



# 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"**

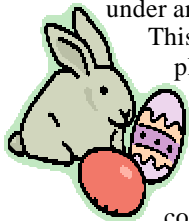
★ Volume 14, Number 3 ★

P.O. Box 24112, Columbia, SC 29224

★ Spring 2005 ★

## Fil-Am Spring Picnic, Easter Egg-hunt on March 27 at Sesqui Park

The Columbia Fil-Am annual spring picnic will be held at the **Sesquicentennial State Park** (Shed 1; 9564 Two Notch Road, Columbia) on **Easter Sunday, March 27, 2005**, starting at **1:00 p.m.** Be advised that the park charges a \$2 per person entrance fee (children aged 15 and under are free).



This is a POTLUCK picnic so please bring a 2-liter soda and a covered dish enough for your family and others. There will be a barbecue grill set up to cook hotdog, hamburger and/or chicken. For variety, suggested covered dishes are as follows, based on the first letter of the family names:

- A : Pork or beef dish
- B - E : Cooked rice & bread
- F - J : Chicken dish
- K - N : Vegetable dish
- O - T : Dessert (cakes, cookies, fruits, etc)
- U - Z : Noodles (*pancit*, *palabok*, etc.)
- FAAGC: Ice, plates, utensils, hotdog, hamburger, buns

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## FAAGC Featured in Filipinas Magazine

*Filipinas Magazine*, the internationally circulated "magazine for all Filipinos," featured FAAGC in its February 2005 issue. The article about FAAGC, entitled "*Pinoy Pride Lives On*," was written by FAAGC Vice President Alan Geoghegan (with some editorial assistance from Noel Alon).

With permission from *Filipinas Magazine*, the full article with its accompanying photo (taken during the 2004 Governor's International Gala when past FAAGC president Peter Llinoras received his "*International Volunteer of the Year*" award) is reprinted on Page 5. It is also available online at FAAGC's website: [www.FilAmSC.org](http://www.FilAmSC.org).

## FAAGC To Elect New Officers for 2005-07

The election of FAAGC officers for the term 2005-07 will be held on **Sunday, March 27, 2005**, during the annual Fil-Am spring picnic/Easter egg-hunt at Sesquicentennial State Park.

The new set of officers will serve from July 1, 2005 through June 30, 2007. As stated in the Association By-laws, currently-paid members in good standing are eligible to vote and run for office.

To maximize voting eligibility, the Executive Board during its last meeting agreed to give amnesty to all unpaid

members. As long as they pay their dues by March 27<sup>th</sup> during the picnic but prior to the actual voting, members can still vote (and be elected).

All are encouraged to take a more active and participatory role in the Fil-Am Association by voting or running for positions in the Fil-Am Executive Board. This year's Election Committee is composed of **Nieves McNulty**, **Grace Collins** and another member to be named later. (See the *Fil-Am election primer on Page 2*). ♦

## USC Fil-Am Students to Present FASA Night: A Philippine Cultural Showcase on March 19

The Filipino American Student Association (FASA) of the University of South Carolina will present **FASA Night: A Philippine Cultural Showcase** on Saturday, March 19, 2005.

A presentation of traditional and modern aspects of Filipino and Filipino-American culture, the showcase is a first-of-its-kind affair at USC. The event will be held starting at 7:00 p.m. in the Russell House Student Union ballroom on the USC-Columbia campus.

"It will be an enjoyable evening of Philippine food, music, dance, and culture. After a full dinner of delicious Filipino dishes such as *lechon* (roasted pig), *adobo*, *pancit*, *lumpia*, and traditional Philippine dessert, we will entertain with songs, modern dance numbers, and FASA's own folk dance troupe — performing, among others, *tinikling* and *singkil* suites," says FASA president A. J. Alon.

He adds, "FASA will appreciate any sponsorship, financial, or other support from the Fil-Am community in the area."

Featured performers include *Euphonic* (a hip-hop music group of Fil-Am and other USC students), and some other surprising Fil-Am talents.

Among the dance performers are current (Aileen Alon) and former FAAGC Cultural Dance troupe members Judith

Peña, Alfred McNulty, Ray Elamparo and A.J. Alon.

Philip Caoile serves as choreographer for the FASA folk dance troupe with assistance from Erin Zanders, Alfred McNulty and A.J. Alon. Melodie Capole is choreographer. *continued on Page 7*

## Fil-Am Booth To Display Jeepney, Sari-sari Store at Columbia International Festival

FAAGC will be actively involved again in the annual *Columbia International Festival* to be held at the Canteen Building of the SC State Fairgrounds on **April 30 - May 1, 2005**. Now in its tenth year, the festival enables area residents and visitors to "experience the world under one roof."

The Association's Philippine country display will have a jeepney and *sari-sari* (variety) store theme. **Merlyn Bajamunde** is coordinating the cultural and educational exhibit, with **Alan Matienzo** providing the mock-up jeepney.

Set-up for the festival will begin on Thursday, April 28, at noon. We encourage our members to help us set-up as well as volunteer during the festival. If any member has unique Philippine products/items that could be displayed in our cultural booth, please let us know. Call **Merlyn (419-2897)** for cultural display or *continued on Page 3*

## Just A Reminder

Membership renewal for the Association Year 2004-05 is now due for many members. Please check the mailing address label on Page 8 of this newsletter — if there are three asterisks ( \*\*\*) on the line above your name, then your membership has expired or will expire soon.

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. You can also pay during the upcoming Easter Picnic. If there are membership renewal questions, contact **Marj Peña** (732-1202; email: mpena@biol.sc.edu) or **Helen Alon** (738-0372; email: helenqda@yahoo.com). ♦

## Fil-Am Spring Picnic

*continued from Page 2*

Planned activities include an Easter egg-hunt and children's games coordinated by the RVHS Fil-Am Youth Club. Parents with young children are requested to bring at least a dozen goodies-filled plastic Easter eggs for the egg-hunt. In addition, the election of officers for the next term will be held.

**FAAGC members, supporters and other interested parties in the area Fil-Am community are all invited to come and share the fun and food with family and friends.**

Those who wish to spend more time at the park with family and friends can come earlier; the reserved park shed is available from 10:00 a.m. on. For further information and directions, please contact **Grace Collins** (782-6952), **Alan Geoghegan** (787-5255), **Julieta Iglesias** (736-0749) or the other officers listed on Page 2. Sumter area Fil-Ams can contact **Polly Pearson** (499-9596). ♦

Check out the  
FAAGC Website  
[www.FilAmSC.org](http://www.FilAmSC.org)



## Fil-Am ELECTION Primer

### VOTERS

- ▶ A paid member can cast one vote during the election. Under the By-laws, those with family memberships are allowed two votes per family.
- ▶ A qualified voter who cannot be physically present during the election may cast a vote via a **proxy**. He/she should notify the Election Committee (ELECOM) **before noon of March 27** regarding the proxy who will vote in and for his/her behalf.

### ELECOM

- ▶ The Election Committee (ELECOM) will supervise the conduct of the election. The ELECOM is empowered to promulgate regulations governing elections.
- ▶ ELECOM members and their immediate families are not eligible to run for any elective office.

### CANDIDATES

- ▶ A candidate for any elective position must be a paid member for at least 3 months prior to election, and must be present during the election **OR** if he/she cannot be present, must inform the ELECOM of his/her intention to serve if elected. This ensures that only those willing to accept nomination and election can be voted for.
- ▶ Although different members of the same family can be nominated for one or more positions, only **one** member from the same family can hold an elective office during the 2005-07 term.
- ▶ Under the term limits set in the By-laws, all the incumbent officers are still eligible for re-election to their respective present positions, if they so wish.
- ▶ Nominations will be finalized before the actual voting on March 27.

### DUTIES OF OFFICERS

- ▶ The **PRESIDENT** is the executive officer of the Association. The President presides at all general meetings and Executive Board meetings, call special sessions of the Executive Board, appoint committees, act on behalf of the Association at community functions, report to the general membership all actions taken by the President, other officers, or the Executive Board, and have general supervision responsibilities over all matters pertaining to the organization.
- ▶ The **FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT** assists the President especially in external affairs and act as President in the absence or incapacity

of the President.

- ▶ The **SECOND VICE-PRESIDENT** is in charge of disseminating information regarding membership, seeking new members, and assuring that adequate provisions are made to assure that social functions and meetings have whatever facilities and supplies are necessary. The Second Vice-President also coordinates the standing and special projects committees.

- ▶ The **SECRETARY** keeps minutes of all meetings of the Executive Board, notify and/or send out meeting notices to members of the Executive Board meetings, and reads the minutes of previous meetings. The Executive Secretary attends to all Association correspondence and maintain custody of correspondence files and the originals of all other documents/papers of the Association.

- ▶ The **ASSISTANT SECRETARY** keeps minutes of all general membership meetings and notifies and/or sends out meeting notices to members of the Association. The Assistant Secretary keeps an accurate roster of all members and a list of all standing and special projects committees.

- ▶ The **TREASURER** keeps the financial records of the Association's accounts, receives and issues receipts for Association monies, dues, and contributions, pays all bills of the Association as properly authorized and retains proper vouchers for all disbursements. In coordination with the President, the Treasurer insures that annual income tax returns and license requirements are properly prepared and submitted on time to the appropriate governmental agencies.

- ▶ The **ASSISTANT TREASURER** assists the Treasurer and act as Treasurer in the absence of the Treasurer. The Assistant Treasurer serves as the Association Property Custodian and has control of all properties and equipment of the Association.

- ▶ Each of the five **EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS** can be appointed by the President to assist another officer and/or to serve as chairperson of a standing or special projects committee. When deemed necessary by the Executive Board, a Board member elected at-large may also serve as a temporary replacement officer.

## Exercise Your Right To Vote

## How To Reach Us

FAAGC

P.O. Box 24112  
Columbia, SC 29224

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

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

e-mail: [faagc@hotmail.com](mailto:faagc@hotmail.com)

or [FilAmSC@yahoo.com](mailto:FilAmSC@yahoo.com)

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2003-2005 EXECUTIVE BOARD

*President*

GRACE COLLINS  
(803) 782-6952

*First Vice-President*

ALAN GEOGHEGAN  
(803) 787-5255

*Second Vice-President*

JULIETA IGLESIAS  
(803) 736-0749

*Secretary*

MARJ PEÑA  
(803) 732-1202

*Treasurer*

GEORGE McNULTY  
(803) 781-9509

*Assistant Secretary*

*Assistant Treasurer*

DANIEL ADCOCK  
(803) 996-5611

*Executive Board Members:*

MERLYN BAJAMUNDE  
(803) 422-1524

RUDY DIZON  
(803) 466-9688

CHARLES GOYENECHE  
(843) 383-4598

JOJO GOYENECHE  
(803) 865-0795

## FIL-AM BULLETIN

*The Official Newsletter of the*

**Filipino-American**

**Association of Greater Columbia, SC**

P.O. Box 24112  
Columbia, SC 29224

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

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# Motions & transitions

## International Festival

Continued from Page 1)

### WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

★ **BUDDY & SUZANNE MILES** of Gaston, SC. After attending a couple of Fil-Am events, they have joined the Association to "help and bring more support to FAAGC." At the last gala, they donated back to FAAGC the raffle money they won. Buddy works in real estate and land development with the Milestone Real Estate, while Suzanne is in accounting with the American Italian Pasta Co. Longtime residents in the area, they have a son, Paul Miles III.



**The VIRAY Family:**  
Mark Allen, Mario, Wyda & Joshua

Mark Allen, 15, and Joshua Caleb, 8.

★ **MARIO & WYDA M- RAY** of Columbia, SC. Originally from San Fernando, Pampanga, and whose favorite activities include basketball, speed cycling and volleyball, Mario is with the U.S. Air Force at Shaw AFB. Wyda is from Naic, Cavite. Residing in the state for about a year now, they have two sons,

★ **JOHN & BERNADETTE YAVIS** of Blythewood, SC. A two-year area resident, Bernadette, who works at AmeriSuites and Blue Cross / Blue Shield, hails from Cabanatuan-City. John is with Oak Mitsui. They have two children: Elaiza Leigh, 11, and Glaiza Glyde, 10. ❖



**New Young Fil-Am:**  
Bella Samot with mom Maria & dad Ferdinand at the FAAGC January 2005 meeting at Ridge View High School.

### THANK YOU

➤ *Special thanks to Mr. & Mrs. Diamond* of Sumter, SC, for their recent generous donation to the Fil-Am Cultural Dance Troupe fund.

➤ *Thanks also to Mervyn & Lorna DeGuzman* of Columbia, SC, for their recent donation to the Fil-Am building fund. ❖

### Fil-Am Chessmaster Wins Accolades

FAAGC member **Edsel Peña**, a USC statistics professor, has been recently gaining accolades for his chess games. In the *31st Snowstorm Special* chess tournament in Charleston, SC, on Feb. 11-13, he tied for fourth, winning four out of five games. Earlier, he won the *IV Columbia Masters* held on December 14, 2004, at USC.

His last game at the *Snowstorm* tournament was featured as the Midlands Chess Club (MCC) "game of the week." Denoted as a "must see! ... brilliant game where black sacrifices almost everything in order to mate the white king," the game has been added to the *MCC Games Archive* online at [Holmes - Pena < <http://www.midlandschess.com/Games/6.htm> >]. ❖



### Fil-Am Scholarship

**Graduating Fil-Am high school students are reminded to apply now for the *Columbia Fil-Am Scholarship*.** The amount of scholarship will depend on available funds and the number of eligible students.

Graduating seniors who have participated in Fil-Am activities and whose parents are members of FAAGC are eligible to apply for the FILAM scholarship. To obtain the forms they need to apply for the scholarship, the students or their parents should send, by phone or email, the names of graduating seniors to **Peter Liunoras (699-1214; [pliunora@rvh.richland2.org](mailto:pliunora@rvh.richland2.org))** or **Nieves McNulty (781-9509; [nmcnulty@colacoll.edu](mailto:nmcnulty@colacoll.edu))**.

**Deadline for submission of names is *April 30, 2005*.**

**In related news, the RVHS Fil-Am Youth Club** has scheduled a **Fil-Am Scholarship fundraiser car wash for Saturday, April 16, 2005, at Ridge View High School (4801 Hard Scrabble Road, Columbia — back parking lot) from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.** For details, contact club adviser **Peter Liunoras (699-1214; [pliunora@rvh.richland2.org](mailto:pliunora@rvh.richland2.org))**. ❖

volunteer inquiries and sign-up.

Fil-Am participation in the festival's cultural entertainment program (scheduled for 1:30 p.m. on Saturday, April 30, and 12:30 p.m. on Sunday, May 1) is still being arranged. Also, anyone interested in cooking and selling Philippine foods in the International Food Court should contact **Grace Collins (782-6952)** immediately. Some Fil-Ams will take part in the *Parade of Nations* and the *International Fashion Show* on Saturday at 2:00 p.m.

As before, the Philippines will be represented in the *International Bazaar* by a booth run by **Polly Pearson** (owner of the *Fil-Am Store* in Sumter), selling Philippine delicacies, gift items, and other products.

### International Festival

One of the largest indoor cultural and international events in southeastern U.S., the festival, now in its tenth year, is a family-oriented showcase of the music, food, culture and performing arts of the varied countries represented in South Carolina. *Global Education Day*, the festival's opening event on Friday, April 29, will bring students from all over the state for a day of fun and learning about the cultural diversity and contributions made by foreign-born residents.

The festival is open to the general public on Saturday (10 am—9 pm) and Sunday (noon — 7 pm). Admission tickets are \$5 for adults and \$1 for ages 6-12; children under 5 are free.

The festival's *Governor's International Gala* is on **Thursday, March 25**, at the Family Life Center, First Presbyterian Church (1422 Washington Street, Columbia). At the gala, the presentation of awards is made to the *International Professional, Volunteer, Business Person, and Community Ambassador of the Year 2005* and the *Global Education Day Art & Essay Contest* winners.

Fil-Am nominees for this year's awards are **George McNulty** for community ambassador, **Alan Geoghegan** for business person, and **Edsel Peña** for international professional.

FAAGC president **Grace Collins** and FAAGC member **Imelda Go** are members of the 2005 Columbia International Festival coordinating committee and the *Global Education Day* committee, respectively.

For updated schedules and other details, call (803) 799-3452 or check the festival's websites:

**[www.cifonline.org](http://www.cifonline.org)** or  
**[www.ifmusa.org/festival](http://www.ifmusa.org/festival)** ❖

## Filipino-Americans Among Asian-Americans: Beyond Stereotypical Student Achievement

by Imelda Go

The South Carolina Department of Education reported 2004 Palmetto Achievement Challenge Test (PACT) scores according to certain ethnic groups: White, African-American, Asian/Pacific Islander, Hispanic, and American Indian/Alaskan (<http://www.myschools.com/tracks/testscores/pact/2004/>). The continent of Asia has a large number of countries and geographical world regions, which include China, India, the Middle East, the republics of the former Soviet Union that are in Asia, and the Philippines. However, the Asian/Pacific Islander demographic grouping used by the South Carolina Department of Education excludes students with Middle Eastern ethnicity.

When you look at the test score results mentioned above

and many other test score summaries at the local, state, and national levels, it is immediately apparent that the Asian/Pacific Islander group has been performing relatively well compared to other ethnic groups. (One must interpret statistics carefully because the term *Asian* does not necessarily have the same meaning every time.) This observation reinforces beliefs in stereotypical characteristics of Asian students: they excel in school, they are good in math, and they are over-achievers.

The fact is stereotypes never succeed in describing everyone in its version of reality. The truth is there are Asians who do not excel in school, who are not good in math, who are not over-achievers, etc. Stereotypical generalizations fail because there are too many exceptions.

After all, even if Asia is the largest continent and has the majority of the world's population, it represents so many cultures and societies within it.

Due to positive stereotyping, the Asian demographic group is nicknamed the *model minority*. One might even ask what's so bad about doing well in school and high expectations? Aren't those good things?

The burden on people caused by positive stereotyping is sometimes confused with the effort and dedication required to achieve excellence. A student may willingly sacrifice some recreation time to memorize more foreign language vocabulary words because they really want to. Many roads to success are uphill.

On one extreme there are children who develop with no guidance and unfortunately even under the malicious and harmful influence of their parents. The other extreme is chil-

dren developing under strict parental control with parents eager to equip their children with every tool needed to succeed in life. Could this extreme also be harmful? Common sense tells us it can be. Some children are molded to the extent that they are no longer true to themselves. There are people who engage in particular professions against their will and only to satisfy their parents' wishes. It is so important to enjoy what you do for a living.

For first-time immigrants, the struggle to establish their family in the U.S.A. takes time. It takes some time to be assimilated into a new society, to build resources upon which to further prosper, and to overcome any challenges, such as having a better command of the English language. You hear stories of first-time immigrants who want their children not to ever struggle with English so they forbid the child-

*(continued on Page 7)*

### 2004 SC Palmetto Achievement Challenge Test (PACT) Statewide Scores by Demographic Groupings for Two Grade Levels

The PACTs are South Carolina's standardized tests for elementary and middle school students. Students in third through eighth grades are tested each spring in the four core subject areas—math, English/language arts, science, and social studies. The state Department of Education use the test results to evaluate schools annually, while the federal government analyses the math and English/language arts scores.

As exemplified in the data for Grades 5 and 8, the 2004 PACT results shows that Asian/Pacific Islander students statewide generally had the lowest "below basic" and the highest "advanced" and "meet standard" percentages across the board (grades/subjects). Similar patterns can be seen in the comprehensive PACT results for Grades 3 through 8 for 2004 and earlier years in the database at <http://www.myschools.com/tracks/testscores/>

Grade 5 Language Arts	Number Tested	% Below Basic	% Basic	% Proficient	% Advanced	% Meet Standard
All Students	48,931	23.4	49.4	25.4	1.7	76.6
White	26,780	13.6	49.2	34.5	2.7	86.4
African-American	19,885	36.1	50.1	13.4	0.4	63.9
<b>Asian/Pacific Is.</b>	<b>506</b>	<b>13.8</b>	<b>40.5</b>	<b>40.1</b>	<b>5.5</b>	<b>86.2</b>
Hispanic	1,470	34.0	47.8	17.6	0.6	66.0
Am. Indian/Alaskan	122	22.1	54.1	23.8		77.9

Grade 5 Mathematics	Number Tested	% Below Basic	% Basic	% Proficient	% Advanced	% Meet Standard
All Students	50,006	23.8	43.9	18.8	13.5	76.2
White	27,274	13.3	41.2	24.5	21.0	86.7
African-American	20,301	37.2	47.9	11.4	3.5	62.8
<b>Asian/Pacific Is.</b>	<b>518</b>	<b>9.3</b>	<b>31.7</b>	<b>25.7</b>	<b>33.4</b>	<b>90.7</b>
Hispanic	1,613	35.6	42.8	14.3	7.3	64.4
Am. Indian/Alaskan	128	28.9	43.8	18.0	9.4	71.1

Grade 5 Science	Number Tested	% Below Basic	% Basic	% Proficient	% Advanced	% Meet Standard
All Students	51,873	39.7	36.4	14.9	9.0	60.3
White	28,032	23.7	39.9	21.6	14.8	76.3
African-American	21,395	60.2	31.8	6.3	1.7	39.8
<b>Asian/Pacific Is.</b>	<b>517</b>	<b>20.3</b>	<b>36.4</b>	<b>25.9</b>	<b>17.4</b>	<b>79.7</b>
Hispanic	1,602	50.4	36.5	9.6	3.5	49.6
Am. Indian/Alaskan	136	48.5	32.4	14.0	5.1	51.5

Grade 5 Social Studies	Number Tested	% Below Basic	% Basic	% Proficient	% Advanced	% Meet Standard
All Students	51,757	36.5	42.3	12.1	9.1	63.5
White	27,999	23.1	45.2	17.3	14.3	76.9
African-American	21,316	53.6	38.7	5.5	2.2	46.4
<b>Asian/Pacific Is.</b>	<b>517</b>	<b>19.3</b>	<b>40.0</b>	<b>17.8</b>	<b>22.8</b>	<b>80.7</b>
Hispanic	1,596	47.4	40.2	7.8	4.6	52.6
Am. Indian/Alaskan	136	42.6	42.6	8.8	5.9	57.4

Grade 8 Language Arts	Number Tested	% Below Basic	% Basic	% Proficient	% Advanced	% Meet Standard
All Students	47,072	26.7	47.0	22.3	4.0	73.3
White	26,519	16.3	47.0	30.6	6.2	83.7
African-American	18,413	40.7	47.6	10.8	0.9	59.3
<b>Asian/Pacific Is.</b>	<b>537</b>	<b>15.5</b>	<b>43.6</b>	<b>31.5</b>	<b>9.5</b>	<b>84.5</b>
Hispanic	1,248	44.9	40.1	13.0	2.1	55.1
Am. Indian/Alaskan	123	27.6	48.0	21.1	3.3	72.4

Grade 8 Mathematics	Number Tested	% Below Basic	% Basic	% Proficient	% Advanced	% Meet Standard
All Students	47,397	32.5	45.2	14.2	8.1	67.5
White	26,620	20.9	47.1	19.5	12.4	79.1
African-American	18,532	48.6	42.8	6.7	1.9	51.4
<b>Asian/Pacific Is.</b>	<b>549</b>	<b>10.9</b>	<b>41.7</b>	<b>24.4</b>	<b>23.0</b>	<b>89.1</b>
Hispanic	1,326	43.2	41.9	10.3	4.6	56.8
Am. Indian/Alaskan	124	34.7	43.5	16.9	4.8	65.3

Grade 8 Science	Number Tested	% Below Basic	% Basic	% Proficient	% Advanced	% Meet Standard
All Students	49,171	41.1	39.5	10.2	9.3	58.9
White	27,314	26.1	44.7	14.5	14.7	73.9
African-American	19,604	61.3	32.6	4.2	1.9	38.7
<b>Asian/Pacific Is.</b>	<b>554</b>	<b>21.3</b>	<b>42.4</b>	<b>14.1</b>	<b>22.2</b>	<b>78.7</b>
Hispanic	1,308	53.4	33.6	7.7	5.4	46.6
Am. Indian/Alaskan	125	44.0	38.4	13.6	4.0	56.0

Grade 8 Social Studies	Number Tested	% Below Basic	% Basic	% Proficient	% Advanced	% Meet Standard
All Students	49,193	35.3	40.4	13.3	11.1	64.7
White	27,326	22.1	42.6	18.2	17.1	77.9
African-American	19,615	53.2	37.5	6.5	2.8	46.8
<b>Asian/Pacific Is.</b>	<b>554</b>	<b>19.1</b>	<b>40.6</b>	<b>19.3</b>	<b>20.9</b>	<b>80.9</b>
Hispanic	1,306	45.7	37.9	9.8	6.6	54.3
Am. Indian/Alaskan	125	29.6	42.4	13.6	14.4	70.4

**bridges**

Filipinas invites Filipino American organizations with a track record of successful projects to share their stories. You may reach us at [editorial@filipinasmag.com](mailto:editorial@filipinasmag.com).



**Filipino-American Association of Greater Columbia, South Carolina**



**Sense of Belonging: FAAGC reaches out to South Carolina Filipinos. (Front row, l-r): Helen Alon, Cecille Geoghegan, Imelda Go. (Middle row, l-r): Edith Alston, Grace Collins, FAAGC President, Lulu Anderson, Pete Liunoras, Polly Pearson, Alan Matienzo, Sunny Burroughs. (Back row, l-r): Walter Gantt, Alan Geoghegan, FAAGC Vice-President.**

**Pinoy Pride Lives On**

By Alan Geoghegan

A very gratifying aspect of being closely involved with the Filipino-American Association of Greater Columbia, South Carolina (FAAGC) is the challenge of reaching the Fil-Am community families and keeping them involved in our activities. There are 6,423 Filipinos in South Carolina according to the 2000 U.S. Census. Currently, FAAGC has about 120 family memberships, with 20 families having been members continuously since 1991.

FAAGC was formally organized on June 9, 1991, when Mt. Pinatubo erupted. We had our first fundraiser that benefited an orphanage in Angeles City. Last October, we held our 14th Annual Gala to help raise needed money for the association's scholarship fund and our dream of having a Fil-Am cultural center.

A nonprofit, all-volunteer organization, FAAGC aims to promote the Philippine cultural heritage, to foster intercultural education and understanding, and to provide charitable assistance when needed. It is administered by a 12-member Executive Board composed of elected officers who serve a 2-year term.

Three FAAGC presidents (Nieves McNulty, Peter Liunoras, Grace Collins) and two members (Francisco Sy and Noel Alon) have all received awards for their community service in South Carolina.

FAAGC has a cultural dance troupe, a newsletter (being archived for posterity by the University of South Carolina's Caroliniana Library), a speakers' bureau, and educational exhibits displaying Philippine culture and history. Each year, we have our formal gala, a Christmas party, an Easter picnic and regular membership meetings for the public, in addition to various fund raising activities.

"The inspiration for me to join our FilAm group has to do with the Filipino term "samahan" (unity). When I go to a Filipino gathering, it is like taking a little trip back home; not only do we enjoy the food but we also want to remember our culture. We love the Filipino lifestyle; this is the love for celebration and desire to enjoy life. Our parents taught us to always be thankful to God and share what we have with others. We show this through gatherings and fun filled activities," says member Charles Goyeneche.

"The biggest motivation is for the Filipino-American children who were born here - we want them to know about and to appreciate their cultural heritage. Hopefully this will help them understand who they are," adds former FAAGC president Nieves McNulty.

In 1993 and 1999 FAAGC collaborated with Hiyas-Min (the Philippine Cultural Society of Charleston, SC), to present the "Karilagan (Beauty)" and "Kalayaan (Cry for Freedom)" cultural showcases. In 1997 it sponsored the stage presentation "The Philippines: Yesterday, Today and Forever" performed by the Manila-based, world-touring Philippine Centennial Youth Delegation. In 1998 FAAGC's own Columbia Fil-Am Cultural Dance Troupe served as the opening act for the West Coast recording group Pinay in a first-of-its-kind cultural showcase/concert in the southeast. In 2001 the organization co-hosted a post-performance reception for the Bayanihan, the world-renowned Philippine National Dance Company, after its cultural show here.

Together with around 20 Fil-Am related organizations

and groups in the state, FAAGC has brought Filipiniana into South Carolina.

"The sense of belonging keeps me inspired to be with Fil-Ams. It is in this social group that I can express my 'Filipino-ness.' When I see another Filipino on the street, in the malls, or wherever, I feel a connection almost immediately," says Eva Rigney, FAAGC's first president.

McNulty notes, "as long as FAAGC continues to hold activities and opportunities for the young people to experience all that is good about Filipino life, then I think we are going in the right direction."

Future plans for the organization include increasing its membership, improving the quality and quantity of the Fil-Am dance troupe so youth members can have the opportunity to practice and perform, coordinating and collaborating with other Fil-Am organizations and solidifying plans for a cultural center in Columbia, South Carolina (so far, FAAGC has raised \$12,000).

Alan Geoghegan was born in the Philippines, raised in New York and moved from Manila to South Carolina in 1997. He is currently Vice President of the

## THE SAGA OF THE PHILIPPINE WALING-WALING ORCHID

by Imelda Go

Note: Many thanks go to Charita and Rex Puentespina of the Puentespina Orchids and Tropical Plants, Inc. in Davao for information regarding the waling-waling. Rex, Charita's son, is also the current president of the Philippine Orchid Society. They can be reached at waling@info.com.ph

Orchids produce favorite flowers for corsages and have a fascinating horticultural history. *Orchid* is the popular name for members of the Orchidaceae plant family, which is probably the largest plant family on earth with 450+ genera; 10,000 to 17,500 species; and now tens of thousands of hybrids with an estimated 1,000 hybrids being produced each year. They can be found in all continents except Antarctica and found in temperate, subtropical, and tropical climates but are rarely seen in deserts.

There are different types of orchids based on where they grow. The saprophytic orchids grow in decaying plant matter, the lithophytic ones live on rocks, and the majority (80%) is epiphytic and live on tropical or subtropical trees. However, there is no such thing as a parasitic orchid. The plants gather their nutrients from decayed organic matter or from the air.

### Queen of Philippine Orchids

"The richest assortment of orchids comes from tropical Asia, including Malaysia and the Philippines. Here the bulk of such great genera as ... *Vanda* are the most important." (Encyclopedia Americana, 1996). *Vanda* is a genus of the orchid family with about 70 species and numerous hybrids produced by



crossing *Vanda* species with each other or with other orchid genera. "One of the most beautiful species, *V. sanderiana*.... This many-colored Philippine flower is often used in hybridization" (Encyclopedia Britannica, 2002).

*Euanthe (Vanda) sanderiana*, or the waling-waling, is only found naturally in the Philippines, being indigenous to the Davao, Cotabato, and Zamboanga provinces. Often two-toned, these fragrant orchids bloom once a year and grow on trees along the foothills of Mt. Apo where the Philippine Eagle, the national bird of the Philippines, may also be found.

The waling-waling has been referred to as the *Queen of Philippine Orchids*. The orchid was first discovered by German botanist Carl Roebelin who was sent by the British firm of Sanders & Sons to look for orchid and tropical plant specimens. Roebelin brought the orchid to London in 1881. In 1882, German taxonomist Heinrich Gustav Reichenbach named it *Vanda sanderiana* in honor of Frederick Sanders. [Editor's note: due to its uniqueness, waling-waling was later as-

signed its own genus *Euanthe*, a monotypic genus with the species name *sanderiana* (that is, the genus has only a single species)]

In a few years, waling-waling became a sensation and was a popular parent for orchid hybridization programs after the gorgeous *Vanda rothschildiana*, a cross between waling-waling and *Vanda coerulea*, was made in France 1931. Many popular *Vanda* and other hybrids can be traced to the *sanderiana* lineage.

### Back To Its Throne

Has it always been such a happy story for the waling-waling? The plant nearly disappeared from the Philippine landscape due to deforestation. Back then few people, if any, knew of the horticultural and commercial value of the plant. Once it was imported to other countries, it was available for purchase in the Philippines but at exorbitant prices.

Thanks to the efforts of **Charita Puentespina**, the waling-waling is today affordable and available all over the Philippines. In 1984, she had breakthroughs in propagating the plant via embryo and later tissue culture. In 1985, she made available to the public healthy waling-waling seedlings at the *Araw ng Dabaw* (Davao Day) celebration that year. She had succeeded in restoring the queen back to its throne in Davao and eventually the Philippines.

### Waling-waling Legend

The waling-waling has had a role in legends, myths, and traditions of Filipinos, specifically the Diangan-Bagobos of Davao. The plant was called *waring-waring* (goddess) and

*diwatang madayaw* (beautiful lady from heaven).

The legend of how Waring-Waring, the goddess of Mt. Apo, became the orchid revolves around the love between a mortal, Madiger, and the goddess who gave life to seeds and spores that would become plants and trees. Madarangan, the chief of the gods, gave her this power.

Although a goddess and betrothed to Madat, the god of time and fate, she fell in love with Madiger, a mortal who ruled as *datu* (chief) of the land. He was skilled in physical combat, beautiful in mind, and blessed with manly beauty himself. Waring-Waring observed him bathe in Sibulan Spring each morning from her mountain throne and soon forgot about her betrothal to Madat who was ugly in form, thought, and speech. She could never learn to love Madat. She finally decided to take the form of a maiden and present her services to Madarangan as a palace weaver. Madiger could see her exquisite beauty and decided to make her the palace garden keeper because weaving was too menial for such a maiden.

As the flowers bloomed under Waring-Waring's care, so did Madiger's love for her grow. He then asked her to be his bride. For fear of being rejected, he also said, "I will be a hermit and will come out into the world only on the first three weeks of the eighth month of the year to remind you of my love." Of course, Waring-Waring agreed to marry him.

Madat was enraged at the news and ordered his brother Kagi, the god of illusion and

(continued on Page 7)

### Orchid Trivia

Did you know that the vanilla plant, whose fruits yield vanilla flavor, is a genus of the orchid family? The vanilla flavor comes from the aromatic essence of vanillin. Vanilla flavorings can also be obtained from the tonka/tonqua/tonquin bean and other cheaper natural or synthetic substitutes.

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# WALING-WALING

(continued from Page 6)

magic, to punish her. Before the two could wed, Kagi turned her into a very tiny seed that floated in the wind. Madiger went into despair at her disappearance. He searched for her but to no avail. Indeed he became a hermit living in a cave while forever lamenting his lost love.

Madarangan took pity on the ill-fated lovers. He took Waring-Waring, the seed, and placed her on a tree that grew by the mouth of Madiger's cave. The seed grew into the orchid and on the eighth month of the year, Madiger saw

the beautiful blooms that he only saw in his dreams of Waring-Waring. He then knew she would always be with him.

**In recent times a number of Davaoëños have promoted the idea that the waling-waling should be the Philippines' national flower instead of the sampaguita, which is not indigenous to the country. After all, waling-waling was originally only found in the Philippines. On August 5, 1999, it was declared the official flower of Davao City. ❖**

# FASA Showcase

(continued from Page 1)

grapher for the modern dance troupe, with assistance from Beejay Basconillo. "These are the main guys, but honestly, everyone is pretty much involved," notes AJ. FAAGC treasurer and USC math professor George McNulty serves as the FASA faculty adviser.

Tickets are \$5 each at the door and may be purchased in advance by contacting any FASA member. For more details about the *FASA Night* showcase, contact A.J. Alon (aonin@yahoo.com or 544-1006) or one of the other officers listed on the FASA website at

<http://web.sa.sc.edu/fasa/>

## Beyond Stereotypical Student Achievement (continued from Page 4)

ren to speak any other language in the home. Recent child developmental research shows how children, up to a certain age, can easily learn multiple languages and that being exposed to several languages does not make their English any worse than if they only learned English.

Family and individual values also interact with cultural factors. For example, certain cultures put a premium on intellectual and academic performance. A particular family might consider becoming a university professor or a doctor or a lawyer a tradition and a legacy to uphold.

Parents will often profess that they do what they do for the benefit of the child. They might say that their children may not see the benefits

right away but will when they grow up. That can be so true. On the other hand, children sometimes complain of feeling so much pressure from their parents and society to achieve.

How do we strike a harmonious balance between preparing for the future and allowing a child to thrive and flourish during their developmental years? There is no simple answer to this question — **each family has its own priorities, values and sense of balance.**

In time, children will grow up and become parents themselves; they will know firsthand the sacrifices parents makes for their children. For the children's sake, it may serve parents well to remember how it was when they were children themselves and how they once looked at the world the way only a child could. ❖

### Average SAT Scores of High School Seniors in South Carolina and U.S.A. by Ethnic Group

Students take the Scholastic Assessment Test (SAT) to provide colleges with information about how well they are prepared for a college-level curriculum. The SAT is written test composed of two sections: verbal reasoning and mathematics reasoning. Scale scores range from 200 to 800 for each section of the test. Scores are also reported as combined verbal and mathematics scores, called composite scores ranging from 400 to 1600.

SOUTH CAROLINA										
Ethnic Group	2004					2003				
	Number	%	Verbal	Math	Composite	Number	%	Verbal	Math	Composite
American Indian	143	1	468	471	939	113	1	461	459	920
Asian American	457	2	506	557	1063	422	2	500	546	1046
African American	5,363	27	419	423	842	4,953	26	422	425	847
Mexican American	109	1	476	477	953	92	0	461	477	938
Puerto Rican	63	0	503	482	985	48	0	490	483	973
Other Hispanic	180	1	494	494	988	132	1	491	483	974
White	13,095	66	515	517	1032	12,778	68	518	521	1039
Other	351	2	499	493	992	314	2	506	498	1004
No response	3,203	*	513	516	1029	3,979	*	502	503	1005
U.S.A.										
Ethnic Group	2004					2003				
	Number	%	Verbal	Math	Composite	Number	%	Verbal	Math	Composite
American Indian	8,219	1	483	488	971	7,452	1	480	482	962
Asian American	112,542	10	507	577	1084	100,970	10	508	575	1083
African American	137,953	12	430	427	857	125,657	12	431	426	857
Mexican American	57,739	5	451	458	909	50,375	5	448	457	905
Puerto Rican	16,449	1	457	452	909	14,569	1	456	453	909
Other Hispanic	48,192	4	461	465	926	42,548	4	457	464	921
White	719,753	63	528	531	1059	670,260	64	529	534	1063
Other	46,615	4	494	508	1002	39,146	4	501	513	1014
No response	271,545	*	522	535	1057	355,347	*	510	525	1035

\* Not included in calculating percentages.

Source: SC Dept. of Education's SOUTH CAROLINA 2004 SAT REPORT— August 2004

( <http://www.myschools.com/tracks/testscores/sat/2004/> )

## ACHIEVEMENTS GALORE



**Now that the school year is almost over, it's time to start preparing for the *Fil-Am Bulletin's* annual "ACHIEVEMENTS GALORE" issue. In the next issue (*Summer 2005*) of the Association newsletter, we would like to make a special recognition of the graduation and recent scholastic, athletic, academic, and other achievements of Fil-Am adults and children in the area.**

**Provide us with the details (full name, school, grade, awards, college plans, etc.) as well as a photograph so we can give due recognition for your and/or your child/ren's achievements. Contact the Editor at 738-0372 or e-mail ( [FilAmSC@yahoo.com](mailto:FilAmSC@yahoo.com) ) with the details no later than June 30, 2005. (Note that photographs [preferably B&W or colored photos with light background] may be cropped to fit the space.) ❖**

## FILIPINO—AMERICAN Association of Greater Columbia

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- \* **March 19, 2005** (Saturday, 7:00 p.m.)
  - ▶ Filipino American Student Association (FASA) *Philippine Cultural Showcase*
    - ◆ Russell House, USC
    - corner of Greene and Bull St., Columbia, SC
- \* **March 27, 2005** (Sunday, 1:00 p.m.)
  - ▶ FAAGC Elections & Columbia Fil-Am Annual Easter Picnic
    - ◆ Sesquicentennial State Park (*Shed 1*)
    - 9564 Two Notch Road, Columbia, SC 29223
- \* **April 29 — May 1, 2005** (Friday-Sunday )
  - ▶ Columbia International Festival
    - ◆ SC State Fairgrounds
    - 1200 Rosewood Drive, Columbia, SC 29201
- \* **May 21, 2005** (Saturday, 2:00 p.m.)
  - ▶ Fil-Am General Membership Meeting & "Start of Summer" Picnic
    - ◆ Sesquicentennial State Park (*Shed 2*)
    - 9564 Two Notch Road, Columbia, SC 29223

**Mark Your Calendars Now!**

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# FIL-AM BULLETIN

of the Filipino-American Association of Greater Columbia, SC

P.O. Box 24112, Columbia, SC 29224

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Spring 2005

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Volume 14, Number 3



### Reminders:

- \* **FASA Night: A Philippine Cultural Showcase** in on Saturday, March 19, 2005 at the USC Russell House ballroom
- \* The **FAAGC Elections** and annual **Columbia Fil-Am Easter Picnic** will be held on **Sunday, March 27, 2005** at the **Sesquicentennial State Park**



The University of South Carolina's  
Filipino American Student Association  
presents:  
The First Annual Philippine Cultural Showcase



March 19, 2005...7pm-10pm...Russell House Ballroom..

**\$5 per person** (includes food)  
(*lechon, adobo, pancit, lumpia*)

(corner of Greene St. and Bull St.)  
**USC, Columbia, SC**

Tickets available at the door or in advance from FASA members.

*For details and tickets, contact:*

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