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“The Power of Dreaming and Believing”

Most recently I’ve had the privilege and honor of speaking with Ma. Arlene Escanilla Azores, BSN Class 1994 after hearing about her recent completion of a Master of Science in Nursing Education from William Paterson University, Wayne, New Jersey. A few months ago, the USTNAI Board appointed her to the position of Recording Secretary which she has readily accepted because of her desire to be more engaged and involved in our Association. Below is a summary of her responses to the interview questions I’ve sent her. She was a little “under the weather”, nevertheless she completed information that I’ve requested.

Graduating Cum Laude with a BSN degree in 1994 from the UST College of Nursing, her path towards practicing as a clinical nurse in the Philippines took a somewhat circuitous path prior to being hired by the Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital (RWJUH), Somerset, New Jersey. She relocated to the U.S with her husband (Dave) and with a 4 year old in tow (Austin) in 2004. Two years thereafter, they had another addition to the family, a girl named Dana. She has continued to practice at the RWJUH specializing in Maternal and Child Health. In her own words, “ I want to be able to make a difference in the lives of the sick and their families or bring life safely into this world, witnessing the miracles of life in a delivery room and in the nursery”. Little did she know that her practice of mentoring and precepting new nurses at the hospital paved the way to many moments of miracles themselves as she dreamt of pursuing an advance degree and hoping to become a Maternal & Child Health Educator at the RWJUH someday. That dream and hard work paid off as she achieved her dream of completing a MSN this year. Topping off this accomplishment is the added bonus of graduating at the same time her son also graduated from college.

Arlene has an impressive resume too many to mention. Her achievements speak well of her talent, excellence and commitment to the nursing profession. In 2018, she was awarded the Clinical Nurse of the Year by the Philippine nurses Association of New Jersey (PNANJ) and the Philippine Nurses Association of America (PNA), and became a Nurse of the Year finalist for the March of Dimes. In two consecutive years 2020 & 2021, she became the recipient of three scholarships to pursue a MSN degree from the PNA, the PNANJ and the New Jersey League of Nursing (NJLN). Additionally, she was recognized as the Magnet Nurse of the Year by the RWJUH in 2021. She is also affiliated with multiple professional organizations as a member including Sigma Theta Tau, a Nursing Honor Society. Her professional profile is truly a testament to her Thomasian Nursing background and credits her parents for the foundation and the core values as she evolves toward the best version of herself. She has relied on her family for support throughout her journey. ***Dreaming and believing*** have made all of these possible.

Congratulations, Arlene!!

Submitted by:
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