

JULITA V. SOTEJO MEDALLION of HONOR

Medallium Honoris Servitium Patriae et Humanitate

(For Service to Country and Humanity)



DR. DULA FARA-ON PACQUIAO

EdD, RN, CTN-A, TNS

2014 JULITA V. SOTEJO MEDALLION OF HONOR AWARDEE

*For her leadership and advocacy of transcultural nursing
and her work on health care programs to strengthen HIV/
AIDS prevention.*

UPNAAI's Coral Jubilee theme, "GLOBAL LEADERSHIP: *Breaking Barriers*", is timely and fitting for the choice of Dula Fara-on Pacquiao as this year's recipient of the Julita V. Sotejo Medallion of Honor. Dr. Dula Pacquiao exemplifies global leadership and definitely represent the very essence of the term "breaking barriers" that a two-page profile of her career would probably not do justice to the profundity of her commitment to her work and the breadth of her achievements. Nevertheless, UPNAAI found emphatic Dula's dedication to her passion-transcultural nursing-and her efforts towards the awareness and prevention of HIV/AIDS, as a great service to her profession, country, and humanity.

The common concept of nursing may have already evolved from the customary feeding, tending, and caring of the sick to a more discerning, more involved, and focused nursing practice. Now, there is this emerging paradigm-transcultural nursing. Transcultural nursing requires the recognition of many human traits like ethnic diversity, cultural traits, social patterns, customs and traditions, language, religious beliefs, and other environmental and empirical factors in the dispensation and administration of nursing care. Understanding these factors and their deft implementation also requires training and skills, and thus, the importance of Dr. Dula Fara-on Pacquiao's advocacy of training and mentoring nurses to become culturally competent. She is an expert in this area of discipline and deemed to be among the world's best. She authored, co-authored, co-edited, lectured, keynoted, and explored every facet of transcultural nursing, that the book she co-edited "*Core Curriculum in Transcultural Nursing and Health Care*" became the basis for the Certification in Transcultural Nursing. Transcultural Nursing was institutionalized through her leadership. In addition, Dr. Pacquiao continues her push towards the integration of cultural competencies in baccalaureate, masters, and doctoral programs for nursing.

In 2007, Dr. Pacquiao was the educational consultant for the Twinning Project between the Ministry of Health, Botswana, and the Francois Xavier-Bagnoud Center. The project was jointly funded by the CDC, Botswana, and the USA. Botswana is one of the countries in sub-Saharan Africa devastated by HIV

epidemic. Her expertise in transcultural nursing and her background in Anthropology were instrumental in the development of health care providers that can meet the challenges of social stigma, cultural beliefs, and gender inequality that create a barrier to prevention and care of HIV-affected individuals. In recognition of her effort, the Healthcare Foundation of New Jersey gave Dr. Dula Pacquiao its Humanitarian Award.

Signs of her talent and leadership potential manifested in Dr. Pacquiao early in her life. In college, she was class president, College Councilor representing UPCN to the UP Student Council, and president of the UP Women's Club. Despite these extracurricular activities, she graduated class valedictorian with her Bachelors of Science in Nursing Degree. When she moved to the United States, she pursued her Masters in Nursing degree at Teachers College, Columbia University, then obtained her Doctorate in Education from Rutgers University.

The great Dean Julita V. Sotejo once said "There is something better than just being good--excel, excel, excel." Dr. Pacquiao always excel in whatever she does (as a student, nurse, researcher, writer, lecturer, speaker, preceptor, and many more), evidenced by the many recognition and citations she received through her profession. She was inducted to three honor societies, namely, *Phi Kappa Phi*, *Theta Tau*, and *Kappa Delta Pi*. She was the first Filipino to be appointed to the New Jersey State Board of Nursing and held the position of Chairman of the Education Committee.

For her pioneering work, committed advocacy of Transcultural Nursing, and her many other humanitarian endeavors, the UPNAAI Board of Directors (chaired by Jesusa Santa Barbara Czach), on recommendation by the Awards and Citation Committee (chaired by Lyvia M. Villegas), unanimously voted in favor of Dr. Dula Fara-on Pacquiao, EdD, RN, CTN-A, TNS, as the 2014 Julita V. Sotejo Medallion of Honor awardee for her achievements her alma mater is proud of, and her service to her country and humanity---*Medallium Honoris Servitium Patriae et Humanitate*.

Congratulations!

By Nelson C. Borrero



***The great law of culture is:
Let each become all that he was created
capable of; expand if possible,
to his full growth, resisting all impediments,
casting off all foreign especially all noxious
adhesions, and show himself at length
in his own shape and status,
be this what they may.***

THOMAS CARLYLE (1795 – 1881)