

BALITA

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Spring 2000

Thoughts from the Director

By Dr. Araceli Suzara

A year has passed since we opened the doors of the Filipino American Student Cultural Center (FASCC). Since then we have provided the University and Hampton Roads communities with various avenues of culture. We celebrated the one hundred and first anniversary of Philippine independence from Spanish colonial rule, by hosting a "Filipino American Arts Showcase". It featured several components of culture, such as "estoryahan" (story-telling), "kantahan" (singing), "tugtugan" (musical performance), "sayawan" (dances), "tulaan" (poetry) and "dulaan" (play). The Art Exhibit of different medium brought contributions from talented students and community members. The Center hosted author receptions and poetry readings by published fiction writers and poets.

The "Taste of Asia" held in October 1999 brought cooperative working relationships among several Old Dominion academic departments, colleges, and administrative units. In addition, it gave the eight Asian student organizations on campus the opportunity to work together to showcase their distinctive cultures for the first time.

We have extended our boundaries beyond the University into the local public schools and the Hampton Roads communities. One such project was the **Integrated Arts Workshop** which brought the participation of several public school students. In addition, we served as a resource person in the community's efforts at understanding diversity and highlighting the contributions of other cultures into American life. Furthermore, we participated in various capacities in the events and programs of Filipino American organizations.

We believe that only by crafting new avenues of culture will we be able to help our students appreciate their cultural heritage and traditions, and experience the tremendous energy that comes from creating culture. Our strategic location in the College of Arts and Letters allows us to be integrative in our approach. We consider it our task to uniquely find ways of encountering expressions of culture with a distinctive academic orientation.



Events, Features, & News Bulletins from the
Filipino American Student Cultural Center (FASCC)
Old Dominion University

Inside:

Filipino American Studies on the Rise

Taste of Asia comes to Old Dominion

Integrated Arts Workshop: Exploring our Heritage

Highlights & Upcoming Events: "Jose Rizal" Movie Screening; Poetry reading; FASA Cultural Night; Career Workshops. FIND Conference at Rutgers University.

With this in view, we have begun the project of archiving oral histories to serve future scholars interested in Filipino American studies. Students registered in Ethn/Soc 395 "Issues in the Filipino American community" this Spring, have the unique opportunity to begin the collection of data. Some of their oral history essays will be published in "TINIG", which means Voices, a publication of the FASCC. In addition, the students will create radio programs utilizing their oral history interview materials. These radio programs will be broadcast over Pan Asian Radio and the web.

In Fall 2000, we will embark on the creation of a curriculum for middle school students. The curriculum will pull together the materials from a new course, FAST/Soc 395 "The Filipino American Experience" and will feature a pedagogical technique of using theatre arts to understand the historical patterns of immigration and the challenges that each successive group faced in America.

The demands on FASCC are energizing as we envision a cultural center that is central to the issues that confront Filipino American students at Old Dominion as they take their place in the larger American society of the 21st century.

FILIPINO AMERICAN STUDIES ON THE RISE

The new Filipino American courses offered at Old Dominion University have sparked interest in Filipino students who attend the College of William and Mary. Dr. Araceli Suzara, Director of FASCC, was invited to speak at W&M in December about the Filipino American courses that are offered at ODU this Spring.

Students in Dr. Suzara's course on "Issues in the Filipino Community" will be conducting an oral history project aimed to preserve the history of Filipinos in the Hampton Roads area. In addition, the students will be participating in a Pan-Asian radio webcast via the internet. Dr. Luisa Igloria teaches a Filipino American Literature course exposing students to Filipino American authors.

In the summer, a Study Abroad program to the Philippines has been organized for a group of students from Old Dominion University and the College of William and Mary. They will be visiting places of interest and interacting with diverse communities from Metro Manila and the Igorots of the Cordillera. A lecture at the Asian Institute of Management (AIM) will give the ODU graduate students in Business, an understanding of how AIM develops professional, entrepreneurial, and socially responsible leaders and managers. A dialogue with the Vice President of the Philippines, Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo will highlight the trip.

Hopefully, as more and more students express their desire to follow Filipino American Studies courses, it will not be long before a minor is created.

~NBarcarse & ASuzara



**Summer Study Abroad:
The Philippines
May 13-27, 2000**

A Learning Environment

After the generous donation of Filipino artifacts and artwork to FASCC by the Burch family, the Center has become a mini museum. Students from Old Dominion University and the College of William and Mary have come to see the collection and thereby gain a better idea of some of the things that represent Filipino culture. During the fall semester, students from the Learning Community taking Sociology 201 and the ethnic studies course on Filipino Society and Culture held a class at the Center. Members of the Filipino American Student Association did presentations on the displayed items. FASCC continuously grows to be a learning environment.

~NBarcarse

Manuel A. Viray Filipino American Lecture Series

On October 18, 1999, Dr. Dean Alegado, professor of Ethnic Studies at the University of Hawai'i at Manoa gave the first in a series of Viray Lectures this academic year. A key point in Dr. Alegado talk was the notion of "diaspora" which means "throw" and "scatter all over." He said that this description explains the collective trauma and dreams of home from abroad. Another notable point of his lecture was how the export of Filipino workers has become the basis of the new Philippine economy. This export of labor has created new structures of communications as Overseas Contract Workers keep them in contact with their homeland.

The second lecture on November 19, 1999 was given by Dr. Brenda Fajardo, curator of the Vargas Museum at the University of the Philippines and exchange professor for the fall semester at St. Norbert's College in De Pere, Wisconsin. In her talk titled "Art in Search of a Filipino Consciousness", Dr. Fajardo used a lecture-slide presentation to impress how, throughout different historical periods and across a variety of regions, the cultural and aesthetic sensibilities of the Filipino people sought avenues for expression even in the presence of confounding and oftentimes repressive conditions. Her talk also included an explanation of her own creative process as a Filipina visual artist interested in recovering and expressing themes of original vision in her work.

~MGecolea & LIgloria

Fall Courses in Filipino American Studies

Offered by the Institute for the Study of Minority Issues (ISMI)

NEW in FALL 2000!

FAST/Soc 395 "The Filipino American Experience" TR 1:30-2:45, (Dr. Araceli Suzara)

FAST 396 "Filipino Society and Culture"
(Dr. Luisa Igloria)

FASCC Attends Phase Two of Local Summer Camp

The Philippine American Literary, Sports, and Arts Foundation (PALSAF), led by Executive Director Marilyn Picardo Rivera, recently held a summer youth camp focusing on leadership training for Filipino American youth in the Hampton Roads area. The PALSAF summer seminars aimed at providing a quality forum for educating youth leaders, especially the Filipino American youth in the area, and preparing them for civic and public service.

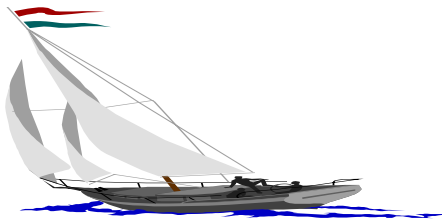
Sixteen-college student leaders from different colleges and universities in Virginia and Georgia participated in the forum. Among them were five Old Dominion University students. ODU's Filipino American Student Cultural Center was also well represented at the event.

The first phase was held on July 21st to the 23rd 1999 at Virginia Wesleyan College. Four of the five college student volunteers assisting Ms. Rivera and her staff were from Old Dominion University: Mark Buenaventura, Donnabel De Vera, Donna May De Vera, and Melissa Querimit. The fifth volunteer, Jason Arcido, was a University of Virginia student.

The second phase was a Youth Civic and Political Leadership Forum held August 20, 1999 at the same venue. Key featured components at the Forum were Civic Leadership, Political Leadership, and Diversity Representation.

Keynote speaker Mr. William H. Wood, Director of the Sorensen Institute of Political Leadership at the University of Virginia in Charlottesville, gave a brief lecture on the skills and knowledge needed to be an intelligent and responsible participant in the political process. The other six featured panel speakers currently hold successful careers in public office. An open forum followed the presentations.

~MdeVera



FASCC Trips Through the Tropics

During the chilly weather in November, the Montero Foundation warmed Hampton Roads with a special fundraising event, "Tripping Through the Tropics." The affair was catered with a tropical twist, with the menu offering roast pig and other delicacies while attendees were greeted with *leis* and *tiki* torches lit the room. The Philippine Ambassador, Ernesto Maceda, was an honored guest. FASCC was one of the designated charities of the Montero Foundation.

~NBarcarse

Tolerance and Respect, not hate!

Hate Crime Forum

On November 13, 1999, the Hampton Roads Chapter of the National Federation of Filipino American Associations (NaFFAA) held a public forum, "Tolerance and Respect," which focused on the issue of hate crime. This forum was a community response to the recent killing of a Filipino postal worker in Los Angeles who was shot by an alleged racist. FASCC Director, Dr. Araceli Suzara, served on the panel. The other panelists included Congressman Bobby Scott, Virginia Beach Mayor Meyera Oberndorf, the Virginia Beach Public School Assistant Superintendent, the President of the Virginia Beach Chapter of NAACP, the Executive Director of the Anti-Defamation League, representatives from the Norfolk Police Department Hate Crime Special Unit and the FBI and the CEO of Runnymede Corporation.

An ecumenical service, in memory of the slain postal worker, was held at the San Lorenzo Spiritual Center on October 10. It was organized by members of the Filipino American Postal Employees of Hampton Roads and NaFFAA. Neleh Barcarse and Shane Sawsiengmongkol, members from the Asian Pacific American Student Union of ODU, attended the candlelight vigil.

~NBarcarse

A Resource for the Community

In the Fall, the Director of FASCC served as a resource person in a variety of events in the University and Hampton Roads community:

- ❖ Guest lectured on "The Significance of Filipino Values in Cross Cultural Interaction" in Dr. Bill Hart's Intercultural Communication class.
- ❖ Guest lectured on "Filipino Indigenous Healing Beliefs and Practices" in Norfolk State University, Department of Nursing.
- ❖ Invited by members of the Filipino American Student Association of the College of William and Mary to speak on the integrative approach to Filipino American Studies and the Cultural Center at Old Dominion.
- ❖ Spoke on the Socio-political developments in the Philippines to members of the Bayside Culture Club.
- ❖ Interviewed by the Superintendent of the Virginia Beach Public School System in his weekly TV program "The School Picture".
- ❖ Resource person in the VA Beach public school's Diversity Video Project.

Taste of Asia Comes to Old Dominion



Thai dance number

OCCS, Institute of Asian Studies, Center for Regional and Global Study, and the Multicultural Student Services participated in the event. Over 300 people attended and enjoyed the affair. The event was highlighted with an Asian food festival, display booths, and a cultural programme from dances to martial arts. The following student organizations helped to make the event a success: Filipino American Student Association (FASA), Asian Pacific American Student Union (APASU), Vietnamese Student Association (VSA), Chinese Student & Scholar Association (CSSA), Korean American Student Association (KASA), Indian Student Association (ISA), Chinese Student Association (CSA), and Nichi-bei Student Association.

~CRamirez



The FASCC Booth

The Filipino American Student Cultural Center with the assistance of the International Student and Scholar Services organized the "Taste of Asia" which was held on October 16, 1999. This was the first time that Asian student organizations were able to showcase their distinctive cultures. Faculty and staff from the College of Arts and Letters, College of Education,



The Philippine Terno and Barong



Costumes of the Igorots.

A Suitable Home

While serving at Clark Air Base in Luzon during the early 1970's, Charles Burch and his family enjoyed learning about the Philippines and its people. During their stay there, they acquired a wide variety of artifacts, including woodcarvings, baskets, backpacks, a warrior's shield, and paintings.

What do you do with such "special things" which you bring back after living in a foreign country? Most souvenirs are

generally discarded after a few years; some are sold; only a few are kept. For the Burchs, none of these options were acceptable.

For years after returning to the U.S., the Philippine artifacts were part of the furnishings in the Burch's Newport News home. But then their lives changed when Linda, the wife and mother, passed away in 1995. Shella, her daughter, went off to college, and Marc, Linda's stepson, remained in Kansas after attending college there.





FASCC Reception for the Burch Family

As a result, a new “home” for their Philippine “treasures” had to be found. They wanted to put them in a facility where they would be properly preserved, used, and most importantly, appreciated.

A solution became apparent when Charley, a retired Air Force Officer, read in a local newspaper about the new Filipino American Student Cultural Center at ODU. As a result, numerous items were donated to the Center in Linda’s memory.

On September 7, 1999 a reception for the Burch family was hosted at the Center. The event was attended by Karen Gould, Dean of the College of Arts and Letters, faculty members, and Filipino community leaders led by Dr. Juan Montero. Dr. Steve Carpenter and Ron Papa were the artists in charge of arranging the

donated items. It is the family’s hope that these items will be useful to the students and the University, and that others will make similar contributions in the future.

~Nbarcarse



Integrated Arts Workshop

A funny thing happened to me while going to Dr. Brenda Fajardo's art workshop. I will admit that I was late, and when I went to the Visual Arts Building, where the workshop was being held, I was very disturbed that the doors were CLOSED. And so began my joyride with another student (he shall be nameless to protect the innocent) all over campus to find out where exactly it was supposedly held – only to know that one merely had to use the door on the other side of the building. When I arrived I saw Dr. Fajardo’s artwork displayed in the room. Dr. Fajardo immediately introduced herself to me and gave me a piece of paper to write my name on and to make something out of that same paper that best represented me. Needless to say, I made an old school paper airplane as an example. I guess that symbolized my desire to fly and that I am an adventurous person.

When I was done, Dr. Fajardo asked everyone to sit in a circle. We began to play a game, which was one person would say his/her name and then that person's neighbor would say that person's name and then introduce himself/herself. This went on until we knew everyone in the circle.

After one more ice-breaking activity, Dr. Fajardo divided us into groups and gave us stories, legends and myths that came from the Philippines about the creation of the world. She asked us to read them and then to draw and interpret what that myth/legend was saying on paper and then the fun part began...we were supposed to TELL that legend in front of everyone while the other people in the group would find ways to dramatize or physically express what the story teller was telling. Everyone had fun doing this activity....especially my group which wound up making altogether another story.

When each group had completed its project, Dr. Fajardo asked us to sit in a circle again to reflect on what we have learned that day. Personally I learned that drawing something on paper is not the only way to express oneself artistically. There is beauty in physical expression and you have fun doing it, too. Take it from a person whose major is art and thinks that drawing on paper is fun. Then all of us sadly said goodbye, but I think we all came out of that workshop a little younger perhaps, a little more enlightened, a little more rich in our knowledge of our heritage and even prouder to be Filipino. Our mural paintings are now on display at the Filipino American Student Cultural Center.

~CLota

FIND Dialogue @ODU

In October, the annual Filipino Intercollegiate Networking Dialogue (FIND) Dialogue was held at Old Dominion University. FIND is a non-profit organization that provides opportunities for FilAms to meet other FilAms across the east coast and to learn the history and culture of Filipinos and Filipino-Americans. Every year, FIND holds a dialogue in the fall and a conference in the spring.

"*Unleashing the Fire Within*" was this year's conference theme. Tim Cordova, playwright and co-founder of the college program, "Pinoy Teach", gave valuable insights on what young FilAms can do to contribute to our progress into the next century. Also participating at the Dialogue were Jon Amores, W. VA Congressional candidate; Ray Obispo of the Filipino American Cultural Society (FACS), a Salem high school organization; and Ron Villanueva, member of the ODU Board of Visitors. Delegates who attended the Dialogue gained new knowledge on how Filipino/as can affect certain aspects of community, school, and political activism.

Watching the Dialogue as it grew from just a proposal to its realization was amazing. I watched students from all colleges in VA get together and brainstorm on the conduct of the Dialogue and how we want it to affect the delegates. As in any dialogue, there were both smooth and rough aspects, but the message was clear: that we, as a group, can do anything when we decide to come together and make it happen. From Tim Cordova's fiery speech to the powerful skits of FACS, I heard delegates saying why it is important to understand Filipino and Filipino-American history. That is the whole point of FIND, in my mind, to make people understand what our ancestors and parents have done for us and to use this knowledge to open our lives to a better future.

The next Conference will be held at Rutgers University, New Jersey, March 10-12, 2000. Those interested to register and be part of this event may want to access the website address: www.d3find/find.

~WCruz

FIND D-7 Coordinator '99-'00

The Filipino American Student Association

FASA's accomplishments this year have been numerous and distinguished. One of their biggest projects this year was hosting and coordinating the *FIND dialogue*. FIND is a nonprofit organization that helps educate young Filipino Americans across the nation. *Taste of Asia* was a collaborative project with other Asian organizations on campus. In addition, ODU held its third annual *DJ Battle* which brought in more than a thousand people, coming close to filling Webb cafeteria's capacity. FASA is also active in other aspects of ODU's student life, such as *The People's Team* which won last year's Intramural Flag Football Championships. Social activities included the FASA formal, the Christmas gatherings, Thanksgiving dinner, and the Senior Banquet. FASA wishes to thank its supporters and is reaching out to more people to join the organization. Come find out what being Filipino American is all about! Check our website at <http://www.odu.edu/~fasa>.

~SReyes

The Asian Pacific American Student Union

The Asian Pacific American Student Union (APASU) at ODU began last year with just a handful of students with a vision. APASU's mission is to provide a collective voice and a medium for action for the Asian and Asian American student body at ODU. Today, APASU has become an incredibly active organization with a membership of over forty.

Events sponsored by APASU included a film screening of Bruce Lee's "Enter the Dragon" preceded by a discussion of Lee's role as paving the way for other Asian Americans in film. APASU has also brought renowned Asian American writer Phoebe Eng to speak on gender empowerment and Asian representation in the media. It also co-sponsored with the Multicultural Student Services to bring performer and writer Kip Fulbeck to speak at ODU.

Recently, APASU brought the Asian American hip hop group Mountain Brothers to ODU for a roof-shattering performance. These events were coupled with monthly discussions / workshops called "Food for Thought" which aim at shedding a light on various topics affecting Asian Americans as well as the open mic event "ReprezentAsians." In Fall 2000, APASU plans to bring an Asian American performance group, SLANT, to display their unique ability in holding Asian men up to the "curious mirror of American pop culture."

If you wish to know more about APASU, or if you have a voice that needs to be heard, check out our website at www.odu.edu/~apasu or call 683-5099.

~MMaa

Block Party 1999

To kick off the new semester, FASCC and its next-door neighbor, the Hugo A. Owens African American Cultural Center, sponsored a block party to welcome students back to school. Various student organizations, such as FASA, APASU, BSA and NAACP, all affiliated with campus student cultural centers, came together on September 7 to get to know one another. For many of the students, it was the first time to know of the existence of some of the organizations. President Koch, who spoke at the event, appreciated the presence on campus of the diverse group of students. Although the unexpected storm forced us to change the venue from outdoors between the two centers to indoors at Webb Center, the students expressed desire to hold a similar event near the end of spring semester.

~Nbarcarse



Advisory Boards Formed

The Advisory Board of the FASCC was constituted at a dinner meeting on November 22, 1999. The advisory board is composed of Mr. Mar Acevedo (ODU Alum & Western Branch High School), Louella Cabales (FASA president), Ms. Estrella Claudio (OCCS), Dr. Chandra DeSilva (History), Ms. Nora Dorsey, Mr. Roland Escobar (Student), Dr. Earl Honeycutt (Marketing & Management), Dr. Mike Hucles (History), Dr. Luisa Igloria (English), Mr. Ed Pabalan (ODU Alum), Ms. Shei Reyes (Student), Ms. Cindy Smith (community) and Mr. Joe Solinap (community). The Board members represent interest areas that are critical in achieving the objectives of the Filipino American Student Cultural Center.

In addition, an Honorary Board was also established to provide national and international visibility to the Filipino American Student Cultural Center. The Honorary Board is composed of *distinguished* individuals from across the USA and from the Philippines. They represent a broad spectrum of interest areas, such as the academe, business, publishing, the professions, and the communities.

~ASuzara

FASCC Advisory Board



Piano Recital

Ms. Angela Eloisa Malvar from Manila, Philippines performed a piano solo last November 22, 1999. It was well attended by students and the Filipino American community. The members of the Advisory Board of the FASCC were also present. Malvar's programme of compositions by Bach, Beethoven and other classical composers included a medley of Filipino music which warmed the hearts of the listeners.

~ASuzara

Congratulations!

Miguel Poblete for being chosen as one of the "Who's Who in American Colleges and Universities!"

FASA for being honored with the "NAACP Image Award!"

FASCC Staff

Dr. Araceli Suzara
Director, FASCC

Student Assistants

Neleh Barcarse
Melissa Querimit
Shei Reyes

BALITA STAFF

Neleh Barcarse
Chris Lota
Shei Reyes
Donna Belle de Vera
Donna May de Vera

ODU Filipino American Studies Faculty

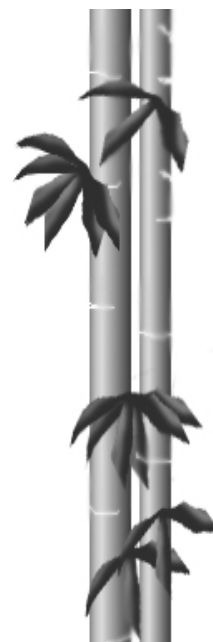
Dr. Luisa Igloria

Department of English
Institute for the Study of Minority Issues
Ligloria@odu.edu & luisa.igloria@mciworld.com
(757) 683-3929/3991; Fax (757) 683-3241

Dr. Araceli Suzara

Department of Sociology
Institute for the Study of Minority issues
Asuzara@odu.edu
(757) 683-5099; Fax (757) 683-5089

**Announcing
the
launching of
TINIG, a
publication
of the
FASCC on
April 19, 2000.**





The Filipino American Student Cultural Center
Old Dominion University
1411 W. 49th St.
Norfolk, VA 23529
1AL04

Spring/Summer 2000 Events

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|--------------|--|
| 20 Jan | Informational meeting on Summer Study Abroad to the Philippines |
| 10 Feb | APASU "Food for Thought" |
| 22 Feb | Career Workshop -- Information Technology |
| 25 Feb | Poetry Readings featuring Nick Carbo |
| 21 Mar | Career Workshop -- Health Care Professionals |
| 25 Mar | Cipher 2000 |
| 30 Mar | APASU "Food for Thought" |
| 01 Apr | Movie Screening of "Jose Rizal" for the benefit of the Filipiniana Collection at the Perry Library |
| 08 Apr | ODU Film Festival movie screening of "Jose Rizal" |
| 15 Apr | FASA Cultural Night |
| 18 Apr | Career Workshop: Business |
| 19 Apr | TINIG Launching |
| MAY | FASA Spring Picnic |
| MAY | Asian American Heritage Month |
| 13-27 May | Summer Study Abroad to the Philippines |
| 12 Jun | Piano Concert & Art Exhibit Celebrating Philippine Independence |
| 27 Jun-1 Jul | FANHS Conference |
| 1 Jul | Philippine-American Friendship Day Picnic |

We'd love to hear from you!

Send your letters, news, and/or contributions to:

The FASCC Balita Staff

C/o asuzara@odu.edu

(757) 683-5099; Fax (757) 683-5089;

Or mail to:

Filipino American Student Cultural Center, Old Dominion University
1411 W. 49th Street, Norfolk, VA 23529