

Filipino - American Association of Greater Columbia

invites you to

SAMPAGUITA

32ND FAAGC ANNUAL GALA



13 SEPTEMBER 2024

FRIDAY | 6-10 PM

R2i2 Conference Center, 763 Fashion Dr., Columbia, SC 29229

DOOR OPENS AT 5 PM

For more info, visit FAAGC Facebook page.

2024 - 2026 FAAGC EXECUTIVE BOARD









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Sampaguita Soiree Event Program

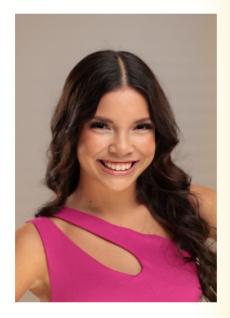
5:00 PM	Open Doors
6:00 PM	Official Start US National Anthem Olivia led by Juliet Harris Philippine National Anthem led by Janeth Creo Invocation by Ed Norris
6:10 PM	Induction Ceremony of the 2024-2026 Executive Board by Cecille Jacobsen, FAAGC President 2013-2017
6:15 PM	Dinner Service Starts: Food and Service by R&T Catering
6:15 - 6:20 PM	Welcome Address by Nieves McNulty, FAAGC President 2024 -2026
6:20 - 6:25 PM	A Video Message from Philippine Ambassador Jose Manual Romualdez
6:25 - 6:30 PM	A Rendition of Huling Awit by Chiara Cox, FAAGC's Culture and Music Ambassador
7:00 - 7:05 PM	Remarks from Reyna Funderburk, FAAGC President 2022-2024
7 :05 - 7:15 PM	A Message from Christine Currie, Public Servant & Advocate for the AAPI Community and the Asian American & Pacific Islander Affairs Program Coordinator for the SC Commission for Minority Affairs
7 :15 - 7:25 PM	Executive Board Appreciation by Nieves McNulty, FAAGC President 2024–2026 and Lifetime Awards Presentation by Daphne Lee Sabangan, FAAGC Second Vice President
7:25 - 7:35 PM	Introduction of Raffle Prizes by Elen Callahan, FAAGC Secretary
7 :35 - 8:05 PM	A Showcase Of Traditional Filipino Dance Sampaguita Ballet Jota Camarines Tinikling And Sayaw Sa Bangko Silong Sa Ganding (With Live Accompaniment From The Kulintang Ensemble)
8:05 - 8:10 PM	Curtain call by Alma Robichaud, FAAGC Traditional Cultural Committee Chair
8:10 - 8:15 PM	Raffle Drawing by Yvonne Brown, FAAGC First Vice President
8:15 - 8:20 PM	Modern Dance Flower
8:20 - 9:00 PM	Open Dance Extravaganza
9:00 - 9:10 PM	Final Raffle Drawing and Closing Remarks from Reyna Funderburk, FAAGC President 2022-2024
9:10 - 10:00 PM	Open dance dance

The Columbia Fil-Am Dance Troupe

The Song "Sampaguita"

In the Philippines holds significant cultural and emotional value. Sampaguita, also known as the Philippine jasmine, is the country's national flower and symbolizes purity, simplicity, and strength. In the song, this flower is often used as a metaphor for enduring love and devotion. The lyrics typically reflect themes of longing, affection, and the deep emotional connection between people. It conveys a sense of nostalgia and reverence for cherished relationships and memories, linking the beauty of the flower to the emotions expressed in the music. This ballet dance accompanying the song is inspired by what the flower stands for, has yearning, gentle and subtle motions that evoke the sweetness and delicate form of the flower. The sampaguita song resonates with many Filipinos for its sentimental value and its representation of Filipino values and emotions

Jolien Bermas: Performer @ Choreographer



Jota Camarines

This dance from Daet, Camarines Norte is thought to probably originate as a fertility dance in Aragon, although legend states that Jota was brought north from Andalusia by the exiled Moorish poet Aben Jot. This gay and lively dance was usually performed by the elite and rich people of Daet. and are adaptations from Spanish Jotas as performed by the early Spanish settlers in the Philippines which eventually settled and lived with the Filipinos for over three centuries.

Diana Dingman, Dhel Elamparo, Evelyn Liester, Leah Cuaresma, Lyn Fugrad, Tess Hill, Alan Matienzo, Butch Elamparo, Don Liester,Andrew Whitmire, Ted Fugrad, Walt Hill

CHOREOGRAPHER: Helen Alon





Tinikling

The National dance of the Philippines. A traditional folk dance which is named after a bird, "tikling", that is native to the Philippines. The dance imitates the movements of the bird as it tries to escape the trap laid by the farmers. The dance involves at least two people beating, tapping, and sliding bamboo poles on the ground and against each other in coordination with one or more dancers who step over and in between the poles in a dance.

Audrey Wanner, Dora Wanner, Janaya Cing, Julia Antonio, Sophia de Lara, Kylie Smith, Andre Vejerano, Joaquin Vejerano, Brayden Sosa, Ethan Sosa, William Massie, Che Vejerano

CHOREOGRAPHER: Yani Gould

The Columbia Fil-Am Dance Troupe

Sayaw Sa Bangko

This literally means Dance on a Bench and came from the Pangasinan province of the Philippines. This folk dance is performed on a narrow bench and originated as a performance by newlyweds for their guests to demonstrate their ability to work together gracefully. It is now performed during town fiestas by a couple, inching and hopping from one end to another. Dancers show skill in staying up the bench as they exchange places by moving their way around. They do not compete but rather complement each other so that no one falls. It now serves to bring communities together in celebration and entertain audiences while preserving cultural heritage.

Audrey Wanner, Dora Wanner, Janaya Cing, Julia Antonio, Sophia de Lara, Kylie Smith, Andre Vejerano, Joaquin Vejerano, Brayden Sosa, Ethan Sosa, William Massie, Che dVejerano

CHOREOGRAPHER : Yani Gould



Silong Sa Ganding

Originates in Maguindanao and its name derived from "silong", which is a rhythm of music played on the "gandingan", set of 4 shallow rimmed gongs played in a manner imitating the human voice. A very demanding dance of discipline for the hand positions and placement required are very precise, their wrists continuously flicked in and out, in front, at the sides or down and up. This is also a favorite dance among royal courts with music provided by the "kulintang" (metalgongs laid horizontally upon a rack) ensemble in addition to the "gandingan".

Richel Jamera Vaules, Andrea Robichaud, Daphne Lee Sabangan, Jello Hendy, Jan Harris, Yani Gould, Claire Lott, Gene Callahan, Eamon Callahan, Mike Hampton

CHOREOGRAPHER : Yani Gould



The Columbia Fil-Am Dance Troupe



The Flower Dance

Helen Alon, Reyna Funderburk, Yani Gould, Tess Hill, Diana Dingman, Richel Vaules, Amy Moore, Dhel Elamparo, Lynn Fugrad, Teresa Ziegler, Daphne Lee Sabangan, Jello Hendy, Leah Cuaresma, Alma Robichaud, Dora Wanner, Carina Balacanao, Jan Harris, Claire Lott

CHOREOGRAPHER: Yani Gould



Bayang magiliw
Perlas ng silanganan
Alab ng puso sa dibdib mo'y buhay
Lupang Hinirang, duyan ka ng magiting
Sa manlulupig, di ka pasisiil
Sa dagat at bundok na simoy
At sa langit mong bughaw
Tagumpay na nagnininging
Ang bituin at araw niyan
Kailan pa ma'y di magdidilim
Lupa ng araw ng luwalhati't pagsinta
Buhay ay langit sa piling mo
Aming ligaya nang pag may mang-aapi
Ang mamatay ng dahil sa iyo

O say can you see by the dawn's early light
What so proudly we hailed at the
twilight's last gleaming
Whose broad stripes and bright stars
through the perilous fight
O'er the ramparts we watched, were so
gallantly streaming?
And the rocket's red glare, the bombs
bursting in air
Gave proof through the night that our flag
was still there
O say does that star-spangled banner yet wave
O'er the land of the free and the home
of the brave

President Message

Incoming

Dear Members, Friends And Guests,

I am honored, once again, to be President of the Filipino American Association and to welcome you to a night of joyful celebration of our accomplishments throughout the years. It has been 33 years since a group of visionary Filipino Americans got together mainly to raise funds for the tragedy that struck the Philippines with the eruption of Mount Pinatubo, but also to form an organization that would promote better understanding between the Filipinos and the greater Colubmbia community through cultural, educational and charitable pursuits

We have slowly bur surely become a strong and vibrant association thanks mostly to the hard work and dedication of all past officers, board members and countless members who volunteered their time, energy and financial contributions. Looking forward, we hope to have more people, whether or not they have any Filipino DNA in their blood, to join us in pursuit of our mission. Our motto say it all: **Together we make a difference.**

Tonight, prepare for an enjoyable dinner, great cultural entertainment, and the opportunity to connect with friends, old and new.

Thank you for coming and for your support. Lets make this a night to remember.

Nieves McNulty FAAGC President 2024-2026



Outgoing

As we celebrate our 32nd Anniversary Gala, I am filled with gratitude and pride. This milestone is not just a reflection of our organization's enduring impact but a testament to the strength and dedication of our extraordinary Filipino - American community.

To our supporters and volunteers, your unwavering commitment and tireless efforts have been the cornerstone of our success. Your belief in our mission and your boundless enthusiasm have driven us forward and made a real difference in countless lives.

I also want to extend my deepest appreciation to our dedicated Executive Board. Your leadership, vision, and collaborative spirit have been instrumental in guiding our organization through both triumphs and challenges. Working alongside each of you has been a privilege, and I am inspired by the collective wisdom and dedication that has shaped our journey.

As my term ends, I carry with me not only the memories of our shared achievements but also confidence that our organization is in the capable hands of those who will continue to propel it toward even greater heights.

Thank you all for your support, your trust, and your unyielding passion. Here's to celebrating our past, embracing our present, and looking forward to a future filled with even more success and impact.

With heartfelt gratitude,

Reyna C. Funderburk

Reyna Corrales Funderburk FAAGC President 2022-2024





Guest Speaker



Hello everyone,

My name is Christine Currie. I'm a proud Filipino American, mother, and advocate, who serves as the Asian American & Pacific Islander Program Coordinator for the South Carolina Commission for Minority Affairs. I am deeply committed to supporting the vibrant AAPI community here in South Carolina. In addition to my professional role, I volunteer as the Interim Director for the South Carolina State chapter of Make Us Visible, a national non-profit dedicated to integrating Asian American history into K-12 classrooms.

Our community is a tapestry of stories, cultures, and experiences that enrich our collective identity. I believe deeply in the power of connection, education, and advocacy to drive positive change. It is through our shared efforts that we can create opportunities, promote understanding, and ensure that every voice is heard and valued.

I look forward to sharing my story.

Salamat po!"

Best,



Christine Currie
Asian American/Pacific Islander
Affairs Program Coordinator
246 Stoneridge Dr., Ste. 250
Columbia, SC 29210
Phone: 803-832-8165
Web: www.cma.sc.gov
Mobile: 803-563-1977
Email: ccurrie@cma.sc.gov







EMBASSY OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES WASHINGTON, D.C.

MESSAGE

On behalf of the Embassy of the Republic of the Philippines in Washington, D.C., I convey our warmest greetings to the Filipino American Association of Greater Columbia (FAAGC) on the occasion of its 32nd Annual Gala on 13 September 2024.

The Embassy recognizes the significant role of your organization in promoting intercultural education and awareness, particularly on Filipino heritage and culture, in Greater Columbia for over thirty years. We commend your dedication to preserving and promoting our cultural heritage to the next generation of Filipino-Americans , as well as the locals in your respective communities.

I am confident that this year's FAAGC Gala will be successful, as it has been in past years. I wish your Masskara- themed festival will serve as a reflection of how joyful, colorful, vibrant, diverse, and distinct our heritage is. May you spread as much jubilation and smiles, as there are Masskaras in your celebration.

Let us forge ahead together, driven by the bayanihan spirit, and united in our pursuit of stability, progress, and prosperity for the Filipino people, as envisioned by President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr..

In this shared journey, every Filipino holds a stake in the destiny of our nation, and together, we shall continue to shape a brighter Philippines.

Maraming salamat at mabuhay po kayong lahat!

JOSE MANUEL GROMUALDEZ

Ambassador

13 September 2024



On behalf of the South Carolina Commission for Minority Affairs and the Board of Commissioners, I want to extend a heartfelt congratulations to the Filipino-American Association of Greater Columbia on your 32nd Annual Gala. This milestone is a testament to your dedication to diversity, resilience, and unity.

The work that the Filipino-American Association of Greater Columbia has accomplished over the past 32 years is truly commendable. That's why we're thrilled to be a sponsor of the Filipino-American Association of Greater Columbia's Sampaguita Soirée.

Diversity is one of South Carolina's greatest strengths. Your efforts to promote intercultural education and preserve cultural traditions help build a more inclusive and understanding community.

Congratulations, once again, on your 32nd annual celebration!



We Thank You For Your Support

BENEFACTORS

David & Josephine Etheredge David & Alma Robichaud Patrick & Melissa Robinson Edsel & Marj Pena Mark & Priscila Ramirez Kermit & Candida Thomas Carlton & Carmelisa Edwards Marvin & Elizabeth Noble Jobert & Zhila Vego Donald & Evelyn Liester Ranjel & Judy Asis Adrian Bartolome Carlos Hinauon Nieves McNulty Waren & Myrna Whitmire Ruben & Charita Baanal Pete & Cecille Jacobsen Leroy & Lulu Anderson Transcon Trading Co., Inc. Raj & Kathy Aluri Columbia International Festival Ret 1SG Peter P. Liunoras & Olga Liunoras

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Ruben & Chari Bagnal

Happy 32nd Annual Gala to FAAGC!...











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Mabuhay! God Bless FAAGC!!!





Carlton & Carmelisa Edwards

Congratulations to the new officers and good luck!

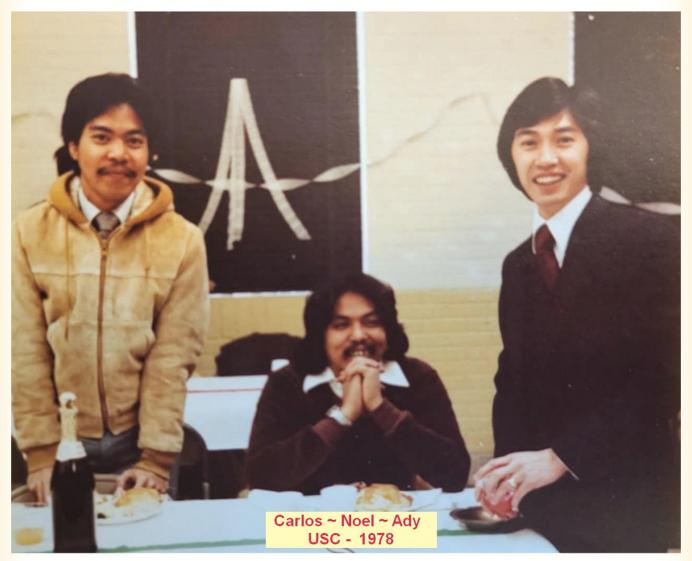




David & Josephine Etheridge

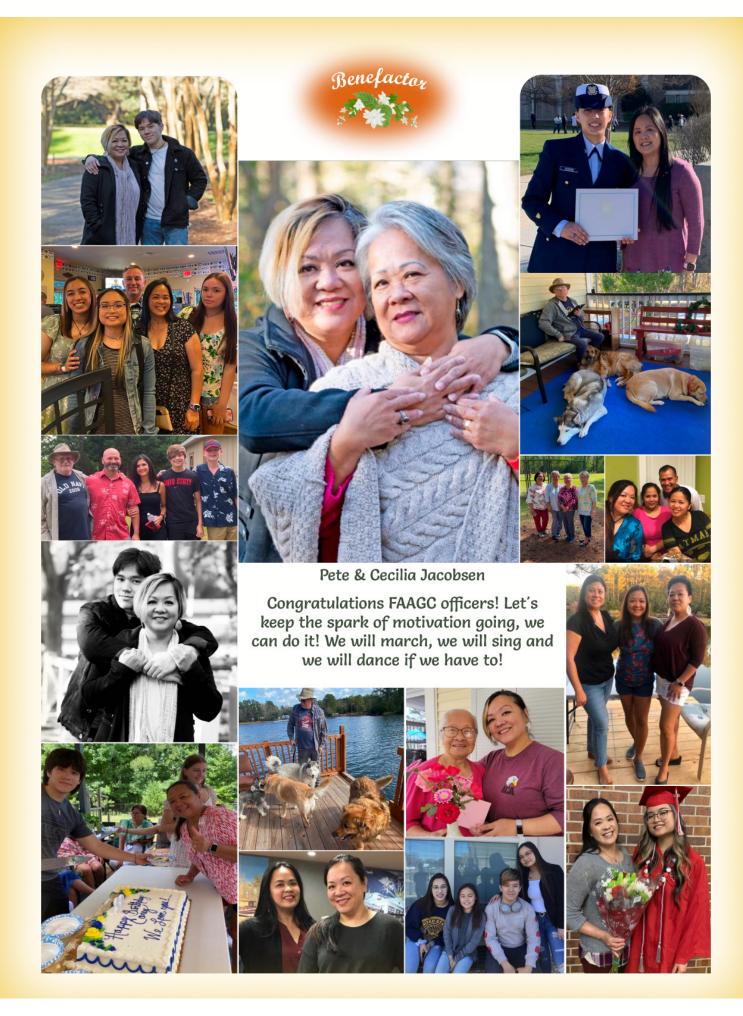
We Are blessed to be part of this Fil-Am group. So many wonderful people who became our close friends and treated us like family!





Carlos Hinayon & Ady Bartolome

Congratulations to Nieves McNulty and all the FAAGC Officers Best Wishes to FAAGC for continued success.







Don & Evelyn Liester

A big thank you to the Outgoing Officers for a job well done and a big welcome to the Incoming Officers. Best Wishes to FAAGC for continued success.





Pete & Olga Liunoras

Mabuhay and Congratulations to our new FAAGC officers 2024





The McNulty Family

Mabuhay ang FAAGC!





Marvin & Beth Noble

Best Wishes to the Members of Officers of FAAGC!























Congratulations FAAGC!!!
FROM THE PEÑA FAMILY





Mark & Priscila Ramirez, Rachel, Mark & Sophie and grandchildren: Eamon, Emma, Adam, Leon & Georgia

Congratulations on FAAGC's 32nd Anniversary!





The Robichaud's

Congratulations to the incoming board, and maraming salamat to the outgoing board!

Blessings and best wishes to you with your endeavors in 2024 and 2025





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Patrick & Melissa Robinson

Congratulations, FAAGC, on your 32nd Gala anniversary! Best wishes to the incoming board!











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Happy 32nd Anniversary to the Members and Officers of the FAAGC!





Kermit, Eding, Buddy, Ginger & Chico Jusi Thomas, Nanay & Tatay Jusi

Best wishes for a wonderful 32nd anniversary gala!

Congratulations FAAGC





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The Whitmire Family

Mabuhay and more power to FAAGC!





The Mangubat Family - (Erwin, Anne, Lya & Elee)

Congratulations to FAAGC on their 32nd Annual Gala!! We are so proud to be part of such a wonderful association here in the Greater Columbia. Best of greatness!





SOUTH CAROLINA COMMISSION FOR MINORITY AFFAIRS



Dr. Delores Dacosta
Executive Director of SCCMA

WE'RE HERE FOR YOU.

The South Carolina Commission for Minority Affairs is the official South Carolina state agency working to enhance the socio-economic development of ethnic minority communities.

Contact Us









Atomy Group of Raleigh North Carolina: Christy Ordanes, Monina Cabiles, Evelyn Bugarin, Evelyn Tahop

Congratulations to the FAAGC new officers and Executive Board Member on their 32nd Anniversary





Rev. Ryan Dupree International Minister 803-343-8571 or ryandupree@fbccola.com www.fbccola.com/internationals/

What we offer:

ESOL Classes and Bible Study Sunday mornings at 9:15am Worship at 10:30am

What we have coming up.



September 21

Karaoke Night

October 5
Hiking Trip



November 22IFM Thanksgiving Dinner







1306 Hampton Street, Columbia, SC 29201





Liunoras Family Hawaii

Aloha and Mahalo to our new elected FAAGC officer 2024!





We continue to embrace and celebrate our Filipino Culture

Antonio Family

DONORS

Elen Callahan Bella Valena Grace Thompson Gloria McGuffey

GRAPHIC DESIGNER

Grace Balanquit





Congratulations to
Ms. Nieves McNulty and the
new set of FAAGC officers.
Wishing you success in
every way!!

Manny & Leah Cuaresma





The Knight Family

Congratulations on your 32nd Anniversary!





Congratulations to the newly elected officers!

Grace Collins





Happy 32nd FAAGC and CONGRATULATIONS

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Lexington

Worship Service: 3:00 pm - 5:00 pm 1015 Corley Mill Rd. Lexington, SC 29072





Lorna De Guzman

Congratulations FAAGC! Wishing you more years of great service to the Fil-Am of Columbia!



Delia Chesnut

Mabuhay & Congratulations to FAAGC for another successful year



Praxedes Santillan Sebastian, M.D. & Grandchildren

Congratulations to the new officers of FAAGC! More blessings and success in the coming years!



Dr. Rosen Lawsin, M.D.

Congratulations to the new officers. More successful years for FAAGC



Erlinda Lorenzo Polk

Congratulations to the 2023-2024 President and Board Members of the FAAGC for another successful year!





Compliments from Susana B. Pasicatan M.D.



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Congratulations FAAGC on your 32nd Gala Anniversary!

From your friends in California!



Congratulations on its 32nd annual gala! It is with great pride that we celebrate our rich cultural heritage and the unique traditions that define us as Filipino-Americans!



Tim and Yvonne

We are so thankful for your continued partnership of FAAGC

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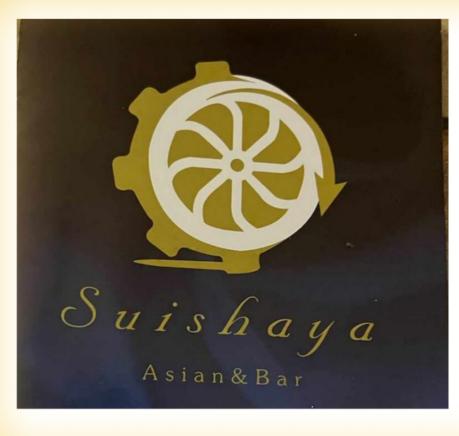
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Happy 32nd FAAGC Annual Gala and Congratulations to our new officers 2024



Suishaya

Columbia Fil-Am Scholarship Program



Phina Rabaca

2024 Recipient

Phina has been an active volunteer member of FAAGC Cultural Dance Troupe since 2014 to 2019. She plans to attend the Bridge Program at Clemson University and intends on studying biomedical engineering. She is interested in designing and improving medical technology. She likes to travel and explore different cultures around the world. Philip and Anna Rabaca, the proud parents.

A Columbia Fil-Am Youth Scholarship program has been discussed often since the formation of the Association in 1991. Officially Started in 2002 by the FAAGC Executive Board through the initiative of Peter Liunoras (FAAGC President, 2001-2003), the Columbia Fil-Am Scholarship awards are given to Fil-Am college-bound high school graduates whose families are currently paid FAAGC members and who (or their parents) have participated actively in Fil-Am activities. As specified by the executive Board recently, current criteria are involvement in FAAGC (50 percent), academics (30 percent), and interview and essay (20 percent).

Funds for the scholarship program are generated from, among others, donations, raffles during FAAGC gala, Christmas and Valentine's Day events, food sales at basketball tournaments, and from 2004 to 2010, fund-raisers by the Ridge View High School (RVHS) Fil-Am Youth Club under the directions of Peter Liunoras.

Starting in 2021, long-time member and supporter Dr. Francisco Sy has established and endowed the Dr. Francisco S. Sy Scholarship Fund of the FAAGC.

FAAGC presented the first Columbia Fil-AM Scholarship award at the 13th Annual Gala on September 13, 2003. Since then, award certificates (and checks) have been presented to deserving and qualified students every year during the annual gala or at special events. Interestingly, most of the past scholarship recipients had been Columbia Fil-Am Cultural Dance Troupe performers at one time or another.

Columbia Fil-Am Scholarship Recipients

2023	Jaxen Castaneda	
2021	Emily Collins	Lara Tijing
2020	Taryn Clark Casey Funderburk Ashley Rabaca	Brandon Edwards Joy Mangaccat Julia Szoke
2019	Laurence Lafuente	
2018	Shane Clark Jasmine Flora Andrea Robichaud	Carlton Edwards III Alisha Rabaca Chase Szoke
2017	Dyonn Dingman	Diego Luis Ignacio
2016	Kathleen Arevalo Joan Rose Pena	Roy Balacanao, Jr
2015	Denise Daquilanea Angelica Robichaud	Severina Lowder
2014	Jonathan Jacobsen	
2013	Darryl Arevalo Khoi Nguyen Shannin Scott	Justine Flora Michael Sanchez
2012	Elaiza Apan Nicole Daquilanea	Kirkwood Bautista Douglas Miguel Tu <mark>pas</mark>
2011	Christine Arroyo Nicole Phillips Joseph Szoke III Andrew Whitmire	Karen Magsino Nicholas Roberts Nicole Victoria
2010	Paul Adcock Fides Elamparo Sean C.A. Tupas	Nicole Anderson Steven Do
2009	Jessamine Cuaresma	Jeffrey Noble
2008	Butch Deo Elamparo Mark Allen Viray	Christian Ysmael Tupas
2007	Raquel Bagnal	Michelle Pena
2006	Aileen Leigh Alon Christian Elamparo Fay Manapat	Jasper Lim Marianne Magapan
2005	Justin Anderson	
2004	Danielle Glenn Michaela Kenworthy Judith Pena	Amanda Goyeneche Michael McNulty
2003	Raymund Elamparo	

lifetime Charter Members

Accomplishments, Achievements & Moments In Time As Columbia FIL-AMS Make An Impact In The Community

At the 20th Anniversary Gala on Sept. 10, 2011, the Columbia Fil-Am Association honored those who had steadfastly supported and continuously sustained FAAGC from its beginning through its first TWENTY (20) years by recognizing them as LIFETIME MEMBERS. Others have or can become Lifetime Members if they have paid or willing to pay the equivalent of 20 years of membership. kAt the 25th Anniversary Gala on Sept. 24, 2016, the Columbia Fil-Am Association honored those who were instrumental in establishing and guiding FAAGC during its early years by recognizing them as HONORARY LIFETIME MEMBERS.

LIFETIME CHARTER MEMBERS

Continuous Members since 1991

Rita Houston ALCANTARA Noel & Helen ALON **Edith ALSTON** Lulu ANDERSON Ruben Matias BAGNAL James & Edith BARKER Linda BROWN **Grace COLLINS** Manny & Leah CUARESMA

Tony & Tessie DeCASTRO Gene & Sally ELLIS Jim & Tessie KENERSON

Juliet MARTIN

George & Nieves McNULTY Marvin & Beth NOBLE

Alfonso & Susana PASICATAN

Naty AKANA ROBERTS David & Cindy TEFFT

LIFETIME MEMBERS

Members for 20 years or more

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Imelda GO (since 1993)

Jojo & Joette FLORA (since 1993)

Ben & Aida DAQUIOAG (since 1994)

Butch & Dhel ELAMPARO (since 1995) Peter & Olga LIUNORAS (since 1995)

Charles & Precy WALKER (since 1995)

Terry & Judy BERENDS (since 1996)

Philip & Anna RABACA (since 1997)

Brian & Cecile STRICKLAND (since 1997)

HONORARY LIFETIME MEMBERS

Eva RIGNEY (FAAGC President, 1991-1992) Remie MORALES-SARMIENTO+ (FAAGC Treasurer, 1991-1992) Minerva WHEEDLETON (FAAGC President, 1992-1994)

LIFETIME MEMBERS

Members for 20 years or more Warren & Myrna WHITMIRE (since 1997) Alan & Cecilia GEOGHEGAN (since 1999) Lu & Merlyn BAJAMUNDE (since 2000) Edsel & Mari PEÑA (since 2000) Dan & Tess ADCOCK (since 2001) Ronald & Faye COLLEY (since 2001) Jon & Gina CASTANEDA (since 2002) Don & Evelyn LIESTER (since 2003) Art & Cecille BOMAN (since 2004) David & Odess BRINKMAN (since 2004) Alan M. MATIENZO (since 2004) Richard & Tessie BANNISTER (since 2005) Carlton & Carmelisa EDWARDS (since 2006) Terry & Reyna FUNDERBURK (since 2006) Pete & Cecille JACOBSEN (since 2006) Carlton, Jr. & Amy EDWARDS (since 2007) Joseph & Celyn SZOKE (since 2007) Neil & Bambi TIJING (since 2007) Ed & Yani & Yana Lei Gould (since 2008)

Mark & Prescy RAMIREZ (since 2008) David & Alma ROBICHAUD (since 2009) Maria SILVER (since 2009)

Kermit & Candida Thomas (since 2011)

Walter & Tess HILL (since 2012)

Praxedes S. Sebastian, M.D. (since 2022) Ronald and Faye COLLEY (since 2013)

Rosen J. LAWSIN, M.D. (since 2019)

Diana T. DINGMAN (since 2016)

Dr. Erwin & Anne MANGUBAT (since2019)



(Front, L-R) Susana Pasicatan, Eva Rigney, Minnie Wheddleton, Helen Alon. (Back L-R) Cindy Tefft, Jun David, Remie Morales-Sarmiento, Grace Collins



1992 - 1993

(L-R) Minnie Wheedleton, Helen Alon, Randy Collado, Sally Ellis, Remie Morales- Sarmiento, Tessie DeCastro, Dom Perez, Marvin Noble



1993 - 1994

(Front, L-R) Beth Noble (Representing Marvin), Nel (Front, L-R) Susana Pasicatan, Eva Rigney, Minnie Fernandez, Gloria Yutani (Back L-R) Dom Perez, Polly Pearson, Judy

Salvador, Grace Collins, Sally Ellis, Minnie Wheedleton. (Not in photo: David Thefft)



1994 - 1995

Wheddleton, Helen Alon.

(Back L-R) Cindy Tefft, Jun David, Remie Morales-Sarmiento, Grace Collins



1995 - 1996

(Front, L-R) Larry Smith, Wilfred Jeffcoat, Fred Balangue, Mark Yutani. (Back L-R) Judy Salvador, Linda Brown, Leah Cuaresma, Sally Ellis, Helen Alon, State. Warren Giese (Guest Speaker), Grace Collins, Tessie Kennerson, Polly Pearson



1996 - 1997

(Front, L-R) Fred Balanque, Wilfred Jeffcoat, Peter Liunoras, Ernest Ellis (Back L-R) Linda Brown, Marie Salvador, Leah Cuaresma, Maria Aiken, DeeDee Stewart, Tessie Kenerson, Helen Alon, Bill Simmons



1997 - 1999

(Front, L-R) Nieves McNulty, Peter Liunoras, Ofelia Milligan, Rowena Arroyo, Eloisa De Castro, Chari Matias-Bagnal **(Back L-R)** Manny Cuaresma, Ernest Ellis, Edith Alston, Marie Salvador, Patrick Baens (Not in photo: Imelda Go)

1999 - 2001

(Front, L-R) Grace Collins, Phillipine Consul Henry Bensurto, Jr. (Guest Speaker), Nieves McNulty, Bill Simmons, Edith Alston (Back L-R) Tessie Kenerson, Helen Alon, Fred Balangue, Eloisa De Castro, Ruben Bagnal, John Glenn (Not In Photo: Joy Clark, & Patrick Baens)





2001 - 2003

(L-R) Ruben Bagnal Rudy Dizon, George McNulty, Lulu Anderson, Marj Pena, Tessie Kenerson, Peter Liunoras, Tessie De Castro, Polly Pearson, Diana Phillips, Hector Galang, Alan Geoghegan

2003 - 2005

(Front, L-R) Alan Geoghegan, Grace Collins, Jojo Goyeneche (Back L-R) Marj Pena, Rex Santos, Amy Charles, George McNulty, Lily Iglesias, Dan Adcock, Meryln Bajamunde, Charles Goyeneche, Rudy Dizon





2005 - 2007

(Front, L-R) Alan Geoghegan, Cecille Wessinger, Dan Adcock, Odess Brinkman, George McNulty, Bernadette Yavis, Keith Seymour, Precy Walker Galen Manapat, Edith Alston, Mario Viray, Alan Matienzo

2007 - 2008

(Front, L-R) Alan Geoghegan, George McNulty, Albert Taylor, Mario Viray (Back L-R) Sally Ellis, Odess Brinkman, Myrna Whitmire, Leah Cuaresma, Tessie Kenerson, Cecilia Jacobsen, Precy Walker, Shirley McGuinness



2008 - 2009

(Front, L-R) George McNulty, Alan Geoghegan, Mario Viray (Back L-R) Bernadette Yavis, Leah Cuaresma, Tessie Kenerson, Myrna Whitmire, Sally Ellis, Shirley McGuinness, Carmelisa Edwards, Cecilia Jocobsen, Odess Brankman



2008 - 2011

(Front, L-R) Dan Adcock, Grace Balanquit, Jojo Flora (Back L-R) Maribel Tijing, Wyda Viray, Shirley McGuinness, Cecilia Jacobsen, Grace Collins, Carmelisa Edwards, Marj Pena, Cecille Geoghegan, Nieves McNulty



2011 - 2013

(Front, L-R) Bong Rances, Rio Daquilanea, Carlos Arevalo, Peter Liunoras, Grace Collins, Gaye Colley, Odess Brinkman, Maribel Tijing, Nieves McNulty, Grace Balanquit, Carmelisa Edwards, Marj Pena



2013 - 2014

(Front, L-R) Bong Rances, Cecilia Jacobsen, Carlos Arevalo (Back L-R) Tess Hill, Precsy Ramirez, Miriam Eschenfelder, Sheena Shearer, Alma Robichaud, Edith Alston, Jocelyn Locke, Faye Colley (Not in photo: Eric Sosa)



2014 - 2015

(Front, L-R) Cecilia Jacobsen, Jocelyn Locke, Tess Hill, Prescy Ramirez, Sheena Shearer, Carlos Arevalo, Miriam Eschenfelder, Edith Alston, Alma Robichaud, Faye Colley, (Not in photo: Eric Sosa, Pete Liunoras



2015 - 2017

(Front, L-R) Carlos Arevalo, Anna Temples, Tess Hill, Cecilia Jacobsen, Miriam Schenfelder, Reyna Funderburk, Doris Matos, Peter Liunoras (Back L-R) Glenn De Guzman, Al Cockerel, James Orlick, Alan Matienzo



2017 - 2019

(Front, L-R) Maribel Tijing, Reyna Funderburk, Gina Castenada, Teresa Ziegler, Tess Hill (Back L-R) Judy Berends, Jason Eberhart, Joseph Szoke, Buddy Burke, Alan Matienzo, Joy Clark, (Not in the photo: Emily Cheney)

2019 - 2021

(L-R) Rick Shoestock, Mya De Leon, Emee Jennings, Jadith Carswell, Angelica "Clover" Robichaud, Evelyn Liester, Gina Castaneda, Grace Collins, Priscila Ramirez, Reyna Funderburk, Nina Hornick, Joseph Szoke





2019 - 2022

(Front, L-R) Joseph Szoke, Ulises Chavez, Reyna Funderburk, Jadith Carswell, Evelyn Liester, Chrissy Hopkins, Priscila Ramirez, Angelica "Clover" Robichaud, Gina Castaneda, Maya De Leon (Not in photo: Grace Collins, Nina Hornick)

2022 - 2023

(L-R) Marilyn Abalo, Vincent Atos, Daisy Mae Quintana, Deborah Norris, Reyna Funderburk, Elen Callahan, Flo Baker, Janeth Smith, Nancy Graves, Alma Robichaud, Celyn Szoke, Ranjel Asis



2023 - 2024

(L-R) Daisy Quintana Dimasuay, Ranjel Asis, Miriam Eschenfelder, Dee Bundick, Alma Robichaud, Elen Callahan, Reyna Funderburk, Maria Clarissa Wentley, Daphne Lee Sabangan, Alan Geoghegan, Deborah Norris

Richland Main Library - Weaving Communities Through Cloth Opening Reception

October 6, 2023



OCT 06 6:30 p.m. Richland Library Main
Opening
Reception:
Weaving
Communities and
Cultures Through
Cloth

Richland Library celebrates Filipino American (Fil-Am) History Month in Columbia with traditional, handmade textiles from Filipino and Filipino-American weavers in this new gallery exhibit

Parents, Families,
Preschoolers (3-5), School

Ronald McDonald















Nickelodeon Theatre Harana - The Search For The Lost Seranade

October 16, 2023





USC Recital Hall, Michael Dadap & Florante Aguilar - Filipino Classical Guitar Concert October 29, 2023



Pasko Sa Columbia Christmas Party

December 9, 2023



International Friendship Ministries Caroling

December 14, 2023



Senor Santo Nino Pit Senyor Celebration At St. John Neumann Catholic Church

January 13, 2024



Edventure International Member Night

March 22, 2024



Gala Of The Columbia International Festival At River Hill Baptist Chruch

March 28, 2024



Easter Gathering And Election Of Officers, Saluda Shoals

March 31, 2024



Easter Gathering And Election Of Officers, Saluda Shoals

March 31, 2024



Columbia International Festival At The Fairgrounds

April 6 - 7, 2024



Pleasant Hill Elementary School International Fair

April 12, 2024



Orangeburg International Festival

April 20, 2024



Make Us Visible Columbia - AAPI At Boyd Plaza

May 11, 2024



Exclusive In Person Meeting With Evelyn Mandac, Filipina Opera Singer

May 14, 2024



Dominion Energy Asian Pacific Islander Celebration

May 16, 2024



Farewell Party For Filipino Teachers

May 19, 2024



Open Mic: A Taste Of AAPI Voices At Northeast Library

May 30, 2024



St. John Neumann International Festival

June 1, 2024



Summer Picnic And Appreciation Day, Saluda Shoals

June 15, 2024



Richland Main Library - Philippine Textile, A Complex Mapping With Marian Pastor Roces.

October 22, 2023



USC School Of Music, Masterclass Filipino Classical Guitar By Michael Dadap & Florante Aguilar October 27, 2023



Richland Main Library, Community Workshop: Masterclass Filipino Identity Through Music

October 28, 2023



Acknowledgements

Gala Planning Committee

PROGRAM MANAGEMENT TEAM

Elen Callahan Nieves McNulty Reyna Funderburk Yvonne Brown

PROGRAM COORDINATOR Elen Callahan

US NATIONAL ANTHEM
Olivia Juliet Harris

PHILIPPINE NATIONAL ANTHEM Janeth Criscel Creo

SAMPAGUITA BALLET

Jolie Bermas- Choreographer and Performer

DECORATION AND SET UP

Yvonne Brown
Reyna Funderburk
Nieves McNulty
Debie Norris
Daisy Dimasuay
Clarissa Whentley
Alma Robichaud
Pete Liunoras
Dianne Dingman
Deo Elamparo
Butch Elamparo

CLEAN UP

Elen Callahan Daphne Lee Sabangan Ranjel Asis Janet Criscel Andrew Ruby Sapitan Alma Robichaud

USHER

Andrea Robichaud Clover Robichaud Yana Lei Gould Emma Callahan Adam Callahan

GALA EVENT SUPPORT

Helen Alon Nieves McNulty Elen Callahan Reyna Funderburk Noel Alon

SOUVENIR BOOK

Grace Balanquit Alma Robichaud Nieves McNulty Reyna Funderburk

MEDIA SOUND

Ranjel Asis Alma Robichaud Noel Alon

FOOD DONOR

Families of our Dancers Friends of our Dancers

BROCHURE / FLYERS

Ruby Sapitan Reyna Funderburk Elen Callahan

SAYAW SA BANKO & TINIKLING

PERFORMERS

Audrey Wanner Dora Wanner Janaya Cing Julia Antonio Sophia de Lara Kylie Smith Andre Vejerano Joaquin Vejerano Brayden Sosa Ethan Sosa Che Vejerano

CHOREOGRAPHER:

yani Gould

SILONG SA GANDING

PERFORMERS

Richel Jamera Vaules Andrea Robichaud Daphne Lee Sabangan Jello Hendy Jan Harris Yani Gould Claire Lott

CHOREOGRAPHER:

yani Gould

JOTA CAMARINES PERFORMERS

Diana Dingman
Dhel Elamparo
Evelyn Liester
Leah Cuaresma
Lyn Fugrad
Tess Hill
Alan Matienzo
Butch Elamparo
Don Liester
Andrew Whitmire
Ted Fugrad
Walt Hill

CHOREOGRAPHER:

Helen Alon

FLOWER DANCE

Helen Alon Reyna Funderburk yani Gould Tess Hill Diana Dingman Richel Vaules Amy Moore Dhel Elamparo Lynn Fugrad Teresa Ziegler Daphne Lee Sabangan Jello Hendy Leah Cuaresma Alma Robichaud Dora Wanner Carina Balacanao Jan Harris Claire Lott

INVOCATION Ed Norris

CULTURAL EVENTS CHAIRPERSON

Alma Robichaud

RAFFLE TICKETS / PRIZES Elen Callahan

COSTUME STULISTS & ASSISTANTS

yani Gould Reyna Funderburk Helen Alon Teresa Ziegler Jello Hendy Nancy Valpey Claire Lott Precy Ramirez

CHOREOGRAPHER

Helen Alon Yani Gould Reyna Funderburk Helen Alon

DANCE TROUPE TECHNICAL &

MISCELLANEOUS SUPPORT

Helen Alon Arnel De Lara Noel Alon Che Vejerano Eric Vejerano Nieves McNulty Terry Funderburk Reyna Funderburk Jello Hendy Claire Lott Lynn Fugrad Teresa Ziegler Daphne Lee Sabangan Jello Hendy Leah Cuaresma Alma Robichaud Dora Wanner Carina Balacanao Jan Harris Claire Lott Gina Castaneda Tessie Bannister

DANCE TROUPE COORDINATORS

Helen Alon Alma Robichaud Yani Gould Che Vejerano

GONG PERCUSSIONIST

Gene Callahan Eamon Callahan Mike Hampton

OUT OF TOWN GUEST GIFTS

Daphne Lee Sabangan Nieves McNulty

PHOTOGRAPHY / VIDEO

Carlton Edwards Ranjel Asis Don Liester

FAAGC's 2024-2025

Calendar Of Events

FAAGC celebrates Filipino-American History Month in October to acknowledge the cultural heritage that shapes Filipino identity in South Carolina and beyond.

October 10: Mangyan Kami @ Richland Library Main, Columbia

Documentary screening that focus on the traditions of the Mangyan people of Mindoro and the cultural importance of the Mangyan Writing Systems and Ambahan poetic chants. Discussion with FAAGC members to follow. Sponsored with a grant from SC Humanities, a state program of National Endowment for The Humanities that provides funding to programs and projects supporting the humanities in South Carolina. FREE

October 17: Cooking Filipino Food With Patrick Robinson

Learn to prepare authentic Filipino dishes with FAAGC member Patrick Robinson. Leave with new skills and a deeper appreciation for Filipino cuisine. FREE Location: Richland Library, Northeast

October 18: Sharing Our Culture Through Music And Dance With The FAAGC Dance Troupe

A private event for the Columbia VA Health Care System. Location: VA Hospital

October 24: K'na, The Dreamweaver @ Nickelodeon Theater, Columbia

Explores T'boli culture through an award-winning film, followed by a discussion on cultural preservation and challenges faced by the School for Indigenous Knowledge in Lake Sebu. Sponsored with a grant from SC Humanities, a state program of National Endowment for The Humanities that provides funding to programs and projects supporting the humanities in South Carolina. FREE

October 26: Rondalla Workshop

Led by Maestro Michael Dadap, alongside apprentices Chiara Cox, FAAGC's Cultural and Music Ambassador, and FAAGC member Kaye Wentley, this workshop will lay the foundation for establishing a rondalla in South Carolina. Sponsored by a grant from the SC Arts Commission (SCAC), which is dedicated to promoting equitable access to the arts and fostering creativity in South Carolina. CLOSED EVENT.

October 27: Kundiman Concert @ Winthrop University, Rock Hill

Cap off the month with a vibrant performance by Maestro Michael Dadap. Guest performances by FAAGC Cultural and Music Ambassador Chiara Cox and FAAGC member Marc Ramirez, Principal Contrabass for Sun Symphony Orchestra, Vietnam. Reception to follow. Sponsored with a grant from the SC Arts Commission (SCAC). The mission of the SCAC is to promote equitable access to the arts and support the cultivation of creativity in South Carolina. FREE

December 7, 2024: Christmas Fundraising Potluck @ St John Neumann School, Columbia

An afternoon filled with joy, delicious food and festive activities as we come together for the Christmas season. Enjoy caroling, singing, and dancing - Filipino style. Open to FAAGC members and non-members. FREE

FAAGC's 2024-2025

Calendar Of Events

December 14, 8:45 Am - Harvest Hope Volunteer Event

Join us in supporting South Carolina's largest food bank to provide food to those in need across the Midlands, Pee Dee, and Upstate. FAAGC members only, please. Please sign up with Debi Norris, FAAGC's Assistant Secretary and Chair of the Charitable Committee filamscdn@gmail.com

April 5 & 6, 2025 - Columbia International Festival @ SC Fairgrounds 1200 Rosewood Drive

We are excited to once again participate at the Columbia International Festival. Since 1996 the Festival has been bringing together Columbia's international communities to build better community/race relations with the South Carolina community at large. Visit our cultural display, taste our homemade cooking and watch our traditional dances at this popular Columbia event. Location: SC Fairgrounds 1200 Rosewood Dr, Columbia, SC

April 20, 2025 - Easter Picnic Potluck And General Membership Meeting Location: TBD

A wonderful opportunity for the FAAGC community to come together, celebrate Easter with a fun Easter egg hunt and discuss important update and plans for our community. Please bring a dish to share! Open to FAAGC members and non-members. FREE

May TBD, 2025 - Celebrate AAPI Month In Columbia Location: TBD

We are excited to participate in events around town that highlight the rich and diverse cultures of the Asian American and Pacific Islander community. Be on the lookout for FAAGC announcements featuring cultural activities, displays, Filipino food and traditional dances. Details to follow.

July TBD, 2025 - Summer Picnic Potluck And General Membership Meeting Location: TBD

A fun, relaxing afternoon in the shade with family and friends with some time to discuss important updates and plans for our community. Please bring a dish to share! Open to FAAGC members and non-members.

The Filipino-American Association of Greater Columbia is a charitable, all-volunteer, non-profit 501(c)(3) organization, proudly registered and incorporated in South Carolina. Our doors are open to anyone interested in supporting our objectives.

Since 1991, we've focused on three key areas: preserving and promoting Filipino heritage in Greater Columbia, fostering community relations through charitable work, and empowering the next generation with educational scholarships.

Get Involved: Interested in becoming a member or sponsoring one of our events? Reach out to filamsc@gmail.com. For more information, visit our website at https://filamsc.org/ or check out our Facebook page at https://www.facebook.com/FAAGC.

31st Gala Revisited



Sampaguita Soiree Event Program

5:00 PM	Open Doors	
6:00 PM	Official Start US National Anthem Olivia led by Juliet Harris Philippine National Anthem led by Janeth Creo Invocation by Ed Norris	
6:10 PM	Induction Ceremony of the 2024-2026 Executive Board by Cecille Jacobsen, FAAGC President 2013-2017	
6:15 PM	Dinner Service Starts: Food and Service by R&T Catering	
6:15 - 6:20 PM	Welcome Address by Nieves McNulty, FAAGC President 2024 -2026	
6:20 - 6:25 PM	A Video Message from Philippine Ambassador Jose Manual Romualdez	
6:25 - 6:30 PM	A Rendition of Huling Awit by Chiara Cox, FAAGC's Culture and Music Ambassador	
7:00 - 7:05 PM	Remarks from Reyna Funderburk, FAAGC President 2022-2024	
7 :05 - 7:15 PM	A Message from Christine Currie, Public Servant & Advocate for the AAPI Community and the Asian American & Pacific Islander Affairs Program Coordinator for the SC Commission for Minority Affairs	
7 :15 - 7:25 PM	Executive Board Appreciation by Nieves McNulty, FAAGC President 2024–2026 and Lifetime Awards Presentation by Daphne Lee Sabangan, FAAGC Second Vice President	
7:25 - 7:35 PM	Introduction of Raffle Prizes by Elen Callahan, FAAGC Secretary	
7 :35 - 8:05 PM	A Showcase Of Traditional Filipino Dance Sampaguita Ballet Jota Camarines Tinikling And Sayaw Sa Bangko Silong Sa Ganding (With Live Accompaniment From The Kulintang Ensemble)	
8:05 - 8:10 PM	Curtain call by Alma Robichaud, FAAGC Traditional Cultural Committee Chair	
8:10 - 8:15 PM	Raffle Drawing by Yvonne Brown, FAAGC First Vice President	
8:15 - 8:20 PM	Modern Dance Flower	
8:20 - 9:00 PM	Open Dance Extravaganza	
9:00 - 9:10 PM	Final Raffle Drawing and Closing Remarks from Reyna Funderburk, FAAGC President 2022-2024	
9:10 - 10:00 PM	Open dance dance	

