

# THE SAMPAGUITA GROUP

HERITAGE | COMMUNITY | SCHOLARSHIPS  
sampaguitagroup.org



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## PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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### FASHION OF INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY (FIT) STUDENT TAKES TOP AWARD IN 2015 SAMPAGUITA SCHOLARSHIP COMPETITION

May 8, 2015—NILES, IL

Lily Jane Raz, a freshman studying advertising design at the [Fashion Institute of Technology](#) in New York City, won the top \$2,000 scholarship prize in the 1st Annual Sampaguita Scholarship Competition. Raz was one of four Filipino American student finalists who vied for several partial collegiate scholarships on Friday, May 8, 2015 at the Chateau Ritz, in Niles, Illinois.

The other finalists included Josephine Belen (1<sup>st</sup> Runner-Up/\$500 scholarship), a pre-pharmacy junior at the University of Michigan, who was nominated by the Filipino American Student Association (FASA); Alyssa Solomon (2<sup>nd</sup> Runner-Up/\$300 scholarship), a freshman studying Civil Engineering at the University of Illinois at Chicago, who was nominated by the Philippine Engineers and Scientists Organization (PESO); and Rozel Garcia (3rd Runner-Up/\$200 scholarship), sophomore studying International Studies at Loyola University in Chicago who was nominated by the Chicago Nightingales.

The women competed by submitting a 300-word written essay (60% of score) on a given topic judged by three journalists, and presentation reading of their essays (40% of score) judged by three community leaders during The Sampaguita Ball.

**The Sampaguita Group** is a nonprofit organization registered in the State of Illinois. Our mission is to reverse 'Educational Downward Mobility' affecting second-generation Filipino Americans. Census data shows that US-born Filipino Americans lag behind their immigrant counterparts in completing college. Our mission is three-fold: 1) To increase public awareness about Educational Downward Mobility; 2) Award partial scholarships to Filipino American women matriculated in colleges and universities in the United States; 3) Encourage other organizations to launch their own college scholarship funding programs for Filipino Americans matriculated in colleges and universities in the United States.

Learn more about 'Educational Downward Mobility' from the Harvard Asian American Policy Review and download a white paper by sociologist Tracy Lachica Buenavista, Department of Asian American Studies at California State University, Northridge, in the references section of our website: <http://sampaguitagroup.org/references/>

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