

Balitaan



"I am blessed" – a scholar expresses her thanks

Nahid Sulaiman, from Davao del Sur, graduated this year with a degree in Elementary Education from Davao Central College

I can describe myself four years ago as a girl who has so many dreams in life, a girl who has so many plans for her family and for her country, but one thing hinders her to think deeply about it and that is her family cannot sustain her studies.

A blessing came in. Philippine Corps Alumni Foundation for Philippine Development brought light into my life. This Foundation allowed me to take a step towards my goals in life, gave me an opportunity to find the purpose of my existence and to find meaning in my life.

I am truly blessed for being one of your scholars. The day that I marched in my graduation, I thanked God and this foundation because without them I may not march on that day. Now that I already finished my course, I am truly thankful for these blessings.

I know my thank you is not enough, all I can do is to prove to myself that I can be an asset and not a liability for my country. The service that you have given to me, and to other scholars, serves as my inspiration to serve my countrymen through educating them and I know Filipino children are waiting for me.

Thank you so much. God will always bless this foundation and the people behind this for having a good heart. May this foundation continue to give light, hope and love. ▪

A Renaissance woman struggles with choices

Krisna Ocong, from Negros Occidental graduated this year with a BS in Materials Engineering from University of the Philippines, Diliman

It has always been a habit of mine to plan things way ahead of time; however, I only see my future until May 2014. After this summer, my path has many roads and I do not know what to choose. I am torn between two choices: working in the Materials Engineering field and exploring other areas. It took me five years to complete my major and I still feel unprepared to enter industry. I am known to be a very adventurous person but, when it comes to career, I am afraid of leaving my comfort zone and plunging into the Materials Engineering field. Expectations are exceptionally high for graduates from the top school in the country. "Am I good enough?" is being played again and again in my head.

Exploring other fields sounds very tempting and exciting to me. My adaptability and quick learning skills come in very handy every time I try something new. Also, this gets me back to where the expectations are not as high. Every time I ponder life choices and get cold feet, I look back on the day I passed the UP College Admission Test, the email acceptance from PCAFPD, the scholarship acceptance letter from the Department of Science and Technology, and the long conversations about college choices with my mother. The foundation, the institute, my family, and Filipino tax payers funded hundreds and thousands of pesos for my Materials Engineering education at UP



Diliman. It would be betraying each and every one of them if I chickened out before even giving this field my very best shot.

Recently, I learned the term “Renaissance man” from my geology professor. After hearing about it, I have known that I am on my way to be one. In the university, I studied theater, ethnic music and dance, swimming, diving, event organizing, marketing, and volunteering. These are far from my major but they provided me opportunities for holistic growth. I can still be a Renaissance woman even while working because education never stops. As long as I have the drive to learn, a mind that is open to new ideas, and adventurous spirit, I am capable of exploring new fields.

When disasters hit the country, Filipinos come and work together to alleviate the sufferings of their fellowmen by sharing resources and time. I do not have much financial resources but I do have skills and time to give. When Typhoon Haiyan ravaged the Visayas, many heartbreaking stories were told. The worst I heard was about UP students who became orphans overnight. Their entire family did not survive Haiyan. I could not imagine how much pain they might have been through and are still experiencing now. These students lost those closest to their hearts but kept on going with support of friends, school mates, and dedicated school administrators. I’m very proud of my university because it reimbursed tuitions, waived dorm fees and, even, provided free food for students from the Eastern Visayas. UP Tacloban students were given the same privileges when they cross enrolled in the campus.

My most memorable personal experience during Haiyan relief operations was welcoming evacuees to Manila. It was the most challenging volunteer work that I have ever done. The survivors arriving in Villamor Air Base were emotionally unstable because of what they had gone through and the volunteers were advised to be very sensitive and accommodating at all times. I stepped forward to be the announcer right away when the previous one had to leave. Worried survivors approached me to page for their families and friends who were separated from them. Every time they returned to check if the persons they were looking for were found and I said not yet, I could see great disappointment and sadness. Delivering bad news is very difficult. This kind of news should be phrased wisely and sensitively to lower the damage it can have. The day I spent in Villamor Air Base was most draining but most fulfilling.

Once again, volunteering made another impact in my life. No matter what industry – polymer, ceramic, metal, semiconductor, biomaterials - in Materials Engineering I will end up in June 2014, I will hold on to the spirit of volunteerism. Like education, it will live on as long as you

keep its fire burning. After the graduation ceremony at the end of this month, I’m heading off to Zamboanga. There is a program called GK (Gawad Kalinga) Bayani Challenge. It’s a one-week volunteer program in chosen disaster-affected areas. My friend invited me to volunteer and I gladly signed up. I am leaving on April 29 and return on May 4, 2014.

I have many uncertainties about what kind of Materials Engineer I will be in the future but I know for sure what kind of person I am going to be, a Renaissance woman.

P.S. I was supposed to have a job interview for a 6-year program trainee in a bank this afternoon. I decided not to go while writing and editing this essay. It made me realize that I owe it to the people who supported me for six years, and to myself, as a fresh graduate, to focus on Materials Engineering. ▪

Going out of your comfort zone is the true test of maturity and growth

Angelica Torres Magpantay, from Laguna, earned a BS in Human Ecology with a major in Human Settlements Planning. She graduated this year **Cum Laude** from University of the Philippines, Los Baños.

June 7, 2010 was the momentous day I first set foot on this prestigious University of the Philippines, the time when I was completely and absolutely scared, confused and nervous about what the future had in store for me. This gigantic place with thousands of people who were considered the cream of the crop terrified me. I was never a kid with direction or a specific vision of what I want in life; but had the normal determination to make the right decisions to be able to reach my ambition.



Fast forward to April 2014 - after four years of hard work and sleepless nights, I think I reached the end of this crazy yet fulfilling road of collegiate life. So many lessons learned, so many treasured memories, lives touched, stories heard and told, friendships built, difficulties and sacrifices endured, joys and happiness shared and people sincerely thanked.

My last semester in the University was life-changing. The practicum stint in the remote municipality of Bauko, Mt. Province, which is approximately 16 hours away from Los Baños, was definitely a game changer. I was never in my entire life away from my family for seven weeks in an unknown territory. However, it still felt like home because I was with my nine practicum team mates who

are my org. mates and friends; and of course, we had occasional visits from our practicum advisers and coordinator, which made it more tolerable.

The field experience nurtured my understanding and knowledge of Human Ecology in general and Human Settlements Planning in particular. The theories and concepts that time and again bombarded our brains before, unfolded their sense and importance in a real-life scenario during the practicum. I think the most important lesson I learned, aside from the integration of all the major subjects I took in the university, is the development of sensitivity attuned to the aspirations of the community. As was taught by my great professors in UP, every community has its unique features and qualities, hence planners are required to provide development plans that are tailor-made for the community where they will use their strengths to counter their weaknesses and maximize their opportunities to minimize the threats from the environment. And, the most effective way to know this peculiarity is through environmental scanning and immersion in the locality to have a firsthand experience, which will enrich an understanding of the community's real situation in terms of its development thrusts.

Another lesson is that it provided me a vision of what I can do and become in the future. Moreover, it gave me the realization of the things that I can change and the things that I can't and just have to deal with in my chosen field. Planning is both timely and timeless and it is a systematic way that is essential in our every endeavor. However, there are realities that we cannot change no matter how idealistic or hopeful we are. No matter how clear the path you want to take, sad realities will always derail you and all you can do is minimize the damage whether tangible or not.

I also learned that no matter what the situation is, you must always deliver and the fact that team effort and understanding are the heart and soul of good group output. Another is that going out of your comfort zone is the true test of maturity and growth. Likewise, living and thinking outside the box and norms is what makes us special and somewhat visionaries. And finally, through this experience, my desire to be an agent of change and a human settlements planner deepened and matured.

All these and more are the things I learned during my last semester in the university and will definitely remember forever. It feels nostalgic and overwhelming knowing that my UPLB life and experience is over and a new chapter is bound to start. As of now, all I want to do is apply what I learned, to be a true testament of what it is to be a "Iskolarng Bayan Para sa Bayan" and a true agent of change through engaging myself with development-related job opportunities. Goal wise, I want

to serve the nation as well as give back to my family to whom I owe everything that I am today.

To my PCAFPD family, thank you. Thank you for being the epitome of generosity and big heart. Without you, this accomplishment would never have been possible. Thank you for the trust and utmost understanding for all my shortcomings. I will always treasure having you in my life because the amount of inspiration you provided me since day one gave me that strong driving force to do not just good but my best. It is my honor and privilege and I am truly grateful to know you. And lastly, allow me to dedicate my Latin honor *Cum Laude* to the awesome and amazing people of Peace Corps. Cheers for a good life and a better tomorrow! ▪

Hard work and perseverance pay off; but team work is good, too

Jeffrey De Lumen from Albay graduated this year with a degree in Mechanical Engineering from Bicol University. [Editor's note: Below is an excerpt from Jeffrey's final essay. The photo is from his Facebook page.]



I was very happy the moment I saw my name on the final list of graduating students after my thesis, projects and grades have all been passed after long and tiring days and nights of work. Finally I was confirmed a graduate with a bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering from Bicol

University.

I don't know the words to express my grateful gratitude to the people that supported me in surmounting all the challenges and learning to stand on my own feet and fight against all the odds to achieve this sweet fruit of hard work and perseverance. I wrote this essay especially to give thanks to the foundation that supported my education. The Peace Corps Alumni Foundation for Philippine Development scholarship program and financial support from the first day until the last day of my stay in college was the biggest favor I have ever received. Students who qualified have been granted not only financial support but were also given trust. I was thankful that when I failed in one of my subjects, the foundation gave me a chance to prove that I still could go further. The chance that this program gave me really was from the heart of people that care for and nurture the scholars. As a promise to myself, I say that someday, when I have reached a good life for my family, I will work hard and do my best to repay the favor that the foundation has given me in any way possible. Bicol

University was my training ground for five years to prepare for my profession. For now, I want to work as a mechanical engineer in power plants. Beyond that, I want a lifetime career with shipping companies or aviation industries. When I was young, it was my childhood dream to work on ships.

The most tiring requirement to complete for graduation was our thesis. We made four revisions before we were approved for the final oral defense. Our study, which focused on the internal combustion engine, was entitled *A Comparative Study between Preheated Gasoline, as an Alternative, and the Conventional Method of Gasoline Introduction in an Engine*. The study found a significant advantage, and was proposed by our thesis adviser to compete in the college for best thesis. But because we lacked printed handouts for the panelists and only had a power point presentation, we didn't win. The worst thing is that the panelists didn't even listen to us. It was a very disappointing experience, since I was the one in front discussing our study. When the chairman of the university thesis committee learned about it, he insisted that, even though we hadn't been recognized by the college, he still wanted us to join the competition for best thesis at the university level. The thesis committee was very confident that we were qualified to go to the regional or even national level. But most of my group mates, tired of doing projects in addition to a series of exams in different subjects, refused to prepare and join in the university competition. So, we lost that opportunity. Our professor also had many other things for us to do at that time. Our thesis adviser even confronted him, but still nothing happened and we had to do what the professor wanted us to do. In the end, we were approved for the final oral defense and we got high grades from the panelists.

The best part of my fifth year in the college of engineering is, of course, graduation. But another thing is becoming more mature in making decisions. All of us realize the importance of teamwork and sharing, especially of ideas and knowledge. We will go in the different paths that are destined for each of us, but there is a chance that our paths will cross again. I want to be remembered in a good manner. In my final year in college, I have valued the importance of camaraderie. I developed a personality that I wanted people to know as my own identity, and I realized one important thing. Even if we are intelligent, if we are not willing to share knowledge, it is as if we are still uneducated. Although there are things that create divisions between different personalities, that should not hinder us from sharing with other people. In our batch, I was disappointed that there

was division among us. There was no unity and teamwork. Everyone wanted to be the best. I admit that it is not bad to push ourselves farther, but if it's not for the good of the majority and it's surpassing its limits, it's not good. We better stop and just do what is right.

At the end of May, I go to the Prime Review Center in Cebu to prepare for the board examination in October. Passing the board exam and obtaining a license will mark the beginning of my professional life. I believe that having the license will allow me to compete with hundreds, and even thousands, of mechanical engineers across the country for jobs. I am also planning to take my master's degree in the near future in hopes of becoming one of the best professional mechanical engineers (PME) in the country. ▪

PCAFPD congratulates eleven scholars who graduate in 2014, including three who earned high honors

Ten scholars graduated in the spring of 2014 and another will get his degree this summer. In addition to the essayists, **Nahid Sulaiman**, **Krisna Ocong**, **Angelica Torres Magpantay** (*cum laude*) and **Jeffery De Lumen**, the other graduates are:

Jessaline G. Escame from Gubat, Sorsogon, who ranked 14th in the class of Polytechnic University of the Philippines, and was 1st in the College of Business Administration, graduated with *magna cum laude* honors. Jessaline earned a BS in Business Administration with a major in Human Resource Development.

Francelene Mandani from Batangas, graduated with *cum laude* honors from St. Bridget College. She earned a degree in Elementary Education.

Rachel Briones, from Cavite, graduated from University of the Philippines, Manila, with a degree in Organizational Communications.

Vicenta Buy-ag, from Baguio, graduated from University of Baguio, with a degree in Accountancy.

Roseman Magdasoc, from Sorsogon, graduated from Sorsogon State College, with a degree in Agricultural Development. (Roseman was the recipient of the USDA scholarship.)

Ela Jane Riego, from Batangas, graduated from St. Bridget College with a degree in Biological Science Education.

Venice Cosico, from Laguna, will graduate this summer from University of Philippines, Los Baños with a degree in Agriculture. ▪

PCAFPD responds to crises – and shows that “We Are Family”

Three disasters, one man-made and two courtesy of Mother Nature, struck the Philippines in 2013, affecting millions of Filipinos – including some in the PCAFPD family. Once again, the generosity of PCAFPD supporters came to the fore in making it possible for us to offer assistance to our graduates living through these tragedies. Thumbnail sketches of each of these crises follows:

The Siege of Zamboanga: In September about 180 Moro National Liberation Front guerrillas laid siege to parts of Zamboanga City, including the area of Santa Catalina – home of PCAFPD graduate scholar **Ignacio “Jun” Senara**. Jun and his family literally had to dodge bullets to get to safety. PCAFPD sent Jun some funds to help buy food supplies, and he and his family survived the ordeal and returned home. He is now enrolled in a master’s degree program with support from PCAFPD. (See Jun’s story in his own words in the fall 2013 issue of *Balitaan*.)

Bohol Earthquake: On October 15, a magnitude 7.2 quake hit the island province of Bohol at 8:12 a.m. Aftershocks up to magnitude 4.2 continue fairly regularly. PCAFPD graduate, **Vanessa Cruda**, who teaches at Inabanga High School, located less than three kilometers from the earthquake epicenter lost her house and was living in a tent. PCAFPD was able to provide support to Vanessa to help her rebuild her home.

Typhoon Yolanda: On November 8, super typhoon Yolanda (Haiyan) came barreling through the central Philippines, causing widespread destruction and more than 6,000 deaths. The strongest tropical cyclone to make landfall on record, it aimed straight at Leyte, where a number of PCAFPD graduates live and work. As communication channels opened again, we learned that four of our graduates, **Rica Pelicano Abunda**, **Rosalie Cisneros**, **Feljoy Salas Suri**, and **Mark Ian Calayugan**, had either lost their homes or suffered great damage.

The PCAFPD Response: When PCAFPD learned of the effects of the quake and the typhoon on our former scholars, the Board of Directors launched a special fundraising effort through an e-mail appeal to our supporters. (We preferred not to use funds already designated for scholarship support.) Twenty-four people responded with close to \$2,600. We asked each graduate affected to give us a brief statement of need and estimated costs. We were then able to make cash grants to them. Rica and Vanessa have since sent photos of the homes they built to replace those that were destroyed.

Meanwhile in Manila, **Aries Asilo**, president of the PCAFPD Scholars and Alumni Association (PSAA) was

active in recruiting some 400 volunteers from colleges and universities to help package 120,000 meals for the storm survivors. The event was sponsored by *Stop Hunger Now*. PCAFPD board member **Geri Maiatico**, Director of *Stop Hunger Now/Philippines*, co-facilitated the actual packing of the meals.

At another Manila event, a fraternity anniversary reunion, PCAFPD board member **Hans Groot**, organized an impromptu pass-the-hat fundraiser that yielded well over 200,000 pesos (approx. \$5,000) for both earthquake and typhoon survivors.

Personal Testimony from Those Affected: We are happy to share with you communications we have received from several of the beneficiaries of our assistance. Their words say best what your support of PCAFPD has meant to them:

Vanessa Cruda wrote, “I was so thankful and blessed when Sir Roland greeted me and my family New Year’s Day asking if we were fine and how did the earthquake affect us. I want to express my warmest thanks for extending help to me and to my family, especially to all the sponsors who never doubt to lend a hand, providing financial support to us. I hope and pray that our Good Lord will bless you a thousand fold. Thank you for being an angel in disguise to us; you never fail not to remember us especially in times when we are in need. Now we have a new shelter, simple yet much more secure than the tent we used to live for almost three months. More power to all of you.” (Photo shows Vanessa’s new house with walls made of sawali, woven bamboo strips.)



Mark Ian Calayugan said, “Nothing really compares to PCAFPD. It is a scholarship that really touches lives, provides not just financial needs but inspiration. The mentoring doesn’t stop after graduation but all throughout the life of a scholar. The continuous support and guidance is marvelous. It helps us to live life in its truest sense. The encouragement was there. When at times I’m in distress, one thing that stirred me and helps me get through is simply remembering that I was once and still am a PCAFPD scholar. After which I feel better and ready to face my daily challenges.”

Rica Pelicano Abunda agrees, “I was surprised when alumni scholar Jeanalyn Estrellado sent a message asking my condition after the typhoon. On the PCAFPD-PSAA website, I posted all the information about my condition and my family, together with the photo of our totally damaged house. A mixed feeling of surprise and happiness touched me when a lot of PCAFPD and PSAA people sent a comment/message of enlightenment and strengthened me to rise again. The next day, I was surprised when Sir Hans Groot sent 5,000 pesos thru LBC, and we were able to repair the totally damaged boat of my father enabling him to catch fishes – as the saying goes, ROOFLESS, HOMELESS BUT NOT HOPELESS. Still I dreamt, hopeful and prayerful that our house will be rebuilt for our safety before I gave birth to my Baby this



coming March 2014. God answered my prayer when my PCAFPD family and supporters gave financial assistance to rebuild our house. (Photo shows Rica’s new house) I was surprised and didn’t expect that the

foundation continued helping and supporting me and my family until this darkest time of my life. To my PCAFPD family and supporters, THANK YOU SO MUCH for the undying support and for making a difference into my life and to my family as well.”

And, finally, **Feljoy Salas Suri** wrote, “I extend my heartfelt thanks to the Foundation. May God continue to shower more blessings to all those kindhearted people a hundredfold.”

There is a well-known song, **We Are Family** and while it was not written with these calamities in mind, the title seems to be a perfect fit for what transpired.

Editor’s Note: A fuller description of the crises, and their effects on scholars, written by Philippine-based Board member Hans Groot earlier in the year is on our website www.rpcvphilippines.org under Crises Response. ■

Learning on the job is the first step . . .

Renz R. Magcawas, from Batangas, is studying to be an Electro-Mechanics Technician at Dualtech Training Center

My journey as a scholar of PCAFPD and as a student of Dualtech continues as I faced the ASTP (Applied Stage Training Program). Compared to practical lessons and teaching that I encountered in my BSTP (Basic Stage Training Program), where we learned lessons through discussions and training, ASTP is different because we were deployed to the partner companies of Dualtech for

training, not by our past learning facilitators but by company supervisors, with the guidance of our industrial coordinators. I went to the newest partner company of Dualtech called ACS Manufacturing Corporation. In my first day at ACS, I was very excited because I knew that I would learn more skills; and yet nervous because the company’s environment was different from the school environment.

As the days went by, I met different people, my co-workers in the maintenance department, the company’s staff and those in the production operation. My first month of training, I had the morning shift (6 am – 2 pm) and was exposed to different machines’ troubles. The skills that I learned at Dualtech were more developed regarding electrical and mechanical means, but what I learned from my co-workers was teamwork and support that we give one another, not only because of income but because of friendship. I was blessed because I was assigned to maintenance and also because ACS was only a few steps from the school and from the boarding house where I live. Unlike ordinary workers, our training was only 8 hours a day from Monday to Friday. Saturday was our Development Day, or mentoring day, held in our school. The next month of my training, I was scheduled for the afternoon shift (2 pm – 10 pm) together with my past co-shift workers. Because of that, my confidence with them was highly developed and they taught me many things regarding troubleshooting, repairing, fabricating and maintaining the company’s machines.

The third month of my training at ACS, I was assigned to the Diaper Plant as an Operator/Diaper Maintenance trainee; and for me it was a big privilege to be there because I would be able to fully understand how one product of ACS is produced. I also met another batch of maintenance people who became my personal trainers.

As I journeyed through each quarter of my in-plant training here at ACS, I learned different technical skills that I can use when I am a company worker; and I also experienced how to overcome different challenges in my training no matter how hard it is. I would say that my training here at ACS was not an easy challenge but as long as I knew that there were lots of people expecting me to finish my course, I struggled hard to attain it. After I graduate and become an employee, I would like to teach others the things that I learned. I would like to continue my journey until I become a successful engineer by means of the ETEEAP (Expanded Tertiary Education Equivalency and Accreditation Program) so that I can improve myself more for my family, my country and for God. ■

2013 Financial Report

By Steve Dienstfrey, Treasurer (Budkidnon 65-67)

At the beginning of 2013 the Board of Directors adopted a budget that would cover anticipated educational and administrative costs based on previous experience. Since 2013 was our 30th anniversary, we planned to promote the anniversary as an opportunity for increased giving and to conduct a special event. It was difficult to project how these plans would affect revenue, so we stayed on the conservative side. As you will see in the numbers below, 2013 turned out to be a very successful year!

	2013 Budget	2013 Final
Revenues		
Regular Donations	\$51,000	\$69,637
30 th Anniversary Event	-0-	2,245
Interest & Other Income	50	199
Typhoon Relief	-0-	2,640
Total Revenues	\$51,050	\$74,721
Expenses		
Scholar Costs	\$40,200	\$43,632
Newsletter printing/postage	4,750	4,474
US Administrative Costs	4,225	3,473
Philippine Admin Costs (including PSAA)	1,700	92
30 th Anniversary Event	175	1,166
Typhoon Relief	-0-	2,130
Total Expenses	\$51,050	\$54,967
Contribution to (Reduction in) Reserves	\$-0-	\$19,754

Our regular donations were very strong as a result not only of the anniversary appeals but also of contributions from the retirement accounts of several individuals as well as matching grants from employers. The Philippine Embassy 30th Anniversary Reception netted almost \$1,100. In addition, we still have \$510 in our Typhoon Relief fund which can go toward future relief efforts.

One item should be noted concerning what appears to be high US Administrative Costs. For the past several years we have set aside \$1,500 a year to cover the cost of a Board trip to the Philippines. It makes more sense to spread the cost over several years than to expense it in one year and show an extraordinary loss in the year the trip is made.

In light of our successful year, the board selected 19 new scholars for the next academic year. The budget for 2014 is again balanced with an anticipated income of almost \$61,000. ▪

Following a successful year, these are the 19 new scholars we chose:

In January 2014, the PCAFPD Board selected the scholars listed below. We are pleased to note that seven of the applicants were recommended by PCVs.

Jefferson Alcantara from Zambales, will study Education at Subic College; **Victor Lloyd Awasen** from Mountain Province, will study Agriculture at St. Louis University in Baguio; **Philip Mark Bang-ud** from Ifugao, is studying Criminology at Ifugao State University (two years until graduation); **Fritz Xenon Cabugao** from Batanes, will study Electronic Communications Engineering at University of St Louis at Tuguegarao; **Marisol Camalia** from Manila, is studying Psychology at Sacred Heart College (one year until graduation); **Arlis Dario** from Mountain Province, will study Applied Statistics at Benguet State University; **Althea del Rosario** from Cagayan, will study Hospitality Management at Cagayan State University; **Deo Anthony Espino** from Zambales, will study Education at Kolehiyo ng Subic (Subic Community College); **Aisa Flavier** from Manila, will study Social Work at Sacred Heart College; **Pauline Labrague** from Southern Leyte, will study Education at Southern Leyte State University; **Michael Malate** from Bicol, will study Architecture at Bicol University School of Architecture in Legaspi City; **Marvin Agustin Moral** from Romblon, will study Elementary Education at Romblon State University; **Maria Mikio Ozawa** from Leyte, will study Accountancy at Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila (City College of Manila); **John Paradero** from Negros Oriental, will study Civil Engineering/Physics at Negros Oriental State University; **Hector Philippe Plame** from Negros Oriental, will study Secondary Education at Foundation University; **Erczon Realino** from Zambales, will study Education at Kolehiyo ng Subic (Subic Community College); **Jonas Salingay** from Negro Oriental, will study Accountancy at Foundation University; **Hafsa Sucatan** from Davao del Sur, will study Accountancy at University of Mindanao; and **Jeben Taob** from Davao City, will study Education/IT at Negros Oriental State University. ▪



On January 25, 2014, during a visit of supporter Charlie Schwartz and new Board Member Joyce Javillonar to the Philippines, the two met in Manila with PCAFPD's Philippines-based Board Members and several alumni scholars, who are members of PCAFPD Scholars & Alumni Association (PSAA). *Back row:* VP, Philippines Roland de Jesus; Board Member Hans Groot; PSAA Member Karl Soriano; Charlie Schwartz; Board Member Geri Maiatico; and PSAA President Ariestelo Asilo. *Front row:* Roland's wife Ning; PSAA Member Michelle Laurinaria; PSAA Member Jessaline Escame; Joyce Javillonar; PSAA Secretary General Genesis Galap and Joyce's husband John Rekstad.

PCAFPD welcomes four new board members and thanks three who have stepped down



At the end of 2013, PCAFPD elected four new Directors: **Joyce Javillonar**, **Denise Lionetti**, **Usha Vatsia**, (shown above, left to right) and **Michael Walsh**. At its annual meeting in March, PCAFPD re-elected a number of officers and directors and accepted the resignations of **Mark Holt**, **Bill Bright** and **Deane Wylie**. We thank each of them for their service and look forward to their continued support.

Joyce Javillonar is a Program Manager at US-Philippines Society, a Washington, DC, based NGO, which aims to raise awareness about the Philippines in the US. Joyce worked for more than 10 years in environmental conservation with various Philippine and international organizations, including Peace Corps/Philippines, where she worked as the Environment Sector Manager from 2007 to 2010. Joyce, originally from Quezon City, has a BA in psychology from the University of the Philippines.

Denise Lionetti is Director of two Department for International Development (UK government) funded

nutrition projects and a Gates Foundation maternal health project at PATH. As an international public health professional, Denise has over 30 years of experience in nutrition, maternal health, health policy, reproductive health, HIV, and primary health care. She has a master's in public health (MPH) from Johns Hopkins School of Public Health and Hygiene and a BA in public administration from the University of Arizona. Denise was a health PCV in Sorsogon from 1976 to 1979, and as one of PCAFPD's founding board members, worked with us in the 1980's.

Usha Vatsia is a global health consultant with expertise in children and young people. She has 25 years of experience in family planning, reproductive health, HIV/AIDS, child survival, nutrition, primary health care, youth development, rural infrastructure, and capacity development working for organizations such as CARE-USA, Peace Corps, The World Bank, and Macro International. She earned her masters' degree in public and international affairs (MPIA) in economic and social development from the University of Pittsburgh, and BA in sociology from Whitman College. Usha was a health PCV in Bulacan from 1985 to 1987.

Michael Walsh is Chief Ethics and Compliance Officer at Development Alternatives, Inc., where he moved after a career with the USAID as a Foreign Service Contracting Officer. He has a MPIA from the University of Pittsburgh, and a masters' degree in resourcing national security from the National Defense University's Industrial College of the Armed Forces, and a BS in psychology. Mike was an appropriate technology PCV in Nueva Ejica from 1981 to 1984. ■

Changing of the guard

By Maureen Carroll (Sorsogon 1961-63)



PCAFPD is fortunate that **Carol Hammaker Radomski (Batanes 1980-83)** (shown in photo on the right with Maureen Carroll) has agreed to serve

as Board president for the next several years. Carol brings a unique mix of experience and skill to the position. Shortly after she returned from her PCV service in Batanes and as a trainer and regional volunteer coordinator, Carol attended her first Board meeting of the fledgling PCAFPD organization founded in 1983 in Washington DC. She joined the Board in 1985 and has been with PCAFPD ever since. In addition to her historical knowledge of the program, she possesses strong analytical, planning, and leadership skills. For many years, Carol managed the student affairs portfolio for PCAFPD, developing tracking systems to ensure scholar compliance with terms of their scholarships and working with the Philippines VP to resolve issues that arise in scholars' academic and personal lives. Since 2003 she has served as PCAFPD's webmaster. In 2005 she traveled to the Philippines with former president Maureen Carroll to visit with our administrators and scholars and to develop new partnerships with educational institutions.

Professionally, Carol has a PhD in International Education Policy and is currently working at the Department of State as a program officer for high school exchange programs. She and her husband Mark reside in Silver Spring, Maryland, and are the parents of two adult daughters who as children were valued members of PCAFPD work teams folding, addressing and stamping the newsletter. They also provided a steady supply of Girl Scout cookies throughout the years. Carol's younger daughter, Julie, will graduate from college in May, and in response to her request, Carol will take Julie on a graduate gift trip to the Philippines shortly thereafter.

Carol says she has stayed with the Foundation for so many years because, *"It's a great way to give back to the people of the Philippines after they so generously opened their homes and hearts to us. Also, when you read the stories of our scholars and alumni it's clear that what we're doing is really making a difference in the lives of young Filipinos. Our alumni in turn, are able to make a*

difference in their families, and communities, and their country."

As she assumes the leadership role on the Board, Carol is keen to pursue the priorities the Board has set for the coming year, including the conduct of an alumni survey, expanding scholar recruitment, doing a better job of telling the stories of our scholars and alumni, increased outreach to Filipino-American groups, and developing a plan for long-term sustainability of the Foundation. Carol welcomes ideas or actual assistance on any of these fronts from our supporters.

During the past year, Maureen Carroll (Sorsogon 1961-63) reprised her former role as PCAFPD president on an interim basis following the resignation of Mark Holt, who had to move out of town for professional reasons. Maureen served as PCAFPD president for close to 20 years and is thrilled to have Carol as her successor. *"She's got what it takes to move PCAFPD to new levels of achievement – undying commitment to the mission and a relevant skills set. I trust her without reservation and look forward to continuing on the Board under her leadership."*▪

CURRENT PCAFPD BOARD: **President:** Carol Hammaker Radomski (Batanes 1980-83); **Vice President/Philippines:** Roland de Jesus; **Vice President/USA:** Ron Peters (Sorsogon 1961-63); **Treasurer:** Stephen Dienstfrey (Bukidnon 1965-67); **Secretary:** Mike Ollinger (Iloilo 1982-84); **Vice President, Database Management:** Sarah McMeans (Cebu 1962-64); **Vice President, Institutional Relations:** Hans Groot (Negros Occidental & Laguna 1961-64); **Vice President, Student Affairs:** Paul Aleckson (Romblon 2003-05); **Board Members at Large:** Maureen Carroll (Sorsogon 1961-63); Joyce Javillonar; Denise Lionetti (Sorsogon 1976-79); Geraldine Maiatico (Batangas 1966-68; APCD 2000-2005); Alex Romero; Usha Vatsia (Bulacan 1985-87) & Michael Walsh (Nueva Ecija 1981-84) **Mail Pickup Volunteer:** Terri Lee Bergman (Cebu 1982-84) ▪

Introducing a new form of contributor recognition – the Lakan & Lakambini

Thank you to all who helped to make 2013, PCAFPD's 30th anniversary year, our most successful fundraising year ever! The additional funds will enable us to award additional scholarships in 2014-15, as well as to support our currently enrolled scholars.

As usual, we include in this newsletter a list of our loyal and generous contributors who made gifts during the interim period between newsletters. In this issue, we also want to give a "shout out" to those individuals who, during calendar year 2013, gave to PCAFPD at least \$500, and in some cases much more. We sought an "honorific" we could bestow on them and have created the **Lakan/Lakambini Honor Roll**.

According to our Filipino VP Roland de Jesus, **Lakan** (m) originally referred to a rank in the pre-Hispanic Filipino nobility on the island of Luzon, which means "paramount ruler." Today, the term is still occasionally used to mean "nobleman," but has mostly been adapted to other uses. In Filipino Martial Arts, **Lakan** denotes an equivalent to the black belt rank. Also, beauty contests in the Philippines have taken to referring to the winner as "**Lakambini**," the female equivalent of **Lakan**. So, to all you noble and beautiful major contributors to PCAFPD, **we thank you profusely and honor your commitment**. We will publish another Lakan/Lakambini Honor Roll in 2015, reflecting calendar year 2014 major contributors. We hope the list will expand!

Lakan/Lakambini Honor Roll

Paul Aleckson Romblon 2003-05 #26 (NY)
Lin I. Bildner Fil-Am who lives in NYC
Olive Valiente Blackburn of Uyugen, Batanes (FL)
Sylvia Boecker Aklan 1961-63 #2 (VA)
Sam Boglio Bataan 1966-68 (VA)
***Maureen Carroll** Sorsogon 1961-63 #1 (DC) (1)
Bruce Casey 1983 (SD)
***Steve Dienstfrey** Bukidnon 1965-67 #15 (VA)
Dr. George T. Duncan Lanao del Sur 1965-67 (NM)
Sunshine Gibbs Leyte 1961-63 #3 (CA)
Joe Higdon/Ellen Sudow Cotabato 1962-64 #7 (DC)
***Deb Hoagland** Bohol 1983-84 #191 (NM)
Mark Holt Tarlac 1982-84 #191 (NY)
Michael P. Levitt Manila 1973-1975 (CA)
***Karen Johnson Larson** Cavite 1963-65 #10 (AZ)
Marga McElroy Negros Oriental 2007-09 #266 (MA)

Sarah McMeans Cebu 1962-64 #4 (DC)
Eric & Pamela Melby Iloilo 1972-75 #56 (MD)
***Ted Nawalinski** Sorsogon 1965-67 #14 (PA)
Ron & Lilia Peters Sorsogon 1961-63 #1 (IL)
***Carol/Mark Radomski** Batanes 1980-83 #168 (MD)
Corey Calista Ridings Albay 2004-06 #263 (DC)
***Alan Robock** Zamboanga/Manila 1970-72 #26 (NJ)
Steve & Nancy Rye Laguna/Manila 1970-74 (CA)
Charlie Schwartz Manila 1967-69 #21 (DC)
Tim & Eden Stewart Antique/Iloilo 1984-86 (SC)
Donna Taylor Negros Occidental 1968-70 #21 (NY)
***Some or all of their contribution was for typhoon relief.**
(1) Part of Maureen's gift is in memory of Lone Castillo. ■

Group 10 reunion activities generated more than \$3,000 for PCAFPD

As reported in the Fall *Balitaan*, Group 10 held a reunion in the fall of 2013, 50 years after they began their service. Forty-one of the roughly 81 surviving members of the group attended the event. Funds totaling \$1,687 from reunion activities, which included receipts from a silent auction and DVD sales, have been donated to PCAFPD in memory of six members of the group who are now gone. The Rachel Singer Memorial Scholarship Fund was established following Rachel's death in 2007. The others who have passed are: Elizabeth Colville, John Fisher, Ralph Foulke, David Kitson and Arlene Benke Harvey.

When 2013 gifts to PCAFPD from 15 individual members of the group are included, the grand total generated by the reunion is \$3,222. We are very grateful for the generosity of those Group 10 RPCVs who have been our active supporters for years and look forward to hearing from others who learned about PCAFPD through the very successful 2013 reunion. ■

PCAFPD mourns the passing of early staff member Bill Warren



Bill Warren, who with his wife Jay and seven children, served as Peace Corps/Philippines staff in Manila and Mindanao from 1961 until 1963, passed away in Spokane, WA, on April 14, 2014. Early sixties volunteers remember him as "one of the best on the staff." His obituary appeared in the Spokane Spokesman-Review, www.spokesman.com. Our sympathy goes out to Warren's wife Jay and their family. He and Jay have been long-time, faithful supporters of PCAFPD. ■

Contributions from our generous supporters . . . We thank those listed below whose gifts to PCAFPD were received between October 9, 2013 and April 22, 2014. The plus (+) identifies those who have made more than one contribution, including NPCA membership renewals and typhoon relief support, since our report in the Fall 2013 issue of **Balitaan**. In addition to the individual contributions listed below, PCAFPD received contributions from BIMAK and the Julia Campbell Memorial Foundation to support the scholars they are sponsoring. We also received additional contributions from the Group X reunion for the Rachel Singer Memorial Scholarship. Those on the **Lakan/Lakambini Honor Roll**, who gave \$500 or more in calendar year 2013, are listed on page 10, but not here unless they made an additional contribution in 2014 before April 22. Notes on numbered contributions are at the end of the list.

Barbara Abendschein (1)	FL	Stephen J. Dorage	GA	Ralph Kemphaus	OH
John H. Adkins (2)	ID	James & Carol Dries (2)	WA	Mary Kilgour (26)	FL
Myrna Ann Adkins (2)	CO	William Erdmann	CA	Theodore Kirpach	IL
Marin Aldrich (3)	CA	Bruce Falk	IL	Sondra Williams Klein	NC
Chuck & Evelyn Alexander	Philippines	Hannah Fairbank	DC	Joel Kolker	Pretoria
Richard & Heather Ames	NH	Lloyd Feinberg	RI	Larry Koskinen	VA
Chuck Amorosino	VA	Toni Ferrara	VA	Lon Kramer	CT
Jeff Amundsen	MN	Karel Crowley Fisher	MA	Jim Krogh	ND
Margaret Anderson (4)	PA	David W. Flaccus (1) (13)	NY	Harriet Ann Kulis	IN
William R. Austin	KS	Phyllis Flattery	OH	Steve Lahey	IA
Orlando Banogon (5)	CA	Bruce Fox	NH	Susan Larkin	CT
Pamela Bansbach	CO	Detlef Frank	OH	James D. Lehman	Thailand
David Barnstable	MD	Dr. Gary Frankwick	TX	Judith Lesner + (2)	CA
Teddi Barron (6)	IA	Liz Freeman (14)	MA	Dr. Joan Lindgren	FL
Claire Bartlett	MA	Cathy Garman (1) (15)	MA	Jay Litt	FL
Dr. Nini Bautista (7)	NC	Tracy Gleason	CA	Susan Long-Marin + (1)	NC
Terri Lee Bergman	VA	Arlene Goldberg	VA	James & Susan Lytle	PA
Linda Cover Bigelow	France	Ron Gratz	MI	Letitia Morse Lladoc	PA
Anne H. Bing	CT	George Grills	Canada	David MacDougall	NY
Mary Kay Blackmon (2)	CA	Stephen Paul Groff	Manila	Bob & Ruth Manlove (27)	CA
Sharon R. Blankenship (1)	AZ	Stephen Growdon (16)	WA	Jon & Bonnie McCluskey	WI
Michael Blaylock	CA	Dan & Ana Gudahl	Philippines	Richard & Judy Brooks McGinn	OH
Ben Bloom	OH	Ben Harvey	CT	Joan Hansen Meehan	ME
Sylvia Boecker	VA	Jeff Heilman (17)	OR	Sydney Merz	DC
Charles D. Burtner + (1)	AZ	Linn Henderson	IL	Kate Mulvaney	MA
Parker Borg	VA	James & Portia Henle	MA	Elaine Needleman (1)	NJ
Al Bradford + (1)	MD	Joyce Graeter Henzel	NY	Chris & Glenda Newhall	Albay, PI
Anthony J. Brancato	NC	Richard Higgins	ME	Phillip B. Olsen	HI
Morton Braunstein	OH	Judy Swigost Hill (2)	FL	Jeanne Gibson Ormsby	NC
Lou & Dolly Byers	GU	Barbara Stoughton Hiller (18)	IL	Rebecca Holt Palmer	CA
Nicanor A. Cabatuan	NY	Dr. Steven T. Holbrook	VA	Barry Parks	CA
Chris Cabell (8)	VA	Susan Hollingsworth	OR	Kay Linder Parrish	MO
Maureen Carroll (9)	DC	William R. Holman	CA	Anne M. Pearson	MA
Bruce Casey +	SD	Dr. Richard Holzman +	MA	Dave Perrin +	WA
Constance Champlin (10)	MA	Barbara & Hal Huffer	CA	Linda Henry Perron	PA
Judith Claire	DC	Connie Curry Hughes	PA	Leslie Piotrowski	IL
John H. Clark	DE	Nancy E. Hulse (19)	NY	Snapper Poche	LA
Linda Miller Clark +	MA	Donna Ianni (20)		Susan Evans Pons	PA
Helen Cooper (11)	MA	Jean Wilkinson Inglis (21)	CO	Jerry Poznak	MA
Robert Currie	MD	Steve Jasper + (1)	IN	Hank Prenskey	MD
Jonathan & Evelyn Curtis	TX	Joe Jerardi (22)	PA	Michael J. Purcell	IL
Pera & Margo Daniels (12)	NV	Joel Johnson	WA	Margaret Y. Purves	OR
Owen Davis	MD	Mary L. Johnson	CA	Mary C. Rainey (2)	FL
Carolyn Denton (1)	NY	Rosalind Johnson/Jerry Fruetel	MN	Art Raphael	NY
Dennis & Carol Ann Detlef	VA	Joyce Emery Johnston (23)	Canada	Deborah Rector	CA
Judy Kealey Diaz	FL	Mike Kaplan (24)	SC	Bev & Bob Reeves	OR
Tom & Joan Dine	DC	Patricia M. Kasdan + (1)(25)	DC	Leslie Ann Reingold (1)	CO

Alan & Adela Renninger	HI	Brenda Brown Schoonover (31)	NC	Donna Thatcher	NM
Michael & Rufina Rice (28)	RI	Karin Schumacher (32)	CO	Ralph B. Thomas	CA
Rona Roberts + (1) (29)	KY	Dr. P. David Searles	KY	Susan Thompson	MN
Larry Robertshaw	AZ	Neil Seidel	NY	Sara Sherman Thorne	DC
Michael & Betchie Robotham	NE	John D. Seidensticker (12)	TX	Patricia Toalson (12)	MA
Paul A. Rodell	GA	Chuck Shackelton (12)	GA	Charlotte Tomaszewski	NJ
Diane Rodill	WA	Eugene Sienkiewicz	Canada	Virginia Cyboski Trinidad	VA
Kathy Hannan Rohan (12)	MI	Don Smith	IL	Katherine Tucker + (1)	MA
Bernice Rohlich	TX	Loyal Greg Smith	OR	Bill & Jay Warren (12)	WA
Alex & Lesley Romero (1)	NC	Richard D. Smith	NY	Stephen Warres	MD
Eudora Roseman +	PA	Ann Snuggs	DC	Clara Wheatley	KY
Nick & Ruth Kesselring Royal	CA	Julie Stahli +	CO	Alan & Patricia White	MA
Jill Ruhlman (1)	GA	Karen Steele	NY	Holman T. White	MD
Romeo & Nancy Salar	MI	Tim & Eden Stewart	SC	Dave Wilder	PA
Karen Long Santos (30)	CA	Terry Sthymmel	CA	C. Howard Williams	MD
Roberta Potter Savage	NY	Charlotte Hough Stocek	AZ	Anne H. Wilson + (9)	VT
Mary Ann & Jim Scheirer	NJ	Melba Stockhausen	WI	Dr. Adamson Diaz Wong	NJ
Richard & Barbara Schneider	AZ	Stuart & Frances Taylor	MD	Michael B. Wood	MO
Marty Scherr +	DC	Susan & Rey Tejada	MD	Deane Wylie + (33)	CA

Notes on numbered contributions: (1) Part or all of their gift was for typhoon relief; (2) for Rachel Singer Memorial Scholarship; (3) for Bohol crisis in honor of Rico Ancog; (4) dedicated to Deane Wylie in memory of Carolyn Wylie to help a family affected by the typhoon; (5) in memory of Patricia Ann Biddle Banogan (Dumaguete 1996-99); (6) in memory of Kent Penfold; (7) in memory of Dr. Nans & Chol Bautista; (8) in memory of Stan Suyat and Heather Zabor; (9) in memory of Bill Warren, PC/P Staff 1961; (10) dedicated to Isabelo Lagac; (11) in memory of Paul Lampert; (12) in memory of Lone Castillo; (13) in memory of "Boy" Panugaling; (14) given 11/22 in memory of JFK; (15) in memory of Larry Parker; (16) in memory of Dr. Ed Adriano; (17) dedicated to Tina Flores; (18) in memory of Phillip Hiller; (19) in memory of Derek Hulse; (20) in memory of Joe Sperrazza; (21) in honor of her sister Sarah McMeans; (22) in memory of Susan Witty, Group 8; (23) in memory of Thomas Garrett Johnston (Philippines 1967-69) and Ann Jacobson; (24) in memory of Stan Suyat; (25) in memory of Martha Spencer, Group 2; (26) in honor of President Kennedy; (27) in memory of JFK, Derek Hulse, Sy Greben and the volunteers that served with us; (28) in memory of Laurence Foley (APCD); (29) in loving memory of Pedro Arbiso; (30) in memory of Lone Castillo, Group 1 and Herb Probasco, Group 8; (31) in memory of her husband Richard C. Schoonover; (32) in memory of Bill Gaus, Cebu 1968-70; (33) in memory of Carolyn E. Wylie, Group 1.

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