

Balitaan

Newsletter 64, Spring 2017 www.rpcvphilippines.org pcafpd@gmail.com P.O. Box 100114, Arlington, VA 22210

Where our scholars come from....

For many of us it has been a long time since we've seen the Philippines and perhaps we presume great changes have occurred; in many ways and many places that is true. However many of our scholars come from areas where there has been little change and this has only increased the differences between the world they grew up in and the modern college environment they now are entering.

While we have picked top students from the current graduates, the schools where they had their initial success often are significantly lacking resources and are under performing. Students from a remote rural environment may have had little experience in urban life and could be experiencing a bit of culture shock. While many have long commutes between home and school, some live with friends or relatives in an entirely new environment.

Many have not had a chance to develop the IT and study skills needed for college. This may be the first time they are not the star student and must struggle to even reach the middle of the pack. It may be their first time dealing with establishing themselves in a new social network (so key in Philippine culture) and there may at first seem to be little common ground with peers from very different socio-economic backgrounds.

These essays are an important reminder of the breadth of the struggles our scholars face, beyond simply the academic challenges. We need to help them understand that the strong person, the successful person is not the one who has never

fallen but the one who climbs back up and fights again. As we read of their travails we must remember that giving these scholarships is a vitally important investment in these youth who can become the future leaders of their communities.

Our greatest success story is our current Foundation plan to ensure our future through our Ituloy team, ("Ituloy", "continue" in Tagalog). These three young scholar alumni have stepped up to share the management of the Philippine operations as Roland prepares to lighten his load. (He assures us he will never totally retire!) We introduced Rico Ancog, Jodi Cestina and Jessalyn Escame in the Spring 2016 Balitaan, but it is worth mentioning again that we are very proud of them, for their willingness to "pass it forward" and especially as models of success for our current scholars.



Help PCAFPD Sustainability via Legacy Gifts

We all know that sustainability is the key to successful development work and that applies equally to organizations like PCAFPD. How can we become more sustainable? There are several new approaches we are starting.

We have stepped-up our recruiting of new RPCVs. Can you help us connect with others from your batch or your regional RPCV group? We could provide an info sheet that you could hand out at meetings. Although in the past we have sought only Philippine alumna, there is no reason why other RPCVs might not want to support our program.

Finally, we need to ask our long-term supporters to consider PCAFPD in their estate planning with a legacy gift for our sustaining fund.

We are very grateful to RPCV **Robert Stone** (Palawan, 1969-71), for our first legacy donation. In November, Robert passed away, as he wished, in peace and with dignity after battling bone marrow cancer. Prior to Peace Corps, he had graduated from UC Berkley and after serving in the Philippines, he had continued to assist others in a career helping involved with the homeless. He spent his last few months working on his bucket list which included travel, photography and music. Thanks to Robert's generosity a student will be fully supported through their four years of college.

Please contact us if you need more information or want to get involved in any of these aspects of growing PCAFPD. (pcafpd@gmail.com)

Transitions

This year is bringing many changes to PCAFPD with more new faces, not just among our scholars, but also in our leadership group. Great thanks are due to Steve Dienstfrey who is stepping down as President and Sarah McMeans, who has handed over both the database and newsletter tasks, as well as her seat on the board.

Hans Groot and Mike Walsh also are stepping down from the Board. Sarah, Carol, and Usha Vatsia have graciously offered to be available as a resource to those new in Board positions as they join the group of "Friends of the Foundation". Thank you all for your long and loyal service to PCAFPD.

Paul Aleckson, formerly VP for Student Affairs, has stepped up as our new President, supported by former president Steve Dienstfrey; Mike Ollinger was re-elected Treasurer and new board member Caitlin Sherman is Secretary. New board members include Justin Tabor, Marga McElroy, Stephanie Simpson, Holly Blumner, Cathy Garman, AJ Patil, and Jose Espita.

There has also been some reorganization of responsibilities which we hope will help us become

more efficient and able to take better advantage of on-line tools for communications and to reach out to the next generation of RPCVs.



(Photo by Joyce Javillonar)

Maureen Carol presented Carol Radomski, with an inscribed clock in recognition of over 32 years of service to PCAFPD.

"We Will Survive Accountancy"

John Paradero is a junior, majoring in Accounting at Negros Oriental State University.

"Do not study hard, rather study well and wise." As I am reaching higher in the accounting life, it was not the path I had expected. It was challenging. Yet, there will be always times that we have a worse performance no matter how hard we study. Later I realized that as the accounting path goes through, studying well and wisely is necessary. If putting yourself in the situation of what you're reading can better improve your understanding, why not do it? You need to read and reread and find the best angle to obtain the best. I've had bad times with my major subject, one example is always having sleepless nights just to read and understand another chapter. Yet I still continue on what should be done because my future life lies upon my performance today.

Let's now talk about my subjects, I should start with financial management, it was sometimes tiring because it was a seven o'clock class and our mode of transportation was not very good. It was quiet yet full of learning because we were only 13 in the class. At least I enjoyed reporting a chapter and then making a case study related to my topic: bond valuation and interest rates. The rest of those days become productive and fruitful. Quantitative techniques followed. It was cool solving problems (thought I was more suitable in a mathematics

related course not analytic). It seems easy for me and I do not have any problem about it.

Biology: it was great. Most of my classmates in this subject are in lower years. This was a first year subject taken only this semester. Well it was also challenging for me to memorize and understand the different systems in our body.

Financial accounting-3 was challenging yet I was able to pass it because it was more on concepts and principles in accounting. The worst of all is advanced accounting-1. It first appears to be an easy subject yet it becomes more and more complicated as we move from one chapter to the other. Luckily I surpassed it. I did not expect to get a grade of 80 and above in my major subjects because it was difficult to achieve using a zero based grading system.

I also enhanced my stage performance and confidence in my literature subject. We always have a role play, song, drama and even movie making with us cast in it. The other subjects were just the same as what I have mentioned earlier. I certainly do not have any problem with regards to my minor subjects.

Accountancy week was one of the most highlighted events this semester. It puts pressure on us because we are the host school. I conducted training sessions for our chess representative because I chose not to play chess. I am happy for him for he ranked as the first runner up. The reason I refused to play chess is that I am already a member of the basketball team. We first played against St. Paul University, Dumaguete. It was an easy one for us because their team greatly lacks teamwork. Then we had a championship match against Foundation University and thrillingly won it with only a point higher than their score. We became the champions and were also the overall champion among others.

I also continued the same routines at Casa Miani: waking up early, cooking for everyone daily and sometimes conducting a tutorial or helping those who need me; prepare for school and then depart from Casa Miani to school at 6:20 am. I go to the library during my vacant time to review and study.

I also qualified as the chess participant in the College of Business Administration for the intramurals supposed to be held in the month of September. I played nine games for the qualifying, winning eight games in it. Unfortunately, our intramural was rescheduled on the first week of December together with the Founders day celebration.

I was happy that I passed my major subjects this semester. It was the gift I always wanted. Good deeds really bear good fruits. Kudos to us accountancy students as what our t-shirt logo says; "We will survive accountancy."

Facing Struggles with Fortitude

Ezekiel Castelltort is a student at Tarlac State University, majoring in technical teaching of Civil Technology. This is from a letter to Roland.

I have now completed my first semester in (BTTE) Bachelor of Technical Teaching Education Major in Civil Technology at Tarlac State University. Civil technology is more on practical subjects like Rough Masonry, Carpentry and Elementary surveying which utilize my skills. I



I have enjoyed this part of the course so far as some of it is similar to what I would study in architecture. I have been able to use some of the skills already this summer helping with renovations at Rehoboth.

I am now part of the education department so I have met new friends, classmates and teachers. I am also studying on a different campus which is further to travel. However my class schedule has been good so I am having enough time to travel and to do my projects and assignments in the evenings. Unfortunately I have two subjects where I encountered problems. One is my rough masonry subject which is incomplete, as our group failed to submit our group project on time. I did my part but some of our group members did not do their part and our group leader did not organize them. Our

professor said that we can complete this if we sit in on the next class. My P.E subject was failed because I did not participate in the dance presentation at the end of the semester. I need to re-take my P.E subject this coming semester.

For this experience I'm sorry that I did not pass all my subjects. I know that I have let you down by not passing and will commit again to do my best in the next semester. I'd like to thank you again for giving me this opportunity of this scholarship. I hope that you still consider me for this coming semester which I shall be enrolling for soon.

As I look back on the last year I feel disappointed that I didn't pursue my dream of becoming an architect but as I look to the future I feel that I can still finish my studies and get a good job that will maximize my skills and talents.

Leadership Opportunity and Applying Lessons

Josephine Casero is studying Science Education at Pangasinan State University.

Having 11 subjects plus a complicated class schedule makes this semester a fatiguing and stressful one. I have to wake up as early as possible to be able to attend my 7 o'clock class. Good thing that this semester I already have been staying at a boarding house which is just walking distance away from PSU.

Everyday I faced a lot of challenges. One remarkable one was our research paper. After taking our final examination, our instructor in the Social Dimensions of Education, instructed us to do a research task, where we were to think of an idea, strategy or technique for teaching science, she noted that it must be unique and innovative. We were grouped, and each group consisted of 6 members. I was chosen as the leader. We were so pressured to finish this immediately, my head aches we were just given 4 days to accomplish this research. Mentally tired and sleepy due to the final exams we decided to have an overnight. We slept over and worked on it throughout the whole night. I managed to be awake till 2 o'clock, but then I'm a little bit dizzy maybe due to how many hours of

facing nothing but the computer. That night we are able to have our review of related literature.

Morning came and we hurried to our boarding house. My board mate, who is also my group mate, allowed me to use her laptop and I continued working for it throughout the whole day. Our group later came up with the idea of "Caking the cell"- a strategy in teaching cell Biology. Instead of showing a picture of the cell why not have a cake baking activity. They will bake or make a cake showing the replica and parts of the cell. We believe that through this activity, students are allowed to mingle and interact with each other, and let them show their skills and creativity. One thing more, in baking since it goes step by step, they will familiarize with each part and it'll surely improve learning (interactive and experiential learning). After doing the baking activity students will open a page or a blog where they can promote their product (using technology in learning). They will upload a video, discussing parts of the cell and its function. They learn and at the same time this may pave a way for them to discover their skills and enhance their self-confidence in sharing their ideas. Thanks to the Lord we are able to pass it on time. Our group got the highest grade on this research and I was humbled and so grateful for this achievement.

This semester might have been so hard but we managed to stand 'til end. Though I haven't received all of my class cards, I'm confident to say that I really did my best this semester.

Before I end this essay, allow me to express my heartfelt thank you to our Lord, my family, friends and to the PCAFPD for being there for me, for lending their help in my studies.

Excited about Learning

Victor Awasen is at St. Louis University majoring in architecture.

Time has faded unexpectedly, these months have already been consumed for me to end another semester in my course of study. As usual, it has given me the feeling of gladness to be able to have the chance to learn ideas as I look forward to my future.

To begin the semester, we started to plan different types of residential houses on a sloping lot. With the help of our previous design subjects we were able to point out the difference between a building on a smooth area and a sloping lot. In our NSTP subject, we did a community service by cleaning the surrounding areas particularly the road side of our school campus, this is to maintain or improve the accomplished works and projects of the last NSTP students. On the other hand, we played and learned individual/dual sport games. These are mostly the games that are not very common today.

For the middle term, we still continued to design houses on a sloping lot but with complete rendering of colors. This was to have a good presentation of the architectural drawings and to add further meaning to it. We also studied the basic materials for building construction, including the purpose of its own individual parts. The Christmas lantern parade of our school was expected within this month. It was common to prepare and have a representative from each our school departments in that event. We contributed by making the lanterns and decorations of the participating students from our own section.

For the final term, we were given a final requirement to look for an existing community center. We used its lot plan to re-design or improve its present situation. In my group, we visited and evaluated the actual site and listed the areas that are lacking and need improvement.

We participated in a run for a cause. This was a program done yearly by the university to help orphans. Everyone is invited to attend this activity. In another subject, we made a magazine containing our previous individual works in arts and the re-imagination of the maharlika livelihood complex building in Baguio city as one of its iconic buildings. We also participated in the competition for all P.E subjects on our campus. We performed several steps of taekwondo and joined different sport games.

Another part again of my career has been cleared with a given amount of time. I am hoping again to discover new ideas to share with others and to

benefit me for my future goals as I continue to study and learn more about my course in the next years.

Experiencing Change and Personal Growth

Edelyn Canezo has just graduated from University of Negros Recoletos with a BS in Social work.

I believe that people everywhere go through various experiences in their lives. Every experience affects a person in some way. The resulting effects can be good, bad, or a combination of both. Many aspects of my life have influenced my personality especially my college life and the way that I live. This experience affected my life intensely, yet still managed to make me a better person and a better student.

I agree with the statement that change happens to everyone and is inevitable. Our journey through life involves a series of changes - some major and many minor. Change has always been a part of everyone's life, although some people try to resist change and as a result get crushed by it. There are several types of changes that one can experience in their life, they include, physical, geographical, health, social changes, etc. One person cannot live their life without experiencing one or more of the changes listed above. When you mature with age, your attitude towards life changes, your physical appearance changes, your brain capacity changes, and nothing you do can impede it from happening. Therefore some changes are inevitable. Personally, my life has been filled with internal and external changes, good and bad. I have experienced changes in my life that were in my control, and changes that were beyond my control. I have never tried to fight change, but learn to accept it as part of my life.

Four years of schooling in college has never been easy for me. I needed to decide things without the guidance of my parents because they were far from me. I had to face the reality that I have to stand on my own feet. I am what I am now because of the decisions I made four years ago; that is to pursue my dreams by proceeding into college. I am now at the last level of my college life and I know it is not yet the end. I have lots of learning, not only

academics but also through my experiences. But still, I won't stop searching for what God prepares for me on this earth.

We finished our field practice last semester and it was quite amazing. Meeting different people in the community was very interesting. It was very overwhelming that we had contributed to development by surveying three priority problems in their community and we gave our own treatment plan and implemented it. Being an intern was very exciting especially when you love and enjoy what you are doing. And I didn't feel pressure because I already accepted it as part of my practice.

I am so thankful that there are people who have a good heart that are willing to help those youth who had a dream; people who give their support and trust to make someone's dreams come true. I am one of those dreamers who have been given a chance to reach my goals in life. I am so blessed to have this scholarship and to have those people behind it.

Hinrich Foundation Interns

Our partnership with Hinrich Foundation is in full swing with three of our scholars serving internships with them in 2016. It has been exciting for them to get experience both in a totally new environment as well as in real workplaces. The third intern was Michael Esturias whose essay was in our fall 2016 issue.

Joylyn Jubac is majoring in IT at Western Visayas State University.

This semester, I was lucky to have the internship at Hinrich Foundation, My internship has become a memorable and inspiring experience in my life and I feel that I have already learned a lot..

Traveling to Manila: I remember preparing for my flight from Iloilo International Airport to Manila, which was scheduled for 4:40 p.m. On that day, I left our house at 10:00 a.m. The truth was I was afraid I would miss my flight and forfeit my plane ticket.

Mingling anxiety and excitement: On the first day of my internship, I did not feel confident and was afraid to make a mistake and get lost. So I asked Lorie, from Hinrich Foundation, who lived near the my boarding house, for directions.

Once I arrived, I went to HR first and after that, to Ms. Jas, assistant content manager, who introduced me to the team and gave me an overview of the foundation and its programs. Ms. Carmela, our content manager, introduced me to members of Global Sources later that day. I was apprehensive but excited as well because it was the first time I would be an employee, with my own table and PC.

The very first task I was trained in was optimizing images. I found it very difficult but interesting and challenging. After the training, Agnes, the artist, gave me images on which I could practice the things I learned. I really enjoyed it. Before Agnes taught me how to optimize the images, and make banners using Indesign I did not have any idea about Adobe Photoshop and Indesign. Now I can share my knowledge with my friends and classmates to inspire them to work in this field too.

In Dec I joined the joint Christmas party of Global Sources and the Hinrich Foundation. I enjoyed that night because the facilities and food were good.

I feel this experience with the foundation is a good opportunity for me to enhance my work attitude and expand my knowledge and skills beyond those I learned in school. I wish more students can have the same experience as mine.

DONNIELYN GAMUTAN is majoring in business admin at Pangasinan State University.

Nothing compares to the experience when I came to be an intern at Hinrich Foundation. I learned a lot, especially to communicate with other people who are part of the factory we visited. I am very happy every time we have our field work. I learned to understand that it is not really easy to do a product especially if it is made using their hands, for me it's hard. We visited those people who have small businesses, so that Hinrich foundation can help them to promote their products. There was a time that I use to interview one of the workers in that factory, and it was very great communication for me

because I learned about her very much and now we are friends on face book. I learned from her how important her work is just to help her family. I feel sorry for her but am also proud of her. Inside the office, we observe what they are busy doing in their jobs, and I am shy to interrupt them sometimes, but they are mostly there to teach us and talk to us, they always remind us not to be shy because they're always there to help us. I feel comfortable with them, and now I am more ready for what is the next level for me.

During a recent trip to Manila, PCAFPD Board members Paul Aleckson and Roland de Jesus met with Hinrick staff and interns at the Hinrick Global Resources office in Makati.



☀ 2016 Lakan / Lakambini Honor Roll ☀

Initiated during our Anniversary in 2013, the **Lakan / Lakambini Honor Roll** gives special recognition to those supporters who have given \$500 or more during the calendar year. In the Philippines, Lakan (M) and Lakambini (F) refer to those who have reached the highest level in the endeavor they have undertaken. Thus we are expressing our sincere thanks and honor the commitment of our most loyal PCAFPD contributors.

Paul Aleckson, Romblon 2003-05 (NY)
 Dave Baden, Baguio City 1989-90 (MN)
 Orlando Banogon, CA
 Olive & Thomas Blackburn, Batanes 1986 (FL)
 Sylvia Boecker, Aklan 1961-63 (VA)
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 Bruce Casey, 1983 (SD)
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 Robert Stone (Palawan 1969-71)
 Terry Sthymmel, Sorsogon 1972-75 (CA)
 Ralph Thomas, Negros Oriental/Zamboanga 1961-63 (CA)
 Sue Louise Ward (CA)

☀ *Congrats to Our GRADS!* ☀

We are very proud to announce the graduation of seven of our scholars who earned their Bachelors Degree. We also offer them our heartfelt congratulations on their achievement and best wishes for every success as they start their professional careers!

Lyncel Desoyo	BS Social Work	Samuel Mitra	BS Political Science
Maria Edelyn Canezo	BS Social Work	Arlis D. Dario	BS Applied Statistics
Jonalyn Hallaman	B.S. Education/SPED	Jonas S. Salingay	BS Accountancy
Rigsson A. Lagonera	Communications		

Welcome Our New Scholars

We are pleased to announce that we have selected seven new scholars. Jovy Ann Kindy Cabaguing and Alex Y Pagatpatan will both study civil engineering at Eastern Samar State University in Guiuan. Roxanne Reyes is seeking a BS/MS in Psychology at Philippine Normal University, Las Pinas. Jessa Marie Masa will study architecture at UP/PUP Universidad de Manila. Visayas State University has accepted Kin Charlie C. Daganzo to its Fisheries program and STI is where Jireh Hilary Yanuarua will study IT. You will be hearing a lot more about these young people in future editions. Welcome aboard!

☀ *Contributions from our Generous Supporters* ☀

Our thanks go out to those listed below who made gifts to PCAFPD between October 9, 2016 and March 31, 2017. The plus (+) identifies those who made more than one contribution since our last report. In addition to the contributions listed below, PCAFPD received donations from **The Ford Foundation** to match Paul Aleckson's gift and from **BIMAK DC, Inc.** Those who gave \$500 or more in 2016 are listed on the **Lakan/Lakambini Roll**, and are not listed here, unless they made a contribution in 2017, or made a special designation for all or part of their year-end 2016 gift. Gift designations are listed in the footnotes.

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¹ In memory of Pat Nash (Group 1)

² In memory of Dr. Lawrence H. Fuchs & William S. Warren

³ In memory of Patricia Biddle Banogon, Negros Oriental 1966-68

⁴ In memory of Rachel Singer

⁵ In memory of Patty Wernerrt & Derek Hulse

⁶ One 2017 gift to Victor Awasen's scholarship

⁷ In memory of Dr. Sally Nyquist

⁸ In memory of Rachel Singer, Ted Grossman & Lone Castillo

⁹ In memory of Boni & Sening Garcia

¹⁰ In memory of Sister Aniceta B. Abion, a.c.t., longtime PVC trainer & mentor

¹¹ In memory of John & Helen Cort (Staff 1962-64)

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Jim Krogh +	ND			Carol Westerlund Ziegeldorf	IL

¹² In memory of Jim Turner

¹³ In memory of Dr. Ed Adriano

¹⁴ In memory of Lone Castillo

¹⁵ In memory of Phillip Hiller

¹⁶ In memory of Derek Hulse & Pat Wernert

¹⁷ In honor of Sarah W. McMeans

¹⁸ In honor of Sandra Phillips Yaggy

¹⁹ In memory of parents, John & Agnes Kramer

²⁰ In memory of Rachel Singer

²¹ For Julia Campbell Memorial Fund

²² In honor of Philipines 13

²³ In honor of Ron & Lilia Peters' 50th wedding anniversary

²⁴ In memory of Jesse B. Lladoc

²⁵ Monthly gifts to Ron & Lilia Peters Scholarship

²⁶ In memory of deceased Group 19 PVCs

²⁷ In memory of Laurence Foley

²⁸ In honor of Liz Freeman

²⁹ In memory of PVCs who passed in 2016—Group 1

³⁰ In memory of Cleo Bell

³¹ In memory of John Wheatley

³² Monthly gifts in memory of Carolyn E. Wylie, Group 1

**Peace Corps Alumni Foundation
for Philippine Development
P.O. Box 100114
Arlington, VA 22210**

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