



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

★ Volume 16, Number 3

★ P.O. Box 24112, Columbia, SC 29224

★ Spring 2007

## Fil-Am Spring Picnic, Easter Egg-hunt on April 8 at Sesqui Park

The Columbia Fil-Am annual spring picnic will be held at the Sesqui-centennial State Park on Easter Sunday, April 8, 2007, starting at 1:00 p.m. In addition, the election of FAAGC officers for the next term will be conducted.

The annual spring picnic is a great time to meet new and old Fil-Am members and acquaintances in one of Columbia's most beautiful state parks [9564 Two Notch Road, Columbia, SC 29223; (803) 788-2706]. For map and specific directions, visit FAAGC's website: [www.FilAmSC.org](http://www.FilAmSC.org). [Note: The park charges an entrance fee of \$2 per adult and \$1.25 per SC senior; 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 friends. There will be a barbecue grill set up to cook hot-dog, hamburger and/or chicken. For variety, suggested covered dishes are as follows, based on the first letter of the family names (of course, they can also bring their own specialty dishes):

- A - B : Pork or beef dish
- C - F : Chicken or fish dish

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## Columbia Fil-Am To Elect New Officers for 2007-09

Elections are just around the corner. No, not the U.S. presidential election — that's still over a year away. No, not the Philippine midterm national and local elections — that's still on May 14.

Yes, the election of FAAGC officers for the term 2007-09 will be held in a couple of weeks — on **Sunday, April 8, 2007**, during the annual *Columbia Fil-Am Spring Picnic/Easter Egg-hunt* at Sesqui-centennial State Park. The new set of officers will serve from July 1, 2007 through June 30, 2009.

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 April 8 during the picnic but prior to the actual voting, members can still vote (and be elected). For current membership status, check with the Membership Committee chair **Helen Alon (738-0372; helenqda@yahoo.com)**. An updated membership list will be available at the picnic.

All are encouraged to take a more active and participatory role in the Fil-Am  
*continued on Page 4*

## RVHS Fil-Am Youth Club Sets Car Wash To Benefit Scholarship Fund

The Ridge View High School (RVHS) Fil-Am Youth Club has scheduled a car wash to raise funds for the *Fil-Am Scholarship Fund*.

The car wash is set for **Saturday, April 28, 2007**, at the ROTC parking lot of **Ridge View High School (4801 Hard Scrabble Road, Columbia)** from **10:00 a. m. to 2:00 p.m.** Rain date is **May 5**.

Tickets for a minimum donation of \$5.00 can be purchased in advance or at  
*continued on Page 6*

## Fil-Am To Exhibit "Philippine Tapestry" at Columbia International Festival

FAAGC will participate again in the annual *Columbia International Festival* to be held at the Cantey Building of the SC State Fairgrounds on **March 31 — April 1, 2007**. Now in its 12th year, the festival enables area residents and visitors to experience "the world [when it] comes to Columbia."

The Association's cultural and educational exhibit has the theme of "A Philippine Tapestry — Luzon, Visayas,  
*continued on Page 2*



### ~ 3 FOR 3 ~

Three generations (or their equivalent) of Columbia Filipinos and Filipino-Americans (both longtime and newly arrived residents) gather for the traditional Kodak moment during the recent baby shower for new FAAGC member **Bec Abeleda** who is expecting triplets. Photo courtesy of *Lisa Edwards*.



*The President's Corner* ..... by Alan Geoghegan

**BEST WISHES FOR CONTINUED SUCCESS**

Greetings to all of our members and Fil-Am friends this spring.

A number of us will be volunteering at the upcoming *Columbia International Festival* (March 31st & April 1) where we will display a Philippine exhibit. Please come and visit us and show support for our Fil-Am. **Cecilia Jacobsen** of the *Fil-Am*

Store will be selling Filipino food, so please come ready for some chicken *adobo* or *lumpia*.

Also upcoming will be our **annual Easter Picnic** on April 8 which will be particularly special this year due to the board elections we will have. Considering an officer's position on the FAAGC board promotes our activities in this area and is a great way to contribute to the community. I encourage all new and old

members to get involved; you can truly make a difference. Please support any elected officers and let's move our Association forward!

Lastly, mark your calendars for our **17th Annual gala** to be held in September at the Radisson Hotel

I look forward to seeing many of you soon!

*Maraming Salamat!*

**Spring Picnic**

(continued from Page 1)

- G - J** : Cooked rice, bread
- K - N** : Vegetable dish
- O - T** : Dessert (cakes, cookies, fruits, etc)
- U - Z** : Noodles (*pancit*, *palabok*, etc.)
- FAAGC**: Ice, plates, utensils, hotdog, hamburger, buns

Planned activities include an Easter egg-hunt and children's games coordinated by the RVHS Fil-Am Youth Club under the guidance of Peter Liunoras. Parents with young children are requested to bring at least a dozen goodies-filled plastic Easter eggs for the egg-hunt.

**FAAGC members and others in the 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 can come earlier; the reserved park shed (*Shed 2 next to the baseball field*) is available from 10:00 a.m. on. Picnic goers are also urged to bring their portable chairs. ♦

**Search for Outstanding Filipinos Abroad**

For further information, check the web site

[www.FILAMIMAGE.COM](http://www.FILAMIMAGE.COM)

click on the "Twenty Outstanding Filipino-Americans" menu button and click on

**TOFA Criteria**, Award Application Form, and the *Birth of FIL-AM IMAGE*.

**Columbia International Festival** (continued from Page 1)

and Mindanao." The display will feature maps, representative products, photos, cultural items, and videos.

Set-up for the festival will begin at 2:00 p.m. on **Thursday, March 29**. FAAGC members and supporters are enjoined to help set-up as well as volunteer during the festival. If anyone has unique Philippine products/items that could be displayed in our cultural booth, please let us know. Call **Alan Geoghegan (787-5255)** or **Odess Brinkman (210-7577)** for cultural display inquiries and volunteer sign-up for 2-to-4-hour shifts for Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

The Philippine food booth, with **Cecilia Jacobsen** in charge, will sell *lumpia*, *adobo*, *pansit*, *longaniza*, cassava cake, among other Filipino delicacies. Volunteers are also needed for the food booth; contact **Cecilia Jacobsen** of the *Fil-Am Store* (803-494-5613) to sign up.

**Entertainment Program**

The USC Filipino American Student Association (FASA) will perform some Philippine folk dances during the festival's cultural entertainment program on Sunday, April 1. Some Fil-Ams will also take part in the *Parade of Nations* and the *International Fashion Shows*.

As before, the Philippines will be represented in the *International Bazaar* by a booth also run by **Cecilia Jacobsen**

(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 12th 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, March 30, brings students from all over the state for a day of fun and learning about cultural diversity and the contributions made by foreign-born residents.

Organized by the International Friendship Ministries, the festival is open to the general public on Saturday (10 am — 7 pm) and Sunday (noon — 6 pm). Admission tickets are \$5 for adults and \$1 for ages 6-12; children under 5 are free. Parking is \$2 per vehicle.

Past FAAGC president **Grace Collins** and FAAGC member **Imelda Go** are members of the 2007 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) ♦

**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)



**2005-2007 EXECUTIVE BOARD**

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ALAN GEOGHEGAN  
(803) 787-5255

*First Vice-President*  
ALAN MATIENZO  
(803) 331-5048

*Second Vice-President*  
MARIO VIRAY  
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*Secretary*  
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(803) 210-7577

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*Treasurer*  
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(803) 788-7101

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**FIL-AM BULLETIN**

*The Official Newsletter of the*  
**FILIPINO-AMERICAN**  
Association of Greater Columbia, SC

P.O. Box 24112  
Columbia, SC 29224

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

**NOEL ALON**

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*Photos: Carlton & Lisa Edwards*  
NCA



**M O T I O N S & T R A N S I T I O N S**

★ **ROMEL (“Bong”) & REBECCA (“Bec”) ABELEDA** of Columbia, SC. One of the newly arrived nurses from the Philippines, he



Bong & Bec Abeleda

works at Palmetto Health Baptist. He hails from San Juan, Metro Manila and Occidental Mindoro, while she is from Novaliches, Quezon City, and Oriental Mindoro. They have a daughter, Raphaella, 2, and are expecting triplets this month.

★ **MICHAEL (“Big Mike”) & MERLE (“Le”) ALFORD** of Cross Hill, SC. They have regularly attended FAAGC gala and other get-togethers. In SC for two decades now, he is originally from



Le & Mike Alford

San Diego, CA, while she hails from Sergio Osmeña, Zamboanga del Norte.

He is into marketing and fishing and she works at Shealy’s Bar-B-Que.

★ **SHIRLEY GRACE CADUHADA & SEAN MCGUINNESS** of West Columbia, SC. Newly arrived in the area, she is from Waukegan, NY and works as a paralegal/notary public with Monge, Davila & Associates. Her significant other, Sean is a South Carolinian who works as an assistant manager at FedEx Kinko’s. She “would love to learn Tagalog.”

★ **EVELYN CASTANEDA** of Columbia, SC. Recently arrived, she hails from

Pasay City and works as a registered nurse at Palmetto Health Baptist.



Evelyn Castaneda

★ **ROMMEL & MIL-LANITA (“Miles”) EDRALIN** of Columbia,



Rommel, Miles & Kyle Edralin

SC. She is a newly arrived nurse from the Philippines who now works at Palmetto Health Baptist. From Midsayap, Cotabato, they have a son, Kyle, 7.

★ **APRILYN GARCIA** of Columbia, SC. One of the newly arrived nurses from the Philippines, she works at Palmetto Health



Aprilyn Garcia

Richland. She is from Manila and thinks that “regular and open communications with Filipino families in SC” can help the Association achieve its objectives.

★ **TERRY & DELIGHT (“Dee”) KIRKLAND** of Columbia, SC. Originally from Butuan City, she is self-employed as a child care director. He is a retired teacher. Longtime area residents, they

**WELCOME NEW MEMBERS**

have two children, Calvin George and James Patrick.

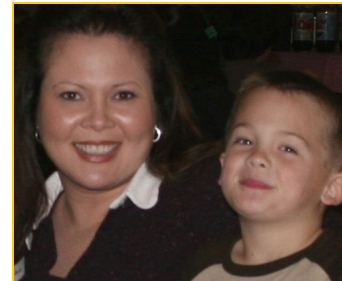
★ **TRACY (“Trey”) & MARIA ELIZA (“Elai”) LINGA** of Columbia, SC. In



Trey & Elai Linga

the area for nearly a year now, he is from Quezon City and works as a nurse at Palmetto Health Richland. She is from Manila and hopes the Association can “help her find a job.”

★ **JOSEPH & CELYN SZOKE, Jr.** of Hopkins, SC. He is a master sergeant with the SC Air National Guard. The daughter of FAAGC members Carlton and Lisa Edwards of Eastover, SC



Celyn Szoke & son Chase

she is a unit secretary at Palmetto Health Baptist. Longtime SC residents, they have four children: Joseph III, 16; Jenna, 9; Chase, 6; & Julia, 5.

★ **ALBERT (“Al”) & CHARITY (“Chary”) TAYLOR** of New Ellenton, SC. Just one year in the state, she hails from Bacolod City, Negros Occidental and is a



Al & Charity Taylor

food service worker with Aiken County schools. Originally from Philadelphia, PA, he is a (ABS-CBN) StarKargo forwarder. “Feeling welcomed and a part of the FAAGC family,” during the recent general membership meeting they attended, they look “forward to participating in future activities.”

★ **DOUGLAS (“Butch”) & HELEN TUPAS** of Columbia, SC. In the area for



Butch & Helen Tupas

almost a year now, they both work at Palmetto Health Baptist where he is a mechanical technician and she is a nurse. Originally from Valencia City, Bukidnon, they have three sons: Christian Ysmael, 16; Sean Cedric, 14; and Douglas Miguel, 13.

★ **SAM & CARMEL (“Mel”) WOOTEN** of Columbia, SC.



Mel Wooten

In the state for about nine months now, she is originally from Manila. She is a networks system consultant while he is a mainframe analyst. They have two children: Joseph, 26, and Alexis, 19.

Visit the **FAAGC Website** 

**www.FilAmSC.org**

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

Issues (in color) of the Fil-Am Bulletin are also available online.

## 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 April 8** regarding the proxy who will vote in and for his/her behalf.

### ELECOM

- ▶ The Election Committee (ELECOM) supervises 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 2007-09 term.
- ▶ Under the three-term limit set in the By-laws, all the incumbent officers except the Treasurer, George McNulty, are still eligible for re-election to their respective present positions, if they so wish.
- ▶ Nominations will be finalized just before the actual voting on April 8.

### 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**

### Congratulations

▶ to **Ilna Sunday**, a science teacher at Crayton Middle School and the current Richland One *Teacher of the Year*, on her being named one of the five finalists for the *S.C. Teacher of the Year* for the 2007-08 academic year. The winner to be announced May 4 becomes SC's nominee for *National Teacher of the Year* honors in spring 2008.

Of Fil-Am parentage, she had previously taught at Richland Two's Dent Middle School and Richland Northeast High School.

▶ to **Carrie Hopkins Moore** for recently passing the SC State Board of Nursing licensure. Now working at Palmetto Health Richland, she is the oldest daughter of FAAGC sustaining charter member Cindy Tefft now living in Schaumburg, IL. ❖

### Election of Officers

(continued from Page 1)

Association by voting or running for positions in the Fil-Am Executive Board.

Nominations can be made by contacting this year's Election Committee chair **Marj Peña** (732-1202; mpena@biol.sc.edu) or ELECOM members **Helen Alon** (738-0372; helenqda@yahoo.com) and **Peter Liunoras** (699-1214; pliuororas@rvh.richland2.org).

(For more information, see the *Fil-Am election primer* on this page). ❖

### Fil-Am Scholarship

**Graduating Fil-Am high school students are reminded to apply now for the Columbia Fil-Am Scholarship by June 30.**

Graduating seniors who have participated in Fil-Am activities and whose parents are members of FAAGC are eligible to apply for the *FIL-AM Scholarship*.

For details, contact **Nieves McNulty** (781-9509; nmcnulty@colacoll.edu) or **Peter Liunoras** (699-1214; pliuororas@rvh.richland2.org). Application forms can also be downloaded from the FAAGC website: [www.FilAmSC.org](http://www.FilAmSC.org). ❖

### SPECIAL THANKS to:

- ▶ **JAMES GUNN** of Summerton, SC, for his newsletter fund donation;
- ▶ **MIKE PADUA** of Columbia, SC, for his donation of Christmas raffle prizes;
- ▶ **Dr. FELICITAS BUGARIN SANTOS** of Columbia, SC, and **Dr. FRANCISCO SY** of Rockville, MD, for their *Scholarship Fund* donations;
- ▶ those who donated to the *Orphanage Fund* and the *Filipina Teacher Aid Fund*.

### CONDOLENCES

✠ Our condolences to the families of:

▶ **Linda Bowen**, whose brother died recently in the Philippines.

▶ **Douglas Brown** who passed away on February 26, 2007 in Columbia, SC. He was 73.

A master contractor and a Navy veteran, he was the husband of former FAAGC officer Linda Brown and the father of former *Fil-Am Cultural Dance Troupe* performers Raymund and Bryan Brown.

▶ **Randall Collins** who died in January in North Carolina. He was the father of Ronnie Collins and Mary Collins Barradas, the children of FAAGC past president Grace Collins.

▶ **Aprilyn Garcia**, whose father died recently in the Philippines.

▶ **Thomas Mathis** who died in January in Columbia, SC. He was the "best friend and significant other" of FAAGC sustaining charter member Precy Holbrook.

▶ any other FAAGC members and supporters 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* co-chairs **Merlyn Bajamunde** (422-1524) or **Tessie Kenerson** (699-1178) ASAP so proper arrangements, if needed, can be made by the Association.] ❖



## Filipino-Americans in Hawaii

by Imelda Go

**Note:** In the Spring 2006 *Fil-Am Bulletin* issue, the "U.S. Congress Officially Recognizes Filipino American Centennial in 2006" article mentioned that "it was in 1906 when the first significant numbers of Filipinos arrived in the U.S. to work in Hawaii's sugar plantations." This article is a follow-up to that feature.

The Filipino community in Hawaii celebrated their centennial anniversary in 2006. The 21<sup>st</sup> Legislature of the State of Hawaii passed *Act 159* (House Bill No. 1942), which was signed into Law by then Filipino-American Governor Benjamin Cayetano on June 27, 2002. The Law established the Filipino Centennial Celebration Commission, "which shall have charge of all arrangements for the commemoration of the centennial anniversary of the arrival of the first Filipinos to Hawaii." The theme of the celebration ([www.filipinosinhawaii100.org](http://www.filipinosinhawaii100.org)) was "*Filipinos in Hawaii: 100 Years and Beyond.*" The year-long celebration started on December 17, 2005 and went through December 23, 2006.

Many generations of Filipinos in Hawaii trace their roots to Filipino plantation workers (*sakadas*). On December 20, 1906, the first 15 *sakadas* arrived on *SS Doric* to work in the plantation fields for the Hawaiian Sugar Planter Association (HSPA). There are records of Filipinos settling in Hawaii prior to this date, the *sakadas* are considered to be the vanguards because they blazed the trail for more Filipinos to follow. In the next year, Filipino laborers followed. Of course, the Filipinos were not the only ones recruited for the plantations. There were Chinese, Japanese, Portuguese, Puerto Rican, Spanish, and Korean nationals who made Hawaii their home.

In subsequent years, three waves of Filipino migration to Hawaii significantly added to their numbers. The **first wave** had 120,000 plantation workers arrive between 1906 and 1934.

The **second wave** involved the *Tydings McDuffie Act of 1934*, which limited the entry of Filipinos into the U.S. After World War II began, many plantation workers joined the defense industry. The HSPA and Pineapple Growers Association declared a labor shortage and asked to be exempt from strict immigration laws.

Consequently 6,000 men, 446 women, and 915 children arrived as *sakadas* in 1946. In 1946, Filipinos were also allowed to enter the U.S. military. The servicemen would eventually return to the Philippines, get married, and then move to Hawaii. From 1946 to early 1960s, more than 12,000 Filipinos settled in Hawaii.

## FAMOUS FILIPINO HAWAIIANS

- **Benny Agbayani** - a Major League and Japan series baseball player.
- **Kimee Jonelle Balmilero** - an actress on Broadway.
- **Angela Perez Baraquio** - the first Asian-American to win the *Miss America* pageant in 2001.
- **Romeo Munoz Cachola** - one of the first Filipino Americans to be elected to the Honolulu City Council. He was also a State legislator in the House of Representatives (1984-1992).
- **Tia Carrere** - an actress, model, and singer.
- **Ben Cayetano** - the first Filipino to be elected governor in the U.S.
- **Eduardo Malapit** - a Hawaiian mayor of Filipino descent.
- **Benjamin Menor** - the first Filipino-American to serve as a Hawaii state senator in 1962. He is also the first Filipino-American to be appointed to a state Supreme Court.
- **Jasmine Trias** and **Camille Velasco** - finalists of *American Idol*'s third season.
- **Lou Diamond Phillips** - actor, director, writer and producer.
- **Brian Viloria** - a professional boxer nicknamed "Hawaiian Punch."

The **third wave** came after the *1924 National Origins Act* was lifted in 1965. The act restricted the number of Filipinos who could immigrate to the U.S. After it was lifted, Filipino-Americans already in Hawaii petitioned for their loved ones in the Philippines. From 1965, 4,000 to

5,000 Filipinos immigrated to Hawaii annually.

For more information about Filipino migration to the United States, visit The Philippine History Site (<http://opmanong.ssc.hawaii.edu/filipino>), which was funded by the Hawaii Committee for the Humanities' *Pagdiriwang '96* grant (Leonard Andaya, principal investigator) and is co-sponsored by the Filipino-American Historical Society of Hawaii and the University of Hawaii Office of Multicultural Student Services.

*Reference:*

- *Aloha! A hundred years of Pinoys in Hawaii.* OFW Guardian, Volume 1, Number 51, December 19-25, 2005, pages 2-3.

## UPDATES & NEWSBITS

### Orphanage Fund Initiative

FAAGC's fundraiser last December to benefit Philippine orphanages netted \$172 from donations and from raffle proceeds during the last Christmas party. The Executive Board voted to match the amount; hence \$344 will be sent to the *Hospicio de San Jose* orphanage in Manila.

\*\*\*\*\*

### Injured SC Filipina Teacher Now Undergoing Rehab

The Filipina teacher, Carissa Uy, who became comatose for a month after a car accident in Sumter, SC, last November is now recovering well. She was initially given a slim chance of survival. But after brain operation and spinal surgery at the Medical University of South Carolina



Carissa Uy

(MUSC) hospital in Charleston, SC, she is now undergoing outpatient therapy and rehabilitation at the Shepherd Pathways facility in Decatur, Georgia. She is expected to be able to go home to Manila in a month.

In response to the article on Carissa Uy in the last issue of the *Fil-Am Bulletin*, FAAGC, through the initiative of past president Peter Liunoras, raised \$385 from donations, especially at the last Christmas party. FAAGC sent the money to help pay for Carissa's medical needs through the *Hiyas-*

*Min* "Wish You Well" Foundation.

For more information on Carissa's story, check these websites:

- <http://carissaay.blogspot.com>
- <http://tessacruz.multiply.com/journal/item/47>
- <http://carissaay.shutterfly.com>
- <http://tinyurl.com/yro2w2>

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### Filipino Veterans Equity Act of 2007

FAAGC members and concerned readers of this newsletter are encouraged to contact their respective congressmen to support the *Filipino Veterans Equity Act of 2007* (H. R.760). The act seeks to redress the condition of Filipino military veterans who served under the command of General

Douglas McArthur during World War II. Despite those Filipinos having a critical role in the U.S. victory in the Pacific, the U.S. Congress in 1946 mandated that Filipino soldiers would **not** be considered active military for the purposes of veterans' benefits.

House Committee on Veterans' Affairs Chairman Bob Filner (D-CA) has said that he is "hoping that the 110th Congress will finally correct the injustice inflicted on Filipino veterans over 60 years ago."

For more information and details on how to take action, visit this website:

- <http://capwiz.com/military/issues/bills/?bill=9423936>

Or use these web address shortcuts:

- <http://tinyurl.com/2vju24>
- <http://tinyurl.com/23hvmd>

## FILIPINO—AMERICAN Association of Greater Columbia CALENDAR OF EVENTS

\* **March 31— April 1, 2007** (Saturday -Sunday)

▶ **Columbia International Festival**

♦ **SC State Fairgrounds**  
1200 Rosewood Drive, Columbia, SC 29201

\* **April 8, 2007** (Sunday)

▶ **Columbia Fil-Am Annual Easter Picnic & FAAGC Election of Officers for 2007-09**

♦ **Sesquicentennial Park** [(803) 788-2706]  
9564 Two Notch Rd., Columbia, SC 29223

\* **September 22, 2007** (Saturday)

▶ **Columbia Fil-Am 17th Annual Gala & Induction of Officers for 2007-09**

♦ **Radisson Hotel** [(803) 731-0300]  
2100 Bush River Road., Columbia, SC 29210

### Car Wash

(continued from Page 1)

the event. Tickets are available from Scholarship Fund-raising Committee chair **Peter Liunoras** (699-1214), FAAGC 2nd Vice-President **Mario Viray** (699-5265) or from club members during the Easter picnic. For more information about the carwash, contact Fil-Am Youth Club President **Mark Viray** (699-5265 or 873-0593). ❖

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### \*\*\* Just A Reminder \*\*\*

Membership renewal for the Fil-Am Association Year 2006-07 is now due for many members. Please check the mailing address label below — *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 dues are crucial to the continued operations and success of the FAAGC in our community. Please send your membership dues as soon as possible. Dues can also be paid at the Easter picnic. If there are membership renewal questions, contact **Helen Alon** (738-0372; helenqda@yahoo.com). ❖

## FIL-AM BULLETIN

of the Filipino-American Association of Greater Columbia, SC

P.O. Box 24112, Columbia, SC 29224



Spring 2007



Volume 16, Number 3



### Reminders:

\* **Columbia FIL-AM Annual Spring Picnic / Easter Egg-hunt** will be held on **Sunday, April 8, 2007** at the **Sesquicentennial Park**.

**TIME-SENSITIVE MATERIAL  
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