Annual Christmas Party
Set for December 17

FAAGC will hold its 21st Annual Columbia Fil-Am Christmas Party on December 17, 2017, starting at 6:00 p.m. at the St. John Neumann School gymnasium. The venue is at 721 Polo Road, Columbia, SC 29223. All Association members, supporters and friends (and their families) are all invited to this fun-filled, festive occasion.

The holiday celebration will feature a Filipino food buffet (including pansit, adobo, lechon paksiw, menudo, dinugu-an, and Filipino food will be sold at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, January 21, 2012. The round-robin tournament involves six Fil-Am teams from Columbia, Orangeburg and Sumter and will benefit the Columbia Fil-Am Scholarship Fund.

The whole-day tournament will be held at the Polo Road Park gym (730 Polo Road, Columbia, SC 29223), starting at 9:00 a.m.

Filipino food will be sold throughout the day as a Scholarship Program fundraiser at the event. Food donors and food service volunteers are most welcome; contact FAAGC President Marj Peña (803-360-2469) or the other officers for details.

First Tournament
Earlier, FAAGC sponsored the very first Columbia FIL-AM Basketball Invitational Tournament on October 15, 2011, also at the Polo Road Park Recreation Center gym. The round-robin tournament involved six Fil-Am teams from Georgia (Atlanta, Savannah) and South Carolina (Beaufort, Columbia, Sumter). Columbia was represented by (continued on Page 9)
From the President ........................ by Marj Peña

FAAGC is a Big Extended Family!

I hope that everyone had a great Thanksgiving celebration with family and friends! I also hope that everyone survived the Black Friday shopping rush which signals the start of the holiday season!

A Very Big THANK YOU

I would like to thank everyone who participated in our twentieth anniversary gala which was held at the Columbia Marriott on September 10th. It was a significant milestone in our organization: we are twenty years old and we stand proud and strong!

For the first time, we recognized our Lifetime Sustaining Charter Members and honored them with a small token of our appreciation. These are the members who have steadfastly supported and continuously sustained the FAAGC from its inception through the past twenty years.

What was amazing to me was that, although we did not inform any of them that they were receiving the award, all of them (or a relative) were there to accept the award. This is a testimony to their dedication and we are truly grateful!

It gives me reassurance that as the FAAGC expands and embraces the new members, the founders are there to guide us as we move forward. Indeed, the FAAGC is a big extended family that makes Columbia a home for all of us. A very big THANK YOU to everyone who made the Gala a truly enjoyable and memorable event!

Basketball Tournament

For the first time ever, the FAAGC sponsored the first Columbia FIL-AM Basketball Tournament on October 15. Six teams from Columbia, Sumter, Savannah, Beaufort, and Atlanta participated. We also had a Philippine food sale at the event to raise funds for the FAAGC Scholarship Program.

Although we had never done this before, the event was such so successful and enjoyable that we are sponsoring the next tournament in January! Thank you to all who participated and donated food, and we hope that you can all join us at the next tournament which is scheduled on January 21, 2012 at the Polo Road Recreation Center. Come cheer for the FAAGC teams and support the youth in our organization.

Christmas Party

It is time again for one of our honored traditions: The FAAGC Annual Christmas Party! We invite everyone and their families to join us on December 17th at the St. John Neumann School’s gymnasium. The party will begin at 6 PM featuring a Philippine Buffet for everyone to enjoy. The Columbia Fil-Am Dance Troupe will be performing, DJ Mike Lamb will provide music and entertainment and of course, Santa will drop by for a visit.

I hope to see you all there.

Please purchase your tickets from any FAAGC Officer or Executive Board Member as soon as you can.

Thank you for all your support and for making all of our activities a great success!

MALIGAYANG PASKO AT MANIGONG BAGONG TAON SA LAHAT!!

Chop suey, lumpia, cassava cake, biko, and puto and entertainment numbers showcasing the Columbia Fil-Am Dance Troupe and other children. DJ Mike Lamb will provide music for the listening and dancing pleasure of attenders. All Association members, supporters and friends (and their families) are all invited to this festive occasion.

To cover costs for the buffet dinner, DJ, venue rental, and other incidental expenses, tickets are $12 each for members and $15 for non-members, if purchased by December 15. After December 15, tickets are $14 each for members and $17 for non-members. Tickets for children 6-12 years old are $8 each; children under six years are free. Also, to help defray expenses, each family is requested to bring a 2-liter bottle of soda.

Families who are bringing their children are requested to bring a wrapped present (just one for each child, please) to be placed under the Christmas tree for distribution by Santa Claus. Each present should be clearly and legibly marked with the child’s FULL NAME.

For tickets or more details about the Fil-Am Christmas Party, contact Marj Peña at (803) 360-2469, Nieves McNulty at 803-781-9509, or any other officer listed on this page. In the Sumter area, contact Cecilia Jacobsen at the Fil-Am Store [(803) 494-5613]. For additional details or for a map, visit the Columbia Fil-Am website at www.FilAmSC.org

How To Contact Us

FAAGC
P.O. Box 24112
Columbia, SC 29224

www.Fil-AmSC.org

e-mail: faagc@hotmail.com,
or Fil-AmSC@yahoo.com
2011-2013 EXECUTIVE BOARD

President
MARJ PEÑA
(803) 360-2469
mpena1213@gmail.com

First Vice-President
CARMELISA EDWARDS
(803) 360-2636
Bataca35@peoplepc.com

Second Vice-President
GRACE BALANQUIT
(803) 467-9426
greacebalanquit@gmail.com

Secretary
ODESS BRINKMAN
(803) 210-7577
dobrink@bellsouth.net

Assistant Secretary
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fbcb221@yahoo.com

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MARIBEL TJING
(803) 749-2177
btjing@hotmail.com

Treasurer
NIEVES MCNULTY
(803) 553-6540
nmcnulty@columbiasc.edu

Executive Board Members:
CARLOS AREVALO
(803) 237-9171
carlost8626@yahoo.com

GRACE COLLINS
(803) 808-5740
GraceFilam@gmail.com

RIO DAQUILANEA
(803) 629-8829
ejoej8406@sc.rr.com

PETER LUNORAS
(803) 699-1214
plunorasa@yahoo.com

FRANCISCO RANCES
(803) 788-6271
Vmcz24@yahoo.com

Fil-Am Bulletin
The Official Newsletter of the Filipino-American Association of Greater Columbia, SC
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.

NOEL ALON
Editor
Tel: (803) 738-0372
e-mail: FilAmSC@yahoo.com

Helen Alon
Production/Circulation Coordinator
e-mail: HELENQDA@yahoo.com

Carlton Edwards
Photographer
WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

★ JAMES & VANESSA FLORES of Columbia, SC. Recent movers to Columbia from Greenville, SC, they are originally from Abra and Quezon City, respectively, and are both state employees. They have a daughter, Malaya, 2.

★ DC & JOCY LOCKE of Columbia, SC. Originally from Oriental Mindoro, she works as lab safety manager at USC. From Alabama, he is a self-employed historian/artist/photographer/writer. Recently arrived in the area, they have a daughter, Tehya-lani, 8.

★ PAUL & JUNELLYN MILES of West Columbia, SC. She is the daughter of FAAGC members Jun & Elvie Pading of West Columbia, SC.

★ JOHN & ELENA NICHOLS of Columbia, SC. Originally from Borongan, Eastern Samar, she is a home builder executive assistant with Fortress Builders. He is a real estate sales agent. They have been in the area for a year now.

~ CONGRATULATIONS ~

★ AMANDA GOYENECE EASTERLING was featured in the October 2011 issue of the SDP Newsletter newsletter of the Comer School Development Program, Yale School of Medicine. She was one of 13 educators from Hartsville, SC, who made a site visit to New Haven, CT, in June to learn about the Comer Process of School Development. She is currently the director of Education Internship Programs in the Education Department of Coker College. She is the youngest daughter of FAAGC charter members Charles & Bev Goyeneche of Hartsville, SC.

★ ROMEL LACSON graduated on May 7, 2011 with a doctorate degree from the Department of Anthropology at USC. His Ph.D. dissertation was entitled “Photovoice with Persons Affected by Tuberculosis Intervening in the Bio-Political Spheres of Communicability: A Study of the Circulation of Power.” He is now with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in Atlanta, GA.

Library of Congress (continued from Page 1)

all galas and cultural shows (Karilagan and Kalayaan), By-laws booklets, Directory of Members booklets, Christmas Party programs, and a DVD of 1991-92 original computer files and digitized photos.

Noel & Helen Alon delivered the documents on Sept. 26, 2011 to Reme Grefalda (founding Curator/Librarian, Asian American Pacific Islander Collection, Primary Holdings Initiative, Asian Division, Library of Congress).

In an en email dated September 28, 2011, Ms. Grefalda wrote FAAGC: “Thank you so much for bringing your collection over. . .I am so proud of your documentation!”

Special thanks to Dr. Susana Pasicatan for keeping some of the 1991-92 newsletter issues that allowed compilation of a complete sequence of all the newsletter issues as well as photos during that first year.

We are continuing the compilation of later years’ documentation, especially of photos and videos, to send to the AAPI collection. If you have FAAGC-related photos, videos, newspaper clip-pings, or other documents through the years that can be used in this compilation, contact Noel Alon at (803) 738-0372 or FAAGC@hotmail.com.

Maraming Salamat! THANKS FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT

Recent Membership Renewals:

★ Conrad & Rita ALCANTARA
★ Billy & Jennifer BLACK
★ Linda BROWN
★ Ben & Aida DAQUIOAG
★ Jun & Elvie PADING
★ Tom & Flor RIPLEY
★ Roger & Nathy ROBERTS
★ Brian & Cecile STRICKLAND
★ Dave & Cindy TEFFT
★ Charles & Precy WALKER
★ Francisa WALKER

We hope others will also continue their support of the Columbia Fil-Am Association!

Bon Voyage & Good Luck

★ ANTHONY & ONIE JABER moved to Naples, Italy in early November due to his U.S. Army re-assignment.

Condolesences to the families of:

★ Gene Ellis on the death of his mother Alice Robinson Ellis of Atlantic, NC, on November 5, 2011, at age 86;
★ Celyn Szoke on the recent death of her father-in-law;
★ other FAAGC members who recently have lost loved ones but for which we had no details as of press time.

A Note of Thanks . . . . . . . from Susana Pasicatan

Dr. Susana B. Pasicatan and Family — Michelle-Arlene, Marco, Marvel, Mary & children Kadan and Ava; sister and brother-in-law-Flora and Tony Buangan of San Francisco — are deeply grateful to all who came to grieve with us during the wake and funeral services of my husband, Dr. Alfonso Anolin Pasicatan. The beautiful flowers, Filipino American delicacies, monetary contribution, and cards are equally appreciated.

Also, I mostly treasure the presence and help of my children, Flora and Tony Buangan, Drs. Laura and Pete Siazon, Lolita and Patrick Baens, Dr. Eadie and Jess Sebastian during the most trying and difficult period of my husband’s illness.

MARAMING, MARAMING SALAMAT PO SA LAHAT.
The Filipino American Association of Greater Columbia proudly acknowledges with gratitude the following youth and children for their participation in the Columbia Fil-Am Dance Troupe (#), Columbia International Festival (+), or Christmas Party Presentation (*):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Role Description</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dan Adcock</td>
<td>Gala Organization, 2009-2011 Executive Board, International Festival</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lita Acostar</td>
<td>International Festival</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Helen Alon</td>
<td>Gala Organization, Newsletter Circulation, Dance practice volunteer, International Festival, Christmas Party Decoration, Membership Committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Noel Alon</td>
<td>Gala Souvenir Program, Webmaster, Newsletter Editor, International Festival</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mary Barradas</td>
<td>International Festival</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cecille Boman</td>
<td>Columbia Fil-Am Dance Troupe</td>
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<tr>
<td>Odess Brinkman</td>
<td>Gala Organization, Dance Director and Choreographer, International Festival</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Linda Brown</td>
<td>Christmas Party</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ginalyn Castañeda</td>
<td>Easter Picnic Games, Columbia Fil-Am Dance Troupe</td>
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<tr>
<td>Joy Clark</td>
<td>Columbia Fil-Am Dance Troupe Support</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grace Collins</td>
<td>Gala Organization, International Festival, 2009-2011 Executive Board</td>
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<tr>
<td>Leah Cuaresma</td>
<td>Gala Organization, Christmas Party</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rudy Dizon</td>
<td>International Festival, Christmas Party</td>
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<tr>
<td>Carmelisa Edwards</td>
<td>Gala Organization, International Festival, Dance Coordinator, 2009-2011 Executive Board</td>
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<td>Carlton Edwards</td>
<td>Photography, International Festival</td>
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<td>Sally Ellis</td>
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<td>Jojo Flora</td>
<td>Gala Organization, 2009-2011 Executive Board, Dance Troupe Practice Coordinator</td>
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<tr>
<td>Joette Flora</td>
<td>International Festival, Columbia Fil-Am Dance Troupe Coordinator</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reyna Funderburk</td>
<td>Easter Picnic Games, Columbia Fil-Am Dance Troupe</td>
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<td>Cecille Geoghegan</td>
<td>Gala Organization, 2009-2011 Executive Board, International Festival, Christmas Party Decorations</td>
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<tr>
<td>Imelda Go</td>
<td>Columbia Fil-Am Dance Troupe, Newsletter Contributor</td>
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<tr>
<td>Yanni Gould</td>
<td>Columbia Fil-Am Dance Troupe</td>
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<td>Christina Horton</td>
<td>International Festival</td>
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<td>Frank Hutchinson</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cecillia Jacobsen</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jonathan Jacobsen</td>
<td>Gala Usher, Dancer, International Festival</td>
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<td>Linda Joshua</td>
<td>International Festival</td>
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<td>Tessie Kenerson</td>
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<td>Jim Kenerson</td>
<td>Christmas Program</td>
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<td>Peter Llinoras</td>
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<td>Alan Matienzo</td>
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<td>Shirley McGuinness</td>
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<td>Nieves McNulty</td>
<td>Gala Organization, 2009-2011 Executive Board, International Festival</td>
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<tr>
<td>George McNulty</td>
<td>Gala Organization, International Festival, Easter Picnic, Christmas Party</td>
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<td>Lynn Page</td>
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<tr>
<td>Christina Papiona</td>
<td>Columbia Fil-Am Dance Troupe</td>
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<tr>
<td>Marj Peña</td>
<td>Gala Organization, 2009-2011 Executive Board, International Festival</td>
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<tr>
<td>Edsel Peña</td>
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<td>Corazon Peña</td>
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<tr>
<td>Florencio Peña, Jr.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Christine Peña</td>
<td>International Festival</td>
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<tr>
<td>Alma Robichaud</td>
<td>Columbia Fil-Am Dance Troupe</td>
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<tr>
<td>Celyn Szoke</td>
<td>Gala Emcee</td>
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<tr>
<td>Joey Szoke III</td>
<td>Gala Usher</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jett Thomas</td>
<td>Columbia Fil-Am Dance Troupe</td>
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<tr>
<td>Maribel Tijing</td>
<td>Gala Organization, 2009-2011 Executive Board, International Festival Exhibit, Christmas Decorations</td>
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<tr>
<td>Neil Tijing</td>
<td>International Festival</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lanz Tijing</td>
<td>International Festival</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wyda Viray</td>
<td>Gala Organization, International Festival, 2009-2011 Executive Board</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Myrna Whitmire</td>
<td>Gala Organization, Christmas Party</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bernadette Yavis</td>
<td>Columbia Fil-Am Dance Troupe Director and Choreographer</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

FAAGC also acknowledges with gratitude the following youth and children for their participation in the Columbia Fil-Am Dance Troupe (#), Columbia International Festival (+), or Christmas Party Presentation (*):

# Joshua Angoluan
# Glyde Apan
# Leigh Apan
# Darryl Arevalo
# Christine Arroyo
# Taylor Ashby
# Joshua Bautista
# Kirkwood Bautista
# Mico Capalar
# Nicole Daquilanea
# Joshua Dean
# Justine Flora
# Jennie Hyunhe
# Nilo Legaspi
# Rina Lowder
# Onie Meadows
# Ryo Nakano
# Steven Rostata
# Kyla Salomon
# Christine Sanchez
# Michael Sanchez
# Christian Singleton
+ Jenna Szoke
+ Mikko Tups
+ Vanessa White

* Jeff Antonio
* Jolo Antonio
* Jun Jun Balacanao
* Aji Ballesil
* Danielle Jyl Bailesil
* Leigh Bailesil
* Kylie Andrew Bolotano
* Kenneth Bolotano
# Jeremy Brinkman
* Hanz Briones
* Marc Andrei Bumanglag
* Jaxen Castaneda
* Brandon Clark
# Shane Clark
# Taryn Clark
* Abegail Faller
* Phillip Faller
# Casey Funderburk
# Jela Lucillo
* CJ Martinez
* Lanz Pasig
* Victoria Maristela Rances
* Andrea Robichaud
* Clover Robichaud
# Julia Szoke
# Lara Tijing
* Keisha Wilson
* Jesu Wilson
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- Opportunity for the participants to succeed in supervisory and managerial positions
- Practical training, employment, and the sharing of the history, culture, and traditions of the participant's home country in the United States of America
- Improve your knowledge in American techniques, methodologies, or expertise in their field of endeavors, gain understanding, acquire knowledge and develop skills for living and to make American Public understand their culture and society
Recently the Philippines’ Puerto Princesa Underground River was named provisionally as one of the new seven wonders of nature. Puerto Princesa is the capital of the Philippine province of Palawan. The author has had the opportunity to visit the Palawan locations described in this article. Although the author last visited El Nido (“the nest”) in 2004, she is hoping to visit it again sooner than later because it is her favorite place on earth.

**Palawan**

The Philippines has been blessed with biodiversity of which Palawan is perhaps its best example. Composed of 1,768 islands and islets, Palawan is located in the western portion of the Philippine archipelago and is the pan-handle-like cluster of islands above Malaysia’s Borneo island. West of the Palawan mainland lies the South China Sea and east of it lies the Sulu Sea. Movie enthusiasts may know that the 1997 James Bond movie “Tomorrow Never Dies” includes scenes shot in Palawan.

There are theories regarding the origin of its name. One likely theory is the Chinese as early as the 9th Century called it PA-LAO-YU, or land of beautiful safe harbor. Palawan can boast of being the cleanest Philippine province that supports ecologically friendly tourist programs. The nature lover have plenty to see in terms of tropical fish, birds, corals, and even endangered species, such as sea turtles that nest on its white sand beaches and the underground river. The underground/subterranean river is one of the world’s longest, if not the longest underground river known by man. The navigable part of the river inside the cave stretches 8.2 kilometers (~5 miles) in length. Some Filipino explorers believe that the Puerto Princesa Underground River’s total length could reach 15 kilometers (~9.3 miles) if fully explored and measured.

On 11/11/11, based on the first count of multi-hundred million global votes (by phone, text message, email and Internet social networks), the N7W headquarters in Zurich, Switzerland, announced that the Puerto Princesa Underground River is one of the provisional New7Wonders of Nature.

**Puerto Princesa Underground River**

Puerto Princesa Underground River is the longest underground river known by man. The navigable part of the river inside the cave stretches 8.2 kilometers (~5 miles) in length. Some Filipino explorers believe that the Puerto Princesa Underground River’s total length could reach 15 kilometers (~9.3 miles) if fully explored and measured.

Of the many beaches in the Philippines, the islands and beaches of El Nido is what many consider Palawan’s crown jewel and paradise incarnate. Located in the northemmost tip of the Palawan mainland, it is a cluster of 45 unspoiled islands and islets with rocky limestone and black marble cliffs estimated to be 250 million years old. Skyscraping over sparkling emerald waters, weathering and erosion continue to shape these massive geological formations. There are tropical mangrove forests, white-sand beaches, caves with dripstone formations, secret coves, and hidden lagoons.

The town is named after the edible nests formed by the salvia swifts (Collocalia fuciphaga) that nest in the cracks of the limestone cliffs. (Nido means nest in Spanish.) The nest is the main ingredient for the Chinese gourmet bird’s nest soup. Because of the risks involved in scaling and climbing the steep and jagged cliffs to gain access to the nests, the wholesale price for just a gram (almost half an ounce) of the bird’s nest is a few dollars.

El Nido’s Bacuit Bay area was elevated from a marine preserve to a protected area to prevent its overdevelopment. The El Nido Managed Resource Protected Area includes over 35,283 hectares of land and 53,847 hectares of water. Famous scenic islands and islets are Gintungawan, Dibuluan, Manlet, Matinloc, Miniloc, and Lagen. There are exclusive resorts in Lagen, Miniloc, Dalarag, and Malapacao. The fishing village of El Nido town offers beautiful beachfront native cottage accommodations of which Lally and Abet (www.lallyandabet.com) is one of the most established. Lally and Abet is a successful enterprise that enjoys repeat visits from its Filipino and international guests. During the week we were there in December 2004, we stayed in cottage room number 10, which was a few yards from the water during high tide. The view from the cottage was made even more spectacular by the full moon we were lucky to enjoy when we visited. Our neighbor next door was a couple from France who were at Lally and Abet’s for the 12th consecutive year. All visits except for one were each one month long.

Their customer loyalty is impressive considering El Nido was challenging to travel to but no doubt well worth the effort. We flew into Taytay and (continued on Page 8)
and were shuttled in a van to the town of El Nido. The terrain along the way would have challenged heavily any sports utility vehicle. Direct flights into El Nido airport were exclusively through Soriano Aviation, which catered mostly to the highly exclusive (and expensive) El Nido resorts, such as Amanpulo frequented by international celebrities.

We also met a Spanish woman with her American husband, both avid divers, visiting El Nido for the first time. Although they had considered visiting Phuket, Thailand, they chose to visit El Nido instead. Their decision proved fateful because we were together in El Nido on December 26, 2004, when the deadly tsunami struck Phuket.

When asked how El Nido compared to the beaches in Spain, she remarked that in Spain the beaches are crowded while in places like El Nido, one can enjoy nature in its purest unspoiled form.

When you see it for yourself, you will know why El Nido is recognized as one of the most beautiful places in the world. Its beauty was affirmed by episode number 12 of the reality TV show Amazing Race 5, which selected the most exotic places in the world to bring its contestants to and which promoted El Nido to television viewers worldwide. El Nido is an international treasure that those who can should experience once in their lifetime.

“The Philippines is blessed with unique natural beauty found nowhere else in the world.”
— Dell Tancongco
Filipino
Metro Manila, Philippines

“Filipino hospitality is alive and well in El Nido, Palawan.”
— Dits Recomono
Filipino-Canadian
Toronto, Canada

“I’ve seen beaches in the South of France, Greece, Boracay, Bali, Phuket, Mexico, and Maui and I still think El Nido’s beaches are the best in the world!”
— Rachel Jakubowicz
Filipino-French
Paris, France

[ Dell, Dits, and Rachel are Filipino sisters vacationing at Lally and Abet with their families in El Nido in December, 2004.]

References:
• http://www.new7wonders.com

FAAGC Member Starts USC Scholarship Fund

FAAGC sustaining member and Fil-Am Bulletin regular contributor Imelda “Mel” Go has established a scholarship to help international students attend USC.

She calls the education she received at the University of South Carolina “priceless.” Now she’s committed to helping other international students attending Carolina by establishing the new International Alumni Scholarship Fund. The fund, supported by the university’s international alumni, will help meritorious international students who are experiencing financial hardships.

“Alma mater is the ‘nourishing mother.’ My education here gave me so much. My life would be meaningless if I didn’t give back,” said Go, who studied at USC from 1989-95. She received her MS degree in statistics, her master’s of education in testing and measurement, and her Ph.D. in education research from USC. She is now a researcher, statistician and manager in the S.C. Education Department’s Assessment Office.

The scholarship project was announced on September 21, 2011 at the President’s Reception for International Students and Scholars. The annual event was hosted by President Harris Pastides to welcome the university’s nearly 1,500 international students from 111 countries.

The scholarships for international students will be awarded beginning in spring 2012. A scholarship award of $250 can result in a tuition reduction valued at $4,500 or more for a semester of scholarship support. Contributions of any amount are welcome. For information or to make a contribution, contact International Student Services, (803) 777-7461, iss@sc.edu, or donate online through this quick-link: http://tinyurl.com/USC-ISS
two teams, one coached by Charles Goyeneche and the other by Butch Tupas and Roy Balacanao.

The Beaufort SC Pinoys team coached by PJ Oliveros and Geo Floresca went undefeated to win the championship trophy donated by FAAGC. The second place trophy donated by Rio Daquilanea went to the Savannah RPSav team coached by Luis Bucay. The Atlanta Garage Boys coached by Rico Cabrera and the Sumter ShawPinos coached by Kirbe Delmo received the third place trophies donated by Rolly Bumanglag and FAAGC.

Beaufort's Noel Regis garnered the tournament MVP trophy donated by Bong Rances. Team MVPs who received medals (also donated by Bong Rances) were Leo Balacanao (FAAGC 1), Jeff Capalar (FAAGC 2), Kirbe Delmo (Sumter), Ivan Olendron (Atlanta), Noel Regis (Beaufort), and Joe Torres (Savannah).

Tournament commissioner Peter Liunoras and tournament co-coordinators Rio Daquilanea and Bong Rances managed the tournament, with some assistance from Noel Alon.

Thanks to All Volunteers
FAAGC acknowledges with thanks and appreciation the following for helping make the first-ever Columbia FIL-AM Basketball Tournament highly successful:

* Donors of food and drinks for sale: Helen Alon (pansit), Edith Alston (pansit), Cathy & Carlos Arevalo (pinakbet and brownies), Grace Balanquit (rice), Odess Brinkman (lumpia), Grace Collins (rice), Mary Jane & Rio Daquilanea (menudo), Peter Liunoras (bottled water), Nieves McNulty (soft drinks & condiments), Jojo Miranda (bottled water), Marj Pena (adobo), Barbie Proctor (cassava cake), Rosa & Bong Rances (laing), and Bambie Tijing (cupcakes);
* Food service: Edith Alston, Grace Balanquit, Odess Brinkman, Grace Collins, Nieves McNulty (ticket sales), Bambie Tijing, and Helen Alon;
* Other services: Zaldy Ballesil (sound system);
* Post-event clean-up: Catherine Arevalo, Marie Capalar, Mary Jane Daquilanea, Charina Lacson, Rosa Rances, all the food service volunteers, among others.

Basketball Practice
Sports-minded Fil-Ams in the area are invited to join the Columbia basketball teams for practice and scrimmage every Saturday afternoon at the Polo Road Park gym. Children are also welcome since a children's team is being organized and trained.

For more information about the Saturday practices and/or the basketball tournament, contact Bong Rances (803-788-6271; vmcr24@yahoo.com), Carlos Arevalo (803-237-9171; carlos73626@yahoo.com), or Rio Daquilanea (803-629-8829; Ridaq94@yahoo.com).
**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

* December 17, 2011 (Saturday, 6 pm)
  - Columbia Fil-Am Annual Christmas Party
    - St. John Neumann School gymnasium
    - 721 Polo Road, Columbia, SC 29223

* January 21, 2012 (Saturday, 9 am — 7 pm)
  - Columbia Fil-Am Basketball Tournament
    - Polo Road Park gym
    - 730 Polo Road, Columbia, SC 29223

* March 31 – April 1, 2012 (Saturday - Sunday)
  - Columbia International Festival
    - (www.cifonline.org)
  - SC State Fairgrounds
    - 1200 Rosewood Drive, Columbia, SC 29201

* April 8, 2012 (Sunday)
  - Columbia Fil-Am Annual Easter Picnic
    - Sesquicentennial Park
      - [(803) 788-2706]
      - 9564 Two Notch Rd., Columbia, SC 29223

**Mark Your Calendars Now!**

Visit & Bookmark the FAAGC Website

[www.FilAmSC.org](http://www.FilAmSC.org)

for the clickable direct links to the websites mentioned in this issue of the Fil-Am Bulletin.

Current and some past issues (in color) of the Fil-Am Bulletin are also available online.

Copies of the by-laws and application forms can be downloaded from the website.

Find us on Facebook

Be Our Fan on Facebook with this quick-link:

[tinyurl.com/FAAGC1](http://tinyurl.com/FAAGC1)

**Don’t Forget:**

* Columbia FIL-AM Annual CHRISTMAS PARTY
  - will be held on Saturday, December 17, 2011
  - at the St. John Neumann School gymnasium.