Welcome to New York City, a vibrant and energetic metropolis populated by ambitious people from all walks of life from all over the world. It is a city of hope for the young and old who yearn for progress and change for a better life. Like most immigrants, I came to America to fulfill my dreams. New York gave me the opportunity to explore all possibilities for growth. I lived in this city in the seventies and still reminisce memories of friends, travels, work and education. Indeed it is fitting for UPNAAI to celebrate its 35th anniversary & Coral Jubilee in this beautiful city. Hosted by UPN-EC, the theme this year; “GLOBAL LEADERSHIP: Breaking Barriers,” is very timely in today’s healthcare setting as nurses confront the challenges of modern technology that impact nursing care worldwide.

As Chairman of the Editorial Board, I am delighted to present to you this special Coral Jubilee edition of the Yearbook. The cover features a cornucopia of leadership from the time UPNAAI was established in 1979 under the leadership of Floresinda Sison Castelo, GN ’50, to our current president, Jesusa Santa Barbara Czach, BSN ’79. In her message, Jesusa Czach offers her service to the association wholeheartedly and challenges us to join others in breaking down barriers by first looking at our lives in the areas of character, honesty and integrity.

The organization has come a long way and its fortitude has stood the test of time. The expansion of the Association has been amazing and exponential the past two years. We are now 700 plus life members nurtured by 18 presidents and other leaders, who with their selfless dedication made and shaped today’s UPNAAI. This growth is evidenced by the installation of another chapter, the University of the Philippines Nursing Alumni Association of Texas (UPNAAI-TX) which will highlight the gala event.

Like the many reunions before, the 35th anniversary gathering aims to foster a bond of fellowship among its members. The Continuing Education Seminar intends to strengthen the high standards of nursing care by enhancing competencies and proficiency through an exemplary choice of speakers who are qualified experts in their respective fields. The day is capped by the awarding of the Julita V. Sotejo Medallion of Honor, the highest and most coveted recognition of a U.P. Nurse who made breakthroughs in the nursing field and rendered service to country and humanity.

UPNAAI takes pride in its effort to make others aware of broken barriers of its members, of the pinnacle of their success, and the heights they reached. I do really hope that this Yearbook helped to this end. In this respect, I would like to share a quote from Jim Stovall, an American writer known for his bestselling novel, The Ultimate Gift.

“You need to be aware of what others are doing, applaud their efforts, acknowledge their successes, and encourage them in their pursuits. When we all help one another, everybody wins.”

Please enjoy the Yearbook and bask in the limelight of our 35th Anniversary, our milestone.

Lyvia M. Villegas, GN’68, BSN’71, MA, RN, FNP
Chairman, Editorial Board
2014 UPNAAI Yearbook
UPNAAI President, 1998-1999
Acknowledgement

The 2014 Editorial Board wishes you a joyful celebration of UPNAAI’s 35th Annual Reunion in New York City with our theme “Global Leadership: Breaking Barriers.”

We are proud to present to you the 2014 Yearbook. Putting the yearbook together is a product of hard work and dedication of so many people. We take this opportunity to acknowledge and appreciate the many individuals who made this endeavor an easier and satisfying activity. We acknowledge the patience of Manny Adeva, printer and owner of the Little Copy Shop and the diligence and tireless efforts of our Editorial Board: Iren Roldan, Jesusa Czach, Rudy Villegas, Jessie Ivins, Merle and Nelson Borrero, Maggie Ongkiko, and Tony Abad. Most importantly, we thank Lyvia Villegas, Chairman of the Editorial Board, whose able leadership, patience, and perseverance encouraged us all to deliver a Yearbook we can be proud of.

We are grateful to our contributors, advertisers, jubilarians, class coordinators, sponsors, patrons and guests for sharing with us the joy of the moment, of this, our new milestone.

We are inspired by the congratulatory and appreciative messages from dignitaries and officials. Pope Francis bestows upon us a very special Apostolic Blessing. Charles Schumer, US Senator from New York, appreciates the role of UPN-EC in the passage of the Immigration Nursing Relief Act in 1989 and UPNAAI’s leadership in promoting the nursing profession and in helping shape future nursing leaders. Edward R. Royce, U.S. Congressman and Chairman, House Foreign Affairs Committee, lauds this year’s theme and hails our alumni gathering as an excellent opportunity to foster international dialogue. New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio also appreciates UPN-EC’s role and its contributions in community health activities and UPNAAI’s many socio-economic activities. Consul General Mario L. De Leon expresses pride in the strength of UPNAAI as an alumni organization and its exemplary service to the Filipino-American community in the United States and to our home country. UP President Alfredo Pascual thanks UPNAAI for its unwavering support of UP. Chancellor Manuel Agulto commends our organization for providing the alumni reunion as an opportunity to engage in relevant issues such as this year’s theme of breaking barriers in the global arena. UPCN Dean Lourdes Tejero expresses her gratitude to UPNAAI for its support of the nursing programs.

We are very proud of our poster presenters and seminar speakers for sharing their clinical expertise. Our sincere gratitude to Perry Francisco, GN’69, BSN’71 MSA; Lorraine Torres-Michelletti, BSN’74, MA, MSN, CCRN; Eileen Joy Watkins, BSN’99, MSN, RN, CCRN; and Marilyn M. Patillo, BSN’69, PhD, RN, APRN-BC, FAAN. We congratulate Dr. Dula Fara-on Paquiao, EdD, RN, CTN-A, TNS, our 2014 J.V. Sotejo Medallion of Honor Awardee, and for her service to country and humanity.

Thank you all for your continued support.
Let us celebrate our 35th Year with pride and joy!

The Editorial Board
Yearbook 2014
UPNAAI, Inc.

Kindly accept our apologies for any errors or omissions, which might have occurred in the preparation of this Yearbook.
The Little Copyshop

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