



**FYP: Past and Present**

By: Therese Lizardo-Escano,  
FYP-DC Founding Member and Current Board Member



In January of 2003, Anthony David asked me if I was interested in helping FYP become more than just a listserv. As a recent GW graduate, I was more than happy to help. In January of 2004, and after much planning and organizing a timeline for the coming year, the new FYP E-Board held their first social event in years. FYP has come a long way since that first social event. Through the hard work and support of FYP E-boards, and dedicated officers such as Victor Ecarma and Joni Samilin, FYP has spearheaded much development in the young professional community. As exhibited by its consistently successful networking, community, and professional events- especially in the past years- FYP has proven itself to be a visible and successful organization. From collegiate workshops to networking happy hours, FYP always has something planned.

...but what does FYP really mean? I'm sure that the majority of people reading this article have heard the story of how their parents immigrated to the United with just a suitcase and a handful of cash, but have now made a successful life for themselves and their children. It's because of our parents that we have been given the opportunity to be professionals. So to me, being a member of FYP means providing others with the same opportunities that have been given to us by our parents, so that we can advance and empower ourselves as a community. This giving is threefold 1) Providing others with opportunities to advance in their respective careers 2) Educating one another about our rich cultural heritage 3) Appreciating the past and present successes of the Filipino young professional community so that we may continue to add to this success.

I also have to admit that being a member of FYP has given me the opportunity to meet many of my closest friends. I'm very grateful for the friendships that I've made and I know that many others feel this same way- for some reason, many people have met their husbands and wives through FYP! I guess this is an added bonus for those lucky few! Haha...but back on a serious note, FYP is the conduit through which we can celebrate the successes of the Filipino community and share in the richness of Filipino culture. FYP is a group that wants to help its members advance in a society where it's so easy to get caught up in the "tsis mis" of politics and all the negatives that continue to separate our community. So, thank you for being a part of this group and helping to advance the young professional community. Most importantly, thank you to the present E-board and the leadership of FYP that has developed this group to the success it is today. FYP has definitely come a long way- so, congrats!

...can't wait to see what lies ahead!

**FYP-DC Executive Council 2008**

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**Mabuhay!**

Welcome to the Filipino Young Professionals of Metropolitan Washington, DC (FYP-DC). We are an organization that is dedicated to developing the professional, social and service aspects of our community. All are welcome to attend our events, and we encourage your involvement.

FYP-DC is a 501(c)7 non-profit organization, whose primary objective is to support issues or interests, related to the Filipino-American community and the DC metropolitan region, for non-commercial and non-political purposes. As such, FYP-DC is subject to guidelines set forth by the U.S. Internal Revenue Service and may not endorse any political parties, candidates or similar activities.

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**Newsletter Editor  
Vacant**

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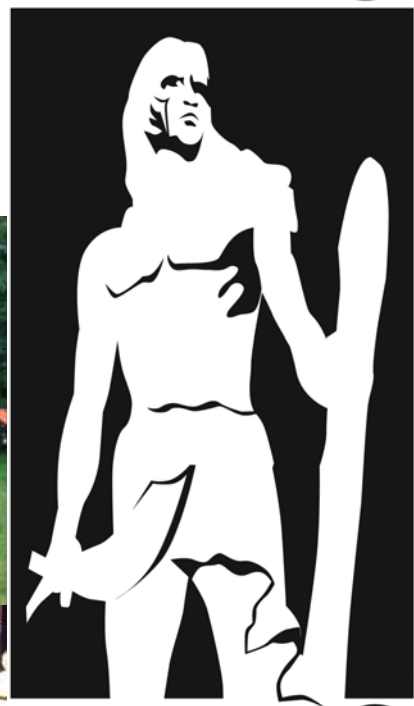


**FYP-DC Lapu Lapu Dragon Boat Team: Making Everlasting Impressions!**  
By Victor Ecarma

In 2008, FYP-DC entered its first ever DC Dragon Boat Team. Reflecting the spirit of Lapu Lapu, the warrior chieftain who lead his people against the Spanish and killed Magellan, Team Lapu Lapu they rose up from obscurity and made everyone take notice. Although only 3 people on the team had ever participated before, enduring intense training and due to a postponement of the festival that lead to the replacement of 9 members of the original 20 man team, they were one of the strongest teams in the festival. Drummer Joni "I smile when I yell" Samilin led the team to a win in their first heat. Her encouraging words, "You guys are pathetic!" not only gave them the win, but resulted in the team getting the best time in the 250 Meters among all teams in the competition. Overall, the FYP-DC Lapu Lapu received a bronze medal in the 250 Meter Open A final and received a Silver medal in the 500 Meter Open A Final.

For More Pictures Go to Events Page on <http://www.fypdc.org>

**LAPU  
LAPU**



**FYPDC  
Dragon Boat  
Racing Team**





### FYP-DC Lapu Lapu Roster

Amiel "Batang Ilog" Brillantes  
 Anthony "Antonio Banderas" Bigalbal  
 Brian "My great grandmother is Filipino" Adams  
 Jon "mi otro nombre es Chris" Bascug  
 Dan "I put the 'American' in 'Filipino-American'" Sushinsky  
 Dominic "the child prodigy" Pasion  
 Erin "Give me a shot" Bascug  
 Fred "Red Bull" Bacong  
 George "Strong Heart" Faustino  
 Henry "the Doc" Tran  
 Joe "Hitman" Fernandez  
 JP "the guy in the Boston Red Sox hat" Fontelo  
 Joni "I Smile when I Yell" Samilin  
 Laurena "Max Contract" Liu  
 Lester "Too Tall" Liu  
 Lewis Van Allen Jackson "Rythme" IV  
 Manny "I lead from the Front" Sayco  
 Matt "Dragon Boats aren't just for Taiwan" Nicholas  
 Mike "I'm A Hot Tamele" Ramos  
 Natassja "Sexy Assassin" Manzero  
 Nino "Dicki" Tejada  
 Rhyne "I run too many 10Ks" Beniga  
 Ron "Boy Wonder" Sayco  
 Stephanie "I go both ways" Bascug  
 Stephanie "How does your garden" Grow  
 Terrance "D-ware" Gabriel  
 Victor "Chief" Ecarma  
 Warren "I Got Diesel In these Arms" Liu  
 Wayne "Upper Cut" Kei

"I think we did well because we felt the ghost of Lapu Lapu behind us. And knowing what he did to Magellan, we didn't want to die, so we paddled really fast."  
 - Brian Adams

"Wait, we won that race?!!!" – Terrace Gabriel

"I had the best day of rowing competitively I've ever had; never mind the fact that it was my first day of rowing competitively ever. But not only have I developed a new fondness for water sports and dragon boat racing, I also became friendly with many new people I might not have befriended otherwise. The shared experience of rowing intensely was quite a good time of bonding. I've never been more proud of being a member of FYP." – Matt Nicols

"Thanks! Now I can add dragon boat racing as an interest on my Facebook page!" – Stephanie Grow

"Once Lapu Lapu rule Mactan, next year it will be the Potomac." Amiel Brillantes

"Long live Lapu Lapu - now where can we eat some halo-halo?" – Christian Bascug

"We were naturals out there! Hey, whadya expect?! Paddling in banana..errr... 'dragon' boats is what we do best!!!" - Rhyne "I run too many 10Ks" Beniga

"This was the most fun I've ever had pretending to be a Filipino!" – Dan Sushinsky

"Yeah I did crew in high school so I should be good at dragon boating...right? uuhhh...not exactly...."JP Fontelo

"My name is Nino Benedict P. Tejada, but you call me Dicki" - Dicki Tejada





### White Water Rafting!!! FYP Comes Back Alive!

On July 19th FYP-DC visited the Wild and Wonderful State of West Virginia to visit the Cheat River Outfitters. 14 FYP-DC members and friends made the long haul to Albright, West Virginia to brave Class III rapids on the Cheat River. It was a sunny day and the water was nice and refreshing. Half of the FYP Group opted to use "duckies" which were smaller 1 or 2 man inflatable kayak like rafts. The other half choose the traditional raft that you see in all the white water rafting pictures. Again about half of the FYP group decided to spend the night instead of driving back the same day. The evening activities included going to a real live West Virginia Country bar that proved to be more fun than expected. The next morning the remaining FYP'ers wrapped up their adventure with a short hike on the River of Promise Trail. Please stay tuned as FYP-DC plans more outdoor events in the upcoming months!

Thank you George Faustino, FYP-DC VP, for Organizing!

For More Pictures Go to Events Page on <http://www.fypdc.org>



#### Cheat River Outfitters

2764 N Preston Hwy. || Albright, WV 26519

Toll Free - 1.888.99.RIVER ||

Locally - 304.329.2024

[mail@cheatriveroutfitters.com](mailto:mail@cheatriveroutfitters.com)





Swanky Productions /Filipino Young Professionals/Singha Beer /Cafe Asia  
 THE 2nd ANNUAL FASHION SHOW

# GLAMOROUS

UNIVERSAL & ECLECTIC FASHION

By Trisha Valencia

FYP-DC ([www.fypdc.org](http://www.fypdc.org)) and Swanky Productions ([www.swankyprod.com](http://www.swankyprod.com)), built upon the success of its inaugural 2007 fashion show, with its 2nd Annual Fashion Show. Both FYP-DC and Swanky partnered with sponsor Singha Beer. The show was on Saturday March 15th at Café Asia located in Arlington, VA. The event, which included raffle prizes, was free to the public 21 and up. Proceeds benefited the Asian Pacific American Film Festival ([www.apafilm.org](http://www.apafilm.org)) and Culture Shock DC's Youth Outreach Program ([www.cultureshockdance.org](http://www.cultureshockdance.org)). If you would like to learn more about their programs and organizations, please log onto their websites. The Pre-Show featured spoken word and break dance performances. "Glamorous" featured ethnic fashion designers such as Renegade Wear (<http://www.renegadewear.com>) and Chaubara Fashion Studio (<http://www.chaubara.com>) and Access Bridal ([www.accessbridal.com](http://www.accessbridal.com)). We also showcased the latest fashion from DEB ([www.debshops.com](http://www.debshops.com)) and from head-to-toe Urban Fashion of Downtown Locker Room ([www.dtlr.com](http://www.dtlr.com)). The show also featured a line of beautiful and diverse models showcasing each designer's collections to reflect the rich and diverse community of Washington, D.C. There were also special performances by Culture Shock D.C. Singha Beer rolled out the red carpet and showered all the guests with VIP treatment. Singha turned Cafe Asia into a New York style fashion show party. Ambience and decor of the event created an experiential environment, which allowed guests to interact with the Singha Brand. There was a Singha Beer Photo Shoot Studio where guests downloaded pictures from ([www.SinghaEvent.com](http://www.SinghaEvent.com)). A Singha Beer Ice Sculpture was on display for the crowd to enjoy extra cold Singha Beer.



Filipino Young Professionals  
 Washington, DC





## FYP - DC Member Profile Questions – Rosalina Leoncio



1. Where is my family originally from in the PI? **My mom is from Luisana, Laguna and my dad is from Pampanga.**
2. Current Residence? **Potomac Falls, VA**
3. College? **Hollins University**
4. Any siblings or pets? **2 Bros, I'm the middle child and the only girl =)**
5. Astrological sign? **Leo the lion!**

6. Any hobbies/interests? **Hanging out with friends, watching movies, shopping, cooking**
7. Myers - Briggs Personality type? Extroverted Intorvert? **Ha, whatever it was it was something weird\***
8. Who was the first person you met in FYP? **George Faustino**

### *What is the age range of this group?*

There is no official age range for FYP-DC. Although most of our events will cater to the young professional, we encourage participation from anyone who wants to be involved.

### *What are the sources of FYP-DC's funds?*

FYP-DC has three sources of funds. The membership dues are the primary source of FYP-DC's funds. The second source are pay events, such as Speed Dating and Happy Hours. The last source of funds are donations we receive from our events.

### *What can I do to help contribute to FYP-DC's development?*

Becoming a member, attend meetings and events, providing feedback, and becoming involved in planning events are all ways you can help FYP-DC grow into a thriving organization.

## FYP - DC Member Profile Questions – Rhyne Beniga



1. Where is my family originally from in the PI? **My Pops is from Oroquieta City; My Momma is from Zamboanga.**
2. Current Residence? **Alexandria, VA**
3. College? **University of Maryland, College Park: B.A. Economics/ Minor - Finance (GO TERPS!!)**
4. Any siblings or pets? **1 younger brother - Lyle**
5. Astrological sign? **Leo**
6. Any hobbies/interests? **Other than running...?! Working Out, Travelling, Hiking, Sailing, Scuba Diving, Yard Work/Home Improvement and now I guess Dragon Boating (shout out to LAPU LAPU!!)**
7. Myers - Briggs Personality type? **ISTJ.. pretty no nonsense and straight edge!.. i.e. boring**
8. Who was the first person you met in FYP? **I think it was George Faustino. But technically it was probably Jerry Chaves. Whattup homeys!?**
9. Why did you join FYP? **The Happy Hour specials of course! what else?! j/k.. really just to meet new people and help out in the community doing service events.**





## FYP - DC Member Profile Questions – Peter Quon



1. Where is my family originally from in the PI?  
**MANILA**

2. Current Residence?

**Officially, California. Unofficially, Bethesda.**

3. College?

**Brown University undergrad (BS in bioinformatics), GWU graduate (Masters of Public Health)**

4. Any siblings or pets?

**1 younger brother who's getting married next month. I guess he's not so young after all. Unfortunately, my dog died last year. But she had a good long happy life.**

5. Astrological sign?

**Scorpio and although I don't believe in astrology, I still enjoy reading my horoscope each morning. I see it like a daily fortune cookie.**

6. Any hobbies/interests?

**I'm a part time comedian that performs at the Comedy Spot in Arlington. I also lead an improv and stand up comedy troupe called Anything to Declare that focuses on issues of race and culture in America. You can see us at the DC Improv and Flashpoint Theatre. You can also find our group page in Facebook (search for "Anything To Declare"). I also do tae kwon do (black belt), sea kayaking, skiing, and snowboarding.**

7. Myers - Briggs Personality type?

**I just took it right now. I am an ENTP**

8. Who was the first person you met in FYP?

**Katherine Velasco! She's very friendly.**

9. Why did you join FYP?

**I want to be more involved in community service projects sponsored by Filipinos. I'm also trying to get more Filipinos interested in the comedy scene in DC because it tends to influence the type of performers that come to DC. We definitely need more headlining comedians of color.**

10. New Years?

**Haven't thought that far in advance. Maybe... Australia?**

11. Favorite filipino food?

**Longanesa with eggs and I can eat that at breakfast, lunch, or dinner. I**

### What are the benefits of joining FYP-DC?

by George Faustino

As more people become actual members, it is that much more that we can return back to you. At the annual pool party and picnic, we were able to buy a nice sized lechon and provide many other entrees. We were also able to provide a venue for the Holiday Pot luck. Let's not forget the website either.

All of those things, other little events and connections are given back to the membership base. In a perfect world we'd have a nice rich benefactor to finance our events and community services. But in this world we all must be the benefactor in some small way. The more members the more benefits. More community service, bigger networking events and happier happy hours.

Annual membership dues are only \$10. In some places that's less than 2 drinks. Direction on how to pay by US Mail or online are on our website, [www.fypdc.org](http://www.fypdc.org).

So please take care of that ASAP. Plus, you wouldn't want anyone to call you kuripot, diba? ☺



Filipino Young Professionals  
Washington, DC



FYP - DC Member Profile Questions – Khay Menesses



- 1. Where is my family originally from in the PI?  
**Dad - Angeles City Pampanga, Mom - Bataan**
- 2. Current Residence?  
**Falls Church VA**
- 3. College?  
**GMU (Bus. Mgmt)**
- 4. Any siblings or pets?  
**1 younger sister**
- 5. Astrological sign?  
**Gemini**
- 6. Any hobbies/interests?  
**I have a lot of hobbies and interests: I love Kids, Weddings, Movies esp. Filipino Romantic-Comedy hehe, Singing, Shopping, Swimming, Cooking (still learning), Musical Shows, Biking or trying out new outdoor activities, and of course charity work bec. I like**

helping people esp. kids.

- 7. Myers - Briggs Personality type?  
**ENFP**
- 8. Who was the first person you met in FYP?  
**Brianna**
- 9. Why did you join FYP?  
**I joined FYP to meet new people and I liked how they do community services/volunteer work rather than just Happy Hours =)**
- 10. New Years = New Start:=)
- 11. Favorite filipino food?  
**Sisig, Kare kare, Crispy Pata, Sinigang na Hapon**
- 12. Favorite thing to do in DC?  
**Watch musical shows/concerts and visit museums**

FYP-DC Partners (working relationship with FYP-DC)

- [Culture Shock - Washington, DC](#)
- [DC Asian Pacific American Film \(APA Film\)](#)
- [dcPinoy.com](#)
- [On-Stage Productions](#)
- [Organization of Chinese Americans - Young Professionals \(OCA-YP\)](#)
- [National Association of Asian American Professionals \(NAAAP\)](#)
- [Philippine American Foundation for Charities, Inc. \(PAFC\)](#)
- [Philippine Chamber of Commerce - Washington, DC](#)
- [Swanky Productions LLC](#)
- [20s and 30s Going Out Group](#)
- [Tutubi International - Children's Art Fair](#)
- [Young Professionals for International Cooperation \(YPIC\)](#)

Go to the "Links" Page For More Information





**Good News! Membership Dues are still \$10!**

**Membership has its rewards!  
Interested in becoming a member of FYP-DC?**

To renew your dues or to become a member, simply complete the membership form and submit \$10 for annual dues. The membership form can be found on the Members” area of <http://www.fypdc.org> . You may email your form or submit your dues via Paypal to [fypdc@yahoo.com](mailto:fypdc@yahoo.com) Please note that for Paypal payments, we are unable to accept credit/debit cards.

Membership forms and payments can also be mailed to:  
**Filipino Young Professionals of Washington, DC  
4551 Stratfield Lane  
Alexandria, VA 22311**

Email any comments or questions to [fypdc@yahoo.com](mailto:fypdc@yahoo.com), Attention Treasurer.

**Happy Birthday to FYP-DC Members!**

**June**

Brian Alejandro  
Yorick Jurani  
Abner Manahan  
Bobby Ngo  
Edwin Palang  
Maricel Peralta  
Andrew Prossner  
Roscelle Romano  
Jemelyn Tayco  
Peter Villareal

**July**

Donald R. Verde  
Paolo del Mundo  
Stephanie Salazar  
Pia Delos Santos

**August**

Jayson Nicolas  
Marsha Galicia

**Congrats! Jenn Carino and Felix Prasn on their Marriage!**

**FYP-DC Mission**

The Filipino Young Professionals of Washington, D.C. is organized exclusively for recreational, social, educational, and charitable purposes. The purpose of this corporation is:

- To create a network of young professionals in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area
- To provide education about Filipino American heritage through social and recreational activities
- To contribute to the Washington D.C. Filipino American community through social and charitable events and volunteer activities

**Join FYP-DC Groups Now!**

Face Book – Search For Filipino Young Professionals

Myspace – Search for Filipino Young Professionals

Yahoo Groups – Search For Filipino Young Professionals

