

Peace Corps Alumni Foundation for Philippine Development

Newsletter 22
Fall 1995

P.O. Box 126
Arlington, VA 22210

Through PCAFPD, returned Peace Corps Volunteers, staff and friends maintain a bond with the Philippines by providing scholarships for exceptional Filipino students to attend college in their country. You can join us by sending a contribution in the enclosed envelope.



RP Senator Raul Manglapus, US President Bill Clinton and two other prominent jazz enthusiasts entertain RPCV Stanley Suyat (66-68, currently Peace Corps Associate Director for Management), Irene Natividad and US First Lady, Hillary Rodham Clinton.

PCAFPD FUNDS NEW SCHOLARS FOR '96-'97

The PCAFPD Board plans to select up to five new scholar for the 1996-1997 academic year. There are currently seven PCAFPD scholars, five of whom will graduate in the Spring of 1996. The new scholars will be chosen in the same way the Foundation has chosen scholars since 1984, until more alternative procedures can be arranged with local institutions.

Currently, applications are distributed by community contacts (identified by PCVs and RPCVs) to deserving students who are committed to community service but lack the financial resources to attend college. The Board reviews the application and three recommendations for each candidate, then distributes the available slots among those who meet academic criteria and have demonstrated both financial need and community-service goals.

PCAFPD has actively recruited new candidates from the Muslim and Mountain communities. Other applications have been submitted via the still functioning contact network.

"WE SHALL RETURN" FOR PEACE CORPS' 35TH ANNIVERSARY IN '96

PCAFPD is sponsoring a return trip to the Philippines to commemorate the arrival of the first group of PCVs on October 12, 1961. The date of arrival is planned exactly 35 years later - October 12, 1996!

The group will spend a few days in Manila for official and social events with Filipinos, Peace Corps, and present and former PCAFPD scholars. Then RPCVs can return to where they were assigned or explore other places (even resorts!).

We hope to obtain a round-trip fare of approximately \$800 from the West Coast, with an open return date. We are working on group hotel rates in Manila; other costs would be for social events and personal travel to barrios, etc.

Those who responded to the notice in the last newsletter will receive a letter with more details; if you would like a copy, please write to Maureen Carroll, 2727 Ontario Road, Washington, D.C. 20009.

Scholar Publishes Poetry

Cresyl Maturan, Radiology Technology, Cebu Doctor's College, published *ROSES* in *CDC Stethoscope Magazine*:

ROSES
white and red
and everything...
each petal fragile
as every drop of rain,
as the speechless touch
of a gust of wind...
yet, each petal
so powerful
as the whispers
that embrace the heart.

ROSES
are tears and laughters
wrapped in a bundle
of burning joy...
and everything
that dwells in our forevers.
our sweet, sweet forevers.

ROSES
are dreams
that do not die...
and footprints
that kiss shores
of loneliness,
and sadness, and pains.

and **ROSES**
are gentle smiles
bathing us with flames
of remembering...
white and red
and everything...
unforgettable sighs
of a lover's lingering.

M.D.-to-Be Reports

Medical student, Robert Cajes, reported to VP/RP, Roland de Jesus, who is carrying on the Foundation work of his father, Modesto de Jesus:

May 3, 1995

"... I spent the last two weeks contemplating my performance this school year and meditating for my fate as a second year medical student. ... Finally, last week I learned from our Dean that I made it. I feel so happy and fulfilled that after a year of tiresome but patient struggle coupled with quite numerous sleepless nights, I could finally relax and prepare to move ahead. ...

Here I am right now studying medicine, a very prestigious course that even in my wildest dream I never thought I'd be taking in, making the impossible possible because a very charitable foundation is there to support my studies and is very willing to develop further my potentials. On the same note, I again would like to extend my sincerest thanks and gratitude to you, to the late Sir Modesto, especially to the foundation that you are representing for all the support given me specifically financial matters which I can't provide. Without the foundation, I would not be able to hurdle this segment of my pursuit for achievement and excellence. ...

My subjects next schoolyear are as follows: Medicine II, Pediatrics, Obstetrics, Dermatology, Surgery II, Preventive Medicine III, Otolaryngology, Clinical Neurology, Legal Medicine, and Therapeutics. I have clinics every day.

July 11, 1995

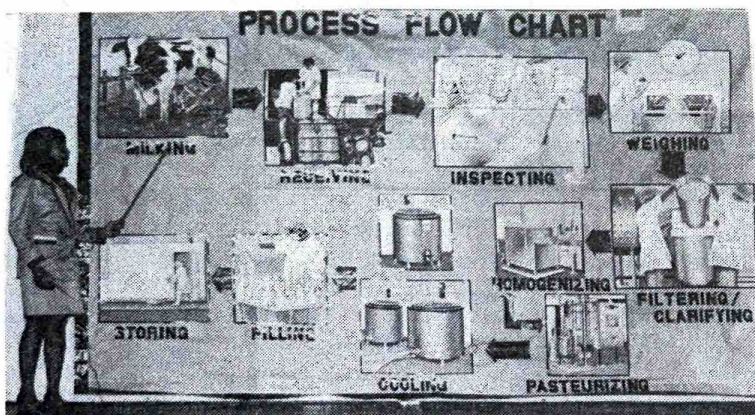
As far as my studies are concerned, they are going on smoothly and productively. I have a monotonous routine here every day. Go to school for the lectures from seven to ten-thirty in the morning and to the hospital for the clinics from ten-thirty to twelve noon. After an hour break, I go back to the classroom for more lectures up to six in the afternoon.

Third year subjects are numerous compared to what we had last year. As a result, I'm always tired at the end of the day. Fatigue sometimes makes me drowsy with few energy left to study for the next day's exam. But I like listening to lectures anyway - they're not only easy to understand but interesting as well. They're also highly informative since they are given by commendable lecturers. Seeing several medical experts in one room is already enough to make my day. One thing though. They give difficult exams.

August 16, 1995

In three weeks time, we'll already be having our semestral break. I might not go home during that time. I want to volunteer in the hospital to at least use my three-week vacation.

My studies are fine although it's sometimes hard to manage my time. Every day I struggle here. But I'm improving though. I learn something new every day and I think it's enough to compensate for my efforts.



PCAFPD 1995 graduate Marife Matulac presents her thesis for a BS in Industrial Engineering.

PCAFPD Officers 1995-1996

President:	Maureen Carroll (61-63)
VP/RP:	Roland de Jesus
VP/US:	Patricia MacDermot Kasdan (61-63)
Treasurer:	Alexander Sinclair (83-86)
Scholars:	Carol Radomski (80-83)

Scholar Meets Challenges

Liza G. Permelona, Education,
University of Nueva Caceres, Naga City, reports:

May 30, 1995

I am the incumbent president of the active Mathematics Society in our school. I am also the incumbent secretary of our Education Cultural Society in our department. As far as my off-the-campus activities are concerned, I am the incumbent secretary of the newly-formed INTER-SCHOOL FEDERATION OF EDUCATION STUDENTS (ISFES) in Naga City. ... I am proud to inform you that the conception of the name of ISFES is attributed to me. I had some difficulties in producing the said name. ...

I am fortunate not to have any failing grades in my major subjects. One of my professors who teaches higher mathematics subjects in our department is a bit eccentric. I admit that she has a very high I-Q in math, however, she is used to compare herself with her students, thus making her teaching method defective. ... The fact that she likes to fail students made some of my classmates shifted to other departments taking up another course just to avoid having failing grades. I, on the other hand, was challenged. ...

It is really hard to become a teacher. ... Backout is not in my vocabulary. Since, I am totally committed to this profession, I guess, I will just do my best in my own little way while performing my duties as a teacher. ...

Once again, I am reiterating my profound gratitude for all the support extended to me.

June 18, 1995

I was chosen as the Managing Editor of our school organ, "The DEMOCRAT". ... Secondly, I am the newly-elected vice president of our Education Cultural Society. ...

Lastly, I am also the newly elected president of the Education Fourth Year Level in our department which means that I shall be the one who will handle the BSEd Practicum students this coming second semester.

October 16, 1995

By the way, a week prior to our final examination, I took the required Comprehensive Examination for INC Practicum Students. Fortunately, I ranked five (5) among 83 practicum students who took it ... only half of the examinees passed the said examination.

As to my activities, recently I was elected as treasurer to the newly-revitalized College Editors Guild of the Philippines (CEGP) - Camarines Sur Chapter for this school year ...



Roland de Jesus and his mother, **Mrs. Modesto de Jesus** accept a plaque in honor of the great contributions of late PCAFPD VP, **Modesto de Jesus**, to the Foundation.

Peoples of the Luzon Mountains: Philippine Photographs by Eduardo Masferré, the Philippines foremost regional photographer, through December 31, 1995 University of Pennsylvania Museum, Philadelphia, Pa.

Student Earns to Learn

Jenifer A. Mercado, Engineering, Pablo Borbon Memorial Institute of Technology, relates the following:

August 21, 1995

I also need to be prepared everyday, for our instructors love to give surprise exams. In fact, our preliminary exams were surprised exams.

August 28, 1995

My training in an industry enables me to put into practice all what had been explained and taught into us.... For instance, estimating, preparing Bill of Materials, Progress Report, manpower schedule and the like.... I was able to work with the skilled workers, the personnel, the supervisors and managers as well.... I can imagine how they double or even quadruple their efforts of procuring their physiological and biological needs. Much more that I have to capitalize myself for various reasons, i.e., help my family and help others to the best I can. Every effort will be made to serve them to compensate the Foundation for your help in pursuing my engineering degree. ...

September 12, 1995

My mother is a school vendor. ... I help her until recess in the morning then I go home to prepare myself in going to school. Sometimes I go by other houses before going to school for part-time jobs.... I am also an AVON lady and I'm using my vacant period doing the sales talk persuading my classmates to buy to get commission for selling AVON products. After going home from school, I'll just change my dress then I go to the contractor of hand hemming and embroidery of baby dresses for export. ... I also teach some mothers (during my free time on Sat. and Sundays) how to sew so that they can spend their leisure time wisely.

COUPLE DIRECT PEACE CORPS

by Bessie Kong (75-77)

Gale Metcalf and Joel Wallach are the new Co-Directors of the Peace Corps program in the Philippines, succeeding Wayne Olsen. They are no strangers to job-sharing and have worked overseas together as co-directors and co-consultants for more than twenty years.

In 1987, Joel and Gale founded the Community Services Center, a non-profit organization that provides mental health, cross-cultural and educational services to the international community in Taiwan. They co-directed the Center from 1987 until 1995. Prior to that, they managed similar organizations in Egypt and Malaysia. Together they wrote the handbook, *Working with Americans: A practical Guide for Asians on How to Succeed with US Managers*.

Joel and Gale have been involved with Peace Corps in a number of ways over the years. From 1968 until 1971, Joel served as a PCV in Malaysia. The new Directors took over a program which has grown rapidly since Peace Corps re-entered the Philippines in 1992. Currently the program fields 85 Volunteers in three different projects around the country, teacher training, park development and conservation, and small-island development. To date 8,581 PCVs have served in the Philippines, more than in any of the other 129 countries served.

RPCV Battles Typhoon

Diane Rodill (85-87), returned to the Bicol for the funeral of her host-family Mother. The event coincided with All Saint's Day on November 1st, when families spend the night in the cemetery honoring deceased relatives.

Diane spent the night with her hosts in the new family mausoleum, chatting, eating and listening to music by candle-light because power failed with the onset of the recent typhoon.

Diane's return to the States was delayed two days by the typhoon, and she found about 1,000 others whose flights had also been canceled when she arrived at Legaspi airport, all trying to get on the only flight out which had 120 seats. Ever resourceful, Diane mentioned her Peace Corps connection and was given one of the scarce seats!

OBITUARY

George Howard (76-78), 36, died when the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building was bombed in Oklahoma City. He worked for the Department of Housing and Urban Development, and transferred two weeks earlier from the San Francisco office. He was a veteran of the Vietnam War.



RPCV Sarah McMeans dines with fellow RPCVs from the Philippines at the NPCA conference in Atlanta.

Whatever Happened to ... ?

- **Michael Arnott** (79-81) is proposing a new journal, *Sustainable Development and Education*, with "how to" case studies by and for community leaders. He wants feedback from RPCVs - you can write to him at 61 Slade St., Belmont, MA 02178.
- **Dale Buscher** (84-87) is Project Director for the International Catholic Migration Commission in Northern Iraq, directing relief efforts for the Kurdish people in the UN safe haven.
- **Sarah W. McMeans** (62-64) is a Paralegal for Washington law firm Covington & Burling. She edits a prize-winning newsletter for the Washington DC RPCV group. She attended the National Peace Corps Association meeting in Austin in August, and reports that about 15 RPCVs attended the Philippine country update and reunion where two Filipino graduate students spoke.
- **P. David Searles** (Country Director 71-74) is writing a book on the Peace Corps in the Philippines in the 1970's; he would like to hear from PCVs or staff who served there at that time - 1907 Littlewood Drive, Owensboro, KY 42301.
- **John Tansey** (85-87) is the new Peace Corps Administrative Officer in Uzbekistan, where he is living with his wife Nita, daughter Leah and son Shane.
- **Evelyn Mittman Wrinn** (61-63), an attorney in Washington, DC, is President of the Chevy Chase Citizens Association with 1300 members.

Grad Teaches Street-Kids

Spring 1995 graduate, Jose R. Eguia, describes his work as a teacher:

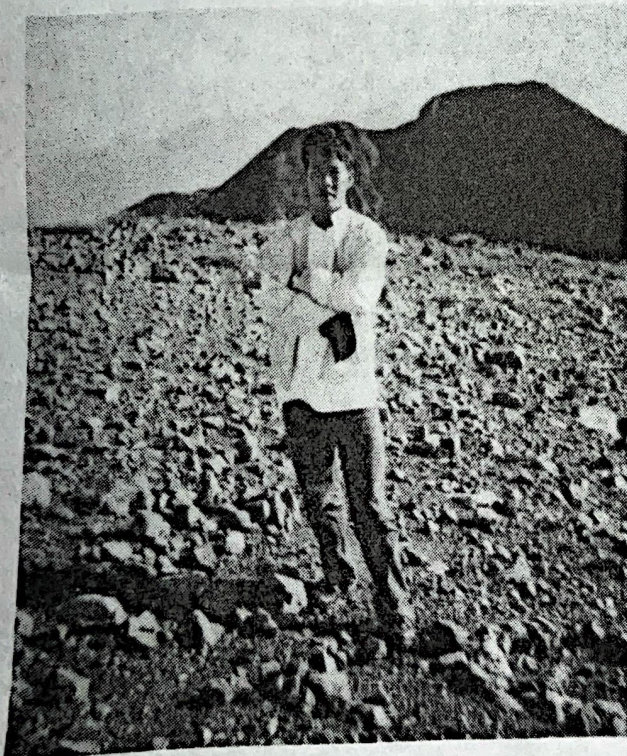
"In our practice teaching within a year I really in my heart and mind that the school is the second home of the students and we teachers stand as their second parents too. That's why I learned to love them and put an extra understanding toward them and give the very best of my effort in teaching them professionally.

"In our On-Campus teaching, I joined 'Each One-Teacher-One' program of our school. Free tutor for out of school-youth especially street children. I have a client who's 13 years old but he never attended in a formal education. I had taught him for almost one semester and I did my very best to share or to impart my knowledge assuring that he learned from me before I left - he learned how to read, to write and basic arithmetic.

"During our Off-Campus teaching I received a certificate because I joined the 'Community Outreach Program'. We adopt a barangay in Manila in which our objective is to improve and maintain clean and green environment. We planted trees along the roads....

"I still assist my parents for supporting my studies. I was a part time tutor and sometimes I worked in a construction to earned a little....

"We thank those who have made recent gifts to PCAFPD. To my dear co-escholars as we step out of the portals of PCAFPD, let us carry-on with us the emblem of this Foundation and let us live with its principles. Let us bear in mind that whatever we will be the PCAFPD will always be part of us."



PCAFPD alumnus Ronnie Benitua climbing Mt. Canaloan in the course of his work in community development.

ALUMNI STRIVE, THRIVE

Baby Myra Carpio, 1995 graduate in Nursing, has found full-time employment as a Nurse-Reliever.

Ricky G. Lubrigas, another 1995 graduate, writes: "I am glad to inform you that I have passed in the recent Nurses Board Examination with a general average of 81.20% as published in *Manila Bulletin* July 16, 1995 issue. Praise God! "May the Good Lord shower the Foundation with His heavenly blessings and strengthen you always in all of your endeavors."

RPCVs for Environment and Development
FREE copy - send address to Katy Hansen,
Box 246, Orange City, IA 51041, (712)
737-2700 or katywhansen@igc.apc.org

ALUMNUS WORKS IN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Ronnie M. Benitua, wrote to VP Roland de Jesus on April 17, 1995:

"I am glad to hear that you are the one to continue the work of your father. You know sir, I really miss the advices, encouragement and the words your father (MODESTO) always said to me when I was still a PCAFPD scholar. Maybe the only payment I can assume for all his goodness is to pray for his salvation and also to help my fellows, especially the unfortunate ones.

"At present, I am working in the Provincial Environment Management Office (PEMO) of the Province of Negros Occidental as Project Officer/Community Development Assistant. I am handling four Integrated Social Forestry Projects composed of four Small Farmers Association in the municipality of Calatrava. I spend much of my time in the field staying with the ISF beneficiaries organized and educate them by conducting Seminars, Trainings on Environment, Agriculture and Cooperative as well.

"Furthermore, I also work as a Change Agent of these people, And to change the behavior, beliefs and lifestyle of a group of people with varying personalities are quite difficult and challenging. Most of them don't even finished the primary education and some can't even write their names. There are also some who are a former member of the different rebel groups, which usually opposed the Gov't programs. Besides, the sites are unreachable by vehicles so I have to walk a kilometers or more inorder to reach it. But of course I love and enjoyed this kind of work.

Lastly, let me extend my deepest gratitude to the FOUNDATION for making my dream a reality. "YOU'RE SUCH A GREAT PART OF MY SUCCESS". GOD BLESS YOU.

CONTRIBUTORS

To economize, we thank all who have made recent gifts to PCAFPD here rather than by mail. If you check "Philippines" on your contribution to NPCA, PCAFPD receives a \$15 contribution in your name.

Charles T. Alexander
Dick Ammann
Jeff Amundsen
Michael Arnott
Mark D. Baker
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Marie K. Tymrak
William M. Valentine
Bill and Jay Warren

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