



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"**
www.FilAmSC.org

★ Volume 25, Number 1

★ P.O. Box 24112, Columbia, SC 29224

★ Summer 2015 ★

Cecille Jacobsen Re-elected As FAAGC President

Cecille Jacobsen was re-elected President of the Columbia Fil-Am Association during the election of FAAGC officers held at the annual spring picnic at Sesquicentennial State Park on Easter Sunday, April 5, 2015.

She now heads the 2015-2017 FAAGC Executive Board that blends experience, continuity and lots of new blood. The new board includes five officers from the 2013-2015 Executive Board (three re-elected to the same positions, two elected to a new position), one other past officer, and six first-time officers.

(continued on Page 6) ✦

FAAGC To Celebrate 25th Annual Gala

The Filipino-American Association of Greater Columbia (FAAGC) will celebrate its **25th Annual Gala & 16th Induction Ball** on **September 19, 2015**. The gala will be held from 6:00 p.m. to midnight at the downtown **Columbia Marriott Hotel** (1200 Hampton St., Columbia, SC 29201).

The formal affair (*coat and tie or barong required*) includes a sit-down dinner and an entertainment program featuring Philippine folk dances performed by the **Columbia Fil-Am Cultural Dance Troupe**. Dancers representing neighboring Fil-Am associations are also scheduled to perform. The newly-elected 2015-2017

Executive Board will be inducted into office and the new lifetime members and Fil-Am scholarship recipients will be recognized.

Tickets are \$60 per adult (\$45 per student). Tickets for children ages 8-12 years are \$25 each. There is a 5% discount for a full table of 10. For a small fee, baby-sitting services for children aged 2 to 8 will be available on-site so parents with small children can enjoy the festivities.

Due to hotel requirements, all attendees are requested to **confirm their reservations and remit payment by September 11**. Guests wishing to stay at the

(continued on Page 8) ✦

Pinoy Sightings: The London Example

by I.C. Go

In many, places in the world, we have Filipinos clustering and forming communities. In some areas with larger concentrations of Filipinos, Filipino-related businesses can open and thrive. There are relatively larger numbers of Filipinos in North American places, such as California (*Los Angeles, San Francisco, San Diego*), New York (*New York City*), Illinois (*Chicago*), Michigan (*Detroit*), Virginia (*Norfolk-Virginia Beach*), Florida (*Pensacola, Jacksonville*), South Carolina (*Charleston*), Oregon (*Portland*), Washington (*Seattle*), Canada (*Vancouver*), Texas (*Houston*), District of Columbia area, and Hawaii. I have often heard that some of these places have areas that look and make you feel like you are in the Philippines.

According to the Commission on Filipinos

Overseas (CFO), there are large numbers of Filipinos in many countries, including the United States, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates (UAE), Malaysia, Canada, Australia, Italy, United Kingdom, Qatar, and Singapore. Established in 1980 as an agency under the Office of the President, the

(continued on Page 5) ✦

New FAAGC Lifetime Members

Two more families have now joined the growing ranks of *FAAGC Lifetime Members*. **Butch & Dhel Elamparo** and **Maria Silver** will be officially recognized as *Lifetime Sustaining Members* during the upcoming gala, joining the 22 families and 10 individuals who are already *Lifetime Members*.

As part of its 20th Anniversary celebration during the

21st Annual Gala on September 10, 2011, FAAGC honored its long-time, continuously dues-paying charter members since 1991 by recognizing them as *Lifetime Sustaining Charter Members*.

The *Lifetime Membership* is now available to members and others interested in supporting the Association when an amendment to the By-laws was adopted on June 9, 2012. As stated in the By-laws, "lifetime membership may be extended by the Executive Board to any member who has paid or willing to pay the equivalent of twenty (20) years of membership. Lifetime members do not have to pay membership dues afterwards and are entitled to all the rights and privileges of membership."

Those interested to become *Lifetime Members* should contact the Treasurer, **Miriam Eschenfelder (757-802-2810; mveschenfelder@gmail.com)**.



Some Columbia Fil-Am dancers and volunteers have a *kodakan moment* at the 2015 Columbia International Festival which featured the Philippines.

Photo: CARLTON EDWARDS



From the President by Cecille Jacobsen
Together We Can Tackle The Challenges Ahead Of Us

Hello, my fellow Fil-Amers, I hope you're bearing the heat wave gracefully, but then again what is so gracious about sticky and hot summer; that's right, it's 'going to be a long summer for all we know. Perhaps staying indoor is a good idea, but some people actually like this kind of weather.

Surely, there's something I can think of to beat the heat other than neglecting my yard work. Yup, it's really discouraging to see the garden plants wilt and dry up to a crisp. Ever heard of a rain dance? Mind you, I have done a lot of that and am still waiting for the rain.

It's Halo-Halo Time

So, what a better way to cool down than indulging in a good size of *halo-halo*. It's the famous Filipino drink/dessert with different sweetened preserved fruits, shaved ice, topped with flan and ube or ube ice cream, and evaporated milk just to ease the stirring and mixing of all the ingredients. One can say that's how the *halo-halo* term came

about — mix-mix. That's right my friends, it's *halo-halo* time. I can only wonder how many sit-ups and miles of walking I need to do just to be able to fit into my gala dress.

FAAGC Gala

Speaking of gala, the FAAGC annual formal event is just around the corner — before we know it, we will all be wearing pretty gowns and dangling blings. Tickets are now being sold, so get yours to secure your seat with your favorite person and remember to invite all your BFFs. Once again, it will be at the downtown Marriott hotel and parking is free. The exact address and the direction to the parking is printed on the ticket. Buy your tickets early.

This is our **25th Annual Gala**, so I am looking for volunteers to generate ideas of decorations and some help to decorate. So, if any of you who are so talented and interested, let me know at (803) 565-0272.

Officers

I would like to welcome our newly elected officers who will be inducted during the gala. Welcome aboard, I

am very pleased to be working with you and I know together we can tackle all the challenges ahead of us.

To the outgoing officers, my colleagues, my appreciation to all of you is beyond the word 'thank you'. I've seen and witnessed your sacrifices; you have delivered more than you are expected. Great crew!

Members Are The Core

Members and friends, you are the core of this Association and I want to express my gratitude to all of you. It has been a privilege working for you and I am very proud of where we are right now. This Association is going strong because of you and your support, so let's continue.

Working together is our key to success, and I really appreciate your help. Of course, your effort and donations (*LOL*) are always welcome. So, on behalf of the new Executive Board, I am asking for two more years of your support.

In closing, on behalf of the Executive Board, I say thank you and take care. ♦

How To Contact Us

FAAGC

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FAAGC Annual Financial Report

(Fiscal Year 2014-15: July 2014 to June 2015; *unaudited*)
 (As reported by Prescy Ramirez, 2013-2015 FAAGC Treasurer)

OPENING FUND BALANCES

as of June 2014:

Checking Account	\$ 15,965.91
Certificate of Deposit	20,579.14
Total	\$ 36,545.15

CLOSING FUND BALANCES

as of June 2015:

Checking Account	\$ 18,432.04
Certificate of Deposit	25,579.14
Total	\$ 44,011.18

July 2014 to June 2015

Net Income:

Membership Dues	\$ 1,023.00
Annual Gala	3,827.84
Basketball Tourneys & Food Sales	2,543.91
Donations	523.00
International Festival	2,369.69
Christmas Party	272.53
Total Income	\$ 10,559.97

July 2014 to June 2015

Expenses:

Newsletter/Website/ Mailings/etc.	\$ 1,463.76
Scholarship	300.00
Dance Troupe	51.36
Easter Picnic	212.22
Summer Picnic	467.24
Halloween Party	518.19
Representation	260.00
Operation expenses	1,187.54
Total Expenses	\$ (4,461.31)

FY 2014-15 Overall Net Income for the Year: \$ \$6,098.66

Notes on the Financial Report:

- ▶ The **Dessert Sale as Fundraiser for the Dance Troupe** during the 2015 International Festival had net sales of **\$ 2,691**, per report by fundraiser in-charge Marj Peña.
- ▶ Some expenses paid during FY2014-15, e.g. down payment for 2015 gala venue, not included in report.
- ▶ Contact FAAGC President Cecille Jacobsen for questions about the report.

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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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Carlton Edwards / Marj Peña
 Photographers

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

★ **Dominick BRIGUERA** of Columbia, SC. From Naga City, Camarines Sur, he is a registered nurse at Palmetto Richland Heart Hospital.

★ **Buddy & Charissa "Sai" BURKE** of Columbia, SC. She hails from Angeles City, Pampanga; he works at Michelin. They have a newborn baby girl.

★ **Carissa COX** of Irmo, SC. Originally from Makati, she likes the Association and its resources that remind her of home.

★ **Glenn & Taryn DAQUIZ** of Columbia, SC. Both are from Laguna and are registered nurses; he works at Palmetto Health Richland while she is with Vintage Health Resources. Newly arrived in the area, they have a baby, Hollie.

★ **Glenn & Carmela DE GUZMAN** of Columbia, SC. He is from Pampanga and works in centralized transport at Palmetto Health. From Parañaque City, she is registered nurse at Palmetto Health Baptist. They have three children: Carmine, Carlene, and Gio.

★ **Ted & Lynn FUGRAD** of Columbia, SC.

★ **Patrick Jackson & Myla GALILA** of Columbia, SC. From Davao, she is a registered nurse at Palmetto Health. From Iloilo, he is a mechanical engineer/nurse. They have two children: Vicente and Agatha.

★ **Ralph & Lorencita IACONO** of Chapin, SC. She is from Santa Cruz, Laguna while he calls Chapin, SC as his hometown.

★ **Ken & Eme JENNINGS** of Columbia, SC. Originally from Zamboanga City, she is self-employed. An US Army retiree, he is a nurse. In the area for nearly four years, they have three children: Phia, Gwen, and Keith.

★ **Lolita LUCAS** of Lexington, SC. From Rizal Province, she is an import agent at DHL Global Forwarding.

★ **Teresa LUCAS** of Lexington, SC. Also from Rizal Province, she is an import agent at DHL Global

Forwarding.

★ **David MACK** of Columbia, SC. A native South Carolinian, he is now retired.

★ **Martin "Ike" MAGAT** of Columbia, SC. Newly arrived in the area, he is originally from Marikina City. He is a system programmer at Blue Cross / Blue Shield of SC.

★ **Manuel "Jojo" & Eva MIRANDA** of Columbia, SC. From Marikina City, Metro Manila, he is a radiologic transport tech at Palmetto Health Richland. From Nueva Ecija, she is a nurse also at Palmetto Health Richland. In the area for nine years now, they have a son, Francis Joshua.

★ **Victoria PAYUMO** of Columbia, SC. From Quezon City, she is an import agent at DHL Global Forwarding.

★ **Robert PRESTON** of Columbia, SC. He recently moved to Columbia from Cincinnati, OH. He wants to volunteer and get involved in the Filipino community here and says he makes "really good *sinigang* and adobo."

★ **DOLLY RITCHIE** of Columbia, SC. Originally from Malaybalay, Bukidnon, she recently moved to Columbia from Myrtle Beach. She is interested in becoming the next in-charge of the FAAGC newsletter and related promotional activities. In SC since 2003, she has a son, Michael.

★ **Archie & Jessica TEVES** of Columbia, SC. He hails from Cebu while she is from Batangas. She is a registered nurse at Palmetto Health. They have two children: Aliah Fiona and Veronica Dianne.

★ **Terry & Liza TUAZON** of Columbia, SC. They have three children: Dianne, Mark and Kayla.

★ **Eric & Cathy VIRAY** of Columbia, SC. He hails from Lingayen, Pangasinan, and works at Heartland of Lexington. She is from Las Piñas City, Metro Manila, and is a registered nurse at Palmetto Health Richland. Now nearly two years in the area, they have two children: C. Erickson and Hannah

-CONGRATULATIONS-

✿ to **GLENN & TARYN DAQUIZ** of Columbia, SC, on the birth of their daughter Hollie on April 17.

✿ to **RON & FAYE COLLEY** of Columbia, SC, on the birth of their son Ryan William Colley on June 21.

✿ to **BUDDY & CHARISSA "SAI" BURKE** of Columbia, SC, on the birth of their daughter Carmelia Marshelen on August 7.

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^ to **RAQUEL BAGNAL** on her marriage to Kevin Vander Wal on August 7, 2015 in Columbia, SC. A former longtime *Columbia Fil-Am Dance Troupe* performer, she is the youngest daughter of *FAAGC Lifetime Members Ruben & Chari Bagnal* of Columbia, SC.

^ to **CATHERINE GOYENECHÉ** on her marriage to Steven Marks on May 22, 2015 in Charleston, SC. A former *Columbia Fil-Am Dance Troupe* performer, she is the middle daughter of *FAAGC Lifetime Members Charles & Beverly Goyeneche* of Hartsville, SC. ❖

CONDOLENCES

✠ *Our condolences to the family of:*

➤ *FAAGC Lifetime Member RUBEN BAGNAL* of Columbia, SC on the recent death of his father, Lt. Gen. **Charles Wilson Bagnal** (*April, 15, 1934 — June 30, 2015*). Gen. Bagnal was close to the Association, being the guest speaker at the first FAAGC Gala in 1991 and the inducting officer twice.

➤ *FAAGC members MIKE and CHRIS PADUA* of Columbia, SC on the recent death of their mother and grandmother, respectively, **Leonor Dacuycuy Padua** (*January 26, 1918 — June 10, 2015*). Mrs. Padua was featured in the Spring 2015 issue of the *Fil-Am Bulletin* as the then oldest living Filipino-American in the area.

➤ Past *FAAGC officer DIANA PHILLIPS* of Cayce, SC on the recent death of her husband **Mark Andrew Phillips** (*August 18, 1962 — May 25, 2015*).

➤ 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 the President *Cecille Jacobsen* (803-565-0272) ASAP so proper arrangements, if needed, can be made by the Association.] ❖

FAAGC Newsletter & Reminder Postcards

We would like to remind our members and supporters that we print and mail the *Fil-Am Bulletin* newsletter only two to three times a year. We also mail out postcards and/or send emails for event reminders.

Please let us know ASAP of any change of mailing and/or email address so you can continue to receive our newsletter and postcards.

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

Although the 2015-2016 school year has already started, 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 (2014-2015). Belated this may be, **CONGRATULATIONS!** to the following graduates and awardees — and all others not mentioned here due to our lack of details on their individual accomplishments — despite repeated telephone, e-mail, snail-mail and verbal reminders, only a few families submitted the needed information and/or photos in time for inclusion in this issue.

★ DENISE CRUZ DAQUILANEA



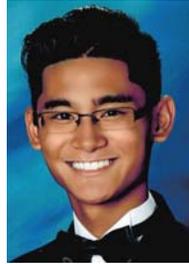
graduated on June 3, 2015 from Ridge View High School. A BioHealth Magnet Program graduate

and career technology completer, she was vice-president of RVHS National Technical Honor Society and a member of the National Beta Club.

Recipient of the Winthrop Blue Line Scholarship and the SC Hope Scholarship, she now studies at Winthrop University to pursue a degree in nutrition. A former member of the *Columbia Fil-Am Cultural Dance Troupe*, she is the younger daughter of Rio & Mary Jane Daquilanea of Columbia, SC. ♦

★ JOSHUA PETER SOBREO recently graduated from high school. He is the son of Zach & Jing Nephew who now lives in Virginia Beach, VA. ♦

★ JOSHUA-CALEB B. VIRAY



graduated from Shadow Ridge HS (Las Vegas, NV) on June 4, 2015. He is now at the University of Nevada —Las Vegas to pursue a

degree in business management (hotel & hospitality). A former member of *Columbia Fil-Am Cultural Dance Troupe* when his family was still in SC, he is the younger son of past FAAGC officers Mario & Wyda Viray of Las Vegas, NV. ♦

★ ANGELICA “Clover” TALENS ROBICHAUD

graduated from Cardinal Newman HS on May 23, 2015, first in her class and two years ahead of her peers. A National Merit Scholarship Finalist, she received the *President's Educational Excellence Award*, the *President's Volunteer Service Award*, and Palmetto Fellowship. She is a member of the Teen Advisory Board of the Richland County Public Library (RCPL) - Cooper Branch and is a published author in the “*Kids in Print*.”

She now attends Columbia College on a Founder's Scholarship where she will major in biology and mathematics and pursue her interests in creative writing. A former member of *Columbia Fil-Am Cultural Dance Troupe*, she is the older daughter of David & Alma Robichaud. ♦

★ TAYLOR BLOCKER finished 8th grade at the CDR William C. McCool Elem/Middle School (Guam) and received the *President's Award for Educational Excellence*. Her *National History Day (NHD) 2015* junior group exhibit was among the entries displayed for a day at the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History during the NHD 2015 competitions held at the University of Maryland in College Park on June 14-18. She is a daughter of Josh & Joyce Blocker who are stationed at the Naval Station in Santa Rita, Guam. ♦

★ ASHLEY BLOCKER completed 4th grade at the McCool Elem/Middle School (Guam). She is a daughter of Josh & Joyce Blocker of Santa Rita, Guam. ♦

★ COREY HEINZEN finished 3rd grade as a straight A student at Redland Elementary. Corey is the son of Don & Michelle Heinzen of Wetumpka, AL. ♦

★ ANDREA TALENS ROBICHAUD completed eighth grade with honors from Cardinal Newman School. A SC Junior Scholar, National Junior Honor Society member, George Grice Eight Grade Scholar, and SC Junior Academy of Science member, she received the *President's Educational Excellence Award* and Bishop's Honor Roll for academics.

She received the *President's Volunteer Service Award* for her volunteer work at the Richland County Public Library. She is a member of the Teen Advisory Board of the RCPL-Cooper Branch and has had both her writing and art work published in “*Kids in Print*”. A current member of the *Columbia Fil-Am Cultural Dance Troupe*, she is the younger daughter of David & Alma Robichaud. ♦

25 YEARS, 92 TOTAL ISSUES, 689 TOTAL PAGES

(not counting inserts) — these are the numbers that define the FAAGC Newsletter from April 1991 through August 2015.

FAAGC may be the only Fil-Am organization in the US that has published regularly a newsletter continuously for the past 25 years. Serving as the historical record of the Association and the Filipino-American community in the Greater Columbia area, the newsletters are being archived at the Caroliniana Library of the University of South Carolina. Hopefully they are also being kept in the Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) Collection of the Library of Congress in Washington D.C. and in the National Pinoy Archives at the Filipino American National Historical Society (FANHS) headquarters in Seattle, WA — copies are sent to them every issue.

In addition, colored versions of the newsletters since 2001 are available online at the FAAGC website; copies of all issues going back to the first one in April 1991 will be placed online soon. As they say, “*what goes online, stays online forever.*”

Newsletter History

It's been a very long run since May 1991 when this Editor was volunteered *in absentia* (*being out of town then*) to help edit the newsletter of the nascent Filipino-American organization. In **April 1991**, under the guidance of then *interim* secretary **Eva Rigney**, the first issue of the *Filipino-American Association of Greater Columbia, South Carolina Newsletter* was published. That three-page issue, if we're not mistaken, was typewritten on a stencil and then mimeographed; manually

collated, stapled and folded; and then mailed to the Filipinos and Filipino-Americans in the area.

Since then, the FAAGC Newsletter has reflected the growing pains and noteworthy achievements of an organization and its members. It has also provided a mechanism to share aspects of the Filipino heritage through a recurrent series of articles about the Philippines and its people, places, events, and culture.

As a publicity vehicle to maintain regular communications with members and interested parties, the newsletter was issued monthly from April 1991 to October 1993, bi-monthly from November 1993 to January 1995, quarterly from Summer 1997 to Summer 1999, and two to three times a year at other times, depending on important FAAGC events. Additionally, sometimes in between

(continued on Page 8) ♦

...SO LONG, FAREWELL, AUF WIEDERSEHEN, GOODBYE, ADIEU, ADIOS, PAALAM, PANAMILIT NA...



CFO is charged with promoting and holding the interests, rights, and welfare of overseas Filipinos and strengthening their ties with the Philippines.

London Pinoy Business

I was walking through the streets of London recently when a Bank of the Philippine Islands (BPI) office (Earls Court location) appeared in my view. BPI has a presence in the U.S.A., Hong Kong, Italy, Spain, United Arab Emirates, and United Kingdom. BPI is the oldest bank still operating in the Philippines and South-east Asia.

There are a number of Filipino grocery stores just a couple of blocks away from the Earls Court BPI office. The grocery stores had a homey Filipino variety store (*sari-sari*) feel and look. They were well-stocked with Filipino goodies.

I spoke to one of the Filipino storekeepers in Filipino. Soon after that an Englishman came up to me and started speaking to me in very fluent Filipino. He turned out to be a priest who lived and served as a missionary for 30 years in many parts of the Philippines. I was really impressed since I would not have been able to tell that he was an Englishman and not a Pinoy just by listening to him.

I saw the usual grocery items that were imported from the Philippines (e.g., canned sardines, soy sauce, banana ketchup, coconut vinegar, packets of mixed spices, toiletries) and reminders of the Pinoy palate (e.g., *pan de sal*,

sapin-sapin, hopia, chicharon, pinipig polvoron).

There was an assortment of fresh fruits and vegetables. I learned that many fresh products are imported from Thailand, with some items, such as *saluyot*, coming from the Philippines.

Pinoy Restaurants

Just when I thought it could not get even more exciting, I spotted, not just one, but TWO adjacent Filipino restaurants across one of the Pinoy grocery stores. These were the *Kamayan sa Earls Court Filipino-Thai Restaurant* and the *Lutong Pinoy Filipino Restaurant*. The latter offered a Filipino buffet. I peeked inside through the windows after hours and was tickled to see an employee sweeping the floor with a Filipino broom (*walis*).

Evidence of the Filipino presence in this part of London was as clear as can be. While touring London, I did run into a few Filipinos and fellow Filipino-Americans who I spoke to. I spotted them through appearance, demeanor, or by overhearing them speak in Filipino.

San Miguel Beer

To top things off, I was at a London pub when I noticed the San Miguel Beer logo, which made me wonder how the pub was providing San Miguel Beer on tap. Was this the same San Miguel Beer from the Philippines?

From the San Miguel Cor-

poration's web site regarding an agreement between San Miguel Brewing International Ltd. (Philippines) and Mahou San Miguel (Spain), I learned that in 1890, the first San Miguel brewery was set up in Manila's San Miguel district. In the same year by coincidence, Mahou, which produced beer and ice, was also founded in Madrid, Spain.

By 1914, San Miguel was exporting beer from Manila to Shanghai, Hong Kong, and Guam. In 1948, San Miguel Brewery Hong Kong Ltd., the company's first offshore brewery, began production. In 1953, San Miguel Philippines, granted branding rights for Europe and Mediterranean Africa to San Miguel Spain, giving rise to a Spanish brewing affiliate in 1957.

In 2000, San Miguel Spain was bought by Mahou, which led to the Spanish Mahou San Miguel group, which promotes the beer brand in Spain and in European markets (e.g., UK, Italy, Nordic countries, and Germany). The agreement calls for both brewers to work together and promote the San Miguel beer brand internationally.

The web page states that "The *San Miguel* beer brand today has presence in 60 countries on all five continents, and is ranked among the 10 leading international premium beer

brands." (Note: In the U.S.A., you can find bottles of San Miguel beer at World Market and other grocery stores.)

Columbia Pinoy Business

The Greater Columbia, SC area may not have as many Filipinos, but we are fortunate to have access to many Filipino products through the local international grocery stores.

The nearest Filipino grocery store was in Sumter, SC, owned and operated by Cecille Jacobsen (sadly it closed its brick and mortar store in December 2014). Prior to that the store was owned and operated by Polly Pearson.

Some time ago, there was also the *Mang Tomas* Filipino Grocery & Restaurant on Decker Blvd. in Columbia. Owned and operated by Hector Galang, the business closed once he retired and relocated.

FAAGC's Impact

Thinking of Filipinos living outside of the Philippines reminds me of how the Filipino-American Association of Greater Columbia, SC (FAAGC) aims to develop a sense of community among the Filipino-Americans in the area. Because of FAAGC, there's been a reason for us to meet several times during the year in a variety of situations and to interact with each other either in person or on social media.

- We share our Filipino cuisine with each other during our potluck or Filipino-style catered events.

- The annual Easter picnic

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

CECILLE JACOBSEN (President)

Previously, she was FAAGC President (2013-2015), 1st Vice-President (2009-2011) and an Executive Board Member (2007-2009). Since becoming a member in 2006, she has been actively involved in Association activities, especially during the Columbia International Festivals. She became a *FAAGC Lifetime Sustaining Member* in 2012.

As President, she says she would like, among others, to "build up the camaraderie in the whole membership" and find more "ways to recognize members." She welcomes suggestions about the Association from members.

From Subic, Zambales, she has been in the U.S. for some 30 years now. A Georgia Tech graduate and a former Department of Defense (DOD) employee, she is married to Pete Jacobsen from Canton, Ohio. They have four children (two sons, two daughters) and six grandchildren.

TERESITA HILL (1st VP)

From Aritao, Nueva Vizcaya, she finished BS Math at St. Mary's University (Philippines) and MA and PhD in Math at Hiroshima University (Japan). While teaching at the University of the Philippines, she was a teacher trainer and mathematics textbook writer. Since coming to the US eight years ago, she has taught at various institutions, teaching from middle school to graduate school. She is now the current Associate Dean of ITT Technical Institute—Columbia campus and a Financial Professional with AXA Advisors, LLC.

A FAAGC member since arriving in the Columbia area four years ago, she was an Executive Board Member in 2013-2015 and a performer with the *Columbia Fil-Am Dance Troupe*.

She says "it is an honor to be a part of this great Association. While FAAGC's altruistic concern for Filipino welfare in the US is my driving force for joining the Association, it is also a catalyst where friend-

THE 2015-2017 FAAGC EXECUTIVE BOARD



Carlos Arevalo, Anna Temples, Glenn De Guzman, Tess Hill, Al Cockerel, Cecille Jacobsen, Miriam Eschenfelder, James Orlick, Reyna Funderburk, Doris Matos, Alan Matienzo, Peter Liunoras. Photo: C. Jacobsen

ship and camaraderie among its members emanate."

She is married to Walter Hill of Chapin, SC and has a daughter, Joy.

ALAN MATIENZO (2nd VP)

He was FAAGC 1st VP in 2005-2007 and a performer with the *Columbia Fil-Am Dance Troupe* for the past two years.

Born in Charleston, SC, he graduated with a B.S. Civil Engineering from Clemson University and has been working as a civil engineer with the SC Department of Transportation.

MIRIAM ESCHENFELDER (Treasurer)

From San Jose Del Monte, Bulacan, she has been in the US for 21 years and in Columbia for nearly five years. She finished her Master of Social Work at USC in May 2015.

The 2013-2015 Assistant Treasurer, she would like the Association "to continue to participate in the International Festival. The festival provides awareness to the new Filipinos and the public that we exist here in Columbia. It also helps the biracial family and others to observe our culture."

She has been married to Christopher Eschenfelder for 21 years; they have two sons, William and Matthew.

REYNA FUNDERBURK (Secretary)

From Cabugao, Ilocos Sur, she has been in Columbia and the US for 11 years. With Bachelor of Science of Business and Arts (Accounting) from the University of the East (Manila), she is the Senior International Account Manager at Transcon Trading Co.

One of the first-time officers, she would like FAAGC

to become a non-profit organization under IRS Section 501 (c)3 and "reach out to other organizations, business owners, and government agencies for assistance since we are a minority group."

To make the Association more vibrant and more effective, she thinks that since "the members are the key factors of the organization's existence, we should think, plan or decide on how to reach out to inactive members and turn them to be active again. [There should be] "willingness of the board members to really...help the organization raise funds and coordinate with private and public agencies. The more funds we can generate, [the better] the organization can extend more help to our *kabayans* and members alike in times of difficulties and calamities."

She is married to Terry Funderburk and they have a daughter, Casey.

ANNA MARIE TEMPLES (Asst. Treasurer)

From Muntinlupa City, she has been in the US and in Columbia for nearly two years. She studied Electronics Systems Technology at International Electronics Technological Institute (IETI) in the Philippines.

A first-time officer, she has been a performer with the *Columbia Fil-Am Dance Troupe* since joining FAAGC last year. She is married to Jeff Temples.

DORIS MATOS (Asst. Secretary)

Even before she became a member in 2012, she has attended regularly many of FAAGC's get-togethers. A first-time officer, she "likes being with the Association because of the

members. I have many Filipino friends and I also like their history, heritage, and how they care for and help their people."

From Panama, she speaks English and Spanish and have been here in the USA for 34 years. She works as a clerk in the medical records investigation department at Blue Cross /Blue Shield and is also a certified nursing assistant (CNA). She has three children (one deceased, one stationed in Ft. Bragg, and one working here in Columbia).

CARLOS AREVALO (Executive Board Member)

From Daet, Camarines Norte, he has been here since the mid-1990s. Since becoming an Executive Board Member in 2011-2013, he has been a co-coordinator for the FAAGC basketball tournaments. He and his wife Kathy, a registered nurse from Zambales, have two sons, Darryl and Jason (who were past members of the *Columbia Fil-Am Cultural Dance Troupe*) and a daughter, Kathleen.

AL COCKEREL (Executive Board Member)

Originally from Louisville, KY, he is now retired. A first-time officer, he has been a reliable volunteer at various Association activities since joining FAAGC in 2013; he says he likes *pancit* and *lumpia*. He has been married for 17 years to his wife Leila, who hails from Bogo City, Cebu, and is a US Army captain at Ft. Jackson.

GLENN DE GUZMAN (Executive Board Member)

From Pampanga, he has been in the US since 2013 and moved here from California a year and a half ago. A BSECE graduate of Saint Louis University (Baguio City), he works in hospital centralized transport at Palmetto Health.

A first-time officer, he likes the Association to continue promoting Filipino culture and traditions, "continue with its events and activities, enhance the sports program, and reach out to its members and encourage them to be active in all its events and gatherings." He also supports "the vision that FAAGC has in regards to having its own cultural building here in Columbia."

(continued on Page 7) k

2015-2017 FAAGC EXECUTIVE BOARD

(continued from Page 6)

He and his wife Carmela, a registered nurse from Paranaque City who works at Palmetto Health, have three children: Carmina, Carlene and Gio.

PETER LIUNORAS

(Executive Board Member)

Since becoming members in 1995, Pete and his family have been very active in FAAGC activities. He has served as Executive Board Member (1996-1997, 2011-2013, 2014-2015), First Vice-President (1997-1999), and President (2001-2003).

Born in Makati but growing up in Batangas City, he has degrees in aeronautical engineering from FEATI University (Manila) and in education from the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point (UWSP). He was an assistant professor of military science at UWSP and a JROTC instructor at Ridge View High School. In the U.S. since 1969 and in the Columbia area since 1993, he is now a federal (U.S. Army) and state retiree.

As officer, he would like FAAGC to do "more recruitment and focus more on our young generation." He would also like to "convince the other associations in SC to get more involved in our activities." He has now taken a leading role in working towards a Fil-Am Community Center in the Midlands.

He is married to the former Olga Laut from Bato, Camarines Sur. They have three grown children: Ignacio II, Isel and Irene — who were all Columbia Fil-Am Dance Troupe performers — and three grandchildren..

JAMES ORLICK

(Executive Board Member)

From West Virginia and New York City, he has a Master of Arts in Music from New York University. A professional musician/composer and college professor, he works at Benedict College and The Long Bay Symphony (Myrtle Beach).

His 7-movement composition will premiere in Texas this year to bring awareness about typhoons in the Philippines. As a volunteer music lecturer, he

"experienced Typhoon Glenda during my lectures and master classes last year [and] wrote a chamber orchestra piece about it with multimedia and narration."

Philippine Projects

"In my ten years as a college professor, I am most excited about working on projects that provide formidable educational opportunities for Filipinos. Last year, I recruited the first Filipino student at my college and am in the process of recruiting more Filipino students. This includes raising the funds for the scholarships and state department fees."

"I strive to improve the educational conditions of various regions in the Philippines through volunteer work and advocacy projects. Some outreach projects include sending thousands of textbooks and educational materials, in August 2015. I am currently volunteering for a grant writing project to replace desperately needed K-12 classrooms that will provide great educational opportunities to over 4,000 young students."

FAAGC Projects

A first-time officer, he "would like the Association to become more engaged in performing traditional Filipino instrumental and vocal music. This can assist in preserving and transmitting Filipino music, of various regions and languages, to the young members of the Association. As a result, the greater Columbia area and state will experience the richness of Filipino culture through its great music."

He would also like FAAGC to (1) start "a youth Filipino instrumental and vocal group dedicated to performing traditional Filipino songs;" (2) have "educational outreach projects to improve the current classroom conditions and provide scholarships for students in the lowest socio-economic groups in the Philippines", and (3) "build an endowment and increase the student scholarship fund for the Association's scholarship program for years to come." ❖



COLUMBIA FIL-AM

BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

A Fundraiser for the Scholarship Program

October 17, 2015

The Filipino-American Association of Greater Columbia (FAAGC) will host its ninth Columbia FIL-AM Basketball Invitational Tournament on Saturday, **October 17, 2015**, starting at **8:00 a.m.** at the **Ridge View HS** gym. Free to the public, the round-robin tournament will involve Fil-Am teams from Columbia and neighboring cities in Georgia (Atlanta, Augusta, Macon, Savannah), North Carolina (Charlotte), and South Carolina (Beaufort, Charleston).

The tournament, with its associated food sale, has been a major fund-raiser for the *Columbia Fil-Am Youth Scholarship Program*. The FAAGC Executive Board is requesting our members and supporters for food donations to support the concession stand which will open early for breakfast/brunch with *tocino* and chicken *lugaw* (congee or rice porridge) available. Menu items will include *dinuguan*, *pancit*, *munggo*, *adobo*, *menudo*, *pinakbet*, and varied Filipino dessert.

In related developments, the new FAAGC basketball program for kids officially started on August 23, 2015; they will have 3-on-3 tournament soon. The FAAGC Columbia senior basketball team has been invited to play in Charlotte on August 29, while, the junior team has been invited to play in Atlanta on September 12.

For further details, contact basketball coordinator **Carlos Arevalo** [803-237-9171; carlosarevalo68@yahoo.com]. ❖

Pinoy Sightings: The London Example

(continued from Page 5)

doubles as a FAAGC officers election meeting every other year at Sesquicentennial Park. The annual summer picnic is held at Weston Lake.

- FAAGC has held Halloween costume parties, given out numerous volunteer appreciation awards to its volunteers, and held Christmas celebrations complete with a Filipino-style roast pig (*lechon*), Santa Claus, and gift-giving.
- FAAGC holds an annual fund-raising formal gala with Philippine cultural presentations.
- FAAGC dance troupe members meet and practice year-round to perform at FAAGC and other community events. Their performances serve as audio-visual reminders of our Philippine culture and heritage.
- FAAGC has participated in local events, such as the Columbia International Festival and Korean Fall Festival. Other past events have included the Carillon Christmas float parade, *Mayfest*, *Autumnfest*, *FirstNight Columbia*, *Kids' Day*, among others.
- Basketball tournaments have been held just for the fun of it and for raising funds for calamity victims in the Philippines or for the youth scholarship program.
- FAAGC maintains a website (www.filamsc.org), publishes newsletters online and in print, and updates a Facebook page with information. These also serve as a record of the history and activities of the Filipino-Americans in the area.

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Columbia FIL-AM**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

- * **September 19, 2015** (Sat., 6:00 p.m.)
 - ▶ **Columbia Fil-Am 25th Annual Gala**
 - ◆ **Columbia Marriott Hotel**
1200 Hampton St., Columbia, SC 29201
- * **October 17, 2015** (Saturday, 8:00 a.m.)
 - ▶ **Columbia Fil-Am 10th Basketball Tournament & Filipino Food Sale**
 - ◆ **Ridge View High School gym**
4801 Hard Scrabble Rd., Columbia, SC 29229
- * **November 1, 2015** (tentative)
 - ▶ **Columbia Fil-Am General Membership Meeting & Halloween Party**
 - ◆ *Details to be announced later.*
- * **December 5, 2015** (tentative)
 - ▶ **Columbia Fil-Am Christmas Party**
 - ◆ **St. John Neumann School gymnasium**
721 Polo Road, Columbia, SC 29223

Mark Your Calendars Now!
See Y'All There!

regular issues, the one-sheet *Fil-Am Special Bulletin* was published and mailed to members and supporters.

The masthead read "**Filipino-American Association of Greater Columbia, South Carolina Newsletter**" (or variants thereof) from April 1991 (Vol. 1, No. 1) through July 1992 (Volume 2, No. 7), except for the period from October 1991 to February 1992 (Vol. 1, Nos. 7-9; Vol. 2, Nos. 1-2) when it was *mabuhay* (The Official Newsletter of the Filipino-American Association of Greater Columbia, South Carolina). Since August 1992 up to the present, the masthead has read "**FIL-AM BULLETIN** The Official Newsletter of the FILIPINO-AMERICAN ASSOCIATION of Greater Columbia, SC".

The Columbia Fil-Am newsletter has evolved from a literally cut-and-paste operation (articles were typewritten or computer printed, actually cut

Paalam Na*(continued from Page 4)*

with scissors or an arts-and-craft precision knife, and pasted on the columned, lay-out paper) to desktop-publishing-software rendered files ready for printing at a commercial copying shop. Of course, it has been and still is manually collated, folded, stamped and then mailed to Association members and other interested parties.

For the most part for most of the past 25 years and through countless all-nighters, the newsletter has been produced by basically a **one-man publication staff** — from article writing to editing to lay-outting to getting print-ready files to having copies made. Of course, there were articles already written by contributors, for which he was grateful, and there was, most of the time, help available for collating/folding/ mailing the newsletters under the guidance

of the one who volunteered the Editor.

The present Editor has been involved in producing all but seven issues (92%) and all but 41 pages (94%) of the FAAGC newsletters — the exceptions were the first two issues, four issues from March to June 1992 when he was in hiatus as editor, and the July 1993 issue when he was on a Philippine vacation.

Whew!!! A Quarter of a Century!!!

Well, it's time to turn off the lights and move on. Besides there are more varied and rapid ways to disseminate information — websites, blogs, social media, cell phones, and related technological advances. It is our fervent hope, though, that somebody will take over the editorial responsibility to continue the printed newsletter's track record.

Now, the FAAGC Newsletter Editor for the past 25 years is signing off for good and writing

—30—

Annual Gala... *(continued from Page 1)*

Columbia Marriott can reserve a standard or double room (with or without breakfast) at reduced rates. Please contact the Marriott at (803) 771-7000 or online at www.marriottcolumbia.com; mention your stay is in connection with the *Columbia Filipino-American Gala*.

Souvenir Program

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

Carolina Midlands. As such, we are also soliciting all kinds of contributions in the form of advertisements and donations for inclusion in the printed souvenir program.

Deadline for all ads or donor messages to be included in the printed gala souvenir program is **September 5**.

Contacts

For tickets or more details

about the Fil-Am Gala, contact **Cecille Jacobsen** [(803) 562-0272], **Carmelisa Edwards** [(803) 360-2636], **Miriam Eschenfelder** [757] 802-2810) or any other officer listed on *Page 2* of this newsletter.

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

FIL-AM BULLETIN**"TOGETHER WE MAKE A DIFFERENCE"**of the **Filipino-American Association of Greater Columbia, SC**

P.O. Box 24112, Columbia, SC 29224 ★

Summer 2015 ★

Volume 25, Number 1 ★

**Don't Forget:***See Y'All There!*

- * **Columbia FIL-AM 25th ANNUAL GALA** will be held on **Saturday, September 19, 2015** at the Downtown **Columbia Marriott Hotel**.