



SYSTEMS PLUS COLLEGE FOUNDATION

MacArthur Highway, Balibago, Angeles City, Philippines 2009

PHILIPPINE AMERASIAN RESEARCH CENTER & AMERASIAN RESEARCH NETWORK, Ltd.

210 Osborne Road, Albany, New York 12205 USA

Tel: USA +1-518-438-3538 - Philippine CP# +45-929-338-0284

www.AmerasianResearch.org or www.AmerasianInstitute.org

E:Mail: pkuts001@waldenu.edu or DrK@AmerasianResearch.org

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Fourth Iteration of Filipino and Pan Amerasian Undergraduate Degree Course Underway at Luzon's System Plus College Foundation in Angeles, Pampanga

ANGELES, Pampanga, Luzon, Philippines -- The only college on the globe known to be offering an accredited undergraduate course devoted primarily to the study of the military Filipino and Pan Amerasian human phenomena and diaspora has entered its fourth year in the school's curriculum. Systems Plus College Foundation (SPCF College), a private, non-sectarian undergraduate/graduate level computer technology, engineering, liberal arts, nursing and hotel restaurant management college in west central Luzon is located inside the fabled *AMO (Angeles, Manila and Olonpapo City) Triangle*, believed to contain the highest number of abandoned U.S. military Amerasian offspring in E/SE Asia. Dr. Edgar G. Galang, Vice President for Academics and Research and Dean, College of Arts and Social Sciences, said for the first time the current version of the course contains students from both the College's social science and political science as well as social work departments. "The course now has a more eclectic bent because it has combined aspects of Asian, Filipino and U.S. history and those aspects of it which led to the creation of the Amerasian diaspora, as well as the health care perspectives of clinical and generalist social work practice," Dr. Galang related. "We are excited about being able to continue to offer this course in the virtual heartland of the Filipino Amerasian diaspora. The college is committed to opening new vistas in all its major study areas and this is one we are hopeful the outside world will really pay attention to."

As outlined in an education research paper entitled, "*Formulating Mental Health Treatment Paradigms for Military Filipino Amerasians: A Social Work Education Challenge*," presented at the International Conference on Education and Social Sciences (ICEASS 2013) conducted 14-15 September 2013 in Singapore by the Taipei, Taiwan-based Higher Education Forum, the course syllabus was developed by Dr. P.C. "Pete" Kutschera, Director of SPCF College's Philippine Amerasian Research Center (PARC) and a Visiting Professor at SPCF College's Department of Social Work since November, 2011. An international journal article on the same subject was published in January, 2014 by the California, U.S.A.-based *U.S. China Education Review, Part B*. Both the Singapore conference paper and the *Education Review* journal article were co-authored by Dr. Kutschera with Fort Lauderdale, Florida, U.S.-based Professor Dr. Marie A. Caputi, College of Social and Behavioral Sciences, Walden University, Minneapolis, Minnesota and

Professor Jose Maria G. Pelayo III, PARC's Deputy Director and an SPCF Psychology Faculty member and Research Center Associate. The original course, first launched in the 2011-2012 fall-winter semester as a one-credit pilot and then converted to a three-credit elective, essentially provided a geo-political, social history and generalist and clinical/psychiatric social work synopsis of historical, socioeconomic, psychological and mental health issues confronting military Amerasians. The syllabi study materials include Dr. Kutschera's three year-long doctoral dissertation field study (2007-2010) on socioeconomic and psychosocial risk and stress issues facing at risk Filipino Amerasians and readings of 10 international research conference/symposia papers and six journal articles SPCF-PARC has published on the topic since its formation in December, 2011. Another reading staple is Stanley Karnow's history of U.S. – Philippine relations written in 1989 entitled, *In Our Image: America's Empire in the Philippines*.

Military Amerasians in the Philippines, when all first and second generation age levels are included, are believed to number in excess of 250,000 today. The abandoned progeny of U.S. military servicemen (mostly from air force, marine and navy branches) including private corporate military contractors and federal government employees, were born in the archipelago dating to the U.S. colonial and Commonwealth occupation, the World War II Era, to creation of the Republic of the Philippines (1898-1946). Their birthing continued through the Cold War- Vietnam American War and bases withdrawal eras (1946-1992) to the present. Although most unofficial or non-scientific estimates placed the number at 50,000 children and adolescents in 1991-1992 when the Philippine Senate rejected renewal of the RP-US Military Bases Treaty, Dr. Kutschera said preliminary projections now peg the number between 200,000-250,000+. A seminal PARC research paper accepted and presented at the October, 2012 ICOPHIL-9 Conference (International Conference on the Philippines) at Michigan State University, asserted the numbers are so large Filipino Amerasians should have been classified as a special Diaspora population decades ago.

Dr. Kutschera asserted that the course has "immense value to health care provider and social science students in the Philippines because it deals with issues of biracial and mixed-blood conflict, friction and strife in the archipelago and such human conditions are expanding in the islands." Recently the PARC director and Dr. Galang jointly wrote a paper entitled, *"No Way Out: The Tragic Transnational Sexual Exploitation of the Philippines"* with a futuristic view of the topic. The paper, which Dr. Kutschera presented November 21, 2014 in a "keynote" address at the Asia Pacific Conference on Business and Social Science (APCBSS-2014) in Taiwan, the Republic of China, maintained that U.S. forces in the Philippines established military prostitution enclaves "as a form of troop control and force protection" which substantially contributed to the birthing of the neglected Filipino Amerasian diaspora. These prostitution enclaves later either converted or led to sex tourism formation which formed the basis for Japino, Kopino and Chipino children similarly abandoned in the islands today by Japanese, South Korean or Chinese tourist, commercial class and itinerant fathers. The course has immense implications for exposing the exploitative and onerous conduct of major world powers of the Trans Pacific Region who have hoisted socioeconomically and impoverished minority classes on a neighboring and in some cases military ally nation-state – the Philippines – a vulnerable nation-state that simply cannot afford such intrusions," Dr. Kutschera related.

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