

FASCC BALITA

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Balita! News, and What's New

In the old days, before the invention of print, communities circulated news through the oral tradition. In Philippine towns, the intimacy of sharing talk and stories in a gathered group, was often heralded by the courier or town crier's echoing call: "*Balita!*" -- meaning, *news*. Even today, paperboys running through busy Philippine streets with print fresh from the presses call out the same thing: "*Balita!*"

We've chosen to name this newsletter the **FASCC Balita**— a bi-annual publication to let you know all about the latest and upcoming events, programs, and activities at Old Dominion University's Filipino American Student Cultural Center.

And, in the same spirit that Filipinos typically follow the standard greeting of hello (*Kumusta ka?* How are you?) with the inviting *Ano'ng balita?* (What's new?), likewise we encourage you to drop by: attend the Viray lecture series and other events, join the FilAm book group, share with us your ideas, talents, and suggestions for making FASCC a vital resource to our ODU and Hampton Roads communities. *L.I.*

Inside:

Philippine Ambassador Rabe, President Koch, Grace December 7 FASCC Inauguration

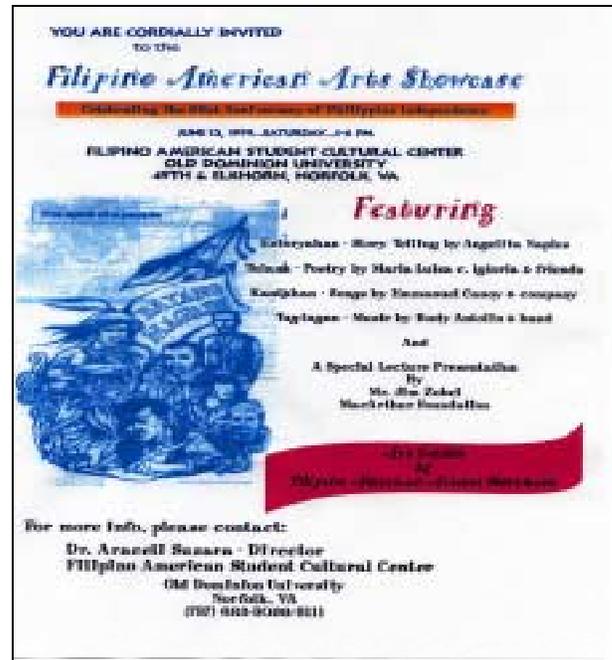
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**Events, Features, & News Bulletins from the
Filipino American Student Cultural Center (FASCC)
Old Dominion University**



JUNE 12 FILIPINO AMERICAN ARTS SHOWCASE AT FASCC Celebrating through Art the struggle for Philippine Independence

Most June 12 celebrations of Philippine Independence back in the islands, feature bands and parades with floats depicting figures from the revolutionary period of 1896-1898; politicians and community leaders are invited to give speeches on freedom and nationalism. These are no different from the ways many Filipino communities across the United States commemorate June 12, more popularly referred to as "Independence Day".

In contrast, on 12 June this year, the Filipino American Student Cultural Center (FASCC) of Old Dominion University chose to celebrate the one hundred and first anniversary of Philippine independence from Spanish colonial rule, by hosting a "Filipino American Arts Showcase".

Doreen Gamboa Fernandez, theatre and communications professor at Ateneo de Manila University, tells of how townfolk in her native Bacolod (in southern Philippines' sugar capital) participated in making Philippine history. She tells the story about the little town of Silay and of the way its people staged the first successful and bloodless episode of takeover in the war against Spain.

Receiving bulletins from the surrounding countryside of the success of Philippine revolutionary fighters in the *Katipunan* (the grassroots-based "Brotherhood" or movement responsible for the overthrow of Spanish rule), the people eluded Spanish surveillance, communicated with their neighbors in code, and managed to cut off telegraphic communications to the town. Then a party composed of Filipino officials and members of leading families in the community met with representatives of the Spanish government and militia stationed there. They asked respectfully that the Spaniards sign a document of surrender to the Filipinos, because the Spanish troops were now outnumbered and the Filipinos had called for an army of reinforcements to defend the town.

One of the members of the Filipino delegation gestured toward an outlying field. The Spanish commandant shaded his eyes and saw, through the window and in the early morning light, the sun glinting off the tips of what looked to him like hundreds and hundreds of bayonets. They also saw the dark, elongated shapes of cannons. The document of surrender was signed before sundown, and the first revolutionary Filipino flag—sewn by Professor Fernandez' grandmother—flew that day over Silay to the sounds of rejoicing. When they left Silay, the Spaniards did not know that the formidable army they saw on the edge of town was armed not with weapons, but with instruments of artisanship. The bayonet-tipped rifles were reeds to which the people had affixed ordinary table knives; the cannons were tightly rolled reed mats, painted black. It is no wonder that to this day, Silay is famous for its arts and crafts.

Even if Silay's experience may have been unique to its constituents, it seems more than fitting that the Filipino American community in Hampton Roads chose to remember Philippine Independence and to celebrate both the valor and the value for life instilled in a people who are and have always been survivors-- through *creative* expression.

The full afternoon program at FASCC last June 12 featured exhibits of paintings, photographs and mixed media work by local artists, members of the Filipino American Arts Movement. Works in acrylic, oil, pastel, mixed media, black and white and color photography were mounted on easels at the Center, ranging in theme and idiom from the folksy to the abstract. Participating artists included Paolo Arao, Mona Lisa Aspiras, Resurreccion Aspiras, Leilani Atangan,

Chris Bersamina, Doug Clarke, Timothy Cambiado, Solomon Isekije, Chris Lota, Nestor Lunasin, Eric Monasterio, Ronaldo Virata Papa, Johnerick Rubis, Arnold Santos, and Araceli Suzara.

There was also storytelling, folk singing and dancing led by a group of Kempsville Middle School students and their Vice Principal Angelita Napies. Traditional music from the Islands was provided by Nelson Abuel and Red Veranga and members of his School of Music. An informal presentation on the Philippine American war was given by Jim Zobel of the MacArthur Memorial, who brought with him rare maps and photographs from that period for the crowd to look at.

Later in the evening, guests listened to a curated poetry reading program, on themes of heroism, history, and love of place and the appreciation of one's cultural legacies. The poetry program brought works by Filipino poets from the 1600s and 1800s, through the early twenties and on to the present time, in dialogue with the original work of ODU and local poets Scott Cairns, Tim Seibles, Luisa Igloria, Jilliam Joe, Denise McNelly, Mary-Jean Lanehart, Jon Pineda, Sofia M. Starnes, and Jennifer Bajit.

Reading in solidarity with the Filipino poets last June 12, Scott Cairns expressed his appreciation for being invited to participate in the Filipino American Arts Showcase. "I would never have been exposed to all this wonderful writing otherwise," he said, referring to his introduction to works by Filipino authors through the poetry program. Likewise, Tim Seibles spoke movingly about the transformative power of cultural and historical awareness, before he read his poem "Wave" and the poem "Letter to Pedro, also called Pete" by Filipino poet Rene Estrella Amper. Jennifer Bajit, a young Filipina born and raised in Norfolk, said she "got goose bumps" when she read for the first time, excerpts in translation from *Katipunan* leader Andres Bonifacio's poem "The Final Cry of Filipinas"--- and saw in her own poem "*Inang Pilipina*" ("Mother Philippines") kindred images of longing and identification.

Through FASCC and other efforts in the area of Filipino American Studies, Old Dominion University hopes to continue to serve as this kind of dynamic space and creative ground. Already, cultural and academic events are being scheduled over the coming schoolyear, to highlight and share Filipino American contributions and experiences across the disciplines-- not only for Filipinos in this community, but for everyone committed to the vision of a more global understanding, despite some of the more difficult lessons of history.

AMBASSADOR RAUL Ch. RABE, PRESIDENT JAMES V. KOCH, LEAD 7 DECEMBER FASCC INAUGURATION

On the afternoon of December 7, 1998, ODU officials, community leaders, ODU faculty and students waited a touch anxiously behind the new Filipino American Student Cultural Center on 49th Street; they were in a tent set up to accommodate the crowds that had come to attend the Center's inauguration. Philippine Ambassador to the U.S. Raul Ch. Rabe had just called to say he was among commuters stuck in the Chesapeake Bay tunnel. There was an accident, traffic was just starting to move again, so he would be a bit late. But he was definitely on his way.

An enthusiastic Rabe arrived about half an hour later, to join ODU President James V. Koch and other dignitaries including Attorney General Mark L. Earley, Filipino community leader Dr. Juan M. Montero, ODU Board of Visitors Member Ron Villanueva, ODU Provost Jo Ann M. Gora and College of Arts and Letters Dean Karen L. Gould in ribbon-cutting ceremonies.

Ambassador Rabe ...called for more Filipino courses at the University, and an increase in Filipino faculty presence. "This is a red-letter day," said President James V. Koch.

Ambassador Rabe spoke of the Center as a venue from which Filipino Americans could instigate a strengthened presence in the University and the community, as it engages in the task of showcasing Filipino culture and contributions. Rabe also called for more Filipino courses at the University, and an increase in Filipino faculty presence.

"This is a red-letter day for ODU," announced President Koch. Montero and Villanueva thanked the Filipino communities of Hampton Roads whose prodigious fund-raising efforts helped to make the Center a reality. Koch joined them and said that now that the Center was in place, he looked forward to the establishment of a Filipino American Studies minor at ODU, something that would further strengthen the University's commitment to and vision of a multicultural university.

In May 1994, a group of Filipino American students met with University President James V. Koch requesting a space, even a little office, to call its own. The group submitted a proposal and in December of the same year a committee was asked to determine the feasibility of establishing such a center. In addition, subcommittees drew up plans for a programmatic focus and

organizational structure, including a vision for an academic minor in Filipino American Studies.

At a November 1994 meeting with President Koch and former Chesapeake First Citizen Dr. Juan Montero, President Koch posed the challenge for the Filipino American Community in Hampton Roads to be involved in the creation of a Filipino American Center. President Koch promised to designate a building and the operating costs of the center if the Filipino American Community could raise \$100,000. Two and a half years later, at the Cultural Night celebration of Filipino American students (at which Ambassador Rabe was once again a guest), Koch announced that the money had been raised.

Old Dominion University has been the university of choice for Filipino American students throughout the years. The FIAM student population at ODU currently numbers over 700; these figures are expected to increase, especially taking into consideration the historic ties of the Philippines with the U.S. Navy, and the more than 40,000 Filipino American population in Southeastern Virginia.

ODU's Filipino American Student Cultural Center—which formally opened its doors on December 7, 1998-- is the first free-standing, university-operated cultural center of its kind on the east coast, and only the third in the U.S., that is devoted specifically to the needs of Filipino American students.

At Home at FASCC

The rhythmic click of bamboo poles and sticks in consonance with the lively strains of Filipino folk dance music, punctuates the air in the recently opened Filipino American Student Cultural Center (FASCC) at Old Dominion University. It is early April, and the members of the Filipino American Student Association (FASA) are vigorously practicing for their Cultural Night. Other times, they come to the Center to study, work on the computer, plan events, exchange ideas or just plain hang around.

Lately, it hasn't been just ODU students frequenting the Center. Since its formal opening in December 1998, and since the hiring in spring 1999 of its first director, Dr. Araceli Suzara, the Center has been busy with activity. Among other things, FASCC has been the venue for informal classes in conversational Tagalog. Student meetings are held here, and community organizations have begun to make it a regular base as well. Mr. Ron Villanueva met here with several community leaders to prepare for the annual Filipino American Friendship Day/Fourth of July picnic. Members of the Asian Pacific American Student Union (APASU) hold a discussion group called "Converse Asians" at FASCC. For a while, the Center also became a gallery when it housed a month-long exhibit of art works by the Filipino American Artists Movement (see related story on June 12 Filipino American Arts Showcase); and a veritable

salon when it held author receptions and poetry readings such as the ones featuring fiction writer Lara Stapleton (*The Lowest Blue Flame Before Nothing*, Aunt Lute, 1998), poets Luisa Igloria (*Blood Sacrifice*, University of the Philippines Press, 1997), Jon Pineda, Jennifer Bajit and Meredith Tabangin; and Asian American lawyer and writer Phoebe Eng (*Warrior Lessons*).

Extending the boundaries of their involvement beyond the University, the Center and members of the Filipino American Student Association (FASA) have participated in various activities to celebrate Asian American Heritage Month and community events. These included programs hosted by the U.S. Atlantic Command, the Naval Legal Service Office, Mid Atlantic Command, the Norfolk Naval Base, the U.S. Army Core of Engineers, and other government agencies; and the Tim Reed Celebrity Show in Portsmouth.

The Center plans to collaborate closely with the community, the public schools, and Old Dominion University in the development of its programs.

In addition, with ODU's Institute for the Study of Minority Issues, the Center will co-sponsor the Manuel A. Viray Visiting Artists and Lecture Series (focusing on Filipino American Studies), and a monthly Filipino American Book and Film Discussion Group.

Courses in Filipino/Filipino American Studies, the first of which was offered in Fall 1998, continue to be developed by ODU's Filipino faculty members, Dr. Luisa Igloria (Department of English) and Dr. Araceli Suzara (Department of Sociology). Come Fall 1999, VOICES / TINIG, a journal devoted to student essays, poetry, and oral histories, will be published.

Visitors to ODU's FASCC feel at home-- more specifically, in a Filipino home. FASCC has become for them a place for rest and recreation, a place to discuss issues of import, to restore energy and inner spirit. It's a supportive environment where they can develop their creativity, and collectively celebrate common bonds of heritage and culture.

Watch Out for these Fall 1999 Events:

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| * 7 Sept | FASCC Open House/Block Party |
| * 16 Oct | A Taste of Asia (Food Festival and Programs)
Reception for Filipino American ODU Alumni |
| * 18 Oct | Viray Lecture Series |
| * 30 Oct | FIND Dialogue |
| * 30 Oct | Battle of the DJs |
| * 19 Nov | Viray Lecture Series |
| * 20 Nov | Workshop: Art as History |
| * 1 Dec | Viray Lecture Series |
| * 3 Dec | <i>Paskong Pilipino</i> / A Filipino Christmas Pageant |

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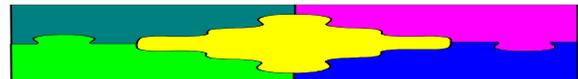
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ODU FilAm Lecture Series Named After Former Philippine Ambassador, Poet, from Virginia Beach



In the fall semester 1998, Old Dominion University offered the first course in Filipino American Studies (offered under its Institute for the Study of Minority Issues or ISMI). Shortly afterwards, the ISMI began what was conceptualized as a Visiting Artists and Lecture Series in Filipino American Studies, in November 1998.

The first lecturer featured in the series was Dr. Gemino Abad, former Vice President of the University of the Philippines, speaking on "U.S.- Philippine Cultural and Literary Relations" (November 13, 1998).

It was followed by two other events: Dr. Belinda A. Aquino (Director, Center for Philippine Studies at the University of Hawaii

in Manoa), on "The Politics of Plunder" (19 March 1999); Lara Stapleton (author of the short story collection *The Lowest Blue Flame Before Nothing; Aunt Lute*, 1998), Angelita Napies (Kempsville Middle School Assistant Principal), and Esther Corpus (Officer of Centura Bank), speaking in a panel on "Exploring Filipina Identities" (12 April 1999).

This new series has been named after the late MANUEL A. VIRAY, a Filipino poet and fiction writer and former Philippine Ambassador to Cambodia. He spent the latter part of his life quietly and without fanfare in the Virginia Beach area, taking walks to public libraries where he wrote and revised poetry on lined legal paper, wrote religiously in his journals, painstakingly copied lines from favorite authors, or when he could, photocopied them.

"...What a wonderful idea [to name ODU's Visiting Artists and Lecture Series after Manuel A. Viray]. B[ienvenido] Santos is remembered in such a way in Manila at De La Salle University, and NVM Gonzales at the University of the Philippines, and now Maneng Viray at Old Dominion University. It is amazing how much the Veronicans have contributed to the history of Philippine Literature. To have one of its leading figures honored in such a fashion is the least we can do. Maneng never sought attention or fame, he was a giver of imagination, he was generous with words, he sang the mornings of the people he touched. We must keep his vision alive because WE are the fruition of what he envisioned back in the 1930s and 1940s with his ground-breaking anthologies. We must honor our past to be able to step into our future. The Manuel A. Viray Visiting Artists and Lecture Series will bring prestige to Old Dominion University."

- Nick Carbo, poet and editor
of Returning *a Borrowed*
Tongue (CoffeeHouse, 1996)

In his heyday, he had seen a life of colorful involvement in politics and letters, but adverse personal circumstances led him to this part of the world where very few around him even knew of his great ardor for literature, much less of the key roles he had played in Philippine government and in literature.

Nurse and Virginia Beach resident Julia Aycud offered Mr. Viray a room in her home after he could no longer be given a place at a local nursing and retirement home. Mrs. Aycud kept a vigilant eye on his well-being, and looked after his affairs after he died on May 30, 1997 (Viray is buried at Colonial Grove Memorial Park Cemetery in Virginia Beach). Aycud says that at one time, Mr. Viray was thinking of applying for a teaching position at the English Department of Old Dominion University, even if by then he could hardly walk more than four or five blocks without falling down or being escorted home by a kindly neighbor.

"...I strongly endorse the suggestion [to name Old Dominion University's Filipino American Studies lecture series] after Manuel Viray. He fulfills all the requirements, and died and is buried in Virginia Beach. He wrote his last poems there, continuing the legacy of poetry, fiction and criticism which he left behind in the Philippines."

Dr. Doreen G. Fernandez, Literary historian; Member, Manila Critics Circle; Professor of Literature and Theatre, and author of several books on Philippine Literature and culture.

Respected figures and authorities on Filipino/Filipino American writing and scholarship have testified to Manuel Viray's deservingness as a homegrown writer and thinker. Such remarks only serve to further strengthen the reasons for why the Series was named after Viray-- someone who by the quiet example of his life and labors demonstrated the perseverance and creativity of the Filipino spirit in America, rising over borders of divisiveness and alienation.

About Manuel A. Viray

Manuel A. Viray was born on April 13, 1917 in Lingayen, Pangasinan, in the Philippines. He came from a working class family, and against that background learned the values of commitment, generosity, loyalty and humility from his father, a mechanic with little formal education. He went on to finish grade school and high school in Pangasinan and then was accepted at the University of the Philippines in Manila, where he graduated in 1936 with a Ph.D. in English and a minor in Sociology.

After earning his advanced degrees, Mr. Viray taught British and American Literature at Adamson University in Manila, and creative writing and literature courses at the University of Santo Tomas. Among his students are some of the leading lights in the Philippine literary scene -- the literary historian Bienvenido Lumbera, and the novelist Wilfrido Nollo. His contemporaries were the second generation of Filipino writers who had chosen English as the medium in which to craft their prose, fiction, and poetry: in the 1930s, these young writers, including Francisco Arcellana, NVM Gonzalez (both national artists in the Philippines), the late Bienvenido N. Santos and Estrella Alfon, called themselves "The Veronicans" because it was their aim to "make their writing bear the imprint of the Face of the Philippines, just as the cloth of Veronica bore the imprint of the face of Christ." (Herbert Schneider, S.J.)

Viray joined the clerical staff of the office of the Philippine President in 1945 and was thereafter promoted to the office of Cultural Affairs in the Department of Foreign Affairs. In 1955, he was sent to the Philippine Embassy in Washington, DC as Assistant to the Ambassador for Cultural Affairs. In 1965, he became Minister Counselor at the Philippine Embassy in Jakarta, Indonesia, where he received the Star of Mahaputra from the Indonesian Government for his work to foster closer cultural ties between Indonesia and the Philippines. Another promotion in 1967 saw him take up the post of Deputy Head of the Mission at the

Embassy in Bonn, West Germany, where he served until 1973, when he was made the Philippines Ambassador to Cambodia. No one could anticipate the violent political events that came with the Khmer Rouge takeover in Cambodia in April of 1975. Ambassador Viray immediately saw to the repatriation of every last Filipino in Cambodia. He and his wife were the last ones to leave, with only one suitcase between them. All their possessions were lost.

The Department of Foreign Affairs gave Ambassador Viray a commendation "for his political reporting and evaluations and dedication to duty". But when he solicited help from the Marcos government for reimbursing his personal losses, his petitions fell on deaf ears. Disillusioned, he spent the years following this period writing and airing political commentaries on the Marcos regime. After the death of his wife in 1984, he left the Philippines to join his daughter in Virginia and to escape the threat of censorship and imprisonment.

Mr. Viray's literary works were published in the Philippine Collegian, the Literary Apprentice, the Philippines Herald, the Commonwealth Fortnightly, Liberty News, the Antioch Review, the Pacific Spectator of Stanford, the Denver Talisman, the New Jersey Literary Review, the Beloit Poetry Journal, among other venues. He wrote a play called "To Perish that you might Live" based on the life and death of Jose Rizal, and it was first performed at Trinity College in Washington, DC.

In 1982, the Philippine Writers Union honored him as The Writer of the 1930s. His work is included in recent anthologies such as *Contemporary Filipino Writers in America*, edited by Cecilia Manguerra Brainard (1996).

The Fall 1999 Program of the Viray Lecture Series will feature the following visiting lecturers: Dr. Dean Alegado of the Ethnic Studies Department, University of Hawaii (October 18); Dr. Brenda Fajardo of the College of Fine Arts, University of the Philippines, and the Philippine Exchange Program at St. Norbert College, De Pere, Wisconsin (November 19); and noted Filipino American scholar Oscar V. Campomanes (December 1).

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Community Relations

FASCC Assists at Local Summer Camp

The Philippine American Literary, Sports, and Arts Foundation (PALSAF), under the Executive Directorship of Marilyn Picardo Rivera, recently sponsored a Life Enrichment and Youth Development Summer Residential Camp from 21-23 July 1999 at Virginia Wesleyan College.

The Camp, which featured four programs (Leadership Building, Group Dynamics, Philippine Culture and Heritage, and Sports and Recreation), was geared toward Filipino American youth in Hampton Roads. Fifty high school and middle school students were expected to attend. Camp goals were to address youth needs in the areas of education, sports, recreation, and personal/family life, in an integrative manner.

The Filipino American Student Cultural Center was tapped by PALSAF to provide conversational Tagalog modules for two sessions in the Camp programs. Two ODU students also assisted PALSAF in its registration process.

FASCC Attends FilAm Friendship Day Picnic

ODU students, FASA members, FilAm Studies Faculty, and FASCC Staff joined about seven thousand Filipino Americans at RedWing Park, Virginia Beach, for the annual Filipino American Friendship Day (Fourth of July) Picnic this year.

The annual picnic has been hosted by the Philippine American Community of Tidewater (PACT) for the last 29 years (the first picnic was held in 1970). It is the Filipino community's largest event in Hampton Roads, participated in by community organizations and groups to demonstrate unity, promote cultural bonds, and celebrate Independence Day.

The ODU contingent transported the artwork which had been on exhibit at FASCC since the June 12 program, and set them up under tents in the sweltering heat. It also set up tables where flyers and information on FASCC and Filipino American offerings at ODU were made available to the public. The rest of the afternoon was spent sampling the food—Philippine regional cuisine as well as all-American burgers and brats—watching the programs, and participating in games.

MARAMING SALAMAT ** THANK YOU !

to Mr. Charles Burch of Hampton, VA, for his recent donation of some 21 items of Philippine artifacts—paintings, bone in-lay chests, wall hangings, and other Philippine indigenous crafts. Thanks too to other generous individuals who have given similar donations in the past.

Filipino American Studies Courses at Old Dominion University

FALL 1999 ETHNIC STUDIES 396: FILIPINO CULTURE AND SOCIETY

7:10-9:50 pm / TUES / BAL 234

Dr. Luisa (Cariño) Igloria Ligloria@odu.edu

A variety of interdisciplinary texts (myth, folklore, history, cartography, music, art, film and literature) will be used in this course to explore the transforming and multiple concepts of Filipino/Filipina ethnic identities, communities and experiences across class, gender, race, migration histories, and diasporic locations. The course will deliberately link and interrogate Filipino and Filipino American perspectives surrounding these issues; it will apply concepts developed through an area that may be broadly referred to as Philippine Studies scholarship.

Dialogues will be created and highlighted along interdisciplinary lines, noting their inflections on and contributions to various emergent discourses of Filipino and Filipino American identity and cultural studies. Perspectives from but not limited to history, literature, anthropology, the visual and performing arts, psychology, postcolonial and feminist studies, will be called to bear upon course texts and topics, as well as on lived experience and realities.

SPRING 2000 ETHNIC STUDIES 395: ISSUES IN THE FILIPINO COMMUNITY

Crosslisted as Sociology 395, 11:00 am-12:15 pm TR

Dr. Araceli Suzara Asuzara@odu.edu

The course examines and analyses the Filipino Community in the Hampton Roads area from a sociological perspective. It includes a critical examination of the issues, concerns, and problems of the community. These issues include—defining Filipino community populations, immigration and adaptation, and the dynamic interaction among such factors as social class, ethnicity/race, gender, education, income and employment, political empowerment and the changing role of religion, women and the family.

A theoretical framework will inform the analyses of these issues. Students will be trained in gathering oral histories and other documents which will serve as materials for research papers on any of the issues addressed in the course of the semester. A strong focus of the research projects will be an analysis of the changing role of the Filipino woman and religion in settlement and community formation. Furthermore, a study of the challenges and opportunities that faced Filipinos in the US Navy will be explored, considering the close links between Filipino immigration and the US Navy.

The oral histories and documents will be archived in the Filipino American Student Cultural Center (FASCC) to serve future scholars interested in studying Filipino immigration to America. Papers may be selected for possible presentations—at the meetings of the Association of Asian American Studies (May 2000, New Mexico); the American Sociological Association (August 2000, Washington DC); or the Association for the Sociology of Religion (August 2000, Washington DC); published in TINIG/VOICES, a FASCC publication; or in a collection of readings.

SPRING 2000 ETHNIC STUDIES 396: CONTEMPORARY FILIPINO & FILIPINO AMERICAN WRITERS

Crosslisted as English 396, 9:30-10:45 am TR

Dr. Luisa (Cariño) Igloria Ligloria@odu.edu

This course aims to provide an introduction to contemporary fiction and poetry written by Filipinos in America. We will look at how contemporary Filipino writers in America examine issues of history, identity and change; their contributions to the redefinition of the literary canon and of their place and status within it; and their relationship to issues of reading, reception, and the achievement[s] represented by publication. We will examine the turns that have been taken by Filipino American writers in America in developing strategies for inscribing, representing and textualizing personal histories that are undercut by more distributive and comprehensive social histories.

SUMMER 2000 ETHNIC STUDIES 395: SUMMER ABROAD / PHILIPPINES

Socio-Cultural and Economic Development

May 13 - 27, 2000

Crosslisted as Sociology 395, Asian Studies 495, MKTG 496/696, MGMT 463/563

Dr. Araceli Suzara Asuzara@odu.edu and Dr. Earl Honeycutt ehoneycu@odu.edu

This course provides the student the opportunity to learn first hand about the many challenges facing the Philippines. It will deal with issues and concerns, such as economic and rural development, women and the family, poverty, politics and the economy, and religio-cultural changes, that confront a developing society. We will spend two weeks in the Philippines: one week in Metropolitan Manila and surrounding provinces, Baguio City and the Cordillera Mountains. We will visit the Social Weather Station in Quezon City, the ISIS-International Manila, the Asian Institute of Management, the campuses of the University of the Philippines in Diliman and Baguio, and the Subic Bay Free Trade Zone. Our visit will be highlighted with a dialogue with the Vice President of the Philippines, Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

For further information, call

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**The Filipino American Student Cultural Center
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Norfolk, VA 23529**

ODU's Filipino American Student Cultural Center

provides a supportive environment for Filipino Americans for them to gather, exchange ideas, and find mutual support and encouragement. It is a place where they can learn about their heritage as students interact with each other and with members of the Hampton Roads community.

The goals of FASCC are: ❖ to serve as a resource center for the University, the Filipino American, and the Hampton Roads communities. It will develop an archival system for oral histories, documents and other materials portraying Filipino American immigration histories. ❖ To sponsor cultural and educational programs, projects, lectures, and seminars enhancing Filipino American culture and the multicultural interests of the University. ❖ To collaborate with Filipino American and/or Asian American centers in other universities for the academic advancement of Filipino American students. ❖ To promote courses in Filipino/Filipino American Studies, to enhance knowledge and develop critical skills. ❖ To plan Summer Programs or Semesters Abroad (in the Philippines). ❖ To increase the Filipiniana collections in ODU's Perry Library. ❖ To develop Academic Service-Learning programs and internships that intentionally integrate academic learning and relevant community service to enhance meaningful knowledge and the development of active citizenship in the Filipino American community of Hampton Roads. ❖ To develop a mentoring program covering three main areas of student life: academic, career, and personal development, and to have members of the Filipino American community serve as role models to facilitate transitions from the University to the workplace. ❖ To organize leadership and other skills training programs for Filipino American students at ODU and to reach out to youth in cooperation with Filipino American organizations. ❖ To collaborate with public schools on programs advancing the interests of Filipino American youth. ❖ To develop close linkages and relevant projects with Filipino American ODU Alumni. ❖ To collaborate in common efforts with Filipino American organizations in the Hampton Roads area.

We'd love to hear from you!

Send your letters, news, and/or contributions
to the **FASCC BALITA** Editor,
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