



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 11, Number 1 ★

P.O. Box 24112, Columbia, SC 29224

★ Summer 2001 *

Fil-Am Appreciation Night, General Membership Meeting Set For August 4

In appreciation of the support they gave to the Association this past year, all FAAGC members, supporters, and their families are invited to attend the **Fil-Am Appreciation Night** on **Saturday, August 4, 2001** at the **Ridge View High School** cafeteria at 4801 Hard Scrabble Road near The Summit in Northeast Columbia.

Starting at 5:00 p.m., the affair includes a general membership meeting, a **potluck** dinner, a short awards program, and socializing/dancing. Immediate past president Nieves McNulty is in charge of the event; call her at **781-9509** for further details.

This will be the first general membership *continued on Page 2*

Peter Liunoras Heads New FAAGC Executive Board

Peter Liunoras, a past FAAGC vice-president, was voted as the new President of the Columbia Fil-Am Association at the election of officers held during the annual Fil-Am spring picnic on April 15 at the Sesquicentennial Park.

(See Page 6 for information about Pete and the other new FIL-AM officers.)

FAAGC To Celebrate 10th Anniversary at Annual Gala on September 8

The Filipino-American Association of Greater Columbia will celebrate its **10th anniversary** during its **11th Annual Gala** on **September 8, 2001**. In addition, the Association will have the **9th induction** ceremony to usher in the 2001-2003 set of officers. This year's Fil-Am annual formal event will be held at the **Embassy Suites Hotel** in Columbia from 6:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m.

The 3-in-1 celebration starts with a reception at 6:00 p.m., with available cash-bar. A sit-down dinner will start at 7:00 p.m., followed by a short induction program and entertainment numbers at 8:00. The *Stargazer Band* will provide the music for the listening and dancing pleasure of the attendees. A multimedia presentation of the first 10 years of FAAGC history is also being planned.

Tickets to the gala are \$40 per person (\$30 for full-time dependent students with school ID) and may be purchased from any of the FAAGC officers. Several past Fil-Am officers and members who have moved out of town have indicated they will be coming back to attend the festivities.

Since the annual gala is the major fundraising event of the Association, we are also soliciting all kinds of contribution in the

form of advertisements and donations (*see enclosed form*). The proceeds of the event support the various community-oriented and youth programs of the Association as well as add to the Fil-Am scholarship and cultural center funds. We request that all ads and contributions be received no later than **August 25** to insure inclusion in the souvenir program.

Due to hotel requirements regarding food quantity to be prepared, all gala ticket reservations must be confirmed and paid for by noon on **Monday, September 3**.

A special room rate of \$89 per night is available for those who want to stay at Embassy Suites. Please reserve your room three weeks in advance.

Babysitting services will be available in the gala hospitality suite for \$20 per child (\$35 for two) from 6:00 p.m. to midnight. The price includes pizza and drinks (if your child needs special food, please bring this with you).

For more information regarding this babysitting service, as well as for tickets and further details about the gala, contact any of the officers listed on Page 2.



The FAAGC Executive Board for 2001-2003: (from left) Hector Galang, Pete Liunoras, Diane Phillips, Tessie DeCastro, George McNulty, Lulu Anderson, Marj Peña, Tessie Kenerson, Polly Pearson, Alan Geoghegan & Rudy Dizon. Not in photo: Ruben Matias-Bagnal. Photo by Jim Kenerson

The
Filipino-American
Association of Greater Columbia
cordially invites you to its
**9th Induction,
10th Anniversary,
& 11th Annual GALA
Celebration**
at the
Embassy Suites Hotel
200 Stoneridge Drive
(off Greystone Blvd. & I-126)
Columbia, SC
on Saturday, September 8, 2001
from 6:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m.

The President's Corner

by Peter Liunoras

**Mission Statement**

First of all, I would like to thank the Fil-Am community of Greater Columbia for electing me as president. *Mabuhay!*

As the newly elected president, I will always have a vision of goals for all that we want to accomplish. Among the objectives that we would like to accomplish during this term (*and beyond, even without me*), are to strengthen the volunteer program, to establish scholarship funding, and to work for a future cultural center for the Fil-Am Association of Columbia.

In order for these goals to be accomplished, we need not only the help of the Fil-Am officers, but the participation of the community as well.

Appreciation Night*(continued from Page 1)*

business meeting for the Association Year 2001-2002. Your attendance is urgently needed to help set the tone and activities for the coming year. This is also a good time to socialize and meet the many new members we have.

Since this is a **POTLUCK** get-together, please bring a 3-liter soda and covered dish enough for your family and others. To ensure food variety, suggested covered dishes are as follows (*based on the first letter of the family names*):

A - C : Dessert
D - H : Vegetable Dish
I - N : Rice; *Pancit*/noodles
O - Z : Meat Dish
FAAGC : Plates, utensils, ice

The Good, The Bad, And The Uglyby Nieves McNulty
1997-2001 FAAGC President

After stepping down as President of FAAGC, I would like to share with you my reflections of what's good, what's bad and what's ugly about the Association. Since I want to end with a positive note, I would like to reverse the order.

First, the ugly. What I am about to say is not unique to our organization. The ugly is when someone in the group or outside the group receives or instigates questionable or negative information about someone or something associated with the organization and either believes it or spreads it without further investigation. Many times misunderstandings occur, feelings are hurt, and people leave the group because of information that may not have been true, may not have been the complete picture or may have been taken completely out of context. I do not want to mention specific instances but they do occur, mostly unintentionally, but also because we are only human.

How can we avoid falling into this ugly trap? Open communication is the answer. If we hear of something that bothers us, find out if it is true from those who are involved and avoid being the source of misinformation.

Next, the bad. What I think is bad about our organization is the lack of participation by some of the members. Most of the time it is the Executive Board and a small handful of members who volunteer their time, energy, money and other resources for FAAGC's activities. It is true we are all busy with our jobs, our families and other activities, but it would be nice if other members volunteered to do something without being asked, or if asked, would try to accommodate the request as best as they could.

In the past four years I may not have provided the push or the inspiration for members to be more active in the organization, and I apologize for that. Please do not let one person, officer or

not, be your excuse from becoming more active in the future. Don't wait to be asked. Instead, ask what you can do.

Finally, the good. The Philippines, Tagalog, Bisaya, Ilokano, Bicol, *tinikling, singkil, Igorot, maglalatik, pandanggo sa ilaw, binasuan*, fan dance, *adobo, pancit, lumpia, pakbet, inihaw, lechon, halo-halo, puto, kutsinta, leche flan, paksiw, suman*, carabao, jeepney, Mayon, *po*, Rizal, Bonifacio, Juan Luna, Aguinaldo, *Kalayaan*, Maria Clara, *barong*, butterfly sleeves, *kimona*;

Christmas party, Easter picnic, annual gala, cookouts, potluck, dance troupe, International Festival, exhibits, weddings, funerals, births, graduations, Christmas Carillon parade, *Lolo, Lola, inaanak, bayanihan*;

Eva, Minnie, Helen, Pete, Noel, Grace, Tessie, Eloisa, Renato, Ruben, Linda, Leah, Manny, Sally, Gene, Bill, Whip, Fred, Pat, Jaja, Judy, Polly, Edith, Joy, Tessie, Tony, Eden, Marj, George, Remy, Jon, Imelda, Rowena, Jojo, Rudy, Remy, Francisco, Marvin, Beth, Precy, Cecile, Laura, Al, Susan, Chari, Ofelia, Hector, Alan, Joellen, Maria, Naty, Conrad, Bruce, Ben, Aida, Virgie, Whip, Judy, Ruth, Lee Ann, Almira, Raymond, AJ, Alfred, Aileen, Eileen, Kathleen, Abigail, Racquel, Rizza, Michelle, Frances, Danielle, Brian, Justin, Nichole, Christine, Pierce, Jeslie Ann, Jessica, Jessamine, Iris, Alvin, Racquel, Raymond, Christian, Mariel, Ron, Twinkle, Ignacio, Isel, Irene, Jeffrey, Ian, Sean, Andrew, *et al.*;

bahay kubo, vinta, flowers, the newsletter, *etc., etc., etc.* . . .

As you can see, and lest we forget, the good outweighs the bad and the ugly.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve you.

How To Reach Us

FAAGC
 P.O. Box 24112
 Columbia, SC 29224

e-mail: faagc@hotmail.com
www.faagc.homestead.com

J J J J J J J J J J
 2001-2003 EXECUTIVE BOARD

President
 PETER LIUNORAS
 (803) 699-1214

First Vice-President
 TESSIE DeCASTRO
 (803) 736-1649

Second Vice-President
 TESSIE KENERSON
 (803) 699-1178

Secretary
 MARJ PEÑA
 (803) 732-1202

Assistant Secretary
 LULU ANDERSON
 (803) 788-4050

Treasurer
 GEORGE McNULTY
 (803) 781-9509

Assistant Treasurer
 POLLY PEARSON
 (803) 499-9596

Executive Board Members:
 RUDY DIZON
 (803) 788-4067

HECTOR GALANG
 (803) 736-8997

ALAN GEOGHEGAN
 (803) 787-5255

RUBEN MATIAS-BAGNAL
 (803) 699-0797

DIANE PHILLIPS
 (803) 955-9515

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 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 C. ALON
 Editor

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Helen Alon

Production/Circulation Coordinator
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AJ Alon * Aileen Alon * Nola Alon
 Production/Circulation Assistants

MOTIONS & TRANSITIONS

Welcome...New Members

ABU-BA-KAR & ROWENA ALI of Newberry, SC. They have a son, Cayd Ben.

MERLYN BAJAMUNDE of Columbia, SC. She owns *Just "4" You* which makes personalized gift baskets and cakes for special occasions.

TIM & CATHY TUAÑO BUICE of Columbia, SC. She is from Tondo, Manila and works as an administrative assistant/advocate with P&A for People with Disabilities. He is a Columbia police officer.

JAMES & MICHELLE CHIN of Irmo, SC. Michelle is originally from Parañaque, Metro Manila. James is a health care administrator at Medical Services of America. In the Columbia area for about a year now, they have two children: Nicole, 5, and Kathleen, 2.

ANNIE COOLEY of Sumter, SC. A technician with Gold Kist, she has been in South Carolina for 27 years.

TRICIA CORONADO of Sumter, SC. A native of Pasig, Rizal, she recently arrived in the area as a registered nurse with the Tuomey Health Care System in Sumter, SC.

MELINDA DRAKE of Columbia, SC. Originally from Quezon City, she has been in South Carolina for 14 years. With a doctorate in business administration and a master's

degree in social work, she is a professor at Limestone College and a social worker with Willowglen Academy. She wants the Association to "reach out to Filipinos across South Carolina and be able to assist them in their assimilation in the U.S." She has a daughter, Asa Lynne, 12.

DERRILL FELKEL of Columbia, SC. A native South Carolinian, he is a teacher at Ridge View High School.

LITA HUFF of Sumter, SC. A longtime SC resident, she is originally from San Fernando, La Union. She is a custodial work leader at NAF Lodging. Her husband, Larry, is a mechanic with Sumter School District 17. They have two children: Maria, 23, and Carmelita, 20.

EDSEL & MARJ PEÑA of Columbia, SC. Recently arrived in Columbia, Ed hails from Panganiban, Catanduanes, while Marj is from Phillips, Del Monte, Bukidnon. He is a professor of statistics at USC, while she is a research assistant professor at the USC Biology Department and USC Cancer Center. They have two daughters: Judith, 14, and Michelle, 12.

GIGI PEPITO of Sumter, SC. A registered nurse, she is from Sta. Rosa, Laguna. Newly arrived in the area, she hopes the Association helps her "meet a lot of people (most especially Filipinos)."

JONATHAN "JP" PORTIS of Dalzell, SC. A member of the US Air Force at Shaw AFB, he likes food preparation, singing and tennis.

TOM & FLOR RIPLEY of Columbia, SC. Originally from Leyte, Flor works as a data processing clerk with the US Army. Tom is a retired US Army man. Just two years in the area, they have a child, Chancy, 16. They hope the



The Peña Family

Association gets "more involved with the community and our youth."

ROBBIE & FLO TUMBOKON of Columbia, SC. A retired medical doctor, Robbie hails from Aklan and Makati. Originally from Youngstown, Ohio, Flo is a nurse at the SC Department of Health & Environmental Control.

FRANCING WALKER of Dalzell, SC. Originally from Alaminos, Pangasinan, she is a HeadStart teacher with Wateree Community Action. She thinks the Association members should "work together as a team and respect one another."

MITCH & TINA ZEMP of Irmo, SC. From Makati, Metro Manila, she is a registered nurse at Palmetto Richland Memorial Hospital. A native of Mullins, South Carolina, he is a quality engineer at Federal Mogul. They hope the

Association can help them "promote friendship with other Filipinos and Americans and provide better understanding of the Filipino heritage." In Columbia for ten years now, they have a daughter, Jessica Marie, 1.

Congratulations to:

BILLY & EDITH ALSTON on their recent 10th wedding anniversary. They had a four-day celebration in Atlanta with daughter Tracy (who also celebrated her birthday) and her husband Paul.

RACQUEL DIZON on her recent promotion to assistant comptroller/director at the MGM Grand Hotel in Las Vegas. The daughter of Rudy & Brenda Dizon, she was a former FAAGC assistant secretary.

At Iba Pa... Etc...

We are in the process of updating the Fil-Am directory. If you have a new address, telephone number, and/or e-mail address, please contact Membership Committee chair Helen Alon (738-0372; e-mail: HELENQDA@yahoo.com) to update our records.

If you have any Fil-Am Association property, i.e., dance troupe costumes, books, music/video tapes, or other items, kindly return them to, or at least contact, Helen Alon (738-0372; e-mail: HELENQDA@yahoo.com) so we can finalize our property inventory.



Melinda & Asa Lynne Drake



The Zemp Family

BE PROUD OF YOUR HERITAGE

Join the Columbia Fil-Am Association

"Together We Make A Difference"

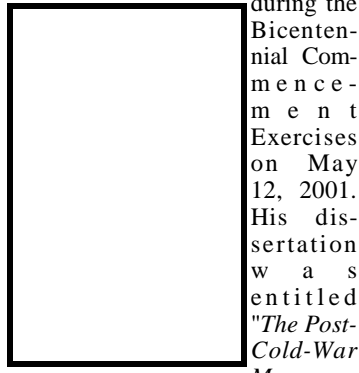


A★C★H★I★E★V★E★M★E★N★T★S★ G★A★L★O★R★E

Although the 2001-2002 school year is about to start, we would be remiss if we don't carry on our annual tradition of recognizing high-achieving children (and adults too) in the Fil-Am community during the immediate past school year. 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 -- only a few families returned our telephone calls or the forms we mailed).

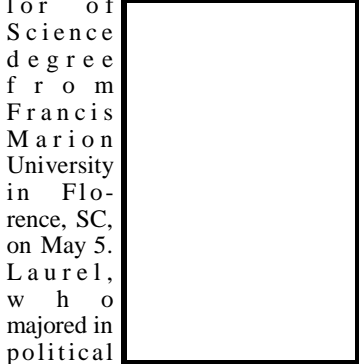
The Graduates

✉ **RENATO CRUZ DE CASTRO** received his Ph.D. in International Studies from USC



during the Bicentennial Commencement Exercises on May 12, 2001. His dissertation was entitled "The Post-Cold-War Management of the U.S. Alliances with Japan, South Korea, and the Philippines: A Comparative Analysis." A very active FAAGC member during his USC stint, he has returned to the Philippines to resume his teaching position at De La Salle University.

✉ **LAUREL ELIZABETH KENERSON** received her Bachelor of Science degree from Francis Marion University in Florence, SC, on May 5. Laurel, who majored in political science,

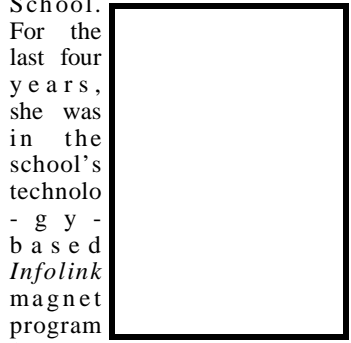


was a member of the highly successful Francis Marion women's soccer team which went to the NCAA tournament twice in her four years on the team. A daughter of Tessie and Jim Kenerson of Columbia (who now "find their nest empty"), Laurel plans to work and live in Charleston.

✉ **MICHAEL BAENS** graduated with honors from Cardinal Newman High School. A son of Hector & Lolita Baens of Columbia, SC, he plans to study at USC.

✉ **PIERCE EMBREE COOK III** graduated from Irmo High School on June 2 and will attend USC to take up media arts. He is the son of Joellen Cook of Irmo, SC.

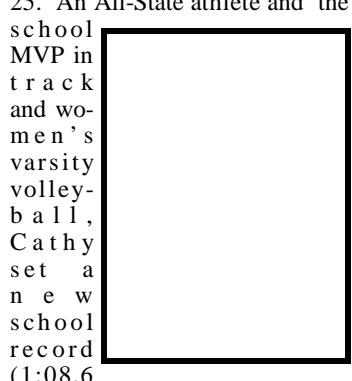
✉ **JESSICA CABADING CUARESMA** graduated on June 1 from Richland Northeast High School.



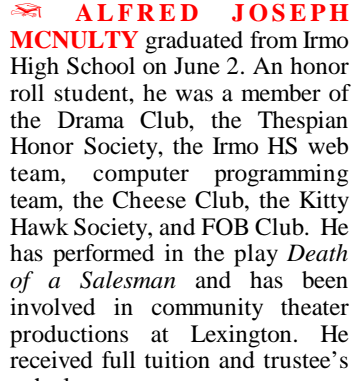
For the last four years, she was in the school's technology-based Infolink magnet program for accelerated college prep students. The senior class treasurer, she was an active member of the Student Government, National Honor Society, French International Club, Interact Service Club, Hospitality Commission and School Improvement Commission. She was a delegate to the SC Association of Student Councils convention in Myrtle Beach last summer. Extensively involved with the *Cavalier Journal*, the school's video magazine, and the RNE morning news where she served as an anchor and a camera operator, she received several media journalism awards, including Best Out-of-School Feature, Best Overall Technician, and induction to the Quill & Scroll National Journalism Honor Society. She also interned this past school year as a co-host of *Youth Clicks*, a weekly teen talk show aired on SC ETV. Voted by her senior peers as "Most Dependable," she also received US National Leadership, Youth Click Leadership, *Infolink* Community Service, and Senior English Achievement awards. With a 3.6 GPA, she has received scholarship awards from SC LIFE, Spring Valley Rotary Club, and the MG James Ursano Scholarship Fund. She will attend the University of South Carolina to study broadcast journalism. A

pioneer Fil-Am Cultural Dance Troupe member, she is a daughter of Manny & Leah Cuaresma of Columbia, SC.

✉ **CATHERINE PACITA GOYENECHÉ** graduated from Hartsville High School on May 25. An All-State athlete and the school MVP in track and women's varsity volleyball, Cathy set a new school record (1:08.68) in the 400 hurdles when she ran fifth in the event at the recent state track meet at Spring Valley High School. With academic scholarship awards from Palmetto Fellows, Clemson Abney Scholarship, Top 10 Student, CP&L Bright Light, and Hartsville Lawyers, she will study at Clemson University. She is a daughter of Charles & Beverly Goyeneche of Hartsville, SC.

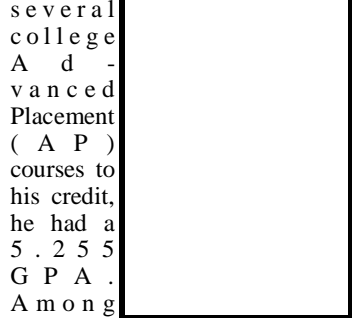
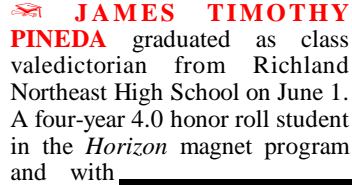


✉ **ALFRED JOSEPH MCNULTY** graduated from Irmo High School on June 2. An honor roll student, he was a member of the Drama Club, the Thespian Honor Society, the Irmo HS web team, computer programming team, the Cheese Club, the Kitty Hawk Society, and FOB Club. He has performed in the play *Death of a Salesman* and has been involved in community theater productions at Lexington. He received full tuition and trustee's scholarships (totaling \$76,000) from Allegheny College (PA) but has opted to go to USC



instead to major in computer engineering. A pioneer Fil-Am dance troupe member, he is the older son of George & Nieves McNulty of Columbia, SC.

✉ **JAMES TIMOTHY PINEDA** graduated as class valedictorian from Richland Northeast High School on June 1. A four-year 4.0 honor roll student in the *Horizon* magnet program and with several college Advanced Placement (AP) courses to his credit, he had a 5.255 GPA. Among his senior-year honors and awards were: *Who's Who Among High School Students*, Out-standing Senior, Senior Super-lative — Most Studious, Out-standing AP Spanish Student of the Year, nomination for National Youth Leadership Forum on Medicine, Outstanding Delegate at the Ivy League Model UN Conference, and participation in Academic Governor's School of South Carolina and the Palmetto Boy's State 2000. He was an officer or member of various organizations, including Model UN team (*president*), National Honor Society (*vice president*), Interact (*treasurer*), Student Government, National Spanish Honor Society, Mu Alpha Theta, SC Junior Academy of Science. He was a three-year member of the RNHS Nationals Model UN Team which recently won its 12th consecutive award of distinction and the RNHS SAT team which won the state AAAA championship. An accomplished violinist and pianist, he was assistant concertmaster of the Richland Two District Orchestra and the SC Youth Philharmonic Orchestra. Recipient of scholarship offers totaling about \$650,000 from various universities, TJ has



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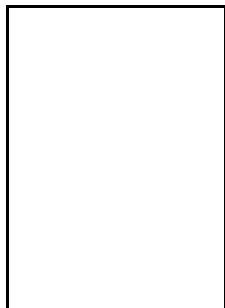
A★C★H★I★E★V★E★M★E★N★T★S G★A★L★O★R★E ★★ ★★ ★★ ★★ ★★

decided to attend Duke University as an Angier B. Duke Scholar for a double major in public policy and chemistry. This summer he interned in the Manila office of the World Health Organization, of which he hopes "ideally... to become the director-general." A former Fil-Am dance troupe performer, TJ is a son of Jaime & Alice Pineda of Columbia, SC.

✉ **MICHELLE RABACA SHAW** graduated on June 1 from Ridge View High School. She is the daughter of William & Luz Shaw of Elgin, SC.

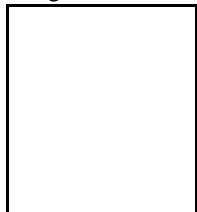
The Graduates-To-Be

★ **CHANCY RIPLEY** finished his sophomore year at Spring Valley High School and received "Student of the Quarter for Marketing" award. He also received two honor roll achievement citations from the SC House



of Representatives. A volunteer for *Christ for Teens*, he is the son of Tom & Flor Ripley of Columbia, SC.

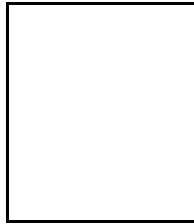
★ **NICOLE PHILLIPS** completed second grade at Congaree Elementary with some



recognition awards. An all-A student in the Advanced Elementary Program (AEP) for

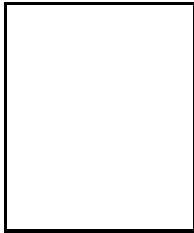
gifted and talented students, she received awards for *Bringing Up Grades* (BUG), successfully completing the *Brain Boosters Program*, reading lots of books, and her writing and art work. She is a daughter of Mark & Diane Phillips of Lexington, SC.

★ **MICHELLE PEÑA** completed her sixth grade with a "Student of the Year" award at



Cross Roads Middle School. A member of the National Junior Beta Club, she was also recognized for her 4.0 GPA and perfect attendance record. She played first cello with the CRMS Cougar Concertante Orchestra and attended the *Tri-District Arts Consortium* (Tri-DAC 2001) program at Columbia College. She is a daughter of Edsel & Marj Peña of Irmo, SC.

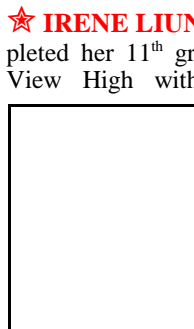
★ **JUDITH PEÑA** finished ninth grade at Irmo High School. Named "outstanding freshman" in the Irmo Orchestra, she played violin in the



SC All-State orchestra and the District V honors orchestra which participated in *Musicate 2001* in New York. She attended the Governor's School for Arts & Humanities summer academy. A finalist for *Miss Irmo Yellow Jacket*, she is a member of the Irmo High Steppers for 2001-02. She is a daughter of Edsel & Marj Peña of Irmo, SC.

★ **MICHAEL McNULTY** completed his freshman year at Irmo High School as an honor roll student. Enrolled in freshman honors classes, he was a member of the Drama Club and the German Club. He is the younger son of George & Nieves McNulty of Columbia, SC.

★ **IRENE LIUNORAS** completed her 11th grade at Ridge View High with recognition



awards for being a "Junior of Promise" and a "Junior Marshall." A Beta Club member, she was also

elected National Honor Society secretary for 2001-02. She at-

tended the Governor's School for Arts & Humanities summer honors program for music. A volunteer at Ft. Jackson's Special Olympics, she is the youngest daughter of Pete & Olga Liunoras of Columbia, SC.

★ **AMANDA GOYENECHÉ** finished ninth grade at Hartsville High School with all-A honors. The junior varsity captain, she received the *Coaches' Award* for her participation in women's varsity volleyball team. She is the youngest daughter of Charles & Bev Goyeneche of Hartsville, SC.

★ **ASA LYNNE DRAKE** completed sixth grade at Summit Parkway Middle School and received awards for A honor roll, highest math GPA, and highest science GPA. She was also recognized for "most enthusiastic reader," perfect homework, and art achievement. She is the daughter of Melinda Drake of Columbia, SC.

★ **NICHOLE ANDERSON** finished third grade as an A/B honor roll student and received the Governor Certificate for Reading. She is the daughter of Leroy & Lulu Anderson of Columbia, SC.

★ **A.J. ALON** completed tenth grade in the *Horizon* program at Richland Northeast HS with a few awards. Recipient of "Honor Roll Achievement" citations from the SC House of Representatives, he was listed in the *"Who's Who Among American High School Students."* He was the school's second placer in the National Math Exam and was inducted into the Spanish Honor Society. He was a member of the internationally-acclaimed Model United Nations team and state AAAA champion SAT Competition team. He played French horn in the Richland Two District Orchestra which performed in New York's Carnegie Hall on June 3, 2001. Named to the All-Region band, he also received a trophy as outstanding soloist at *Music Festivals 2001*. A member of the Key Club International, he served as volunteer at Harvest Hope Food Bank and the *Columbia International Festival*. A pioneer Fil-Am Cultural Dance Troupe member and FAAGC newsletter production assistant, he is the son of Noel & Helen Alon of

Columbia, SC.

★ **AILEEN ALON** finished seventh grade as a TLC magnet program student at Dent Middle School with awards for academic excellence and perfect attendance. On the A honor roll all year, she received recognition awards for being an outstanding student in Spanish, orchestra and advanced art. She was also given "state level recognition" for SAT-based mathematical and verbal ability by the Duke University Talent Identification Program (TIP). A violin student with the USC Strings Project for the past four years, she was chosen for the *Intermezzo* orchestra and played in the project's honor recital. She received superior rating in a strings duet during the *Solo & Ensemble Festival* held by the SC Music Educators Association. She also attended the *2001 Tri-District Arts Consortium* summer program for music (strings) held at Columbia College. A Beta Club member, she has done volunteer work for Harvest Hope Food Bank and the St. John Neumann Church Youth Program. A member of the Fil-Am Cultural Dance Troupe and a FAAGC newsletter production assistant, she is the daughter of Noel & Helen Alon of Columbia, SC.

✉ **JUDY SALVADOR** finished her dentistry degree at Nova Southern University in Ft. Lauderdale, FL, last May. She is now waiting for the results of the dentistry board exams she recently took in Charleston, SC. Presently, she works at the dental office of Dr. Walter Gunter in Columbia. A former Fil-Am dance troupe performer, Judy also served as FAAGC secretary from 1993 to 1996.



★ The 2001-03 faagc executive board ★

Here's a brief look at the new leaders who will guide the Columbia Fil-Am Association for the next two years.

PETER LIUNORAS (President)

Since becoming members in 1995, Pete and his family have been very active in FAAGC activities. He served as a Fil-Am basketball coach, Executive Board Member in 1996-97 and First Vice-President in 1997-99.

During his term, he would like to develop a community-oriented volunteer program, seek scholarship funding, and work for a future Fil-Am cultural center.

Born in Makati but growing up in Batangas City, he has degrees in aeronautical engineering from FEATI University (Manila) and in education from the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point (UWSP). He was an assistant professor of military science at UWSP in 1990-93. In the U.S. since 1969 and a U.S. Army retiree, he works as JROTC instructor at Ridge View High School.

He has served in the School Improvement Councils of Blythe-wood Middle and Ridge View High and in the District Two Improvement Council. He is a member of the Knights of Columbus, a volunteer/usher for St. John Neumann Church, and a volunteer at the Diabetic Foundation, Special Olympics, and Dorn Veterans Hospital.

He is married to the former Olga Laut from Bato, Camarines Sur. They have three children (Ignacio II, Isel and Irene -- all of whom were members of the Fil-Am dance troupe) and a grandson, Brandon, 1 (the son of Ignacio II and the former Jennifer Estrada of Charleston, SC).

TESSIE DE CASTRO (First Vice-President)

A pioneer FAAGC member since 1991, Tessie served as Executive Board Member in 1992.

During this coming term of office, she would like the Association "to continue promoting the Philippine culture as well as to become a more active charitable organization, helping the poor people be educated especially

about their financial needs." She will also work on our goal to have some additional building fund so we can "have our own place for work and recreational activities."

A Dagupan City (Pangasinan) native, she obtained her medical degree from the University of Santo Tomas (Manila). In the U.S. for 30 years now, she works at the SC Department of Mental Health. She is a volunteer when needed for the Mental Health Department in the state's disaster areas.

She is married to Tony De Castro, Jr., a retired corporate lawyer. They have five grown children: John, Ricardo, Roberto, Alexei and Arne.

TESSIE KENERSON (Second Vice-President)

A pioneer FAAGC member, Tessie was elected Treasurer in 1993, 2nd Vice-President in 1996-97 and Executive Board Member in 1994-96 and 1999-200.

Asked about her plans for the Association, she says she would like to "help in planning ways to increase membership and promote good public relations, expand our cultural presentations by introducing/teaching new dances and styles, and assist actively in fundraising and other activities."

Born in Balayan, Batangas, but growing up in Tondo, Manila, she has been in the U.S. for the past 29 years. With a nursing degree from the University of Santo Tomas, she now works at Palmetto Baptist Hospital.

She is married to James Kenerson, a retired postal inspector, who has a recurring role every Fil-Am Christmas party. They have two grown daughters, Tessa and Laurel.

MARJ PEÑA (Secretary)

Being new in the area, Marj says she "will work hard to foster good relations and good will among the Filipinos in our adopted city and encourage all Filipinos to participate in all the activities and use their talents to achieve our goals as an organization."

Born in Cebu City but growing up in Phillips, 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. In the U.S. for 18 years now, she works at the Department of Biological Sciences at USC.

She is married to Edsel Peña, a professor of statistics at USC. They have two daughters, Judith Christa, 14 (a Fil-Am dance troupe performer), and Michelle Anne, 12.

LULU ANDERSON (Assistant Secretary)

Pioneer members since 1991, Lulu and her family have been actively involved in and supportive of FAAGC activities.

A Pampanga native, she owns and operates her own successful nail salon business (*Creative Nails by Lulu*) in the Five Points area of Columbia.

She is married to Leroy Anderson. They have two children: Justin (a Fil-Am dance troupe performer) and Nichole.

GEORGE MCNULTY (Treasurer)

George has been an active participant/supporter of the Association since its inception, especially during the last four years when his spouse was the FAAGC president. He wants to "ensure the financial health of the Association and facilitate its cultural activities." He serves as faculty adviser to the Filipino-American Student Association at USC.

A native Californian, he has a Ph.D. in mathematics from the University of California-Berkeley. He is a math professor at USC.

He is married to past FAAGC president Nieves Austria McNulty, who is the math department chair at Columbia College. They have two sons: Alfred, 18, and Michael, 15 (both Fil-Am dance troupe performers).

POLLY PEARSON (Assistant Treasurer)

A very energetic member and past officer of the Association, Polly has been the FAAGC point-of-contact in the Sumter area. She has served as Fil-Am treasurer in 1993-94 and Executive Board Member in 1993 and 1994-96.

She says she will "continue to support all the activities for the building fund and will recruit

more members."

Originally from Olongapo, Zambales who has been in the US for 27 years, she retired from the Army Air Force Exchange Services (AAFES). She owns and operates the *Fil-Am Store* in Sumter, SC.

In addition to volunteering her services to FAAGC, she also volunteers as usher at the Shaw Air Force Catholic Chapel.

She is married to Lee Pearson, an Air Force retiree. They have two grown children: John and Lee Ann (a former Fil-Am dance troupe performer), and three grandchildren: Hannah, Dustin, and Devin.

RUDY DIZON (Executive Board Member)

Rudy and his family have been active supporters of the Association since their arrival here. A Fil-Am dance troupe performer, his daughter Racquel also served as assistant secretary in 1998-99.

Born in Pasay City, he is an accounting graduate of De La Salle University (Manila). In the US for nearly 10 years, he works at Eagle Aviation/UPS and at Kroger.

He and his wife Brenda (who is still in the Philippines) have four grown children: Rubi Ann, Ramon, Rhoderick and Racquel.

HECTOR GALANG (Executive Board Member)

A FAAGC supporter for a few years now, Hector hopes to help "accomplish the goals of the Association by improving our methods of fund raising and recruiting more members." He has offered the use of his store as an adjunct FAAGC meeting place.

Originally from Macabebe, Pampanga, he obtained an A.B. degree from the University of Santo Tomas and a law degree from Manuel L. Quezon University. He was a member of the Philippine Bar. In the US for 29 years, he owns and operates the *Mang Tomas Filipino Restaurant* and the *Filipino Oriental Grocery* on Decker Blvd. in Columbia.

He is married to Julie Galang, originally from Northern Samar, who is a medical doctor at Moncrief Army Hospital in Ft. Jackson. They have two grown sons

2001-03 Fil-am officers

Hector Perry and Edward Michael) and two grandchildren, Sarah and Jackie.

ALAN GEOGHEGAN (Executive Board Member)

Since joining FAAGC three years ago, Alan has becoming a regular presence at Fil-Am activities.

During his term, he would like to "bring more of Filipino culture, traditions, and art to a diverse audience in the U.S." At present he is completing a self-produced video production on the Tiboli tribe of South Cotabato, Mindanao. Also, he would like to "have a warm extended family locally," so when his fiancée comes "here soon, she will feel at home." Lastly, he promises "to regularly partake in consuming *lumpia* and San Miguel beer" so he will "not forget his birthplace.

Born in Pasay (and "baptized at Malate Church"), he studied at the United Nations International School in New York and at Ampleforth College in York, England, where he obtained a liberal arts degree. In the US for 5 years now, he does video production and Web design at MediaNetwork.

A volunteer for Habitat for Humanity, March of Dimes and Sierra Club, he is currently taking care of two parakeets while waiting for the arrival of *ganda* fiancée Cecille from Digos, Davao del Sur.

RUBEN MATIAS-BAGNAL (Executive Board Member)

A pioneer member since 1991 whole family has been very active in Fil-Am affairs, Ruben tries to do every thing he can to further the goals of the Association. He was an Executive Board Member in 2000-2001 and was instrumental in the financial success of last year's gala.

A graduate of Philippine National Agricultural School, he also completed an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) program at Midlands Technical College. Here since 1988, he works at Spring Valley Country Club.

He is married to Chari Matias-Bagnal, from Lingayen, Pangasinan, who served as FAAGC assistant secretary in 1997-98.

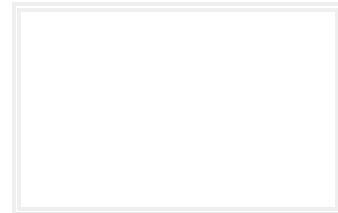
They have three children: Ruchelle, Rizza and Raquel (who is a Fil-Am dance troupe performer).

DIANE PHILLIPS (Executive Board Member)

Since joining FAAGC in 1995, Diane has actively participated in Fil-Am activities. As officer, she intends to do her "very best to cope with the tasks and responsibilities" of her position.

Born in San Carlos City, Negros Occidental, she grew up and studied in Cebu City, going to the University of Visayas.

In the US for nine years now, she is married to Mark Phillips from Atlanta. They have two daughters: Nicole, 8, and Anna, 5.



Philippine Nurses Association Chapter in Columbia?

by Cristina Contreras-Zemp

The Philippine Nurses Association of America (PNAA) held its annual convention in Chicago last July 5-8, 2001. I was invited by Dianne Elkins, a nurse recruiter for Palmetto Richland Memorial Hospital (RMH), to assist them as exhibitors at this convention. Palmetto Richland wanted to stir more interest for South Carolina and was hoping also to recruit some seasoned and not-so-seasoned Filipino nurses to come and work for RMH.

This was the first time that RMH and I participated in a PNAA convention; we did not know what to expect. In truth I was unaware that there was even a PNAA. I was pleasantly surprised and amazed at how organized and dedicated its members were. Because the members were predominantly Filipino, almost everybody was very hospitable – in fact the other ladies from RMH have commented on it several times.

I was about to ask one of the

Basta Pinoy

The Wonderful World of Sago

by Imelda Go

During my December 2000 trip to the Philippines, I was reintroduced to the wonderful world of *sago*. *Sago* or (tapioca ball in English) is a popular food item in the Philippines. *Sago* comes in a variety of spherical sizes and is often used in snack or dessert items.

As I was growing up in the Philippines, it was typical to have a classic *sago* cooler to accompany an afternoon *merienda* or snack. The classic *sago* cooler consists of *sago* in a sugar-water solution. The drink could also include colorful firm jelly cubes and/or coconut strips.

It seems that, for the year 2000, a variation of the classic *sago* cooler is a bestseller in the Metro Manila area. This variation is a fruit, sugar, and ice slush over a heap of *sago*. The drink is equivalent to a fruit shake with *sago*. The vendors also provide a large straw to sip the *sago*. Marketed as a "pearl shake" due to the *sago*'s pearl-like shape, I was tickled to see the different names in which they were being sold. One might think a spelling

lesson was in order. Some examples follow:



☛ Zagu

(This is pronounced as ZAAH-goo with the accent on the first syllable.)

☛ Xagu (This particular seller is located next to a *Kink Cakes* store. The cake store is linked to the letter X. It took me a while to realize what the connection was. The following sentence might help: *X-rated movies are kinky.*)

☛ Gummi (This is probably because cooked *sago* has a gummy texture.)

☛ Onyx (Ordinary *sago* are naturally light in color. The *sago* used by many sellers are darker in color and resemble the black onyx stone.)

☛ Sagomoto (This is my personal favorite. It sounds like a Japanese word, but upon closer examination it really looks like a contraction of "*Sago mo ito.*" That is, "*Sago mo 'to.*" Translated into English, it means, "This is your *sago.*")

☛ DEC (In a November 2000 *Philippine Inquirer* newspaper critic's article, DEC's pearl shake was proclaimed the best compared to Onyx and Zagu because the seller used fresh fruit and even has coconut strips in the shake. Many other sellers use powdered fruit that could contain artificial colors/flavorings. DEC stands for Diao Eng Chay which is a popular bakery that has its roots in Binondo or Chinatown.)

☛ "Pearl Shake ni Laura" (This merely translates to Laura's Pearl Shake and the seller is located right next to Laura's Restaurant.)

☛ BobaBees

☛ Cosmic Zagoo

☛ Mr. Jolly Shake

☛ Asaga Pearl

☛ Nisah Pearl

☛ Sh~go

☛ Shagu-Shagōō

And of course there are numerous no-name pearl shakes all over Metro Manila. Whatever the name may be, this is another example of Filipino marketing ingenuity in the re-invention of *sago*.

Only time will tell if the "pearl shake" has staying power especially when one considers the many food fads that have hit the Philippines over the years. One thing for sure is *sago* has stood the test of time. Pearl shake or not, here's to *sago*!

PNAA members from the Hawaii chapter if there were any representatives from South Carolina, when I heard a pleasant "*Kumusta ka?*" I turned my head and saw ten ladies of various ages with big ID cards saying they were from South Carolina. They were surprised to see RMH as exhibitor. After several rounds of introduction, I was again surprised to find that the Charleston, SC, chapter had been a member of the PNAA since 1978.

I also spoke with chapter heads Sally Ani and Nita Maravilla, both from Goose Creek, SC. They said that everyone at the Charleston chapter is trying to get in touch with the Filipino community in the Columbia/Midlands area, to see if they can get a PNAA Columbia branch set up, especially since the PNAA 2003 convention will be in Charleston, South Carolina.

If you are interested or have comments, suggestions, etc. with regards to a PNAA Columbia chapter, please e-mail me at ZEMP1997@AOL.COM.

Filipino-American Association of Greater Columbia

CALENDAR OF EVENTS



★ **August 4, 2001** (Saturday; 5 p.m.)
 ➤ *Fil-Am Appreciation Night & General Membership Meeting*
 ➤ Ridge View High School cafeteria
 4801 Hardscrabble Road, Columbia, SC

★ **August 11, 2001** (Saturday)
 ➤ *FAAGC Executive Board Meeting*
 ➤ Anderson Residence (788-4050)

★ **September 8, 2001** (Saturday, 6:00 p.m.)
 ➤ *FAAGC 10th Anniversary Gala*
 ➤ Embassy Suites (252-8700)
 200 Stoneridge Drive, Columbia, SC



★ **September 30, 2001** (Sunday, 2:00 p.m.)
 ➤ *FAAGC General Membership Meeting*
 ➤ Venue to be announced later.

★ **December 15, 2001** (Saturday)
 ➤ *FAAGC Annual Family Christmas Party*
 ➤ Venue to be announced later.

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Summer 2001 *



Reminder:

Columbia Fil-Am Appreciation Night
 is on **Saturday, August 4, 2001**
 at **Ridge View High School**

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