



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 13, Number 3 ★

P.O. Box 24112, Columbia, SC 29224 ★

Spring 2004 ★

Fil-Am Spring Picnic, Easter Egg-hunt on April 11 at Sesqui Park

The Columbia Fil-Am annual spring picnic will be held at the Sesqui-centennial State Park (Shed 2; 9564 Two Notch Road, Columbia) on **Easter Sunday, April 11, 2004**, (light rain or shine) starting at **2:00 p.m.** Be advised that the park charges a \$2.00 per person entrance fee.

This is a POTLUCK picnic so please bring a 2-liter soda and a covered dish enough for your family and others. There will be a barbecue grill set up to cook hotdog, hamburger and/or chicken. For food variety, suggested covered dishes are as follows, based on the first letter of the family names:

- A** : Pork or beef dish
- B - E** : Cooked rice & bread
- F - J** : Chicken dish
- K - N** : Vegetable dish
- O - T** : Dessert (cakes, cookies, fruits, etc)
- U - Z** : Noodles (*pancit, palabok*, etc.)
- FAAGC**: Ice, plates, utensils

Planned activities include an Easter egg-hunt and games/contests coordinated by Charles Goyeneche, Jojo Goyeneche and Rudy Dizon. Marj Peña is in charge of prizes and preparing eggs for the hunt. Parents with young children are requested to bring at least a dozen goodies-filled plastic Easter eggs for the egg-hunt. There will also be a brief general membership meeting during the picnic.

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. Those who wish to spend more time at the park with family and friends can come earlier; the picnic food will be served at 2:30 p.m.

For further information and directions, please contact **Grace Collins** (782-6952), **Alan Geoghegan** (787-5255), **Julieta Iglesias** (736-0749) or the other officers listed on *Page 2*. Sumter area Fil-Ams can contact **Polly Pearson** (499-9596). ❖

Former Fil-Am President Named 2004 "International Volunteer of the Year"

Peter Liunoras, the 2001-2003 FAAGC President, was recently named the 2004 "International Volunteer of the Year" by the Columbia International Festival Committee.

He is the third Fil-Am to receive such award and his selection marks the fifth time in the nine years of the festival that a Fil-Am has been recognized. Previous "International Volunteer of the Year" awardees were **Noel Alon** in 1998 and

current FAAGC President **Grace Collins** in 2002. Dr. **Francisco Sy**, a FAAGC benefactor and a former public health professor at USC, and **Nieves Austria**, the 1997-2001 FAAGC President and the math department chair at Columbia College, received the "International Professional of the Year" awards in 1997 and 2001, respectively.

Peter was cited for his varied volunteer
continued on Page 2

Car Wash, Yard Sale Scheduled To Benefit Fil-Am Scholarship Fund

The FAAGC Scholarship Committee has planned two fundraising events for the Fil-Am Scholarship Fund. As usual, volunteers are needed to participate and help during each event.

April 17 Car Wash

A car wash is scheduled for **Saturday, April 17, 2004**, at **Ridge View High School** (4801 Hard Scrabble Road, Columbia) from **8:00 a.m. to noon**. Tickets will be sold in advance for a minimum donation of \$5.00. **Peter Liunoras** is
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Fil-Am Booth Features Pista Sa Nasyon Motif at Columbia International Festival

FAAGC will be actively involved again in the annual *Columbia International Festival* held at the Cantey Building of the State Fairgrounds on **April 3-4, 2004**. Now in its ninth year, the festival enables area residents and visitors to "experience the world under one roof."

The Association's Philippine country display features a *pista sa nasyon* or village fiesta motif complete with a *bahay kubo* (bamboo hut) and *lechon* (roasted pig). **Merlyn Bajamunde** is coordinating the cultural and educational exhibit, with
continued on Page 3



"2004 INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR"

The Fil-Am attendees of the *Governor's International Gala* pose with former FAAGC President **PETER LIUNORAS** after he received his "International Volunteer of the Year" award. (front row, l-r): **Helen Alon, Cecille Geoghegan, Imelda Go.** (middle row, l-r): **Edith Alston, Grace Collins, Lulu Anderson, Pete Liunoras, Polly Pearson, Alan Matienzo, Sunny Burroughs.** (back row, l-r): **Walter Gantt, Alan Geoghegan.**

The President's Corner by Grace Collins
ENJOY THE FESTIVAL

Once again the Columbia International Festival is around the corner. It's my pleasure to say that I am very proud that our country is participating in this event annually.

I would like to thank our officers and members for volunteering their time, effort, knowledge and talent in this year's event. It's my pleasure to work with these people that have so much energy and so many great ideas.

As a member of festival committee for the past nine years I have had the pleasure and respect of learning many different cultures and heritage from other countries while participating in this great event. I encourage everyone to attend.

I would like to salute those people who have volunteered for past nine years. Keep up the good work. As for me, I will keep participating in this festival. I enjoy watching our fellow *kababayan* enjoying themselves while going to our Philippine display, food booth and bazaar. Hope to see you there!

Grace Collins

"International Volunteer of the Year"
 (continued from Page 1)

work in the community. Since becoming members in Columbia Fil-Am Association 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 1995-1997, First Vice-President in 1997-1999, and Fil-Am President in 2001-2003. Currently he is the Fil-Am Scholarship volunteer coordinator.

He has also served in the School Improvement Council of Blythewood Middle School and Ridge View High School and in the Richland School District Two Improvement Council. He is a member of the Knights of Columbus and a volunteer usher for Saint John Neumann Church.

He has been a regular continuing volunteer at the Diabetic Foundation, S.C. Special Olympics, and Dorn Veterans Hospital for a few years now.

He was born in Makati Rizal, Philippines, but grew up in Batangas City. He has an aeronautical engineering degree from Feati University in Manila, and another in education from the University of Wisconsin—Stevens Point (UWSP). He was an assistant professor of military science at UWSP in 1990-1993. Residing

S. Army retiree, he currently works as an Army J-ROTC instructor at Ridge View High School in Columbia, SC.

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 Columbia Fil-Am Cultural Dance Troupe, and a grandson Brandon (son of Ignacio II and the former Jennifer Estrada of Charleston, SC).

Governor's Gala

Peter was formally honored, during the *Governor's International Gala* held on March 25 at the First Presbyterian Church Family Life Centre. Also recognized at the gala were Dr. Lidia Navarrete, the "International Professional of the Year," George Gintoli, the "Community Ambassador of the Year," and the winners of the student art and essay contests. During the gala's cultural entertainment program, **Helen Alon** performed *pan-dango sa ilaw*.

A major highlight of the *Columbia International Festival*, the "International of the Year" awards "honor and promote outstanding achievement by members of the Midlands in-

SCHOLARSHIP
 (continued from Page 1)

coordinating ticket sales.

May 16 Yard Sale

A yard sale is planned for **Sunday, May 16, 2004**, at the residence of FAAGC Second Vice President **Julieta Iglesias** (405 Great North Road, Columbia, SC 29223) from **9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.** All FAAGC members and supporters are enjoined to donate items for this yard sale. Flyers with additional information will be distributed during the Easter picnic.

Recent Donors

Special thanks to **Lonell & Amelia Lim, Ronald & Pamela Tuazon**, and an anonymous donor for their recent donations to the *Fil-Am Scholarship Fund*.

Scholarship Details

Graduating senior high school students who are or whose parents are members of FAAGC are eligible to apply for the scholarship. The decision to award the scholarship will be based on a combination of academics, extracurricular activities, active participation in FAAGC activities, and an essay. The amounts and number of scholarships awarded will depend on available funds.

The deadline for this year's scholarship applications is **May 1, 2004**. Application forms are available from the Scholarship committee and can also be downloaded from the FAAGC websites (**www.faagc.org** ; **www.FilAmSC.org**).

For more information, contact **Peter Liunoras** (699-1214; e-mail: pliunora@rvh.richland2.org) or **Nieves McNulty** (781-9509; e-mail: nmcnulty@colacoll.edu). ♦

THANK YOU

➤ Special thanks to FAAGC member **James Gunn** of Summerton, SC, on his recent donation to the Fil-Am Newsletter fund. ♦

How To Reach Us

FAAGC

P.O. Box 24112
 Columbia, SC 29224

www.FilAmSC.org
www.FAAGC.org

e-mail: **faagc@hotmail.com**,
 or **FilAm@columbia.sc**

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2003-2005 EXECUTIVE BOARD

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REX SANTOS

FIL-AM BULLETIN

The Official Newsletter of the
 Filipino-American

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

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

NOEL ALON

Editor

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Helen Alon

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Columbia International Festival

(continued from Page 1)

assistance from **Helen Alon** and **George McNulty**, and other volunteers. **Charles Goyeneche** and **Rudy Dizon** are providing the *lechon*, albeit a *papier mache* one.

Hector Galang and **Jojo Goyeneche** of the *Filipino Oriental Grocery & Restaurant* in Columbia are in charge of the Philippine food booth serving *adobo*, *pancit* and *lumpia*. As before, the Philippines will be represented in the *International Bazaar* by a booth run by **Polly Pearson** (owner of the *Fil-Am Store* in Sumter) offering Filipino groceries, gift items and clothing.

During the cultural entertainment programs on Saturday and Sunday, the *Hiyas-Min (the Philippine Cultural Society of Charleston, SC)* will perform Philippine folk dances. Some Columbia Fil-Am members will also participate in the international fashion shows. At press time, performance schedules have not been finalized; check the festival website (www.cifonline.org) for updated schedules and other details.

The largest yearly international event in South Carolina

and neighboring states, the festival is a family-oriented showcase of the music, food, culture and performing arts of the varied countries represented in South Carolina. This year's festival theme is "*Celebrations around the World.*"

Global Education Day, the festival's opening event on Friday, April 2, brings students from all over the state for a day of fun and learning about the cultural diversity and contributions made by foreign-born residents. The festival is open to the general public on Saturday (10 am—9 pm) and Sunday (noon — 7 pm). Admission tickets are \$5 for adults and \$1 for ages 6-12; children under 5 are free. Sunday admission is free with a Saturday wristband. There is also a \$1 parking fee per vehicle charged by the State Fairgrounds.

FAAGC President **Grace Collins** and former FAAGC treasurer **Imelda Go** serve as members of the festival coordinating committee and the *Global Education Day* committee, respectively. ❖

Motions & transitions

WELCOME New Members

★ **FLORENCE DE GUZMAN** of West Columbia, SC.

★ **REX SAMPAGA** of Shaw AFB, SC.

★ **FRANCISCO TABORADA** of Columbia, SC.

★ **C E C I L L E WESSINGER** of Cayce, SC.

★ **DONALD & CAROL WHITAKER** of Columbia, SC. ❖

The new **FAAGC Directory of Members** is now being finalized for distribution at the upcoming Easter picnic. Members are enjoined to get their copy at the picnic or at the next general membership meeting on May 16 2004.

~Congratulations~

➤ to **Terry & Judy Laut Berends** on the recent birth of their first baby.

➤ to **Sunny Burroughs** on the upcoming marriage of her daughter **Marybeth** to **Derrek Russell** on June 12, 2004.

➤ to **Lee & Pam Sebastian Commins** on the birth of their first baby, **Hope Leigh**, on January 24, 2004.

➤ to **Racquel Dizon & Albert Quimson** on the recent birth of their son **Brian**. A daughter of FAAGC Executive Board Member **Rudy Dizon**, **Racquel**, who now lives in Las Vegas, was a Columbia Fil-Am Cultural Dance Troupe performer for several years and the FAAGC Assistant Secretary in 1998-99.

➤ to **Rudy & Brenda Dizon** on the recent marriage in the Bahamas of their son **Derick** to **Carolynn Diaz** formerly of Columbia, SC. The newly-weds now reside in Seattle, WA.

➤ to **Ernest & Sally Ellis** on the marriage of their son **Rodney** to **Angela Holtz** on April 3, 2004.

➤ to **Dr. Tony Imperial** on the upcoming wedding of his daughter **Dr. Eva Imperial** to **Chris Cheessick**.

➤ to **Dr. Edie Sebastian** on her selection as this year's Dorn VA Medical Center's "*Heart & Hand*" awardee. The award honors those who "go out of their way to help patients." ❖

CONDOLENCES

† Our condolences to FAAGC member **Edith Alston** and her family on the death of her spouse, **Willie Alston**, on February 15, 2004. ❖

Columbia Fil-Am Newsbits

❖ 501(C)(3) Classification

FAAGC President **Grace Collins** is currently exploring the feasibility of changing FAAGC's status from a 501(C)(4) to a 501(C)(3) non-profit organization classification to enable tax-deductible contributions from donors. Anyone interested in helping the Association pursue this objective is enjoined to contact **Grace** at (803) 782-6952.



❖ Next Philippine Cultural Show

FAAGC and *Hiyas-Min (the Philippine Cultural Society of Charleston, SC)* have started talks about a new joint Philippine cultural show similar to the 1993 *Karilagan* and 1998 *Kalayaan* shows. The cultural show is being planned to be presented in late 2004 or early 2005 in Columbia, Charleston, and possibly Beaufort/Hilton Head. *So dancers/singers, start flexing those leg muscles and vocal chords and wait for casting calls.*



❖ Fil-Am Summer Fun Trip

FAAGC Executive Board Member **Charles Goyeneche** is currently planning a *Fil-Am Family Summer Fun Trip* to the Myrtle Beach State Park. The trip to the oceanfront park and public beach, tentatively scheduled for Saturday, **July 17, 2004**, will provide opportunity for better interaction and fellowship among the Fil-Am families. Those interested should contact **Charles** at (843) 383-4598 or charles.goyeneche@sonoco.com. ❖

Mabuhay (pronounced *ma-boo-high* with the accent on the second syllable) is a versatile Filipino word or expression that has multiple meanings. As a verb in command form, it is a cheer that means "Live!" or it could also be a blessing/wish for a long and full life — "May you live!"

Founders

Founded by four women in 1996, Camp Mabuhay (CM) is a heritage or culture camp for families who adopted children of Philippine heritage. Its founders are Gail Pendergrast (formerly from MD, now in GA), Paddy Gordon (MD), Darlane Woodworth (NJ), and Marion Skinner (NH). It is also a collaborative effort between CM's parents and the Metropolitan Washington, D.C. area's Filipino-American community, led by Mabuhay, Inc., a tax-exempt, non-profit organization headquartered in Prince George's County, MD. The founders contacted Mencie Hairston of Mabuhay, Inc. through the help of the Philippine Embassy in Washington, DC. Since then, Mabuhay, Inc. has been implementing the camp's Filipino culture program through its network of community resources mostly from Washington, DC; Maryland; and Virginia.

Gail has an international family; she has two Korean children and two Filipino children. She felt the need to enable her Filipino children to explore their Filipino identity. She knew of other culture camps, but none were just for Filipinos. Soon she started calling northeastern United States adoption agencies to try and make contact with similar families. Gail and Darlane were introduced to each other by Darlane's adoption agency. Marion saw an ad that Gail placed in a newsletter regarding the group Gail was forming.

Fifteen families attended the first camp in 1996. Today there are nearly 50 families from all over the country but primarily the East Coast. The first CM took place in Allentown, PA; the next one was in Washington, DC; and the subsequent

Camp Mabuhay: A Different Kind of Camp

by Imelda Go

Note: The following information was provided by Camp Mabuhay's founders and organizers. *Camp Mabuhay contacts:*

- ▶ **Deborah Hartman** — djh@eqsystems.com or by mail:
Camp Mabuhay, c/o Deborah Hartman
716 North Emerson Street, Arlington, VA 22203
- ▶ **CM's web page** — <http://www.eqsystems.com/djh/mabuhay>
is maintained by Deborah and her husband, Andrew Semprebon
- ▶ **Mencie Hairston** — myhairston@comcast.net or by mail:
Mabuhay, Inc., c/o Mencie Y. Hairston
6414 Gallery Street, Bowie, MD 20720

ones were in Columbia, MD.

CM typically runs from Friday till Sunday in July and provides cultural learning opportunities for Filipino children and their American adoptive parents/families. Its founders wanted to provide a focused environment where participants can learn more about the Filipino culture, and where Filipino children can celebrate and learn to take pride in their birth heritage. The camp is a family experience where parents have their own activities including camp planning and organization.

Camp Schedule

During the first camp, Tita Mencie and several volunteers drove in heavy rain and were an hour late, but with the warmth so characteristic of Filipinos, they dispelled the earlier challenges of the day. They proceeded to greet the initially anxious campers like old friends and; entertained and taught them Filipino dances, games, stories, and history. The children's faces lit up at the sight of so many older children who looked just like them, and the campers all cried when Tita Mencie's group departed. After that first encounter, the camp now reserves accommodations for the volunteer counselors, so they may stay and interact with the campers for the entire weekend.

Each camp has authentic Filipino food, cooking, dance/language lessons, art projects, cultural information, sports, entertainment, and social activities. Here's what they did in 2003. Friday evening started with dinner and had lots of Filipino games and activities to help people get acquainted with each other. Saturday was

full of activities that revolved around the camp's theme, *Our Spanish Connection and Philippine Heroes and Heroines*. The campers were divided into groups that were each named after a hero/heroine. The groups then rotated through different stations that covered various theme-related learning topics, such as *alibata* (the early Filipino alphabet), education, food, the Filipino flag, the national anthem (in Spanish, English and Filipino), clothing, fashion, dance, music, religion, among others.

The campers built a terrain board that traced Magellan's journey from Portugal to the Philippines. Each one built a Spanish galleon to take home. As they were busy with these craft activities, narrators told the story of Magellan's voyage. A *calesa* (or horse-drawn carriage) complete with a horse was also crafted.

The demonstration kitchen prepared *adobo*, *arroz caldo*, *leche flan*, *milon*, *mango salsa*, and *sorbetes*. There were *chacha* and *Arnis* martial arts lessons. The luncheon program featured a musical *rondalla* group performance, *malong* and *singkil* dances, and a motivational speaker. Each year, a Filipino-American role model is invited to speak about his or her experiences growing up as a Filipino-American in the U.S. For dinner there were Spanish-influenced dishes, such as *menudo*, *lechon*, and *adobo*. The dinner program highlighted the *entablado* (a stage show) that featured Spanish-influenced dances, and a scene from Jose Rizal's last day in Fort Santiago. Sunday's breakfast included *pan de sal*, *ensaymada* and *suman*. The morning ended with a game of

pabitin.

The camp experience is also invaluable to the cultural education and character development of the volunteer counselors, mostly high school and university students, who actively serve as mentors and who are called *ates/kuyas* (elder sisters/brothers) by the campers. The volunteers undergo rigorous training with at least three mandatory 3-hour meetings.

An All-Volunteer Effort

The volunteers are essential to the CM experience. They form bonds with the campers and these bonds endure long after camp is over. Camp participants have formed lasting friendships with each other through the years. All families are provided with the contact information of the other campers/counselors so that they can stay in touch with each other. Many of them do through e-mail and instant messaging. Families are not always able to attend the camp, which makes the communication link between them even more important.

CM is an all-volunteer effort with event planning and coordination conducted mostly through e-mail. In fact, the first camp was planned entirely by e-mail with a few last-minute phone calls. It has had several leaders over the years and many of its parents have taken turns with organizational duties.

CM operates on a very modest budget and accepts contributions. Organizers try their best to keep fees affordable. The 2003 basic camp fee was \$70. Participants pay for their travel expenses to the camp's location and their own hotel accommodations. CM organizers and Mabuhay, Inc. also conduct various fund-raising activities to help finance the camp. **The 2004 camp will be on July 23-25 at the Sheraton in Columbia, MD.**

Reference:

Meaning of mabuhay. Retrieved October 20, 2003, from the Web site of Filipino Associations in Montreal, Quebec Canada: <http://members.tripod.com/~Espitech/leader.htm> ❖

Fil-Ams Organize in Beaufort, Hilton Head

by Alan Geoghegan

During our family's Valentine's weekend on Hilton Head Island, I met with Richard Cuanang, the First (first as in "first ever") Vice-President of The Filipino-American Association of Beaufort, Hampton and Jasper Counties of South Carolina (FAABHJ). Richard is a nursing student (only 26!) from Ilocos Norte and their Fil-Am organization was formed in July 2003. They have already been featured in two cover articles in Hilton Head's *Island Packet*, one article with the Philippine flag on the whole front page.

Objectives & Plans

FAABHJ has 50 paid members and its first President is Florence Allbaugh. The objectives of the association are:

- (a) To promote and protect the interests of Filipinos/Filipino-Americans and their families in this locality.
- (b) To cultivate unity and cooperation among all Filipinos/Filipino-Americans.
- (c) To foster and establish better relations and sympathetic understanding between Filipinos and Non-Filipinos.
- (d) To foster and instill civic spirit and cultural pride among Filipinos/Filipino-Americans.
- (e) To coordinate with the city, county, state and national officials in all matters affecting the welfare of all Filipinos/Filipino-Americans.

Richard discussed with me the future expansion of the organization as well as future initiatives. Richard expressed a greater need to unite with other Fil-Am groups in SC for the common good. They will be participating in the St. Patrick's day parade on the 14th of March in Hilton Head and Richard is in the process of planning a gala event to coincide with Philippine Independence (June 12) with an international food festival preceding the gala (*lumpia* and *pansit* sound good to me!).

I asked Richard, why is he so involved in the creation of this Fil-Am group? He works and goes to school full-time, and he answered: "When I

really was a minority for the first time ever. Being in a Fil-Am allows me to feel closer to home and to do something for our people."

His answer really made me think and reminded me that the least that we can do as Fil-Am officers and members is to do our best to let our community know what we are doing, so that we can get the most participation from them, as Richard says, "allowing us to be closer home, while making ourselves and our *kababayans* just a little happier."

If anybody is interested to become a member of this association, or to suggest ideas for its gala, please contact Richard Cuanang at (843) 842-9171 or richardmomar@hotmail.com ♦

FIL-AM STUDENTS PERFORM AT USC WORLD NIGHT

The Filipino American Student Association (FASA), at USC, with assistance from FAAGC's Columbia Fil-Am Cultural Dance Troupe, received standing ovation after they performed a *tinikling* suite during USC *World Night* on March 27, 2004.

Fil-Am Cultural Dance Troupe members Aileen Alon and Raquel Bagnal performed *pandango sa ilaw* with FASA member Brenda Zosa. Aileen also took part in the fashion show and clicked and danced in the *tinikling* suite which featured former Fil-Am Cultural Dance Troupe members AJ Alon and Alfred McNulty.

Led by its president Vanessa Caoile, FASA (which "cannot be stopped once they started dancing," as

one of the show co-hosts quipped) also presented a choral group singing *Saan Ka Man Naroroon*, and a well-received modern (hip-hop) number (with former Fil-Am Cultural Dance Troupe member Raymund Elamparo as one of the dancers). FAAGC Treasurer George Mc Nulty is the FASA faculty adviser.

Sponsored by the International Student Association (ISA) of USC, the well-attended multi-cultural event featured a dinner of ethnic foods, fashion shows, and both modern and traditional dances from various international student groups in the university. Held at Russell House, the event had the theme of "uniting the world at USC." ♦

ACHIEVEMENTS GALORE

Now that the school year is almost over, it's time to start preparing for the Fil-Am Bulletin's annual "ACHIEVEMENTS GALORE" issue. In the next issue (*Summer 2004*) of the Association newsletter, we would like to make a special recognition of the graduation and recent scholastic, athletic, academic, and other achievements of Fil-Am adults and children in the area.

Provide us with the details (full name, school, grade, awards, college plans, etc.) as well as a photograph so we can give due recognition for your and/or your child/ren's achievements. Contact the Editor at 738-0372 or e-mail (FilAmSC@yahoo.com) with the details no later than July 15, 2004. ♦

Selected Philippine Economic Statistics

[*excerpted from ATR-Kim Eng Economics Update: Unfolding election scenarios: an economic update by Luz Lorenzo (a Philippines Equity Research report prepared for general circulation issued March 25, 2004). <http://www.research.kimeng.com/openaccess/pdfform.cfm?pdffile=ECRSW04B.pdf>]*

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Population, in millions	71.67	74.17	76.03	77.9	79.78	81.65	83.53
Household population > 15, in millions	45.77	46.96	47.24	47.64	48.93	50.34	51.79
Labor force, in millions	30.35	31.06	30.76	30.91	32.81	33.94	34.56
Employed, in millions	27.71	27.91	27.74	27.45	29.16	30.06	30.63
Unemployed, in millions	2.64	3.14	3.03	3.46	3.65	3.87	3.93
Labor force participation rate, %	66.3	66.1	65.1	64.9	67.1	67.4	66.7
Employment rate, %	91.3	89.9	90.2	88.8	88.9	88.6	88.6
Unemployment rate, %	8.7	10.1	9.8	11.2	11.1	11.4	11.4
Nominal Gross Domestic Product (GDP), billion US\$	82	65	76	75	72	78	80
Nominal Gross National Product (GNP), billion US\$	86	69	80	79	77	83	86
Nominal per capita GDP, US \$	1,149	879	1,002	961	903	955	963
Nominal per capita GNP, US \$	1,197	924	1,055	1,016	963	1,018	1,035
Headline inflation, %	5.9	9.7	6.7	4.3	6.1	3.1	3.0
Food inflation, %	3.4	8.8	5.2	1.9	4.2	1.9	2.1
Non-food inflation, %	9.2	10.8	8.4	7.0	8.3	4.4	4.1
Peso to US\$1, average	29.5	40.9	39.1	44.2	51.0	51.6	54.2
Peso to US\$1, end of year	40.0	39.1	40.3	50.0	51.4	53.5	55.4

Sources: National Statistical Coordination Board, National Statistics Office, Bureau of Treasury, *Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas*, Department of Finance, and ATR - Kim Eng estimates. ♦

FILIPINO — AMERICAN Association of Greater Columbia CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- N April 3-4, 2004** (Saturday-Sunday)
K Columbia International Festival
 K SC State Fairgrounds
 1200 Rosewood Drive, Columbia, SC 29201
- N April 11, 2004** (Sunday; 2:00 p.m.)
K Columbia Fil-Am Annual Easter Picnic
 K Sesquicentennial Park
 9564 Two Notch Road, Columbia, SC 29223
- N April 17, 2004** (Saturday; 8:00 a.m.— noon)
K Fil-Am Scholarship Car Wash
 K Ridge View High School
 4801 Hardscrabble Road, Columbia, SC 29229
- N May 16, 2004** (Sunday; 9:00 a.m. -1:00 p.m.)
K Fil-Am Scholarship Yard Sale
 K Lily Iglesias' residence (Tel. 736-0749)
 405 Great North Road, Columbia, SC 29223
- N May 16, 2004** (Sunday; 2:00 p.m.)
K Fil-Am General Membership Meeting
 K Lily Iglesias' residence (Tel. 736-0749)
 405 Great North Road, Columbia, SC 29223
- N July 17, 2004** (Saturday)
K Fil-Am Summer Family Fun Trip
 K *Details to be announced later.*
- N September 2004**
K Fil-Am 14th Annual Gala
 K *To be announced later.*
- N December 11, 2004** (Saturday; 5:00 p.m.)
K Columbia Fil-Am Christmas Party
 K St. John Neumann School gymnasium



Sumter Fil-Ams Participate in International Festival

The Sumter area Fil-Am community led by POLLY PEARSON (*left*) and LILIAN SHEEDY (*right*) displayed a Philippine exhibit for the first time at the annual *Multi-Cultural Celebration* sponsored by USC Sumter and the YWCA of the Upper Lowlands. Held on March 6, 2004 at the USC Sumter's Nettles Building gymnasium and auditorium, the event, now in its 9th year, featured a bring-a-dish dinner and demonstrations of traditional ethnic music, dances, and costumes. (*Photo courtesy of Jaromporn Torit*).

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Reminder:

The annual **COLUMBIA FIL-AM EASTER PICNIC & EGG-HUNT** will be held on **Sunday, April 11, 2004** at the **Sesquicentennial Park**