



SILLIMAN UNIVERSITY

Dumaguete City, Philippines

and

SILLIMAN ALUMNI ASSOCIATION, INC.

present this

OUTSTANDING SILLIMANIAN AWARD

in

EDUCATION

to

Ester P. Timbancaya-Elphick

For a life dedicated to perfection, excellence and leadership in teaching and community-building; for sharing her love for and pride in her roots through dance, music and language; for touching the lives of many, and making a difference in the home, school, and the community.

Given this 28th day of August 2008 in Dumaguete City, Philippines
on the 107th Founders Day of Silliman University.

DOROTHY S. CAJAYON

President, Silliman Alumni Association, Inc.

LEONOR M. BRIONES

Chairperson, Board of Trustees

BEN S. MALAYANG III
President

**2008 OUTSTANDING SILLIMANIAN AWARDEE
FOR EDUCATION**

ESTER PONCE DE LEON TIMBANCAYA ELPHICK



Dr. Ester Timbancaya-Elphick was the lone *magna cum laude* graduate of Silliman University in 1957, finishing with a degree of Bachelor of Science in Education. She later pursued a graduate certificate in English as a Second Language and an M.A. in Linguistics at the University of California in Los Angeles, and her postgraduate degree in Education at Stanford University.

A feature story in the Sunday Inquirer Magazine on Dr. Timbancaya-Elphick described her to be “saving her native tongue from across foreign shores.” Even with her vast professional exposure in the United States, she has maintained her love for her native language, Cuyonon. As President and CEO of the Cuyonon Language and Culture Project, Inc., she heads a project that translates the Bible in Cuyonon.

Dr. Timbancaya-Elphick devoted most of her professional career to building up and administering the English as a Second Language program of the Adult Education Department in Middletown, Connecticut – a program in cultural adaptation as well as language acquisition. She has also taught at the San Jose State University and San Francisco University in California, American International Schools in the Netherlands, Wesleyan University in Connecticut and Rhodes University in South Africa.

In 1996, she was presented the Outstanding Immigrant Award by the Secretary of State of Connecticut “for [her] work and service in teaching ESL to thousands of immigrants and resettlement of refugees in Connecticut.”