

IN MEMORIAM



Following a five year struggle with cancer, Dr. Andrea O. Sigler died on June 13th, 2008 and was buried at Arlington National Cemetery on July 9th. She is survived by her husband Nolan, six children (Nolida, Leilani, Emmanuel, Daisy Joy, Charmaine, and Faith), five sons-in-law, ten grandchildren, sister, Josie Olympia, and brothers, Ricardo, Modesto & Fidel.

With her passing, the Meetings and Convention Industry lost a visionary pioneer. Building on her distinguished career as an educator (founder and Director of the Philippine National Distance Studies Program and first President of the Open University), she established a firm headquartered in Virginia to train and certify meeting planners. One of the first to recognize the potential of the Internet and associated advances in information technology, she became a vocal proponent of using technology to modernize and render more efficient (and profitable) the meeting planning process. She formed the International Convention Management Institute and the Connected International Meeting Planners Association (CIMPA) as a forum to disseminate that philosophy and teach the requisite implementing skills. She was a member of numerous travel and meeting planning organizations; served on the Board of Directors of the International Hispanic Meeting Professionals Association; formed and served as President of the Asian Leaders Association; and, combining boundless energy with her zest for international travel - as in her days as educator - served on panels and lectured at conferences and seminars throughout Asia, Europe, Latin America, Africa and the United States. Her annual CIMPA conventions were held in the United States and various locations in Asia, Europe and Latin America.

In her spare time she wrote extensively and was a regular contributor to trade publications of the meetings industry. Recognized for her accomplishments, she garnered many awards as educator and leader in the meetings industry. She will be missed, as much for her effervescent personality and humanitarian generosity, as for her professional contributions.

Dr. Sigler's children, always involved in supporting roles since inception of CIMPA, will continue the operation of CIMPA and are dedicated to maintaining its reputation for integrity and excellence in all undertakings. They intend to maintain its international orientation, with expanded roles for leaders of CIMPA chapters established in Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America and the United States. In the coming weeks, visitors to the CIMPA website will be informed about the activity program proposed for the remainder of 2008 and 2009. Continuing the policy of participatory management and leadership, all recipients are invited to submit ideas and recommendations for consideration.

Donations honoring the memory of Dr. Sigler may be sent to The Capital Area Hospice at 6565 Arlington Boulevard, Suite 500, Arlington, VA 22042, Attn: Development Office.