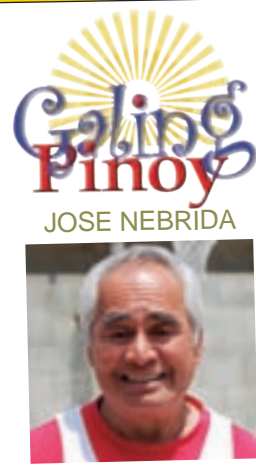




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THE FILIPINO-AMERICAN COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

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Volume 2—Issue 34 • 14 Pages

MAY 29-JUNE 4, 2009



Fil-Am honored for AIDS advocacy

MANILA—A Filipino-American was among the six Asia-Pacific Islanders honored at the New York City Comptroller's 8th Asian Pacific Island Heritage celebration for her long-time advocacy for Filipino-Americans, Asian, and Pacific Islander Americans living with HIV/AIDS.

The Philippine Consulate General in New York said NYC Comptroller William Thompson Jr. personally bestowed the awards on Therese R. Rodriguez and other honorees in Flushing, New York City last May 5.

Rodriguez, an alumna of St. Theresa's College in Manila, was also recognized for her work as executive director of the New York City-based Asian & Pacific Islander Coalition on HIV/AIDS Inc. (APICHA).

Under her leadership, APICHA has developed a comprehensive range of integrated services, including prevention interventions, bilingual case management, free HIV counseling and test-

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300 miles and counting

Pinay runner makes brief pit stop in Las Vegas



Joy Rojas AJPress photo by Rober Macabagdal

LAS VEGAS, NV—THE last time we saw Joy Rojas she was sprinting outside of Eagle Rock Plaza.

That was last May 10. The 44-year-old Pinay's goal was to run across America and 12 days later, she's made it to Las Vegas, NV.

"It's been the most colorful 12 days of my life," said Rojas in a press conference during Western Union's customer appreciation day outside of The Palace Station Hotel and Casino last Saturday, May 23. "It's a very difficult task to do but we have no regrets. In the

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LAKAS, KAMPI FORMALLY MERGE

2010 polls on—GMA

by MARVIN SY
Philstar.com



President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, with Congressman Arthur Defensor (L), member of the unification committee, and Gabriel Claudio, presidential political adviser and head of the unification committee, announces the merger of Lakas-CMD and Kampi, saying this is proof that the 2010 elections will push through.

Inquirer Photo by Lira Dalangin-Fernandez

MANILA—Read her lips: elections will take place next year as scheduled.

President Arroyo personally vouched for the holding of general elections next year during her speech on the merger of the country's two largest political parties last May 28.

Mrs. Arroyo dismissed speculations of a no-election scenario, citing the preparations made by the administration in the merger of the ruling party Lakas-Christian and Muslim Democrats (Lakas-CMD) and the Kabalikat ng Malayang Pilipino (Kampi).

"Cynics and detractors love to paint grim scenarios about the cancellation of the 2010 elections. Let this merger of Lakas and Kampi be tangible proof of the administration's readiness, nay determination, to help

ensure that the elections do push through," Mrs. Arroyo told the gathering at the Manila Hotel.

Mrs. Arroyo emphasized the holding of elections next year is a victory for the entire nation.

"Let us achieve victory in the context and manner of clean and credible elections worthy of the Filipino's democratic traditions," she said.

Mrs. Arroyo has kept her silence on the issue amid speculations of a cancellation of elections due to the efforts of administration allies at the House of Representatives to amend the Constitution.

Apart from signing the law on the automation of the country's election process early this year, Mrs. Arroyo left it to her aides to issue statements assuring the public that elections will

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RP entry a finalist in Democracy Video Challenge of US State Department

by PIA LEE-BRAGO
Philstar.com

MANILA—A film produced by two Filipino artists has been chosen one of 18 finalists in a worldwide video contest initiated by the United States' Department of State, the US Embassy in Manila announced last May 26.

The entry *Long Live the Fearless Man* by Aissa Peñañiel and Miguel Ocampo was short-listed from over 900 entries from 95 countries that participated in the Democracy Video Challenge that the state department and its partners launched in September 2008.

The 18 finalists are Brazil (with two chosen entries), Cote d'Ivoire, Germany, India, Iran (with two chosen entries), Japan, Nepal, Philippines, Poland,

Serbia, Singapore, United Arab Emirates, Uganda, the United States, Uzbekistan, and Zambia.

The videos may be viewed at <http://www.youtube.com/democracychallenge> or by searching on the Internet by title or on YouTube. Viewers may vote for their chosen video on the same site. Voting ends on midnight of June 15.

Each three-minute video entry attempted to define democracy by completing the phrase "Democracy is..."

The contest has resulted in more than 900 videos that provide an array of voices and visions about democracy from around the world.

A panel of jurors representing film, media, academia, democracy promotion and youth empowerment selected the finalists.

Michael Apted, president of the Directors Guild of America, and Hernando de Soto, president of the Institute for Liberty and Democracy, led the panel of jurors as co-chairmen.

Six winners—one from each region of the world—will be chosen from the 18 finalists. The producers of the six winning videos will be awarded an all-expense trip to New York, Washington, and Hollywood in October.

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Turning the economic crisis into opportunities

USPAACC Conference gives small and minority businesses strategic access, tools and solutions to sustain growth

by MOMAR G. VISAYA
AJPress

BROOKLYN, NY—The message was loud and clear: in order to thrive and succeed in these difficult times, Asian American businesses must turn the current economic challenges into opportunities.

But how exactly does one do that? "Build relationships and forge vital business alliances," said Susan Au Allen, USPAACC Education Foundation National President & CEO at the 24th CelebrAsian Business Opportunity Conference '09 at the New York Marriott at the Brooklyn Bridge last week. "CelebrAsian '09 will also emphasize the importance of business connections—solidified by the value of "face-time" and the power of a handshake. Today, these relationships are more important than ever."



FILIPINOS AT USPAACC. Filipino businessmen like X Green Energy director Juanito Dakis (left) and Census Bureau partnership specialist Jose Aquiling joined other Asian American business owners at the USPAACC Business Opportunity Conference last week at the New York Marriott at the Brooklyn Bridge.

This year's theme *Business Beyond Boundaries: Turning Challenges into Opportunities—Follow the Money*

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Fil-Am summa cum laude in Georgetown U

WASHINGTON, DC—Filipino-American Raymond Patrick Tolentino graduated summa cum laude from Georgetown University here and was named salutatorian of the university's Class of 2009, the Philippine embassy in the US said in a statement.

Tolentino earned a degree in English with a minor in Government and Japanese. He wrote a thesis entitled, *Bulosan and Beyond: Theorizing the Filipina/o Body Across Time and Space*.

As of spring 2009, Tolentino had a Quality Point Index of 3.989. Based on Georgetown University's academic regulations, a student must have attained a cumulative Quality Point Index of 3.9 or higher to graduate summa cum laude.

Explaining his choice to study the work of Filipino-American writer Carlos Bulosan for his thesis, Tolentino wrote, "In keeping with Bulosan's critical move to reclaim and retell a lost American history, I, too, hope to uncover voices that have been silenced—to render audible the exiled narratives often erased from the American historical archive."

"Taking seriously the demand to refuse the silence that grants injustices impunity, I explore Bulosan's text as a site of explosive liberatory potential, a text that uncovers the contradictions in the dominant narratives of American history," wrote Tolentino.

Philippine Ambassador to the US Willy Gaa congratulated Tolentino, saying his achievement was an inspiration to all youths regardless of their nationality and spoke very highly of Tolentino's upbringing and background.

Tolentino's parents, Raymundo and Eleanor, who are based in Dallas, Texas, say their son was brought up to be proud of his Filipino culture and heritage and was taught to value education.

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