

# Filipino Martial Arts

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Bellevue, Washington

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**Special Issue  
2008**



*6th Annual WFMAA Exposition & Laban Laro*  
September 19 - 21, 2008



*Kapisanan at Samahan ng mga Mandirigma*

**Publisher**

Steven K. Dowd

**Contributing Writers**

Myrlino P. Hufana  
FMAdigest Archives

**Contents**

**From the Publishers Desk**

**The WFMAA Mission**

**The President's Message**

**Report by the President of the WFMAA**

**Welcome to the 6th WFMAA Expo & Laban Laro**

**Friday, September 19th**

**Master Michael Bowers** - Kombatán

**Tuhon Ray Dionaldo** - Filipino Combat Systems

**Master Michael Giron** - Bahala Na "*Original Giron Escrima Federation*"

**Masters Q & A**

**Welcome Dinner**

**Saturday, September 20th**

**Punong Guro Myrlino P Hufana** - Hufana Traditional Arnis International

**Ama Guro Rufino "Raffy" Pambuan** - Pambuan Arnis Tulisan

**Grandmaster Ramiro U. Estalilla, Jr.** - Estalilla Kabaroan Eskrima

**Team Philippines** (Phil Air Force and PhilSCA)

**Banquet**

**Pamana ng Lahi**

**Sunday, Sept. 21st**

**WFMAA Laban Laro Champions**

**Past WFMAA Events**

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The FMAdigest is published quarterly. Each issue features practitioners of martial arts and other internal arts of the Philippines. Other features include historical, theoretical and technical articles; reflections, Filipino martial arts, healing arts and other related subjects.

The ideas and opinions expressed in this digest are those of the authors or instructors being interviewed and are not necessarily the views of the publisher or editor.

We solicit comments and/or suggestions. Articles are also welcome.

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## From the Publishers Desk

### Kumusta

The World Filipino Martial Arts Federation has brought together some of the most reputable, prominent and well known Filipino Grandmasters and Master and for six year has offered to share with everyone and anyone who would like to gain knowledge from them. The FMA Digest brings the recap of what went on to bring a remembrance to some and to inform others on what they have missed.

It is a must to experience the WFMAA Expo and Laban Laro to fully appreciate this event, and with this said it is highly recommended to attend next years which will be the 7th WFMAA Expo & Laban Laro, which at this time is set for **October 9-11, 2009**, at the **Palace Station Hotel & Casino** 2411 W. Sahara Ave., Las Vegas, Nevada.

This years event was introduced the **Pamana ng Lahi** which is an award to truly recognize and give special honor to those Grandmasters and Masters who are inheritors of the family art and have contributed greatly to the growth and success of the WFMAA and the Filipino martial arts worldwide.

Also this year attending the WFMAA Expo and the Laban Laro competition from the Philippines was **Team Philippines** (Phil Air Force and PhilSCA).

So visit the WFMAA website ([www.worldfma.com](http://www.worldfma.com)) to keep up-to-date with the progress towards the 7th WFMAA Expo & Laban Laro and check out the past WFMAA Expos

**Maraming Salamat Po**



[www.Worldfma.com](http://www.Worldfma.com)

**7th WFMAA Expo & Laban Laro**  
**October 9-11, 2009**  
**Palace Station Hotel & Casino**  
2411 W. Sahara Ave.  
Las Vegas, NV. 89102



**The WFMAA Mission** - Uplift and improve the image of the Filipino Martial Arts, the Filipino Culture and the Filipino People. We believe the mission can be achieved through joint efforts from leadership of the top Filipino martial arts Grandmasters and Masters in the world who have the same sincerity and passion for developing a strong brotherhood without politics and egos. The Expo & Laban Laro was founded in 2003 as

a vehicle specific to this propagation, demonstrating all styles and systems of the Filipino martial arts indigenous to the Philippines in a world-class event.

WFMAA is progressive and professional in regards to the processes and event productions. WFMAA is also equally traditional and classical in its presentation of the most prestigious Filipino martial arts event in the world. Refinement and evolution is a constant effort by all involved, especially those who are in staff position and those few who take a serious active role in their responsibilities. The WFMAA Mission is slowly but surely moving toward many accomplishments in which everyone can soon share in the greater pride.



**The World Filipino Martial Arts Association** is an association **free of politics and egos**. WFMAA is built with trust, respect, honor, unity,

loyalty and dedication to the development of a stronger Filipino Martial Arts community throughout the world. Membership is open to those with the same philosophy and passion in the promotion of the Filipino Combative Arts and the

Philippine Culture. There is no fee to becoming a member. However, your commitment, dedication and support are required.

Just keep your stick moving and your art alive!

## The President's Message

Dear Friends,



Welcome to the 6th Annual World Filipino Martial Arts Association Expo & Laban Laro! We want to thank those of you for being there! This was truly an event worthy of the record books. The weekend participants had the opportunity to be taught by some of the most skilled and knowledgeable instructors in the Filipino martial arts today. They experienced the most dynamic, enthusiastic and prestigious gathering in the world. They were in the right place at the right time!

We have produced six Expo & Laban Laro events since 2003 and we are honored that we have had over 35 of the best instructors in the world teaching at these incredible events. It has been an amazing journey! Yet we are just as excited and proud about this year's event as we were about the

first gathering we produced on September 2003!

We debuted the 1st *Pamana ng Lahi*, a WFMAA Hall of Fame especially created to recognize and honor those few that have given most of their lives to the development, promotion and propagation of the Filipino Martial Arts!

We are positive the experience at the weekend's event was outstanding and practitioners were motivated to continue their journey in the Filipino martial arts! We are committed to giving all that attend the experience of a lifetime! The WFMAA Expo & Laban Laro is simply above the rest!

In this commemorative edition of the 6th WFMAA Special Edition you will find a biography about each featured instructor and the system they represent. Also included are special articles on the Filipino Martial Arts and the *Pamana ng Lahi*. Toward the back of the Magazine you will also find a list of vendors and sponsors who have stepped up to help in the success of our event. I encourage all to check out their products and services and hopefully buy and use them in the future, especially if you are an instructor and operate your own school.

This event will be beyond exceptional, but don't let it stop here! We encourage you to continue to learn and grow. The featured instructors teaching at this event are all lifelong learners. They have sacrificed and endured the long process of learning and perfecting their combative art. Success is not in the destination, but in the experience of the journey. The more you learn and practice, the more you become proficient and competent with confidence. And the more you become successful in the arts, the more you can contribute to the overall improvement of our beloved martial art.

On behalf of our WFMAA Staff, Team HTAI and the Hufana Family, we thank all practitioners and appreciate them for being with us this weekend. We trust that they and all who attend enjoyed themselves in the experience and were immersed in the spirit of brotherhood.

The WFMAA Expo & Laban Laro is more than just a simple seminar and tournament - it's about networking, building connections, creating and developing friendships, strengthening the brotherhood and propagation of Filipino martial arts! It's about making a positive image and improvement for the future of the Filipino martial arts and the next generations of *Mandirigma*!

Maraming Salamat Po Sa Inyong Lahat!  
Gumagalang,

**Punong Guro Myrlino P. Hufana**  
Founder, President & Executive Director  
World Filipino Martial Arts Association  
Hufana Traditional Arnis International  
Bellevue Martial Arts Academy  
14510 NE 20th Street, Suite 100  
Bellevue, Washington 98007 USA  
**[www.Arnisador.com](http://www.Arnisador.com)**  
**[www.Worldfma.com](http://www.Worldfma.com)**

## **Report by the President of the WFMAA**

Punong Guro Myrlino P. Hufana

**The 3-days event was definitely world-class in every sense of the word!** To say that is was successful is an understatement. I am proud to say that it was a great event with lots of memorable moments from day one. I extend my heartfelt appreciation and congratulations to all who participated including the Hufana family, WFMAA staff and volunteers, featured instructors, Pamana ng Lahi honorees, students, guest instructors, performers and hotel staff of the Coast Bellevue Hotel. *Maraming maraming salamat po sa inyong lahat!!!*

The year-long process of creating an event of this caliber is transparent to most people. Unless you have actually produced this level of event, most will not have any idea of the endless hours behind the scenes activities ahead of the event date. From the securing and contracting a location fitting to our event schedule to selection and invitation of featured instructors, constant communications and invitations to several teams from the Philippines and everything else in between, it is a huge task and responsibility from a financial, time and emotional point. At the end of the day, it is all worthwhile and much more.

**The word was out a year in advance.** Throughout the months leading to the event, constant email reminders and phone calls were initiated personally by me to all featured instructors, guests instructors, WFMAA membership (*past featured instructors*), US and Philippines instructors, previous participants of WFMAA and HTAI events and a large list of Filipino martial arts interests which I have received in the past 10 years. It was even advertised in Black Belt Magazine for the 3 months before the event. Posted and

advertised throughout the year on FMA Digest online magazine (**FMA Digest.com**). Event flyers were given to all featured instructors, guest instructors and members of the WFMAA via email and hardcopy. My team and I traveled to San Francisco, CA. to promote the Expo & Laban Laro through a seminar and laban laro introduction hosted by Grandmaster Robert Castro (*WFMAA West Coast Regional Representative*) followed by two seminars in Las Vegas one hosted by Master Ed Galang (*CKI-Combat Escrima*) and the other hosted by Master Ariel Mosses (*MSI Las Vegas*) - all three events in May. I also taught a seminar and introduction to laban laro in Issaquah, Washington hosted by James Carr (Universal Martial Arts) in June where participants learned a few winning laban laro techniques and strategies. Participants were able to review the official rules of the WFMAA Laban Laro and personally experience laban laro in a trial tournament. The promotion of the next Expo & Laban Laro will include similar activities but with more marketing in specific areas in the world.

**The world is becoming more aware and interested in what we are doing.** In fact, there were several contacts from India, SE Asia and Eastern Europe that have expressed interest in joining WFMAA and some even planned to participate in our event but were halted to due to strict immigration laws and other unforeseen difficulties. Needless to say, more and more groups from outside the USA are becoming aware and interested in participating in events hosted by WFMAA. Other non-FMA groups have also expressed their interest and have been inspired to join us and experience in person the Filipino martial arts in the near future. I have even forwarded and referred some inquiries to WFMAA members closest to their home. I had also referred a couple from Vienna, Austria to visit Grandmaster Roland Dantes and others upon their visit to the Philippines. This is great news for all of the Filipino martial arts!!! I am confident that eventually some of these groups will be able to participate and experience the excitement of WFMAA as it continue to introduce and promote the top Filipino martial arts instructors in the world... held in the same room on the same weekend. Again, even in a small way, WFMAA has been an ambassador to the world proudly representing the entire Filipino martial arts community and the Philippine culture.

We are fully aware and understand the existence of other gatherings and festivals and their efforts to promote Filipino martial arts in their part of the world and they do a good job doing it. I just want to let them know that the WFMAA is not a competitor of their events. In fact, we applaud them and wish them our best in the promotion of Filipino martial arts.

In actuality, WFMAA is competing in a much bigger arena... the growth and popularity of other major martial art systems such as Karate, Jiu-Jitsu, Kung Fu, Tae Kwon Do, Krav Maga, and the American MMA. Admittedly they have done a superb job in promoting and marketing their systems and culture throughout the world. In almost every corner of the world Japan can be easily associated with Karate, Judo, Jiu-Jitsu, Sumo, etc, China with Kung Fu and Korea with Taekwondo and Hapkido. How about the Philippines? Where do we see our Filipino martial arts 5 years or 10 years from now? Will you be an active participant and contributor to the Filipino martial arts propagation?

As the President and Executive Director of events, I will continue to do my part to promote and propagate our combative arts indigenous to the Philippines, our culture and our motherland through events such as our annual Expo & Laban Laro, Pamana ng Lahi

every two years, and regional events scheduled at various areas in the USA. Additionally, I plan to continue my travels to the Philippines every 12 to 18 months primarily to maintain strong ties and good relationships with the Filipino Masters, most of whom I have met, befriended and continue communications. The WFMAA Staff and I will continue to improve in all areas of our events, promotions and propagation of our beloved art. I challenge you also to take an active part and continue your passion and leadership in your part of the world.

We have a long ways to go in developing a truly unified association of Filipino Martial Arts leadership. The bad news, we are not there yet. The good news, the action has begun!!!

## **Welcome to the 6th WFMAA Expo & Laban Laro**

### **Featured instructors**

This year's featured instructors were outstanding! The seminars were energetic and fun! Instructors were given plenty of time to teach their art and expound on the intricacies of their methods, principles and philosophy of fighting. Students were at awe and enthusiastic throughout the 2-days of training. They were so immersed in the intensive training they received that they often sat down to rest and enjoy cold water for a few minutes in between each session. By the end of the day their brains were full and bodies tired. The usual comment, "...so much stuff and not enough time."



**Ready to welcome on the first day!**





Tuhon Dionaldo with knives and swords ready and Master Giron



Grandmaster Ernesto Presas, Kombatan products ready through Master Bowers and family.



Ama Guro Pambuan talking about his weapon the PAL



Brennan Blades

## Friday, September 19th

Friday morning started with the energetic **Master Michael Bowers** of *Kombatan USA*, Clackamas, Oregon. The North American representative of Kombatan, under the tutelage of Grandmaster Ernesto A. Presas, taught variations of sinawali and its street applications. Master Bowers is unquestionably knowledgeable, skilled and very capable with excellent teaching ability. Everyone enjoyed his session!



Master Mike Bowers hit the road at the young age of 16 and found himself living on the streets in his hometown of San Diego. To gain and maintain respect he got into street fights frequently. He had no interest in the martial arts at that time in his life because what he did was sufficient enough to get the job done. “I would take a trash can, hit the guy with it, and play Captain America with the lid on his head (trash cans were metal back then); anything became a weapon to beat someone silly with. There are no rules when it comes to the streets.” So, on the beaten path of his youth, while still maintaining his respect, he came across an Arnis instructor giving a private knife lesson in Gold’s Gym. He watched as the fluid movements made for quick and accurate attacks. This was to be his first introduction in the world of Philippine martial arts.

After learning more and delving deeper into what Arnis actually stood for, he soon realized that a real Arnisador would not be doing what he was doing (Street Fighting). It was after discovering this fact that Master Bowers began to pull away from his old life and, train as hard as he could under Grandmaster Ernesto A. Presas, Sr.



“Becoming a direct student of Grandmaster was pretty difficult for me as I come from the school of hard knocks. Let’s just put it this way... I soon discovered I had a lot to learn and am still learning to this day. Grandmaster believed in me when no one else did. I not only learned how to become a better fighter but I also learned how to become a better person, from him.” After more than 18 years, Master Bowers has come to terms with his past and uses it to aid in the teaching of his students.

Master Bowers holds the rank of Lakan Walo (eighth dan), is a Grandmaster, and Master Instructor in the system of Kombatan (Presas Style). He has worked diligently to achieve this level. Although status was not what he seemed to emphasize the most, it is in the doing he says “Either you do it or you don’t.” He has fought with, trained, and instructed martial artists from all around the world. “One of the best things about Kombatan (Presas Style) is that it can compliment all other styles of Martial Arts.” He is honored to be the Chief Instructor for North America, overseeing the wonderful countries of Canada, Mexico, and the USA. His school is appointed as the North American headquarters for Kombatan (Presas Style).



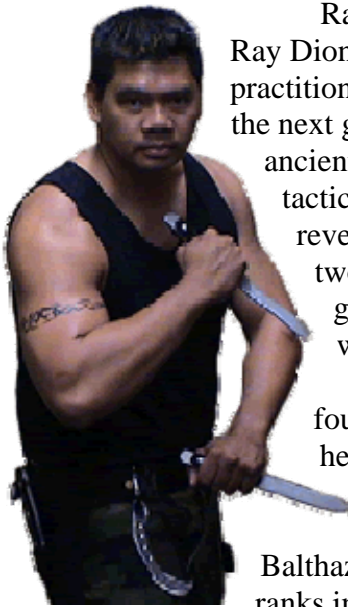
[www.kombatan.us](http://www.kombatan.us)



Up next was **Tuhon Ray Dionaldo**, Founder and Chief Instructor of *Filipino Combat Systems* from Tampa, Florida. A student of many famed instructors, Tuhon Ray demonstrated amazing knife skills, specializing in the Karambit in which participants were impressed by his various maneuvers. He was dynamic!



## Filipino Combat Systems



Raised in the Martial Arts world since early childhood, Tuhon Ray Dionaldo is one of the most accredited and well respected practitioners on the Filipino Martial Arts scene. Tuhon Ray represents the next generation of martial arts masters. He is an innovator of the ancient Filipino arts, adapting them to the context of the modern tactical world. A lifetime of intense training with some of the most revered Filipino Masters of the blade and stick over the span of two decades has imparted upon this young master of the blade a graceful deadliness which only a select few practitioners of the warrior arts ever achieve.

At the young age of 38, Ray has amassed an astounding fourteen Black Belts in several fighting systems. Each of which he is known to be quite proficient in. His background is diverse, beginning in early childhood in the traditional Japanese art of Wado Ryu Karate and in Kali under Grandmasters

Balthazar Sayoc and Christopher Sayoc. Ray has achieved instructor ranks in several systems including Sayoc Kali, Sayoc Fighting Systems, Remy Presas' Modern Arnis, Shotokan Karate, Ryu Kyu Kempo, Kali Olympic Stick Fighting, Pekiti Tirsia Kali, Pambuan Arnis, Ancient Arts Academy, Strategic Knife Defense, and Wu Ming Tao Chuan Fa. He is a respected member of The Kun Tao Family of Florida under Bapak Wilem DeThouars. He has also trained in Muay Thai Kick Boxing, and was a member of the Pekiti Tirsia demo team as well as the Sayoc Fighting Systems demo team.

Tuhon Ray's approach to the Filipino arts is as multifaceted as his background, incorporating the best that each of his source systems has to offer into an organized, interlocking flow of techniques which form a natural progression of study. Most practitioners that emphasize weapons tend to de-emphasize the skills which are at the core of many unarmed arts, skills such as Jujitsu joint manipulation and balance disruption and leg attacks. These forms of combat are not neglected by Ray. On the contrary, they are an intricate part of his system, epitomizing the ancient concept that the blade (or any other weapon) is not merely a tool, but an extension of the body, an extension of the self. Tuhon Ray's subsystem of the Filipino arts is as multifaceted as his background, incorporating the best that each of his source systems has to offer into an organized, interlocking flow of techniques which form a natural progression of study. This is perhaps the greatest achievement of this art, as it is no simple task to codify the diversity of techniques which are incorporated, without resorting to a disorganized conglomeration of movements which bear no relationship to each other. Filipino Combat Systems has successfully avoided this pitfall. It is more than the sum of its parts.

Filipino Combat Systems is in its essence, an art of the blade, with particular emphasis on the double edged dagger. In the hands of a practitioner of this art, the blade is much more than a weapon for slashing and stabbing. It is utilized for parrying, disarming and joint and limb manipulation, all of which can be done (if appropriate) in a non-lethal manner. A distinct advantage of using a blade for limb manipulation is that it affords the option of, in effect, making any area of the body which it is used against a

“pressure point”. This compensates for the lesser degree of precision which many martial artists are often surprised to discover to be inherent in real life situations.



[www.fcskali.com](http://www.fcskali.com)

After lunch, **Master Michael Giron**, *Original Giron Escrima*, continued the energy and enthusiasm teaching several training drills that challenged and exhausted most of the students. Master Michael Giron, “*the son of legendary Grandmaster Leo Giron*,” proudly shared stories of his father’s encounters using the fighting system he now propagates. Everyone in attendance appreciated his candor and directness during his rounds with the students as he corrected their movements. This was Master Giron’s first participation and experience of the WFMAA brotherhood and we hope that his passion continuous and we see him again in future events.



### **Bahala Na ”Original Giron Escrima Federation”**

*Master Michael Giron, (President / Founder) of the “Bahala Na” Original Giron Escrima Federation was born the 2nd of 4 children on December 31, 1949 to the legendary Grand Master Emeritus Leovigildo Miguel Giron and Soledad Mapa. Although he is deeply rooted in Stockton, California He presently lives, with his wife, Athena (Tina) in Vallejo, California. Master Giron also has a daughter, Jamyka Giron who resides in the Bay Area.*

After graduating Edison Senior High School, Master Giron went to San Joaquin Delta College, (SJDC) and majored in electronics. Master Giron was loosing interest fast in college



and wanted to do something else so he enlisted in the United States Air Force in November of 1969. After his 3.5 years of duty he returned home.

Being the son of a Grandmaster you would think that his Filipino martial arts training would have started at an early age. In his case this was not so. Many of the men after WWII (first generation Filipinos) wanted to forget the memories of war and just wanted to start a new life for themselves and their families. It was probably good thinking for that time, but it caused a lot of Escrimadors to go underground, to never be known and to never share their fighting skills. Master Giron did not know that his father was one of these bladed warriors until he was 19 and that was in 1968.

He was never pushed into learning the art by his father but others questioned why he never wanted to learn. Master Giron answer was “I wasn’t ready yet” because I knew I would have to fully commit to learning this art and I did not want to be a disappointment to my father.

Finally, his training started in 1975. It was not easy training under a Grandmaster who also is your father. Perfection was the only option. Master Giron attended the normal class downstairs and more often that none he did private training upstairs. A unique part of his training was that he saw history being made as he witnessed the first Filipino Martial Arts Academy in Stockton, Ca. Some of the first’s students were greats like Dan Inosanto, Richard Bustillo, Ted Lucaylucay, Dentoy Revillar, Rene Latosa and many more.

The instructors were Angel Cabales, Gilbert Tenio, Max Sarmiento, John Eliab and Leo Giron. After, learning the 20 styles within the Giron system and the private extensive training Master Giron passed all the testing and earned the right to be a Certified Graduate of Bahala Na Giron Arnis Escrima in 1980. A year and a half later he received his Instructor’s Certificate. Master Giron was proud to participate in the first full contact Escrima tournament on the west coast and possibly in the USA. This tournament took place in San Jose, Ca. in 1982 and was sponsored by the organization called the West Coast Eskrima Society which united several Filipino Masters. The Masters were Mike Inay, Jimmy Tacosa, Max Sarmiento, Gilbert Tenio, Narrie Babao, Dan Inosanto, Richard Bustillo and Leo Giron.

Master Giron continued his training and later pursued a career as a professional musician. After that was over he was back again training. Then, his father passed on May 21st 2002. What was different was now the fighting system that he had learned in the 80’s had slowly evolved into what is called a modified version. He did not see the reason for change and the fighting system that was learned from his father in the early years stood alone and was battleground proven. It was causing more harm than good to the students and the organization that his father had created so; he did one of the hardest things in his life. He resigned from the Bahala Martial Arts Association, relinquished his title as Grand Advisor and his lifetime membership to the organization.

He then, created the “Bahala Na” Original Giron Escrima Federation and is presently co-director of (ESKCOA), the Eskrima Coalition of Stockton, Ca. and a member of Jujitsu of America in San Bruno, Ca. On June of 2007 at a Filipino martial arts seminar he was recognized as a Master, Black Belt Lakan Lima 5th Dan by Grandmaster Robert Castro and Grandmaster Lito Concepcion.

By creating “Bahala Na” Original Giron Escrima Federation it



**Website**



allows Master Giron to maintain the purity of the art that he had learned, and continue to maintain the legacy of his father and this great gift that was given him. By doing this Master Giron will have fulfilled his personal mission as the son of a legend and in doing this it allows him to do his small part in promoting the Filipino martial arts.

### **Participants enjoying the training**



At the end of the first day, the seminar session was followed immediately with the **Masters Q & A**. This was a special opportunity for participants to inquire from the featured instructors, a rare and unique in-person discussion between instructors and students. This is something WFMAA has encouraged as part of the EXPO experience, developing a more educated and informed student base. It's definitely not a usual occasion to be able to sit down and learn more about the instructor behind the system, beyond the physical aspect of the art. It's a win, win situation for all in attendance.



Then it was time for dinner - **Welcome Dinner!** It was time to relax, more visits with the instructors, eat some great foods, down a few drinks, network, make new friends, and listen to music and a speech or two.



Tuhon Ray Dionaldo and Master Michael Giron enjoying dinner with participants and friends



Punong Guro Hufana and students with the Philippine Team



Eva Sabiniano performing couple of songs for the audience



**Saturday, September 20th**



Saturday morning sessions started with **Punong Guro Myrlino P Hufana**, Founder and Grandmaster of the *Hufana Traditional Arnis International* (HTAI). PG, as he is referred to by his students and friends worked his magic by teaching several countering methods against five common attacks. His knowledge and skill of connections and providing applicable and effective options to the students was impressive. His applications and methodology is geared toward applications for civilian students, law enforcement and military personnel. PG maintains the family art's combat effectiveness, practical methods and fighting principles, which he loves to teach to students with an open mind and passion to mastering the fighting art.



Demonstrating stick lock



Applying dulo dulo techniques

Born the eldest of three boys by Ysmael Rivera Hufana and Marcelina Pascua Hufana on August 15, 1962 in Sta. Maria, Pangasinan, Philippines, Punong Guro Myrlino P. Hufana has what only a few practitioners in the Filipino Martial Arts has a family history and lineage of warriors. His first introduction to the fundamentals of Eskrima and its culture came at an early age of 4 by his father and uncle, Milfredo Rivera Hufana.

Upon immigrating to the United States in the spring of 1970, he continued his Eskrima training from his father until the age of 12. At this time, with the help of his grandmother, PG Hufana enrolled in his first formal martial arts training in Karate. In 1982, he began Taekwondo training and has continued learning the Korean martial arts since then. It was in 1985, during an open martial arts tournament in California he fell witnessed to the late Grandmaster Angel Cabales who was conducting a demonstration in Serrada Eskrima. Punong Guro's passion for his culture, his lineage and his art were refueled.

In 1990, at one of the Modern Arnis summer camp, Punong Guro Hufana's life changed forever. Here he met Grandmaster Remy Amador Presas and a legacy began. The depth of their relationship went beyond student teacher, it encompassed heritage, tradition, honor and a warrior's calling. On April 1997, Professor Presas officially promoted Hufana to the level of Punong Guro, a highly respected rank in the Modern Arnis Organization. Punong Guro Hufana is only one of two ever given the title outside the Philippines. On February 2001, with blessings of Grandmaster Presas, Punong Guro Hufana continued the propagation of the Philippine martial arts and its culture under the seal of Hufana Traditional Arnis International (HTAI), a complete combative system based on the Hufana Eskrima System, Modern Arnis Remy Presas Style, and Punong Guro Hufana's experience and innovation.

Punong Guro has hosted and taught some of the best Filipino martial art seminars in the Pacific Northwest since 1992. Through his dedication, passion and reputation, he has done what most have only thought and spoke about or has tried but unfortunately has failed. He has created a brotherhood among all Filipino Martial Arts systems through an annual gathering - The World Filipino Martial Arts Association's Exposition & Laban Laro. The WFMAA's main goal is create a brotherhood with trust and respect among all Masters while promoting the Filipino Culture and Traditions.

Punong Guro Hufana is an accomplished practitioner since childhood, earning black belts and instructor level certifications in Traditional Taekwondo (5th degree Master Instructor), Modern Arnis Remy Presas Style (Punong Guro, Chief Instructor), and Estalilla Kabaroan Eskrima (Bachelor's Degree, 6th Degree Black Belt). In fact, Punong Guro Hufana is one of only few that has been awarded the title of Associate Grandmaster of the Estalilla Kabaroan Eskrima directly from living legend, Grandmaster Ramiro U. Estalilla Jr.

Punong Guro Hufana currently resides in Bellevue, Washington with his wife Tess and two kids, Michael and Lizelle. The family business started in 1991, establishing the Bellevue Martial Arts Academy, the headquarters for the Hufana Traditional Arnis International and the World Filipino Martial Arts Association.



[www.arnisador.com](http://www.arnisador.com)



Guro DeVore one of Punong Guro Hufana's top student demonstrating police application

**Ama Guro Rufino “Raffy” Pambuan**, *Pambuan Arnis Tulisan*, has been one of the most dynamic and exciting instructor since the inception of the WFMAA Expo, and this year was no exception. Ama Guro Pambuan gave another awesome whip “*latigo*” demonstration with the help of some members of the Philippine Team, holding several folded papers on their ears, mouth and finger tips while being picked off and torn into small pieces. Ama Guro Pambuan’s knife defense was precise and flawless as he taught correct movements crucial to the student’s effective defense and countering techniques. It’s always a great pleasure to have Ama Guro as one of the featured instructors at the EXPO. He definitely is the “*real deal*”!



Finer points of Pambuan Arnis Tulisan knife techniques





### **Pambuan Arnis Tulisan Caballero**



Raffy Pambuan became interested in the martial arts as a child watching kung-fu movies and playing medieval knights with his friends in his hometown of Santa Cruz, Laguna, Philippines. At the age of ten, he began studying Okinawan and Shotokan Karate under his cousin Oyi Amoranto.

His fascination with Arnis started when he listened to his father, Lolo; tell stories of his family history. He especially liked the stories of his great grandfather, Amoranto, on his fathers' side, who was Katipunan, and fought against the Spanish. It was at this time that Lolo Guro began

teaching him Arnis. He also trained in Arnis with his uncle, Tatay Vincen.

When he was sixteen, Ama Guro took up boxing with his brother Frisco Pambuan, his cousin Vic Pambuan, and Digo Ramirez. Ama Guro also trained in the Filipino martial arts outside his family with Tatay Beryo Talabis, Tatay Ikang Bukal of Cavite, Philippines, and with Nestor Deresa of Magdalena, Laguna, Philippines.

In 1983, Raffy Pambuan moved to Orlando, Florida. Soon after, he began training with Tatay Bo Sayoc. In 1993, He was convinced to begin teaching his family art of Pambuan Arnis. His few Guros and students are very thankful for this. In 1996, Ama Guro was inducted, and is a member of, the World Head of Family Sokeship Council.

Ama Guro continues to make trips to the Philippines in order to discover more of the closed art, family systems of Arnis, and exchange knowledge with them. He then brings this knowledge back and shares it with his few, very select, students.



[www.pambuanarnis.com](http://www.pambuanarnis.com)



Angeline Caguioa holds steady for Ama Guro Pambuan

The weekend's EXPO Masters Seminar concluded with the teachings of living legend **Grandmaster Ramiro U. Estalilla, Jr.** of the *Estalilla Kabaroan Eskrima* from Fresno, California. As usual, Grandmaster Estalilla was very enthusiastic, energetic, technical and precise as he taught his family eskrima system to the many students that participated in his session. Grandmaster Estalilla's humor complimented his technique's methods and philosophy - meet, merge or submerge. A philosophy that has stuck to student's mind since he first joined the WFMAA team in 2003. Grandmaster has been an excellent contributor and ambassador of the WFMAA and its mission. Maraming Salamat Po!



Kabaroan employs weapons which are longer, bigger, and heavier than an average eskrima/arnis stick. It is a system that embraces three subsystems: Sencilla - one handed

one weapon, Bambolia - two handed one weapon, and Compuesta - two handed two weapons.

Grandmaster Ramiro Estalilla Jr., first born to Aurelia Umibig Estalilla and Ramiro Abellera Estalilla Sr., was born on January 23, 1930 in San Pablo, Laguna, Philippines. Grandmaster Estalilla Jr had his first glance of martial arts through his father at a very early age. His father, an avid martial artist, studied fencing and eskrima under his grandfather, Major Eusebio Estalilla, which happens to be the training partner of one of the Philippine's national hero, General Antonio Luna.

It was not until 1941 did Grandmaster Estalilla Jr began his training in martial arts under his father and uncle, Bernardo Banay, and several other masters such as Magzinido Mamunes, Bralio Roque, and Milagdo Presas. Like all other great masters, his sole purpose of training was for preservation, not only of himself, but also his village, community, and family. On February 1, 1976, while visiting the United States to chaperone youths in bible camp, Grandmaster Estalilla Jr was invited by the church to remain. It was not until three years later when his family was finally able to leave the Philippines and join him in the United States.

Grandmaster Estalilla Jr., an ordained minister, currently teaches his family's art of Rigoran-Estalilla Kabaroan in Fresno, California. He teaches his art from the philosophy of his father and his own Christian principals, "No matter how deadly your art is, it must be done within the sphere of good motive, behind a background of peaceful intentions". With this, he also teaches his art within the context of Philippine history and culture.



**[kabaroan.com](http://kabaroan.com)**



Saturday Expo joined by Grandmaster Estalilla, Mrs. Flor Estalilla and Grandmaster Conrad Manaois



### **Team Philippines** (Phil Air Force and PhilSCA)

In attendance were 17 members of Team Philippines, lead by Lt. Col. Enrique Reyes (head of delegation) and Guro Jeremiah Tumaque (Team Coach), were a great surprise and addition to the success of the event. Originally there were 6 teams from the Philippines that had planned to participate including - Philippine Air Force Arnis Team, Philippine Army Arnis Team, Philippine State College of Aeronautics, Mink Mongoose Kali Arnis (*Grandmaster Celso Sandigan*), Isabela Arnis System (*Guro Lawland Malacca/Guro Benito Baquiran*) and Dikiti Tirsia Siradas (*Master Jerry Evangelisan*). Unfortunately, only two of the groups were able to come and participate in the 3-days experience. Nevertheless, this was the biggest participation by Arnis teams from the Philippines. Congratulations and Maraming Salamat for their continued support and trust in the WFMAA!



Philippine Team with Punong Guro Hufana and Ama Guro Pambuan

We at WFMAA are proud and grateful of the steady growth of participants from the Philippines... the Motherland of the Filipino martial arts. In fact, serious talks between the Lt. Col. Enrique Reyes, Guro Jeremiah Tumaque, Ama Guro Raffy Pambuan and Punong Guro Myrlino Hufana has already started to increase participation at future Expo & Laban Laro events. We are in hopes that the Philippine Government's potential involvement in providing more help to the Filipino delegations may materialize in the near future.

## Banquet

Filipiniana Dance Company; lead by Mr. Roger del Rosario



### Demonstrations and Performance Groups

Filipiniana Dance Company

Roger del Rosario, Director

Shoreline, WA

**Email:** [rogervidal2005@yahoo.com](mailto:rogervidal2005@yahoo.com)

(206) 542-7245







Lt Col Reyes stepping smoothly



Master Giron doing the Tinikling dance

### Appreciation Awards

As a special token of appreciation, the awards were given by Punong Guro Myrlino Hufana to the following for their contribution to the success of the events. Custom training aluminum knives with engraving of “*Appreciation Award, WFMAA Expo & Laban Laro 2008*” were personally made by Guro Scott Brennan of Brennan’s Blades. Thank you very much for your efforts and enthusiasm in joining our event this year!!!

- **Lt. Col. Reyes**, Head of Delegation (Philippine Air Force)
- **Guro Jeremiah Tumaque**, Head Coach (Team Philippines, Air Force)
- **Jonarh Junio**, Assistant Coach (Team Philippines, PhilSCA)
- **Dale DeVine**, Event Volunteer (Florida)



Punong Guro Hufana promotes Guro Quinn and Guro DeVore to Senior Guros

### Expo Featured Instructors



**L-R:** Punong Guro Myrlino Hufana, Grandmaster Ramiro Estalilla, Master Michael Giron, Ama Guro Raffy Pambuan, Tuhon Ray Dionaldo, Master Michael Bowers.

### Pamana ng Lahi



The *Pamana ng Lahi* ceremony was held during the Saturday evening events. It was celebrated as the first ceremony to truly recognize and give special honor to those Grandmasters and Masters who are inheritors of the family art and have contributed greatly to the growth and success of the WFMAA and the Filipino martial arts worldwide. To the present, this will be the very first Hall of Fame event that will truly recognize only the Grandmasters and Masters of the Filipino martial arts.

Lt. Col. Enrique Reyes, the head delegate of Team Philippines, was especially touched with emotion and later expressed in private his inspiration to tell his peers upon his return to the Philippines. He was so impressed on the level of seriousness and passion WFMAA was promoting the Filipino martial arts, its culture and the Filipino people here in the United States. It was incredible for him to see how strong the Filipino martial arts are outside the Philippines, while it is still a re-emerging art back home. He was mostly surprised and proud that there were mostly Americans learning the art. He remembers learning and practicing Arnis as part of their physical training during his early years as a soldier. He concedes training is now in some other form of martial arts - Jiu-Jitsu, Karate, etc. We are glad Col. Reyes was inspired and impressed of our presentation, brotherhood and warm welcome during the 3-days event.

**The 1st Pamana ng Lahi honorees were:**

**Grandmaster Ramiro U Estalilla, Jr.** (*Estalilla Kabaroan Eskrima* of Fresno, CA)  
**Grandmaster Conrad Manaois** (*Manaois Systems International* of Los Angeles, CA),  
**Grandmaster Bobby Taboada** (*International Balintawak* of Charlotte, NC),  
**Grandmaster Christopher Ricketts** (*Kali Ilustrisimo, Bakkakan International* of San Diego, CA).



Maraming Salamat Po and Congratulations to all honorees!!!

## **Laban Laro**

### **Sunday September 21st**



Laban Laro Fighters with Featured Instructors - (seated, front) Punong Guro Hufana, Master Bowers, Ama Guro Pambuan, Tuhon Dionaldo and Master Giron

### **WFMAA Laban Laro Champions**

Outstanding matches!!! There were six teams represented at this year's Laban Laro Championships - HTAI Hufana, Pambuan Arnis, MSI Manaois, Filipino Combat Systems, Philippine Air Force and Philippine State College of Aeronautics. The fights were blazing fast, furious, competitive, technical, clean, dynamic, beautiful and simply outstanding! All fighters demonstrated awesome show of skill, camaraderie and brotherhood throughout the matches. Congratulations and great pride goes to all competitors!!!





## **Tournament Results:**



### **Teens (15-17) Double Padded Sticks**

Edward EJ Sabiniano (HTAI) - Champion/Gold Medalist  
Graham Garcia (MSI Washington) - Silver Medalist



### **Women (18+) Double Padded Sticks**

Lizelle Hufana (HTAI) - Champion/Gold Medalist  
Evangeline Caguioa (Phil Air Force) - Silver Medalist  
Carla Arang (PhilSCA) - Bronze Medalist

### **Men (18+) Double Padded Sticks (Intermediate)**

Gerardo Leal Chapa (HTAI) – Champion/Gold Medalist  
Roy Harrington (HTAI) – Silver Medalist  
Ariel Bebedor (PhilSCA) – Bronze Medalist

### **Men (18+) Double Padded Sticks (Advance)**

Joey Escobar (Phil Air Force) - Champion/Gold Medalist  
Guro Jeremiah Tumaque (Phil Air Force) - Silver Medalist  
Rob Devine (HTAI) Bronze Medalist



### **Teens (15-17) Single Padded Stick**

Edward EJ Sabiniano (HTAI) - Champion/Gold Medalist  
Graham Garcia (MSI Washington) -Silver Medalist

### **Women (18+) Single Padded Stick**

Evangeline Caguioa (Phil Air Force) - Champion/Gold Medalist

Carla Arang (PhilSCA) - Silver Medalist  
Lizelle Hufana (HTAI) - Bronze Medalist

**Men (18+) Single Padded Stick (Intermediate)**

David del Rosario (HTAI) - Champion/Gold Medalist  
Roy Harrington (HTAI) - Silver Medalist  
Ariel Bebedor (PhilSCA) - Bronze Medalist

**Men (18+) Single Padded Stick (Advance)**

Michael Hufana (HTAI) - Champion/Gold Medalist  
Benjamin Poaster (HTAI) - Silver Medalist  
Scott Germino (HTAI) - Bronze Medalist



**Mens Single Padded Stick (Guro)**

Guro Jeremiah Tumaque (Phil Air Force) - Champion/Gold Medalist  
Guro Jonarh Junio (PhilSCA) - Silver Medalist  
Guro Woody Woodman (Pambuan Arnis) - Bronze Medalist

**TEAM COMBINED (Men/Women)**

**Team HTAI - Champions/Gold Medalist**

Lizelle Hufana (HTAI)  
Edward EJ Sabiniano (HTAI)  
Graham Garcia (MSI Washington)

**Team Philippines - Silver Medalist**

Carla Arang (PhilSCA)  
Evangeline Caguioa (Phil Air Force)  
Grace Gellera (PhilSCA)



**Team Men**

**Team Philippines - Champions/Gold Medalist**

Guro Jeremiah Tumaque (Phil Air Force)  
Rio Victor Veloria (Phil Air Force)  
Rhodney Potoza (Phil Air Force)

**Team Philippines - Silver Medalist**

Joey Escobar (Phil Air Force)  
Jonarh Junio (PhilSCA)  
Ray Santianez (Phil Air Force)

**Team HTAI - Bronze Medalist**

Michael Hufana (HTAI)  
Benjamin Poaster (HTAI)  
David del Rosario (HTAI)

**Mens Live Stick (Advance Only)**

Guro David DeVore (HTAI) - Champion/Gold Medalist  
Guro Paul Quinn (HTAI) - Silver Medalist  
Benjamín Poaster (HTAI) - Bronze Medalist



**Special mention and hats off:** to Guros Woody Woodman and Shaun Burley (Pambuan Arnis), and Rick Rhodes (MSI Washington) for stepping into the ring for this highly anticipated division. Since no body armor, shin pads or forearm pads are allowed, the live stick division caters to only a select few of the most courageous and highly skilled players of laban laro. As you may imagine, multiple exchanges of strikes in this division is not advisable. Strategy, knowledge, experience and skill are critical to winning and

surviving in this competition. They use the same safety gears as all the other divisions - Kali headgear, street hockey/la Crosse gloves, knee pads and groin cups.

### **Sportsmanship Awards**

The Sportsmanship Award was Founded; by the HTAI Instructors (Guro Paul Quinn, Guro David DeVore and Edwin Peregrino) and HTAI Associate Instructors (Guro John McCabe and Guro Scott Brennan) to promote brotherhood during the events. They look at all participants' actions during all activities throughout the weekend, including learning, helping, friendship, openness and overall positive attitude. **Congratulations!!!**

- **Guro Shaun Burley** (Pambuan Arnis Tulisan, Florida)
- **Roy Harrington** (HTAI Spokane, WA)
- **Graham Garcia** (MSI Washington)
- **Rio Victor Veloria** (Phil Air Force)

**Special recognition and thanks to the following for their participation and support of this event:**

### **Guest Instructors**

- Guro Scott Brennan - Brennan Blades / Lucay Kali, Friday Harbor, WA
- Guro John McCabe - MSI Academy, Moses Lake, WA
- Guro Chris Turla - LESKAS Seattle

### **What's ahead for WFMAA?**

Lots of exciting projects for the growth of WFMAA! Completed events are always carefully reviewed for improvements in all areas to include - selection of featured instructors, increasing the number of participants, Pamana ng Lahi, make laban laro bigger, appreciation awards, sportsmanship awards, expansion of international invitations, event locations, foods, entertainment, sponsorships, vendors, exhibitors, and much more. WFMAA is strongly committed to achieving these and beyond. However, we also understand we cannot do it alone. We will need the help of all Filipino martial arts leaders, instructors, students and support groups equally dedicated and committed to improving the image and strength of the Filipino Martial Arts as a whole. With this said, this will require strong, passionate and inspiring leadership from the Filipino martial arts schools, organizations and federations worldwide.





Team Hufana



Lizelle Hufana showing her charms

## Past WFMAA Events

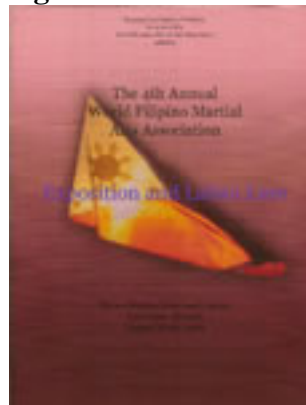
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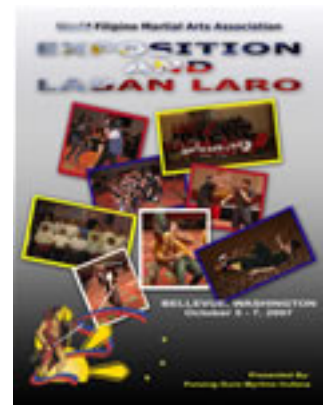
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2007



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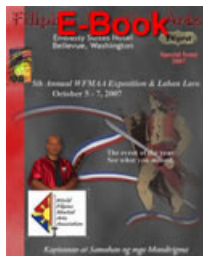
**5th Annual World Filipino Martial Arts Association Expo & Laban Laro  
October 2007**



Embassy Suites Hotel, Bellevue, Washington

Grandmaster Robert Castro - Eskabo Da'an  
Grandmaster Lito Concepcion - Concepcion Combative Martial Arts  
Ama Guro Rufino Pambuan - Pambuan Arnis Tulisan Caballero  
Punong Guro Myrlino P. Hufana - Hufana Traditional Arnis (HTAI)  
Master Jose Tan - Modified Tapado  
Master Ramon Rubia - San Miguel Eskrima  
Guro Sonny Padilla - Kali Ilustrisimo

Read about the 5th Annual WFMAA



[Click Here](#)



[Click Here](#)

**4th Annual World Filipino Martial Arts Association Expo & Laban Laro  
August 2006**



Palace Station Hotel & Casino, Las Vegas, Nevada

Grandmaster Jerson "Nene" Tortal - Dekiti Tirsia Siradas  
Grandmaster Bobby Taboada - World Balintawak  
Grandmaster Roland Dantes - Combined Open Style, Modern Arnis  
Grandmaster Rene Latosa - Latosa Escrima & Concepts  
Grandmaster Christopher "Topher" Ricketts - Kali Ilustrisimo/Bakbakan  
Datu Tim Hartman - The World Modern Arnis Alliance  
Punong Guro Myrlino P. Hufana - Hufana Traditional Arnis (HTAI)  
Punong Guro Steven K. Dowd - Arnis Balite

Read about the 4th Annual WFMAA



**Click Here**



**Click Here**

### **3rd Annual World Filipino Martial Arts Association Expo & Laban Laro August 2005**



Coast Anaheim Hotel, Anaheim, California

Grandmaster Ramiro U. Estalilla - Estalilla Kabarosan Eskrima  
Grandmaster Conrad Manaois - Manaois Systems International  
Grandmaster Narrie Babao - Babao Arnis  
Gat Puno Abon "Garimot" Baet - Garimot  
Punong Guro T. Jon Cuenca - Ocho Kantos Kali  
Punong Guro Myrlino P. Hufana - Hufana Traditional Arnis (HTAI)  
Amang Guro Vic Ferrer - Mano Mano Sikaran Arnis  
Master Ariel Flores Mosses - MSI, Lameco SOG  
Master Ed Goco Galang - Filipino Combat Escrima, CKI  
Guro Alex Ercia - Kombatan (Ernesto Presas Style)  
Guro Roger Agbulos - Agos Kali, Lameco  
Senior Guro Edessa Ramos - IMAFP, Switzerland  
Master Bram Frank - IMAFP, USA

Read about the 3rd Annual WFMAA



[Click Here](#)



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**2nd Annual World Filipino Martial Arts Association Expo & Laban Laro  
October 2004**



The Palms Casino & Resort Hotel, Las Vegas, Nevada

Grandmaster Ramiro U. Estalilla - Estalilla Kabaroan Eskrima  
Grandmaster Roland Dantes - Modern Arnis, Manila, Philippines  
Grandmaster Narrie Babao - Babao Arnis  
Grandmaster Bobby Taboada - Balintawak Arnis Cuentada System  
Punong Guro Myrlino P. Hufana - Hufana Traditional Arnis (HTAI)  
Ama Guro Vic Ferrer - Mano Mano Sikaran Arnis  
Tuhon Gaudiosa Ruby - Comjuka-Kali  
Master Ariel F. Mosses - MSI, Lameco SOG  
Master Ed Goco Galang - Filipino Combat Escrima, CKI  
Master Christopher Ricketts - Bakbakan International  
Master Reynaldo S. Galang & Guro John Jacobo - Bakbakan International

**1st Annual World Filipino Martial Arts Association Expo & Laban Laro  
September 2003**



Embassy Suites Hotel, Bellevue, Washington

Grandmaster Max Pallen - Senkotiros, Pallen's Martial Arts  
Grandmaster Conrad Manaois - Manaois Systems International  
Ama Maestro Bernardo F. Salinas - Sinkatan Arnis Estrella  
Punong Guro Myrlino P. Hufana - Hufana Traditional Arnis (HTAI)  
Maestro Elmer Ybanez - Lema Scientific Kali Arnis System (LESKAS)  
Maestro Jorge V. Penafiel - Balintawak Arnis Cuentada System  
Master Ariel F. Mosses - MSI, Lameco SOG  
Guro "Bud" Balani - Kapisanang Mandirigma, Lameco SOG  
Guro "Dino" Flores - Kapisanang Mandirigma, Lameco SOG  
Guro Pedro Israel - International Martial Arts & Boxing

**7th WFMAA Expo & Laban Laro**

**Set for October 9-11, 2009**

**Palace Station Hotel & Casino**

2411 W. Sahara Ave.

Las Vegas, NV. 89102

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**Maraming Salamat Po!**



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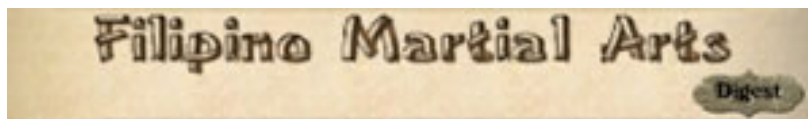
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