

Peace Corps Alumni Foundation for Philippine Development

Newsletter 25
Fall 1997

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 who need help to attend college in their country. Please join us by sending a contribution in the enclosed envelope

PCAFPD PRESIDENT DESCRIBES EXPENSES

by Maureen Carroll (61-63)

In March of 1998, the Foundation will mark the 15th anniversary of its incorporation as a non-profit organization. Throughout the years, the financial resources required to provide scholarships to more than 60 Filipino students (approximately \$125,000) have come from supporters across the country who respond to the publication of this newsletter several times a year. We – and the scholars – are deeply grateful for the loyalty and generosity of our contributors.

We currently support eight college-level students. Support includes tuition, an allowance for housing, food, and transportation, and expenses such as books, uniforms, equipment, and fees. These expenses run approximately \$500 to \$900 a year. We expect expenses to continue to rise to at least \$1000 per year in the near future. Since the giving patterns of our contributors have not kept pace with the increases in scholar expenses, we have had to restrict the number of scholars we support, so that we are sure we can meet the four-year commitment we make to scholars who maintain good work and grades.

Our mailing list contains close to 1000 names of friends of the Foundation. Only about 200 people on the list actually contribute between \$10 and \$500, with the most common gift being \$25. Early next year we will analyze giving patterns and decide if we should reduce the list, since our major administrative expense is printing and mailing the newsletter. Otherwise, we have small expenses for communications and for our affiliation fee with the National Peace Corps Association. The modest fee we pay NPCA not only keeps us in touch with the activities of other RPCV groups and the national organization, but also brings additional income when Volunteers who served in the Philippines indicate they want their membership fee shared with the Foundation.

As you take stock of your charitable contributions at the end of the year, we hope you will continue your commitment to the Foundation and perhaps find the means to increase your donation if at all possible. If you enjoy our newsletter but have not yet sent a contribution, let this be your opportunity.



Robert Cajes graduates from Cebu Doctors College.

PCAFPD Scholar Graduates from Medical School

After eight years of Foundation support through college and medical school, **Robert Cajes** graduated from Cebu Doctor's College on April 17. He has a post-graduate internship at Cebu Doctor's Hospital while preparing for board exams. He described his work in med school:

A cliché states that interns are the lowest form of animal in the hospital which I now agree without doubt. Doing all those paperworks (history-taking, progress notes, etc.), ward calls (IV insertions, etc.) monitoring vital signs of patients, assisting on operations and running errands for my residents, all need great effort. I always end up exhausted especially after serving every 24-hour duty which we do every three days. But beyond it all is the realization that working in a hospital can be the greatest opportunity to show the best in you and foster your capacity to love others. Here, especially at government hospitals I had the chance to rotate in, the cry of suffering is all around and giving a little help can be a big difference. A feeling of inner satisfaction is enough to make my day. . . For giving me hope and direction, the Foundation will eternally be part for all I achieved and may achieve in the future.

PCAFPD is very proud of Robert's achievement and of his contributions to the welfare of his fellow citizens.



Dinah (third from right) : "Elders and the researchers posing with 3 century-old jars. According to the elders who own it, these jars are what they inherited from their ancestors. These jars are used as a vessel when making rice wine, tafey (in the dialect), salaw is also the local term of these jars."

Scholar Interviews Tribal Elders

PCAFPD scholar Segundina ("Dinah") C. Latus reported on field work for her B.S. in Environmental Science at Benguet State University:

Our trip in Kabayan was a success. We were able to gather data necessary in our research from actual interviews with the elders of that place. The people of Kabayan were very nice and hospitable. They always butcher their roosters or hens for us. We stayed in one of our classmates' house for 2 days. . . .

Our field research on various cultural patterns observed by the Ibaloi tribe in Kabayan, Benguet . . . is a course requirement in . . . Anthropology and Sociology.

Kabayan is the province's cultural center because this is where most cultural practices and rituals are openly conducted. Also found there are the mummies. They are stored in caves while a few are displayed in the museum for public viewing but not for picture-taking. People in that place believe in superstition and according to them, bad luck and diseases struck them when these mummies are exposed.

While doing the research, we had some interviews with elders of that place and we learned from them that their cultural practices are closely related with nature. They believe of spirits, gods and goddesses who assist God or "Kabunyan" to watch over his creations. We have also seen that there is a need for them to be oriented with the different measures in taking good care of Mother Nature to prevent the depletion of their natural resources and to preserve their cultural heritage.

Being an Environmental Science student strengthened my love and my will to help Mother Nature. I became aware of the various procedures on how to help save her from further destruction in my own little way. This is the reason why I share to my family and friends and neighbors what are we supposed to do with our wastes. I encourage them to practice environment-friendly measures because they may be little things but they contribute much if only everybody helps toward the rehabilitation of nature. It is sad to know that a lot of people are aware of the depletion of the ozone layer, global

warming, forest denudation, etc., but they do no action to prevent them from occurring further.

Dinah also described her first year of college:

I felt sad because my high school friends had attended other colleges and I have nobody to hang out with. But then, this uneasy feeling vanished when I've found a friend in the person of my fellow PCAFPD scholar Narda. We never knew each other before until the scholarship came. Thank God for giving me a friend through the foundation. We were roommates and we share our things with each other during our stay in the dormitory. . . .

I was elected as secretary of the CHOSEN GENERATION CLUB, a Christian organization and as P.R.O. of the TUBLAY STUDENTS ORGANIZATION, a municipal organization. At first, I felt nervous fearing that I might not be able to tackle the duties and responsibilities of the said office I was elected to. But as time comes, I found out that it isn't really hard as long as you do your best and ask the Lord's guiding light. . . .

In our department, BSES students had come up with an organization called *OIKOS SOCIETY* (*oikos* is the Greek word for ecology or house) and we are obligated to have our membership. Last September 10, *OIKOS* (BSES students) conducted a sport fest which aims to select athletes to represent our department in the upcoming university intramurals on December. I belonged to our section's basketball team (women's) and we grabbed the championship title. Two weeks after the sportfest, was an educational trip in Los Baños, Laguna. Our itinerary includes tour within UP Los Baños, IRRI, Calamoa and a hike up Mt. Makiling. The trip aims to expose us to the different types of ecosystems that are existing within the said places. What I did enjoy most during the trip was the spirit of brotherhood among us and that sharing and giving was also observed. It does give us a healthy feeling.

This semester Dinah is taking eight courses: General Economics with Agrarian Reform and Taxation, Analytic Geometry and Calculus I, Methods and Principles of Statistics, Effective Speech, Introduction to Forestry, General Ecology, General Physics, and Rhythmic Activities.



Dinah won an Achievers Award medal for a 1.62 average.

News of PCAFPD Scholars

Narda C. Itong of Benguet is working toward a B.S. in Environmental Science at Benguet State University. She wrote to PCAFPD Vice President, **Roland de Jesus**: "At long last, I was able to enroll in college after graduating from High School through the opportunity given by the Foundation, PCAFPD. . . . Actually, if not for this chance, I was not able to be in school right now." Narda joined community service organizations that do volunteer work related to her courses. The College of Red Cross Youth (CRCY) plants trees and the Youth Community Service (YCS) cleans up pollution.

Cresyl Maturan from Negros Oriental is completing her degree in Radiology Technology at Cebu Doctor's College. She reported she was "drowned in piles of paperwork and preparations for our practical exams in the hospital." Cresyl's family has been host to two Peace Corps Volunteers, **Steve Kangas**, teaching teachers in Baguio, and **Karl Scharf**, teaching in Leyte.

Sharon Tamiking of Baguio City is pursuing a B.S. in accounting at Baguio Colleges Foundation. She studied Philippine History, Fundamentals of Production Management, and General Psychology in summer school and reported that she was doing fine in her studies.

Ronald Yaco from Leyte is studying Electronics Communications Engineering (ECE) at the University of San Carlos. He reported, "I was one of the Dean's Listers. I got an average of 1.6. . . . I was elected as the President of the ECE batch 2001 . . . and elected auditor of the ECE council. . . . My parents are extending their thanks and gratitudes to the Foundation for giving me support of my studies. . . ."

News of PCAFPD Alumni

Amy Edang, who graduated in 1992, is a nurse.

Ricky G. Lubrigas, R.N., is studying to be a priest of the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate (OMI). Previously he was a parish nurse in Banisilan, Cotabato, where he worked with 15 barrios on immunization, mother's classes, herbal medicine, gardening, cooking, soap making, etc.

Dr. Judita C. Moco passed her Dentistry board exams and is licensed to practice as a dentist.

Liza Permelona is teaching in Naga and helped one of our new scholars apply to the Foundation.

Elmo C. Singson is an architect with Deco Contract, an architectural and design firm in Dubai.

PCAFPD Officers: Maureen Carroll (61-63) President
Roland de Jesus, Vice President/Philippines
Patricia MacDermot Kasdan (61-63) Newsletter
Vice President/U.S.

PCAFPD Accepts Three New Scholars



- **Jonnah B. Anamong**, La Trinidad, Benguet
B.A., Community Development (Social Work)
Cordillera Career Development College



- **Ruby Levantino**, Castilla, Sorsogon
Customs Administration
Mariner's Polytechnic Colleges Foundation



- **Riza San Juan**, Camarines Sur
B.S., Computer Science
Ateneo de Naga, Naga City

Alexander Sinclair (83-86) Treasurer
Ann Snuggs (61-63) Secretary
Carol Hammaker Radomski (80-83) Scholars
Margo Heinemann Daniels (61-63) Special Projects
Special thanks to:
Joan Aragon (61-63) for contributing to this newsletter

VOLUNTEER WINS SONG- WRITING CONTEST

Volunteer Will Martin's song "Hand in Hand" took first prize in a national song-writing contest in the Philippines on the theme of volunteerism. A panel of Filipino musicians selected Martin's song from entries submitted by all volunteer programs operating in the Philippines. Martin, who wrote words and music to the song, will donate the 10,000 peso award to his Peace Corps projects in English and Music Education. Martin is a professional musician serving with his wife Susan in the English Language Assistant Program. The contest was sponsored by the Philippine National Volunteer Services Coordinating Agency (PNVSCA).

Hand in Hand

We work in the mountains, we work on the sea
In the city, in the barrio, wherever need may be
With teachers, farmers, fisher folk, with children, families,
We're trying to make a little difference in the world.

We come from America, we come from Japan,
From Europe, from the Philippines, and many far off lands,
By sharing skills and knowledge, with open hearts and hands,
We can make a little difference in the world.

chorus:

Working hand in hand, all together now we stand,
Work with me, I'll work with you, there's so
much we can do,

Working hand in hand with the people of the land,
(Where) we serve as volunteers.

In a world so sorely troubled, nations often disagree,
But once to one we overcome the weight of history,
So let's all work together, and together we shall see,
We can make a little difference in the world. chorus:

We leave families, friends and jobs, and we travel afar,
We don't make much money, and the life can be hard,
All friends who care, there's a vision that we share--
We're going to make a little difference in the world. chorus:

Bring the World Back Home by Visiting a School

Peace Corps employees and RPCVs around the country will visit classrooms on "Peace Corps Day", Tuesday, March 3, 1998, the Agency's 37th anniversary. The day will feature video conferences and phone calls between PCVs and U.S. students. World Wise Schools' Destination videos will be broadcast to millions of students on Channel One.

To volunteer and receive a free kit, send e-mail to wwsday@peacecorps.gov or call 800-424-8580, ext 2283.

In addition, RPCVs are invited to visit classrooms the week of November 16-22 for National Geographic's "Geography Awareness Week." The theme this year is "Explore the World! Geography Takes You Places". For information, e-mail www.nationalgeographic.com.

WHATEVER HAPPENED TO...

Linda Cover Bigelow (61-63) spent six months in Vietnam last year with husband Lee who was on assignment for the World Wildlife Federation. The couple, who have lived in four other Southeast Asian countries, now make their home in Saint Jeannet, in the south of France.

Bruce Crossan, formerly Associate Peace Corps Director for Philippines regions 1 and 2 from 1981 to 1985, is currently serving as Peace Corps County Director in Micronesia.

Marino & Pat Crozat (74-76), who served in San Pablo City, would like to hear from anyone in their group. They can be reached c/o this newsletter.

Ruth Allwardt Hanna (65-67) is trying to locate Reuben Canoy, who was mayor of Cagayan de Oro in the early 1970s and later a congressman or senator in Manila. Readers can send her information c/o this newsletter.

Jim Manarik (77-79) last year revisited the town he served in almost 20 years ago. He contributes money directly to the community as well as to PCAFPD.

David & Rebecca Sammons (68-70) report that they are active in the Indiana RPCV group. They live in West Lafayette, Indiana.

John McGown and Sonja Raub (92-94) completed their Eurasian Bicycle Odyssey from Bangkok to Warsaw 25 months after starting in March 1995. Including Mexico on the trip, they covered 13,500 miles through 21 countries, interviewing PCVs for newsletters, slide shows, and a future documentary project. They have a web page at <http://www.dnai.com/~charless/eo/>.

GROUP IV MEETS AFTER 33 YEARS

by Sarah Wilkinson McMeans (62-64)

Of the 54 Volunteers who began Peace Corps service in Cebu and Bohol in June 1992, 30 met over Labor Day at Hickory Ridge Center near Chicago. Many had not seen one another since 1964, three are deceased, and three could not be located. Jerry Wildman, Sarah Manning, and Diane Bridges Hetzel organized the events which included Roger and Becky Flather, who had staffed the Cebu City Peace Corps office. Many of us teach or work in social services, some are retired, and a few are grandparents. Prim Reeves, Vic Joos, and Jack Lynch have been Peace Corps staff or Volunteers in other countries. Prim described the Marcos coup which occurred while she was doing social science research in the Philippines. Casey Ames married a local woman in Samboan, Cebu, and described doing business there in the '70s. Karl Nelson was the last director of the USIA Library in Cebu City and had to close it for budgetary reasons. Don Auspitz shared his Philippine-based humor. Group IV hopes to meet again in the year 2000.



Alumnus Ronle M. Benltua and host family near Cadiz City, Negros Occidental where he does community development work. Last July he married Jojie Saministrado, his college sweetheart.

RPCV's Vietnam Video Wins Acclaim

Basking in praise for her first video production, "Hitchhiking Vietnam: Letters from the Trail," RPCV Karin Muller (87-89), is planning more travelogues. The video was shown in August on Maryland Public Television.

Muller spent seven months exploring Vietnam after Peace Corps service in the Philippines. Traveling by car, train, truck, ox-cart, motor-scooter and on foot, she videotaped 52 hours of footage for a book on the country that she had been warned against visiting by a Vietnam veteran. She stayed with local families, hitched rides and left herself open to adventures.

Without film or video experience, Muller took a university class to gain access to the editing equipment. A copy of her rough work, sent to 25 Public Broadcasting System stations, so impressed "Frontline" producer David Fanning that he worked with her to complete the project. For her next project, Muller wants to hike the Inca Trail from Ecuador to Chile.

RPCVs Meet Philippines Directors

by Carol Radomski (80-83)

Peace Corps/Philippines Co-Directors Gale Metcalf and Joel Wallach dined with 25 former Philippines Volunteers (and several spouses) in Washington in June. Metcalf and Wallach described the current program.

Approximately 110 volunteers are serving in the Philippines throughout Luzon and the Visayas in environmental education, coastal resource management, English teacher training, municipal planning, community development and protected area management. There are no PCVs in Mindanao.

Environmental issues, including deforestation and destruction of the coral reefs are now recognized as important. Technological changes have brought not only electricity but also cable TV and computers to many remote areas. Some provincial cities boast "cyber-cafes" where patrons can surf the internet.

RPCV NOMINATED AMBASSADOR TO TOGO

President Clinton announced in August his nomination of Brenda Brown Schoonover (61-63) as ambassador to Togo. If confirmed by the Senate, she will be the second RPCV from Group I to achieve the rank of ambassador. RPCV Parker Borg (61-63) has been the U.S. Ambassador to both Mali and Iceland.

A career Foreign Service Officer, Brenda has served in the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Tunisia, and Belgium. She has also served as Associate Peace Corps Director in Tanzania. Brenda is married to retired USIA Officer Richard Schoonover.

NEW BOOKS:

P. David Searles, Peace Corps Director in the Philippines from 1971-74, is the author of *The Peace Corps Experience: Challenge & Change* (1969-1976), published recently by the University Press of Kentucky.

The Philippines is the setting of *Biggest Elvis* (Viking), the latest novel by P.F. Kluge, volunteer in Micronesia (67-69). Kluge is the author of *The Edge of Paradise: America in Micronesia*, and the novel, *Eddie and the Cruisers*.

RPCV TEACHES PHYSICAL THERAPY IN VIETNAM

Physical therapist Karin Schumacher (68-70) spent two weeks in Vietnam last year following returning to the Philippines in October. She taught a course of therapeutic exercise to 21 physical therapists in Ho Chi Minh City, formerly Saigon. She wrote:

Vietnam was a fascinating new experience - the country itself: historic, dramatic, beautiful, mysterious - and the people: dynamic, focused, directed, friendly, curious, generous, and on-the-go - trying to catch up with the rest of the world, and fiercely proud of their history, from ancient times to "Reunification Day - April 30, 1975." (They do not focus on their "victory" - rather, they celebrated the long-awaited coming together of No. and So. Vietnam as one country. Many people stated that they wished to "forget the past, and move on to the future.") Language was a challenge, and I usually had a translator/interpreter with me, any one of the 3-4 PTs who spoke English fairly well.

OBITUARIES

Sy Greben, deputy director of the Philippines (63-65), Country Director in Malaysia (65-68), Director of Public Affairs for Peace Corps/Washington (68-69) and Country Director in Liberia (78-80), died of cancer in February at his home in Novato, CA. He was 71.

Robert Paul Henning (73-76) died in August in Atlanta, GA at the age of 47. He was a professor of sociology at Concordia College in Seward, Nebraska.

CONTRIBUTORS

We thank all those listed below who have made recent gifts to PCAFPD. If you check "Philippines" on your contribution to the National Peace Corps Association (NPCA), PCAFPD receives a \$15 contribution in your name.

Abeles, Peter	Fitzgerald, Robert S.	Pappano, Leanne Keetch
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Dorage, Stephen	Olsson, Lana	

PCAFPD is on the Web! Thanks to the efforts of RPCV Jeff Amundsen (83-85), you can find our web page at the National Peace Corps Association (NPCA) web site (www.rpcv.org): click on "RPCV Groups", "Asia-Pacific", and "Philippines" or type in: <http://www-leland.stanford.edu/~amundsen/pcafpd1.html> directly.

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