



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 12, Number 1 ★

P.O. Box 24112, Columbia, SC 29224

★ Summer 2002

FAAGC Membership Meeting on August 4 at RVHS

The next Columbia Fil-Am general membership meeting will be held at the Ridge View High School cafeteria (4801 Hard Scrabble Road near The Summit in Northeast Columbia) on Sunday, August 4, 2002, starting at 3:00 p.m.

Agenda include the upcoming gala, Scholarship Fund raffle, bumper sticker and gala souvenir cover design competition, and other Association plans for the coming year.

This is also a POTLUCK summer get-together so please bring a 3-liter soda and a covered dish enough for your family and others (potluck suggestions on Page 6).

FAAGC members, supporters and other interested parties in the area Fil-Am community are all invited to come and share the fun and food with family and friends.

For further information and directions, please contact Pete Liunoras (699-1214), Tessie DeCastro (736-1649), Tessie Kenerson (699-1178), Marj Peña (732-1202), or the other officers listed on Page 2. ❖

Creative Designs Needed for Decal, Program Cover

To solicit interest and creative ideas for the Association, FAAGC is having a "design a Fil-Am bumper sticker / decal / gala program cover" contest.

Participants can submit one or more design ideas of the following:

(1) a 3" x 12" bumper sticker to promote FAAGC. Any ideas would be considered; one to three colors can be used.

(2) a 3" x 4" or 3" x 5" decal promoting the Fil-Am to be placed in the back window of a car (or other places). One to two colors can be used.

(3) an 8.5" x 11" souvenir program cover for the September 14 gala. Cover designs can be in full color.

Entries will be judged during the August 4 meeting. Winners of the three categories will each receive a FREE ticket to the gala-banquet (a \$40 value).

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The
Filipino-American
Association of Greater Columbia
cordially invites you to its
12th Annual GALA

at the
Embassy Suites Hotel
200 Stoneridge Drive
(off Greystone Blvd. & I-126)
Columbia, SC
on **Saturday, Sept. 14, 2002**
from 6:00 p.m. to midnight

Raffle To Benefit Scholarship Fund

In an effort to raise substantial funds for its Fil-Am Scholarship Fund, FAAGC will hold a raffle during the upcoming gala. Grand prize is \$300 cash.

According to raffle committee chair **Ruben Bagnal**, other prizes include:

- ♦ a 19-inch color TV-VCR combo
- ♦ \$125 cash (donated by Polly Pearson of the Fil-Am Store in Sumter)
- ♦ a DVD video player

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Columbia Fil-Am To Hold Annual Gala on September 14

The Filipino-American Association of Greater Columbia will celebrate its 12th Annual Gala on September 14, 2002 at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Columbia.

This year's put-on-your-dancing-shoes-and-formal-attire affair known as the Columbia Fil-Am Annual Banquet-Dance Gala 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 program and entertainment numbers at 8:00.

The guest speaker will be **Dr. Sharon Buddin**, Ridge View High School principal and the 2002 National High School Principal of the Year. The Columbia Fil-Am Cultural Dance Troupe will perform some Philippine folk dances and the **Star-gazer Band** will provide music for the attendees' listening and dancing pleasure.

Tickets to the gala are \$40 per person (\$30 for full-time students) and may be purchased from any of the FAAGC officers (listed on Page 2). For ticket reservations and additional gala information, contact **Peter Liunoras** (699-1214), **Marj Peña** (732-1202), **Lulu Anderson** (788-

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PRESENTING THE PHILIPPINES' FINEST PRODUCTS

FAAGC President Peter Liunoras, Cecille Geoghegan, Merlyn Bajamunde & Alan Geoghegan, in their Philippine costumes, blend well with the FAAGC bahay kubo exhibit at the Columbia International Festival held April 6-7, 2002. Merlyn coordinated the Fil-Am cultural-educational exhibit.

The President's Corner

by Peter P. Liunoras

**Support the Gala
& Fil-Am Projects**

Hello, my fellow Fil-Am Members. First of all I would like to wish all of you a wonderful summer. I would like to congratulate all the recent high school and other graduates. I want to congratulate them on their hard work and dedication. As you know, we have a scholarship program that is available for our high school graduates. If you have any questions, please contact Dr. Melinda Drake at 419-4265.

I would like to apologize for the delay of our *Fil-Am Newsletter*. I have decided to wait until after the Executive Board meeting (7-14-02) so we can distribute information on the **Fil-Am Gala 2002**. Please support the gala and invite your friends and family. This gala will benefit the scholarship program and the cultural center. We need your assistance and ideas for the upcoming gala.

My family and I would like to wish everyone a happy and safe summer. I hope to see everyone on August 4 for the general membership meeting at Ridge View High School.

Mabuhay! ❖

Design Contest

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Participants are encouraged to supply a printed copy of their designs and if available, an electronic version of the designs to be used for mass-printing later. If there is no electronic version, the printed copy should be in a form that can be easily scanned.

For further details about this creative design contest, contact FAAGC Executive Board Member **Alan Geoghegan** (787-525; e-mail: alan@medianetwork.ws). ❖

12th Annual Gala

(continued from Page 1)

4050) or Polly Pearson (499-9596 or 494-5613), no later than **Monday, September 9, 2002**.

Contributions Needed

Since the gala is the major annual fund-raising event of the Association, we are also soliciting all kinds of contribution in the forms of advertisements and donations. The proceeds of the event support the various community-oriented and youth programs of the Association as well as add to the Fil-Am cultural center fund.

We request that all ads and contributions for being a sponsor, patron or donor be received no later than **Friday, September 6**, to insure inclusion in the souvenir program.

Babysitting Service

For those with babysitting problems, FAAGC will provide a babysitter for children (*no infants, please*) in one of the hotel's suites from 6:00 p.m. to midnight. The cost is \$20 per child, \$35 for two. Pizza will be provided. Also, you can bring your own babysitter who may stay in the designated suite but the sitter and child/ren are not allowed to go out to the lobby or ballroom.

Please note that FAAGC will not make any profit from the babysitting service. All the money goes to the babysitter and is payable as you drop off your children. This is just a mere convenience service for

Raffle

(continued from Page 1)

◆ \$50 gift certificate from **Dianne's on Devine** Restaurant & Bar in Five Points

◆ \$25 donated by **Leroy & Lulu Anderson**.

The TV-VCR combo and the DVD prizes were donated by a couple who requested anonymity.

Raffle tickets are \$1 each and may be purchased from any of the FAAGC officers. ❖

**Fil-Am Professor To
Receive National
Statistics Honors**

FAAGC member **Edsel A. Peña**, statistics professor at the University of South Carolina, will be named Fellow of the American Statistical Association (ASA) on August 13, 2002, during the awards ceremony at the *Joint Statistical Meetings* in New York City.



Edsel A. Peña

The citation reads as follows: "**Edsel A. Peña, Professor of Statistics, University of South Carolina:** For outstanding contributions in stochastic modeling and statistical analysis of failure-time data, and for editorial and review board service."

Dr. Peña earned a bachelor's degree at the University of the Philippines - Los Baños (UPLB) in 1979, master's degrees at UPLB in 1982 and Florida State University (FSU) in 1984, and a doctorate at FSU in 1986. He joined the American Statistical Association in 1986.

The designation of Fellow is a superlative honor in the Association and has signified an individual's outstanding service to and leadership in the field of statistical science. Each year, the Committee on Fellows can only elect one-third of one percent of the total membership. This year, 48 ASA members were accorded the Fellows honor.

The American Statistical Association (ASA), a scientific and educational society founded in Boston in 1839, is the second oldest professional society in the United States. It is the nation's leading professional association for statistics

How To Reach Us

FAAGC

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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 C. ALON

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WELCOME New Members

★ **MIKE & DEL MAHAN** of Camden, SC. Mike works at the Moncrief Army Hospital in Ft. Jackson, while Del is a housekeeper. They enjoy a variety of sports, food preparation, singing and shopping at flea markets and antique shops. They hope the Association can help them “make more friends and close relationships” by having “good communications and many parties and get-togethers.” They have five children and one grandson.

★ **KEITH SEYMOUR** of Columbia, SC. A 25-year Columbia resident, Keith works as a freelance writer and media consultant. He writes feature and news articles, short stories, poetry, speeches and press releases. He is also involved in public relations for individuals and business, political and community organizations. He hopes the Association can give him “a better appreciation of the Philippine culture, language and customs” he learned while he was a Peace Corps volunteer assigned to Tubigon, Bohol. ❖

Just A Reminder

Membership renewal for the Association Year 2002-03 is now due for many members. Please check the mailing address label on Page 8 of this newsletter — if there are three asterisks (***) on the line above your name, then your membership has expired or will expire soon.

Your membership renewal and prompt payment of membership dues are crucial to the continued operations and success of the FAAGC.

Please complete the enclosed renewal form and send your membership dues as soon as possible. If there are membership renewal questions, contact FAAGC Secretary **Marj Peña** (tel: 732-1202; e-mail: mpena@biol.sc.edu). ❖

~Congratulations~

➤ to **William & Joy Clark** on the birth of their daughter Taryn on May 29.

➤ to **Dan Adcock & Tess Lanuza** on their wedding on June 16 held at the Adam's Mark Hotel.

➤ to **Ruchelle Bagnal & Irene Liunoras**, who both qualified for the *Columbia Fil-Am Scholarship* awards. However, both donated the award money back to the Association to be given to those who are in more need than they. ❖

CONDOLENCES

† Our condolences to FAAGC members **Jojo & Eugenia Panela Goyeneche** on the death of their infant daughter Naomi on July 21. ❖

COMMUNITY SERVICE

➤ Need Volunteer Work?

Students in need of community service for school credits/requirements are enjoined to contact FAAGC President **Peter Liunoras** (699-1214).

Also, if you are a Fil-Am Dance Troupe member, your active participation can qualify for your community service requirements.

➤ Dance Troupe

The **Columbia Fil-Am Cultural Dance Troupe** will perform Philippine folk dances during the 25th anniversary celebration of St. John Neumann Parish on Saturday, **November 23, 2002**.

The dance troupe is currently recruiting old and new members. The only qualifications needed are the willingness to learn and the commitment of your time. If interested, please contact **Tessie Kenerson** (699-1178), **Nieves McNulty** (781-9509), or **Helen Alon** (738-0372). ❖



FIL-AM CELEBRITIES

by Imelda C. Go



The Philippines has its share of the limelight in the United States. Whenever there are news briefs on national TV, the news about the Philippines is not always flattering. The media manages to come up with the most embarrassing aspects of life in the Philippines — the poverty, the national disasters, the rebels, the kidnapping of U.S. citizens, etc. I am not disputing that there are harsh realities in the Philippines, but if we rely on the media to educate Americans about the Philippines, we may be in for disappointment.

The media tries to catch people's attention mainly in the form of “bad news.” “Good news” is almost no news. To many Americans, the Philippines is far away and removed from their everyday lives. The average American may not have an interest in learning about the Philippines. Hence, the little that they hear about the Philippines may negatively impress them.

Having a Pinoy or Filipino-American celebrity make it big in American music, sports, entertainment, or news is exciting for most Pinoys and Filipino-Americans. People have a natural curiosity about a celebrity's origins or racial identity. Aren't you proud that Philippine General **Carlos P. Romulo** once served as the president of the United Nations' General Assembly (1949)? Aren't you proud that **Gloria Diaz** (1969) and **Margie Moran** (1973) took the *Miss Universe* crown? Would you not have been proud if Tiger Woods' mother was from the Philippines instead of Thailand?

Every generation has its share of aspiring celebrities. Some make it and most don't. For those who do make it, they willingly or unwillingly become ambassadors of whatever heritage they have. There will be those who might try to

reason, but as we know, celebrities have practically no privacy.

At this year's 2002 World Music Awards, **Enrique Iglesias** was declared the *World's Best-Selling Latin Male Artist* and *World's Best-Selling Pop Male Artist*. Enrique has a Filipino mother! This prompted an internet search that led to www.isabelpreysler.com. Enrique's mother, Isabel Preysler, was born and raised in the Philippines. She also has Spanish roots, but she does not hide her Filipino connection, which is evident on her web site. She went to Spain for college and it was there that she met and married Julio Iglesias. Their divorce was due to Julio's behavior during his trips away from home as an international singing sensation. Enrique and his brother, Julio, Jr., eventually went to live in Miami, Florida.

Here's a short (and incomplete) list of today's entertainment and sports celebrities with Pinoy heritage:

Benny Agbayani, New York Mets outfielder
Angela Perez-Baraquio, *Miss America* 2001
Foxy Brown, rap artist
Tia Carrere, actress
Mark Dacascos, actor and martial arts champion
Lexa Doig, actress
Jocelyn Enriquez, singer
Von Flores, actor
Roman Gabriel, NFL quarterback (1969 MVP)
Enrique Iglesias, singer
Julio Iglesias, Jr., singer
Jennie Kwan, actress & singer
Dee Dee Magno, actress
Liz Masakayan, pro volleyball athlete
Paolo Montalban, actor
Nia Peeples, actress
Lou Diamond Phillips, actor
Ernie Reyes, Jr., actor & martial arts champion
Lea Salonga, actress & singer
Carolyn Sapp, *Miss America* 1992
Rob Schneider, actor-comedian

When I was in high school in the Philippines, my classmate was disgusted that her first cousins visiting from the US expected to see people living in trees. Perhaps that was an exaggeration, but we can be



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

Although the 2002-2003 school year is just around the corner, 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 (2001-02). 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 submitted information about their high-achievers.)

The GRADUATES



★ **IAN M. BAENS** graduated *cum laude* on May 10, 2002 from the University of South Carolina with a Bachelor of Science in Computer



Science—Information System. He is a son of Hector & Lolita Baens of Columbia, SC

★ **RUCHELLE M. BAGNAL** graduated from the *Infolink* magnet program at Richland Northeast High School with honor roll and community service awards. A two-year nominee for *Who's Who Among American Students* award, she received SC LIFE and Coker's President's scholarship awards. She will attend Winthrop University in Rock Hill, SC, where she plans to double major in Arts—Graphic Design and Integrated Marketing Communication. She is the eldest daughter of Ruben & Chari M. Bagnal of Columbia, SC.



★ **IRENE LIUNORAS** graduated in the top 5% of her



class from Ridge View High School. A member of the first graduating class of Ridge View's Honor 's School, she served as secretary for the National Honor Society, community director for the National Spanish Honor Society, and was inducted into the Tri-M Music Honor Society. She was also a member of the National Art Honor Society and the Beta Club (a community service club). She received the *Freshmen Incentives Scholarship* from Florida State University where she plans to major in chemistry. She is the youngest daughter of Peter & Olga Liunoras of Columbia.

THE GRADUATES-TO-BE

★ **AILEEN ALON** completed eighth grade at Dent Middle School with academic honors and other awards. A three-year student in The Learning Collaborative (TLC) magnet program, she received an academic excellence trophy for getting all A's from the 6th through the 8th grade and an award certificate for the highest Spanish average in the 8th grade. The school's *Geography Bee* champion and a finalist in the SC state competition, she got a certificate of excellence from the National Geographic

Society "for outstanding performance at the State Level of the *14th Annual National Geography Bee*" held in March 2002. A South Carolina Junior Scholar, she was also cited for her perfect school attendance record for the second year in a row. She also got a science achievement award for placing third in the Medicine & Health category of the school Science Fair. A member of the Dent Select Chorus, she was a soloist during the Dent Spring Choral concert. She attended, for the third consecutive year, the *Tri-District Arts Consortium (TRIDAC)* summer program for music (strings) at Columbia College. She has also qualified for the Richland Two District Orchestra. A National Junior Beta Club member, she did volunteer work at Harvest Hope Food Bank, for *Beach Sweep 2002*, and at Nelson Elementary School's *Spring Fling* fair. She has been accepted to (and will attend) both the *Horizon* and the *Palmetto Center for the Arts (PCA)* magnet programs at Richland Northeast High School. A *Columbia Fil-Am Cultural Dance Troupe* performer and a Fil-Am newsletter production assistant, she is the daughter of Noel & Helen Alon of Colum-

★ **A.J. ALON** finished 11th grade in the *Horizon* magnet program at Richland Northeast HS as a consistent 4.0 honor roll student. An RNHS SAT Competition Team member and an individual AAAA finalist in the 2002 state finals of the SAT competition, he had a perfect 800 score in verbal section of SAT. He was a member of the acclaimed Model United Nations team and went to MUN competitions at the University of Virginia and University of Pennsylvania. Listed in the "Who's Who Among American High School Students" for the second year in a row, he was the treasurer of Mu Alpha Theta (a

National Mathematics Honor Society) and a member of the National Honor Society, the National Spanish Honor Society, and the South Carolina Junior Academy of Science. The science fair project he and two classmates developed won the Intel Columbia Design Center's *Best Computer Science Award*, the *Team Project - Senior Division - First Place Award*, and the *Team Project Grand Award* during the *Region II Science and Engineering Fair* held at USC on March 2002. He and his team represented the region as team finalists at the *Intel International Science & Engineering Fair* held in Louisville, KY in May 2002. A French horn player with his school's concert and symphonic bands, he was named to the All-Region band. He was accepted to the Governor's School of Science & Mathematics Summer Program for Research Interns (SPRI). He was also designated a *Governor's Scholar* "for successful completion of the 2002 Governor's School of South Carolina at the College of Charleston - a four-week, college-level summer honors program for gifted and talented high school students." A member of Key Club International, the high school service organization under the aegis of Kiwanis Club International, he also did volunteer work at Harvest Hope Food Bank and during Dent's PTA Open House. A *Columbia Fil-Am Cultural Dance Troupe* member and a Fil-Am newsletter production assistant, he is the son of Noel & Helen Alon

★ **RAQUEL BAGNAL**



completed seventh grade on the merit honor roll at E.L. Wright Middle School. She received

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awards for academic excellence in pre-algebra, social studies and science. An outstanding chorus student awardee, she was also recognized for her perfect school attendance. A member of the *Columbia Fil-Am Cultural Dance Troupe*, she is the youngest daughter of Ruben & Chari Bagnol of Columbia, SC.

★ **RIZZA BAGNAL** finished 11th grade in the



Infolink magnet program at Richland Northeast HS. A 4.0 honor roll student,

she was event coordinator for Earth Club and a member of the Key Club, Spanish International Club and Student Government. She will be the social chair of the National Honor Society in 2002-03. Nominated for *Palmetto Girls State* and an intern at the Greater Columbia Chamber of Commerce, she also received a "Who's Who Among American High School Students" citation. Recognized as "most improved in softball" and the volleyball team captain, she is being recruited for volleyball teams at Coker and Lander colleges. She is the middle daughter of Ruben & Chari Bagnol of Columbia, SC.

★ **ROXANNE BORROMEIO** completed 11th grade at Richland Northeast HS on the A/B honor roll. With a rank of chief petty officer in the NJROTC, she was the color guard assistant commander. She was also a Key Club member. A recently rejoined member of the *Columbia Fil-Am Cultural Dance Troupe*,

she is a daughter of J.R. Borromeo Mills of Columbia, SC.

★ **JESSAMINE CUARESMA** graduated from fifth grade at the Nelson Elementary School. Having main-

tained a 3.5 minimum GPA for the last two years, she was a recipient of President



Bush's *Education Awards for Academic Excellence*. She also received the Governor's citizenship award, a certificate for perfect attendance and the A honor roll certificate. Actively involved with the Girl Scouts, she was also her class representative to the school's Student Council. She swims year-round with the Gamecock Aquatics swim team. For this year's Summer League Swimming, she swims for the Columbia Jewish Community Center and has won numerous individual events for her team. She will be attending Dent Middle School where she was accepted to the TLC magnet program. She is the youngest daughter of Manny & Leah Cuaresma of Columbia, SC.

★ **BUTCH DEO ELAMPARO** completed sixth grade on the A & B honor roll at Summit Parkway Middle School. He is a son of Butch & Dhel Elamparo of Columbia, SC.

★ **CHRISTIAN ELAMPARO** finished eighth grade with honors at Summit Parkway Middle School. Named a SC Junior Scholar, he will attend the Honors Program at Ridge

View HS. A member of the *Columbia Fil-Am Cultural Dance Troupe*, he is a son of Butch & Dhel Elamparo of Columbia, SC.

★ **DEIANNE ELAMPARO** completed fourth grade on the all-A honor roll at Rice Creek Elementary School. She is the daughter of Butch & Dhel Elamparo of Columbia, SC.

★ **RAYMUND ELAMPARO** finished 11th grade on the 4.0 honor roll at Ridge View High School. A member of the *Columbia Fil-Am Cultural Dance Troupe*, he is the eldest son of Butch & Dhel Elamparo of Columbia, SC.

★ **JASPER LIM** finished eighth grade with honors at Dent Middle School. He received awards for the highest ALERT grade, highest math average, and Violence & Substance Abuse Control (VSAC) program accomplishments. He also was a second place Science Fair winner.



He has been accepted to the *Horizon* magnet program at Richland Northeast High School. A new member of the *Columbia Fil-Am Cultural Dance Troupe*, he is the eldest son of Lonell & Amelia Lim of Columbia, SC.

★ **JEFFREY NOBLE** completed fifth grade at Conder Elementary School with scholastic and other awards. An A honor roll student, he received the *President's Award for*

Educational Excellence "in recognition of outstanding academic excellence in 2002." He was also presented with Conder's 5th Grade Awards for citizenship and for his school store work. He is the son of Marvin & Beth Noble of Columbia, SC.

★ **JUDITH CHRISTA PEÑA** finished tenth grade at Irmo High School with honors. She is a member of the Irmo High Steppers and a color guard for the Bands of Irmo (which won the state championship for the eighth year in a row, were *Bands of America* regional champions in Tennessee and placed eleventh overall in the *National Band Championship* in Indianapolis, Indiana.)

She played violin for the SC All-State Strings Orchestra and South Carolina Youth Symphony; she was also principal violin and concert master for the Furman Orchestra Camp Symphony Orchestra. She performed as Hudel in the Irmo High School Drama Club presentation of the musical *The Fiddler on the Roof*. She will be attending the music program of the SC Governor's School for the Arts and Humanities in Greenville this coming fall where she will be spending her junior and senior years of high school. She is a daughter of Edsel & Marj Peña of Irmo, SC.

★ **MICHELLE ANNE PEÑA** completed seventh grade at Irmo Middle School with a scholarship award for being in the Principal's Honor List. She also received a leadership award for Beta Club community service. Named "outstanding seventh grader for the Irmo Middle School Orchestra," she played cello for the Junior All State Symphony Orchestra and the District V Honors Orchestra. She

A★C★H★I★E★V★E★M★E★N★T★S★ G★A★L★O★R★E★

She was also second chair cello for the Furman Orchestra Camp Symphony Orchestra and attended the 2002 *Tri-District Arts Consortium* (TRIDAC) strings program held at Columbia College for the second year. She is a daughter of Edsel & Marj Peña of Irmo, SC.

★ **IAN STRICKLAND** completed the fifth grade at Killian Elementary School. He



was the *Classroom of the Future* Top Performing Member of the Founding Class 2000-2002. On the A/B honor roll from first through fifth grade, he was a Junior Science Detective and received the *Accelerated*

Math and the *Accelerated Reader* awards. He has also recently achieved a green belt in karate. He is a son of Brian & Cecile Strickland of Columbia, SC.

★ SEAN STRICKLAND

completed kindergarten at Killian Elementary School. He was the spelling champion in kindergarten and received the *Best Reader* and the *Completed All Homework* awards. He has recently achieved a blue belt in karate. He is a son of Brian & Cecile Strickland of Columbia, SC.



Congratulations
to y'all!

MORE ACHIEVERS

★ **ALEX DE CASTRO** graduated in the Top Ten from the Fatima Medical College in the Philippines. After finishing a one-year clerkship at Brooklyn Medical Hospital in New York, he has been accepted to the family practice residency at McLeod Medical

Center in Florence, SC. He is the youngest son of Tony & Tessie DeCastro of Columbia, SC.

★ **NICOLE DAQUILEÑA** finished first grade at Rice Creek Elementary School with a citizenship award. She is the eldest daughter of Rio & Mary Jane Daquilena of Columbia, SC. ❖

Filipinos and others living in South Carolina who require Philippine consular services

(e.g. Philippine passport renewal & changes, visa to the Philippines, etc.)

**should contact the
Philippine Embassy
WASHINGTON DC**

1600 Massachusetts Ave., NW
Washington DC 20036

Tel No. (202) 467-9312

or (202) 466-6818

Fax No (202) 328-7614

Email: uswashpe@aol.com

Official Website:

www.PhilippineEmbassy-USA.org

Potluck Suggestions

Since the next Fil-Am meeting is a **POTLUCK** get-together, please bring a 2-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 - E : Meat dish
F - H : Vegetable dish
J - N : Rice, pancit or bread
O - Z : Dessert



Alan & Cecille Geoghegan (forefront) pose with some Tibolis in their traditional garb during one of Alan's videotaping trips to a Tiboli village in southern Mindanao for his self-produced documentary on the indigenous group.

Tiboli Video Project Awarded Arts Grant

FAAGC Executive Board Member **Alan Geoghegan** recently received a \$3,000 *Annual Project Support* grant from the SC Arts Commission "to support final production of a video documentary of the Tiboli culture group in the state of Mindanao, Philippines."

Also, his work in progress entitled "*Tiboli Dreaming*" was shown on June 2, 2002 in Charleston by the SC Independent Film Festival (SCindy) in coordination with the 2002 Spoleto International Festival.

Alan has been working on the self-produced Tiboli documentary project for several

years now and he has a lot of videotaped footage taken during his various trips to the Tiboli areas in southern Mindanao. He notes that FAAGC will probably hold a launching premiere once the video is done, sometime after March 2003

To help finish his project, he will soon have voice-over try-outs mainly for women over thirty who have clear voices that still sound Filipino but can be easily understood by Americans. Anyone interested in being a voice-over talent (*no experience necessary*) can contact Alan at **748-8594** or via e-mail: alan@medianetwork.ws. ❖

FIL - AM CELEBRITIES

(continued from Page 2)

sure that there are Americans who have ideas about the Philippines and Filipinos that we would not be happy to hear about. We can leave them be or try to "enlighten" them. Of course, you don't just go up to these people and give them a lecture.

We ourselves are ambassadors with our personal conduct — we can exemplify the best in Filipino traits and suppress the undesirable, such as malicious gossiping and the crab mentality of pulling others down. We can support activities, such as the recently concluded *Columbia International Festival*, that expose

people to other cultures. We can support our very own **Filipino-American Association of Greater Columbia, SC**. One of FAAGC's goals is to share the Filipino culture and heritage with our community through educational exhibits, visits to schools, folk dance performances, and socio-civic involvement.

Jose Rizal, the Philippines' national hero, once said that those who don't see where they come from will never get to where they are going. "**You can run, you can hide, but you can't escape**" who you are. Thank you, *Enrique Iglesias*, for those lyrics. ❖

Some Thoughts On Asian/Pacific American Heritage

by Imelda Go

This year's Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month theme was "Unity in Freedom." The month-long annual celebration was first observed in 1978 during the first 10 days of May. In May 1990, it was expanded to a month.

Filipinos share a long history with America. In the 1700's Filipino sailors escaped from Spanish galleons docked in New Orleans, Louisiana. They founded communities in the Louisiana bayou, such as Manila Village and Bayou Cholas — two of the oldest Asian communities in the United States. Today, Filipinos are the second largest Asian group in the United States. More than a million Filipinos live in California alone.

LINGUISTIC CONTRIBUTIONS

The English language borrows words from other languages. Here are some languages from the Asian/Pacific region and a few of their contributions to the English language.

Tagalog (Philippines)

- **boondocks** (derived from *bundok*, which means "mountain." When the United States occupied the Philippines, American soldiers used the word to refer to any far-off or wild place.)

Cantonese (southern China, Hong Kong)

- **chow** (derived from a word meaning "food")
- **typhoon** (derived from words that mean "great wind")
- **yen** (means a "yearning" or "strong desire")

Hawaiian

- **ukelele** (derived from words which mean "flea jumping")

Japanese

- **futon** (a type of mattress)
- **honcho** (derived from a word meaning "squad leader")
- **karaoke** (derived from *kara* and *oke* (*sutora*), which mean "void, empty" and "orchestra," respectively. However, the Japanese word for orchestra actually came from English language.)
- **rickshaw** (derived from *jinrikisha*, which means "person-strength-vehicle")
- **tycoon** (derived from *taikun*, which means "great prince")

Malay (Malaysia and Indonesia)

- **amuck** (or **amok**)
- **gong**
- **ketchup** or **catsup** (derived from *kechap*, which means "fish sauce")
- **launch** (a type of boat)
- **orangutan** (derived from *orang* and *hutan*, meaning "man" and "wilderness/jungle," respectively, or "man of the jungle")
- **paddy** (derived from *padi*, which means "rice or rice field")

Mandarin Chinese (China's official language)

- **gung ho** (a motto, meaning "working together," that was picked up from the Chinese by U.S. Marines during World War II)

Tahitian (Tahiti)

- **tattoo** (the word was found in Capt. James Cook's 18th century travel journals.)

Tongan (Tonga)

- **taboo** (also found in Capt. James Cook's journals) ❖

**"TOGETHER
WE MAKE A DIFFERENCE"**



Projecting Pride in Philippine Progress

Recently, the following article has been making its e-mail rounds. Supposedly written by an Intel executive [Intel General Manager Robin Martin (?)] sometime this year, it presents some remarks about business and infrastructure improvements in the Philippines since 1995. It is reprinted here with some editorial annotations (in italics, based on the named companies' official web sites, where possible, for verification of the claims) to present some good news and provide some food for thought — about our perceptions and judgment about the Philippines ... as they say, charity begins at home! **THINK POSITIVE!**

Filipinos (including the press, business people and myself) tend to dwell too much on the negative side and this affects the perception of foreigners, even the ones who have lived here for a while. The negative perception of the Philippines is way disproportionate to reality when compared to areas like Colombia, Egypt, Middle East, Africa, etc.

Let us all help our country by balancing the negative with the positive especially when we talk to foreigners, whether based here or abroad. Looking back and comparing the Philippines today and 1995 (the year I came back), I was struck by how much our country has progressed physically.

Consider the following:

★ 1. The great telecom infrastructure that we have now did not exist in 1995 [*when*] the telecom industry was deregulated. Since then, billions of dollars have been invested in both fixed line and cellular networks, producing a system with over 5,000 kilometers of fiber optic

backbone at a world competitive cost. From a fixed line capacity of about 900,000 in 1995, we now have over 7 million. Cellular phones practically did not exist in 1995; now we have over 11-million-line capacity.

★ 2. The MRT [*Manila Rail Transit*], many of the EDSA flyovers (including the Ayala Avenue fly-over) [*overpasses along the heavily-traveled EDSA Avenue*], the SKYWAY, Rockwell and Glorietta 4, the Fort NAIA [*airport*] Terminal 2 and most of the new skyscrapers were not yet built in 1995.

★ 3. If you drive to the provinces, you will notice that national roads are now of good quality (international quality asphalt roads). I just went to Iba, Zambales [*recently*] and I was impressed that even a not so frequently traveled road was of very good quality.

★ 4. Philippine exports have increased by 600% over the past eight years. There are many, many more examples of progress over the last eight years. Philippine mangoes are now exported to the US and Europe.

Additional tidbits to make our people prouder:

➤ 1. Intel has been in the Philippines for 28 years. The Philippine plant is where Intel's most advanced products are launched, including the Pentium 4. By the end of 2002, Philippine operations are expected to be Intel's biggest assembly and testing operations worldwide. [*In April 1974, Intel became the first American multinational company*]
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Are There Any Filipinos in Bamberg County?

A Rejoinder

In the last issue of the Fil-Am Bulletin, an article on Filipinos in SC noted that, based on U.S. Census 2000 data, Filipinos live in 45 of 46 South Carolina counties and asked "But are there really no Filipinos in Bamberg county?"

Terry Kirkland of Columbia, SC e-mailed us the following: "When my wife (Delight) arrived in the USA 9

years ago, I lived in Bamberg County ... and my actual address on my DMV license is Denmark, SC. We [now] live in my mother's house in Columbia, but my house is in Bamberg County ... so, we live in Columbia and are registered to vote in Columbia, but we have a house in Denmark. I do not know of any more [Filipinos] in Bamberg." ❖

Pride In Philippine Progress

(continued from Page 7)

ny in the Philippines." Intel Philippines has become the country's leader in semiconductor technology and has manufacturing and testing facilities in Makati and Cavite. Its Philippine operations have become increasingly complex — from components assembly and flash memory, to manufacture and test of microprocessors and PCI sets. www.intel.com/jobs/philippines/sites/]

➤ 2. Texas Instruments has been operating in Baguio for over 20 years. The Baguio plant is the largest producer of [digital signal processing] DSP chips in the world. DSP chips are the brains behind cellphones. TI's Baguio plant produces the chip that powers 100% of all NOKIA cellphones and 80% of Erickson cellphones in the world. [Started in 1979 for semiconductor assembly and testing, "TI Philippines has become one of the biggest exporters in the Philippines — TI has shipped a cumulative value of US\$3.7 billion since 1980 ...The devices assembled and tested in the Philippines are used worldwide products in the areas of audio, speech processing, image processing, multimedia, modems, digital signal processing solutions, decoding, notebook computers, automotive electronic controls, graphics and asynchronous transfer mode (ATM) data encryption." www.ti.com/asia/docs/phil.htm]

➤ 3. Toshiba laptops are produced in Santa Rosa, Laguna. [Toshiba established Toshiba Information Equipment (Philippines) in July 1995 in the Laguna Technopark to serve as a global manufacturing base for optical disc drives, PC motherboards, hard disk drives, portable computers, among others. www.toshiba.co.jp/about/press/1997_11/pr0401.htm]

➤ 4. If you drive a [Mercedes] Benz, BMW, or a Volvo, there is a good chance that the ABS [anti-locking brake] system in your car was made in the Philippines.

➤ 5. Trend-Micro, maker of one of the top anti-virus software PC-cillin, develops its "cures" for viruses right here in Eastwood Libis, Quezon City. When a virus breaks in any computer system in the world, they try to find a solution within 45 minutes of finding the virus. [Established in 1998, the Trend Development and Support Center (TDSC) or TrendLabs, headquartered in Manila, is Trend-Micro's primary facility for anti-virus research and global technical support. www.trendmicro.com/trendlabs/]

➤ 6. By the end of this year, it is expected that a majority of the top ten U.S. call center firms in the U.S. will have set up operations in the Philippines. This is one area in which I believe we are the best in the world in terms of

value for money.

➤ 7. America Online (AOL) has 1,000 people in Clark answering 90% of AOL's global e-mail inquiries. [To help serve a diverse membership around the clock, AOL Member Services also has established a Philippine call center, employing more than 850 people, on the site of the former Clark Air Force Base, now known as the Clark Special Economic Zone. http://corp.aol.com/ms_main.html]

➤ 8. Procter & Gamble has over 400 people right here in Makati (average age 23 years) doing back-up office work to their Asian operations including finance accounting, human resources and payments processing.

➤ 9. Among many things it does for its regional operations network in the Asia-Pacific region here in Manila, Citibank also does its global ATM programming locally.

➤ 10. This is the first year ever that the Philippines will be exporting cars in quantity courtesy of Ford Philippines.

Next time you travel abroad and meet business associates, tell them the good news. A big part of our problem is perception and one of the biggest battles can be won simply by believing and by making others believe. ❖

Philippine Baseball Team in SC for 2002 Big League World Series

A youth baseball team from the Philippines is set to arrive this week in South Carolina for the 2002 Big League Baseball World Series.

The Philippine team will be one of ten teams from the U.S. and abroad participating in the championship series to be held August 3–10, 2002 at the J.B. Red Owens Recreation Complex in Easley, SC. This is the second year in a row Easley has hosted the event.

The Philippine team defeated Guam to win the Asia/Pacific regional held in Manila on July 14 - 19, 2002. The region features teams from 18 countries.

A division of the Little League Baseball organization, Big League Baseball is an extension of the parent Little League program and is designed for youth 16 -18 years old. Inaugurated in 1968, it utilizes a 90-foot diamond and features a full range of tournament play, including a Big League Baseball World Series.

Those interested to welcome, meet and provide "local support" for the Philippine team should contact Easley Fil-Am: Maye Sumaydeng Galloway (864) 855-3503

sammaye@msn.com

mgalloway@carmanad.com

for further details.

The Philippine team is scheduled to play on Aug. 4 (7:30 p.m.), Aug. 6 (5:30 p.m.), Aug. 7 (5:30 p.m.), and Aug. 8 (5:30 p.m.). More information is available online at www.bigleague.swu.edu or www.littleleague.org/series/2002divisions/blbb/series.htm. ❖

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Reminder:

The next FAAGC General Membership Meeting will be held during the Fil-Am Summer Get-Together on Sunday, August 4, 2002 at Ridge View High School