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THE FILIPINO COMMUNITY 1986

FILIPINO ASSOCIATION WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

by Sonya Rodolfo Sioson

This year has seen the addition to our group of the largest number of new students in many years, and two faculty members to boot. The new students are:

Milagros Hojilla Evangelista who holds a research assistantship in the department of food technology while pursuing a Ph.D. degree. Mila was born in Cabuyao, Laguna. She obtained her B.S. and M.S. degree at the University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB) in 1980 and 1984, respectively. She plans to return to UPLB to teach and conduct research in food technology upon completion of her studies. She is accompanied by her husband, **Roque L. Evangelista**, who is a special student. Roque was born in Banaybanay, Davao Oriental. He hopes to earn his M.S. in

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EDITORIAL



by Judith M. Bunyi

One thing that impressed me as a newcomer at Iowa State University is the warmth and friendliness of the members of the Filipino Association. That certainly make up for the terribly cold weather in Iowa! Becoming integrated into any group can sometimes be an awkward, if not painful, experience. But the Filipino Association, headed by Marlon Manto, wasted no time in trying to make the new members feel "at home" and to ensure a smooth adjustment for all. In the few months I've been here, I have seen offers of help translated into action - which made me conclude that the "bayanihan" spirit (cooperation and supportiveness) is still alive and well.

As Filipinos, we have our weaknesses, some of which are mentioned in "Kukoteng Pinoy". But which racial group doesn't have any weakness? We, however, can certainly draw upon this cultural trait (bayanihan) to keep us moving and working effectively together; to help us transcend our regional, social, or economic differences; and to ask, instead, what we can give for the good of all. We can use the time, talent, and treasure you can and are willing to share without hope of any reward except the satisfaction that comes from knowing you have given your best.

In the true "bayanihan" spirit, allow me to enjoin you to help and show support for Rudi and Emma Laudencia and their family; for those who are starting, as well as concluding, their undergraduate and graduate careers here at ISU; for those who are planning to "tie the knot," for those who plan to move to other places or settle into our community; and for those who feel homesick. Let us demonstrate the bayanihan spirit as we endeavor to make the activities for the Fall semester successful and rewarding. And let us not limit the bayanihan spirit within the Filipino Association. After all, it is worth spreading and catching.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER



FROM MY DESK ...

Marlon A. Manto

1986 has been a remarkable year for us Filipinos. We saw not only the fall of the Marcos' regime but also the rise of the People's Power. It has been a year of studies for us here at Iowa State University in order to build a better future for ourselves.

It is now almost one year since I became president of the Filipino Association and I am filled with excitement as I continue to face the challenges of my job. Although there was no big activity last spring, at least the meetings and potlucks were fun for everybody. Other campus organizations enlisted our participation in their activities, too. During the Food Fair, we

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ADVISER'S CORNER



by Sonya Rodolfo Sioson

As the academic year 1986-1987 commences, we extend a warm welcome to the newcomers to the group and greetings to those returning for another year. This year we have added six new students and for the first time since 1969, not one, but two faculty members. We look forward to a new program of cultural activities, starting with the annual dinner and program on 15 November 1986 at 6 p.m. at St. Thomas Aquinas church. May the entire group and our guests enjoy our favorite activities - feeding and amusement, and may it be only the first of several pleasurable encounters during the course of the new year.

COMMUNITY NEWS

by Bridget Tirol

Congratulations to our members (and former members) who have earned their degrees. They are: Artemio Salazar, Ph.D. (Agronomy) 1985; Romeo Labios, M.S. (Agronomy) 1985; Ephraim Malag, Jr., B.S. (Political Science) 1985; Angelita Talens, Ph.D. (Plant Pathology) 1986; and Othello Capuno, Ph.D. (Agronomy) 1986. Art, Angie and Othello are now back in the Philippines. Art and Angie are now teaching at U.P. Los Baños and Othello is with the Visayas College of Agriculture. Ephraim is continuing his master's program. Romy is currently enrolled in the doctoral program in Agronomy.

More additions to the Filipino community. Robin Joseph was born last February to Jocelyn and Romeo Labios. Also born last February, was Michael Othello, to Susan and Othello Capuno. The newest addition to the group is Benjamin Eric. He was born last October to Sonia and Brett Uytiepo. Congratulations to the proud parents!

More babies are coming! Advance congratulations to Dorie and Archie Resurreccion, who are expecting their third child in February. Helen and Conrad Toledano are also expecting their third child in January.

Since we did not have the chance to welcome our members that joined us last school year, we take this opportunity to welcome them. They are: Marlon Manto, Jerome Dumlao, Vina Guytingco, and Al Laudencia. We are sure glad to have you in the Association.

As we welcome new members, we say farewell to some of our members who have left Ames. Aurora and Gene Hettel have moved to Mexico. Gene is now working at CYMT in Mexico City. Amy Reyes, who was our President last Fall 1985, has moved back to Hawaii.



From top left:
Jerome Dumlao,
Vina Guytingco,
Al Laudencia,
Marlon Manto,
and Amy Reyes

Congratulations and best wishes to our members who tied the knot this year. They are Roel and Malou Campos, Mark and Farida McDaniel, and Othello and Susan Capuno.

The Filipino Association was a host to some visiting friends from the Philippines. Dr. Mariano de Ramos, a professor of the Institute of Mathematical Sciences at U.P. Los Baños, was in Ames last June. He was on a study tour of U.S. universities, which included Iowa State. Dr. and Mrs. Ephraim Malag, Sr. were in town on several occasions this year to visit their children, Ephraim and Farida. Our most recent visitors, who were here last October, were Col. and Mrs. Dumlao and Dr. Zenaida Lumba. The Dumlaos were here to visit their son, Jerome, and the Laudencia family. Rudi Laudencia, a long-time member of the association, is the brother of Mrs. Bernice Dumlao. Dr. Lumba was

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SPECIAL FEATURES

KUKOTENG PINOY

(Filipino Mentality)

by Mila Hojilla-Evangelista and
Eva Marie Ratilla

In spite of the feat that the Filipinos accomplished in finally toppling down the Marcos Regime, uncertainty about the future has remained. The Filipino's peculiar mentality could bring us back to the system we wanted to be rid of. (In fact, we never really got rid of it!) Now that the euphoria has waned, the reality of the Filipino way of life cannot be disregarded.

Foremost among these is the so-called UTANG NA LOOB trait. Filipinos invariably expect a favor in return for one. Familial ties, friendships and affiliations are the unwritten order by which our systems operate. It is no wonder why the Aquino government is out to replace the incumbent officials known to be Marcos loyalists. We are not surprised that the prime minister of the UNIDO party and the minister of local governments of the PDP party are squabbling over the appointees to replace local officials.

In the Philippines, it is possible that a candidate could garner a majority of votes as the people unanimously support a son of the town. Extended family ties and socio-cultural identifications within a region are strong. When the incumbent political hierarchy hails from a certain region, we invariably expect to see people in top positions to come from the same place. Such a strong regionalistic attachment fostered by the disjointed nature of the country consisting of 7,000 separate islands, is indeed a hindrance to our true national identity.

We Filipinos are also known to be NINGAS COGON; that is, we enthusiastically start on a project and just drop it later. Projects come and go. In the early years of martial rule, we might have kidded ourselves into believing that indeed a bright future was at hand. The slogan of the time: MABUHAY ANG BAGONG FILIPINO (Long Live the New Filipino) was instilled in our minds. Projects like the "Green Revolution," "Buy Filipino," and countless others were initiated but most of them just vanished into thin air. We lack long-term commitment and we must realize that we need a committed people to be able to rebuild a plundered nation.

Then there is the GAYA-GAYA attitude. To follow suit and to change a superficial attachment are understandable. But the way some people can overdo it - to the point

where priorities become highly misplaced - is a real shame. Actually, the GAYA-GAYA attitude is closely related to another Filipino trait, AMOR PROPIO, which, loosely translated, means pride, and self esteem. Pride is directly involved here and a Filipino will even risk death if that is stung! During a town fiesta or feast in honor of a patron saint for example, a family will prepare sumptuous meals for their guests (partly because most other families do) even if it means having to be in debt and having to tighten the belt for months. Imelda Marcos' ostentatious spending is the epitome of this behavior.

AMOR PROPIO is also evident in cases where the family honor is tainted. The offended party does not usually file a lawsuit. Instead, there will be noisy shouting matches, fist fights and, at times, scenes of a chase with BOLOS (long knives) waving in the air. Sometimes, the misunderstandings are settled amicably. Sometimes, they end tragically. These traits are manifestations of our mixed heritage - pride, which we inherited from our Malay forefathers, and our fiery temper, which we inherited from the Spaniards.

Filipinos also have a rather fatalistic approach to life, especially when the chips are down. "BAHALA NA" is the phrase we use. It means, whatever will be, will be; that our lives are controlled by some external forces - God, nature, or even government officials. We believe that this is an offshoot of our Catholic upbringing. Our strong faith in God enables us to plunge headlong into the thick of the problem without really thinking of the consequences. "PATAY KUNG PATAY" (If I die, then I die!) is how some rural folks phrase it. This of course is not a healthy attitude and may not bring one to an upliftment in life. The docility and indifference that enabled the Filipinos to withstand the atrocities of the Marcos regime clearly manifested this attitude. And yet, this very same attitude was the driving force that prompted a handful of soldiers to denounce Marcos as their chief and moved the thousands of civilians to cast their lot with the hopelessly outnumbered soldiers in openly declaring that they will not tolerate the abuses anymore! Those Filipinos may as well have written their own death sentences but they were prepared to face the consequences no matter what! Now that Marcos and his cohorts are out of the country and a new government has been installed, our "BAHALA NA" outlook is again helping us weather the turmoils that come with the transition and

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CROSS-CULTURAL MARRIAGE

FIL-AM STYLE

Willi Meyers, an American, must be doing something right because he is still married to me (or is it the other way around?) for over 14 years now. Our interracial marriage, though not perfect (it came close to it many times, I tell you), is a happy, good, funny, and successful one. Its success can be attributed to the fact that we knew each other's cultural background long before we got married to make us comfortable with each other, which shows in our relationship. Willi lived in the Philippines long enough to assimilate himself into the Filipino culture. His exposure to and understanding of the Philippines and its people helped him, particularly in his quest for a certain Filipina to be his wife. Such knowledge, combined with sheer determination and love, were all he had especially during the rigors of courtship, Filipino style, that he had to go through. I must have been worth it! He got ME, didn't he?

My knowledge of America and Americans goes all the way to the time when my father used to tell us stories about his American friends he used to work with or befriended during the war. My exposure to Americans continued on in grade school, high school and college, where I had classmates who were children of visiting professors, ministers and military men. Of course, books about and written by Americans were a big help, too. So when I met Willi, it wasn't as if he was the first American to set foot in Los Banos. But it is knowing him as a man that was very rewarding and his being an American became secondary. Oh, yes, he was worth it! I got HIM, didn't I?

We've gone through a lot together. Willi is always there for me and with me through thick and thin. I was so thin when we first got married that he would carry me to the threshold all the time. Now that I am thick (another word for heavy) all around, to carry me to the threshold or to even attempt it is very dangerous to his health! He doesn't even want to think about it! Can you blame him?

Interracial marriage is not for everyone because it is still considered outside of the norm by some, although it has gained acceptance and tolerance from people worldwide over the years. Would I recommend such marriage to a Filipina who is contemplating having an American for a husband? Of course, I do and I will. If the

man is loving, patient, generous, understanding, tolerant, and willing to learn, by all means grab and marry him! I would say the same thing if it is the other way around. Who knows, perhaps interracial marriages could be the answer to solving today's problems the world over. If more people of different nationalities and cultural backgrounds share (or are willing to share) love and commitment, our world might not be as messy and as troubled as it is now. Nothing wrong in achieving peace and harmony, is there?

by Dali "Beibee" Meyers

It would be difficult to generalize about cross-cultural marriages just as it is difficult to generalize about other marriages. Many married couples come from very different backgrounds--farm boy and city girl, Catholic and Protestant, Black and White, Northern and Southern--even though they are from the same country. The couple who grew up on the same street, went to the same school and the same church, and had the same friends may or may not be more compatible than those who grew up 10,000 miles apart. Not having experienced the former, I am quite convinced the latter is much more exciting. As cross-cultural marriages, Fil-Am marriages probably have fewer barriers to cross than some others. The Filipina is a true Asian woman; but, due to a short but thorough colonization of the Philippines by the U.S., she is usually well acquainted with American culture and people. In our case, Dali even had American classmates in grade school, since she lived in a college town where there were numerous visiting professors from the U.S. In spite of this, or perhaps because of it, one of the first barriers I had to overcome in courting her during a time of strong nationalistic feelings was some anti-American sentiment. After that there were many other challenges, since courtship Filipino style is a real test of a man's devotion and commitment. Of course, true love always wins in the end; and I can say it was worth every drop of nervous sweat I shed in the process.

by Willi Meyers

Willi and Beibee were married in 1972. They have two daughters, Naila, 8, and Selina, 6. Willi is a Professor of Economics at Iowa State. Beibee is a full time housewife. - Ed.

PICTORIALS 1986





From top left:
Mila Evangelista,
Roque Evangelista,
Joseph Fernandez,
Arnold Guloy,
Enrico Imperio,
Luisita dela Rosa,
and Judith Bunyi

Filipino Association...from Page 1

in dairy science after transferring to the University of Wisconsin at Madison.

Joseph Fernandez is a Fulbright fellow and working on his Ph.D. in economics. He was born in Medada, Davao del Sur. He was awarded the bachelor's degree at the University of San Carlos, Cebu City in 1976 and his master's degree at the UP School of Economics at the Diliman campus in 1979.

Since then he has taught and conducted research in regional and rural development at the UP Cebu campus. After earning the Ph.D. degree he hopes to contribute to the economic development of the rural areas in the Philippines, while carrying out the duties of a university faculty member.

Arnold Guloy is pursuing a Ph.D. degree in chemistry while assisting in the teaching of the introductory laboratory courses in that department. Arnie is a "Manila boy". He obtained his B.S. Chemistry degree at UP Diliman 1984 and the M.S. at Georgetown University 1986. He hopes to obtain a postdoctoral position upon completion of his current program and then return to the Philippines to establish a research group.

Enrico Imperio is working towards a Ph.D. degree in sociology while assisting in the research of one of the department's faculty members. He was born in Cagayan de Oro. His B.S. degree was earned at the UPLB in 1972, and his M.A. at Xavier University in 1986. He is "aiming to complete the doctorate degree in the shortest possible time, then return to the boondocks and complete the marriage degree."

Luisita de la Rosa is setting her sights on an M.S. in chemistry. She hails from Papanto, Pangasinan. Her B.S. Chemistry degree was awarded at the UP Diliman campus in 1967. Luisita is not a complete stranger to ISU, having had a brief stint as a graduate student in the ISU chemistry department in 1970. She married and moved to Nigeria the following year. She returned to ISU with four children in tow: Fe, Yemisi, Joe and Lara. Her immediate concern is to try to survive graduate school while raising four children as a single parent. The story has a familiar ring to this writer.

On the faculty this year are:

Judith M. Bunyi, an Assistant Professor in the Department of Speech Communication. Judith comes from Ilaya, Rizal. She holds an A.B. degree in speech and drama from the University of the Philippines-Diliman and the M.A. and Ph.D. degrees in speech communication from Indiana University. Her main goal is to further her development in her profession.

Jose A. Marasigan is a visiting Associate Professor in the Department of Mathematics. He is on a one-year sabbatical leave from the Ateneo de Manila University where he is the chairman of the Mathematics Dept.. Joe claims San Pablo City as his point of origin. He earned the A.B.(Honors) degree in mathematics at Ateneo in 1962 and the Diplom Mathematik and Ph.D. degrees at Darmstadt University, West Germany in 1967 and 1972,

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President's Corner...from Page 2

had "Palabok" and "Puto", which were fixed by Dory Resurreccion. I personally regret not being able to accept invitations from other groups because we were far too busy.

Last August, 1986, I represented our group at a luncheon with ambassadors and delegates from 30 countries. I had the opportunity to meet with Senator Chuck Grassley and the University officials headed by the new I.S.U. president Gordon Eaton. I was disappointed because Philippine Ambassador Emmanuel Pelaez did not make it to the luncheon.

The new university policy stipulates that holders of a Bachelor's degree from any Philippine Institution cannot be accepted into a Master's program at Iowa State University because they are considered lacking two years of undergraduate studies. I hope this will not result in the decline of our Filipino student population. We have a good number of new students this Fall semester. We welcome Luisita de la Rosa, Joseph Fernandez, Arnold Guloy, Enrico Imperio and Rok Evangelista. In addition, we welcome our new members, Judith M. Bunyi, and Jose Marasigan, who are both on the faculty of I.S.U..

Although we have fewer members than other international groups, this should not be seen as a disadvantage. Smaller groups can foster closer ties. Our monthly meetings have been productive, although we seldom have

perfect attendance. My special congratulations to our members Rueley West, Beibee Meyers, Yollie Martin, and Rudy and Emma Laudencia, who in one way or another have shown their support for the association in spite of their busy schedule.

And to all members, I thank you for your whole-hearted support of the group. I still believe in the "bayanihan" spirit, so please don't hesitate to call any member if you need anything. My advance congratulations to Archie Resurreccion, Greg Galinato, Pilita Valdez, Bridget Tirol and Vina Guytingco on the completion of their studies.

Best wishes to all and keep up the good work.

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Filipino Association...from Page 7

respectively. He plans to return to Ateneo to continue to fulfill the obligations of a professor and department chairman when this academic year is out.

Community News...from Page 3

on her second to the last stop of her eight-state tour of the U.S. She was on a fund-raising campaign for the relocation project of Harris Memorial College in Manila, which she serves as its President.

Arnold Paulsen, Professor in the Department of Economics, gave a talk on the Filipino change of government, and on the evolving relationship between the United States and the Philippines last September. Dr. Paulsen was in the Philippines during the "People Power Revolution" last February. The talk was titled "People Power in the Philippines -- What Changed and What Did Not".

Kukoteng Pinoy...from Page 4

work our way up once more. In spite of its fatalism, this attitude has given us the trait of resilience and has made us "pliant like the lowly bamboo... bending with the wind," as one poet put it.

It appears then that "BAHALA NA" and all the other traits are very much a part of our lives and they cannot be discarded easily. We still have exams, term papers to work on, a couple of research proposals to submit (and this article to write)... How are we going to make it? ... Ah! BAHALA NA!