



by: Ronaldo E. Puno, RMT, MBA-H:

## ASEAN Med Techs Gather in KL (As ASEAN Heads of State Meet in NY)



PAMET representatives receiving the AACLS flag as the 2012 host.

The 13th ASEAN Conference of Clinical Laboratory Sciences (ACCLS) was held last September 25-27, 2010, at the sprawling Royal Chulan Hotel at the heart of central business district in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. This year's theme focused on "Updates in Laboratory Medicine" which coincided with 21st National Scientific Conference of Malaysian Institute of Medical Laboratory Sciences (MIMLS) and the 25th Year of ASEAN Association for Clinical Laboratory Sciences (AACLS). The event took place at the height of the ASEAN leaders' meeting which happened simultaneously in New York City on the same dates.

ACCLS is a biennial meeting of six member countries under AACLS namely the Philippines, Malaysia, Indonesia, Singapore, Brunei and Thailand. The conference was well-attended by Medical Technologists/Medical Laboratory Scientists not only from member countries but from

other neighboring countries as well.

The 3-day scientific sessions provided a wide array of fresh information, latest updates and trends as well as exciting and memorable social experiences that every delegate from various parts of the region truly enjoyed.

Day 1 was highlighted by simple yet meaningful opening ceremonies which was immediately followed by a reception in the same venue. A diagnostic exhibits on the state-of-the-art technology complemented the event's theme. In the afternoon of day 1, foreign delegates were treated to a city tour that showcased the pride of Malaysia in a nutshell.

The second day was full-packed with scientific sessions, meetings and social events. It was characterized by a series of plenary and breakout sessions, Biennial General Meeting (BGM) and election in the afternoon and gala dinner at night. The night's gala dinner was highlighted with presentations from each member country. The Philippine delegation was the only group which presented a modern dance number which diverted from the traditional cultural presentations of other countries. It was also the most opportune time to showcase the best

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by: Ronaldo E. Puno, RMT, MBA-H:

## PAMET Joins P & G as It Turns Diamond



In appreciation of its more than two decades of partnership, PAMET, with its President Leila M. Florento and Executive Secretary Ronaldo E. Puno joined the hundred of jubilant greeters and well-wishers during the Procter & Gamble Phils. ' grand celebration and gala night on the occasion of its 75th years of historic presence in the country. P & G Phils. is the 3rd biggest subsidiary in the world and the first in Asia. The event was held at the Harbor Garden Tent of Sofitel Philippine Plaza Hotel, Pasay City last November 16, 2010 with the theme "Touching Lives. Improving Life".

The diamond celebration was graced and made even more special by no less than His Excellency Pres. Benigno Simeon Aquino III, who paid a tribute and gave recognition to P & G's important contributions to

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## PRESIDENT'S ZONE



LEILA M. FLORENTO, RMT, Ph.D

Greetings!

We are on the last quarter of the year and yet there are so many activities we still have to attend to before the year end Annual Convention.

In September, we had the Med Tech Week celebration. It was a simple celebration but a successful one. We thanked the Over-all Med Tech Week Committee Chair Ms. Gina Noble for spearheading the events. The programs were coordinated by Community Outreach Committee Chair Joycellyn Aman, Research Forum by Committee Chair Lily Alquiza, Advocacy by Committee Chair Agnes Medenilla, CMTE by Committee Chair Ronaldo Puno, Quiz Show by Committee Chair Gamaliel Fulgueras and Sportsfest by Committee Chair Georgene Jimenez. Kudos to the cooperation of the team!

Regional Conferences were hosted by different Chapters. The Mindanao Regional Conference was hosted by Zamboanga Chapter, the North Luzon Regional Conference by Pangasinan Chapter and the South Luzon Regional Conference by Laguna Chapter. The participants to all the Regional Conferences were more than the expected number. Wherever we go, Med Techs came in full force. Baguio, Batangas, Nueva Ecija and Bataan Chapters had their own scientific seminar activities and invitations were extended to all of us. I am extremely gratified that Medical Technologists continuously pursue excellence through attendance in scientific activities. There is no doubt that our association has made significant strides in engaging our members in these activities.

We hope the programs we have started will continue through

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## LABNOTES



GINA A. NOBLE, RMT

The culminating event for this year is the PAMET's 46th Annual Convention which will be held this December 1 to 3 at the Manila Hotel. For the concluding issue of PAMET link 2010, it showcases the organization's activities in the last four months. These include the Med.Tech.Week celebration which started from Community Outreach to Thanksgiving Mass, Quiz show, Research Forum, Advocacy and the Inter-Hospital Sportsfest. International as well as regional conferences are also featured in this issue. The P & G activities are among the events included in this last issue. The Committee on Publication was able to release three issues of Pametlink which we promised during our planning session, the objective of which is to make sure that all members are well-informed of what is going on in the world of laboratory medicine. The year has been a prolific year for the editorial staff and I want to convey my heartfelt appreciation for the efforts exerted and time spent by everyone in every issue of this newsletter. More power to PAMET.

Mabuhay Medical Technologists!

*For more information, please log on to [www.pametinc.org](http://www.pametinc.org)*

by: Gina A. Noble, RMT

## Medical Technology Week Celebration 2010: Another Event to Remember



This year's Medical Technology Week celebration, with the theme "Perspectives to New Frontiers in Medical Technology" was held last September 12-19, 2010.

The Community Outreach at a Barangay in Taguig kicked-off the week-long celebration which was held on September 12. There were many children who benefited from this endeavor. Med. Tech. Volunteers shared their effort and time in performing some laboratory procedures such as CBC, Blood Typing and Stool examination. Many PAMET members and friends from diagnostic industry volunteered in this activity.

The Opening Ceremony and Thanksgiving Mass was successfully held at Delos Santos Medical Center on September 13, 2010. PAMET Board Members

### ASEAN MedTech in KL... from page 1

of Philippine tourism which the group did through a video presentation.

The last day of conference continued with the discussion of carefully-selected topics which culminated with the closing ceremonies in the afternoon.

The Philippine delegation actively participated in various events. PAMET Pres. Leila M. Florento and VP Romeo Joseph J. Ignacio represented the country during the BGM meeting. Pres. L. Florento also gave a lecture on status of Medical Technology in the Philippines while VP R. Ignacio acted as Comelec during the election. Exec. Sec. Ronaldo E. Puno presented the country report while Treas. Eleanor P. Garcia, Auditor Luella A. Vertucio and PRO Gamaliel A. Fulgueras were the other PAMET representatives in the meeting. Director Lily Alquiza chaired a symposia while Advisory Council Member Marilyn R. Atienza chaired a plenary session. Med. Board Member Marian M. Tantingco was also present.

Geromil J. Lara and Jasmen S. Pasia of San Pedro College presented their research papers which they conducted in Davao City.

The 14th ACCLS will held be in Manila in 2012, the 3rd time Philippines will be hosting the event.

were present together with Medical Technologists from the academe and diagnostic industry.

Research forum was held at the Trinity University of Asia on September 14. Many students were present during the presentation of scientific papers. In addition to NCR participants, there were representatives from Davao City. Outstanding Medical Technologist Professor Winefreda de Leon acted as one of the panelists.

PAMET-PASMETH Quiz Show was held last September 16 at the University of Sto Tomas, Medicine Auditorium. There were 23 schools who participated in this big event. The winners were G. Tamayo Perpetual Help - 1st place, AUP - 2nd place and UST -3rd place.

The 3rd Continuing Medical Technology Education (CMTE) seminar was held at the Valdes Hall of the Veterans Memorial Medical Center. The topic was "Customer Satisfaction in the Era of Automation". Almost 200 Medical Technologists attended this seminar. There were three speakers who shared their expertise in the field of laboratory automation and customer service.

The Bowling Tournament which was held at the Playdiumin Quezon City culminated the celebration. Different hospitals participated in this friendly competition. The diagnostic companies also joined the game. Winners were VMMC - 1st place, San Juan de Dios - 2nd place and Sysmex - 3rd place.

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the years, that is, continuing to educate ourselves, to sharpen skills to be able to gain insights into the trends to meet challenges of the future.

Although I shall not leave the board just yet and am looking forward to taking significant responsibilities in the years ahead as long as I can, I would like to express my thanks to all of you for the unwavering support and advice I have received as president. I have treasured and enjoyed the privilege of serving this dynamic association and I am convinced of its great potential through the many untapped talents among our members and their readiness to contribute to the vision and future of PAMET. I am just happy to be of service for the upliftment of the Med Tech profession through PAMET.



by: Gamaliel A. Fulgueras, RMT

## PAMET-PASMETH Quiz Show: A Prelude to a Pearly Celebration



This year's celebration of the PAMET PASMETH Quiz Show marks its 29th year of existence. In preparation to the pearl anniversary of the quiz show, the organizers of the quiz show injected some fun filled formula that is trivia questions where there was an audience participation and entertaining numbers to make a lively and energetic contest.

The 29th PAMET PASMETH Intercollegiate Quiz Show was held at the University of Santo Tomas after more than 13 years. Consolidated shouts, joys and cheers among students nationwide supported their representatives on this most-awaited event of the Medical Technology Week Celebration which took place on September 16, 2010.

The show started with a prayerful dance performance from PAX ROM ANA followed by singing of the National Anthem by Pharmacy Glee Club. An AVP of the PAMET Hymn was played. Dean Priscilla Torres of Faculty of Pharmacy, Medical Technology and Biochemistry of University of Santo Tomas welcome everybody while Prof Magdalena Natividad, PASMETH President did the opening remarks. Likewise, PAMET President Leila Florento delivered a brief message before the crowd.

Ushered by the medical technology interns of Veterans Memorial Medical Center, a breathtaking performance commenced the show as if it epitomizes the true essence of the contest, being friendly and sport. Everyone was excited and their adrenaline peaking as a roll call was made making the auditorium filled up with loud cheers and sounds of an array of musical instruments.

With 23 participating schools coming from as far as Baguio City in the North way down to Davao City in the South, each school did surely brought home a memory that is worth keeping. These schools were: Adventist University of the Philippines (AUP), Angeles University Foundation (AUF), Cagayan State University (CSU), Centro Escolar University (CEU), Calayan Educational Foundation, Inc., Dr. Carlos Lanting College, Emilio Aguinaldo College (EAC), Far Eastern University (FEU), Good Samaritan College (GSC), Lyceum of the Philippines University (LPU), Manila Central University (MCU), Our Lady of Fatima University (OLFU), San Juan de Dios Educational Foundation, INC (SJDEFI), San Pedro College (SPC), Trinity University of Asia

(TUA), University of Baguio (UB), University of Perpetual Help - Dalta (UPH-D), UPH-Dr. G. Tamayo Medical University, University of Pangasinan, University of Santo Tomas (UST), and World Citi Colleges. First time to join the competition was the University of Perpetual Help Dalta-Calamba.

Gracing the event were former PAMET President Norma Chang who chaired the Board of Judges. The distinguished members of the board were Victor Lomboy, Vice President for Sales Clinical Diagnostics Group Lifeline Diagnostics Supplies, Inc, Noeme Comin, Chief Med Tech of New World Laboratory, Flordeliza Esguerra, Chief Medical Technologist of Aventus Medical Care Inc. , Maura Isais, Chief Medical Technologist of Bulacan Medical Center, Marco Reza Hernando, Training Coordinator for HIV/Hepatitis STD AIDS Center (SACCL), Lito Atienza, Regional Director for PAMET South Luzon

After the mechanics of the contest was given by PAMET PRO Gamaliel Fulgueras, this year's Chairman of the Quiz Show, the contest proceeded with PAMET Executive Secretary Ronaldo Puno as the Quiz Master. Thirty questions were asked in this battle of the wits.

As a well deserved breather, FEU-NRMF intern Krizta Lita Torrecampo gave an intermission number with a song "THE CLIMB" which depicts challenge, encouragement, dedication and inspiration to work harder. An audio visual presentation of triumphant moments of the past quiz contests was shown while Ms. Torrecampo was singing this Miley Cyrus song.

Another energetic dance number from the interns of Delos Santos Medical Center was performed during the second part of the quiz proper. Another interpretative dance number was rendered by the Pax Romana after the third part of the contest.

As each minute passed, the crowd

by: Joycelynn L. Aman, RMT, MBA

## The Safeguard Scholars 2010: New G.E.M.S. of the Profession



The “Handog ng Safeguard, Med. Techs. ng Kinabukasan” Scholarship Program Awards Night was held on October 28, 2010 at The Conservatory, Peninsula Hotel Manila. The theme of the event was “Group of Empowered Medtech Scholars” or G.E.M.S.

The host for the evening was Mr. Tonypet Gaba. Multifaceted scholars such as Randy Gran, Marikit Laya Canonigo and Junelle Dumangan shared their outstanding talents in singing. Glen Bernard Asto won P5,000.00 for the Best Essay Award.

It was really a night to remember especially for fifteen talented and deserving Bachelor of Science in Medical Technology incoming sophomore students who composed the 21st Batch of “Handog ng Safeguard, Med. Techs. ng Kinabukasan” Scholars. They are: Axle Bon Sema (UST), Daphne Elizabeth Ruiz (FEU-NRMF), Djanico Bianco Quimio (LPU-UB), Glen Bernard Asto (SLU), Jan Bendric Borbe (UST), Jay Garreth Villanueva (LPU-UB), Jessah April Naingue (Southwestern Univ.), Jubilee Limsiaco (CSA), Junelle Dumangan (UST), Merari Fuertes (CEU), Michael Jan Anggan (AUP), Milrose Mercado (Central Philippines Univ.), Owen Paul Tagarda (Liceo de Cagayan Univ.), Sherine Felipe (Our Lady of Fatima Univ.) and Ville Patrick de Leon (Univ. of Immaculate Conception).

The eleven scholar graduates honoured during the ceremony were: Katherine Fabros (San Pedro College), Randy Gran (Univ. of Immaculate Conception), Setrina Grace Carbajosa (San Pedro College), Mary Grace Hernaez (Carlos Lanting College), Darwin Llanes (Univ. of Batangas), Glezia Marie Perez (Univ. of Negros Occidental Recoletos), Rhea Marie Taguic (CEU), Liza Guico (UB), Marikit Laya Canonigo (FEU-NRMF), Neme Emmanuelle Baylen (Colegio de San Agustin-Bacolod),

and Vanessa Eguia (CEU).

Dr. Leila M. Florento, PAMET National President congratulated the awardees together with their parents and mentors. According to her, success story does not happen overnight. It has to be earned through hard work. She also reminded them to give the value back to the community. Likewise, she thanked Procter and Gamble for the partnership.

Mr. Jaymee Andaya, P&G Public Affairs Officer, handed over the P2M Scholarship Grant Check to President Florento. According to him, year 2010 is very important because this year is the 75th Anniversary of P&G in the Philippines.

The ceremony ended with a symbolic toast among Scholars, Parents, Deans of different Colleges and Universities and Officers of PAMET, PASMETH and P&G.





by: *Gamaliel A. Fulgueras, RMT*

## PAMET Baguio-CAR Chapter: 40 on 10-10-10



October 10, 2010 (an alliteration of numbers 10-10-10) was a very special date for PAMET Baguio

Chapter as it celebrated with pride and vibrance its forty years of nurturing the medical technologists to professional excellence and fostered unity among members of the association.

Even during trying times, PAMET Baguio CAR Chapter never failed to continue its responsibility of developing and disseminating the educational and technological advancement of its members.

Thus for this year, the chapter came up with the 4th Annual Scientific Chapter Conference. The theme was anchored on "RUBY in Medical Technology Practice". The word RUBY was emphasized on Research Oriented, Unbiased Analysis, Beyond Expectations, and Professional Integrity. The invitation was even extended to the nearby provinces of the Northern Luzon from Cagayan Valley down to Bulacan. It was already comparable to a regional event.

The opening ceremonies commenced with the traditional processional which was participated by PAMET National Officers led by President Leila Lany Florento, the Officers and Board of Directors of Baguio CAR Chapter led by its Chapter President Diego Ofiaza, and Northern Luzon Regional Director Julius Capili. After the formal ceremonies, various awards were conferred to the medical technologists who have contributed to the advancement of the profession in their localities. These were Lilibeth Martin of Abra Provincial Hospital as Most Outstanding Medical Technologist, former Baguio Benguet Chapter President Zenaida DJ Navalta as Atty. Cesar J. Villena Lifetime Achievement Awardee, and Cristina Bartolome of Benguet Laboratories for her Distinguished Service.

During the whole day affair, five equally noted speakers were invited to discuss the featured topics from different perspectives. Dr. Frederick Llanera, a Pathologist from Philippine Heart Center had 2 topics to discuss. These were "Evaluation of Peripheral Blood Smear" and "Application of Molecular Diagnostics". PAMET National President Leila Florento, aside from delivering her Keynote Address

earlier, shared her insights on the topic "The Epitome of Professional Integrity". Afternoon sessions had the following topics: "Prevention of Healthcare-Related Infections" by Dr. Antonio Bautista, Deputy Program manager from Global Fund Malaria Grant, "Embracing Research Towards An Evidenced-Based Medical Technology Practice Responsive to National Development" by Dr. Erlinda Castro-Palaganas from the University of the Philippines in Baguio City and "Marketing Laboratory Services: A Holistic Approach" by PAMET Executive Secretary Ronaldo Puno.

The conference will not be complete without the Fellowship Dinner. The delegates were treated to a sumptuous dinner with lots of fun games and raffles on the side.

PAMET Baguio-CAR Chapter was very appreciative to the reception given to them by its neighboring chapters. Endless gratitude to the members whose innovativeness, work-dedication and sacrifices have made PAMET Baguio CAR chapter adapts and survives through the years. Foremost to God, whose tireless guidance has been always there for the past 40 years.

by: *Gina A. Noble, RMT*

## MINDANAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE



The Mindanao Regional Conference in Zamboanga was held last September 3-4, 2010. There were more than 100 participants from Mindanao region who attended the conference. It was a well-organized event... our salute to the organizers of this successful conference.

Congresswoman Maria Isabel Climaco who was invited as the keynote speaker, highlighted the vital role of Medical Technologists in the diagnosis of diseases and their critical part in the improvement of healthcare system in the country. She emphasized that Med. Techs. deserve proper acknowledgement on the difficult and challenging tasks the laboratory professionals are engaged in.

During the fellowship night, none other than Honorable City Mayor Celso Lobregat gave the inspirational message and serenaded the Med.Techs. through his enchanting music.

by: Gamaliel A. Fulgueras, RMT

## ANOTHER ONE BITES THE DUST DOWN UNDER



If PAMET Singapore has become an epitome of what global perspective is for the association, a Filipino medical technologist is making his own name in a land down under, nope, not in Australia but in Aotearoa (New Zealand).

Browsing the pages of the latest souvenir program of the Annual Scientific Meeting 2010 of the New Zealand Institute of Medical Laboratory Science (NZIMLS), one can find a speaker in the name of MJ del Barrio. MJ who? The name is familiar but the question is “is he a Latino or a Filipino?” Sounds familiar not because of the famous Thalia’s Maria la del Barrio but because MJ del Barrio was a medical technology intern in Veterans Memorial Medical Center in 2003 and he is a Filipino

Mel John del Barrio is a registered Medical Technologist practicing the profession in Auckland New Zealand. He is a recipient of Aotea Pathology Graduate Scholarship for 2010, a post graduate scholarship grant he received from his current employer Aotea Pathology Wellington. He will commence his post-graduate studies with Massey University.

MJ has worked as a MLT in the Histology/Microbiology of Labtest Auckland on weekdays and as a phlebotomist during the weekends. He has also working experiences at Diagnostic Medlab Auckland- as MLT in Histology and as a Medical Technologist I at Ospital ng Makati prior to his plight in New Zealand.



A product of Centro Escolar University College of Medical Technology in 2003 with full and partial scholarship from USC-CEU from 1999 to 2003, he ranked 10th in the licensure examination for medical technologists in September 2003.

Described by New Zealand Institute of Medical Laboratory Science (NZIMLS) as a multi-skilled Medical Laboratory Technician, MJ’s presentation in their annual meeting was “Dewaxing Without

Xylene: Liquid Dishwashing Soap as a Deparaffinizing Agent”. Mel John’s special interest is in Immunohistochemistry and Special Stains.

MJ has unselfishly shared his knowledge to his fellow medical technologists and has been in the forefront in promoting professional development within the organization in New Zealand. Who knows one day, he will be instrumental in organizing a chapter to reach our fellow medical technologists in a land down under? That could be another one bites the dust, an epitome of a globally competitive Filipino Medical Technologist.

**PAMET join P&G... from page 1**

Philippine economy for seven and a half decades. Top government officials, business giants and luminaries from various industries were in full force to take part in this momentous milestone.

Hundreds of jubilant and evidently proud P & G high ranking officials and employees from all the world, led by its global CEO Mr. Robert Mc Donald packed the full-house venue. Various showbiz personalities added glitz and entertainment to the already glamorous affair with its Filipiniana motif, elegantly prepared program and tastefully selected sit-down dinner. Among those who took part in the entertainment part of the program were Boy Abunda, Charlene Gonzales, Bianca Gonzales, Eric Santos, Pops Fernandez, Martin Nievera, Arnel Pineda, Lea Salonga, Vernie Varga and many other equally high caliber artists.

To P & G, warmest congratulations from your partner in better health, PAMET!





by: Gamaliel A. Fulgueras, RMT

## VMMC Bowlers Bag Championship in PAMET Tournament



The Veterans Memorial Medical Center bowling team bagged the championship title in the PAMET 10-Pin Bowling Tournament. It was organized by the Philippine Association of Medical Technologists at The Playdium in Quezon City last September 19, 2010. It won the championship for the first time this year after more than ten years of participation. The VMMC bowling team is composed of Ruby Rosa Austria, Nenneth Dioneda, Gamaliel Fulgueras, Carlos Carpio, Jeafril Angelo Raymundo, Christian Paul Guevara and Edmund Custodio.

Groups of Medical Technologists came together in hopes of getting the chance to call themselves the association champs.

The Veterans players garnered 2,041 points to win the championship, followed by San Juan de Dios Hospital, first runner-up with 1720 pinfalls and Sysmex/Zafire team, second runner-up with 1716 pinfalls.

Other teams were from Manila Adventists Medical Center (1679 points), PGH-Global (1548), The Medical City (1504), Quezon City General Hospital (1408), Victor R. Potenciano Medical Center (1495), Delos Santos Medical Center (1409), PAMET/MEAKKA/UST (1326), Manila Doctors Hospital (1302), and Far Eastern University-NRMF (1223). Some pathologists like Dr.

Roman and Dr. Quiaoit joined the tournament.

PAMET conducts the yearly tournament among hospital laboratories and diagnostic centers as well as private laboratories to promote the spirit of sportsmanship and camaraderie among the medical technologists. PAMET President Leila Florento said the tournament was a way to make some new friends. "It is a good chance for us to get together, have a little social time and cheer each other on," she further said.

PAMET Director Georgene Gimenez chairs the Committee on Sports.

### PAMET PASMETH Quiz Show... from page 1

got wild and tension was everywhere as the quiz show was nearing the momentum. After the six mind-grueling rounds of tie breaker questions for this year's champion, students cheered for University of Perpetual Help Dr. G. Tamayo in Binan Laguna and the Adventist University of the Philippines wherein the former emerged as champion while AUP, a medical technology school in Silang Cavite settled for the second place. The defending champion, University of Santo Tomas is this year's third placer. Therefore, the turn-over of the "Key to Excellence" from UST to Dr. G. Tamayo.

This year's quiz bee was hosted by Mr. Michael Dizon and Ms. Evita Leona Buenavista of Veterans Memorial Medical Center. Anchored by Mr. Arnold Billones of Sysmex, the whole show was a concoction of learning and fun intertwined with trivia questions and gifts.

This brain twisting event is a part of the Med Tech Week Celebration spearheaded by PAMET Director Gina Noble. As a cliché goes "see you in the 2011 National Quiz Bee, our Pearl Celebration of the PAMET PASMETH Interscholar Quiz Show".

## TRANSITION

### PAMET Laments the Demise of Our Colleague:

**JAENNETTE DE GUZMAN ARCOS**, 54, Section Head, Clinical Microscopy / General Laboratory of Veterans Memorial Medical Center in Quezon City joined her Creator on November 23, 2010 after fighting for bone cancer detected only last July. She was survived by her husband Regie Arcos, also a Medical Technologist and a Physical Therapist, and only daughter, Zyra Krisha. Mrs. Arcos was an active PAMET member until the time she succumbed to death. She was a graduate of University of Santo Tomas in 1978.

