

FONDO QUISQUEYA



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Computer Training Tops Recent Grants

by Jennifer McGowan, Tajhesha Howard,
Tricia Price

FONDO QUISQUEYA awarded several scholarships for computer courses this spring. Each award was in the neighborhood of \$200 to \$250.

PCV sponsor Tajhesha Howard (Batey San Luis, Distrito Nacional) writes to tell us that scholarship recipient Fausto Jimenez Mendoza recently enrolled in his first computer class (Windows 98) at the *Centro de Tecnología Universal* in Santo Domingo. Fausto lives just outside of the capital, in the *batey* where Tajhesha works. He has worked for 6 years as a *técnico* with the NGO CEPAC.

"Fausto attended his first day of class on July 6th, 2000. I visited Fausto that same evening and asked him how his class went. Fausto broke into tears and told me he always dreamed of studying but never had the time or resources. He said also that he'd never stop studying. Fausto, who well understands the importance of education, also shares his story with other youths who grew up in the same unfortunate circumstances he did, giving them hope and aspiration."

Tajhesha also says that "this has been one of the most satisfying and exciting projects I have done so far. Fausto and I both thank Fondo Quisqueya from the bottom of our hearts for your thoughtfulness, consideration, support, and dedication."

PCV sponsor Tricia Price (Azua) writes to tell us of the progress of Yulissa de Leon Pérez, who began a computer course in June. "Yulissa has just started the computer course and is still learning the basics, but over the course of the year she will learn everything from word processing to Internet use . . . skills that will help her get a good job when she finishes her education. She and I both really appreciate the opportunity Fondo Quisqueya is giving her."

Diolany Rodriguez, sponsored by PCV Wendy Lechner (who has since ended her service), was visited by Jennifer McGowan, a Fondo Quisqueya volunteer in Santo Domingo, and tells us that "Diolany, who is from Bani, travels to Santo Domingo on Sundays to attend her computer class. Diolany wanted to study computers to improve her skills and work in an office in Bani, but she has two small children that she must take care of during the day while her husband works. On weekends, given that she is a 7th-Day Adventist, she attends to her religious responsibilities on Saturday, which leaves Sunday as the only day available to study. Courses are not offered on Sunday in Bani, but Diolany located a school in Santo Domingo where she could study on Sunday. Fondo Quisqueya has offered Diolany the opportunity to attend a school that she would otherwise not be able to attend, and still maintain her home, take care of her children, and be true to her faith."

Ramon Guerrero to Receive Leadership Prize

by Jess Stone

RAMON GUERRERO of Paravia Province was selected unanimously to receive the Andres S. Hernandez Leadership Prize. The Leadership Prize, commonly called the "Andy Prize," honors Andres ("Andy") Hernandez, the first Peace Corps director in the Dominican Republic. The award of US\$2,000 recognizes past leadership which produces positive social benefits. The cash for the award is the interest earned on an account dedicated to support this prize. Fondo Quisqueya was instrumental in collecting contributions to establish the Leadership Prize Fund for the Andres S. Hernandez Foundation. As the initial recipient, Ramon Guerrero was recognized for his leadership, which began in the early 1960s when he organized the first 5 D club in his province and began aiding Peace Corps Volunteers in their work. He has helped Peace Corps Volunteers from the first group to the present day.

During the past four decades, Ramon Guerrero has sought to learn better farming techniques and to teach modern farming to his neighbors, and to aid the Peace Corps in helping volunteers resolve communities' felt needs, thereby helping to improve the lives of all Dominicans. At present, Guerrero is researching and teaching organic farming as a means to improve food quality and reduce farming costs.

The Andy Prize will be awarded to Guerrero this Fall, when Dominican President Hipolito Mejia will participate in the award ceremony. Fondo Quisqueya members and others interested in Dominican affairs will be notified by electronic mail as to the exact date and location of the award ceremony.

Contributions to the Andy Prize may be made through Fondo Quisqueya or the Friends of the Dominican Republic (which recently undertook sponsorship of the award) or the Andres S. Hernandez Foundation.

PROGRESS REPORT — Angela Karina Martinez Tejada

HOSPITAL PATIENTS in San Jose de Ocoa are enjoying an extra boost to their recovery in the person of Angela Martinez Tejada. Angela is the volunteer nurse with the infectious smile and smart white uniform with teal trim pictured in the photograph below. She is putting into



practice the new knowledge she is acquiring in her nursing courses at the National Nursing Center (*Centro Nacional de Enfermeria*). She is taking both theory and practical courses in basic nursing and the medical/surgical and mother and infant cycles. She writes about her enthusiasm for nursing and conveys her thanks for the scholarship that has allowed her to study to become a nurse. Her goal is to provide loving assistance to people that need help. We hope to hear more from Angela as she finishes her studies and continues her nursing work. Can anyone doubt that she is already a favorite with the staff and patients in San Jose de Ocoa?



Update on David Polanco — 1994 Fondo Quisqueya Grant Recipient

THOSE OF YOU who attended the 35th anniversary will remember scholarship recipient David Polanco, the young man from Altamira who received \$RD3,900 from Fondo Quisqueya in 1994. The scholarship was David's only chance to further his education at that time. As an outstanding student recognized on both regional and national levels, David had done his best to take advantage of the free public education available in the community. As a graduate from the local high school but with no economic possibilities to continue his education, David spent most of his time in the streets searching for work to support himself and his family. He decided to apply for a scholarship for a computer course to help him gain practical skills, which also would increase his marketability.

Fondo Quisqueya funded the course and David began his classes. Months later, the local district office became interested in David and offered him a job that paid him approximately RD\$3,000 a month teaching a 1st grade class in a rural community outside of the pueblo.

David saved his earnings and began studying for his teacher's certificate at the Normal School in Santiago in 1966. Today, after completing his studies, David Polanco is certified by the Ministry of Education and by the Normal School as a teacher of primary education. This is just another reminder that a little "help" can go a long way.

Friends of the Dominican Republic Host Annual Meeting in Arizona

THE FRIENDS OF THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC (FDR) held their year 2000 Annual Meeting in Tucson, Arizona in June. Approximately 50 people attended the four-day gathering organized by Herb Trossman. In addition to the meeting, one evening was spent at the home of Sherry Teachmor, who exhibits and sells both Dominican and Haitian art from her home. Another evening was spent at the home of Herb

Trossman, for a cookout and pool party. Sight-seeing in the Tucson area also was an item on the agenda for many of the RPCVs and Friends in attendance.

A number of new program areas was discussed at the Annual Meeting.—among them a PCDR history and photo exhibit project. Andy Hernandez offered to support this project, with a \$1,000 gift to the FDR. Other program areas explored included sister cities between Dominican and American towns and links with the "Pedals for Progress" program that ships bicycles to the DR and other developing countries.

For more information about Friends of the Dominican Republic: to join or to contribute to programs, please see their Web site:

www.fotdr.org.

New Officers Elected at Year 2000 Annual Meeting

PRESIDENT MINOR ANDERSON called the Annual Meeting to order at the home of Tom and Sue Gittins in Falls Church, VA on May 21, 2000. The big news at the meeting was the turnover of the presidency from Minor Anderson to Roberta (BJ) Warren. Minor has led Fondo Quisqueya since well before FQ gave its first grant in November of 1988. Minor has taken a new job in Miami and will continue to serve on the Board from there.

The terms of five Board members were up: BJ Warren, Gene Lane, Bill Threlkeld, Dennis Zaenger, and Marda Mayo. The Board had lost track of Marda for some time (we have since found her!), so Marda's former Board slot was left vacant for the time being, while BJ, Gene, Bill, and Dennis were all re-elected.

The new slate of officers is as follows: BJ Warren will serve as the new president. Anne Ternes is the new vice president, Carrie Meyer is the new secretary, and Lou Ferrand will continue as Treasurer.

New PCDR Director Attends the Festivities

Anita Friedman, the Dominican Republic Peace Corps Director designate, attended the Annual



Jerry Dupuy (DR-I), with Jack Hood Vaughn, former Peace Corps Director and first head of the Peace Corps for Latin America, discuss a development project in the Dominican Republic at the Arizona meeting.

Meeting and met the FQ Board. Anita is a founding member of the Friends of Paraguay, and she has been working in grassroots development for 17 years—mostly in Latin America. She has worked with Partners of the Americas, the Inter-American Foundation, and at PC headquarters.

Treasurer's Report

LOU FERRAND presented a Treasurer's Report at the Annual Meeting and again at the FQ Board's July 2000 meeting. The FQ has approximately \$9500 in the U.S. available for grants and an additional \$1000 in the DR. In FQ's endowment fund (invested with Vanguard), there is about \$18,750.

Total income for the time period between the 1999 and 2000 Annual Meetings was \$11,677.58 (including a generous contribution for \$7500). Total expenses were \$17,764.35 (including \$1584.37 in grants, a transfer to FQ's Endowment Fund of \$1593.00, and newsletter expenses, etc).



Angel Lara, former DR PCV, Andy Hernandez, first Peace Corps Director in the Dominican Republic, and Fondo Quisqueya President Bj Warren at the Arizona Annual Meeting.

FQ donated \$14,000 for building materials and supplies to rebuild 10 schools in the Hato Mayor area after Hurricane Georges. Individual grants given out during the year included several for computer courses and one for a chofer course.

Plans to Upgrade Information Sharing

FONDO QUISQUEYA decided at the July 2000 meeting to investigate options for a new Web page—one with a more memorable address. The current Web site may be viewed at www.geocities.com/Rainforest/6844/. We are in need of a new Webmaster! If you would like to volunteer your services, please drop us a line or e-mail Dennis Zaenger: dzaenger@yahoo.com.

It also was decided that a grant application form would be prepared to help provide FQ with more consistent information about each grantee and their sponsor. Alternatives for better follow-up tracking of grant recipients also will be investigated.

Editor's Corner

MANY THANKS to Jennifer McGowan in the Dominican Republic for helping us to pull together the stories and pictures for this newsletter, and to the volunteers who sent in updates. A special thanks to Duncan Campbell for volun-



Fondo Quisqueya's current Board of Directors

First row, l. to r. - Anne Ternes, B. J. Warren, Lou Ferrand, Bill Threlkeld. Second row, l. to r. - Gene Lane, Carrie Meyer, Dennis Zaenger.

teering his time to produce the newsletter. The production assistance provided by Anne Ternes also is greatly appreciated.

Please send your comments and suggestions to Carrie Meyer, cmeyer@gmu.edu.

Stay Tuned!

◆ **September 20-23, 2001**—The Peace Corps is planning to celebrate its 40th anniversary in Washington, DC. Fondo Quisqueya plans to hold a social event in conjunction with the anniversary celebration here in the nation's capital.

◆ The Fondo Quisqueya Board voted to celebrate the 40th Anniversary of the Peace Corps in the Dominican Republic by holding its year 2002 Annual Meeting in Santo Domingo. The date is set tentatively for Martin Luther King's birthday weekend, January, 2002. FQ currently is coordinating the planning of the event with Friends of the Dominican Republic.