



#HERSTORIES

Filipino American Heritage Month

Meet 6 incredible Filipina - American women that made a historical difference!



Dr. Dorothy Laigo Cordova

Since the 1950s, the Founder and Executive Director of the Filipino American National Historical Society has been organizing and advocating for the Fil-Am community. Her vision has paved the way for FAHNS, Filipino American History Month, and Filipino American studies.



Thelma Buchholdt

In 1974, Thelma Buchholdt became the first Filipina American to be elected to a legislature in the United States. She was also the first Asian American to serve as President of the National Order of Women Legislators. Buchholdt held a seat in the Alaska House of Representatives for four consecutive terms until 1982.



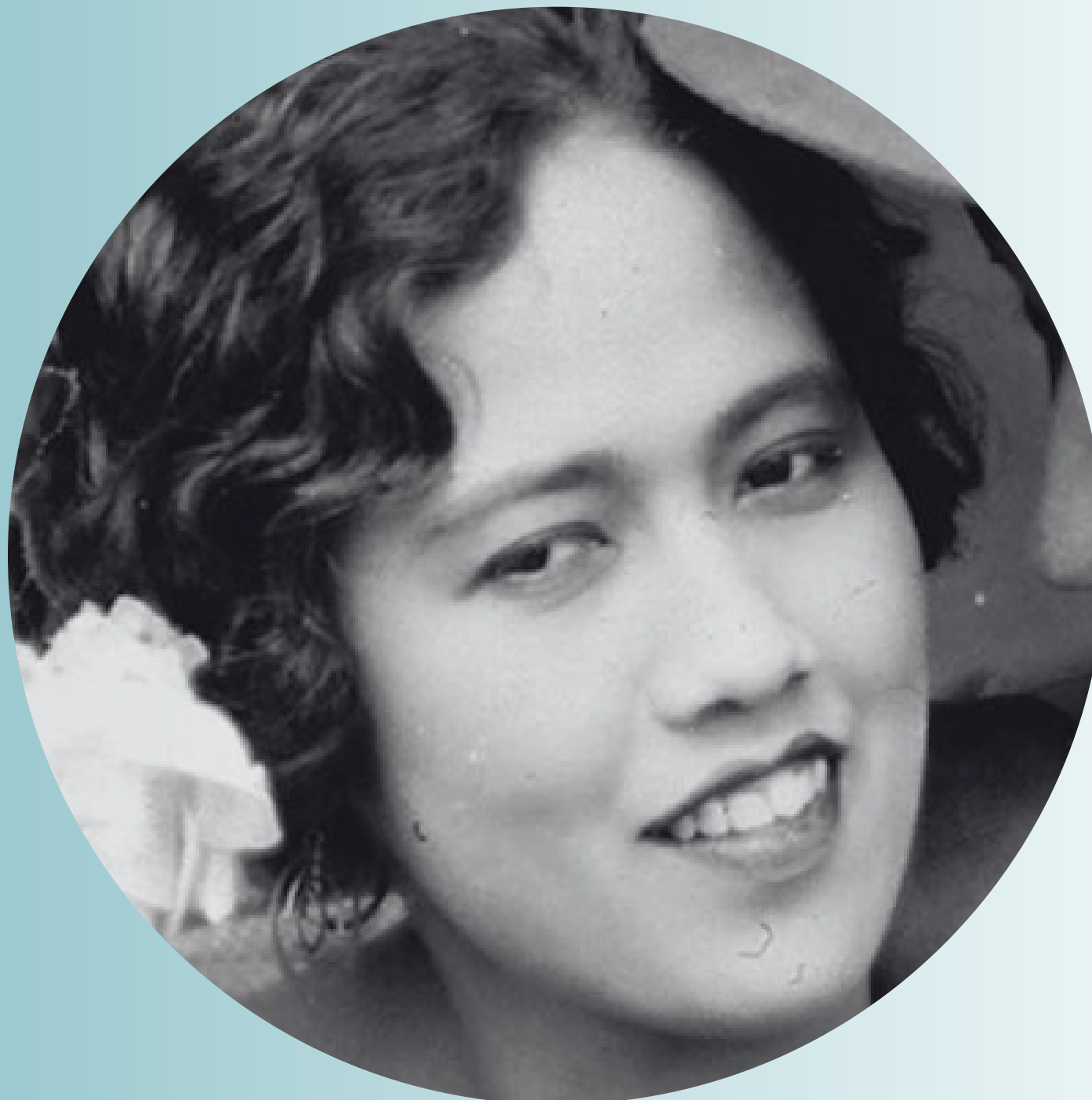
Dr. Felicisima "Ping" Serafica

The first tenured Filipino-American professor of psychology in the United States. She had been a faculty member of the Ohio State University from 1977 until 2002. Her research has focused on children and youth's social development and mental health from majority and minority populations. Dr. Serafica has published extensively, including the books: *Social Cognitive Development in Context* (1982) and *Mental Health of Ethnic Minorities* (1990).



Victoria "Vicki" Manalo

As a competitive diver of Filipino-American descent, achieved a monumental feat by winning gold medals in both platform and springboard diving at the 1948 Summer Olympics. She made history as the first female athlete to be awarded gold medals for both the ten-meter platform and the three-meter springboard, leaving a lasting impact on the world of sports.



Elena Jurado

Elena Jurado was among the pioneering Filipina actresses who starred in Hollywood movies during the early 1900s. Despite facing numerous challenges in an industry with racial stereotypes, Elena's success stood as a significant achievement in terms of diversity and representation. Her exceptional talent and unwavering resilience helped her challenge the narrow-minded views about Southeast Asian actors, paving the way for future generations.



Lea Salonga

Lea Salonga is a renowned singer and actress who has lent her voice to iconic Disney characters such as Mulan and Jasmine. She gained recognition at the young age of 18 when she originated the lead role of Kim in Miss Saigon, making her the first Asian woman ever to win a Tony Award. Lea has also made history as the first Philippine artist to receive a major album release and distribution deal in the United States and was the first Asian actress in Les Misérables.