



Atty Evangelista (far right) with FALEA Officers

## FALEA Foundation A New Beginning

By Nap Agraan

This year marks a new milestone for FALEA in its almost 14 years of existence. I am happy to announce that we are now in the process of obtaining a 501(c) (3) tax-exempt status through the establishment of "FALEA Foundation" within the present organization. What this means is that once approval is obtained from the Internal Revenue Service, all of your donations to the Foundation will be tax deductible.

To realize this goal, the Board decided to tap the services of Atty. Alfredo Evangelista. To help understand the process, the law office came up with a list of Questions (and Answers) regarding the proposed FALEA Foundation:

### 1. Why was a Foundation established?

The current association, the Filipino American League of Engineers and Architects (FALEA) is not exempt from

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## ENGINEERING LICENSING: MY JOURNEY

By William Rapisura

"If you keep rubbing a rusted knife against a stone, it will eventually become sharp." I heard this quotation many, many times when I was growing up in the Philippines. Anybody studying for a professional licensure examination and had



long graduated from college like me can use this principle conveniently. I tried to apply it during my initial attempt to study for my Fundamentals of Engineering (FE), formerly known as EIT (Engineer-In-Training) exams, and I found out it was not that simple. It was like a recipe that has all

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## THE GAWAD KALINGA STORY

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# FALEA Officers

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## President's Message

Aloha to each and everyone!

It's unbelievable but time does go by fast!.....and before we know it, we are already on our fifth month since the installation of Officers and Board of Directors last November. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all the hardworking and dedicated members of the Board for setting the pace and for undertaking many worthwhile activities for the benefit of our members, friends and the community.

I'd like to welcome Mr. Florante "Jojo" Lopez as a new member of the Board of Directors. Jojo will fill in the vacant position on the Board for a two-year term. Jojo works as a Job Captain with Architects Hawaii Ltd.

The year 2007 began with the publishing of the first issue of our newsletter (October - December 2006). A big mahalo to all those who contributed articles and especially to all our hard-working and energetic members of the editorial board: Lyna Burian, Joel Francisco & Jun Suela.

On February 3, 2007, the Fundamentals of Engineering Review Class started and continued every Saturday until April 7, 2007. The review was conducted at the Norman S. Wright (NSW) Office courtesy of Ms. Marites Calad, Vice President of NSW and a past president of FALEA. We had a total of 16 attendees of the review class and we wish them luck as they pursue the first step to become Professional Engineers to practice in Hawaii. Big Mahalo to Ramon Bonoan for taking the lead and thank you so much to the lecturers, volunteers and all the attendees that made this project a very successful one.

On April 14, 2007, as part of FALEA's community service, we helped in cleaning-up the quarters of the seniors at West Loch Elderly Village in Ewa Beach. The Village, which is an affordable housing complex subsidized by the government, is located in Renton Road, Ewa Beach and houses about 130 seniors. This group of people, due to age and health conditions, need help to maintain their living quarters.

On April 21, 2007, we are proud to sponsor a 10-Hour Construction Industry Safety Training Program designed for workers, and other interested individuals, involved in the construction industry. The programs emphasis was focused on hazard identification, avoidance, control and prevention. The participants will receive a 10-hr. OSHA course completion card and certificate upon successfully completing the course. For more information visit our website at [www.falea.org](http://www.falea.org).

Congratulations to our new licensed Architects, Mr. Joel Francisco and Mr. Francisco Cruzata, and to our new licensed Engineer, Mr. William Rapisura. Willie is a product of our FE/EIT review last year. Read more about his "Engineering Licensing: My Journey" at the front page of this newsletter.

Our volunteer leadership team, which comprises of the Officers and Board of Directors, are always committed to providing service to our members and the community.

Mabuhay and God Bless,

Nap Agraan  
President

# FALEA Officers

## NEWLY MINTED AHL ARCHITECTS

Persistence... not giving up...continuing the struggle. Congratulations to **Frank** and **Joel** who recently acquired their Architects license.

**Frank Cruzata** got encouragement from friends as well as his mentors at **Architects Hawaii Ltd (AHL)**. to finish his licensing examination. He was determined to become a licensed architect. Although he wasn't in a rush to get his license, his mind was focused on it from the time he found out that he was qualified to take it. Like others, it took him several tries and then he stopped for awhile.... thinking that he was trying too hard. But when the new 5-year ruling of the Architectural Registration Examination (ARE) was adopted, he got somewhat scared because if he can't pass everything in 5 years, he might be asked to start over again and/or retake the whole thing which he does not want to happen. So with that in mind, he decided to give it another shot. Scheduling for the test was always a problem for Frank due to project deadlines and so forth. His last scheduled test was postponed a few times but because of his determination, he didn't give up. His last test was taken last January 6, 2007, and... he finally made it!

**Joel Francisco**, a project designer with AHL, registered to take his exams in San Francisco, California to avoid the IDP (Intern Development Program) in 1998. His son Uilasho was just born and so he promised every year to get his exams finished before his birthday. Seven years later, he finally did it! Joel had to finish his IDP requirements to finally get his license in Hawaii on October 12, 2006, a month before his son's birthday. But he will soon take his final supplementary exam in California to be licensed in that state also.



**FALEA  
NEWSLETTER**  
*Since 1993*

**Year XII**  
**Jan 2007-Mar 2007**  
**Issue**

### EDITORIAL BOARD

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## Letters from: Scholarship Recipients

February 25, 2007

Dear FALEA,

*First of all, I'd like to thank you all for the scholarship. It has been a blessing to me as well as my parents. Thank you for being supportive in my studies in Electrical Engineering. My first year is going well. It has really been a growing experience. I am looking forward to becoming a member of FALEA as I pursue an Electrical Engineering degree at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. Once again, thank you so much for all your generosity and support.*

Aloha,

Michael Escario

\*\*\*\*\*

January 18, 2007

Filipino-American League of Engineers and Architects,

*I would like to personally thank you for selecting me as one of your recipients. I am honored to be a part of the organization and represent you as a scholarship winner. This scholarship will be put to great use to help pay for books and tuition this year. My parents are also grateful as it helps alleviate the struggle for funds to support me while attending Colorado State University. I will do my best to represent you as I continue pursuing my engineering degree. Once again thank you very much for this great privilege.*

Sincerely,

Marc Ragasa

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# Technical Page



## EIT 2007

The attendees at the recent Fundamentals of Engineering Review Class pose for the camera with the instructors after the first session. The FE Review Class has been one of FALEA's educational projects since 1994, with dedicated FALEA members teaching the courses.

Congratulations to **Ms. Cheryl De Guzman** who passed the October 2006 FE exam. Cheryl was one of the attendees for the 2006 Falea FE review class. She graduated from the University of the Philippines with a degree in Chemical Engineering and presently works with Dick Pacific

## ★ THE GAWAD KALINGA STORY ★

By Fredy Guevara



**ANCOP** and **Gawad Kalinga** (GK), to *embrace* and to *give care* are what they stand for when translated from the Filipino national language of Tagalog. Very fitting translations for two organizations working side by side whose mission and vision are rebuilding a nation and uplifting the poor from poverty.

**ANCOP** is also an acronym for Answering the Cry of the Poor Foundation, USA, Inc. ANCOP is a registered non-profit 501(c)(3) organization here in the US that works hand in hand with GK of the Philippines.

**What started** as charity work in 1995 by an international private association of the faithful called Couples for Christ (CFC), has evolved into a powerful and inspiring **nation-building movement** now known as Gawad Kalinga. GK's volunteers and partners are driven by sacrifice, love, and commitment to make a difference. Hence the GK creed of *"Less for self, more for others, enough for all."*

**GK** is directly addressing the poverty and corruption that is the image and stigma of the country. GK is about rebuilding a nation, a family at a time, a community at a time, a country at a time.

**In 2003**, GK777 was launched in the Philippines with a vision and mission of building 700,000 homes in 7000 communities in 7 years. And in October 2004, ANCOP kicked off the same vision and mission here in the US, in support of GK. Is this a pipe dream or more appropriately an impossible dream? Will 700,000 homes eradicate the slums and poverty of the Philippines? These are still the questions consistently encountered by GK advocates. But GK

still the questions consistently encountered by GK advocates. But GK cannot think small. After all, to rebuild a nation is not a minor undertaking.

**Not long** after the launch of GK777 here in the US, GK was once again faced with another seemingly daunting challenge. The Philippines was hit by four major typhoons in late November 2004 over a span of two weeks. A majority of the devastation hit the coastal provinces of Luzon where more than 40,000 families were left homeless. Hardest hit were those who did not have much to begin with. GK immediately mobilized its pool of volunteers and resources throughout the world and the **Kalinga Luzon** (to care for Luzon) movement was born. With full endorsement from the Philippine government to match each house rebuilt, GK spearheaded efforts to rebuild more than 40,000 homes in the typhoon-devastated areas in two years. Within three months of the devastation, GK was in 19 towns with new homes being turned over to beneficiaries. As of June 2005, GK has put 514 houses on the ground, have been availed of 377 hectares of land from partners and has already started in 21 more towns the second half of this year. Unlike relief organizations, GK sets itself apart with its support program and all-volunteer caretaker teams. The process of rehabilitation, transformation and restoration is slow and long. Broken hearts and the dying spirits are continuously revitalized and rekindled long after the relief efforts have subsided.

**GK is also about heroes, acts of heroism** of everyday people, and the power of unity. The caring spirit moves strongly to become a sharing one, and GK symbolizes the revolution of love and the vision of total human liberation. GK defines resources as beyond the monetary to that which has value to life and community. GK goes beyond the management of funds to the management of relationships and sharing of resources. Architects and engineers design houses and create color schemes, doctors and nurses attend to the people's health, teachers tutor the young and business leaders mentor others towards economic enterprise.

# Technical Page

## GAWAD KALINGA cont.

In 1986, the Philippines grabbed world headlines on a positive note because of Cory Aquino's **"People Power."** Filipinos showed the world what the power of unity could do. Many have tried to duplicate it since without success. The same spirit of unity is again very much alive in GK but we refer to it as **"bayanihan"** meaning to be a hero for one another. In the Filipino language, the root word **bayani** means hero and **bayan** by itself means country, homeland or town.

**As of February 2007, GK has helped build 21,350 houses and establish 1,016 communities.** What these figures do not show are the number of lives GK has transformed. Beneficiaries who now can dream again, have hope and confidence that they can better themselves. Benefactors have witnessed that there is hope for the Philippines and have decided to be part of the solution. Yes, GK is something positive, something real and something happening right now. It addresses the poverty, the corruption, the third world image and mentality that has had a stranglehold on the Filipino people for years. Many still have not heard of GK and many still choose to wallow in skepticism and indecision.

**Let the moment be now and let that day be today,** that all Filipinos decide to be part of the solution, be part of the playing field and not the sidelines, be witness and be part of the transformation that is taking place in the Philippines. Let us all be part of GK and be able to say ***Kasali ako 'dyan (I'm part of it)!*** Ordinary people like you and I do make a difference.

**The GK momentum** has picked up speed and the world is taking notice. Last August 2006, GK and its then Executive Director Tony Meloto were separately honored as 2006 awardees for community leadership by the Ramon Magsaysay Award Foundation (<http://www.rmaf.org.ph/>). GK was the first recipient organization of the category in the foundation's 49 year history. The awards were also the first to be given to an organization and an individual of the same organization in the same category, separately. Some distinguished awardees of the foundation include the Dalai Lama, Community Leadership category 1959, Mother Teresa, International Understanding category 1962 and Cory Aquino, International Understanding category 1998. Indeed a testimony to the organization's nobility of purpose and the integrity and credibility of its leadership.

**The Filipino has been successful,** has persevered and excelled all over the world but only as individuals and not as a people. Perhaps we need to reflect on the very traits that made us who we are. Perhaps we could redefine individual successes collectively as a people. Perhaps it is time to pay attention. Perhaps it is time to look back and give back to the culture that formed our very values.

**GK is the unity** that has eluded the Filipino people for generations. The barriers of rich and poor, Muslims and Christians, power, greed, graft and corruption are now melting away with the warmth of love, giving, sharing and caring. The time is now, to shed the image of poverty, graft and corruption, the third world mentality. The very foundation of GK states, **"no one is too poor that he cannot share, no one is too rich that he cannot care."**

**So, what started,** as a daring initiative is now a full-blown movement of nation building, restoring dignity, and transformation in all levels and sectors of Philippine society. GK is uniquely fueled by the passion, patriotism, love and care of ordinary people like you and I.

**Let us all take notice** and get off the fence. GK needs all of us to be able to shout in unison the battle cry ***Kasali ako 'dyan (I'm a part of it)!***

For more information and the latest updates, please visit our websites:

<http://www.gawadkalinga.org/>

<http://www.ancopusa.org/index.htm>

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## FALEA FOUNDATION cont. from page 1

Federal and State income tax. And donations to FALEA are not tax deductible either. By creating a separate Foundation, once the Internal Revenue Service approves the application, all donations to the Foundation will be tax deductible.

The Foundation will be the charitable and educational arm of the Association. It will handle the scholarship and all educational activities previously handled by the Association, including the FE/EIT reviews, the continuing education, the career shadowing days, and all related subjects.

The Foundation will raise funds through the sale of various food products (such as chicken sales, etc.) and also through Christmas caroling. (Those who are serenaded will be able to claim a tax deduction for their donation.)

### 2. What happens to the Filipino American League of Engineers and Architects?

The Association will still exist and will continue to have such activities as assisting other professional Engineers and Architects in their professional and business endeavors, including mentoring of new businesses, referrals of businesses, and providing general support to its members. The Association will also honor the Outstanding Engineers and Architects of Filipino Ancestry.

### 3. Who are the members of the Foundation and how is the Foundation run?

The Foundation's members are the officers and directors of the Association. The Association's current by-laws provides that there are 16 officers and directors of the Association. These officers and directors of the Association will constitute the membership of the Foundation.

After the Association's Board of Directors are elected every other August, the Association's Board of Directors (who constitute the membership of the Foundation) will elect among themselves the officers and directors of the Foundation. It is presumed that the members will elect the same President and officers and directors (except only the Association's President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer will hold the same office in the Foundation and all others will be Directors).

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# Front Page cont.

(MY JOURNEY cont. from page 1)

the ingredients but lacks the complete instruction in order to make that delicious food. Along the way during my lengthy review sessions, I was able to make out those missing steps that made my journey to Engineering licensing successful. If you are aiming to pass your licensure exam and are already twenty years away from college and you were just an average student in school like me, read my story and you may be able to pick up some pointers.

I started to study for my FE review way back when FALEA started its first review class in 1994. I was quite young then and only 12 years since graduating from college. I remember that most of the topics presented in those classes seemed new to me and hard to understand although I had already taken them up in my college days. I could have studied my notes at home to help me learn and understand them better but I did not. I was just plain lazy and not interested. At that time, I was working as a Construction Inspector for the City and County of Honolulu. My position only required a high school diploma and a little understanding of the construction trade. My alibi then was, "I am not working as an Engineer, so I don't really need to pass the exams at this time." That line of thinking did not help the situation. It could have been much easier to pass at that time because my brain was fresher and I only had one small child. I realize now that I just did not have the desire and eagerness to pass the exam.

Forward four years later. I was hired as an Engineer III at the State Department of Transportation, Highways Division, Construction Section. Finally, I was able to practice my profession and work under the supervision of a licensed Engineer. Here, I met my fellow Filipino Engineers who, I found out, were not licensed either. I talked to them about trying to take the licensure exams for job promotion, but I was met with negative response. Most of them said, "The few hundred dollars additional pay is not worth the thousands of headaches that come with the added responsibilities." That surely put out the little fire in my chest to start studying for the exams again.

As years passed, younger local graduate engineers in my office kept passing the licensure exams and getting promoted. The thought of these guys making more money while I was their equal in work knowledge, if not better, bothered me a bit. Here in the State, and in the City and County of Honolulu, one can not be promoted to a position higher than an Engineer III unless you pass the Fundamentals of Engineering (FE) and Professional Engineering (PE) examinations. On numerous occasions, my boss asked me why I don't try to take the exams. I told him what my fellow Filipino Engineers have said about being promoted. With a surprise and some sort of encouragement he told me, "What do you mean? You are already doing the work of an Engineer

IV." Those words sparked a fire of interest in me and entirely changed my outlook about licensing and promotion. In addition, the fact that none of the Filipino Engineers in my section were licensed encouraged me more. I thought that I needed to do something to change the image of Filipino Engineers in my section.

I then started to study seriously. I bought new review books instead of relying on borrowed old ones from friends. My drive this time is totally different from 1994. I still had that feeling of being discouraged when I came across things that I hardly understand, but I was more patient this time. If there was a topic that I really did not understand, I checked other books hoping that it has a different way of explaining it. I found out that the State libraries are good sources of information. Study schedule was also tight for me at that time. In addition to my regular State job, I also had a part time job as a surveyor on Saturdays and Sundays. My two young kids also demanded a lot of my time with their daily homework. Afternoon home chores were also mine, since my wife would get home from work at about 6:30 in the evening. I also didn't want to miss my favorite TV shows like American Idol and the NBA basketball games. There's also my friends who would call me for our regular card games on the weekends. I realized that my review program will go nowhere with that kind of schedule. I once saw a motto on a wall decoration that said, "**If you always do what you always did, you always get what you always got.**" It made me realize that I had to change my priorities. So I cut down my time spent on my "extracurricular activities," including my part time job from two days to one a week. That was not an easy thing to do but I had to discipline myself, if I wanted to achieve my career goal.

I went back to the FALEA review classes in 2003. This time, my mind was ready, able and willing to learn. The classes, although not a full-length class review was a big help for me. It was like that helping hand that guided you when you were learning your first baby steps. It only not guided you but motivated you until you could do it on your own. No way could I have recalled Chemistry, Thermodynamics and Electrical Engineering on my own. I owe FALEA my success!

I started taking the exam series by taking the PE test in October 2004. I got a failing grade of 67%. Next was the FE test, and again failed with a grade 68%. My failures did not discourage me. Instead, I was encouraged because my grades were very close to passing and more importantly, it showed me where my strong and weak areas are. So I said, "Aha!"

No doubt the exams were very hard but I was not ready to give up. I was really determined to pass them. I developed a study technique based on my



# Activities atbp.

(MY JOURNEY cont. from page 6)

strengths and weaknesses. I gave myself four years to pass the two exams. The motto that was etched in my agricultural high school that said, "**The man with an iron will, can cultivate a rocky hill**" also encouraged me to keep going. What I noticed at that time was my brain was turning to "learning mode" whenever I studied harder, although I still tend to forget the things that I already learned two weeks prior. But like that battery commercial on TV, I kept on going and going. I again took the PE and the FE on October 2005 and April 2006, respectively. My hard work and study technique worked, and I passed both of them on those tries.

Overall, my experience tells me that my chances of passing the exams were directly proportional to my effort exerted. I now realize that the exams were like enemies in a battlefield. You had to know them well in order to win over them. But unlike a real battle, it cannot physically harm you. Therefore, there's no reason for you to fear them. All you have to do is research information about them, and in the exams, that means going through books and find other sources of information like review classes and the internet. Formulate an attack plan based on the information and resources that you have, and that includes your own mental capability. After I took them for the first time, I already had the feeling that I could pass them in four tries each- maximum. It's just a matter of realizing and knowing where I was strong and weak at, and how hard I will work at it.

My study period for the two exams was a long and lonely road to travel. I could have easily fallen on the wayside if I didn't have these three guiding stars, which I call the 3 D's. They are **DESIRE, DISCIPLINE** and **DETERMINATION**.

**DESIRE** is the starting point of a goal. This is very important with professional licensing examinations. Depending on the person, the desire of being licensed can be due to many reasons, for example prestige and financial.

**DISCIPLINE**: "Para umunlad ang bayan, disiplina ang kailangan." This motto was very popular in the in the Philippines in the 70's. The powers-that-be came up with it after then President Marcos declared martial law, although that was a different story. Our teacher told us at that time that we will become good persons if we had self-discipline. This motto can be applied to any person with a career goal. I know I wouldn't have passed the exams, if I didn't cut down the times spent on my "extracurricular activities" during my study times. You cannot expect to pass the exams with minimal time spent on your review unless you were intelligent as a student back in school.

**DETERMINATION**: Again, unless you were intelligent as a student and still fresh from college, expect to spend a very long time studying for the FE and PE examinations. You have to be focused and determined to go through many months of studying. Prepare to be patient and determined to reach your goal.

After you follow these 3 D's, be ready to add more D's because you might be dancing, dining and drinking after you pass the exams.

*Editors Note: Mr William Rapisura received his Engineer license for the State of Hawaii on June 26, 2006. Congratulations!*

## FALEA FOUNDATION cont. from page 5

All the activities of the Foundation, including financial records, and meetings, should be separate from the Association but yet open to all members of the Association. The best way to do it is to conduct the regular Association meeting, and about halfway through the Association's meeting, call recess for the Foundation's meeting, and once the Foundation is done with its business, resume the Association's meeting.

All documents pertaining to the 501c3 tax exempt status have been filed and awaiting approval. On February 27, 2007, we received an acknowledgment letter from IRS regarding our application. I will apprise you all of any developments in the next newsletter.

**Breaking News! FALEA received the approval letter from IRS on April 16, 2007. FALEA Foundation is now an official non-profit organization.**

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### Congratulations

#### Alvin Capili

Sept-Dec Newsletter Riddle Winner!  
riddle answer: The letter E  
Alvin, our first lucky winner is a consultant for  
Architects Hawaii Limited

#### THIS ISSUE'S NEW RIDDLE

##### What Am I?

By Jovenard Mapanao – Grade 10

**I am a treasure chest, but a square I am not,  
Tis not gold nor jewels I hold inside,  
But something far more valuable.  
Do not force me open  
For my treasure will be lost forever.  
I have but one shapeless key.**

Do you know the answer? Call Angie @ 382-6290.  
The first caller with the correct answer will receive a gift card and his/her name will be posted in the next newsletter. Good luck!

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## Words To Live By:

"Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things you did not do than by the ones you did do "

Mark Twain



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