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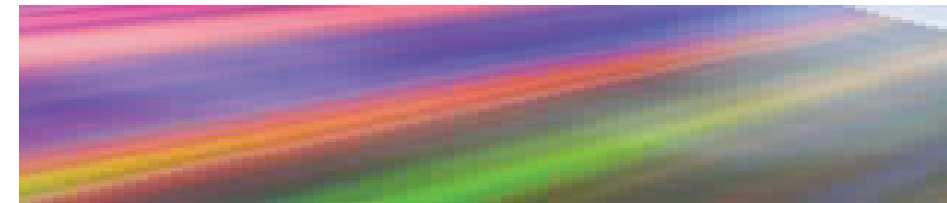


# INtouch

The Official Publication of Philippine Nurses Association of New Jersey, Inc (PNANJ, Inc.)

## ILLUMINATING THE WAY TO THE FUTURE WITH THE PRISM OF THE PAST

PNANJ welcomes 2008-2010 officers as the torch of leadership is passed on



Inspired by the words of Mr. Leo Jurado, President of the PNA, in his convention speech PNANJ gears toward a new direction as the officers of the 2008-2010 headed by Madelyn Yu, newly elected President, lead the organization to a new era in its continuous pursuit of its mission to uphold the image and foster the welfare of its members in the state of NJ as a professional group. The strategic goals defined and formulated by this administration challenge its members to a new commitment to PNANJ and to seek new heights of success, merits and glory beyond what has been achieved in the past. The goals categorically can be summarized into : 1. Increasing membership. 2. Enhancing growth and professional development of its members. 3. Building alliances and networking within the community, the profession and the world to increase visibility, viability, vitality and valuation. PNANJ adapting to the call of the times for change is advancing to a definite future whose roadmap has been laid and its leaders ready. And with every new path that PNANJ takes the way shall be illuminated by the light of the prism that radiates the different colors of our struggles, our elders, and our past that shaped our history. *Mabuhay* and welcome to the 2008- 2010 Executive Board.

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FALL 2008

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**Jan 28-Feb 2, 2008**  
PNA International Conference, Manila Philippines  
**Mar 28-29, 2008**  
**Mar 31, 2008**  
PNA Western Regional Conference  
PNA Nursing Excellence Award  
**April 19, 2008**  
PNANJ Annual Spring Convention  
**June 3, 2007**  
PNA North Central Regional Conference, Kansas City, MO  
**April 26, 2008**  
PNANJ Morris County Subchapter Dinner Dance  
& Induction of Officers  
**May 15-17, 2008**  
South Central Regional Conference, Florida  
**May 30, 2008**  
PNA Scholarship / PNA PRIDE Award  
**June 1, 2008**  
PIDC parade/Bergen parade  
**June 5, 2008**  
Governor's Merit Award  
NJSNA.org  
**June 11, 2008**  
Philippine Heritage Day  
Philippine Consulate General NY reception  
**June 14, 2008**  
PNANJ Leadership Workshop at UMDNJ  
**July 5, 2008**  
Atlantic County Subchapter picnic  
**July 15-18, 2008**  
28th PNA Annual National Convention - South Padre Island, Texas  
**August 16-17, 2008**  
Philippine Fiesta Health Fair  
**August 24, 2008**  
PNANJ Family Picnic  
Ocean Cty 10th Anniversary  
**September 26, 2008**  
PNANJ Gala & Awards Night, Marriott Hotel Liberty Airport, Newark, NJ  
**October 2008**  
Educational Offering  
Bergen County TBA  
Hudson County TBA  
**November 2008**  
Educational Offering  
**December 2008**  
Christmas Party  
**April 18, 2009**  
PNANJ Annual Spring Convention

### DATES TO REMEMBER

**Oct. 21 • Nov. 18 • Dec. 5**  
NJ Board of Nursing Regular Meeting  
Time: 9:00 am to 1:00 pm  
Contact: Leo Felix Jurado at [ljurado@ccm.edu](mailto:ljurado@ccm.edu)

# From the desk of the President

PNANJ Annual Spring Convention April 19, 2008

As we all gather today in celebration of the nursing profession in general, and looking at specific issues that affect nursing at present, we look back with grateful appreciation to our founders and leaders who have paved the way for us to be in the position right now to have a voice in charting our future.

The theme of our annual spring convention is as timely and as relevant as can be, given the state of healthcare today, and the plight of some of our Filipino colleagues. "Advocacy for Nursing, The Heart of our Profession" is very meaningful and needed today as we look at every aspect of the nursing profession. The challenge of nursing shortage is still experienced by most of us in a daily basis. The cry for equal and fair treatment from recruiters and employers, local and foreign, calls for our attention and assistance as we read the headlines and stories of some of the unfortunate nurses who are in the U.S. recently and some who have been practicing their profession here for some time. Some of our colleagues suffer in silence, some have found their voices, and some of them have found comfort and assistance from organizations like the PNANJ, PNA, ANA, NJSNA, the legal advisers, and the community of nursing in general. There are tremendous challenges for all of us. The Filipino spirit is strong and pliant like our native bamboo tree, that sways with the wind and arches its proud branches to the heavens. The Filipino nurse comes to our adopted home, the USA, armed with knowledge, skills, perseverance, diligence to overcome any roadblock she or he may have while practicing the nursing profession. The Filipino spirit is indomitable. In a survey of the most happy people in the world, the Filipinos ranked high in spite of the economic challenges that beset our motherland.

As a profession, the nurse enjoys the confidence of the community she works in, as survey shows year



Madelyn D. Yu, RN, MSN

after year that nurses are the most trusted professionals in the U.S. The Filipino nurse has all the ingredients needed to succeed in the exciting, albeit, challenging arena of nursing, whether it is in the boardroom, the nursing administration, the halls of academia, the education and research field in hospital settings, the specialty areas as advance practice nurses, or the regulatory Board of Nursing, or liaisons in the community. Today we thank our partners in the nursing profession who have extended their hands in collegial support to the efforts that PNANJ continue to do. We will continue the mission of the PNANJ for which the organization was formed to uphold the image and foster the welfare of Filipino-American nurses in the State of New Jersey as a professional group.

The Executive Board, officers and members of the 2008-2010 have the goals of promoting the strategic imperatives of the Philippine Nurses Association of America and Philippine Nurses Association of New Jersey through its local strategic goals and ways of achieving them:

1. Strategic growth by increasing the membership to 1000 plus by 2009 by reaching out to counties in New Jersey that do not have a PNANJ subchapter.
2. People development by conducting continuing education for the members; leadership training for the Executive Board, enhancing IT skills, rewards & recognition (CARE Awards), health promotion through participation in wellness challenges, advocacy for its members and research development.
3. Community Alliances through involvement with the regulatory board such as the NJ Board of Nurs-

ing, partnership with the media, PAC group, alliances with nursing stakeholders and global alliances.

We thank the leaders who gave us the foundation to make this organization the most successful chapter of the PNA. We welcome new members as we charge forward to fulfill our mission to advocate for nurses and provide support in many ways as we develop & implement strategies to enhance the image of nursing and provide the best care possible to our patients.

## 31ST Annual Spring Convention Hits the Mark

PNANJ once again touched the hearts and souls of the participants in its annual spring convention held on April 19, 2008 at Marriott Newark International Hotel. The topic, aptly chosen by the education committee, Nursing Advocacy : The Heart of Professional Practice opened up with Barbara Chamberlain, President Elect NJSNA as the keynote speaker tackling the topic, Don't Blame the Nurse; Fix the System, echoing the sentiments of the nurses of systems and institutions that create barriers for nursing practice. Lolita Iqbal, APRN, BC shared her expertise by discussing the role of the nurses in the prevention and intervention of violent behavior. Dr. Linda Flynn presented her doctoral findings in her State of the Nursing Workforce in NJ and opened our eyes to how much of a workforce we are to be reckoned with if we unite and apply the supply and demand equation to bargain for our economic emancipation as the shortage of nursing continues to reach a new height by 2010.

As she focused on how much foreign nurses remain as the main source of nursing care in the US she set the stage for the next speaker, Virginia Alinsao, MBA, MS who enumerated the steps to an ethical recruitment of foreign educated nurses. She shared her personal experiences on the woes and pitfalls of why some nurses get exploited, deported or worst litigated. She summed up her advice against illegal recruitment by affirming that knowing all the essentials before signing any contract is necessary to safeguard

Continued on next page ...

was her Anemia Management Protocol that she researched based on the NFK network KDOQI guidelines that resulted in improved quality of life for dialysis patients.

She was nominated by Majuvy Sulse who was very impressed with Isabelitas knowledge when they were speakers in the Balik-turo program in the Philippines. She obtained her BSN at the Divine Word University in Tacloban City, Philippines in 1977.

### Judith E. Schmidt, RN, MSN, ONC, CCRN HONORARY MEMBER

Judy has been a nurse at Community Medical Center for almost thirty years. She has worked in medical-surgical, orthopedics, ICU/MICU. She served in nursing administration as a Clinical Coordinator in Orthopedics, Administrator for Nursing Services and Administrative Director for Nursing Administration. She is an adjunct faculty at the Ocean County College of Nursing from 1993 to present. Judy also is a Board Member and Vice President of NJSNA Institute of Nursing and an ANA Delegate 2008 House of Delegates. She is also the President of CMC Auxiliary (TWIG) and is very much involved in fundraising activities for CMC Foundation and Ocean County. Judy has been a member of the advisory board for PNA NJ Ocean County since its inception. She advocates for the Filipino-American nurses and their families and that is what makes her special. Thank you for all you do and for your never ending support.

### Majuvy Lagado Sulse, MSN, RN, CCRN Nurse Researcher and Scholar of the Year PNA 2008

Ms. Sulse's achievement demonstrates the excellence that Filipino nurses bring to the nursing profession. Her research on "A Study on the Acculturation of Foreign Educated Nurses" proved to be valuable not only to all the healthcare systems in New Jersey but as far as Alicante, Spain and was awarded "Best in Application of a Nursing Theory or Model." She was the PNA NJ immediate past secretary and now Essex County Subchapter President. She was recently chosen as NCEMNA Mentee at the National Convention in San Diego, Ca. She is a staff nurse in the MICU/CCU at the VA Medical Center, New Jersey Healthcare System.

CONGRATULATIONS!

## SUBCHAPTER REPORTS

### Atlantic -Cape May Sub-Chapter

- Bake Sale to benefit Flood Victims at Iloilo Province, Philippines July 14, ARMC City Campus July 17, ARMC Mainland Campus
- August 30, 2008--Subchapter President ,Rachel Baldomar distributed \$500 worth of groceries and goods to flood victims at Jaro Gym, Jaro, Iloilo,
- July 5, 2008---Annual Family Picnic at Kennedy Park, Somers Point . The affair went smoothly , despite threat of showers in the morning.

### Monmouth County Sub-chapter Hosts Educational Presentation

Rebecca Graboso, MSN, RN, CCRN, APN-C

- 2008-2010 Officers took their oath of office at the Annual Spring Convention last April in Marriott
- Summer subchapter picnic held July 26, 2008 at Veterans Memorial Park in Holmdel ,NJ. General Membership meeting was conducted. New members were recruited.
- Attended Fil.Am Healthfair in Woodbridge, NJ recruited 8 members through the assistance of Gloria Oquindo who was appointed Area Coordinator for the Bayshore/ Old Bridge section of Monmouth county.
- Donated \$100. to the Norma Lao Scholarship fund

### Ocean County Sub-chapter

Larnie B. Dosono, BSN, RN

We celebrated our 10th anniversary last August 24, 2008 by honoring our past presidents. It is a "Decade to Remember." Tokens were given to all our honorees in appreciation of their services. Past and present presidents of PNA, PNANJ and representatives from other subchapters present to celebrate with us were Phoebe Andes, Founder PNA-NJ & PNA, Leo Jurado, PNA president , Nelson and Ella Tuazon,

Jillian and Nini Jurado, PNA NJ president Madelyn Yu, Fe Eguaras & Bernadette Paolino represented Atlantic county subchapter, Jackie Baras represented Middlesex county subchapter, Rose Rosales & Mae Guzman represented Essex county subchapter. The presence of everyone who graced the affair made the event a memorable one! Thank you all for your continued support!

Leo Jurado and Nelson Tuazon, thank you for introducing PNA to us in Ocean County. You opened a door that led us to this occasion, 10 years of accomplishments that has brought honor and glory to our profession . Al Espinas the founder and the pioneer subchapter president flew all the way from California for the celebration! To our Ocean County past presidents: We salute you for your leadership!

### Bergen County Sub-Chapter

Belle Villafuerte MSN, RN, CNA-BC

We are very proud to say that we have HIGH ACHIEVERS in Bergen County. Cecilia Alvarez, who recently received her Doctorate in Nursing Practice degree, is this year's PNANJ C.A.R.E. Awardee for the Research Category. Furthermore, The American Nurses Association (ANA) has accepted her abstract on "The Impact of Dedicated Rapid Response Team Nurses on Patient Outcomes" for a podium presentation at the National Database of Nursing Quality Indicators (r) (NDNQI(r)) data use conference to be held January 21- 23, 2009, in Dallas, Texas.

We are also pleased to share that Grace Vickerie RNC, BSN, WCC, one of our Board of Directors, was the recipient of the T.W.I.N (Tribute to Women and Industry) Award this past May of 2008. This award is given to honor women who have made significant contribution to their companies in managerial, professional, and executive roles.

One more achiever is Virginia Tan RNC, BSN, WCC, RAC-C, C-NE, also a member of our Board, was named Employee of the Year- Management Category, at Bergen Regional Medical Center at our last Employee Awards Dinner. Her daughter Virginie Elaine Tan was a re-Continued on page 3....

# THE 2008 CARE AND SCHOLARSHIP AWARDEES

## **Jackie Baras, BSN, RN** PNANJ MSN Scholar

Jackie, a graduate of the University of Santo Tomas, is presently a Nurse Educator at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital, NJ and is the current President of the Middlesex subchapter.

“It took me sometime to realize my ultimate goal in life. I have always been grateful that my life has changed because of nursing. And in return I want to make a change by giving back through nursing and making a difference by being instrumental to the betterment of someone else’s life. Pursuing an MSN will help me be knowledgeable and will bring me to where I want to go... to teach, to lead, to educate, to create and to share.”

## **Janine Denise Jade Borromeo** PNANJ BSN Scholar

Jade is a sophomore at the Seton Hall University, BSN 2011 program. She is a student leader, active in the Nursing Senate Government and the Student Nurses Association, peer advisor; Freshmen Leadership Council, trainer with the National Coalition Building Institute and is a member of the National Society of Collegiate Scholars and is consistently in the Deans List.

“I have always known that nursing was the vocation for me but I never knew there was so much more to what a nurse can do beyond bedside care.” Quoting Emily Dickenson’s “the brain is wider than the sky” her interest lies in solving the puzzles of the mind through nursing research in neuroscience and be a part of history in the making.

## **Cesar Dumago, MSN, RNC, APN-C** CARE AWARDEE

Clinical Practice- Advance Practice Nurse

Cesar is a 1975 BSN graduate of Central Philippines University in Iloilo City and completed his certificate of Advance Nurse Practice in 1991 here in the USA. He pursued his Masters degree in Advance Nurse Practice at the Florida International University and obtained his degree in 1995. Currently he is the nurse practitioner for the Ryan White Program at Morristown Memorial Hospital family Health Center HIV Clinic.

Lolita Navarro-Iqbal wrote on her nomination letter,” Cesar has truly exemplified the attributes of an exceptionally well rounded person. He is an educator, outstanding APN, an artist and has good interpersonal relationships which are critical to be successful in the field of nursing.”

## **Robert Steven Rosales** CARE AWARDEE

Norma Lao Memorial Scholarship

Robert is a first year college BSN student of St.Peters College in Jersey City, NJ. He is the first recipient of the Norma Lao Memorial Scholarship Award. He graduated with honors from Roselle Catholic High School where he was a consistent

honor student and was inducted to the National Honor Society in 2003. He was an active volunteer in the youth ministry and a Sacristan Major in the Parish of St. Elizabeth of Hungary

“What I saw in all the nurses I knew was a true desire to help people, whether it was an injured patient at work, a sick child at home or even someone who had fallen ill in public. Something inside me told me that I shared in that same desire and after spending a few days working with my Mom and sometimes volunteering in hospitals, I realized that a career in nursing was my calling as well.”

## **Maria Teresa DeVries, BSN, RN, CCRN** CARE AWARDEE Community Service

Teresa is a seasoned critical care nurse and a highly respected staff in Robert Wood Johnson Hospital, NJ. She is the Co-Chair of the Professional Advancement System of RWJUH where she attained the highest level in the clinical level through her skills, critical committee involvement and contribution to peer education as attested to by Teresa DePeralta in her testimony letter. Recently through her effort and initiative she was able to mobilize her classmates to organize a successful medical mission in their hometown in Ronda, Cebu where they serve 600 plus indigent patients. As she outlined the journey of their experience it was truly inspiring to note that such a task could be accomplished by Teresa and her classmates, all nurses, whose spirit of giving back gave them the courage to tackle such a gigantic task. Teresa is a proud member of the 1979 BSN graduate of Cebu Doctors University.

## **Cecilia Alvarez, DNP, RN** CARE AWARDEE Nursing Research

Cecilia is a nurse manager of the Coronary ICU, Central telemetry and the Rapid Response Team in Hackensack University Medical Center, NJ. Recently her abstract on Rapid Response Team and Patient Outcomes was presented by the American Nurses Association National Database for Nursing Quality Indicators Conference in Dallas, Texas. A BSN graduate of the University of the Philippines she obtained her Masters degree from Columbia University and pursued her doctorate in nursing practice degree from Case Western Reserve University. Janet Kasoff, RN EdD, her nominator wrote,” Her talent lies in her ability to use her highly effective skills as educator and researcher and implement change in the practice environment.”

## **Isabelita Pitao,** **BSN, RN, CNN** CARE AWARDEE

Clinical Practice – Staff Nurse

Isabelita is the appointed Vice President of Essex Subchapter who has been a dialysis nurse in Jersey City Medical Center since 1990. She is also the Clinical Coordinator of NJ Mobile Dialysis at Fresenius Medical Care. Her expertise in her field has led her to various roles in the clinical setting the most significant of which

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From page 2 From the desk of the President...

nursing practice wherever and whenever it occurs. Perhaps the most emotional aspect of the convention was when Felix Vinluan, Esq. showcased a true event of labor trafficking of foreign educated nurses in the person of Archiel Buagas, a Sentosa nurse recruit, who despite her emotional frailty, powerfully outlined in the convention her groups’ saga from the Philippines to New York that eventually led to a criminal litigation, loss of their job and temporary loss of their licenses. Confronted by such a testimony and presented by facts about the future of nursing, the participants full grasped of the topic chosen came full circle. It was on that note that Leo Jurado, President Elect, PNAA reminded everyone that in spite and despite the odds we are nurses not only because it is our passion but also because it is who we are. The interactive discussion alive with audience participation reinvigorated the convention to end on a positive note.

As the 5.2 contact hour program hits the mark the participants were vocal in their praised for the overall outcome of the convention.

## **Leadership** **Workshop 2008 :** Learning the tools of the trade as officers define their roles and mechanism for success is shared by the experts.

Last June 14, 2008 the third workshop seminar offered by the PNANJ conducted a successful leadership program whose aim has been to guide and introduce the new subchapter officers as well as potential leaders to the rudiments of the organizations’ governance.

Each newly elected executive board officers talked briefly of their roles and responsibilities as outlined in the bylaws of PNANJ. Madelyn Yu gave an overall view of what makes a good leader while Marley Nicolas and Fe Eguarras gave the president elect as well as the vice president of each subchapter details of what their jobs entail. Meriam Canares, the new sec-

## **OTHER HEADLINERS AND** **NEWSMAKERS**

Marietta Datar, BSN, RN

REBECCA GRABOSO, MSN, RN, CCRN, APN, C was awarded the prestigious 2008 Governor’s Nursing Merit Award in the Advanced Practice Nurse Category. She was nominated by Dr. Terry Wurmser, Director of Meridians Ann May Center of Nursing Services, for her outstanding performance as the coordinator for the Stroke Unit at Riverview Medical Center. She was honored together with the rest of the winners in a gala dinner at Hyatt Regency Hotel in Princeton, New Jersey last June 5, 2008. Rebecca is the current President of the Monmouth County subchapter of PNANJ.

AMELIA GUZMAN, MSN RN was tapped by the Far Eastern University of the Philippines Institute of Nursing Alumni to be one of the main speakers in its 13th grand reunion held in Orlando, Florida. She spoke on the topic: The Role of Case Management in the Current Health Care Industry which is her specialty as a seasoned case manager at a VA hospital. Mae a valued member of the organization has served PNANJ in different capacities highlighted by her work on the CARE and Education committees.

MARLEY A. NICOLAS, MSN, RN received a Joint Legislative Resolution from Senator Singer and Assemblymen Malone and Dancer from the State of New Jersey for her outstanding contribution to organ and tissue awareness within the state. She is actively involved in all activities related to organ donation at CMC, and outreach programs in Ocean County and nearby counties. The resolution was presented to her at Community Medical Center.

TERESA DEVRIES RN, BSN, past president of Middlesex subchapter fulfilled a long time dream when she organized and successfully conducted a medical mission in her hometown of Ronda Cebu, Philippines simultaneously with her alumni homecoming.

IN MEMORIAM: NORMA LAO a pioneer in the formation of PNANJ passed away this year and to honor her memory and her contributions to the organization a scholarship was created in her name. The presentation of the first award will be given to the deserving recipient this coming Sept. 26, 2008 Gala Event.

retary, Marietta Datar, PRO both outlined their respective duties in their elected capacities while Susan Castor read a report by Celeste Wayne on how to be an effective treasurer. The board members role was highlighted by Edgar Mariano while Belle Villafuerte discussed her powerpoint presentation as a subchapter president.

As fund raising initiatives are essential to the survival of the subchapters, relevant topics such as formulating an educational program and how to apply for contact hours as well as grant writing were expertly presented by Mae Guzman and Lorna Tangara respectively. Rose Estrada who graciously offered the site in UMDNJ reintroduced our new website and talked about informatics 101 which concluded the seminar.

The workshop ended as friendship and alliances were formed and sealed as everyone gathered and shared a buffet of Filipino food.

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recipient of the PNANJ -BSN scholarship in 2007. I guess it runs in the family.

We continue to strive to follow our commitment to Community Service by participating in the Bergen County Asian Heritage day and providing blood pressure screening as well as first aid. One of the nominees this year for the C.A.R.E. Community Service category is our own Erlinda Sardovia who has received commendations for her service to the Filipino Heritage Foundation and has been mentioned in community based publications.

Before I forget, Edgar Mariano, PNANJ Board of Director, who attended the annual convention in South Padre to represent our county, besides being a fabulous singer, is now known as our PNANJ DI when he showed his dancing talents at the gala event. Keep those feet moving.

As president I am honored and thrilled to be working side by side with my Executive Board, who in my eyes, none could be better. THANK YOU VERY MUCH TO ALL OF YOU!



## Editorial Message: By Marietta Datar, BSN, RN

### TURNING A NEW LEAF : Bidding Goodbye to a Glorious Past; Advancing the future on the right track

As one chapter closes, a new one opens as PNANJ welcomes the passing of the baton to a new leadership under Madelyn Yu as the newly elected president for the term 2008-2010.

As the oath of office was solemnly upheld by the new executive board, new goals, viable strategies, fresh ideas and a new dynamics unfold. If the enthusiasm and infectious vitality that emanates from those who are ready to serve are a measure of their commitment then we as an organization is ready for another great ride that will bring us to a loftier height. Such was the journey that Susan Castor has brought us in her presidency. She and her past executive board elevated PNANJ to a stature whose name evokes respect, vitality, dynamism, dedication and most of all the chapter of achievers. As proof she brought home the most valuable chapter award given by PNAA as an affirmation of our role model image. Her term has catapulted the membership drive to a higher gear that resulted in the formation of new subchapters thereby increasing the membership tenfold. Again in the friendly rivalry of numbers we topped all others as PNAA proclaimed PNANJ winner of the highest number of membership campaign. Leadership training and formation, numerous civic and community outreach services funded by the organization both here in the US and the Philippines, awards

and scholarship recognitions were goals that were not only met but also redirected the organizations vision towards highlighting the achievers thus upholding the image that we so dearly want the profession of nursing to take notice of, the Filipino nurses as prime movers in the 20th century.

True to form Madelyn Yu a spirited, success driven, achiever of a leader comes at a right time. With the momentum set, her goals and strategies are geared toward a mission that will meet the challenges of her term as well as maintain the high standards of success that has been set. As she starts her term she will bring changes that can impact the future of PNANJ just as she will infuse new ideas and innovations to solve problems that may come her way.

With Madelyn the future will be on the right track for us PNANJ. As her term unfolds so does her legacy that will define her presidency. Success is the only option that Madelyn will choose to leave behind her when its time to turn the page again. PNANJ is in good hands. If we are in good hands let the mantra "Surpass the past" that has been echoed by many serves as a motivation for us to do more and achieve more. Let us chant it together in a positive unity that we may attain the highest ever that can be in fulfilling our vision towards a common mission. After all the past can only be surpassed if we remain on the right track.

and raise funds for the organization. Phoebe Andes was the Eastern Region's symbolic runner. PNANJ got third place-Bronze medal in this competition.

At the General Assembly it was a tense moment as Mila Velasquez finally announced the winners. PNANJ delegates had all the reasons to cheer as Jovita Solomon Duarte- Secretary; Susan Castor, PNANJ immediate past president garnered the highest vote as Board member and Madelyn Yu, current PNANJ president as Chairperson of Council of Presidents were announced.

The Gala night was another PNANJ night. I was awarded 2008 Researcher of the Year and PNAA Scholarship. Pres. Jurado together with his new set of officers was inducted by NCSBN President Faith Fields. Dr. Dula Pacquiao and Jilleane Christi Jurado introduced the newly inducted president. Jilleane's speech was evocative. As the youngest PNAA delegate she claimed she has been around the organization longer than anyone else knowing more adults than children her age. No regrets she said as she proclaimed her dad to be the best president PNAA would ever have. Phoebe Andes was recognized for her leadership and innovations in establishing the PNAA Foundation. Vicky Navarro, Eastern region VP elect prepared a video for her and Pete Calixto, past PNAA presi-

dent led the serenade with an "Impossible Dream". And so the night of dancing began with PNANJ members on the dance floor leading every "Line dance".

The last day was a farewell picnic for those who were free, some had to come back home early, while others took the opportunity to visit Progresso, Mexico for some shopping. It was a fun-filled 5 day convention. Hurricane Dolly may have washed away our footprints but the friendship and memories we had at South Padre will live on. Viva PNANJ!



South Padre Island, Texas was the venue of the recently held 29th Annual PNAA Convention, July 16-2008. This year's theme: Power the Passion for Nursing: Clinical Excellence, Technology, Commitment, Professional Dedication and Community Involvement.



## PNANJ's Passion and Power shines at 29th Annual PNAA Convention

Majuvy Sulse MSN, RN, CCRN

The five day convention started with a Leadership Institute workshop for PNAA Executive Board. Outgoing President May Mayor presented "The Joy, Pain, Sacrifices and Rewards of Leadership-a reflection of her presidential experiences, lessons learned and where the PNAA would go from there. In response, Mr. Leo Felix Jurado introduced the theme for his coming administration -Shining through the Prism of PNAA.

Welcome night's Fiesta Mexicana set the tone for the evening's event. The warm afternoon sea breeze combined with the hot Mexican food, serenaded by the Mariachi Band, the spectacular parade of colors and display of talents greeted this year's event at South Padre. Eastern region presented May Mayor a song "It's been a hard two years" (Beatle's Hard Days' Night) to parody her hard

work during her presidency. In the same token a song adapted from the Temptations "Are You Ready" (nurses here I come!) was dedicated to Leo to welcome his term as

incoming president. A mock Mexican wedding with the EB as the entourage; May and Leo, the bride and groom was just the right icing on the cake to start the festivity.

Education day was attended by more than 300 nurses. Faith Fields, NCSBN President delivered the keynote address. Ms. Fields emphasized nursing not only as a job but as a passion or "occupassion". The topics were varied and encompassed the theme of the convention. Mr. Jurado talked about Professional Stewardship and Dr. Dula Pacquiao, Director of UMDNJ's Center for Multicultural Education & Research ended the day with her expert deliberation of the Culture of Caring.

The day's work was compensated with a night of relaxation and entertainment by one of Philippines known balladeer Marco Sison. We could not ask for more as Don Leo stole the show as he sang a duet with Marco Sison.

5K Run was an absolute experience. Wearing blue, green, red and yellow T-shirts, members, families and guests gathered by the beach at 5:30 am. This was an initiative by PNAAF to keep its membership in shape

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## SUMMER SIZZLES AT MIDDLESEX COUNTY Middlesex Subchapter host PNANJ Annual Summer Picnic

Guests, members, family and friends were welcomed by the Middlesex subchapter members with a smile and a lei to a Hawaiian motif summer celebration in a bright sunny day of Aug.30,2008 in Roosevelt Park, Iselin, NJ.

The well attended affair was a day of fun, relaxation, socialization and merriment for the kids and the adults alike who enjoyed not only the sumptuous spread of Filipino food, complete with lechon, but also the games and the dancing that followed. The annual general membership meeting conducted by Madelyn Yu tackled relevant and burning issues ranging from the coming awards night to human right issues. Three members from Essex County were sworn in as officers of their subchapter.

The fiesta-like ambience was graced by Phoebe Andes, founder of PNANJ, Leo Jurado, PNAA President, and past PNANJ Presidents, Nelson Tuazon, Nini Jurado and Susan Castor and members of the 2008/2010 PNANJ Executive Board. We salute and thank Jackie Baras, President, Middlesex County and his executive board for graciously hosting the affair. Indeed the sizzling event was a job well done.



### STAY CONNECTED

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