

Stella Salgado Evangelista, M.D.

As the first Asian appointed to be a member of the powerful Michigan State Board of Medicine in 1986 and reappointed recently to serve until 1994, Dr. Evangelista affirms the admirable caliber of Filipino woman-of-today. Excelling not only in her chosen field but as well as in her community involvement. Last year, Stella was bestowed the highest respect of the community when the Institute of International Affairs of Metro Detroit named her and her husband, Joe to the prestigious International Institute of Hall of Fame.



“Through her own efforts, Filipinos have gained the respect and admiration of the American people.”

And indeed, Stella’s talents serve the diverse community of Michigan and definitely have not been for the Filipinos alone. The respect and confidence of the general community where Stella resides reflect in the awards she has been receiving and the community projects she has been chosen to head as chairperson. Last year, Stella was bestowed the highest respect of the community when the Institute of International Affairs of Metro

When Dr. Stella Salgado Evangelista came to the United States in 1968 to further her studies in the medical profession, she had never realized that in less than 23 years, she can be counted as one of the handful of achievers in the medical field and to be appointed as a Board member of the State Medical Board that regulates the practitioners of her field. It was too far fetched for Stella then to imagine that she could be a trail blazer and could earn the distinction of not only being the first Filipino -- but the first Asian to be named to that illustrious group.

Dr. Evangelista exemplifies a highly successful professional-business person that she is. She proves by example that determination, hard work, organized and calculated programs - when properly orchestrated - are the ingredients for one’s financial independence. In an article written by Helen Niemiec, staff writer for the well-read and popular Observer Eccentric Newspaper of the State of Michigan, Dr. Evangelista asked if Chicago is a wonderful town since it was in Chicago where she had her first medical training, she replied: “I wouldn’t know. We were working all the time.”

True to her words, Dr. Evangelista and her equally dynamic husband, Dr. Jose Evangelista, have been engrossed both in their profession and business ventures. Without fully realizing what they were achieving, aside from amassing accolades and honors, the Evangelistas own several commercial and residential complexes in various areas in the United States. Since 1976, Stella serves, as president, the family’s corporation, Royal Management Company, based in Livonia, Michigan; specializing as building and developing real estate properties.

“In her own right, Dr. Evangelista has truly highlighted the Filipino-American image here in Michigan and in the United States,” commented a Filipino oldtimer in Michigan.

Detroit named her and Joe to the prestigious International Institute of Hall of Fame. She was Chairperson for the Hospice Benefit for Henry Ford Hospital First Annual Dinner Dance in July 1989; Overall Chairperson for the City of Hope Annual Fund Raising Gala in 1988; Overall Chairperson of the Asian-American Journalists’ Association Fundraising Scholarship Gala and has been guest speaker for several civic and political organizations in the area, including the Brownstowne Lion’s Club.

Taking advantage of Stella’s organizational talents and management savvy of convention and seminars, the Association of Philippine Physicians of America (APPA), last year, with barely a little over four months before its 19th Annual Convention and Seminar in Washington, D.C. enlisted Stella’s assistance to salvage the events when the host organization and the General Chairman of the Convention withdrew their support. Stella not only salvaged the Convention but turned it to be one of the most successful ever sponsored by APPA.

For several years now, in spite of Stella and Joe’s hectic schedules, the husband and wife team still manage to plan and lead annually a three-week medical mission to the Philippines composed of 12 to 25 other medical doctors to donate their services to our countrymen.

Stella graduated valedictorian from Zapatera Elementary School and Salutatorian from Girls’ High School in Cebu, Philippines. She graduated as Magna Cum Laude with a B.S. Pre-Medicine from Cebu Institute of Technology and she completed her medical degree with honor as Benemeritus her Doctor of Medicine degree from University of Santo Tomas in Manila.

Stella, an accomplished professional and civic leader truly typifies as role model of women of the nineties.