

Balitaan

Newsletter 45, Fall 2007

www.rpcvphilippines.org

PO Box 100114, Arlington, VA 22210

Special scholarships

PCAFPD has a number of special and memorial sponsorships to which donors can contribute. Some provide \$1,000 per year to cover scholars' costs.

Page 11**RPCVs remember**

Philippine Peace Corps groups, from one to 231, mark their days abroad in reunions around the U.S.

Page 6**News from scholars**

Excerpts from essays by current scholars telling of their highs and lows, with one giving a harrowing account of a super typhoon that hit the Bicol region.

Page 3**Visiting Visayas State**

A former Volunteer and staff member looks at the PCAFPD pact with the college. **Page 7.**

Most get degrees

A look at scholar graduation rates shows that nearly three-fourths of all PCAFPD scholars gain a degree, while the graduation rate for government scholars is much lower.

Page 12**Archiving the PC**

Former volunteers working with the John F. Kennedy Library are seeking material from early volunteers. **Page 2**



Foundation adds nine scholars

Nine new scholars have been added to the PCAFPD roster. We asked them for a few words about their backgrounds and got these responses. They'll have an opportunity later to talk about their experiences at greater length in essays the scholars submit each semester.

Sitti Rasheka T. Sajile

I am 18, from Sirawan Beach, Toril, Davao City. I am studying at the University of Mindanao, working for a Bachelor of Science

degree in Criminology. I am an only child. I was born on May 27, 1989, in Toril, Davao City.

My mother, Rebecca T. Sajile, 41, attended college and now is a businesswoman, because we have a small sari-sari store. My father, Morced S. Sajile, 46, is a security guard. I am so very lucky because I have parents who are understanding and loving. I am very close to my family, especially to my mother.



I finished my secondary course in Toril National High School at Sirawan Beach, and received a second honorable mention. I decided to go to the University of Mindanao because I believed

that they offer a great education that will definitely help me to achieve my goals.

I'm studying criminology because I am preparing to be in law enforcement someday. I don't have a doubt about this career, so the important thing is that I have the capability, physically and mentally, to do this kind of work.

Vanessa Esquivias

I come from a poor but happy family, in the sense of closeness and contentment of what we have. We share some chicken adobo once a month, a very special meal for a poor family like us; our everyday meal is just smoked fish and sometimes an egg. To have education is more important to us than any material thing. When I was 12 my father passed away. That was the most unforgettable moment in

Continued on Page 2

Continued from Page 1

my life. Why did my father die? That question was instilled in me at my young age. But now



I realize that such trials are just the beginning of a journey toward a successful life; although I'm not yet successful, I feel blessed.

The Gubat Campus of Bicol University is the school I chose; it is not so far from home so I have no need to board and can spend my allowance on other projects. I am taking Elementary Education, since education is so very important. I hope that I can finish it.

Ricardo Ervin R. Duldoco

I am 17, from Calala, Hamtic, Antique. I am the second child out of four of Jose Rene J. Duldoco and Irene Rondez. My parents are both government employees. My father is a consultant to the governor. My sister and I are studying at the University of the Philippines (UP). She is at the Visayas campus while I am at Diliman, the main campus. We still have two sisters who are both in St. Anthony's College (SAC), San Jose, Antique, were I attended my elementary and high schools.



When I was in elementary school, I was one of the Ten Outstanding Pupils and Students (TOPS) of Antique. I am still a member of the organization. I graduated as the class salutatorian

and had first honorable mention and received the President's Award for Outstanding Performance in Athletics.

I want to have a career in business and to work as an executive in a business firm. Later I want to have my very own business and to be successful..

Karl Vincent C. Soriano

I was born in the small but progressive town of Maddela, Quirino. I have two older sisters and one younger. My parents are both secondary education teachers -- my father teaches English and my mother mathematics. At home we are all trained to stand on our own feet and be good leaders. I finished my secondary edu-

cation at Maddela Comprehensive High School.

Because I'd like to be an inventor of electronic devices, I took up Electronics and Communications Engineering at Saint Mary's University (SMU), Bayombong, Nueva Vizcaya. I enrolled in SMU because I firmly believe that it will equip me with the right knowledge, skills and training to become an efficient engineer.



Mary Ann C. Escañan

I was born in the town of Gubat, Sorsogon, to Maria Bella Capsa Escañan. She and my father, Melchor, raised their two children to be healthy, respectful and optimistic in life whatever struggle comes their way. My brother, Melvin, and I graduated from Gubat National High School.

Due to insufficient financial support, my parents decided to send their youngest child to college, instead of the eldest one. They felt that I might be good and responsible enough in my studies because I had shown promise in school.



The opportunity brought by the PCAFPD has enabled me to study at the Computer Communication Development Institute, working for a Bachelor of Science in Information Management.

This is the first stage toward a better future, to find a good job, become professional and have a successful business. I also want to help my family out of poverty and to become a productive citizen

Beverly Lelis

I was born July 27, 1990, in Sangat, Gubat, Sorsogon. I'm the youngest daughter of Antonio E. and Nenita Laudin Lelis. My father is a farmer who works everyday in order to meet our needs. My mother is a housewife who sometimes sells fish. I have four sisters and two brothers, almost all of whom have their own families.

After elementary graduation, I took the entrance examination for Gubat National High School and was lucky to be in the first section out of 15. During high school, I entered jour-

nalism competitions and essay writing contests. Now I am working for a bachelor's degree at Bicol University College of Education.

I chose Elementary Education as my course not only to help my parents but also to contribute to the progress of our country by helping to educate Filipinos.

Other new scholars, whose biographical comments were not received in time for this issue, include Ronald L. Amada of Palawan, studying agricultural business at Western Philippines University; Sancho Flores of Negros Oriental, a student in accountancy at Foundation University; and Millicent Villarroya of Sorsogon, a computer science student at Bicol University.

RPCV Archive Project seeks material from early Volunteers

By Bob Klein

The Archival Project is an informal network of RPCVs who work directly with the John F. Kennedy Library at the University of Massachusetts in Boston to preserve the Peace Corps' legacy through oral history interviews and the collection of archival materials from those who served as volunteers in the field. In the five years of its existence, more than 40 RPCV interviewers have completed about 300 interviews. The project's basic resource is and will continue to be the unpaid voluntary efforts of those RPCVs who've participated, operating mainly through NPCA affiliate groups.

Now, as we approach the Peace Corps' 50th anniversary, the project plans a renewed effort (before it's too late) to seek out those who were the pioneers of the Peace Corps, volunteers from the 1960s. We again appeal to those RPCVs willing to serve as interviewers. The Project Guide is under revision and, along with the required forms, will be available via e-mail PDF.

A modest goal for this renewed archival effort is to add 3,000 1950s interviews to the RPCV Collection before the year 2011 -- that would be about 10% of those who served during that period. Will you join me?

RPCVArchivalProj@att.net

-- -- *Bob Klein, organizer of the RPCV Archive Project, was a Ghana 1 Volunteer.*

Updates from the Foundation's current scholars

“I have experienced the worst natural disaster in my life.”

Arwin Esperanzate is studying geothermal engineering at Bicol University in Sorsogon.

Here I am again narrating my experiences on my latest semester. It feels like years have passed because of so many events. But only two prominent ones that have really affected me. The first is that I am nearly finished with my studies. Two semesters left and I will be attending my graduation rites next summer. And after that I have to find work so that I can help my family..

Last year I experienced the worst natural disaster in my life. In November we were hit by a super typhoon called Reming [know internationally as Durian], barely three months after super typhoon Milenyo struck.

We were caught less prepared because we



anticipated the typhoon would hit north in Camarines Sur. As a result, a lot of people died from the mud flow from the slopes of Mt.

Mayon. Pyroclastics that have accumulated from last year's eruption mixed with heavy rain ran down the mountain and buried houses, roads and residents around the volcano. Some bodies were not found, and some were taken by the sudden surge can carried by the river into the sea.

The most disturbing thing was seeing dead people packed up in dump trucks and brought into the basketball court to be identified. I hadn't really expected that it would end up that way. It was a bad scene. Their faces reflected the pain they have suffered when death came.

When I was listening to a battery-operated radio just days after that fateful day, a mother was interviewed, crying because two of her daughters were buried alive in their collapsed boarding house. She told the reporter that one of them texted her that the water jammed the door and there were trapped. That was the last word before they died. .

Reming brought greater destruction. Twisting electric towers and poles, destroying houses, bridges and roads. We were engulfed in darkness. A foul smell of death persisted for weeks. Some *barangays* were partially or totally wiped out, leaving empty stretches of land. The army was quickly mobilized to assist in recovery and cleaning the roads so that badly needed aid from Manila could be delivered to the victims.

Thankfully my boarding house was situated in a much safer and higher area. We only experienced knee-high floods and a few broken windows. A day passed before I went home, expecting that Sorsogon was hit badly, but thankfully it was spared. Only a little damage, and our house was intact.

“I was crying as I drew. Maybe it was childish but I just couldn't stop.”

Erika Rachelle O. Lopez of Batangas is a civil engineering student at the University of the Philippines, Diliman

Three semesters are over, seven more left before I finally have that diploma in my hands. My last two weeks at UP have been very long for me. And I could say that they were my “hell weeks” for this semester. Lots of requirements, long exams, projects and reports have to be met and I am very glad that I finally got past it.

I completed 18 units this semester, 55 in all including my first two semesters. My unforgettable subjects this semester included Speech Communication. At first, I really had a hard time liking my speech class because I don't like public speaking and I have stage fright. Luckily, I was placed in a section with a very creative and talented instructor, Dennis Guppa, who knew how to lessen stage fright by having workshops. When he speaks, he actually gets the attention of the people he's speaking to.

The next subject really memorable to me was Engineering Graphics. We had a project where we had to draw the top view, right side view, front view and the isomet-

ric of a flashlight and all of its parts. We had a problem with our group mates because we were supposed to be five but three did not take part. We did not sleep a wink on the night before the submission deadline. And because the deadline was the same day of my fifth long math exam, I was not able to review my lessons. I was



feeling really bad when I got out of the classroom after taking the exam. It should have been easy if I'd had time to study. After the

exam, I went to the apartment of my group mate to finish the project and I was crying as I drew. Maybe it was childish but I just couldn't stop. I lost a lot of points because of our irresponsible group mates.

I am not satisfied with my performance overall because of those kinds of reasons and family problems. It's just really hard to concentrate on my studies when I have problems torturing my mind. I am glad because I still got good grades and I have made up my mind that I will do all my best to have better grades because I know there is still something in me that I have to show the world.

“I've learned that there are many ways to make dreams come true.”

Vanessa Cruda of Bohol is working toward a secondary education degree at Visayas State University

“What have you learned during the term? What new insights, challenges or things have come to the fore which you can apply to development activities later?”



A college education is one of the tools that I will need for a bright future. It will also serve as a weapon for my combat through the trying years in my life in

Continued on Page 4

Scholars update

Continued from Page 3

second year in college is preparing me toward that goal.

Thinking back over my past term at Visayas State University, I've come to realize that I've learned many things and faced many challenges while expanding my understanding of the meanings of life. This will help me in the process to become a well-rounded individual prepared to face the outside world.

From simple calculations to more complicated ones in math, to understanding the social and emotional aspects of man I learned in our general psychology sessions; from the importance of physical fitness to learning various steps in dancing that can be compared to human life that's full of steps needing to be balanced; from the history of how our ancestors struggled for our peace and freedom to peace we enjoy today -- all these things imparted by our mentors to help me become a good student and citizen of this country.

Furthermore, I've learned that there are many ways to make dreams come true. I learned to be more determined to pursue my studies and more courageous in facing difficulties in life. The coming years of college will bring more battles. But at the end of the day, my education will prepare me for these struggles.

“I can see how happy this scholarship makes my mom, so that is my bonus.”

Treisha Jill Jusayan of Western Samar is majoring in English and working toward a bachelor's degree in secondary education at the University of Santo Thomas.

St. Josemaria Escriva, the founder of Opus Dei, said “Don't let your life be sterile, be useful. Blaze a trail.” I've learned this saying while volunteering at a nongovernmental and nonprofit organization at the Iraya Study Center under their program Acquiring Ready Assistance to Learning (ARAL).

True, I should give back to others as early as now because of the blessing I have received. I should use my skills to help others and train myself to be an effective mentor in the future. Because I started early, I can make these good deeds into a habit.

Every Saturday I go to a public elementary school and teach young girls Catechism, English and mathematics. It's really a fulfilling task. Whenever I arrive there I'm greeted with glowing faces that are very excited to learn. Because of those students I felt happiness and peace within



me. My community service truly helps me learn more about my chosen profession and every time I go there I gain respect and compassion for the job

I'll be doing soon. I'm really motivated in going and teaching every Saturday because I believe that education is still the best weapon against all the predicaments our country faces.

I was also chosen to be one of the team leaders for the National Service Training Program (NSTP) under the Literacy Training Service (LTS). This program aims to train college students to help their community through teaching.

I know that through my exposure to different activities I will gain experiences and knowledge and I'll become an effective mentor.

With my extracurricular activities, rest assured that I'll always do my best in my academics. I have never accepted mediocrity and I know that education is the main reason why I'm studying. And I can see how happy this scholarship makes my mom, so that is my bonus.

“My extracurricular activities are taking much of my energy. I have to be very strong to fulfill my dreams.”

Karl Vincent C. Soriano of Quirino is studying electronics and communication engineering at St. Mary's University, Nueva Vizcaya

As classes started for the current school year, I was very nervous and excited about the new things that will happen in my life. I have this hypothesis that it will be a tough semester for me because of my active involvement in many organizations in the university. Well, that hypothesis is being proved. There are many activities lined up for us to organize and attend to. Since I was elected as an officer in our Student Central Council, I have to represent the university in some activities -- in September I was sent to Subic for a National Environmental Camp. During the camp my leadership skills were hastened and my goal of helping transform the nation was strengthened.

After that long week's activity I went to Malolos for a contest. It was the Fifth Search for the 10 Accomplished Youth Organizations. I presented our project, which was submitted last summer. It was a very great opportunity for me and the organization because we were able to learn many things from others and also we were in the Luzon top 10. In addition, I organized a volunteer formation program for students, especially freshmen who have



leadership potential and want to be a volunteer to help us work in building the nation.

My greatest dream of becoming an engineer

was not set aside. I always give time for my academics, although my extracurricular activities are taking much of my energy. I have to be very strong to fulfill my dreams. Although my grade in engineering physics doesn't speak so well of my efforts, I know that I really gave my best to pass it. While it was a setback, my grades in other subjects encourage me to push through with my chosen career.

My goal of being a good leader and a fulfilled engineer will someday become a reality

Are some of you there?

The word *boondocks*, now common in English, comes from the Tagalog word *bundok*, meaning mountain.

A 'two year deal' becomes a lifetime of Philippines service

By Keith Hooper

Founder, HELP Foundation

Forty-one years ago, in the tumultuous '60's, I joined the Peace Corps. I taught science at the Bukidnon Normal School in Malaybalay, Bukidnon, organized summer day camps for kids and, like many other volunteers, courted and married a Filipina teacher. What I thought was a "two year deal" has turned into a lifelong love affair with the Philippines.

When asking my future wife's parents for her hand in marriage, they gave me the approval on the condition that I take on the responsibility of educating her siblings. Little did I know that she had 10 younger brothers and sisters! We accomplished that mission many years ago and now we have nurses, agriculturists, politicians, businessmen and ministers in the family. All they needed was the opportunity.

After "retiring" in 2005, my wife and I decided to spend the majority of our time in the Philippines providing opportunities to our larger family, the Filipino people. We started the HELP Foundation – Humanitarian Efforts to Lessen Poverty in underprivileged children of the Philippines [recognized by the IRS as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit]. Initially, our efforts were focused on feeding programs for malnourished children but we quickly learned that feeding alone is not the answer.

We also learned that it is vital to develop partnerships and alliances with the local government and reputable Philippine foundations. Currently, we partner with the Medical Ambassadors of the Philippines, Pagtambayong Foundation, Light-house Center for Children, Overseas Missionary Fellowship, Punlad Buhay Multi-purpose Cooperative and the Bethany Christian Home for Children. We have transitioned from simple feeding programs to a comprehensive approach that encompasses literacy, livelihood, health, nutrition, and sanitation. We have projects in the Payatas dumpsite in Quezon City, on Caubian Island near Cebu, and in nine *barangays/puroks* in Bukidnon. Each project is a joint effort between the local government, a Philippine charitable foun-



Keith Hooper and young friends by a water tank built by HELP on Caubian Island, near Cebu.

and the HELP Foundation. Our projects and include:

- ¶ Sponsorship of 150 elementary, 8 high school, and 2 college students. The sponsors come from 14 different states.
- ¶ Daily feeding programs for 500 malnourished children in four villages.
- ¶ A cooperative in the Payatas dumpsite that provided 40 families with two piglets apiece. The pigs are fattened on recycled organic garbage.
- ¶ Livelihood projects in seven villages through microcredit, which include broom-making, baskets, handcrafted greeting cards, native jewelry, mats, sewing, solid waste collection, goats, fish pens and seaweed farming.
- ¶ The "Lloyd & Carol Brown Development Center" on Caubian Island, which we built and which functions as our feeding center, community work center and mini-pharmacy.
- ¶ Medical missions to remote areas with volunteer Filipino doctors and nurses.
- ¶ A government-approved *botica sa isla* (mini-pharmacy) on Caubian Island.

¶ Two preschools that we built and operate, one in the Payatas, one in the Muslim village of Purok Dos, Kalilangan, Bukidnon; 130 preschoolers attend.

¶ Two community water tanks (150,000 liters) we built and 60 individual water tanks (416 liters) on Caubian Island. Since there is no potable water source, we are harvesting rain water.

¶ A community "comfort room" we built in Purok Dos that is used by 36 families.

¶ Major funding support to the Bethany Christian Home for Children, an orphanage.

Our budget for 2008 is \$108,000. Every dollar donated goes to a project in the Philippines. I pay all of my personal expenses and the administrative costs to run the foundation. This makes it extremely attractive to our 600-plus donors. Several Philippines RPCVs are regular donors, and David Arnoldy (Ukraine 2003-05) spends two months a year in the Philippines assisting the foundation with engineering projects. If anyone is interested in more information about our work, please email me at

help2philippinechildren@yahoo.com

or visit our Website,

www.thehelpfoundation.com

Here are a couple of excerpts from letters sent by children to their sponsors in the States -- their words make it all worthwhile:

"You have given me hope. Without you, I wouldn't have been able to go to school. My mother scavenges and there are four children in the family. You see, my father is dead and I think of you as my father from far away."

"My father lost his job as a construction worker and now we earn a living by going to the dumpsite and gathering many things like bottles, papers, plastics and sometimes my father finds noodles, pasta, fruits or breads, biscuits and soup that the rich people throw in the garbage. My mother washes them and we eat them. Or sometimes he finds soap and we use it. Our life is very miserable here in the Philippines. You are my only hope for an education."



Former Volunteers of Group 8 and family members meet in in Seattle in August, hosted by Mike and Elsa O'Connor. In photo below at left, members of Groups 228-231 gather in June at the home of Dave Brandt in Silver Spring, Maryland.

RPCV reunions, from 1 to 231

Peace Corps Volunteers who served in the Philippines as long ago as Group 1 (1961-63) have held reunions recently. While we can't list all their names, **Bali-**

taan is happy to print photos of reunion groups as space allows. Here are a few submitted since our last issue in the spring of this year. If you have reunion photos,

please e-mail them (JPEG only) to board1@rpcvphilippines.org, or mail them to us at PO Box 100114, Arlington, VA 22210.



In photo below, three Group 1 members meet at a reunion in Boston, Nov. 1-4: From left, Evelyn Mittman Wrin, Claire Whiting Sharpless and Sondra Williams Klein



Visayas State: Dedicated staff, enthusiastic students

By Maureen Carroll

In May 2006 PCAFPD signed an agreement with Leyte State University. The agreement was the realization of a long-held interest of the Foundation to establish formal relationships with schools that could identify outstanding, financially needy students for PCAFPD scholarships, administer the scholarship program, and provide support and mentoring services on the spot. In the Fall 2006 issue of *Balitaan*, we reported the selection of the first two scholars, Vanessa Cruda [see her report, Page 3] and Joanna Estilore.

PCAFPD viewed the agreement with LSU as a pilot for future similar agreements with other institutions around the country.

On Aug. 27-28 of this year, Geri Maiatico made a site visit on our behalf to Leyte. Geri, a former Philippines Volunteer and former associate Peace Corps director for PC/P, is now a resident of the Philippines. She has been a long-time supporter of PCAFPD and had prior association with LSU when she worked for Peace Corps. The purpose of the visit was to meet with university officials to review terms of the agreement to see that they are relevant in practice and being carried out. She also was to meet the two scholars to see how they perceived the program and its benefits to them.

Since the signing of the agreement, LSU has reverted to a formerly held name that better describes the reach of the university, Visayas State University

We want to share with our supporters excerpts from Geri's report to the Foundation:

"I arrived on the campus of VSU/Bay Bay/Leyte, on Aug. 28 in the morning and was warmly received by Dr. Palomar, Dr. Loreto, Ms. Chona Britt and the president of the university, Dr. Milan. The timing was good as there were several events happening on campus which provided me

the opportunity to observe the exciting academic atmosphere and to "brag" a bit about the PCAFPD with other guests and visitors.

"I was impressed with the dedicated staff and the positive, energetic atmosphere created by its leader, Dr. Milan, whom I had previously had the pleasure to meet. Of interest, the DOST (Dept. of Science and Technology) was conducting a seminar for prospective students to hear about their scholarship program. This gave me an opportunity to meet with a few of the DOST officials to tell them about the PCAFPD and our scholarship program, to note similarities in scholarship offerings, etc.

"Despite their busy schedules, school



officials set aside time to meet with me to review the [agreement], answer any questions or address concerns. I believe that the [agreement] is well understood and being complied with. Dr. Milan is very interested to continue the partnership and asked if they would be given the opportunity to nominate students for next year....

"I spent about an hour speaking with Vanessa Cruda and Joanna Estilore, the two PCAFPD scholars, both of whom are from Bohol, and are in their second year of studies in the field of education. The conversation went well; they spoke of their families, their interest in becoming classroom teachers, etc. Both students like

their current school environment, have made friends and are active in extracurricular campus activities including sports and youth clubs. They have found the move to college to be more challenging than anticipated and have the normal worries that any college student might have in terms of grades, being successful, etc.

"Vanessa and Joanna stated that they felt much supported by school officials especially Ms. Chona Britt, who makes time to meet with them on a frequent basis, in some cases weekly. They see her as their mentor and campus "mom" and I think she is a perfect fit for them

"Both of the scholars have appreciated Roland's help and support and were very complimentary about his concern for them "The visit was a good one. I am always inspired with such dedicated staff and wide eyed enthusiastic students. I continue to appreciate the impact that these scholarships will have both on the student and in years to come in helping their families and community."

During the visit, Geri was also able to clarify some aspects of the agreement (e.g. reimbursement of expenses, reporting requirements) that were not entirely clear to either the university officials or the scholars. Geri made two practical recommendations:

1. Design a simple, user-friendly quick reference checklist of things scholars and staff need to do during the school year; set it up in a calendar format so they would remember when to submit documents, essays, grades, etc.
2. Utilize second-year scholars to serve as mentors for next year's scholars, to help them through the process from a student perspective.

We're delighted that Geri has offered to continue to serve as a liaison with VSU to ensure that this promising relationship can reach its full potential.

Contributions from our generous supporters between May 1 and Oct. 10

We thank those listed below whose contributions to PCAFPD were received after the Spring 2007 *Balitaan* went to press and before this issue was finalized; i.e., between May 1 and Oct. 10.

Numbered contributions are made in support of or memory of: (1) Julia Campbell Memorial Scholarship; (2) PSAA; (3); Rachel Singer Memorial Scholarship (4) John Cort; (5) Dr. Ben Abella; (6) Ben & Marjo Robertshaw; (7) Val Turija, Jr.; (8) SH Timbol; (9) Judith Granada, Science Coordinator, Cadiz City; (10) Angela Wetmore .

An asterisk (*) identifies those whose response to the Back-to-School Appeal had been received by Oct. 10; and a plus (+) identifies those whose response to the appeal was in addition to a contribution made before the special appeal went out in early September.

Barbara Abendschein	VA	Negros Oriental 01-03
Paul Alekson	WI	2003-2005
Wally Allen *	AZ	Camarines Sur 61-63
Andrew Amster	CA	1978-1980
Jeff Amundsen	MN	Negros Occidental 83-85
Ferrar Atkinson	CA	Manila 62-64
Marjorie Bakken * +	MA	Zam. Sur/Negros Occ 61-63
Marcia Bald *	MD	Friend of PCAFPD
Pamela G. Bansbach * +	CO	Cagayan 64-66
David Barnstable *	MD	1962-64
Teddi Barron *	IA	Sorsogon 77-79
David H. Beckler	TN	Batangas 64-66
William Benjamin (1)	ND	Country Director 03-06
Yvette G. Berkman (1)	NY	Panay 1991
Norman Bernson	MA	Cagayan de Oro 64-66
Linda Cover Bigelow	France	Iloilo 61-63
Tom & Neal Biggart	CA	Quezon 70-72
Paul Bixby	PA	Training Staff 61-64
Thomas Blackburn	FL	Batanes 1986
Michael Blaylock	CA	Pangasinan 78-80
Samuel Boglio	VA	1965-1967
Kenneth Bollerud * +	NY	Misamis Oriental 63-66
Emery & Annie Bontrager *	CA	Camarines Norte 61-63
Ruth Boone (2)	KY	Capiz 62-64
Parker Borg	Italy	Camarines Norte 61-63
Ann Bradley	WV	Panay/Iloilo 70-72
Anthony J. Brancato (2) * +	NJ	Bulacan 66-69
Morton Braunstein *	OH	Ozamis City 66-68
Billy Brough (1)	AP	Friend of PCAFPD

Marilyn Lathrop Brown (2) * +	MO	Lanao del Norte 62-64
Charles Burtner *	AZ	Cagayan 65-67
Louis C. Byers *	GU	Batanes 66-69
Chris Cabell	VA	Cagayan & Davao City 66-68
Caesar T. Caligtan (2)	VA	Friend of PCAFPD (BI-MAK)
Peter Cannon (2)	ME	Aklan & Iloilo 63-65
Joan Canterbury (3)	MA	Friend of PCAFPD
Gerard Capozzalo *	NJ	Davao del Sur 66-68
Bruce Casey * +	SD	1983
Don Chauls	MA	Bohol 62-64
Linda Clark *	NJ	Mountain Province 64-66
Bill Combs	MD	1966-68
Timoteo "Camote" Considine (7)	IN	Iloilo/Panay 87-90
Kathryn Judy Conway	NY	Negros 61-63
Helen R. Cooper (2) * +	MA	Leyte 81-83
Helen Cort (1) * +	MA	Manila 62-64
Susan Cort (2) * +	NM	Biliran/Leyte/Cebu 80-83
Robert Currie * +	MD	Quezon 63-65
David S. Curry	IL	1973-75
Pera & Margo Daniels * +	NV	Camarines Norte 61-63
Robert B. Davidson	NY	Batangas 68-70
Richard Dertadian *	FL	Camarines Norte 61-64
Carol Ann & Dennis Detlef *	VA	Leyte 64-66
Tom Dillon (2) * +	MA	Batangas/Laguna 67-70
Bill Donohue	NJ	Iloilo 81-83
Sally G. Douglas *	WA	Leyte 64-67
George Duncan (1)	PA	Lanao del Sur 65-67
The Elwell Family *	MD	Friends of PCAFPD
Bruce Falk * +	IL	Bulacan 67-69
Toni Ferrara & David Leong	VA	Zambales 81-83
John & Mary Finegan	CA	1979-1981
Karel Crowley Fisher	MA	Cotabato 62-64
Daryt & Mina Frank (2)	CA	Isabela 84-87
Kate French	MN	Romblon 83-85
Lois Fucci	CT	Bicol 1965
Lawrence Fuchs (4)	MA	Country Director 61-63
Charles W. Giersen	WI	Negros Occidental 68-70
Norma & Donald Gilman *	TX	Sorsogon 65-67
Tracy Gleason * +	CA	Manila 67-69
John T. Gorman	GU	Benguet 82-85
Marianne Gould	NM	Sorsogon 61-64
William & Rosalinda Graham *	DE	Laguna 67-70
George Grills (2)	Canada	Baguio 63-65

B A L I T A A N

Dan & Ana Gudahl	AR	Aklan/Staff 80-84
Mary Wasick Guerrero (2)	MN	Ilocos Norte 66-69
Robert Hale *	OH	Zamboanga del Sur 62-64
Steven D. Hall *	IL	Ilocos Sur 82-84
Marla Handy *	WI	1979-1981
Jack & Grace Harkness (5)	MN	Mindanao/Manila 62-64
Jerry Hembd (2)	WI	Albay 73-75
Joyce Graeter Henzel *	NY	Iloilo 63-64
JoAnn Hillje Hersh	VA	Lanao del Sur 62-64
Judith Hill (3)	FL	Iloilo 64-66
Barbara S. Hiller *	IL	Manila/Rizal 63-65
Jerry & Marie Hilliard (1)	CT	Nueva Ecija 70-72
Deb Hoagland	NM	Bohol 83-85
Kamden Hoffmann *	VA	Ifugao 98-00
Steven T. Holbrook	VA	Quezon 65-67
Mark Holt * +	DC	Tarlac 82-84
Richard B Holzman	MA	Capiz 61-63
Keith Hooper	KS	Bukidnon 66-68
Larry & Betty Howard *	PA	Negros Oriental 61-63
Becky Hudson	LA	(use for Mactan or Visayas)
Stanley Ifshin	VA	Baguio City 64-66
Richard K. Irish (2)	VA	Lanao del Sur 62-64
Loretta Jacobs (3)	FL	Friend of PCAFPD
Loisann Jacovitz *	CA	1972-1974
Steve Jasper (1) & (2) * +	IN	Agusan 67-69
Joe Jerardi	PA	Isabela 62-64
Mary L. Johnson	CA	Negros Occidental 61-63
Joyce E. Johnston	Canada	1965-1967
Lynn Juffer	IA	Bohol 74-75
Eve Juliano *	NC	Albay 64-66
Patricia MacDermot Kasdan *	DC	Iloilo 61-63
Charles Kaza (2)	MI	Bohol 65-67
Ralph Kemphaus	OH	Negros Occidental 65-67
Mary C. Kilgour *	FL	Surigao del Sur 62-64
Paul Kirwan (3)	FL	Friend of PCAFPD
Mark & Mirasol Kittrell	IL	Surigao City 01-03
Harriet Menten Kulis	IN	Negros Occidental 69-73
Steve Lahey (1)	IA	Camarines Sur 70-73
Judith Lesner (5)	CA	Oriental Mindoro 63-66
Kirk & Amelia Leswing (2)	VA	Manila 77-79
Jay Litt *	TX	Aklan 69-71
Stephen M. Limon (2)	MA	Batangas 68-70
David MacDougall	NY	Negros Oriental 80-82
Alan & Eva Mair *	HI	Ramblon & Manila 96-04

Joyce Majewski *	MA	Cebu 82-84
Gerald Malovany	VA	La Union 62-63
Bob Manlove *	CA	Zamboanga del Sur 64-66
Kathy Hodge Dries Mario (3)	NY	Mindanao del Sur 64-66
Cathee Robb Marston (2)	FL	Cebu 64-66
Marilyn E. Maze	MD	Koronadal 69-71
Sally Pierce McCandless *	TX	Negros Occidental 61-63
Brian McCann * +	MA	Benguet 83-85
Raymond McEachern	FL	Camarines Sur 61-63
David McKoski *	IL	Zamboanga del Sur 85-87
Sarah McMeans (1) & (2) * +	DC	Cebu 62-64
Constance McPherson	MO	Mindanao 62-64
Bill Mehlhoff (2)	OR	Capiz 61-62
Eric & Pamela Melby	MD	Iloilo 73-75
Jane Miller *	MO	Bohol 75-78
Wendy Morrison	GA	Bicol/Catanduanes 94-96
Loretta Moser * +	CA	Los Banos 01-02
Joyce Mary Moser	VA	Cotabato 62-64
Lue Muldoon (2) * +	WI	Camarines Norte 89-90
Bill Murphy (2)	FL	Oriental Mindoro 63-65
Ted Nawalinski *	PA	Sorsogon 65-67
Helen Pingrey Neal	CA	Davao 62-64
Jerry & Iris Nelson	CA	Staff 71-78
Paul Nick *	IL	La Union 68-70
Amanda Noble	CA	1976-1978
Tim Noe *	FL	La Union 2003
Timothy O'Brien * +	NY	Sorsogon 00-02
Jerry Ogawa	TN	Manila 71-74
Mike Ollinger	DC	Iloilo 82-84
Judythe Patberg (1)	OH	Laguna 70-72
Bill Peck (3)	GA	Quezon & Rizal 63-65
Karen M. Perez	OH	N. Visaya 77-79
Heidi Peterson (1)	OR	Sister of PCV
Jim Peterson * +	IL	Zambales 76-78
Elaine Rae Stamm Pierce	TX	Ilocos Norte 73-75
Leslie Piotrowski *	IL	Negros Occidental 83-85
Emmanuel & Susan Pons * +	PA	Compostala Valley 66-68
Mary Procyk *	CT	Basilon 65-67
Bob "West" Purdy * +	NC	Zamboanga del Norte 70-72
Margaret Y. Purves	OR	1964-1967
Barbara Walsh Rabin	NY	1964-1966
Dorothy Jane Raney	WA	Pangasinan 84-86
Stephen Rathmill *	MA	Cotobato 68-70
Leslie Ann Reingold	CO	Iloilo 64-66

Michael A. Rice *	RI	Pangasinan 81-85
Larry Robertshaw (6)	VA	Davao 64-67
David Robichard	SC	1981-84
Alan Robock	NJ	Zamboanga/Manila 70-72
Michael & Betchie Robotham	HI	1988-1990
Professor Gary Robson (1)	FL	Leyte (Maasin) 87-89
Diane Rodill	DC	Sorsogon 85-87
William Romaine (3)	NY	Friend of PCAFPD
Alex & Leslie Romero	NC	Laguna/Manila 73-76
Allen Rothenberg	MD	Staff 66-71
Nick & Ruth Royal *	CA	Panay & Samar 62-64
Nancy Salar	MI	Romblon 95-97
Marianne Santo Domingo *	CT	Marinduque 63-65
Roberta Potter Savage (2)	NY	Misamis Occidental 62-64
Marty Scherr * +	DC	Cotabato/Ilocos Norte 62-64
Jesse Schubert (1) * +	WA	Camarines Norte 01-03
Charles Schwartz (2)	DC	Manila 67-69
John D. Seidensticker *	TX	Negros Occidental 61-63
Judith A. Senecal	OH	1980-1982
Douglas Shamp (8)	CA	Tarlac 65-67
Clair Sharpless	CT	Negros Occidental 61-63
Tom & Clair Sharpless	CT	Masbate/Bicol 61-63
Richard & Eileen Shirley	NY	Zamboanga del Sur 64-66
Claire H. Smith	MD	Camarines Sur 61-63
Greg Smith *	OR	Pangasinan 77-79
Michael K. Smith	CA	Cebu 78-80
Richard D. Smith	NY	Cotabato 66-69
Ann Snuggs *	DC	Negros Occidental 61-63
Karen Steele (2)	NY	Lanao del Sur 65-67
Tim & Eden Stewart (1), (2) * +	SC	Antique 84-86
Jean Stewart-Ruth	AZ	1988-1989
Terry Sthymmel * +	CA	Sorsogon 72-74
Melba Stockhausen	WI	1963-1965
Linda (Norton) Stolz	NM	Zamboanga del Norte 62-64
Donna Taylor (9)	NY	Negros Occidental 88-90
Susan & Rey Tejada *	MD	Manila 68-70
Mary Davenport Thilly	WI	Masbate 69-71
Roy Thilly	WI	Davao City/Manila 68-71
Chuck Thomas (2)	CA	Metro Manila 78-80
James Marsh Thomson (2)	Manila	Country Director 75-78
Ralph Thurston * +	ME	Oriental Mindoro 83-85
Pat Toalson (2)	MA	Iloilo & Cebu 61-64
Andy Tracy	VA	Ilocos Norte 65-68

James Turner	Manila	1961-1963
Walter R. Turner *	NC	Luzon 65-67
Carole (Goss) Urzua	CA	Batanes 65-68
Mary E. Vanderford	MN	1969-1971
Guia Villapanda *	NC	Friend of PCAFPD
Robert B. Warner *	PA	Camarines Sur 76-78
Bill & Jay Warren *	WA	Albay/Zamboanga 61-63
Ann Walter	MN	Cebu 70-72
Chad Walter	DC	Metro Manila 78-82
Joan C. Weaver	NH	Batanes 92-95
Richard Wetmore (10)	FL	Misamis Oriental 74-77
Alan & Patricia White *	MA	Luzon 63-67
Linda Wicks	NY	Albay 66-69
Dave Wilder (1)	PA	Albay 83-87
Holman T. White (2)	MD	Camarines Sur 65-68
Joan Wright (2)	MI	1971-1974
Evelyn Mittman Wrin *	DC	Camarines Sur 61-63
Sandra Phillips Yaggy	NC	Ilocos Norte 61-63
Victor Q. Zapanda *	AZ	Friend of PCAFPD
Erica & Dan Zell *	VA	Leyte 99-00

PCAFPD could be impacted by NPCA joint dues/rebate program changes

Those of you with an interest in being part of the worldwide Peace Corps community are encouraged to join the National Peace Corps Association (NPCA). Information concerning its programs and benefits can be found on its website www.rpcv.org.

Currently NPCA encourages its members to join an affiliated group, such as PCAFPD, by adding \$15 to the \$35 annual NPCA membership fee. NPCA rebates the \$15 payments to PCAFPD. In the last fiscal year, those rebates amounted to more than \$1,200.

NPCA is working on a plan to phase out payment of rebates to affiliated groups and to direct individuals to make payments directly to affiliated groups. Consequently, phase-out of the current NPCA joint dues/rebate program could result in a reduction of PCAFPD income unless those of you who normally include a contribution to PCAFPD with your NPCA membership dues renewal make a similar (or greater) contribution directly to PCAFPD by using the enclosed envelope or by making a secure payment through our website www.rpcvphilippines.org.

The list of contributors in this issue includes NPCA rebates from membership renewals made in April through September.

Special PCAFPD scholarships for groups, memorials

Special scholarships include memorial scholarships and individual or group sponsorships. Scholarships funds provide \$1,000 per year to cover the costs for tuition, books, fees and living allowance for the designated scholar. Here are some of our active special scholarships.

Group Scholarships

Peace Corps Philippines Group 3 Scholarship. This scholarship has recently been set up by a friend of a Group 3 Volunteer. The Volunteer chose to have the scholarship named in honor of his group, which served in Leyte, rather than in his own name. The scholarship will be awarded next year at Visayas State University in Leyte.

The Volunteer feels that the Philippines faces a few big challenges: population, warming and pollution, and that a scholarship that prepares professionals to work in these areas is much needed. The donor of the scholarship made the contribution to PCAFPD through the Tides Foundation.

The Association of Philippine Practicing Physicians of Arizona 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. The APPPA board recently decided to work through PCAFPD, and the lucky recipient of the first APPPA scholarship is Vanessa Esquivias of Sorsogon. Vanessa is attending Bicol University in Gubat to earn a degree in elementary education.

Scholarships offer \$1,000 a year for tuition, books, fees and living allowance

BIMAK (an acronym for Benguet, Ifugao, Mountain Province, Apayao, Abra and Kalinga) is dedicated to nurturing the Igorot heritage among Filipino-Americans, rerooting themselves to the strong values of their past. BIMAK has partnered with PCAFPD for a number of years, making scholarship contributions in honor of Pamela Johnstone Moguet, BIMAK member and PCV in the Philippines, 1978-1980. Pam died of breast cancer in 1994 at the age of 38. BIMAK's current scholar is Kathleen Daskeo who is studying education at Mountain Province Polytechnic College.

Memorial Scholarships

(You may contribute to any of these memorial scholarship funds by designating them on your contribution envelope or on your website donation form.)

Rachel Singer Memorial Scholarship (See story below on this page) The scholar is to be determined in the coming year.

Julia Campbell Memorial Scholarship PCAFPD has established a scholarship fund in memory of Julia Campbell, a Peace Corps Volunteer who was slain in the Philippines in April 2007 while hiking in the rice terraces. The scholar is to be determined in the coming year.

Many thanks to contributors of past scholarship funds, including the **Doug Watts Memorial Fund**, the **Soledad Tejada Fund**, and the **Maureen J. Carroll Scholarship** (donated by Group 1 Volunteers).

Individuals may also sponsor a scholar for a contribution of \$1,000 per year. For more information about setting up a new scholarship fund or sponsoring a scholar, please contact us at board1@rpcvphilippines.org.

A fund for Rachel Singer

PCAFPD is pleased to announce the Rachel Singer Memorial Scholarship fund. This effort was set in motion by her good friend and fellow RPCV, Judy Hill.

Rachel Singer was a Volunteer in Batangas, 1963-65, and worked for the Peace Corps in Washington for several years after her return. For the past nearly 25 years, Rachel was a pivotal player at the New York Blood Center.

In addition to her duties as assistant to the president, she often served as a bone marrow courier, bringing that life source to people all over the world.

Rachel was a talented singer who originally stirred our souls in Manila's pubs, an avid folk dancer, tennis player, runner and aspiring golfer. But most of all, she was a good friend to all who knew and loved her.

At the time of her death from stom-

ach cancer on June 29, 2007, at the age of 67, she was planning a return trip to the Philippines. This scholarship honors her memory and is intended to help complete that circle for her. Donations can be made online through this website or by mailing a check to: PCAFPD, Box 10014, Arlington, VA 20010.

Please include a note that your donation is intended for the Rachel Singer Memorial Scholarship.

PCAFPD scholars top government's completion rate

During a visit in August 2005 with a representative of the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) in the Philippines, PCAFPD learned that up to 40% of the government scholarship students were unable to complete their educations. (At that time CHED had 60,000 students in its scholarship program, although through a streamlining process, they intended to have only 30,000 the next year.)

CHED reported that the lowest-income students tended to drop out, and as a result they had decided to increase the income eligibility level, no longer targeting the poorest of the poor. CHED wanted a more successful outcome in terms of completion of studies for the investment it was making.

Similar issues about the ability of the poorest of the poor being able to make it through school arose in other interviews held at that time and caused us to review our own income eligibility standards. We decided not to take a stand similar to

CHED since our impression was that our experience was different. We had no statistics at that time.

During this past summer, Carol Radomski, the Foundation's vice president for student affairs, did a thorough review of the files of all PCAFPD scholars to date. She reports that of the 138 scholars we have supported through the years, only 23 were unable to finish their degrees.

Thus we are able to quote an attrition rate of 27% or, more positively, a completion rate of 73%.

The poverty level income for families in the Philippine is or P120,000 (about \$2,805 US) less, the standard that PCAFPD uses (many of our scholars come from families in which the annual income may be less than P20,000 (\$467 US)).

To verify income, we require either a copy of a tax return to the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) or a statement from BIR granting exemption from taxes because of a low level of income.

We are certainly aware of the additional struggle it is for poor families to sustain a child in college. Just one misfortune for the family (illness, typhoon) can cause a student to suspend studies to earn money or to have his or her living allowance recycled to pay family bills.

On the other hand, if we can succeed in getting a child from a family of that income level educated, we can make a significant contribution to the economic future of the family. Let's keep it up! --

Pushing the envelope:

Through the Peace Corps Alumni Foundation for Philippine Development, former Volunteers and staff maintain their bonds with the Philippines 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 PCAFPD is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization; contributions are tax-deductible., I

PCAFPD Board: 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)

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