

Balitaan

Supporting Philippine scholars for 25 years

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Former scholar recalls

Edwin Valientes, who graduated from U.P. in 2005, says his studies in anthropology, made possible by PCAFPD aid, have enabled him to better understand his own culture.

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New grads, scholars

The Foundation adds 12 new scholars, as three earn degrees—one cum laude (Grace Moleño, below.)

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One graduate grapples with life's dilemmas

It suddenly dawns on you, says Alma Jean Roux, that the more you know, the more you actually don't know.

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Embassy hails PCAFPD



Philippine Embassy in Washington marks the PCAFPD's 25th anniversary.

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Clustering in Sorsogon

An alumni group of PCAFPD scholars meets in Sorsogon to organize the first "cluster" of students and former students who have received aid from the Foundation.

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Please don't come

A "no show" birthday party for a PCAFPD board member's 70th raises \$7,000. He thanks all for not coming.



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A quarter century of assistance

By **Maureen Carroll**
PCAFPD President

The beginnings: Twenty-five years ago, on March 7, 1983, the Recorder of Deeds of the District of Columbia certified that all provisions of the District of Columbia Non Profit Corporation Act had been met and issued a certificate of incorporation to

the Peace Corps Alumni Foundation for Philippine Development.

John and Liz Abernethy, co-country directors of Peace Corps Philippines in the late '70s to early '80s, were the driving force in the birth of the organization. They returned to the D.C. area in 1982 and began to host dinner parties for local Volunteers from their era. They raised the idea of finding a way to continue to support development in the Philippines.

Together with the Abernethys, a dozen or so former Volunteers and staff, including several Filipino staff members in the States, did all the work required to establish a viable organization – hammering out
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In the beginning: The first PCAFPD newsletter in 1984, one double-sided page, announced the first two awards, to *Elmo C. Singson of Ilocos Norte* and *William Catubig of Misamis Oriental*.

A quarter century of funding scholars

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purpose and focus, selecting a name, drafting by-laws and achieving tax-exempt status, electing a board and officers, reaching out to other RPCVs, and most important, developing a fundraising strategy.

The most strategic and valuable step the founders took was to invite Modesto de Jesus, who had served as the Peace Corps/Philippines controller for 12 years before he retired, to direct the work of the Foundation in the Philippines. Mod became “Our Man in Manila,” providing not only the administrative support the Foundation required to operate a long-distance program, but also supplying the TLC and the inspiration the students needed to adjust to and continue their studies. After his death in 1994, we were greatly fortunate to have Mod’s son Roland become Vice President of Philippine Operations

The Philosophy: The vision, commitment, and careful work of the early founders and Board members are still in evidence 25 years later. PCAFPD continues to adhere to the fundamental principles of the organization that they defined (perhaps their one fault was in not finding a pronounceable acronym for the group). For example, PCAFPD has always considered an applicant’s community service orientation and choice of degree as key factors in the selection process, along with academic record and financial need. This grew out of the belief that an investment in individual human development can lead to community and national development if the individuals are so motivated and become knowledgeable and skilled in high-need professions.

The founders also wanted to have a nationwide program, and to this day, we have scholars throughout the Philippines. Between our 108

graduates and nearly 40 current scholars, PCAFPD has educated young people from 49 of the 81 provinces. They have attended 88 public and private universities throughout the islands.

Another early principle that is still followed is to pay all costs associated with school attendance and to make only a contribution toward living expenses so that the family, regardless of means, makes a commitment of its own to support the scholar.



PCAFPD President Maureen Carroll was a volunteer in Sorsogon, 1961-63, and Peace Corps Director in Botswana, 2000-02.

Changes: Despite continuity in purpose and principle, numerous changes have occurred in the way the Foundation does business. Many of these changes have resulted from technological advances. Roland is able to do most of his business with scholars and graduates through text messaging. Washington and Manila communicate entirely through e-mail. Scholars submit their essays by e-mail. The Board communicates using a Yahoo Group site and files documents there for easy access by Board members. Scholars maintain ATM accounts so that the contribution to their living expenses can be direct deposited safely and easily accessed.

Many applicants find out about PCAFPD by accessing our website and then downloading application forms.

Some of the other changes are of a more substantive nature. PCAFPD has taken an initial step toward a long-held goal of establishing agreements with institutions that would select and support scholars in particular fields of study, reducing PCAFPD administrative work. Applications, scholar agreements, rating forms, essay guidelines, etc have all been revised to strengthen quality control. We conducted a follow-up study on graduates with gratifying results. We have been able to fund the graduate study of several outstanding scholars. Two former Philippines Volunteers, who are now living in the Philippines, have expanded our support capacity there by joining the Board.

Fundraising has expanded greatly so that in calendar year 2007, PCAFPD achieved its highest income stream ever, ensuring our having a reserve that covers four years of education for all current scholars, regardless of subsequent income streams. And most significant of all is the formation of the PCAFPD Scholars and Alumni Association, thanks to the dynamic leadership of current and past scholars. The potential of this Association to serve as a support network and to assist PCAFPD in mentoring scholars is exciting.

Continuing Challenges: PCAFPD would not be celebrating a 25th anniversary without the desire of so many former Volunteers and staff to continue their connection with the Philippines by contributing to the scholarship program; the willingness and devotion of numerous Board members to administer the program, and the devotion and commitment of our two “Men in Manila”—Modesto and Roland de Jesus.

As proud as we are of sustaining and expanding the PCAFPD over the years, we do face challenges that *(Continued on Page 4)*

A former scholar looks back

‘I wanted to understand my own culture’

By Edwin A. Valientes

I was one of the nine lucky applicants who were granted scholarships by the PCAFPD in 2002. It was a great help for me because if not for that scholarship, I probably would not have pursued my study at the University of the Philippines in Quezon City, and instead have just stayed in my home place in Batanes and attended a local college.

Studying in Manila is very expensive for families in the provinces who have minimal earnings to support the education of their children. Scholarships such as the PCAFPD’s have been a great help to a lot of people like me who didn’t have enough financial capability to find their way up to good schools that could provide them the opportunity to fully harness their talents and interests.

I studied anthropology at the University of the Philippines out of sheer interest but also because I wanted to study and understand my own culture. I belong to a young generation of people in Batanes who are gradually being cut off from their native traditions. The alienation somehow lodged painfully in my consciousness and so I thought of rescuing myself from the cultural amnesia that was impinging on us.

Anthropology, which is basically the study of human culture, might help me reacquaint myself with my gradually diminishing identity. But anthropology, I later found out, is not an easy way for such a task. Anthropology, to recall a bit of history, was born out of the plan of "Western colonizers" to understand the so called "primitive cultures" like my own and to show to the world how backward and savage we are and how civilized and superior they are, and therefore



Edwin Valientes at Borubudor Temple, Bali.

because of that it is their moral responsibility to teach us how to live like "true humans" should be.

Ironic as it may be, I soon found out that anthropology, despite its notorious history, can also be a powerful tool for me to look back and think critically of my own culture, its history, and its colonial experience and how modernity and the tide of globalization has affected our lives for the worst. It’s time for the natives to talk back!

In school, we were taught to study our own culture and think of the issues and problems that currently confronts it, their roots, and how they can be addressed. Armed with our anthropological lenses, we are encouraged to affect policy-making in our own local communities by talking to people, getting their stories, and letting them participate in the crafting of policies that can give them a lasting benefit. In other words, we are trying to reinvent anthropology to become more relevant to its usual subjects – no longer as a colonial tool to subjugate the "natives" but for the natives to engage the effects of their colonial experience and chart their own future.

That’s why, after graduation, I promised myself to go back to my community and work there. In Batanes, I worked at the office of the

National Commission for Indigenous Peoples (NCIP). My main task was to help in the provincial heritage program of the Batanes. At that time, Batanes was working on its application to the UNESCO World Heritage List and part of the process was to produce a good management plan that can best ensure the preservation of its heritage resources such its vernacular architectures and archaeological sites.

We went to the communities and asked the people what things they could do best, within their means, to protect and preserve their houses and the archaeological sites located in their properties. However, I soon found that it is hard to talk to people on something so abstract, something they don’t actually know or understand or even appreciate. So what I did was to go school to school to explain to them what is cultural heritage, the value of the heritage sites in Batanes and why we need to preserve them.

I made a very visual, easy-to-grasp presentation on what is in the archaeology of Batanes – artifacts and ruins of ancient settlement sites, and what it tells them about our history. It turned out to be a very rewarding activity because for the very first time, they’ve got a chance to see some of the important artifacts found by archaeologists which they have never known or even imagined to have existed in Batanes.

It was only through this that they came to know how rich and important Batanes is in terms of archaeology. They reassured me that they would take part in protecting all the archaeological sites located in their communities. After that activity, I came to realize that heritage protection is not something to be imposed; we don’t need laws to protect our cultural resources from looting and destruction. We only need to make the community aware of their history and heritage and its importance to them and they will be the ones to protect it out of their own appreciation.

I stayed in Batanes for almost a year, then went back to Manila to pursue my graduate studies. I’m currently
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PCAFPD: A quarter century of funding nation's scholars

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sometimes seem indomitable. As anyone who reads the contributors list can see, the majority of our financial supporters have been Volunteers and staff anywhere from 25 to 45 years ago – some have consistently given to PCAFPD since its first year of operation. Our current Board members tend to be from the same decades of service and have served way beyond their original intentions.

Attracting new and “younger” blood to support the organization is a major and sometimes elusive goal. And although we have enjoyed good partnership relationships with several Filipino-American groups, we need more of them. The bottom line is that we need more hands to handle the work associated with running the program and to ensure its next 25 years.

As we struggle with these challenges, it's reassuring to find an article in one of the first PCAFPD newsletters that indicates that the very first Board of Directors had similar concerns. They wrote, “What level of sustained support can be generated? What groups and organizations should be targeted for involvement? How many scholars can we support? Who will carry on the work after the Founders leave?”

At our recent Annual Meeting, the Board members were buoyed by the willingness of three new RPCVs (one of them also a former Philippines Country Director) to step up and become involved in helping to answer these continuing questions. So, it's onward and upward - with your help!

When we asked Carol Hammaker Radomski (Batanes, 1980-83), our longest-serving Board member, why she has spent more than 20 years working on behalf of PCAFPD, she replied, My question is, why haven't all RPCVs done this for so long? Filipinos

were so good to me when I was in the Philippines (even though I did a lot of rather stupid things). I feel like this is a way to give back to the Philippines –

although I don't feel that the debt will ever be repaid.”

We're sure Carol's sentiments ring true with many of our supporters. Please continue to give, to introduce PCAFPD to other RPCVs who may not know about us, and, of course, to volunteer to serve on the Board or for special events.

‘I wanted to understand my own culture’

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enrolled at the Archaeological Studies Program of the University of the Philippines, pursuing a Master of Arts in Archaeology. I hope to finish it in two years' time. I'm working on a thesis that explores the relationship of material culture to feasting behavior in an ethnographic setting and how this can inform archaeological interpretation of feasting rituals in the ancient times.

Besides doing research, I'll also be starting to teach at the Department of Anthropology at UP this coming June as a full-time instructor.

PCAFPD has been instrumental to whatever small achievements and opportunities I have realized after my graduation. The Foundation supported my studies through my college years, but has never expected anything in return except that I should do well in school and be of help to my family.

As has often been said, education in the Philippines is not a right, it is a privilege; not everyone can attend school and finish. PCAFPD, though its continuing commitment to assist in Philippine development, has already helped a lot of young Filipinos like me to pursue their studies in college. I deeply thank all the donors who are continually supporting the scholarship program of PCAFPD. It is through their generous help that I and the rest of the PCAFPD scholars have achieved our dreams in life.

Edwin Valientes, of Batanes, graduated in 2005 with a degree in anthropology from the University of the Philippines, Diliman.

12 new scholars are added as three graduate

The Foundation this spring added 12 new scholars to its rolls, while three scholars got their degrees

Finishing their courses of study were
 Arwin Esperanzate of Sorsogon, who won a degree in geothermal engineering from Bicol University;

Farah Grace Moleño of Negros Occidental, who graduated *cum laude* in literature from the University of the Philippines, Diliman;

Sal Trapal of Rombolon, who earned a degree in education from Romblon State University.

Of the new scholars, a third hail from Ifugao Province. Two are from Sorsogon, and one each from Palawan, Pangasinan, Mountain, Negros Occidental, Cebu and Leyte provinces. Five are male, seven female. Their names, provinces, schools and courses of study:

Prue Earl Bayungan, Ifugao; St. Louis University, social work

Arnie Berdesula, Palawan; Western Philippine University, agricultural business

Jonalyn Dulagan, Ifugao; St. Mary's University, accounting

Marion Dupingay, Ifugao; St. Mary's University, civil engineering

Raf Andrew Espenocilla, Sorsogon; University of the Philippines, Diliman; broadcast communication

Von-Ryn Garcia, Sorsogon; University of the East, engineering electronics and communications

Lydia Hopguidan, Ifugao; St. Mary's University, secondary education

Marc Sky Macaranas, Pangasinan; University of Pangasinan, accountancy

Phillip Malogdog, Mountain; Benguet State University, forestry

Krisna Ocong, Negros Occidental; University of the Philippines, Diliman; materials engineering

Jean Pannugaling, Cebu; Cebu Institute of Technology, information technology

Glazia Tanueco, Leyte; Visayas State University, environmental management

A quarter-turn look at life

'I belong to the lucky kind of people'

By Alma Jean Ganayo Lilitit Roux

Life before was way easier to deal with. The innocence in you brings out the positive energy and the effervescent viewpoint to everything and almost anything. The world was a big possibility; and that in a matter of time, you would be able to conquer it. You viewed the cons as diminutive and unimportant details that you could flick off so as not to be hindered from your objective.

It was definitely fun to immerse yourself with the things happening around the world. Not in the least were you concerned about the bad news on TV because you knew that there were a lot of happy stories around that were not being publicized. Nor did you worry too much if you failed in one thing because you were sure that there were a lot of things where you could prove yourself. You were daring to shed off your delicate skin and experience the air, the wind, the exciting thunderstorms, the touch of the grass on your bare feet, the joy of watching and discovering life's frolics and turns.

And then suddenly, it dawns on you . . . that the more you know, the more you actually don't know; the more you get acquainted with things, the more you don't understand them and the more that you enjoy stuff, the faster you got bored with it. I don't know if this paradoxical realization (depression) comes after or before the scaring and scarring on you by life or if it is just a normal event in the course of being. or whether it is just an effect of the tan you get from being too exposed to the scorching life.

Life turns out to be this chaotic field of options and possibility (or impossibility). You try your best to summon the liveliness of your spirit

but it is overwhelmed by all the illogical idiocy abounding life. You begin questioning everything that you have learned, second-guessing whether the reality you have believed in was really expressive of the objective truth.

In the process of pondering (which actually takes weeks or months), you discover that the decisions in life are not plain black and white nor are they a simple pick between two extremes whose difference from each other is decisively clear. The contradictions seem endless and equally worth noting and arguing. But the real tale of ordeal lies in the fact that you have to choose, not knowing the actual consequences and yet be gutsy to take them all in.

Some would bawl over this fact and rant and complain about it their entire life. Others would capitulate and be apathetic with life, with their lives. But there are also these lucky, lucky people who would consider apathy and ranting as mere, normal stages of being in this unpredictably wavy existence. These are the kind of people who, by numerous situations or trials, learned that life apparently is hard but hilariously fun.

However, do not fall into the hasty conclusion that these people are plain lucky. It is not luck, fate or destiny that has made these people as such. These people are those who have been touched by the more overwhelming care (than the overwhelming societal mess) of people. They are people humanized by the humane acts of people (redundant indeed, yet fitting in here). So by people (doing humane acts), we do not just refer to individuals (like family members, friends, mentors, teachers, doctors, volunteers, writers, dramatists, singers) but also to groups of individuals or institutions such as schools, cliques or *barkadas*, church groups, fire brigades, organizations, clubs, counseling groups, etc. Well, optimistic as it seems, I would like to think that I



belong to the lucky kind of people. And for thinking so, then I obviously have many people to thank for. Among the mass of people, I would like to thank the Peace Corps.

Peace Corps is an assembly of amazing individuals, a few of them I know and most of them I don't know and may never even meet, who have helped me learn the value of helping each other out so we can have a good Earth. It is a group that has helped me realize that with all the odds in this weird, contradictory life, we don't have to stay absorbed with our own little worlds. We can instead use these confusions as levers for finding a solution so we can pick an option which is more rewarding for everyone and not just for one person. Because truly, the sense of happiness evoked by living in and not prevailed upon by the pressures of the so called "hard life" is a thousandfold more than the joy of living a *hakuna matata* ("no worries," in the Swahili phrase from "The Lion King") existence.

So, to the Peace Corps, thank you and congratulations for all the help and inspiration. Congratulations for overwhelming people with hope. Please continue being damning evidence against those pessimists who think that there is no hope for humanity and keep on being an affirming proof to those who believe that life can be better.

Alma Jean Ganayo Lilitit Roux earned a degree in social sciences in 2005 from the University of the Philippines, Baguio. She is from Sabangan, Mountain Province.

Double Peace Corps size?

A campaign to double the size of the Peace Corps is being headed by a former Nepal PCV.

Rajeev Goyal, coordinator of MorePeaceCorps, together with Judith McGuire, who was a Volunteer in Nigeria, and Janet Grieg, who served in India, are leading the grassroots campaign. Their website: www.morepeacecorps.org. Goyal can be reached at rgoyal@mrss.com.

Waking moments: When the prof is no weirdo

By Treisha Jill Jusayan

“It is not how high we can go up and how much we can see. It is how we go up and along the way, how we see things....”
— from “Heights” by F. Sionil Jose

From the first time I read these words in my literature class, I felt that it was all meant for me. It hit me and it hit me hard. All my life I’ve been living in a standard where your achievements are the important things in your academics and in life.

It took me one rainy Tuesday morning to realize that all these times I’ve been so fixated on the future that I forget the *now*. I had always been dreaming of becoming so successful, of having everything that I want in my hands and thinking of becoming so happy that no one or nothing could ever spoil it.

All these years, I’ve been living in a world where the results and your accomplishments make who you are. I’ve been so result-oriented that sometimes I forget the process, the things I did to get where I am. The sacrifices I made, how it all helped me push to the limits of my capabilities to surpass what I did before.

On that wet Tuesday we were discussing how people perceive success, like having wealth, good health, happiness. My professor in literature, who is also my favorite, is Dr. Andres Julio Santiago, whom we fondly call “Sir Santi” or “Dok Santi.” He is man with a brilliant mind, a compassionate heart and a pure soul. When I met him in my first day at Santo Tomas, I beamingly asked him when he stepped into our class “Sir, what do you teach?” I said it so suddenly that it not only surprised my classmates but me, too.

Fearing that I might be tagged as a nosy student, I looked down. But no one expected the answer that Sir Santi gave. He said, “I teach about life.” A little confused and embarrassed, I was relieved that he answered and spared me from

being the class joke. We all looked puzzled. A classmate hastily checked her course outline, and some of us thought, “Oh no, we’re with a weirdo!”

It took me a year and three more semesters with him until I really understood what he meant about teaching us about life. He tried so hard to give us everything he thought we’d need for our future. Every Tuesday and Thursday we met him for our class in Literature and Principles of Teaching. Sometimes it



became a class in history or mathematics, science and even religion. He helped us grow not only in mind but also in spirit.

Dok Santi wasn't afraid to show how passionate he is in teaching, and that made him different from my other professors. He not only inspires me to become a good teacher and person, but he gives me hope that teachers really do make a huge impact in other people’s lives. I can see now that the profession I have chosen is not a job but a vocation. A calling, because one must be so passionate in teaching, of giving one’s best to others because if you can’t do that you’re not only cheating your students but yourself and especially God.

Two years from now I will be serving my country fully; right now I’m already serving my country in my own small way, by teaching elementary students every Saturday at the Diosdado Macapagal Elementary School. As a future teacher I won’t only be dealing with the difference between a noun and a pronoun, but also with what I have learned these past few months – to teach about life.

As teachers we serve the young, the future of our country and it’s a crucial role for us to impart academic excellence along with values and concern for our country. In spite of all the predicaments our country faces, I still have hope.

Without the PCAFPD I would not be this happy. Thank you for making my life more fulfilling and rewarding.

Treisha Jill Jusayan is majoring in secondary education at the University of Santo Tomas; she is from Western Samar.

Working with preschoolers to help pay back

By Grace D. Moleño

For 14 years I’ve struggled in the arena of academe – 14 years of joy, sadness, hope, fear, but most of all, learning.

Over the years I have come to know many great persons. I have come to classify greatness into two parts—the one brought about by fame and that brought about by goodness of the heart. I am very thankful that in the crucial years of my life as a student I became a recipient of the greatness of the heart of those who constitute the PCAFPD-- a heartfelt “thank you” from me and my family.

The effort of PCAFPD to help needy students like myself serves as an inspiration for me to do my best in



school. And in facing new challenges in the new phase of my life you will continue to be my inspiration. By helping me, you taught me how to help. I will try my best to help others the way you helped me.

In the near future I plan to support the studies of my cousins’ children. Like me, they are poor. But for now, since I do not have enough savings, I can help by teaching preschool children in Balara (Quezon City) for free. I will volunteer to teach them once a week for the whole school year. This is just my little way of showing my gratitude to you.

I know that fear and disappointments will be greater in what we call the “real” world, but years of learning taught me to value them as valuable components of success. Learning does not stop in college. I am hopeful of what lies ahead.

Grace D. Moleño of Negros Occidental graduated cum laude from the University of the Philippines, Diliman, with a degree in literature.

Embassy hosts celebration for PCAFPD's 25th

PCAFPD board members and supporters in the Washington, D.C., area enjoyed a festive evening at the Philippine Embassy on May 15 in celebration of the Foundation's 25th anniversary.

Former Volunteers and staff from all decades of Peace Corps/Philippines service enjoyed each other's company, a brief formal program, a buffet of Filipino

Songspell, a group from a foundation in Davao (www.songspellfoundation.com), that helps children 4-18, entertained at the embassy event.

Posing with them (left rear) is PCAFPD Board Member Ron Peters and Rico Fos, the embassy's second secretary. ➔



delicacies and a rousing musical performance by Songspell, a touring group of youngsters from Davao City.

Ambassador Willy C. Gaa, the host of the event, had to return to the Philippines on business, but Deputy Chief of Mission Carlos Sorreta ably filled in, expressing the appreciation of the Filipino people for the continuing service to the Philippines of Peace Corps Volunteers.

Jay Katzen, director of the Europe, Mediterranean and Asia region of Peace Corps, delivered a message from the Peace Corps Director, who was on travel abroad. The message congratulated PCAFPD for its accomplishments and for reflecting the finest traditions of Peace Corps itself through the Foundation. Kevin Quigley, the President of the National Peace Corps Association, joined the celebration as did several founders of the organization and many former board members.

Philippine facts

Lake Lanao is the second-largest lake in the Philippines, probably the deepest in the country and is considered one of the major tropical lakes in Southeastern Asia. The lake is home to endemic cryprinids, the species found only in the lake and nowhere else in the world.

Scholars alumni group organizes a 'cluster' in Sorsogon

By Hans Groot

Given the growing number of PCAFPD graduates and scholars, there have been discussions about how to organize these "assets" to help promote the organization and to provide mutual support to the members – graduates serving as mentors, older brothers/sisters, and as advisors to the younger students and, especially, the incoming scholars.

To this end, we helped Manila-area graduates and students organize the PCAFPD Scholars and Alumni Association (PSAA) and this group has been meeting regularly. One of the tasks the group agreed on was to try to organize graduates and scholars in other parts of the country, giving priority to areas where there are larger groups or clusters of students.

One area they picked was Sorsogon and so at the end of April, Ariestelo Asilo, PSAA chair, and I took the overnight bus to Sorsogon City to meet with the "Sorsogon Cluster."

Two graduates and six current scholars showed up for the meeting on April 30: Arwin Esperanzate and Eva Endaya (both graduates) and Vanessa Esquivas, Carlo Estopase, Christian Figueras, Michelle Laurinaria, and Beverly Lelis. While they are all from Sorsogon, some had not yet met one another.

I brought the group up to date on PCAFPD and Aries and Marlon did the same for PSAA. Considerable time was spent on PSAA and the organization of some kind of local chapter and how the members would be able to provide mutual support, especially in terms of the new scholars.

The idea was very well received and the group decided to go ahead and organize with Arwin as president, Beverly as vice president and Eva as secretary. The group also decided to have a follow-up meeting in May.

Since the April 30 meeting, I have also been in touch with the Peace Corps office to try to find PCVs who might be interested in serving as advisors to the Sorsogon group or scholars, and three Volunteers offered to help.

Hans Groot, a PCAFPD board member, was a Volunteer in Negros Occidental and Laguna, 1961-64. He lives in the Philippines.

Contributions from our generous supporters

We thank those listed below whose contributions to PCAFPD were received after the Fall 2007 Balitaaan went to press and before this issue was finalized; i.e., between Oct. 10 and March 31, 2008. Numbered contributions are designated: (1) for Rachel Singer Memorial Scholarship; (2) in honor of RPCV Katrina Looby (Group 13); (3) for BIMAK scholarship in memory of John Scott (Benaue 89-90), who died in June 2007; (4) for Julia Campbell Memorial Scholarship; (5) in memory of John Cort; (6) in memory of Joe Sperrazza; (7) in memory of Dr. Ravelo Argamaso; (8) in memory of Paul Lampert; (9) in memory of Gov. Cornelio Villareal, Jr.; (10) to support graduate studies of PCAFPD scholar Edwin Valientes; (11) in memory of Maximo Callao; (12) in memory of RPCV John White (Ilocos Norte 62-64), who died 2/15/07; and (13) in memory of Richard C. Schoonover.

*The asterisk identifies those who contributed to more than one appeal within the past year.

Tim/Mary Ann Ahrens AZ 1979-1981
 Miriam Aiken VA Misamis Occ. 65-67
 John Albanese OH Gagayan 68-71
 Chaz/Evelyn Alexander VA Davao/Cebu 73-75
 Wally Allen AZ Camarines S. 61-63
 Am's Blood Centers (1) DC Friend of PCAFPD
 Heather/Rich Ames NH Negros Occ. 83-85
 Dick Ammann WI Pangasinan 66-70
 Jeff Amundsen MN Negros Occ. 83-85
 Nancy Foral Andal PA 1962-1964
 Carmelita Aquino NJ Friend of PCAFPD
 Dave Baden (3) MN Benguet 89-90
 Phyllis Smith Baer MA Iloilo 61-63
 Patricia Banogon CA Negros Or. 66-69
 Pamela Bansbach CO Cagayan 64-66
 Stephen Banta Manila Aklan/Rizal 67-70
 David Barnstable MD 1962-1964 # 8
 Claire Bartlett MA 1966-1968
 Havard S. Bauer OR 1990
 Jane Bensinger DE 1985-1987
 Pamela C. Benson DC Quezon 63-66
 Yvette G. Berkman* NY Panay 1991
 Norman Bernson (2) MA Cagayan Oro 64-66
 Dr. Celso Bianco (1) MD Friend of PCAFPD
 Linda Cover Bigelow France Iloilo 61-63
 Anne Bing CT Sorogon 61-63
 Sharon Blankenship* AZ Zamboanga 65-67
 Ben Bloom OH Ilocos Norte 78-82
 Sylvia Boecker VA Aklan 61-63
 Kenneth Bollerud* NY Misamis Or. 63-66
 Emery Bontrager (13) CA Camarines N. 61-63
 Ruth Boone* KY Capiz 62-64
 Parker Borg Italy Camarines N. 61-63
 Anthony J. Brancato* NC Bulacan 66-69
 Marilyn L. Brown* MO Lanao Norte 62-64
 Jerome Buckley (2) MA 1964-1966 # 13
 Charles Burton AZ Cagayan 65-67
 Moria Byrne (4) NY Current PCV
 Beatrice Cabus CA Friend of PCAFPD
 Bruce Campbell OR Camarines S. 61-63
 Barbara Cantrell (4) VA Friend of PCAFPD
 Elinor Capehart VA 1961-1963
 Maureen Carroll* DC Sorsogon 61-63
 Jennifer Carrasco WA Sosogon 65-67
 Bruce Casey* SD 1983
 Gerald Catow IL Laguna 65-67

Patty Gerkin Charles
 John Clark
 Kathryn Judy Conway
 Helen R. Cooper*
 Helen Cort (5)
 Susan Cort*
 Carol Bradley Cukier
 Jonathan/Evelyn Curtis
 Pera/Margo Daniels* 13
 Tom/Andrea De Courcy
 Theresa Del Rosario
 Richard Dertadian*
 Neil W. Deupree
 William K. Dustin
 Gretchen Faro
 Toni Farraro/ D. Leong*
 John/Mary Finegan
 Karel Crowley Fisher*
 David W. Flaccus
 Phyllis Flattery
 Detlef J. Frank
 Carol Freeman
 Frank Froschle
 Larry Fuchs*
 Cathy Gamman/L. Parker
 Stanley Gamett
 Ron Garon
 Maxine Gere
 Tracy Gleason*
 Arlene Goldberg*
 Carol Graham*
 Bill Grifenhagen (6)
 George Grills*
 Stephen Growdon
 Dan/Ana Gudahl*
 Mary Wasick Guerrero
 Marla Handy
 Jack/Grace Harkness
 Judith Harmatys
 Ben Harvey
 Ken Heatherington
 Linn Hendersson
 James/Portia Henle
 Kevin Herbert (2)
 Joe Higdon/E. Sudow
 Judy Swigost Hill (1)
 Jerry/Marie Hilliard
 Bill Holman
 Calvin & Nita Holt
 Mark Holt*
 Richard Holtzman (7)
 Donna Jean Housley
 Larry/Betty Howard*
 Connie Curry Hughes
 Martha Alishouse Hull*
 Donna Strobbridge Ianni
 Jean/Bruce Inglis
 Richard Irish/P. Reilly*
 Steve Jasper*
 Ann Todd Jealous
 Jeff Jenks
 Heidi Jensen
 Pat Joslyn Johnson
 Ros Johnson/J. Fruetel
 Joanne Jorz
 Raj Joshi
 Jack Jourdain
 Pat Kasdan*
 Ralph Kemphaus
 Mary Cameron Kilgour
 Mark/Mirasol Kittrell*
 Nancy Knapp
 Anna Whitcomb Knight
 Joel Kolker
 Michael Korschun
 Lon Kramer

NV Cebu 74-76
 DE Bohol 81-83
 NY Negros 61-63
 MA Leyte 81-83
 MA Manila 62-64
 NM Biliran et al. 80-83
 MI Laguna 68-70
 TX Leyte 63-65
 NV Camarines N. 61-63
 HI Catanduanes 69-71
 MN La Union 85-87
 FL Camarines N. 61-63
 WI Cotabato 64-67
 MN Nueva Ecija 66-68
 OH Davao 77-79
 VA Zambales 81-83
 CA 1979-1981
 MA Cotabato 62-64
 NY Bohol/Cebu 65-68
 OH Catanduanes 61-63
 OH Bulacan 64-66
 MN Aklan 65-67
 NM Camarines N.61-63
 MA Manila 61-63
 VA Camarines S. 79-81
 VA Mt. Province 62-64
 FL 1980-1982
 IL Camarines S. 70-72
 CA Manila 67-69
 VA Zamboanga 66-68
 AL Bulacan 62-64
 NC Metro Manila 67-69
 Canada Baguio 63-65
 WA Aklan 83-85
 AR Aklan/Bicol 81-84
 MN Ilocos N. 66-69
 WI 1979-1981
 MN Mindanao 62-64
 MN Nueva Ecija 67-69
 CT Laguna 67-69
 FL Albay 73-75
 IL Capiz 67-69
 MA Benguet 68-70
 VA 1964-1966 #13
 DC Cotabato 62-64
 FL Iloilo 64-66
 CT Nueva Ecija 70-72
 CA Friend of PCAFPD
 VA Cavite 68-71
 DC Tarlac 82-84
 MA Capiz 61-63
 TX 1980-1981
 PA Negros Or. 61-63
 PA Zamboanga 67-69
 CA Masbate. 61-63
 VT Baguio 67-69
 CO Friends of PCAFPD
 VA Lanao Sur 62-64
 IN Agusan 67-69
 CA Laguna 63-65
 MI Davao 62-64
 OR Ilocos Sur 85-87
 IA Camarines S. 61-63
 MN Misamis Ori. 77-79
 VA Pangasinan 65-69
 WA Bukidnon 82-84
 FL Cebu 65-66
 DC Iloilo 61-63
 OH Negros Occ. 65-67
 FL Surigao Sur 62-64
 IL Surgo City 01-03
 AK Mt. Province 75-77
 MA Davao del N. 73-74
 Kenya Davao City 82-84
 MA Mt. Province 63-65
 VA La Union 67-69

Harriet Mentos Kulis*
 David/Maureen R. Lang
 Peter J. Larson
 Jennifer Leinhauser
 Barbara Leitch LePoer
 Judith Lesner* (1)
 Michael P. Levitt Fund
 David Lieberman
 B. Link (1)
 Tom/Denise Lionetti
 Jay Litt*
 Leticia Morse Liadoc
 Denise Lofman
 James & Susan Lytle
 David MacDougall
 Waite Maclin
 Joyce Majewski
 Denis/Linda Maloney
 Dave Marcouiller
 Kathy H. D. Mario* (1)
 Desiree Marmita (8)
 Cathy Robb Marston
 Brian McCann
 David McKoski
 Sarah McMeans*
 Mike McQuestion (9)
 Ann Meehan (10)
 Joan Hansen Meehan
 Eric/Pamela Melby
 Jane Petrich Miller*
 Barbara A. Mitchell
 Harve A. Mogul
 Craig R. Morton
 Joyce Muellner Moses*
 Paul E. Nick
 Nancy Okler
 Mike Ollinger
 Phillip Olsen
 Rebecca Holt Palmer
 Kay Linder Parrish
 Anne Pearson
 Bill Peck*
 C. Wally & E. Penilla
 David Perrin
 Ron & Lilia Peters*
 Jim Peterson*
 Leslie Piotrowski
 Emmanuel/Susan Pons
 Herbert Probasco (11)
 Michael Purcell
 Bob "West" Purdy*
 Carol/Mark Radomski*
 Deborah G. Rector
 Dick Redmond
 Robert/Bev Reeves
 Alan Renninger
 George Ricketts
 Norman Ridker
 Rona Roberts
 Michael Rodell
 Paul Rodell
 Kathy H. Rohan (13)
 Karen W. Rohter
 Eudora K. Roseman
 Virginia Warr Rubin 12
 Gina Cochran Rusch*
 Ben & Kay Samuels
 Karen Long Santos
 Portia Smith Saul
 Mary Ann/Jim Scheirer
 Allen/Lilia Schlorff
 Brenda B.Schoonover
 Jesse Schubert*
 Charles Schwartz*
 David Seartes
 Judith A. Senecal

IN Negros Occ. 69-73
 MO Agusan et al. 02-04
 MD Misamis Occ. 62-64
 PA Palawan 95-97
 DC Benguet 64-66
 CA Ori. Mindoro 63-66
 CA Manila 73-75
 CA Leyte 2000-03
 CT Friend of PCAFPD
 MD Sorsogon etc. 76-79
 TX Aklan 69-71
 PA Leyte 64-66
 OR Benguet 95-97
 PA Manila 65-67
 NY Negros Ori. 80-82
 ME Staff 1986-1989
 MA Cebu 82-84
 NH 1975-1977 #89
 WI 1984-1986
 NY Zamboanga 64-66
 NY Leyte
 FL Cebu 64-66
 MA Benguet 83-85
 IL Zamboanga 85-87
 DC Cebu 62-64
 MD Capiz et al. 74-77
 IL Batangas 2000-02
 ME Cebu 64-66
 MD Iloilo 73-75
 MO Bohol 75-78
 PA Camarines S. 61-63
 FL Misamis Occ. 64-66
 FL Cebu 66-68
 VA Cotabato 62-64
 IL La Union 68-70
 CA Masbate 85-86
 DC Iloilo 82-84
 HI Cebu et al. 62-67
 CA Cebu 64-66
 MO Baguio City 66-68
 MA Mindoro Ori. 67-69
 GA Quezon/Rizal 63-65
 NC Friends of PCAFPD
 WA Isabella 78-81
 IL Sorsogon 61-63
 IL Zambales 76-78
 IL Negros Occ. 83-85
 PA Compostala 66-68
 CO Ilocos Sur 62-64
 MI Benguet 85-87
 NC Zamboanga 70-72
 MD Batanes 80-83
 CA Lanao Sur 64-66
 WA Antigue 64-66
 OR Cotabato 70-72
 HI Rizal 65-68
 IL Laguna 64-67
 CA Negros Occ. 61-63
 KY Camarines S. 73-75
 CT Basilan 62-64
 GA Zambales etc. 68-71
 MI Leyte 61-63
 HI Leyte 67-69
 PA Cagayan 68-70
 TN Ilocos N. 62-64
 NY Negros et al. 61-64
 FL Misamis Occ. 62-64
 CA 1961-1963
 CA Catanduanes 79-81
 NJ Iloilo et al. 63-66
 IN 1969-1974
 NC 1961-1963
 WA Camarines N. 01-03
 DC Manila 67-69
 KY Manila & DC 71-76
 OH 1980-1982

Tom & Clair Sharpless	CT	Masbate/Bicol etc. 61-63	William/Barbara Tucker	NJ	Lanao del Norte 62-64
Gerald Sheehan	OH	1964-1967	John F. Turner	VT	1967-1969
Eugene Sienkiewicz	Canada	Negros Oriental 79-81	Mary Michael Vanderford	MN	1969-1971
Bruce & Barbara Sims	MT	Nueva Ecija 73-76	Joe Veneklase	MI	Tarlac 80-82
Claire Horan Smith (13)	MD	Camarines Sur 61-63	T. Chad Walter*	DC	Metro Manila 78-82
Don Smith	IL	Leyte 61-63	Bill & Jay Warren* (5)	WA	Albay/Zamboanga 61-63
Michael K. Smith*	CA	Cebu 78-80	Larrie Warren	MD	1982-1984
Ann Snuggs*	DC	Negros Occidental 61-63	Pat Wernert	KY	Zamboanga 64-66
Jane Sommer	MA	Negros Occidental 64-66	Alan & Patricia White*	MA	Luzon 63-67
Karen Steele	NY	Lanao del Sur 65-67	Linda M. Wicks	NY	Albay 66-69
Hilary Stevens	DE	Leyte 01-03	Dave Wilder*	PA	Albay 83-87
Tim Stewart	SC	Antique 84-86	Shirley Scott Williams	TX	Ozamis City 65-67
Terry Sthymmel*	CA	Sorsogon 72-74	Anne Wilson* (13)	VT	Sorsogon/Manila 61-63
Charlotte H. Stoczek	NM	Sorsogon 61-63	David F. Winick	MN	Ilocos Norte 62-66
Melba Stockhausen*	WI	1963-1965	Ray Woods	KS	Negros Occidental 65-66
Milburn Stone	CT	South Cotabato 65-68	Evelyn Wrin (13)	DC	Camarines Sur 61-63
Stuart Taylor	MD	Albay 61-963	Deane Wylie* (13)	CA	Masbate/Albay 61-63
Ralph B. Thomas	CA	Negros Oriental 61-63	Rick Zemlin	CA	Davao del Sur 81-83
Susan Thompson	MN	Iloilo 61-63	Mildred Sabo Zika (1)	OH	Cavite 63-65
Ralph Thurston*	ME	Oriental Mindoro 83-85			

Ron & Lilia Peters Raise More Than \$7,000 with "No-Show" Birthday Party Invitation

Board Member Ron Peters and wife Lilia raised over \$7000 in response to an invitation to their friends and relatives for a "party" in celebration of Ron's 70th birthday. The message indicated that invitees did not have to hire baby sitters, get their hair done or shine their shoes. They could celebrate by supporting PCAFPD in Ron's honor. So far 103 of Ron's friends, relatives, and colleagues from Philippines Group 1 have contributed, and gifts are still arriving. Ron says, "I'm surprised and pleased that so many of the people I like and admire responded to this 'invitation'. This is the best birthday present ever, Lilia and I sincerely thank everyone who contributed. It is wonderful to have such generous and caring friends and family members." We are extremely grateful to Ron and his wife Lilia, who used a grand personal milestone to benefit PCAFPD scholars. Here's to many more, Ron! Contributions have been received from:

Lilibeth Agor, Urbana, IL	Regina Escoto, Jersey City, NJ	Emily Peters & Brad Bushue, Glen Ridge, NJ
Dr. Alicia Alcaraz, Champaign, IL	Dom & Lina Estipona, Chandler, AZ	Franklin Peters, Champaign, IL
Wally Allen, Tuscon, AZ	Ed & Dorrie Estipona, Gurnee, IL	Ron & Lilia Peters, Champaign, IL
Emery May Arce, Urbana, IL	Belden Fields & Jane Mohraz, Urbana, IL	Carol Pierce, Forestville, NY
Ronnie & Ligaya Avenida, Fairmont, CA	Mark & Leah Fina, Anchorage, AK	Elenor Pobre, Marshall, MN
Symantha & Timothy Aydt, Decatur, IL	Phyllis Flattery, Sunbury, OH	Ernesto & Anita Pullenza, Charlotte, SC
Vivian Azcona, Urbana, IL	Joette Flora, Columbia, SC	Dr. Estilita Quimosing, Pine Bluff, AR
Herman & Novie Azarcon, W. Covina, CA	Walt & Pat Franke, Henderson, NV	Carol Radomski, Silver Spring, MD
Nancy Barter, Honolulu, HI	Larry Fuchs, Canton, MA	Max Redmond, Champaign, IL
Eloisa Bayuga, Windsor, Ontario	Celerina Gale, Urbana, IL	Eugene Robinson, N. Tonawanda, NY
Junaluz Bedro, Champaign, IL	Alwyn & Niza Galela, Courtland, OH	Gina Rusch, New York, NY
Anrie Bing, Old Lyme, CT	Dr. Maximo & Ralyn Garcia, Westlake, OH	Elena Sampilo, Alhambra, CA
Dr. Carol Binnington, Urbana, IL	Dr. Jack & Grace Harkness, Minneapolis, MN	Rolando & Karen Long Santos, San Diego, CA
Cate Biro, Marion, IA	Eric & Marie Haussermann, Lowell, AR	Cameron & Helen Satterthwaite, Urbana, IL
Carol Brickner, San Diego, CA	Larry & Betty Howard, Pittsburgh, PA	Dr. Elwood Schmidt & Nancy Jeffers Schmidt, Reno, NV
Teresita Buenaflor, Houston, TX	Martha Allshouse Hull, Santa Clara, CA	Richard & Brenda Brown Schoonover, Chapel Hill, NC
Vernon Burton, Urbana, IL	Leticia Japlit, Chicago, IL	Paul & Vi Schroeder, Champaign, IL
Bruce Campbell, Milton-Freewater, OR	Mary L. Johnson, El Centro, CA	Tom & Clair Sharpless, W. Simsbury, CT
Edward & Mary Grace Capalla, Champaign, IL	Leonora Kimpiski, Houston, TX	Ann Snuggs, Washington, DC
Elinor Capehart, Richmond, VA	Wallace & Betty LaBerge, Urbana, IL	Bernardita Spoerlein, Fresno, CA
Josefina Carreon, Union City, CA	Leo & Thelma Lamera, Urbana, IL	Carrie Storrs, Pesotum, IL
Maureen Carroll, Washington, DC	Fe Cruz Langdon, Mountain View, CA	Harry & Pola Triandis, Urbana, IL
Dr. Alan & Anita Cohen, Clovis, CA	John & Vanita Lawler, Urbana, IL	Edwin & Alice Vernon, Oakwood, IL
Katheryn Conway, New York City, NY	Therese Leti, Urbana, IL	Bill & Sandy Volk, Urbana, IL
Fil & Andrea Cortez, Champaign, IL	Dr. Roberto & Terencia Limon, Oak Lawn, IL	Neil & Ginny VandeVord, Lansing, MI
Patria Cruz, Sunnyvale, CA	Jose & Linda Limcaoco, Stockton, CA	Aurora S. Villacorta, Champaign, IL
Pera & Margo Daniels, Reno, NV	Pacifico & Hideliza Magno, Champaign, IL	Bill & Jay Bill Warren, Spokane, WA
Carl & Yolanda Deal, Urbana, IL	Jane McCallister, Chicago, IL	Elizabeth Watts, Bay St. Louis, MS
Fe Demecillo, Urbana, IL	Sarah McMeans, Washington, DC	Morton & Cecelia Weir, Urbana, IL
Dr. Stan & Peg Deutsch, Bristow, VA	Steven & Harriet Naylor, St. Joseph, IL	Dr. David & Chris Whippo, Champaign, IL
Aurora Dimasuay, Windsor, Ontario	Philip Nicholas, Toronto, Ontario	Anne Wilson, Craftsburg, VT
Helen Elkiss, Deerfield Beach, FL	Barney & Jan Offerman, Charlotte, SC	Nancy Wilson, Forestville, NY
Cesar & Arlene Escalante, Athens, GA	Jose & Fe Pascual, Danville, IL	Adamson Diaz Wong, Bloomsburg, PA
Loida Escote-Carlson, Port Matilda, PA	Daisy & Teck Pee, Mclean, VA	Karen Dy Bunpin Yap, Champaign, IL
	Lea Ann Pelea, Bradenton, FL	John & Ma Luisa Zerolis, Chicago, IL

Notes from contributors**The class clown comes to New York**

Mike Rodell (Group VII, Basilan 62-64) writes from Connecticut:

For probably a dozen years after I got back from my glorious shift in the outback of Basilan Island in 1964, I provided scholarships for kids from my former school in Cabobo. I stopped when the principal retired and I no longer had a partner in picking the best and most deserving.

I also corresponded with quite a few of my students as they grew up, married and started their own lives. My favorite occurrence was when Jaime, the class clown of my fifth grade, called me out of the blue to say he was coming to New York and could we meet. We did, at a bar in mid-town, where Jaime showed up in a three piece suit and announced that he was working as an international banker, passing through on his way to Switzerland.

I think he was somewhat disappointed to greet his much more casually dressed former teacher and to learn that I was not making millions, but instead working for an organization building low and moderate income housing in Harlem. He never called again.

Anyway, I am enclosing my modest contribution toward your scholarship fund and am glad to know your organization exists.

PCAFPD 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, 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)

PCAFPD adds three to Board

At its annual meeting March 30, PCAFPD elected three new Board members. All three come with extensive relevant experience. Each has written an introduction to PCAFPD supporters:

☐ **David Brandt**, agricultural extension PCV in Bagac, Bataan, 1987-89. I am completing my 14th year of teaching in independent schools, currently at St. Andrew's Episcopal School in Potomac, Md., as a teacher of U.S. history and nonviolent resistance in the 20th century and as coach of cross-country. In the mid-1990s, I received a master's in history from the University of Maryland. I also worked for two years with the Office of the Election Officer for the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, a Justice Department watchdog group set up to monitor the elections procedures of the Teamsters. During that time, I served as an elections observer in Bosnia with Organization for Cooperation and Security in Europe. I am married to Heather Lair and have two children: Lydia, 5, and Wesley, 2. I am interested in traveling, history, writing, running and cycling.

☐ **William (Bill) Bright**, PCV assigned to Philippine Normal College in Manila, 1965-67. I was co-teacher in the science department and served together with my wife, Louvenia, who was assigned to the Philippine Normal College Lab-School and UP. In 1998, I was appointed associate Peace Corps director in Manila and from 2000 through 2003 I was country director. For 24 years I was professor of education administration of the College of Education at the University of Vermont. I was associate dean for nine years. I currently live in the Washington, D.C., area, consulting with D.C.-based international development organizations and education organizations. I was born and raised in Michigan, have a B.A. from Albion College and a master's and doctorate degrees from Wayne State University in Detroit. Louvenia and I have two grown children, William III and Rebecca Louvenia, who each have two children.

☐ **Mark Holt**, PCV in Tarlac, 1982-84. I have served on the Peace Corps staff in The Gambia, Western Samoa and the Cook Islands, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, and Kazakhstan. I currently serve as the chief of rural development and natural resources programs for the USDA/Foreign Agricultural Service. I'm happy to serve on the board and hoping to help expand support and participation from more RPCVs.

**Peace Corps Alumni Foundation
for Philippine Development
PO Box 10014
Arlington, VA 22210**