

FONDO Quisqueya



Volume 4

Spring, 2001

No. 1

From The President's Corner...

It was with great sadness that I learned of the passing of Carolyn (Doc) Payton, former Washington Peace Corps Director and former field selection officer for many DR Peace Corps groups. I remember many, many discussions with her over the merits and strengths of the various trainees going into the DR when I was on the DR PC staff. Her calm wisdom interspersed with great wit was always a welcomed addition. On a personal note, I can attest to the fact that she also was a very fine poker player. I was glad that I had an opportunity to have lunch with her about three weeks prior to her death. She was in fine shape; her wit had not dulled with time. She was indeed a great lady and will be greatly missed.

We were doubly hit in the Fondo family as we also mourn the loss of one of our Fondo Q board members, Kristen Fiske. Kristen was a delightful addition to the board for many years. She always livened our meetings and had attended one of our recent meetings, pitching in to get out the mailing of the Fondo newsletter, despite being weakened from disease and several surgeries. Please see accompanying articles on these two wonderful people who gave so much of themselves. I was truly touched by the dedication of both these fine folks.

On a happier note, Fondo Q has recently given grants to Dominicans studying computer science, basic education, nursing and chauffeur courses. There are write-ups in this newsletter on some of the most recent scholarship awards. It is amazing how just a little assistance with some education and

training can really change people's lives. I want to thank each and every one of you who continue to contribute time and money to make these scholarships possible. We are a totally volunteer operation. Our only costs have been for postage and the printing of this newsletter. We fold, staple, sort into bulk mailing order, and deliver the newsletters to the post office.

We are currently looking for new board members. We are delighted to announce one new board member, Sara Padilla, a recently returned PCV from the DR. See the following article for more background on Sara. Because of our hands on approach, it would be best if board members live in the greater DC area. If anyone out there feels a calling to serve, please drop me a note at our Fondo address. The upcoming annual meeting and elections will be Saturday afternoon, June 2, and we would be delighted if there are those of you who might have some time to serve. Our annual meetings are open to all. We will have the meeting and a picnic at Tom Gittens's house in Falls Church, Va., beginning at 4pm. Address is 6834 Woodland Dr. Tel. 703-532-1781.

This past February, I was pleased to be able to attend the joint FDR/Fondo Quisqueya planning meeting for the next PC/DR reunion. (Yes, it soon will be 40 years since the first PCVs arrived in the DR.) FDR (Friends of the DR) invited the National Peace Corps Association to have their board meeting in Santo Domingo at the same time as the first non-virtual, in-person meeting for the FDR board. It also was the first time that the National Association held their meetings in a current Peace Corps country. Anita Friedman, current DR Peace Corps Director was very supportive of the idea of a 40th reunion. **Mark your calendars for February 14-18, 2002.** At the back of this newsletter is a mailer to let us know if you are interested in attending the reunion so we can see how much interest there is. This newsletter includes articles about the first Andy Hernandez prize awarded at this conference in the DR as well as a description of the ceremony where the President of the DR awarded Andy Hernandez the medal of Duarte, Sanchez, y Mella. Andy was the first DR PC Director.

All the best,

BJ Warren

◆ IN LOVING MEMORY ◆



Kristen Fiske

February 23, 1948 - April 17, 2001



Kristen Fiske, a cherished Fondo Quisquoya board member from 1993, passed away on April 17th after a period of illness. Characteristically engaged in a mind-stretching pursuit until the end, Kristen finished a crossword puzzle in the company of her sister and having bested the crossword, quietly slipped away.

Born and schooled in Richmond, Virginia, Kristen received her undergraduate degree from American University. She served as a PCV in the DR in the late 60s and then traveled throughout Latin America. While in Ecuador, she married Baldomiro Martinez, a Spanish citizen, and lived in Ecuador and then Spain for many years, taking an MA from the University of Madrid, teaching in a Montessori school and later, a school for children with learning disabilities.

Upon returning to the D.C. area she worked as a translator and was an active volunteer with the Teatro La Luna and the public libraries in Arlington, Virginia, with Fondo Quisquoya, and the Smithsonian. She was a devotee of theater, museums, and cultural events. Blessed with a wry wit and a gift for quick, humorous observations, she leavened many a meeting and working session of the Fondo Q board. Her clear sighted, practical observations, steady participation, and generous spirit will be sorely missed.





◆ IN LOVING MEMORY ◆



Carolyn Robertson Payton

May 13, 1925 - April 11, 2001



A dear friend and former director of the Peace Corps, especially loved by the RPCVs of DR XI, died shortly before Easter this year. Many former Peace Corps staff and volunteers have very affectionate memories of Dr. Payton and three of these, Ruth Saxe, Ellen Yaffe, and Anita Botti, spoke movingly at her memorial service. The service, held at the Howard University Chapel on April 17th, 2001, combined the reflections of family members, Howard colleagues, Peace Corps friends, and a representative of the American Psychological Association. Each expressed the greatest admiration for 'Doc's' forthright persistence in the pursuit of what is right, intense regard for just treatment for all, and utter disregard for bureaucratic foolishness, each of the preceding frequently characterized by an apt anecdote recounted with humor and loving affection. The eulogy below admirably profiles 'Doc' Payton's career in public service, teaching, mentoring, counseling and as a loving family member and friend.

Carolyn is especially missed by the RPCVs of DR XI, 1964-1966. She participated as the field assessment officer during volunteer training at Camp Crozier, Puerto Rico, where a footbridge built by DR XI trainees was dedicated "el Puente Payton" as a mark of great affection and regard. A 1964 picture of Carolyn urging trainees upward during rock climbing is included below.

Carolyn's niece, Nickole Scott-Conerly, reflected lucidly on the family's sentiments saying that they had regarded 'Teen' (family nickname) to be immortal and her death was a great shock. A great many of us saw her as bigger than life and we are much, much saddened at her loss. —Anne Ternes, DR XI



"IF WE DO NOT DO IT, THEN WHO WILL?"

Daughter - Sister - Aunt - Leader - Mentor - Friend

Carolyn Robertson Payton was born in Norfolk, Virginia, on May 13, 1925, the youngest daughter of Bertha and Leroy Robertson. She departed this life at her home in Washington, DC, on April 11, 2001.

She was a graduate of the public schools of Norfolk and received her Bachelor's degree in Home Economics from Bennett College, Greensboro, North Carolina, in 1945. After graduating in 1948 with a Master's degree in psychology from the University of Wisconsin, Madison, Carolyn took a position at Livingstone College in Salisbury, North Carolina, where, as the only psychologist on the faculty, she gained vast experience teaching a broad variety of psychology courses. She also served as a professor of psychology at Virginia State College in Petersburg, Virginia. She later became Dean of Women and psychology instructor at Elizabeth City State Teachers College in Elizabeth City, North Carolina - a position that involved both teaching and student personnel administration. She continued her studies, and in 1962 she received the doctoral degree in counseling and student administration at Columbia University.

After completing her coursework for the doctorate degree in 1959, Carolyn accepted a position in the Psychology Department of Howard University in Washington, DC. While at Howard, she taught child, abnormal, and experimental psychology and conducted research on the perception threshold of verticality in rhesus monkeys.

In 1964, Carolyn accepted a position as field assessment officer (FAO) for trainees preparing to serve in the newly-formed Peace Corps. In 1966, she went to Barbados to become the Peace Corps' Deputy Director for the Eastern Caribbean region. The following year she became the Director of that post. During her tenure, Carolyn was one of only two female country directors.

Dr. Payton enjoyed a long and distinguished career encompassing public service, research, academia, and counseling practice. Her public service with the Peace Corps led to her being appointed Director of the United States Peace Corps by President Jimmy Carter, (the first woman and the first black to hold that position). Her career in academia culminated in her eighteen-year tenure as Dean for Counseling and Career Development and Director of the Counseling Service at Howard University.

Throughout her long career, Dr. Payton served on American Psychological Association (APA) committees dealing with ethics, bias and sex role stereotyping in psychotherapy, women, gay concerns, and policy and planning, as well as on various journal editorial boards. She had a lifelong commitment to equality, justice, and inclusion and lived out her belief that all people are of equal worth.



In 1982, Carolyn received the American Psychological Association's *Distinguished Professional Contributions to Public Service Award* for her promotion of "world understanding through cross cultural interactions." In 1985, she received the *APA Committee on Women in Psychology Award* as a Distinguished Leader for Women in Psychology, which honored her "extraordinary influence on cross-cultural understanding in her work settings, in APA, and internationally." In 1997, Dr. Payton was the recipient of the *APA Award for Outstanding Lifetime Contributions to Psychology*. The award stated that her "dedication to using psychology to promote better cross cultural understanding and to end social injustice by influencing the political process has made [her] a leader in the field."

She is survived by her beloved sister, Jean Robertson Scott; her niece, Dr. Nickole Scott-Conerly, her husband, Ditalian, and their son, Carrington; her nephew, Donn Scott, his wife, Romesa, and their children, Donn Jr., Danelle, and Darryl; Marjorie Scott, widow of her nephew, Sterling L. Scott, and their son, Sterling; her devoted cousin, Gerard Flanagan, and his wife, Connie; her aunt, Vivian Robertson; and a host of other relatives and friends. She also leaves behind her loyal canine companion, Sarafina.

Carolyn Payton will be remembered as a mentor, role model, humanitarian, dedicated family member, and friend. During her life she influenced the futures of thousands of people. Because of her personality, warmth, and caring nature, both young and old found comfort in her presence. She leaves behind a little of herself in each of us who knew her.

Dr. Payton's graduating class at Bennett College established a scholarship fund as a mark of their regard for her achievements. Persons wishing to contribute to this fund may write to: Carolyn Payton Scholarship Fund, Bennett College, c/o Sandra Johnson, 900 East Washington, Greensboro, N.C. 27401.

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Carolyn Payton, trainee Jackie Bataglia, and a member of the training staff contemplate the rock climbing process of DR XI trainees.

NEW GRANT PROFILES

Basic Computer Training

Sugeli Herrera Burgos
Adalgisa Gomez Burgos

Arroyo Chico, Samana
 PCV - Stephanie Hackenburg

Fondo Q is noting the strong interest among Dominican young people to improve study and employment prospects through gaining computer skills. Sisters Sugeli, a highly motivated fifteen year old, and her sister Adalgisa, 18, are taking a series of three courses that will give them word processing and internet use skills. Sugeli, currently in the 8th grade and a very good student by all accounts, has her family's support to strive for college. Her computer skills will help her in school and in gaining part-time employment as she studies. Adalgisa, recently married, is keen on improving her secretarial skills to merit better jobs and pay. Starting in January this year, the sisters commenced traveling 30 km to Samana for their classes.

Fondo Q is supporting tuition and travel expenses and looks forward to receiving an e-mail from the sisters telling us about their coursework and prospects for using their skills.

Driving School

Juan José Pérez Guerrero

La Monteria, Bani
 PCV - Sandra L. Beddawi

Juan José is eager to qualify for a driver's license to enable him to accept new employment and support his new family. A seventh grade education led Juan José to work in a series of the ever-present corner "colmados", with little chance to gain new skills and improve his situation. After living in Santo Domingo, Juan José returned to La Monteria and made the acquaintance of Sandra Beddawi, who feels that this small step up will add to Juan's self-esteem and employability.

Fondo Q has supported the driving school tuition and the cost of the driver's license. We anticipate a photo of Juan José at the wheel with his driver's license in hand.

Driving School

Hector Franklin Rodríguez

La Monteria, Bani
 PCV - Sandra L. Beddawi

Franklin left school after the 9th grade, a victim of insufficient family resources. He moved with his cousins to Santo

Domingo, working in the "colmados" and becoming an aficionado of the trumpet along the way. Franklin is anxious to improve his income-generating capacity by getting his drivers license through the Escuela de Choferes "Rey" in Bani. He will return to the capital to work and in his free time will continue to improve his skills with the trumpet. Franklin's family encourages him with his plans; his father is a member of the Asociación Pro-Desarrollo in La Monteria.

Fondo Q is paying the tuition for the driving school and the cost of getting the license and looks forward to a photo of Franklin at the wheel.

Nurses Training

Marta Corporán

Cambita Los Toros, San Cristóbal
 PCV - John S. Dunn



Marta Corporán is a very active and accomplished nineteen year old. She is a new mother of a 9-month-old boy, and she graduated from high school last spring after working hard to raise funds to pay for the graduation ceremony. She also is an officer of her community's Junta de Vecinos de Los Toros. The Junta is currently building a rural clinic and an aqueduct and completed concrete floors on two classrooms. Marta's goal is to take nurses training so that she can improve local standards of health and contribute to her family's income that derives solely from farming. Marta will employ her considerable energies to a one-year nursing course at the Universidad Eugenio María de Hostos in San Cristóbal.

Fondo Q is paying for inscription, tuition, and exams and Marta is covering the transportation costs of three weekly classes. Marta's picture is attached and at the end of her course we look forward to seeing her working at her profession.

Basic Teacher Training

María Coronada Sánchez García

Las Terrenas, Samana
 RPCV - Carol Frelich
 PCV - Alicia Saredegas

María, a single parent with two daughters, nine and five, has been working steadily for two years to finish a degree in Basic Education that will allow her to teach at the elementary school level. Her employment as a secretary at the local public hospital in Las Terrenas ended with a change in



local officials, which left her at risk of not being able to complete her final three semesters. Her former employer joined RPCV Carol Freilich in recommending her highly as a self-starter, enterprising, and energetic woman in pursuit of her studies and caring for her children.

Fondo Q is providing a portion of her tuition and materials support for two semesters and will consider the final semester subsequently. We will follow María's progress with interest and anticipate a progress report for a future issue of the newsletter.

Basic Computer Skills

Santa Manzanillo de la Cruz

Batey Yabacao, Santo Domingo
PCV - Tajhesha Howard

Santa Manzanillo is a young mother who has worked side by side with PCV Tajhesha Howard as a community development worker. She pursued community work with patience and diligence, becoming a local role model. During her childhood, Santa, the eldest of six, was in charge of the daily care of her siblings. Despite a number of absences due to her responsibilities, she persisted in her studies and was able to graduate from high school. Santa desires to continue her studies at the Centro de Tecnología Universal, to acquire basic computer skills that will make her more competitive in the work place.

Fondo Q is supporting tuition and transportation costs and anticipates receiving a progress report from Santa using her new word processing skills.

Basic Computer Skills

Association of Parents and Friends of the Educational System

Los Miche, Dajabón
PCV - Michelle J. McBriar

In 2000, the parents association of Los Miche carried out a community survey assisted by PCV Michelle McBriar. Two salient problems were detected - 80% illiteracy among children 14 years and below and 75% among adults, as well as general malnutrition. Showing considerable energy, the association worked with a local non-governmental organization to start a carp and tilapia farming venture in a local lagoon. Protein from the harvested fish will enrich childrens' diets. The educational deficit of the community's children and adults is the problem currently being addressed.

The local two room school is limited to classes up to the third grade. A six kilometer walk along an unsafe road has proved a strong disincentive to most families with regard to their childrens' continuing education. Working in concert

with local teachers and Michelle McBriar, the association is establishing a modest resource center of books and materials in Los Miche. The center will be used to work with teachers in devising new teaching materials for local children as well as for the adult literacy students.

Fondo Q is providing funds for the purchase of materials for the resource center. In a future newsletter we hope to feature a picture of the association in action together with a report on the activities of the resource center.

TWO OUTSTANDING LEADERS RECOGNIZED DURING BOARD MEETINGS IN SDQ

Fifty former Peace Corps Staff and Volunteers who served in the Dominican Republic and other countries attended two special board meetings in Santo Domingo this past February. They were attending board of directors meetings of the Friends of the Dominican Republic and the National Peace Corps Association. BJ Warren, Fondo President, attended this conference representing Fondo Quisqueya. Part of the activities were to begin planning for the next DR reunion to be held Feb. 14-18, 2002. (Please fill out the form in this newsletter if interested in more information on this activity.) This upcoming event will be sponsored by Friends of the Dominican Republic (FDR) and Fondo Quisqueya.

The two leaders recognized in special ceremonies held in Santo Domingo during this conference were Dominican Ramón Guerrero and American Andrés Hernández.

Andrés S. Hernández - For his work in promoting individual initiative and positive social leadership in helping people help themselves, the Dominican President Hipólito Mejía awarded Andrés S. Hernández the Duarte-Sánchez-Meja Medal, the highest honor that the Dominican government can bestow.

President Mejía recognized Mr. Hernández at a ceremony at the National Palace, February 2, 2001 in Santo Domingo. Hernández, an American citizen, was appointed by President John F. Kennedy to establish the first Peace Corps program in the Dominican Republic. President Mejía celebrates the 40 years of successful Peace Corps service and collaboration with the Dominican people.

Andy arrived in the Dominican Republic in 1962 and created a very successful program with over 300 Peace Corps Volunteers working before he was transferred to Guatemala in 1964, where he had been a Community Development Organizer prior to being hired by the Peace Corps. His earlier work in Guatemala was with the Rockefeller group. After his Peace Corps service ended, Hernández worked for USAID and retired as Mission Director of USAID in Guatemala.

Ramon Guerrero - The Andrés S. Hernández Foundation, Inc. announced the winner of its first annual Leadership Prize. Ramon Guerrero of Paravia Province, Dominican Republic, was awarded the \$2,000 Leadership Prize at a reception held at the U.S. Peace Corps Offices in Santo Domingo, D.R., on February 3, 2001.

Mr. Guerrero has been instrumental in organizing 5-D Clubs (the Dominican equivalent of 4-H clubs in the U.S.) for over 40 years. He sees these clubs as a practical way of disseminating modern agricultural methods as well as a community based instrument for community development.

Mr. Guerrero led the first Rural School Construction Project using adobe as the chief building material. Over the years he has championed and taught the use of adobe as a practical material for low cost construction projects in a tropical locale.

The Peace Corps Volunteers, from the very first to arrive to the current volunteer stationed in the province, have had Mr. Guerrero as a guide, helper, collaborator, mentor, and most especially as a friend who cares for others. This trait is perhaps the most significant element in Mr. Guerrero's leadership style.

Currently, Mr. Guerrero is studying and practicing organic farming. He seeks to maximize quality of organically grown produce while seeking to minimize production costs.

The Andrés S. Hernández Foundation, Inc. is a nonprofit corporation that uses tax-deductible contributions to fund the annual Leadership Prize. The Prize seeks to reinforce the importance of local grassroots leadership for improving local conditions and for promoting democratic community development guided by local concerns and needs. Former Peace Corps Volunteers who served under Andrés established the Foundation.

Since the Peace Corps started on March 1, 1961, over 161,000 Americans have served in 134 nations around the world. The National Peace Corps Association (NPCA) is the major national organization for those past volunteers, and has its headquarters in Washington, DC. For more information on the NPCA, visit their Web site at www.rpcv.org/index.cfm.

The twin meetings held February 1-4, 2001, were organized by the Friends of the Dominican Republic, an American non-profit corporation of former Peace Corps Volunteers and staff who served in the Dominican Republic. Over 3,000 Americans have served in the Dominican Republic since 1962. For more information on the Friends of the Dominican Republic, visit their Web site at www.drfriends.org/. The NPCA is sponsoring the 40th Peace Corps Anniversary in Washington, DC on September 20-23, 2001.

Donations to the Andy Hernández Fund may be made out and sent to:

Andrés S. Hernández Foundation Inc.
c/o Jess Stone
2434, 14th St.
Lewistown, ID 83501

SARA PADILLA
NEW FQ BOARD MEMBER

FQ recently filled a board vacancy with an energetic RPCV fresh from the DR. Sara lives in Falls Church, Virginia and has written an excellent summary of her Peace Corps D.R. experience. Read and enjoy!

My name is Sara Padilla. In September 2000, I completed my Peace Corps service working as a community health educator (Child Survival Extensionist) in the Dominican Republic. My original site was el Llano de Jayaco, a beautiful agricultural community comprised of 50 families. The people of el Llano subsist primarily on rice and tobacco farming and limited vegetable gardening. There is limited electricity in some of the houses and no running water, although an aqueduct had been constructed in 1992 and public taps are located throughout the community. I completed a diagnostic health survey in el Llano and conducted home visits with the local health promotoras.

After five months, I moved to a barrio on the outskirts of Baní, a large, hot, dry semi-urban town located in the southwestern part of the island. While towns are more developed than the countryside, my neighborhood does not have running water and also enjoys very limited electricity. While in Baní, I designed, organized and facilitated a series of HIV/AIDS prevention education and training workshops for students, teachers and health promoters. The workshops taught participants to conduct educational activities in their own communities or schools using basic resources. For example, we did condom demonstrations using Coca-Cola bottles or plantains and theatre to deliver the message. Also, I provided leadership for a series of basic nutrition charlas designed to educate community members in family nutrition, giving special emphasis to pregnant adolescents and adults.

As most RPCVs will understand, I participated in "un poco de todo" throughout my service. I bathed in rivers, ate boiled yucca and drank strong sugared coffee, relaxed in rocking chairs, had several cats and rescued a puppy I found abandoned on the beach that I called Playa. I battled mosquitoes, rats, and tigueres (aka the men on street corners who drive the motorcycles and attempt to attract you with romantic lines from the latest merengue songs or obscene marriage proposals) on a daily basis. Finally, I made incredible friends and fell in love. I am glad for the oppor-



tunity to participate and support the work of PCVs serving in the Dominican Republic, host country nationals, and Fondo Quisquiza, and look forward to meeting other RPCVs and hearing your stories.

LETTERS

Fondo Q received the following letter from Anne Robson-Dice, DR RPCV, 1990-92. The letter included a contribution for education grants and the photos on this page.

Dear Fondo Quisqueya,

Hello! In May 2000, I took my 2-year-old daughter to my site of Los Cocos de Jaragua near Santiago. She had a lot of fun with the children and the animals.

During our visit we bought many Dominican souvenirs such as coffee, music, and artwork to raffle off during our annual PCV reunion of volunteers that served in the D.R. from 1990-92 to raise some money for Fondo Quisquiza. It was our 7th Annual Memorial Day weekend reunion in Ocean City, N.J. John came from as far as California and Melissa from Seattle.

We had a lot of fun and laughs during our Dominican "rifa" to raise a few funds for you.

Keep up your good work.

Sincerely, Anne Robson-Dice



The two-year old daughter of Anne Robson-Dice, DR RPCV, during a return visit to Los Cocos de Jaragua.

Fondo Q is very appreciative for the enthusiastic support of the 90-92 volunteers. We hope that some of you will make the Peace Corps 40th anniversary celebration in D.C. in September so we can thank you in person.

OJO

Fondo Q and Friends of the D.R. have set the dates for the 40th Anniversary of the Peace Corps in the Dominican Republic. Mark your calendars for February 14-18th, 2002 and start checking for those bargain airfares. We will have news later on the hotel, schedule, and so forth. Send us word of your interest by checking the box on the form at the end of the newsletter and we'll send news periodically. Please give us your e-mail address as we are working to improve our web page and will also use the internet to post news on the 40th Anniversary events in the D.R.

2002



DR RPCV, 1990 - 1992 enjoy their 7th Memorial Day weekend reunion in Ocean City, New Jersey.