

HAWAII

# FILIPINO CHRONICLE

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◆ WEEKLY ◆ JUNE 21, 2008 ◆

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## EDITORIAL

Support Our Doctors,  
Bayanihan Clinic

**M**embers of a close knit group of Filipino doctors, known as Doctors-on-Stage, have been rehearsing for an upcoming musical entitled "Butterflies & Kisses" which will be held at Farrington High School's auditorium on June 29, 2008. In case you're wondering, the musical is about the growing pains that come with raising kids, from the points of view of both parents and children.

Proceeds from the musical will benefit Bayanihan Clinic Without Walls, a non-profit clinic that provides free health care services to those in the "gap group"—homeless, immigrants, the very poor and others who cannot afford medical insurance. The clinic relies on funding from the government and private sector to keep it afloat.

The vast majority of Bayanihan Clinic's volunteer physicians, dentists and other medical professionals are Philippine-born and trained. If there was ever a group that symbolized the true meaning of "bayanihan," it is Filipino doctors. Many of them came to Hawaii during the 1970s and struggled with the rigors of medical school, starting private practices and raising families. During these trying times, they were forced to rely on each other for support and encouragement. As a result, they formed deep and lasting friendships, many of which are still vibrant and strong even today. Now that they have successfully established their medical practices, these Filipino doctors regularly give back to the community via the Bayanihan Clinic and other charitable projects.

Some of the doctors in "Butterflies & Kisses" enjoy performing and are good at it. For others, acting and dancing do not come naturally but they manage to cope with feelings of nervousness and anxiety. All of them are unpaid volunteers who have given of their time and resources for a very worthy cause. We commend them for their efforts and wish them all the very best!

Wetbacks and  
Desperate Housewives

**D**uring a Honolulu City Council Zoning Committee meeting on May 13, 2008, Councilmember Rod Tam referred to undocumented workers from Mexico as "wetbacks," a term that many Hispanics consider derogatory. The term refers to Mexican laborers who enter the U.S. illegally by crossing the Rio Grande River.

Word slowly leaked out to the local media and eventually reached the ears of Hawaii's Hispanic community, who were understandably appalled. To his credit, Tam issued several apologies and even supported a formal reprimand by his colleagues on the Council. Yet, many Hispanics remain unconvinced of Tam's sincerity, since he has declined requests to personally meet with them. Two weeks ago, dozens of Hispanics and sympathizers rallied in front of Honolulu Hale to demand Tam's ouster as chair of the Zoning Committee and to push for a face-to-face meeting with the embattled councilmember.

Save for a noted Filipino professor, Filipinos were noticeably absent from the rally. In fact, the Filipino community has been rather tight-lipped about the "wetback" controversy. How quickly we have forgotten. Barely nine months ago, Filipinos were enraged at remark aired on ABC TV's show "Desperate Housewives" that disparaged Philippine-trained physicians. Filipinos in Hawaii signed petitions calling for a public apology. Other Filipino groups called for a boycott of Walt Disney, ABC's parent company, and demanded a face-to-face-meeting with company executives to present their concerns and offer suggestions on ethnic sensitivity. In a twist of irony, some of those same

## FROM THE PUBLISHER

**T**hank you for reading this latest issue of the Hawaii Filipino Chronicle! Our cover story on pages 4-5 is about an upcoming musical entitled "Butterflies & Kisses." Produced and directed by Doctors-on-Stage, the musical is also a fundraiser for Bayanihan Clinic Without Walls. The entire cast and crew of "Butterflies & Kisses"—comprised of volunteer physicians, families, friends and office staff—have worked extremely hard to put the musical together. It hasn't been easy for the doctors to juggle work and family life and still have time for rehearsals. For some of them, "Butterflies & Kisses" will be their first, but hopefully not their last, public performance. It can be quite nerve-wracking to perform in front of a large audience, but they are doing it for a good cause. We hope you will support Doctors-on-Stage by purchasing several tickets and taking your family to see "Butterflies & Kisses." You just might see your own personal physician dancing and singing on stage!

Also in this issue, we have a feature story on Dr. Belinda Aquino, who has garnered two very prestigious honors—the UP Alumni Association 2008 Distinguished Lifetime Achievement Award and the 2008 Hung Wo and Elizabeth Lau Ching Foundation Award For Faculty Service to the Community. Both awards recognize her lifetime of service to the community and numerous achievements in her field. For those of you who may not know Dr. Aquino, or Lindy, as she is known, she is the professor and director of the Center for Philippine Studies at the University of Hawaii-Manoa. She has built the Center For Philippine Studies from basically scratch. Through her efforts, it is now widely respected and recognized as a leading authority on issues concerning the Philippines and issues such as immigration, human rights, higher education, U.S. relations, women and minorities. Please read more about Dr. Aquino's life and achievements beginning on page 6.

In our Legal Matters column on page 7, attorney Emmanuel Tison discusses a recent decision by the U.S. Supreme Court in the human rights abuses case involving former Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos. The U.S. Supreme court ruled that there is "no immediate way" to recover on its judgment against Marcos "for the alleged "victims" who would do well to come out into the open and publish their names. Attorney Tison says that if these "victims" can prove that Marcos victimized them, he may be able to help.

Please take the time to read the Mayor's Column and the Legal Notes column, and other articles of interest in this issue. We hope that you will find them useful and informative.

As they say in show biz, THAT'S A WRAP! Until next time...*Aloha and Mabuhay!*

*Chona A. Montesines-Sonido*

requests are now being asked by Hawaii's Hispanics.

In hindsight, Filipinos and other ethnic groups, for that matter, should have been more vocal in their support for the Hispanic community. We should realize that any derogatory term that belittles an ethnic group is an attack against all of us, for we are all minorities. Also, Filipinos have more in common with Hispanics than we may realize. For centuries, we were both colonized and heavily influenced by Spain. Not only do we share similar surnames, religions and customs, Filipinos physically resemble and are sometimes mistaken for Hispanics—and vice versa.

So whether Councilmember Tam used "wetbacks" to specially refer to illegal aliens or whether he did not know it was derogatory is beside the point. The fact remains that elected officials should be held to a higher standard and also held accountable for their remarks. Voters will ultimately make that decision in 2010, if Tam, who is in his final elected term as a councilmember, ever decides to seek another official office.



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COVER STORY

# DOCTORS SING, DANCE FOR A GOOD CAUSE

By Richard Kua

**O**n June 29, 2008, at 7:00 pm, the curtains will rise for the musical "Butterflies & Kisses," which will be held at the Farrington High School auditorium.

No, this is not a mainland play on a 20-city summer nationwide tour or a revival of a previous Broadway/Off Broadway/Not-Even-Remotely Broadway production.

The names and faces of the actors of this hometown production may seem familiar because they ARE your friendly neighborhood physicians! Yes, the very same doctors whom you visit for health problems and medical check-ups.

These physicians, who are members of Doctors-on-Stage, will perform in the "Butterflies & Kisses" musical which is a fundraiser for Bayanihan Clinic Without Walls (BCWW). Now THAT is unique.

**A Free Clinic**

BCWW's mission is to pro-

vide free primary health care services to those in the community who have no health coverage and are currently classified as indigent and underprivileged—including the homeless, immigrants and migrants especially from the Pacific Islands.

BCWW was bestowed 501(c)(3) privileges as a non-profit organization in April 1999. Its target recipients are mostly Filipinos (about 70-75 percent).

The term *bayanihan* refers to a distinctive Filipino spirit of communal cooperation or effort to achieve a particular goal or to solve a common problem. *Bayanihan* is aptly used to describe a group of people working together to transfer a house from one location to another.

**The True Meaning of 'Bayanihan'**

Many of BCWW's volunteer physicians came to the U.S. from the Philippines during the 1970s. They experienced hardships as newly-arrived immigrants. Many of them struggled with the rigors of medical training, starting private practices, raising families as well as adjust-



Shown here are some of the Doctors-On-Stage casts for the upcoming musical production of Butterflies and Kisses. From L to R: Dr. Richard Kua, Dr. Benilda Luz-Liena, Dr. Carolina Davide, Peggy Laurel, Dr. Sorbella Guillermo, Dr. Nicaron Joaquin and producer of the show, Dr. Charlie Sonido.

ing to a new culture in their host country and a new way of life. It was during these trying times, especially during medical school and residency, that strong bonds were formed.

"We had to band together just to survive the hardships of medical school, the language barrier, and adjusting to life in the U.S. like one big family," says Dr. Herita Yulo, co-founder and first president of the organization.

Out of shared obstacles and challenges, these doctors bonded together in the true spirit of

*bayanihan*, drawing strength from each other and sharing their resources as a team. To carry out their collective mission of giving back to the community and reaching out to the underprivileged, these doctors formed the Bayanihan Clinic and other organizations.

**Meeting the Need**

On August 22, 1996 a federal law was passed that denied medical benefits to some 800 to 1,000 immigrants who were then enrolled under the QUEST medical insurance program. In response, the State Legislature appropriated monies to provide benefits and medical services for those who no longer qualified for Medicaid. The monies were meant to compensate community health centers for providing health care to medically uninsured immigrants and others who were ineligible for Medicaid or the state's QUEST program.

Due to the impacts of the 1996 federal law upon the community, an appeal was made to the medical community, imploring the aid of private physicians to volunteer their services. More than 30 physicians of Filipino ancestry answered the call for help.

On April 17, 1997, the Philippine Medical Association of Hawaii (PMAH), under the leadership of Dr. Charlie Sonido, initiated the *Bayanihan* project. By October 2007, free dental services were added to its basic health services. By the end of the year, about 319 people had received basic health and dental care services.

By 1998, the number of volunteer medical and dental care providers reached 49, representing 13 subspecialties, with 438 immigrants referred to different participating health care volunteer doctors. The number of people receiving medical care continues to grow each year.

Annually, BCWW participates actively in free community health fairs on Lanai, Molokai, the Big Island, Maui, Kauai and Oahu. Needy residents receive free health screenings, physical exams, dental examinations, and health education. To date, it has provided free health screening tests and medical services to some 5,365 indigent patients.

"We have been able to help a lot of needy immigrants-not just Filipinos but also local born citizens as well as the other ethnic groups such as the Samoans, Chinese, Mexican, Marshallese-you name it," said past BCWW president, Dr. Sorbella Guillermo.

About 98 percent of BCWW members are Philippine-born physicians and dentists who have undergone rigorous medical training in the U.S. and started their individual private practices.

BCWW members have participated in many international medical missions and touched the lives of thousands more.

"Leading these dedicated physician volunteers has truly been an honor," says Dr. Elizabeth Abinsay, immediate past president of BCWW. "Serving the medical needs of my fellow

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COVER STORY

immigrants is both fulfilling and gratifying."

**Butterflies & Kisses**

Doctors-on-Stage is an amateur unpaid group of performers showcasing the artistic talents of PMAH physician volunteers, their family members, friends and office staff. "Butterflies & Kisses" is this group's third major musical production.

The first was "In Tune With War and Peace" which was initially performed on Maui as part of PMAH's traditional Memorial Week gathering. The impetus for the production was the launch of "Operation Iraqi Freedom" which began on March 20, 2003. The musical, which was a show of support for U.S. troops, was an instant hit. It was held at the Neal S. Blaisdell Center Concert Hall a few months later as a fundraiser for BCWW.

The second production, "The Rainbow Connection," was held at the Hilton Hawaiian Village on November 15, 2003 as part of the 25th Anniversary of PMAH. The show underscores the many connections between Hawaii and the Philippines and traces the migration of Filipino doctors from their homeland and the hardships and many sacrifices they endured to settle in Hawaii. After successfully establishing themselves in their new environment, the connection was renewed through medical missions and many other charitable projects.

The original version of "Butterflies & Kisses" debuted at the 30th Anniversary of PMAH at the Halekulani Hotel on March 15, 2008. The show featured pop, contemporary and Broadway songs woven into a tale about raising children. The current expanded version, with additional musical material and an extended cast, continues the story of child rearing and growing pains from the points of view of both parents and children.

Once again, the cast of physicians-turned-artists will turn in their lab coats and stethoscopes and don costumes to perform on stage for a worthy cause.

Dr. Charlie Sonido, co-founder of BCWW and longtime producer for Doctors-on-Stage, says there are many details that goes into preparing for the musical.

"Getting to the point where the cast have perfected their

lines and the crew has the stage wired for light and sound is just one part of the job," he says. "There are 101 other issues to be dealt with before the curtain even rises."

**Quotes From Doctors**

Whether it's their first or their third musical, many doctors will undoubtedly have to cope with feelings of nervousness.

Dr. Nic Joaquin, a veteran

cast member of all three Doctors-on-Stage productions and current BCWW president, says: "Farrington to me is harder because I will be performing in front of my patients who paid to see me look good and perform well."

Current PMAH president, Dr. Lorifin Belmonte says: "I'm terrified that I'll forget my lines. I'll sing but I won't dance!"

Dr. Cielo Guillermo and daughter Erica Brenner are

among two mother-daughter teams in the cast. "I love singing and in a way my being on the show has made my practice more wholesome," says Dr. Guillermo.

The second mother-daughter team is Dr. Carol Davide and daughter Anna. "It's great that we get to practice songs together but sometimes it gets in the way of things I need to do like L&L-laba (laundry) and *linis* (cleaning)," says Dr. Davide.

When asked about drawbacks of being on the show, Dr. Benilda Luz-Llena replied, "Time at rehearsals means time away from my son, but on the other hand, it's a lot of fun."

When asked how he ended up being on the show, Hawaii Medical Center (HMC) West surgeon Dr. Ross Simatefranc said, "J.P. Orias came to my office one day and heard some of

(continued on page 6)

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# A Lifetime of Service and Achievement

By **Teresita G. Bernaldes**

**D**r. Belinda Ancheta Aquino, or Lindy to most everybody, is currently in the spotlight for winning two awards in recognition of her lifetime of service and achievement. The University of the Philippines Alumni

Association (UPAA) has named her the recipient of the 2008 Distinguished Lifetime Achievement Award. She will be honored along with the other awardees on June 21, 2008 in Quezon City during the Grand Centennial Reunion of the UP.

Lindy shares top billing in this category with Philippine Supreme Court Justice Leonor Ines Luciano and well-known theatre personality Dr. Natividad

Crame Rogers.

She has also received the 2008 Hung Wo and Elizabeth Lau Ching Foundation Award for Faculty Service to the Community at the University of Hawaii-Manoa. This prestigious annual award recognizes a UH faculty member whose contributions have strengthened the ties between the community and the University. The award carries a monetary gift of \$5,000. Lindy will be recognized at the Manoa campus on September 9, 2008.



Dr. Belinda Ancheta Aquino

significance of the newly-passed Barrio Charter to the people. It required a lot of walking, riding motorbikes on dirt roads, giving lectures, explaining government primers and teaching barrio folk the ABCs of local governance.

"The experience introduced me to the real world," she recalls. "I forgot all about Shakespeare and Melville, and became aware of social and cultural issues, such as poverty, illiteracy and inequality."

She was soon promoted to the Central Office and supervised a research team called "The PACD Story," which brought her all over the country, particularly the Visayas and Mindanao, and occasionally to her native Ilocos. During her travels, she got to know more of the minority, indigenous and Muslim cultures.

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### Promdi Ilocos

Lindy refers to herself as "promdi" (a corruption of "from the province"). In her case, it's the town of San Fernando, in La Union in northern Luzon.

The youngest of eight children, Lindy fondly remembers her parents—Modesto Aquino, who was a town mayor, and her mother, Teresa Ancheta Aquino, who was a nurse and a teacher—calling them "the most wonderful people in my life."

In November 2007, Lindy endowed a Professorial Chair in honor of her mother at the UP College of Nursing in Manila.

"I'm still researching my mother's past, especially her

early life as a pioneering nursing student at the Philippine General Hospital," she says. One day she hopes to also memorialize her father, a politician before and after World War II, whom she referred to as "probably the last honest politician on the scene."

### Working in the Barrios

Lindy majored in English at UP and landed a temporary job as a speechwriter for the governor of La Union, which she found to be not challenging enough.

One day, the Office of the Presidential Assistant on Community Development PACD sent out an announcement for an exam to recruit "community development workers."

Lindy passed the exam and was sent to UP Los Banos for a 9-month training program. Being a native Ilokano speaker, she was later deployed to eastern Pangasinan to explain the

### On to Graduate Studies

When she returned to UP for a graduate fellowship in public administration, she had embraced social science as her future career to augment the liberal arts education she received. Before finishing her Master's, she was given an East-West Center scholarship to do a Master's in Political Science at UH-Manoa. Upon her return, she was recruited as a UP College of Public Administration faculty member at Padre Faura.

In addition to her teaching duties, she helped develop an

(continued on page 14)

## COVER STORY (cont.)

(from page 5)

the songs that I recorded on a CD. He convinced me to join, so here I am!"

"I'm so scared of singing on stage," says Dr. Glenda Malana. Pitch-perfect Dr. Nestor Del Rosario is always on hand to help other less confident cast members tame their tremulous voices.

Internist and busy mom Dr. Jojie dela Torre Waite is just happy to have her voice back after thyroid surgery.

Christa Lei Sonido, daughter of Dr. Charlie Sonido and a junior at Punahou School, is re-joining the group as a soloist. Tireless volunteer and avid supporter of BCWW Dory Villafuerte says "I watched the first show of Doctors-On-Stage and

was hooked. I help willingly because it's a worthy cause."

Dr. Cora Hobbs-Oshiro, Wayne Oshiro, and Dr. Joseph and Fritza Zobian are the dancers of the show. J.P. Orias is the artistic director, Cora Palafox-Aczon is the musical director and Tim Llana, husband of Dr. Luz-Llana, is the photographer, slide projectionist and art coordinator.

### A Good Cause

Funds generated from sponsorships and ticket sales will help BCWW to continue providing much needed services to the those who otherwise would be unable to obtain basic medical care as they do not qualify for any existing government or private healthcare plans.

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## LEGAL MATTERS

# "No Immediate Way" Supreme Court Tells Marcos "Victims"



By Atty. Emmanuel Samonte Tipon

**T**here is "no immediate way to recover on its judgment against Marcos," the U.S. Supreme Court told the alleged 9,539 "victims" of human rights abuses during the Marcos regime in a decision rendered on June 12, 2008. Republic of the Philippines v. Pimentel, No. 06-1204.

In 1972, President Ferdinand Marcos incorporated Arelma under Panamanian law. Arelma deposited \$2 million with Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner and Smith, a stock broker. As of 2000, the account had grown to about \$35 million.

After Marcos left the Philippines in 1986, many alleged victims of human rights abuses during his regime filed a class action (Pimentel class) against him in the U.S. District Court in Hawaii.

When we visited Marcos, we asked if he was going to fight the case. "Baybayamon" (Never mind)," he replied. He did not sound like the Marcos we knew. He thought that their case was weak and it would take years for them to testify. He said that he did not even know these people, so why would he violate their rights. He indicated that there might be some people who could make a plausible case against him but were not among the complainants. We later learned that the lawyers who had approached him were asking for a large amount of money which he apparently did not have at his disposal.

The claimants obtained a judgment of nearly \$2 billion. See *Hilao v. Estate of Marcos*, 103 F.3d 767 (CA9 1996).

The Estate of Roger Roxas and Golden Buddha Corp. also filed an action against Marcos' widow, Imelda, and obtained a judgment against her. See *Roxas v. Marcos*, 89 Haw. 91, 969 P.2d 1209.

These claimants sought to enforce their judgments by attaching the Arelma assets held by Merrill Lynch. In order to determine the rightful owner of

the assets, Merrill Lynch filed an interpleader action in the U.S. District Court in Hawaii. Named defendants were, among others, the alleged "victims," Arelma, the Republic of the Philippines, the Philippine Presidential Commission on Good Government (PCGG), and the PNB which held some of the assets in escrow.

The Republic and the PCGG claimed a right to the assets based on a 1955 Philippine law, R.A. 1379, "An Act Declaring Forfeiture in Favor of the State Any Property Found to Have Been Unlawfully Acquired by Any Public Officer or Employee and Providing for the Proceedings Thereof."

The Republic and the PCGG moved to dismiss the action or transfer it to a proper venue, and asked that the Judge recuse himself. The Judge denied their motions. They filed another motion to dismiss raising sovereign immunity. The Judge granted the motion but allowed the action against the "victims" to proceed, over the objection of the Republic and the PCGG. They appealed to the Court of Appeals. It affirmed the District Court, holding that the action could proceed without the Republic and the PCGG, and furthermore they would not prevail on their claims anyway.

Reversing the Court of Appeals, the U.S. Supreme Court held that it erred by giving insufficient weight to the foreign sovereign status of the Republic and the PCGG, and in discounting the merits of their claim. The Supreme Court told the appellate court to order the District Court to dismiss the interpleader action. Thus, the assets remain in the possession of Merrill Lynch, with its rightful ownership undetermined.

## DISTRICT JUDGE'S IMPARTIALITY QUESTIONED

Two Justices of the Supreme Court said that the Court of Appeals should order the case reassigned to a different District Judge to conduct further proceedings. They noted that the Republic and PCGG had advanced a factual basis for suspecting that the District Judge's impartiality

could be questioned. The Judge, with a Spanish surname, is permanently assigned in Los Angeles. Observers have wondered why a Judge from Los Angeles has to come to Hawaii to conduct the Marcos trial when there are 4 U.S. District Judges in Hawaii.

The two Justices found that the Judge summoned an attorney representing Merrill Lynch to a meeting in chambers in Los Angeles on September 11, 2000, after learning that the Republic and the PCGG sought to obtain the Arelma funds from Merrill Lynch. The Judge directed Merrill Lynch to file an interpleader action before him in Hawaii and to deposit the Arelma funds with the court, despite the attorney's argument that New York would likely be the more appropriate forum.

Merrill Lynch filed the interpleader on September 14, 2000. The Judge sealed the file, making it difficult for other parties to determine the status of the proceedings.

The Justices noted that the Judge had said that the Republic and the Commission were not "real parties in interest," and when the Court of Appeals ordered him to stay the proceedings, he did so, but vacated the stay within months, thus increasing "concern about the possibility that the District Judge would not fairly consider the Republic's position on the merits."

The Justices concluded: "These actions bespeak a level of personal involvement and desire to control the Marcos pro-

ceedings that create at least a colorable basis for the Republic and the Commission's concern about the District Judge's impartiality."

## WHAT IS THE SANDIGANBAYAN DOING?

The Supreme Court noted that in 1991, the PCGG asked the Sandiganbayan, a Philippine court with special jurisdiction over corruption cases, to declare forfeited to the Republic any property Marcos had obtained through misuse of his office. That litigation is still pending.

The Supreme Court indicated that the Sandiganbayan's decision -- whether or not the Republic and the Commission have a right to the Marcos assets -- would determine what course of action would be available to the alleged human rights "victims".

## WHO ARE THE 9,539 "VICTIMS"?

Will all these "victims"

come out in the open and publish their names? If they can prove that Marcos victimized them, there is someone who can help them.

(ATTY. TIPON has won all deportation cases he handled and obtained approval of all visa petitions he filed. He is from Laoag City. He has a Master of Law degree from Yale Law School and a Bachelor of Laws degree from the University of the Philippines. He served as an Immigration Officer. He is co-author of "Immigration Law Service," an 8-volume practice and procedure guide for immigration officers and lawyers. He specializes in immigration and criminal defense. Office at 905 Uni St. corner N. King, Suite 201, Honolulu, HI 96819. Tel. (808) 847 1601. Fax (808) 847 1624. E-Mail: filamlaw@yahoo.com. Website: www.ImmigrationServicesUSA.com. Listen to the most interesting and humorous radio program on Hawaii radio KMDI 1270 every Friday 7:30-8:00 AM. This article is a general overview of the subject matter discussed and is not intended as legal advice for any specific person or situation. Neither the writer nor publisher warrant the completeness or accuracy of the information provided herein at the time of publication.)

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SOCIETY PAGE

# USTAAH RECEPTION FOR VISITING ALUMNI



University of Santo Tomas Alumni Association of Hawaii (USTAAH) members and guests enjoying the camaraderie during the dinner reception at the Abinsay's new residence in Waiālae Iki



USTAAH members and guests during the dinner reception



USTAAH members and guests with visiting alumni violinist Jay Cayuca and visiting professor of UST, Jose David Lapuz (with lei)



USTAAH members with guests from the Consular Office and visiting alumni Jay Cayuca and wife Chickee

## ... OTHER EVENT PHOTOS



Tino & Leonie Ranchez at a social event in Waikiki



Faye & William Cudal at a gala reception



Jun Abinsay (left) and Dr. Elizabeth Abinsay (right) with Jay Cayuca and wife Chickee (center)



Mrs. Hawaii Filipina last canvassing in Kalihi, Gladys Menor (standing from left) and KORL Radio announcers



Ben Lagat and Ofelia Lagat (standing) recently hosted a welcome party in Waipahu for newly arrived cousin Praxedes Tulliao (with lei). They are shown here with James Kimura and Agnes Siruno



Franklin Borromeo, president of OFCC together with the judge for Miss Oahu Filipina Pageant composed of Dr. Celia Ona, Kanoo Miller, Philip Richardson, Teresita Bernales and Atty. Peter Carlisle



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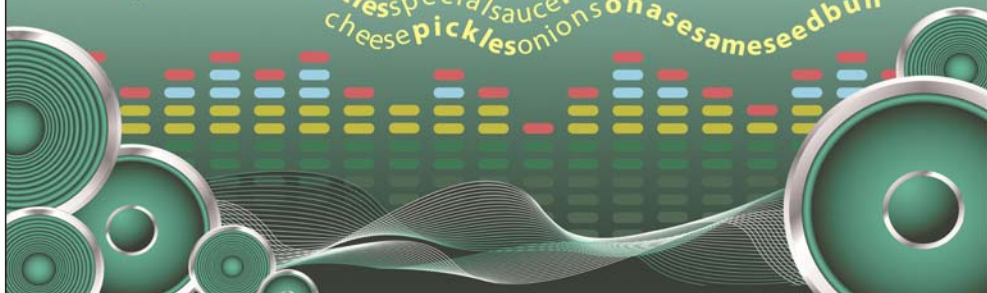
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## HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

### Waikiki Hotel Workers Rally For Second Straight Week

Dozens of hotel workers from the Holiday Inn Waikiki and other hotels held a rally on June 19, 2008 to seek a new contract, saying that well over a year has passed now since their previous contract expired.

The unionized workers want a contract that reflects the standard already agreed to at other major Hawaii hotels. Among these standards are reasonable workloads and fair wages.

"All we're asking for is the same standard," says Edwin Alcoran, a 14-year maintenance worker. "This rally was about

showing management that we're united."

To date, Local 5 hotel workers on Kauai, Maui and in Waikiki—including the Ala Moana Hotel, Waikiki Resort and other major hotels—are currently working under a new contract that reflects one standard of contract for all hotel workers in Hawaii.

"We need a good contract for our families," says Linda Baraol, a 13-year veteran from the housekeeping department. "It's been too long. We deserve better, just like our brothers and sisters at other Local 5 hotels in Waikiki."

### Local Storyteller to Be Featured at Big Island, Kauai Libraries

In celebration of the 2008 HSPLS Children's Summer Reading Program, six

neighbor island public libraries are scheduled to host "Island Kine Stories" featuring local storyteller Janice Terukina from June 24-July 9, 2008. Admission is free.

Terukina is a veteran actress from Honolulu who has appeared in numerous stage, film, and television roles, including performances with the Honolulu Theatre for Youth and Kumu Kahua Theatre.

She will share humorous "local style" folktales, poetry, and participatory games from around the world at the following libraries:

#### Big Island:

- June 24, 2 pm at Naalehu (939-2442)
- June 25, 4:30 pm at Kealakekua (323-7585)



Janice Terukina  
photo by UH-Manoa Outreach College-SECP

#### Kauai:

- July 8, 10 am at Lihue (241-3222)
- July 8, 2:30 pm at Koloa Public & School Library (742-8455)
- July 9, 10 am at Kapaa (821-4422)
- July 9, 3 pm at Hanapepe (335-8418)

#### Recommended for

ages 3 to adult, this 45-minute program is sponsored by the Friends of the Library of Hawaii, through a grant from the NFL Charities, the UH-Manoa Outreach College's Statewide Cultural Extension Program, the National Endowment for the Arts and the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts.

Public libraries statewide are hosting a variety of performances and programs. Visit [www.librarieshawaii.org](http://www.librarieshawaii.org) for a complete list, or call your local library to find out the titles/performers for their programs.

### Rizal Expert Speaks on National Hero's Relevance

Jose David Lapuz—a leading authority on Dr. Jose Rizal, the Philippines' national hero—spoke at the Fil-Com Center on June 19, 2008 about the relevance of Rizal in contemporary society. A Knight Grand Cross of Rizal, Lapuz is also a commissioner with the United Nations Educational Scientific & Cultural Organization (UNESCO), and a professor of political science at the University of Santo Tomas in Manila.

He is also considered an expert on international politics and comparative foreign policy. He has won numerous awards and commendations recognizing his expertise in political science, diplomacy and international relations. Lapuz is the only Filipino member of the UNESCO International Advisory Committee on Human Rights and the Reduction of Poverty. He studied at UP-Diliman and the University of Glasgow in

#### Scotland.

In 2007, the County of Los Angeles, California presented Lapuz with an award for community service. He was also recognized with an award during the 22nd Annual Philippine-American Exposition for sharing his expertise in political science, diplomacy and international relations. Expo organizers described him as "a true ambassador of goodwill and a true modern-day Philippine hero."

Lapuz's lecture entitled "The Relevance of Dr. Jose Rizal on His 147th Birthday" was sponsored by the Order of the Knights of Rizal-Hawaii Chapter and the Fil-Com Center.



Jose David Lapuz

PHILIPPINE NEWS

# SET Finds Grounds for Koko's Poll Protest

by Aurea Calica

The Senate Electoral Tribunal (SET) has found sufficient grounds to proceed with the revision of election documents involving losing Genuine Opposition candidate Aquilino "Koko" Pimentel III and Sen. Juan Miguel Zubiri as it discovered irregularities in the areas initially scrutinized by the body.

Pimentel filed an election protest against Zubiri, who ran under the administration's Team Unity, saying results in 2,658 precincts in 44 municipalities and seven provinces were altered in favor of Zubiri.

In its resolution dated June 17, the SET said "from the results of the initial revision of ballots and election documents in pilot areas presented by Pimentel, it appears that protestant (Pimentel) has a prima facie valid cause of action."

The SET said "suffice it to say at this time, the results of the initial revision and appreciation proceedings already done showed that the May 14, 2007 election in certain designated pilot areas was characterized by proven irregularities."

"In six of the nine pilot municipalities in Maguindanao and Lanao del Norte, for instance, 98.15 percent of the ballots cast



Senator Zubiri (left) and Koko Pimentel with their spouses

were found to be spurious," the SET noted.

It added that "indeed, there is reasonable ground to believe that the final outcome of the case could affect the officially proclaimed results for the 12th senatorial position in the 14 May 2007 national elections; hence, the election protest case deserves further proceedings by this tribunal."

The SET could have dismissed the protest if, under Rule 75 of its Revised Rules, 25 percent of the total number involved in protests, counter-protests and cross-protests deemed "as best exemplifying or demonstrating the electoral frauds pleaded by each of them," lacked merit.

"Accordingly, finding sufficient cause therefore, the Tribunal orders the continuation of the proceedings in the instant electoral protest case," the SET said.

The parties will be called by the hearing commissioner on June 23 for the reception of the parties' evidence on the remaining 75 percent contested precincts of Pimentel as well as the re-tabulation of the pertinent election documents from Patikul, Sulu.

But at the same time, the SET directed the Canvass Board Service to undertake the necessary preparations for the collection of the ballot boxes, election documents and paraphernalia from the pilot areas of the protestee (Zubiri) as he filed a counter-protest against Pimentel.

Zubiri refused to comment as the SET had issued a gag order, but his lawyer and spokesman Romulo Macalintal said the development was "welcome" to erase all doubts on his proclamation as 12th winning senator in the May 2007 elections. ([www.philstar.com](http://www.philstar.com))

# RP Unemployment Rate Rises to 8%, Says NSO

by Mayen Jaymalin

Unemployment rose to 8.0 percent in April from 7.4 percent in January as economic growth began to slow down amid soaring food and energy prices, the National Statistics Office said in its quarterly employment report yesterday.

At Malacañang, Press Secretary Jesus Dureza dismissed the figure as normal, citing the huge number of fresh graduates scouting for jobs.

"We also have to note the positive modest employment growth in the agriculture (0.4 percent) and service (0.2 percent) sectors although the unemployment rate rose by nearly 0.6 percent," presidential deputy spokesperson Lorelei Fajardo said.

Manila and the surrounding provinces, which combined account for more than half the

country's economic output, had double-digit jobless rates, topped by Manila's 13.8 percent.

Of those who were employed, 35.7 percent who had part time work of less than 40 hours a week, NSO said. The number of underemployed reached 6.6 million during the period.

Economic growth eased to 5.2 percent in the three months to March amid rising oil prices, the slowing US economy and the strong peso, which impacted on exports and pushed up inflation.

The economy grew 7.2 percent for the whole of 2007. Some 49.6 percent of those employed worked in the services sector, 35.5 percent in the agriculture sector and 14.9 percent in industry.

Unskilled workers made up 32.6 percent of those employed, while farmers, forestry workers and fishermen accounted for 17.3 percent.

Based on the NSO data, 40 percent of the unemployed completed college education while five of every 10 jobless belong to the 15 to 24 years age group.

## Safety nets pushed

Labor Secretary Mariano Roque ordered the creation of safety nets to stem the rise in joblessness.

Roque said he has directed the labor department's regional offices to closely monitor their employment situation in their respective areas and undertake appropriate interventions.

"Interventions are necessary as the NSO survey showed a weakening labor market due to increasing fuel prices that weighed down the country's economic growth early in the year," Roque said.

Based on NSO figures, the number of unemployed increased by 222,000 to reach 2.914 million in April 2008. ([www.philstar.com](http://www.philstar.com))

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## PHILIPPINE NEWS

## Bunye Bids Farewell: I Took the Blows

by Paolo Romero

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye, one of the longest-serving Cabinet officials in the Arroyo administration, bid farewell yesterday to his staff and reporters covering Malacañang, saying, "The record shows I took the blows when you did it your way."

In his message prior to turning over his post to former presidential adviser on the peace process Jesus Dureza, Bunye thanked President Arroyo for her trust and confidence and the Malacañang Press Corps (MPC) for the fond memories during his almost six years of challenging

service to develop public understanding and support for government policies and programs.

Bunye will be assuming his new role as a member of the Monetary Board on July 3. Until then, he would remain as presidential spokesman and presidential adviser for political affairs.

By July 3, he would have served almost six years at the Palace.

"Today, I say farewell to my position as press secretary and soon as presidential spokesperson and presidential adviser on political affairs as well. To all of you I say, I leave with a heavy heart but not without a treasure chest full of

fond memories," Bunye said.

Bunye sang his version of the song "My Way" and took a good-humored dig at the MPC, whose "banter and laughter" he will miss.

"For what's a Spokesman, what has he got? If not the news, then he has naught. To say the things, the Palace feels, announcements people need to hear. The record shows I took the blows — when you did it your way," he sang.

He said he was grateful beyond words for the "remarkable work" of the staff of the Office of the Press Secretary and he was confident that they would continue to do the same efficient job.

Bunye said he will miss the text messages coming from the MPC, "all urgent, of course, as the deadline approaches."

"I will miss the banter and the laughter that come with being friends, and the press briefings and the ambush interviews that characterize the more professional side of our relationship," he said.

He said the job of spokesman and press secretary requires one to wake up very early to "greet that news cycle as it begins and having



Outgoing Secretary Ignacio Bunye

the right information at my fingertips always at the right place and at the right time."

"It also requires the working knowledge of and profound respect for how the press works," he said.

Earlier in the day, Bunye gave a despedida or farewell lunch at the Malacañang Golf Clubhouse and raffled off five mobile phones to his staff. He later did the same for MPC members.

In his acceptance speech, Dureza also thanked the President and appealed for the cooperation of the media as he "learns the ropes" and vowed to become a working partner in providing accurate, timely and relevant information to the public.

He gave his first press briefing after the turnover ceremonies.

Like Bunye, Dureza was a journalist before passing the Bar examinations. He also served as congressman, representing the first congressional district of Davao province. He was also chairman of the Mindanao Economic and Development Council (MEDCO).

Known for his active advocacy for peace and development for Mindanao, Dureza was later named chairman of the Mindanao Economic Council (MEC) and the presidential adviser for Mindanao and chairman of the government panel negotiating peace with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF).

Mrs. Arroyo had earlier tapped Dureza as "development champion" for her super regions economic development plan for Mindanao.

In interviews since the announcement last month of his new appointment, Dureza stressed that there would be no major revamp at the Office of the Press Secretary, and that he would bring Malacañang closer to the provincial press and the masses.

He also vowed to enlist media's support as partners for effective governance. ([www.philstar.com](http://www.philstar.com))

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## MAINLAND NEWS

## Pacman Visits Filipinotown

Filipino boxing champion Manny Pacquiao made a public appearance at Lake Street Park in Los Angeles' historic Filipinotown.

Pacquiao visited the park to pay homage to Filipino veterans of World War II. He will fight opponent David Diaz on June 28, 2008 in Las Vegas.

Lake Street Park is significant for Los Angeles' Filipino community because it features a memorial honoring the struggles, victories and patriotism of the Filipino veterans. It is designed to serve as a place for veterans to tell their stories and teach future generations about other important historic events.

The park features five large black granite monoliths that rise from the ground and two granite benches allow viewers to sit



in meditation.

Etched onto the monoliths are photographs and text that tell the story of the historical relationship between the U.S. and the Philippines, the invasion of the Philippines by

Japan, the brave defense and battles of WWII, the surrender and horrific Bataan Death March, General MacArthur's return to the Philippines, the independence of the Philippines resulting in the loss of veterans' benefits, and the on-going struggle to receive recognition by the U.S. government.

The memorial also features a quote from a survivor of the Bataan Death March, which states, "Bataan was not our last battlefield. We are still fighting for equity." ([www.filammation.com](http://www.filammation.com))

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LEGAL NOTES

# Philippine Safety and Environment Concerns Cited in J-1 Waiver



By Reuben S. Seguritan

**T**he J-1 Visa allows certain individuals to come to the U.S. to work or study on a temporary basis under an approved Exchange Visitor Program.

Most international medical graduates are allowed to come to the U.S. under an approved J-1 internship program to work as medical interns.

When the J-1 visa expires, the foreign physicians are required to return to their home country and reside there for at least two (2) years before they apply for U.S. permanent residence. They also cannot extend or change their status in the U.S. to other visa categories other than A or G.

But the foreign residence requirement may be waived if it is requested by an interested U.S. government agency or recommended by a state health department. It may also be waived if the physician proves that he/she would be subject to persecution or that his/her U.S. citizen or permanent resident spouse or children would suffer exceptional hardship upon returning home.

Many have sought waivers on the basis of exceptional hardship but most of them failed to obtain it because of strict requirements. The courts have held that the hardship must be more than just the anxiety, loneliness and changed financial circumstances ordinarily experienced from a two-year stay in one's home country.

In a recent case, a Filipina was able to prove the degree of hardship required by citing the

environmental concerns and the dangers of living in the Philippines.

The Filipina physician entered the U.S. in August 1991 under a J-1 visa to undergo graduate medical training. In connection with her application for permanent resident status, she sought a waiver of the foreign residence requirement. She claimed that her U.S. citizen spouse and three children born in 1993, 1996 and 1999 would suffer exceptional hardship if she relocated with her to the Philippines or remained in the U.S. while she went back home for two years.

The United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) District Director denied her waiver application for failure to prove exceptional hardship. She then appealed to the Administrative Appeals Office (AAO).

The AAO agreed with the

applicant that indeed her children would suffer exceptional hardship if she were to fulfill the two-year residence requirement.

In her appeal, she claimed that her eldest child suffered from bronchial asthma that would worsen if he lived with her in the Philippines on account of the severe air pollution there. She also claimed that her children would be dislocated from their established way of life in the U.S. and would be alienated since they did not speak or understand the native language.

She also raised safety and security concerns since there were news accounts and travel advisories about terrorism and kidnapping of U.S. citizens. She provided numerous documentary proofs and articles about these conditions and environmental issues to substantiate her claim.

On the other hand, if they were to remain in the U.S. while

she temporarily stayed in the Philippines, her children would suffer exceptional hardship because her spouse would be unable to attend to his work and at the same time take care of their children by himself. Because she was the primary caregiver of her children, their well-being would be jeopardized if they were forced to be separated from their mother, especially since her eldest had a medical condition that required close care and her youngest was only five years old.

The AAO decided that based on the totality of circumstances as presented by the applicant, the children would encounter exceptional hardship if she were to go back to the Philippines to fulfill the residence requirement.

*REUBEN S. SEGURITAN has been practicing law for over 30 years. For further information, you may call him at (212) 695 5281 or log on to his website at www.seguritan.com*

GLOBAL NEWS

## Australia, Canada Want to Hire More OFWs

by Pia Lee-Brago

**A**ustralia is looking to the Philippines as a source country for workers needed to help address a skills shortage there.

The Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) said yesterday that the situation has prompted Australian companies to hire workers from other countries, especially the Philippines.

The Australian government issues to its companies a "Temporary Business Long Stay Visa," also known as the "Standard Business Sponsorship Subclass 457 Visa" or the "457 Visa," which is then provided to foreign workers they employ.

Authorized companies can either directly hire Filipino workers or employ a manpower agency accredited by the Philippine Overseas Employment Agency.

A Filipino who is recruited for Australian employment is matched to an Australian company that has been issued a 457 Visa, DFA officials said.

The DFA explained that the 457 Visa allows a foreigner temporary long stay for work purposes for six months to four years.

But this visa does not give permanent residency or migration status, it said.

The DFA said that illegally hired foreign workers in Australia are exposed to abuses, hazards, and risks.

"If they are caught, they are deported and blacklisted from future re-entry into Australia."

A legal recruiter should not also make the applicant pay for Australian administrative fees and/or air travel to Australia, as laws require a company to shoulder all costs of fees and the worker's air travel to Australia, the Australian embassy in Manila said.

The worker must not pay for his air travel to Australia.

It said inquiry or complaint may be lodged with the Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC) through email address [nsw.457Integrity@fmni.gov.au](mailto:nsw.457Integrity@fmni.gov.au).

Philippine Consul General to Sydney Maria Theresa Lazaro stressed that Australia does not allow the recruitment of domestic maids and farm workers from overseas.

In January, former Australian ambassador to Manila Tony Hely said that the Philippines has become the strongest source of skilled migration into Australia

over the last two years.

Hely said Filipinos have a strong interest in going to Australia as skilled migrants.

He said that Australia is actively promoting migration from the Philippines because it has structural skills shortage across a wide range of industries and there are skills that are in abundance in the Philippines.

Meanwhile, Canada expects an increase in the arrival of Filipino workers there within six months after passing the screening conducted by Canadian employers in Manila recently.

Canada's Province of Saskatchewan said that the 11 Saskatchewan employers who participated in the Philippines mission were "extremely satisfied" and expect to offer over 250 jobs to Filipino candidates.

"We are working to sustain our economic momentum by helping meet Saskatchewan's talent challenge," Advanced Education, Employment and Labor Minister Rob Norris said.

Norris said about 12,000 jobs is opening up in Saskatchewan in the next years.

Norris said Saskatchewan is in need of skilled labor, particularly in the manufacturing, service and health sector. ([www.philstar.com](http://www.philstar.com))

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## FEATURE (cont.)

(from page 6, A Lifetime...)

experimental pilot project in urban development at Barrio Magsaysay in the Tondo foreshore slum area. Working with government and private sector agencies sharpened her skills in organizing and mobilizing group efforts in helping squatters and slum dwellers cope with urban crises.

She also served as the first chief of research of the project that was to become the Local Government Center of the College. She was increasingly drawn to public policy issues at the local and national levels of decision-making. Her PACD experience and newly-acquired political science knowledge from Hawaii helped her to crystallize the intersections of local and national issues. She became

increasingly involved in public policy making for the Manahan-Manglapus bill on decentralization, amendments to the Barrio Charter, and the proper relationship between local autonomy and central control.

The next chapter in her career began with a decision by her dean at UP to develop an "interdisciplinary" college, which meant approaching knowledge from a "holistic" not a specialized perspective that would have more explanatory power.

She was given a Ford Foundation fellowship by UP to pursue doctoral studies at any university she liked. She chose Cornell University.

**A Time of Sadness**

Her mother died the year

before she attended Cornell.

"I took it for granted that she would be there forever. But she was gone before I could tell her I loved and missed her and appreciated all her sacrifices," she says.

Another tragic blow occurred at Cornell. As she prepared to return home to do dissertation research in the winter of 1971, a fire gutted the apartment she shared with two other students. One died from smoke inhalation, while Lindy and another roommate barely escaped in time, but not before she suffered second and third degree burns. She was in intensive care for three weeks and underwent plastic surgery on both hands to restore movement.

A vacation in Hawaii and a change in her dissertation topic so she would not have to conduct fieldwork in the Philippines did wonders for her body and spirit. She eventually finished her dissertation on local autonomy and national development and was about to return to UP to resume her faculty duties when destiny intervened.

**Martial Law Declared**

In September 1972, Ferdinand Marcos imposed martial law in the Philippines. Lindy and 149 other Filipino students in the U.S. were immediately blacklisted for activities deemed "detrimental to national security."

She and her fellow students organized a conference on Philippine nationalism in Cornell in 1970 in solidarity with the First Quarter Storm in Manila. The country was in political and social turmoil. And Lindy was in a quandary—should she go home and join the march to the ramparts? Or should she stay behind and help the resistance from abroad? Her dean at UP had cautioned her against returning because she was on the blacklist and risked being "invited" by the military if she returned.

Fortunately at this point in time, UH initiated a program with support from the State Legislature, to recognize the contributions of Filipinos to the history and development of Hawaii since arriving in 1906. The Philippine Studies Program (later Center for Philippine Studies) was formally established in 1975, and Lindy was appointed as head and tasked to organize a compre-

hensive academic program to promote studies on the Philippines and Filipinos in Hawaii in various disciplines such as history, language, literature, culture, religion, art, politics and economics.

Thus, with martial law as a backdrop, Philippine Studies Department conceptualized an alternative Philippine society, and in effect fought for the restoration of democratic rights. Lindy and her colleagues formed a broad movement to press the issue with Congress and the American people using every possible public forum.

During this time, she edited an anti-martial law newsletter called "Pahayag" under a pseudonym for five years. She and colleagues also maintained links with an underground movement in the Philippines and coordinated efforts of the Friends of the Filipino People (FFP) with other anti-martial law groups in the U.S.

They also held forums, seminars and demonstrations exposing the regime. She believes the repeated lobbying in Washington and before the State Legislature resulted in a negative public image of the Marcos dictatorship. On February 27, 1986, the Honolulu Star Bulletin interviewed Lindy, who described the return of democracy in the country as "a great day of liberation for Filipinos."

**Internationalizing Philippine Studies**

Lindy's most salient achievement has been her efforts to promote the importance of Philippine Studies locally, nationally and internationally. Today, the Center for Philippine Studies at UH-Manoa is recognized as a reliable source of advice, information and analysis of issues concerning the community, including immigration, human rights, higher education, Philippine-American relations, women and minorities, and Philippine society and culture.

Several departments at UH-Manoa have internationally-recognized Philippine experts in various disciplines. The Center has promoted and organized seven international conferences on the Philippines, with the eighth happening in July 2008 in Metro Manila. The 9th conference will be hosted by the Michigan State University in 2012.

"Sometimes people think

the Philippines is a small, insignificant country, but it's actually in the upper 20 in terms of population in the international community," she says. "The global scene has been more functional and vibrant with Filipinos deployed in some 135 countries."

In that sense alone, the Philippines is worth studying and recognizing. Lindy writes an occasional Commentary column for the Philippine Daily Inquirer on social, political and cultural issues.

Her UH Faculty Service award not only recognizes her intellectual contributions but also her humanitarian service. She has participated in various projects to assist victims of Philippine national disasters and educating diverse groups on relevant issues like overseas voting and dual citizenship. Her accomplishments as a member of the Filipino Centennial Celebration Commission, both in Hawaii and in the Philippines, have been universally recognized by various commendations including one from the Hawaii State Legislature.

**Working for GILAS**

It has been my fortune to work with Lindy on the GILAS (Gearing Internet Access and Literacy to Students) project, which aims to connect all 6,000 public high schools in the Philippines by the year 2010.

I have seen her work ethic first hand, her tenacity, and her ability to get things done, at times singlehandedly. Her working pace is at times frenetic, but she is always productive. In the recent fundraiser that we undertook to assist GILAS, we raised some \$22,000 in one afternoon alone.

Lindy is persistent, if nothing else, to the point of compulsiveness. She confesses to a certain anxiety and impatience about getting things done, and is not happy seeing sloppy or unstandard work.

**Concluding Note**

I believe I speak for a lot of people in the community when I say that the two awards that Lindy has garnered in 2008 are well-deserved. In fact, they may be long overdue. While Lindy has won various awards in the past, these two more or less put things in perspective. Hers has been a lifetime of not only achievement and service, but of other human values like understanding, competence and compassion.

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