

Peace Corps Alumni Foundation for Philippine Development

Newsletter 29
Fall 1999

P.O. Box 126
Arlington, VA 22210

Through PCAFPD, returned Peace Corps Volunteers, former Peace Corps/Philippines staff, and friends maintain their bonds with the Philippines by providing scholarships for exceptional Filipino students who need financial aid to attend college in their country. Please join us by sending a contribution in the enclosed envelope.

We Won!

The National Peace Corps Association (NPCA) presented the Loret Miller Ruppe Award for Community Service (*right*) to PCAFPD at the NPCA conference in Minneapolis last August. Board member Sarah Wilkinson McMeans (1962-64) accepted the award and a check for \$500 on behalf of the Foundation and its contributors. Maury Sterns, Awards Committee Chair, presented the award with this citation:

The Loret Miller Ruppe award for Community Service recognizes outstanding projects by affiliated groups which promote the third goal of Peace Corps or continue to serve host countries, and which build group spirit and cooperation, promote service, and are examples that others can follow. The award, which includes a check for \$500, was presented to the Peace Corps Alumni Association for Philippine Development.

This group has, for the past 18 years, dedicated its membership's (*sic*) energy and resources to educational opportunities for Filipino students, making it possible for over 80 Filipino students to earn diplomas and degrees in the Philippines. The foundation raises funds through direct contributions as well as special fundraising activities. Over 1,000 RPCVs have contributed with typical donations ranging from \$25 to \$50.

The Philippine scholarship program is a model for other RPCV groups thinking about establishing similar scholarship programs. Friends of Guatemala followed their lead and for the past 10 years has been awarding scholarships to high school students. The Philippine Foundation has been sought out by several other country of service groups. They have indeed met the spirit of the Ruppe Award.

The Sargent Shriver Award for Humanitarian Service is presented to a returned Peace Corps Volunteer (RPCV) for sustained and distinguished contributions to humanitarian causes. This year's award, including a check for \$1,000, was presented to Julie Demichelis, a home science program coordinator in Ghana (1982-84), for her disaster preparedness work in Côte d'Ivoire, and the Balkans.

**How should we use our \$500 award?
Alumni follow-up? Teacher training grant? Other?
Send your suggestions on the enclosed envelopes.**



THE NATIONAL PEACE CORPS ASSOCIATION

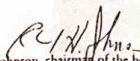
presents

The Loret Miller Ruppe Award for
Outstanding Community Service
to

The Peace Corps Alumni Foundation for Philippine Development

on August 14, 1999
in Minneapolis-St. Paul, Minnesota
at the 20th-anniversary conference of returned Peace Corps volunteers

"Celebrating Peace"


Roland Johnson, chairman of the board


Dane F. Smith, Jr., president

Embassy to Host Reception for PCAFPD

The new ambassador from the Republic of the Philippines to the United States, His Excellency Ernest M. Maceda, will hold a reception for PCAFPD contributors on **Thursday, December 2 at 6:30 p.m.** at the embassy. The reception will be a traditional Christmas celebration with typical entertainment and delicacies to benefit the Foundation scholarship fund.

Announcements were sent to all PCAFPD contributors in the greater Washington area; all who wishes to attend are welcome. Reservations are essential because the embassy can accommodate only 100 guests; a donation of \$35 per person is suggested. Send reservations and donations to: Andre A. Bald, 1711 Massachusetts Ave., NW, # 818, Washington, DC 20036. For information, call Andre at (202) 483-5931.

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Scholars Report Work, Play, Including:

➤ Crime Does Not Pay

Jonnah B. Anamong (right) of Benguet is majoring in Community Development/Social Work at Cordillera College, Buyagan, La Trinidad, Benguet:

March 1999

My second year in college is very challenging. During the first semester I encountered many difficulties in my studies. It is coping up with new lessons, adjustments to new and strict instructions, dealing with many paper works and research interview...

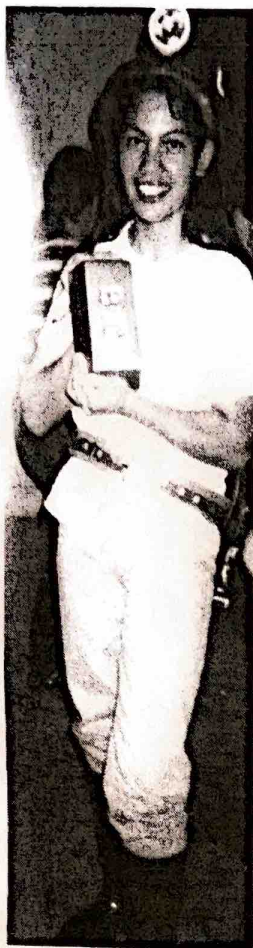
The second semester was more exciting yet more of expense. I have taken the introduction of my course which is CD 150 and find it interesting. I love very much to be a community worker...I am also one of those who went to attend the 1999 World Population Report conducted by the United Nations Population Fund. The very lesson that we've learned is "Be responsible in everything you do." Its topic was about the causes of premarital sex which results to abortion and the overpopulation of the world.

That convention was very educational. It serves as unsolicited advice and reminder to youth. The next activity was when we went to the Provincial jail. We interviewed some of the prisoners and learned that most of the cases are rape, robbery and murder. There are many reasons why the prisoners did a crime based on our interview. Well, we'll just hope that right justice will be given to them. As the saying goes "Crime does not pay."...

"Only education is your key to success" this is what Ma'am Theresa Vick wrote in her letter for me before she and her husband Sir Lief went back to Alaska...I am very thankful to the foundation for giving me this privilege to take a higher education. For sure, that PCAFPD will always be a part of everything I would achieve and would become.

May 1999

...I did not miss the chance to be a member of the STUDENTS CRIME BUSTER ORGANIZATION (SCO) Baguio/Benguet Chapter. As a community development student, one of my prime duty is to help maintain peace and order and to take care the welfare of the youth. Lately, there was a heart breaking news that Baguio and Benguet colleges and universities so with the high school department was entered by drug pushers. Aside from the shameful news that our province Benguet is the no. 1 producer of Marijuana.



Jonnah Anamong holds gold bar in Balatoc Mine

➤ Applying Class Lessons

Zarra R. Fesabbon, of Gabawan, Odiongan, Romblon, is pursuing a BS in Civil Engineering at Romblon State College. In her report about her first year in college, she described how she has already been able to apply what she has learned:

Today I was able to apply my knowledge especially in construction of houses of my neighbors in our community. But still limited particular in design and other part in construction.

One of my friend in Business Administration asked my help to draw a sketch plan of a bakery for her thesis. All details must be drawn including the location plan. It's a pleasure for me that somebody have trusted me to apply what I have learned in drawing.

➤ Taking Educational Trip

Ruby Levantino of Sorsogon is working on a BS in Customs Administration. She sent the following report:

Our Educational trip was sponsored by the Mariners Polytechnic College Foundation (MPCF) Science Club... With our first itinerary we took the Mass at Basilica church. And then we gone to the Science Centrum, there we can find some of the discoveries and inventions of Famous Scientists, so as with some of the Great Mathematician and their contribution to Mathematics...In the Fiesta Canning Corp. they show us how they done the process of making Fiesta Sardines and also in the Ice plant. However, in the Coca-Cola bottling, they let us go around the plant and they took us to the place where the beverages process was made, they give us lecture and they allow us to drink their newly processed product. In the Capitol, they let us know some personels and they explain to us their tasks.

➤ Starting to Compete

Shirlyn M. Saboy of Burabod, Biliran, Biliran, is pursuing a BS in Education at Leyte Normal University:

Came the second semester,...I found myself joining the competition among the best in our classes. Though the competition is very high but I believe I am not behind. This time I am very much confident that I can be what I aspire to be. When the mid-term exam for the second semester was conducted my exam result prove I am not far behind. (What give me so much interest was my computer lesson in one of my subject at least I have now a little knowledge on computer.)

PCAFPD Officers and Board of Directors
 Maureen Carroll (1961-63) President
 Roland de Jesus Vice President/Philippines
 Stuart Taylor (1961-63) Vice President/US
 Ann Snuggs (1961-63) Secretary
 Alexander Sinclair (1983-86) Treasurer
 Andre Bald (1996-98) Special Events
 Lynn Gorton (Staff, 1980-85)
 Patricia MacDermot Kasdan (1961-63) Newsletter
 Sarah Wilkinson McMeans (1962-64) Data-base
 Carol Hammaker Radomski (1980-83) Student Affairs

Scholars Report Work, Play, Including:

➤ Saving the Environment

Narda C. Itong (*below*) of Benguet is working on a BS in Environmental Science:

May 1999

Greetings! To the Foundation PCAFPD, the staffs, the volunteers/ contributors for the financial support and our generous **Sir Roland de Jesus**, for always assisting and sacrificing the devoted time and highly provision of moral support, me as one of the scholar grantees would not end saying thank you very much and *Mabuhay kayong lahat!* Thanks God also for I have passed the many paper works and researches as requisites of our courses...

For every subject/courses, we had the following activities done:

...Environmental Ethics. Policies and Laws wherein it has required us to conduct a mini-case study through field observation and direct data gathering in one of the environmental issues. The selected topic was the rehabilitation

of coral reefs case in Lingayen Gulf, as to be aware of the situation of our aquatic resources...The estimated coralline cover destructed was almost one half and the said ratio of fish to fishermen is 1:10.

...Environmental Management, we had again the tree planting project...to enable us student to perform the different management functions as well as to help contribute in the development of biodiversity richness.

...Land Use Planning and Management...Per group, we are assigned to every municipality to assess the existing land use type of it, assess the suitability of the soil for such crops and establishments for introduction.

...Introduction to Environmental Research, requires a written report and presentation, and application of a description research type for a particular issue. Chosen topic is the evaluation of the La Trinidad Trading Post Waste Disposal and the dumpsites of La Trinidad found in Wangal.



➤ Studying Extinction

Segundina C. Latus, (*right*) is earning a BS in Environmental Science at Benguet State University:

To the Good Samaritans of PCAFPD,

Kumusta po kayong lahat? Here's hoping this letter reaches you in good health. The Latus Family, my family, are extending their heartfelt gratitude for all your support, for your generosity though the past years and the years to come. We are always praying, that the generous and loving Almighty God will always bless you and your family and your work place...

One of our major study was to prepare a land use plan for a certain municipality, in my case, that of Bugias, Benguet. The first step was to gather baseline information about the town that would serve as our basis in formulating the said plan... Evaluation of land suitability, appraisal of alternatives and choosing of the best option were also done before the preparation of the written land use plan.

Another major accomplishment I've had is the case study on the extinction of the endangered *Tamaraw* or Water Buffalo (*Bulbalus mindorensis*) which is found only in Mindoro Islands, Philippines. It is one of the most sought-after game... In this study, we applied and interrelated the concepts we've learned in Environmental Ethics, Policies and Laws since the focus of the study is on the ecological, ethical and political implications of the *Tamaraw's* extinction...

I enrolled in and finished a six-unit major course--the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)...Our group did the study in a proposed subdivision project...We came as far as gathering primary data such as conducting soil and water analyses; floral identification; and interview with the stakeholders--the proponents, concerned agencies, residents of the surrounding communities and their leaders...The most tensing part was the oral defense where in we had to face a four-member panel and an audience. Thank God we were able to answer the questions thrown to us.



➤ Being Accountable

Riza San Juan of Camarines Sur reported on the past scholastic year at the University of Nueva Caceres:

I have taken a new course which is Bachelor of Science in Accountancy... During the first semester, I never had any difficulties in adjusting, since I have a little background of it when I was in high school...

I've been an active member of JIPA, which stands for Junior Philippines Institute of Accountants. The organization aims to develop leadership skills, civic consciousness, discipline, academic excellence, and fellowship...

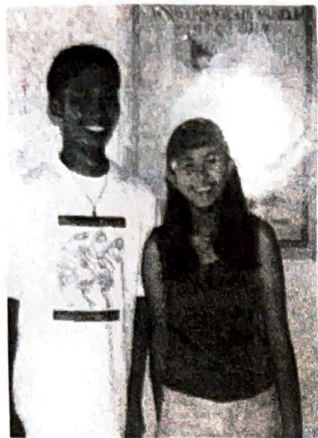
I want to thank you for granting me this scholarship that enable me to pursue my college education in a high standard school. I hope that this will continue until I finish my study. GOD BLESS YOU ALL!

➤ Finding Nature in Bohol

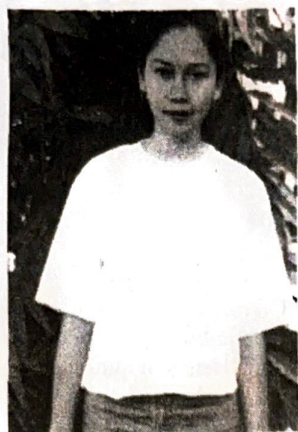
Ronald S. Yaco of Leyte is studying Electronic Communications Engineering at University of San Carlos in Cebu:

Our class in History...chose the nearest province island of Bohol...Upon our arrival in the beautiful city of Tagbilaran, we immediately took the 2-hour drive for the Chocolate Hills. On our way, we passed by little towns and barrios in which we have observed the real gift of nature; crystal-clear creeks, cool-green ricefields and pastures, clean and smooth roads and most of all cheerful inhabitants...After that we proceeded to the different church of the island. They were old and you can really see the ancient art and wood carvings...After taking our dinner, we spent the whole night in "Kilom-Kilom", a music bar.

New Scholars Adjust



Cyryn Tirol (right) and friend visit museum



Retchel Edang takes a break during sportfest



Nurse alumnus Ricky Lubrigas enters a patient's medical history and vital signs inpatient's chart

❖ **Zayda E. Tagabuen** of Guimaras studies Elementary Education at West Visayas State University:

June 7, 1999 was our first day of classes. Right now our school is selling us books for we need those within this semester. Our college (Education) also wants us to wear our college uniform within first week of July. As of now, we have already a pattern of it. I'm also lodging here at Magsaysay, Lapaz, Iloilo City. This boarding house of our is just a walking distance away from school. Mr. Ernesto Casuyon was our landlord, he's one of the security guard in our school, too.

More power to all of you and may GOD Bless!!!

❖ **Cyryn S. Tirol** of Davao is pursuing a degree in Civil Engineering at the University of the Philippines:

June 1999

With the help of God, I met some new friends there even though we have different personalities. We try to make as many friends as possible because peers can help you adjust with the new phase of life we are going to face.

I was very interested of joining the "PAHINUNGUD" or the cebuano version of "PAG-AALAY." This is a social service program present in every U.P. branches. PAHINUNGUD fulfills its responsibility by being involved in the life of the nation. This is accomplish through voluntary service.

Thank you very much for your support. I'll try my best to develop my self confidence, my personality and knowledge with the help of U.P.

August 1999

We've been asked by our History teacher to do a research about a particular administration here in the Phil. and I was assign to do a reporting about the Ramos administration. It would serve as our term paper and our final exam and it would have a minimum of 20 pages. One of the reason I wrote to you because I got the result of my exams and as far as I can see, I'm improving; in NaSci (Natural Science) I got 83, in Nihongo (Japanese) 77 and in Math 75 out of 100 items. I'm very happy about the result because it shows that I'm improving...I've been accepted as a *Pahinungod* volunteer and we have to do some workshop to train us. I'm very happy because at last I'm going to be a volunteer and I am rather excited about it, its very challenging and adventurous

Send my regards to all the people in the foundation...

Alumni Check In

❖ **Ricky Lubrigas**, Maguindanao, BS Nursing 1995:

I temporarily asked for leave in the seminary because of some financial problems in my family. At present, I am employed and serving the department of Health (DOH) as a physical therapy technician I and as Health Education and Promotion Officer Designate of Cotobato Sanitarium, a hospital located around one kilometer away from our residence

By the way, I would like to sincerely thank my sponsors, Mr. and Mrs. Jay and Gloria Schlosberg for helping me attain a college degree. I pray also for their daughter Debbie

Thank you and may the Lord God bless you and the Foundation as well.

❖ **Marife Matulac**, Butuan City, BS Industrial Engineering 1995:

How's the foundation goi'n on, is it fine? I hope.

As for me, I have my first job at Mac Jade Exports, Inc. located at Mactan Exports Processing Zone-MEPZ, Lapulapu City. It really sharpened my abilities for the privileged of a challenging job and potential responsibilities as Cutting Head then promoted as Production Control Head. Actually, this firm engaged in manufacturing of an export bags. But now, I'm presently working at LOALDE as Production Staff Assistant.

Whatever Happened to...

▲ **David Szanton** (1961-63) wrote that he has been Executive Director of International and Area Studies at UC Berkeley for eight years> He described his continuing involvement with the Philippines:

- Been pressing to establish a UC system-wide (all 9 campuses) exchange program with UPLB, UP Diliman, Ateneo and De La Salle--and eventually others in the provinces. We hope it will start in 2000--moving as many as 50 students a year from UC campuses for course work and internships in the Philippines and 20-25 junior faculty from their host institution to the UC system for research, writing, teaching, course development, etc.

- Also trying to organize a U California (again 9 campus) Filipino Studies Consortium for faculty and doctoral students working on Fil-Am Relations, the Philippines itself or the global diaspora.

- And finally, am still working at my book on the transformation in Estancia, Iloilo 1965-2000.

Expert Gives Time, Effort

Joan Joshi, a consultant in financial management who works with such international organizations as the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) in the Philippines, generously offered her services to PCAFPD. She has been working with Board members Roland de Jesus, Carol Radomski, Sandy Sinclair, and Stu Taylor to update the Foundation's record-keeping.



Joan Joshi (left) dines with alumnae in Manila: Liza Permelona, 1996 BS Education (center), and Jenifer Mercado, 1996 BS Civil Engineering (right)

Obituary

Stanley D. Suyat 1943-1999

Stan Suyat died of cancer at home in Hawaii on August 27, 1999. As a Peace Corps Volunteer he had been a teacher and community organizer in the Philippines from 1966 to 1968. Born in Honolulu, Stan earned a BA in Political Science from the University of Washington and a JD from Fordham Law School in New York. He worked for the New York Urban Coalition, practiced law in Hawaii, served as Deputy Director of Taxation, Director of Consumer Protection, and First Deputy Corporation Counsel for Honolulu, and became a partner in the law firm of Carlsmith Ball Wichman Case and Ichiki.

In 1993, Stan was appointed White House Liaison and Acting Chief of Staff of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission in Washington, DC, then Associate Director for Management at the Peace Corps, where he earned the Vice President's Hammer Award for improving government service while cutting costs. In 1997 he was appointed Director of Civil Rights and Diversity at the U.S. Department of Energy.

Stan founded the Hawaii Youth at Risk program and served as its first President. He is survived by his wife Linda, daughter Stacey, son Jonathan, parents Laurie and Donald, and brother Reginald.

Contributions received in memory of both Gini Hopkins and Leo Pastore will be used to fund scholarships in their names. Both Gini and Leo were in the first group of Peace Corps Volunteers in the Philippines (1961-63).

PCV Describes Experience

PCV Kamden Hoffman lives in Paggui, Ducligan, Banaue, Ifugao. She starts income-generating projects such as a piggery, poultry-raising, gardening, and a small store, with trickle up grants that revolve some of the profit to other community projects. She responded to our request for a description of PCV life today:

I've been serving in the Philippines for about a year now, and I take some time now to reflect on my service thus far while on medical in Manila waiting for my nurse to cure me once again with Lord only knows what medicine--just take it and hope for the best!

I am thankful to be able to receive such immediate treatment, I wish I could say the same for my good friends in Barangay (Barrio) Ducligan where I am residing. I have never appreciated the value of American Citizenship as I do after living and doing what my new found friends deal with every day.

When I first arrived at my site, like all of us PCVs the first two questions that appear in the mind are "Why am I here?" and "What exactly will I do here for two years?"...

We all know the three goals of PC service, striving ardously to fulfill the first goal, that of service and sustainability. If you have a heart to help others, it's the easy part. It is intangible until you concentrate on the second two goals. That of complete intercultural experiences, learning and teaching your night and day attitudes between two separate worlds that are meshed as one for a stint in time.

It all began the day I started chewing beetle nut. In the mountains of Ifugao, this nut is collected from the tropical tree, combined with a powdery lime and a ripe green leaf. It is chewed all together and creates a reddish color that you must spit until you have exhausted the flavor. After removing this dense mixture from your mouth, you start again relatively soon. Yes, we do this all day long. Besides the nice warming effect it renders, it actually is an essential part to cultural integration in the Province of Ifugao.

There isn't a formal greeting of "Hi, how are you?", our greeting is when you beg another for a part of this complete set, you trade essential parts, and when your spit turns red, you share your stories.

Chewing beetle nut has broken down all cultural barriers. The people of Ifugao now accept me and trust me as one of their own. Goal number one has occurred exponentially since I have satiated goals two and three with my chewing.

Basically, it's about Rome, you know the cliché, and it truly should be lived by as a Peace Corps Volunteer. I've even been given a native name--"Aginaya--the beautiful woman with many children who protects us." I must say it'll be a job for my dentist, my teeth are even turning red like the natives.

Two years is such a short time to surrender the "good life" of America for a once in a lifetime experience. My projects are definitely self satisfying and sustainable, but memories after just one year overwhelm myself and make me proud to be a Volunteer.

Contributors

We thank those listed below who recently contributed to PCAFPD.

The Foundation receives \$15 in your name if you check **Philippines** on the membership application or renewal form for the National Peace Corps Association (NPCA).

David R. Alt	VA	George Grills	Canada	Robert V. Purdy	NC
Richard & Heather Ames	MA	George Guthrie	PA	Rona Roberts	KY
Jeff Amundsen	VA	Steven D. Hall	IL	Paul A. Rodell	GA
Joan Aragone	CA	Marla Handy	VT	Kathryn Hannan Rohan	MI
Tracy Slingland Asher	WA	Jerry Hembd	MA	Alex and Lesley Romero	NC
Dirk Ballendorf	Guam	Linn Henderson	IL	Nick & Ruth Royal	CA
Leslie L. Behrends	AL	David C. Hetrick	PA	Dorothy & Scott Rubenstein	CA
Pamela Cohelan Benson	DC	Judy Swigost Hill	NY	Richard & Barbara Schneider	CA
Terri Bergman	CA	Jonathan Hubchen	Mozambique	Karin Schumacher	CO
Anne Hankins Bing	CT	Steve Jasper	OH	P. David Searles	KY
Sylvia Boecker	VA	Joyce E. Johnston	Canada	John Seidensticker	TX
Kenneth Bollerud	NY	Charles Kaza	MI	Clair & Thomas Sharpless	CT
Emery & Anne Bontrager	CA	David L. Kelley	AK	Margaret Shappard	DC
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Marilyn Nessari Brown	MO	David MacDougall	NY	M. Ann Snuggs	DC
Bruce Campbell	OR	Marilyn E. Maza	MD	Melba Stockhausen	WI
Gerard Capozzalo	NJ	Sally Pierce McCandless	TX	Milburn J. Stone	CT
Maureen Carroll	DC	Mark McDowell	MO	David Szanton	CA
Bruce Casey	SD	Raymond McEachern	FL	Ralph Thurston	ME
Leonel Castillo	TX	Joan Hansen Meehan	ME	Susan & Thomas Tilson	NY
Kathryn Conway	NY	Christian & Dr. Rory Miller	CT	Andy Tracy	VA
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Owen Davis	MD	Jerry Y. Ogawa	TN	Donna Thomas Verschuer	NH
Thomas & Ada Decourcy	HI	Michael Ollinger	DC	Joan C. Weaver	NH
Francis & Lydia Froschle	NM	Linda Henry Perron	NJ	Clara Wheatley	KY
Philip Ginsbrug	NH	Ronald & Lilia Peters	IL	Anna Whitcomb	MA
Tracy Gleason	CA	Peter Piness	El Salvador	Dr. Linda M. Wicks	NY
Lynn Gorton	DC	Emmanuel & Susan Pons	PA	Rick Zemlin	DC

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