



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 1 ★

P.O. Box 24112, Columbia, SC 29224

★ Summer 2004 ★

Greenwood Fil-Ams Set To Join International Fair

The Filipino-American community in Greenwood, SC, is set to participate in the *10th Annual Wellness Celebration* to be held on Saturday, **September 18th**, from 10:00 am to 2:30 pm, at the Greenwood Mall. In addition to focusing on the four corners of a healthy community - *To Be Happy, To Be Financially Secure, To Be Healthy* and *To Enjoy our Community* - the community celebration will feature an International Fair.

About 65 miles west of Columbia or 60 miles south of Greenville, Greenwood, over its long history, has become a mixture of people from all over the world. The In-
(continued on Page 7)

The
FILIPINO-AMERICAN
Association of Greater Columbia
cordially invites you to its
14th Annual GALA

at the
Columbiana Hotel & Conference Center
(formerly Sheraton Hotel)
(Bush River Road & I-20)
Columbia, SC
on **Saturday, Oct. 16, 2004**
from **6:00 p.m. to midnight**

Columbia Fil-Am To Celebrate Annual Gala on October 16

**New Venue. New Band.
More Fun.**

The Filipino-American Association of Greater Columbia will celebrate its **14th Annual Gala** on **October 16, 2004** at the **Columbiana Hotel & Conference Center** from 6:00 p.m. to midnight. The venue is the former Sheraton Columbia Hotel located at 2100 Bush River Rd, Columbia, SC 29210 --- just off Exit 63 on Interstate 20). The proceeds of the event will support the various community-oriented and youth programs of the Association.

The formal affair (*coat and tie or Filipino Barong required*) includes a three-course sit-down dinner (*London broil and Italian herb chicken breast will be served*) and an entertainment program featuring Philippine folk dances. A mixed American and Filipino-American "high energy dance band" from Greenville, SC, **The Funk Factory** has been tapped to provide live music for the listening and dancing pleasure of the attendees.

Tickets to the gala are \$45 per person
(continued on Page 2)

Fil-Am Youth Club Organized at RVHS

The Ridge View High School Filipino-American Youth Club was started this past school year in April 2004 under the direction of past FAAGC President Peter Liunoras. The club's goal is to promote the Filipino culture to the American-based society while preserving Philippine heritage, traditions, language, etc.

According to Peter, the JROTC instructor at RVHS, "we accept all who wish to participate in our club and perform all

designated duties, regardless of the race. We will continue to participate in all aspects of Columbia Fil-Am activities throughout the year, such as the Easter picnic and our very own car-wash fundraiser held at Ridge View. All profits go towards our *Columbia Fil-Am Scholarship Program*."

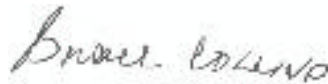
The club meets every Monday starting at 8:00 a.m. The club officers are: Samaria
(continued on Page 7)

The Columbia Fil-Am delegation poses with officers of the Filipino-American Association of Beaufort, Hampton and Jasper Counties of South Carolina (FAABHJ) during FAABHJ's inaugural gala on June 12, 2004 at the Sea Pines Country Club, Hilton Head. (seated, from left) FAAGC dance troupe coordinator Helen Alon, FAABHJ president Florence Allbaugh, FAABHJ secretary Eileen Buckalew; (standing, from left) FAABHJ vice-president Richard Cuanang, Cecille Geoghegan, Raquel Bagnal, Justin Anderson, FAAGC first vice-president Alan Geoghegan, Jasper Lim & Aileen Alon. The Columbia Fil-Am Dance Troupe performed *pangalay* and *tinikling* at the gala.



The President's Corner
by Grace Collins
WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT

Once again, it's time for our yearly gala. Your help and support is needed to make our event successful. I encourage each and every member to volunteer to make our 14th gala a wonderful evening. Talk to any member of the Executive Board and get tickets in advance. Benefactors, donors and advertisers are always needed and are most welcome. Without your help, it will not be possible. I urge all members and friends to join us in this grand event. I also would like to thank everyone in advance for volunteering and showing his or her support. I hope you have a wonderful time! ❖



Fil-Am Annual Gala (continued from Page 1)

\$30 for full-time students. Due to hotel requirements for seating arrangements, FAAGC would like all guests to reserve their tickets by contacting one of our officers by **October 3rd**. Baby-sitting services for children of ages 2 to 10 will be available on-site.

Ten guest suites have been reserved for out-of town members and guests who wish to stay the night at the hotel. The rates are \$89 and should be reserved by **September 23**. Call reservations at **(803) 731-0300** to book a suite.

Gala Souvenir Program

Since the gala is the major annual fund-raising event of

the Association, we are also soliciting all kinds of contribution in the forms of advertisements and donations. The proceeds of the event support the various community-oriented and youth programs of the Association as well as add to the Fil-Am cultural center fund. We request that all ads and contributions for being a sponsor, patron or donor be received no later than **September 26** to be included in the gala souvenir program.

Anyone who wishes to submit an ad in our gala souvenir program is enjoined to contact any officer for an ad packet to be returned to us by September 26, or to e-mail us at **filamsc@yahoo.com** and

request for a sponsor's package to be e-mailed back.

For tickets or more information about the *Fil-Am gala*, please contact **Grace Collins** (803) 782-6952, **Alan Geoghegan** (803) 787-5255, **Julieta Iglesias** (803) 736-0749, or **Polly Pearson** in Sumter (803) 494-5613.

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

Incidentally, photos taken during the 13th Gala last year can still be viewed online at **www.devcomm.com/filam_gala_2003.htm** ❖

How To Reach Us

FAAGC
P.O. Box 24112
Columbia, SC 29224
www.FilAmSC.org
www.FAAGC.org
e-mail: **faagc@hotmail.com**,
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J J J J J J J J J J
2003-2005 EXECUTIVE BOARD

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GRACE COLLINS
(803) 782-6952
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(803) 787-5255
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(803) 782-7665

FAAGC Annual Financial Report

(Fiscal Year 2003-04: July 1, 2003 – June 30, 2004; *unaudited*)
(As reported by **George McNulty**, FAAGC Treasurer)

OPENING	
FUND BALANCES	
<i>as of July 1, 2003:</i>	
General Fund	\$ 3,293.49
Building Fund	11,739.30
Scholarship Fund	1,002.00
Petty Cash	314.30
Total	\$ 16,349.09
CLOSING	
FUND BALANCES	
<i>as of June 30, 2004:</i>	
General Fund	\$ 6,022.82
Building Fund	12,055.30
Scholarship Fund	1,746.50
Dance Troupe Fund	500.00
Petty Cash	283.80
Total	\$ 20,608.42

2003-04	
Net Income:	
Membership Dues	\$ 1,178.00
13th Annual Gala *	3,785.51
Scholarship Fund	744.50
Building Fund	316.00
Banking:	
Interest less Fees	16.94
Total Income	\$ 6,040.95

2003-04	
Net Operating Expenses*:	
Newsletter/Website/	
Directory/Postage	\$ 1,054.94
DeCastro Departure	55.57
Christmas Party	154.46
Easter Picnic	257.65
Supplies (checkbook)	19.00
P.O. Box	38.00
Insurance	202.00
Total Expenses	\$ (1,781.62)

FY 2003-04
Net Annual Proceeds
\$ 4,259.33

[* *Note:* Not included here is an expense of \$2,500 for the 13th Gala, which was paid in FY 2002-2003]

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Filipino-American
Association of Greater Columbia, SC
P.O. Box 24112
Columbia, SC 29224

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

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Motions & transitions

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

★ **SCOTT & JENNIFER ALLRED** of Columbia, SC. A longtime area resident who works at Blue Cross/Blue Shield, Jennifer is the daughter of FAAGC 2nd Vice President Lily Iglesias. Scott works at USC. The couple has a 7-year old child, Cassidy.

★ **DAVE & ODESS BRINKMAN** of West Columbia, SC. Originally from Baguio City, Odess has lived in SC for 10 years now. A Columbia native, Dave works as a software engineer with Intel Corp. They have a son, Jeremy, 4.

★ **TOM & GEMMA CANNING** of Sumter, SC. From Guiuan, Samar, Gemma has been in the area for seven years. Tom, is with the USAF at Shaw AFB. They have a son, Robert, 14, and a daughter, Jessica, 8.

★ **RICHARD & ARLENE EGAN** of Lexington, SC. New to the area, she hails from Olongapo City and hopes "to meet more Filipinos so [she doesn't] feel homesick." Originally from Norfolk, VA, he is with the US Navy. They have two children: Jacel, 14, and Jennica, 10.

★ **BLAKE & JULIE FIELD** of Leesville, SC. Recently arrived in the area, Julie is a fitness instructor from Manila. She hopes the Association can help her "meet more Filipinos" and "help deserving Filipinos to advance in life." Blake is a US Navy retiree.



Jon, Jovi, & Stephen Jon Quiton

★ **CRELLEN "BOO" & JANE HOPKINS** of Clemmons, NC. A longtime Columbia resident before moving out of state, Boo now works in pharmaceutical sales with Abbott Laboratories. He was a one-time member of the *Columbia Fil-Am Cultural Dance Troupe* and his mother, Cindy Tefft, was a pioneer FAAGC officer. His wife Jane is a self-employed speech pathologist.

★ **GALEN & JOHANNE MANAPAT** of Lexington, SC. A Columbia area resident since 1988, he works at the USC School of Medicine. A native of Montreal, Canada, she is a housewife. They have three daughters: Fay, 16; Christine, 11; and Melodie, 8.

★ **ALAN MATIENZO** of Columbia, SC. A civil engineer with the SC Department of Transportation with interests in sports and dancing, he would like the Association to "get as many members involved."

★ **JOE & TINA POPE** of West Columbia, SC. A three-year area resident, she is originally from Bohol. The couple has a 6-year old child, Amour.

★ **WADE & BARBARA PROCTOR** of Columbia, SC. He works at Blue Cross/Blue Shield, while she is a patient care assistant at Palmetto Richland Memorial Hospital.

★ **JON & JOVI QUITON** of Columbia, SC. Originally from Baybay, Leyte, he is pursuing his PhD in statistics at USC. Originally from Tuguegarao, Cagayan, she is a statistician at the Dorn Veter-



New Young Fil-Ams:
Maddison with mom Judy Berends & Kayla Razil with mom Liza Tuazon

ans Affairs Medical Center hospital. They recently arrived in the area from UP Los Baños, where she served as a faculty member and he worked as an assistant scientist at the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI). They have a son, Stephen Jon, 4, who "just loves to sing and play the xylophone."

★ **JEFF & HOPE TENGONCIANG** of Columbia, SC. Only a few months in the Greater Columbia area, he hails from Abucay, Bataan and is a mortgage loan officer with Metro Mortgage. He hopes the Association maintains "regular contact with members" to "enhance friendship and cultural awareness." She is from Baltimore, MD. They have three children: Karie, 19; Bridgette, 12; and Jordanne, 10.

★ **TERRY & LIZA TUAZON** of Columbia, SC. They have two children: Mark Terrence, 5, and Kayla Razil, 1.

★ **DON & RORY WHEELER** of Camden, SC. Longtime residents in the area, Don is a retiree while Rory works at the Kershaw County Medical Center. ♦

WELCOME BACK

★ **LARRY & DELIA SMITH** of Irmo, SC. They are rejoining FAAGC after a few years' absence. She is a nurse at Lexington County Hospital. ♦

Fil-Am Store Cited in Sumter Newspaper

FAAGC stalwarts **LEE & POLLY PEARSON** were recently interviewed for and cited in an article on cultural diversity in Sumter's *The Item* newspaper.

In the article which included a photo of Lee as he inspects inventory at the store, the Pearsons' *Fil-Am Store* was featured as "a reminder of home so [Filipinos] don't lose their culture" and a "welcoming spot for ... anyone who just wants to experience a taste of another culture." ♦

Columbia Fil-Am Youth in Souper Bowl Poster

A pony-tailed Columbia Fil-Am youth will soon have her photo plastered all over the nation as part of the *Souper Bowl* promotional campaign.

Jessamine Cuaresma, the youngest daughter of Manny & Leah Cuaresma, is at the center of the five youths featured in the *Souper Bowl of Caring* poster for the 2005 campaign. The Columbia-based *Souper Bowl of Caring* "is a grassroots, faith-based crusade against hunger led by young people who collect donations in soup pots on or near Super Bowl Sunday."

The poster and other related information on the volunteer program can be found online at www.souperbowl.org. ♦






A*CHIEVEMENTS GALORE


Although the 2004-2005 school year is now in full swing, for posterity sake and historical record, we would be remiss if we don't carry on our annual tradition of recognizing high-achieving children (*and adults too*) in the extended Fil-Am community during the immediate past school year (2003-2004). Belated this may be, **CONGRATULATIONS** to the following graduates and awardees — and all others not mentioned here due to our lack of detailed information on their individual achievements — despite repeated telephone, e-mail, mailed and verbal reminders, only a few families submitted the needed information and/or photos.

The GRADUATES

 **MICHELLE-ARLENNE PASICATAN** graduated in December 2003 from the University of South Carolina with a Master of





Teaching — Latin. A member of Eta Sigma Phi, the Latin Honor Society of which she was president while an undergraduate, she had a GPA of 3.9. She just returned from teaching Classical Languages and Culture at The Foote School in New Haven, CT. She is now teaching Latin in the Richland "TWO" Academies, the single gender program at Dent Middle School. She is the daughter of Alfonso & Susana Pasicatan of Columbia, SC. ♦


 **MARVEL A.B. PASICATAN** graduated in December 2003 from the University of South Carolina with a B.S. in Hotel, Restaurant & Tourism Management with specialization in Club Management. He was a member of Club Manager's Association




of America, and Eta Sigma Delta, the International Hospitality Honor Society. He is currently Service Manager at Sunset Country Club in Sumter, SC. He is a son of Alfonso & Susana Pasicatan of Columbia, SC. ♦

 **PETER BATALON** graduated on May 21, 2004 from Richland Northeast HS. He received the RNHS *Orange & Blue* and *Infolink Community Service* awards. ♦


 **DANIELLE GLENN** graduated on May 29, 2004 from Irmo HS. A *Columbia Fil-Am Cultural Dance Troupe* performer from 1999 to 2001, she is the daughter of Jon Glenn of Columbia, SC. ♦

 **AMANDA GOYENECHÉ** graduated in December 2003 ahead of her class at Hartsville HS. Enrolled at Coker College in January 2004, she was in the Top 10 of the Freshman Class for the 2003-04 school year.

She was chosen to play in the South Carolina Volleyball All-Star tournament held at Lander University in Greenwood last December. A *Columbia Fil-Am Cultural Dance Troupe* member in 1997-98, she is the youngest daughter of Charles & Bev Goyeneche of Hartsville, SC. ♦


 **MICHAELA KENWORTHY** graduated on May 21, 2004 from Richland Northeast HS. She is now pursuing a business degree at the University of South Carolina.

A *Columbia Fil-Am Cultural Dance Troupe* performer from 2000 to 2003, she is the daughter of Steve & Minda Kenworthy formerly of Ft. Jackson, SC. ♦


 **MICHAEL MCNULTY** graduated on May 29, 2004 from Irmo HS. He is now an engineering student at Clemson University.

A *Columbia Fil-Am Cul-*

Cultural Dance Troupe performer in 1998 and 2001, he is the younger son of George & Nieves McNulty of Columbia, SC. ♦

 **ALLISON ORTEZA** graduated on May 21, 2004 from Spring Valley HS. She is now a student at Clemson University.

A *Columbia Fil-Am Cultural Dance Troupe* performer in 2002-03, she is a daughter of Marty Ackerson of Columbia, SC. ♦

 **JUDITH CHRISTA PEÑA** finished high school at the Governor's School for the Arts and Humanities in Greenville, SC, where she played the violin for two years and co-founded the SCGSAH Chess Club.

She is a recipient of the SC Life Scholarship, USC University Scholarship and Faculty Dependent scholarship. She was also awarded a University



Scholarship and admission to the Clemson University Calhoun Honor's College and a Presidential Scholarship to the College of Charleston.

She recently completed the USC Pre-medical Academic and Career Exploration Series (PACES) Summer Residential Program. She is now pursuing a degree in Biochemistry and Pre-Med at the University of South Carolina Honor's College.

A *Columbia Fil-Am Cultural Dance Troupe* performer in 2001, she is the older

daughter of Edsel & Marj Peña of Columbia, SC. ♦

THE GRADUATES-TO-BE

★ **HECTOR CONRADO ALCANTARA** "graduated" with honors from the four-year



old class at Woods Wonderland Learning Center. He gave a speech about the American flag at the graduation. He also models for Shaw's Model and Talent Agency; he appears in a local TV commercial that has been on the air since December 2003. Now attending the St. John Neumann Catholic School, he is the son of Conrad & Rita Alcantara of Columbia, SC. ♦

★ **AJ ALON** completed his freshman year at the University of South Carolina Honors College on the *President's Honor Roll List* for having all A's. He received the "*Flying Without Wings Award*" from the Office of Multicultural Student Affairs in recognition of his "commitment to service and leadership" at USC. Last spring, he was elected as the president of the Filipino American Student Association (FASA) for the 2004-05 school year.

A 10-year *Columbia Fil-Am Cultural Dance Troupe* pioneer performer, he is the son of Noel & Helen Alon of Columbia, SC. ♦

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

★ **AILEEN LEIGH ALON** finished tenth grade in the the *Horizon* and the *Palmetto Center for the Arts* (PCA) magnet programs at Richland Northeast HS on the 4.0 honor roll and with some awards. Inducted into the National Art Honor Society, she received two honorable mention citations during the juried *RNHS Spring Art Show*.

A Key Club member, she also got the *Horizon Community Service Award* for her volunteer work at God's Storehouse and for Fil-Am cultural activities. A member of the Sophomore House of Representatives and the Model United Nations, she was the president of the Spanish International Club and was also inducted into the National Spanish Honor Society.

A *Columbia Fil-Am Cultural Dance Troupe* performer since 1995, she is the daughter of Noel & Helen Alon of Columbia, SC. ♦

★ **JESSAMINE CUARESMA** completed 7th



grade at Dent Middle School's The Learning Collaborative (TLC) magnet program which is designed for Richland District Two's highly-achieving middle schoolers. She was consistently in the A-B Honor roll and was inducted to the National Junior Beta Club.

A member of the Gamecock Aquatics year-round swim team, she started swimming for the Spring Valley High School Swim Team last fall. In June, she competed in the annual statewide Open-Water swim meet at Lake Hartwell and placed 6th over-

all in the girls 13-14 years.3K race.

She also does volunteer work for the *Souper Bowl of Caring* where she and other teens will be featured in the organization's 2005 promotional materials (*see related story on Page 3*). Jessamine is the youngest daughter of Manny and Leah Cuaresma of Columbia, SC. ♦

★ **CATHY GOYENE-CHE** was on the *Dean's List* at USC during the Fall 2003 semester. She spent her Spring 2004 semester at Southern Cross University in Lismore, Australia. She is a daughter of Charles & Bev Goyeneche of Hartsville, SC. ♦

★ **MICHELLE ANNE PEÑA** finished ninth grade at Irmo High School with honors. She played the cello with the Irmo High School Master Orchestra, District 5 Honors Orchestra, and the South Carolina Youth Philharmonic Orchestra. She represented Irmo HS at the SCMEA Regional



Orchestra at Airport High School and the All-State Orchestra in Myrtle Beach. She performed with the Lexington/Richland District 5 Honors Orchestra in the Student Orchestra Project launched by SCETV under the direction of the SC Philharmonic's music director Nicholas Smith. She traveled with the District 5 Honors Orchestra to Hawaii where they participated in the Orchestra Festival.

Michelle presented two cello recitals this year at the USC Recital Hall under the mentorship of Dr. Robert Jes-

elson of the USC School of Music. She participated in a Master cello class conducted by the renowned cellist Matt Heimovitz, and in the annual Palmetto Cello choir at USC. She recently completed a six-week intensive cello program at the Killington Summer Music Festival in Killington, Vermont. She is the younger daughter of Edsel & Marj Peña of Columbia, SC. ♦

★ **ANNA PHILLIPS** completed second grade at



Congaree Elementary School with a number of awards. A member of the 100-Point Club, she was recognized for winning the *We Love America* drawing contest, for the most *Accelerated Reader* points in her class, for second place in spelling bee, and for displaying exemplary character. Achieving all A's for three nine-week periods, she received a honor roll plaque. She is the younger daughter of Mark & Diane Phillips of Lexington, SC. ♦

★ **NICOLE PHILLIPS** finished fifth grade with honors at Congaree Elementary

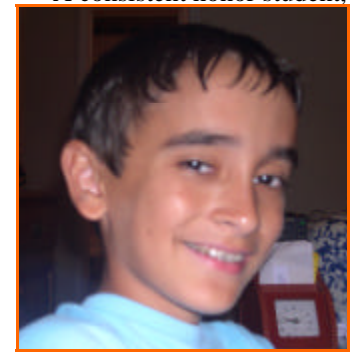


School. A member of the 100-Point Club, she was the first place winner in the fifth grade

vention held at the Adventure Museum. She is the older daughter of Mark & Diane Phillips of Lexington, SC. ♦

★ **ANDREW ROBERT WHITMIRE** completed his elementary studies at Lonnie B. Nelson Elementary School. At the promotion ceremonies last May for fifth grade students, he was awarded the *President's Education Award for Outstanding Academic Excellence*.

A consistent honor student,



he also received the House of Representatives' *Honor Roll Achievement Citation* and the Lieutenant Governor's *Writing Award for Excellence in Composition*.

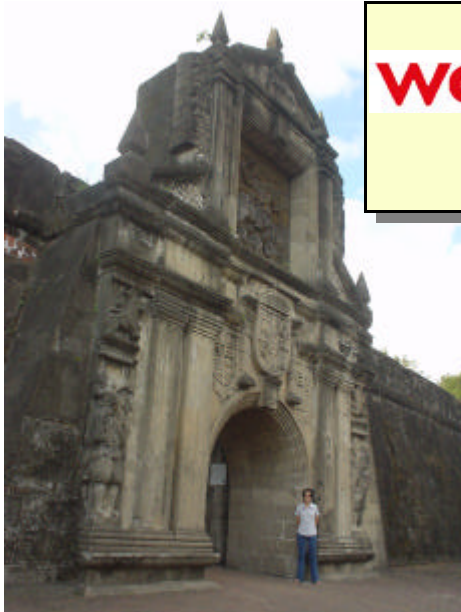
Going into sixth grade, Andrew got accepted to *The Learning Collaborative* (T.L.C.) magnet program at Dent Middle School. In addition to his academic achievements, he played with the Dentsville Little League Baseball last spring as a second baseman and pitcher. He is the son of Warren & Myrna Whitmire of Columbia, SC. ♦

101 Ways to Combat Prejudice

For practical suggestions for combating prejudice and stereotypes at home, in schools, in the workplace, in the community, and in houses of worship, check this website:

www.adl.org/prejudice/

The free booklet *Close the Book on Hate: 101 Ways to Combat Prejudice* can also be picked up at any Barnes & Noble bookstore.



THE WOW PHILIPPINES EXPERIENCE

by Imelda Go

Having grown up in a country with 7,107 islands, in December 2003 I was excited to finally go beyond the only two major Philippine islands that I had ever been to — Luzon and Corregidor. The former is the Philippines' largest island and the latter is remembered for its significance during World War II. The majority of the Philippine islands are uninhabited and it is difficult to determine the exact number of islands since some islets may not be visible depending on the tide levels.

● **Cebu** is where Ferdinand Magellan, the world's first circumnavigator, landed his ship on March 16, 1521. Cebu City, the *Queen City of the South*, is the country's oldest one. The mango industry also thrives on the island. The mango is the Philippine's national fruit.

● **Bohol** is a convenient ferry ride away from Cebu. It has many natural attractions, such as the tarsier monkey, the world's smallest primate; the white beaches of Panglao Island; caves as Bohol is nicknamed *Cave Country*; and the 1,200+ world-famous 30-meter tall chocolate hills. During the summer, the heat causes the grass on the hills to turn brown or chocolate-like in color.

● **Boracay** is one of the Philippines' hottest tourist spots. Boracay's 4-kilometer *White Beach* is touted as one of the

world's top ten beaches. It takes its name from its fine white talcum powder-like sand, which stays cool to the feet regardless of the outdoor temperature. *White Beach* is lined by numerous restaurants, shops, resorts, water sports establishments, and clubs.

The island is a mecca for water sports enthusiasts, beach lovers, and for people watchers since celebrities frequent the island.

WOW Philippines

Richard "Dick" Gordon, the Philippine Department of Tourism's (DOT) former secretary, conceived of the award-winning *WOW Philippines Campaign* (www.wowphilippines.com.ph). *WOW* stands for *Wealth of Wonders*. The campaign seeks to encourage local and foreign tourists to explore the country.

Its web site features several *WOW* promotions:

❖ **Warm Over Winter** features Philippine beaches. The Philippines could very well be Asia's Beach Capital. It has a coastline twice that of the USA and has numerous white sand beaches and beach resorts.

❖ **Wild Over Water** boasts of the country as a scuba diver's paradise. "Action Asia Magazine says, 'The Philippines is to scuba divers what Switzerland is to skiers, Hawaii to surfers, and Nepal to mountaineers.'" There's also plenty of white water action.

❖ **Wander Over Wrecks** tells of exciting underwater wrecks for scuba divers, such as Subic Bay.

❖ **Watch Our Whales** shows off the whale sharks that congregate in Donsol, Sorsogon. The whale shark is the largest fish in the world—over 50 feet

in length and 13 tons in weight when fully grown.

❖ **Wear Our Wares** promotes local products and shopping in the Philippines.

❖ **World of Weddings** offers wedding and honeymoon packages.

❖ **Wacko Over Wildlife** excites with the country's flora and fauna and with the many ecotourism adventure possibilities.

❖ **Wander Over Wanders** awes with natural wonders, such as the Banaue Rice Terraces, hailed as the Eighth Wonder of the World; and Taal Volcano, the world's smallest volcano.

❖ **Walk Our Walls** highlights the walled city of Intramuros,

❖ **Wild Over Wheels** describes unique modes of local transportation — the **jeepney** (a modified American GI jeep from World War II that is the most popular mode of transportation), **tricycle** (a motorcycle with sidecar), **pedicab** (a bicycle with sidecar), and **calesa** (a horse-drawn carriage from the Spanish era).

❖ **Workers of Worth** is proud of the Pinoy worker.

❖ **Wonderfully Original Waterways** spotlights the Puerto Princesa Subterranean River National Park, which contains the world's longest accessible underground river system. The Park is also a United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) World Heritage Site.

Revitalized Intramuros

Back to the island of Luzon, the *WOW Philippines* campaign is responsible for revitalizing Intramuros, the historic 64-hectare walled Spanish settlement first built in 1571 and whose walls were 4.5 kilometers long. Famous places within it are Fort Santiago, San Agustin Church, Manila Ca-

thedral, Casa Manila, Puerto Real Park, and San Juan de Letran College. San Agustin Church is currently designated as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Under the campaign, *History Town Intramuros* was developed and now features song and dance entertainment and fine dining during the weekends; *Best of the Regions* events that highlight the best in a featured region in the country; and the *Rizal Bagumbayan Light and Sound Museum*. The 1,800 square meter and 130 million peso museum displays Spain's colonial rule over the Philippines, and Jose Rizal's and other heroic leaders' fight for independence from Spain.

Also within Intramuros is the *Rizal Shrine* which pays tribute to the life and death of Jose



Rizal, the Philippines national hero. The Spaniards executed him by firing squad on December 30, 1896 at sunrise. December 30 is now a Philippine national

holiday that commemorates his death.

Tourism Volunteers

The DOT also heavily promoted its successful *Visit Philippines 2003* campaign, which sought to break previous tourism records in spite of the SARS crisis, terrorism alerts, and travel advisories against the Philippines. Helping to drive the campaign was the DOT's *Tourism Volunteer 12 (V-12)* program (www.v12.ph), which aims to mobilize the estimated 7+ Million overseas Filipinos worldwide as *Tourism Volunteers*. Monetary and other incentives were offered to the overseas Filipinos who could send the most number of tourists to the Philippines in a given time period. ❖

World Heritage Sites in the Philippines

As embodied in an international treaty adopted in 1972 called the *Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage*, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) “seeks to encourage the identification, protection and preservation of cultural and natural heritage [sites] around the world considered to be of **outstanding value to humanity**.”

Cultural heritage refers to monuments, groups of buildings and properties with historical, aesthetic, archaeological, scientific, ethnological or anthropological value. *Natural heritage* refers to outstanding physical, biological and geological formations, habitats of threatened species of animals and plants and areas with scientific, conservation or aesthetic value.

To date, 788 properties are now inscribed on the *World Heritage List* with 611 cultural, 154 natural and 23 mixed properties in 134 States Parties. The U.S. has 20 sites on the list.

The Philippines has five sites inscribed on the *World Heritage List*, (with the year of inclusion):

* **Tubbataha Reef**

Marine Park (1993)

Covering 33,200 hectares (~99,300 acres), it is a unique example of an atoll reef with a very high density of marine species and serves as a nesting site for birds and marine turtles. The site is a pristine coral reef with a spectacular 100-meter perpendicular wall, extensive lagoons and two coral islands. It is located in the middle of the Central Sulu Sea, 180 kilometers (112 miles) southeast of Puerto Princesa, Palawan, in the municipality of Cagayancillo.

* **Baroque Churches of the Philippines** (1993)

The unique architectural style of these four churches,

the first of which was built by the Spanish in the late 16th century, is a reinterpretation of European Baroque by Philippine and Chinese craftsmen.

► **Church of the Immaculate Concepcion of San Agustin** — Intramuros, Manila (built 1587)

► **Church of Nuestra Senora de la Asuncion** — Santa Maria, Ilocos Sur (built 1765)

► **Church of San Agustin** — Paoay, Ilocos Norte (built 1787-1797)

► **Church of Santo Tomas de Villanueva** — Miag-ao, Iloilo (built 1694-1710)

* **Rice Terraces of the Philippine Cordilleras** (1995)

The “first organic evolving cultural landscape to be inscribed on the *World Heritage List* and a living monument manually built” 1,000 to 2,000 years ago, the rice terraces of the Philippine Cordilleras are outstanding examples of living cultural landscapes, illustrating traditional techniques and a remarkable harmony between humankind and the natural environment. Showing the Ifugao’s mastery of watershed ecology and terrace engineering, the terraces, which spread over five present-day provinces, are the only form of stone construction from the Philippine pre-colonial period. There are several major rice terrace clusters listed which are similar yet distinct from one another: Banaue, Batad & Bangaan; Mayoyao; Hungduan; Nagacadan & Julungan.

* **Historic Town of Vigan** (1999)

Established in the 16th century, Vigan, the capital of Ilocos Sur province, is the best-preserved, exceptionally intact example of a planned Spanish colonial trading town in Asia. It represents a unique fusion of Asian building design and construction with European colonial architecture urban planning and landscape



A Vigan, Ilocos Sur streetscape.
Photo by Alan Geoghegan

design, resulting in a culture and townscape that have no parallel anywhere in East and South-East Asia.

* **Puerto-Princesa Subterranean River National Park** (1999)

The park features a spectacular limestone karst landscape with its underground river that flows directly from the mountain into the sea. The principal feature of the park is a navigable, picturesque underground river, over 8 kilometers (~5 miles) long and known as the Subterranean River of St Paul Cave. It includes major formation of stalactites and stalagmites, and several large chambers exist, up to 120m in width and 60m in height.

Representing a significant habitat for biodiversity conservation, the site contains a full “mountain to the sea” ecosystem and protected forests, which are among the most significant in Asia. Located in the Saint Paul Mountain Range, the park is 80 km (~50 miles) northwest of Puerto Princesa, the capital of Palawan. Palawan itself is 490 km (~305 miles) southwest of Manila.

Sources:

- UNESCO World Heritage Center <http://whc.unesco.org>
- UNESCO World Heritage Center — World Heritage List <http://whc.unesco.org/pg.cfm?cid=31>
- WOW Philippines — Great Hideaways — Heritage http://www.wowphilippines.com.ph/great_hideaways/heritage.asp#5

Greenwood Fil-Ams

(continued from Page1)

International Fair will showcase the richness of cultures that exist in Greenwood. Each country will have displays of artifacts, pictures and maps. Some participants will be in costume and others will perform on the main stage. Entertainment will feature music, storytelling and dancing.

The Philippines will be represented by Greenwood-area Philippine natives who will share posters, maps, handicrafts, costumes, music and games from the Philippines with support from members of the Filipino-American Association of Greater Columbia. At press time, the Columbia Fil-Am Cultural Dance Troupe has been requested to perform at the event.

Other countries that are expected to be represented include: Bahamas, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Germany, Ghana, India, Japan, Mexico, Philippines, Trinidad and Venezuela.

All are invited to attend the festival. For further information, call **Carol Paguntalan** at (864) 941-8379 or e-mail her at Paguntalan.C@ptc.edu. ♦

RVHS Fil-Am Club

(continued from Page1)

Delfinado (senior, club President), Suzanne Pondelicek (senior, Vice President), Justin Anderson (senior, Secretary), Tia Manning (senior, Treasurer), Michael Ross (senior, Public Affairs) and Takiyah Joe (senior, Public Affairs).

Members include: Anthony Endrina & Marcus Levering (seniors); Harvey Samuel, Marianne Magapan, Miranda Deese, Herb Proctor & Chris Elamparo (juniors); Bryson Endrina, Marissa Manning, & Kristen Lennon (sophomores), and Cynthia Manning (freshman). ♦

NFAYA To Host Fil-Am Arts & Entertainment Festival

The National Filipino American Youth Association (NFAYA) will host the southeast's first Filipino-American arts & entertainment festival entitled **THE MOVEMENT** on **October 8 – 9, 2004** at Georgia State University in Atlanta, Georgia.

The **MOVEMENT's** mission is to celebrate the presence of Filipino Americans in the arts and entertainment industry and provide Filipino artists and entertainers a venue to network and to gain exposure in the community. The festival will provide resources from the various aspects of arts and entertainment including music, modern dance, photography, sculpture, spoken word, graf-

fiti art, turntablism, break-dancing, comedy, art, poetry, and magic.

Complete information and registration details are available online at www.themovement.nfaya.org

IMELDA — The Movie

As fund-raiser for its programs especially *The Movement*, NFAYA, in partnership with Dynamic Vision Entertainment, LLC (DVE), is bringing to the Southeast the most controversial Filipino film of the year, *IMELDA*.

IMELDA, a film by Ramona Diaz, explores the complex *persona* of former Philippine first lady Imelda Marcos, her rise to power and fall from

grace. The film marked the first time that Mrs. Marcos has agreed to tell her story. This feature documentary details her controversial rise from humble provincial origins with a combination of ambition and beauty to become one of the richest and most powerful women in contemporary world history.

The movie will be shown on **September 25, 2004** at **Woodruff Arts Center – Rich Theatre** (1280 Peachtree St. NE, Atlanta, GA 30309). Two screenings will be made: the matinee priced at \$15 at 5:30 p.m. and the gala priced at \$20 at 8:00 p.m. Group discounts for the special exclusive East Coast screening of *Imelda* –



The Movie is available for organizations, families and friends.

For details about the movie, contact DVE at 1-888-8-EPINOY (37-4669) (toll-free) or (404) 299-1431 or by e-mail at info@entertainmentpinoy.com.

A non-profit organization that provides resources and promotes networking opportunities for individuals and organizations at the local and national levels, NFAYA can be reached at 1-866-838-1741 (toll-free) or by e-mail at nfaya@nfaya.org. ❖

FILIPINO — AMERICAN Association of Greater Columbia CALENDAR OF EVENTS

N October 16, 2004 (Saturday; 6:00 p.m.)

Ⓚ Fil-Am 14th Annual Gala

Ⓚ Columbiana Hotel & Conference Center
(formerly Sheraton Columbia Hotel)
2100 Bush River Rd, Columbia, SC 29210

N December 11, 2004 (Saturday; 5:00 p.m.)

Ⓚ Columbia Fil-Am Christmas Party

Ⓚ St. John Neumann School gymnasium

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Reminder:

The **COLUMBIA FIL-AM 14TH ANNUAL GALA** will be held on **Saturday, October 16, 2004** at the **Columbiana Hotel & Conference Center**