



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)



★ Volume 16, Number 1 ★

P.O. Box 24112, Columbia, SC 29224

★ Summer 2006 ★

Dual Citizenship The Best of Both Worlds

by Imelda Go

There was a time when Filipino citizens who immigrated to the United States had to face the decision to give up their Filipino citizenship in order to become naturalized U.S. citizens. Philippine law outlawed allegiance to any other country except itself. From a legal standpoint, the debate can range as to what the Philippine Constitution's legalese actually says about citizenship and allegiance. However, Philippine President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo signed the *Philippine Dual Citizenship Law* (RA 9225), which took effect on September 17, 2003.

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FAAGC Annual Gala To Celebrate Special Milestones for the Fil-Am Community

The Filipino-American Association of Greater Columbia will hold its **16th Annual Gala to celebrate its 15th anniversary** on **September 16, 2006** at the **Radisson Hotel Columbia & Conference Center** from 6:00 p.m. to midnight. The venue is at 2100 Bush River Road, Columbia, SC 29210 (just off I-20).

In addition, the gala will also commemorate a century of sustained immigration from the Philippines to the U.S. The U.S. Congress through its Concurrent Resolution 218 passed on December 15, 2005 has officially declared 2006 as the *Filipino American Centennial* to ac-

knowledge the contributions of our Filipino-American community to the U.S. over the last century

The gala is the Association's main annual fundraiser to support our different activities such as the Philippine cultural dance troupe, youth development program, scholarship fund, and other multicultural activities in the South Carolina Midlands.

The formal affair (*coat and tie or barong required*) includes a sit-down dinner and an entertainment program featuring Philippine folk and contemporary dances. **The Stargazer Band**, a Filipino-American ensemble from Augusta, GA, will provide music for the listening and dancing pleasure of the attendees.

Tickets are \$45 per person until September 9 and \$50 per person after September 9 and at the door. Student tickets are \$30 each. For seating placement, we would like all guests to **reserve their tickets by contacting one of our officers by September 1st.** It is possible that due to demand, only a very limited amount of tickets will be available at the door. For a small fee, babysitting services will be available on-site for children aged 2 to 10.

Out-of-town guests or members who

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My Point of View

Filipino Assimilation into the American Society

by Mario Viray, FAAGC 2nd Vice-President

I'm a living proof of a Filipino assimilated into the American culture. I came to the United States in December 1977 when I was 12 years old. The single greatest influence in my life on keeping up with the Filipino culture, language and ways of life was my dad Leonardo Viray. He was a proud Filipino father and always stood his ground about his beliefs.

It is natural for new Filipinos to assimilate into the American culture, espe-

cially kids immigrating at an early age to the U.S. We want "Americanization"—we want to do what Americans do; we want to have *GI Joe* toys, *Tonka* trucks, etc. We want to lose the Filipino accent and learn the American way of life. We tried so hard to assimilate and be accepted as an American. Is that so bad? No, not at all. It is expected in school and society. It is the parents' job to preserve their culture, language and way of life.

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During the 11th annual *Columbia International Festival* held on April 1-2, 2006 at the SC State Fairgrounds, FAAGC Executive Board Member Keith Seymour talks to visitors to the Fil-Am 'Philippine Fishing Shack' booth featuring Philippine products from the sea, while Cecille Wessinger, Imelda Go, Precy Walker and Marissa Massie perform the *pandango sa ilaw* on the entertainment stage.



The President's Corner by Alan Geoghegan
JOIN US FOR OUR 15TH ANNIVERSARY GALA

First of all, thank you to many of our FAAGC members and guests who attended our Fil-Am summer picnic at Dreher State Park. Although the park in the Chapin area of Lake Murray is about 30 minutes from Columbia, we had a decent turnout of about 45 people, with some new faces resulting in a few new members. Good food, games for the kids and swimming were all plentiful. Fall beckons with many activities. Our largest fund-

raiser and annual gala for the year is slated for September 16th at the Radisson hotel in Columbia. We have included an ad packet in this newsletter for your convenience. Please contact any of our officers for tickets and also kindly consider any level of sponsorship. Your support allows us to plan many engaging events throughout the year. It's amazing that this gala will celebrate the 15th Anniversary of our Association while coinciding with the 100th anniversary of Filipinos migrating to the US, the first batch going from the Ilocos

region in Northern Luzon to Hawaii as migrant laborers. Immigration has been a heated issue lately and we can show the community that we are active, engaging community participants who celebrate our *Filipiniana* through our traditions, food, dances and various expressions of culture. These are all a cause for celebration and bring us close to who we are and I very much look forward to meeting many of you during our activities this year.

16th Annual Gala (continued from Page 1)

wish to stay overnight at the hotel can reserve a room at a special discounted rate of \$114 (breakfast included). Please call the Radisson Hotel at (803) 731-0300 to make a

reservation at this rate by **September 11** and specify that your stay is coinciding with the Columbia Filipino-American Gala.

Gala Souvenir Program

Since the gala is the major annual fund-raising event of the Association, we are also soliciting all kinds of contribution in the forms of advertisements and donations (*see forms included in this issue*). We request that all ads and contributions for being a sponsor, patron or donor be received no later than **September 1** to be included in the gala souvenir program.

For tickets or more information about the Fil-Am Gala, please contact **Alan Geoghegan** [(803) 787-5255], **Odessa Brinkmann** [(803) 210-7577], **Grace Collins** [(803) 782-6952], or any other officer listed here. In the Summer area, contact **Polly Pearson** [(803) 494-5613] or **Cecilia Jacobsen** at the *Fil-Am Store* [(803) 494-5613].

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

Organizational Success, Filipino Culture Dependent on Youth Involvement & Accurate Knowledge
 by Keith H. Seymour
 Executive Board Member

I would like to thank everyone who attended the July 22nd Fil-Am Summer Picnic at Dreher Island Park for making it an undeniably successful day of fun and fellowship. The festive Filipino spirit of community and camaraderie was present – whether in the food and hospitality that Filipinos have become so famous for, in the games, or in just meeting old and new friends.

The Fil-Am Association even gained two new members who attended the picnic as their first Fil-Am event. One of the new members, an American engaged to a Filipina from Cebu, later confided to me that he felt so welcomed by the membership that he could not wait for the next event.

Many of the people who made our picnic a huge success were the youth who attended. Executive Board member Galen Manapat made a very important point to those present, by stating that while it is okay to encourage our youth to become assimilated into the American culture, it is also important to encourage them to

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Free Ballroom Dancing Classes

Just in time for upcoming gala, FAAGC member **Doug Jones** is coordinating the formation of **free** ballroom dancing classes.

These classes will be taught by **Bill Owen**, a professional who has his own dance studio. He enjoys teaching the classes which will include waltz, two-step, cha-cha, and others. Absolutely free, the classes will be held at 509 Todd Branch Dr. (just off Two-Notch Road near the Royal Z bowling center) and can be held on Saturdays or Sundays, either 3:00-5:00 p.m. or 7:00-9:00 p.m.

Interested members can contact Doug Jones at douggj21751@yahoo.com or **788-0425** for more information and let him know their day and time preferences so the best schedule can be finalized.

How To Reach Us

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 P.O. Box 24112
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www.FAAGC.org

e-mail: faagc@hotmail.com,
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FILIPINO-AMERICAN
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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

★ **DAVID BATES** of Columbia, SC. A manager at AccuSweep, he likes singing and meeting new people.

★ **DALE & GUILLERMA (INDAY) BROUGHTON** of West Columbia, SC. Originally from Butuan City, she has been in the Midlands area for just over a year. He works at the SC Department of Transportation. They hope FAAGC can achieve "cooperation and unity." They have three children: Bradley, 15; Noelle, 12; and baby Nicole born on June 5, 2006.

★ **ED & IVY BRYAN** of Columbia, SC. She is a daughter of longtime Columbia resident Aurora Sumaydeng. They have a daughter, Claire.

★ **RONALD & FAYE COLLEY** of Irmo, SC. Originally from Quezon City, she has been in the Midlands area for just over a year. A Flexcell real estate agent who also works at Radisson Hotel Columbia, she joined the Association to "have a network of friends" who will "talk about their experiences when they came to the U.S. and the obstacles they have encountered." She suggests FAAGC to "provide information and paperwork assistance to new Filipinos in the area [so they can have] "an easy transition of residency in the U.S."

Ron is a self-employed builder and licensed contractor,

electrician and plumber. The couple have two children: Michael David, 15, and Jonathan James, 17.

★ **CARLTON & LISA EDWARDS** of Eastover, SC. Originally from Manila, she is medical technologist.

★ **VICKY FALVEY** of Columbia, SC. Originally from Biñan, Laguna, she has a son Robert George Falvey, Jr., 4.

★ **TERRY & REYNA FUNDERBURK** of Lugoff, SC. Newly arrived to the Midlands area, she is from Cabugao, Ilocos Sur. He is a construction company owner. They have a child, Casey Noirei, 4.

★ **DOUG JONES** of Columbia, SC.

★ **DOUG & BESSIE NEBEL** of Columbia, SC. Originally from Iloilo, she has lived in the area for two years now.

★ **EVELYN STANSBERRY** of Columbia, SC. Originally from Aringay, La Union, she is a four-year area resident. She thinks "unity" among the Fil-Ams in the area can help the Association achieve its objectives.

★ **AURORA SUMAYDENG** of Easley, SC. She was a longtime Columbia resident before her recent move to Easley.

★ **KEN ZEARFOSS** of Columbia, SC. A "computer geek" who works at AgFirst, he hopes the Association can help him facilitate the bringing over to the U.S. of his friend from Tabogon, Cebu. ❖

~ Congratulations ~

➤ to **Dan & Tess Adcock** on the birth of daughter, **Danielle Grace**, on July 25, 2006.

➤ to **Sigrid Austria** on her recent marriage to Richard Ellefson. The wedding was held in Hawaii with former FAAGC officer **Racquel Dizon** of Las Vegas, NV, serving as matron-of-honor. A former *Columbia Fil-Am Dance Troupe* performer, Sigrid is a niece of past FAAGC president Nieves McNulty.

➤ to **Dale & Inday Broughton** on the birth of their daughter, **Nicole**, on June 5, 2006.

➤ to **Ignacio & Jennifer Liunoras** of Charleston, SC, on the birth of their daughter, **Braylenn Renee**, on July 8, 2006. She is the first granddaughter of past FAAGC president **Peter & Olga Liunoras**. ❖

SPECIAL THANKS

to the following Fil-Ams and friends for their assistance and donation of furniture and other items to the Filipino nurses who recently arrived to work at Palmetto Health:

Noel & Helen Alon, Ruben & Chari Bagnol, Durham Boney, Chris & Roser Caliwag, Rio & Mary Jane Daquileña, George & Mercedes Dia, Ray Fleming, Precy Holbrook, Tessie Kenerson, Rogie & Charina Lacson, Erlic Lubaton, James Nash, Kenneth Richardson, and Bill & Gemma Simmons.

Those who wish to donate used furniture should contact Helen Alon. An additional five nurses and their families are expected to arrive soon.

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FAAGC welcomes the newly arrived nurses and their families:

- * Manuel & Lourdes Aguilar
- * Paolo & Christine Briones
- * Samuel & Cherry Dangli
- * Jerome Donasco
- * Rommel & Millanita Edralin
- * April Garcia
- * Elai & Trey Linga
- * Archie & Zenaida Luna
- * Danny & Rowena Manzano
- * Michael & Luzviminda Pilapil
- * Bong & Rose Rances
- * Benny & Rosalie Rile
- * Gilbert & Regina Solomon
- * Jason & Jocelyn Tolentino
- * Fernan & Felma Tubiera

CONDOLENCES

✠ *Our condolences to the families of:*

➤ **Naty Akana** on the recent death of her mother in the Philippines;

➤ **Percila Fain (Precy) Arnold** who passed away on July 20, 2006 in Columbia. Born on July 26, 1944, in Romblon, she was a regular attendee of FAAGC events. She is survived by her husband, Leslie Arnold of Columbia.

➤ **Zeny Lazaro** on the recent death of her mother in California;

➤ **Finian Fermin Makapugay** who passed away on August 5, 2006 in Columbia.

A graduate of Spring Valley HS and Clemson, he was a son of Zeny and the late Fidel Makapugay, formerly of Columbia, SC.

➤ **Marj Peña** on the recent death of her father in the Philippines;

➤ **Charles Walker** on the recent death of his sister;

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

[FAAGC requests members with a death in the family to contact Spiritual Affair Committee co-chairs **Merlyn Bajamunde** (422-1524) or **Tessie Kenerson** (699-1178) ASAP so proper arrangements, if needed, can be made by the Association.] ❖

Special welcome to:

- ◆ **Bryan and Karen Magsino** who recently arrived from the Philippines to re-join their mother, **Barbara Proctor**, here in Columbia;
- ◆ former FAAGC vice-president **Randy & Tessie Collado** who have returned to retire in Columbia.

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 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 on the date specified after the asterisks. Your membership renewal and prompt payment of membership dues are crucial to the continued operations and success of the FAAGC.

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



A★C★H★I★E★V★E★M★E★N★T★S★ G★A★L★O★R★E

Although the 2006-2007 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 (2005-2006). 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.

🎓 **FRANCES ARROYO** graduated on May 8, 2006 from the New York University (NYU) College of Nursing. She was the nursing baccalaureate valedictorian and senior class speaker. A former member of the *Columbia Fil-Am Cultural Dance Troupe*, she is the oldest daughter of Oswald & Rowena Arroyo of Columbia, SC. ❖

🎓 **JESLIE ANN CABADING CUARESMA** graduated on May 5, 2006 with the degree of Doctor of Pharmacy from the University of South Carolina. She was a LIFE and University Scholar and was consistently in the *President's Honor Roll List* and *Dean's List*. She is now working for the CVS pharmacy in Washington, DC. A pioneer member of the *Columbia Fil-Am Cultural Dance*



Troupe, she is the eldest daughter of Manny & Leah Cuaresma of Columbia, SC. ❖

❖ **JD SIAZON** had an exhibition of his pop mixed media assemblage paintings during the South of the Navy Yards Artists (SONYA) *Studio Stroll 2006* in Brooklyn, New York on May 20-21, 2006. A 2005 fine arts graduate from Pratt Institute in New York City, he is the son of Pete & Laura Siazon of Columbia, SC. ❖

🎓 **CHRISTINA RENEE HOPKINS** graduated on



May 6, 2006 from the USC School of Sociology with a Bachelor of Arts in sociology and criminal justice. She now works at the Lexington County Courthouse. A pioneer performer of the *Columbia Fil-Am Cultural Dance Troupe*, she is a daughter of FAAGC pioneer officer Cindy Tefft of Schaumburg, IL. ❖

CONGRATULATIONS & MABUHAY!

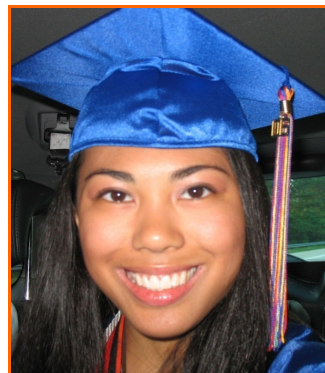
🎓 **AILEEN LEIGH DACARA ALON** graduated with high honors from the *Horizon* and the *Palmetto Center for the Arts* (PCA) magnet programs at Richland Northeast HS on May 24, 2006. Ranked third in her graduating class and one of the RNHS seniors with the highest ACT score, she received an SC State Board of Education *Academic Honors Award*. A National Honor Society member with over 30 potential college credits in 10 Advanced Placement (AP) courses, she was named an *AP Scholar with Honor* and listed in the "Who's Who Among American High School Students."

The National Art Honor Society (NAHS) co-president, she was the recipient of the RNHS *Robert F. Purnell Memorial Art Scholarship* award. One of her mixed media artwork received a silver key at the 2006 *SC Scholastic Arts Competition* held at Lander University (Greenwood, SC) in January. Another piece was

🎓 **IRENE LIUNORAS** graduated on April 28, 2006 from Florida State University



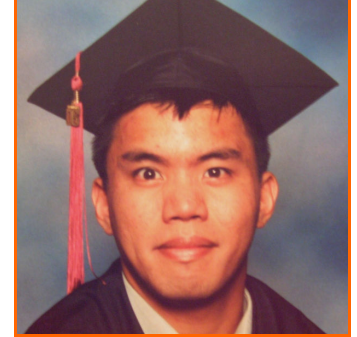
with a Bachelor of Science in biochemistry with a minor in biological sciences. She plans to pursue graduate studies in forensic science. She is the youngest daughter of Peter & Olga Liunoras of Columbia, SC. ❖



named "best of show" at the *Inner Visions* exhibit of PCA work held at the internationally acclaimed Martin Gallery in Charleston, SC, on March 3-12, 2006.

A four-year member of the RNHS Model United Nations (which won its 17th consecutive first place award at the annual National High School MUN conference in New York City), she received best delegate and verbal commendation awards at the University of Pennsylvania and the University of Virginia MUN conferences, respectively. She was also a member of the Sen-

🎓 **JOHN KEVIN PIMENTEL PADING** graduated on May 5, 2006 from the



USC College of Mass Communications and Information Studies with a Bachelor of Arts in Journalism and Mass Communications, major in Visual Communications with a minor in English. Now working full-time at Image Resource Group, he is the son of Jun and Elvie Pading of West Columbia, SC. ❖

ior House of Representatives, the National Spanish Honor Society Club (vice-president) and Key Club. Aileen also got the *Horizon Community Service Award* for her volunteer work.

Recipient of scholarship offers from all the schools she applied to, she also received scholarship awards from the *SC Palmetto Fellows*, SC State Fair, and Richland 2 Foundation for Gifted & Talented Programs. She is now enrolled at Winthrop University (Rock Hill, SC) where she is a *Trustees' Scholar* to study studio art. A *Columbia Fil-Am Cultural Dance Troupe* performer since 1995, she is the daughter of Noel & Helen Alon of Columbia, SC. ❖

🎓 **JASPER LIM** graduated from Richland Northeast High School in December 2005. A 2002-2005 *Columbia Fil-Am Cultural Dance Troupe* performer, he is the eldest son of Lonnel & Amy Lim of Columbia, SC. ❖

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G★A★L★O★R★E



CHRISTIAN ELAMPARO graduated from Ridge View High School on May 24, 2006. The 2005-06 President of the *RVHS Fil-Am Youth Club*, he will pursue his college education at USC. A 2001-2003 *Columbia Fil-Am Cultural Dance Troupe* performer, he is a son of Butch & Dhel Elamparo of Columbia, S. ❖

MARIANNE MAGAPAN graduated from Blythewood High School on May 24, 2006. A member of the *RVHS Fil-Am Youth Club*, she plans to study at Winthrop University. A *Columbia Fil-Am Cultural Dance Troupe* performer, she is the daughter of Myrna Magapan of Columbia, SC. ❖

CLAIRE SUMAY-DENG-BRYAN graduated from Dreher High School on May 23, 2006.

She earned an individual bronze medal for the DHS Academic Decathlon team at



the state finals. The team won its fifth consecutive gold medal and represented South Carolina at the national competition in San Antonio, TX, where Claire received recognition for scoring in the top 20 in Economics.

As a National Honor Society member, she participated in a peer-tutoring program at DHS. Since her junior year, she was co-editor of the *Dreher Literary Magazine*. Her other activities included the French Club, Monty Python Club, Theology Club and as costumer for DHS

FAY MANAPAT graduated with honors from



White Knoll High School on May 27, 2006. She will be studying marine biology at the University of Hawaii in Honolulu. She is the oldest daughter of Galen & Johanne Manapat of Lexington, SC. ❖

drama productions. She is also an acolyte at the Trinity Episcopal Cathedral.

Claire is active in the Columbia Fencers' Club and is a member of the U.S. Fencing Association (USFA). She competed in the USFA 2004 Summer Nationals in Charlotte, NC, and in the 2005 North American Cup in Atlanta, GA. In 2006, she qualified to represent South Carolina in the Junior Olympics in Hartford, CT. She earned an E rating when she won first place in the senior women's foil at the March 2006 SC divisional tournament.

She began playing viola in the USC Strings Project and since the ninth grade, has participated in the SC Philharmonic Youth Orchestra. The principal violist for the Dreher High School orchestra, she recently traveled with the DHS orchestra to Munich, Germany and Salzburg and Vienna, Austria to perform in invitational concerts in honor of Mozart's 250th birthday.

A National Merit Finalist scholar, she will attend Swarthmore College in Pennsylvania. She is the daughter of Ed & Ivy Sumaydeng Bryan of Columbia, SC and the granddaughter of Aurora Sumaydeng of Easley, SC. ❖

NALINI RAE (NIKKI) GUTIERREZ SAREEN graduated with high honors



from Richland Northeast HS on May 24, 2006. She was a graduate of the *Horizon*, the *Palmetto Center for the Arts* (PCA) and the *Convergence Media* magnet programs at RNHS.

A three-year member and 2005-06 secretary of the nationally award-winning Model United Nations team, she received best delegate awards at the University of Virginia and the University of Pennsylvania MUN conferences. She was also the school yearbook co-editor, Spanish International Club president, and National Honor Society corresponding secretary. She also got the *Horizon Community Service Award* for her volunteer work with Palmetto Richland Junior Volunteers, Children's Miracle Network, Festival of Trees and Midlands Safe Kids.

Named an *AP Scholar* and listed in the "Who's Who Among American High School Students," she has received scholarships to study journalism at the University of California — Berkeley. She is a daughter of Van & Lina De La Cruz of Columbia, SC. ❖

AJ ALON completed his junior year at USC's South Carolina Honors College on the *Dean's List*. He was one of nine students chosen nationwide to represent NASA at the 56th International Astronautical Congress in Fukuoka, Japan, on October 17-21, 2005. At the conference, he presented his summer internship research conducted

through the Undergraduate Student Research Program (USRP) at the NASA-Glenn Research Center in Cleveland, OH.

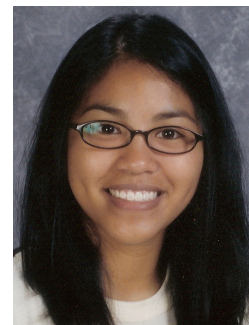
A two-term president of the USC Filipino American Student Association (FASA), he was inducted into three honor societies: Phi Beta Kappa (PBK, the oldest and most prestigious undergraduate honor society), Upsilon Pi Epsilon (UPE) for the computing sciences, and the Mortar Board National College Senior Honor Society. He has been elected as 2006-07 chapter president of UPE, Executive Council member of PBK, and treasurer of the USC Red Cross Club.

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

JUDITH CHRISTA PEÑA finished her sophomore year at the USC Honors College in the *Dean's Honor List*. She is a biology major with a minor in English. She worked as summer counselor for the Youth Summer Academic Programs at USC. She performs with the *USC Cocktails*, female *a capella* singing group of which she is the incoming president.

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

MICHELLE ANNE PEÑA finished the eleventh



grade at Irmo High School with honors. A participant in the IHS

International Baccalaureate Program, she was inducted into the National Honor Society,

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ranked third overall in her class, and served as Junior Marshall during the IHS graduation.

Michelle is a member of the Irmo HS Science team which won the 2006 *South Carolina State Science Olympiad* held in Newberry College and represented SC in the *National Science Olympiad* in Indianapolis, IN on May 17-20, 2006. She was also a member of the IHS Math Quiz Team and Robotics Team.

Michelle continues to be the first cellist of the South Carolina Philharmonic Youth Symphony Orchestra, the Lexington-Richland District V Honors Orchestra and the Irmo High School Honors Orchestra. She presented two recitals at the USC Recital Hall under the direction of Dr. Robert Jesselson. She also participated in the *2006 Architecture Discovery Program* at the School of Architecture at Washington University in St. Louis. She is the younger daughter of Edsel & Marj Peña of Columbia, SC. ♦

★ **ELAIZA "Leigh" APAN** finished sixth grade with honors at Blythewood Middle School. She received



certificates awards for "A" honor roll academic excellence, academic excellence in science and for highest class average in social studies and in English/language arts. A *Columbia Fil-Am Cultural Dance Troupe* performer, she is the older daughter of Bernadette Yavis of Blythewood, SC. ♦

★ **SHANNIN HAILEY SCOTT** completed fifth grade at Hopkins Elementary School as "valedictorian."



She received awards for highest class Accelerated Reader points, highest Advanced Academic Program (AAP) reading average, highest science average, French academic excellence and AAP science.

Overall winner in her school science fair, she participated in the USC Regional Science Fair and garnered an Association for Women in Science Junior Division award. A DARE graduate and a *Governor's Citizenship Award* recipient, she also received commendations for involvement in Third Year Chorus, Hopkins Drum Ensemble, Safety Patrol, and "Let's Get Physical Through Walking" program.

She is the daughter of Sean & Anika Scott and a granddaughter of Edith Alston of Hopkins, SC. ♦

★ **GLAIZA "Glyde" APAN** completed fourth grade with honors at Kelly Mill Elementary School.



She received an honor roll achievement citation from SC State Senator Joel Laurie. A *Columbia Fil-Am Cultural Dance Troupe* performer, she is the younger daughter of Bernadette Yavis of Blythewood, SC. ♦

★ **JEREMY BRINKMAN** completed first grade at St. Peter's Catholic School



and was awarded a certificate of achievement for A-B honor roll. He also fulfilled all the requirements for a Tiger Cub badge and is set to join the Wolf Cub Scout Pack 153. He is the son of David & Odess Brinkman of Columbia, SC. ♦

★ **SHANE CLARK** "graduated" valedictorian from the Timmerman School



Kindergarten. He was also awarded a certificate of achievement in the Governor's reading honor roll. He is the son of William & Joy Clark of Columbia, SC. ♦

★ FAAGC Executive Board member **KEITH H. SEYMOUR** was re-installed as "warden" (parliamentarian) for the Knights of Columbus St. Joseph Council 12554 on July 14, 2006. He was first elected to this position in June 2005. He has also been re-appointed as the council's Public Relations Coordinator, a position he has held since joining in 2002.

His public relations scrapbook recently won for Council 12554 the *Pulliam Award for Public Relations*, the first time the council won the award. The *Pulliam Award* is given at the Knights of Columbus state convention to the council that has done the best job of making the church, general public, and media aware of KofC's existence in and charitable contributions to their communities. ♦

Filipino Assimilation

(continued from Page 1)

In my mid-20s to early 30s, I did not want to do anything with Filipino associations -- because I thought they were "baduy" [unfashionable]. But deep inside me, I loved Filipino food, movies, etc. I did not want my friends to know I ate certain foods and spoke a different language, thinking they would not want to hang around me.

Joining the U.S. Air Force in 1988 has taught me a lot about life, different cultures, politics, etc. We are so lucky to be blessed with such a great nation as the United States.

In my mid-30s to early 40s I went through an identity crisis -- who am I? I had realized no matter how Americanized I want to be, when I look at the mirror, I'm still brown. I finally accepted it that I am a son of a proud Filipino. Now that my Dad is gone -- I had realized he had given me the greatest gift of remembering where I came from and not to forget my culture, traditions and language. I am so grateful that I can speak the Philippine national language and be a proud Kapampangan -- "the best cooks and the best food" are in Pampanga.

I went home last year (2005) due to my father's untimely death and had realized why he loved the Philippines so much. From the *balut* to the *sorbetes*, *sabung*, *komiks*, sing-alongs, San Miguel Beer, *kalesa*, jeepney, Jolibee, Dolphy, *bahay kubo*, *siesta*, *pagmamano*, *bagoong*, *kapitbahay*, *turo-turo*, *Lolo*, *Lola*, *tsismis*, tricycle, *merienda*, ShoeMart, Goldilocks, the beautiful women of Manila and Makati -- **all these are part of the Filipino life.** One thing I admire about the Filipinos is their resilience -- earthquakes, typhoons, Spanish rule, Japanese rule, American rule, martial law, El Niño, *vampira*, Darna -- **we survived them all.**

I found myself a proud Filipino American -- I embrace both being a Filipino and American. I am very lucky to speak Tagalog, Kapampangan, and English fluently. I love my Filipino culture and love being an American at the same time. As a father of two Filipino-American kids both born in the United States, I will continue the legacy of passing along the same traditions and culture my father had taught me.

Never forget who you are and where you came from. *Mabuhay! Meken! Abe!* ♦

CONGRATULATIONS & MABUHAY!



The Best of Both Worlds (continued from Page 1)

In its early days of implementation I was advised by a Pinay friend in Washington, DC that I should wait until the procedure has been worked out. That was sage advice because, true enough, the current procedure is much simpler. The Philippine Bureau of Immigration no longer requires an authenticated birth certificate from the Philippine National Statistics Office.

REQUIREMENTS

If you wish to reacquire your Filipino citizenship, the procedure is now easier and is briefly outlined below. *(Because of potential changes in procedure, the following outline is provided only as a reference and may not reflect exactly the current procedure.)*

◆ Download the *Application for the Retention/Re-Acquisition of Philippine Citizenship* form from the web site of the Philippine Embassy in the U.S.:

www.philippineembassy-usa.org

◆ Make a trip to the Philippine consulate that has jurisdiction over the state or territory you live in.

◆ Bring the following:

- U.S. passport
- Certificate of U.S. Naturalization

• Any of the following *(the original to be presented and a photocopy submitted)*: Philippine birth certificate, Philippine passport, marriage certificate that states Filipino citizenship, voter's ID, or any document that proves prior Filipino citizenship

• Three 2-inch by 2-inch photos (front view)

• \$50 application fee in cash, bank draft, or money order payable to the *Philippine Consulate General*

◆ For applicants' minor children *(below 18 years old)*, who are also applying for dual citizenship, the following are required:

• Photocopies of Philippine birth certificate and foreign passports *(originals must be presented to consulate for*

verification)

• No photographs are required, but there is a \$25 fee per applicant.

Further inquiries on the subject may be made with the **Dual Citizenship Secretariat** c/o Ms. Maria Lourdes Cruz at the following numbers (202) 467-9327 or (202) 467-9363 or by e-mail: consular@philippineembassy-usa.org

ADVANTAGES

There are a number of advantages to having dual citizenship:

- ▶ the right to vote;
- ▶ ability to acquire and own private lands and condominium units;
- ▶ the right to live/work in the Philippines;
- ▶ under certain conditions one can run for public office and be appointed to a public office; *and*
- ▶ the ability to own/invest in businesses generally not open to non-Filipinos (examples are public utilities, exploration and use of natural resources, educational institutions, mass me-



dia, public works contracts, cooperatives, private recruitment, advertising, and retail).

No doubt a natural question that arises is whether one has to pay taxes to the Philippine government after acquiring dual citizenship. You can have a sigh of relief because dual citizens are only required to pay taxes on income earned in the Philippines. Furthermore, you will not lose your U.S. citizenship if you become a dual citizen.

References:

- Dual Citizenship FAQ. <http://www.philippineembassy-usa.org/events/dualcitizenshipfaq.htm>
- Who wants to be a dual citizen? *Filipinas Magazine*. December 2005, page 9.
- New government rules on dual citizenship elate Fil-Ams. *Philippine Inquirer*. November 11, 2005, page A1, A8. ❖

SOSI Apparel & Accessories, the designer boutique of **Ron & Marie Generoso**, was featured in the August 2006 issue of *JOLIE Magazine*, a monthly "women's magazine catering to all things feminine" published by *The State* newspaper. Described by Jolie as "a fun, new, fresh boutique in Harbison," SOSI is located in the Shoppes at Columbian Crossing [285 Columbian Drive; tel. (803) 407-1048]. ❖

Organizational Success & Youth Involvement

(continued from Page 2)

learn about their heritage. Alan Geoghegan then quoted a very important Filipino proverb: "*Ang hindi marunong lumingon sa pinanggalingan ay hindi makarating sa paroonan.*" ("He who does not look back from where he came from will never reach his destination.")

Other members of the FAAGC board and general membership have also often stressed the importance of youth involvement so that the Filipino culture may not only survive, but also may be enhanced within our communities. The FAAGC Board would welcome suggestions on how this could be more actively accomplished.

I have even suggested to the FAAGC President that one way of getting more youth input would be by having a member of the youth as an advisory member of the board, one who could act as a liaison between the youth and adult

board members.

After all, these same youth are the key to the survival of your proud Filipino culture, and the people who will someday be the leaders not only of the Fil-Am but also our worldwide communities. Those reading this should think of youth involvement in the following way: since Filipino and Filipino-American youth have had enough respect for those they associate with to learn about the American culture, shouldn't they likewise be encouraged to have enough respect for their own cultural heritage to share it with others?

However, we as adults also need to help our associates and colleagues become more aware of the positive contributions that those of Philippine descent have made to the world, as well as the South Carolina and Columbia communities.

An example of what I am referring to happened a few

months ago as Mr. Joe Pinner of WIS-TV was interviewing several of our board members on the day prior to the international festival. Mr. Pinner, a journalist of 40 years and the most well-known journalist in the South Carolina Midlands area, mentioned that he had a "lovely Filipino daughter-in-law," with whom he really enjoyed associating. President Geoghegan and I then suggested to the well-traveled Mr. Pinner that he should consider visiting the Philippines. Mr. Pinner's response was that he thought Filipinos still living in the Philippines "hated us Americans." Fortunately, we were able to convince him that he was incorrect in his assessment. However, he has based his assessment of people in the Philippines on news reports of the Abu-Sayyaf. If a well-educated newsman is apt to consider such negative stereotypes about the Philippine culture, then imagine what your

youth are hearing about their culture, and why they might not be as active in becoming involved and letting others know about their heritage.

Historical Record

Fortunately, South Carolina Filipinos are the few people in this country who have the ability to not only have access to the accomplishments of Filipinos to their communities' history, but also the ability to contribute to this history for future generations.

According to FAAGC Newsletter Editor, Noel Alon, our newsletter is one of the few Filipino-American newsletters in the country being kept in a major historical university library. Years from now, the descendants of current and future members will be able to know about the important contributions that Filipinos have made to the Columbia and South Carolina communities. All that anyone will

(continued on Page 8)

FILIPINO—AMERICAN Association of Greater Columbia CALENDAR OF EVENTS

* **September 16, 2006** (Saturday, 6:00 p.m.)

► **FAAGC 16th Annual Gala**

♦ **Radisson Hotel Columbia & Conference Center** (Tel. 731-0300)
2100 Bush River Road., near I-20
Columbia, SC 29210

* **December 9, 2006** (Saturday, 6:00 p.m.)

► **Columbia Fil-Am Annual Christmas Party**

♦ **St. Joseph Catholic Church gymnasium**
3600 Devine St., Columbia, SC 29205

Mark Your Calendars Now!

Organizational Success *(continued from Page 7)*

have to do is simply go to the "Caroliniana Library" at the University of South Carolina in Columbia, and access one of our Fil-Am newsletters.

This is why it is very important that all members contribute to the organization and the Fil-Am newsletter. It is also why it is very important to keep your memberships current, so that you can stay up to date with the activities of other Fil-Am members and fellow Filipinos living within your community. So if you are not current with your membership dues, please contact membership director, Helen Alon.

Again, thanks to all those

who helped make the summer picnic become a success. As for those who were unable to attend, you were truly missed. However, we look forward to your future attendance and input concerning not only FAAGC-sponsored events, but also what you would like to see happen within this organization, and how the Philippine culture may be spread throughout our communities. You can contact Alan Geoghegan or any officer with suggestions or concerns.

This is your organization, and your input is and will be continually much valued. ❖



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FIL-AM BULLETIN

of the **Filipino-American Association of Greater Columbia, SC**

P.O. Box 24112, Columbia, SC 29224



Summer 2006



Volume 16, Number 1



Reminders:

* **Columbia FIL-AM 16th Annual Gala** will be held on **Saturday, September 16, 2006** at the **Radisson Hotel**.

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