Welcome to the Spring 2014 issue of PASS It On, the newsletter of Pilipino Academic Student Services. This caters to PASS members, community members and alumni by showcasing events, stories, and pictures from the Spring semester.

So what’s in this issue? First, highlights from PASS programs. The Filipino Identity and Decolonization (FIAD) DeCal, taught by the Advocacy Coordinator Ley Cerezo, was a great learning and reflective space for those involved. We had several retreats this semester, most notably Spring General Retreat and GSAC Retreat. It was also an eventful semester for SHADOW and Outreach, with SHADOW Games volunteers hosting high-school students in the Berkeley campus and outreachers empowering students across Central California about paths to higher education. Additionally, the Youth Mentorship (YM) program held its own SHADOW Day, inviting 3rd-5th graders from the Galing Bata After-school Program. Last but not the least, Senior Weekend, a 3-night program inviting students of color to see Berkeley, saw a record number of attendees this semester.

Besides PASS programs, there are also testimonials to the internship experience from the "Kan1nj4s." Also detailed is their successful Intern-Run General Meeting titled “SurPASS.” We’ve included an alumni spotlight to highlight PASS alumni, particularly the facilitators of the Spring General Retreat, and a statistics portion that details numbers related to PASS programming.

Happy Reading!

Raphael Bernabe
External Relations Coordinator

Ley Cerezo
Advocacy Coordinator

James Work
Director of Recruitment

Alyson De La Rosa & Jan Bautista
Pilipino American Student Orientation Co-Coordinators

Dovi Mae Patino
Director of Retention

John Perez
Gender & Sexuality Awareness Coordinator

Jan Kirby Zabala
Finance Coordinator

Benedict Llave
High School and Transfer Outreach Coordinator

Edgar Geronimo Yap
SHADOW Coordinator

Antoinette Abellar
Youth Mentorship Coordinator

Svea Joaquinio
Public Relations Coordinator

Janelle Bautista
Director of Student Affairs and Advising

Raphael Bernabe
External Relations Coordinator ('13-14)

Svea Joaquinio
Public Relations Coordinator ('13-14)
Hello everyone! My name’s Ley Cerezo and I’m so happy to have served as the advocacy coordinator for PASS this academic year of 2013-2014. This spring the advocacy component continued the tradition of executing a Filipin@ political issues class, where the Filipin@ Identity and Decolonization DeCal worked to bring awareness of the contemporary issues Filipin@s and Filipin@ Americans face in society, as well as to contextualize those issues within a history of imperialism and consequent resistance. In doing so, the class also aimed to reveal and affirm the interconnectedness of identities and struggles, whether relating to gender and sexuality or diaspora and education. Many of us involved in the class gradually came to share our personal stories and reflect on interactive activities throughout the semester – from a game simulating the oftentimes arbitrary nature of immigration policy to a magazine collage activity in which we reflected on our ideas of beauty and their relation to racism and other forms of patriarchy. I’m so proud of all that we learned from each other and about ourselves through our time together this spring - take a look below at a few students’ final reflections on the class and see for yourself!

“My goal for this school year was to get in touch with my Pinay identity even at the cost of neglecting my gender and sexual identity. Thankfully, I was able to address all three at once. The community that I’ve found in PASS, PAA, Biyuti and even this DeCal has helped me immensely to realize and understand how my identity shapes me, my views, and my entire journey up until University of California Berkeley and I am so amazingly grateful. This class definitely played no small role. I was able to meet new people and friends, hear different perspectives, see how a Pilipinx identity changes based on one’s geography and so on, and I definitely discovered a lot about myself and my history.”

Sylara Cruz

“From capitalism to queerness to immigration, there have been many topics that we have covered over the semester in this DeCal. One thing that was hard for me to see, however, was how everything we have learned related to one another. It all changed during Tita Joi’s lecture on the tenth week of class. Not only was her lecture very interesting, but also for the first time I finally understood the importance of decolonization and realized its complexity. Not only have I learned a lot from this one lecture, but it has also sparked a newfound interest in my cultural heritage and ethnicity. I feel excited to take a Pil-studies class in the future, especially one taught by Tita Joi.”

Jerrold Acdan

“Ultimately, I find information like this (decolonial legacies personalized through family history) to be a powerful tool for inspiring one to learn about their culture. Prior to coming to Cal I had a hard time conceptualizing or understanding my Filipino identity in conjunction with my passion for social justice. I am really happy this class has afforded me the ability to invest in myself in ways I have not before while still striving for a more equitable holistic world to live in. It is truly inspiring and amazing to be able to personalize this kind of history. For me, to juxtapose and my personal history with the theoretical work I want to ground my community organizing in, is precious — and I am so, so grateful and happy for the ability to learn and grow in this Decal space.”

Oliver Zerrudo

“Philippine history and its relationship with America was [an] aspect of the class that I enjoyed. I got to see how the effects of Spanish colonization and American imperialism still has a resounding effect on the lives of Filipinos, here and abroad — and not to mention how it affects my life and of my family’s. I’m able to make more sense of the issues I sometimes hear about from my father, who works at the Philippine Consulate in Los Angeles. Also, it was fascinating to apply my experiences from my recent trip to the Philippines to the history that we’ve learned in class.

“Overall, I’m really glad that I decided I joined FIAD. I think what I benefited most from the class is all the connections that I’ve made with my classmates. In contrast to how I felt at the beginning of the semester, which was a bit lost in a routeless university, I now feel a sense of community. And through what we have shared with other in our sessions, I feel that I’ve made a long lasting relationships with people who are genuine and understand me!”

Lauren Lim
On March 7-9, 2014, PASS held its annual General Members Retreat in Bodega Bay. I vacillated between participating to an out-of-town retreat and just staying at home in Berkeley because most of the retreats I had attended in the past were mentally and emotionally taxing. I have not been actively involved with PASS this academic year and this being my last retreat, I did not want to miss the chance to say farewell to the space and to the community that had welcomed and befriended me when I first transferred to Cal more than two years ago.

Eric Carnaje and Maribeth Charvet facilitated the retreat, two PASS alumni who continue to amaze and serve as inspirations to the organization. They took the time out of their busy schedule to share their insights and experiences with the PASS community. While there was not an established theme, the purpose of the retreat was to reflect, to refresh, and to renew the members’ commitment to the space. The organization had undergone some challenges and internal changes in the past year that it needed to step back in order to heal and revitalize its sense of community.

Suffice it to say, I was glad that I participated because that weekend retreat was one of the highlights of my semester. Personally, I thought the weekend retreat was merely a chance to get away from academics and break free from the hustle and bustle of the Berkeley campus. Little did I know, I was in for a weekend of honest reflection, self-discovery, and community healing.

I was ecstatic to see “old” friends but more elated to meet new faces, from interns to new members, because they brought fresh perspectives and outlooks. I enjoyed playing games such as Mafia, “tong-its” and “pusoy dos.” Indeed, “the organization that plays together, stays together.”

After the first workshop, I instantly felt a strong camaraderie with my fellow retreat participants. I also liked activities such as “Identity Circles” and the “I Am” poem. It was not easy being vulnerable and sharing my own struggle and identity in front of 29 other folks but I felt strong connection with them that confiding became less daunting. The PASS retreat allowed me to reconnect and rekindle my relationship with the space. It has been more than a month since that weekend but I still think of the memories and the friendships fondly.
SHADOW GAMES

When I was selected to be a SHADOW intern this semester, I didn't have the slightest idea as to what I should expect. Until the Shadow Games, I didn't even know what SHADOW stood for – both literally and figuratively.

I couldn't sleep the night before, I was too excited to meet these students whose personalities I was already invested in after repeatedly reading their responses to our program application questions. One of the questions was “What are your dreams and aspirations?” Most of the answers were so simple: to be happy, to be a leader, to get an education, to give back to their family and their community. I hadn't even met them yet and they had already re-inspired me and I couldn’t wait to get to know them better.

Day 1 started of well as it began with pizza, ice-breakers, student-mentor bonding and then the workshops. A couple weeks prior, Edgar had asked me if I wanted to create and facilitate the leadership workshop. I couldn't believe that, even though it was my first semester interning for PASS, he trusted me with an entire hour to have a direct impact on the attending students. The concept and practice of leadership was so dear to me, personally, and I wanted to make sure I made that one hour as effective as possible.

I included an educational presentation, an activity that gave the students an opportunity to get creative while applying concepts, and a more serious, reflective activity. I finished off the workshop with a personal story – I knew if I were an attending student, that would be the greatest impact on me. I wanted to make sure that every student left that workshop believing that they had the capacity to go out in the world and make a difference, no matter how large or small.

At the end of the program, I was so overwhelmed with the students’ responses to our program and their mentors. Not only did they express how much fun they had with the games and the scavenger hunt, but they also really took to heart everything they learned over the weekend about their identity, their potential, the value of hard work, and the importance of pursuing higher education. As everyone shared goodbye hugs with their mentors and other students they had formed new friendships with, students approached me and thanked me for sharing my story, inspiring them, and for expanding their perspective. I received similar messages over the next week, including one that simply said “Thank you for everything. I won’t forget.”

I could not have predicted that the Shadow Games would be the most fulfilling weekend I spent at Cal thus far. I was so thankful to be part of such an intimate experience where I had the opportunity to act as a mentor and to contribute to the motivation and determination of this group of high school students, even if it was in the smallest of ways.

INTERN-RUN GENERAL MEETING

On April 22, the PASS Spring 2014 interns, otherwise known as the Kan1nj4z, held their much-anticipated intern run general meeting. Our theme SurPASS invited our attendees to commemorate and reflect on the school year that they have had at Cal and as part of the Pilipin@ community. Initially, some of us were just fledglings that embarked on a new journey in college as first year students. Others may already be walking the stage in a month.

In any case, Surpass was a reflective theme, focused on thinking about everyone's accomplishments and goals that have been achieved this year. From this semester alone, the Pilipin@ community faced a huge problem when Senior Weekend, Pilipino Cultural Night, and ASUC campaigning were put into the same weekend. Not only that, everybody has had their own struggles during this year and yet, a lot of us surpassed those dilemmas and obstacles.

The intern run general meeting consisted of two workshops, which facilitated reflection and discussion on how each one of us has accomplished our goals and how we can surpass our expectations for the future. We emphasized the importance of self-love and the value of community.

As an intern class, we applied the skills that we have attained throughout the semester from event planning to workshop facilitation. We want to thank our staffers for their time and support throughout the whole process. Surpass was a perfect way to end the year, allowing the interns to collaborate, the community to commemorate their achievements, and for everyone to reflect.
When I think of Central California, I think of barren land filled with cows and...well, nothing else. That’s why when the topic of Central California Outreach came up, I was a bit apprehensive about joining because I did not think I would enjoy it as much as I enjoyed SoCal Outreach. However, knowing that my plans for spring break were non-existent, I decided to join anyway. I had to realize that I was doing the outreach for the benefit of the students and not for myself; besides, after being empowered during SoCal Outreach, I knew outreaching was something I wanted to do again, and Central Cal Outreach gave me the opportunity to do so.

With fewer schools and less confusing highways, Central Cal Outreach provided more time for the outreachers to relax, retain, and learn more about each other. Not to say that the trip was not stressful at all (it was still exhausting), but having more time to do chemistry homework at Starbucks, play Cards Against Humanity at night, or poking fun at each other with alliterative hashtags definitely made this outreach more enjoyable and memorable. For me, one of the best things that happened during Central Cal Outreach is forming new relationships and solidifying the ones I already had by spending a few days with my fellow outreachers. The smaller number of volunteers provided a more intimate setting where everybody truly becomes acquainted with each other, and I really liked it because I was able to make conversation outside the topic of academia with the students I spent a good chunk of my spring break with.

Participating in Central Cal Outreach has taught me the importance of support. As an outreacher, I believe it is crucial to always let the students know that they are capable of getting into higher education and that they have resources available for them. We are the support system that will provide hope and assistance to the students who need it, and we will still be the support system that will congratulate and even welcome the students when they take their first steps onto the college they will go to.

GSAC Retreat 2014 is one of my highlights of my sophomore year and my biggest accomplishments as the GSAC coordinator. Even though planning it was a challenging task, seeing the folks excited to go to this retreat turned my anxieties into excitement. Even though only ten people ended up going to the retreat (including myself), my co-planners for this retreat – Noel Bullicer and Andre Adricula – and I made quick changes to make this retreat more intimate.

For two nights and two days, we got to spend the retreat at a house in South Lake Tahoe. From the moment we got into the house, I knew this offers a great place to learn and grow from this retreat. The two memorable moments of learning and growing were when we spent some time by the lake and the reflection activity. Going by the lake in a sunny, Saturday afternoon was the best way to unwind from a long day of activities. Some went kayaking, while others just stayed on the sandy shore and soaked up some Vitamin D. I joined the folks that stayed on the shore. In there we talked about how relaxing it is to get away from the stressful life as a student and being able to relax and get to know others more. The other most memorable moment was the reflection activity. In this activity, each of us expressed our relationship with someone dear to us. Seeing others sang, wrote a poem, and shared stories about their love ones empowered and made me reflect with my relationships with others.

Words are not enough to express my experience from this retreat. Certainly from this retreat, I experienced healing, growth, and empowerment. Even though I will not be the GSAC coordinator next year, I will look forward for more GSAC retreats to come.
Angelica: If I were to describe Senior Weekend in a few words, I would say that it is a life-changing opportunity. This year, I had the chance to intern for the Assistant Director of Recruitment and play a personal role in the planning of Senior Weekend 2014. I got to see first-hand the enormous amount of dedication, energy, and time that goes into making Senior Weekend happen. As a former Senior Weekend attendee, I know from experience how important this event is. Like many Filipinos, my parents did not have a complete college education. Money was rough to come by and there were times when I felt that going to college was impossible. After attending Senior Weekend however, I learned not only that college is an attainable achievement, but that there is a community at Cal that will provide the necessary resources and support for me as well as strengthen my cultural identity. From being a participant in Senior Weekend to becoming a part of the committee for the planning process, I’ve learned so much about the importance of college, community, and culture. If it were not for Senior Weekend, I would not be here at Cal and I would not be the strong, educated individual that I am today.

Marvin: If I were to describe Senior Weekend in a few words, I would say that it is an eye-opening discovery. Before I came to the Cal, I did not know what it meant to be Filipino. Even though I was born in Tarlac City, Philippines, I immigrated to the United States when I was only two years of age. Being influenced by American culture and social expectations, I was molded into a regular Americanized teenager who was apathetic of his ethnic background. Going to Senior Weekend introduced me to a lot of history I did not know about Filipinos. Being taught about these struggles and injustices as well as learning about how these struggles were fought and overcome, ultimately reconnected me with my Filipino identity and made me build a powerful passion to have an active involvement in PASS. Because Senior Weekend gave me so much personal growth, I knew that I wanted to intern for the Assistant Director of Recruitment no matter how time-consuming and demanding it was going to be because I wanted to help give the newly admitted students a similarly amazing experience I was given by those involved during my Senior Weekend. If I had not gone to my Senior Weekend, I know that I would probably not have been involved in any Filipino organizations or be introduced into an incredibly supportive community. I would not be the motivated student of color I am today.

As Assistant Director of Recruitment Co-Interns, we gained an abundance of skills and experiences that greatly contributed to our personal growth as leaders in this community. Not only was James an incredible staffer, but he was also a mentor, a friend, and an inspiration that guided us throughout this whole journey with his insight and experience. He taught us so much patience, diligence, and persistence as interns that prepared us for the Senior Weekend journey and for the future.
Senior Weekend opened my eyes to a new perspective on the Filipin@ community and culture within UCB, which made me feel part of a real family.

“[At first] I thought I wouldn’t get accepted to UCB, but now I’m looking forward to be the ate who will give back to a community close to my heart.”

“I learned to be more confident -- not only towards college, but also towards myself.”

“Everyone was really welcoming! I feel excited to hang with all of you when school starts again. We created memories and friendships sure to last.”
Both semesters of my PASS internship were incredible growing experiences for me. I was generally a quiet and reserved student when I first entered college and, in the beginning, thought the best way to go about my college career was to be in my dorm studying, only leaving to eat or go to class, staying in my comfort zone. The best part about interning was that my comfort zone has now become a place I am not comfortable in anymore. I am now always pushing myself further and further away from that warm, cozy, complacent mindset in the pursuit to improve myself and improve the world around me. PASS has helped develop me as a person by pushing me out of that zone time and time again. I have been exposed to history dates I'll now remember, people I'll now honor, and problems that I'll now never ignore. In a surprisingly short amount of time, it has become an organization that is filled with people who I consider colleagues, people who I consider family, and people who I consider will go on to change the world. It was amazing to have spent my first year in a space like that.

RYAN BARROGA

As an individual growing up in a community where there were many Filipinos, it was comforting to know that there were others like myself here at Cal – focused, determined, and hard-working people, all desiring to achieve the greatest of things. Having that common passion between each person allowed me to fuel my own drive. Since I was commuting for all of my first year in college, PASS itself provided a space in which I could feel comfortable. Not only was it a welcoming space, it was also a place where the individuals themselves provided resources, assistance, and guidance. Deciding to intern for PASS has to be one of the most memorable experiences I’ve had thus far; I’ve learned so much more about my history, and was able to apply my prior knowledge of "community" to this space. In addition, without these staffers on PASS 29, I would not be the student that I find myself to be at the end of this semester.

NIKO MARTINEZ

When I interned for PASS, I had no idea what I was going to get out of it nor how much my internship would help me grow as a student and someone who identifies with the Pilipin@ community. As an intern for the Director of Student Affairs and Advising, I have grown to love taking care of the intern class. My co-interns and I make sure that each and every one of the PASS interns are taking care of their mental health and well-being. We check in and greet them, “Good luck!” whenever they have midterms or major assignments due. It’s a small gesture, but I have learned that something this small can mean so much to a person. We try to show them that they are not alone and that if they need any help, whether it’s for retention resources or someone to talk to. We will try our best to make sure that they have what they need. My staffer is also in charge of Pil Grad, which celebrates the retention and accomplishments of the current graduating senior class. My component is just getting started in planning this event, but I’m sure that it will bring me more experiences that I will never forget. I am so glad that I interned for PASS during my first semester. It has helped me grow and it’s given me an entire community and support system that I will cherish even after my years here at Cal.

ERICA PINEDA

When I interned for PASS, I had no idea what I was going to get out of it nor how much my internship would help me grow as a student and someone who identifies with the Pilipin@ community. As an intern for the Director of Student Affairs and Advising, I have grown to love taking care of the intern class. My co-interns and I make sure that each and every one of the PASS interns are taking care of their mental health and well-being. We check in and greet them, “Good luck!” whenever they have midterms or major assignments due. It’s a small gesture, but I have learned that something this small can mean so much to a person. We try to show them that they are not alone and that if they need any help, whether it’s for retention resources or someone to talk to. We will try our best to make sure that they have what they need. My staffer is also in charge of Pil Grad, which celebrates the retention and accomplishments of the current graduating senior class. My component is just getting started in planning this event, but I’m sure that it will bring me more experiences that I will never forget. I am so glad that I interned for PASS during my first semester. It has helped me grow and it’s given me an entire community and support system that I will cherish even after my years here at Cal.
PASS by the numbers
2013 - 2014

OUTREACH
24 PASOC STUDENTS
44 OUTREACHES
over 2,600 outreached students
33 students helped with personal statements
5 students helped with appeals

SHADOW
24 STUDY JAMS
51 senior weekend attendees
over 250+ participants
10 myPASS SHADOWs
2 YM SHADOWs
1 pre-professional SHADOW

3 scholarships provided totaling $1,200

45 SENIORS
PARTICIPATING IN PIL-GRAD

8 biyuti meetings
12 GSAC workshops
Maribeth Charvet
San Diego, CA
Legal Studies & Ethnic Studies

How were you involved with PASS and the Filipino community at Cal?
Pil Community - Proud member of my paamily: SD Hustlers. PCN Modern Co-Director for PCN 2010. P4 intern 2008-2009. Attended everyone’s general meetings back when they were monthly and everyone went (intern-run meetings always had the biggest turn outs). Occasionally stayed at Fi-Comms until 8AM with the Community to support PAHC.

What is your current occupation?
I am currently a Case Assistant at McKenna Long & Aldridge, a national law firm with an office in SF. I summarize court documents and depositions, revise court documents, and help prepare for trial. I love my office because unlike most law firms, mine has several female associates and partners.

I will be starting law school at UC Berkeley Law/Boalt in the Fall. There really aren’t very many Pilipin@s in law school and even less in the top tier, so if you have any questions, feel free to reach out to me! I ultimately want to practice in Civil Rights or Family Law, but I hope to work with Intellectual Property, Contracts, or International Business Law while I pay off all my loans.

Any words of advice for the Filipin@ undergraduate community?
SLEEP. Seriously, ask anyone, my third and fourth years were spent with a chronic cold/flu because I slept maybe 3 or 4 hours each night. You need sleep to maintain a healthy weight, a healthy immune system, and a healthy brain (ask the Psych majors, your brain works on what you studied while you sleep!).

Make friends outside the community - you will need it when you start to feel overworked and jaded. I joined the Berkeley dance community to stay active, relieve stress, and make friends.

USE THE CAREER CENTER. It’s free while you’re a student and you NEED to take advantage of this resource. They will mark up your resume, hold mock interviews, and advise you on all these tidbits you can’t get from the internet. And it’s right across the street from campus, so instead of Netflix, take the 30-45 minutes to better prepare for that Post-Grad job hunt.

How were you involved with PASS and the Filipino community at Cal?
I was first exposed to PASS and the Pil-community through Senior Weekend and decided to stay involved throughout my four years at Cal because of the great experience I had with it. I interned with PASS over several semesters and at one point, took a break from the community to explore other organizations and pursue other interests of mine. After missing the people and the empowering work the community did, I came back and joined staff during my junior and senior years as the Youth Mentorship (YM) Coordinator and as the Assistant Director of Internal Affairs (ADIA), respectively.

Additionally, I was a Cal Student Orientation (CaSO) Counselor and student representative on the Student Health Advisor Committee (SHAC). Although these involvements weren’t directly linked to the Pil-community, I always brought my Pilipino identity and experiences into the work that I did. I felt it was important to have representation (of students of color) when welcoming newly admitted students to campus and a voice within decisions relating to the university health center services and resources available to undergraduates and graduates.

What is/are your current occupations?
I currently serve as the sole Undergraduate Advisor in the Department of Anthropology at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) where I provide academic and career guidance for more than 900 undergraduate students pursuing a degree within Anthropology. I coordinate several departmental functions such as the Informational Open House, the Graduation Ceremony, and New Student Orientation and Welcome Events. Although I wasn’t an Anthropology major at Cal, I love what I do now, and I enjoy empowering my students to follow their passions and utilize the many resources available to them on campus.

Starting August 2014, I will be attending the University of Vermont where I will be working towards an M.Ed. in Higher Education and Student Affairs (HESA). While there, I will also be working as the First Year Experience (FYE) Coordinator in the Office of Student Life. Initially, I thought I wanted to be a teacher after graduating, but I came to realize that the work I did with PASS and the Pil-community was something I could both academically and professionally pursue.

As a queer, Pilipino-American, my hope is to share more of the bodies and stories of queer Pilipino-Americans (and that of People of Color) throughout college campuses while creating positive educational reform for younger generations.
Congratulations to PASS 30

Special thanks to...

EXTERNAL RELATIONS INTERNS
Abigail Balingit, Carl Lacsina, Kathleen Baluyot, Reine Ruiz, & Dome Lupac

PUBLIC RELATIONS INTERNS
Leo Colobong, Steven Piasecki & Kate Masancay

PASS STAFF 29
and all who contributed to PASS It On this year!
Pilipino Academic Student Services is committed to the recruitment and retention of Pilipin@s into higher education.