

Newsletter 17
SPRING 1993

P.O. Box 53172
Washington, DC 20009

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.



Students in day care benefit from Peace Corps Partnership Program.

FOUNDATION DIVERSIFIES

Through PCAFPD, you have sent 61 students to college in the Philippines; 38 have graduated, 13 are still pursuing their studies, 9 dropped out for health or family crises, and one PCAFPD scholar died in a landslide. Recently, the PCAFPD Board of Directors voted to extend its support beyond education to related development projects. Although the primary beneficiaries of Foundation grants will continue to be college and university students, this year PCAFPD will also make a contribution through the Peace Corps Partnership Program to a group of day care centers in the barangays of Odiongan, Romblon. The 26 day care centers serve 2,000 pre-school children from June through March. Funds will be spent on books, coloring books, crayons, arithmetic materials, pencils and paper. The Peace Corps Partnership Program connects promising projects in the Philippines with interested RPCVs--in this case, PCV Jack De Haven and PCAFPD.

The Foundation is also considering possible future funding for a sustainable forestry project on the island of Mindoro. We welcome your suggestions. If you know of any worthy projects for Foundation support, please let us know by writing PCAFPD, P.O. Box 53172, Washington, DC 20009.

PCAFPD projects and students need our continuing support. Please use the enclosed return envelope to send your gift today to maintain this bond with the Philippines.

PCAFPD MOURNS LOSS OF A FOUNDER

John Abernethy, a founder of the Peace Corps Alumni Foundation for Philippine Development, died at the Hospice of Washington, D.C. on April 12, 1993. John and his wife, the late Elizabeth Abernethy, served Peace Corps/Philippines as Co-Country Directors from 1978 through 1981. Shortly after their return to the United States, the Abernethys were catalysts for the formation of the Peace Corps Alumni Foundation for Philippine Development (PCAFPD) as a way for former Peace Corps Volunteers and staff to continue their commitment to Philippine development.

John actively participated as a Board Member from the beginning. His spirit and dedication to the ideals of the Foundation were always evident at meetings. John will be missed, but he leaves a twelve year legacy of service to PCAFPD.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Hospice of Washington, 3720 Upton Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20016.

NEW PCAFPD OFFICERS ELECTED

The new PCAFPD officers elected for 1993-1994 are:

President	Margaret Frericks (1988-1990)
Vice-President/US	Jeff Amundsen (1983-1985)
Treasurer	Andy Tracy (1965-1968)
Secretary	Elena Borneo (1962-1981)

RPCV Jan Putnam (1961-63) was elected to the Board of Directors and will be helping to produce the newsletter. Former staff members Lita Altea (1966-1980), Elena Borneo and Modesto de Jesus, and RPCVs Maureen Carroll (1961-63) and Pam Johnstone Moguet (1978-81), were elected to serve another term.

Other members of the Board include Vicente Borneo, RPCVs Denise Conley-Lionetti, Pera Daniels (1961-63), Johnathan Hubchen (1983-85), Frank Page (1979-81), Carol Radomski (1980-83), Jan Twarowski (1978-80) and Chris Yatooma (1987-88), and former staff member Allen Rothenberg.

We extend our thanks and best wishes to Norma Almarinez, Maja Cubarrubia and Chad Walter who are retiring from the Board.

NEWS OF THE PHILIPPINES

Brown and Out in Manila

(Excerpted from *The Economist*, April 10, 1993)

Notices in Manila office blocks blithely inform tenants, "The brown-out today will last between 10am and 5pm." Manila nights are punctuated by bouts of cheering or groaning as the lights go on and off.

The brown-outs are both cause and effect of a troubled economy. Raul Concepcion, one of the country's biggest industrialists, reckons that the power crisis has cost the Philippines 20 billion pesos (\$800m) in the first quarter of this year. The government's over-optimistic forecast of 4.5% growth in GDP for 1993 is likely to be revised down to 2%. Some private-sector economists reckon the economy will be lucky to grow at all this year. With the population increasing by 2-3% annually, that will mean that most Filipinos will get poorer this year, as they have for most of the past decade.

On April 5th, President Fidel Ramos (known to most as "Eddie") was given emergency powers to tackle the problem. The president had requested 11 emergency powers, but was given just four by the rumbustious legislature. They include the rights to reorganize the state-owned National Power Corporation (Napocor); to push through electricity price-rises (which might fee loans from the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank); and to award electricity projects without having to go through the cumbersome process of public bidding. The new powers will help a little. But one senator, Blas Ople, has commented that Mr. Ramos has been given only "a cardboard sword" to cut a Gordian knot...

How did the Philippines get itself into such a mess? The power crisis is the legacy of years of under-investment in infrastructure. No new power plants have been built in the Philippines for over a decade. Most of the "base" plants that the country relies on now regularly "conk out," as the local press puts it. America's Westinghouse built a nuclear plant which was almost completed by 1986. But when the Marcos regime fell, work stopped amid allegations of bribery and objections from environmentalists (they pointed out that the plant was built on an earthquake-prone fault line).

Today the World Bank and the ADB will not lend to the Philippines for power projects until they are assured that realistic rates will be charged for the power they generate. If that does not happen, they reason, the money will be frittered away on subsidies, and maintenance of the plants will suffer, leaving the country back where it started. But when Napocor sought to raise prices in February, the rise was blocked by the Supreme Court...

Unhappily, the electricity industry is not the only one to have been starved of investment. So have the Philippines' roads, public transport and water system. The export-processing zone in Cebu, which has been set up--with some success--as a "growth pole," recently had to turn away foreign investors who wanted to build a semi-conductor plant there, because it could not guarantee their water supply.

The failure to invest in infrastructure has several causes. One is the austerity forced on the profligate

Marcos during the early and mid-1980s by international donors. Another is the sense of public distrust for government and its institutions felt after the excesses of the Marcos years. The constitution adopted by the Aquino government in 1987 makes decisive executive action difficult. As for Napocor, it has fallen into such disrepute that one cabinet minister told a visiting economist that he would "rather sit in the dark" than give the utility any more money. His wish has been granted.

The power problem is all the sadder because Mrs. Aquino and Mr. Ramos have some notable achievements to their names. The last two years of the Aquino administration saw courageous macroeconomic reforms put in place, including an IMF programme and the liberalisation of trade and foreign-investment laws. But at least as important was Mrs. Aquino's success--despite half-a-dozen attempted coups--in establishing democracy. In May last year she saw her preferred successor, Mr. Ramos, win in a free election.

Voters still hope that Mr. Ramos, once a general under Marcos and then secretary of defence for Mrs. Aquino, will restore prosperity to the Philippines, once the most successful country in South-East Asia... He stands to win some popularity as the policies of his predecessor begin to bear fruit (earlier this year the government was able to raise money on the international capital markets for the first time in a decade). But Mr. Ramos has had a hard time pushing through new policies. He won the presidency with just 23.5% of the vote. Much of his first nine months in office has been spent manoeuvring to build himself a workable coalition in Congress.

The optimists say that Mr. Ramos now has his coalition in place and will start governing with the strength and decisiveness that are called for.

PEACE CORPS NEWS

Peace Corps Workers Are Infected With AIDS Virus Abroad

(Excerpted from *The New York Times*, May 26, 1993)

Despite intensive training and counseling, a small but growing number of Peace Corps volunteers have been infected by the virus that causes AIDS during their tours of duty, officials say.

A study prepared for the Peace Corps indicated that 29 volunteers had been found to be H.I.V. positive since 1987 when the corps began screening for the AIDS virus and turning away applicants who tested positive.

Of the 29, eight were definitely infected during their duty, four of them in the last year, according to the study, conducted by Dr. Thomas Eng, an epidemiologist on loan from the Centers for Disease Control...

Seven of the eight had been assigned to Africa, the continent where eight million of the world's estimated 14 million H.I.V.-infected people live. The Peace Corps study said the volunteers "indicated that they were most likely infected as a result of having unprotected sex with host-country nationals and did not perceive themselves to be at risk." Of the eight infected, five are women and three men...

NEW SCHOLARS BEGIN STUDIES

New PCAFPD scholars are:



Rosanna Almoradie
Secretarial Administration
Roosevelt College
Lamuan, Marikina, M.M.



Recedith Gonzaga
Nursing Aide
Phil. Asian Foundation of Technology
Davao City

OBITUARIES

Lee E. Johnson

1936 - 1992

Lee Johnson died recently of cancer of the liver; he had taught English as a second language and science on Negros from 1961 to 1963 as a member of the first group of Peace Corps Volunteers to serve in the Philippines. He was born in Long Beach, California, where he earned bachelor's and master's degrees in education at California State University. He received a doctorate in early childhood education from Northern Arizona University.

Lee devoted his life to education in California. He taught first and sixth grades in La Mirada for six years, then served as superintendent/principal of Mulberry Elementary and McCabe School Districts. He later coordinated the four child development centers in Imperial County for ten years.

Lee Johnson is survived by his wife, Mary, a former PCV whom he married in the Philippines, a daughter, two sons, his father and a sister.

Martha Allshouse Hull, a fellow RPCV from Group 1, has made a generous contribution to PCAFPD in memory of Lee Johnson.

Thomas Owen Carlton

1937 - 1992

Tom Carlton died last December after a long illness; he had served with Philippines I from 1961-1963 as a teacher in Paracale, Camarines Norte. Although he was born in Quincy, Illinois, Tom grew up in Los Angeles and received his BA from UCLA in 1960. After his Peace Corps duty, Tom returned to Los Angeles, earning a Masters degree in Government in 1965. In 1970, he

married Susan Heraldo, the daughter of a Paracale family Tom had known in his years in the Philippines. In 1971, he received a Masters of Social Work at USC followed by a Doctorate in Social Work from the University of Pennsylvania in 1975. He joined the faculty of Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond, Virginia, in 1973 and at the time of his death, was Associate Dean of the School of Social Work at VCU.

In 1988, Tom was awarded the prestigious Hyman J. Weiner Award of the Society of Hospital Social Work Directors of the American Hospital Association for his contributions to the social work field. From 1986 to 1990, he was editor in chief of Health and Social Work, a specialty journal of the National Association of Social Workers. He published a number of works in the field of social policy and social work history and most recently was working on the second edition of his 1984 book, *Social Work in Health and Medical Settings*, a standard text in the field of Social Work.

A scholarship in Tom's memory has been established by Virginia Commonwealth University. Contributions can be made to VCU School of Social Work, 1001 W. Franklin Street, Richmond, VA 23284-2027. Contributions in his memory may also be made to the Peace Corps Alumni Foundation for Philippine Development, P.O. Box 53172, Washington, DC 20009. RPCV Maureen Carroll (1961-1963) has made a generous contribution in memory of Tom Carlton. It will be used to support a new PCAFPD scholar, Wilson Vilarin, at Mabini College, Paracale, Camarines Norte.

The Carlton family address is 2611 Skeet Street, Richmond, VA 23229.

SCHOLARS TELL ALL

ROBERTO CAJES

Medicine

Cebu Doctors College, Cebu City

...I received a medal for Duty from the Officer's Corp ... [and] two certificates from the school for being a member of the Dean's List during my first two semesters...I will be taking the National Medical Admission Test (NMAT) this coming January...I am very much pleased to be one of your scholars. The only payment I can assume is to study hard, make the best of what I can do, and be something useful someday...

ALEXANDER GABILO

Engineering

National University, Manila

...I have been observing our environment especially the structures like buildings and bridges specifically the fly-overs that were recently built and it came to my mind that the modern technology is far more better than what they have already done. This is because they have destroyed much of our natural environment just to build this structures without looking into the possible disadvantages it will create. As for me, there is a more better way to do for cases like this. cutting trees on places where big structures are to be built can be avoided by applying the modern technology in design. This will create an artistic view and will also preserve its natural environment which is one of the works of an engineer.

The brownouts we are experiencing almost everyday greatly affect our communities, especially the business industries of our country. This causes millions of losses daily on our economic growth. As a solution to this, building Dams and Geothermal plants for a span of not more than two years which can generate power and enough electricity to be added to the shortages of other power plants should be done immediately...The making of Subdivisions and with Houses of modern design is one of my priorities. I will see to it that houses to be built can be affordable to the less fortunate people...

JESSICA LASTIMA

Dentistry

Southwestern University College of Dentistry, Cebu City

...Started working in the clinic by pairs because we still are beginning to build up courage or working alone and also we have this feeling of being afraid to try and to commit mistakes. It lasted for 2 weeks then we work on our own but we have a clinical instructor to supervise us, to teach us to do better in the clinic.

My first oral prophylaxis case I lost my appetite after the said treatment because everytime I remember the oral cavity of my patient I feel like vomiting. But as days pass by it become a natural scene to me. Sometimes I encountered patient with good oral hygiene. Mostly are not. Educating patient, giving post operative instructions are the things I love most and the most wonderful feeling of being able to help those who need dental treatment.

REX PORTENTO

Business Administration

University of the Philippines, Manila

...How could I forget my two semesters in this particular school-year. During this span of time I fully understand the magnitude and origin of poverty, injustice, graft and corruption in the government, environmental oppression and other social enigmas that dread the every fiber of our society. All those can be trace in the structure of our economy that evolved from pre-Spanish to the present times (albeit, the main structure of inequality and undemocratic distribution of opportunities, practically did not change). In relation to this, I took three units of Philippine Economic History and Geography. Our professor did not mention it but I knew she want us not to put all the facts in our head, instead to critically analyze these events and relate them to the present behavior of the people so as not to make the same mistakes that our parents made, and maybe if possible predict from this historical accounts the future. But prediction of the future would certainly be impossible without considering some historical experience of other countries and the universal economic laws and principles that govern us, especially today when a tick of technology can close the gap of every nation and citizen of this world. That's why I took up some units of Contemporary Asia and less than four units of Comparative Economic System and Theories (CEST).

Economics could not be consider as a science without its surrogates (Economists) making themselves objective in every

economic and economically related problems they face. That's why you need to be empirical not only in defining the problem or drawing conclusion but also for making policy suggestions. Remember that economics is a social science, therefore some emotions such as nationalism, imperialism and other behavioral isms were likely to affect the supposedly objective task of solving economic problems. For these reasons, I took up three units each of higher Macro and Micro Economics, Economics statistics and Mathematical Economics; each adequately contributed to the development of a scientific-oriented economic mind of mine.

ARNITO SON

Community Development

Santa Cruz Mission, S. Cotabato

...In Agriculture, I am exposed to farms, applying appropriate techniques that will increase the production level and also preserve soil fertility by employing organic fertilizers. My teacher taught me of Organic and Sustainable Agricultural Technologies with emphasis on the principles of Ecology. On the process we (3rd year class) used our energy carrying animal manures, cultivating the soil and maintaining the plants all throughout the semester. The growth of our plants and the decomposition process of our composting makes the criteria of our grades.



Rhizalina Quibete (Education, Agro-Industrial Foundation Colleges of the Philippines) reads topic for extemporaneous speech contest that she won.

GRADUATES REPORT



Rhea Cinco
(Samar)
B.A., Business
Administration
University of the
Philippines,
Quezon City

The events of
April 26, 1992
will forever be
etched in my
memory. That

was the day when I graduated from the University of the Philippines with a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration...

My fourth year in the College of Business Administration taught me a great deal of functioning in a group, interacting with them, sharing ideas, and dealing with different kinds of people...

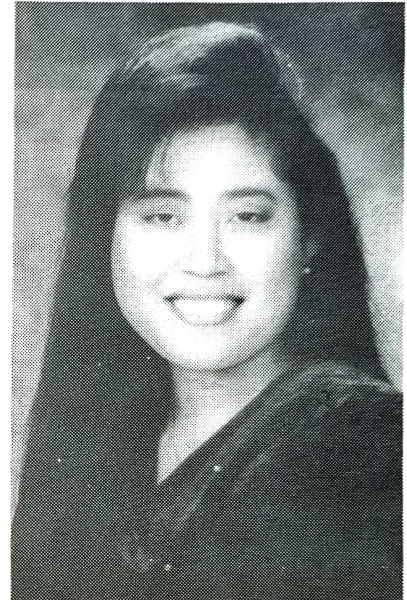
One thing on which we were trained most heavily was doing case analysis. It dealt with actual problems or situations going on inside a company whether it be about its marketing area, operations, finance, management, or all areas of the company. Our main duty was to pinpoint the problem, analyze the case, and come up with alternative courses of action and appropriate recommendations. The hardest part of it was to defend it before the teacher and the whole class who also did a thorough study on the case...

One real tough subject was Econ. 181 (Labor Economics). Its exams and academic load was so difficult that almost all of us got failing grades after midterms. It was so depressing that one classmate of mine, also a graduating student, who didn't quite make it to the passing percentile lost hope and chose to end her life. Not seeming to make it in Econ. 181 was told to be one of the reasons why she gave up on life. The incident further stiffened our resolve to conquer and defeat the system...

I would like to express my thanks and gratitude to an entity that served as the guiding light towards my academic

fulfillment, the Peace Corps Alumni Foundation for Philippine Development...I thank every person who is behind all these, most especially Mr. Modesto de Jesus who was always there, assisting me in my academic needs, and giving me advice and moral support, and the Almighty God for giving me such blessings and the opportunity to have known such kind and generous people like you... I hope and pray that someday soon I can do the same to others what you did to me...

Riva Lavin
(Samar)
B.S., Medical
Technology
Philippine
Women's
University,
Manila



...I completed
successfully the
first portion of
my internship -
from
November 15,
1990 to
May 15, 1991

- at the Philippine Orthopedic Center. And the second portion at the Family Clinic and Hospital from May 16 to November 16, 1991. The internship period unfolded for me more cohesively and meaningfully a great deal of the health work expected of a medical technologist...

Graduation entails responsibility, and a commitment to apply my education more directly in the arm of health services to promote community welfare such as in the schistosomiasis prevention and control in Northern Samar...

So much of my education, what I am, I owe to the PCAFPD - the officers, sponsors, and all the men and women supporting the foundation. To all of you I am forever grateful.

Special recognition (sic) is due to Mr. De Jesus for his constant guidance to make sure that I realize my goals and those of the foundation...

CONTRIBUTORS

To save precious operating funds, we thank those who have made recent gifts to PCAFPD here rather than by mail:

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