



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 17, Number 1 ★ P.O. Box 24112, Columbia, SC 29224 ★ Summer 2007 ★

FAAGC Donates to Manila Hospice That Really Needs Support by Odess Brinkman

On July 27, 2007, accompanied by my friends, my son Jeremy and I went to the Hospicio de San Jose in Manila to personally deliver the check that FAAGC donated. The check in the amount of \$344.00 represented the proceeds from our Christmas fund-raiser and matching Association funds. Sr. Socorro Evidente, the hospice administrator was very appreciative of the said donation.

Showing her utmost concern for the needs of all the residents of Hospicio de San Jose, Sr. Socorro asked one of her staff named Rose to give us a tour of the facility so we can see it for ourselves. First, Rose took us to the orphanage where a number of abandoned, small but lovely children, ranging in age from 1 to 3 years, *(continued on Page 10)*

Opening Up the Mind and Spirit While Being Exposed to Philippine Children In Need by Alan Geoghegan

Fresh out of college, I became a communications assistant with the World Association for Orphans and Abandoned Children, located at the time in Geneva, Switzerland. My first assignment with video camera in-hand was to go on an Asian trip to assess the situation of orphans in the region. The first stop was in Manila, Philippines, initially intended as a 5-day trip. The head of the association, a philanthropist and holocaust survivor,

The Filipino-American Association of Greater Columbia (FAAGC) will celebrate its **17th Annual Gala and 12th Induction Ball** with a formal dinner-dance on **Saturday, September 22, 2007** at the **Radisson Hotel Columbia & Conference Center** from 6:00 p.m. to midnight. The venue is at 2100 Bush River Road, Columbia, SC 29210 (just off I-20).

The gala is the Association's main annual fundraiser to support its various activities such as the Philippine cultural dance troupe, scholarship fund, charitable endeavors, and other educational and multi-cultural activities in the South Carolina Midlands.

This year, a portion of the proceeds from the gala will benefit disadvantaged children in the Philippines.

FAAGC intends to provide some financial support to the San Vicente de Paul Orphanage in Manila; SOS Village in Tacloban, Leyte; Boys and Girls Home in Marikina; and the ERDA Foundation helping children in Metro Manila. Incidentally, a similar FAAGC fund-raiser last Christmas benefited the Hospicio de San Jose Orphanage in Metro Manila, which FAAGC will continue to support. Fifty percent of proceeds from gala sponsors and donors *(continued on Page 12)*

Very Important Filipinos for a U.S. Critical Need by Imelda Go

We want to welcome two groups of Filipinos who recently arrived in South Carolina.

The first group consists of 23 teachers (16 women and 7 men) from the Philippines who have been hired by Richland School District Two to teach math, science, and special education in its elementary, middle, and high schools. They arrived on July 21 and all of them live for now at the Greenbrier Apartment complex in the Northeast Columbia area. Through the initiative of past president Peter Liunoras, FAAGC organized a welcome reception for them at Ridge View High School *(continued on Page 6)*



Sr. Ma. Socorro G. Evidente, DC (right), administrator of Hospicio de San Jose in Manila, receives FAAGC's donation check from FAAGC officer Odess Brinkman. Also in the photo is Jeremy Brinkman.



Members of the FAAGC Executive Board (front row) pose with the newly-arrived teachers from the Philippines during the welcome reception held at the Ridge View High School cafeteria on August 5, 2007. Some local Fil-Ams are serving as "host families" of the teachers to help them adjust to their new life here. Photo by Carlton Edwards



The President's Corner by Alan Geoghegan
MAKING A DIFFERENCE TO NEEDY CHILDREN

this summer. First of all, I would like to congratulate the recently elected FAAGC Executive Board. I am excited to serve and volunteer with this new batch of talented Fil-Ams.

We held our summer picnic at Ft. Jackson's Westin Lake Recreation Area on July 8. This was well-attended and we had a chance to honor and recognize various volunteers who make things happen in our Association. Thank you to all who came and participated in our get-together.

In late July, 23 teachers arrived from the Philippines to teach mathematics, science and special education in Richland School District Two. Another 16 Filipino teachers, brought in through an organization called FACES, or Foreign Academic and Cultural Exchange Services, should have arrived by the time you read this article. *Mabuhay* Teachers!

GALA

Many of us are now preparing for our annual gala,

which will be on September 22 at the Radisson Hotel. Please buy tickets, take an ad, and/or donate, because this year's gala presents a unique way to directly benefit underprivileged children in the Philippines. Your time and money can and will make a difference.

As our gala is our largest fund-raiser this year, we have decided to expand our assistance to Philippine orphans. After Christmas, were able to donate to the *Hospicio de San Jose* (with a donation that was hand-carried by FAAGC outgoing secretary, Odessa Brinkman) and we intend to assist it again. However our list has expanded to include four other institutions, three of which are run by the Sisters of Charity. In this way, we are assured our funds go directly to the children.

The *Hospicio de San Jose*, near the port area of Manila, assists children in many ways. For example, in front of the institution is a drop-box which reads "*Abandoned Babies May Be Left Here!*" The *Hospicio* does not like to say **no** to needy children (or adults for that matter) and helps not only street-children and orphans, but also the handicapped, kids with dis-

figurement on their faces, the mentally challenged, and the elderly. I hope you have a chance to read up on the other institutions we intend to support and during this year's gala, as featured in this newsletter and in our website.

Filipinos in SC

There are other aspects of our Association and Fil-Am community which are important and relevant in South Carolina as well. When this newsletter is distributed, 40 Filipino teachers are gearing up to help educate our South Carolinian youth. More and more Filipino nurses are being recruited to staff the health facilities in the state.

Please keep in touch with us. Our semi-active cultural dance troupe is often asked to perform in our area; you and/or your child or children may wish to perform. Without volunteers, we honestly wouldn't exist in the way we do now. Let any of our officers know and call us if you feel you have something to offer to FAAGC.

As ever, have a safe and blessed end-of-summer and see you at our Gala.

Maraming Salamat Po!

How To Reach Us

FAAGC

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 Columbia, SC 29224

www.FilAmSC.org
www.FAAGC.org

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FAAGC Annual Financial Report

(Fiscal Year 2006-07: July 1, 2006 – June 30, 2007; *unaudited*)

(As reported by George McNulty, 2005-2007 FAAGC Treasurer)

OPENING FUND BALANCES

as of July 1, 2006:

General Fund	\$ 10,558.08
Building Fund	12,909.80
Scholarship Fund	2,427.40
Dance Troupe	649.44
Petty Cash	608.00
Total	\$ 27,152.72

CLOSING FUND BALANCES

as of June 30, 2007:

General Fund	\$ 13,040.51
Building Fund	12,910.00
Scholarship Fund	1,995.00
Dance Troupe Fund	800.00
Petty Cash	100.00
Total	\$ 28,845.51

2006-07

Net Income:

Membership Dues	\$ 1,657.00
16th Annual Gala	1,159.81
Orphanage Fund	172.00
Dance Troupe	150.00
Christmas Party	421.35
Misc. Donation	132.00
Total Income	\$ 3,692.16

FY 2006-07
Net Annual Proceeds:
\$ 1,692.79

(The amounts for the Dance Troupe, Building, and Scholarship funds in the closing balances have been increased by less than \$1 each from the General Fund, to avoid keeping track of pennies.)

2006-07

Net Operating Expenses:

Newsletter/Website/ Directory/Postage	\$ 886.67
Representation at Fil-Am Events	20.00
Scholarship Fund	433.00
Easter Picnic	171.54
Summer Picnic	192.98
Sympathy	48.96
P.O. Box	40.00
Insurance	201.00
Banking: Interest less Fees	5.22

Total Expenses \$ (1,999.37)

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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.

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MOTIONS & TRANSITIONS

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

★ **MANUEL (Jun) & LOURDES AGUILAR** of Columbia, SC. A technician at Accutech Machine, he is from Labo, Camarines Norte. A nurse with Palmetto Health, she is from Iloilo City. They have two children: Christian Derek, 8, and Alec Julianne, 4.

★ **JUDITH BANAC** of Columbia, SC. Originally from Valencia, Bukidnon, she is a nurse at Palmetto Health Richland. She has just joined the *Columbia Fil-Am Cultural Dance Troupe*.



Judith Banac

★ **JAKE & NOREEN BOLOTANO** of Columbia, SC. A nurse with Palmetto Health, she is from San Miguel, Bohol, while he is from Butuan City. They have a son, Kyle Andrew, 4.



Jake & Noreen Bolotano

★ **JERRY & LITA FISH** of Columbia, SC. Originally from Bagabag, Nueva Vizcaya, she has been in the Midlands area for about two years. He is a Columbia, SC native.



May Gamab

★ **TIMOTHY GOTT** of Gaston, SC. An information technologist, he has been in the area for about a year. He says he is "grateful for the hospital-ity that I was shown at the get-

together last month [*summer picnic*] and also grateful to enjoy Filipino food again."

★ **CHRISSEY HOPKINS** of Columbia, SC. One of the pioneer performers of the *Columbia Fil-Am Dance Troupe*, she is a daughter of FAAGC charter member and former officer Cindy Tefft.

★ **ARCHIE & ZENY LUNA** of Columbia, SC. Less than a year in the area, they are from Camarines Sur. She is a nurse with Palmetto Health. They have two children: Angel Arianne, 11, and Angelo Zhedric, 9.

★ **DAVID (Chico) & GERALDINE (Jen-jen) MORALES** of Camden, SC. She is originally from Olongapo City, Zambales, while he is from Miami, Florida. They have a son Derrick, 13.

★ **CHRIS & MICHAELA PADUA** of Columbia, SC. He is a longtime Columbia resident while she is originally from the Czech Republic.



Kristyna & Chris Padua

They have a daughter, Kristyna Jane, 2.

★ **DINO & VIRGIE PANTI** of Columbia, SC. Originally from Dumaguete City, Negros Oriental, she is a nurse at Palmetto Health Baptist. He is a photographer who hails from Las Piñas, Metro Manila. They two children: Saphana, 13, and Zuleika, 6.

★ **FRANCISO (Bong) & ROSA VICTORIA (Rose) RANCES** of Columbia, SC. Both from Tigaon, Camarines Sur, she is a nurse with Palmetto Health while he works at Accutech Machine. They have a daughter, Victoria Maristella, 6.

★ **BENJAMIN (Benny) & ROSALIE (Salie) RILE**. A nurse at Palmetto Health Richland, she is originally from Mandaluyong City. A machinist at Accutech Machine, he is from Isabela. They have three



The RILE Family

children: Mark Aaron, 11; Carl Justin, 6; and new-born Angela. The family recently moved to Missouri.

★ **JOEL & ROCILLE JOY TALDE** of Columbia, SC. Newly arrived in the area, they hail from La Castellana, Negros Occidental. She is a nurse with Palmetto Health Richland and he is a machinist at Accutech Machine. They have a son Jossam Leoj, 1.



Joy Talde

★ **NEIL ANTHONY & MARIBEL DULCE (Bambie) TIJING** of Columbia, SC. Originally from Mandaluyong City, he is an RF engineer with AT&T; she hails from Oas, Albay. Three years in the area, they have two children: Lanz Anthony, 8, and Lara Allyson, 4.

★ **DENVER & MARIA CLARISSA WENTLEY** of Blythewood, SC. Originally from Manila, she is teacher at Hand Middle School; he is a technician with Ryder. Three years in the area, they have three children: Marcello, 13; Daniel, 10, and Reynaldo, 1.

~ Congratulations

➤ to **Romel & Rebecca Abeleda** on the birth of their triplets: Ryonnel, Roanah, and Reenah on March 27.

➤ to **Shirley Caduhada** on her marriage to **Sean McGuinness** on August 25 in Columbia, SC.

➤ to **Amanda Goyeneche** on her marriage to **Tony Easterling** on May 26 in Hartsville, SC.

➤ to **Benny & Rosalie Rile** on the recent birth of their daughter, **Angela**, in July.

➤ to **Fred Balangué** on his upcoming wedding to Eunice Cagalawan in Atlanta, GA, on October 27. While in Columbia, he served as a FAAGC Executive Board member and was a long-time performer with the Columbia Fil-Am Cultural Dance Troupe. ❖

* Special Thanks to:

★ **LARRY DURHAM** of Columbia, SC, for his recent donation to the *Fil-Am Youth Scholarship Fund*.

★ **JAMES GUNN** of Summerton, SC, for his recent donation to the *Fil-Am Newsletter Fund*. ❖

CONDOLENCES

† Our condolences to the families of:

➤ **Conrad Alcantara** on the recent death of his mother in the Philippines;

➤ **Linda Bowen** on the recent death of her husband in Columbia;

➤ other FAAGC members who recently have lost loved ones but for which we had no details as of press time.

[FAAGC requests members with a death in the family to contact Spiritual Affair Committee chair **Tessie Kenerson** (699-1178) ASAP so proper arrangements, if needed, can be made by the Association.] ❖



A★C★H★I★E★V★E★M★E★N★T★S★ G★A★L★L★O★R★E

Although the 2007-2008 school year is now in full swing, for posterity sake and historical record, we would be remiss if we don't carry on our annual tradition of recognizing high-achieving children (and adults too) in the extended Fil-Am community during the immediate past school year (2006-2007). Belated this may be, **CONGRATULATIONS** to the following graduates and awardees — and all others not mentioned here due to our lack of detailed information on their individual accomplishments — despite repeated telephone, e-mail, mailed and verbal reminders, only a few families submitted the needed information and/or photos in time for inclusion in this issue.

★ **Dr. EDEL PEÑA**, Professor of Statistics at the



University of South Carolina and long time FAAGC member, is the recipient of the USC 2007 *Michael J. Mungo Graduate Teaching Award*. He was nominated by his students and fellow faculty members in recognition of his outstanding work as a professor, mentor, colleague, and researcher.

An internationally renowned statistician, Edsel is an avid and passionate chess player. He played to a draw the Slovakian Chess Grandmaster Lubomir Ftacnik who played 29 games in a simultaneous exhibition held at Dutch Square Mall in Columbia on June 12, 2007. Ftacnik won 26 games, drawing 2 and losing once at the event. ❖

★ **KATHLEEN NARIO AGUSTIN** graduated *cum laude* on May 11, 2007 from the University of South Carolina (USC) with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration. A former performer of the *Columbia Fil-Am Cultural Dance Troupe*, she is the oldest daughter of Celso and Merci Agustin of Columbia. ❖

★ **ALEXANDER JOEL DACARA ALON** graduated *magna cum laude* from the USC South Carolina Honors College on May 11, 2007, receiving a Bachelor of Science in Computer Science, with a minor in mathematics. A *Palmetto Fellow* and *Caro-*

lina Scholar, he was consistently in the *President's Honor Roll List* and *Dean's List*.



A member of the Phi Beta Kappa, Upsilon Pi Epsilon, and Golden Key honor societies, A.J. was named an *Outstanding Senior in Computer Science* by the College of Engineering and Computing. He was one of only 500 students in North America to participate in the *Imagine Cup* (the Microsoft-sponsored world's premier competition for technology students) regional competitions held in New Orleans and other venues on April 6-8, 2007.

He is now pursuing a graduate degree in computer science at Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, VA. He hopes this will launch him into a career in interface design or usability engineering. A long-time, pioneer performer of the *Columbia Fil-Am Cultural Dance Troupe*, he was a two-term president of the USC Filipino American Student Association (FASA). He is the son of Noel and Helen Alon of Columbia. ❖

★ **RUCHELLE MATIAS BAGNAL** graduated



on December 16, 2006 from Winthrop University with a Bachelor of Fine Arts with concentration in commercial

photography and a minor in business administration. Currently teaching in Richland School District Two, she is the oldest daughter of Ruben and Charry Bagnal of Columbia, SC. ❖

★ **RIZZA MATIAS**

BAGNAL graduated on May 13, 2007 from the College of Charleston with a Bachelor of



Arts, major in historic preservation and community planning and

with a minor in studio arts. She had artwork accepted for the 2007 Young Contemporaries art show and the 2007 Salon de Refuge. She spent two months of volunteer missionary work in the Philippines this summer. She is the middle daughter of Ruben and Charry Bagnal of Columbia, SC. ❖

★ **A M A N D A**

GOYENECHÉ graduated from Coker College (Hartsville, SC) with a bachelor's degree in elementary education. She served as president of the Coker Pedagogical Society, the Education Club. She is the youngest daughter of Charles and Bev Goyeneche of Hartsville, SC. ❖

★ **JOSEPH ANDREW**

PINEDA graduated on May 13, 2007 from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill with a Bachelor of Science, major in psychology. Now pursuing graduate studies in New York, he is a son of Jimmy and Alice Pineda of Columbia, SC. ❖

★ **BRENDA MARIE**

ZOSA graduated on May 12, 2007 from USC with a Bache-

lor of Science, major in Biology. She was the 2006-2007 president of the USC Filipino American Student Association (FASA). Planning to pursue a medical degree, she is the daughter of Ramon Zosa of Columbia, SC. ❖

★ **RAQUEL MATIAS**

BAGNAL graduated on May



25, 2007 from Richland Northeast High School. A member of the National Honor Society and the Quill and Scroll Honor Society for Journalism, she received Convergence Media Program awards for best entertainment segment in the *Cavalier Journal* and for best morning news show package in the *Northeast Today*.

Recipient of LIFE scholarship and SC need-based and Pell grants, she is attending USC-Aiken for a year and then transfer later to USC-Columbia to major in exercise science. A former *Columbia Fil-Am Cultural Dance Troupe* performer, she is the youngest daughter of Ruben and Charry Bagnal of Columbia, SC. ❖

★ **ALVIN DAQUIOAG** graduated on May 12, 2007 from Spring Valley High School. Now studying at Winthrop University, he is the son of Ben and Aida Daquioag of Columbia, SC. ❖

★ **MICHELLE ANNE**

PEÑA graduated on June 1, 2007 from Irmo High School as a *Distinguished Honor Graduate* and ranked third overall in her class. She won the competition as one of the commencement speakers at

A★C★H★I★E★V★E★M★E★N★T★S★ G★A★L★L★O★R★E★ ★★

the IHS graduation ceremony.



Michelle was a member of the Irmo Science team which won the 2007 South Carolina State Science Olympiad in Newberry College and represented the state in the National Science Olympiad Tournament in Wichita State University, Wichita, Kansas on May 17-19, 2007. She was also a member of the IHS Math Quiz Team and Robotics Team. She participated in the Irmo High School International Baccalaureate Program and successfully completed the IB diploma program.

Michelle was the principal cellist of the South Carolina All-State Orchestra, SC Philharmonic Youth Symphony Orchestra, the Lexington-Richland District V Honors Orchestra and the Irmo High School Honors Orchestra. She presented her senior recital at the USC Recital Hall under the direction of Dr. Robert Jesselson.

Michelle received several scholarships notably the SC Palmetto Fellowship and was named a USC Carolina Scholar. Now attending Columbia University in New York City, she is the younger daughter of Edsel and Marj Peña of Columbia, SC. ❖



★ **JUDITH CHRISTA PEÑA**, a Biology major with a minor in English, finished her junior year at the USC Honors College in the *Dean's Honor List*. She was President of the USC *Cocktails female a capella* singing group which performed several concerts at USC and other places. She was a member of the USC Mi-

nority Advisory Committee and a Non-Profit Protégé. She recently finished a four-week study abroad program at the Apicius Culinary Institute of Florence, Italy, this summer.



A former Columbia Fil-Am Cultural Dance Troupe performer, she is the older daughter of Edsel & Marj Peña of Columbia, SC. ❖

★ **AILEEN LEIGH ALON** finished her freshman year as a fine arts major at Winthrop University on the *President's Honor List* by achieving a 4.0 grade point ration (GPR). In addition to being a *Palmetto Fellow* and Winthrop *Trustees* scholar, she was also named a *Dee Jennings Tindal Scholar*. She was inducted into Winthrop's chapter of the Alpha Lambda Delta National Honor Society for Freshmen. Active with MUN activities at Winthrop, she served on the administrative staff of the National High School Model United Nations (NHSMUN) conference in New York in March 2007. She has been named Director of Administrative Relations for NHSMUN 2008. A longtime former Columbia Fil-Am Cultural Dance Troupe performer, she is the daughter of Noel and Helen Alon of Columbia. ❖

★ **CHRISTIAN YSMAEL TUPAS** completed tenth grade at Richland Northeast High School on the honor roll. On the school tennis varsity team, he was named by the SC Tennis Coaches Association to the *Academic All-*



State Tennis Team in recognition of his earning all A's as a student athlete. He is a son of Douglas (Butch) and Helena Tupas of Columbia, SC. ❖

★ **SEAN CEDRIC ANSELM TUPAS** finished ninth grade at Richland Northeast High School on the honor



roll and with an award for *Excellence in the Field of Visual Arts*. He was also named by the SC Tennis Coaches Association to the *Academic All-State Tennis Team* in recognition of his earning all A's as a student athlete. He is a son of Douglas (Butch) and Helena Tupas of Columbia. ❖

★ **KAREN JOY MAGSINO** completed eighth grade at Dent Middle School with the highest averages in science, social studies, mathematics and PE. A con-



sistent honor roll student, she was named "Student of the Month" and was a participant in the *MathCounts* chapter competition. A Dent MATHlete, she was also a United States National Award winner in math and a Columbia College KOALA scholar. She was also a presider during Middle/Elementary School Academy of Science (MESAS) fall workshop at Benedict College.

Now in the *Horizon* magnet program at Richland Northeast High School, she is the daughter of Barbara Proctor of Columbia, SC. ❖

★ **RACHELE PADOA VAUGHT** finished eighth grade at Crayton Middle School with an *Honor Roll* and *Achievement in Art*



awards. She is a daughter of Doran and Remy Vaught of Columbia, SC. ❖

★ **DOUGLAS MICHAEL TUPAS** finished seventh grade at Dent Middle School with honor roll achievement citation and achievement in mathematics awards. He successfully completed the South Carolina Wing, Civil Air Patrol Class A Encampment at McCrady National Guard Training Center in Eastover. He is a son of Douglas (Butch) and Helena Tupas of Columbia, SC. ❖



★ **JONATHAN DANIEL JACOBSEN** finished fifth



grade at Sumter Christian School with A&B honors. A member of the YMCA Sumter swim team which placed second in the state championship, he was awarded ribbons of achievement for winning first and second places during competitions all year long. He started taking up golf lessons this summer. He is the son of Pete and Cecille Jacobsen of Sumter, SC. ❖

CONGRATULATIONS & MABUHAY!

★ ACHIEVEMENTS GALORE ★

★ **SEAN STRICKLAND** completed fifth grade at Red Bank Elementary School (in Lexington 1 school district) on the *A/B Honor Roll*. He was on the EAGLES gifted and talented program and played cello in the school orchestra. He was class winner for "Excellence in Composition" and was invited to attend the "2007 Lieutenant Governor's Writing Awards Program" held on June 4, 2007. The winners met and listened to authors such as Lynn Kelley, Ray McManus, Nancy Rhyne, Idella Bodie, and Joyce Hansen, and also met Lt. Governor Andre Bauer.



He is a son of Brian and Cecile Strickland of Lexington, SC. ♦

He is a son of Brian and Cecile Strickland of Lexington, SC. ♦

★ **MIKHAIL MANZANO** finished third grade at Conder Elementary Arts Integrated Magnet School with some awards. She received a "Super Star Student Award" for being a consistent "A" honor roll student all year, a "Star Student" and Math awards for excellence in mathematics, a "Good Homework" award and a "Wise Reward" for discipline and respect. She was also recognized for "dressing for success." She is a daughter of Danny Mel and Rowena Manzano of Columbia, SC. ♦



She received a "Super Star Student Award" for being a consistent "A" honor roll student all year, a "Star Student" and Math awards for excellence in mathematics, a "Good Homework" award and a "Wise Reward" for discipline and respect. She was also recognized for "dressing for success." She is a daughter of Danny Mel and Rowena Manzano of Columbia, SC. ♦

★ **JHUDIEL MANZANO** completed second grade at Conder Elementary Arts Integrated Magnet School with honors. She received an "Awesome Achiever Award" for being a consistent "A" honor roll student all year and a "Star Artist Award" for her creative work in art. She was a "Star Student in the 2nd Grade READ Program" and got "Accelerated Reader" and "Star Reader" awards for outstanding participation and achievement in the Accelerated Reader program. She is a daughter of Danny Mel and Rowena Manzano of Columbia, SC. ♦



She received an "Awesome Achiever Award" for being a consistent "A" honor roll student all year and a "Star Artist Award" for her creative work in art. She was a "Star Student in the 2nd Grade READ Program" and got "Accelerated Reader" and "Star Reader" awards for outstanding participation and achievement in the Accelerated Reader program. She is a daughter of Danny Mel and Rowena Manzano of Columbia, SC. ♦

★ **VICTORIA MARISTELLA RANCES** completed first grade at Conder Elementary & Arts Integrated Magnet School with "best in reading" award. With an "excellent" grade in her violin class, she performed during Conder Elementary's Spring Concert 2007 at Richland Northeast High School. She is the daughter of Francisco and Rosa Rances of Columbia, SC. ♦



With "best in reading" award. With an "excellent" grade in her violin class, she performed during Conder Elementary's Spring Concert 2007 at Richland Northeast High School. She is the daughter of Francisco and Rosa Rances of Columbia, SC. ♦

★ **CARL JUSTIN RILE** completed first grade at Conder Elementary & Arts Integrated Magnet School on the honor roll. A class "Math Whiz" awardee, he received an honor roll achievement citation from SC State Senator Joel Laurie. He is a son of Benny and Rosalie Rile, formerly of Columbia, SC, now of Missouri. ♦



A class "Math Whiz" awardee, he received an honor roll achievement citation from SC State Senator Joel Laurie. He is a son of Benny and Rosalie Rile, formerly of Columbia, SC, now of Missouri. ♦

Very Important Filipinos (continued from Page 1)

on August 5. All of them live at the Greenbrier Apartment complex in the Northeast Columbia area. At the reception, each teacher was assigned to a host family. The teachers are here on J-1 visas for three years and after one year, they may petition for their families (spouse and/or children) to join them in the U.S.

The teachers are here through the Amity Institute's teacher exchange program. The Amity Institute, headquartered in San Diego, CA, is a nonprofit organization dedicated to building international friendship and cultural understanding by sponsoring the visas for international teaching. The teachers worked to process their papers with the Badilla Corporation in Manila through Maligaya Avenida and Associates, an employment agency, in California.

The second group consists of 19 teachers recruited by the Columbia-based Foreign Academic and Cultural Exchange Services, Inc. (FACES) for assignment throughout the state of South Carolina. They have also been hired to teach math, science, and special education.

Critical Areas

South Carolina has a shortage of qualified teachers in critical subject and geographic areas which are annually determined. Such areas for 2007-08 are listed below.

Critical Subject Areas:

art, business education, dance, emotionally disabled (*this is the only special education area that is part of the alternative certification program in any district in South Carolina*), secondary English, family and consumer sciences, foreign languages (Spanish, French, German, Latin), secondary mathematics, media specialist (library science), middle level areas (language arts, mathematics, science, social studies), music, secondary science (biology, chemistry, physics), theatre

Critical Geographic Areas:

(School Districts): Allendale, Bamberg 2, Charleston, Colleton, Dorchester 4, Fairfield, Florence 3, Florence 4, Hampton 2, Jasper, Lee, Lexington 4, Marion 1, Marion 2, Marion 7, McCormick, Orangeburg 3, Richland 1, Saluda

The South Carolina Department of Education directly

recruited, for the 2007-08 school year, teachers from four countries: India, Spain, China, and France. Teachers from India teach in the areas of math, science, and special education, while those from the other countries teach the Spanish, Chinese, and French languages. The school districts in the state also independently recruit teachers from different countries.

The teacher shortages are caused by a number of reasons, such as lack of prestige in the teaching profession, other professions being more attractive, noncompetitive salary scales, high-poverty schools and districts, and rigorous requirements for standard teacher certification.

The South Carolina Department of Education administers the *Program of Alternative Certification for Educators (PACT)*, which is South Carolina's alternative route for certification. "To address critical teaching shortages in South Carolina, the South Carolina General Assembly provided for a conditional certification program as part of the *1984 Education Improvement Act*. The purpose of the program is to enable degreed individuals, who otherwise do not meet certification requirements, to gain employment in the public schools in a critical need subject area teaching position and/or in a critical geographic area where teacher shortages exist, as determined annually by the State Board of Education. Eligible candidates are enrolled in a series of training seminars and workshops as well as graduate courses which lead to their professional certification." (SC Department of Education web site)

References:

Alternative Routes to Certification. Retrieved August 3, 2007 from the South Carolina Department of Education's web site: <http://www.scteachers.org/cert/pace/overview.cfm>

Critical Subjects and Districts. Retrieved August 3, 2007 from the South Carolina Department of Education's web site: <http://www.scteachers.org/cert/pace/subdist.cfm#2007-2008> ♦

Visit the
FAAGC Website

www.FilAmSC.org
for the colored version of
the Fil-Am Bulletin

The Filipino American Association of Greater Columbia proudly acknowledges with gratitude the following for volunteering time, talents, and services to the organization during the 2005-2007 term. The FAAGC certificates of appreciation were presented during the *Columbia Fil-Am summer picnic and FAAGC Volunteer Appreciation Day* held on July 8 at the Ft. Jackson's Weston Lake Recreation Area.

Daniel	Adcock	2005-2007 Assistant Treasurer, International Festival, All Other FAAGC Events
Paul	Adcock	Scholarship Fund Raising
Tessie	Adcock	Host of Executive Board Meetings, Food Donations
Hector	Alcantara	Christmas Party
Aileen	Alon	Dance Troupe
AJ	Alon	Dance Troupe
Helen	Alon	Newsletter Coordinator, Membership Committee, International Festival, Host of Executive Board Meetings, Food Contributions
Noel	Alon	Newsletter, Website, Gala Souvenir Programs, etc.
Edith	Alston	2005-2007 Assistant, Host of Executive Board Meetings, Food Contributions
Glaiza	Apan	Dance Troupe
Elaiza	Apan	Dance Troupe
Merlyn	Bajamunde	Donor/Contributor, Decorations for All FAAGC Events, Food Donations
Fred	Balanguie	Dance Troupe
Mary	Barradas	International Festival
Jeremy	Brinkman	International Festival
Odessa	Brinkman	2005-2007 Secretary, International Festival
Shirley	Caduhada	International Festival
Junica	Clark	Food Contributions
Grace	Collins	Dance Troupe, International Festival, Gala Out-of-Towners Coordinator
Lauren	Collins	Dance Troupe
Rudy	Dizon	International Festival, All Other FAAGC Events
Carlton	Edwards	Photography, International Festival
Lisa	Edwards	Photography, International Festival
Cecille	Geoghegan	Dance Troupe, Decorations for All FAAGC Events
Imelda	Go	Dance Troupe
Luisa	Hill	Dance Troupe
Cecille	Jacobsen	Donor/Contributor, Decorations for All FAAGC Events, Food Donations
Tessie	Kenerson	Dance Troupe
Pete	Liunoras	Scholarship Fund Raising, Election Committee, Dance Troupe
Rina	Lowder	Dance Troupe
Cristine	Manapat	Gala Babysitting Assistance
Galen	Manapat	2005-2007 Executive Board Member, International Festival, Host of Executive Board Meetings, All Other FAAGC Events
Joanne	Manapat	Gala Babysitting Assistance, Food Contributions
David	Massie	Dance Troupe
Marissa	Massie	Dance Troupe
Alan	Matienzo	2005-2007 First Vice President, International Festival, Gala, Christmas Party emcee, Dance Troupe, Food Donations, All Other FAAGC Events
Sean	McGuinness	Document Creation
George	McNulty	2005-2007 Treasurer, Host of Executive Board Meetings, Food Contributions, International Festival, Gala, All FAAGC Events
Nieves	McNulty	Scholarship Committee, International Festival
Jeffery	Noble	Christmas Party
Mike	Padua	Photography Contributions
Polly	Pearson	Donor/Contributor, Decorations for All FAAGC Events, Food Donations
Judy	Peña	Gala Babysitting Assistance
Marjorie	Peña	Scholarship Committee, Election Committee, Gala emcee, Gala Babysitting Assistance, Printing Jobs
Barbara	Procter	Dance Troupe
Nick	Roberts	International Festival
Judy	Salvador	International Festival, Food Contributions
Judy	Salvador	International Festival, Food Contributions
Shannon	Scott	Dance Troupe
Shawn	Scott	Christmas Party
Keith	Seymour	2005-2007 Executive Board Member, International Festival, All Other FAAGC Events
Kate	Tuazon	Christmas Party
Kayla	Tuazon	Christmas Party
Mark	Tuazon	Christmas Party
Nicole	Tuazon	Christmas Party
Joshua	Viray	Dance Troupe
Mario	Viray	2005-2007 Second Vice President, International Festival, Dance Troupe
Mark	Viray	President of the Ridge View HS Fil-Am Youth Club, Scholarship Fund Raising, Dance Troupe
Wyda	Viray	Host of Executive Board Meetings, Food Contributions
Precy	Walker	2005-2007 Executive Board Member, Dance Troupe Coordinator, Food Contributions, International Festival
Cecille	Wessinger	2005-2007 Executive Board Member, Host of Executive Board Meetings, International Festival, Dance Troupe, Food Contributions
Bernadette	Yavis	2005-2007 Executive Board Member, Dance Troupe

THE 2007-2009 FAAGC EXECUTIVE BOARD

Pioneer members and new faces comprise the new Executive Board of the Filipino-American Association of Greater Columbia. Alan Geoghegan was re-elected FAAGC President for the term 2007-2009 at the elections conducted during the annual Fil-Am spring picnic held at the Sesquicentennial Park on April, 2007.

The 2007-09 Executive Board include four FAAGC sustaining charter members (*continuous member since 1991 when the Association was formed*), five officers from the 2005-07 Executive Board (*two re-elected to the same positions, three elected to new offices*), two officers who have served continuously since 2001, and four first-time officers.

Here's a quick look at the leaders (mostly in their own words) who will guide the Columbia Fil-Am Association for the next two years.

ALAN GEOGHEGAN President

Multicultural by blood and in outlook, Alan is a U.S. citizen of French, Irish and British descent, born in Pasay City, Philippines, educated in England and the U.S. and is a world traveler and worker.

A liberal arts graduate of the State University of New York at Purchase, he owns and operates MediaNetwork LLC, a video production company. He is a co-founder and board member of the Coalition for New South Carolinians and past vice-president of the Irish American Association.

First elected as a FAAGC Executive Board member in 2001, Alan was elected first vice president for 2003-05 and president for 2005-07. Among his aspirations and/or goals for the Association in the next two years are (1) "increased membership," (2) "closer ties to the Philippines," and (3) "expansion in the Midlands area by involvement with the recently initiated Asian American Association of SC."

Alan is married to the former Cecilia Sanchez from Digos, Davao del Sur, whom he met while working in the Philippines. A nursing student at Midlands Tech, she works at Palmetto Health Richland. ♦

SALLY ELLIS First Vice President

A FAAGC sustaining charter member, Sally also served as a three-term first vice-president from 1993-94 to 1995-96 and secretary in 1992-93.

She would like FAAGC to "hopefully obtain a permanent facility to be utilized by members and families for fellowship and entertainment purposes" and "get larger and stronger and to make a difference here and back home."

Born in Laoag City, Ilocos Norte and whose parents migrated to Hawaii in 1945, she "claims Laoag City, Hawaii and South Carolina as home." She is a registered nurse employed with the Veterans' Administration Hospital since moving to SC from Germany in 1982. She is married to Gene Ellis, a retired military man who was also a past FAAGC first vice-president (1996-97). ♦

GEORGE McNULTY Second Vice President

An active participant/supporter of the Association since its founding, George was the three-term FAAGC Treasurer from July 2001 to June 2007. Named the *2006 International Community Ambassador of the Year* by the Columbia International Festival, he serves as faculty adviser to the Filipino-American Student Association (FASA) at USC.

A native Californian, he has a Ph.D. in mathematics from the University of California-Berkeley. A math professor at USC, he is married to past FAAGC president Nieves McNulty, a math professor at Columbia College. They have two sons: Alfred and Michael. ♦

(continued on Page 8)

THE 2007-2009 FAAGC EXECUTIVE BOARD



(front row, l-r): Precy Walker, Leah Cuaresma, Myrna Whitmire, Shirley Caduhada McGuinness, Sally Ellis, Cecilia Jacobsen, Tessie Kenerson, Odess Brinkman. (back row, l-r): Alan Geoghegan, Al Taylor, George McNulty, Mario Viray. Photo by Carlton Edwards.

SHIRLEY CADUHADA MCGUINNESS

Secretary

Shirley has been actively involved in the Association since joining early this year. Born in New York, she has a BA from Binghamton University (NY). A Palmetto Pride & Coastal Conversation League volunteer, she is in the process of going back to school.

She recently got married to Sean McGuinness, a Columbia, SC native who is assistant manager at FedEx Kinko's. ♦

MYRNA WHITMIRE

Treasurer

Born in San Fernando, La Union, Philippines, Myrna has been in the U.S. for 20 years. A CPA with a BSC in accounting degree from the University of Santo Tomas, she is an accounting supervisor at Wilbur Smith Associates. She hopes to "be able to serve the organization and the Fil-Am community."

She is married to Warren Whitmire, Jr., a Clinton, SC native who now works with The LPA Group. They have a son, Andrew. ♦

ODESSA BRINKMAN

Assistant Treasurer

Originally from Ilogon, Benguet, Odess earned a B.S. Commerce (economics) degree from Saint Louis University (Baguio City) and an associate degree in computer technology from Midlands Tech. In the Columbia area for more than 13 years, she says she's just now "a homemaker and home-schooler."

Among her other community service work, she is a Palmetto Pride & Coastal Conversation League volunteer, treasurer of Pack 153 of the Boy Scouts of America, and officer-at-large of the Skyland Community Association. She would like "to make Fil-Am our bridge to the Philippines."

She is married to Myrtle Beach, SC-born David Brinkman, who works for Intel Corp. They have a son, Jeremy. ♦

ALBERT TAYLOR

Assistant Secretary

Born in Philadelphia, Al has a BA in business administration from Saint Leo University (Florida). A member of the US Coast Guard Auxiliary, he works as area coordinator for ABC-CBS StarKargo. A newly-joined FAAGC member, he says "I will do my best in whichever way I can to support the Association."

He is married to the former Charity De Jose from Negros Occidental. In the area since 2002, she works for the Aiken County School District. ♦

LEAH CUARESMA

Executive Board Member

A FAAGC sustaining charter member, Leah also served as a board member (1994-95), assistant secretary (1995-96) and assistant treasurer (1996-97). She was instrumental in developing and performing with the *Columbia Fil-Am Cultural Dance Troupe*, with her daughters being pioneer performers.

Born in Aringay, La Union, Philippines, Leah has been in the U.S. for 27 years. A BS in chemical engineering graduate from the University of Santo Tomas, she is a chemical lab analyst at Shealy Environmental Services. She hopes FAAGC will "continue to implement its goals and achieve more unity among Filipino Americans in the area through fun-filled activities."

She is married to Manny Cuaresma who is also from Aringay, La Union, and a past FAAGC officer. A U.S. Army retiree, he works as automation clerk for the US Postal Service. They have three daughters: Jeslie Ann (a pharmacist), Jessica (a technical recruiter), and Jessamine (a Spring Valley HS junior). ♦

CECILIA JACOBSEN

Executive Board Member

Originally from Subic, Zambales, Cecilia has been in the U.S. for 22 years. She went to Trident Tech College in Charleston, SC for an executive secretarial diploma and an associate degree in elec-

tronic engineering. She now owns and operates the *Fil-Am Store* in Sumter, SC. She hopes to "help generate ideas to accomplish the Association's objectives."

She is married to Charles Pete Jacobsen, an electrician who is from Canton, Ohio. They have four children. ♦

TESSIE KENERSON

Executive Board Member

A FAAGC sustaining charter member, Tessie also served as treasurer (1992-93), board member (1994-95, 1995-96, 1999-2001), and second vice president (1996-97). She also served as *Columbia Fil-Am Cultural Dance Troupe* coordinator and performer.

Born in Balayan, Batangas, Philippines, Tessie has been in the U.S. since 1972. A BS in nursing graduate from the University of Santo Tomas, she is a nurse at Palmetto Health Baptist. She hopes she can "recruit more members and suggest more fun things to do as a group."

She is married to Jim Kener-

son, a private investigator. They have two daughters: Tessa and Laurel. ♦

MARIO VIRAY

Executive Board Member

The immediate past second vice-president (2005-07), he would like to "continue the legacy and make the Fil-Am organization better for the next generation of Filipino Americans."

Born in San Fernando, Pampanga, he immigrated to the U.S. in 1977 and called Hayward, California his new hometown. Since joining the U.S. Air Force in 1988, he has had duty assignments in Guam, Illinois, Arizona, Florida, Mississippi, Korea, Germany, and Saudi Arabia. With an A.A. (meteorology) degree from CCAF, and the rank of Master Sergeant, he serves as Flight Chief in the 28th OWS CENTAF at Shaw AFB.

He and his wife Wyda have two sons: Mark (who serves as the president of the Ridge View HS Fil-Am Club) and Joshua. Wyda works with the 120th Battalion at Ft. Jackson. ♦

PRECY WALKER

Executive Board Member

Precy hails from Bogo, Cebu and attended the University of Visayas in Cebu City. Since her arrival in the U.S. 12 years ago, she has been actively involved in FAAGC. She is a regular performer for the *Fil-Am Cultural Dance Troupe*, for which she now serves as coordinator and choreographer. She has also been unselfishly willing to help other Fil-Ams. She hopes "to help the Fil-Am Association to be successful and achieve its goals."

She is married to Charles Walker, a self-employed produce marketing consultant. ♦

SPECIAL WELCOME

FAAGC welcomes the newly arrived teachers from the Philippines who are now teaching in Richland Two schools:

First Name	Last Name	Philippine Hometown
Leonardo	Aradanas	Bucayo, Manaoag, Pangasinan
Ernie	Baranquel	Layon, Ligao City
Cheryl	Bautista	Rosario, Batangas
Aurelio	Casaje	Plaridel, Bulacan
Marilou	Cortez	Baliti, City of San Fernando, Pampanga
Ma. Eloisa	De Lemos	Guadalupe Nueve, Makati City
Lourdes	Dellosa	Sorsogon City
Rosaura	Duplon	Santiago, Botolan, Zambales
Catherine	Ebite	Rosario, Batangas
Marybeth	Espinosa	Manila
Carmen	Funelas	Sorsogon City
Anna Marsha	Furagganan	Quezon City
Leona	Galindo	Dasmariñas, Cavite
Mariel	Guina	Florida Blanca, Pampanga
Marie Christy	Iguid	Pandacan, Manila
Ma. Lourdes	Padilla	Puerto Princesa City, Palawan
Zenaida	San Pedro-Meer	Bago Bantay, Quezon City
Rolando	Sibug	Zamboanga City
Lailane	Soco	Buot-Taup, Cebu City
Enrico	Torres	Plaridel, Bulacan
Gina	Velasco	Ilaga, Isabela
May	Villanueva	Mandaluyong City
Perlita	Villanueva	Cavite

Public vs. Private Education: Differences in the Filipino and American Experience

by Imelda Go, Ph.D.

Educator Associate, Office of Assessment, South Carolina Department of Education

We give a warm welcome to the several Filipino families who are relatively new to the Greater Columbia, SC area. Several of the families immigrated from the Philippines and have school-aged children or have parents who are contemplating on education-related decisions (e.g., where to live, which school to send their child to). This article was written for the purpose of briefly comparing public and private schools in the United States, and for the purpose of providing some information that could help in choosing a public school.

For those of us who grew up in the Philippines, a private school education is generally considered better than a public school one. Catholic schools are popular. Private school enrollment is competitive and can have very high tuition fees. In the United States, a public school education can be just as good as or even better than a private school one. Private schools are not necessarily better than public school ones. There are good public and private schools, as well as bad ones.

Comparisons

The following are a number of comparison points between private and public schools in the United States.

Cost. Public schools do not charge tuition and are funded by public money (e.g., federal, state, local) and many rules govern the use of public money. Private schools resort to other means of funding (e.g., tuition, donations, grants). Private schools are not bound by the laws that apply to the use of public money. Attending a parochial school typically costs less than attending a private school.

Admissions. Public schools cannot discriminate and must provide services to all children and even those with special needs. Children have a right to an education and there are

laws that protect one's rights to have educational opportunities regardless of race, creed, or national origin. Private schools on the other hand can be selective.

Governance. Public schools must comply with many laws (e.g., federal, state, local). These laws influence/control many aspects of education (e.g., program development, curriculum, use of funds). Private schools are not bound by the legal restrictions placed on public schools and have latitude in their educational offerings.

Curriculum. The state mandates what is taught in the public schools in terms of the curriculum, academic standards, and requires certain assessments to be administered to the students for accountability purposes. Private schools can create their own curriculum and specialized programs.

Teachers. Public school teachers are required to be state certified or working towards certification, while private school teachers are not necessarily required to be such.

Students. The students in a public school reflect the community. The school zone a student is assigned to is determined by the student's residence. Consequently, the student population can be diverse. Private school admission can be competitive and have specific requirements. If the tuition is very high, this could attract affluent students, which goes towards a more homogeneous population in terms of socio-economic status.

Special Needs. The *Individuals with Disabilities Education Act* is the United States' special education law. Because of this law, a public school must provide an education to students with special needs. Public schools receive additional funding in order to do so. Pri-

vate schools can choose not to accept students with special needs since they may not have the extra resources that enable them to offer special education. In fact, a number of private school students in the state concurrently enroll in public schools to receive the special education component of their education that they cannot get at a private school.

Class Size. Public school class sizes can become larger. Private school class sizes tend to be smaller and offer more individual instruction to a student.

Suppose one had to choose between different public schools. What will help in deciding where to live? Often times the property values for a neighborhood zoned for an award-winning or desirable school become higher by the law of supply and demand. Hence, even in the selection of a public school, a family may have to pay more to gain access to a particular public school.

School Report Cards

To inform the public about educational quality among its public schools, the South Carolina Department of Education (www.ed.sc.gov) has a lot of data about each school in the annually published state *Education Accountability Act's* district and school report cards and federal *No Child Left Behind's* Adequate Yearly Progress results found at this short-cut online address:

<http://tinyurl.com/35s3wf>

Every year all public schools are subject to scrutiny by both accountability systems. In the worst case scenario, schools that fail to make adequate progress from year-to-year can be subject to state sanctions, such as state takeover (i.e., school district administration can lose control of local schools to the state). It is important to consider which type of accountability results

one is looking at for the purpose of proper interpretation.

For state accountability, each public school and district is given a grade each year: *Excellent, Good, Average, Below Average, or Unsatisfactory*. The grade is primarily based on state-mandated test results. The report cards also provide numerous statistics that can be helpful in deciding where to send your child to, such as demographic breakdowns (e.g., gender, ethnicity, socio-economic status indicator) and academic performance indicators.

For federal accountability, the performance standards are generally considered more stringent because **all** students must be performing at a proficient or advanced level by the year 2013-14. Hence, each year the standard becomes higher until it becomes 100% in 2013-14.

For either accountability system, it is important to remember that many intangible aspects of a school cannot be gauged by a statistically computed rating/result. So many factors influence school performance, such as student diversity, student mobility, student motivation, school leadership, teacher quality, community spirit, and parent involvement. Even in schools that are considered less desirable, there are students who can still thrive in such an environment. Similarly there are students who do not thrive as well even in an excellent school.

In addition, just like stocks and mutual funds, past performance does not guarantee future performance. The bottom line is it requires a lot of thought and planning about where to send a child to receive a quality education.

References:

Private vs. Public Schools: What's the Difference? Retrieved July 4, 2007, from the Great Schools Web site: <http://www.greatschools.net/cgi-bin/showarticle/CA/197>

Education Accountability Act and No Child Left Behind School Report Cards. <http://ed.sc.gov/topics/researchandstats/schoolreportcard/NCLBandEAASchoolReportCards.html> ❖

An Open Letter from Hospicio de San Jose

To our dear Friends, Benefactors and Donors,

We are indeed very grateful to you for your generosity towards the children, youth and elderly residents of this charitable institution. We would not have been able to continue our services to the abandoned and neglected poor if not for your partnership.

After such outpour of generosity, I would like to update you regarding our present needs so that in the event that you would like to continue assisting us, you would be able to channel your material resources to what Hospicio de San Jose badly needs.

Stated below are our pressing concerns for the year 2007:

Individual Sponsorship of the Children

We badly need sponsors for our children, especially for those who have been abandoned/surrendered as well as for the special children/adults who stay with us for life. We spend more than a hundred monthly for the maintenance medicines of our special children.

To sponsor a child we need around 5,000 — 10,000 pesos (\$100-\$200) per month that will cover expenses for their basic need for food and clothing, their education and health needs. We spend more for the special children and adults and they will stay with

us for life because no one wants to adopt them. So far only four of our children have individual sponsors. You may send your subsidy for a sponsored child on a quarterly or bi-annual basis.

Physical Plant

- ◆ Renovation of the kindergarten classroom due to increase of enrollment and to provide a bigger space for the Multi-Intelligence Mini Center
- ◆ Renovation of the right wing of the Main Building which includes: St. Catherine's Dorm for the preschoolers, Milagrosa Dorm for Grade School girls, Sta. Luisa Dorm for the female elderly, the Social Service Office and the Administration Office since this old building is already infested by termites and has dilapidated gutter, roofing, ceiling and walls
- ◆ Restructuring of facilities for the Special Children of Rendu Home geared toward the development of their functional skills
- ◆ Construction of a retaining wall of the perimeter fence so that the eroded portions of the riverbank can be immediately protected
- ◆ Installation of 4 units of motor pump for flood control
- ◆ Installation of a generator
- ◆ Renovation of the ISLA dormitory (roof was destroyed by typhoon MILENYO and the building is badly dilapidated)

Appliances & Equipment

- ◆ Tables and chairs for the Kindergarten classroom
- ◆ 14 CPU, Keyboards and Printers for Computers (*someone donated*

14 monitors only) for the use of the children and our offices

- ◆ 3 Filing cabinets
- ◆ ECG Machine for the elderly
- ◆ Sphygmomanometer (for blood pressure)
- ◆ Nipples for the Babies
- ◆ 5 Refrigerators for the Nursery Dept., the St. Joseph's Dorm (for smaller boys), the Marguerite Nasseau Dorm for the Semi-Independent Living; the San Lorenzo Dorm for the bigger boys and Tahan Center
- ◆ 3 TVs for the Crisis Intervention Center, St. Joseph's Dorm and Isolation Room
- ◆ Thermometers
- ◆ Micro-film; Safety Vault
- ◆ 5 split-type air conditioning units for some departments
- ◆ Two cameras to be installed in the two sides of the Chapel so as to project into TV sets the Mass on Sundays for the benefit of our elderly who cannot go up the Chapel and stay in the corridors
- ◆ Stand Fans

Basic Commodities/Supplies

A. Food:

- Milk for infants, toddlers and preschoolers; *Pediasure* for special babies; Non-Fat Milk for the elderly;
- Canned Goods: corned beef, meatloaf, sausage, pork and beans, tuna, sardines, etc.;
- Cereals for the babies/Infants;
- Biscuits or individually wrapped snack items for the children to bring to school;
- Fillings for sandwiches;
- Juices, MILO or any chocolate drink (*preferably in tetra packs so that the children can bring them to school*);

- Spaghetti or Macaroni noodles;
- Brown sugar (*preferably in sacks*); Rice; Coffee; Cooking Oil

B. Toiletries and Other Needs:

- Diapers/*Pampers* for infants, special children and elderly (*size: small to large*)
- Panties for the children and elderly
- School shoes for the teenaged girls and boys
- Baby lotion
- Alcohol
- Sanitary Napkins
- Shampoo
- Powder Soap (*in sacks, preferably SURF*) or in bars
- Scotch Brite/Cleanser/Xonrox
- Garbage Bags

C. School/Office Supplies:

- Bond paper
- Printer ink cartridges (Epson 38 & 39, HP, Canon) for the offices
- Ballpens/Pentelpens/Markers
- Scotch and Masking Tapes
- Glue
- Yellow Pad
- Folders (*long and short*)
- Illustration board
- Construction paper

We would be very happy if you can help us out. We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely yours,

(SGD)

Sr. Ma. Socorro G. Evidente, DC Administrator

Hospicio de San Jose

1099 Ayala Bridge, Manila Philippines

Tel: +632-734-2366 or 2367

+632-736-9184

+632-736-3325

Email: c_evidente@yahoo.com.ph

FAAGC Donates to Manila Hospice (continued from Page 1)

were being tended by uniformed daycare sitters. The sitters were mostly students doing their on the job training; and some were also volunteers. On the way to the special needs children's area, Rose motioned us to a big kitchen where all the foods of the residents were prepared and distributed.

The special needs children next door caught our attention. There are quite a number of care givers around. Some children are strapped to chairs while others were lying on bed; some were just playing with their caregivers. The kids were sweet and friendly; they wanted to give each visitor a hug. Some of these children with medical needs were being watched closely and

placed in a separate room. I would never forget this area. It was quite a thought-provoking sight.

Lastly, Rose directed our attention to the senior care facility where they had the pay rooms and the charity rooms. The pay rooms were occupied by residents who are able to meet their monthly charges and the charity rooms were for those who have no family and/or can't afford to pay the monthly dues. The charity room was no different from the charity ward you see at a hospital. There were beds lined up side by side and the occupants were tended by a sole caregiver, at least at the time of our visit. There were several staff members all around the facility. Unlike in

the hospital, the charity room at the *hospicio* was home to some senior residents.

Finally, having seen and listened to all the pressing concerns of Hospicio de San Jose, I don't have any doubt that this place really needs support. I have seen that there were not many fans installed on the ceiling; it is so hot and humid in Manila these days that a fan in every room of the residents would be very helpful for a good night rest. I would like you to please take a look at the letter from the hospice administrator (*see above*) and see what you can do to help. Those who are interested to sponsor a child can direct their inquiries to the *hospicio* directly through contact info given in the letter. ❖

Just A Reminder

Membership renewal for the Fil-Am Association Year 2007-08 is now due for many members. Please check the mailing address label on Page 12 of this newsletter — if there are three asterisks (*) on the line above your name, then your membership has expired or will expire on the date specified after the asterisks. Your membership renewal and prompt payment of membership dues are crucial to the continued operations and success of the FAAGC.**

Please complete the enclosed renewal form and send your membership dues as soon as possible. If there are membership renewal questions, contact **Helen Alon** (738-0372; email: helenqda@yahoo.com).

Opening Up the Mind and Spirit

(continued from Page 1)

to live. Every morning, kids outside my family's house in Paco would gather, play, say "hello Kano." Children were everywhere and smiles were everywhere, despite poverty being rampant during those days. Partly due to a complex, centuries-old *hacienda* system, where relatively no middle class existed, there were lots of poor people and a small percentage of the rich who controlled the wealth.

What amazed me during those days was that a small contingent of these affluent people were 100% committed to change and most were women.

Two people that come to mind are my friends Gretchen Ocampo, the executive producer of *Bahay Kalinga*, (Home of Care or Concern — a daily public service show on ABS-CBN) and Victoria Garচিতorena.

These powerhouses in communications decided to create a one-hour daily TV program to assist disadvantaged people throughout the Philippines, though mainly in Metro Manila where their studio was. To bring these issues to the masses and raise the money without featuring commercials was astounding in itself — each program aired live and featured people who needed help (elderly, handicapped, street-kids) and brought the needy to the airwaves. If you cared, you donated money, a wheelchair, a few pesos. The next day, other people were featured.

Worlds Within Worlds

I was able to witness firsthand the daily rigors of being poor in Manila. During those days, near Manila Bay, the squatter areas would extend for miles along Roxas Boulevard, where the plush new hotels stand today. I remember visiting one of the bigger squatter areas, with Sisters of Charity nuns as my bodyguards. These self-sufficient communities with electrification systems, rental fees for



FAAGC's initiative to provide some financial support to institutions helping disadvantaged children hopefully can make a difference in the lives of these children at the Girls Home in Marikina (left), at the SOS Children Village in Tacloban (center) and in the squatter areas in Manila (right) being served by the ERDA Foundation. Photos by Alan Geoghegan

card-board boxes and communities unto themselves were worlds within worlds. You weren't too afraid because so many children would follow you. Who could mug you being surrounded by kids? To imagine how a mother would sacrifice her meager salary to send her children to school was incredible in itself. A counter-girl at Mega Mall would take home a very small salary, which often supports a whole family's education.

I later found out about an organization called ERDA (Education Research and Development Assistance) headed by a French Jesuit priest who has lived in the Philippines and whose main mission for almost 50 years (he is a Philippine citizen now) is to send squatter children to school. Father Tritz has since expanded into vocational education, though primary and secondary education is still the focus. Incidentally when my father had worked in the Philippines at the British Embassy around 1964 when I was born, he and Fr. Tritz handed out turkey sandwiches to street-kids at Christmas.

Work With Orphans

I also had a chance to visit some of the orphanages around Manila, notably Hospicio de San Jose and San Vincente de Paul, which are still doing the same work they did when I first visited: helping children in need. I was able to interview quite a few of the children. For them, when they don't have parents to support them, it's the basics that become the dream — a home, education, someone who cares about them, and occasionally,

to have fun.

Most of the orphans opened up to me on-camera. My technique was to set up the camera, forgot it exists and had a good conversation with a child. "What are your aspirations; who would you like to be?" Usually the needs were at a very basic physical level, though the one often most mentioned by all the kids was to be loved, to have parents.

I had a chance to visit Olongapo once and my guides were nuns. We visited with street-children and orphans, and they were all happy to have an afternoon of fun with a blond-haired "Kano," who had a pretty cool video camera, danced with them at times, made jokes! To be in an institution for a while gives them the basic necessities, though they really love the visits.

I remember one child, whose father was an African American G.I. (serviceman) who worked at Subic Bay base. Although his color was different than the other kids, he had the same soft-spoken voice and a need to be loved just like anyone else. Sadly, mixed-color Filipinos in the Philippines often have a hard time adjusting to society, mainly because the only black people seen are a very few in Manila — those that are hired by basketball teams. The rest are seen on TV, though real life is quite different.

The Sisters of Charity extended their assistance to the Negritos in Pampanga, mainly because not many other people would help at all, and sadly, the communities I visited were almost all wiped out by the eruption of Mt. Pinatubo. They

didn't have strong roofs to soften the impact of the volcanic ash, and no supermarket or money, for that matter, to go grocery shopping. Coincidentally, the Columbia Fil-Am Association was formed around the time of the Mt. Pinatubo eruption; one of its first charitable activities was to mobilize assistance for the Mt. Pinatubo victims.

Helping Those Who Help The Children

The new FAAGC Executive Board has decided to help some of these institutions this year. Some of the conditions of poverty have changed since then, however the rural-to-urban migration to the cities of Manila and Cebu still continues. Children still find themselves separated from their families and mothers and fathers do their best to send their children to school and the ERDA Foundation helps them to do just that. You can have a sense why so many Filipinos work overseas, beating many other countries in numbers of people who leave. This year we have decided to show that these challenges still do exist and to do our part to make a difference.

Though the Filipino may travel far for work, education, family, or other obligations, however mixed his or her blood or culture is, there is a simple reality here — you can take the Filipino out of the Philippines, but it's very difficult to take the Filipino out of a Filipino. Filipinos' goodwill can be contagious; so let us continue to spread some of this goodness and Philippine culture around the Midlands of South Carolina. ♦

17th Annual Gala (continued from Page 1)

will go directly to the fund for these institutions.

The formal affair (*coat and tie or barong required*) includes a sit-down dinner and an entertainment program that includes Philippine folk and contemporary dances performed by the *Columbia Fil-Am Cultural Dance Troupe* featuring the newly arrived Filipino teachers. The *Stargazer Band*, a Filipino-American ensemble from Augusta, GA, will provide music for the listening and dancing pleasure of the attendees.

Tickets are \$45 per person until September 15 and \$50 per person after September 15 and at the door. Student tickets are \$32 each.

For seating placement, we would like all guests to **buy, or at least reserve, their tickets by contacting one of our officers by September 15.** *It is possible that due to demand, only a very limited amount of tickets will be available at the door.* For a small fee, babysitting services will be available on-site for children aged 2 to 10.

Out-of-town guests or members wishing to stay at Radisson Hotel can reserve a discount suite at a special rate of \$109 plus tax, which should be booked as early as possible. Please call the Radisson Hotel

at (803) 731-0300 to make a reservation; specify that your stay is in connection with the Columbia Filipino-American Gala.

Gala Souvenir Program

Since the gala is the major annual fund-raising event of the Association, we are also soliciting all kinds of contribution in the forms of advertisements and donations (*see forms included in this issue*). We request that all ads and contributions for being a sponsor, patron or donor be received no later than **September 7** to be included in the gala souvenir program. As noted earlier, 50% of donations from benefactors, sponsors, patrons and donors will directly benefit disadvantaged children in the Philippines.

For tickets or more information about the Fil-Am Gala, please contact **Alan Geoghegan** [(803) 787-5255], **Sally Ellis** [(803) 788-0144], or any other officer listed on *Page 2*. In the Sumter area, contact **Cecilia Jacobsen** at the *Fil-Am Store* [(803) 494-5613].

For hotel directions and updated information, visit the Columbia Fil-Am website at www.FilAmSC.org. ❖



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Visit the
FAAGC Website

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for the clickable direct links to the websites mentioned in this issue of the **FIL-AM BULLETIN**.

Current and past issues (*in color*) of the **FIL-AM BULLETIN** are also available online.

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Summer 2007



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Reminders:

* **Columbia FIL-AM 17th Annual Gala** will be held on **Saturday, September 22, 2007** at the **Radisson Hotel**.