

# Balitaan

Newsletter 61, Fall 2015 [www.rpcvphilippines.org](http://www.rpcvphilippines.org) [pcafpd@gmail.com](mailto:pcafpd@gmail.com) P.O. Box 100114, Arlington, VA 22210



**Aries is on the move!**  
*Ariestelo Asilo, from Batangas, graduated from UP, Los Banos in 2007 with a degree in Nutrition. PCAFPD is supporting his MS in Business Management at UP Diliman. He is also running a company that he founded.*

Makati City - It was an incredible semester characterized by sleepless nights dealing with “good problems” of our clients and a long list of reading and papers for school. I took a full-time term in school juggling among three classes on Economics, Managerial Accounting and Management. I was exempted from taking two other courses required for those subjects and was able to save a full semester!

Between business and school, I was often late for class, arriving at 6 or 7 pm instead of 5:30 pm for classes that end at 8:30 pm. I had three classes every week. My day started at 6 am and ended at 12 midnight or sometimes two in the morning. But it was all very fun! Amazingly, 95% of the things we discussed were directly related to what I am doing right now. I was very happy because I was able to share many things with my classmates who are also very good in their chosen fields.

The most challenging thing I experienced last semester was having a very tight schedule! My clients are very demanding, and they are of course my priority! Luckily, my staff is very supportive and trainable. At least I feel that I am succeeding in applying concepts and managerial skills in real time!

There was a time that I had to excuse myself for the sixth time in school because my client was only available in the evening. Imagine the stress! I really thought I would fail that subject. I made sure that my term papers and other case studies were very well written. I made sure that I was able to capture the best, not just the acceptable, solutions to the propositions at hand. And I made it!

I was able to end the semester as a University Scholar (Chancellor’s List) with two subjects at 1.25 and the other one at 1.0. I really thought I would fail them because of my tardiness and absences; but my professors saw the quality in my output and they were very understanding of my schedule.

Thank you so much also to the PCAFPD family for the continuous support to PSAA. I am deeply humbled to serve and lead my co-scholars. I hope that I inspire them to realize that academic excellence, leadership and entrepreneurship are possible altogether.

Onwards to the next term! ▪



*Editor’s note: Aries has been President of PCAFPD Scholars and Alumni Association (PSAA) since 2005. After writing this essay, he has taken a leave of absence from his studies to run for office and serve his community. He is an opposition candidate for Councilor in his hometown, Bauan, Batangas. In a news story about his candidacy, Aries was quoted as saying, “We are young leaders who can face the challenges of a modern Bauan. We will serve the people with truth and justice.”*



### **He takes advantage of opportunities**

**Hector Philippe Plame**, from Negros Oriental, is majoring in Secondary Education at Foundation University.

Every day is an opportunity given to us, an opportunity for us to enjoy every moment that may happen or that has happened already, an opportunity to reflect on what happened yesterday, to learn from the mistakes we have made, to accept that things happen in perfect timing, by chance, or by accident. Every day is an opportunity for us to imagine the future that we have dreamed of achieving. But, we know that things happen at a fast pace.

Yes! I am already in my 2nd Year in college. Before classes started, I volunteered in Basay National High School to make IDs, starting with the pictures up to the layout. It was fun because I really enjoyed what I was doing. Even though I was not able to do the printing, I'm still proud of myself because I finished the layout in just one week. Then, I went to Dumaguete City to prepare for class.

My morning classes started at 7 o'clock and ended at 11:30 am. Then in the afternoon, my classes started at 1:30 and went until 6:30 in the evening. Although my schedule was very tight this semester, I managed well the six major subjects and one minor subject. My experiences this semester were productive.

I joined the 2nd Year group for the NutriSayaw during the Nutrition Month Culmination, and we won 3rd place. Also, I was one of the members of the College of Education Folk Dancers who competed for the Paligsahan sa Katuubong Sayaw during the culmination of Buwan ng Wika, and we won 1st place. I, and my partner April, represented the 2nd Year for the Dance Sports Competition and we won 3rd place. I was also one of the representatives of Foundation University in Tourism Roadshow, held in various barangays around Dumaguete City. I volunteered during the Clean-up Drive along Dr.

Miciano Road every Saturday during July and August. Also, I volunteered in the Clean-up Movement for Banica River. I was a facilitator during Science Week (September 21-24, 2015) as a General Science major. I was also awarded "Best Rebutallist" during the Filipino debate on September 29, 2015. Indeed, these experiences were really meaningful to me because of the values I acquired which have made me a better person and molded me into who will I be in the future. ▀

### **Hard work pays off**

**Fritz Xenon Cabugao**, from Batanes, is studying Electronics and Communication Engineering at the University of Saint Louis in Tuguegarao.



I was so afraid the past semester because I was on probation due to my failing grade in MECH 1. But despite this, I used the experience as a stepping stone to continue to strive and study. I thought of my parents, who would not be able to support me if I lose this scholarship that has been entrusted to me. So I did my best, with no time to waste. I was at my desk every night reviewing lessons for the next day. And yes! It was so worth it. I passed all my subjects this semester.

I did not encounter financial problems; the allowance that my scholarship has given to me is just enough. I know how to budget my money. Sometimes there are emergency situations where I have to use money that is not in my budget; yet, I still know how to manage my money.

This was the semester that we had our departmental day. I chose basketball and table tennis and I played well. I was so happy that I could play games. Our body sometimes needs time to rest for our mind to think well.

I am now half way to earning my degree; and can't wait to graduate and pass the board exam so that I can repay those who guided and motivated me. Soon I will be one of the contributors to the development of our country. ▀

**PCAFPD supporters are still active in the Philippines** - In addition to their financial support for PCAFPD scholarships; we know that many RPCVs who served in the Philippines have made other long-term commitments to the country. Below is some information about several of the programs our supporters have created and sustain. PCAFPD congratulates them and encourages you to go to their websites for more information.



Keith Hooper with his grandson Evan

**Humanitarian Efforts to Lessen Poverty, The H.E.L.P. Foundation**, was created by **Keith Hooper (Bukidnon 1966-68)** and his wife Paterna in 2004. H.E.L.P. is working on projects in Health, Literacy, Livelihood and Microcredit, primarily in

Bukidnon on Mindanao. In his most recent newsletter, Keith reported that in the last 11 years the school sponsorship program has grown from 35 students sponsored in school in 2005 to 270 students in 2015. Individuals, families, Rotary Clubs and churches sponsor specific children beginning with elementary school and continuing through high school and college. The livelihood projects where women make exportable bags, jewelry, greeting cards, etc. has marketed over \$15,000 worth of products, with all of the money going back to the makers. The HELP Foundation has continued to provide meals and health education to indigent mothers and their malnourished children in the area surrounding its base in Talakag, Bukidnon. You can find details about all of these projects, and more, on the website [www.thehelpfoundation.com](http://www.thehelpfoundation.com). You will be inspired by the amazing work that Keith and Pat have been doing. ▀



**ENCA Eco-Tourism and Organic Farm** near Tublay, Benguet, opened in 2006 as an eco-tourism space; a community and environmental education venue; and a model for indigenous farming practices. Its education and advocacy programs ensure that Filipino farmers have access to organic

seeds, local youth participate in environmental education camps, and Ibaloi cultural practices are documented, taught and preserved. Through community-based tourism programs, ENCA visitors learn organic farming techniques and conduct meaningful service projects. **Sherry Manning (Benguet, 2006-08)** lived with the Cosalans, owners of the farm, during her Peace Corps service. After she returned home to the Denver area, Sherry founded **Friends of ENCA Farm**, a non-profit that supports ENCA Eco-Tourism and Organic Farm. It will launch a 14-day service-based travel program to the Philippines in the fall of 2016. Find out more about the meaningful work that Sherry and her group are doing at [www.encaorganicfarm.com](http://www.encaorganicfarm.com) and learn how you can support its efforts to sustain past practices and prepare for climate change. ▀



**Miribiris Garden and Nature Center**, near Salvación, Santo Domingo, Albay, is “a cross between a botanical garden, a forest, a hobby garden and a small farm”, in the words of its owners Chris and Glenda

Newhall. **Chris Newhall (Albay 1970-76)** taught geology at Aquinas University on Legazpi City while he was a Peace Corps Volunteer. He later worked as a volcanologist with the US Geological Survey and as professor of earth science. When he retired in 2006, he and his Filipina wife, Glenda, returned to Albay, and acquired the farm and beach-front that is now the Miribiris Garden and Nature Center, which is open to the public for visits, overnight stays and events. Go to [www.miribirisgarden.org](http://www.miribirisgarden.org) to learn more about the center and about pillow lava from an ancient volcano that Chris has discovered on the beach at the site. The photo is of Chris with the pillow lava. ▀



## He studies environmental engineering so he can innovate and reform

*Karyl Blaine Dulnuan, from Ifugao, is majoring in Environmental Sanitary Engineering at the University of the Cordilleras.*

Education is a continuous process- an adventure inclusive of various challenges that we may encounter and happy moments and contentment until our quest has been reached. Patience, perseverance and prayer, will enable us to out-do circumstances and serve as masonry which will pave our way in pursuing our studies. However, we will stay motionless if no energy is involved so we have to be responsible.

And so, I worked to help, I reviewed to pass, I practiced to improve, and I was patient to finish my studies. I was responsible. For almost five school-years, I can now say that finally I'm left with only one subject to finish my course. I just have to wait for graduation day.



With my journey, the experience was great. It was as if I have ventured the whole world. I have seen different technical processes for Sewage and Water Treatment Plants. I helped a community. We did community service, a river

clean-up drive and planting of trees. I also visited watersheds and a sanitary landfill. I witnessed how construction works; and I have seen how construction products and materials are created. Behind those experiences, I learned something. Besides being responsible, I realized that people are the problem, and, at the same time, the solution for environmental issues. The earth is vulnerable to uncivilized acts of people. They destroy the environment and, as a result, they suffer. This is the reason why education is important since it is a solution. I chose to enroll in an environmental engineering course because I wanted to learn how to innovate and reform. Education is like a puzzle which tests an individual's ability in order to be solved but the answer is in our hands; and I guess I made it. ▀

## Elimination Stage

*John Paradero, from Negros Oriental, is majoring in Accountancy at Negros Oriental State University.*



Financial Accounting 1 is a most crucial part of the accounting life of a student. Success in this course is one of the ways to identify who really can survive in this field of study. "Don't let the fear of failing be greater than the excitement of passing." This quotation from Robert Kiyosake was shared with us by our teacher.

I think of this quotation every time I take an examination, hoping I could really pass each test. My studies for this semester were the best of all the semesters. I topped the Physics examination - believe it or not, I got a grade of 100. I was also one of the top two in our Microeconomics class. I was also among the top ten in the rest of the subjects except Financial Accounting 1, which I failed in the midterm examination. I really do not know why I found Financial Accounting 1 so difficult. I tried my very best but it was not enough to make it. During the finals it was also very difficult. It is really probable that I will fail in Financial Accounting 1. I fear that I cannot pass it.

Junior Philippine Institute of Accountants (JPIA) week was one of the highlight events that I joined at Silliman University in July. I helped cook every weekend at Casa Miani-Arvedi and made snacks for the other boys. I joined a seminar held at Silliman University entitled Eleven Days of Sharing organized by SU student leaders from different departments. I also taught elementary school boys at Casa Miani how to read.

Well, I could say I completed my responsibilities this semester well enough. But, we cannot really deny the fact that in real life we encounter failures. All I can say is that I have nothing to worry about because everything happens for a reason. ▀

*Editor's note: Unfortunately, John did fail Financial Accounting 1, so he will go on PCAFPD probation for the next semester. During the probation period, he will be monitored and given assistance.*

## PC/Philippines Group I Continues Reunion Tradition

By Maureen Carroll



In 2002, Group I began a tradition of holding its own reunion every two years in lieu of participating only in the Peace Corps Anniversary celebrations every five years in Washington with RPCVs from all countries and decades. The criteria for selecting a location include a willing host and a place of “sightseeing” interest. While we totally enjoy seeing each other and renewing our bonds, we don’t spend the long weekend telling war stories. Hosts plan some group activities and leave plenty of time for individual interests. Since 2002, we have visited Chicago, Toronto, Boston, Pasadena/LA, and Eastern Oregon. In 2011, we skipped a group reunion alone in favor of joining in the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations in Washington, DC.

From September 15 to 18 this year, forty-four participants met in Richmond, VA, a city rich in attractions and great historical significance, and close to other great sights like Monticello in Charlottesville, Williamsburg and Jamestown. Our host was Susan Carlton, a Filipina who was married to one of our late cohorts, Tom Carlton, who passed away in 1992. With a few helpers from Washington, Susan and family staged a memorable weekend.

Highlights included an update on Peace Corps and PC/Philippines from a Peace Corps senior staff member, a slide presentation by a representative of the Richmond Valentine History Museum, a trolley tour of the entire city, an evening in an Irish pub, and a Philippine fiesta on Saturday night. *Lumpia, pancit, adobo, and leche flan* were among the delicious Asian fusion buffet items. Young FilAm dancers performed and Tom and Susan’s daughter Elisabeth sang the classic *Dahil Sa Iyo*. A deejay

played all the great hits of the 60’s including those popular in the Philippines—*Fly Me to the Moon, One More Chance, Wooden Heart*, etc. We even had a surprise visit from Elvis, and somehow or other—despite it being our 54<sup>th</sup> anniversary-- the dance floor was always full, especially for the Twist numbers. During the day on Saturday, people pursued their own interests, including trips to Monticello and Williamsburg, the State Capitol designed by Thomas Jefferson, the Edgar Allen Poe House, the Lewis Ginter Botanical Gardens and the extraordinary Virginia Museum of the Fine Arts. During “down” times, we gathered in a hospitality suite, which was decorated with Philippines artifacts and photos, scrap books, newspaper clippings and other memorabilia from our service.

On Sunday morning we concluded with a brunch at which we always have a short remembrance ceremony for our group members who have died, and we discuss hosts and locations for the next reunion. Much excitement now prevails since a couple who live in Santa Fe, NM, have picked up the baton to plan our next event there.

Members of Group I have been staunch supporters of PCAFPD throughout the years. Three are Board members. In the past, Group I has been an individual sponsor of a scholar and will donate extra proceeds from this year’s event to the Foundation. ■

**Be sure that you are included in the directory of the Peace Corps Community to be available in 2016** NPCA is creating the latest edition of a *Peace Corps Community Directory*. If you haven’t received a postcard inviting you to contact Publishing Concepts (PCI) to update your information, you are still welcome to contact it and get your name in its records. Call 1-866-621-9502 (toll free) to verify/update the information they have about you or to add your name to its records. Let’s help NPCA make this the most comprehensive listing of the Peace Corps community that has ever been published!

Get details at [www.peacecorpsconnect.org](http://www.peacecorpsconnect.org).

## Finding happiness while juggling employment & challenging professors

*Kimberly M. Jacinto, from Antique, is studying Accounting at the University of Manila*

It was really great to be at school again after I stopped for a year. I am grateful to our father God, to my family and to the Peace Corp Alumni Foundation for their support towards my dream. It wasn't easy to be a transfer, irregular and working student at the same time. There is no problem being a working student since my employer, the Philippine Accrediting Association of Schools, Colleges & Universities (PAASCU) is very considerate of my studies. PAASCU also gives me wide knowledge about how to get quality education from schools.

It is the first time that I have been an irregular student. I choose my own subjects and schedule, but have no permanent classmates. Sometimes I feel like a fish out of water, but it is fine with me. I just set my mind that the most important thing is to gain knowledge.

I have been unhappy with two of my classes. I met my Computer Science professor for the first time three weeks after classes began. He informed us that he will give us a tutorial class that will meet twice a week. As time went on, he and I just met twice a month. I rarely found him in his faculty room. The other subject, Taxation and Law, with another professor, was also disappointing. That was a difficult subject for me since I should have taken it in my third year. The professor only met with us three times during the whole semester. Each time we went to his class, his student assistants just gave us exams and told us to do self-study. I was really craving the knowledge that I needed from this subject, so I just relied on my books. Learning Taxation and Law is important for my chosen course. I am worried about the grades I will get for these two subjects. The rest of my classes were good and I found them great.

As busy I am, I still spend my free time and days productively. I go to Bahay Tuluyan Organization to be a youth volunteer. I am helping in the preparation and facilitation of activities such as Community Day, Street Education, Drop In activities and Outreach programs. It is my real happiness, serving children in my community. ▀

## A letter from Jun Senara

July 20, 2015,

Good day Sir Roland, and to the foundation to whom I owe everything,

By God's grace and mercy, the life which was just a dream 11 years ago, has turned into reality. I dreamed of becoming a teacher; that is all I wanted. I enjoy teaching and it completes me. Today I am writing to you as never before. I am writing to you as a public servant, a school teacher. Your financial support has not been wasted.

I am proud to inform the foundation that I am now serving in a community where the majority of the population comes from indigenous Samal families, whose source of living is primarily fishing and seaweed farming. I am at Arena Blanco National High School in one of the barangays that was affected by the Zamboanga Siege. It is a small school surrounded by mangroves with a population of about 1,200. 99% of the students are Muslims and only 1% are Christians. The school serves as the only high school for students from the nearby islands of Tigtabon, Manalipa, Panganak, Tumulutab and Bilang-bilang. Hence students who came from these island barangays ride a boat every day to attend classes.



After my substitute teaching from December 2014 until March 2015, God was so good to me (as He is always) that he heard my prayer and gave me a permanent teaching position in this school. Since June 2015, I have been a grade 10 adviser, a science teacher and in charge of the Science Laboratory.

I am enjoying my life now, and I thank you sir, and the foundation, for this dream come true. I am still adjusting to the demands of full time teaching, which requires a 101% commitment plus extended school work at home. A million thanks, Sir Roland and the foundation for this life that I am enjoying now. May God bless you abundantly.

Very Truly Yours, Ignacio L. Senara Jr.



### **OJT – on the job training is her real education**

**Mary Jane D. Amarille**, from *Negros Occidental*, is studying *Management Accounting* at *Foundation University*.

Compared to a typical semester, my summer class was different because I started doing my practicum. I'm

treating this course as an avenue for me to use my acquired knowledge, enhance my skills and even discover any hidden potentials. That's the real education. It is not limited to the four walls of the classroom – rather it allows individuals to widen their horizons and get their foot in the door of the real world – for me, more specifically in the business arena.

My schedule was challenging, as I was doing my practicum in the two month summer session. Doing my 600-hour OJT in this short period was not easy. I still had to attend an afternoon class and fulfill the usual requirements of that course. But I didn't treat this as a problem; rather, I focused my attention on my new environment. I observed a lot during the first couple of days and started to do routine tasks such as filing documents, encoding, receiving calls and answering inquiries. I tried my best to familiarize myself with the usual transactions of the company, which was a renowned cooperative in the Visayas, Cebu CFI Community Cooperative. Every single day that I spent in the company was full of learning. I was able to develop my interpersonal skills. I was able to develop a good relationship with all members of the organization. Being honest in all my dealings with them, sincere and hardworking, I was able to win their favor. I am so proud that I was able to apply the things that I learned in the classroom. It was so rewarding to see the fruit of my labor.

Truly, education is a continuous process. We do not stop learning things in life, be it personal, academic, spiritual, etc. Having the right character and a desirable personality will be very essential in fortifying this learning process. Being grateful to everyone who continues to believe in our capabilities and talents is the right thing to do. Thanks

a lot to those who helped get me to where am I today – to my sponsor the PCAFPD family, thank you so much. There is no exact word that I can express to say how grateful I am to be supported by you. Thanks for the care, guidance and financial help that you have extended. Without you, I don't know if I could realize my dreams. And to all the individuals who are always there to support me in different ways – to my family and friends, I'm so thankful to them. And most of all to my Almighty Father-Jehovah God who constantly showed His loving-kindness in every single second of my life. Another semester is yet to unfold, hopefully the values, lessons, skills and things that You have shared with me will be my guide, a lighted torch as I continue trudging the way of life. ▪

### **He gains confidence as he nears the end of his studies**

**Alnie Alojado**, from *Negros Occidental*, is studying *Social Work* at the *University of Negros Occidental Recoletos*

Another semester has ended, and again, it contributed to what I am becoming – a confident, stronger and better person. I can't help look back of what I was before I was given this chance; I was shy with low self-esteem and everything about the future was blurry. Today as I am writing this essay, I am smiling knowing I only have one semester left to finally finish my degree in Social Work. In no time I will be officially practicing this profession as a registered Social Worker.

Every day I am learning, I am becoming more mindful of my relationships with clients, the community, my family and colleagues. I am becoming sensitive to the needs of others and I am learning how to value people more. I can see how essential a good human relationship is in the field of Social Work. In my training, I can see how people disagree and argue, but at the end of the day, they value their relationship more than anything else and they work hard and communicate to provide their client with the best possible service they can offer. Seeing how selfless people I work with are, I feel deeply humbled and privileged that God has chosen me to be in this noble field to serve His people, especially the disadvantaged ones. I will always be grateful to PCAFPD for its continuous support in my journey to a brighter future. ▪

**Contributions from our generous supporters.** Thanks go to those listed below who made gifts to PCAFPD between May 6, 2015 and September 30, 2015. The plus (+) identifies those who made more than one contribution since our last report. In addition to those listed below, PCAFPD received donations from **The Ford Foundation** to match Paul Aleckson's gifts; from **The Bill Foye Philippine Scholarship Fund**; and in honor of **the wedding of Paul Aleckson and Jennie McConaghy**. See story about those two special gifts on page 9. Numbered notes are at the end of the list.

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**Correction to note (37) in the spring 2015 issue of *Balitaan*:** The dedication of Virginia Warr Rubin’s gift was in honor of Llyn Murphy Drumbar, not in her memory. *Balitaan*’s editor regrets the error.

**Notes:** (1) in memory of Patricia Ann Biddle Banogan (Negros Oriental 1966-68); (2) in memory of Kent Penfold; (3) in memory of Stanley Suyat; (4) one of Helen’s gifts is in memory of Stuart Keith; (5) in memory of James D. McMullen (Samar 65-67, Group 15), who died May 29, 2015; (6) in honor of Ron & Lilia Peters; (7) in memory of Joe Sperrazza; (8) in memory of Marie Villanueva Hilliard; (9) in memory of Delores Rohaley; (10) in honor of Maureen Carroll; (11) in honor of Sarah McMeans; (12) in memory of Stan Suyat and Barb Huffer; (13) in honor of “Botch II” or Group 2; (14) in memory of John & Agnes Kramer; (15) in memory of Jana MacFarland Hofer, Group 13B; (16) in memory of Paul Lampert (Leyte); (17) in memory of Pepo & Veni Manibay of Babatngon & Tacloban, Leyte, victims of Typhoon Haiyan; (18) in memory of Judy Swigost Hill; (19) in honor of Paul Aleckson & Jennie McConaghy’s wedding; (20) in honor of Group 10; (21) in memory of Rachel Singer of Group 10; (22) monthly gifts are designated for the Ron & Lilia Peters Scholarship (23) in memory of Laurence Foley; (24) in memory of Charlie Terry, Group 3; (25) in memory of Joanne Jorz & Lou Morales; (26) in memory of R. Sargent Shriver; (27) in memory of their beloved daughter Angela Wetmore; (28) in honor of the Guinaang people; (29) in memory of Carolyn Ekdahl Wylie, Group 1 ▪

**Two Special Contributions:** In August, PCAFPD received a second \$500 check from the Community Foundation of Eastern Connecticut for **The Bill Foye Philippine Scholarship Fund**, which has been established to “recognize the sacrifice of the Filipino people in southern Luzon: PQOG guerillas, teenagers, doctors and villagers who rescued US Navy Aviator William Foye during WWII (October 1944-February 1945). Their selfless actions – often at great cost – sometimes loss of life – are remembered by a grateful Foye family.” ▪

PCAFPD Vice President for Student Affairs **Paul Aleckson** married **Jennie McConaghy** on July 11, 2015. On their **wedding registry**, the couple said that they would happy if friends made a gift to PCAFPD in lieu of giving them a more traditional wedding present. Thirteen individuals and couples chose to do that; and PCAFPD received \$1,640 from those listed below. Those who made gifts to PCAFPD were: Don & Mary Aleckson, Michael Aleckson, Brad Angermeier, Steve & Maron Burke, Jessica & Josh Callahan, Denise & Dick Haight, Nick & Dee Huie, Fred & Jean Lacher, Cassandra Mahoney, the William McConaghy family, Elaine Needleman, Janel & Snapper Poche and Mike Ollinger. PCAFPD is very grateful that Paul and Jennie chose to share their happy occasion with our scholars in this meaningful way. ▪



Starting this year, PCAFPD will share names and contact information of RPCVs and Peace Corps staff in our database with the National Peace Corps Association (NPCA) in exchange for names from them. If you do not wish to have the contact information that you have provided to us shared with NPCA, please check the appropriate box on your donation envelope or contact us at [pcafpd@gmail.com](mailto:pcafpd@gmail.com).

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

Got news for *BALITAAN*? Put a note in your donation envelope or send an e-mail to us at [pcafpd@gmail.com](mailto:pcafpd@gmail.com)

**CURRENT PCAFPD BOARD:** **President:** Carol Hammaker Radomski (Batanes 1980-83); **Vice President/Philippines:** Roland de Jesus; **Vice President/USA:** Ron Peters (Sorsogon 1961-63); **Treasurer:** Stephen Dienstfrey (Bukidnon 1965-67); **Secretary:** Mike Ollinger (Iloilo 1982-84); **Vice President/Database Management:** Sarah McMeans (Cebu 1962-64); **Vice President/Student Affairs:** Paul Aleckson (Romblon 2003-05); **Board Members at Large:** Maureen Carroll (Sorsogon 1961-63); Hans Groot (Negros Occidental & Laguna 1961-64); Joyce Javillonar-Rekstad; Denise Lionetti (Sorsogon 1976-79); Geraldine Maiatico (Batangas 1966-68; APCD 2000-2005); Alex Romero; Usha Vatsia (Bulacan 1985-87); Michael Walsh (Nueva Ecija 1981-84) & Rick Zemlin (Davao del Sur 1981-83) **Mail Pickup Volunteer:** Terri Lee Bergman (Cebu 1982-84) ▪



The National Peace Corps Association is excited to announce a change to its membership policy, one that will make the Peace Corps community more robust, inclusive, and diverse, while reflecting the increasingly more mission-driven nature of the organization. As of January 1, 2016, NPCA membership dues are eliminated, and membership in NPCA will be complimentary for everyone in the Peace Corps community - serving Peace Corps Volunteers, Returned Peace Corps Volunteers, current Peace Corps staff, former Peace Corps staff, host country nationals and anyone who shares Peace Corps ideals, so long as NPCA has accurate service and/or contact information for you. This change coincides with NPCA's launch of the **Peace Corps Community Fund**. The fund will enable NPCA to do important work that it has never before been able to do in all three of its fields of activity: increasing the Peace Corps community's global development impact, supporting returned Volunteers, and advocating for Peace Corps. NPCA welcomes everyone to join the community as a Mission Partner by contributing to the fund. And, if you have not been receiving NPCA communications, make sure you register for your free membership on its website: <http://www.peacecorpsconnect.org/membership/>. For more information, visit the FAQ page at <http://www.peacecorpsconnect.org/community/npcas-new-membership-model-and-faqs/>. ▪