



## SYSTEMS PLUS COLLEGE FOUNDATION

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### ***The Myth of All Filipino Amerasian Mothers as Prostituted Women vs. Realities and Facts Research Paper to be Presented at 20<sup>th</sup> New Zealand Asian Studies Society NZASIA 2013 Conference in Auckland 22-24 November***

**AUCKLAND, New Zealand** – A case study research study and paper which the head of the Philippine Amerasian Research Center (PARC) maintains “puts a revolutionary new perspective” on the myth that most mothers of military Filipino Amerasians were professional prostitutes or sex workers has been accepted for presentation at New Zealand’s 20<sup>th</sup> Biennial NZASIA 2013 Asian Studies Society Conference at the QS World University Ranked (83<sup>rd</sup> in 2013) University of Auckland in November. P.C. “Pete” Kutschera, PhD, LMSW, Director of the Angeles City, Luzon, Philippines-based PARC, is lead author and presenter of the paper entitled, “*Military Filipino Amerasian Motherhood: Stigma, Stereotypes and Realities.*” Dr. Kutschera said the notion that most mothers of Amerasians are prostitutes or sex industry laborers “has never been empirically examined or seriously researched, much less confirmed.” The paper to be presented “will sound the clarion call that serious academic and evidence-based study needs to be commenced in order to square the record. We have serious and significant anecdotal and solid preliminary testimony that a substantial number of Amerasian children born to U.S. military personnel, including both uniformed servicemen and government and private corporate military contractors and Filipina national women, were the result of normal ‘boy-girl’ or ‘man-woman’ social relationships. The recurring and venal stereotype that all mothers were prostitutes,” Dr. Kutschera maintained, “was and remains the tap root of some of the most severe stigmatization, discrimination and stress brought against military Amerasian progeny by mainstream Filipinos and foreigners including U.S. American citizens residing in the Philippines. It is unrelenting stigma and shame which negatively affects Amerasians’ lives to this day.”

The paper will outline case studies of how three military Amerasian mothers and their essentially fatherless children were left to fend for themselves after the U.S. closed huge, long-standing military installations, including the Subic Bay naval complex, Olongapo-Zambales, the sprawling Clark air base, Angeles-Pampanga and the Crow Valley Gunnery and Bombing Range, Tarlac, and reassigned troops from central Luzon in 1991-1992. This occurred after the Philippine Senate opted not to ratify an extension of the 1947 Military Bases Agreement. PARC, a special, independent research unit formed at Systems Plus College Foundation (SPCF College) in Angeles, Pampanga, projects that there are between

200,000-250,000, and possibly more, first and second generation Filipino Amerasians alive today in the Philippines. This figure is well beyond the “unscientific and never demographically confirmed estimate of 50,000 Amerasian children left abandoned in Luzon in the early 1990s when the bases were shuttered,” Dr. Kutschera related. The PARC revelation was presented in a study paper at the prestigious Ninth ICOPHIL (the 9<sup>th</sup> International Conference on the Philippines) at Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI, USA last October; the paper maintained the population of remaining Amerasians in the Philippines is so significant it qualifies for definition as a diaspora.. The latest Amerasian paper is co-authored by Dr. Marie A. Caputi, PhD, Contributing Senior Faculty, College of Social and Behavioral Sciences, Walden University, Minneapolis, MN, USA, and Prof. Mary Grace Talamera-Sandico, a Faculty in the Department of Social Work, Don Honorio Ventura Technological State University, Bacolor, Pampanga, Luzon, the Philippines.

The case studies include a mother who was a former professional prostitute who bore several mixed-heritage (African and Anglo) children from different racial partners; the second was a temporary sex laborer working on the periphery of the Angeles entertainment industry; the third was a non-sex worker mother who had an Anglo Amerasian child with a U.S. enlisted airman and faced the challenges of running an impoverished, solo parent household. “This comparative case analysis advances the argument for more empirical studies on the actual number of prostitutes contrasted with peripheral or temporary sex laborers and non-sex industry mothers,” Dr. Kutschera stated. The paper’s abstract (summary) maintains, “This critical distinction is vital, given that the U.S. government dismissed a major class action suit (*Acebedo vs. U.S., 1993*) after weighing the Navy’s claim that the preponderance of most Filipino Amerasians were children of prostitutes engaged in illegal conduct. As such, all Amerasians were ineligible for meaningful U.S. medical service, child support, education and human services. This questionable decision affected the marginalized lives of thousands of military Amerasian descendants and continues to reverberate throughout the Philippine archipelago today,” the study abstract relates.

Academically ranked as one of the Asia Pacific region and world’s top research institutions, the University of Auckland this year hosts the 20<sup>th</sup> biennial conference of the New Zealand Asian Studies Society known as the NZASIA Conference. It will be the fifth time the University has hosted NZASIA since the inaugural event in 1974. Auckland city, with a population of 1.5 million, ranks near Toronto, New York, San Francisco and Sydney as one the world’s culturally diverse cities, with large communities of Asian, Pacific Island and Polynesian heritages. For more information about the NZASIA 2013 Conference visit [www.nzasia.org.nz](http://www.nzasia.org.nz).

SPCF College is located inside the fabled AMO (Angeles, Metro Manila and Olongapo) Amerasian Triangle in west Central Luzon, a region believed to contain the highest concentration of military biracial Amerasians in East/Southeast Asia. Other Pan Amerasian populations of various sizes reside in Guam, Japan, Micronesia, Okinawa, South Korea, Thailand, Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam. PARC was organized in December, 2011 by the SPCF College board of directors and has a research partnership and collaboration agreement with the Albany, New York, USA-based Amerasian Research Network, Ltd. - a non-profit NGO officially registered with the New York Office of the Department of State.

NZASIA 2013 will be hosted at the University of Auckland's School of Business located at the Owen G. Glenn building. In addition to the NZASIA 2013 presentation - under SPCF-PARC sponsorship - Dr. Kutschera, Dr. Caputi, Prof. Talamera-Sandico and Prof. Jose Maria G. Pelayo III, SPCF Social and Psychological Research Director and PARC's Deputy Director, collaborated on various Filipino and Pan Amerasian research papers presented at 4 other major conferences in 2013. These included the ICEASS 2013 (International Conference on Education and Social Sciences), Singapore, in September, 2013, the Annual International Meeting of the Asia Association of Global Studies in Bangkok, Thailand and the International Online Conference on Multidisciplinary Social Sciences, Sydney, Australia, both in March, 2013, and the International Pursuit of Justice Conference, hosted by the Gonzaga University Law School and Institute of Hate Studies in Spokane, WA, on the US West Coast in April, 2013.