

Balitaan

Newsletter 39
P.O. Box 126
Arlington, VA 22210
www.rpcvphilippines.org

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Next Board Elections:

February 2005

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New Scholars Selected in Spring 2004



RYAN ALCIBOR

Civil Engineering, 2008

University of Nueva Caceres, Camarines Sur



BRIGIDA BALDINO

School and major currently in transition

Benguet



LOLITO DAGODOG

Industrial Engineering, 2008

Foundation University, Negros Oriental



EVA ENDAYA

Computer Science, 2008

STI, Sorsogon

scholars continue on page 2...

Post Office Error

The US Postal Service erroneously “blocked” our mailbox in June/July of this year... We have corrected the problem (sort of)... Please resend any correspondence and see story on back page.

New Spring 2004 Scholars (cont.)



ARWIN ESPERANZATE
Geothermal Engineering, 2008
Bicol University, Sorsogon



SIVEL SARMIENTO
Applied Physics, 2008
UP Los Banos, Sorsogon



JEANALYN ESTRELLADO
Maureen Carroll Scholarship
Computer Technology, 2007
Central Visayas Polytechnic



SOL TRAPAL
Education, 2008
Romblon State College, Romblon



JEAN LACOSTALES
Rural Development, 2008
Western Philippines U., Palawan



MARVIN VECINAL
Marketing/Retail Mgmt, 2006
University of Makati, Metro Manila



FLORINDA CABELITAS
Elementary Education, 2008
Leyte Normal University, Leyte



JOHN PACUNO
Law, 2009
Manuel Luis Quezon U., Batanes



ROBERT SAGAPEN
Secondary Education, 2007
State Polytechnic College, Mountain Province

From A Recent Graduate.... Rico Ancog, Environmental Science, Bohol, 2004

I have observed that much of the so-called developments of my own place have been on the physical aspect. Wrapped up with the idea of this so-called modernization, development has pejoratively defined as access to a lifestyle of quick and easier convenient living. For sure, we need these facilities and establishments to assist our daily activities of daily living, as deserving recipients of the fruits of our researches and technologies. However, I wanted to see a perspective beyond the shadows of these mammoth infrastructures. I wanted to experience my place being developed not just only to "reasonably satisfy" the material wants of my people. Really, not just on this aspect. It is my own opinion that development is clearly based on the ability of the people to reflect of who they are to bring out the best and on our capacity to perceive and ponder effectively on our past to be able to shape our future. It is important that every individual, no matter how we personally decipher the meaning of development in the course of time, we may meet into some commonality that each and every one of us must be personally empowered... Education is the answer...PCAFPD never fails of working hand in hand for the realization of the dreams of the youth, making them responsible, making them the best of who we are. Yes, education working at its best!

From Our Scholars

Edwin Winston A. Valientes, Anthropology Major at UP Diliman (Batanes), expects to graduate in 2006.

I want to share with you my convictions why I joined the UP Anthropology Society, an academic organization here in our school . . . it is one way for me to engage myself in activities outside the whitewashed walls of the classroom. Besides, I do believe I have a lot of things to contribute in advancing the goals of the organization especially in its continuous fight for the rights of the indigenous people here in our country.

These IPs are continually experiencing repression and marginalization from the lowland people, multinational companies who do business and self-serving projects in their ancestral lands, and of course but needless to say, the national government itself. They are just like the rest of the Filipinos who also deserve to live the way they want to live their lives. Respect and recognition that they are here, a part of the Filipino nation, is what they want from us. . . .

Their culture is a product of thousands of years of mutually living with their environment. It is utterly unfair to let their final fate depend in the hands of politicians who have the least compassion for these people and are ready to 'sell' them in the name of 'progress'. It is time for the IPs to exercise their right to self-determination. I feel obliged to speak for them as an Anthropology student. Beginning at the campus especially here in UP is not so bad a start towards this endeavor.

Alfredo Fortu, Jr. (Romblon), Agricultural Engineering major at Romblon State College, expects to graduate in 2006. Truly . . . God is good all the time.

Despite... war... the Foundation is ongoing supporting the Filipino through its scholarship program. Another year of my life has gone by . . . I can't verbally express my gratitude to the Foundation. You are part of my life and my perseverance in pursuing my chosen course. I'm hoping God will bless you all. More power to the Foundation.

Jowe Tanio (Catanduanes), Soledad Tejada Scholarship, Secondary Education major at Catanduanes State College, expects to graduate in 2005. Because I am an English major, I was often asked by my professors to render a report by which I am to speak English fluently. I felt nervous, for every word I speak she asks me to stop and repeat after her. Then my classmates begin to laugh at me. But I did not give up. Rather I tried my best in my speech class and showed my classmates I am different. So when our speech professor told us to present a speech during the finals, I did not look for any piece to be presented. I made my own speech and they were amazed. In fact, I was the only one who did it.

Felijoy Salas (Bilarin), Secondary Education major at Leyte Normal University College, expects to graduate in 2005. (As I) near graduation, I am extending my heartfelt thanks and gratitude to you sir (Roland) and the staff who are working now in the Foundation, to the contributors and to all the PCAFDP family for your endless and continuing support and generosity.

Jeanalyn Estreallado, Maureen Carroll Scholarship, Computer Technology at Central Visayas Polytechnic, expects to graduate in 2007. I have learned a lot about electronics for it is one of the very important things that a technician should have. Fundamentals of electricity and electronics subject make me learn the basic principles in alternating and direct current. I have studied and visualized the flow of current and voltage in every junction of a circuit. This information that I acquired is very useful to me as a computer technician in the future... Ethical behavior is really an important one in every human being. In our work ethic class, we are trained to have ethical industrial values as a computer technician in the future. Integrity, honesty, respect, cooperation, tolerance and other ethical are significant.

Aside from those progresses, I also have the Business Correspondence Class which teaches me the terms and the written communication in buying and selling. We are encouraged to learn and apply the rules and characteristics of effective business correspondents if ever we are already working someday. During the semester, I was appointed secretary of Crusader Youth Christian Ministry. It is an organization in the university that exists to reach out students for Christ, connect them with other Christians and train them for spiritual development and service. I'm also a historian of the Youth Builders-Habitat for Humanity Campus Chapter... Those experiences in my education are very helpful to me, for my fellow Filipino youth and to my beloved country. For all the knowledge I am having now, I owe to all Peace Corps volunteer who made my education possible... Even though, I have not yet seen anyone from the foundation. You are closed to my heart and I prayed for more blessing in your life.

And a special congratulations to a recent graduate.....

Fernando Eco (who graduated this March at Bicol University) passed the licensure examination in October for Accountancy and will now be a Certified Public Accountant [CPA] after he takes his oath in a swearing-in ceremony soon!!

Graduates Respond to Survey

After twenty years of awarding scholarships to good students in the Philippines who could not afford to continue their education, the Foundation mailed a survey to 65 living graduates. Thirty-five (54%) of the graduates responded, and the majority reported they were doing well:

- At least 71% were currently employed
- All but one recent graduate had a history of employment
- 54% were satisfied with all the jobs they have had
- 51% worked in education, health, or community development jobs with direct social impact
- 43% have gone to graduate school:
- 26% earned degrees in education, medicine, engineering, environmental science, and law
- 17% were doing graduate work in economics, English, education, and the environment
- 74% did volunteer work in their communities
- 77% lived in the same communities where they lived as Foundation scholars
- 69% found their lives good
- 94% wanted to be involved with the Foundation

Four respondents had worked abroad, 3 in Saudi Arabia (1 of whom had returned to work in the Philippines) and 1 in Hawaii. An overwhelming majority of 86% indicated they planned to work overseas in the future. Of those still in the Philippines, 23% complained of low wages. Annual salaries ranged from 6,000 pesos for a teacher to 960,000 pesos for a ship's nurse in the Philippines and from 360,000 pesos for a nurse to 534,000 pesos for an architect in Saudi Arabia (currently, \$1.00 = 58 pesos). Most teachers in the Philippines earned 120,000 pesos a year, although a teacher in Hawaii was making \$37,000 a year.

The news from the 14% who were unemployed was mixed. Two were raising children and not looking for work. The other three (9% of all respondents) had been trained and had worked in civil and mechanical engineering, and electronics. For comparison, the unemployment rate in the Philippines was 14% at the time of the survey, (April 2004, Philippine Central Bank website www.bsp.gov.ph/statistics).

Respondents' suggestions for improving Foundation programs focused on:

- Increasing the number of scholarships
- Increasing financial support to scholars
- Increasing communication with PCAFPD staff and other scholars
- Extending support to graduate studies
- Providing graduates with help in finding jobs
- Involving graduates in the work of the Foundation

The Foundation Board reviewed survey returns, especially graduates' recommendations and suggestions. Based on these, Board members are considering the following actions to enhance the PCAFPD scholarship program:

- Establish regional networks of graduates, scholars, and perhaps current Peace Corps Volunteers, to mentor scholars and provide peer support for graduates, including help with employment
- Add staff (volunteer or possibly paid) to coordinate regional networks of scholars, graduates, and PCVs
- Initiate regional team-building meetings of local scholars and graduates at the beginning of each academic year
- Increase the number of scholars, commensurate with the quality of applications and support staff capabilities
- Increase scholar support for degree-related projects and other requirements
- Fund graduate work depending on the scholar's academic record, proposed area of study, and other criteria to be developed

Although no conclusions can be drawn about the 46% of PCAFPD graduates who did not return survey questionnaires, those who responded have generally made the most of their Foundation-sponsored college educations. One graduate summarized her experience as follows:

... I really appreciate all the efforts and dedications of the Board Members, staffs and sponsors of PCAFPD. I am so grateful for the opportunities that you had given me and for tracking my whereabouts right now. I feel so loved and important to my PC family. PCAFPD is more than just a scholarship to me but a family. To all of you, thank you so much and may God bless you all.

You can request copies of the complete survey report and a tally of all responses from PatKasdan@AOL.com after December 10.

The Board would like to thank Friend of the Board Patricia Kasdan (Iloilo, 1961-1963) for her dedication in designing and completing the survey!

CONTRIBUTORS SINCE LAST NEWSLETTER WENT TO PRESS

We thank those listed below whose contributions to PCAFPD were received after the Spring 2004 newsletter went to press; i.e. between April 16, 2004 and October 27, 2004.

The Foundation receives \$15 in your name if you check *Philippines* on the membership/renewal application of the National Peace Corps Association (NPCA). All such contributions made during this period may not be included here because NPCA is upgrading its system of reporting to us. Numbered contributions are made in honor of or memory of: (1) George M. Guthrie (training staff 1961-62); (2) Paul Lampert; (3) Pamela Moguet; (4) Soledad Tejada Scholarship & (5) in memory of folks in Group I. PCAFPD also received a generous contribution from the members of Group XIII B on the occasion of an August reunion at their Hilo, Hawaii, training site (see story on next page).

Barbara Abendschein	VA	Negros Oriental 01-03	Kamden Hoffman	DC	1998-2000
John Adkins	ID	Negros Occidental 63-65	Larry & Betty Howard	PA	Negros Oriental 61-63
Jeff Amundsen	MN	Negros Occidental 83-85	Jonathan Hubchen	LA	Bohol 83-85
Phyllis Smith Baer	MA	Iloilo 61-63	Daniel Hwang	NY	Nueva Ecija 67-69
Marjorie Bakken	MA	Zamboanga/Negros Occidental 61-63	Barbara In Den Bosch	VA	65-67
Dirk Ballendorf	GU	Zamboanga 61-63	Mary Lois Johnson	CA	Negros Occidental 61-63
Pamela Noelle Bansbach	CO	Cagayan 64-66	Joanne Jorz	VA	Pangasinan/Manila 65-69
David Beckler	TN	Batangas 64-66	Charles Kaza	MI	Bohol 65-67
Donald M. Beck	CA	78-82	Ralph Kempheus	OH	Negros Occidental 65-67
Yvette G. Berkman	NY	Capiz/Panay 1990	Mary C. Kilgour	FL	Suragao del Sur 62-64
Linda Cover Bigelow	France	Iloilo 61-63	Larry A. Koskinen	VA	Staff 78-80
Michael Blaylock	CA	Pangasinan 80-82	Lon Kramer	VA	La Union 67-69
Ben Bloom	OH	Ilocos Norte/Pangasinan 78-82	Steve Lahey	IA	Camarines Sur 70-73
Sylvia J. Boecker	VA	Aklan 61-63	Judith Lesner	CA	Oriental Mindoro 63-66
Kenneth Bollerud	NY	Misamis Oriental 63-66	Thomas Lo	NY	Manticao/Mindanao 77-79
Emery/Annie Bontrager	CA	Camarines Norte 61-63	Blanche E. Lombardi	WA	81-83
Anthony J. Brancato	NJ	Bulacan 66-69	Mary Louise Malone	MI	62-65
Marilyn Lathrop Brown	MO	Lanao del Norte 62-64	Desiree Marmita (2)	NY	(in memory of Paul Lampert)
William Bright	VA	PCV 65-67; Staff 98-03	Marilyn E. Maze	MD	Cotabato 69-71
Chris Cabell	VA	66-68	Jean Goginski Mazepa	FL	Zamboanga del Sur 63-65
Gerard Capozzalo	NJ	Davao del Sur 66-68	Raymond T. McEachern	FL	Camarines Norte 61-63
Linda Miller Clark	NJ	64-66	Richard & Judy McGinn	OH	Laguna 63-66; Misamis Occ. 67-69
Bill Combs	MD	66-68	David McKoski	IL	Zamboanga del Sur 85-87
Helen R. Cooper	MA	Leyte 81-83	Constance McPherson	MO	62-64
Susan R. Cort	NM	Biliran/Leyte 80-83	Jane Petrich Miller	MO	Bohol 75-79
Judy L. Kealey Diaz	FL	Agusan del Norte 78-81	William S. Miller	TN	Staff 68-73
Tom Dillon	MA	Batangas/Laguna 67-70	Barbara Mitchell	PA	Camarines Sur 61-63
George T. Duncan	PA	Lanao del Sur 65-67	Jerry Ogawa	TN	Manila 70-74
Patrick B. Durst	Thailand	Bohol 78-80	Michael Ollinger	DC	Iloilo 82-84
L.J. Evans	AK	Cebu 01-03	Barry Lee Parks	CA	Manila 63-65
Karel A Fisher	DC	Cotabato 62-64	William Peck	NY	Quezon/Rizal 63-65
Roger & Becky Flather	NY	Visayas/Northern Luzon 62-64	Susan Pons	PA	Davao del Norte 66-68
Tracy Gleason	CA	Manila 67-69	Robert V. Purdy-West	NC	Zambales del Norte 70-72
Arlene Goldberg	NJ	Zamboanga del Norte 66-68	Margaret V. Purves	OR	64-67
Bill Grifenhagen	NC	Metro Manila 67-69	Jon Quinlisk	WV	Ilocos Norte 98-00
George Grills	Canada	Baguio 63-65	Carol & Mark Radomski	MD	Batanes 80-84 (Carol)
Hans Groot	NJ	Negros/Laguna 61-64	Michael & Rufina Rice (3)	RI	Pangasinan 81-85
Dan & Ana Gudahl	AR	Aklan 81-84	Rona Roberts	KY	Camarines Sur 73-75 David
Helen A Guthrie (1)	FL	Staff Spouse 61-62	Robichaud	SC	81-84
Marla Handy	WI	79-81 Group 148	Gary E. Robson	FL	87-89
Lois Buenger Hanson	CA	Bicol 66-69	Paul A. Rodell (4)	GA	Zambales/Manila 68-71
James E. Harvey	OH	67-69	Allen Rothenberg	MD	Staff 66-71
Linn Henderson	IL	Capiz 67-69	Nick & Ruth Royal	CA	Panay & Samar 62-64
Joyce Graeter Henzel	NY	Iloilo 63-64	Steve & Nancy Rye	CA	Laguna/Manila 70-74
Jo Anne Hillje Hersh	VA	Lanao del Sur 62-64	Marianne Grusauskas	Santo Domingo CT	Marinduque 63-65
Judy Swigost Hill	NY	Iloilo 64-66	Roberta Potter Savage	NY	Misamis Occidental 62-64

Martin Scherr	DC	Ilocos/Cotabato/Manila 62-64	Marie Tymrak/John Kelly	AZ	Bicol 70-72
Judith Senecal	OH	80-82	William Valentine (4)	MA	Albay/Manila 68-70
Rachel Singer	NY	Batangas 63-65	Jill Vertelka	IL	Leyte 99-01
Ed & Jan Slevin	CA	Staff Manila 84-88	T. Chad Walter	DC	Metro Manila 78-82
Claire Horan Smith (5)	MD	Camarines Sur 61-63	Bill & Jay Warren	NH	Albay/Zamboanga 61-63
Tim & Eden Stewart	SC	Antique 84-86	Joan C. Weaver	NH	Batanes 92-95
Terry Sthymmel	CA	Sorsogon 70-73	Carol A Westerlund (4)	IL	Catanduanes/Albay 66-69
Linda Sudmalis	VA	85-88	Clara J. Wheatley	KY	sister of PCV
Joe Edward Terry	CA	Thailand 75-77	Al & Pat White	MA	Luzon 63-67
Donna H. Thatcher	NM	Iloilo 61-64	Eleanor Whitlatch	PA	Catanduanes 61-63
Roy/Mary DavenportThillyWI		Davao/Manila 68-71; Masbate 69-71	Evelyn Mittman Wrin	DC	Camarines Sur 61-63
Ralph Thurston	ME	Oriental Mindoro 83-85	Carolyn & Deane Wylie	CA	Masbate/Albay 61-63
			David/Mary Ziegenhagen	CA	Mountain 61-63

Envelope Notes

Helen Guthrie's husband George M. Guthrie passed away December 18, 2003. He was co-director of Philippines I to IV at Penn State and took great interest and pride in following the careers of many members of the Peace Corps. Her contact info is: 5260 S. Landings Dr., #907, Ft. Myers, FL 33919, hag@psu.edu.

Ana Gudahl (Perryville, AR) writes that the Aklan State University Library burned down in March, and needs books!

Lois Buenger Hanson (Bicol, 1966-1969) writes that she would like to get in touch with other Bicol volunteers serving during the same time. Loishanson@aol.com.

David H. Beckles (Batangas, 1964-66) writes that he enjoyed the article Going to the Philippines in the last newsletter. He adds, "I'm distressed about the population growth- I loved my time in the Philippines- WHAT A WONDERFUL TIME and wonderful people!" David currently lives in Ducktown, TN.

Marilyn Lathrop Brown (Lanao Del Norte, 1962-64) writes that she is retiring from the Kansas City, MO School District after 39 years of teaching regular and special education.

Susan Cort writes, "My father, John Cort, APCD in the Philippines from 1962-64, just published his autobiography "Dreadful Conversations" at the age of 90. He discusses the Labor Movement, Peace Corps, Civil Rights, the Catholic Lay movements, and many other things." (see review on page 7)

Roger Flather (Visayas and Northern Luzon, 1962-64) writes, "Hans Groot's report was impressive. Becky and I joined David and Lynn Winick in 2003 for 3 weeks to visit Manila, Bontoc, Banaue, Laoag, Cebu City, and all of southern Cebu. Memorable. School buildings looked the same. Job situation looked very tough. Wonder if PCAFPD needs seed money fund for grads who want businesses and are not educated as professionals, e.g. teacher/RNs, etc. We have done education admirably, since the start. Should small scale loan seed money projects etc. be made ready for our entrepreneurs?"

Gift from Group 13's Hawaii Reunion

Members of Peace Corps Philippines Group 13 recently had their 40th reunion in Hilo, Hawaii, and made a much-appreciated contribution of \$1,130 to the Foundation! Group 13 trained in Hilo, Hawaii in the summer of 1964 and served as teachers in various sites throughout the Philippines. Leslie Reingold, writing on behalf of the group, shared the following with the Board:

All of us have a very strong 'U Tang' in our hearts for the Filipino people. Thus, in commemoration of education for Filipino students, we made a contribution of \$1,130 to your organization..... Many of us revisited Waiakea Uka School (now demolished) where we lived, and the old Hilo Memorial Hospital Peace Corps Training Center. It was fascinating to see our old haunts, and to evaluate how our memories coincided with current reality. We chatted with a few local people who do remember the old days when Peace Corps Training had a significant impact on the social and economic fabric of the Hilo area. We are still regarded with positive feelings, and that is gratifying. Dressed in our tropical clothing, we concluded with a sentimental Filipino/Hawaiian dinner at Harringtons' where we shared memories, photos, songs and acknowledgements of our Peace Corps days and the Filipino people. Amazingly, though we were assigned throughout the whole country and rarely saw each other, our training and in-country experiences did create a bond among us. In August 1999, we had our first (35th anniversary) reunion in Boston. Not only was that ritual delightful as we reconnected and learned about our lives subsequent to Peace Corps, but it paved the way to this reunion last August. If all goes well, we hope to meet in 3 to 5 years in the Washington, DC area. All of us feel very fortunate to have been part of the initial "glory" days of Peace Corps in the '60s. Most of us know we gained more than we contributed, and that the experience enhanced our lives. Many are members of RPCV, and enjoy reading about the organization, and in particular about activities in the PCAFPD.

Book Review: Dreadful Conversions: The Making of a Catholic Socialist

By John C. Cort. Fordham University Press, New York. 355pp. ©2003.

Review by Michael A. Rice, University of Rhode Island, Kingston (RPCV Philippines 1981-85)

In a recent memoir, John C. Cort, former Associate Peace Corps Director in the Philippines (1963-65) outlines his life's journey from childhood in Long Island and an early fascination with the writings of Dorothy Day and the New York Greenwich Village Bohemian intellectual scene, through his education at Harvard where he was influenced by the philosophy of Alfred North Whitehead and other intellectual luminaries of the early 20th Century, through his organization of trade unions in the 1930s and 1940s, and on to his becoming one of the most internationally respected social activists and intellectual leaders within the Catholic Socialist movement. Cort, now 91 and still writing, resides in Nahant, Massachusetts.

Chapter 13 of *Dreadful Conversions* deals with Cort's tenure as Associate Peace Corps Director in the Philippines largely administering the PCVs assigned to the Bicol Region south of Manila and many of his observations about the Philippines occurring after his service, including his friendship with Benigno Aquino who lived in the Boston metropolitan area during his 1979-83 exile in the United States. Cort expresses his extreme admiration for the Filipino people for the non-violent 1986 People Power Revolution largely set in motion by the 1983 assassination of Aquino that overthrew the government of Ferdinand Marcos. Cort writes, "...the Philippine revolution certainly convinced me that nonviolent revolution is possible and infinitely preferable whenever and wherever it is possible."

Cort's reminiscences about his time in the Philippines are bound to resonate with any returned Peace Corps volunteer or staffer spending time in country. His description of his discussions with embassy officials of the relative merits of promoting American trade and its products versus fostering of Philippine self-sufficiency, the experiences of riding the rural bus line and the unusual notions that are part of science lessons out in the barrio are all hauntingly familiar. Cort further reminisces about what he considers to be a 'successful' volunteer, recounting the story of Dave Lewis who invented a windmill to pump water out of readily available materials in the barrio costing only 150 pesos that performed the same function as a manufactured product costing 20 times as much. The Cort family's connection with Peace Corps and the Philippines continues through the generations. John Cort mentions briefly his daughter Susan who served as a PCV in the Philippines on the island of Leyte from 1980 to 1983 as dazzling her family with her

facility in the Cebuano language. Serving contemporaneously with Susan in the early 1980s, I remember her well as a good friend at the time with whom I've lost contact with over the years. She did indeed have a reputation for diligence in her study of the language and culture. This is of particular note in that since most Filipinos even in the barrio have at least a rudimentary understanding of English and are insistent on speaking or at least 'practicing' their English, it is extremely easy for Volunteers to become lazy about really learning the language.

One of the most surprising aspects of this memoir is its title, *Dreadful Conversions*. Cort was raised in a devout Episcopalian, but early on as a result of his disillusionment with what he perceived as "folks in the pews...encouraged to pick and choose those teachings that suit their fancy, a sort of cafeteria Episcopalianism," he describes his "first conversion" as a conversion to Catholicism. From my own point of view, largely forged in the milieu of a reputable west coast Jesuit institution, my immediate reaction was what is so dreadful about that; Cort just got it right despite Harvard! Much later in the book, near the end and almost as a postscript, he describes his "second conversion" of becoming a Catholic Socialist. Beginning in 1974 at a conference of People for Self-Management (PSM) focusing on the radical notion that democracy should be extended to the workplace, Cort relates several anecdotes and experiences leading him to the realization that Catholic Doctrine and Socialism are exactly the same thing. This realization culminates in his 1988 publishing of *Christian Socialism: An Informal History*, which is one of the most respected scholarly works on that topic. I really wonder how a man who has a distinguished career of journalistic and scholarly writing, labor organizing and an over-arching concern for social justice only comes to this realization that he is a Christian socialist only as he reached his 60s! I'm still looking for the dreadful part.

In the conclusion of this chapter on his second conversion, Cort provides a critique of President George W. Bush's global war on terrorism by warning of the folly of imposing a Pax Americana on the world through military might and economic domination. He argues that concern for justice for all around the world and humble collaboration with our allies and the United Nations is a much more fruitful pathway to world peace.

Dreadful Conversions: The Making of a Catholic Socialist by John C. Cort is an interesting read for any returned or active Peace Corps Volunteer interested in how the Peace Corps movement fits into the broader context of international social justice and how America is perceived at home and abroad. John Cort is truly visionary.

Remembering Group 2 Member Carol Valentine

Carol Valentine, a member of Philippines 2, died on August 28, 2004, at the age of 63 after a two-and-one-half year battle with acute leukemia. Born and raised in Brooklyn, NY, she earned a BA from Duke University. Carol and her husband Carl were married and joined the Peace Corps in 1961. They served in the town of Panay in the province of Capiz on the island of Panay. Carol was a teachers' aide in an Elementary school, and Carl was a Volunteer Leader. Carol reported that women in Panay would ask why such a nice young couple had no children. She responded by talking to them about family planning. Following Peace Corps service, Carol earned a Masters in Education at Columbia University. She stayed home when her children were young, then worked as Health Educator with Planned Parenthood of Schenectady County, NY. She was recruited by New York State Health Department to be Family Planning Health Educator, and later served as Director of its Metropolitan WIC (Women, Infants, and Children) program for 15 years. As WIC Director, Carol communicated the unique needs of New York City to state officials and administered over 80 contracts with the major hospitals and community providers in all low-income communities, enhancing the lives of 357,000 New York City families and children each year. Carol was a member and past president of the First Unitarian Society of Schenectady. She spent much of her life in service to others, and is remembered as a creative force, for her art, places she designed, and people she helped. Carol is survived by her husband, Carl; four children, Laurae, Cate, Kristen and Glen; six grandchildren; a brother and a sister. She is remembered by fellow members of Philippines 2 as beautiful, cheerful, generous, and accomplished, always exuding warmth and good spirits. Contributions in memory of Carol Valentine may be made to Planned Parenthood (Hudson-Mohawk), Schenectady Patient Assistance Fund (PAF), 414 Union Street, Schenectady, NY 12305.



PCAFPD at NPCA 25th Anniversary Conference in Chicago

Over 900 returned Peace Corps volunteers, former staff and friends were in Chicago the first weekend in August to “Celebrate a Legacy of Service” at the 25th Anniversary Conference of the National Peace Corps Association (NPCA). With the help of Board Member Ron Peters and Chicago-area RPCV Leslie Piotrowski, PCAFPD sponsored several activities for volunteers who served in the Philippines, their families and friends. Leslie, who was assigned to work with sugar plantation laborers in Iloilo in the late 70s, arranged for the group to have dinner on Friday evening at Little Quiapo, a Filipino restaurant on Chicago’s northside. About 23 people met there to enjoy dishes we remembered from our days in the Philippines, including genuine Halo Halo for dessert. The event was very informal with good food, shared memories, and even a spontaneous rendition of “Bahay Kubo” in Tagalog.

On Saturday afternoon, Ron Peters organized a County-of-Service update. After a brief overview about PCAFPD, the session began with remarks by Blesila Cabrera the Philippine Consul General in Chicago. She described the mission of the consulate, the kinds of services it provides to Philippine nationals residing in the Midwest and explained briefly why the Philippine government had pulled out of Iraq in response to a hostage situation. Ron introduced RPCVs Mark Kittrell and Anne Meehan, who had both served in the Philippines from 2001 to 2003. They talked about their experiences in the Philippines, their adjustment upon returning to a

post-9/11 America. They both reported that they now view American life differently. Following their presentations and responses to several questions from Ron, there was a lively discussion of government corruption, including comparisons between the Philippines and the United States, with a lot of give and take among the panelists and the 20 to 25 attendees.

Board Member Sarah McMeans was PCAFPD’s voting representative at the NPCA Group Leaders Forum (formerly called the Presidents’ Forum) on Saturday morning, where several items of NPCA governance were on the agenda. PCAFPD voted with the majority of the group leaders present and voting, to support an amendment to the NPCA By-laws which would reduce the size of its Board and change the NPCA’s Board composition. The item will be placed before the NPCA membership for a vote this fall. Following the vote on the governance item, the chair invited the group leaders to consider ways in which the Group Leaders Forum structure within NPCA could assist and strengthen the affiliate groups. Because PCAFPD is a foundation supported by contributors with the specific mission of providing scholarships, unlike membership organizations such as the “Friends of” country-of-service and city-based geographic affiliates of NPCA, many of the Group Leaders Forum initiatives, which are focused on membership groups, may not be applicable to PCAFPD and/or may require the PCAFPD Board to assign someone to be a full-time liaison to NPCA.

Let Us Count the Ways...to Give to PCAFPD

Former Volunteers and staff have been consistently generous in their support of the PCAFPD for the past 20 years. The usual manner of giving is to respond to one or both of our newsletters (June and November) by submitting a check in the enclosed envelope. We are most grateful that so many of our contributors use this method of support for it is indeed the “bread and butter” source of scholarships. However, there are other ways to give that may be of interest and may provide an opportunity for a special way to observe an occasion, to remember a friend, or to increase your own engagement in the Foundation’s work. We encourage you to consider these possibilities.

1. Individual Sponsorships. A contributor can choose to sponsor an individual scholar for \$1000 a year. The Foundation provides the contributor with the scholar’s application, photos, grades, and essays and serves as the conduit for communication between the contributor and the scholar. Sponsors can express a geographic or field of study interest, and PCAFPD will try to find an appropriate match. PCAFPD has managed a number of individual sponsorships over the years.

2. In Memoriam Contributions. As the returned Volunteer/staff community matures, the inevitable occurs. Family and friends can contribute to the Foundation in memory of the deceased. Some families cite the Foundation for charitable giving in lieu of flowers. Sometimes, contributions are ample enough to set up a named scholarship (see below.) PCAFPD has received many of these types of contributions in recent years.

3. Named Scholarships. These scholarships bear the name of the person in whose honor or memory they are established. PCAFPD informs the scholar that he or she carries the particular scholarship and provides information about the honoree. Named scholarships are awarded on an annual basis for \$1000 per year. Named scholarships will be awarded to a different scholar each year when the initial donation is equal to multiples of \$1000 or when the original donors continue to fund the named scholarship at the \$1000 per year level. PCAFPD currently has three named scholarships –one for a living person, one for a deceased Volunteer, and one in honor of a deceased Filipino

woman who was always generous and hospitable to Volunteers.

4. Reunion Gifts. Close to 10,000 Volunteers have served in the Philippines in close to 300 different groups or “batches.” Many of these groups stage reunions and often seek a way to mark the event with an “act of giving” as well as gathering to reminisce and drink a San Miguel. PCAFPD happily accepts donations from reunion groups and features news and photos of the reunion in its newsletter and on its website. Recently Group XIIIIB held a reunion in Hilo, Hawaii and raised over a thousand dollars for the Foundation.

5. Estate Planning. Many of our contributors are at stages of their lives when they are concerned with estate planning and want their heirs to know their wishes about how their deaths should be handled. We urge that you keep the Foundation in mind in the disposition of your assets in your wills and/or that you designate the Foundation as a recipient of charitable giving in your name following your death.

6. Special Events/Opportunities. PCAFPD itself has sponsored special events—Embassy receptions; lectures, a return trip to the Philippines, etc.—that raise funds for the Foundation. We encourage our donors to do likewise and will work with any individual or RPCV group that has a fundraising idea. For example, a Philippines RPCV in a given geographic area might want to host a get-together or an event that attracts other RPCVs in the area and donate some of the proceeds to the scholarship fund. Recently, one of our contributors wrote a proposal to his church seeking support of the Foundations. We provided him with the information he needed to submit the proposal.

7. Scholarships Sponsored by Filipino-American Organizations. There are hundreds of Filipino-American associations or organizations throughout the United States. Most of them have projects to support development in the Philippines. Several have sponsored scholarships for scholars from home provinces through the PCAFPD. The sponsored scholar has to have met all Foundation selection criteria. The scholarships require \$1000 a year investments.

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8. Online Giving. We have recently arranged with Network for Good to enable supporters to contribute to PCAFPD online at our website www.rpcvphilippines.org. We encourage use of this option for giving.

This article also provides the opportunity to address what PCAFPD cannot do in accepting funds. Over the past several years we have had inquiries from former

Volunteers asking if we can handle the funds they want to contribute to support a student of their own choosing—perhaps a child of a former host family. We have recently completed a study of the pros and cons of taking on that responsibility as a service to our supporters and have concluded that we cannot do it because of the added administrative responsibility and the difficulty of maintaining the quality control we now have through our selection process.

Post Office Error Causes Financial Loss to the Foundation

Are you one of our steady supporters who had a check to PCAFPD returned in June or July of this year? We hope you will try again. Through a very careless error, the US Postal Service “blocked” our mailbox for one month shortly after the mailing of the spring newsletter, returning all mail to senders. By comparing income within two months from past newsletter mailings, we estimate that we “lost” several thousand dollars in contributions this summer. This is a major impact on our annual budget.

Despite our repeated attempts to gain some form of compensation from the Post Office (e.g. postage for a post card to supporters, free mailing of the next newsletter, etc.) it says this is not possible. We haven’t even gotten an apology! Trying to get at the root of the problem and seeking some compensation has been a very unpleasant and unsatisfying experience. If any of you has any contacts in the hierarchy of the US Postal Service, we would appreciate a personal contact to pursue this further.

In the meantime, the way that the loss can be overcome is to have you re-send checks that may have been returned. When you do, it would be helpful to us to know if you had a check returned—data for our continuing effort to recover our financial losses.

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