

Balitaan

Newsletter 53, Fall 2011

www.rpcvphilippines.org

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Philippines RPCVs celebrate 50 years of Peace Corps

By Pamela Cohelan Benson (Quezon- 1963-65)

PCAFPD sponsored two events to celebrate Peace Corps' 50th anniversary. The first, held on Friday evening September 23rd, was a reception with a fiesta theme. Our venue, the Harbor Square Club Room in Southwest Washington, overlooked the Washington Channel and featured a spectacular sunset view—most welcome after a day of relentless rain. By 5:30 PM, the room was filled with guests enjoying drinks and a buffet of Filipino dishes such as *lumpia*, *pancit*, and *malagkit*.

A large sign reading Mabuhay welcomed the arrivals, and a bulletin board displayed an authentic barrio fiesta poster; decorative pieces of woven *nipa* palm salvaged from the Peace Corps presentation at the Smithsonian



Philippine Ambassador Jose L. Cuisia, Jr. speaks to the Returned Uo

Folklife Festival; photos and press releases documenting many activities and accomplishments of early Philippines PCVs. The formal program began with a welcome by PCAFPD President Maureen Carroll. She then introduced Philippine Ambassador Jose L. Cuisia, Jr. who thanked Volunteers for their service to his country and gave a brief update on the state of the Philippines under the new administration of President Benigno Aquino III.

Guests were then treated to vocal selections, several in Tagalog, by Elizabeth Carlton, the daughter of the late Group I Volunteer Tom Carlton.



Three different dance groups performed, reminding us of the incredible cultural diversity of the

Philippines. The Migrant Heritage Commission Dance Ensemble danced the *tinikling*. The room filled with the familiar sound of bamboo poles clacking sharply against the floor and together and, as the dance began, many of us recalled the skill required to avoid bruised ankles. The Filipino Cultural Association from George Mason University danced the *Singkil*, an elaborate dance from Mindanao that told a story of a princess and featured glittering costumes and graceful movements with fans and shields.



Finally, clanging gongs rang out as a dance troupe from BIMAK DC, clad in the familiar red and black woven textiles of the Cordillera Region, began their celebratory



dance presentation. BIMAK DC has been a loyal supporter of PCAFPD, having sponsored 10 individual scholars from its home region.

At the end of the evening, in atypical barrio fiesta fashion, PCAFPD selected a Barrio Queen by lottery. From a basket that held the names of all the women in attendance, Vladimir Velasco, a language instructor for the first PC groups in the Philippines, selected Judy Conway from Group I. She wore her tiara well! Laughter and conversation continued as guests slowly made their way towards the door, reluctant, perhaps, to end an evening that had transported us back to the Philippines and a treasure trove of memories.

The second event, held Saturday morning, September 24th at the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Headquarters was a Country Update, featuring a speaker, an informational presentation on the work of PCAFPD, and a panel of recent Philippine RPCVs, including the recently returned Country Director.

Our speaker, Dr. Robin Broad, Professor of International Development at American University, gave a riveting update entitled *Back to the Future -Contemporary*



Issues in the Philippines. Dr. Broad spoke powerfully of the close personal relationships she had developed with Filipinos from all walks of life during her work in the

Philippines; of the changes that had taken place since the 1960s, and of the challenges facing the country. She shared insights about agriculture - in particular the growing realization among Philippine village farmers that growing rice organically is more sustainable and profitable than growing rice with chemical fertilizers.

Dr. Broad left no stone unturned in her riveting presentation which included issues pertaining to the environment, politics, and the economy. Audience members were eager to express their gratitude. (PCAFPD has posted her speech on our website.) A brief question and answer session followed Dr. Broad's remarks, while participants watched a slide show of photos of Philippines volunteers hard at work and play over the years, put together by Cathy Garman (1978-81).

PCAFPD Board Members Paul Aleckson and Geri Maiatico talked briefly about the organization and presented a short informational video made by scholars in the Philippines.

The morning ended with a panel on *Peace Corps Today* organized by RPCV Marie Morse (2007-2009.) Four recently returned PCVs and their Director each gave a brief summary of their work in the Philippines and fielded questions from the audience. Participants included RPCVs Dominic Schuler, Caitlin Maguigan, Rachel Kavanagh, Kristine Bucchianeri, and Country Director Sonia Stines Derenoncourt.

RPCVs and their guests had a variety of other commemorative events to choose from sponsored by the National



Peace Corps Association, the Returned PCVs of Washington DC, former Peace Corps Staff, and Peace Corps. Among them were an *Open House* held at Peace Corps Washington, an *Advocacy Day* on Capitol Hill, a *Service Day*, a *Peace Corps Staff Reunion* at the National Building Museum, a breakfast at the Mayflower Hotel with founders of the Corps, a *Panel of World Leaders* moderated by Bill Moyers at the National Theater,



and the *NPCA Peace Corps Gala* emceed by Swaziland RPCV and well-known television commentator Chris Matthews. The weekend ended with a ceremony at Arlington Cemetery to honor fallen Volunteers and a *Parade of Flags* across the Memorial Bridge.

The PCAFPD Board Planning Committee included Chair Maureen Carroll (1961-63), Pamela Benson (1963-65), Sylvia Cabus (Cameroon 1993-95), Judith Cridler Claire (1961-63), Virginia Foley (1964-66), Cathy Garman (1978-81), Patricia Kasdan (1961-63), Marie Morse (2007-09), Claire Horan Smith (1961-63) and Stuart Taylor (1961-63).

Through their efforts, PCAFPD not only staged memorable events for the weekend but also raised over \$8,100 to benefit the scholarship program. Mabuhay!!!

Riding the college roller coaster

Raf Andrew Espenocilla, from *Sorsogon*, is majoring in broadcast communication at the University of the Philippines, Los Baños.

I never knew that purchasing a bus ticket to the campus would be the same as getting a ticket to a long roller-coaster ride. Going through this semester



was like passing through loops at a high velocity. It literally took me through the ups and downs of college life and taught me a lot of things. I have to say that the second-to-the-last semester of my

whole college experience was indeed the peak of my education. It gave me goose bumps caused by the crest and troughs of emotions; the thrilling fear of unlearning and relearning everything and most of all, the nausea of learning and applying everything all at the same time.

Everything started last June, when I was about to go back to school for my last year. I felt challenged to go through this semester but at the same time I felt the fear of committing mistakes and failing.

In my previous years in school, we had been taught the mathematics and the physics behind roller coasters. However, to be able to enjoy the full experience of riding a roller coaster, one must unlearn the uptight rules of science and just let loose. Much like this semester, I had to unlearn and relearn everything so that I would be able to be an effective and efficient Communication Arts student.

The writing style that I possessed was apparently not good enough to meet my professor's expectations and with that knowledge, I had to unlearn that style and develop a new one; one that is improved and read-worthy. There was also a time when I needed to unlearn how to be a student so I could be an effective actor and an efficient Production Manager for my acting class. When the production was done, I had to relearn how to be a student; a good one, for that matter.

Now I need to transfer to another ride that has a track as enjoyable as the loops and ups and downs of the roller coaster, but something that is of greater

meaning and value as well. I need to choose a ride that will allow me to make use of all the learning I got from the university roller coaster – a career path that I would be taking after my graduation.

After all the insights I picked from the green grounds of UP, I plan to live up to what is expected of every university student – to serve the people and give back to the country that has nurtured us all. I would be able to do that by means of any of the following plans: 1) get into a PR firm; 2) enter the academe; or 3) pursue another degree.

Nowadays, we are told that there is no truth in media, in advertising or in publicity. However, I have learned that the essence of publicity and/or public relations is to highlight the best attribute that the product has. I want to stick to that standard, to offer the Filipino people only the best products without having to fabricate for the sake of marketability or capital. Through this I would be able to serve my fellow countrymen while making use of the field that I have been trained in.

Another career path that I mentioned is to enter the groves of academe. I have developed a deep passion for imparting the learning that I have gathered in my years of education; in other words, I want to give back by enlightening young minds who are the future leaders of our country.

In my almost four years of UP education, I have become a learned man because of the training that the school has provided. The simplest thing that I could do to repay is to fulfill the responsibility of a true *Iskolar ng Bayan* [national scholar]: to do well in my craft so I could offer good service to the nation and prove to the people that have invested in me that my education did not go to waste.

College life is all about a long ride, after all. As you go through your journey, there are a lot of “*pagsakay*” and “*pagbaba*” [ups and downs].

However, the most important part is that we enjoy and learn during the journey and that we know our destination. In my years in college, I have often traveled by jeepneys from *bayan* [the nation or town] to college so I could get to my classes. Now that my schooling is about to end, the real ride begins, and the only thing different is that I am going to be traveling from college to *bayan*.

She is burning midnight candles for a new self

Ela Jane B. Riego, from Batangas, is majoring in Education at St. Bridget College, Batangas City.



What greater joy than to arise with the dawn of each new day, when the whole world beckons us to meet its challenges - to share in its never-ending mysteries.

What greater joy than to seize all life has to offer and to make the most of what we have and who we are, as we prepare the way to a bright and beautiful tomorrow.

This semester I entered the second phase of my academic life at St. Bridget College, another stepping stone towards the fulfillment of my goal of becoming an educator. At the beginning, I experienced lots of difficulties - maybe it's because I'm already taking major subjects in my field. I thought it's just for the meantime but I found myself wrong. There are lots of projects, research and reports to complete. It's hard for me to manage my time properly. I always burned my midnight candles, most of the time when major examinations came.

I also attended a few seminars to strengthen my insights about my chosen field. Even though I experienced lots of pressure in my studies, I always gave myself a break, especially when the school conducted activities for the students to relax. All those hardships came into my realization when I had my second retreat; wherein I can say that this was the day my life truly began. It's not the day when my mother gave birth to me but the day that I had a new life, a new self. I already left my old self as I travel along the journey of my life. I am more mature and responsible. All the difficulties and hardships I experienced this semester had their purpose.

The first semester ended and I survived. It's because of the foundation, the PCAFPD, who gives assistance, because if not for their help I might not be here; and because of God who keeps me going. As I woke up every morning I realized that I should not regret any day of my life because good days

always gives me happiness, bad days give me experiences, trials makes me strong, sorrows keeps me human, failures makes me humble and success keeps me growing.

As my new life heads toward the fulfillment of my goal, I know the time will come when I reap the harvest I planted for many years. I know its worth, from the hardship, sweat and tears devoted just to have first step and feel the warmth of sweet success.

Art that stirs a controversy

Laarni S. Luntok, from Camarines Sur, is a psychology student at Ateneo de Naga University in Naga City.



There were a lot of realizations and learning that I've gotten from the past semester and I'm going to share one of them from my humanities class. An issue arose from an overheated debate over Mideo Cruz's art

installation, *Politiesmo*, part of the University of Santo Tomas alumni-artists' exhibition *Kulo* at the Cultural Center of the Philippines. Cruz's art is an installation of collage and assemblage of found objects – among those installations was a free-standing, life-size crucifix adorned with scapulars and rosaries as well as a red phallus. The public outcry started over a wooden replica of male genital in front of Jesus Christ's image and a Christ statue with red ball on his nose and semi-Mickey Mouse ears.

The former archbishop of Dagupan told the artist to seek psychiatric help, which later turned the controversy into a national issue. Catholics from all over the country were united in condemnation of - according to them - a "blasphemous" art work. How would I react to this issue?

I would have to look at different perspectives. First point of view is from a student who just took a humanities class. Although I have to admit that I'm still novice in art appreciation and I still have a lot to

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Art that stirs controversy –

continued

learn, I need to voice out what was on my mind. When I first saw the art on a blog, I have to admit that I appreciated it. Upon seeing the phallus symbol, I immediately wondered what it meant. As Cruz said, the movable penis plastered by the crucifix represents a patriarchal society. Symbolists who study ancient symbols interpret the phallus as symbol of power. Phalli, according to them, have been objects of devotion in many cultures, used as amulets and symbolic statues.

At first I thought it was really great art, since he had interpreted it well, based on symbols he had included. If my teacher had given it a grade, it would have been an A. But on second thought it was not like a project in school. It was exhibited where art is subjected to different interpretations and perceptions of people where hundreds or even thousands can be touched or be offended by it.

If I would switch my point of view and use another perspective, I would admit that I was also offended. It was as if Cruz is not respecting Catholic religion and faith, that he was desecrating the images. His act was against the law because our religious faith is protected by the constitution against ridicule or bigotry. I was also taken aback when his supporters began lecturing that Catholics are worshiping idols. I knew that it was not true, but my shoulders fell when I heard some Catholics in our area doubting if what they are doing was really correct.

From what I have learned, we use images of Christ and saints not as an object of worship, they are only revered and respected – used as an inspiration, tools to evoke emotion, feelings, reaction and aid a person in visualizing the image of God.

Much has been said and done, but there is one thing that I have realized: that with freedom must go responsibilities. It is not absolute, we can do anything we want as long as it's not hurting nor offending other people. A person's freedom ends where another's freedom begins.

Learning to appreciate the beauty of psychology

Orange Happee Galanay P. Omengan, from Mountain Province, is a psychology major at St. Louis University in Baguio City.



Who would not want to smile and pat her own shoulder for a job well-done while holding that pink paper which in a way symbolizes one's effort? Grades, although they do not solely define our success, they somehow

speak about how responsible we were and how much effort we exerted during the course. Because I wanted to qualify again to the Dean's List of the School of Humanities which I did, I had to study very well. I started being more serious with my academics taking into consideration that I only have three semesters left before graduation. I have to step my best foot forward.

Last semester, I was enrolled to five major and two minor subjects. It was a tough semester especially that statistics is something that I really cannot get away from in most of my major subjects. I spent my five months researching, experimenting, solving, reporting, and studying. As said by most of our professors, third year in college is our turning point. It is our defining moment and that we have to take it seriously. It was last semester when I felt how this life can be a race that one must outrun others and one must able to glide with the rapid flow. This thought came to me and so I was pressured. I was anxious of the consequences if I failed to achieve.

To be honest, Psychometrics 1 and Experimental Psychology were the subjects that intimidated me and I had to exert more effort while taking these courses. I was very happy when I received my final grades because my hard work was justified. It was also satisfying that a number of photographs taken

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Appreciating psychology - *continued*

by yours truly were published in *Iglap* Vol. III and in *Sapientia* Vol. XV No.1. *Iglap* is a photography portfolio and *Sapientia* is a magazine, they are both of *White and Blue*, the official student publication of Saint Louis University. Somehow, I am grateful of the pressure I felt during the last semester because it made me a better student rather than being injured by it.

Thank you PCAFPD for inspiring me to study very well so that I could finish my course in four years time. I am really grateful to be one of your scholars and since not everybody is given free education, I realize how blessed I am to learn new things. I consider myself one of your investments and I hope

to pay you back. As of now I am counting my blessings and I am very thankful of having them.

I have been taking this course for more than five semesters already and it is only this semester that I move toward appreciating the beauty of psychology. Human behavior is a very interesting study because we are the subjects ourselves, we are the experimenters, and the study is very much applicable to us. I decided to take psychology to better understand my family especially my mom and to learn new things about myself. I want to explore new challenges and I am willing to help people grow as individuals and it would be very fulfilling for me if I am able to help them achieve their full potentials.

THE IMPORTANCE OF YEAR END GIVING

*The PCAFPD fall newsletter is timed to arrive when many people are considering their year-end giving. The income from the fall newsletter accounts for the largest percentage of our annual income. In January it determines how many new scholars we can afford to select from a large pool of applicants. Tuition costs in the Philippines keep increasing, and recently scholars have been reporting great difficulty living on the limited allowance we provide. **As this 50th Anniversary year comes to an end, please consider a generous gift to PCAFPD, perhaps a few dollars more than you have given in the past.** The scholars will be most grateful; their chance to go to college makes a huge difference in their ability to lead healthy, productive lives. We hope they can count on you to realize their dreams!*

PCAFPD Board

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Celebrations of Peace Corps' 50th Anniversary Continued in Manila

Peace Corps Director Aaron Williams appeared at two events in Manila on November 4th. One was an all-day joint commemoration of the 50th anniversary of Peace Corps and USAID at the SM Mall of Asia, which featured a photo exhibit and several booths highlighting the work of Peace Corps Philippines over the years. PCAFPD had a booth where the new video was shown. Brochures and quick fact sheets were available, along with flyers about the two 50th



anniversary books. Seven members of PCAFPD Scholars & Alumni Association (PSAA), including Lady Fatima Hernandez, Mellicent Macatangay, Ela Jane Riego and Francline Mandani, scholars at St. Bridget's College, Ignacio Senara,

alumnus, Rachel Briones, a scholar at UP Manila and Rachiel Neverio, a scholar at Philippine Christian University, staffed the booth and answered questions for passersby. The day's activities ended with a flash mob UTUBE activity and fireworks!

In the afternoon, Director Williams was at the official launch of *Ask not – huwag nang itanong*, a 130-page coffee table book edited by Hans Groot, a Group 1 PVC and current PCAFPD board member. The book commemorates the first 50 years of Peace Corps in the Philippines. It describes the origins of the Peace Corps Philippines program and includes pictures and articles by former PCVs and staff as well as Filipinos who hosted or worked with volunteers. The launch, held at UP Executive House was hosted by UP President Fred Pascual. The launch ceremony included Director Williams' presentation of a copy of the book to the Magsaysay Foundation, which, in 1963 at a ceremony in Manila attended by Sargent

Shriver, gave its award for International Understanding to Peace Corps Volunteers in Asia.

You can get a copy of *Ask not-huwag nang itanong* online at <http://www.blurb.com/book/2504993>.

Another book which recounts the early days of Peace Corps Philippines, in the words of those who began their service in 1961, is *Answering Kennedy's Call - Pioneering the Peace Corps in the Philippines*. It is available on Amazon. Profits from both books will support PCAFPD's scholarship program.

YOU CAN HELP US INCREASE THE SCHOLARSHIP FUND

PCAFPD has created new tools to educate people about our mission and to seek their support. Our Board members and Alumni Association in the Philippines produced a very attractive brochure and a DVD about our work. The DVD features several scholars describing the importance of their scholarships. The theme of the materials is *Building a Foundation for a Better Life*. PCAFPD can provide copies of the brochures and the DVD to anyone



willing to help us fundraise. Here are a few ideas (you may have others): hold a small house party of friends to view the DVD and talk about the Foundation; show the DVD at a meeting of a civic or church group; or, send individual notes and copies of the brochures

to a mail list of your own. **If your Peace Corps group is having a reunion, consider fundraising for PCAFPD as part of the event.** If you'd like to find other Philippines RPCVs in your area to invite to a gathering, PCAFPD can provide contacts for you from our database. For further information or to request materials please send an e-mail to Board1@rpcvphilippines.org or write to us at PO Box 100114, Arlington, VA.

PCVs and Filipinos recount impact of Peace Corps service

Last Fall we invited RPCVs to share memories of their service and Filipinos to comment on their connections to Peace Corps volunteers. We published some stories from each group in the Spring Balitaan. Here are a few more:

Modern Math paves the way to a career

By Victoria Gaoat-Castillo, Los Angeles, CA

I was a student at the Philippine Normal College from June 1962 to May 1966. Within that period there were two Peace Corps Volunteers assigned there; Mr. McElroy, who taught math, and Phil, who taught science. (Sorry I have forgotten their complete names.) I was fortunate to have been under both of them. It was during the time that the so-called *Modern Math* was being introduced, so I had the privilege of learning it directly from an expert. This made a big impact on my life as a teacher because wherever I taught, I was asked to help the teachers who did not have training in that area. More than that, I developed a love for math. I continued to learn more about it, such that later on I became the math coordinator at our school. I really appreciate this program of the US government because education is a big factor in the development of a nation.

Mike Ollinger (Iloilo 1982-84):

I was working in Bowling Green Kentucky at the time and had five years of experience as an engineer. By most measures, I was doing well, but I felt something was missing. I received *Newsweek* and each issue had a picture of a girl with big, sad, brown eyes and a caption saying that she lives on \$1 per day and "can't you help." Having grown up in Cincinnati, attended college there, and worked as an engineer in Kentucky, I had never strayed very far from where I was born. So, I decided it was time for a change and that I could help this girl with the big brown eyes. The decision was a wise one even though it cost me financially. I joined Peace Corps and never did return to engineering. I now understand that despite a meager income, under

those dark brown eyes staring at me from the magazine was a lot of warmth, generosity, and kindness. Because of her and Peace Corps, I am a more well-rounded and confident person. Thank you, brown eyes. *(Mike is on the Board of PCAFPD.)*

Michael K. Smith RN, MPH (Group 133, Cebu 1978-80):

Spring 1979. I had treated and stabilized a four-year-old girl who had been bitten by a rabid dog. I anesthetized and stitched her facial wounds and transported her and her family to the hospital. She was terrified. I laid a new dress on her bed and left for my site. Three weeks later, while in the market, the little patient came running towards me and gave me the biggest hug ever. I can still feel her arms around me: I still get tears in my eyes. *(Michael was working in Nutrition with a local physician, who trained him as a physician's assistant/paramedic.)*

A debt of gratitude

By Aida Lescaño Miranda, Las Vegas, NV

My experience with a Peace Corps Volunteer in the late 60's changed my life totally. I came from a very poor family in Alfonso, Cavite. With no money to buy food on a daily basis, education was the least worry for my parents.

In my young mind, I had this urge to study and improve our lives, to give my parents the best life. Every day I looked at the sky and I dreamed of reaching the clouds and flying like an eagle in this world. But my dreams were shattered every day I saw the poverty in our house. Then, a Peace Corps volunteer came to our quiet little town to teach Modern Math and English. Despite being the poorest in the class, I think I was the brightest and smartest kid. I graduated Valedictorian and walked to the stage with borrowed clothes and pair of shoes. The Peace Corps Volunteer became my friend, and I shared with him my dreams. He personally tutored me in English and Math in preparation for bigger things for me in Manila and convinced my *Ama* *(Continued on the next page)*

A debt of gratitude - *continued*

that I needed to go to high school to harness my talents.

Everything happened according to my dreams. My Peace Corps benefactor pulled me out of my little town and brought me to Manila. He sent me to St. Theresa's College, one of the best girls' schools. I graduated with a BS in Chemical Engineering, with MBA units from the Ateneo. I worked for the US Dept. of Commerce in Manila for 22 years as a Senior Commercial Specialist, traveled in Asia and the US and migrated to the US in 2007. I'm currently working part time as an administrative assistant to Holland Law Firm, am a paralegal student and own a small thriving consulting firm whose main business is to develop US markets in Asia Pacific.

My great success story is due to my very dear Peace Corps friend and brother, Mr. Robert A. Taft. I owe my success to him and I will always have a soft spot for the Peace Corps program. My ultimate dream now is to set up a small school in my little town and give education to those children who are very smart but have no resources to fulfill their dreams. I feel God is helping me a lot to fulfill this dream. Thank you and all the best to your program for the 50th Peace Corps anniversary.

Frances L. Stone (Negros and Baguio 1971-73):

My Peace Corps memories flow around my family, since I was a volunteer along with my husband Paul and our children Daniel, 11, Nancy, 8, Peter, 6 and Matthew, 3, when we went to the Philippines in June, 1971. We stayed until June 1973 and lived in Bacolod City and Baguio City.

We consider Peace Corps a service to our country that takes a rightful place beside military service. Our experience there as a family, living and working among the poor, was a unique one all of us would carry with us for the rest of our lives. Even Matthew, who would remember little of the experience, was affected by it because he was in an important stage of development and unknowingly would be influenced by it. I have written a book called *The Grand Adventure* (which I'm trying to get

published) that tells in the words of our children what it was like to be a part of Peace Corps and Filipino life. I used their voices as a way to appeal to young adult readers with the hope it might encourage them to serve their country as a PCV at some point in their adult life. (*Editor's Note: For a brief time in the 70's Peace Corps accepted married Volunteers with children and Frances was among them.*)

Herb Probasco (Group 8, Ilocos Sur, 1962-64):

Lying on the operating table, I was awaiting cataract surgery. Looking up at a Malayo-Polynesian face, I realized that my anesthesiologist must be Dr. Frogozo - Dr. Froggy, as he is popularly known. It was 42 years after my first Ilocano lesson as a Group 8 trainee. Still coherent, I inquired: "*Maawatam ti Ilocano*"? Indeed, it was one of the several dialects spoken by Dr. Froggy. Out came broken sentences of what I could remember of my limited vocabulary, followed by gracious responses. Then the surgeon reminded me of why we were there, as visions of *sinigang* and *pinakbet* danced in my head.

News briefs and milestones . . .

■ **Dan & Ana Gudahl's (Aklan 1981-84)** daughter Jennifer is a Peace Corps Volunteer in the Dominican Republic.

■ **Tom Blackburn (Batanes 1986)** writes: "My wife Olive Valiente Blackburn worked with PCVs Carol Hammaker & Paul Sigley in Batanes years ago. She learned a lot from working with Peace Corps and is now putting that to work. After retiring she wanted to return to Batanes and help her people. Last spring she ran for mayor of Uyugan and won. Within weeks of taking office, with local help, she increased the town's drinking water supply from a few hours in the early morning to 24 hours a day. . . . Some cows had died from swallowing plastic bags, so Olive has been actively promoting recycling. She has been encouraging people to resume farming and fishing, and has been instructing in soil conservation and

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News briefs – continued

vermiculture. On some Friday afternoons, to increase camaraderie, she excuses employees from work a little early to play volleyball until time to lower the flag. . . . Olive is working on other projects, such as increasing tourism to the beautiful island, and (hopefully) bringing the internet to Uyugan. As you can see, the influence of Peace Corps continues to this day.”

▪ **Sally Glaze Douglas (Leyte 1964-67)** writes: “Margie Larrazabal, whose mother Brandia de la Cerna was 6 years old when I lived with her family in Albuera in 1965, has graduated from Central Washington U. with a degree in Special Education. She is in her third year of teaching SE at Southridge High School in Kennewick, WA. We are very proud of her.”

Friends and Family Give More Than \$900 in Memory of Group 13 Volunteer

Derek W. Hulse (Zamboanga 1964-67) died May 14, 2011, after a courageous battle with esophageal cancer. Derek had retired from a 31-year career teaching English and Drama in Fairport, NY. He is survived by his wife **Nancy Hulse (Zamboanga 1964-66)**, three children and two grandchildren. His family suggested that memorial contributions may be made to PCAFPD. Following that notice, PCAFPD received gifts from twenty-five of Derek’s friends and family which totaled \$940. These gifts are in addition to those listed in our “Generous Contributors” column. PCAFPD is pleased and grateful that Derek’s family suggested memorializing him in this way.

Ron & Lilia Peters’ 45th Anniversary Celebration Raises \$5,000 for PCAFPD



Board Member Ron Peters and his wife Lilia invited their wide circle of friends and family to celebrate a significant milestone in the Peters’ lives by making a

donation to PCAFPD. More than ninety couples and individuals gave a total of \$5,000 to PCAFPD in honor of Ron and Lilia’s September 3, 2011, 45th wedding anniversary. *Balitaan* readers may remember that

the Peters’ raised more than \$7,000 with a “no-show party” on the occasion of Ron’s 70th birthday in 2008.

Those who made gifts this year include: Lilibeth & Roel Agor, Alice Alcaraz, Wally Allen, Emery May Arce, Symantha & Tim Aydt, Mylah & Moises Balanay, Loida & Ver Baluyot, Zenaida Baraan, Virginia & Dwayne Barr, Jane & Maynard Birchfield, Emery & Annie Bontrager, Van Bowersox, Tit & Tony Buenaflor, Emily Peters & Brad Bushue, Mike & Pat Bushue, Loida & John Carlson, Jennifer & Jaime Cerdenia, Elizabeth Chato, Lourdes & Admiraldo Cometa, Betty Conerty, Agnes Conrad, Carol & Bill Copher, Andrea & Felimon Cortez, James Curtis, Elizabeth & Charles Davison, Yolanda & Carl Deal, Rachel & Jerry Domingo, Ratna & Shankar Dutta, Lorna & Steve Ehrlich, Regina Escoto, Adoracion & Edwardo Estipona, Lina & Dom Estipona, Joette & Joseph Flora, Ralyn & Max Garcia, Judy Gordon, Kellie & Tony Gualazzi, the Gubatnons NY/NJ, Debra & Darrell Hart, Fred Heagele, Ann & Don Hewing, Marie & Kenneth Horn, Delores Humphrey, Librada & Bill Jones, Prasanta Kalita, Leonora Kempinski, Mary & Matthew Kuening, Rosetta & Ashok Kumar, Elizabeth & Wallace LaBerge, Bruce Larson, Anita & David Lawrance, Rena Lee Lenz, Erlinda & Joe Limcaco, Terencia & Roberto Limon, Susan Martinez, Sarah McMeans, Teresita Medina, Cita Mendoza, Elinor Mieback, Maribel Millan, Ester & Francisco Montalvo, Evelyn & Sheldon Ondevilla, Evelyn Pacana, Fe & Jose Pascual, Aiko Perry, Franklin Peters, Sarah Pham, Lu Willa & James Pillar, Eleanor Pobre, Anita & Ernie Pullenza, Max Redmond, Leslie & James Risatti, Anne Robin, Lydia Salonga, Karen & Rollie Santos, Maria Lourdes & Carlos Santos, Helen Satterthwaite, Violet & Paul Schroeder, Susan Smith, Ann Snuggs, Carrie Storrs, Honorata Talavera, Romelo Talavera, Violeta Totanes, Aurora Villacorta, Elizabeth Vlach, Sandy & Bill Volk, Beverly & James Voss, Martha Weinberg Wagner, Linda & Bill Weber, Mercedita Wells, Donna Wetzels, Marilou & Dan Withers, Karen & Jonny Yap, Ma Luisa & John Zerolis.

PCAFPD and its scholars are once again honored and very grateful for this outpouring of love and generosity in celebration of a major event in the lives of Ron & Lilia.

Contributions from our generous supporters . . . We thank those listed below whose gifts to PCAFPD were received between February 10 and October 4, 2011. **The plus (+) identifies those who have made more than one contribution in calendar year 2011, which includes NPCA membership renewals, but not monies raised at the 50th anniversary fiesta and t-shirt sales.** In addition, PCAFPD received 25 gifts in memory of Derek Hulse; more than 90 gifts in honor of Ron & Lilia Peters' 45th wedding anniversary; and raised more than \$8,000 in connection with 50th anniversary (see separate stories). Notes on numbered contributions are at the end of the chart.

Paul Aleckson	VA	Bruce Falk +	IL	Tom Lo	NY
Chuck Alexander+	FL	Karel Fisher	MA	Harriet Locke	TN
Tim & Maryann Ahrens	AZ	Ruth Coder Fitzgerald	VA	John Lozano (11)	WA
Miriam Aiken	OR	Phyllis Flattery	OH	Jonathan T. Mackey	MO
Nancy Foral Andal	PA	Virginia Foley +	MD	Geri Maiatico	Budkidnon
Hermenegildo Azarcon (1)	AZ	Wendy Foulke	NY	Gerald Malovany	VA
Pamela Groteluschen Bansbach	CO	Carol Freeman	MN	Robert & Ruth Manlove	CA
Stephen J. Banta (2)	Manila	Frank Froschle	NM	Sherry Manning (12)	WA
David Barnstable	MD	Stan Garnett +	VA	Desiree Marmita (13)	NY
Ann Serfling Baskettt	FL	Clemen Gehlhar (6)	DE	Marilyn Maze	MD
Connie Bauer	SD	Tracy Gleason	CA	Sally Pierce McCandless	TX
Terri Lee Bergman	VA	Arlene Goldberg	VA	Bruce McCann	NH
Norman Bernson	MA	John T. Garman	Guam	Jon McCluskey	WI
Linda Cover Bigelow	France	Lynn Gorton	FL	Ray McEachern	FL
Tom & Olive Valiente Blackburn	FL	Jon Gresley	CA	Richard & Judy Brooks McGinn	OH
Sharon Reinhardt Blankenship (3)	AZ	George Grills +	Canada	Sarah McMeans	DC
Ben Bloom	OH	Dan & Ana Gudahl	AR	Eric & Pamela Melby	MD
Sylvia Boecker +	VA	Stephen Paul Groff	France	Jane Petrich Miller	MO
Samuel Boglio	VA	Judy Harrison	KS	Jeff Morris	OH
Kenneth Bollerud +	NY	Ben Harvey	CT	Loretta Moser	CA
Emery & Annie Bontrager +	CA	Jerry Hembd	WI	William Murphy	FL
Ruth Boone	KY	Jo Ann Hillje Hersh	VA	Susan Musich	VA
Parker Borg	VA	Judy Swigost Hill + (7)	IL	Ted Nawalinski +	PA
Albert Bradford +	MD	Jerry Hilliard + (8)	CT	Jerry & Iris Nelson +	CA
Anthony J. Brancato +	NC	Stephen T. Holbrook	VA	Susan Marie Neyer	CA
Morton Braunstein	OH	Susan Hollingsworth	OR	Paul Nick	IL
Charles D. Burtner +	AZ	Mark Holt + (9)	DC	Jerry Ogawa	TN
Rosemary Campbell	Canada	Dr. Richard Holzman	MA	Michael Ollinger	DC
Elinor Capehart	VA	Stephen Horn	Botswana	Phillip B. Olsen	HI
Gerard Capozzalo	NJ	Jonathan M. Hubchen	LA	Rebecca Holt Palmer	CA
Bruce Casey +	SD	Martha Allshouse Hull	CA	Bill Peck	GA
Ellen Bonadurer Cavadini	WI	Loisann Jacovitz	CA	Lee Ann Pelea	FL
Philie Chan	CA	Steve Jasper	IN	Linda Henry Perron	PA
Donald Chauls	MA	Heidi Jensen	OR	Ron & Lilia Peters +	IL
Linda Miller Clark	MA	Joe Jerardi	PA	Jim Peterson +	IL
Kathryn Conway (4)	NY	Mary L. Johnson	CA	Susan & Manny Pons	PA
Helen R. Cooper +	MA	Pat Joslyn Johnson +	IA	Herbert A. Probasco	CO
Carol Bradley Cukier	MI	Jack Jourdain	FL	Bob Purdy	NC
Robert Currie	MD	Charles Kaza	MI	Maggie Purves	OR
Jonathan & Evelyn Curtis	TX	Sharon Keld	IL	Jon Quinlisk	WV
Dennis & Carol Ann Detlef	VA	Mary C. Kilgour + (10)	FL	Barbara W. Rabin	NY
Robert B. Davidson	NY	Sondra Williams Klein	NC	Barbara Rang	WI
Judy Kealey Diaz	FL	Lon Kramer	VA	Leslie Ann Reingold	CO
Stephen J. Dienstfrey +	VA	Jim Krough +	ND	Alan & Adela Renninger	HI
Stephen J. Dorage	GA	Judith Lesner (7)	CA	Michael & Rufina Rice +	RI
Sally Glaze Douglas (5)	DC	Michael P. Levitt	CA	Rona Roberts	KY
George T. Duncan +	NM	Philip & Lynn Lilienthal	VA	Larry Robertshaw	AZ
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Nick & Ruth Royal + (14)	CA	Barbara & Edmund Soohoo	CA	Mary Vanderford	MN
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Karen Rudio	MA	Tim & Eden Stewart +	SC	Bill & Jay Warren +	WA
Marianne Santodomingo	CT	Terry Sthymmel	CA	Joan Weaver	NH
Roberta Potter Savage	NY	Charlotte Hough Stocek	NM	Richard Wetmore (20)	FL
Mary Ann & Jim Scheirer	NJ	Milburn Stone	CT	Alan & Patricia White +	NH
Charles F. Schwartz +	DC	John G. Tansey	VT	Eleanor Whitlatch (21)	PA
John D. Seidensticker (16)	TX	Donna J. Taylor	NY	Dr. Linda M. Wicks	NY
Mike Shafer +	WA	Dee Marie Teodoro + (17)	WA	Dave Wilder +	PA
Laura Smail (11)	MD	Donna H. Thatcher (18)	NM	Adamson Diaz Wong	NJ
Claire H. Smith + (4)	MD	Ralph B. Thomas	CA	Evelyn Mittman Wrin	DC
Donald R. Smith	IL	Ralph Thurston +	ME	Deane Wylie +	CA
Greg Smith	OR	Virginia Trinidad	VA	Duncan Yaggy	NC
Michael K. Smith	CA	Walter R. Turner	NC	Sandra Phillips Yaggy	NC

Numbered contributions are designated: (1) in memory of Felisa T. Azarcon; (2) in honor of John F. Kennedy; (3) in memory of Patty Wernert & Derek Hulse, PCVs in Zamboanga City; (4) in memory of Wally Allen; (5) in honor of Margarita Larrazabal; (6) for USDA Scholarship; (7) for Rachel Singer Memorial Scholarship; (8) one gift in honor of Dean Conchita Cruz, Central Luzon State University and a second gift in memory of his wife Marie Villanueva Hilliard, former Peace Corps Training secretary; (9) half of gift for USDA Scholarship; (10) in honor of her PC roommate Elosia Englert; (11) in memory of Julia Campbell; (12) for scholarships in Cordillera Region; (13) in memory of Paul Lampert, Leyte; (14) for Sunshine Gibbs Scholarship; (15) in memory of Group 8 PCVs Susan Witty and Fred Riley; (16) in memory of Mrs. Santiago, Murcia, Negro Occidental; (17) includes matching gift from Microsoft; (18) in honor of Group 2; (19) in memory of David Mulholland, Group 1; (20) in memory of Angela Wetmore, his beloved daughter; (21) in memory of Don Zelinski and Sargent Shriver.

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