

Balitaan

Newsletter 47, Fall 2008

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PCAFPD finances

A report on FY 2008 income and expenses; president urges continued support during challenging economic times in U.S. and Philippines.

Page 5

To the mangroves!

A PCV in Negros Oriental takes 86 kids on a one-truck field trip.

Page 3

**Views from scholars**

Looking at the teacher as a "guide on the side," not as a "sage on the stage," in the words of an elementary education student.

Page 2

Recalling Ed Adriano

Service with the Peace Corps was a "life changing experience," he said.

Page 5

Preparing for the 50th

Planning is underway for a three-day festival in Washington in September 2011 to mark the 50th anniversary of the Peace Corps, with the PCAFPD taking part.

Page 4

Potluck reunion

Former volunteers gather in Washington to recall Philippine days.

Page 2



Rethinking his role regarding rights of women

Each semester the Foundation's scholars -- 42 at last count -- send back essays on their progress and on how they're doing in general. Here are excerpts from the most recent.

Marlon Pura of Sorsogon, studying political science at the University of the Philippines, is currently in the U.S. for a year on a Fulbright scholarship.

Panitikan ng Pilipinas (Philippine Literature) was an eye-opener regarding feminism! Now I understand how a macho society oppresses women and their rights. It also made me question the

church, not my belief and faith of the deities, but on its institution, being the No. 1 oppressor of women, according to my distinguished professor, in terms of sexual rights and family planning.

The course also made me examine myself as a man, how in my ways I oppress women, and to try to make up for it. I first thought of my mother, working for a living and doing the chores of the house. I have to help her, even in the house chores.



Next is my grandmother. I have to treat her very well, not groaning about her frequent sermons, not to blame her of breaking the dishes while in fact, she was trying to help, and listening to repetitive stories of her life of 85 years!

Now I am very thankful to all the women in my life -- my teachers, friends, past relationships, acquaintances, for

teaching me valuable lessons in life and making me realize that everybody else counts, regardless of sex or status. After all, I owe to people who I am right now.

Coming out of her shell, sounding out

Joanna Estillo of Bohol, is in elementary education at Visayas State University

I have had some unforgettable experiences this semester, especially in my Speech 11 class. I performed a lot of activities, including verse choir, declamation and endorsing a product. I must admit I'm a shy-type person, but I'm slowly coming out of my shell due to these different exposures. Such tasks were



(Continued on Page 2)

Eva Mair+	HI	Manila 96-04	Alex & Lesley Romero+	NC	Laguna/Manila 73-76
Gerald Malovany+	VA	La Union 62-63	Allen W. Rothenberg	MD	Staff 1966-1971
Desiree Marmita+ (6)	NY	Leyte	Nick & Ruth Kesselring Royal	CA	Panay & Samar 62-64
Cathee Robb Marston+	FL	Cebu 1964-1966	Karen Olness Rudio	MA	Pangasinan 83-85
Marilyn Maze	MD	Marbel 1967-1969	Jill Ruhlman	GA	Laguna 1966-1968
Sally Pierce McCandless+	TX	Negros Occ. 61-63	Marianne Santo Domingo+	CT	Marinduque 63-65
J. Mark McDowell	MO	Negros Occ. 68-70	Jim & Mary Ann Scheirer+	NJ	Iloilo/Lanao del S. 63-66
Ray McEachern+	FL	Camarines S. 61-63	Martin Scherr+	DC	Cotabato/Manila 62-64
Sarah Wilkinson McMeans+	DC	Cebu 62-64	Rich & Barbara Schneider	AZ	Palawan 74-77
Constance McPherson+	MO	Mindanao 62-64	Jesse Schubert+	WA	Camarines N. 01-03
William L. Mehlhoff+	OR	Capiz 61-63	Charles F. Schwartz+	DC	Manila 67-69
Eric & Pamela Melby+	MD	Iloilo 73-75	John D. Seidensticker (19)	TX	Negros Occ. 61-63
Jane Petrich Miller+	MO	Bohol 75-78	Clair Sharpless+	CT	Negros Occ. 61-63
Loretta Moser+	CA	Luzon 01-02	Tom Sharpless+	CT	Albay 61-63
Ruth M. Muehl	PA	Cavite 63-65	Claire Horan Smith+	MD	Camarines Sur 61-63
Lue Muldoon	WI	Camarines N. 89-90	Michael K. Smith+	CA	Cebu 78-80
Tim Noe	FL	La Union 2003	Chris & Elizabeth Songalia	MN	Leyte 96-98
Timothy O'Brien (17)	DC	Sorsogon 00-02	Karen Steele+	NY	Lanao del Sur 65-67
Marcie LaFair Obstfeld+	CA	Iloilo 80-82	Tim & Eden Stewart+	SC	Antique 84-86
Jerry Y. Ogawa	TN	Manila 70-74	Terry Sthymmel+	CA	Sorsogon 72-74
Mike Ollinger+	DC	Iloilo 82-84	Amy Stoeffler+	IL	Bicol 78-82
Phillip B. Olsen+	HI	Cebu/Zambo. 62-67	Milburn J. Stone+	CT	South Cotabato 65-68
Jeanne Gibson Ormsby	NC	Davao City 68-70	Donna Taylor+	NY	Negros Occ. 68-70
Bill Peck+	GA	Quezon/Rizal 63-65	Donna Thatcher+ (20)	NM	Iloilo 62-64
Karen Perez	OH	Nueva Vizcaya 77-79	Ralph Thurston+	ME	Oriental Mindoro 83-85
Heidi Peterson (17)	OR	Sister of PCV	Chuck Thomas	CA	Quezon City 78-80
Jim Peterson+	IL	Zambales 76-78	William J. Tucker+	NJ	Lanao N./Laguna 62-64
Mary L. Piepmeier	OH	Lanao del Sur 64-66	Marie Tymrak & Jon Kelly+	AZ	Bicol 70-72
Susan & Manny Pons	PA	Compostela V. 66-68	William D. Valentine+	MA	Albay/Manila 68-70
Jerry Poznak	MA	Zamboanga 61-63	Mary Michael Vanderford+	MN	1969-1971
Bob Purdy+	NC	Zamboanga N. 70-72	Joe Veneklase+	MI	Tarlac 80-82
Maggie Purves+	OR	Negros Occ. 64-67	T. Chad Walter+	DC	Metro Manila 78-82
Jon Quinlisk	WV	Ilocos Norte 98-00	Michael Walsh	VA	Central Luzon 81-84
Barbara Walsh Rabin	NY	Group 13 64-66	Bill & Jay Warren+	WA	Albay/Zambo. 61-63
Carol Radomski+	MD	Batanes 80-83	Joan C. Weaver	NH	Batanes 92-95
Leslie Ann Reingold	CO	Iloilo 64-66	Richard Wetmore+ (21)	FL	Misamis Or. 74-77
Michael & Rufina Rice	RI	Pangasinan 81-85	Alan & Patricia White+	MA	Luzon 63-67
Rona Roberts+	KY	Camarines Sur 73-75	Holman T. White+	MD	Cam. Sur/Albay 65-68
Larry Robertshaw (18)	AZ	Davao 64-67	Eleanor Whitlatch	PA	Catanduanes 61-63
Alan Robock	NJ	Zambo./Manila 70-72	Linda M. Wicks+	NY	Albay 66-69
Michael & Betchie Robotham	HI	1988-1990	Dave Wilder+	PA	Albay 83-87
Karen Rohter+	HI	Leyte 67-70	Michael B. Wood	MO	Manila 67-70
William Romaine	NY	Friend of PCAFPD	Erica Ruhl Zell	VA	Leyte 99-00

News briefs and milestones . . .

Kenneth Bollerud (Misamis Oriental 63-66) “Just a note to let you know that I really appreciated the ‘former scholar looks back’ segment of the last issue of *Balitaan*. Especially moving were the reflections of Edwin A. Valientes. It is nice to see such success stories.” ■ **Sally G. Douglas (Leyte 64-67)** “For the last year we have had Margarita Larrazabal living with us as she attends CWU to receive her Teacher’s Certification & a degree in Special Education. Margie’s mother was only 6 years old when I lived with her family in Albuera, Leyte. We have kept in contact all these years & Margie is now ‘living her mother’s dream’ to be educated & live in this country. It is my honor to repay in a small way the gracious hospitality I experienced living with her grandmother & family.” ■ **Linda Miller Clark (Mt. Province 64-66)** reports that **Group XIIIB** is planning its 45th reunion in Washington, D.C., next September. Contact Carilyn Anderson at ama4bznz@yahoo.com, if you aren’t already “in the loop.” Linda also supports the MorePeaceCorps campaign. She says: “Now more than ever the U.S. needs to use all ‘soft power’ it has to better tell what this country is about.” ■ **Laura Smail (Bicol 03-06)** is now a Peace Corps Response Volunteer (Crisis Corps) on a six-month assignment in Naga City, Bicol. She is excited to “return home” and reconnect with friends and her host family. She will document activities, training sessions and workshops that Save the Children has done on disaster risk; and to create manuals or teaching kits to be distributed to typhoon-affected communities. She says: “It will be a challenging task, but in a good way.” ■ **Kathy Hannan Rohan (Leyte 61-63)** reports that in June **Group III** held a reunion in Ann Arbor. See our website for a photo taken at the site where JFK first proposed the Peace Corps. ■ **Joyce Graeter Henzel (Iloilo 63-64)** “I am retired now from a career of teaching high school French and also working as a freelance court reporter for many years. I’m living outside Rochester, N.Y., and have two grown children and four grandchildren. We have an active local RPCV group with dinner and speakers each month, so it’s nice to stay in touch.” ■ Her brother reports that **Constance (“Connie”) McPherson (Mindanao 62-64)** passed away Aug. 25, 2008. Connie was a long-time PCAFPD contributor and member of NPCA.

To the mangroves: 86 kids, one truck, one volunteer

We asked current PCVs to write of their experiences. Please let us hear yours: board1@rpcvphilippines.org.

By Marguerite K. McElroy

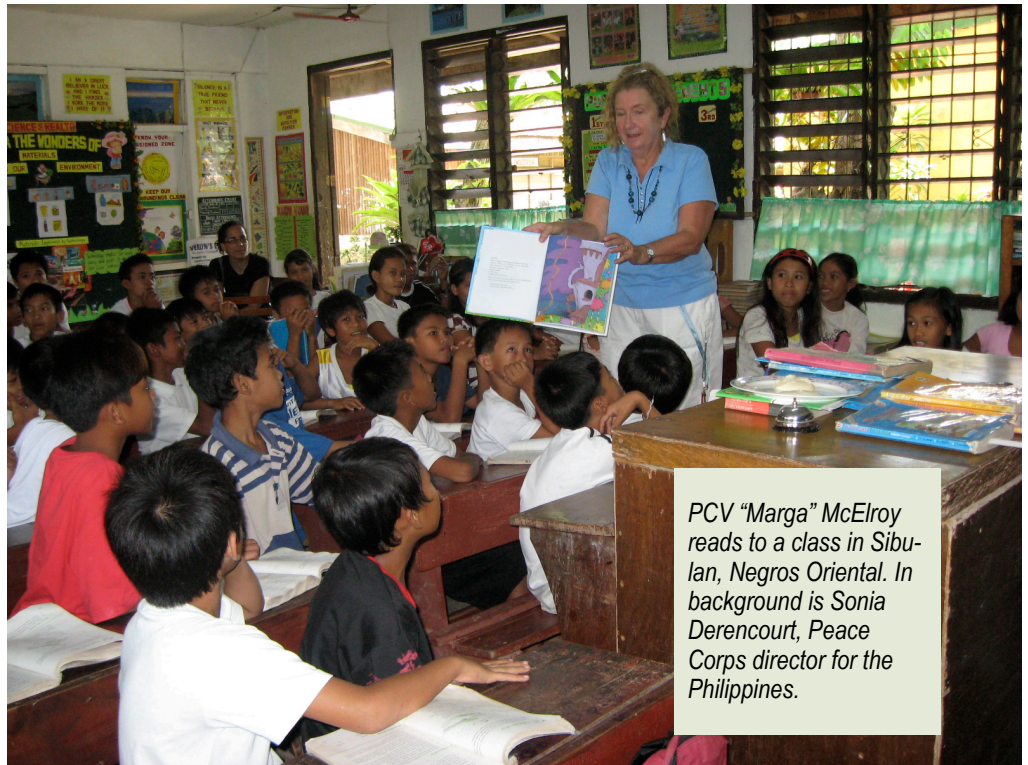
As a CRM (coastal resources management) volunteer I have offered to do some environment education in Cheri Bagsican's two sixth-grade classes at my neighborhood elementary school. There are very few mangroves here in Sibulan, so Cheri says we should visit them before we have the mangrove lesson.

At home, over the years, I have done an uncountable number of school field trips; always in authorized vehicles with lots of parent helpers. So today I took 86 kids on a field trip to see mangroves in Ajong, two barangays north of school. There are no school buses in Philippines. So I borrowed the big *hakot* farm truck from the Agriculture office.

I came out 15 minutes early to make sure we were set and mentioned that the front right tire looked a bit low. "Flat?" Ronnie the driver asked. Well, a bit, yes. So we go to the gas station but *dili hangin*, (No wind? Actually I think it is quite windy but why do I care? Ahhh, he means the air machine is broken. I care.) We return to the *municipio* and proceed to make a quick tire change – quick means engine is running (standard transmission so the truck is in neutral), wheels are not chocked; a guy is lying under the truck in front of wheel banging the jack up. I can't watch, so I go into the office.

When I return there is a small round stone fore and aft of one wheel and already he is lying there banging the jack down. Then they finish tightening the lugs, with a huge lug wrench with a five-foot extension handle. Fini!

The *hakot* (a farm word I don't know) is like a very shallow dump truck with a barely waist high rail around the bed. We have a rope across the middle for holding on; there are also 2 narrow planks across it so a few can perch there who can't reach the rope. I load about 40 kids in the



PCV "Marga" McElroy reads to a class in Sibulan, Negros Oriental. In background is Sonia Derencourt, Peace Corps director for the Philippines.

back. "Feet on the floor! Don't stand on the side! Don't sit on the rail! Everyone PLEASE hold on to – well, *something!*" Mrs. Bagsican stays behind with the rest as we take off down the highway with all of us standing in the back of the truck, hootin' and waving to people and vehicles as we go. From the 11-year-old point of view, yes, this is a ball. For the only adult with some 40 kids whose names I don't even know and have no emergency cards for . . . Arghhhhh!!!

I try to warn them when we are about to brake for the turn but we go shrieking and staggering around the corner onto the dirt road where the branches beat us from above and the sides; please, God, don't let there be a low wire!

I am still dangling from the tailgate groping for a foothold and the class has already shot onto the bridge and is hanging over the rail. "OK, everyone come to the middle," I announce. "Do not climb on the rail. No one is allowed to fall in the river before Mrs. Bagsican gets here; is that clear?" "Yes, Ma'am Marga." We return to the rail, hanging over while I point out the *gamay isda*. Are they the juvenile fish from our lesson? Yes, they understood it; this is great!

We trek along the muddy bank of the Ajong River, brandishing my field guide, pointing out pneumatiphores, prop roots,

seed pods germinating on branches, detritus feeders at Nipa trunks, crab holes in the mud, etc. Amazingly, you might almost believe I had actually seen a mangrove before four months ago!

It is very interesting to see that the kids are well trained to recognize key vocabulary and memorize it. I say "These special root adaptations are called pneumatiphores." "PNEUMATIPHORES" echoes back at me from enthusiastic young voices. The sound wave nearly knocks me backwards into the river! But they *are* listening. Unfortunately it is pretty clear they are memorizing vocabulary, not making a critical connection to structure and function or critical thinking paths – what happens if these are buried by silt? What process? How, why? I don't hear those questions or answers. I will try harder to communicate.

Returning, it's about to start pouring rain. I had a better concept of how perfectly safe this actually was, so we just packed all 86 in for one trip! Charlie and friends behind the cab climb onto the rail, sticking way up and leaning into the wind like the scene in "Titanic." "Low branch! Charlie down!" Cheri and I chorus together. Everyone had a great day. I go home and have a strong drink.

Marguerite K. McElroy, of Falmouth, Mass., is a PCV in Negros Oriental

A word about our finances: *Salamat!*

By **Maureen Carroll**
PCAFPD president

Early next year the PCAFPD Board will review 64 new scholarship applications from deserving students all over the Philippines, received by the Sept. 30 deadline for the 2009-10 school year.

One question will be how many new scholars we can accept, depending on our financial resources and the capacity of our Philippines staff to support additional scholars. The decision is always painful because it usually means that we have to turn away some very good candidates.

In reviewing our financial resources, we consider two factors: the funds at hand for the coming school year and the size of our reserve funds. When making awards we want to be sure that we can cover the full costs for four years of education of each scholar on our rolls, should we encounter any future organizational or fundraising difficulties.

Over the past few years, the addition of a special fundraising appeal each September to supplement our two newsletters has made a real difference in our ability to keep up with increased costs, accept a reasonable number of new scholars and build our reserves. For example, this year's 25th anniversary appeal has raised about \$6,500 thus far. We thank you profusely for your responses to the special and regular appeals.

We are awaiting the results of an audit of our fiscal year 2008, which ended in May. In the meantime, I would like to give you some specific, albeit unofficial, information about our finances.

– We raised \$46,113 from our appeals in the 2008 fiscal year. We also received \$1,688 in rebates from NPCA members who designate PCAFPD as a recipient of \$15 of the total amount they send to NPCA. Total income: \$47,118.

– Our total expenditures were \$30,596. U.S. expenses for various fees, supplies, newsletter productions, postage, etc amounted to \$7,557; in the Philippines,

'The world financial crisis is having a heavy effect on the economy of the Philippines, which means that even more students will need our help to get an education—their best hope to escape the cycle of poverty.'

87% of the expenditures were for scholar costs (tuition, fees, books, living allowance, etc.) and 13% were for administrative costs (bank fees, communications, supplies, etc.)

(Continued on Page 8)

Honors for two PCAFPD scholars in trips abroad

Two Foundation scholars, Carla Dela Cruz of Catanduanes, a special education major at Trinity University of Asia, and Edwin Valientes of Batanes, working for a master's in archeology at the University of the Philippines, Diliman, won trips abroad in recent months.

Dela Cruz was chosen by the Leonard Cheshire Disability organization to attend a workshop in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in May where she received training on making films to be used for advocating the rights of people with disabilities. The workshop's guidelines were the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons With Disabilities.

"The workshop and training for filming was handled by the famous African journalist and director, Sorious Samura, who has received awards not only in directing but in filming," Dela Cruz said. Samura won a British Academy of Film and Television Arts award for the 2000 TV production, "Out of Africa," on fighting in Sierra Leone.

Participants were given video cameras so they could document the problems of disabled persons in their countries.

"Most of the participants were neophytes like me, and that was why most of us were very excited to learn about taking videos," Dela Cruz said. She has been interviewed on local radio stations about the rights of the disabled under the UN Convention, and has already completed a video for the Leonard Cheshire organization's project for "Young Voices of Persons With Disabilities."

Valientes went to Nara, Japan, in September for a month's training on archaeo-

logical research and heritage conservation. He reports that he was "one of the 15 lucky applicants chosen by UNESCO from all over the Asia/Pacific region to attend this activity," and that he was "super excited about it because, in addition to the lectures, participants were to have "a grand tour of the ancient temples of Nara and other World Heritage Sites."

Remembering Ed Adriano, 1942-2008

Ed Adriano, who served 11 years as an associate director with the Peace Corps in the Philippines, died Aug. 6 from cancer. He was 66. He lived with his wife, Rorie, in Las Piñas City, near Manila.

Among those recalling Adriano's Peace Corps service, 1980-90, was Carol Hammaker Radomski (Batanes 80-83).

"He was a dedicated and enthusiastic staff member who always had a smile on his face and a hand ready to help," she said.

Paul Ohlrogge (Ifugao 81-84) recalls that when he first met Adriano, "he told me how his stereotypes of Americans changed because of the relationships he made with Peace Corps Volunteers he met while serving as an APCD. He mentioned he had negative feelings towards 'Canos' before coming to Peace Corps and almost did not take the job.

"Ed said that being an APCD was a life-changing experience for him," said Ohlrogge. Born in Malolos, Bulacan, Adriano had a degree in math from the University of the Philippines and an MBA from DeSalle University. He was a professor of mathematics at the Ateneo de Manila and at DeSalle before his retirement.

He began painting in acrylics in 1990, following what he called "a passion for the arts since early boyhood." He had six solo exhibits of paintings with Philippine scenes.

