

Written on Nov. 4, the day after Dely passed away, by **Kristelle Siarza**, [siarza.net](http://siarza.net) (Photos from this website, MAJICAL, Norma and friends.)

The world mourns the loss of an amazing woman, Dr. Adélar (Dely) N. Alcántara. Dely was a smart and dedicated woman who brought vision and passion to all that she did.

At age 71, she passed away on Nov. 3, 2019 while en route home from the Philippines. She was survived by Dr. Theodore (Ted) Jojola, PhD, a Distinguished Professor and Regents' Professor in the Community & Regional Planning Program, School of Architecture + Planning. She was preceded in death by her son, Manoa Alcántara Jojola.

She was survived by sisters Aurora Alcantara, Digna Pena, and brothers Elilberto Alcantara, and Noel Pedro Alcantara. (She was preceded in death by her brother, Alejandro Alcantara, Jr.)

Dely joined UNM in 1985, served as the New Mexico state demographer for decades, and served as the director of Geospatial and Population Studies since its founding in 2011. She worked well with people of diverse economic, racial, ethnic, and cultural backgrounds. She had at least 20 years of community organizing and non-profit management experience, and served as a community advocate for diversity, human rights and social justice.

Dely was the founder of the New Mexico Asian Family Center. She was a leader in the Filipino community, having been president of the Filipino American Foundation of New Mexico, Bataan-Corregidor Memorial Foundation of New Mexico, and the Filipino American Community Council, and also co-founding the Filipino American National Historical Society - Rio Grande. She received the 2018 Si Se Puede Award from Dolores Huerta at the National Hispanic Cultural Center's Cesar Chavez Day in Albuquerque.

In honor of her late son, Dely made significant contributions to the Albuquerque Academy and Tricklock Theater in honor of Manoa. She co-founded the Manoa Alcántara Jojola International Center for Arts & Language MAJICAL Learning Montessori School in the province of Tarlac, Philippines, where she was just visiting to help kick off the school year.

She was a stellar role model and mentor to everyone, with a sharp mind and humorous wit, wisdom, and courage.