

4-yr wait before nurses land job in US

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nurses might find work. "The doors to jobs in foreign lands were open before. What has happened because of the economic meltdown, the recession in the US, is a slowdown in the processing of papers," Yap said in a recent interview.

PNA national president Teresita I. Barcelo said the NARS program was a great help to the nurses even it could only take in 10,000 of them.

She said the program, which would train and deploy nurses to the rural areas starting April, was meant to give nurses "additional competence" but not to train them for work abroad.

The labor department is accepting applicants for the NARS program, which would give the nurses an P8,000 monthly allowance during their training.

But it's not all bleak news. Beginning this month, the government will deploy the first batch of nurses and caregivers to Japan to kick off the Japan-Philippines Economic Partnership Agreement (JPEPA).

The Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA) is targeting 600 caregivers and 400 nurses for deployment to Japan in the next two years, Malacañang said. ■

Back to work for Pacquiao

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don, it was absolutely amazing." The number of Filipinos who turned out for the press conference also amazed Pacquiao.

"You know, I really expected at Hatton's place to be all English but I'm surprised to see so many Filipinos," he said.

Training

With about less than three months before the May 2 battle, Pacquiao's right on schedule with training for the upcoming bout.

One of Pacquiao's trainers, Boboy Fernandez, said that this week the team would focus on light workouts for the Philippine champion.

"We're just going to take it easy right now," said Fernandez. "Next week, we really work hard and train."

Re-match with Marquez?

Mexican 135-pound Champion Juan Manuel Marquez made a deafening statement in the lightweight division on Saturday when he knocked out Juan "The Baby Bull" Diaz in the ninth round. During the post fight interview with HBO, Marquez said

Pacquiao doesn't want to fight him so he's opting to move up in weight and fight the former pound-4-pound Champion Floyd Mayweather Jr.

Its unlikely Marquez would face Mayweather Jr. since the latter is still retired.

Pacquiao said that he'd love another crack at Marquez after the Hatton fight.

"I want everyone to know again that I was the real winner (in the other two matches)," said Pacquiao.

Fundraiser

Pacquiao is hosting a basketball tournament fundraiser this Sunday at Veterans Park in Carson. Pacquiao will field his own team. Former and current Philippine Basketball Association players are expected to be attending and Apl.de.Apl of the Black Eyed Peas will also be there playing ball.

Pacquiao said the money raised would go to the Pacquiao foundation and the Apl foundation. There will be more news of this event in this weekend's Asian Journal edition. ■

Geology students prepare for trip to the Philippines

by ROCELYN BASTIAN
Houston Community Newspapers

Lone Star College-Kingwood is giving community colleges a good reputation as its environmental geology honors students prepare for a trip to the Philippines.

The students are not going on vacation, but rather to help residents in that country build and develop a more sustainable community for themselves.

The six students and two professors will be in the Philippines during spring break from March 7-14 helping to meet the needs of Gawad Kalinga villages as well as presenting their integrated waste and water management model.

"This project is important because people in those villages spend their money on bottled water. Hopefully this system will allow them to have potable water and they can spend their money on other important things," Ryan Woods, a resident in Summerwood and student at Lone Star College-Kingwood, said.

Once their designs are complete, they will take them to the Philippines and present them to the Gawad Kalinga Organization and the University of the Philippines faculty to determine if they can be implemented in the GK villages.

This project is funded in part by the Environmental Protection Agency-sponsored P3 Award, which is People, Prosperity and the Planet Student Design Competition for Sustainability. Prior to the model, the students held a book drive for supplies for the Gawad Kalinga schools.

"This program is a service learning component for the students to use what they have learned in the classroom and apply it in the community. We (Lone Star College-Kingwood) are the first community college to do this," Shmaefsky said. "In addition to the water catchment model, we were also asked to look into a design for mosquito control."

The Faculty International Exploration Grant Letargo and Shmaefsky applied for and received in 2007 was used to develop science-teaching strategies that integrated studying abroad and service learning to engage the students in global development projects.

In 2008, four environmental geology honors students visited the Gawad Kalinga villages and saw a holistic approach in rebuilding a community that was impacted by a natural disaster or other issues.

"When the communities are devastated by a disaster or something else, many try to move out to other cities. There, they are not able to find jobs and that kind of poverty turns into generational poverty," Letargo said. "GK's goal is to try and get people out of the slum communities and get them into sustainable communities."

To aid in the building of villages in Batangas, Philippines, a local



Environmental geology honor students at Lone Star College-Kingwood Ashley Henderson and Loi Hilarides work on a model that the group will present to the Gawad Kalinga and the University of the Philippines next month. Photo courtesy of Houston Community Newspapers

nonprofit organization, Humble Kingwood Filan Foundation, raised money to build 30 homes.

"This is a great project because it will help people who live in the villages to live in a new eco-community. I hope that our project will help them accomplish that and if not, we will be there to find out how we can help them," said student Loi Hilarides, a Kingwood resident.

While helping, the students saw that the local school needed supplies and that future villages needed money to help them become energy efficient.

"Being able to combine the essence of study abroad with service learning in a science curriculum is a dream that has come true for me. Students love the challenge of being able to do research and at the same time provide solutions to real world problems," Letargo said.

In order to help the students travel to the Philippines, the group will be selling T-shirts for \$13 apiece. Any business or organization that would like to be a sponsor can donate \$100 by Feb. 15 and have the name of the business or organization put on the back of the shirts. The shirts will be printed on Feb. 18 and will go on sale. The group has raised \$8,000 but still needs \$4,000 more for the rest of the students.

To purchase a T-shirt, be a sponsor or for more information on the trip, call Dr. Cherith Letargo at (281) 312-1405. ■

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