

# THE SAMPAGUITA GROUP



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

## BOARD MEMBERS

Rose Tibayan  
President | CEO

Rizza Antonov  
Treasurer | CFO

Cynthia Flores  
Director, Funding and  
Corporate Scholarships

## TOP SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

Casey Bala  
Miss Sampaguita USA 2019  
University of Illinois-Chicago, B.S. '21

Jessica Lomibao  
Miss Sampaguita USA 2018  
Loyola University, M.A. '19  
Marquette University B.S. '17

Stephanie Sagun  
Miss Sampaguita USA 2017  
U of Illinois-Chicago, B.S. '17  
Summa Cum Laude

Nicole Reyes  
Miss Sampaguita USA 2016  
Dominican University, B.S. '18

Lily Jane Raz  
Miss Sampaguita USA 2015  
Fashion Institute of Technology, B.A. '16  
Magna Cum Laude

## NOMINATING PARTNERS

Aklan Assoc. of New Jersey  
Alpha Kappa Delta Phi (UIC)  
Asian Pacific American Coalition  
Bayanihan Student Organization  
BIBBAK Illinois  
Bikol USA of the Midwest  
Chicago Nightingales  
Chinese Mutual Aid Assoc.  
Filipino American Student  
Association (FASO)  
Filipinos in Alliance (UIC)  
Heartland Institute  
Institute for Healthcare Improvement  
KAPWA (Loyola)  
Midwest Association of  
Filipino Americans (MAFA)  
Philippine Engineers and  
Scientists Org. (PESO)  
STEP UP

## PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

For more information:

sampaguitascholarships@gmail.com

## UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS-CHICAGO SOPHOMORE TAKES TOP AWARD IN 2019 SAMPAGUITA SCHOLARSHIP COMPETITION

July 27, 2019 — ROSEMONT, IL

Casey Bala, a sophomore pursuing a Bachelor of Science degree in Kinesiology at the University of Illinois-Chicago (UIC), won the top \$2,000 Sampaguita Scholarship in the 5th Annual Sampaguita Scholarship Competition.

Bala was one of three Filipino American student finalists who competed for several partial college scholarships on Saturday, July 27, 2019 at the Crown Plaza in Rosemont, Illinois. She was nominated to the competition by the Alpha Kappa Delta Phi sorority.

The other finalists included Crissel Marie Arban (\$750 Sampaguita Scholarship), a graduate student at UIC expecting to earn a Doctor of Pharmacy degree in 2021, who was nominated by the Institute for Healthcare Improvement. She graduated from UIC in 2017 with a Bachelor of Science in Biological Sciences. The third finalist, Jomarie Arban, a junior at UIC pursuing a Bachelor's degree in Biology (\$500 Sampaguita Scholarship), was nominated by Filipinos in Alliance (FIA).

The women competed by submitting a 300-word written essay (50% of score) on the topic of 'Educational Downward Mobility' judged by three (3) journalists, and then through a verbal presentation of their essays (50% of score) judged by three (3) community leaders at the annual Sampaguita Ball.

The Sampaguita Group is a 501(c)(3) 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. Because of possible cultural biases, women can be more adversely affected by this trend. Our mission is to increase public awareness about Educational Downward Mobility through programs and events, and award partial scholarships to Filipino American women matriculated in colleges and universities in the United States.

To learn more about Educational Downward Mobility, visit the references section of our website to access the Harvard Asian American Policy Review abstract by Paul Ong and Kate Viernes, and download a white paper by sociologist Tracy Lachica Buenavista, Department of Asian American Studies at California State University, Northridge. <http://sampaguitagroup.org/references/>

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