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Twenty Fifth Anniversary

Peace Corps celebrated its 25th anniversary last September in Washington, D.C. Over 7,000 RPCVs from across the country met for four days on the Capitol Mall. The largest Peace Corps gathering in history was well represented by PC/Philippines alumni, who made up the biggest group of Peace Corps veterans in attendance.

The PCAFPD teamed up with the Bicol Association of Metro Washington to build a booth for displays and fund raising sales for the conference. Former APCD Lita Altea, along with her sister Nina Harper and RPCV Chris Rich cut and gathered kawayan for a roof thatch, and later Toni Ferrara, Andy Tracy, Steve Vineski, Pam and Henry Johnstone-Moguett, Rich Rankin and Rhonda Ghee helped set up the booth.

Many former Philippines volunteers and staff stopped by the booth, which quickly became the gathering place for recent and not-so-recent boluntarios. Many Foundation contributors, friends, and board members helped man the booth. Mel and Naty Beetle, Denise Conley-Lionetti, Carol Hammaker, Ben Bloom, Mike Walsh, Ruth Shapiro, Becky Roots, Larry Koskinen, Maryanne & Dodong Hoirup Bacolod and many other good friends pitched in. Many of you stopped to by to say kumasta kayo.

In the first few hours we sold 100 yellow T-shirts that RPCV Judy Conway designed for us. We quickly purchased a hundred more and when those sold out

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Steve Vineski + Naty Beetle at PCAFPD - 25th Anniversary

President's Column

Since our beginning in 1983, the Foundation's scholarship program has grown from three to twenty students. This month, we hope to expand our program to twenty five scholars. And this spring, we will be graduating our first three college students.

As an organization, this success has brought new opportunities. With the growth of our scholarship program, the number of inquiries and requests from Filipinos for assistance continues to climb. Our participation at the Peace Corps' Twenty Fifth Anniversary Celebration and our fundraising reception at the Philippine Embassy, brought additional recognition from volunteers as well as the Filipino community as a credible and capable partner in Philippine development. RPCVs from India are working to develop a group modeled after the Foundation.

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Our Graduates

Two students sponsored by the Foundation will be graduating this spring. Our congratulations and best wishes to Annaliza Candelaria and William Catubig as they begin their careers.

Annaliza Candelaria, from Imus, Cavite, was a Foundation scholar during her fourth year in high school. She graduated with excellent grades and high recommendations from her teachers from Del Pilar Academy. In 1985, she continued as one of our scholars when she entered midwifery school at Emilio Aguinaldo College in Manila. She finished this two year program in March of this year. During her practicum at the Manila Medical Center, she said she, "...learned many things including how to communicate and deal with the patients." She was also able to practice all the procedures taught in class.

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The State of Philippine Education Today

The prospects for education in the Philippines appear to be brighter today with the ratification of the new Constitution of the Philippines. The Philippine Constitution, in recognition of the vital role of the youth in nation-building, provides broad guidelines for the state to fully develop the potential of the youth. A new dimension has also been added to the Constitution: in an effort to imbue a new consciousness on the nation's youth, the Constitution now mandates that all educational institutions adopt a curriculum that will not only promote traditional goals but also "foster love of humanity" and "respect for human rights" (Article XIV, Section 3).

According to Dr. Lourdes Quisumbing, Secretary of the Ministry of Education, Culture and Sports, an important issue that needs immediate attention is the need to strengthen moral values that are supportive of the government's thrust for social transformation, the eradication of poverty, and the promotion of national unity.

The improvement of the quality of elementary school graduates continues to be of principal concern. In secondary education, the program is aimed at school improvement in terms of quality, efficiency and effectiveness. Technical and vocational school teachers are also receiving in-service trainings and other efforts are being made to provide better and more relevant curriculum.

Teacher's welfare is also high on the government's agenda. In response to teacher's demands for higher salaries and other benefits, a comprehensive package has been proposed.

President Aquino, in a speech at the Philippine Normal College, urged teachers and students to strengthen the Filipino youth's foundation for education so that they can contribute to "their own liberation from poverty" and to "the liberation of the country from underdevelopment".

All these developments should augur well for education in the Philippines, a country with one of the largest school populations in the world.

-Alejandrino Vicente
Third Secretary and Vice-
Consul
Embassy of the Philippines

Book Review

A new book on Peace Corps is out, Come As You Are, by Coates Redmon. It details the rambunctious beginnings of the agency under Sargent Shriver's exuberant command. A very anecdotal story, it is based on hundreds of taped interviews with former staff and volunteers.

Ms. Redmon begins by debunking the myth of JFK having come up with the concept of Peace Corps: Kennedy, in fact, borrowed the idea from a military man, General James Gavin. Once the President fully adopted the idea, however, Sargent Shriver ensured that it bore fruit in record time. This is a story of marathon recruiting drives across the U.S., staff treks to host countries, Peace Corps policy formation vis-a-vis volunteer pregnancy and overseas marriages, and profiles of PCV's who've gone on and up in the world...to name but a few of the topics covered.

Those who were PCV's in the early days of Peace Corps will undoubtedly enjoy reading about the frenetic activities, misadventures, and personalities at work behind

the scenes in those days. Those who served more recently may be less excited by the many anecdotes about people whose names they never heard of. The book does nevertheless provide an entertaining glimpse into the formation of Peace Corps for anyone--RPCV or not--with an historical interest in this unique institution.

-Toni Ferrara

Come Join Us

The Foundation has just entered its 4th year of existence. We are developing plans this year to organize California RPCVs to sponsor fundraising get-togethers, and thereby expand our operations. We are not a membership organization, but we do need the help of many volunteers to help us maintain the fundraising activities that keep our scholars in school.

People from the DC area are noted for their transient nature, therefore, we are always on the lookout for people who can volunteer a few hours a month to work on committees, follow up on student progress, help with fundraising, come up with ideas to improve Foundation operations and contribute newsletter articles, to name a few.

We would like to extend an open invitation to attend our monthly board meetings and see what we are about. This is an excellent way to re-establish ties with RPCVs/Philippines and make new friends. We have boardmembers from Group 1 to recently returned COS-ers. We appreciate any and all input we receive from you. If you can not attend a meeting, but do have some ideas or suggestions, please feel free to write them down and mail them. We would like to use your input to help our organization grow.

-Chad Walter

Letter from the Editor

The past several months have been busy ones for the PCAFPD. We have held two successful fundraisers in the Washington area, elected new boardmembers, re-thought and redefined future plans and objectives.

Our December fundraiser was at the Embassy of the Philippines. Embassy officials, current and former Peace Corps staff, returned volunteers, and many other interested people enjoyed Philippine pulutan, songs and inspiring talks by Loret Ruppe and Deputy Chief of Mission Rabe.

On March 27, we joined with RPCV/Washington to host Philippine night at Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies. Philippine volunteers as well as those from many other countries tried their hands, or actually, their feet in a tinikling contest.

With increased revenues, come increased opportunities. As you can see, both President Steve Vineski and Chad Walter include in their articles the need for increased volunteer support. The Board acknowledges that we will grow, and will need support and suggestions as to what path to take. Perhaps, as you read through this newsletter, comments and feedback may come to mind. Please, do not hesitate to let us know what's on your mind.

-Ruth A. Shapiro



We are pleased to welcome the new members of our Board: Ben Bloom, Neile Whitney and Maureen Carroll.

Graduates cont.

William Catubig has been studying for four years at Xavier University in Cagayan de Oro City. William will be graduating this year with a degree in commerce. He is a member of the Junior Executive Club at Xavier, holding positions of Marketing Assistant and Product Manager last year. His studies he says helped him to realize that, "...to achieve our individual goals we must help one another." William comes from a family of seven children. Three other siblings are also studying at this time.

-Carol Hammaker

Twenty Fifth cont.

we began taking mail orders for more! In four days, the sale of \$10 T-shirts proved to be one of the most successful fund raising ventures PCAFPD has ever seen! We netted over \$1,156.

The conference had many highlights for Philippines RPCVs. The opening day drew a huge crowd under the big tent for the keynote address delivered by Philippines President Corazon Aquino. PCAFPD President Steve Vineski sat on the stage behind the podium along with the heads of nearly 30 other RPCV organizations. With Sargent Shriver and Loret Ruppe wearing "I Love Cory" buttons and a sea of yellow shirts looking on, the Philippines was very much on people's minds.

The Embassy of the Philippines hosted a gala reception for several hundred former volunteers and staff. The crowd spilled out onto the sidewalk and as we all reminisced, become re-acquainted and strengthened our commitment to keeping alive the dreams and goals of Philippine development.

-Chris Rich

President's cont.

A coalition of representatives from various RPCV organizations are in the process of creating a similar foundation for world wide assistance.

This expansion provides new opportunities for combining the talents of the Foundation with other organizations, to tap new sources of funding and to identify promising programs and projects in the Philippines. With the realization that such opportunities exist, our question becomes: How can we best take advantage of them?

For example, since our inception, the Foundation has considered augmenting our fundraising activities to locations outside of the Washington, D.C. area. Several RPCVs in the San Francisco and Boston areas have expressed interest in such a project. We have also considered requesting an organization like the Philippine Medical Association to sponsor Carmen Galang whose medical tuition and expenses at Santo Thomas is over \$1000 year. During the 25th Anniversary Celebration we printed up 100 T-shirts which were sold in the first hour. We would like to use similar marketing strategies and products as a means of raising funds. The opportunities abound. We will increasingly be looking to you for your volunteer support; to conduct fundraising activities in your area, to prepare corporate fundraising requests, and to network with local Filipino groups. What we need is your help. -Steve Vineski

The Peace Corps Alumni Foundation for Philippine Development meets the 4th Tuesday of each month to discuss present issues and future concerns. The meeting is at 7:00 PM at the Foreign Student Service Council at 2337 18th Street, N.W. in Washington, D.C. All are welcome to attend and join our discussions.

Contributors

Below is a list of those who have contributed since the last newsletter. We would like to also acknowledge a special donation that Group I & II PCV's contributed to the Foundation. Also several people have made contributions through the CFC, Federal Campaign.

DC Liz & John Abernethy
DC Lita Altea
VA Gerald & Sandy Anderson
VA Cora & Rodolfo Arca
DC Anne Arries
VA Tapan Banerjee
NY Patricia Barassi
VA Neil & Naty Beetle
DC Lisette Belanger
DC Terri Bergman
VA Norman Benson
CA Thomas Biggart
ND Ben Bloom
DC Vicente & Elena Bonneo
DC Aleksandra Braginski
CA Emma Broadbeck
ND Vincent & Francoise Brown
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VA David Carey
DC Maureen Connolly
ND Mrs. Elsie Castrence
NY Kathleen & Gunnar Cederholm
Costa Rica Benny & Carol Cespedes
ND Cathy Church
DC Judith Claire
DC Walter Clinton
DC Tom & Denise Conley-Lionetti
CA Helen Cooper
VA Paul Cummins
Thailand William Dangers
CT Grant de Nacarty
DC Michael de Nevers
ND Terry & Valerie Dela Santa
CA Stephen Donaghe
NY Joan Doyle
VA Antonio & Tita Dumagsa
PA George Duncan
ND Dr. Evangeline Ecarma
CA William Endmann
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FL Kris Wright
DC Evelyn Muttman Wrin
MN David Ziegenhagen

Peace Corps Alumni Foundation
for Philippine Development
P.O. Box 53172
Washington, D.C. 20009

