

# THE SAMPAGUITA GROUP

WE MAKE AN IMPACT ON THE LIVES OF COLLEGE WOMEN  
sampaguitagroup.org



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**Stephanie Sagun**  
Miss Sampaguita USA 2017  
UIC | Class of 2018

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Mrs. Sampaguita USA 2017

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Chinese Mutual Aid  
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STEP UP

## PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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## UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS-CHICAGO SENIOR TAKES TOP AWARD IN 2017 SAMPAGUITA SCHOLARSHIP COMPETITION

July 29, 2017 — NORTHBROOK, IL

Stephanie Sagun, a college senior studying electrical engineering at the University of Illinois in Chicago, Illinois, won the top \$2,000 scholarship prize in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual 2017 Sampaguita Scholarship Competition. Sagun was one of five Filipino American student finalists who vied for several partial collegiate scholarships on Saturday, July 29, 2017 at the Northbrook Hilton in Northbrook, Illinois. Sagun was nominated by the Chinese Mutual Aid Association.

The other finalists included Jane Baron (1st Runner-Up /\$500 scholarship), a DePaul University graduate student in the Master of Education program nominated by Step Up; Cas Relucio (2nd Runner-Up/ \$300 scholarship), an economics major at the University of Wisconsin-Madison nominated by Filipino American Student Association (FASO); Alison Dungca (3rd Runner-Up /\$250 scholarship), a junior studying communication sciences and disorders at Illinois State University nominated by the Asian Pacific American Coalition; and Katherine De Lara (4th Runner-Up/\$200 scholarship), a doctor of physical therapy major at Marquette University nominated by the Bayanihan Student Organization.

The women competed by submitting a 300-word written essay (50% of score) on the topic of 'Educational Downward Mobility' judged by three journalists, and by a presentation reading of their essays (50% of score) judged by three community leaders at The Sampaguita Ball.

This year's Valedictorian Level (\$1,000) scholarship sponsors included Jose D. Flores, Jr. of Jay-Dee Corporation, and Rudy Pamintuan of Sherman Consulting.

**The Sampaguita Group** is a non-profit 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. Because of possible cultural biases, women can be more adversely affected by this trend; 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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