



SYSTEMS PLUS COLLEGE FOUNDATION

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For Immediate Release: (PR#2015-03) Wednesday, July 15, 2015

Philippine Amerasian Research Center and System Plus College Foundation (SPCF College) Close Fruitful 4-Year Academic Affiliation in Angeles, Pampanga

ANGELES, Pampanga, Luzon, Philippines - The independent non-profit Philippine Amerasian Research Center, Inc. (PARC) announced today "with great reluctance but much gratitude and pride" it is ending a nearly 4-year long academic affiliation and research collaboration with the private, non-sectarian Systems Plus College Foundation (SPCF College). It was during this affiliation, which formally commenced in November, 2011, that SPCF College, with the research and curriculum development assistance of PARC, offered the first known *Social Work Practice with Amerasians* undergraduate course in either East/Southeast Asia or the U.S. mainland.

The course was officially sanctioned by the CHED - the federal Philippine Commission on Higher Education - in late 2012 after a staff visit to the then College of Social Work. A total of four iterations of the course were offered by the SPCF College/Department of Social Work, each winter semester, during academic years 2011-2015. The development and implementation of the course curriculum was reported in detail in a 2014 edition of the scholarly U.S.-based journal *U.S. China Education Review - Part B*. It was also outlined extensively in an research paper presented by PARC Director Dr. P.C. "Pete" Kutschera, PhD, at the International Conference on Education and Social Sciences (ICEASS-2013) September, 2013 in Singapore. The conference article was recently listed in the voluminous education research data base - ERIC - of the U.S. Department of Education. The piece may be accessed through the URL link: <http://eric.ed.gov/?q=Amerasians+&id=ED557929> or <http://amerasianresearch.org/pdf/YYCertICEASS2013ParadigmPaper.pdf>

PARC Director Kutschera also held the title of college Visiting Professor. He related that during the 4-year SPCF College run the PARC published original, evidenced-based research on military Filipino Amerasians in six international scholarly research journals and presented academic papers at nearly a dozen international research conferences in East/Southeast Asia, Australia and North America. "We are particularly grateful to college benefactor Rodolfo V. Jao and college executives President Lourdes R. Bustamante, Vice President Happie L. Bustamante, Sir Francis R. Bustamante, Vice President for Academics and Research and College of Arts and

Social Sciences Dean Edgar G. Galang, former VP for Academic Affairs L. Vicente Tago, former Social Work College Dean Paulo O. J. Fuller, Social Work Department Chair Corazon Briones and Professor and Research Associate Jose Maria G. (Jay) Pelayo III for their tremendous support."

"This Amerasian question is not an easy piece. It is controversial. It is stigma-provoking. It is geo-politically provocative and dangerously harmful to a great many deprived, betrayed and suffering human beings. It takes courage for an education institution in the Philippines - and in Angeles, Pampanga particularly - to put themselves on the line and stand with this particular brand of research," Dr. Kutschera stated. "We at PARC and its Board of Trustees will forever be thankful to this college and its leadership for giving us a home when we first came here searching for a home. And foremost we must thank and praise the more than 50 social work, liberal arts and nursing undergraduates who took the *Social Work Practice with Amerasian* course over the last four winter semesters - they are our heroines and heroes. We hope in their professional careers ahead they may make a difference, save the life or alleviate some of the suffering endured by our forgotten, neglected and deserving military Filipino Amerasians."

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