

Balitaan

Celebrating PCAFPD 40th Anniversary

Newsletter 77

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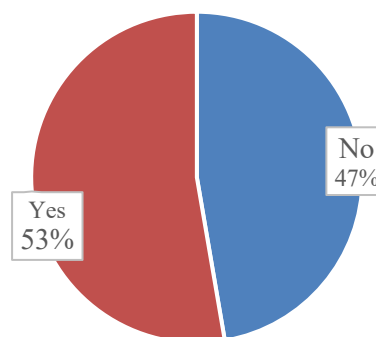
Forty Years of Impact

By: Justin Tabor, PCAFPD President

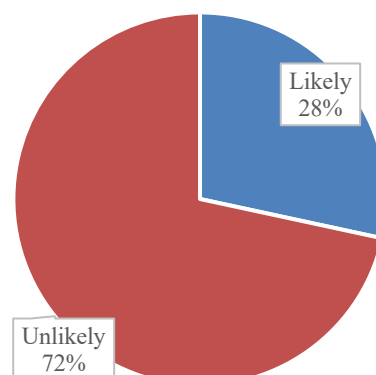
As part of our celebration of PCAFPD's 40th Anniversary, the Board conducted an impact study to see how scholarships had affected our graduates' lives. Since 1983 PCAFPD has sponsored **380 scholars**. For this study we were able to collect responses from 74 graduates. Respondent ages ranged from 23 to 53 and identified as 64% female, 34% male, and 3% using other words to describe their gender identities. There are three exciting takeaways we can share from this study.

1. For 72% of our scholars, college would not have been in their future without a PCAFPD scholarship. This is affirming to know that our selection criteria has been able to find scholars who can benefit strongly from sponsorship.
2. As part of the study, we wanted to examine the idea of "passing it forward". We hoped to understand ways that scholars repay their scholarship through service to their communities. One way of measuring this was if they had helped someone else go to college. We found that 53% of our scholars have gone on to support at least one more person's college studies. In this sample size of 74 that means an additional 39 Filipinos were able to go to college because of a PCAFPD scholar.

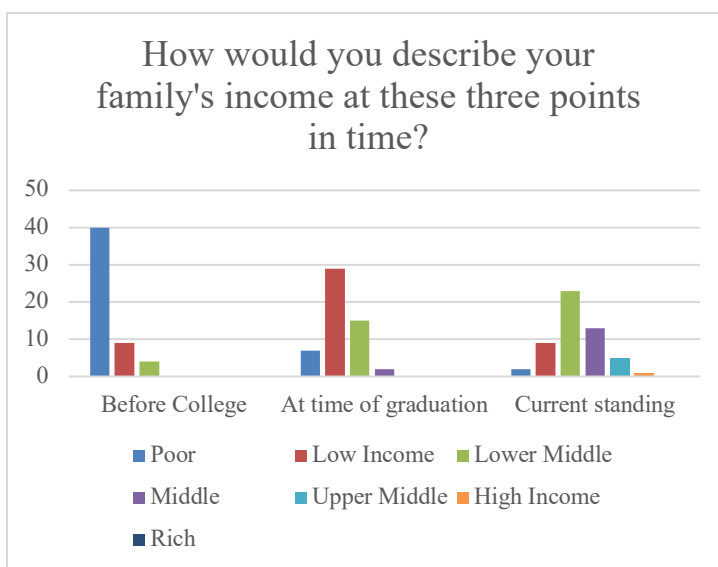
Since graduating have you supported another person's bachelor's degree?



Likelihood of Going to College without PCAFPD



3. Finally, we also wanted to see if there were economic impacts brought about because of scholarship. This is a difficult concept to pin down because there are multiple factors that work together to contribute to someone's economic standing. We are excited to see in the chart below that our graduates note a better economic standing over time; however, PCAFPD recognizes that scholarship is only a part of what makes this possible.



When asked “What has being a PCAFPD Scholar meant to you?” scholars had the following to say:

“It meant the world to me. It drew the line between success and failure and certainly, when I was in my downiest part of my life, YOU WERE THERE TO SUPPORT ME and for that I AM FOREVER GRATEFUL, beyond words can say.”

“I became a PCAFPD scholar during the most academically and financially challenging parts of my education. It was reassuring to know that there are people all over the world rooting for my success. The essays helped me look back on the challenges I faced and I was able to appreciate all the love and support I received during those times.”

“PCAFPD changed my life. I know that my life wouldn't be the same without it. The scholarship helped me pursue the degree that I wanted and

guided me through the most difficult time of my student life. I hope that as an Ituloy Team volunteer, I can give back and help current and future scholars to achieve their dreams like I did.”

Our 40th Anniversary Impact Study has reaffirmed the importance of education as a vector for human development. We continue to be impressed by the successes of our scholars. Many thanks to our US Board of Directors and the Ituloy Team for all their work to facilitate our programs. We also thank our donors, as your participation and donations to PCAFPD continue to support our efforts and reap grassroots benefits in the Philippines.

Ituloy Team Spotlight: Jenifer Halili

By: Ricardo Espitia, PCAFPD Student Affairs

The bread and butter of PCAFPD are our scholars. Part of the magic behind the success of the PCAFPD program is the volunteer-Manila-based, Ituloy Team. The team administers the day-to-day operations of the program in the Philippines and is composed mostly of former PCAFPD scholars who volunteer their time to serve as mentors to the scholars, administer the scholarship funds to the scholars, and keep the U.S. based PCAFPD Board abreast of the higher educational environment in the Philippines. Our program would not be as successful as it is without their commitment. Today we highlight one of the Ituloy team members Jenifer Halili.

Jenifer was born and currently resides in Ayala Poblacion, San Pascual, Batangas and has been connected with PCAFPD since the 1980s. PCAFPD first supported her high school education in the late 1980s. Then, with the support of PCAFPD, she obtained a Bachelor of Science major in Civil Engineering in 1996 and her Master's in Environmental Management in the late 2000s.

After receiving her undergraduate degree, she moved to Manila for the Chamber of Mines of the Philippines. Jenifer attributes the PCAFPD network for helping her land her first job and cope with the challenges of moving to a major city. Having come from a very poor family and not knowing anyone in Manila, the PCAFPD community became a safe

haven while she worked to support her family. Furthermore, through her PCAFPD community in Manila she found a passion in environmental protection. Since she discovered this passion, she has worked as an Environmental Manager, Civil Engineer, and most recently Pollution Control Officer. Through these jobs she has supported her siblings' education, medical expenses for her father, and support for her younger sibling with a disability.



Even before the Ituloy team was formed, Jenifer began volunteering with PCAFPD in 1997 by assisting with scholar communications and record keeping. She took a break after starting her family and was invited to join the Ituloy Team in 2020 to serve in

her current role as its secretary. When asked to join, she enthusiastically agreed and states she is more than happy to serve the foundation in any way she can in order to give back to the organization that gave her a means to a better life.

Jenifer's motivation for serving on the Ituloy team is rooted in part in the opportunity to connect with current scholars who come from similar challenging backgrounds as she does. Our scholars find her to be an inspiration and a motivator to complete their studies, face life's challenges head on, and work hard. Jenifer says "The Foundation armed us and guided us to a better future and that we like to share that to current scholars by serving on the Ituloy Team."

When asked what her future plans are, Jenifer refers back to when she was chosen as a PCAFPD scholar years ago. When she applied, she was asked how she planned to give back to her country. She has maintained true to this PCAFPD value ever since. Outside of the Ituloy team, she has supported other

members of her family to go to school, provided assistance following natural disasters, donates regularly to her church and school, and is actively involved in environmental awareness by assisting industries to comply with environmental protection requirements.

Jenifer's humble dedication to be an example to future scholars, a cheerleader for their success, and a success story they can relate to is what makes the Ituloy team so unique. We are so proud of Jenifer's commitment to the PCAFPD mission and our scholars.

Join the Bayanihan Legacy Circle

Have you designated PCAFPD as a beneficiary of an IRA or stipulated a bequest to PCAFPD in a will or trust? If so, we'd like to know.

In conjunction with the upcoming 40th Anniversary of PCAFPD, we have established the *Bayanihan Legacy Circle* to recognize those of you who plan to support the work of PCAFPD beyond your lifetime.

Members of the Legacy Circle will be eligible for special benefits and will be listed on our website and in publications as appropriate.

Send an email to us at pcfapd@gmail.com or snail mail us at P.O. Box 100114, Arlington Virginia 22210 to let us know of your plans or to seek more information. Maraming Salamat!

Thank you to our Legacy Circle Members:

Maureen Carroll, Sorsogon 1961-63
David and Patricia Flaccus, Bohol/Cebu 1965-68
Cathleen Garman, Camarines Sur 1978-81
Mark Horowitz, Quezon 1965-67
Lee and Kay Jones, Isabela 1962-67
Dee Teodoro, Cotabato 1964-66
Rick Zemlin, Davao del Sur 1981-83

Essays from Our Scholars

Stop Procrastinating

Abegail Baring is pursuing a Bachelor in Secondary Education at Philippines Normal University - Visayas

"If you want progress, then stop procrastinating." This is a common issue for most students, including myself. But, thanks to the motivations of some optimistic people, I've been encouraged to stop procrastinating and make significant progress. In another sense, my whole first semester in this school year (2022–2033) has been full of learning and progress in different areas and aspects of my life.

Our school specializes in the Environment and Green Technology Education Hub (EGTEH), which is dedicated to environmental protection and preservation. And as one of the students there, I became literate enough to show love and care towards the environment in which I hadn't done so before. The school also provided unique activities in relation to EGTEH, which helped me develop good practices towards the environment. Planting mangroves and plogging (combination of jogging and picking up litter) are two such unique activities we have done that both beautify the environment and benefit people.

In the same semester, I also joined organizations at school that aim to develop my knowledge and skills related to the course I am taking. Because I am taking up a Bachelor's in English Education (BEE), I was directly admitted to be part of the "English Major Society" organization in our school. The said organization helped me improve my socialization skills and other skills along the lines of gaining confidence in public speaking, improving my vocabulary, and engaging in performance-based activities in school.

Moreover, I've joined clubs such as Campus Bible Fellowship, that aims to develop the spiritual aspect of students, increase their knowledge of the Bible,

and strengthen their relationship with God. This club provided me with a flexible and peaceful environment while also making me always optimistic, even in times of failures.

And lastly, the nicest thing that has happened to me in this semester is that I have shown improvement in my computer skills compared to before, which is applicable to me as a future educator. This improvement is because of the laptop grant from this program, which enables me to practice my computer skills.

Furthermore, because of the significant financial support provided by PCAFPD in my schooling, I've been able to focus more on studying and become less concerned about my financial needs. I can truly say that my goals are being met bit by bit this semester thanks to the tremendous assistance of wonderful people, particularly those in this program. I learned a lot, while at the same time being very motivated.

Overall, my whole first semester of the school year 2022–2033 has been full of blessings, learning, and progress.

A Little Hope

April Joy Dajao is pursuing a B.S. in Business Administration at Negros Oriental State University Main Campus

Last year I am so very grateful as I was informed that I became an official member of PCAFPD scholars in Negros Oriental. Honestly, I did not even think that I would be accepted as I am not that confident in my application. And guess what? I qualified, and now I am so proud that I became part of it as it helps me with my journey in college.

Last August was our first orientation with some alumni, faculty, and staff of PCAFPD as Ate Hannah introduced them to us. In that orientation, Ate Hannah also surprised us with the news that aside from having an allowance, we also have the opportunity to own a laptop as the organization

knows the importance of having one. And last September I received the laptop that the Peace Corps has given to me. And I am so very thankful for it.

My road during my first and second years of studying was going smoothly even though I encounter some problems but I manage to solve them. My first semester in this third-year journey taught me many life lessons that I will keep forever in my heart, as 2022 shows me how difficult life can be. Imagine, I manage to attend class in the hospital because of some family problem, as my father was sent to that place due to some complications of his illness. Those times were difficult to manage since I didn't know what to do. I don't have a mother to lean on since she was working far from us. I only have my brothers with me; that's why I kind of put my studies aside as I prioritize the health of my father. Those experiences lead me to almost break down to the point that I decided to stop studying, but God has a different plan as he put me at ease and guides me to what I should do next, and luckily, the doctor gives us the go signal to go home. I felt a lot of mixed emotions which I couldn't explain. I am happy that Peace Corps was there to remind me not to give up as they are ready to help me one step at a time.

And today, as my first semester in this third-year journey of mine is close to an end, I am proud to say that I will treasure those times as it gives me the courage to move forward, to be strong, and to be grateful for everything and never stop learning until I get that cap of success.

A Time of Growth

Ezel Jade Sim is pursuing a B.S. in Petroleum Engineering at Batangas State University

For many students, the transition from high school to college can be a challenging and overwhelming experience, and a time of great change and growth. In this essay, I will reflect on my own experience adjusting to college life, including the challenges I faced and the strategies I used to overcome them. By sharing my story, I hope to offer insight and

encouragement to other students who may be facing similar struggles as they begin their college journeys. One of the most significant that I experienced in the first year of college was the adjustment to living independently. For me, this was the first time I have lived away from home, and it was a daunting experience. Adjusting to living on one's own requires a great deal of responsibility. As a college student, I must now take care of my meals, laundry, and other household chores. This newfound independence can be both liberating and overwhelming. As a student, I must learn to balance my academic and personal responsibilities.

One of the biggest challenges that I encounter when adjusting to college life is managing time effectively. In my experience this 1st semester I cram a lot and had a lot of stress as college is not like high school. In addition, with a greater level of freedom and responsibility, it can be easy to fall behind or become overwhelmed with coursework and other commitments. To overcome this challenge, I establish a routine, set priorities, and make use of resources such as calendars and to-do lists to stay organized. Furthermore, another challenge that I experience in adjusting to college life is managing my finances or managing my allowance. It's important to budget carefully and make use of financial aid and other resources to help cover these costs. To sum up I learned to budget for myself.

Adjusting to a new social environment can also be a challenge for many students. Me, I am excited to meet others and make friends with them, and also, I'm so nervous about how will I approach them at the same time. On our first day, we gathered in our school for an event; I'm so early that time and I found our class representative for the petroleum course. As others began to show up, my feelings are mixed with nervousness and excitement at the same time. The event started, and I began to communicate with them with the question "what is your name" and "where do you live". I am so happy that they have the same vibes as me. Making friends with them helps a lot, especially in studying. In our class, we help each

other to pass our subjects with no one to fail. We have a class representative that always cares for us in the lessons that we did not catch up on, she gracefully explains to us what was the lesson. Now that our first semester ended, it feels like I've been studying four years in just one semester. And I'm thankful that I have the Lord God who is always with me even in times of depression. He always guides me and helps me overcome my problem. There is one time that I was so depressed and I'm about to give up but my father God comfort me with the help of a PCAFPD orientation meeting. While I was listening to the orientation, they explain briefly and talk to us comfortably and I was enjoying listening because I relate to the topic. I felt lighter after that and also became braver and stronger to overcome my depression. Furthermore, they give us knowledge of how to handle depression and practice on how to comfort others in times of their downside.

Adjusting to college life involves a lot of change and growth, and it's natural to face challenges along the way. By being proactive and seeking out support when needed, however, it is possible to successfully navigate this transition and make the most of your college experience. Overall, my first semester of college was a challenging but rewarding experience. It was a time of growth, self-discovery, and new friendships. I was excited to see what the next three years had in store for me.

Beginning of a New Chapter

Jan Michael Beliran is pursuing a B.S. in Social Work at Occidental Mindoro State College - Labangan Campus

I thought college was easy but it's not. I thought that my new environment at this point would be just the same as my previous years of studying. But I guess I was wrong. College is indeed not easy. At the very beginning of my studying at college, a lot of things changed. Throughout the whole first semester of my first year in college, I experienced new things. New environment, new faces, new learnings, and new friends. Big adjustments are what I can say about my whole first semester. As I met my new classmates

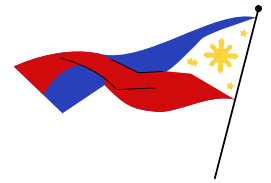
face-to-face, I saw some of them were funny, some of them were very smart, some were a little bit shy to talk to everyone, some were casual, and some were still confused about why are they in this course. Of course, every first day has an introduction about ourselves for us to know some basic details about our new classmates and professors. And, I heard different stories and perspectives about my classmates. Most of them endured great pain in life that almost hinder them to achieve their dreams in life. That made me realize that life is full of ups and downs, full of discouragements and encouragement. But whatever may come in our lives, do not give up.

I have experienced many struggles throughout this semester like immediate preparations for both midterm and final exams, doing a lot of activities and projects, and many more. As an Internal Affairs Committee member of the Student Council of our school, there are many things that I must work on. I am also dealing with the duties and responsibilities of being a Junior Councilor. Indeed, it is really hard to multitask. But despite the hardships and struggles I experienced, that doesn't change the fact that it gave me fulfillment in my heart. Helping and serving everyone is my passion in my heart.

As I took up this course of study, new lessons gave me a clear picture of what my profession would be. It is not only about helping and serving other people rather it is more about shaping human well-being and helping people to meet their basic needs, most especially the vulnerable. I have realized my chosen profession will not be easy. But just like what I have said, there's no way of giving up on our dreams.

Indeed, college wasn't easy at all. I am in the first phase of my college life and I know that I will encounter many things throughout my journey. But despite what I will encounter, I am grateful to those persons who stood beside me to be my support, foundation, and inspiration. I thank God for having all of you in my life and supported me throughout this semester. I would like to also express my deep gratitude to the PCAFPD for the opportunity you gave me. It is an honor for me to be one of your grantees. With the support, you have given to us, we can meet our goals and achieve our dreams.

MEET THE 2023 SCHOLARSHIP CLASS



Jhemil



B.S. Food Technology

Rose Jane



B.S. Psychology

Regine



B.S. Secondary Education

Salam



B.S. Social Work

Princess



B.S. Civil Engineering

Janiel



B.S. Agriculture

James



B.S. Industrial Technology

Aliza



B.S. Civil Engineering

Cyrel



B.S. Secondary Education

Althea



B.S. Business Administration

Mary Jane



B.S. Social Work

Risa



B.S. Civil Engineering

Patricia



M.A. Education Management

Irish



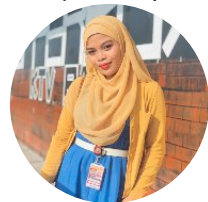
B.S. Agribusiness

Mikela



B.S. Agriculture

Nur-ain



B.S. Social Work

Eric



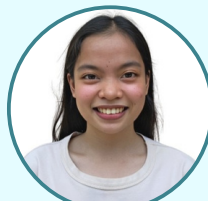
B.S. Criminology

Lea Mae



B.S. Secondary Education

Rica



B.S. Computer Science

Kizza



B.S. Social Work

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Thank you for helping us to reduce our carbon footprint and mailing fees.

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