

# BALITA

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## From the Director

The Center had a lively and eventful 2000 and welcomed the new millennium by venturing into the virtual and the digital. I encourage you to visit the Center's new webpage (<http://web.odu.edu/al/artsandletters/filipino/>) created by Graphics Design major, Shei Reyes. It is one way of keeping in touch with all the exciting things we do. Visitors who go to the *Audio Programs* option will be able to listen to original recordings created by students in their Filipino American Studies courses. If you click on *TINIG/Voices*, you can read student essays and enjoy creative art forms. You can also find the latest issue of our newsletter, *BALITA* on the webpage. The overall design of the webpage evokes the Philippines, by featuring the legendary Sarimanok, depicted as a fowl with wings and feathered tail, holding a fish on its beak. This symbol of Maranaw royalty is set against the colorful scheme of this southern Philippine culture.

I will make brief mention of our main activities in 2000. Detailed information on some of them can be seen elsewhere in this newsletter. We were fortunate to host delegates to the Filipino American National Historical Society (FANHS) Conference with *An Evening of Art and Music* where we featured two young and promising Filipino American artists. We welcomed several visitors – Viray lecturers Nick Carbo, Bino Realuyo and Ronald Baytan. In September, we held a Reception for Ms. Shamina Singh, the Executive Director of the White House Initiatives on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, and Ms. Gloria Caoile, member of this Presidential Commission. They met with several Asian/Asian American faculty members and representatives from President Koch's office and the Office of Institutional Advancement. Our outreach program has brought FASCC and Old Dominion University closer to the Hampton Roads Community. We provided the community access not only to Filipino culture but also to other Asian cultures.

We worked in partnership with the Office of Study Abroad to organize the Summer Trip to the Philippines; with the College of Education to provide continuing education credits to participants in the Professional Development Program for public school teachers. FASCC and the Office for Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action jointly promoted a mentorship program for students. We also participated in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Old Dominion University Festival with the screening of "Jose Rizal."

We are delighted to continue promoting innovative ways in which we are able to link culture and academic pursuits, the Filipino American Student Cultural Center and the Hampton Roads community. The Center thanks the Dean of the College of Arts and Letters for her encouragement in our endeavors and ODU faculty and students as well as members of the community for making 2000 a successful year for us.

Dr. Araceli Suzara  
Director

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

## "Jose Rizal" screened at Old Dominion University Film and Video Festival

It was an historical experience to watch the three-hour long film on "Jose Rizal," the Filipino American Student Cultural Center's entry to the film and video festival in April 2000. The movie was about the life of Dr. Jose Rizal, National Hero of the Philippines, who was physician, poet, novelist, scholar, and patriot.

As a young man, Rizal went to Spain to study medicine and became influenced by European liberal ideas. He became a prime mover of the Propaganda Movement among a group of Filipinos seeking for political and social reforms in the Philippines. He devoted his life to the Filipino nation during the Spanish Colonial Regime, and inspired the Philippine Revolution that lasted from 1896 to 1898. Tried for treason by the Spanish military court, he was found guilty of subversion and was sentenced to death by firing squad. His execution signaled the downfall of nearly 400 years of Spanish colonization of the Philippine Islands. Rizal was the first Asian to set standards for the struggle for freedom against foreign powers in Asia.

The film viewing took on special import with the reading of Rizal's "Mi Ultimo Adios" in the original Spanish, Tagalog, and English by three Old Dominion University students under the direction of Ms. Sandra Joe Washington of the Department of Communication and Theatre Arts.

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## Nick Carbo Featured at a Poetry/Fiction Reading at FASCC

Prolific Filipino American poet Nick Carbo was joined by poets, Luisa Igloria and Jon Pineda, at a Poetry/Fiction Reading and Reception entitled "Speaking in Tongues," at the Filipino American Student Cultural Center on February 25, 2000. Carbo, author of "*El Grupo McDonald's*" and editor of "Returning a Borrowed Tongue: An Anthology of Filipino and Filipino American Poets", has won grants from the National Endowment for the Arts and New York Foundation for the Arts, as well as numerous other awards and fellowships for his writings. He also promoted two of his most recent books: "*Babaylan: Prose and Poetry by Filipina and Filipina American Writers*" (Aunt Lute, May 2000), which he co-edited with Eileen Tabios; and "*Secret Asian Mari*" (Tia Chucha, May 2000).

Earlier, he was the featured speaker in the Spring 2000 series of Old Dominion University's Manuel A. Viray Filipino American Lecture Series. Carbo's talk on the state of Filipino American writing, "*The Seduction of Filipino Tongues*" was held at noon at the Burgess Room in Batten Arts and Letters. He gave an overview of the rich history and traditions behind Filipino writing, and brought the audience's attention to some of the most exciting Filipino American authors breaking new ground in poetry and fiction today.

Carbo also met with ODU students for a workshop called "Dialogues and the Diaspora", focusing on writing and the Asian American Experience. The workshop was sponsored by the Asian Pacific American Student Union of ODU.



## Career Mentorship Program

The Filipino American Student Cultural Center assisted by the Office of Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action launched its first Career Workshop on February 22, 2000. These career workshops are aimed at helping students make the transition from their academic studies to the workplace. Rusty Waterfield of Old Dominion University's Office of Computing and Communications Services (OCCS) and Ed Primm of the Program Management Department, U.S. Navy held a dialogue with students majoring in information technology. Waterfield suggested key points for students to consider while still in the University to help prepare themselves to face the job market while Primm spoke on the career opportunities offered by the U.S. Navy.

On September 27, 2000, a Mentor-Mentee Mixer was held. At that event, students had the opportunity to meet and exchange information with mentors. Areas of interest included nursing, counseling, law, journalism, economics, business, and human resource management. Future career-related workshops are being planned in the future. A workshop on financial management is scheduled in the Spring.

Interested students are encouraged to call the Filipino American Student Cultural Center to fill out an interest area wish-list and to discuss their needs with Dr. Suzara (683-5099 or email [asuzara@odu.edu](mailto:asuzara@odu.edu)). Professionals are also requested for their help in the Center's Career Mentorship Program.

## An Evening of "ART & MUSIC"

The Filipino American Student Cultural Center hosted an evening of "Art and Music" on June 27, 2000. The event featured two talented artists Bernard Conda and Anton Victor Martinez.

**Bernard Conda** was born in Portsmouth, Virginia. He attended the Virginia Commonwealth University, receiving a Bachelor's degree in Fine Arts in 1986, after which, he moved to the New York City area, working at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. He later attended the University of Oregon, where he received his Master's degree in 1992.

This was his first solo exhibit since 1993. His subject matter comes from "a variety of sources, sometimes things, objects, in the real world, and at other times from a mixture of dreams, memories, and reflections." Bernard works part-time as a portrait artist at the Waterside Mall in Norfolk and teaches art classes at Norfolk's Department of Parks and Recreation.



Anton Martinez and Bernard Conda



Anton Martinez at the piano with a rendition of Bach-Busoni's Chaconne in d minor

**Anton Victor Martinez** was born in Chicago in June 1978. He has studied at the Moscow Tchaikovsky State Conservatory with Larissa Dedova and continues to study in the U.S. with Ms. Dedova, who is now a member of the music faculty at the University of Maryland-College Park. In his earlier years of study, he was a student of Emilio del Rosario, a well-known Filipino pedagogue in the Chicago area and of Theodore Edel of the University of Illinois at Chicago. He has played in master classes at Indiana University, Moscow Conservatory, University of Texas, Pianofest at Southampton, New York and in Basel, Switzerland.

Anton has won many awards, including the Chandler Starr Miller Scholarship, Judson College Piano Competition, Nordic Musical Arts Competition Young Artist Award and Grand Prix Award, Society of American Musicians, and the Rockford Youth Symphony Concerto Competition. In 1998, he won the 16<sup>th</sup> Grace Welsh International Prize for Piano in Chicago.

Martinez' repertoire included selections from Bach-Busoni, Chopin and Liszt. Those who attended the two events were gratified to be part of the occasion to showcase the achievements of young Filipino Americans. As one student put it: "Both artists enriched our appreciation of the Filipino culture and served as good role models. Shei Reyes and Ted Martinez served as emcees during the program."



Garden Reception

## FASA Looks Back At the Year 2000

*The year 2000 saw the Filipino-American Student Association (FASA) involving in many activities. The theme of FASA's annual Cultural Night held on April 5, 2000 was "Reflections: Discovering the Hero Within." It was a "night filled with song, dance, food and laughter." As an organization, it sought to give its members "a chance to create and promote an atmosphere of togetherness and unity while providing a unique opportunity to share and explore the Filipino culture with the community."*



*Members of the Filipino American Student Association (FASA)*

The U.S. President proclamation designating May as Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month and calling upon "the people of the United States to observe this occasion with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities," brought FASA members and other Asian American students to two Naval Commands' cultural events. The first was held at the Norfolk Naval Base on May 10 while the second was

held at the Oceana/Dam Neck on May 22, 2000. In addition, FASA was also invited to perform cultural dances at the All-American Celebration sponsored by the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard on September 29, 2000.

Fall 2000 was a busy semester for FASA. Members of FASA attended the Filipino Intercollegiate Dialogue (FIND) held at George Mason University during the weekend of October 28-29, 2000. The conference was used as forum for the students to discuss a phenomenon, the "Filipino Gap". The Filipino Gap is best understood as the growing differences between the new Filipino American generation and their predecessors in their cultural norms and behavior. Students watched a documentary film followed by group discussions reflecting on trends in cultural behavior. The exercise acted as a cultural dynamic and monitoring tool for students to compare the original features of Filipino culture and its ongoing metamorphosis.

This year's FIND dialogue registered a significant number of students from several colleges and universities. In the evening a party was organized to give the students the chance to interact socially with their peers. The Old Dominion students who attended the meeting felt that the dialogue was an excellent cultural experience for a lifetime. Students who are interested to attend next year's conference can call FASA at 683-5078 for more information.

Their major fundraising event, the Battle of the DJs, was held on November 4, 2000. Several DJs from the area and outside Hampton Roads battled through 2 days of grueling preliminary competitions to win the coveted title of "Best DJ of the Year." This year's battle was attended by over 600 people who were mesmerized by the "squeezing" sounds of music by the DJs' ability to flip and turn the turntables to synchronize rhythms. FASA's DJ garnered the second place at the competition and promised to compete again next year. Over 40 volunteers made the event successful. The two-day event culminated in a dance party at the Webb Center.

FASA's community outreach service activities included participation in the Christmas toy drive for the Children's AIDS Network Designed for Interfaith Involvement (CANDII House), a non-profit organization designed to improve the quality of life for children living with AIDS. Likewise, FASA formed part of the volunteer groups in several activities of the Children's Hospital of the King's Daughters (CHKD), such as, the Change Bandit Program and the Phone-a-thon to raise funds for the hospital. Contact number for FASA - 683-5078.



*Katrina Peneda and Shei Reyes decorating FASCC.*

## Service to the University .....

*The year 2000 was marked with events in which FASCC and its Director provided service in a variety of ways:*

- ❖ Hosted "Good Morning Commuters," a project of the Office of Student Leadership, by offering doughnuts and coffee to the early morning commuters.
- ❖ Presented the programs and goals of FASCC to Ms. Bev Graeber, member of the Board of Visitors, during her visit to the College of Arts and Letters.
- ❖ Gave a talk at the Career Planning Symposium sponsored by the Advising Services.
- ❖ Filipino American Student Culture Center (FASCC) co-sponsored the Women's Center Poetry Reading.
- ❖ Facilitated a workshop titled "The Filipino American Student: Straddling Two Cultures" for the Understanding and Serving Our Global Community Certificate program offered by the International Student and Scholar Services.
- ❖ Sponsored an Open House in collaboration with the African American Cultural Center.
- ❖ Welcomed Viray lecturers: Nick Carbo, Bino Realuyo, and Ronald Baytan.

## ..... Outreach to the Community

- ❖ Guest speaker at the Induction of officers of the Pampango Language Club, the Cebuano-Speaking Association of Tidewater, and the Celebration of Asian American Heritage Month by the Norfolk Naval Station; and gave the opening invocation at the Kahirup Association of Hampton Roads Silver Jubilee Barrio Fiesta.
- ❖ Involvement with Hampton Roads (HR) ethnic initiatives, such as, Norfolk-Portsmouth Census Initiative held at Norfolk State University; Asian Fest 2000 held at Old Dominion University; "Expedition India" opening reception sponsored by the Indian Association of HR held at the Children's Museum of Virginia in Portsmouth; and the Multicultural Alliance of Virginia education committee to prepare for a Multicultural Conference in October 2001.
- ❖ Panelist, "Socio-Economic Empowerment," at the NaFFAA Regional Summit held at the MacArthur Memorial.
- ❖ Keynote speaker at the Filipino American Women's Network Conference in San Francisco, CA.
- ❖ Participated at the PALSAC Corporate Executive Briefing.
- ❖ Attended the Reception of the Ambassador of the Republic of the Philippines to commemorate the 102<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary of the Declaration of Philippines Independence, held in Washington, D.C.



*Members of Bicol Youth*

## "THERE IS SO MUCH HISTORY THERE:

### Students, faculty comes away with lasting memories of Study Abroad in the Philippines"

Study abroad trips offer an invaluable learning experience, and are enriched even more when those leading them have firsthand knowledge of and connections in the countries being visited.

Such was the case for a small group of Old Dominion students who traveled to the Philippines May 13-27 with Earl Honeycutt, Professor of Marketing. Honeycutt was stationed in the Philippines for 2 1/2 years during the Vietnam War and later served as a Philippine specialist at the Pentagon while in the Air Force Reserves.

The students attended classes prior to the trip and were required to write a formal term paper in order to earn three credit hours for the study abroad experience.

The trip was planned by Araceli Suzara, Director of Old Dominion's Filipino American Student Cultural Center, and a native of Manila. Members of Suzara's family in the Philippines accompanied the study abroad group from arrival to departure.

The 13-member Old Dominion contingent, which included Chris Drake, Professor of Geography, and students from the College of Business and Public Administration, visited historical, cultural and educational sites on the island of Luzon and met with the vice-president of the Philippines, Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

"The visit with vice-president Macapagal-Arroyo was a high point of the tour," said Honeycutt. She took time from her busy schedule to meet with us and discusses our visit to her country, and even treated the group to refreshments.

Macapagal-Arroyo presented the group with a wooden box that contained Philippine cups made from the ashes of Mount Pinatubo and woven materials. Honeycutt, in turn, presented her with a brass



*During the visit, the group met with Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo (front row, center), recently proclaimed president of the Philippines. Seated next to her are faculty members Chris Drake and Earl Honeycutt.*

Old Dominion clock as a remembrance of the visit. (The cups are on display at the Filipino-American Student Cultural Center).

Like Honeycutt, Heather Jones, an International Business Major who will graduate in December with an MBA, cited this meeting as a memorable part of the visit. "A unique selling point of the trip was, undoubtedly, the chance to meet with the Vice president and other important public figures in private settings," she said. Very few people of ordinary stature have the opportunity to meet with such high powered decision-makers.

She added, "Aside from my purely personal interests in the venture, the program also appealed from a career perspective. My educational and indeed life background are very internationally oriented. I have lived, worked or studied in eight countries and my career goal is to work within the context of international business operations."

In Manila, the group visited the Asian Institute of Management, University of the East and the University of the Philippines. They also visited many historic and cultural locales, including the site of the 1986 People Power EDSA Revolution that brought President Cory Aquino to power.

During a trip to the mountain town of Baguio City, the group stopped briefly to observe the devastation caused by the 1991 eruption of Mount Pinatubo, which caused loss of life and destruction of homes and businesses in that area.

"We also learned about mountain cultures by attending a lecture at the Baguio City Museum by Dr. Leonora San Agustin and by participating in mountain dances at the Tan-awan Village Cultural Show," Honeycutt said.

On the way back to Manila, the group took a bus excursion through the Province of Pangasinan and stopped at Lingayen, the site of the Japanese invasion in 1941. Back in Manila, they also went on an all-day trip to Corregidor, where General Douglas MacArthur held out against the Japanese in 1942 and from where he departed for Australia with his famous words, "I shall return".

"We toured the entire island and spent time in the famous Malinta Tunnel, where nearly all U.S. and Philippine personnel stayed during the constant shelling and bombardment by the Japa-



*Karen Cabral and Igorot dancers at the Tan-Awan Village Cultural Show in Baguio City.*



"Men in Barong":

front row:

James Jones, Jeff Towers, Earl Honeycutt, Mark Smith;

back row:

Fahad al-Oyan, John Beacham

nese invaders", Honeycutt said.

Karen Cabral, a senior management major from Virginia Beach, particularly enjoyed the trip to Corregidor. "There is so much history there, both American and Filipino", she said. I learned a lot. Plus, the atmosphere on the island is very laid-back and relaxes. The scenery is very picturesque, so it was great being able to walk around, be alone for a few moments and meditate after learning so much history."

On their final day in the Philippines, the Old Dominion contingent traveled to Subic Bay the former U.S. Navy Base that was returned to the Philippines in the early 1990s.

John Beacham, another member of the study group, said he went on the trip large part because of his working relationship at a local warehouse and distribution firm with a number of Filipino-Americans.

"I think my most memorable experiences came from observing the genuine friendliness of the Filipino people and their ability to deal with adversity in such a matter-of-fact-, unstressed manner", said Beacham, who just this summer completed his undergraduate business degree 30 years after first enrolling at Old Dominion. "In spite of floods, political turmoil and economic struggles, everyone seems to be able to go about their daily routine with a smile and steady energy. I think that, as a result of the visit, I also have a better understanding of the Filipino-American bond that was born during the colonial years and fully matured during World War II.

"Since I have returned home, I have a new appreciation for the Filipino heritage and I now appreciate my Filipino co-workers in a new way".

Honeycutt said he and Suzara plan to offer future Philippine study abroad trips. Those interested in learning more about the trips should call the Filipino American Student Cultural Center at 683-5099.



President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo with ODU Filipino American students Oscar Aujero, Joe Mahayag and Karen Cabral.

Steve Daniels

Reprinted from

Courier, August 25, 2000

## Salamat po!

This year the Filipino American Student Cultural Center has been the recipient of the *bayanihan* spirit and generous contributions in service, kind and cash of various individuals and groups. We would like to say "*Salamat Po*" to all the donors, too numerous to mention. We are particularly grateful...

To: Bicol Association of Tidewater, Pampango Language Club, Olongapo Association, Filipino American Veterans Association, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Tajan, Cebuano Speaking Association of Tidewater, Knights of Columbus, Bataan Association, Kahirup Association of Tidewater, Philippine American Council of the Peninsula, Diego and Norma Rubio, and many other Friends of FASCC -- for their financial support to the Filipiniana book project of the Filipino American Student Cultural Center. Old Dominion University Perry Library has began acquiring books that will enrich its Filipiniana Collection.

To: The individuals who put their time and resources at our disposal during the Summer Trip to the Philippines:

- ❖ President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo for the dialogue and her gift of tea cups delicately crafted by Filipino artists from Mt. Pinatubo ashes;
- ❖ Honorable Mauricio Domogan, Mayor of the City of Baguio;
- ❖ Mr. Felicitio Payumo, Chair and Administrator of the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority;
- ❖ Dr. Bobby de Ocampo, president of the Asian Institute of Management, and faculty members, Prof. Poch Macaranas and Prof. Gaston Ortigas Jr.
- ❖ Dr. Leonora P. San Agustin, Curator of the Baguio Mt. Province Museum;
- ❖ Dr. Jessica Carino, former Dean of the University of the Philippine-Baguio;
- ❖ Ms. Cecille Zulueta, the Summer Trip Philippine coordinator and guide; Mr. Adolfo Suzara, and Mr. Raul Suzara;

To: Ambassador Ernesto Maceda of the Philippine Embassy, Washington, DC for updating the Center with books and materials on the Philippines.

To: Dr. Earl Honeycutt, Dr. Juan Montero, Drs. Dan and Perla Solinap, Drs. Amante and Jane Legaspi, Dr. A.B. Villanueva of Tucson, AZ, Dr. Remigio Ramos, Mr. Nony Abrajano, and Mr. Romy San Antonio for keeping the Center in mind and in heart with their numerous book and other resource donations.

To: Mrs. Daya DeSilva for helping the Director of ODU Filipino American Cultural Center in editing the Center's Publications.

But above all, to Mr. Joe Solinap whose free-time was always FASCC-time!



## Singh, Executive Director of the White House Initiative on Asian American & Pacific Islanders, Visits FASCC

As part of her efforts to bring issues concerning Asian Americans & Pacific Islanders to the President's office, Ms. Shamina Singh, the Executive Director of White House Initiatives on Asian and Pacific Islander Americans, came to Hampton Roads to visit the Physicians for Peace and the Free Clinic Project of Dr. Juan Montero and to hold a meeting with Asian community leaders. In addition, she visited the Filipino American Cultural Center on September 13, 2000, where she and Commissioner Gloria Caoile took the opportunity to explain the objectives of the US President's Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander Americans and the steps it had taken to insure the inclusion of Asian Pacific



Front row:  
Qui Jin, Araceli Suzara, Shamina Singh, Alok Verma, Lea Lee, and Anusorn Singhapakdi;  
Back row:  
Jie Chen and Kae Chung

Americans in health and social service initiatives.

They met with several Asian/Asian American faculty members from various colleges of Old Dominion. Ms. Singh, a native of Virginia Beach and an Old Dominion University alumna, explained to them that the Clinton administration was working hard to resolve some of the everyday issues that confront Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. The objective of the administration, Ms. Singh explained, was to build a better relationship among all racial groups within this country. As part of its objective, the administration would like to insure that Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders are fairly treated when it comes to social programs like housing and Medicare.

As part of the initiative, she encouraged Asian Americans in the Hampton Roads to participate in an interactive video teleconference that was held at GorntoTeletechnet Center at Old Dominion. The conference titled "Eastern Region Community Town Hall Meeting" was held at New York University School of Law and was broadcasted via satellite to various areas including Hartford, Providence, Boston and Lowell, Rockville, Philadelphia and Pittsburgh, Union City, Syracuse and Norfolk, VA where Old Dominion University served as a satellite location. Asian community members from Hampton Roads and Old Dominion university students participated by giving testimonies and directing comments and concerns to the Commissioners.

The conference was held on September 18, 2000; and lasted from 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. People who did not hear, or were unable to participate in the teleconference can still contact the White House Initiative web site [www.aapi.gov](http://www.aapi.gov) to learn more about issues and concerns discussed during the town hall meeting.

## Virginia General Assembly Honors FASCC and Director

Dr. Araceli Suzara, the Director of Filipino American Student Cultural Center, was honored at the Annual Resolu-



Chandra DeSilva, Daya DeSilva, Araceli Suzara, Estrella Claudio, Angelica George and Nora Dorsey

tions Reception on October 26, 2000. The Senate Resolution #23, sponsored by Senator Yvonne Miller, commended her as the first director of the Filipino American Cultural Center at Old Dominion University. She was recognized for her service to students, the University and the larger Hampton Roads community. Suzara was acknowledged for her efforts at initiating cultural programs for the benefit of Filipino American students, who wish to learn more of their heritage and culture and for providing them with the necessary support to lead successful academic careers and to make smooth transitions to the workplace. In addition, the Center was commended for its cultural and resource services that benefit the University and the larger Hampton Roads community. Some members of the Advisory Board were present at the event.

## "Community as Resource" in Filipino American Studies

Two new courses were added to the Filipino American Studies course offerings at Old Dominion. One course offered in Spring 2000 titled "Issues in the Filipino American Community" aimed to document, analyze, and construct the history, lived experiences, cultures, identities, and contributions of Filipino Americans. Using multiple theoretical paradigms, the course explored the impact of the intersection of class, race/ethnicity, gender, and specific immigration circumstances to examine the issues and concerns that are paramount in the community.

The course offered in Fall 2000, "The Filipino American Experience," examined the Filipinos' encounter with colonial domination, resistance, and negotiation in their continued effort to define what it means to be a Filipino American. The course situated the Filipinos' strategic location in the larger ethnic community in America and compared and contrasted those experiences with other Asian American groups. As a guest lecturer for this course, Dr. Harold Wilson of the History Department spoke on the topic, "America at the Turn of the Century."

To connect academic study with lived experiences, community members served as resource persons and experts in the field. Ms. Pam Eclar and Mr. Marc Villaflor contrasted their work experiences in the U.S. Navy. Mr. Nony Abrajano spoke on juvenile delinquency that became a problematic issue in the 1990s. Mr. Ron Villanueva, member of Old Dominion University Board of Visitors, challenged the students to stand up and be counted in the political arena. Ms. Guia Caliwagan, a faculty member in the College of Health Sciences, contrasted the experiences of two Filipina nurses in their quest for administrative positions in the nursing profession while Ms. Jeannie Tolentino lent her expertise by giving tips on how to create audio programs.

While the "Issues" course relied on the collection of oral histories and interviews of Filipino Americans the "Filipino American Experience" course focused on the students' own stories. These essays have been published in "Tinig/Voices, a publication of the Filipino American Student Cultural Center. The audio program created in the classes can be accessed by visiting the webpage of the Center (<http://web.odu.edu/al/artsandletters/filipino/>).



Students Registered in Spring 2000 course,  
Soc/FAST 395 The Filipino American Community

## Old Dominion University Faculty Participate at FANHS National Conference

Old Dominion University's Filipino American faculty participated in the eighth Filipino American National Historical Society (FANHS) National Conference, held 28 June - 1 July 2000 at Virginia Wesleyan College, Virginia Beach/Norfolk. Dr. Araceli Suzara of the Department of Sociology and Director of the Filipino American Student Cultural Center and Dr. Luisa Igloria of the English Department teach courses in Filipino American studies for the Institute for the Study of Minority Issues.

The four-day national conference, held every two years by the Filipino American National Historical Society, had as its theme this year, "FOREVER PINAY/PINOY: LECACIES OF THE AMERICAN EXPERIENCE." The conference featured more than fifty speakers in several panels on varied aspects of Filipino American history, literature, culture, politics and community life. The Conference organizers envisioned the conference to provide its participants "the opportunity to reaffirm, renew, and remember their commitment of preserving, promoting and evolving from Pinay/Pinoy legacies of the past ... and to identify voices and experiences for the next millennium." This year's conference sponsor was the local FANHS Chapter headed by Allan and Edwina Bergano of Hampton Roads.

Dr. Araceli Suzara read a paper on "Discovering Family Histories" in the panel "Dialogue Across the Generations on the Philippine Centennial: Perspectives on the Filipino American Experience" and Dr. Luisa A. Igloria presented a paper on Filipino Literatures in the Diaspora: "No Longer Without Names: Global Filipino Literatures".

An Author's Reception and Book signing/reading on 29 June was co-coordinated by Igloria and Linda Nietes of Philippine Expressions with FAHNS conference organizers. The American authors, playwrights, poets, and artists included Rey Alejandro, Jaime P. Espiritu, Emil Guillermo, Jeannie Barroga, Fred Cordova, Barbara Posadas, and Luisa Igloria. In the company were other Filipino American writers and performers, such as, Sam Tagatac, Emily Lawsins, Dawn Malabal, and Rex Navarrete.

The Old Dominion University students who served in various preparatory and on-site committees made the conference, a memorable experience, for the 300 or so participants.

## An Educational Programme Enrichment for Filipino American Educators

Prior to the Filipino American National Historical Society (FANHS) conference, Old Dominion University's Filipino American Student Cultural Center jointly sponsored with FANHS, a Professional Development Day for Educators on 27 June. Fifty-three teachers from across the nation had the opportunity to earn .8 Continuing Education Units (CEUs) from Old Dominion University Darden School of Education for participating in "Transforming Curricula through Filipino American Studies". The day-long programme held at the Virginia Wesleyan College in Virginia Beach, included four workshops: "Institutionalizing Filipino History through Pinoy Teach," "History's Challenge and the Challenge of History: Teaching Strategies for Understanding the Filipino American experience," "Transforming the Canon with Filipino American Literature," and "Using Filipino Legends and Folktales to Promote self-understanding among Filipino American students."

Lunch presentations were given by Dr. Araceli Suzara: "Issues and Initiatives in Filipino American Studies: the Case of Old Dominion University" and Mr. Art Villaruz, FANHS President and a retired elementary school Principal, on "Your Influence as an Educator in Working with Filipino American Students."

The workshops were developed by Filipino American educators and writers from various parts of the country: Mar Acevedo, Joann May Cordova, Tim Cordova, Patricia Espiritu, Emily Lawsins, Ray Obispo, Oscar Penaranda and Araceli Suzara. The workshops were interactive and utilized a variety of media to provide the educators varied curriculum content and strategies -- performance, creative writing, readers' theatre, improvisation, painting, and other art forms to enrich classrooms from elementary to college levels. Sample lesson plans, books, and resource lists were available for purchase.

The programme was capped with a visit to Old Dominion University Filipino American Cultural Center for an evening of "Art and Music" which featured the solo exhibit of Bernard Conda and the piano performance of Anton Martinez. Many members of the Filipino American community in Hampton Roads attended the event, which was followed by a reception made possible by the generosity of Drs. Amante and Jane Legaspi, Dr. Juan Montero, and Drs. Dan and Perla Solinap.

## Philippine Government Honors Montero

On December 19, 2000 Dr. Juan Montero was honored at Malacanang Palace by the Philippine Government for his humanitarian activities. The LINKAPIL Presidential Award stands for "*Lingkod sa Kapwa Pilipino*" (Service to Fellow Filipinos). This yearly award was conducted by the Commission on Filipinos Overseas.

One of Montero's numerous volunteer services, which he started in the 1970s, focused on the health care of the migrant workers in the Eastern Shore of Virginia, through a novel concept of a mobile clinic. Today, the migrant workers have an organized health care coverage through a permanent clinic. In addition, Montero initiated the founding of Chesapeake Care Free Clinic in 1992 when some Americans found themselves having difficulty or no access at all to health care except through the hospital emergency rooms. This problem of the "working poor" (not prosperous enough to afford health insurance nor poor enough to qualify for medicaid) continues with no solution in sight. At Chesapeake Care, all the volunteer physicians, dentists, nurses, lay people and other paramedical professionals donate their services. The Chesapeake General hospital extends the same service. Montero has also gone global in his desire to serve the health care needs of the less fortunate. Through Physicians for Peace, which has its headquarters in Norfolk, Montero joins numerous health care professionals in medical/surgical missions. This year, Montero joined such missions in China, Brazil and the Philippines. Montero, who spearheaded the campaign to raise funds for the Filipino American Student Cultural Center, is one of its major benefactors.

We'd love to hear from you!  
Send your letters, news, and/or contributions to:  
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Old Dominion University  
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Or e-mail to  
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