



## **SYSTEMS PLUS COLLEGE FOUNDATION**

**NATIONAL AMERASIAN RESEARCH INSTITUTE (PROV)**

**210 Osborne Road, Albany, New York 12205 USA**

**Tel: USA (518) 438-3538 \* Philippine CP# 011-63-949-631-3092**

**E:Mail: [DrK@AmerasianInstitute.org](mailto:DrK@AmerasianInstitute.org) or [pkuts001@waldenu.edu](mailto:pkuts001@waldenu.edu)**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE #2012-01, Monday January 16, 2012**

### ***Systems Plus College Foundation, Philippines, Offers First “Social Work Practice with Amerasians” Course in History; Instructed by U.S. American Social Worker, Researcher***

**ANGELES CITY, Pampanga, Luzon, the Philippines** – An accredited “Social Work Practice with Amerasians” course believed to be the first of its kind in contemporary history launched during the 2012 semester at the College of Social Work, Systems Plus College Foundation (SPCF) in Angeles City, Luzon, the Philippines – location of probably the highest concentration of mixed ancestry US military sired Amerasians in East Asia. The pilot course is taught by Dr. P.C. “Pete” Kutschera, PhD, LMSW, a New York social worker, social science researcher and Visiting Professor at the college. His 266-page doctoral dissertation, “Stigma and Psychosocial Risk and Core Mental among Amerasians in the Philippines: A Multiple Case Study,” from the College of Social and Behavioral Studies, Walden University, Minnesota, USA was published in 2011.

The 12-week long course will be expanded in the 2012-2013 winter-spring semester according to Dr. Paulo O.J. Fuller, DPhil, University at Oxford and Dean of the SPCF College of Social Work. Dr. Fuller invited Kutschera to join the faculty and lecture at the college and subsequently opened the elective course to all social work students at SPCF; currently over 30 students are enrolled. The U.K. academic said the likelihood of future social workers encountering Amerasian clients in clinical practice “is probably quite high.” There were an estimated 6000-8000 Amerasians – biracial or mixed heritage offspring of U.S. servicemen, DOD employees or defense contractors and native Filipina mothers abandoned, estranged or orphaned when the former U.S. Clark air force base closed here in late 1991. Numerous other permanent U.S. military installations were withdrawn in 1991-1992; as many as 50,000+ Filipino Amerasian military progeny were reportedly stranded in the Philippines then.

The multi-media crafted course begins with a study of Amerasian social history and US military prostitution dating from the Spanish-American (1898) and Philippine- American War (1899-1902) through the neo-Colonial and Cold War era. Included are lectures from Dr. Kutschera’s published thesis which holds that more than half of 16 African (Black) and Anglo (White) Amerasians intensively interviewed and observed from 2007-2010, through qualitative case study methodology experienced severe levels of anxiety, depression or stress. The symptomatology was shown to be influenced by stigma-related risk and mental stress factors including loss of the father, homelessness or impoverished living conditions, low income, inter-generational Amerasian family dysfunction, drug and alcohol abuse, identity confusion, social isolation and other factors. Many Amerasians reported being called *Azkals*, or “street dogs,” and *basura*, or garbage, because of skin color, facial features, hair texture or personal demeanor dating from their earliest life memories.