



FIL-AM BULLETIN

The Official Newsletter of the
Filipino-American Association of Greater Columbia, SC
(A Non-Profit Organization to Promote Inter-Cultural Education and Understanding)

"Together
We Make A
Difference"

* Volume 11, Number 1 ★

P.O. Box 24112, Columbia, SC 29224

★ Summer 2001 *

Fil-Am Appreciation Night, General Membership Meeting Set For August 4

In appreciation of the support they gave to the Association this past year, all FAAGC members, supporters, and their families are invited to attend the **Fil-Am Appreciation Night** on **Saturday, August 4, 2001** at the **Ridge View High School** cafeteria at 4801 Hard Scrabble Road near The Summit in Northeast Columbia.

Starting at 5:00 p.m., the affair includes a general membership meeting, a **potluck** dinner, a short awards program, and socializing/dancing. Immediate past president Nieves McNulty is in charge of the event; call her at **781-9509** for further details.

This will be the first general membership
continued on Page 2

Peter Liunoras Heads New FAAGC Executive Board

Peter Liunoras, a past FAAGC vice-president, was voted as the new President of the Columbia Fil-Am Association at the election of officers held during the annual Fil-Am spring picnic on April 15 at the Sesquicentennial Park.

(See Page 6 for information about Pete and the other new FIL-AM officers.)

FAAGC To Celebrate 10th Anniversary at Annual Gala on September 8

The Filipino-American Association of Greater Columbia will celebrate its **10th anniversary** during its **11th Annual Gala** on **September 8, 2001**. In addition, the Association will have the **9th induction** ceremony to usher in the 2001-2003 set of officers. This year's Fil-Am annual formal event will be held at the **Embassy Suites Hotel** in Columbia from 6:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m.

The 3-in-1 celebration starts with a reception at 6:00 p.m., with available cash-bar. A sit-down dinner will start at 7:00 p.m., followed by a short induction program and entertainment numbers at 8:00. The *Stargazer Band* will provide the music for the listening and dancing pleasure of the attendees. A multimedia presentation of the first 10 years of FAAGC history is also being planned.

Tickets to the gala are \$40 per person (\$30 for full-time dependent students with school ID) and may be purchased from any of the FAAGC officers. Several past Fil-Am officers and members who have moved out of town have indicated they will be coming back to attend the festivities.

Since the annual gala is the major fundraising event of the Association, we are also soliciting all kinds of contribution in the

form of advertisements and donations (*see enclosed form*). The proceeds of the event support the various community-oriented and youth programs of the Association as well as add to the Fil-Am scholarship and cultural center funds. We request that all ads and contributions be received no later than **August 25** to insure inclusion in the souvenir program.

Due to hotel requirements regarding food quantity to be prepared, all gala ticket reservations must be confirmed and paid for by noon on Monday, **September 3**.

A special room rate of \$89 per night is available for those who want to stay at Embassy Suites. Please reserve your room three weeks in advance.

Babysitting services will be available in the gala hospitality suite for \$20 per child (\$35 for two) from 6:00 p.m. to midnight. The price includes pizza and drinks (if your child needs special food, please bring this with you).

For more information regarding this babysitting service, as well as for tickets and further details about the gala, contact any of the officers listed on Page 2.



The FAAGC Executive Board for 2001-2003: (from left) Hector Galang, Pete Liunoras, Diane Phillips, Tessie DeCastro, George McNulty, Lulu Anderson, Marj Peña, Tessie Kenerson, Polly Pearson, Alan Geoghegan & Rudy Dizon. Not in photo: Ruben Matias-Bagnal. Photo by Jim Kenerson

The
Filipino-American
Association of Greater Columbia
cordially invites you to its

**9th Induction,
10th Anniversary,
& 11th Annual GALA
Celebration**

at the

Embassy Suites Hotel
200 Stoneridge Drive
(off Greystone Blvd. & I-126)
Columbia, SC

on Saturday, September 8, 2001
from 6:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m.

The President's Corner

by Peter Liunoras

**Mission Statement**

First of all, I would like to thank the Fil-Am community of Greater Columbia for electing me as president. *Mabuhay!*

As the newly elected president, I will always have a vision of goals for all that we want to accomplish. Among the objectives that we would like to accomplish during this term (*and beyond, even without me*), are to strengthen the volunteer program, to establish scholarship funding, and to work for a future cultural center for the Fil-Am Association of Columbia.

In order for these goals to be accomplished, we need not only the help of the Fil-Am officers, but the participation of the community as well.

Appreciation Night*(continued from Page 1)*

business meeting for the Association Year 2001-2002. Your attendance is urgently needed to help set the tone and activities for the coming year. This is also a good time to socialize and meet the many new members we have.

Since this is a **POTLUCK** get-together, please bring a 3-liter soda and covered dish enough for your family and others. To ensure food variety, suggested covered dishes are as follows (*based on the first letter of the family names*):

A - C : Dessert
D - H : Vegetable Dish
I - N : Rice; *Pancit*/noodles
O - Z : Meat Dish
FAAGC : Plates, utensils, ice

The Good, The Bad, And The Uglyby Nieves McNulty
1997-2001 FAAGC President

After stepping down as President of FAAGC, I would like to share with you my reflections of what's good, what's bad and what's ugly about the Association. Since I want to end with a positive note, I would like to reverse the order.

First, the ugly. What I am about to say is not unique to our organization. The ugly is when someone in the group or outside the group receives or instigates questionable or negative information about someone or something associated with the organization and either believes it or spreads it without further investigation. Many times misunderstandings occur, feelings are hurt, and people leave the group because of information that may not have been true, may not have been the complete picture or may have been taken completely out of context. I do not want to mention specific instances but they do occur, mostly unintentionally, but also because we are only human.

How can we avoid falling into this ugly trap? Open communication is the answer. If we hear of something that bothers us, find out if it is true from those who are involved and avoid being the source of misinformation.

Next, the bad. What I think is bad about our organization is the lack of participation by some of the members. Most of the time it is the Executive Board and a small handful of members who volunteer their time, energy, money and other resources for FAAGC's activities. It is true we are all busy with our jobs, our families and other activities, but it would be nice if other members volunteered to do something without being asked, or if asked, would try to accommodate the request as best as they could.

In the past four years I may not have provided the push or the inspiration for members to be more active in the organization, and I apologize for that. Please do not let one person, officer or

not, be your excuse from becoming more active in the future. Don't wait to be asked. Instead, ask what you can do.

Finally, the good. The Philippines, Tagalog, Bisaya, Ilokano, Bicol, *tinikling, singkil, Igorot, maglalatik, pandanggo sa ilaw, binasuan*, fan dance, *adobo, pancit, lumpia, pakbet, inihaw, lechon, halo-halo, puto, kutsinta, leche flan, paksiw, suman*, carabao, jeepney, Mayon, *po*, Rizal, Bonifacio, Juan Luna, Aguinaldo, *Kalayaan*, Maria Clara, *barong*, butterfly sleeves, *kimona*;

Christmas party, Easter picnic, annual gala, cookouts, potluck, dance troupe, International Festival, exhibits, weddings, funerals, births, graduations, Christmas Carillon parade, *Lolo, Lola, inaanak, bayanihan*;

Eva, Minnie, Helen, Pete, Noel, Grace, Tessie, Eloisa, Renato, Ruben, Linda, Leah, Manny, Sally, Gene, Bill, Whip, Fred, Pat, Jaja, Judy, Polly, Edith, Joy, Tessie, Tony, Eden, Marj, George, Remy, Jon, Imelda, Rowena, Jojo, Rudy, Remy, Francisco, Marvin, Beth, Precy, Cecile, Laura, Al, Susan, Chari, Ofelia, Hector, Alan, Joellen, Maria, Naty, Conrad, Bruce, Ben, Aida, Virgie, Whip, Judy, Ruth, Lee Ann, Almira, Raymond, AJ, Alfred, Aileen, Eileen, Kathleen, Abigail, Racquel, Rizza, Michelle, Frances, Danielle, Brian, Justin, Nichole, Christine, Pierce, Jeslie Ann, Jessica, Jessamine, Iris, Alvin, Racquel, Raymond, Christian, Mariel, Ron, Twinkle, Ignacio, Isel, Irene, Jeffrey, Ian, Sean, Andrew, *et al.*;

bahay kubo, vinta, flowers, the newsletter, *etc., etc., etc.* . . .

As you can see, and lest we forget, the good outweighs the bad and the ugly.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve you.

How To Reach UsFAAGC
P.O. Box 24112
Columbia, SC 29224e-mail: faagc@hotmail.com
www.faagc.homestead.comJ J J J J J J J J J
2001-2003 EXECUTIVE BOARDPresident
PETER LIUNORAS
(803) 699-1214First Vice-President
TESSIE DeCASTRO
(803) 736-1649Second Vice-President
TESSIE KENERSON
(803) 699-1178Secretary
MARJ PEÑA
(803) 732-1202Assistant Secretary
LULU ANDERSON
(803) 788-4050Treasurer
GEORGE McNULTY
(803) 781-9509Assistant Treasurer
POLLY PEARSON
(803) 499-9596Executive Board Members:
RUDY DIZON
(803) 788-4067HECTOR GALANG
(803) 736-8997ALAN GEOGHEGAN
(803) 787-5255RUBEN MATIAS-BAGNAL
(803) 699-0797DIANE PHILLIPS
(803) 955-9515**FIL-AM BULLETIN**The Official Newsletter of the
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P.O. Box 24112
Columbia, SC 29224

The Fil-Am Bulletin is one vehicle of the Association to achieve its objectives and maintain regular communications with its members and interested parties. Contributions of articles (*as well as financial donations*) are most welcome; contact the Editor for more details.

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Production/Circulation Assistants

MOTIONS & TRANSITIONS

Welcome...New Members

ABU-BA-KAR & ROWENA ALI of Newberry, SC. They have a son, Cayd Ben.

MERLYN BAJAMUNDE of Columbia, SC. She owns *Just "4" You* which makes personalized gift baskets and cakes for special occasions.

TIM & CATHY TUAÑO BUICE of Columbia, SC. She is from Tondo, Manila and works as an administrative assistant/advocate with P&A for People with Disabilities. He is a Columbia police officer.

JAMES & MICHELLE CHIN of Irmo, SC. Michelle is originally from Parañaque, Metro Manila. James is a health care administrator at Medical Services of America. In the Columbia area for about a year now, they have two children: Nicole, 5, and Kathleen, 2.

ANNIE COOLEY of Sumter, SC. A technician with Gold Kist, she has been in South Carolina for 27 years.

TRICIA CORONADO of Sumter, SC. A native of Pasig, Rizal, she recently arrived in the area as a registered nurse with the Tuomey Health Care System in Sumter, SC.

MELINDA DRAKE of Columbia, SC. Originally from Quezon City, she has been in South Carolina for 14 years. With a doctorate in business administration and a master's

degree in social work, she is a professor at Limestone College and a social worker with Willowglen Academy. She wants the Association to "reach out to Filipinos across South Carolina and be able to assist them in their assimilation in the U.S." She has a daughter, Asa Lynne, 12.

DERRILL FELKEL of Columbia, SC. A native South Carolinian, he is a teacher at Ridge View High School.

LITA HUFF of Sumter, SC. A longtime SC resident, she is originally from San Fernando, La Union. She is a custodial work leader at NAF Lodging. Her husband, Larry, is a mechanic with Sumter School District 17. They have two children: Maria, 23, and Carmelita, 20.

EDSEL & MARJ PEÑA of Columbia, SC. Recently arrived in Columbia, Ed hails from Panganiban, Catanduanes, while Marj is from Phillips, Del Monte, Bukidnon. He is a professor of statistics at USC, while she is a research assistant professor at the USC Biology Department and USC Cancer Center. They have two daughters: Judith, 14, and Michelle, 12.

GIGI PEPITO of Sumter, SC. A registered nurse, she is from Sta. Rosa, Laguna. Newly arrived in the area, she hopes the Association helps her "meet a lot of people (most especially Filipinos)."

JONATHAN "JP" PORTIS of Dalzell, SC. A member of the US Air Force at Shaw AFB, he likes food preparation, singing and tennis.

TOM & FLOR RIPLEY of Columbia, SC. Originally from Leyte, Flor works as a data processing clerk with the US Army. Tom is a retired US Army man. Just two years in the area, they have a child, Chancy, 16. They hope the



The Peña Family

Association gets "more involved with the community and our youth."

ROBBIE & FLO TUMBOKON of Columbia, SC. A retired medical doctor, Robbie hails from Aklan and Makati. Originally from Youngstown, Ohio, Flo is a nurse at the SC Department of Health & Environmental Control.

FRANCING WALKER of Dalzell, SC. Originally from Alaminos, Pangasinan, she is a HeadStart teacher with Wateree Community Action. She thinks the Association members should "work together as a team and respect one another."

MITCH & TINA ZEMP of Irmo, SC. From Makati, Metro Manila, she is a registered nurse at Palmetto Richland Memorial Hospital. A native of Mullins, South Carolina, he is a quality engineer at Federal Mogul. They hope the

Association can help them "promote friendship with other Filipinos and Americans and provide better understanding of the Filipino heritage." In Columbia for ten years now, they have a daughter, Jessica Marie, 1.

Congratulations to:

BILLY & EDITH ALSTON on their recent 10th wedding anniversary. They had a four-day celebration in Atlanta with daughter Tracy (who also celebrated her birthday) and her husband Paul.

RACQUEL DIZON on her recent promotion to assistant comptroller/director at the MGM Grand Hotel in Las Vegas. The daughter of Rudy & Brenda Dizon, she was a former FAAGC assistant secretary.

At Iba Pa... Etc...

We are in the process of updating the Fil-Am directory. If you have a new address, telephone number, and/or e-mail address, please contact Membership Committee chair Helen Alon (738-0372; e-mail: HELENQDA@yahoo.com) to update our records.

If you have any Fil-Am Association property, i.e., dance troupe costumes, books, music/video tapes, or other items, kindly return them to, or at least contact, Helen Alon (738-0372; e-mail: HELENQDA@yahoo.com) so we can finalize our property inventory.



Melinda & Asa Lynne Drake



The Zemp Family

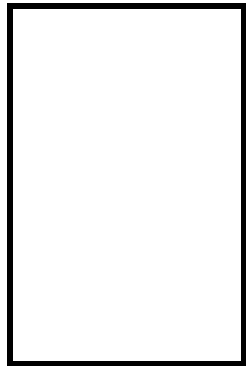
BE PROUD OF YOUR HERITAGE

Join the Columbia Fil-Am Association

"Together We Make A Difference"

The Graduates

received his Ph.D. in International Studies from USC during the Bicentennial Commencement Exercises on May 12, 2001. His dissertation was entitled "The Post-Cold-War Management of the U.S. Alliances with Japan, South Korea, and the Philippines: A Comparative Analysis." A very active FAAGC member during his USC stint, he has returned to the Philippines to resume his teaching position at De La Salle University.



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lor of Science degree from Francis Marion University in Florence, SC, on May 5. Laurel, who majored in political science, was a member of the highly successful Francis Marion women's soccer team which went to the NCAA tournament twice in her four years on the team. A daughter of Tessie and Jim Kenerson of Columbia (who now "find their nest empty"), Laurel plans to work and live in Charleston.

graduated with honors from Cardinal Newman High School. A son of Hector & Lolita Baens of Columbia, SC, he plans to study at USC.

graduated from Irmo High School on June 2 and will attend USC to take up media arts. He is the son of Joellen Cook of Irmo, SC.

graduated on June 1 from Richland Northeast High School.

For the last four years, she was in the school's technology-based magnet program for accelerated college prep students. The senior class treasurer, she was an active member of the Student Government, National Honor Society, French International Club, Interact Service Club, Hospitality Commission and School Improvement Commission. She was a delegate to the SC Association of Student Councils convention in Myrtle Beach last summer. Extensively involved with the Cavalier Journal, the school's video magazine, and the RNE morning news where she served as an anchor and a camera operator, she received several media journalism awards, including Best Out-of-School Feature, Best Overall Technician, and induction to the Quill & Scroll National Journalism Honor Society. She also interned this past school year as a co-host of a weekly teen talk show aired on ETV. Voted by her senior peers as "Most Dependable," she also received US National Youth Click Leadership (totaling \$76,000) English Achievement awards. With a 3.6 GPA, she has received scholarship awards from College LIFE, Spring Valley Rotary Club, (PA) and the MG James Ursano Scholarship Fund. She will attend the University of South Carolina to study broadcast journalism. AU S C

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pioneer Fil-Am Cultural Dance Troupe member, she is a daughter of Manny & Leah Cuaresma of Columbia, SC.

graduated from Hartsville High School on May 25. An All-State athlete and MVP in track and women's varsity volleyball, Cathy set a new school record (1:08.68) in the 400 hurdles when she ran fifth in the event at the recent state track meet at Spring Valley High School. With academic scholarship awards from Palmetto Fellows, Clemson Abney Scholarship, Top 10 Student, CP&L Bright Light, and Hartsville Lawyers, she will study at Clemson University. She is a daughter of Charles & Beverly Goyeneche of Hartsville, SC.

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engineering. A pioneer Fil-Am dance troupe member, he is the older son of George & Nieves McNulty of Columbia, SC.

graduated as class valedictorian from Richland Northeast High School on June 1. A four-year 4.0 honor roll student in the Horizon magnet program and with several college Advanced Placement (AP) courses to his credit, he had a 5.255 GPA.

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