

PACS' induction of officers

THE Philippine American Cultural School (PACS) had its induction of officers last June 6 at Seton Hall University, South Orange, New Jersey. The officers were sworn in by Atty. Leandro Lachica from the Philippine Consulate in NY who was also the guest speaker. The occasion was attended by past and present members as well as other guests.

PACS is non-profit and non-political model community school for the Philippine government in the American setting. Its mission is, "to foster and nurture a sense of the Philippine heritage by knowing one's culture in order to become intellectually and spiritually free; to offer the younger generation the opportunity to discover its ethnic heritage; and to invite interested adults to share in learning the Philippine heritage for closer intercultural relationships. Based at Seton Hall



Mr. Francisco G. Marcial, Dr. Victoria G. Marcial, Atty. Leandro B. Lachica, Rev. Lawrence E. Frizzell, Ms. Nikkalyn Lee and Mr. Kristian Marcial.

University, sponsored by the Filipino League At Seton Hall (FLASH) with Father Larry Frizzell, liaison officer and faculty contact at the same

university, PACS has international membership composed of Filipinos, Fil-Americans, Americans and other nationalities. The organization offers

educational programs with the agenda of equipping the youth/students with basic knowledge of the Philippine heritage necessary to ensure that its cultural richness is handed down from generation to generation. It also serves a research and development center for Philippine studies.

PACS sponsors scholarships, research aid, and travel grants to deserving members and students who 1) demonstrate passion commitment towards promoting the Philippine culture and heritage in the community; and 2) active participation in PACS activities. It also extends assistance to senior citizen members who have shown support of the organization's agenda. For more information on student registration, membership and benefits, please visit www.pacs.shu.org or call 862-520-4100 (mention PACS).

The Filipino Heritage Foundation, Inc. Street Fair & Festival

Photos by RICHARD REYES



Governor Jon Corzine together with Jose "Sonny" Aguilin, team leader of the Census Bureau and partner specialists of the Census Bureau



Governor Jon Corzine tries the pork barbecue from a Filipino restaurant booth accompanied by Ludi Hughes



Bing Fabricante, Buddy Deauna, Ludi Hughes, Former Mayor of Bergenfield, Bob Rivas, Romy Abenoja, Deputy Consul Millie Thomeczek, Rev. Gaudy Soriano, Nena Kaufman, Ricky Enriquez, and Henrietta Abenoja.

Future leaders make recommendations about HIV prevention

Interns from the Office of Judge Doris Ling-Cohan, KALCA, and CYI Visit APICHA

THE Honorable Doris Ling-Cohan, the first Asian American woman to be elected to the New York State Supreme Court, and 19 interns from the Korean American League for Civic Action (KALCA) and the Chinatown Youth Initiative (CYI) came to the Asian & Pacific Islander Coalition on HIV/AIDS, Inc (APICHA) for a tour and to hear presentations about HIV/AIDS. Engaging young people in an open and informed discussion about HIV/AIDS is critical. According to a recent report by Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, more new HIV infections occurred among adolescents and young adults than any other age group.

Judge Ling-Cohan and Council Member John Liu have met with interns from Asian and Pacific American

organizations in New York City for many years. Their goal is to educate young APAs about the judicial and legislative branches in preparation for their role as civic leaders. This year, APICHA was asked to participate so that interns can be more informed about the non-profit sector—from what the agency does to how it secures funding to support services and programs. In her remarks, Judge Ling-Cohan stated "non-profits is the voice of the community."

For most of the interns, this was their very first visit to an HIV/AIDS multi-service agency. Yet, they readily made recommendations on how to best reach their peers including utilizing subway ad campaigns and partnering with Asian American associations in colleges and universities.



One intern stated "as a Korean American, I know that stigma is a big barrier—many people don't want to get tested for HIV because it would be admitting that you were exposed." She said that if APICHA can make presentations at churches, it may encourage young people to know their serostatus.

Filipino gets a crack at Dubai art scene

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interviewed for this article. He recalls that when he went to shoot events, fellow photographers in crisp long sleeves eyed him from head to foot—and he was easy to spot, with his long hair, cargo pants and worn Converse shoes. Some even stopped him from taking photos, until they were told by Artxttra that he was a company photographer.

An unassuming man, Guevarra showed up for the interview in a shirt with the word "Philippines" in front. Guevarra's parents, a carpenter and a seamstress, struggled to get him through high school. During his last two years in school, his love for drawing saved him from dropping out.

His classmates would ask him for help with their projects and he would oblige. In return, they would give him burgers. His teacher, who would scold him for doing the assignments of others, also asked him to design the school's bulletin boards.

As a result, he didn't have to pay for his tuition in his last two years.

His parents wanted Guevarra to work in a factory but the son's heart was elsewhere. After graduation, a friend introduced him to his future mentor, Godofredo Zapanta, an award-winning artist.

Guevarra eventually found work at Uniwide Marcos Highway—as a salesman. One

day, he did a quick sketch of a customer, and his employers, impressed, moved him to the art department, but also kept him working as a salesman.

As fate would have it, the mall's warehouse burned down and Guevarra lost his job. But his love for visual arts wouldn't die.

He discovered the wonders of mixing colors; learned how to carve using wood, styrofoam



and fiberglass as medium, and soon was joining exhibitions. He became one of the artists who painted a backdrop for the *teleserye Dyesebel*.

Work abroad

Then came a chance to work in the UAE. He didn't want to go because he was slated to join 13 other artists for an exhibit in New York. And there were problems at home.

Their house had been demolished and his parents had to move to the province. So he tried his luck in Dubai.

He helped create the ice dragon sculpture in the Ski Dubai snow park. He also executed the design of one of the horse statues on Sheik Zayed Road.

Still, he did not know how

to break through barriers in the Dubai art scene. Was there a place in a conservative art community for a man whose works at home included nude paintings?

In 2006, Guevarra joined the Red Bull Art of Can contest, which required participants to incorporate a Red Bull can in their work. Guevarra finished his entry in two days, using whatever materials he could lay his hands on. Its message was: You don't have to go far to find solutions to your problems.

Guevarra won second prize and realized he could penetrate Dubai's art scene using surrealism.

When he won first prize in a 2008 Dubai contest featuring young artists, the doors to Sheikha Lateefa and

Tashkeel opened for him.

"Just do what interests you. Don't expect that you will be rewarded. Remember that your struggle and all that comes with it have a reason," Guevarra says. "Just focus on your goal. Be like a soldier who doesn't stop just because his ammunition has run out."

If he was unhappy about anything, it was the lack of support from the Philippine Consulate, he says. He sent out several invitations but no Philippine representative came to his exhibit.

Guevarra shrugs off the discrimination.

"Even in the Philippines, I suffered discrimination," he says in Filipino, "not just here." ■



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