

Balitaan

Newsletter 44, Spring 2007

www.rpcvphilippines.org

PO Box 100114, Arlington, VA 22210

14 scholars graduate

Fourteen scholars supported by the PCAFPD won diplomas from a variety of institutions all over the Philippines.

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Hobbit House renewed

A Manila institution started by a PCV from Group 1 finds a new location in Ermita

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**News from scholars**

Excerpts from essays by current scholars (and one from the '90s) give a picture of student life on several different Philippine campuses. One scholar talks about the state of English in the country.

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PCVs in English project

Philippines 266, counting 64 new PCVs, arrived in the country May 12 with a mission, among other tasks, of improving the quality of English teaching as part of the country's overall development.

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Julia in the Philippines

Friends remember the contributions made by a volunteer whose life showed great promise.

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Saving letters to home

Letters Home From Peace Corps will be one way for Peace Corps Writers to preserve the history of the Peace Corps.

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PSAA on the move, if you help

A small band of creative and energetic current scholars and alumni created the Philippine Scholars and Alumni Association (PSAA) in 2006. Under the leadership of President Ariestelo Asilo, PSAA has met six times, written a constitution, conducted a leadership retreat and, through it all, demonstrated the spirit and the talent that we seek in PCAFPD scholars.

Vice President Roland de Jesus, Board Members Alex Romero and Hans Groot have provided guidance and in-kind or financial support to the group. Recently, Geri Maiatico, an RPCV and former staff staffer in PC/Philippines, hosted the group at her farm in Batangas. The group has also benefited from the assistance of Lowela Padilla, an instructor

at UP/Los Baños, who has volunteered as group coach and mentor.

Nevertheless, PSAA is at a crossroads. The organization has to date been centered in the Manila area. Scholars and alumni throughout the country need to know about PSAA. An active network of scholars and alumni will add important dimensions to the work of the Foundation. The group can provide mutual support as scholars earn their degrees and as they seek employment opportunities following graduation. It can become an important resource to the Foundation in setting policy and direction, and can assist in scholar recruitment, selection and mentoring.

Most important, however, is the potential of PSAA, as stated in its Constitution, to become an organized force promoting the purpose of the Foundation—the education of bright young Filipinos to contribute to Philippine development.

PSAA needs financial help to move the organization beyond Manila. The current officers and members even need help to sustain their current level of engagement; few have the extra money it takes for transportation, Internet connections, etc. At the recent meeting in Batangas, the group

developed an important initiative—the identification of “cluster leaders” in provinces where there are concentrations of PCAFPD scholars and graduates. The cluster leaders would promote membership and create local support networks. To execute the plan will require financial support.

PCAFPD will seek a proposal from PSAA with specific plans and estimated costs for moving the organization to expanded membership in the provinces. We also will consider applying for a grant for the organization to reach its full potential.

In the interim, we need help from you. Might you be willing to send a donation earmarked for the PSAA to cover meeting and communications expenses? (We are reluctant to designate current contributions to the scholarship fund for PSAA support.) Or, do you know of any foundations or organizations that might be interested in a grant application to support the PSAA? The rationale for support would be leadership development for Philippine development. We also welcome comments and suggestions, which can be sent to

board1@rpcvphilippines.org

Maraming Salamat!

Foundation's 'extra' appeals are productive

PCAFPD undertook two "extra" fund-raising efforts in 2006 — efforts beyond the usual semi-annual newsletter appeal. One, the "No-Show 45th Anniversary Barrio Dance," was sent to regular supporters. The other, an outreach letter to RPCVs who had served in the Philippines but were not current supporters of PCAFPD, was designed to bring new supporters to the foundation.

The invitation to the "No-Show Barrio Dance" went to 294 frequent contributors. We received a

response from 111 households, or from more than 37% of those who received the invitation. Fifty-four households, or 18% of the total, made a regular annual or semi-annual contribution in addition to the contribution they sent in response to the invitation.

We estimate that the effort netted slightly more than \$3,700 in funds that were over and above what we might have received without the extra effort. We were thrilled by the response and relieved that the extra income would help us to manage rising scholar costs and a few more scholars.

The outreach letter has been mailed to 391 addresses so far (we are using the NPCA 2006 Directory and have identified more than 600 addressees that we have not yet contacted). Although the response was small (3%), and a number of letters were returned as undeliverable, we received sev-

eral large contributions so that the effort paid for itself plus some. Most important, we added some new supporters to our database who are likely to give again in future years. The Board has decided that sending out 600 more letters this year will be a worthwhile activity.

PCAFPD will continue efforts to expand the database and to increase Foundation income through an annual special appeal. Look for a special mailing in the fall.

We count on and appreciate your unflagging support for the work of the Foundation. And, as you know from scholar letters to PCAFPD, your generosity makes it possible for them to achieve their dreams of a college education and a better life for themselves and their families.

Maraming salamat! -- Maureen Carroll

For the 50th: 'Letters Home From Peace Corps'

Peace Corps Writers has agreed to edit a collection of Peace Corps letters to be published as part of the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Peace Corps.

We are happy to say we will be advised in this project by Andrew Carroll, editor of the best-selling book *War Letters: Extraordinary Correspondence from American Wars*, featuring letters of American soldiers from many eras.

Andrew Carroll is the executive director of the American Poetry & Literacy Project, a nonprofit organization he co-founded with the late Nobel laureate Joseph Brodsky, which distributes free books throughout the country to promote literacy.

Letters Home From Peace Corps will be one way for Peace Corps Writers to preserve the history of the Peace Corps. We believe that personal correspondence offers a valuable insight into the experience we all shared.

Selecting your letters for submission

The first deadline for letter selection is Sept. 1.

While we prefer to see previously unpublished material, letters and/or emails that have already appeared in local newspapers, self-published books, and/or family web sites are all acceptable.

In selecting a letter (or e-mail) to be considered for publication in the book, we ask that you choose it thus: Would a reader find the letter intriguing? Dramatic? Humorous? Historic? Insightful? If you can answer yes to one of these questions, send it.

We will select the very best letters that tell the story — through the eyes of PCVs and staff — of the Peace Corps since its beginnings in 1961. Your letters can be about any aspect of the Peace

Corps experience: Making the decision to join, training, Peace Corps service, friends, host country nationals, family visits, after the Peace Corps, life as an RPCV, returning to the host country.

Send us no more than three of your best letters or e-mails. Select the letter(s) that mean the most to you; that tell a story you want to tell.

Mailing us your correspondence for the first round of selection by Sept. 1

For letter(s): Send a legible photocopy or typed transcript. If we have trouble reading your handwriting, your letter will not be considered for publication.

- Please do not send original letters. We cannot return anything sent to us.
- Send to: Marian Haley Beil, 4 Lodge Pole Road, Pittsford, NY 14534

For e-mail, send to:

jpcoyne@peacecorpswriters.org

- Please put in the subject line:

Letters Home From the Peace Corps

Please include for either letters or e-mails:

- Information about yourself or the PCV/RPCV or staff member who wrote the letter (e.g., where and when he or she served, and any other important personal and/or background information),
- Your e-mail address, mailing address and phone number.

Do not send a query asking if we are interested in your correspondence. If your letters (or e-mails) are Peace Corps-related and meet the criteria described above, you should assume that we are interested in reading them and considering them for publication in *Letters Home From the Peace Corps*.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Marian Haley Beil, John Coyne, Editors:
Letters Home From the Peace Corps

Foundation income up 12.5% in last fiscal year

The Foundation's income grew 12.5% to \$29,226 in the fiscal year ending April 30, Treasurer Stu Taylor reports. Donations accounted for \$27,682 from mailed contributions; \$292 came from on-line donations and \$1,253 from the Foundation's percentage from the National Peace Corps Association.

PCAFPD's fiscal year, which corresponds with the school year in the Philippines, recorded costs of \$24,034, of which direct scholar costs were \$22,345 or 93%. Taylor credits the work of Roland de Jesus, the Foundation's vice president in the Philippines, for keeping overhead costs to 7%. He and his assistant, Daisy Mejia, are vital to the Foundation's work, Taylor said. Scholar expenses include tuition, fee, books, uniforms, and cost of living expenses (33% of costs).

Expenses in this country came to \$4,362, almost totally for newsletters production and mailing, plus mailings soliciting donations. Other costs were Website fees, a membership fee to the NPCA and new-scholar mailings.

The Board has stated that no scholarship will be awarded unless there are funds to cover the entire four-year costs of a new scholar. Taylor said the Board was pleased to report that there are funds set aside to cover all the costs for current scholars. At the close of the fiscal year, the Foundation's deposits in the United States and in the Philippines totaled \$81,379.

If you have comments or questions, please contact Treasurer Stuart Taylor (Albay 61-63) at srtaylor628@hotmail.com.

Did you know? Filipino bowler Rafael "Paeng" Nepomuceno was the first bowler to be elevated to the International Bowling Hall of Fame based in St. Louis, Mo. The Philippine Congress has named him "Greatest Filipino Athlete of All Time."

WORD FROM THE SCHOLARS

Each semester, students supported by the Foundation write reports on their studies, their work and their pastimes. Here are excerpts from recent essays by the scholars.

‘I chose English first of all because the world is now borderless and we need a language that can help us communicate.’

Treisha Jill T. Jusayan of Western Samar is majoring in English and working toward a bachelor's degree in secondary education at the University of Santo Tomas.

The second semester of my first year at the University of Santo Tomas was as tough, as competitive and at the same time as fun as my experience in my last semester.

Last February my English professor chose me to conduct a book discussion in our college for the celebration of English Month. I was really happy that my professor trusted my abilities and skills in public speaking. The book I chose was Anne Frank's "A Diary of a Young Girl." I would say that the event was a success.

We also had our "majorship" last March, when incoming sophomores choose their majors. But to be qualified in your chosen major you must pass first a very difficult majorship/proficiency test; if you pass, you can proceed to another very complex interview. Out of the 70 who tried for English majors, only 25 passed and I'm thankful and very fortunate to be one of them.

Why English as my major? I chose English first of all because the world is now borderless and we need a language that can help us communicate, and English is the widely accepted language. That is why I want to improve my linguistic skills, to be able to learn new useful things from other countries and apply them here in our country.

The second reason is my passion for words and teaching. I could also see that the quality of English in the Philippines is deteriorating. Someday I want to be a part of helping improve its quality. I also believe that language is a very vital medium in expressing one's thoughts and ideas. As Lee Iacocca said, "You can have brilliant ideas but if you can't

get them across it won't get you anywhere." So to have the chance to learn how to make great ideas and plans into action is very important in helping others toward a bright future.

Majoring in English aims to teach us how to write and speak with clarity and with comprehension, qualities that will be very helpful for me in transmitting knowledge to my future students. I believe that language and thought are interconnected and as we develop our linguistic skills we improve the quality of our thinking and we are empowered.

Going to college is a dream of every good student, and I am lucky enough to be given the opportunity of attending one of the country's top universities, the University of Santo Tomas. I would like to take this chance to thank the PCAFPD supporters for making this dream a reality. You are truly a torch of light, not only for to me but for other scholars.

‘The world of college is like a dream come true for me, because at last I can study the profession I want to pursue.’

Carlo Emmanuel Estopase of Sorsogon is studying agriculture at Bicol University.

My first day of college was full of emotions -- mixed feelings of worrying, happiness, loneliness and fear. There were so many adjustments and changes. I felt happy because after completing four years of high school, I had transformed myself into a young adult from being a typical teenager. The world of college is like a dream come true for me, because at last I can study the profession I want to pursue.

At first, I felt I was among people with different looks, styles and behaviors. I was hesitant to mingle with them, but as days went by some of these new individuals became my good friends. So I was slightly relieved in my home sickness.

I have been very busy almost every school day because I have to finish homework for four or more classes, plus do projects and face daily quizzes. The hectic work is really stressing but I am not losing hope and aim to fulfill my dreams.

I would like to express my deepest gratitude for all support that I have received from your good

Foundation. I will do everything that I can, utilize all the potentials and capabilities that I have, so that I can contribute to the development and progress of the community as well as to our nation.

‘My favorite [subject] was Japanese literature because of its emphasis on subtlety and simplicity as important components of its aesthetics.’

Farah Grace D. Moleño of Negros Occidental is majoring in literature at the University of the Philippines, Diliman.

At UP we are given the freedom regarding what subjects to take and when to take them. Because I had a difficult time during the first semester of my third year, I decided to enlist the subjects I really like in the second semester.

Although I found my subjects very challenging, I still enjoyed them. I took a course in Creative Writing. Every meeting in this class was fun for we did short-story-writing work shops. Even though I was not a very good writer I really appreciated the things we did in that class because we were able to set free our imagination.



I also loved my Asian literature subjects because of their diversity and certain uniqueness. My favorite was Japanese literature because of its emphasis on subtlety and simplicity as important components of its aesthetics. I was also fond of the silence and the sadness in Japanese writings.

Luck was with me because a Japanese literature course was offered last semester. Near the end of the semester, our teacher in Japanese literature required us all to pass an essay for a Japanese scholarship program. I was surprised that my essay was one of the four from our class to be chosen. Eleven of us from different universities in Manila were called for an interview. Three were chosen for a month-long vacation in Japan. Unluckily I was not one of them. But I was very happy because I tried. And that was the most important thing I learned last semester -- there's no harm in trying, only adventure and learning.

I know the last year in college is the most trying one. I feel nervous but at the same time excited because I will be soon starting a new chapter in my life as a student and as a PCAFPD scholar. I still lack the capability to help others as much as you have helped me. For now, all I can offer is a heartfelt "thank you" from me and my family.





The Villarin family

‘With your help I was able to finish my studies. For me, I can't describe how thankful we are to the Foundation.’

Wilson Angel H. Villarin of Daet, Camarines Norte, was a PCAFPD scholar in the mid-1990s.

I'm one your scholars way back in 1994 and this is the first time that I have sent an e-mail to the Foundation. At present I am at Camarines Norte National High School, teaching chemistry and computer subjects. I started teaching here in 1998 but I became a regular teacher only in January 1999 so it's been eight years of teaching. I got married on May 27, 1999, to my college sweetheart, Maria Esperanza P. Zabala, and we have three kids. The eldest is Maria Angelicka, 7, and the twins Isabel and Theresa, 2. My wife is presently working in Saudi Arabia as a nurse; she's been there since May 2004.

With regards to my job, aside from teaching chemistry and computers, I am also in charge of our computer room. I am maintaining 22 computers all connected to the Internet, provided by Ayala Foundation through their Gil@s Project. We got the connection last July 17, with Bayantel as our sponsor ISP.

I would like say thank you very much to our sponsors at Peace Corps Alumni Foundation -- with your help I was able to finish my studies. For me, I can't describe how thankful we are to the Foundation for the opportunities it provided.

‘As a social worker someday, it is essential that I know all about the existing problems of our country.’

Michelle Laurinaria of Albay is majoring in social work at Bicol University.

First of all, I would like to extend my sincerest gratitude to the foundation for continuous support in my study, especially the financial aspect. Thank you from the bottom of my heart.

Second semester was a great challenge to me. Challenging in the sense that there are so many things to do and to learn. But now, I already know how to cope in my college life, especially in doing all the projects, research papers and all school-related activity. I've learned how to relate to other people and how to communicate with them,

During my second semester these were seminars where I acquired knowledge and skills that helped me a lot. "Pagkakaisa," a caravan for national peace and unity was held on our campus. It tackled how to help our country by means of cooperation and by being united. It opened my mind and I become more aware particularly in my course of study.



As a social worker someday, it is essential that I know all about the existing problems of our country and their solutions; I also want to help bridge the gap between the people and the government.

Without you, without the help of the Foundation, I would not be having these experiences. My dear Peace Corps Foundation, you are the realization of my dreams to finish my studies and to be a social-worker. I can't promise to be an academic achiever or a "cum laude" someday, but I promise to do my best to meet your expectations.

‘It came off the Pacific and hit us point blank. . . . It was the worst typhoon in three decades’

Erwin Esperanzate of Sorsogon is studying geothermal engineering at Bicol University.

This is the fourth year of my studies, with a year to go before graduation. I have so much joy realizing that I am approaching the goal I have dreamed

years back. But I have to surpass remaining challenges, with three semesters to go and a lot of subjects to be taken including exams, projects and a feasibility study.

My academic subjects are very interesting and profoundly useful for daily living.

Before the semester ended we were struck by typhoon Milenyo. It came off the Pacific and hit us point blank. That was the first time in my life that I experienced being inside the eye of a storm. It was very calm and I could even see the stars, but after 30 minutes it was just the opposite. Almost all of Bicol was ravaged. Billions of pesos' worth of properties and trees were destroyed. Hundreds of electric poles were downed and for almost a month we were engulfed in darkness. Roads were impassable because trees, electric posts, roofs and landslides blocked the way.



It was the worst typhoon in three decades, but camaraderie and resilience helped us rebuilt what was left. The final weeks of the semester were the worst. We endured studying in the dark or by candlelight, and it was so hot -- no electric fans to cool us down; but it was OK because I knew it was only temporary.

‘I would like to live a life that is able to contribute to Philippine economic development.’

Jeanalyn G. Estrellado was the Maureen Joan Carroll Scholar (funded by Group 1 Volunteers) at Negros Oriental University; she earned a bachelor's degree in technological education (photo, Page 5).

Three years have passed and finally I am able to fulfill my lifelong dream of finishing my studies. I could have never done this without the help from all of you.

. Now I am ready to commence the next journey of my life. First, I would like to seek a job here in Dumaguete City so that I could support myself financially and aid my family. I would also like to volunteer to one of the following organizations: Little Children of the Philippines, Habitat for Humanity or Red Cross Youth.

And I'd also like to continue my moral support of my fellow local PCAFPD scholars. If I can't find a local job, I would seek a job somewhere else, maybe in Cebu or Manila. I would like to live a life that is able to contribute to Philippine economic development. (Continued on back page)

14 PCAFPD scholars win their diplomas

Fourteen scholars supported by the Foundation received their degrees this spring. To the congratulations of family and friends, we add PCAFPD's hearty commendations and wish them well as they enter their careers. Here are their names, their fields of study, and their institutions:

§ Rico Ancog, Master of Science in Environmental Science, University of the Philippines, Los Baños
 § Rosemarie Aldea, Bachelor of Secondary Education, Metro Manila College

§ Ariestelo Asilo, Bachelor of Science in Nutrition, University of the Philippines, Los Baños

§ Rosalie Cesneros, Bachelor of Secondary Education, St. Peter's College



§ **Lolito Dagodog Jr.**, Bachelor of Science in Industrial Engineering, Foundation University (photo at left)

§ Mercy Rachel Defin, Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Management, University of the Philippines, Los Baños

§ Eva Endaya, Diploma in Computer Studies, Systems Technology Institute

§ **Jeanalyn Estrellado**, Bachelor of Technological Education with a Major in Computer Technology, Negros Oriental State University (photo at right)



§ Lemuel Jaudines, Bachelor of Elementary Education, Carlos Higalco Memorial State College

§ Joan Manaban, Bachelor of Secondary Education, Negros Oriental State University

§ Rica Pelicano, Bachelor of Secondary Education, Leyte State University

§ Loey Quilan, Bachelor of Science in Forestry, Western Philippines University

§ Robert Sagapen, Bachelor of Secondary Education, Mountain Province State Polytechnic College



§ **Ignacio Señara Jr.**, Bachelor of Secondary Education, Western Mindanao State University (photo at left)



PCAFCP Vice-President Sarah McMeans accepts a BIMAK check from Caesar Caligtan, scholarship coordinator, with current BIMAK President Elvira Della. The group represents Filipinos from the Cordillera region.

Foundation gets support for scholar from the BIMAK region

At the BIMAK Annual Christmas Celebration in December, Caesar Caligtan presented a check for \$1,000 to PCAFCP to support the Pam Moguet Memorial scholarship.

Pam Johnstone Moguet was a founding member of PCAFCP who died of breast cancer in the late 1980s. BIMAK is the cultural and philanthropic organization of Filipinos from the Cordillera region (the name stands for Beguet, Ifugao, Mountain Province, Apayao and Kalinga). The current BIMAK scholar, Kathleen Daskeo, is studying elementary education at Mountain Province State Polytechnic College in Tadian.

PCAFCP Vice President Sarah McMeans attended the celebration with her husband, accepted the check on behalf of PCAFCP, and enjoyed the 10-course Chinese banquet and delightful family-style Christmas party complete with music, group singing of carols, Santa Claus for the children and a gift exchange.

In addition to making periodic contributions to a PCAFCP scholarship for a student from the region, BIMAK members have paid for and participated in medical missions and in the preservation and continuation of Igorot cultural activities for their children and friends. PCAFCP's long association with BIMAK has enriched both organizations and has set a pattern that PCAFCP would like to establish with groups representing other regions of the Philippines.

Did you know? The largest community in the Philippines is Davao City. With an area of 2,211 square kilometers, it is about three times the size of the national capital, Metro Manila.

PCVs once again will be helping teach English in the Philippines

By Peggy Seufert
 Peace Corps Washington

Sixty-four Peace Corp trainees were welcomed to the Philippines on May 12 to serve in three projects: English education, coastal resource management, and youth services. The recently updated education project is aimed at strengthening English and information and communications technology education as part of the Philippine's overall economic development effort.

In the past, education volunteers in the Philippines served largely as resource teachers – modeling lessons in the classroom, providing peer observation and feedback, and offering teacher training workshops or “camps.” The new education project aims to enhance and broaden the education impact by placing Volunteers to work as co-teachers in secondary schools and universities. The goals of project are:

- ¶ Improving English language communication among students;
- ¶ Strengthening English language proficiency and teaching methods among teachers;
- ¶ Enriching the learning environment through the development and acquisition of educational resources;
- ¶ Promoting English language learning through outreach and extracurricular activities.

The decision to return to direct classroom teaching as team teachers responds to the Education Secretary's 2006 mandate to reinstate English as the language of instruction and is supported by the Department of Education as part of the National English Proficiency Project (NEPP).

The intent is to strengthen the English language fluency and accuracy for students in secondary schools and in pedagogical colleges and for current teachers. Team teaching will allow teachers to improve their English and to become comfortable integrating new teaching techniques and resources. Students benefit by having two teachers so that instruction can be differentiated and more time can be devoted to pair/group work in large classes. Equally important, Volunteers working with host teachers struggle less with classroom management.

The education Volunteers in Philippines 266 will be teaching up to 20 hours per week in secondary schools and state-owned teacher education colleges and universities.

Prepared with input from PC Philippines

The Hobbit House, a Manila institution for 30 years, gets a new home in Ermita

Jim Turner, a PCV in Philippines 1, moves his landmark bar but keeps the same ambience and the same staff of little people; a Hobbit branch opens in Borocay.

By Hans Groot

The first time I visited Jim's place, the Hobbit House, I was getting ready to place my order for drinks and some *pulutan* when this face appeared at the edge of my table, with the chin just barely reaching over the edge. Yes, I then knew for sure that I was in the right place, a bar/nightclub, in the Malate area of Manila, that promotes itself as having "the smallest waiters in the world."

Jim Turner was a member of the first group of Peace Corps Volunteers to arrive in the Philippines in 1961. After in-country training at the College of Agriculture Los Baños, Jim was assigned to teach in an elementary school in Pulupandan, Negros Occidental. There he got to know the Oppen and Mantilla families. While in Negros, Jim also helped organize Camp Brotherhood, a summer camp run by volunteers for underprivileged children, with financial support from *hacenderos* and business firms.

Upon completion of his Peace Corps service, Jim opted to stay on in the Philippines and taught political science and history at Ateneo de Manila. Subsequently, he was associated with the Elizalde media conglomerate that included radio and television stations, as well as print media. Elizalde's media enterprises were shut down when the late President Ferdinand Marcos declared martial law ... and Jim was out of a job.

Jim returned home to Cedar Rapids, Iowa, but after some four or five months there decided that mid-America was not the place for him and returned to the Philippines.

When Jim returned to Manila, and out of work, he had an idea in the back of his mind of opening a bar that somehow would be different and unique. He had read the Tolkien "Lord of the Rings" books, and memories of that jelled with some experiences he had at the Elizalde variety TV shows, shows that frequently included acts by dwarfs or "little people." These two things came together and the concept for the Hobbit House was born.

His experience with the TV shows brought him to a talent organization called, of all things, Central Casting located on Avenida Rizal, and there he found his original talent to staff the restaurant. It did not take long for word to get around. A local



Jim Turner (left rear) with some of the staff of Hobbit House in its new Ermita location. Turner opened the Malate original in 1973.

magazine did a feature on the bar and he soon was getting job applications from "hobbits" all over the Philippines.

He found space for a 50-seat bar in Malate, on Mabini Avenue, and officially opened in 1973. It was an almost instant hit and he frequently had more clients than he could accommodate. Luckily, by that time, another well-known Malate establishment, Los Indios Bravos, a bohemian

A local magazine did a feature on the bar and he soon was getting job applications from "hobbits" all over the Philippines.

coffee house across the street, had lost its luster and was forced to close. Jim took over the space and gradually added more space and ambience and became a Malate landmark that lasted more than 30 years.

Jim liked folk music and the earliest entertainers generally were folk singers with guitars. It was not unheard of for patrons to come to the Hobbit House with their own guitars to help entertain the clientele. The entertainers frequently included PCVs.

Freddie Aguilar was one of the first professionals to appear in the Hobbit House and he is still a regular performer there; so is the group Asin. The Jerks is of a bit different genre, a rock group that attracts

a different clientele on Wednesday evenings as is another "loud" rock group; Jim admits that he usually stays away when they perform – a bit too much noise.

Success breeds success and in 2005 he opened a Hobbit House on the well-known resort island of Boracay. Jim had a house there and figured he might as well open a bar there too so as to give him something to look after when he is there. Boracay is a prime tourist destination and they seem to like the concept as the branch is quite successful.

It doesn't take long for good ideas to get copied and so it goes with the Hobbit House. There is a bar on the Baywalk along Roxas [Dewey] Boulevard that features dwarfs, as does a nearby bar in the Adriatico area. The Baywalk is a renovated area along Manila Bay that stretches from the U.S. Embassy compound to near the Philippine Navy headquarters; it's an area with lots of small restaurants and live entertainment.

Earlier this year, Jim lost his lease [the building is about to be demolished] and he had to find new quarters. Malate did not have the right space available so he looked a little farther north in the Ermita area and found a space that was to his liking on M. H. del Pilar, just south of the Ermita Church and north of Padre Faura.

He started to look around for the owners of the property and was referred to the owners of Cartimar. There he found old acquaintances – the Oppen family from Pulupandan, Negros Occidental. It did not take long for a deal to be struck.

Jim has been busy renovating the place. On the outside you can see the well-known Hobbit House signs from Malate; the entrance features a large, round door painted with bright colors by another old-timer living in the area. Inside, the ceiling is covered with leaf-less vines to give the effect of a forest.

Hobbit House operates as a corporation and two hobbits sit on the Board of Directors, one an older lady who has been with him since the start. The manager, fittingly, is a hobbit.

Hans Groot (Negros Occidental/Los Baños (61-63) is PCAFPD Vice President for Institutional Relations.

New e-mail address for Board

An avalanche of spam at the old address caused us to fear missing real messages. The new address is nearly the same, with "board" changed to "board1". The listserve remains the best way to contact the board: --PCAFPD@yahoogroups.com -- but if there is something you don't want to share with the full list, please feel free to use the new address: board1@rpcvphilippines.org Salamat!

Foundation sets memorial scholarship to honor the life of Volunteer Julia Campbell

A memorial scholarship has been established by the Peace Corps Alumni Foundation for Philippine Development in memory of Julia Campbell, 40, the Peace Corps Volunteer who was slain in April while hiking in the rice terraces of Banaue.

Maureen Carroll, president of the Foundation, said that the scholarship was already receiving donations, including one of \$1,000 from an anonymous contributor.

Philippine prosecutors brought murder charges against a woodcarver who confessed to the crime, a government lawyer said May 18. The charges were filed in Banaue, in northern Ifugao Province, where Campbell was found buried in a shallow grave.

The Washington Post, in an article about Julia Campbell's life, said her family described her "as a spunky, bright woman who was enthusiastic for adventure and committed to community service. Her work sometimes put her in dicey situations, and she recently contributed to CNN's coverage of a typhoon in the Philippines' Albay Province. She left a well-paying job and an apartment in Brooklyn Heights, N.Y., to join the Peace Corps, hoping to combine her wanderlust with public service. . . .

"Over the years, Campbell had worked for several newspapers, including the St. Petersburg Times, and freelanced for the New York Times, People magazine, Fox.com, CourtTV.com and Star magazine.

"In the Philippines, she worked with a local school in Donsol, a province of Sorsogon, helped open an ecology center focused on wildlife there and created a campaign called 'A Book and Buck' that rounded up donated books in the United States and money to ship them to the islands. Recently, she was working as an English teacher at the Divine Word College in Legazpi city until the semester's end in March.

Julia had worked tirelessly to build an Eco Center in Donsol, which was named Bahay Kalikasan. In her honor, the mayor by executive order has renamed it the Julia Campbell EcoTourist Center.

"Geary Morris of Falls Church, Va., Campbell's older sister, said Julia had been planning to return to the States to take graduate courses in public administration at New York University and had hoped to travel around Asia with friends before coming home. . . .

"Julia Campbell attended Woodson High School in Fairfax, Va., where she ran track and cross-country. She earned a bachelor's degree in English at James Madison University and got her start in journalism with a summer internship with the Connection newspapers in Fairfax, her family said."

Julia Campbell will receive a Congressional Medal of Achievement from the Philippine House of Representatives for her work in depressed areas of the country, Speaker Jose de Venecia announced. De Venecia said the award -- the highest honor from the House -- would be presented in June to the Peace

Corps, represented by its director, Ronald Tschetter, in Washington, and a representative of Campbell's family, in ceremonies expected to be attended by top Philippine and American officials and leaders of civil society in Manila.

The medal citation honors Campbell for having "brought light and joy into the lives" of many Filipinos. "She epitomized the ideals of the Peace Corps and of the American people," the citation reads.

Geri Maiatico, a PCV who served in Lobo, Batangas, 1966-68, and who was assistant Peace Corps director in the Philippines for education and youth, 2000-2006, said she worked with Campbell two years ago after she first arrived in the Philippines. Maiatico described a memorial service for Campbell:

"Julia . . . touched the hearts of many Filipinos, especially the Bicolanos. There were nearly 300 people at the service, including representatives from her first school site in Donsol, Sorsogon, and her second site, Divine Word College in Legaspi. Julia had worked tirelessly to build an Eco Center in Donsol, which was named Bahay Kalikasan. In her honor, the mayor by executive order has renamed it the Julia Campbell EcoTourist Center."



Jennie Durant, an American living in Banaue on a Fulbright, wrote a blog entry about attending the memorial service for Campbell in the Philippines, recalling Julia's account on her own blog (excerpted in Balitaan's spring 2006 issue) of a videoke session she had with some PCVs and how she sang her favorite Tagalog song, "Pagdating ng Panahon" (At the Right Time).

At the memorial service, two PCVs, Jen

Austin and Kate Kochersberger, quoted Julia's blog: "In the Philippines, singing is done everywhere and every event gives you an excuse to sing. It's not unusual to ride a jeepney, cheek to cheek, and have the 20 passengers break out into song in unison to whatever is on the radio at the moment. Last year, when a popular singer, Nina, had a hit "Love Moves (in Mysterious Ways)," there wasn't a mouth on the jeepney that was silent. Including mine!"

"The two girls then walked to the front of the room with a microphone and, while the music played, sang Julia's favorite song. At first, their voice shook, and they smiled nervously to each other and tried not to laugh. But as they continued, they strengthened, and eventually as the song wound to its climax, the two held the mike to their faces with passion and belted out the refrain. The audience cheered and the girls smiled, blushed and sang their hearts out. We all clapped and cheered for them at the end. It was a perfect match to the quote at the end of Julia's blog:

"Life is a shipwreck but we must not forget to sing in the lifeboats."
-- Voltaire.

Julia Campbell's blog, with entries from April 2005 to January 2007, can be found at <http://juliainthephilippines.blogspot.com>. To contribute to PCAFPD's memorial scholarship fund for Julia Campbell, go to <http://www.rpcvphilippines.org/donate.htm>. Donations may also be made by using the envelope included with Balitaan, with a note specifying that the contribution is in Julia Campbell's memory.

A special recognition of PCAFPD's most generous contributors

PCAFPD welcomes and values all contributions to the scholarship fund, regardless of the amount, for it is the accumulation of numerous, regular donations that makes it possible to sustain the Foundation. In this issue of the newsletter, we are taking a one-time opportunity to acknowledge contributors who have been particularly generous to the Foundation—from \$100 to \$1,000 or more—between January 2006 and April 2007. We also continue our usual practice of acknowledging other-level contributions received since the last newsletter (Oct. 20, 2006, to April 2007.)

The Foundation receives a rebate of \$15 from the National Peace Corps Association membership dues if the member checks *Philippines* on its application. Rebates from NPCA received from November through March are included on this list in the “Other” category. Thanks to one and all for your help in achieving the PCAFPD mission of supporting Philippine development through college scholarships for bright students who would otherwise not go to college.

More than \$500 - 1/06-4/07

Sylvia J. Boecker	VA	Aklan 1961-1963
Paul Bixby	PA	Training Staff 1961-1963
BIMAK Area	Metro DC	In Memory of Pam Moguet
Ron & Lilia Peters	IL	Sorsogon 1961-1963
David H. Beckler	TN	Batangas 1965-1967 Group 13B
Milburn & Barbara Stone	CT	South Cotabato 1965-1968
Olive Blackburn	FL	Batanes 1986
Amy Stoeffler	IL	Bikol 1978-1982

\$100 to \$499 - 1/06-4/07

Miriam Aiken	VA	Misamis Occidental 1965-1967
Wally Allen	AZ	Camarines Sur 1961-1963 & beyond
Marjorie Pfankuch Bakken	MA	Zamboanga Sur/Negros Occ 61-63
Patricia Banogon	CA	Negro Oriental 1966-1969
Connie Bauer	IL	Laguna 1963-1965
Bill & Cindy Benjamin	ND	Country Director 2003-2006
Norman Bernson	MA	Cagayan de Oro 1964-1966
Linda Cover Bigelow France		Iloilo 1961-1963
Michael Blaylock	CA	Pangasinan 1978-1980
Ben Bloom	OH	Ilocos Norte/Region One 1978-1982
Kenneth Bollerud	NY	Misamis Oriental 1963-1966
Ruth Boone	KY	Capiz 1962-1964
Parker W. Borg Italy		Camarines Norte 1961-1963
Anthony J. Brancato	NJ	Bulacan 1966-1969
Marilyn Lathrop Brown	MO	Lanao del Norte 1962-1964
John Buckstead	HI	Ifugao 1962-1964
Chris Cabell	VA	1966-1968
Maureen Carroll	DC	Sorsogon 1961-1963
Bruce Casey	SD	1983
Helen R. Cooper	MA	Leyte 1981-1983
Pera & Margo Daniels	NV	Camarines Norte 1961-1963
Stephen Dienstfrey	VA	Bukidnon 1965-1967
Richard Dertadian	FL	Camarines Norte 1961-1963
Carol Ann & Dennis Detlef	CT	Leyte 1964-1966
Sally Glaze Douglas	WA	Leyte 1964-1967
George Duncan	PA	Lanao Del Sur 1965-1967
William Dustin	MN	Nueva Ecija 1966-1968
Patricia O'Connell Ely	PA	Butuan City 1982-1984
L.J. Evans	AK	Cebu 2001-2003 Group 257
Kate French	MN	Romblon 1983-1985
Sunshine (Eugene) Gibbs	CA	Leyte 1961-1963

George Grills Canada		Baguio 1963-1965
Hans Groot	NJ	Negros & Laguna 1961-1964
Stephen Growdon	WA	Aklan 1983-1985
Marla Handy	WI	1979-1981
Jen & Jeff Heilman	OR	Romblon 1983-1985
James & Portia Henle	MA	Benguet 1968-1970
Calvin & Nita Holt	VA	Cavite 1968-1971
Mark Holt	DC	Tarlac 1982-1984
Mark Horowitz	CO	Quezon 1965-1967
Jonathan M. Hubchen	LA	Bohol 1983-1985
Connie Curry Hughes	PA	Zamboanga del Norte 1967-1969
Martha Allshouse Hull	CA	Masbate/Lanao del Sur/Albay 61-63
Lee & Kay Jones	VT	Isabella 1964-1965
Joanne Jorz	VA	Pangasinan/Manila 1965-1969
Jack D. Jourdain	FL	Cebu 1964-1965
Mary Cameron Kilgour	FL	Surigao del Sur 1962-1964
Anna Whitcomb Knight	MA	Davao del Norte & Manila 1973-1974
Dale & Linda Levy	CO	Zamboanga City 1967-1969
Jay Litt	TX	Aklan 1969-1971
Gerald Malovany	VA	La Union 1962-1963
Marilyn Maze	MD	Cotobato 1969-1971
Richard & Judy McGinn	OH	Laguna/Leyte 1963-1969
Sarah Wilkinson McMeans	DC	Cebu 1962-1964 Group 4
Eric & Pamela Melby	MD	Iloilo 1973-1975
Lucille Muldoon	WI	Camarines Norte 1989-1990
Harold & Linda Murai	CA	Romblon 1966-1969
Michael Ollinger	DC	Iloilo 1982-1984
Phillip B. Olsen	HI	Cebu/Zamboanga City 1962-1966
William Peck	GA	Quezon & Rizal 1963-1965
Sue & Manny Pons	PA	Davao del Norte 1966-1968
Herbert Probasco	CO	Ilocos Sur 1962-1964
Michael J. Purcell	MI	Benguet 1985-1987
Carol & Mark Radomski	MD	Batanes 1980-1984
Norman Ridker	CA	Negros Occidental 1962-1963
Alan Robcock	NJ	Zamboanga & Manila 1970-1972
Paul A. Rodell	GA	Zambales/Manila 1968-1971
Diane Rodill	DC	Sorsogon 1985-1987
Karen Rohter (Williams)	HI	Leyte 1967-1970
Allen Rothenberg	MD	Staff 1966-1971
Karen Olness Rudio	MA	Pangasinan 1983-1985
Mary Ann & Jim Scheirer	NJ	Iloilo & Lanao del Sur 1963-1966
Allen & Lilia Schlorff	IN	1969-1974
P. David Searles	KY	Manila 1971-1976
Clair & Tom Sharpless	CT	Negros Occ/Masbate/Albay 1961-63
Larry E. Silvester	FL	Batangas 1963-1965
Rachel Singer	NY	Batangas 1963-1965
Claire Horan Smith	MD	Camarines Sur 1961-1963
Tim & Eden Stewart	CT	Antique 1984-1986
Terry Sthymmel	CA	Sorsogon 1970-1973
Melba Stockhausen	WI	Misamis Occidental 1963-1965
Susan & Rey Tejada	MD	Manila 1968-1970 (Susan)
Ralph B. Thomas	CA	Negro Oriental 1961-1963
Andy Tracy	VA	Ilocos Norte 1965-1968
Virginia Cyboski Trinidad	VA	Cebu 1965-1967
Jim Turner	Philip-	1961-1963
Bill & Jay Warren	WA	Albay & Zamboanga 1961-1963
Eleanor Whitlatch	PA	Catanduanes 1961-1963
Evelyn Mittman Wrin	DC	Camarines Sur 1961-1963
Duncan Yaggy	NC	Albay/Leyte/ Ilocos Norte 1961-1963

Other - since fall 2006 newsletter

Paul Aleckson	VA	2003-2005
Charles & Evelyn Alexander	VA	Davao & Cebu 1973-1975
Jeff Amundsen	MN	Negro Occidental f1983-1985
Nancy Foral Andal	PA	1962-1964
Anonymous (on website)		Dedicated to Emilie Reyes
Lauren Arnold	CO	1987-1988
Bill Austin	KS	Capiz/Panay 1961-1963
Stephen Banta pines	Philip-	Aklan/Rizal 1967-1970
Richard Barber	CO	Surigao del Sur 1982-1984
Teddi Barron	IA	Sorsogon 1977-1979
Claire Bartlett	MA	1966-1968

Havard S. Bauer	OR	1990
Jane Bensinger	DE	1985-1987
Pamela Cohelan Benson	DC	Quezon 1963-1965
Sharon Blankenship	AZ	Zamboanga City 1965-1967
Fred & Jackie Bohnenblust	KS	Bukidnon 1974-1976
David Brandt	MD	1987-1989
Morton Braunstein	OH	Misimis Occidental 1966-1968
Elizabeth Brown	CO	Negros Oriental 1981-1983
Louis C. Byers	GU	Batanes 1966-1969
Bruce C. Campbell	OR	Camarines Sur 1961-1963
Rosemary & Bob Carter	MA	Iloilo 1963-1964
Linda Miller Clark	NJ	Mountain Providence 1964-1966
Kathryn Judy Conway	NY	Negros 1961-1963
Helen Cort	MA	Staff Spouse 1962-1964
Susan R. Cort	NM	Biliran/Leyte 1980-1983
Jon Curtis	TX	Leyte 1963-1965 Group 11
Judy Kealey Diaz	FL	Agusan Del Norte 1979-1981
William Donohue	NJ	Iloilo 1981-1983
Patrick Durst Thailand		Bohol 1978-1980
Hannah Fairbank	DC	Negros Oriental 1999-2001
Frieda Fairburn	NY	1995-1997
Gretchen Faro	OH	Davao 1977-1979
John & Mary Finegan	CA	1979-1981
Karel Crowley Fisher	MA	Cotabato 1962-1964
David Flaccus & Trisha Tumulty	NY	Bohol & Cebu 1965-1968
Phyllis Flattery	OH	Catanduanes 1961-1963
Bruce Fox	NH	Cebu 1973-1975
Carol Freeman	MN	Aklan 1965-1967
Frank Froschle	NM	Camarines Norte 1961-1963
Lois Fucci	CT	Catanduanes 1965-1967
Larry Fuchs	MA	Country Director 1961-1963
Tracy Gleason	CA	Manila 1967-1969
Arlene Goldberg	VA	Zamboanga del Norte 1966-1968
Jon Gresley	CA	Iloilo 1968-1970
Justin Hamilton	NY	Camarines Norte 1999-2001
Ben Harvey	CT	Laguna 1967-1969
Linn Henderson	IL	Capiz 1967-1969
JoAnn Hillje Hersh	VA	Lanao del Sur 1962-1964
Judy Swigost Hill	NY	Iloilo 1964-1966
Phillip/Barbara Stoughton Hiller	IL	Manila/Rizal 1963-1965
Jerry & Marie Hilliard	CT	Nueva Ecija 1970-1972
Dr. Richard Holzman	MA	Capiz 1961-1963
Larry & Betty Howard	PA	Negros Oriental (Staff) 1961-1963
Barbara In Den Bosch	VA	1965-1967
Bruce & Jean Ingis	CO	Friends of PCAFPD
Steve Jasper	IN	Agusan 1967-1969
Joe Jerardi	PA	Isabella 1962-1964 Group VIII
Mary Johnson	CA	Negros Occidental 1961-1963
Pat Johnson	IA	Camarines Sur 1961-1963
Patricia MacDermot Kasdan	DC	Iloilo 1961-1963
Ralph Kemphaus	OH	Negro Occidental 1965-1967
Rob Kim	CA	Negros Oriental 1969-1972
Sondra G. Klein	NC	Camarines Sur 1961-1963
Mark & Marisol Kittrell	IL	Surigao City 2001-2003
Nancy Knapp	AK	Mountain Providence 1975-1977
Frank Krajewski	RI	Catanduanes 1961-1963
Harriet Kulis	IN	1969-1973
David & Maureen Ross Lang	MO	2002-2004
Evangeline Lara	CA	Friend of PCAFPD
Barbara Leitch LePoer	DC	Benguet 1964-1966
Judith Lesner	CA	Oriental Mindoro 1963-1966
David M. Lieberman	CA	Southern Leyte 2000-2003
Patricia A. Lutz	FL	Albay 1961-1963
James & Susan Lytle	PA	1965-1967
Gerl Maiatico pines	Philip-	Batangas 1966-1968
Joyce Majewski	MA	1982-1984
Cathee Robb Marston	FL	Cebu 1964-1966
Henry Moguet	MD	Friend of PCAFPD
Loretta Moser	CA	Los Banos Laguna 2001-2002
Ted Nawalinski	PA	Sorsogon 1965-1967 Group 14

Jerry & Iris Nelson	CA	Training Staff 1971-1978
Rebecca Holt Palmer	CA	Cebu 1964-1966
Barry Parks	CA	Manila 1963-1965
Kay Linder Parrish	MO	Benguet 1966-1968
Jim Peterson	IL	Zambales 1976-1978
Peter Piness	Swazi	Cavite (IIR) 1981-1982 (PCV
land		Zaire)
Dick Redmond	WA	Antique 1964-1966
Bob & Bev Reeves	OR	Cotabato 1970-1972
Alan Renninger	HI	Rizal 1965-1968
Elizabeth Runge	VA	1985-1988
Karen Long Santos	CA	Albay 1961-1963
Rob Schneider	CA	1970-1972
Jesse Schubert	WA	Camarines Norte 2001-2003
Karin Schumacher	CO	Cebu City 1968-1970
Charles Schwartz	DC	Manila 1967-1969
Jeannette K. Shaw-Lynch	NC	Bohol 1962-1964
J. Gerard Sheehan	OH	1964-67
Mona Sherrell	NM	Metro Manila 1977-1979
Jan & Ed Slevin	CA	Manila (Staff) 1984-1988
Don Smith	IL	Leyte 1961-1963
Chris & Elizabeth Songalia	MN	Leyte 1996-1998
Stuart Taylor	MD	Albay 1961-1963
Roy & Mary Thilly	WI	Davao/Manila/Masbati 1968-1971
Charles Thomas	CA	Manila 1978-1980
Susan Thompson	MN	Iloilo 1961-1963
Ralph Thurston	ME	Oriental Mindoro 1983-1985 Gr.
		197
Pat McMahon Towle	MA	Nueva Ecija 1964-1966
Geraldine Traina	FL	Bohol 1062-1964
William J. Tucker	NJ	Lanao del Nortel/Laguna 1962-
		1964
Mirza C. Tumanon	MD	Friend of PCAFPD
William D. Valentine	MA	Albay/Manila 1968-1970
Mary Vanderford	MN	1969-1971
Joe Venekase	MI	Tarlac 1980-1982
Stephen Wahlstrom	CA	Palawan 1976-1978
Nancy J. Walker	PA	1977-1981
Larrie Warren	MD	1982-1984
Jamie English Westcott	CO	Ifagao 1982-1984
Carol Westerlund	IL	Catanduanes 1966-1969
Clara Wheatley	KY	Friend of PCAFPD
Alan & Patricia White	MA	Luzon 1963-1967
Dave Wilder	PA	Albay 1983-1987
David F. Winick	MN	Ilocos Norte 1962-1966
Joan Wright	MI	1971-1974
Deane Wylie	CA	Masbate/Albay 1961-1963
Rick Zemlin	CA	Davao del Sur 1981-1983

News briefs and milestones --let us hear from you, too

David Beckler (Batangas 1964-1966) writes: "I was stationed in Lemery, Batangas. Visited via Internet and did visual tour. Nothing was the same (surprised!). I've been in decline ever since!"

John Buckstead (Ifagao 1962-1964) reports that Philippines IX held its first reunion in San Francisco, Nov. 9-12.

L J Evans (Cebu 2001-2003) says: "I am working as a writer/editor for the University of Alaska Fairbanks -- very involved w/AFS foreign student exchange program. Challenge other 257s to contribute!"

Karen Rohter (Williams) (Leyte 1967-1970) writes: "I sent a student to college during my three years as a volunteer. Glad to help out again!"

Duncan Yaggy (Albay, Leyte & Ilocos Norte 1961-1963) says: "I was delighted to see how many 61-63 alums are heading this effort. Sorry to be late!"

Bill Austin (Capiz/Panay 1961-1963) says: "Hey Stu - Get your trumpet out! Tom Kincaid will hold the music "Lu-pang hi-ni-rang" We will play it together! Have horn will travel!"

Stephen Banta (Aklan/Rizal 1967-1970) reports: "After retiring from the Asian Development Bank in 2003, I remained in Manila, where I run a small publishing company. *Mabuhay sa inyon lahat.*"

Rosemary & Bob Carter (Iloilo 1963-1964) (Phil 10) have retired to Cape Cod and would love to host would love to host PCVs traveling through the area. They can be reached at nine4437@aol.com.

Arlene Goldberg (Zamboanga del Norte 1966-1968) says: "Please get an update from Keith Hooper into the summer newsletter. He is doing such fine work in the Philippines via his HELP nonprofit. Thanks."

Jerry Hilliard (Nueva Ecija 1970-1972), with his Dec. 11 contribution, reports: "Marie and I return to Iloilo Dec. 13-14 to renew our marriage vows from St. Clement's Retreat House 35 years ago."

Dave Brandt (1987-1989) announces that Peace Corps Philippines Groups 228-231 (1987-1989) will have a reunion in Washington, D.C. June 22-24. Contact Dave at dbrandt@saes.org for information.

Andre Bald (former PCAFPD board member and RPCV Romblon, 1996-98) and wife, Alfa, celebrated the birth of their daughter Alila in April. Andre and family (including son Avery) reside in Indonesia.

Judythe Pearson Patberg (Luzon 1970-1972) has published "From Peace Corps With Love," a book about her experience as a PCV in the Philippines, using letters she exchanged mostly with her family and a few of her friends. It's available on Amazon. Her e-mail: jpatber2@utnet.utoledo.edu

Dr. Abella, PC Philippines medic

Dr. Ben Z. Abella, of Kansas City, Mo., who was Peace Corps physician in the Philippines, 1961-63, passed away March 4, 2007, from injuries sustained in a car accident. He was 80.

Phil Olsen, a regional Peace Corps director when Dr. Abella was on the staff, remembered the physician fondly. "Ben was a dear friend and dedicated doctor who was so very important to our early successes in Peace Corps Philippines," Olsen said. "Ben saved

Fil-Am physicians' group joins PCAFPD in new scholar sponsorship

The Association of Philippine Practicing Physicians of Arizona contacted PCAFPD in 2006 to explore the possibility of the Foundation administering a scholarship on its behalf. As a result, the organization will sponsor its first PCAFPD scholar starting this spring.

APPPA is a membership organization of Filipino physicians founded in 1975 to support the professional development of its members. The group is also involved with community projects and sponsors cultural programs. Like many Filipino organizations in the United States, APPPA has not forgotten its roots. Mem-

bers have responded to natural disasters in the Philippines and have carried out Medical Missions in Baguio, Naga, Cagayan de Oro and Zambales.

The Association sets aside a percentage of its membership dues in a scholarship fund. While it has had a scholarship program in the past, the group found it difficult to administer on its own. Dr. Vicente Enciso, Past President and currently Secretary and Scholarship Committee Chair, found PCAFPD on the internet and has been in contact with PCAFPD President Maureen Carroll during the past months learning about the Foundation.

The APPPA Board recently decided to work through PCAFPD, and the lucky recipient of the first APPPA scholarship is Vanessa Esquivias of Sorsogon, the oldest of four children of a widowed mother. Vanessa will attend Bicol University in Gubat to earn a degree in elementary education.

The PCAFPD Board of Directors is delighted to welcome APPPA into its network of supporters.



Vanessa Esquivias

in 1961-63, dies in car crash

[my wife] Frances Ann's life in March 1964 by being present to give her an injection of cobra vaccine that was stored in my Zamboanga City Peace Corps office."

Dr. Abella is survived by his wife or 43 years, Terry Kay (Jackson) Abella, three children and three grandchildren. The family suggested contributions to the Ben Z. Abella Memorial Scholarship Fund, Archbishop O'Hara High School, 9001 Jame A. Reed Rd., Kansas City, MO 64138.

More comments from the scholars

(Continued from Page 4)

Christian Vaso of Batanes is studying civil engineering at the University of the Philippines, Diliman:

I was inspired to study harder because of the determination and courage shown by a Peace Corps Volunteer, Julia Campbell, who was killed here in the Philippines near the end of her service. Despite the distance from her family, she was able to give help and bring knowledge to those she worked with. Such generosity and sacrifice is much appreciated by most people here, especially those concerned in promoting peace and equality. Not only Julia Campbell, but other volunteers whose goal is for global development. These individuals are worthy of being followed.



At the university, the issue of tuition-fee increases has alarmed students who cannot afford to pay more. Lack of money has always been a hindrance to almost all students – including me. My family cannot afford to support my education. It was really difficult for me, but through this, I am learning to become independent and thrifty and save money for tomorrow's use.

Although harsh challenges are ahead of me, I am always grateful. Why? Because even though I am at the point of thinking that I am alone, there is always somebody who backs me up. My family, relatives and friends are always ready to give moral support and spiritual guidance.

Your help to us students here is also much valued. Without you, students like me, who cannot afford to pay the expensive transportation to the mainland, would not be able to achieve their goals of mass development and the search for modern knowledge.

I would like to extend a great "*Dios Mamajes*" (thank you)" to all of you behind this institution.

PCAAPD Board: President: Maureen Carroll (Sorsogon 1961-63); Vice President/Philippines: Roland de Jesus; Vice President/U.S. and Webmaster: Carol Hammaker Radomski (Batanes 1980-83); Treasurer: Stuart Taylor (Albay 1961-63); Secretary: Mike Ollinger (Iloilo, 1982-84); Vice President, Student Affairs: Alex Romero; Vice President, Database Management: Sarah Wilkinson McMeans (Cebu 1962-64); Vice President, Public Relations: Kamden Hoffmann (Ifugao 1998-2000); Vice President, Institutional Relations: Hans Groot (Negros Occidental & Laguna, 1961-64); Vice President, Communications: Deane Wylie (Masbate, Albay 1961-63); Board Member at Large: Ron Peters (Sorsogon 1961-63)

And now, the envelope: Through the Peace Corps Alumni Foundation for Philippine Development, former Peace Corps Volunteers and staff who served in the Philippines maintain their bonds with the nation by providing scholarships for exceptional students who need financial aid to attend college in their country. Please join us by sending a contribution in the enclosed envelope. The PCAAPD is a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Contributions are tax-deductible.

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

Any ideas or information for Balitaan? Put it in your donation envelope, or e-mail it to board1@rpcvphilippines.org