

# Balitaan

Newsletter 40  
P.O. Box 100114  
Arlington, VA 22210  
www.rpcvphilippines.org  
Spring 2005

## Board Members

**President:**

Maureen Carroll  
(Sorsogon 1961-63)

**VP Philippines:**

Roland de Jesus

**VP U.S./Webmaster:**

Carol Hammaker Radomski  
(Batanes 1980-83)

**VP Student Affairs:**

Barbara Abendschein  
(Negros Oriental 2001-03)

**VP Public Relations:**

Kamden Hoffman  
(Ifugao, 1998-2000)

**VP Communications:**

Erica Ruhl Zell  
(Leyte 1999-2000)

**VP Database Management:**

Sarah Wilkinson McMeans  
(Cebu 1962-64)

**Treasurer:**

Stuart Taylor  
(Albay 1961-63)

**Secretary:**

(Position Still Available)\*\*\*\*\*

**Board Members at Large:**

Ron Peters  
(Sorsogon 1961-63)  
Alex Romero

## Congratulations to our 2005 Scholar Graduates!!

RUBY ANN CABBIGAT  
Animal Science  
Nueva Vizcaya State Institute of  
Technology, Ifugao

VIVIAN ENHAYNES  
Secondary Education  
Saint Paul University System,  
San Nicolas Campus, Surigao City  
Surigao del Norte

LOLITO DAGODOG  
Industrial Engineering  
Foundation University  
Negros Oriental

FELJOY SALAS  
Elementary Education  
Leyte Normal University, Biliran

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2005 Scholar Graduate Feljoy Salas proudly displays her diploma.

# From Our Scholars

## **Vivian Enhaynes, Surigao Norte, Graduating Scholar, St. Paul University, Surigao City, Secondary Education**

*"I do not regret for choosing to be a teacher". This statement came into my mind after my practicum (Student Teaching) last semester. This was the last course requirement for us to accomplish to have actual experiences in the field of education.*

*In real-life schools, it is not that easy to become a teacher. There are some people who should have never charge of a classroom and there are others who seem to be perfect for the work. At the beginning, I met many difficulties considering the fact that, it was my first time handling sections in Computer subject. There was one time that I told to myself, "I can't do it!" because of the naughty students who kept on talking and transferring. Thanks to God, I was able to settle them. Likewise, there was also a time that I was discussing a certain topic but some of my students murmured that I was too fast. I knew much of my subject but I did not like it. Later on, I realized that a teacher must not only know his subject but it is essential that he like it. Because if a teacher likes his subject, he'll do everything to fulfill the pupil's longing to learn. He'll use his initiative to utilize different techniques to make pupils feel that learning is pleasure. It was really challenging since, I was adopting instructions to individual differences not only in intelligence but also in temperament, interest and physical traits. Knowing that individuals are not alike and that learning is an individual process, it is unjust to treat such individuals as though they were all alike. Each particular pupil is a distinct personality. No teacher can ignore the existence of individual differences because knowledge of the nature of individual differences is essential to improve the education that all children receive, regardless of their ability.*

*At this moment, I am excited waiting for our graduation day to come and anticipating what will be my life as a teacher someday since, teaching is absolutely a distinguished calling especially designed for those with genuine intention of making others acquire knowledge. In the words of Henry Adam, "**A teacher affects eternity; he can never tell where his influence stops.**"*

## **Romalyn Cagadas, Surigao, St. Paul University, Computer Engineering**

*Competing in the world of fastest growing technology is not just easy. Creativity and wide analysis must work together to come with a good idea. This is the reality of the course that I am taking right now. Ten years ago, I am just a little girl who had dreamed a lot of great things. A dream that makes me one of those professional person standing in front of the many and proposing a big project for in just a minute of my life. But for now, I couldn't just imagine that through the help of your foundation, my dreams would turn into realization.*

## **Eva Endaya, Sorsogon, STI, Manila, Computer Studies**

*Programming is a real thing which basically requires both logical and analytical thinking. Building-up those ability of thinking is hard to develop sometimes. . . . And until the 2nd semester of study in STI is over, I have the strong will and determination to continue pursuing the degree of Computer Science. And I want to extend my sincerest gratitude for those persons behind my accomplishments...I do hope that they will always be there to support me. To the staff of the PCAFPD and to you Sir Roland...thank you! You are the music to be my Inspiration...the music which will be the model of my new piece and the diagram of my achievements, beliefs and aims to make.*

## **Feljoy Salas, Graduating Scholar, Leyte Normal University, Biliran, Elementary Education**

*Looking to what I am now would not be possible without the great help behind of my PCAFPD family, to you sir for words of encouragement, the working staff in the foundation that serve us our supporters and most especially to the contributors for their open heart and unending support. In behalf of my family we would like to express and extend our heartfelt thanks and gratitude to the foundation.*

*I know I can't reach at this point right now without you my dear and beloved PCAFPD family if only my parents finance and support my studies but because of you sir and all the generous people linked in the foundation my dream comes in reality. Thank you very much! ....More power to one and All!*

# Board Selects Seventeen New Scholars

Scholarship applications are reviewed annually by the Board of Directors, following an initial review and ranking done by past graduated scholars coordinated by the Board's Philippines VP, Roland de Jesus. Selection criteria include academic performance, financial need, and desire to contribute to the development of the Philippines. The following new scholars were selected in 2005:

Ailyn Acosta, Palawan, Education, WPU-Puerto Princessa  
Geralene Badillo, Leyte, Leyte Normal University  
Catherine C. Berol, Surigao del Norte, Social Work, Mindanao State U.  
Zhamayn Calaoa, Mountain Province, BSC Mgmt, St. Louis U., Baguio  
Julyvie Calizo, Aklan, Physical Therapy, Manila Adventist  
Mercy Delfin, Batanes, Agriculture, Los Banos-UP

Christian Figueras, Sorsogon, Communication, Bicol U.  
Lenuel Jaudine, Negros Occ., Elementary Ed., Carlos Hidalgo  
John Paul Lagod, Zamboanga del Norte, Agronomy, Lanao  
Keen Landicho, Camarines Sur, BS Biology, UPManila  
Nazer Landicho, Camarines Sur, Engineering, UP Diliman  
Ailne Malolos, Palawan, Agribusiness, WPU-Puerto Princessa  
Ian Maque, Zamboanga Sibugay, Elementary Ed., Western Mindanao St.  
Grace Moleno, Negros Occidental, Literature, UP Diliman  
Ignacio Senara, Zamboanga, Secondary Ed., Western Mindanao St.  
Catherine Tumaob, Aklan, Accountancy, Garcia College Tech  
Jessie Ursal, Zamboanga Sib., Environmental Eng., W. Mindanao St.

## Philippine Fair and Parade

This year, the Foundation is kicking off a drive to expand its participation in Filipino activities in the Washington D.C. area. The first event is the 2005 Philippine Fair and Parade sponsored by the Philippine American Foundation For Charities, Inc. The parade is scheduled for June 5, 2005, along Pennsylvania Avenue, NW in Washington DC. This year's theme is Bayanihan (helping each other) and consists of activities from 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM, with the parade from 1:00 to 2:00. More information on the scheduled activities, such as the cultural programs, dances, and demonstrations can be found at the Philippine American Foundation's website, <http://www.pafc-inc.org/pfc.html>. PCAFPD plans to participate and plan events on a quarterly basis in the future.

## Foundation Priorities for this Year

The Foundation held its annual meeting in March at which upcoming priorities were established and Board positions up for re-election were decided. As listed on the front cover of this newsletter, all positions were filled except for Secretary, and a new VP Public Relations position was added. We continue to encourage Board membership from residents outside the D.C. area who can take on special projects and participate by email, phone, and possibly occasional visits. (If you're interested in being Secretary, please let us know- a great way to learn about the Foundation's workings.)

The priorities established for the coming year are expansion of RPCV involvement; revision of application process; program oversight and development visit to the Philippines; and broadening the financial support base. PCAFPD now supports more scholars in the Philippines than ever before, and we can be very proud of our accomplishments by an all-volunteer group. At the same time, in managing the scholarship program we

are met with many challenges including finding methods of recruitment that result in good scholarship candidates, effective monitoring and support of students (without increasing the burden on Roland and Manila staff), and developing scholar and alumni support networks. A field visit to the Philippines will enable us to get a first-hand look at how the Foundation operates and explore future directions.

Other ongoing activities will also continue, but the four listed above were selected as our major focus. To allow full focus on the program review and other activities, the Board decided that we will limit ourselves to 5 to 10 new scholarships for the upcoming year. Also, in keeping with our goal of supporting deserving students with demonstrated financial need, and ultimately working towards Philippine development, we will limit the scholarships to those who have not yet begun college and will not accept nursing students at this time.

# From the Field- A Current PCV

*The following is the first installment in a continuing column highlighting the experiences of current Philippines PCVs, in coordination with PC/Philippines. Daniel Bowman Simon is a PCV in the Business Advising for Youth Development Program. He is helping to brainstorm a sustainable solid waste management program for the municipality of Alburquerque, Bohol. He maintains a website with reflections on his experiences at [www.danielbowmansimon.com](http://www.danielbowmansimon.com). The following is a string of excerpts from Daniel's website, parts of two letters that he wrote and posted to Brian Eno of the Long Now Foundation ([www.longnow.org](http://www.longnow.org)). Note his website disclaimer: "This site is a personal account of my experiences, and does not reflect the viewpoint of the US Government, US Peace Corps, or George W. Bush. It's just what the voices in my head tell me. I promise."*



I arrived to the Philippines as a Peace Corps volunteer in late January [2004], two weeks prior to a corporate-sponsored, record-breaking 5,122 couples locking lips in unison. (They broke the record set less than a month earlier: 4,445 couples in Chile.) I believe the Philippines also holds the current record for world's

largest barbeque grill. I got to

thinking how pointless these records are. They have little to no intrinsic value and soon enough they'll be broken. Yet people love being record-breakers, and the media loves their feats.

It's taken me forever, but I've finally come up with an idea which may have some potential: "Break a Record for the Future." [Forget]...the mass makeouts and cookouts, let's shoot for the largest coastal mangrove reforestation, the most-bountiful compost harvest, the longest caravan of vegetable-oil-fueled vehicles. The competitive nature of people will inspire the records to be broken time and time again, which can only be a good thing.

.... I've decided I don't like my idea as much as you do. I liked my idea "Break a Record for the Future," initially. Just as you observed, it is immediately understandable. And if you truly beat on your head and wondered "why didn't I think of that," I'm flattered. So here's why you shouldn't have thought of my idea. The whole idea of record-breaking is based on quantity, not quality. Record breaking is not sustainable in the long now.

By the way, they were back at it... in the Philippines last February, striving for another most massive display of public display of affection world record. They failed miserably, but

with corporate sponsorship by Unilever on behalf of their toothpaste brand, Closeup, they are plenty happy to be "building a tradition." Unilever purports that "millions fell in love for the second time," while watching the televised Loveapalooza....

Similar maladies may occur whilst breaking a record for the future. Quantity could very well outdo quality. The examples I gave you were largest coastal mangrove reforestation and the most-bountiful compost harvest. A million mangrove reforestation could flop hard. Instead of supplying a few thousand high-quality propagules of an array of species, in order to nurture a robust forest, organizers who aim for a new record might blow the wad on a million... mono-culture propagules. And I've heard far too much about pesticide-laden fruit peels doing a number on a compost pit. (Think Paul Hawken) So what long-term benefits would these efforts offer? There doesn't seem to be a way to ensure quantity and quality will work in symbiosis.

...Another sort of backfire is the real risk of driving up consumption. I am trying to promote less wasteful, more responsible trash behavior where I live. However, the place is already turning into a huge trash pit, and most people already feel helpless to make the beautiful place clean again.

I know I must start small, so I collect bottle caps. Just as you can't walk five meters in Tokyo without encountering a Louis Vutton handbag, you can't walk the same distance here without stepping on a bottle cap. I go around to all the sari-sari stores and ask them to save their bottle caps, instead of sweeping them outside. In doing so, they keep the area cleaner, and I hope they are starting to get the hang of separating different kinds of trash. When I bend down to pick up a bottle cap on the road, a child invariably bends down with me. The kids then too are getting into cleaning up. They also learn to remove potential breeding grounds for mosquitoes, and think about art projects they might be able to do once school is back in session. I've thought about having a contest for most bottle caps recovered. I've thought about attempting to establish the Guinness record for most bottle caps ever recovered. I'm sure we could have the place bottle-cap-free within weeks. But would it be worth it?

One way to be responsible about waste is to generate less of it. Surely, a record attempt of this sort would drive up consumption, in order to collect more trash. Living in the country that already drinks more half the soft-drinks on the entire continent, I'm pretty sure that's already too much. A liter of coke costs the equivalent to an hour or more of typical wage, and the diabetes rate is spiraling. ... We as a people must slow down and stop trying to break records if we are ever to settle into the long now.

## CCONTRIBUTORS SINCE LAST NEWSLETTER WENT TO PRESS

We thank those listed below whose contributions to PCAFPD were received after the Fall 2004 newsletter went to press; i.e. between October 27, 2004 and April 15, 2005. The Foundation receives \$15 in your name if you check Philippines on the membership/renewal application of the National Peace Corps Association (NPCA). The following includes those for whom PCAFPD received rebates from NPCA during the last year. Numbered contributions are made in honor of or memory of: (1) Maureen Carroll Scholarship; (2) Paul Lampert; (3) Doug Watts; (4) Roger Flather; (5) Soledad Tejada Scholarship; (6) Carol Valentine (Philippines II); and (7) The Craftsbury Ladies Union, Craftsbury, VT (this group sent contribution to PCAFPD when Ann Wilson spoke to the group). Information about the place and years of service is provided by contributors; NPCA database does not show province.

Miriam Aiken	VA	Misamis Occidental 65-67	Dennis & Carol Ann Detlef	VA	Leyte 64-66
Nancy Foral Andal	PA	1962-1964	Patrick B. Durst		Thailand Bohol 78-80
Charles & Evelyn Alexander	VA	Davao/Cebu 73-75	Herb Elliott	FL	
Wally Allen (1)	AZ	Camarines Sur 61-63	Frieda Fairburn	NY	1995-1997
Richard & Heather Ames	NH	Negros Occidental 68-70	Karl J. Federspiel	OH	Mountain Province 97-99
Jeff Amundsen	MN	Negros Occidental 83-85	Lloyd J. Feinberg	VA	Laguna 65-68
Sara M. Armstrong	ME	1996-1998	John & Mary Finegan	CA	1979-1981
Lauren Arnold	CO	1987-1988	Karel A Fisher	DC	Cotabato 62-64
Ferrari M Atkinson	GA	Manila 62-64 Group 5	Craig W. Fitch	MT	1994-1997
Dave Baden	MN	Benguet 89-90	David W. Flaccus	NY	Bohol 65-68
Marjorie Bakken	MA	Zamboanga/Negros 61-63	Greg M. Flakus	TX	1973-1975
Dirk Ballendorf	GU	Zamboanga 61-63	Josh Fliegel	WA	Romblon 84-86
Patricia Banogon	CA	Negro Oriental 66-69	Daryt & Mina Frank	CA	Isabela 84-87
Richard Barber	CO	Surigao del Sur 82-84	Carol Freeman	MN	Aklan 65-67
Sally E. Baringer	MN	Cagayan 97-99	Kate French	MN	Romblon 83085
Teddi Barron	IA	Sorsogon 77-79	Jerry Fruetel	MN	Mindanao 77-79
Havard S. Bauer	OR	1990	Larry Fuchs	MA	Manila (Director) 61-63
Jane Bensinger	DE	1985-1987	Sunshine Gibbs	CA	Leyte 61-63
Yvette G. Berkman	NY	Capiz/Panay 1990	Ronald Gratz	MI	Camarines Sur 68-70
Linda Cover Bigelow	France	Iloilo 61-63	Bill Grifenhagen	NC	Metro Manila 67-69
Sylvia J. Boecker	VA	Aklan 61-63	George Grills	Canada	Baguio 63-65
Kenneth Bollerud	NY	Misamis Oriental 63-6	Stephen Growdon	WA	Aklan 83-85
Emery & Annie Bontrager	CA	Camarines Norte 61-63	Dan & Ana Gudahl	AR	Aklan 81-84
Ruth Boone	KY	Capiz 62-64	Mary L. Guerrero	MN	1966-1996
Parker Borg	VA	Camarines Norte 61-63	Steven D. Hall	IL	Ilocos Sur 82-84
Anthony J. Brancato	NJ	Bulacan 66-69	Justine Hamilton	NY	Camarines Norte 99-01
Morton Braunstein	OH	Misamis Occidental 66-68	Marla Handy	WI	1979-1981 Group 148
Patrick M. Brennan	MI	Negros Occidental 61-63	Jeff & Jennifer Heilman	OR	Romblon 83-86
Marilyn Lathrop Brown	MO	Lanao del Norte 62-64	Sharla & Robert Hellie	MD	1973-1975
Charles D. Burtner	AZ	Cagayan 65-67	Jerry Hembd	WI	Legaspi City/Albay 73-75
Chris Cabell	VA	1966-1968	John Evan Hendrix	AR	
Gerard Capozzalo	NJ	Davao del Sur 66-68	James & Portia Henle	MA	Benguet 68-70
Maureen J. Carroll	DC	Sorogon 61-63	Joe Higdon & Ellen Sudow	DC	Cotabato 62-64
Rosemary & Robert Carter	MA	Iloilo 63-64	Judy Swigost Hill	FL	Iloilo 64-66
Bruce Casey	SD		Deb Hoagland	NM	Bohol 83-85
Patty (Gerken) Charles	NV	Cebu 74-76	Calvin & Nita Holt	VA	Cavite 68-71
Donald Chauls	MA	Bohol 62-64	Mark Holt	DC	Tarlac 82-84
Linda Miller Clark	NJ	1964-1966	Dr. Richard Holzman	MA	Capiz 61-63
Kathryn Judy Conway	NY	Negros Occidental 61-63	Connie C. Hughes	PA	Zamboanga del Norte 67-69
Helen R. Cooper	MA	Leyte 81-83	Martha Allshouse Hull	CA	Masbate/Lanao/Albay 61-63
John & Helen Cort	MA	Manila 62-64	Loisann Jacovitz	CA	1972-1974 Group 52
Susan R. Cort	NM	Biliran/Leyte 80-83	Steve Jasper	IN	Agusan 67-69
Peter Crumlish	ME	1996-1998	Jeff Jenks	MI	Davao del Sur 62-64
Carol Bradley Cukier	MI	Laguna 68-70	Pat Johnson	IA	Camarines Sur 61-63
Jonathan & Evelyn Curtis	TX	Leyte 63-65	Joyce E. Johnston	Canada	1965-1967
Pera & Margo Daniels	NV	Samar/Camarines 61-63	Joanne Jorz	VA	Pangasinon/Manila 65-68
Tom & Ada DeCourcy	HI	Catanduanes 65-70	Raj Joshi	WA	Bukidnon 82-84
Richard Dertadian	FL	Camarines Norte 61-63	Richard E. Joyce	MI	1962-1964
			Michael A. Kaplan	SC	Gingog City 66-68

Ralph Kempheus	OH	Negros Occidental 65-67	Carol & Mark Radomski	MD	Batanes 80-84 (Carol)
Margot Chamberlain Kia	DE	Zambales 66-69	Dick Redmond	WA	Antique 64-66
Mark & Mirasol Kittrell	IL	Surigao Ciity 01-03	Bob & Bev Reeves	OR	Mindanao 70-72
Sondra G. Klein	NC	Camarines Sur 61-63	Leslie Ann Reingold	CO	Iloilo 64-66
Anna Whitcomb Knight	MA	Davao del Norte 73-74	Alan Renninger	CA	Rizal 65-68
Lon Kramer	VA	La Union 67-69	Norman L. Ridker	CA	1961-1963
Harriet Kulis	IN	1969-1973	Rona Roberts	KY	Camarines Sur 73-75 Gr. 67
Evangelina Lara	CA	(worked w/ PCVs in 1972)	David Robichaud	SC	1981-1984
Judith Lesner	CA	Oriental Mindoro 63-66	Alan Robock	NJ	Zamboanga/Manila 70-72
Kirk Leswing	VA	Manila 77-80	Michael & Betchie Robotham	HI	1988-1990
Hon. Stephen M. Limon	MA	Batangas 68-70	Paul A. Rodell (5)	GA	Zambales/Manila 68-71
Jim Lingle	AR	1970-1972	Allen Rothenberg	MD	Manila (Staff) 66-71
Jay Litt	TX	Aklan 69-71	Karen Olness Rudio	MA	Pangasinan 83-85
Thomas Lo	NY	Manticao/Mindanao 77-79	Jill Ruhlman	GA	Luzon 66-68
Nancy M. Lovelace	NC	1962-1964	Allen & Lilia Schlorff	IN	1969-1974
James & Susan Lytle	PA	1965-1967	Karin Schumacher	CO	Cebu City 68-70
C. Waite Maclin	ME	Manila (Training Staff) 86-89	Charles F. Schwartz	DC	Manila 67-69
Judith & Rich Main	WI	Negros Occidental 68-70	John D. Seidensticker	TX	Negros Occidental 61-63
Alan Mair	HI	Romblon 98-01	J. Gerard Sheehan	OH	1964-1967
Gerald Malovany	VA	La Union 62-63	Bruce & Barbara Sims	MT	Nueva Ecija Group 69
Kathy Hodge Dries Mario	NY	Zamboanga/Cagayan 64-66	Rachel Singer	NY	Batangas 63-65
Desiree Marmita (2)	NY	(in memory of Paul Lampert)	Ed & Jan Slevin	CA	Staff Manila 84-88
Carole A. Mathews	MA	1966-1968	Claire Horan Smith	MD	Camarines Sur 61-63
Mary Christine McCarthy	OH	Sorsogon 80-82	Michael K. Smith	CA	Cebu 78-80
Michael McDaniel	CA	Batangas/Bagio 77-79	Ann Snuggs	DC	Negros Occidental 61-63
Raymond T. McEachern	FL	Camarines Norte 61-63	Nancy R. Sohner	OH	1966-1968
David McKoski	IL	Zamboanga del Sur 85-87	Chris & Elizabeth R. Songalia	MN	Leyte 96-98
Sarah Wilkinson McMeans		DC Cebu 62-64	Gary F. Stein	FL	Quirino 79-81
Constance McPherson	OH	Mindanao 62-64	Hilary Stevens	ME	Leyte 01-03
Eric & Pamela Melby	MD	Iloilo 73-75	Terry Sthymmel	CA	Sorsogon 72-75
Chris & Dr. Aurora Miller	CT	Benguet 1987	Melba Stockhausen	WI	1971-1975
Jane E. Miller	MO	Bohol 75-79	Milburn Stone	CT	South Cotabato 65-68
Barbara Thayer Monaghan	MA	Davao Del Norte Group XIX	Stuart Taylor	MD	Albay 61-63
Loretta Moser	CA	Luzon 01-02	Rey & Susan Tejada	MD	Manila 68-70 (Susan)
Joyce Mary Moses	VA	Cotabato 62-64	Ralph B. Thomas	CA	Negros Oriental 61-63
Lue Muldoon	WI	Carmarines Norte 89-90	Susan Thompson (6)	MN	Iloilo 61-63
Harold & Linda Murai	CA	Romblon 66-69	Ralph Thurston	ME	Oriental Mindoro 83-85 Gr.197
Iris & Jerry Nelson	CA	Manila (Staff) 71-78	Pat Toalson	MA	Iloilo/Cebu 61-64
Marilyn Nessari-Brown	MO	1962-1964	Andy Tracy	VA	Ilocos Norte 65-68
Chris & Glenda Newhall	WA	Albay 70-76	Marie Tymrak & John H. Kelly	AZ	Bicol 70-72
Susan Neyer	CA	1962-1965	Mary E. Vanderford	MN	1969-1971
Paul E. Nick	IL	1968-1970	Joe Veneklase	MI	Tarlac 80-82
Mariette E. Norbom	VA	Surigao del Norte 79-81	Donna Thomas Verschueren	NH	Agusan Norte 69-71
Marcie LaFair Obstfeld	CA	Iloilo 80-82	Thea Vierling	CA	1965-1967
Jerry Ogawa	TN	Manila 70-74	Nancy J. Walker	PA	1977-1981
Rebecca Palmer-Holt	CA	Cebu 64-66	Melissa J. Walkup	DC	Surigao del Norte 99-01
Robert C. Parke	MA	Zamboanga City 68-70	Ann Lee Walter	MN	Cebu 70-72
Larry Parker	VA	Camarines Sur 78-81	T. Chad Walter	DC	Metro Manila 78-82
Judythe Patberg	OH	Laguna 70-72	Bill & Jay Warren	NH	Albay/Zamboanga 61-63
Ron & Lilia Peters (3)	IL	Sorsogon 61-63	Kenneth A. Weaver	KS	1973-1975
Lynda Johnson Philipp	CA	1962-1964 Group 8	Dr. Linda Wicks	NY	Albay 66-69
Emmanuel & Susan Pons	PA	Davao del Norte 66-68	Dave Wilder	PA	Albay 83-87
Jerry Poznak	MA	Zamboanga 61-63	Ann Wilson (7)	VT	Sorsogon & Manila 61-63
Herbert A. Probasco (4)	CO	Ilocos Sur 62-64	David F. Winick	MN	Ilocos Norte 62-66 Group VIII
Michael J. Purcell	MI	Benguet 85-87	Michael B. Wood	MO	Manila (Staff) 67-70
Robert V. Purdy (West)	NC	Zambales del Norte 70-72	Raymond Woods	KS	Negro Occidental 65-66
Jon Quinlisk	WV	Ilocos Norte 98-00	Rick Zemlin	DC	1981-1983
Barbara Walsh Rabin	NY	1964-1966 Group 13			

# Discovering a Rich Lode of Filipino-American Literature...

Pride in Filipino-American published works was the theme of the Heritage program, sponsored by the Philippine Embassy to observe Filipino-American month last October. With the assistance of Our Own Voice (a literary magazine on the internet ([www.oovrag.com](http://www.oovrag.com)) and the Philippine Cultural Society of George Washington University, the Embassy hosted a book fair on Saturday, October 16, 2004. About 30 Filipino and Filipino-American authors participated in panel discussions, book readings, book exhibits, and cultural performances. Lara Saguisag, Luisa Igloria, Paolo Javier, Carlene Sobrino Bonriver, Jon Pineda, Natasha Vizcarra, Almira Astudillo Gilles, Gina Apostol, Lara Stapleton, and Rod Garcia were among the authors of fiction, non-fiction, children's books, and poetry. Reme Grefalda of Our Own Voice was an organizer, mistress of ceremonies, and cheerleader for the writers and their books. On Friday evening, the 15th, the Embassy hosted a reception in honor of the event, which was keynoted by Bino A. Realuyo, author of the award-winning novel *The Umbrella Country*.

PCAFPD joined in the celebration as a co-sponsor, promoting news about it to local supporters of the Foundation and pitching in on Saturday to coordinate and moderate events. We have mentioned the names of many of the writers so that you can have a starting point for seeking out their works. One good source would be the Philippines Expressions Bookshop, which arranged for the exhibit and sale of many of the books at the Fair. The owner of the Bookshop, which calls itself "The Mail Order Bookshop dedicated to Filipino Americans in search of their roots," is Linda Marie Nietes, 2114 Trudie Drive, Rancho Palos Verde, CA 90275-20006. Voice Mail: 310-514-9139. I also found a website [www.palhbooks.com](http://www.palhbooks.com) (Philippine-American Literary House) from which you can order books. With 2.5 million Filipinos now living in the United States, and with our own experiences transitioning between Filipino and American cultures, this genre of literature should be of interest to all of us.

## Pilot Mentoring Program Kick-Off

PCAFPD has initiated the first ever mentoring program for scholars, the Kagiya Program. Kagiya means "one who gives advice." The purpose of the program is to provide continuing support and encouragement for current scholars as they pursue their college education, and is created through a one-on-one match between current scholars and either a PCAFPD supporter in the U.S., a current U.S. Peace Corps Volunteer in the Philippines, or a graduated PCAFPD scholar in the Philippines. It is initially being piloted among 13 scholars throughout the Philippines.

The mentors have been chosen based on academic interest and compatibility among the scholars. Each scholar and respective mentor is given a packet which includes a certificate of membership and an ID card with contact and other relevant information on both the scholar and the mentor. In addition, each scholar receives a small stipend to pay for correspondence, whether through email, text messaging, or posted mail. Guidelines have been issued for both the



scholars and the mentors to ensure a healthy relationship between the matches.

PCAFPD will regularly monitor the progress of the program to address questions, concerns, or suggestions about the program and scholar/mentor communications. PCAFPD plans to scale the Kagiya Program up after the first year based on the results of the pilot phase. For more information, please email us at [connections@rpcvphilippines.org](mailto:connections@rpcvphilippines.org).

### Keep in touch with anyone else in your group? Know any Filipinos in your community?

As wonderful a group of supporters as we have, our newsletter mailing list only captures about 4% of Philippines RPCVs. We'd appreciate your efforts to contact RPCV friends or other Filipinos in your community and find out if they are on our mailing list. You can provide new names and addresses either on your contribution envelope, or on our website, [www.rpcvphilippines.org](http://www.rpcvphilippines.org) (click on Contact Us). We don't share our mailing list, and you'll only receive 2 newsletters per year. We especially have a large gap in our mailing list for volunteers from the 70s, and recently returned volunteers (or those still acting like they're recently returned) who tend to move around a lot. Maraming salamat!

## Perspectives from a Long-Time Foundation Supporter

*Sylvia Boecker is a long-time Foundation Supporter who works in the Washington, D.C. area as an immigration lawyer specializing in bringing over nurses and other healthcare workers from the Philippines. The following interview was conducted by Erica Zell.*

*When and where did you serve in the Peace Corps? In what program?*

I was in Philippines, Group 2 (1961 to 1963), stationed in Ibaday, Aklan, Philippines. I helped teach primary school English and science in several barrios and taught high school Spanish at Ibaday Academy. My Peace Corps roommates also taught at Ibaday Academy, a private school. When Peace Corps headquarters got wind of our teaching, we were asked not to teach in a private school. Being so far from anywhere, we took the chance and just kept right on teaching. One friend, an engineer from Ibaday who has lived in Hawaii for many years, said recently, "Peace Corps was the best thing that ever happened in Ibaday." (And he had studied at the other private high school where we did not teach!)



**Sylvia Boecker and her husband Michael Jackson.**

*What are some of your lasting impressions from your Peace Corps service?*

I have returned to the Philippines and to Ibaday seven times since I left. There were lots of tears when I left in 1963 and I promised I would return. I was told, "Americans are people who never return." [After World War II, the servicemen who were there did not return.] So five years later when I returned, they changed their minds and there were no more tears at departure. The lasting impressions are so many that there is not a day that goes by without my thoughts returning to the Philippines and friends there. Those two years made a tremendous impact on my life.

*How long have you been a supporter of PCAFPD?*

I cannot remember how long I have been supporting PCAFPD. I tried supporting scholars in the Philippines by myself but did not have good luck so I decided to encourage PCAFPD in its support and sponsor of scholars.

*Why have you chosen to support PCAFPD?*

PCAFPD can recruit and decide who will receive a scholarship and in addition there are folks there who can counsel the students and be there when things get tough for them. The support that PCAFPD can give is what makes the difference. Some students may not need much encouragement but there are always those who do. And PCAFPD can make the difference. I think all involved with PCAFPD are to be commended for their work both in the U.S.A. and in the Philippines. The students are truly honored to be PEACE CORPS SCHOLARS. I am indebted to those on the staff who do all the work to make PCAFPD a success.



# Reflections from a Recent Philippines Visit

In March of this year, my wife Lilia and I visited the Philippines on personal business. Because of our association with PCAFPD, we were able to make some time available to do a bit of Foundation business. The Board asked us to look into the possibility of finding someone who might help organize PCAFPD former scholars into an “alumni association.” Such an organization would be in keeping with the interests of the graduates as expressed in a recent follow-up survey, and might be of assistance in mentoring current scholars through their undergraduate studies. Our VP of Philippines Operations, Roland de Jesus, has already paired some graduates with current scholars in hopes of building some mentoring relationships, and a pilot mentoring program was recently initiated.

Roland arranged for us to have lunch with two graduate scholars and one current scholar. One graduate scholar is teaching at a private high school, and the other is in graduate study at Los Banos. The current scholar is also at Los Banos. These informal relationships seem to be working, but Roland has only been able to establish them in the Greater Manila area. An alumni association could advance mentoring relationships throughout the Philippines. We contacted several individuals in key organizations who might be able to assist the Foundation achieve this goal. When other members of the Board visit the Philippines this year, they will be able to follow up with our contacts and meet with others who can help in this special project. While in the Philip-

pines, Lilia and I met one other current scholar in Gubat, Sorsogon; she is studying computer science at Sorsogon Institute of Technology.

We also visited Bill Benjamin, Peace Corps Country Director, who told us that currently there are 105 volunteers in the Philippines. They are working in five projects that include natural resource conservation, solid waste clean-up and recycling, formal and non-formal education at abused women and children’s centers, and a small scale entrepreneurship project. Bill, a really personable fellow, is very enthusiastic about PCAFPD and seemed pleased to receive visiting Philippine RPCVs.

I came away with the feeling that the Foundation is doing some great things. Roland is doing a superb job in keeping the Foundation’s Philippines operation running smoothly. The scholars we met are bright, well motivated young people. I wish that all the Foundation’s supporters could have had the opportunity to meet these fine kids. I came home convinced that the Foundation’s work is making a lasting impact on the Philippines. If any of you is traveling to the Philippines and wants to meet any of the scholars, I’m sure Roland would be happy to facilitate a meeting. Let PCAPD know by emailing [board@rpcvphilippines.org](mailto:board@rpcvphilippines.org) and we’ll see if it can be arranged.

*Article written by Ron Peters, current Board Member.*

## Supporter Envelope Notes

Kathy Hodge Dries Mario (Zamboanga & Cagayan, 64-44) writes: *Pete Marinillo- I'm trying to find your address so I can send you your Ang Boluntaryos.*

John D. Seidensticker (Negros Occidental, 61-63) writes: *I teach Social Studies at a Christian School in Dickinson, Texas. I keep up with Pat Rowe and Pat Brennan.*

Waite Maclin (Training Officer, PC/Philippines, 86-89) writes: *Dr. Nancy Geger, Training Officer for PC/Philippines, 1983-1986 died suddenly Thanksgiving Day of this year (2004). Nancy was a mentor and inspiration*

*to so many. She helped to develop the training program into one of the premier trainings throughout Peace Corps. We will all miss her so much.*

Evangelina Lara asks for the following folks that she worked with in Manila in 1972 to contact her at 310-577-9123: Clark Howland, Kris Sowolla, Jack Smith.

Karl Federspiel (Mountain Province, 97-99) writes: *My wife Irene and I are proud to announce the birth of our first child- Kasandra Iris Federspiel, who was born on 9/1/04. We've relocated to Athens, OH, where I'm working on my Ph.D. in Southeast Asian Studies at Ohio University.*

## Filipino Exchange Students Get a Taste of U.S High School Life

Carla Dela Cruz and Mahid Macadato, high school exchange students from the Philippines, perform a traditional Filipino dance (see right). Carla (from Catanduanes) and Mahid (from Lanao del Sur) are participating in an exchange program through PAX, Program of Academic Exchange. PCAFPD board member, Carol Radomski, works with the students and their host families in Maryland. The program is sponsored by the U.S. State Department as a way to increase cross-cultural understanding with countries that have large Muslim populations. Mahid and his host family (who are Jewish) have enjoyed sharing religious traditions and holidays. Mahid has been active in the school play and with the International Club. He says, "I'm still asking guidance from almighty ALLAH that my exchange year would be a meaningful and an unforgettable one...this opportunity will educate me more about world happenings as I play the role of being an "Ambassador of Good will" of my country." Carla, who uses a wheelchair, has been an active Girl Scout, throws shot put on the school athletic team, and has a part in the school musical. Carla often participates in community service activities and says, "Wow, I didn't realize that doing community service would make me happy. I love helping other people." She also says that her life is "more wonderful and colorful because of my new friends." For more information about the program, visit [www.pax.org](http://www.pax.org).



## Bicolana in Need of Kidney Transplant

Sonia (Lorena) Valentine, originally of Daraga, Albay, is in need of a kidney transplant. Sonia is the wife of Bill Valentine, who was a Peace Corps volunteer in Legazpi from 1968 to 1970. Bill and Sonia are both educators. Sonia was the headmistress of a private school in the Boston area until recently, when she had to leave due to illness. Sonia and Bill live at 269 Highland St., Dedham, Massachusetts 02026. Here is a message from Sonia: I am in need of a kidney transplant! Would you consider being a donor? Your kindness will help me live and continue to enjoy the beauty and radiance on this earth. To be a donor, any blood type is acceptable. Ideally, a donor would have B+ or O blood type, age 18-65 years, and be healthy; no history of cancer, hepatitis, diabetes, kidney stones, high blood pressure, and/or obesity. The surgery is laparoscopic. Hospital stay is three days and full recovery within three-four weeks. Kidney donors are able to lead a normal, active life after recovery. For questions please contact my transplant coordinator at Brigham and Women's Hospital: Julie Halloran, (617) 732-6866.

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