

Filipino nurse makes it big in Vegas

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He used to rummage through the neighborhood trash in Cebu for whatever could be sold to the nearest junk shop to augment his school allowance. Today, he does not have to do that anymore.

He has come a long way—from an urban poor community to the glittering world of Las Vegas, Nevada, USA, where he was just named “Nurse of the Year.”

Rhigel Alforque Tan, 35 is the only child of a retired schoolteacher and retired policeman. He took up nursing at the Cebu State College-Cebu City Medical Center College of Nursing (CCMC) where he Rhigel Tan, now a professor of nursing graduated cum laude in 1990.

He left for the USA in Aug 1994 with only \$200 in his pocket. His parents borrowed money from relatives and friends for his airfare.

Tan started working as staff nurse when he passed his resident nurse board examination in February 1995. But he could barely sit down and eat lunch because he was assigned to take care of 32 patients.

His hard work paid off. He was named nurse supervisor, then assistant director of nursing and later director of nursing services. He was invited to join the faculty of the University and Community College System of Nevada. Now, he is a full-time professor, teaching Medical Surgical and Psychiatric Nursing. He also runs two psychiatric clinics, along with two psychiatrists, as an advance nurse practitioner.