



FILIPINO-AMERICAN Association of Greater Columbia

MILESTONES OF A GROWING ORGANIZATION

... Sixteen years (so far) and more to come ...

Accomplishments, Achievements & Moments in Time as Columbia FIL-AMs Make an Impact in the Community



- June 9, 1991** Formal organization of the Association when its By-law are approved and adopted.
- June 15, 1991** First election of officers, with Eva Rigney elected as first FAAGC president.
- July 11, 1991** FAAGC becomes officially incorporated in South Carolina.
- Sept. 7, 1991** First annual gala and inaugural ball.
- March 1992** FAAGC sends funds from various fund-raisers to Mt. Pinatubo victims in an Angeles City orphanage.
- June 14, 1992** During the second election of officers, Minnie Wheedleton is elected FAAGC president.
- Dec 5, 1992** FAAGC participates in *Carolina Carillon*, the first time the Filipino-American community in the state is represented in SC's premier parade.
- May 7, 1993** FAAGC starts its continuing participation in the annual *Asian/Pacific American Heritage* celebrations at Ft. Jackson, SC.
- June 5, 1993** Minnie Wheedleton is re-elected president.
- June 19, 1993** FAAGC and the Philippine Cultural Society of Charleston (*Hiyas-Min*) present "*Karilagan* (beauty) -- **The Philippine Cultural Show**" at the Koger Center for the Arts -- a first-of-its-kind-show in Columbia.
- Oct. 9, 1993** FAAGC participates in the Florence First International Festival.
- Nov. 6, 1993** The Columbia Fil-Am Cultural Dance Troupe makes first public appearance (*outside of FAAGC's own affairs*) at an international festival in Columbia.
- Dec. 4, 1993** FAAGC's "*Christmas in the Philippines*" float



"Grand Marshall's Award" As Best Over-all Entry
40th Carolina Carillon Christmas Parade (Dec. 4, 1993)

wins the *Grand Marshall's Award* as best over-all entry in the 40th annual *Carolina Carillon*, the state's

premier holiday parade.

- April 16, 1994** Helen Alon is elected FAAGC president.
- May 30, 1994** FAAGC presents cultural show and educational exhibits at *Mayfest*, Columbia's premier spring festival, a first-time involvement of the area Fil-Am community.
- Sept. 24, 1994** FAAGC presents cultural show at *Autumnfest*, Columbia's fall festival of arts and heritage — another first-ever Fil-Am participation.

- October 1994** FAAGC donates Philippine reference books to public schools and libraries; Start of continuing cultural mini-shows and educational exhibits at area schools, companies and community events.
- April 16, 1995** Helen Alon is re-elected FAAGC president.
- May 8, 1995** Internal Revenue Service (IRS) officially recognizes FAAGC as tax-exempt, non-profit organization under Section 501(c)(4).
- Dec. 31, 1995** FAAGC presents two cultural shows at *First Night Columbia*, a first-ever involvement in the city's New Year's Eve event.
- Mar. 30, 1996** FAAGC participates for the first time in *Kids Day Columbia*.
- April 6, 1996** Helen Alon is re-elected to a third term as FAAGC president.
- June 16, 1996** FAAGC's Philippine display wins "*best country exhibit*" at the *First Columbia International Festival* held at the State Fairgrounds.
- Dec. 7, 1996** The Columbia Fil-Am Dance Troupe performs for the first time outside the state at a special holiday festival in Charlotte, NC.
- April 3, 1997** FAAGC member Dr. Francisco Sy, a Fil-Am public health professor at USC, is named "*1997 International Professional of the Year*" at the 2nd annual Columbia International Festival.
- May 9, 1997** Ushering in a series of events to celebrate the *Philippine Independence Centennial*, FAAGC sponsors the stage presentation "*The Philippines — Yesterday, Today and Forever*" performed by the Manila-based, world-touring Philippine Centennial Youth Delegation at the Ridge View High School auditorium.
- May 18, 1997** Nieves McNulty is elected first two-year-term FAAGC president.
- Nov. 21-23, 1997** The Columbia Fil-Am Dance Troupe performs for the first time at the *Festival of Trees*, the annual fund-raising event for the Children's Hospital of Richland Memorial Hospital.
- Mar. 31, 1998** FAAGC member Noel Alon is named the "*1998 International Volunteer of the Year*" at the 3rd annual Columbia International Festival.
- Aug. 29, 1998** The Columbia Fil-Am Dance Troupe serves as the opening act of the *FASA Philippine Showcase: Remembering The Past, Envisioning The Future.* A first-of-its-kind-show in Columbia (and the Southeast), the production, featuring the West Coast-based Fil-Am recording artists *Pinay*, was promoted by FAAGC member Fred Balangue under the sponsorship of the USC Filipino American Student Association (FASA).
- April 18, 1999** Nieves McNulty is re-elected FAAGC president.



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- June 12, 1999** FAAGC and Charleston's *Hiyas-Min* present
- Aug. 21, 1999** "*Kalayaan (Cry for Freedom)*," a joint cultural showcase to celebrate the "Centennial plus One" anniversary of Philippine Independence, at Columbia's Richland 2 District Auditorium (*June 12*) and at Charleston Southern University's Lightsey Chapel Auditorium (*Aug. 21*).
- Oct. 11, 1999** At the invitation of fair organizers, FAAGC presents two cultural shows at the *130th South Carolina Annual State Fair*, a first-ever Fil-Am participation.
- Mar. 17, 2001** FAAGC president Nieves McNulty is named "*2001 International Professional of the Year*" at the 6th annual *Columbia International Festival*.
- April 15, 2001** Peter Liunoras is elected fifth (and first male) FAAGC president.
- Nov. 16, 2001** FAAGC co-hosts with the USC FASA a post-performance reception for *Bayanihan*, the world-renowned Philippine National Dance Company, after its cultural show at the Koger Center for the Performing Arts.
- Mar. 30, 2002** FAAGC member Grace Collins is named "*2002 International Volunteer of the Year*" at the 7th annual *Columbia International Festival*.
- April 20, 2003** Grace Collins is elected FAAGC president.
- Sept. 13, 2003** FAAGC presents the first *Columbia Fil-Am Scholarship* award to Raymund Elamparo.
- Mar. 6, 2004** The Sumter area Fil-Am community, led by FAAGC members Polly Pearson and Lilian Sheedy, participates for the first time at the annual *Sumter Multi-Cultural Celebration*.
- Mar. 25, 2004** FAAGC past president Peter Liunoras is named "*2004 International Volunteer of the Year*" at the 9th annual *Columbia International Festival*.
- April, 2004** The Ridge View High School (RVHS) Fil-Am Youth Club is formed under the direction of FAAGC past president Peter Liunoras. The club is instrumental in raising funds for the *Fil-Am Scholarship* project.
- June 2004** By invitation of the Charlotte-based Philippine-American Association of the Carolinas (PAAC), FAAGC through its 1st VP Alan Geoghegan presents Filipiniana display at the Charlotte *AsiaFest*.
- June 12, 2004** The Columbia Fil-Am Cultural Dance Troupe performs at the first gala of the Filipino-American Association of Beaufort, Hampton and Jasper Counties of SC (FAABHJ) in Hilton Head.

- February 2005** *Filipinas Magazine*, the internationally-circulated "magazine for all Filipinos," features an article on FAAGC written by 1st VP Alan Geoghegan (with editorial help from N. Alon).
- Mar. 19, 2005** The USC Filipino American Student Association (FASA) presents *FASA Night: A Philippine Cultural Showcase*, a first-of-its-kind event at USC featuring traditional and modern aspects of Filipino and Filipino-American cultures. AJ Alon, a pioneer Columbia Fil-Am Cultural Dance Troupe performer, serves as FASA president with FAAGC treasurer George McNulty as the faculty adviser.
- Mar. 27, 2005** Alan Geoghegan is elected FAAGC president.
- May 1, 2005** FAAGC's Philippine display featuring a *sari-sari* (variety) store and motorcab motif wins "best exhibit" award at the 10th Annual *Columbia International Festival*.
- Dec. 23, 2005** The Columbia Fil-Am community and Philippine folk dances, cuisine and Christmas traditions are featured live on "*Live with Lucas*" segments of *WIS News 10 Sunrise* show.
- Mar. 23, 2006** FAAGC three-term treasurer George McNulty is named "*2006 International Community Ambassador of the Year*" at the 11th annual *Columbia International Festival*.
- April 8, 2007** Alan Geoghegan is re-elected FAAGC president.
- June 23, 2007** FAAGC participates for the first time in *World Refugee Day* celebration in Columbia.
- July 27, 2007** FAAGC delivers donation from various fundraisers and matching Association funds to *Hospicio de San Jose*, a Manila orphanage.



Sr. Ma. Socorro G. Evidente, DC (right), administrator of Hospicio de San Jose in Manila, receives FAAGC's donation check from FAAGC officer Odess Brinkman. Also in the photo are Jeremy Brinkman and one of the orphans.