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Editor: YSLohn

Special Interest Articles:

- UP Concert Chorus World Tour
- INS Changes
- Upcoming Events
- SARS Update
- Miss Philippines

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March Madness

March was indeed madness for Fil-Am of Clark County. We have planned and worked hard for many events to come: 70's Night at the Fil-Am Center on April 5th, Filipino Night with the Blazers at the Rose Garden on April 6th, ongoing promotion of the UP Concert Chorus' performances in Roseburg and Portland (May 3rd), Miss Philippines Portland Pageant and the first ever Fil-Am float to the Rose Festival in June and the forming of our youth basketball team for this year. On top of this, we have recently attended Fil-Am Portland inauguration of new officers held at Holiday Inn on March 25. There's also the upcoming Philippine Nurses' Association induction of officers on May 10 and we have also received invitations from various Fil-Am associations in the area for their upcoming events-our calendar for the year is getting full!



Having said that, let me take this opportunity to remind and ask everyone in the Fil-Am community to support and help out in our association's activities and community projects. We welcome old and new members and non-members as well who are interested in our culture. In a year of bad economy, to have hard working council members that are ready to serve you in various ways. Keep in mind that all these hard work are voluntary, so next time you see a council member, give him or her a pat on the shoulder and ask "what can I do to help?". There are several avenues where you can contribute. We are still in search of youth cultural dancers, we need volunteers on a lot of projects, we need more members. Membership is free to Fil-Am Association of Clark County, I encourage you to contact one of our friendly council members. You can also call me at 503.667.6471 or e-mail me at ekeallsports@yahoo.com. Lastly, don't forget to visit the Fil-Am Clark County website at <http://ourclarkcounty.columbian.com/264/>

We hope to hear from you soon and we hope to see you in one of our events!

~ Evelyn Estibar



**It's not too late to purchase tickets for the UP
concert!**

The Filipino American Community of Oregon and
SW Washington
Presents ...

**The University of the Philippines
Concert Chorus
2003 World Tour**



World renowned and much-awarded choral group
on their 40th anniversary tour
comes to Portland, Oregon ...

May 3, 2003 Saturday – 1 pm
**New Hope Community
Church**

11731 SE Stevens Road, Portland, Oregon 97266

Door opens at 11:30 am for Filipino exhibits,
refreshments, snack available at the lobby

General admission (open seating): \$10.00
Patron tickets (reserved selected seats): \$25.00
For tickets and more information, please call:
Edel Verzosa (Vancouver) – 360.885.2627
Evelyn Estibar (Portland) – 503.667.6471

UPCC's Forty-year Musical Journey
By Eric Tadeo

It all started when the president of the University of the Philippines requested the College of Music staff to put together a choir of students that will perform at university functions. That was forty years ago. Today, the University of the Philippines Concert Chorus (UPCC) had been on 15 world tours, won the top awards in the most prestigious choral competitions and festivals, and firmly established itself as one of the best university choirs in the world.

To be sure, the success was not 'overnight,' but it was certain, steady and backed up with passionate leadership. Professor Reynaldo T. Paguio was at the helm of UPCC for 30 years, from 1969 through 1999, when he passed away in the midst of preparations for the group's Millennium Tour. The current director, Professor Janet Sabas-Aracama ably took over the baton, and with minimum time to prepare, led the group to a very successful tour in 2000.

In 1974, the group embarked on its first international tour, which included an appearance in New York's Lincoln Center, where audiences raved at this vibrant young choir from the Philippines, a newcomer in the international scene. With that big first step, subsequent tours were inevitable and invitations to festivals, competitions and regular concerts poured in from dozens of cities all over the world. The choir started touring with regularity, approximately every two years, and the itinerary grew until the current level which keeps them on the road for eight months.

Former director, Paguio, continues to be remembered fondly by current and former UPCC singers. Recognized as a child prodigy, Paguio composed his first piece by the age of seven and won a piano competition at eleven. He was then enrolled as a full-time student at the university's Conservatory of Music while still going to high



school. Ultimately, another scholarship brought him to graduate studies at the Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas, where he garnered all the honors the university could muster. Combined with his musical talent, Paguio also had the ability to keep a group of college-age performers motivated and pushed to be the best they can.

Current director, Sabas-Aracama, was one of Paguio's singers for 10 years, when she also served as soloist and assistant director. Sabas-Aracama is herself a very well-accomplished musician as a performer and coach. Upon having to take over the choir, she determined to continue Paguio's legacy of musical excellence and push further to even greater heights.

The singers are select students from the University of the Philippines, some are music majors, but even more are not, and are engaged various areas of study. But all are talented performers whose skills continue to be honed by being in the choir. Some do continue on in the musical arena as performers or teachers.

The UPCC generally does not leave any musical genre untouched. This versatility is evident with the range of choral music it performs -- Broadway musicales, musical revues, jazz, rock, grand classical operas and Filipino traditional and contemporary music. Singing as good as or better than any choir in the world, they supplement their performances with full choreography and several costume changes that keep audiences all over the world asking for multiple encores.

As the university's premier ambassadors to the world, the UPCC holds the singular honor of being the only choir in the world to be invited a record ten times to the prestigious Aberdeen International Youth Festival in Scotland, four times alone for command performances for Queen Elizabeth II. The group also holds the distinction of being chosen as one of the world's best choirs at the 4th Lincoln Center International Choral Festival in New York City.

Upon the initiative of the Filipino-American community, the UPCC is able to include Portland/Vancouver as one of their stops in the current 8-month world tour. The last two visits had been sponsored by the Council of Filipino-American Associations of Oregon and Southwest Washington and its affiliates. This year, a concert in Roseburg, Oregon was also scheduled. The performers stay with local volunteer 'homestay' families, allowing for cultural exchange and also prompting many lasting friendships.

This year, the University of the Philippines Concert Chorus returns to Portland after 4 previous visits, and will perform its wide range of musical repertoire on Saturday, May 3, at New Hope Community Church, 11731 SE Stevens Road in Portland. The door opens at 11:30 am, and concert-goers can browse Filipino exhibits and purchase Filipino food and merchandise before the concert; these will be available as well during intermissions and after the concert. The actual performance starts at 1 pm.

For tickets and more information please call Eric Tadeo on 360-574-6275, or Dan Del Rosario on 503-323-1081.

Author Eric Tadeo, a Vancouver, Washington resident, an attorney and a software engineer, sang with UPCC during his college days. He has coordinated the sponsorship of the choir in Oregon and Southwest Washington.

Goodbye INS, Welcome DHS **By Gretel M. Ness, Esq.**

On March 1, the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) as an entity ceased to exist and all enforcement and service functions and responsibilities transitioned into the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). Yet despite this transition, the key bureaus created, namely the Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services (BCIS), the Bureau of Customs and Border Protection (BCBP), and the Bureau of Immigration Customs Enforcement (BICE), are all promising "business as usual." To reiterate this message,

banners, posters, and pamphlets bearing the name of the new bureaus are being disseminated to immigration offices and community-based organizations across the country. Essentially, the important things to remember are that:

- Official forms and documents issued by the former INS are still valid and will continue to be accepted by BCIS and other agencies as evidence of status in the United States.
- BCIS local offices will remain in existing INS locations, including Application Support Centers and Service Centers. There will be no immediate change in office locations.
- Forms should continue to be mailed to the address indicated in forms and notices.
- The National Customer Service Call Center will continue to be available at 1-800-375-5283, or for the hearing impaired at 1-800-767-1833.
- Customers will still be able to download forms and check the status of their case online (for cases pending adjudication at Service Centers). The new web address for BCIS will be www.immigration.gov

The service and benefit functions of the former INS essentially became BCIS and may have been the only one of the INS branches that made it intact into DHS. BCIS will be responsible for the administration of immigration and naturalization adjudication functions, establishing immigration services policies and priorities, asylum and refugee processing, and implementation of special status programs such as Temporary Protected Status. BICE, on the other hand, brings together the investigative and interior enforcement functions of the INS, U.S. Customs Service, and the Federal Protective Services. BCBP brings together inspectors from the Agricultural Quarantine Inspections, INS, and U.S. Customs, together with the Border Patrol. BCBP will focus its operations on the movement of goods and people across our borders, ensuring consistent inspection procedures and coordinated border enforcement.

Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS)

by Frances Verzosa, MD



In February of 2003, outbreak of about 300 cases of “acute respiratory syndrome” of unknown etiology was reported by the Chinese Ministry of Health. At that time, 5 cases were fatal. By March 2003, the World Health Organization issued a global alert and began a worldwide surveillance for this new illness. According to the issue of the *CD Summary*, 2,671 cases of SARS have been reported from 18 countries; 103 (4%) have died.

Currently, much of the burden of this disease has fallen upon healthcare workers, and nosocomial transmission to other patients has also been documented. Prompt identification and isolation of any suspect cases are currently the keys to interrupting transmission.

Symptoms for SARS include temperatures of $>100.5^{\circ}$ **AND** one or more clinical findings for respiratory illness such as cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, radiographic findings of either pneumonia or acute respiratory distress syndrome **AND** traveled within 10 days of onset of symptoms to mainland China, Hong Kong, Hanoi or Singapore **OR** close contact within 10 days of onset of symptoms with either a person with a respiratory illness who traveled to a SARS area or person known to be a suspect SARS case.

As the CD Summary concluded, “Our challenge is to be on our toes for this new condition – recognizing its impressive 4% case-fatality rate and potential for spreading, especially within healthcare settings, while maintaining a healthy sense of perspective”. And while citizens may worry about SARS, they are much more likely to be stricken by more “mundane” diseases.”

For more information about SARS, see the CDC website at <http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/sars/>

A Letter from our float princess....

Dear Uncles, Aunties, Family & Friends,



Kumusta! How is everyone doing? Mom, Dad and I are all doing well. I hope everyone is in good health and enjoying life to the fullest.

As for myself, lots of exciting things have been and are happening in my life. I am nearly 17 years old and a junior at Mountain View High School. This year I have been a varsity cheerleader, a member of the Symphonic Wind Ensemble, ID Line, Key Club, Link Crew, and Peer Helpers. Along with my school activities I have been doing traditional Filipino dance with a group of teenagers in my area. This has been a great way for me to feel connected to my heritage. Recently I was nominated to be a representative of the Filipino community in the first Miss Philippines in the area. Finding out that I was chosen to be one of the first candidates to be in the Miss Philippines pageant was a great honor. I see this as an opportunity to be the best representative of my culture. Being a pinay in an area of people where Filipinos are scarce can make living the culture difficult at times, but I see this as a way to illustrate the great Filipino culture.

This Miss Philippines pageant will be a new experience for me, but I feel that with the support of my friends and family I will be able to do it. I appreciate your help and support. This will be an enjoyable and exciting time for me.

Love always,
Carla Ines

Cultural Affairs

The Fil-Am Clark County Association continues to recruit dancers of all ages – kids, teens and adults who want to show off their talents. Current dancers are in the process of choreographing more fun "alternative" dancing such as hip-hop to their repertoire. For more information, contact Frances Verzosa at (360) 256-7839.

Upcoming Events:

May

UP Chorus Concert -
Saturday, May 3rd

June

Fil-Am Basketball Tournament (TBA)

July

Seafarers Fair - Sunday, July 27th

August

Annual Picnic at Lewisville Park (TBA)

Sep/Oct

Membership Meeting (TBA)

December

Annual Christmas Party, Saturday, Dec. 6th

Pinoy Jokes off the Web....

A judicial clerk in a small and far-flung provincial court had to translate, from Tagalog to English, the following passage uttered by a witness:

"Pagkatapos ng kung ano-ano ay nagdatingan ang kung sino-sino!"

Confidently and simply, the clerk wrote:

"After the what-what came the who-who!"



