



FILIPINO-AMERICAN Association of Greater Columbia

MILESTONES OF A GROWING ORGANIZATION

... Nineteen 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 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.



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



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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.
- Dec. 19, 2007** FAAGC delivers donation from the 2007 gala fundraiser and matching Association funds to *Hospicio de San Jose*, the *Asilo de San Vicente de Paul*, the ERDA (Educational Research and Development Assistance) Foundation (all in Manila), and the SOS Children's Village in Tacloban City, Leyte.
- Feb. 9, 2009** FAAGC delivers donation from the 2008 gala fundraiser and matching Association funds to the Philippine National Red Cross.
- April 12, 2009** Marj Peña is elected FAAGC president.
- Aug. 29, 2009** The City of Columbia proclaims this date as *Filipino-American Day*.
- Aug. 29, 2009** Philippine Ambassador to the U.S. Willy C. Gaa and Columbia City Councilman Kirkman Finlay III (representing Mayor Robert Coble) attend *19th Annual Gala*, the first-time either the Philippine Ambassador or an official city representative is in attendance.