



FIL-AM BULLETIN

The Official Newsletter of the
Filipino-American Association of Greater Columbia, SC
(A Non-Profit Organization to Promote Inter-Cultural Education and Understanding)

**"Together
We Make A
Difference"**

www.FilAmSC.org

★ Volume 19, Number 1

P.O. Box 24112, Columbia, SC 29224

★ Summer 2009 ★

Marj Peña Heads FAAGC Executive Board for 2009-2011

Marj Peña, a past two-term FAAGC Secretary, was voted as Columbia Fil-Am President for the 2009-2011 term during the election conducted at the annual Fil-Am annual spring picnic held at the Sesquicentennial State Park on Easter Sunday, April 12, 2009.

A blend of experience and new blood, the 2009-2011 Executive Board includes two past Presidents (who have been also sustaining charter members since 1991 when the Association was formed), three officers from the 2007-09 Executive Board (one re-elected to the same position, two elected to new offices), two other previous officers and five first-time

(continued on Page 7)

Filipinos in the U.S. Navy

by I.C. Go

Last April 2008, as part of a group of educators from the Carolinas, I was given the opportunity to go on a tour of the San Diego Naval Base. I've always known that Filipinos had a presence in the U.S. military, but little did I know that there was a special relationship between Filipinos and the U.S. Navy.

At one of the San Diego Naval Base mess halls, I ventured towards a table of

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Columbia Mayor Bob Coble To Induct New Officers

Columbia Fil-Am Annual Gala To Benefit Philippine Red Cross, Charities

The Filipino-American Association of Greater Columbia (FAAGC) will hold its **19th Annual Gala and 13th Induction Ball on Saturday, August 29, 2009** at the **Marriott Hotel of Columbia** from 6:00 p.m. to midnight. The venue is in downtown Columbia at **1200 Hampton St., Columbia, SC 29201**.

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

Fundraiser for the Philippine Red Cross, Charities

This year, a portion of the proceeds will benefit the Philippine National Red Cross and other Philippine charities that FAAGC supports. Helping the needy in the Philippines is one of the most noble and rewarding goals of the Association. Last year's gala raised funds to benefit Philippine calamity victims. Previously, the FAAGC gala also benefited four Philippine orphanages and child welfare institutions.

Gala Program and Tickets

The formal affair (*coat and tie or barong required*) includes a sit-down dinner and an entertainment program that includes Philippine folk and contemporary dances performed by the Columbia Fil-Am Cultural Dance Troupe. A highly regarded DJ will provide music for the listening and dancing pleasure of the attendees.

Columbia City Mayor Bob Coble has informed FAAGC that he will attend the gala; this will be the first time since the Association was organized that the Columbia Mayor would be in attendance. Mayor Coble has been requested to induct the newly-elected Columbia Fil-Am officers and Executive Board.

Tickets are **\$45** per person (*that's FIVE dollars LESS than last year's price*) if purchased before **August 22**. Tickets bought after August 22 or at the door will be **\$50.00** per person. Student tickets are **\$35** each. Due to hotel requirements for seating and catering arrangements, we would like all guests to **buy, or at least reserve, their tickets by contact-**

(continued on Page 3)



▲ The NEXT Generation of Columbia Fil-Am Cultural Dance Troupe performers: Giles Rojo, Rina Lowder, Leigh Apan, Justine Flora, Josh Viray
Photo: Mario Viray



▲ FAAGC performers and volunteers pose in front of the Philippine display during the 2009 Columbia International Festival last April.
Photo: Mario Viray



The President's Corner by Marj Peña

FAAGC IS THE CATALYST

I would like to thank the members of the Columbia Fil-Am (FAAGC) for electing me as the next President of this organization. I am humbled by your trust and will do my very best, with your help, to make this organization stronger and to expand its outreach in the Midlands to all members and non-members alike.

Almost 10 years ago, when our family moved to South Carolina, the Fil-Am organization immediately made Columbia a place we can call home. We found life-long friends within the Filipino community and our involvement with the Association has kept our ties with the Filipino culture alive and well. Although the Philippines is thousands of miles across the ocean, the Fil-Am family through its activities and our involvement has kept the country that we left behind always in our hearts and in our minds.

Over the years, the Filipino community of Columbia has continued to expand. Yesterday's kids are today's young adults and new parents. New families have arrived to establish their homes and history among us. The next generation is at hand, ready to learn the first steps of *tinikling*, *binasuan*, *singkil* and all our native dances or to savor the *adobo*, *dinuguan*, *pancit*, *menudo*, etc., and the many

desserts and delicacies that we have brought with us from the Philippines. Through all of this, the FAAGC is the CATALYST that allows these Filipino traditions to be passed on from one generation to another and the AMBASSADOR that spread awareness of the Filipino culture within the South Carolina community.

This year, we induct a new set of Officers. We promise to carry on the traditions and to establish new ones to bring the Filipino community together. **WE CAN NOT DO IT BY OURSELVES!** *We need you to participate, to contribute your time and most importantly your talents and ideas to make our organization better and stronger as we approach our twentieth year in existence.*

Yes, there will be disappointments, but the successes, accomplishments, friendships, and happy memories that we will build together will far outnumber that. Many of our children and grandchildren who are born in the United States will never experience the Filipino culture the same way as those of us who grew up in the Philippines, but together, we can share our experiences and keep the Filipino spirit alive from our generation to theirs. **So I invite y'all to be involved!** As our motto says: *Together we make a difference.*



From The Outgoing President by Alan Geoghegan

THANKS FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE

Dear Fil-Am friends,
It has been a wonderful two years with our Association and I am filled with many memories of our activities and meeting new people.

I am excited by our incoming Executive Board, headed by our new President Marj Peña. Marj has previously served on the Executive Board and I'm sure she will do a fantastic job as President. I am looking forward to the next two years.

A big thanks to our outgoing Executive Board who donated much time and countless ideas to make our Association what it is today. I thank them as well as many of our volunteers for their contributions.

At our recent membership meeting, it was obvious that as our association moves forward, we should listen to what our members want to accomplish. If our Fil-Am can involve more concretely Filipinos and Filipino-Americans, we will have done a good job. By being a part of the larger community in the Midlands, there is much we can share in our area, such as our native dances, food and overall Filipino culture. I have personally been showing my video col-

lection on a various topics about the Philippines here for many years, while documenting the Association's activities in video and digital photography.

I am seeing new faces come to our events and I hope that they can be involved in our activities. Do you have a talent that may serve our Fil-Am in a meaningful way? You can contact any of the incoming officers, attend one of our social gatherings or membership meetings held throughout the year. The channels are open for you to be a part of our Association. There are numerous ways to bring us closer to our home country, the Philippines. As potential new members move into the area, I hope that they can be an integral part of displaying Philippine culture. We are seeing a revitalization of our dance troupe, which is wonderful.

Our annual fundraising gala is coming up soon this year, I hope you can buy a ticket and/or consider one of the sponsorship levels, which will benefit a number of Philippine charities including the Philippine Red Cross. I look forward to seeing you at the gala and at our other events.

Thank you for allowing me serve the Association for these many years, I hope to see you soon.

How To Reach Us

FAAGC

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Columbia, SC 29224

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FILIPINO-AMERICAN
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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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MOTIONS & TRANSITIONS

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

★ **JIM & RUBY ALBERT** of Columbia, SC. She is originally from Baguio City. They hope the Association can provide them with “fellowship” and “Philippine dancing lessons” for their daughters: Lilly, 4; Elle, 2; and baby Sophia.

★ **GLENN & MYLENE ANTONIO** of Columbia, SC. She is a nurse with Vintage Health Resources. Both from San Manuel, Isabela, they have three children: Angelo, 8; Geoff, 4; and baby Julia.

★ **BILLY & JENNIFER BLACK** of Lexington, SC. A longtime South Carolina resident, he is originally from Alabama and works at Michelin Tire Corp. She lists Cavite City and Manila as her hometowns. Joining FAAGC to “have more friends and get involved in its activities,” they hope the Association can “recruit more members to raise more funds for donation to Philippine orphanages.”

★ **ALLAN & SELINA CAHIGAN** of Columbia, SC. Originally from Sapang Palay, Bulacan, she is a nurse with Vintage Health Resources. He is also a nurse from Dasmariñas, Cavite. In Columbia for nearly three years now, they hope the Association can “mentor [them] about things needed for a better future.” They think the Association should “set up communication strategies to link members” and help “develop harmonious relationships with

one another.”

★ **MARIA JONILLEN (“Jonnie”) CRUZ** of Columbia, SC. From Pineda, Pasig City, she is a registered nurse at Palmetto Health Baptist. In the area for almost three years, she has joined FAAGC since she “would really like [her] daughter [Joelle Patricia, 12] to have lots of Filipino friends.”

★ **EMIL & ALMA GANAL** of Columbia, SC. A nurse at Palmetto Health Richland, she is originally from Muntinlupa City. A machinist at Accutech Inc., he is from Imus, Cavite. In the area for nearly three years now, they think FAAGC should have “activities for the kids that will let our Filipino culture be known to them.” They have a son, Allen Myles, 12.

★ **TOBIN (“Toby”) & MARIA PERPETUA TRINIDAD (“Che”) GIBSON** of Camden, SC. Newly arrived in the Greater Columbia area, she hails from Bulacan and is a nurse at Kershaw County Medical Center. Originally from Ohio, he is the SC ENT Sleep Lab director. She hopes the Association will “welcome [her] family and friends to the community” and “have reasonable plan of action to meet the needs of the organization.”

★ **RON & LEEJOY GODING** of Columbia, SC.

★ **FRED & JOANNA HORNICK** of Columbia,

SC. Longtime area residents, they have joined the Association since their daughter-in-law is from Bacolod City. Both are medical technologists at Moncrief Army Community Hospital.

★ **BEN & JOCELYN IVES** of Columbia, SC.

★ **ZENNY KAMMANN** of Apollo Beach, FL. Temporarily in Columbia for over a year now, she hails from Pasay City and is a programmer on contract with a local company.

★ **ALAN & JENNIFER LUCILLO** of Columbia, SC. He is from Irosin, Sorsogon, while she is from Tacloban City, Leyte. In the Greater Columbia area for over two years now, they have two children: Jial Alain, 11, and Jela Elaine, 6.

★ **CESAR & GLADYS SUBIBI** of Columbia, SC. In the Greater Columbia area for nearly three years now, they hail from Sta. Barbara, Iloilo. She is a registered nurse at Palmetto Health Baptist.

★ **NOLI & ANNA KATRINA (“Chinky”) VICTORIA** of Columbia, SC. Ten-year area residents, they hail from Quezon City. She is a customer service account manager with Sentry Security Systems, while he is a medical technologist with Blue Cross / Blue Shield. They have two children: Kevin Noel, 19, and Katrine Nicole, 15.

~ Congratulations ~

➤ to **Ken & Ronelin Zearfoss** on the birth of their son Kenneth John III on April 16.

➤ to **Vincent & Ruth Taghap Vogt** on the birth of their daughter on June 5. She is a former *Columbia Fil-Am Cultural Dance Troupe* performer.

➤ to **Wayne Barker** on his marriage on June 13. He is the older son of FAAGC sustaining charter members James & Edith Barker of Saluda, SC.

➤ to **Judith Banac** on her marriage to **George Sibert III** on June 20 in Spartanburg, SC. She is a former *Columbia Fil-Am Cultural Dance Troupe* performer.

➤ to **Jessica Cuaresma** on her upcoming marriage to **David Joshua Todd** in Columbia, SC, on September 12. A pioneer performer of the *Columbia Fil-Am Cultural Dance Troupe*, she is a daughter of FAAGC past officers and sustaining charter members Manny & Leah Cuaresma of Columbia, SC.

➤ to **Rizza Matias Bagnal** on her upcoming marriage in Alabama in September. A past performer of the *Columbia Fil-Am Cultural Dance Troupe*, she is a daughter of FAAGC past officers and sustaining charter members Ruben and Chari Matias Bagnal of Columbia, SC. ❖

Visit the
FAAGC Website
www.FilAmSC.org

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

ing one of our officers by August 22. It is possible that due to demand, only a very limited number of tickets may be available at the door.

Out-of-town guests or members wishing to stay at the Columbia Marriott can reserve a standard or double room at a special rate of \$99 plus tax. Please call the **Marriott** at

(803) 771-7000 or go online to: www.marriottcolumbia.com to make a reservation; mention that your stay is in connection with the *Columbia Filipino-American Gala*.

Gala Souvenir Program

Since the gala is the major fund-raising event of the Association, we are also soliciting all kinds of contribution in the

forms of advertisements and donations (see form included in this issue). We request that all ads and contributions for being a sponsor, patron or donor be received no later than **August 15** to be included in the printed gala souvenir program. As noted earlier, 50% of donations will directly benefit the Philippines Red Cross and other charities.

Contacts

For tickets or more details

about the *Fil-Am Gala*, please contact **Marj Peña** at (803) 360-2469, **Lisa Edwards** at (803) 360-2636, or any other officer listed on Page 2 of this newsletter. In the Sumter area, contact **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. ❖

☆☆☆ ACHIEVEMENTS GALLORE ☆☆☆

Although the 2009-2010 school year is just getting into 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 (2008-2009). 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 accomplishments — despite repeated telephone, e-mail, mailed and verbal reminders, only a few families submitted the needed information and/or photos in time for inclusion in this issue.

★ **WILLIAM T. "Bill" SIMMONS** was recently recognized and honored as "one of the Palmetto State's finest" for his "twenty years of outstanding military service" and subsequent extensive service in veterans organizations and community activities by concurrent resolutions adopted by the House of Representatives (*H. 3981* on April 29) and the Senate (*S. 780* on May 5) of the SC General Assembly.

A retired U.S. Air Force Master Sergeant and a lifetime member of Tuskegee Airmen, Inc. (TAI), he was instrumental in the founding of and served as immediate past president of the Spann Watson Chapter of TAI in Columbia. He was one of the honorees during the chapter's veterans awards banquet on May 16 at the NCO Club, Fort Jackson. He also served as FAAGC 2nd Vice-President (1999-2001) and Board Member (1996-97).

★ **FAYE COLLEY** was recently named "2009-2010 Support Employee of the Year" by Harbison West Elementary School (Lexington-Richland School District Five). For her accomplishment, she received a commendation letter from U.S. Congressman Joe Wilson (2nd District, SC) and a certificate of honor and recognition from the SC House of Representatives signed by House Speaker Robert Harrell, Jr. Earlier, she was honored as "Support Employee of the Month" of January 2009 by her school. She is also a current *Columbia Fil-Am Cultural Dance Troupe*



performer. ♦

The Graduates

★ **CATHERINE PACITA GOYENECHÉ** graduated *magna cum laude* with a Master of Arts in Psychology from The Citadel (Charleston, SC) on May 10, 2009. She is the second daughter of Charles & Bev Goyeneche of Hartsville, SC. ♦

★ **JUDITH CHRISTA PEÑA** graduated on Decem-



ber 14, 2008 from the U S C South Carolina Honors College with a Bachelor of Science (double major in Biology and English). She currently works as manager at Miyo's Gourmet Group and is planning to pursue a career in the Culinary Arts. A former *Columbia Fil-Am Cultural Dance Troupe* performer and a 2004 *Columbia Fil-Am Scholarship* recipient, she is the older daughter of Edsel & Marj Peña of Columbia, SC. ♦

★ **JESSAMINE CABADING CUARESMA** gradu-



ated from Spring Valley High School on June 5, 2009. Consistently in the A-B Honor Roll and she was a member of the National Junior Beta Club member, she was in the SVHS Girls swim team from 7th to 12th grade where she always

made it to the State-level competitions.

She received the *Academic Scholar* award for excelling in both sports and academics and was one of 39 seniors selected to receive the *Outstanding Seniors* award. Recipient of the SC LIFE scholarship, she is looking forward to attending the Darla Moore School of Business at USC Columbia this fall. She is the youngest daughter of Manny and Leah Cuaresma of Columbia, SC. ♦

★ **JEFFREY NOBLE**

graduated on June 5, 2009 from Spring Valley High School. With a senior year GPA of 3.6, he also participated in football and track and field events. Planning to become a physical therapist, he will attend Midlands Technical College, and then USC, to major in exercise therapy. A former performer of the *Columbia Fil-Am Youth Cultural Dance Troupe*, he is the son of Marvin & Beth Noble of Columbia, SC. ♦



The Graduates To-Be

★ **AILEEN ALON** completed her third year at Winthrop University (Rock Hill, SC) on the *Dean's List*. In addition to her previous *Palmetto Fellow* and *Winthrop Trustee* scholarships, she received the *A.W. Huckle Scholarship* for the 2009-2010 academic year.

A fine arts student in the Honors Program, she studied, through the Wells College *Study Abroad Program*, at the *Scuola Lorenzo de' Medici* in Flor-

ence, Italy, during the 2008 Fall semester. A former long-time *Columbia Fil-Am Cultural Dance Troupe* performer and a 2006 *Columbia Fil-Am Scholarship* recipient, she is the daughter of Noel & Helen Alon of Columbia, SC. ♦

★ **ELAIZA "Leigh" APAN** completed ninth grade on the *A&B Honor Roll* and received a "certificate of academic excellence" from Blythewood High School. A *Columbia Fil-Am Cultural Dance Troupe* performer, she is the older daughter of Bernadette Yavis of Blythewood, SC. ♦

★ **GLAIZA "Glyde" APAN** completed seventh grade with honors at Blythewood Middle School and 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. ♦

★ **BERNADETTE APAN YAVIS** received a certificate of award from Midlands Technical College "in recognition of academic achievement" in the "Part-Time Student Honor Roll" during 2008 Fall semester. A *Columbia Fil-Am Cultural Dance Troupe* choreographer and performer, she has also served as a FAAGC Executive Board Member. ♦



**The APAN-YAVIS achievers:
Glyde, Leigh & Bernadette**

Great DEALS across Columbia. Now its time to buy!



\$223,000

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Commons at Winchester
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4BR/3.5BA MLS 246774



\$97,000

126 Waverly Point Drive
Waverly Place
1092 +/- SF
2BR/2BA MLS 240809



\$509,900

14 Upper Pond Road
Wildewood
4818 +/- SF
4BR/5BA MLS 243159



\$470,000

117 Overbranch Drive
Wildewood
4000 +/- SF
6BR/6.5BA MLS 236869



\$220,000

324 Amberwood Circle
Belfair Oaks
2200 +/- SF
3BR/2BA MLS 246182



\$274,000

9 Chelmsford Court
Lake Carolina-Canterbury
2296 +/- SF
4BR/2.5BA MLS 235100



\$392,000

111 Crystal Manor Drive
Crystal Cove
3300 +/- SF
5BR/4.5BA MLS 237437



\$352,900

24 Crystal Harbor Court
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From the FAAGC Inbox

● On July 7, 2009, 10:58 AM, Iboatwright60@hotmail.com wrote:

We are Ralph and Linda Boatwright, missionaries to Olongapo City, Luzon, Philippines. We are home now trying to raise more support for our work.

We have purchased an old building there and are in the process of renovating it to accommodate our over 125 people that attend every Sunday. We feed over 60 to 75 children every Sunday. Many come for the food, but some become born again and stay. We feed 15 to 20 at each meal during the week as many of the children can not afford to go to school and therefore they stay at the church most of the time to help with the work of cleaning the place or preparing for church or Sunday School each week.

Our work with the Filipinos in Olongapo involves every aspect and need of their lives. We live and eat the same as they do and, in turn, we support many of the families by giving our own money to help many with school, food, hospital, doctors, rent and anything that is needed. We need your help. You, as a Filipino, know the need there.

We love our people there and they love and trust us with their lives, but there is only so much we can do with our retirement income and the few dollars that is given to us by a few churches. The

churches here in the states have lost their vision as far as missions are concerned and our support is on the average of \$700 a month. That does not go far when we pay five salaries to include social security, taxes and Phil-health for each employee. Also, we pay the pastor a stipend, help with the church electric bill, have paid for the five computers that are used to teach the young children, and buy all supplies needed for the church, office and seminary.

Will you help us to help those who need us most? The Filipinos have become our children and we want to help them in every way. Please help us to help them.

You can contact us at (803) 353-8176; (803) 586-6286 or (803) 738-5655.

Ralph and Linda Boatwright
317 Willie Wilson Rd.,
Eastover, SC 29044

● On March 15, 2009, Beatrice Sharp (Little Mountain, SC) wrote:

Hi, nice to hear from you. I just want to explain why I only want the **Fil-Am Bulletin** [and not FAAGC membership]. It has Philippine articles that are interesting, especially Imelda Go's articles. . . I also enjoy the other articles.

[The check is my contribution] for mailing of the **Fil-Am Bulletin**. ❖

FAAGC By-Laws Amendments

Possible amendments to the Association By-Laws are being sought from members to make the FAAGC more responsive to current conditions.

The current By-Laws specifies that "amendments...may be proposed by the By-laws Committee, the Executive Board, or...by any member."

For details, contact Noel Alon (738-0372; FilAmSC@yahoo.com). Copies of the By-Laws can be downloaded from the FAAGC website:

www.FilAmSC.org

FAAGC Member on PBS Show

FAAGC member **David Brinkman**, who "got himself a hobby as 'amateur historian'," as wife Odess Brinkman puts it, will be featured in an upcoming PBS show.

Based on relics on his property, his theory about where the original Broad River bridge burned by the Confederates to thwart Gen. Sherman's attempt to cross into and scorch-and-burn Columbia during the Civil War will be tested on **HISTORY DETECTIVES** Season Seven: Episode 711. The show is set to be first shown on Monday, September 7, 2009, from 9:00 pm to 10:00 pm, on local PBS (ETV) stations. ❖



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Mac & Clarice Galdo

officers.

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

MARJ PEÑA

President

Since 2001 when she first got elected as secretary shortly after her family moved to Columbia, Marj has been a very welcome asset to the FAAGC.

She was born in Cebu City but grew up in Phillips, Del Monte, Bukidnon.

She earned a chemistry degree from the University of Santo Tomas, and M.S. (chemistry) and Ph.D. (biology) from Bowling Green State University. She is an Research Assistant Professor at the Department of Biological Sciences and the Director of Mouse Research Core at the Center for Colon Cancer Research at USC.

In the U.S. for 25 years now, she is married to Edsel Peña, a professor of statistics at USC. They have two daughters, Judith (a past performer of the *Columbia Fil-Am Cultural Dance Troupe* and a 2008 B.S. Biology and English graduate of USC) and Michelle (a junior at Columbia University, NY).

Marj would like the Association to be more active in recruiting members and sponsoring activities that will involve more members to get to know each other and more participation from both members and non-members." In addition to continuing the gala, Christmas party, spring and summer picnics, "we could start new activities to foster camaraderie and expose the younger generation to the Filipino culture — dance lessons for young members, karaoke nights, learn to cook Fil-Am recipes, Tagalog lessons, etc." There can be "more social gatherings for different age groups."

CECILIA JACOBSEN

First Vice-President

Originally from Subic, Zambales, Cecilia has been in the U.S. for 24 years. She studied in Trident Tech College in Charleston, SC. She owns

THE 2009-2011 FAAGC EXECUTIVE BOARD



(front row, l-r): Dan Adcock (Board Member), Jojo Flora (Board Member)
(back row, l-r): Grace Balanquit (Board Member), Grace Collins (Board Member), Nieves McNulty (Treasurer), Cecilia Jacobsen (1st VP), Shirley McGuinness (Secretary), Marj Peña (President), Lisa Edwards (2nd VP), Cecilia Geoghegan (Board Member), Bambie Tijing (Asst. Secretary), Wyda Viray (Asst. Treasurer).
Photo by Dino Panti

and operates the *Fil-Am Store* in Sumter, SC.

She is married to Charles Pete Jacobsen, an electrician who is from Canton, Ohio. They have four children.

Cecilia was a 2007-09 Executive Board member. Now, she hopes to help the Association "get in touch with other Filipinos" and "get the younger people to join."

LISA EDWARDS

Second Vice-President

Born in Gingoog City, Misamis Oriental, she lived in Manila and Naga City. A medical technology graduate of Far Eastern University (Manila), she is now retired, after working at Richland Memorial Hospital for 12 years and at the SC Department of Health and Environmental Control for over 18 years.

She is married to Carlton Lewis Edwards, Sr. and they have two children (*who are also FAAGC members*): Celyn (married to Joseph Szoke, Jr.) and Carlton, Jr. (married to Amy); and seven grandchildren.

Lisa was the 2008-09 Assistant Secretary. Now, she "would like to have more new members and more activities for the young ones to participate and get involved in."

She notes that "we should not only meet during the gala or picnic; we should have at least have something once in a while so that we will meet and know each other. I know everyone has a job or things to do, but we need to take time to get acquainted with one another."

SHIRLEY MCGUINNESS

Secretary

Shirley has been actively involved in the Association since joining in 2007 shortly after moving here from New York. She also served as the 2007-2009 secretary.

A first generation Fil-Am from Wantagh, New York, who has visited relatives "back home" three times, she has a BA from Binghamton University (NY). A paralegal/notary public "hoping to obtain a position in government or in the court system," she is married to Sean McGuinness, a Columbia, SC native.

From her past experience as Secretary, she thinks "the Association does really good things to foster a sense of community." She "would like to see this continue, not only among our fellow Filipinos, in Columbia and abroad, but among other communities too."

She notes that "as one of the first and oldest Asian cultural organizations here in Columbia, FAAGC should be spearheading a movement to get an Asian representative for the State Government's Committee for Minority Affairs. Currently there is none. There are Hispanic, African-American and Native American Festivals for these groups, yet there is nothing listed for Asians."

Also, she thinks "we should actively work towards expanding our building fund for a community center of some form for FAAGC. We have a small

account for that purpose. [Such] community center would be a good stepping stone to inspire the membership."

NIEVES MCNULTY

Treasurer

A sustaining charter member since FAAGC was organized, Nieves has served two terms as its President (1997-99 and 1999-2001). She has also taught Tagalog lessons for FAAGC, chaired the *Columbia Fil-Am Scholarship* committee, and even

choreographed for the dance troupe.

Originally from Quezon City via Lingayen, Pangasinan and La Paz, Iloilo, and a mathematics graduate from the University of the Philippines (UP), she came to Columbia in 1974 for further studies. She received her Ph.D. in mathematics from USC in 1982.

She has taught math at UP-Los Baños, USC-Columbia, University of Hawaii, University of Colorado, UP-Diliman, and USC-Aiken. Since 1999 she has been the math department chair at Columbia College. She has received numerous professional honors, awards and grants. In 2001 she was named "*International Professional of the Year*" by the Columbia International Festival.

She is married to George McNulty, a math professor at USC who has also served as three-term FAAGC Treasurer from 2001 to 2007 and Second Vice-President from 2007 to 2009. They have two sons: Alfred (a 10-year, pioneer performer of the *Columbia Fil-Am Cultural Dance Troupe*) and Michael.

MARIBEL TIJING

Assistant Secretary

Only five years in the area, Bambie considers her family, which "loves to travel and do outdoor activities," as "diverse" — she is from Oas, Albay; husband Neil Anthony is from Dumaguete City; son Lanz Anthony, 10, was born in Al-Khobar, Saudi Arabia, and

(continued on Page 8)

daughter Lara Allyson, 6, was born in Savannah, Georgia.

With an accounting degree from the Polytechnic University of the Philippines, she is a “stay-at-home mom.” Her husband works at AT&T as senior RF engineer.

As a new officer, she will “like to promote closer fellowship between Filipinos and Americans” and “encourage every Filipino in SC to become an active member and participate in every event or activity of the organization.”

WYDA VIRAY

Assistant Treasurer

Since arriving in the area about five years ago, Wyda and her family have been actively participating in Fil-Am activities: husband Mario served as FAAGC Second Vice-President (2005-2007) and Board Member (2007-2009); son Mark, 19, was president of Ridge View HS Fil-Am Youth Club (which is instrumental in *Fil-Am Scholarship* fund-raising), and son Joshua is a *Columbia Fil-Am Cultural Dance Troupe* performer.

Born in Cavite City, Wyda moved to the U.S when she was 11, and attended Skyline College at South San Francisco, CA. A civil service employee for 25 years, she is currently employed at the U.S. Army’s Moncrief Hospital at Ft. Jackson.

DANIEL ADCOCK

Executive Board Member

Considering himself “a half Filipino” since he is married to the former Tess Lanuza, a nurse originally from Pangasinan, Dan served earlier as a two-term FAAGC Assistant Treasurer

2009-2011 FAAGC EXECUTIVE BOARD

(continued from Page 7)

(2003-2005 and 2005-2007). He says “will do [his] best in whichever way [he] can to support the Association.”

Dan is a veterinarian with a practice in West Columbia. Born in Alabama, he grew up in Louisiana and received his doctorate degree in veterinary medicine, with honors, from Louisiana State University (LSU). He and Tess have a son, Paul, and a daughter, Danielle.

GRACE BALANQUIT

Executive Board Member

Originally from Cebu who has been in the U.S. for 20 years (and in Columbia for four years), Grace has been actively involved in FAAGC events since becoming a member over two years ago. She is a regular volunteer during the Columbia International Festival and has performed with the *Fil-Am Dance Troupe* since last year.

A regular advertiser with the *Fil-Am Bulletin*, she says “that it makes me feel good that my advertising fees goes to a good cause.” As a new officer, she would like the Association to continue “touching base with the new and old members and keeping them posted with our activities.”

With BS in Kinesiology from San Francisco State University, California, she now works as a real estate agent with RE/MAX Real Estate Services. She is married to Frank Hutchinson.

GRACE COLLINS

Executive Board Member

A pioneer sustaining charter

member, Grace has served the Association in various capacities. She has served as an Executive Board member (1991-1992), Second Vice-President (1994-1995, 1995-1996), First Vice President (1999-2001), and President (2003-2005). But most notably, she was the founding director (and once in a while, early on, a performer) of the *Columbia Fil-Am Cultural Dance Troupe* from 1992 to 2000.

A member of the Columbia International Festival organizing committee since it began in 1996, she was named the festival’s “*International Volunteer of the Year*” in 2002.

Originally from Pampanga, one of the so-called Columbia “origins” [original Filipino residents in the area], and a long-time SC Department of Motor Vehicles employee, she has two grown children, Ronnie and Mary.

JOSEPH FLORA

Executive Board Member

In the U.S. since 1988 and in Columbia since 1993, Jojo hails from Quezon City. With a Ph.D. from the University of Cincinnati, he is Associate Professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering at USC.

A FAAGC member since 1994 (when he and his wife briefly became members of *Columbia Fil-Am Cultural Dance Troupe* when they performed *La Jota Morcadeña* at the 4th annual gala), Jojo notes “I’ve been a member for quite a while and I hope to learn how FAAGC works. I would like to give back

to FAAGC by being more proactive in its Board and through my daughters’ participation in its activities.”

His wife Joette is a project architect with Quackenbush Architects and Planners. Their daughter Justine is a freshman in the *Discovery* magnet program at Spring Valley High School and is a FAAGC dance troupe performer. Younger daughter Jasmine is a 4th grader at St. John Neumann School.

CECILIA GEOGHEGAN

Executive Board Member

Since arriving in Columbia almost eight years ago, and being married to FAAGC immediate past president Alan Geoghegan (who has continuously served as a FAAGC officer from 2001 to 2009), Cecille has been selflessly immersed in Fil-Am activities, including performing with the dance troupe.

Born in Digos, Davao del Sur and growing up in Don Carlos, Bukidnon, she became a certified nursing assistant at the St. Luke’s College of Nursing of the Trinity University of Asia, (formerly Trinity College of Quezon City). She works as a laboratory phlebotomist at Palmetto Health Richland, while taking classes at Midlands Technical College.

As a FAAGC officer, she hopes “more Filipino parents and their kids participate in our Association’s activities. I wish we can have a show at Koger Center [again].” Also, she “would like to help my former school in the Philippines, by, for example, collecting and sending them used books.” ♦

The Filipino American Association of Greater Columbia proudly acknowledges with gratitude the following for volunteering time, talents, and services to the organization during the 2007-2009 term. The FAAGC certificates of appreciation were presented during the Columbia Fil-Am Annual Summer Picnic and FAAGC Volunteer Appreciation Day held on June 28, 2009 at the Ft. Jackson’s Weston Lake Recreation Area.

Maria Aiken	Divina Carter	Jojo Flora	David Massie	Keith Seymour
Helen Alon	Aurelio Casaje	Justine Flora	Marissa Massie	Rolando Sibug
Noel Alon	Grace Collins	Carmen Funelas	Alan Matienzo	Lailane Soco
Glyde Apan	Marilou Cortez	Marsha Furagganan	Shirley McGuinness	Rico Torres
Leigh Apan	Jessica Cuaresma	Leona Galindo	George McNulty	Gina Velasco
Leonardo Aradanas	Leah Cuaresma	Cecille Geoghegan	Nieves McNulty	Maya Villanueva
Grace Balanquit	Ma. Eloisa de Lemos	Alan Geoghegan	Zenaida Meer	Perly Villanueva
Judy Banac	Sharless Dingman	Imelda Go	Ma. Lourdes Padilla	Josh Viray
Ernie Baranquel	Roy Duplon	Yani Gould	Mike Padua	Mario Viray
Cheryl Bautista	Irene Ebite	Christy Iguid	Dino Panti	Wyda Viray
Jennifer Black	Carlton Edwards	Cecilia Jacob sen	Giles Rojo	Precy Walker
Cecille Boman	Lisa Edwards	Jonathan Jacob sen	Glyde Rojo	Cecille Wessinger
Odess Brinkman	Sally Ellis	Tessie Kenerson	Marlon Rojo	Myrna Whitmire
Sunny Burroughs	Marybeth Espinos a	Peter Liunoras	Neneng Rojo	Bernadette Yavis
Bing Calalo	Joette Flora	Rina Lowder		

Filipinos in the U.S. Navy... (continued from Page 1)

five Filipinos. I chatted with them a bit in Filipino and they said that there were a lot of Filipinos in the Navy and Filipino civilians in the Base.

Today's statistics (*personal correspondence from Captain Ann G. Hammond [Deputy, Diversity Directorate, Chief of Naval Personnel (N134)], March 18, 2009*) indicate that in December 2008, there was a total of 9,994 enlisted Filipino sailors or 3.5% of the Navy's enlisted. There were 32 Filipino Captains on active duty but no Filipino Flag officers. A Filipino is one who identifies themselves as Filipino on application forms.

The following table describes these Filipinos further:

Category	Number of Enlisted Filipinos	Percentage Relative to 9,994 Enlisted Filipinos	Percentage Relative To Total Enlisted in Category
Females	1,024	10.2%	2.3%
Males	8,970	89.8%	3.7%
Officers	954	9.5%	1.8%
Female officer	169	1.7%	2.1%
Male officer	785	7.9%	1.7%

Limited Enlistment

The ties between the Navy and Filipinos go back more than a century ago. There is evidence that as early as 1898 the U.S. Navy began recruiting Filipinos as stewards and mess boys. In 1901, President William McKinley signed *General Order No. 40*, which allowed the Navy to enlist up to 500 Filipinos for the Naval Insular Force. In those days, the Filipinos could only enlist with the Navy as stewards (that is, domestics or cooks who did menial jobs, such as cleaning the galleys, wardrooms, and officers' living quarters).

Recruitment Policies

There were an estimated 6,000 Filipinos in the U.S. Navy by World War I. There were policy changes after the U.S. granted its former colony, the Philippines, independence as the Philippine Islands in 1946. In 1947, the U.S. entered into an agreement (Article XXVII of the Military Bases Agreement) with the Republic of the Philippines which allowed the U.S. to maintain military bases in the Philippines and to recruit Filipino citizens for voluntary enlistment into the U.S. Armed Forces. The

Navy was the only military branch Filipinos could join.

In 1952, an agreement was made so that up to 1,000 Filipinos could be enlisted in the Navy each year. In 1954, this agreement was amended so that up to 2,000 could enlist annually.

Opportunities

By 1970, there were nearly 17,000 Filipinos in the Navy. During that time, there were probably more Filipinos in the U.S. Navy than in the Philippine Navy. For many young Filipinos, enlisting with the U.S. Navy led to many opportunities. Even as a recruit, the salary was a lot higher than the Philippine local salary. Recruits could later gain U.S. permanent residence and

stewards, but at any rank for which they qualified by their education, prior experience, and security qualifications.

Closure of U.S. Bases

In 1991, the U.S. bases (Clark Air Base and Subic Bay Naval Base) in the Philippines were closed, which ultimately led to the end of the recruitment of Filipino citizens into the U.S. Navy. Mount Pinatubo, which was near to both bases, erupted in June 1991. The damage from the eruption was so devastating that Clark Air Base was declared a total loss while the naval base sustained heavy damage. The Military Bases Agreement was not renewed and the last of the American troops left Subic Bay in November 1992. With that, the recruitment of Filipino nationals ended.

References:

Filipinos in the United States Navy. Retrieved May 5, 2009, from the Navy Department Library Web site: <http://www.history.navy.mil/library/online/filipinos.htm>
Filipino-American in the US Navy. Retrieved May 5, 2009, from Nestor Palugod Enriquez's Web site: <http://philusnavy.tripod.com> ❖

Fil-Am Physician to Three U.S. Presidents

by I.C. Go

Dr. Eleanor "Connie" Mariano is a famous Filipino American who served in the U.S. Navy and was appointed as chief White House physician during the Bush and Clinton years. By attending to three sitting American presidents for nine years, Mariano is by far the longest serving White House physician in American history. She is also the first female commander of the White House Medical Unit.

In 1955, she was born in the Philippines in Sangley Point Naval Base in Cavite City. Her parents, Angel and Lu Mariano, immigrated to the U.S. in 1957 when she was just two years old. Her father was a U.S. Navy steward who retired as a master chef after 29 years of service. Mariano's four Filipino godfathers were also Navy master chefs. She also joined the U.S. Navy in 1977 and she earned her medical degree from the Uniformed Services University of Medicine in Bethesda, Maryland in 1981.

Following an internship in Internal Medicine at San Diego Naval Hospital in 1982, Mariano was assigned as the General Officer on board *USS Prairie* where she served as the sole physician for a ship's company of 750 men and women. In 1990, she was selected as the San Diego Naval Hospital's head of internal medicine.

In June 1992, while George H.W. Bush was President, Mariano became the first military woman in American history to serve as White House physician. When President Bill Clinton got elected, he asked her to stay and even promoted her as Senior White House Physician in February 1994 and director of the White House Medical Unit.

In June 2000, President Clinton promoted Mariano to the rank of Rear Admiral, becoming the first Filipino

American in history to become a Navy Admiral. In 2001, she retired from the Navy and left the White House.

At a ceremony after her promotion to rear admiral, Mariano said, "I am pleased to stand before you today as proof that Filipino-Americans in the Navy no longer have to go through the kitchen, the back door or the garage.

I came to the White House by way of the kitchen. I come from a family of Navy stewards. The first Mariano who served in the United States Navy joined in the 1920s. At that time and for many years thereafter, the only way Filipinos were able to serve in the Navy was as stewards. The Mariano men served with pride and accumulated a total of over 100 years of service among them. My father had served six admirals in their homes. So, 45 years later, for this to happen in my family is quite an honor."

"The Navy meant many things to my family. It meant freedom from poverty, for my father's family was very poor. The Navy meant the opportunity to succeed. The Navy meant hope that one day your children would get an education and perhaps boldly dream of becoming physicians or naval officers. The Navy meant all the good things America had to offer."

In honoring Dr. Mariano for her achievements, the National Federation of Filipino American Associations commented that "as the daughter of a former Filipino U.S. Navy steward, she is a living proof that no matter what a person's background is, we can aspire for top leadership positions in the U.S. government."

References:

From stewards to admirals: Filipinos in the U.S. Navy. Retrieved May 5, 2009, from the New America Media Web site: http://news.newamericamedia.org/news/view_article.html?article_id=3aa56896ce0e9bcl3f9afc78829530d0; (quick-link: <http://tinyurl.com/pinoy-navy>) *President's physician.* Retrieved May 5, 2009, from the Txtmania.com Web site: <http://www.txtmania.com/articles/eleanor.php> ❖

eventually U.S. citizenship. In 1973 Filipinos were finally given the right to enter, not just as

***** Just A Reminder *****

Membership renewal for the Fil-Am Association Year 2009-10 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 (see enclosed form in this issue). Dues can also be paid at the upcoming gala.

If there are membership renewal questions, contact **Helen Alon** (738-0372; helenqda@yahoo.com).



The **FAAGC 2009-2010 Directory of Members** booklet is currently being revised and will be distributed soon to all members.

Anyone who would like to place a three-line (25 characters per line) **business listing** (free to members) or a **business-card-size ad** (for a small fee to help cover printing expenses) in the directory is urged to contact the **Fil-Am Bulletin** Editor (738-0372; FilAmSC@yahoo.com). ◆



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



Copies of the By-laws and application forms can be downloaded from the website.






Current and some past issues (in color) of the **Fil-Am Bulletin** are also available online.

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P.O. Box 24112, Columbia, SC 29224
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★ Volume 19, Number 1
★



Reminder:

* **Columbia FIL-AM Annual GALA** will be held on **Saturday, August 29, 2009** at the **Marriott Hotel of Columbia** (1200 Hampton St., Columbia, SC 29201)

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