

OC/PRSA celebrates 5 years of diversity

PAGE A1 ◀

discussed how Orange County academic and media professionals have advanced diversity in Orange County in the last five years, and how diversity will impact Orange County's media through 2014.

This year's conference featured guest speakers Dean Rick Pullen—College of Communications from California State University, Fullerton; Dean Bob Bassett—Dodge College of Film and Media Arts, from Chapman University; Emma Daugherty Phillingane, APR—Professor of Public Relations and Journalism, from California State University, Long Beach; Mel Rogers—President & CEO of KOCE-TV; Tiffany N. Smith-Anoa'I—Vice President of Diversity & Communications from CBS Entertainment and Diane Medina—Vice President of Diversity & Community Relations from KABC-TV.

As co-founder and inaugural co-chair of the OC/PRSA Diversity Committee it was appropriate that the speaker panel was moderated by Judy Iannaccone—Director of Communications and Internal Affairs/Public Affairs & Governmental Relations from Rancho Santiago Community College District.

Southern California is comprised of an expansive community of businesses, schools, people and cultures. Through its diversity initiative, OC/PRSA is helping make the public relations profession more inclusive by emphasizing the impact of communicating diversity through the media.

OC/PRSA's award-winning Diversity Committee has been recognized as the model program across the nation for three times. They have earned the "Chapter Diversity Award of Honor" from PRSA National multiple times,

most recently in 2008 and 2007. Honored for their outstanding efforts in advancing PRSA's National Diversity Initiative and commitment to diversity in public relations, OC/PRSA was first recognized with the organization's highest honor in diversity in 2005.

Membership in OC/PRSA's Diversity Committee is open to members, non-members and students. If you would like to be a part of this award-winning dynamic committee, please contact Diversity Co-Chair Laarni Rosca Dacanay at laarni.dacanay@nbcuni.com or (818) 777-9195 or Co-Chair Marcie Perez at Marcie@ideahall.com or (213) 364-0143. The OC/PRSA Diversity Committee is always looking for engaging new members, committee volunteers and all interested parties. (April Tiamzon)

OFW remittances boost hometown development

PAGE A1 ◀

inflows, especially in the Philippines which is one of the world's largest recipients of remittances, Western Union said it planned to pilot-test in the country a project aimed at ramping up collective remittances.

"Migrant worker remittances are mainly family to family paying for basic necessities. But if remittances are pooled and invested in creating economic opportunities for the whole community, the impact would be greater," said Western Union vice president Angela Heng, who was in Manila Thursday to host a one-day conference on collective remittance.

Ahead of the meet, Western Union commissioned the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) to conduct a study on communal or collective remittances in different parts of the world, their impact, and what could be done to make them more effective.

Pozorubio, which has about 10 percent of its population working overseas, was cited in the study for having a local government that was able to encourage its overseas residents to make collective remittances to support local public works projects.

Bright lights

Since 1986, town officials have been visiting Pozorubians in California, Chicago, Hawaii, New York, Washington and Hong Kong to encourage them to form themselves into solidarity groups, elect officers, and identify projects and programs in their hometown that they could support monetarily.

As the Pozorubian migrants became better organized, the study said the local government began encouraging them to hand their donations directly to the beneficiaries, and invited them to return home to see for themselves the impact their remittances were having.

It said Pozorubian migrant communities were able to finance the construction of a park and library, and refurbish a high school's English learning center.

The community hospital received an electrocardiograph, computer, stethoscopes, toilet, septic tank, window screens, electric fans, beddings and medicines.

On top of these, the hospital is visited annually by locally born doctors who perform medical missions. ■

Fil-Am is LA's next City Clerk

PAGE A1 ◀

as high as in the Latino community," the Mayor divulged. He added that he was also strongly supported by Korean-Americans and Chinese-Americans during his past runs for public office.

Turning to City Clerk appointee June Lagmay, the mayor said that there were many qualified applicants for the city clerk position. Villaraigosa, however, picked Ms. Lagmay, who had served three LA mayors, including Richard Riordan, James Hahn, and Omar Bradley. "This is a woman that has served in various capacities and done each one extraordinarily well," Villaraigosa said.

After looking at all the applicants' qualifications, the Mayor found himself saying to Ms. Lagmay: "You know, someone gave me a shot when I ran for Mayor in 2001. I have been Speaker (of the State Assembly) for two years; I had the chutzpah to run for Mayor back then, and in the second run, the vast majority of this town got behind it."

The Mayor said when he hired Ms. Lagmay, he told her, "I am going to

give you a shot. I am sure that June is going to be one of the best city clerks we ever have." Villaraigosa described Ms. Lagmay, the daughter of a working class Japanese mother and a Filipino father who hails from Ilocos Sur, in Northern Luzon, Philippines. He said

Lagmay is "a woman of passion and extraordinary dedication to her work."

"I feel very strongly the responsibility riding on my shoulders, and I acknowledge that I get it," Ms. Lagmay said after she was introduced. "I am very appreciative to all of you who have been a mentor, a friend, an advisor along the way," Ms. Lagmay said. "You have my heartfelt thanks. Many of you, I know; many of you, I don't know; but I want to know you. I want to know more about you and I want to be your friend" she said.

The reception was held on a mildly chilly evening, and guests were serenaded by a quartet, all members of the Filipino-American Symphony Orchestra. It played light classics by JS Bach, Beethoven and Mozart and Broadway songs. The quartet

was composed of Jonathan Coo, on keyboard; Cecilia Cruz and Angelito Molina on violins; and Art Ocdomia, on cello. Guests munched on salmon sushi, grilled chicken breast, fried wonton, and sipped on white wine before the program began at 6pm.

Ms. Lagmay also introduced members of her extended family, including her partner of forty years, Rita Romero, who she married at a same-sex ceremony before Proposition 8 was upheld by voters in November.

"I am being honored for going about my life and doing what I do," she said in amazement. "That's so amazing. I will try to live up to your expectations. If I stray, I expect you to walk up to me and tell me in the face to go back on track; and that's how it is going to be," Ms. Lagmay said.

Ms. Lagmay thanked also her mother, who died two years ago, saying that she had always had a sewing job. "It was when I became an adult that I realized that she worked in a sweatshop. Mom, look, isn't this amazing?" ■

1st Global Millennium School to be constructed in RP

PAGE A1 ◀

importance in any nation, but it is much more so in a developing country like the Philippines. This project is both timely and prudent for it endows the marginal communities in Nato Sangay, Camarines Sur with a highly modern, functional, and sturdy school building that will steadily serve the education needs of the community" Social Welfare and Development Secretary Esperanza Cabral added.

The Be Better Build Better Program was launched in August 2007. Program proponents opened the international design competition for the Millennium School in November 2007, then the winners were chosen by international Jury in April 2008, while the construction of the model school will start this month and is expected to be completed in September 2009.

The winning entry made by Eleena Jamil of Malaysia, extensively and ingeniously used the local and abundant bamboo as the main material integrated to her school's structure, and in effect allowing a system that can withstand typhoons as well as rough monsoon winds.

The Be Better Build Better Program for the Millennium School is made possible by the National Disaster Coordinating Council (NDCC/DND), Departments of Education (DepEd), Social Welfare & Development (DSWD), Public Works & Highways (DPWH), My Shelter Foundation, United Architects of the Philippines (UAP) and the Private Sector Disaster Management Network (PSDMN).

Generous contributions by private sectors and non-profit organizations ABS-CBN Bayan Foundation and Sagip Kapamilya, Holcim Philippines, Petron Foundation, DHL Express Philippines, Manila Jaycees, Rotary Club district 3830, Innerwheel Club of the Philippines, Philippine Green Building Council, Punongbayan and Araullo, and MFI Foundation Inc. paved the way for the success of the program.

"This is the best example that we can show the world that the public and private sectors in the Philippines work together and cooperate for better results. We know that government alone nor private sector alone can not properly address the needs of our country and people. We have to work together as one. With this project, we have shown that we can work as one voice, one country, one world. This is how it should be," PSDMN chairman Alex Escañó noted. ■

importance in any nation, but it is much more so in a developing country like the Philippines. This project is both timely and prudent for it endows the marginal communities in Nato Sangay, Camarines Sur with a highly modern, functional, and sturdy school building that will steadily serve the education needs of the community" Social Welfare and Development Secretary Esperanza Cabral added.

The Be Better Build Better Program was launched in August 2007. Program proponents opened the international design competition for the Millennium School in November 2007, then the winners were chosen by international Jury in April 2008, while the construction of the model school will start this month and is expected to be completed in September 2009.

The winning entry made by Eleena Jamil of Malaysia, extensively and ingeniously used the local and abundant bamboo as the main material integrated to her school's structure, and in effect allowing a system that can withstand typhoons as well as rough monsoon winds.

The Be Better Build Better Program for the Millennium School is made possible by the National Disaster Coordinating Council (NDCC/DND), Departments of Education (DepEd), Social Welfare & Development (DSWD), Public Works & Highways (DPWH), My Shelter Foundation, United Architects of the Philippines (UAP) and the Private Sector Disaster Management Network (PSDMN).

Generous contributions by private sectors and non-profit organizations ABS-CBN Bayan Foundation and Sagip Kapamilya, Holcim Philippines, Petron Foundation, DHL Express Philippines, Manila Jaycees, Rotary Club district 3830, Innerwheel Club of the Philippines, Philippine Green Building Council, Punongbayan and Araullo, and MFI Foundation Inc. paved the way for the success of the program.

"This is the best example that we can show the world that the public and private sectors in the Philippines work together and cooperate for better results. We know that government alone nor private sector alone can not properly address the needs of our country and people. We have to work together as one. With this project, we have shown that we can work as one voice, one country, one world. This is how it should be," PSDMN chairman Alex Escañó noted. ■



REEVES & ASSOCIATES

A PROFESSIONAL LAW CORPORATION

The Leading & Most Trusted Immigration Law Firm in the U.S.



JEFF L. KHURGEL

FLOMY J. DIZA

NANCY E. MILLER*

MAY ZHANG

JOSEPH I. ELIAS

JEREMIAH JOHNSON

ROBERT L. REEVES*

THE FIRM'S PARTNERS

*CHOSEN BY THEIR PEERS AS SUPER LAWYERS FOR 2006, 2007, 2008 AND 2009

15 Attorneys Devoted Exclusively to the Practice of Immigration Law
It Doesn't Have to Cost More to Hire the Very Best.

free in-office consultation

(800) 795-8009
www.reeves.com