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## PILIPINO ACADEMIC STUDENT SERVICES

*Committed to the recruitment and retention of Pilipinos into higher education*

# PASS IT ON

Fall/Winter 2011 Edition

A Letter from the External and Public Relations Coordinators

By Donna-Jo (DeeJay) Pepito and Jacqueline Lee

### Spring 2012 Events

**January 9th-14th**  
Central California Outreach

**January 23rd**  
*bridges* Spring Community  
Dinner

**February 3rd-5th**  
*bridges* Spring Retreat

**February 24th-26th**  
Western Regional Conference

**March 3rd**  
Empowering Womyn of  
Color Conference

**March 17th**  
*bridges* MC Shadow/Transfer  
Day

**March 26th-30th**  
Southern California Outreach

**March 30th-April 1st**  
Queer People of  
Color Conference

**April 19th-22nd**  
Senior Weekend

**April 30th-May 4th**  
*bridges* Study Jams

**May 15th-17th**  
Transfer Weekend

Greetings from the External and Public Relations components! On behalf of the Pilipino Academic Student Services staff (this year named: PASS FORCE 27), we are happy to bring you the first issue of *PASS IT ON*—PASS' bimonthly newsletter

where, starting Spring of 2012, we will be sending out PASS reports of our events to keep our community up-to-date on all our programming.

With the External Relations component only in its second year of existence, we hope to continue its collaboration with the Public Re-

lations component through the *PASS IT ON* newsletter and develop each new issue to be better than the one before. We hope that *PASS IT ON* helps further establish the External Relations purpose by strengthening PASS' alumni network and its relationships with community and campus organizations. External Relations also seeks to bring in alternate forms of funding for PASS and succeeded this semester through a fundraiser via Pheao.com where PASS raised \$1,066 and has put more than half of these earnings into a donation to Galing Bata, the bilingual after-school program located in the South of Market District in San Francisco, where our Youth Mentorship component sends mentors to foster youth of the K-8 grade levels, every day.

PASS has been working diligently all semester to provide its services to students—both at Berkeley and statewide. We could not be any more proud of the work we've been able to produce; undoubtedly, all of it would not have been possible if it weren't for our awesome interns and the great support we receive from the Pilipin@ and *bridges* multicultural communities at Cal. If you have any questions with how to get more involved with PASS, contact [pass.ext.relations@gmail.com](mailto:pass.ext.relations@gmail.com) or visit the PASS website at [pass.berkeley.edu](http://pass.berkeley.edu)



## PASO 2011: Discovering Potential

By Richard Tallungan and Alyson De La Rosa

Pilipin@ American Student Orientation (PASO) is an event hosted at the beginning of every Fall Semester. PASO is hosted by PASS in collaboration with the other UC Berkeley Pilipin@ organizations: kapwa, {m}aganda, Partnership for Pre-Professional Pilipinos (P4), Pilipin@ American Alliance (PAA), Pilipino Association for Health Careers (PAHC), and Pilipino Association of Scientists, Architects, and Engineers (PASAE). PASO offers a mere glimpse into the Pilipin@ community on campus for incoming Freshmen and Transfer students.

This year's PASO was coordinated by the Assistant Director of Retention, Katrina Dollaga, and the Co-Pilipin@ American Student Orientation Class Coordinators, Kristenne Abalos and Drina Sarsoza. Over 100 students partici-

Participants were also fortunate to hear from keynote speaker, Barbara Jane Reyes, award-winning poet, UC Berkeley Alumni and former {m}aganda staff member. Entertainment included dance performances by PCN Modern and Traditional Folk, as well as spoken word pieces by a few students.



Community Photo at PASO 2011

ated in several academic, interest, and resource workshops and were able to learn more about different majors, classes, student groups, and student services offered on campus.

PASOC (Pilipin@ American Student Orientation Class) is a class offered during the Fall Semester to aid in the transition to Cal for incoming freshmen and transfer students. PASOC provides a safe space, a de-stressing environment, and a place to foster new friendships. The students in the class this semester have learned the importance of utilizing available and forming a family at Cal. The small class of 14 students learned to share their stories, bond outside of class and build relationships beyond the PASOC environment.

## Op-ed: A PASS Internship Experience

By Diana Duong

Right from day one as an intern, I knew that the PASS space was extremely a welcoming one. I was accepted as part of the PASS family even though I was Vietnamese and not Pilipina. Through PASS, I learned how to interact with people who may or may not be similar to me in culture, language, opinions, etc. PASS challenged me in ways that made me find what I want to do in the next four years of my life. I was not placed

into a component of PASS that was a strength of mine, which is Public Relations.

I never had an issue interacting with others but being the Public Relations intern, I would need to work with Photoshop and be creative.

I never used Photoshop or did marketing in my life before. However, I received the utmost support from the entire PASS staff while I experimented with Photoshop and website up-



dates. PASS challenged me in a way that not improved myself as an individual but I'm able to take the skills I learned from PASS and bring it to the larger API community through my other involvements.

With my first semester here at Cal coming to its end, I found that with PASS, I learned something valuable that I will take with me for the rest of my life: to stand up for what I believe in. As I stood in the crowd, having to leave the

General Strike rally early, I looked up to Savio Steps and saw the bright faces of the Pilipin@ community standing up there fighting for what they believed in, fighting for what is right, higher education for all. As I hear the words, "Isang Bagsak", standing there I finally understood what those words meant. Through PASS, I learned how to be politically active, to fight what I believe in and most importantly, what it means to be a community.

## Striving with Youth Mentorship

By Richard Garcia

Since 1985, PASS has been established to address the educational concerns of Pilipin@ students in pursuit of higher education. Today, PASS continues to support this mission through efforts of the Youth Mentorship (YM) program currently coordinated by Valerie Afroilan. The YM program recruits and trains UC Berkeley students to mentor at Galing Bata, an after-school bilingual (Tagalog and English) education program that serves K-8 students who attend Bessie Carmichael Elementary and the Filipino Education Center (Bessie Carmichael Middle School).

Bessie Carmichael is a Title I school which works with students from underprivileged backgrounds—1 out of 5 students live in transitional housing (i.e. shelters, overcrowded living condition), 3 out of 4 students qualify for California's free and reduced lunch program, and 50% of the students are English Language Learn-

ers. The Youth Mentorship program is able to provide resources that would not otherwise have been given to these students, such as one-on-one mentorship and activity plans to expose students to new experiences.

Unfortunately, the California budget crisis has had a huge toll on Bessie Carmichael students and the after-school program itself. This year, Galing Bata's funding was combined with YMCA's after-school program also on the Bessie Carmichael site. Consequently, the K-1 grade levels were cut from the Galing Bata program and the students left no longer have access to the funding they used to use for field trips.

Despite many difficulties, Galing Bata continues to strive to provide for their students and have looked into multiple ways to make up for the lack of funds. Namely, on November 10th, 2011, the Filipino American Development Foundation (FADF) celebrated Galing Bata's 10-year an-



Kids at Bessie Carmichael Middle School with Mentor Jashley Paguio

niversary and sold dinner and raffle tickets in an effort to raise money. And additionally, the GB parents have been meeting with SFUSD district commissioners and conversing with administrators to get K-1 back.

If you are interested in also making a contribution to Galing Bata or want to find more ways to get involved with the Youth Mentorship program, please email Donna-Jo Pepito at [pass.ext.relations@gmail.com](mailto:pass.ext.relations@gmail.com) or Valerie Afroilan at [youth.mentorship@gmail.com](mailto:youth.mentorship@gmail.com) for more information. Any help would be greatly appreciated.

## Recognizing and Celebrating Filipina Womyn

By Elizabeth J. Medrano

It shouldn't take a holiday like Thanksgiving to understand or realize the importance of certain people in our lives. This thought occurred to me as I entered PASS's 3rd General Meeting: Recognizing and Celebrating Filipina Womyn.

During this general meeting, my eyes were opened to a number of issues currently affecting Filipinas, that I was never fully aware of before. For example, in one staff-led discussion, the room got a chance to talk about the struggles facing overseas Filipina workers. Problems such as be-

ing separated from families, having to say goodbye to loved ones, fighting to maintain relationships, and facing loneliness in foreign countries were brought up.

Another part of the meeting particularly made an impact on me - a video entitled "The Empowered Filipina". In this video, powerful and successful Filipina womyn discussed such things as common misconceptions about Overseas Filipina Workers, but focused especially on the great value and importance, as well as the strong work ethic that these womyn have, despite all the circumstances and

obstacles that some must face.

The meeting wrapped up with a presentation on successful Filipina womyn throughout history. Seeing and learning about all these womyn inspired me; it made me value my place here at UC Berkeley. This meeting showcased and encouraged the empowerment of Filipina womyn and made me feel stronger and more passionate about succeeding in school and in my future endeavours.

## FED Shadow Weekend

By Richard Tallungan

FED Shadow is one of the several Shadow programs that PASS holds during the academic year and this year was organized by Co-High School/Transfer Outreach & Shadow Coordinators Wayne Jopanda and Lorraine Mosqueda. FED Shadow was a weekend of learning, cultural empowerment, and lots of fun. This year we had the pleasure of having high school students from Hayward, Stockton, and Salinas. The selection of schools is based on the percentage of Pilipino representation and the API scores of each respective high school. The students were selected through an application process based on personal essays and other factors such as leadership and campus involvement. The

weekend entails workshops on applying to colleges, learning about Pilipino culture and history, and the life-style of being a Cal student. The students also get to experience dorm life and the infamous all-you-can eat college food in the dining commons.

The highlight for the weekend was Filipino Empowerment Day (FED): Culture Shock, which was designed to educate and empower students and their families through academic, cultural, and political awareness. This event could not have happened without the collaboration of UC Berkeley PASS, UC Davis Bridge, UC Santa Cruz FSA, CSU East Bay PASA, USF Kasamahan, and SFSU Alpha Kappa Omicron, SFSU Kappa Psi Epsilon, SFSU Chi Rho Omicron, Cal Poly San Louis Obispo PCE, SFSU PACE, Stanford PASU, Sandiwa, and Anakbayan Silicon Valley.

Overall, the weekend was

a success! We thank everyone who was able to make it out and hope to continue to have your support for future years to come. If there are any questions on how to get involved please contact the Shadow Coordinators at [pass.shadow@gmail.com](mailto:pass.shadow@gmail.com).



"Incredible experience learning about my culture, balancing partying and school, and more about Cal. I am so proud to be Pilipino!" - Ronnie Diez (HS Senior)

## Meet PASS Staff 27

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