

Through PCAFPD, returned 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 envelope provided.

PCAFPD MOURNS VICE PRESIDENT



Modesto de Jesus, Vice President and a founder of PCAFPD, died September 16 in Manila. For over ten years "Mod" single-handedly ran the Foundation's Philippine operation - distributing applications to community contacts identified by PCV's, interviewing candidates, visiting scholars' schools and paying their academic bills and (for some) living allowances, and helping scholars fulfill their academic potential, as well as PCAFPD requirements for support. Most important, he remained in constant contact with as many as 38 scholars at a time, counselling and supporting them with concern and wisdom. Excerpts follow from Mod's obituary in *The Philippine Star* of September 20:

Modesto de Jesus, 72, secretary to Bishop George F. Castro, general superintendent of the Iglesia Evangelica Metodista en las Islas Filipinas, passed away at 10 a.m. Sept. 16. He had been confined for nearly 50 days at the Veterans Memorial Medical Center in Quezon City....

Surviving the deceased are his widow Rosario Palines de Jesus, and two sons, Edgar and Roland and their respective families, Atty. Concha Vizcarra, sister, and Moises de Jesus, brother. The deceased was a retired employee of the US Armed Forces based at the former Clark Field until his retirement some years ago. After his retirement, he was employed as management director of the US Peace Corps.

Mod was Director of Management in the Peace Corps/Manila office for 12 years before joining the Foundation when it began in 1983. Before he died, he asked his son, Roland P. de Jesus, to continue his services to PCAFPD until the Board of Directors develops alternative plans.

Foundation Faces Uncertain Future

by Maureen Carroll (1961-63), Board of Directors

The unexpected death of Modesto de Jesus, one of PCAFPD's founders and its most dedicated worker, has exacerbated the concern of the Board of Directors, that has been mounting over several years, about our ability to sustain the work of the Foundation. Fund-raising has always been feasible because of our modest mission, extremely low administrative costs and the generosity of our supporters. The implementation of our program has relied heavily, however, on more than money.

Board members must devote significant volunteer time to fund-raising; newsletter-writing and distribution, financial management, student selection, student support, etc. Mod, of course, bore the brunt of the front-line work with extraordinary dedication that hardly wavered as his health declined. As indicated elsewhere, he has asked his son to carry on his work for him "until advised by ... the Board of Directors of more definitive plans for local operation of the Foundation." Therefore, we are considering whether there are other options for administering the program in the Philippines. The larger problem, however, has been the waning numbers of active Board members here in Washington, DC, and the difficulty we have had in attracting "new blood" to sustain our work. Accordingly, as you may have noted, we have not accepted any new students to support in the last two years, although we are committed to completing out financial obligations to the remaining eight students.

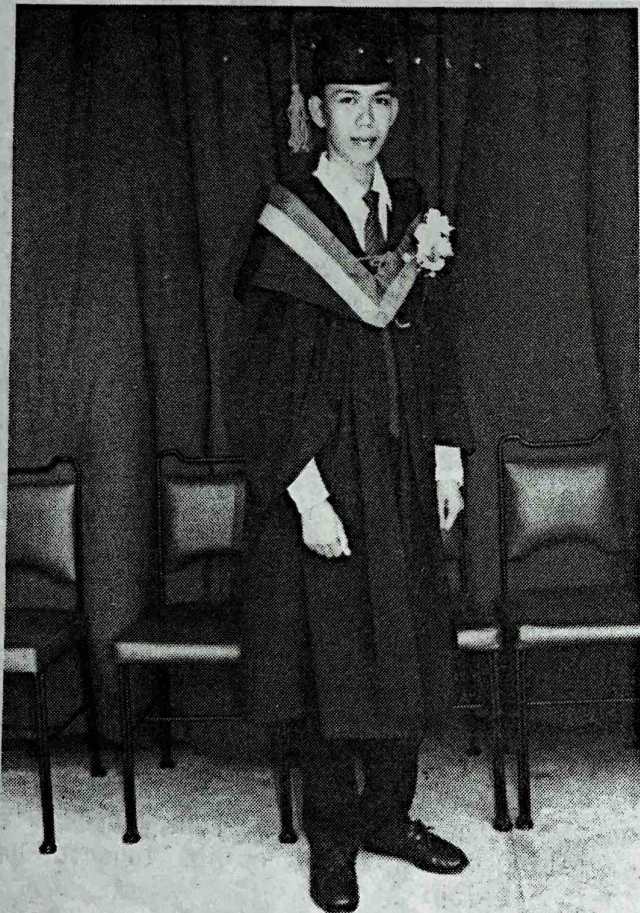
The few active members of the Board have considered various alternatives, including changing the Foundation into a membership organization like many other RPCV groups. The "Friends of X Country" model would add social and perhaps advocacy dimensions to the philanthropic scope of the Foundation and would require membership fees, annual meetings, election of officers by the membership, etc. (continued on page 2)

Foundation Faces Future *continued*

The additional funds generated might support paid clerical staff in the Philippines and would provide members with a broader scope of services. Nevertheless, it would also require MORE ACTIVE MEMBERS with a stake in making a "Friends of the Philippines" organization a thriving organization.

In the coming months, the current Board must come to grips with these issues and make decisions about the future. We are publishing this article to alert you to our dilemma and to seek your advice. The perfect solution would be to have a number of people step forward to become active Board members and sustain the important work we have done over the past ten years.

When you sit down to make your usual contribution to the work of the Foundation, can you take a few minutes to let us know your thoughts about the direction we should take? It's time for the *bayanihan* spirit!



Wilson Villarin graduates on April 4, 1994

Peace Corps Alumni Foundation for Philippine Development

President (1994)	Jeff Amundsen
Secretary	Sandy Sinclair
Treasurer	Jan Putnam
Student Affairs	Carol Radomski
Newsletter	Patricia Kasdan

SCHOLARS STRUGGLE AND SUCCEED

* Robert Cajes, March 22, 1994:

"I am often at a dilemma on what subject to study first and how to finish this one fast, for we get to have 3 or 4 exams a day. Exams keep mounting every day and I'm losing weight faster than I can imagine. It is only now that I have realized how hard it is to become a doctor. However, I'm willing to face this challenge with optimism and confidence. Competition has been so fierce and visible this first year that I'm beginning to get used to it. I never lose hope whenever I'm disappointed with my scores for I always trust in God. Every time I get disappointed after an exam, I always think about the Foundation and that I have to study harder and fulfill the Foundation's plan for me. Despite all the odds I've been encountering, I'm proud to say that I'm still one of the better if not the best students in the class.

* Jenifer Mercado, June 29, 1994:

"The preceeding school year was the most difficult so far in my studies. That was the period when I decided to major the field of civil engineering. I sacrificed more effort to pass all my subjects, which were very challenging. It took me much time for studying and accomplishing things in order to meet all the requirements in both semesters of my third year in engineering.

"Being busy with my studies doesn't mean I have forgotten my duties and responsibilities at home and in my community. I still assist my parents earning for the whole family. I worked under the program of the government for the employment of students earning 40% of the labor minimum wage. I also had time to my peers cooperating with their activities like the Basketball Liga held by both Parish Youth Council and Sangguniang Kabataan Movement which is the cleanliness Contest held in our *barangay*, as well as their *Alay Lakad*. During the last *barangay* election, I assisted the teachers in the voting center and also act as watcher for the peace and order of the so called *barangay* election.

"Now I am helping my mother who is a school vendor before attending the class. My classes start at 12:00 o'clock noon and ends at 6:00 o'clock in the evening. I still have two years to strive and with your wholehearted assistance my dreams will come into reality."

SCHOLAR WRITES AND RHYMES

Ricky Lubrigas, Student Report...SY 1993-94

"There is no greater task than to serve,
there is no greater service
than to offer self."

This is something that I have learned from spending my 3 long years in studying Bachelor of Science in Nursing. I learned to open my eyes/senses not only in minding my own problems but also to be more sensitive to the needs of others. Physiological needs are not just enough to be met by an individual but psychological care should also be focused for patient's recovery. A "touch" is such an important aspect of care which I personally experience in taking care of my patients. It is not just enough to take their blood pressure, to regulate their Intravenous fluids or to give them their medicines but offer yourself to them to boost their ego and help them develop the will towards recovery.

As a member of a healing group in our institution (Raphaelians Unlimited) I learned that each and everyone of us can be an instrument of God's Healing Power if we will just open ourselves to him and be willing always to follow his righteous path. I also learned to offer service and encouragement to others in my own special way.

Being a nurse to be in the future, I realized that it requires not just knowledge and skills but something that goes beyond, something that soothes other soul---it's the attitude to respond to others need, to treat them the way they should be treated and basically to die to oneself for the sake of others welfare.

This year I also became a part of various programs of the Department of Health such as the National Immunization Day and it is really a memorable time offering yourself to others.

Furthermore, in our school, I was elected as a senator for next year's Supreme Student Government and I do hope and believe that I can be of help in solving studentry's problems as well as in the promotion of a healthy relationship between students, Administrator, Faculties and Staff.

Lastly I would like to share a poem written by me during my second year in this course. This is dedicated to my fellow nursing student scholars.



Ricky Lubrigas entertains Boys' Town orphan Nurse'ry Rhyme

(Dedicated to Nursing Students)

Oh my God! It's another Monday
The Start of my week's duty,
Hope it will be a good day
To you I humbly and sincerely pray.

You know that I suffered alot
This world has given me a big blood clot,
Sometimes I almost wanted to put an end
and deviate from something I've dreamed.

I wanted to effuse from this ordeal
But doing this requires a great deal,
I've found myself in a Montgomery strap
How difficult it is to dress the gap.

How I wish that the road will anastomose
and that wrong way be successfully closed,
Pressure cuts me like a surgical knife
Like a major operation that threatens life.

A costly paper bill or a suffering man
Are just some of your motivation's regimen,
But no matter what other data you may collect
You should know how therapeutically you direct.

Time management as what they always instruct
But how difficult for you to develop that conduct,
Library became your home, home became the library
Precious time is spent in your outputs regularly.

Deficiencies seem to count alot
Don't wanna be absent-a 24 hour equivalent,
Three to eleven, eleven to seven or seven to three
Marvelous eyestrain and eyebugs stay free.

Will you understand? will you memorize?
Laboratory studies, Anatomy, fact sheets at hand,
You have to develop knowledge, skills and attitude
That you may not find yourself in a world of solitude.

In this conscious clinically dead world
You need to cut the newborn's cord,
Your compassionate voice, your lamp that glows
Will add to the deposited bone marrow.

Your population will continuously be circulated
As long as something needs to be excreted,
Will everyone of your colleagues able to digest
Ask your cerebrum, brainstem and spinal cord to ingest.

STAND UP AND BE PROUD!

A surgery or along- course chemotherapy
Can still possibly save your integrity,
"Don't quit, as the famous poem goes that way.



RPCV Nick Royal left, jams with Mr. Espanola, center, and Mr. Garcia, right, in Belison, Antique where he served in 1961-63.

RPCV RECOUNTS RETURN TO RP

Nick and Ruth Royal, who served in PCV Group 2 and 3, respectively, returned to the Philippines with their son and daughter in July 1993. Ruth reports:

"...In Antique, it is hard to get used again to sleeping on bamboo slats covered by a sheet. I used to do it, but then I was a bit younger. The other thing that made it hard to sleep was the noise at night: the bleating of the goat scheduled for dinner, and dogs barking back and forth from one yard to another....

"When I was living on Samar I had to travel between Leyte (where Tacloban is) and Samar by boat, or I had to take a plane to Calbayog City. Now there is a bridge connecting the two across the channel, as Highway 1 goes down these islands from Luzon, and eventually across to Mindanao (by ferry)....

"Nipa villages line the road (somehow the tiny houses and simplicity are more appealing in the rural areas than when the same houses are over the muck and scrap and waste in the cities). People in the rice fields were transplanting rice in the same way they have probably done for centuries. In Panay, Poren told us that this was no longer done, but that the rice was pre-germinated and cast out with a propagating machine. Only two people were now needed to do what took twenty before. We noticed that the fields there were not evenly sown, but rather heavy in spots and nothing at all in other areas. The hand-transplanted fields in Samar looked beautifully even, probably more productive, but utilized all that back-breaking labor. In both areas they

said they got three crops a year now.... How heavily fertilized they must have to be with commercial fertilizer, which was advertised in every town....

"When I lived on Samar, there were four kilometers of paved road on the way to Calbayog, which ended abruptly, and the jeeps and buses jolted along the gravel or dirt roads for hours to their destinations. Now it is paved all the way, and travel is a lot faster, even though it is only one lane each way. Even the hand-pulled ferry at Gandara was replaced by a bridge (as the one later to Tinambacan had been).

"...We took a motorized pedicab out to Tinambacan, where Kathy and I had lived.... I was amazed at how much growth there was, and yet how much had stayed the same.... I thought that this woman on the porch was about Nene's age, and started to walk toward her, when she recognized me and leapt down her steps to grab me. As we tried to talk to each other, she kept saying, "Binisaya la," to get me to try to talk to her in Waray, as she does not understand much English. "Where is our house?" I asked her, and she dissolved in giggles when she explained that its place had been taken now by the school toilet....

"Since we were there in the early 60's, the population has doubled. Everywhere you look there are children....

"There aren't sufficient jobs for people now, or rather, not enough money to pay for all the jobs that need to be done....

"Everything is pre-packaged in little plastic packages that are all thrown away....

"There is now a total tree-cutting ban in Samar.....On the edges that we travelled, there were many fewer trees and

RPCV's Return (continued)

many more rice fields and coconut plantations and towns than there had once been....

"In Manila, to get a job and home may mean two to three hours daily in a jeepney or bus in gruelling traffic and terrible pollution. On one taxi drive through Metro-Manila, the driver didn't start up at the changed light, and Nick looked over to find he had fallen asleep. We asked another how many hours he drove - the answer, from 6 to midnight. In that time on a good day he could take in about 1050 pesos, but 550 of it would have to go to rent the cab. On a bad day, he might only make 200 pesos (27 pesos = \$1). He had seven kids...."

OBITUARY

RPCV Leonard F. Giesecke III, (1961-63), 57 died of a heart attack in April in Georgetown, Texas. He was married to Mary Teasler who was also a member of Philippines Group 1. Giesecke was Peace Corps associate director in Turkey from 1963 to 1965, and was professor and chair of the department of economics and business at Southwestern University at the time of his death.

PCAFPD GRADUATE CARRIES ON

Ronie Benitua reports his experience since earning a BS in Agriculture from the University of Negros Occidental earlier this year:

"I joined in the Governors Youth Summer Employment Program (GYSEP) as a volunteer. I was assigned by the Food for Work Office as an evaluator of the Integrated Social Forestry Project (REFORESTATION) in Brgy. Masaling, Cauyan, Negros Occidental then transferred to Sitio Pitugo, Brgy. Guiljungan still in Cauyan wherein I have to walk seven or more kilometers in order to reach the site. I stayed there for almost a month and during my entire stay in that community, I taught them some of the techniques in farming for it is their main source of income. I also learn from them how to speak Cebuano. I really enjoyed this kind of work, to teach the less fortunate people and also to learn from them. Maybe this is the only way wherein I could pay the FOUNDATION for without them what I have now would not be possible."



RPCV Nick Royal with new friends, July 1993

DAY CARE FUNDED

PCAFPD contributes, through the Peace Corps Partnership Program, to the support of 26 day care centers started in 1992 by PCV Jack DeHaven in Odiongan, Romblon, for 2,000 pre-school children.

The centers lack tables, chairs, cabinets, books, pencils, training aids, etc., and have used the funds we provided to buy a comfortable chair for the teacher to work with students at eye-level, water jugs and pails for Health and Sanitation corners in each center, and large, handwoven rattan mats for story-telling and naps (many of the centers still have dirt floors). They have also acquired sturdy storage shelves for food-serving and preparation utensils. DeHaven reports that each center has a small corner galley for preparing snacks, washing hands and brushing teeth, so that daily practice will encourage good, life-long habits.

Each center has a small playhouse with rattan furniture, decorations and dolls representing the family - mother, father, children and animals. The centers completed these families with 135 handmade dolls.

DeHaven completed his Peace Corps tour last June. His work with the day care centers is continued by his Peace Corps replacement, whose background is in nutrition and education, and who is working to improve the nutritional value of the daily snacks provided at each center.

DeHaven has offered to answer questions; he can be reached c/o U.S. Peace Corps, 2139 Fidel Reyes Street, Malate, Manila, Philippines 1004.

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To economize, we thank those who have made recent gifts to PCAFPD here rather than by mail:

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 Charles & Evelyn Alexander
 (South Korea)
 Ginny Allen (JAPAN)
 Waldo Allen (AZ)
 Lauren Arnold (NY)
 Michael Arnott (MA)
 Marjorie Bakken (MA)
 Stephen Banta (PHILIPPINES)
 Ronald Batkiewicz (MI)
 Constance & Dietz Bauer (IN)
 Mary Esther Baxter (WA)
 Rodney Bean (UT)
 Robert G. Beckel (MD)
 Terri Bergman (DC)
 David & Virginia Bernklau (OR)
 Kenneth Bollerud (NY)
 Elaine Brown (GA)
 Dale Buscher (IA)
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 Clayta Spear Campbell (NM)
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 Brian & Chato Crawford (RI)
 Jonathan & Evelyn Curtis (TX)
 Owen Davis (WV)
 Katherine Detgan (MI)
 Lisa Donnan (UT)
 Stephen Dorage (GA)
 Toni Ferrara (CAMBODIA)
 Daniel & Martha FitzMaurice (CT)
 Phyllis Flattery (OH)
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