with them.
- ★ **JASON & MELITA SENDERS** of Columbia, SC.

**Woraming Salamat!**

**Recent Membership Renewals:**

- \* Carlos & Kathy AREVALO
- \* Roy & Carina BALACANAO
- \* Al & Leila COCKEREL
- \* Rio & Mary Jane DAQUILANEA
- \* Larry & Rublyn DURHAM
- \* Ed & Yani GOULD
- \* Walter & Tess HILL
- \* Alan MATTENZO
- \* Doris MATOS
- \* Jun & Elvie PADING
- \* Mike PADUA
- \* Mark & Priscilla RAMIREZ
- \* Kermit & Candida THOMAS
- \* Robert & Grace THOMPSON
- \* Neil & Maribel TLJING
- \* Charles & Precy WALKER

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

**Association Notes**

◆ **Peter Liunoras**, a past FAAGC president (2001-2003), was unanimously elected as Executive Board Member at the June 14 summer picnic in Weston Lake Recreation Center. Earlier, EB member **Bong Rances** resigned when his family moved to Texas.

◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆  
**FAAGC Newsletter & Reminder Postcards**

We would like to remind our members and supporters that we print and mail the *Fil-Am Bulletin* newsletter only two to three times a year. We also mail out postcards for event reminders. Sometimes we use e-mail for FAAGC communications.

**Please let us know ASAP of any change of mailing and/or email address so you can continue to receive our newsletters, postcards, and emails.** Be assured that your e-mail and postal addresses are **NOT** sold/given/provided to any third party — we only use them for FAAGC official communications.

◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆  
**COLUMBIA FIL-AM DANCE TROUPE**

If you and/or your child or children would like to join the dance troupe, *contact the dance coordinators:*

- ▶ **Youth: Faye Colley** (803-238-3296)
- ▶ **Teens: Helen Alon** (803-738-0372)
- ▶ **Adults: Yani Irag-Gould** (803-920-0007)

The volunteer dancers perform during the Annual Gala, Christmas Party, *Columbia International Festival*, and other community events. Dance troupe participation can count for **COMMUNITY SERVICE HOURS** for those who need them.

◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆  
**Let us know immediately about your major family events, both happy and sad, so FAAGC can respond appropriately as needed in a timely manner.**

**Remembrances & Reminiscences . . . (continued from Page 1)**

Originally from Baga-bag, Nueva Vizcaya, **Aurora Coloma Sumaydeng** (b. 2/20/1921, d. 8/28/2014) passed away recently at the age of 93.



**Aurora Sumaydeng**  
(1921—2014)

Aurora is survived by her three daughters: Aurora Goodman of Laurel Springs, NJ; Ivy Sumaydeng-Bryan of Columbia, SC; and Maye Galloway of Easley, SC. She had four grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

**MSgt. Esdras Sumaydeng**  
(1914-1978)

Aurora's husband, **Esdras Sumaydeng**, whom she married in 1949, predeceased her in 1978. Esdras was a Philippine Scout, a survivor of the Bataan Death March, and a guerilla fighter during the Japanese occupation of the Philippines. He later joined the U.S. Army as a security analyst, with subsequent tours of duty at various Army posts in the U.S., Japan and Germany.

From Stuttgart, Germany, the Sumaydeng family arrived in Columbia in July 1966. They were one of the few Filipino-American families in the area then, with most of them being military families associated with Fort Jackson.



**Carmelisa Edwards and Aurora Sumaydeng at Providence Hospital in 1972**

*Photos courtesy of the Sumaydeng sisters, Aurora & Ivy.*

**Career**

Aurora graduated in 1949 with a medical degree in obstetrics from the University of Santo Tomas in Manila and became a certified medical technologist at the Rex Hospital in Raleigh, North Carolina in 1961. In 1966 she began working at the "old" Columbia Hospital laboratory and later moved to Providence Hospital, where she developed its state-of-the-art bacteriology lab. By 1982, Aurora had become the

*(continued on Page 5) ▶*

**E-mail from former FAAGC Officers**

*Hello, family and friends in Columbia, SC! Just wanted to say hi to all of you and wish for continued success with FAAGC in Columbia SC. Just wanted to give you folks a quick update on our lives since we moved from Columbia, SC to Las Vegas, NV.*

*Mario has retired from the U.S. Air Force after 26 years of faithful service. Wyda is now working for the Veterans Administration in North Las Vegas. My oldest son Mark is serving in the U.S. Air Force and currently deployed at Bagram AB, Afghanistan, and stationed at Beale AFB, CA. My youngest son Joshua will be a senior in high school.*

*We still look forward to getting the Fil-Am Bulletin and it's always nice to see familiar faces and new faces keeping the FAAGC "together [so] we make a difference." Columbia, SC is always close and dear to our hearts as FAAGC was our family while [I was] serving in the Armed Forces. [It was] always there to support us and always felt like family. My sons grew up with a sense of pride of being Filipinos and belonging to this great organization.*

*Yours Truly,  
Viray Family (Mario, Wyda, Mark, & Joshua)*

(Wednesday, April 16, 2014 5:53 PM)

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

Although the 2014-2015 school year is now in full swing, 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 (2013-2014). 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.

★ **AILEEN ALON** graduated with the 35th class of Leadership Miami on June 9, 2014. Operated by the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce, the Leadership Miami program is an intensive learning experience over eight months that focuses on community issues, leadership development and community service “to prepare the next generation of Miami-ans to address vital issues and future challenges affecting Miami-Dade County.”

She was named in August 2014 as one of the 10 new members of the Board of Directors of Catalyst Miami, a non-profit community organization that coordinates innovative strategies to help people and organizations thrive and work together to improve health, education, and economic opportunity in communities.

She was also promoted in August 2014 to Arts & Creative Industry Manager of the Opa-locka Community Development Corp. (OLCDC), a non-profit corporation engaged in community revitalization and development of the Opa-locka and North Dade County, FL, areas.

A former longtime *Columbia Fil-Am Cultural Dance Troupe* performer and a 2006 *Columbia Fil-Am Scholarship* recipient, she is the daughter of Noel & Helen Alon of Columbia, SC. ♦

★ **MIRIAM ESCHENFELDER** graduated from the University of South Carolina with a Bachelor of Social Work on May 9, 2014. Currently pursuing a master's degree in social work at USC, she is the FAAGC 2013-2015 Assistant Treasurer. ♦

★ **BRIDGET NICOLE ANDERSON** graduated with honors on May 3, 2014 from Lander University (Greenwood, SC) with the degree of Bachelor of Science in Mass Communication. She was a member of the Blue Key Honor Society that recognizes college students for balanced and all-around excellence in scholarship, leadership, and service.

After a post-graduation rest and vacation travel with her mother to the Philippines (“to celebrate her graduation with her 98-year-old grandmother and other relatives”), Hong Kong and Australia, Nicole will move to Atlanta to do promotions and marketing for concerts and work with Blue Room Recording Studios.

A 2010 *Columbia Fil-Am Scholarship* recipient, she is the daughter of Leroy & Lulu Anderson of Columbia, SC. ♦

★ **FIDES ANGELI ELAMPARO** graduated *magna cum laude* from the USC South Carolina Honors College with a Bachelor of Science in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (pre-med, with a minor in art history) on May 10, 2014.

Recognized in the *Who's Who Among Students In American Universities And Colleges*, she was president of the Honors Pre-Medical Community, the USC chapter of the American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, and of Project Vida (a service organization dedicated to teaching healthy living to local underprivileged youth).

She currently works as a medical assistant at Palmetto Allergy & Asthma and hopes

to attend medical school next fall. A 2010 *Columbia Fil-Am Scholarship* recipient, she is the daughter of Butch & Dhel Elamparo of Columbia, SC. ♦

★ **JEFFREY NOBLE** graduated on May 9, 2014, from the USC Norman J. Arnold School Of Public Health with a bachelor's degree in Public Health.

A 2009 *Columbia Fil-Am Scholarship* recipient, he is the son Marvin & Beth Noble of Columbia, SC. ♦

★ **EMILY MARIE BOBADILLA** graduated with honors from Richland Northeast High School on June 6, 2014. A recipient of Palmetto Fellows Scholarship and the Thornwell Scholarship, she is studying computer science at USC. She is the daughter of Rodel & Wendy Bobadilla of Columbia, SC. ♦



★ **JONATHAN JACOBSEN** graduated from Sumter HS on June 7, 2014. He is now enrolled at Trident Technical College in Charleston, SC, for his general studies in math and engineering.



An active volunteer in FAAGC activities since his family joined the Association in 2006, he carried the Philippine flag during Columbia International Festival's *Parade of Nations* for several years. He is the youngest child of Pete & Cecille Jacobsen of Sumter, SC. ♦

★ **DANIELLA LA-FUENTE** graduated on June 5, 2014, from Dutch Fork HS. She is now studying to be a dental hygienist at Midlands Technical College. A current *Columbia Fil-Am Cultural Dance Troupe* performer, she is the daughter of Marie Broome of Irmo, SC. ♦



★ **SEVERINA ERIN LOWDER** graduated from White Knoll HS on May 31, 2014. A former *Columbia Fil-Am Cultural Dance Troupe* performer, she is the daughter of Jim & Juvie Lowder of West Columbia, SC. ♦



★ **ANGEL ARIANNE LUNA** graduated in the Top 5% of Class 2014 from Ridge View HS on June 6, 2014. On the A/B honor roll for the school year, she was a Career Technology Completer and a member of the National Technical Honor Society. The vice-president the RVHS chapter of Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA), she placed 9th in the Medical Terminology Competition in the Annual HOSA Leadership Conference.



She is currently pursuing a nursing degree at Midlands Technical College. A former *Columbia Fil-Am Cultural Dance Troupe* performer, she is the daughter of Archie & Zeny Luna of Columbia, SC. ♦

★ **ACHIEVEMENTS** ★ **GALORE** ★

✎ **LESTER PASIG** graduated from River Bluff HS on June 1, 2014. A *Palmetto LIFE Scholarship* recipient, he is studying architectural design at Midlands Technical College. He is the eldest son of Larry & Precy Pasig of Lexington, SC. ❖

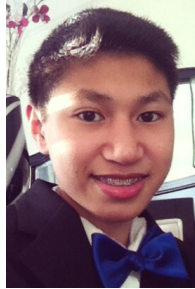


✎ **ANNA PHILLIPS** graduated from Airport High School on June 4, 2014. She is studying biology at Clemson University and plans to become an orthodontist. She is the younger daughter of Mark & Diane Phillips of Cayce, SC. ❖

★ **LANZ PASIG** completed his sophomore year at River Bluff HS in the Honors and Advanced Placement (AP) programs. He is a member of the National Society of High School Scholars (NSHSS). A current *Columbia Fil-Am Cultural Dance Troupe* performer, he is the middle son of Larry & Precy Pasig of Lexington, SC.



★ **ANGELO LUNA** completed his freshman year at Ridge View HS ranked in the Top 5% of his class. He earned a college credit for the Bio-Health Magnet Program and was inducted into the BETA Club. He received an excellent (II) rating at the SCMEA Concert Festival and was a member of the Senior Goodbye Committee of the RVHS HOSA chapter. He also became a Seaman Recruit of the Columbia (CL-56) Palmetto Division of the U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps.



A current *Columbia Fil-Am Cultural Dance Troupe* performer, he is the son of Archie & Zeny Luna of Columbia, SC. ❖

★ **LAURENCE PASIG** recently came back from the Philippines where he stayed for almost a year to finish fifth grade there. He now goes to Meadow Glen Middle School. He is the youngest son of Larry & Precy Pasig of Lexington, SC. ❖



**Remembrances & Reminiscences . . . (continued from Page 3)**

supervisor of the Microbiology Lab. After retirement she volunteered at Meals on Wheels and the Dorn VA Hospital. She was a member of the Shandon United Methodist Church and the Columbia Fil-Am Association.

**Second Mother**

**Carmelisa “Lisa” Edwards**, a long-time friend of Mrs. Sumaydeng, recounted to me her fond memories of Aurora. Aurora was the first Filipino-American Lisa met when she moved to Columbia in 1968. The two met while working at the old Columbia Hospital [later renamed Richland Memorial Hospital]. Lisa shared how Aurora made it a point to organize parties that welcomed new Filipino-American nurses employed at the hospitals Aurora worked at. Back then, there were no Oriental grocery stores that carried frozen *lumpia* (egg/spring roll) wrappers. Aurora’s daughter Ivy remembers her mom making *lumpia* wrappers from scratch for these and other parties.

In time, Lisa and Aurora became very good friends. Lisa considered Aurora as a second mother — a very warm and caring individual who accepted you as you are and who could advise you as a mother or older sister would. Lisa remembered Aurora lending a hand to the Edwards family in many ways,

including babysitting and helping at baptisms. Aurora was also the godmother of Lisa’s son and of Lisa’s sister’s daughter.

**Filipino Hospitality**

Ivy recalls that in the 1970s and 80s there were Filipino students and professionals who arrived in Columbia, SC. Her parents always hosted dinners for them and for soldiers who couldn’t get home for the holidays. [Editor’s Note: Among the recipients of the Sumaydeng hospitality in the late 70s were FAAGC pioneers **Nieves Austria** (now McNulty) and **Noel Alon**, who were USC graduate students then, and **Helen Dacara** (now Alon), who just moved to Columbia from Miami, FL, and worked as a nurse at Richland Memorial Hospital. Incidentally, the Sumaydengs provided the bamboo poles and the very fast Bayanihan Dance Troupe music (*the only version available then*) when the few Filipino students performed *tinkling* at a USC international student event in 1978 — seemingly the first time *tinkling* was presented at USC].

In the more than two decades I’ve been in the area, I have seen many Filipino-Americans reach out to new Filipino-Americans newly-arrived in the area just as the early Filipino-Americans in Columbia welcomed other Filipino-Americans to the area. Hopefully this tradition and trait of Filipino hospitality and kindness will continue for a long time. ❖

[Editor’s Note: Reminiscences/remembrances/articles like above are always welcome for publication in the FAAGC newsletter or website to add to the historical records about the Filipinos and Filipino-Americans in the Greater Columbia area. Contact the Editor at 803-738-0372 for details.]

**FAAGC Donation . . . . . (continued from Page 1)**

treasurer.

ABS-CBN Foundation’s *Sagip Kapamilya* is in charge of addressing relief for victims of natural calamities. Among the projects they have for Typhoon Yolanda victims are school-building, crab culture, fishing boats, and mat-making livelihood. They are currently building Basiao Elementary School in Western Samar. They are providing motorized boats made of wood and fiberglass to help the fishermen back on their feet. Women are provided community-based training on weaving and re-planting *tikug*, sedge grass [(*Scirpus grossus*) used in weaving baskets and mats] that was washed away in their area.

Through ABS-CBN Foundation, FAAGC is able to assist with these projects and directly help the typhoon victims in Leyte and Western Samar. The generosity of all FAAGC members and non-members is very much appreciated by *Typhoon Yolanda* victims. ❖



Some of the Columbia Fil-Am “old-timers” at the memorial service for Aurora Sumaydeng: (back) Delia Chestnut, Del Mandanas, Lorna DeGuzman; (front) Ivy-Sumaydeng-Bryan, Leonor Padua. At age 96, Mrs. Padua is the oldest living Filipino and the longest Filipino resident in the Columbia area.

Photo: MIKE PADUA



## Philippine Fashion Tourism? Young Filipino Creative Talents Can Make Your Fashion Fantasy Come True

by Faye Colley

**There's no secret about us Filipinos being naturally fashionable. In fact, in the Philippines, we dress-up for no occasion at all. You walk into any mall and you will find people from all walks of life wearing the latest trends. There's also no secret that Filipinos are very creative.**

**During my recent 2014 trip to the Philippines, I had the honor of meeting a few of the young talents in the Philippine Fashion Industry that makes me prouder to be Pinoy. We often feature places to see in the Philippines in our newsletter, why not people to see? Sure, we have heard of Medical Tourism, but why not Fashion Tourism? This article is a quick glimpse on Philippines' Fashion Pride, some of the "Who's Who" in photography, styling, make-up, clothes and shoe design.**

### AHLEKS FUSILERO Photographer

A UP-Diliman Fine Arts (Visual Communication & Design) graduate, Alexis "Ahleks" Fusilero is one of the most sought young photographers in Manila. His pictures transform the ordinary into extraordinary. He has photographed a range of subjects, such as food, cosmetic products, shoes, hotels, spas, salons, fashion models, celebrities, beauty queens and designer and ready-to-wear clothes. Many of his shots are found on big billboards along EDSA and other advertising media.

He has truly made a mark in the Philippine fashion industry, but don't let the blinding names of his clients prevent you from reaching out to this creative genius. Ahleks is a very down-to-earth individual who works with ordinary people such as me. So, next time you visit the Philippines, consider having a photo shoot with one of the Philippines' top photographers.

### TEN FRANCO Make-up Artist

Ten Franco is a free-lance hair & make-up artist. Don't be fooled by her natural beauty. She hardly wears make-up but when she puts make-up on,

whether on herself or on a client, expect it to be stunning. Ten caters to clients for pre-nuptial shoots, weddings, high-fashion photo shoots, advertising campaigns and fashion shows.

Ten Franco's make-up style is not about "changing" one's look but it is about "enhancing" one's natural beauty. She studies the client's features and highlights and contours with make-up as appropriate. Yours truly also had the opportunity to look my best on my own photo shoot. I can personally attest to how light Ten's hands are and how she makes the make-up experience even more enjoyable with her gift of gab. Go ahead and give her a call for your next special event in the Philippines.

### YVONNE CAMAY Stylist

A Fashion Institute of the Philippines (FIP) graduate, Yvonne Camay works for PGM (Pauline G. Macapagal) Fashion. PGM Fashion is not only about high fashion styling; its staff also styles different people for different occasions. They do brands, product endorsements, TV guestings, and TV shows styling as well as portfolio, pre-debut, and pre-nuptial photo shoots. PGM Fashion also styled me

for my Filipiniana-themed photo shoot.

### MARK DELA PEÑA Designer

Young designer Mark Dela Peña also graduated from the FIP and is currently teaching various fashion-related classes there. Mark creates both high fashion and fashionable yet wearable outfits, including classy and classic pieces for both men and women. His artistry transcends to jackets, swimwear, cocktail dresses, wedding dresses, and sweaters.

Mark is a natural at what he does and he has the ability to materialize a client's concept. Mark created my Filipiniana-Ballerina outfit which I will be wearing at the 2014 FAAGC Gala in October. If you want a designer that will truly understand your personal style and needs as well as a designer that knows how to flatter your body, then you need to check him out.

### NERE KU Shoe Designer

Nere Ku is a graduate of Saint Louis University in Baguio City. He is the set designer for ABS-CBN's top show *ASAP* and is also the boldest Filipino shoe designer that I know. His work is fea-

tured in fashion shows both locally and internationally. Many Filipino celebrities, models, and beauty queens have worn Nere Ku shoes for various fashion shoots, events and campaigns.

Nere has very eclectic designs but he truly listens to his clients' needs. He is able to deliver the right levels of sophistication, sassiness, funkiness or boldness that any of his clients demand. Although Nere specializes in high-fashion, custom-made shoes, he has ventured in ready-to-wear shoes. Some stores in the Philippines carry his carefully crafted designs, specifically the *Nerissa Collection*. If you're like me and dare to have height and be fashion forward with shoes, Nere Ku is your shoe guy.

**Now there's no secret as to who can make your fashion fantasy come true. These young artistic individuals made mine happen just this summer of 2014. Yours can become a reality too. Travel to the Philippines not just to see places. Travel to also celebrate and experience the creativity of our young Filipino talents. Don't just talk about, appreciate or look at Philippine art. Love, live and wear art through Philippine Fashion!**

## Coupon Craze

(continued from Page 2)

out how to get stuff for **FREE**. Sometimes they even make money after they finish with their groceries. Nothing can beat that. These ladies have had savings that range from \$10.00 to \$110.00 in one haul. Their savings just keep adding up and nothing is stop-

ping them but the stores when they are not accepting coupons. According to our resident FAAGC coupon queens, among the best places to do coupons are Publix, Bi-Lo, and CVS.

I can guarantee that these ladies' husbands are tickled that their wives are saving them hundreds of dollars. So in case you are curious and would like to join the bandwagon of

FAAGC coupon queens, you might want to contact them and see if any of them can help you how to get the most out of coupons. I am sure they would be happy to help and you will soon be on your way to earning your own crown.

Go ahead — there is no shame in couponing. That crown means you are fiscally-responsible, math savvy and a very organized individual. ❖



Janet Harris'  
Coupon Organizing Kit

Merry Christmas  
&  
Happy New Year!



## Why spend more on shipping cost this Christmas?

Save your money and spend it on where it counts. The gifts you give to your family!

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**South Carolina Rates:**

**\$85** one box

**\$75** each for two or more boxes

**\$65** drop-off rate



**Please note:** Due to the delay issues in the port of Manila, we are asking all customers to send their Christmas *Balikbayan* boxes sooner than later. For Visayas & Mindanao: send by September. For Luzon and Manila: send by mid-October.

## Columbia FIL-AM CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- \* **October 4, 2014** (Sat., 6:00 p.m.)
  - ▶ **Columbia Fil-Am 24th Annual Gala**
  - ◆ **Columbia Marriott Hotel**  
1200 Hampton St., Columbia, SC 29201
- \* **November 1, 2014** (Sat., 1:00 p.m.)
  - ▶ **Columbia Fil-Am General Membership Meeting, Dance Troupe Appreciation Day & Halloween Party**
  - ◆ **Chestnut Hill Plantation clubhouse**  
851 Lost Creek Drive, Columbia, SC 29212
- \* **December 6, 2014** (Sat., 6:00 p.m.)
  - ▶ **Columbia Fil-Am Christmas Party**
  - ◆ **St. John Neumann School gymnasium**  
721 Polo Road, Columbia, SC 29223
- \* **April 5, 2015** (Sunday, 1 pm)
  - ▶ **Columbia Fil-Am Spring Picnic & Easter Egg Hunt / Election of Officers**
  - ◆ **Sesquicentennial Park**  
9564 Two Notch Road, Columbia, SC 29223
- \* **April 18-19, 2015** (Saturday-Sunday)
  - ▶ **Columbia International Festival**
  - ◆ **SC State Fairgrounds**  
1200 Rosewood Drive, Columbia, SC 29201

**Mark Your Calendars Now !**

## FAAGC Events

*(continued from Page 1)*

This is a POTLUCK get-together with FAAGC providing hamburgers and hotdogs. All kids (and kids -at-heart) are enjoined to wear your Halloween costumes for a late round of **trick-or-treating** and win some prizes. *Arrive early and stay late for more food, fun and socialization!*

In a related development, the annual **Columbia Fil-Am Christmas Party** will be held earlier this year due to venue scheduling. The Christmas get-together will be held on Saturday, **December 6, 2014**, starting at 6:00 pm, at **St. John Neumann School gymnasium** (721 Polo Road, Columbia, SC 29223).

For updated information and directions to the venues, visit the Columbia Fil-Am website at [www.FilAmSC.org](http://www.FilAmSC.org) ♦

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

reserve a 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 21**.

### Contacts

*For tickets or more details about the Fil-Am Gala*, contact **Cecille Jacobsen** at (803) 565-0272, **Faye Colley** at (803) 238-3296, or any other officer listed on *Page 2* of this newsletter.

For ticket order and donor forms, hotel directions and updated information, visit the Columbia Fil-Am website at [www.FilAmSC.org](http://www.FilAmSC.org) ♦

## International Festival

*(continued from Page 1)*

president **Helen Alon** also served in the coordinating committee during the first three years of the festival. FAAGC Lifetime Member **Imelda Go** was a longtime member of the festival's *Global Education Day* committee.

If any FAAGC member or supporter has unique Philippine products/items that could be displayed at the festival, please let us know. Contact FAAGC President **Cecille Jacobsen** [(803) 565-0272; [eshj256@msn.com](mailto:eshj256@msn.com)] or the other officers listed on *Page 2* for suggestions or inquiries about cultural display items and/or volunteer sign-up. ♦

### \*\*\* 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](mailto:helenqda@yahoo.com)).

# 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 2014



Volume 24, Number 1



**Don't Forget:**

*See U' All There !*

- \* **Columbia FIL-AM 24th ANNUAL GALA** will be held on **Saturday, October 4, 2014** at the **Downtown Columbia Marriott Hotel**.