

JUN - SEPT 2004

NEWSLETTER

P.O. Box 4135, Honolulu, Hawaii 96812-4135



FILCOM Entry Facade and Jose Rizal's Monument getting its regular maintenance & cleaning.

FALEA & THE FILIPINO COMMUNITY CENTER

By Oscar Paez, Jr.

One of FALEA's community service projects is its' continuous involvement in the construction of the Filipino Community Center building. FALEA's past- president Lito Alcantra initiated the FilCom Center project, during his tenure as president of the Filipino Chamber of Commerce. During the planning stage of this project, FALEA members, Rose Churma and Lyna Burian were heavily involved. Armando Ines was FALEA's liaison to the Filipino Community Center during this phase. And then through Rose Churma, the Officers and Board of Directors of the Filipino Community Center requested FALEA to provide architectural and engineering overview of the Center's design and construction phases. (Continued on Page 4)

GROUP BUILDERS INC.

AN INCREDIBLE STORY

By Lyna Burian

Getting the Hawaii Entrepreneur of the Year award from Ernst & Young in 1997 was the farthest thing from Lito Alcantra's mind. After all, he had some very heavy competition among the other nominees, including highly successful businesswoman, former Hawaii First Lady Vicky Cayetano. However, Ernst & Young recognized something unique about Lito that convinced them he deserved the award more than any of his competitors. It was the incredible story of how he started his company, Group Builders, Inc., and how hard work and perseverance have consistently earned the company a place among the Top 250 companies in Hawaii, and among the Top 20 construction companies in Hawaii.

Lito, born in San Vicente, Ilocos Sur in the Philippines, came to Hawaii in 1973. He had earned his Civil Engineering license in the Philippines, after graduating from the Mapua Institute of Technology, one of the top engineering schools (the Philippines' MIT), and had worked as a Project Engineer in Manila and Isabela for ten years.

(Continued on Page 6)



Chito Alcantra & Lito Alcantra at the John A Burns School of Medicine construction site.

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President's Mabuhay Message

Aloha and Mabuhay FALEA Members:

Time really flies doesn't it? It's almost July, half of 2004 has passed. Things are looking up for Hawaii and FALEA. Hawaii construction industry has gotten busier than ever. There are so many upcoming projects – federal, state, private commercial and residential. It is predicted that residential projects will be on the rise for the next three (3) years. A lot of firms are hiring. Good for all of us.



Our joint Huli-Huli/Picnic event was a success. I hope everyone had fun! Mahalo to all of you for helping and joining us. We have also been very busy with – Golf and Bowling. Our appreciation goes to **Segundo Velasco** for coordinating the golf tournaments and **Vergel Del Rosario** for heading up the FALEA Bowl Team. Thank you for your dedication.

We are planning another Construction Quality Management seminar in July. We will keep you posted. Members I encourage you to take advantage of this opportunity.

Keep your summer enjoyable and safe. There are so many parties to attend – graduations, weddings, baptisms and more! Congratulations to all parents with graduating son(s) and/or daughter(s). Best wishes to all graduates.

Our General Assembly is fast approaching. Members, please attend this one time meeting on August 21st, at St. Philomena Church in Salt Lake. We will have a general meeting, election for 2005 officers and some fun at the end. Hope to see you all there.

Aloha,
Marites Calad Shoji
President

The following are the candidates for 2004-2005 Elections:

Vergel Del Rosario	Vice President/ President Elect
Judy Tabios	Secretary
Ramon Bonoan	Treasurer
Elvira Pineda	Asst. Treasurer
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John Ramos	Director
Jun Suela	Director
Marites Shoji	Director
Rene Agsalsa	Director
Segundo Velasco	Director
Taz Galang	Director

Editorial

Kudos to **Marites Shoji** on her well-deserved promotion to Vice President at Norman Wright. Marites is a great role model for our young engineers and architects. Like **Lito Alcantara**, whose story is on the front page, she inspires our fellow FALEAns and fellow Filipinos, and ensures them that success is possible with hard work, patience and perseverance.

FALEA has quite a few role models who have excelled and achieved success in their field in one way or another. Another role model in our midst is **Grace Bravo**, who works for the State Department of Transportation. Grace, who is a very successful Events Coordinator, has been designated Chairperson for this year's DOT Hoolaulea, where several DOT staff members will be honored for their achievements. **Grace** is encouraging our FALEA members to join the festivities and help honor our fellow FALEAns who are receiving awards, among them **Richard Dahilig** and **Julius Fronda**. Congratulations to all of you.

Summer is here and most of you will probably be taking trips or going to your favorite vacation spots. Please be safe and be mindful of the additional security checks being done at the airports. Here at home, there is a lot of educational and social activities in store for you the next few months, such as the ADAAG Seminar on July 8, the Construction Safety Workshop on July 30, and of course our annual General Assembly and Election Meeting on August 21. There are also community events, such as the DOT Hoolaulea on July 23 and the UST Singers Concert on August 20. Look for details on these events somewhere in this newsletter. We hope to see you all at one or all of these events.

Before I close, I would like to recognize those who tirelessly plan and coordinate our FALEA events, so that we can enjoy each other's company, or just have a good time. I am talking about **Segundo Velasco** and **Vergel del Rosario**, for organizing the golf and bowling tournaments, respectively, **Greg Garcia** and **Emil Barroga** for keeping the EIT/FE review course alive, **Roger Urbi** for all those educational seminars, **Elvie Pineda** for coordinating the picnics and fundraisers, and most of all, all of you who serve, or have served, as officers and directors of this organization, for generously giving your time and effort to help your fellow FALEAns. I can not help but feel proud to be a part of this group.

I hope everyone has a very enjoyable and safe summer!!

More power to FALEA!!

Lyna Burian

**FALEA
NEWSLETTER**
Since 1993

Year X
June 2004 - Sept 2004
Issue

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JUNE 2004

Feature Article



FILCOM CENTER (continued from 1st page)

DESIGN PHASE

The colonial Filipino architecture is an eclectic mix of native Filipino, Spanish and Chinese influence. Together with the Waipahu Mill Town design guidelines developed by Amfac, which advocates the implementation of the “plantation” style of the Mill Town area (Waipahu Theater, Medical Clinic Bldg), the FilCom Center’s design represents a symbol of a community that is diverse in culture and as colorful in tradition and customs.

The most deliberate aspect of the FilCom center that pays tribute to the Filipino architecture is the central elevator tower. Supported on four columns (bamboo stilts) with the high-pitched gabled roof it symbolically represents the “bahay kubo” or nipa hut, the traditional pre-Hispanic Filipino house.

At the heart of the center is the central courtyard. It is the entry and gathering area common to all of spaces in the center. For the banquet hall it is the pre-function or extension of the ballroom. For the rest of the center it is a quiet oasis that shelters one from the hectic hustle and bustle of downtown Waipahu. Also, the initial design phase walk-through revealed a surprising view of Diamond Head on the horizon. It was at that vantage point where the courtyard was to be located.

The FilCom Center is a “community” center and must be accessible to the people to provide for human services for the young and elderly alike. It must also be part of the townscape and be part of the backdrop for the daily business activities of the town. Especial site considerations were designed to promote this spirit of small town marketplace activity.

The center was located along Waipahu Road where patrons utilizing the public transportation and/or pedestrians can access the center. A common strip of mall/plaza separates the center from vehicle traffic along Waipahu Road. This plaza strip could be an outdoor terrace for street level businesses providing food and beverages. Or a meeting place for old friends to catch up on old plantation days or play a game of checkers and watch the activities of the day passes by.

Although Wimberly Allison Tong & Goo (WATG) was the commissioned architectural firm, the Filipino architectural staff of WATG, who are also FALEA members, volunteered to donate their time on the master planning, conceptual and schematic design phase for this dream project. The individuals led by former WATG principal Eugene Watanabe were; Marcel Raza designed and laid out the overall site master plan and floor plan, based on the FilCom Center’s program; Manolo Quiason embellished and illustrated on the aesthetics of the building exterior elevations and façade ornamentation; Ben Ugale, Rocky Marquez and Ernesto Agaloos sacrificed many hours developing the conceptual design into a construction document for the obtainment of the building permit and bidding purposes.

CONSTRUCTION PHASE

As the construction documents were substantially completed, FALEA members reviewed the architectural and engineering drawings, for coordination and value engineering. This group was headed by Art Lucio, and ably assisted by Emil Barroga, Jr., Albino Prieto, Jr. Marcie Labasan, Marcos Ibarra, Florencio Suela, Jr. and Oscar Paez, Jr.



Front Facade by the Old Sugar Mill

FALEA members were also involved in the selection process of, initially, the Grading Contractor, the Building Contractor and later, the Center’s Interior Designer (headed by Roland Badua, Roger Urbi & Oscar Paez, Jr. with Manny Lanuevo, Art Lucio, Lyna Burian, Joel Francisco & Frank Cruzata). On March 18, 2000, immediately after the Center’s groundbreaking ceremony, a construction committee was formed to be the technical representative and adviser to the FilCom Inc. Once again, FALEA members wholeheartedly volunteered to serve on the construction committee. Manny Lanuevo heads the Committee with Art Lucio, Oscar Paez, Jr., Roger Urbi, Isidro Baquilar, and Silvestre Ulep as members. This volunteer group has spent countless hours of their time making sure that the building is completed on schedule (mid 2002) and within budget. Elvie Pineda and Daina Legaspi also volunteered their time working with KFC Engineering Management, Inc., the company that was selected as the Construction Managers for this project. The two statues in front of the FilCom Center (by Waipahu Street) were designed by FALEA members. Oscar Paez, Jr. designed the Veterans Memorial and Lino Visaya was the structural designer for the Rizal Statue. As the FilCom Ctr. celebrates the 2nd anniversary of its opening, FALEA continues its involvement until the project is fully completed and is in full use by the community.



Seminars

8-Hour Safety Orientation Course for Contractors. A Construction Safety Partnering Workshop



Instructed By: Mr. Bernard Tom, CSP

NAVFAC Pacific Construction Safety Manager
July 30, 2004 8:00 a.m. till 4:00 p.m.

Navy Human Resource Training Center

94-810 Moloalu St., Waipahu, HI

This workshop will focus on understanding the US Army Corps of Engineers Safety and Health Requirements Manual (EM 385-1-1) and provide specific examples and activities to participants. Topics include Activity Hazard Analysis (AHA), Accident Prevention Plans (APP), Operational Risk Management (ORM), and common problems/lessons learned on work involving trenching, fall protection, electrical, cranes, PPE, etc. This workshop will satisfy the training requirements for the site safety officer in all Navy contracts. This course is a must for all Site Safety Officers, Superintendents, and Quality Control Managers. **Seating is limited to the first 30 responders only. Please call Roger Urbi at 780-4063 to RSVP. Please reserve seats at \$40.00 per person.**

Activities Atbp.

CONGRATULATIONS!



A heartfelt CONGRATULATIONS! to our President, **Marites Calad Shoji**, on her recent promotion to Vice President at Norman Wright Mechanical Equipment Company, an HVAC supplier. It is quite an achievement for someone who started as a Sales Application Engineer just seven years ago. But with **Marites'** drive and hard work, this does not come as a surprise. Way to go, Marites!! You make us all proud!

Marites has a Bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering from Santa Clara University in California. She moved to Hawaii from the Philippines with her family in 1985, and graduated from Farrington High School in 1991. She has been very active with FALEA since she came back to Hawaii in 1997. Keep up the good work, Marites.

UST SINGERS CONCERT

The world-renowned UST Singers, voted "Best Choir" at the 2001 World Choral Festival in Puebla, Mexico, is coming to Honolulu. They will be in Honolulu on August 17 – 21, with a concert at the Blaisdell Concert Hall on Friday, August 20. At their homecoming concert in Manila in February 2003, Javier Cameno, director of the international choral festivals in Spain, declared onstage before the SRO audience: "The UST Singers is the best choir in the world. In Spain, we never invite a choir to our festivals more than once, but we have invited your choir six times! It is not only the best in the world, it is also your best ambassador."



It is exciting to have the UST Singers make Honolulu one of their stops on their 2004 tour. They gave us a sampling of their superb performance a year ago, when they did a free mini-concert at the Honolulu Hale. This time, they would like to give us the full show. Tickets will be going on sale at the Blaisdell Box Office starting next month. Let us fill up the Concert Hall, and give them the warm welcome that they deserve.

We would also like to call on all UST alumni (there are about 20 – 25 in FALEA), and try to show the UST Singers some aloha from Hawaii. We hope we can host a reception in their honor while they are here. Please contact Lyna Burian at 734-9344 or burian@hawaii.edu if you are interested. This might be a good way to start the UST Alumni Association.

D.O.T Hoolaulea



Department of Transportation Hoolaulea

When: July 23, 2004

Where: Pacific Beach Hotel Grand Ballroom,

Time: 500PM-11:30pm.

This is a DOT Hoolaulea 2004 function (open to family and friends to attend) and some of our friends will be receiving some awards. The cost of the ticket is \$20.00 per adult, \$15 for children 6-12 yrs. old and children under 6 is free. The dinner buffet will start at 6:30 PM.

There will be casino games from 5pm-630pm, lots of entertainments - **Jus' Cuzins Trio, Halau Hula Makana A Ke Aloha, Mahiehie Band** with the **2003 and 2004 Ms Aloha Hula**, and the **Kaneponos**, and lots of door prizes.



Feature Article

Group Builders Inc. (Continued from 1st page):

Not knowing anyone in Hawaii and having a family to support, Lito knew it was going to be tough. He decided to accept a job with Acoustic Insulation and Drywall as a janitor just to be able to pay his bills. At work late at night, when no one was around, Lito would look at the plans and estimates, that were left lying around in the office. And in one of those instances, he noticed an error in the estimates, which he humbly pointed out to the engineers, and saved them a substantial amount of money. From there, he was assigned to estimating, and after proving himself, later became Chief Estimator. In less than five years, he rose to Executive Vice President of the company. Unfortunately, in 1979, the company was bought by a new owner, and all the employees had to go.

Lito was on his way to getting a job with a big contracting firm, when he ran into a friend, Charlie Cooke, who was then Hawaii Licensing Board's Executive Secretary. Charlie invited him for breakfast the next day and told him he should start his own company. Lito argued that this will be very difficult, since he did not have enough money to go on his own. Before they parted, Charlie handed him an envelope. On his way to his car, Lito opened it, and could not believe his eyes when he saw a check in his name for \$30,000. For several weeks, Lito did not touch the check because he was trying to figure out what the catch was. But there was no catch. Charlie was just very impressed with Lito's hard work and honesty. Because of this, plus his management skills and dependability, Charlie was willing to risk \$30,000 to give him a break. And so Group Builders, Inc. was born.

The company opened in 1979 with the same five engineers that Lito worked with at Acoustic Insulation and Drywall, thus the name, Group Builders. In its first month, the company got its first project, the 17-story Chandelier Condominiums in Salt Lake. Projects poured in mainly because of the building boom in the late '70s. But still, those first few years were tough. In 1982, when the Kauai Hilton project was stopped, his partners were forced to quit, and Lito had to sell his home in order to save the company. Hawaii went through a building slump in the mid and late '90s. So, the company decided to branch out in the Philippines, introducing new construction technologies and garnering some of the big projects in the area.

Now, as it celebrates its 25th year in business, almost 200 employees strong, Group Builders can definitely say it has made it. Charlie Cooke is still its CEO, and Lito its President. Chito Alcantra, Lito's nephew and a licensed architect in Hawaii, is Vice-President in charge of Engineering and Estimating. Inspite of his very busy schedule, Lito likes to keep in touch with all his construction projects, and still hangs out with his workers.

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And inspite of his huge success, Lito remains humble and never forgets where he started. He is always willing to help the community, especially the Filipino community. He is involved in numerous organizations, and was instrumental in not only getting the Filipino Community (FilCom) Center off the ground, but also in contributing thousands of dollars and volunteer hours toward its construction. He has served as President of different Filipino organizations, including FALEA in 1999. He continues to help FALEA's aspiring engineering and architecture graduates in getting their professional license in Hawaii. In just thirty-one years in Hawaii, he has certainly rose from almost nothing, and made a name for himself. That's an incredible story!

Centennial logo Contest Results



FALEA members, Lyna Burian and Zam Criste (second and third from left) were among the five judges that selected the logo for the Filipino Centennial Commission. Also in the photo are (from left): Commission member Raymund Liongson, and winners Dante Dimabuyo (middle) & Christine Longboy (far right, 1st place), Michael Cueva (3rd from right, 2nd place), Marween Yagin (2nd from right, 3rd place). The 1st place design is shown above.

Calendar of Events

JULY 2004

2	Board of Directors
TBA	Huli-Huli Chicken Fundraiser
23	DOT Hoolaulea
24	Golf Tournament
30	Safety Orientation Workshop

AUGUST 2004

6	Board of Directors Meeting
20	UST Singers Concert
21	General Assembly and Elections
25	Deadline: to Nominate Outstanding Engineer & Architect
TBA	Banquet Planning Meeting

SEPTEMBER 2004

3	Board of Directors Meeting
TBA	Banquet Planning Meetings

OCTOBER 2004

1	Board of Directors Meeting
TBA	Banquet Planning Meetings
23	Installation and Awards Banquet

NOVEMBER 2004

5	Board of Directors Meeting
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DECEMBER 2004

3	Board of Directors Meeting
TBA	Christmas Party
TBA	Christmas Caroling

General Assembly Meeting, Annual Election & SUMMER GET-TOGETHER

Date: Saturday, Aug. 21, 2004

Time: 4:00 PM - 10:00PM

Place: St. Philomena Parish Hall

This is FALEA's annual membership meeting. A new set of officers will be elected. Annual dues must be paid in order to vote.

Come Dance! Eat! for a small donation of \$10! Call Greg Garcia for tickets at 383 7177.

Search for Outstanding Engineer and Outstanding Architect is on...

By Vergel Del Rosario

FALEA is searching for Outstanding Engineer and Outstanding Architect of the year to be recognized during the Installation of the Officers and Directors, at Halekoa Hotel in Waikiki, on October 23, 2004.

Any FALEA member can nominate an Outstanding Engineer or Outstanding Architect based on the following four (4) criteria:

1. Technical Accomplishment (Technical Awards, Papers & Presentations, Major Projects)
2. Professional History & Contributions (Positions Held, Professional Affiliations, Special Contributions to Profession & Special Recognition)
3. FALEA, Civic & Community Contributions (Affiliations, Position Held, Special Recognition)
4. Recommendations from individuals (The writer must state relationship with the candidate and reasons why the candidate shall be nominated).

All nominations shall abide by the following rules:

- All nominations shall be in, on or before August 25, 2004
- All nominations shall be seconded by another FALEA member.
- No nomination or recommendations of relatives (by either affinity or consanguinity).
- All nominations shall be submitted on a prescribed form available at www.falea.org.

If you have questions, please call Vergel Del Rosario at 348-3944.

Welcome to our new members!!

We hope you will have both fun and educational experiences with FALEA. We hope to see you in our upcoming events.

1. **Manny Lopez**: A graduate of University of the East in Manila with a BBA degree (1969). He is joining as an Associate/Affiliate member.

2. **Manny S. Dayao**: A mechanical engineer with AXA Advisors. A graduate of UH in Mechanical Engineering (1975). He is joining as a Regular member.

3. **Severino G. Martin**: B.S. Electrical Engineering ,1984, Tech. Inst. of the Phil. Registered Elect. Engineer in the Phil. Currently working as a maintenance engineer with CBM Group Inc. Property Management.



Bowling News...

By Vergel Del Rosario

The four FALEA bowling players continue to play with the Wednesday Night Bowling Tournament every Wednesday night from 6:30 to 9:30 at Barber's Point Bowling Center. The original players who started with the league are **Joe Dar, Emilio Barroga, Nora Del Rosario** and myself. **Rico Erolin** is the new team member who replaced Joe. Joe played with the FALEA team for 12 weeks; he is very enthusiastic about bowling. Although, he is a new comer, he showed a keen interest in this sport. Lately, conflict with his work and family schedules forced him to quit. As part of the bowler's commitment before leaving , he had to find his replacement; he recommended **Rico Erolin**.

Rico Erolin is an experienced bowler; he is now our top-scorer. "Thanks for taking Joe's place." In the FALEA team, only **Emilio Barroga** has a perfect attendance, "congratulations..." When he strike, he always say, " the last time I played bowling is 10 years ago."

The lady player of the FALEA bowling team is **Nora Del Rosario**. She filled up the lady slot to complete the FALEA team. "Thanks for being supportive." No lady FALEAN's seems to be challenge by this game, either the time is not suitable to their schedule or the Bowling Center is too far.

After bowling for over 5 years, I am still struggling. I couldn't help but think that this game is not for me, but I miss each day that I can't bowl.

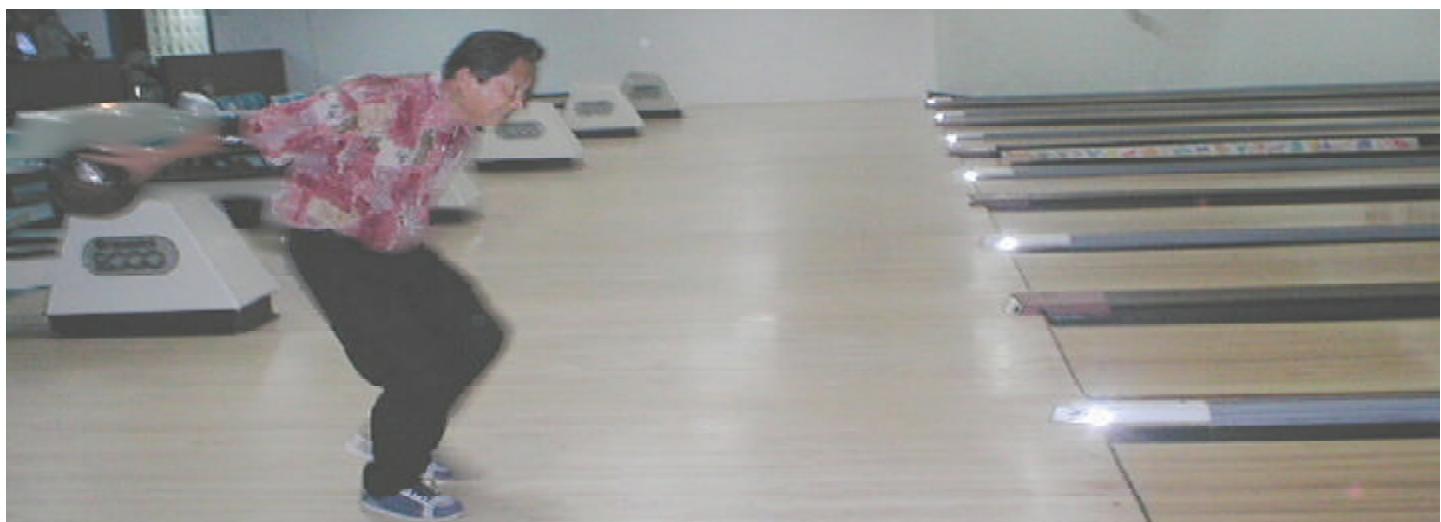
It is not unusual for a bowler to be absent for various reason, i.e. out of State, not feeling good, overtime, etc. The bowler needs to find a "substitute" player during his/her absence, however, the regular bowler still pays for the bowling fee. If the bowler cannot find a substitute, the game still



From left, Vergel Del Rosario, Nora Del Rosario and Emilio Barroga.

continues. Sometimes on other leagues, the absent bowler's average is deducted by 50 points. This rule depends on what was agreed upon by the teams before the start of the league.

My goal is to organize a FALEA bowling league, to develop camaraderie among members and their family. FALEANs!!! this is a whole-some sport, this is the answer to our quests for the "sense of belonging." Let's bowl... call me at 348-3944.



Vergel shows his striking form

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Sports (continued)

GOLF TOURNEY AT Pearl Country Club, June 26, 2004.

The third FALEA Golf Tournament for 2004 was concluded last Saturday, June 26, 2004.

There were eighteen(18) participants. Though there was a slight drizzle on the first few front holes, the weather recovered and all the players completed their rounds dry. As usual, golf is always fun and after the game, participants stayed awhile to have some pupus and recollect their best shots of the day and the shots that they should have played instead. The tournament was a success due to the efforts of Tournament Chairman, **Dodi Velasco**. Next tournament is on July 24 at Waikiki Golf Course.

The tournament trophy winners are as follows:

First Place – **Leo Obaldo** (Gross 89, Net 69)
Second Place – **Taz Galang** (Gross 87, Net 71)
Third Place – **Alex Viray** (Gross 80, Net 72)
Fourth Place – **Dennis Pentecostes** (Gross 83, Net 72)



Top three with Golf chair Dodi: Taz, Leo & Alex



FALEA Die-hard Golfers at the Tournament



A final photo op before the next tournament!



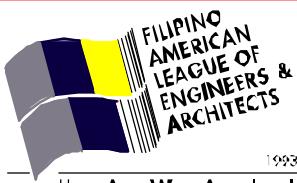
Lito, Greg, & Ron relax and talk stories



A feast after the game with Alex Viray & friends
...eh, good grindz!!



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Famous Quotations:

Form follows function - that has been misunderstood. Form and function should be one, joined in a spiritual union.

—Frank Lloyd Wright



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