



From the President's Corner

Greetings,

Many congrats to three new Fondo board members who were elected at the recent board meeting held at Tom Gittins home, Randy Adams, Rik Laird, and Bob Tafelski. (For bio information see the article in this newsletter.)

It was also such a treat to see so many PC and Dominican friends at the reunion celebrating 40 years of PC in the DR this past February and I am also looking forward to seeing many folks at the 40 plus one reunion in Washington DC, June 20-23.

The DR conference was a joint effort by the Friends of the DR, Fondo Q, and the Andy Hernandez Foundation. Hats off to Neil Ross, FDR board members and the DR/ PC staff that did the really heavy lifting in making the reunion a success! Jennifer McGowen, chair of the DR Fondo Q Committee, provided us with a great panel of current Fondo Scholarship recipients and their PCV sponsors. One of the scholarships went to fund a young man so he could take a driver's training course to obtain his chauffeur's license. Another Grantee told us about her computer training courses and how these courses will allow her to help her family and further her career goals. The PCVs who sponsored the Fondo Q applicants told us how they met the grant recipients and how they have seen the impact of the scholarships on them.

I have really enjoyed hearing from so many of you about your trips around the DR and your "home coming" experiences back in your sites. (Some of these are excerpted in this issue) If, in



U.S. Ambassador to the D.R. Hans S. Hertell, sporting his PC/DR reunion t-shirt, congratulates Andy Hernandez on a successful reunion as Friends of the DR President Neil Ross and Peace Corps Director Anita Friedman look on. B.J. Warren thanks US/AID Director Elena Brineman and her staff for her informative presentation.

the course of your travels back to the DR, you happened to come across folks who would qualify for Fondo Q Scholarships, please let either the local DR Fondo Q committee know or write to us at the address on the cover.

I am pleased to report that, thanks to your generous responses, Fondo Q was able to fund all of the qualified scholarship and grant requests from last year. In 2001, Fondo Q received US \$9,801 in contributions, and it distributed US\$11,468 to a record total of 73 grant and scholarship recipients. Our goal this year and in future years is to give out at least US \$10,000 in grants and scholarships, with at least US \$2,500 given out in each quarter of the year.

So far, this year, thanks to pledges received at the reunion conference and other contributions, we have received enough contributions to carry us through the next two of the funding cycles for 2002. If you have not yet sent in your pledge, please do so as soon as possible. In addition, we need contributions from the rest of you to help us meet, and even exceed, our goal of giving out at least \$10,000 in scholarships and grants.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER continued on page 2.....



(from the President's Corner continued)

One other thing we really need is a volunteer to desktop publish our newsletter. If anyone has any time or ideas, please contact me at bjwarren@earthlink.net. The nice thing about the computer age is that the work can be done from any location.

We are counting on you to keep the scholarship fund going and growing. The DR Peace Corps staff is very supportive of the program, and Fondo Q's local DR committee is doing a great job keeping up with the demand. Fondo Q's Washington DC Board donates time to put the newsletter together, stick on the mailing labels, etc. to keep our overhead low; with the exception of these overhead costs and the minimal cost of Fondo Q's new website at www.fondoq.org, the majority of our funds are available for scholarships and grants.

All the best,

BJ Warren

New Board Members

At the FQ annual meeting on June 8th, 2002, admirably hosted by Tom and Sue Gittins, three new members were elected to the FQ board of directors. Brief biographies continue.

Randy Adams is Executive Director of the Rural Community Assistance Program (RCAP), Inc.. Previously, he was an evaluation consultant to the Inter-American Foundation (IAF) and the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS). From 1991 through 1997 he was the Chief of Programming and Training for the Inter-America and Pacific (IAP) Region of the Peace Corps. Earlier, he worked in: management and business education with the Academy for Educational Development (AED); substance abuse curriculum development and nursing research and training with Health Control Systems (HCS); and community-based adult education with the Clearinghouse for Community Based Free Standing Educational Institutions (CBFSEI). Randy also founded a college preparatory program for Puerto Rican Vietnam Veterans at the Catholic University of Puerto Rico, and he began his career as a Peace Corps Volunteer in rural community development in the Dominican Republic in 1966. He has a B.S. in physics from Case Institute of Technology (1966) and a Ph.D. in sociology (social change) from the Catholic University of America (1991).

Richard A. Laird has over 20 years experience as a healthcare executive with academic medical centers, physician practice management corporations, and managed care organizations. Rick currently is a Principal with the Dempster Healthcare Group, a healthcare consulting and physician/nurse recruitment organization located in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Prior to entering the healthcare field, he was a Peace Corps Volunteer in the Dominican Republic and Associate Director of the Peace Corps in Venezuela. He has a Master of Health Administration, University of Michigan; he is a Fellow, Department of Health, Education and Welfare (HEW), and he has a Bachelor of Science, Industrial Engineering, University of Michigan.

Robert D. Tafelski was a member of the DR 11 community development group that served during 1964-1966 where he worked on water supply and irrigation projects with the Agrarian Reform and Community Development offices. Post Peace Corps, Bob worked with Community Development and with Parsons Engineering Company as field hydrogeologist for a Santo Domingo water supply project. For 23 years Bob has served as President and senior hydro geologist for HRS Water Consultants, Inc. - a water supply and water rights engineering firm in Denver, Colo. He has returned to the DR numerous times to work on water supply projects for USAID, the UN, and the Dominican government. He has also worked on projects in Mexico, Guatemala, Haiti, and Honduras for the Nature Conservancy, VITA, and the UN. He is a marathon runner and a founding member of Fondo Quisqueya.



TREASURER'S REPORT

Lou Ferrand, FQ Treasurer

For those of you who haven't yet heard about it, in 2001, Fondo Q gave out a record total of 73 grants and scholarships totaling US\$11,468. In that same 12-month period, Fondo Q received US\$9,801 in contributions from more than 70 donors.

Fondo Q's goal is to give at least US\$10,000 each year in grants and scholarships. So far, in 2002, we have given 21 low-income Dominicans a total of US\$2,804.

According to Jennifer McGowan, (who is a leading member of Fondo Q's Scholarship/Grant Committee in the D.R.), in early July 2002: (i) the Committee will consider scholarship and grant requests forwarded by D.R. PCV's in the past 3 months; (ii) at that meeting, the Committee expects to authorize at least US\$2,500 in new scholarships and grants; and (iii) the Committee will meet at least two more times this year to consider the merits of new requests. In addition, Fondo Q's Board of Directors recently voted to donate US\$900 to the D.R. RFCV Group, "Friends of the Dominican Republic," to share the cost of the brochure for the February 2002 40th Anniversary Reunion in the D.R.

As of June 15, 2002, Fondo Q has received, in 2002, a total of US\$8,490 in contributions from 51 donors, and currently has approximately US\$9,393 available for new grants and scholarships. Much of that money was contributed as a result of pledges made at the 40th Peace Corps Anniversary Reunion in the D.R. where several former P.C. Groups (i.e., Nos. 11, 12, and 26) made specific pledges on behalf of their respective Groups. Pledges were made in memory of RFCVs Kristen Fiske and Philip B. Taylor III and of former Peace Corps Director Carolyn R. Payton. We even received donations in celebration of B.J. Warren's birthday!

Fondo Q expects to give out at least US\$7,500 more in grants and scholarships this year, which means that we need your donations to help us meet and even surpass the US\$10,000 grant goal for next year.

It would be GREAT if all former D.R. Peace Corps Groups made significant annual pledge goals to support Fondo Q's grants and scholarships! If you haven't yet contributed to Fondo Q this year, we encourage you to do so, and we also encourage you to consider making a pledge of an annual contribution. In this way, you will be helping Fondo Q put something back into the D.R. and we all will be helping to make a real difference in the quality of the lives of many Dominicans.



Scholarship recipient Jaime Ortiz applies his new acquired driving skills. Jaime addressed the gathering at the 40th reunion in the D.R. on the value of receiving his training.



**Fondo Quisqueya
GRANTS & SUPPLEMENTS
in 2002
by
Anne Ternes**

FQ has had a very active first quarter in grant making. Seventeen new scholarships were given, as well as additional funds for four previous recipients, thanks to diligent review by the FQ grant review committee in the DR. The following grant summaries indicate the high interest of Dominican youth in training to improve their chances for desirable employment. As well, there are two progress reports about enthusiastic students learning computer skills.

Hancel Alcantara Montilla

San Jose de Ocoa

PCV Sponsor – Jill Stephens

Hancel, still a high school freshman, has set his sights on college and law school. To this end he wishes to become computer literate and will take 16 months of training in San Jose de Ocoa.

Kari Valenzuela

San Juan de la Maguana

PCV Sponsor – Michael Chaires

Kari is intent on a career in commercial banking and has been studying English and the computer skills used by bank tellers at the Maguana English Institute. FQ will cover the costs of this year's banking course and Kari's mother will cover her English courses.

Sugeidis Gregorina Castillo Peguero

San Jose de Ocoa

PCV Sponsor – "Cecilia" Jill Litkowski

Gregorina, the first in her family to go beyond primary school, will take a basic computer course. Her goal is to gain employment in San Jose and make a better living.

Miguel Angel Figueroa Rumaldo

Puerto Plata

PCV Sponsor – Michael Lisman

Sixteen-year old Miguel is a second year high school student who wants to pursue information sciences in college. He has requested support for a course in computerized accounting at CEDUCOMP in Puerto Plata; the skills developed through the course are building blocks for future studies.

Pedro Méndez

Las Barias, Azua

PCV Sponsor – Renée Seitz

Pedro requested funds to study English at the Instituto de Idiomas Ninfa Estrada in Azua. His goal is to gain employment in a manufacturing facility in the area or in the developing tourist industry along the coast.

Rosanny Maricri Soto

San Jose de Ocoa

PCV Sponsor – Jill Stephens

Rosanny, raised in the countryside, is seeking to improve her prospects for employment by gaining computer skills. She will take a year long course that covers Word, Excel, Powerpoint, and the Internet. Rosanny will cover her transportation costs and FQ is supporting enrollment and tuition.



Jennifer McGowan, FQ scholarship recipients Migaline Fermin Altagracia and Jaime Ortiz, and PCVs Connie Rush and Stephanie Hackenburg enjoy a respite during the 40th reunion activities. Migaline, Jaime, Connie and Stephanie eloquently addressed the conference on the value of the FQ scholarship and evoked more than a few tears from the appreciative audience. Jennifer resides in the DR and, through her service on the FQ DR committee, has been a major contributor to many improvements in FQ efficiency and communications with PCVs and staff

Esterlin Yomari Familia Castillo

San Jose de Ocoa

PCV Sponsor – "Cecilia" Jill Litkowski

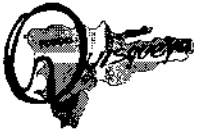
Esterlin, a second year high school student, wants to improve her life by taking a computer course. She will acquire basic skills and learn Word and Excel.

Wilma Sorianny Mejia Castillo

San Jose de Ocoa

PCV Sponsor - Cecilia Jill Litkowski

Sorianny is taking a basic three month course in computer skills. She has finished high school and is anxious to gain skills that will earn her a good job.



Adriana Maldonado & Fiordisa Javier

Arroyo Chico, Samana

PCV Sponsor – Stephanie Hackenburg

This is a supplemental grant to allow the two girls to attend a computer school in Samana when the local school in their community closed. The funds cover necessary travel expenses and additional tuition costs.

Emilsis Elizabeth Garcia Jimenez

PCV Sponsor – Michael Chaires

Emilsis is interested in learning computer fundamentals as the stepping stone to acquiring more complex skills. She is a bright and energetic student that Michael feels can benefit from developing her keen interest in computer training.

Cesar Nicauri Gonzalez Custodio

San Jose de Ocoa

PCV Sponsor – Jill Stephens

Nicauri is a high school student in the campo who is active in the local youth group, and actively seeks new experiences and knowledge. He will take a computer course in San Jose, learning Microsoft Office and the Internet, skills which will help him in his goal of attending college.

Guzman Antonio Baez Peguero

San Jose de Ocoa

PCV Sponsor - "Cecilia" Jill Litkowski

Guzman wants to qualify for work as a driver for a business or office and to achieve this, requested support for a driver's training course. The school is located in San Jose de Ocoa, includes both classes and behind the wheel practice, and culminates in qualifying for a drivers' license.

Alex Jonathon Figueroa Rumaldo

Puerto Plata

PCV Sponsor – Michael Lisman

Alex, upon finishing his high school studies, was facing few prospects for employment and no opportunity to continue to study. His goal is to study to become a "tecnico" in computerized accounting which will lead to employment and further study to increase his accounting knowledge and skills.

Ana Maria Garcia Jiménez

PCV Sponsor – Michael Chaires

Ana, still in high school, has set her sights on going to university. To this end, she wants to study office management and computer skills so that she can gain employment and support herself while in school.

Catalina M. Mendez

La Ceiba, Azua

PCV Sponsor – Renée Seitz

Catalina, 33 years old, is a single mother of three. She is making a serious effort to improve her prospects by completing her high school requirements via attendance at night school in Azua. She will add to her skills by taking a basic computer course at Quezada Computers in Azua. Armed with a high school degree and computer skills, Catalina anticipates getting a better job and being able to provide her children with a better standard of living.

Aladino Ramon Berteres Fuente

San Jose de Ocoa

PCV Sponsor – "Cecilia" Jill Likowski

Aladino seeks employment as a driver with a business. He will take a driver's education course in San Jose de Ocoa and receive his license on course completion.

Celine Martinez

San Jose de Ocoa

PCV Sponsor – Jill Stephens

Celine, raised in a traditional campo family, is preparing to study business administration at the university. She will take a computer course focusing on Microsoft Office programs and the Internet, essential skills for a future business career.

Bill Well Fuentes Mejia

San Jose de Ocoa

PCV Sponsor – "Cecilia" Jill Litkowski

Bill, interested in improving his chances at employment, will take driver's education, culminating in getting a license. He will seek a job in town as a driver.

Jaime Ortiz

Arroyo Chico, Samana

PCV Sponsor – Stephanie Hackenburg

This is a supplemental grant for Jaime to acquire computer skills.

Migaline Fermin Altagracia

Los Robalos, Samana

PCV Sponsor – Connie Rush

This is a supplemental grant for Migaline to continue her computer studies.



Mid-Term Reports

Thania Castillo Fermin

Los Robalos, Samana

PCV Sponsor – Connie Rush

Thania has been taking a course in computers and enthusiastically reports that she has learned many Word techniques including moving text, using menus, using the draw function, preparing a calendar, and many other functions. Thania related these new skills with great pride and enthusiasm.

Fiordisa Javier & Adriana Maldonado

Arroyo Chico, Samana

PCV Sponsor – Stephanie Hackenburg

Fiordisa and Adriana, neither having used a computer before, have completed the basic course and are anxious to learn more. They have used the Internet for the first time and are currently enrolled in a Microsoft Word class. An Internet class will follow. These classes are showing the girls the directions their lives can take and all the opportunities available to them.

of good people, American citizens who dedicated at least two years of their life, and oftentimes many more years, to helping other human beings in this world. I'm proud to be associated with them.”...

“...Before the actual conference began RPCV Kyle Dumler and I spent several days in Las Terrenas enjoying the quiet solitude of the beach. You will not find many Americans in Las Terrenas, no Club Med, nor any hotel, for that matter that contains more than 30 rooms, which makes this the ideal vacation spot for a couple of laid-back RPCVs. Locals are friendly, prices are comfortable, and the combination of French/Dominican cuisine is superb. Along with *La Bandera Dominicana* on the menu you will find delicious le poisson grille and la pomme de terre frite. A day trip to see the whales in Samana Bay is one of the highlights of my vacation – this was something that was not available when I was a PCV.”



Over a buffet breakfast featuring 'mangu' with onions and other Dominican dishes, RPCVs George Edgerton, Russ Harmelink, and Joe Blackburn swap Peace Corps stories with Andy Hernandez.

Quote from Reunion Participants

FQ members received messages from several RPCVs who enjoyed the PC/DR 40th Anniversary Reunion Conference. FQ board members B.J. Warren, Tom Gittins, Lou Ferrand, Gene Lane, John Evans, Anne Ternes, and Minor Anderson participated, renewing acquaintances and presenting the Fondo Quisqueya program. The following are excerpts from three communiqués. The writers have caught the feelings of nostalgia, pride, and affection that we all felt in revisiting the DR and our former living and work sites.

Mary Barker

Latin American Administrator

Paper Converting Machine Company

...“My favorite part of the conference is getting to meet the grant recipients and the PCVs who nominated them. The volunteers have prepared a brief introduction and explanation of the grant and the recipient and we are all amazed at how far our US Dollars can go in this underdeveloped country efforts of so many people have been well spent here.

Another thrill for me at this conference is meeting up with old friends from the early 1980's when I was a PCV. I look around the room and see a group

Carol Freilich, MPH

RPCV Health, 1998-2001

...“As one of the oldest and most consistent Peace Corps countries of service, the Dominican Republic enjoys the support of Friends of the DR. Friends was established by many of the first volunteers to serve there, to further development goals continuing to this day by Peace Corps. The agenda was full of pertinent presentations. Gifts to the PCDR office were bestowed. Many appearances by all of the current Peace Corps staff kept our vision alive as they described the state of development work in progress today.

Lots of celebrations had been planned with trips to volunteers' former sites and the countryside. The majority of returnees were the vintage-era folks who had served during the initial years of PCDR. I was one of the few recently returned members—not quite a year out of service—to have the good fortune to go back so soon. While there, I also made arrangements to have some of our Southeastern Michigan Returned Peace Corps Volunteer support funds go to the projects in greatest need.”...



...“On a personal level, I had an abrupt awakening upon my first visit back to the PC office. A wave of emotion rushed over me all at once, like a near-death experience. Everything I’d experienced throughout service flew into my consciousness: The long-since forgotten first days with their excruciating loneliness; homesickness (now that I’m back, I laugh hysterically at this!); disoriented beginnings; memories of hurricane relief work, the tragedy it left in its path; times we all laughed until we cried speaking bad Spanish; the music, dancing, smiles, and good will of the people; teaching in another tongue and reaching people in a way I never have in my own language. Finally, mastery, of many intangible things.

These vivid memories of intense commitment and deep investment of personal energy flooded my mind. How hard it had all been at first to leave my country, stay in this foreign one for so long, and then say the sad “Goodbyes” to the beloved place and return, once again, to the unknown. As I walked away that first day with a new RPCV friend, I burst into tears. Luckily, he was a long-time returned guy who seemed to understand all of this. Like a child, I blurted out, “I never should have come here!” as I continue to this day the task of assimilating all that I experienced while there, all that I accomplished, and all that I became.”...

...“On the final day, preparing to leave, it seemed like only yesterday that I’d been there. By the end of the week it felt like only a day since I got off the plane. The final privilege had been to make that little financial offer—now as an American who had served our country—to the very projects we had once toiled at personally. For any of us to be able to do this is to go full-circle from novice, to field person, all the way to the finished project Peace Corps helped to create. By raising our awareness of the world around us, Peace Corps allowed us to express generosity of spirit and give something back.”

Que Bien Viaje

‘Jorge’ George Edgerton

DR XI/Rural Community Development

...“Our recent trip to the Dominican Republic was truly amazing. There were tons of laughs, more than a few tears, many meringues, and more than our fair share of Presidentes and Brugals. Reuniting with friends that we had not seen for so long was the best part. The bonds we remember from some 38 years ago in our training in Puerto Rico were as strong now as they had been then. It was like an old time family reunion. We seemed to be about as well represented as any other single group.

In attendance from our group were Frank Ferrari, Minor Anderson, Bob Tefelski, Mary Ann (Gamble) Walker, Anne Ternes, Joe Blackburn, Russ Harmelink, and George Edgerton. BJ Warren hung out with us a lot Andy Hernandez was there telling some great old stories. We saw a lot of volunteers that were in the country when we arrived and met a lot of people from groups after ours, but the focus of our group was mostly DR XI.”...

...“The conference was interesting for the most part with government and PC bigshots telling us what was going on in the DR these days. Pitches were made for the Fondo Quisqueya and Friends of the DR. Most of us managed several hours a day of that, but in the evenings we were out looking for comida tipico y Presidentes. We shared some great stories over arroz con abichuelas, mangu, and platano. Some of the dummies even willfully ate yucca. The food was great and no one went hungry. The Minister of Tourism hosted a great meringue party Saturday night with all the drinks, comida tipico, and even cocos frio we could handle. The Ballet Folklorico put on a great show later in the evening.”...

“...Time has brought many changes to the DR, yet many things seem to stay the same. That wonderful, gracious hospitality of the Dominicans has not changed. That high-energy, vivo life style is still very evident. Machismo is still alive and well and living in the DR. The hot water often isn’t, and the coffee is still muy fuerte y dulce, pero bueno. Meringues still blare at high volume everywhere you go. And the driving is insane, as always. And, yes, the Dominicanas are still as beautiful as ever.”...

...“But so much has changed. The roads are much improved. The abundance of burros has been replaced with swarms of loud motorbikes. Somehow, we found fewer small children running around the streets. We also saw very few of the fat bellies on kids so indicative of the malnutrition that was prevalent when we were here before. The population has exploded from about 3 and a half million in the mid 60’s to close to 8 million now and the traffic on the roads reflects this. Santo Domingo and Santiago have grown beyond recognition. High rise apartments, cell phones, the internet, toilets that flush (sometimes), mostly newer cars on the road, all indicate that many things really have changed for the better. It is still a fascinating little island.”...



PROFILE of Pedro Pablo Peña
Winner of the Second Andy Hernandez
Leadership Award
 by
 Bill Threlkeld

(Editor's note: The Andres S. Hernandez Foundation Inc. gives an annual award to a Dominican citizen who has made an outstanding contribution to the betterment of the country and its citizens.)

Pedro is from the small town of Villa Elisa (est. pop. 1500), Monte Cristi. Pedro's parents had a small stand in front of their house where they sold *refrescos* and snacks. It was here, where Pedro minded the store, that he acquired the habit of reading while waiting for the next customer. This habit, and his parents' insistence that he be a good student, propelled Pedro to further his education.

In 1972, Pedro was selected as one of 40 students nationwide to receive a scholarship for vocational training at the Instituto Superior de Agricultura (ISA) in Santiago. He graduated in 1975 as an agronomist and subsequently worked as an agricultural extension agent with the Ministry of Agriculture in Bani. In 1981, he returned to Santiago to study at the Universidad Tecnológica de Santiago (UTESA), where he received a B.S. in Economics in 1984. For five years following his graduation from UTESA, he was the Director of Planning at the Instituto de Tabaco de Santiago. Then, in 1989, he received a scholarship to study agricultural economics at Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, Virginia. There, he received his Master's degree in 1991.

Pedro returned to the Dominican Republic in 1991 and joined the Fundación para el Desarrollo Agropecuario (FDA), which is now the Centro para el Desarrollo Agropecuario y Forestal (CEDAF), "a private, non profit organization created in response to the need of an institutional contribution to the development of the Dominican agriculture, through research, technology transfer, training, documentation and technical assistance." Pedro is in charge of CEDAF's Training Program. He organizes numerous workshops and seminars throughout the year, geared to the interests of both small and commercial farmers. One of his most rewarding accomplishments at CEDAF has been the establishment of Masters Program in Agronomy that trains 75 students throughout the country in community extension work.

Outside of his professional responsibilities, for many years, Pedro has promoted grassroots development work

which undertook a number of community projects throughout its history. In 1990, he joined other community members of Villa Elisa to found the Asociación Pro-Desarrollo de Villa Elisa (APRODEVE), as a vehicle for carrying out community initiatives. While the focus of ASOVIA was on what absent Villa Loberos could do for the community, the focus of APRODEVE is to build leadership within the community through the implementation of projects. In over ten years of existence, APRODEVE has racked up an impressive list of accomplishments, including the construction of several community parks, a library, a community center, a computer school, and new roads, to name a few. Pedro has been instrumental in guiding APRODEVE's institutional development during this time.

In Villa Fundación, Pedro has been an active member of the Asociación Pro-Desarrollo de Villa Fundación (ADEFU) since 1976. ADEFU, more sophisticated than APRODEVE in terms of leadership and economic in Villa Elisa in Monti Cristi and in Villa Fundación in Bani. In Villa Elisa, during the 1980s, he was a member of the Asociación de Villa Loberos Ausentes (ASOVIA),



Pedro Pablo Peña receives the second annual Andy Hernandez Leadership Award, given to those persons who have an outstanding record of community service favoring citizen participation and increased opportunities for low-income people. Pedro is congratulated by RPCV Jerry Dupuy, and by Andres Hernandez, the first Peace Corps Director in the D.R.

resources, was the model on which APRODEVE was built. Like APRODEVE, it has undertaken numerous community development projects during its history.

Pedro is married and has two children. His wife's name is Amarilis, and his children are Pedro Gustavo and Luis Alberto. They live in Santo Domingo, close to Parque Mirador Sur, where Pedro Pablo enjoys daily, early-morning bike rides and walks.



FONDO Q'S NEW WEBSITE
by
Janet "the Webmeister" Kerley

Fondo Q is keeping up with the times with a newly redesigned website. Early this spring, Fondo Q's Board of Directors joined forces with Charity Advantage, a web design company that helps non-profits set up and maintain their web sites. Our new look is found at <http://www.fondoq.org/>. Be sure to check it out!

On our new website, you'll find news about our scholarship winners - from the newest grantees to stories about how lives have been changed because of Fondo Q's grants. This is also the site for staying current with Fondo Q's goals and activities. Check the home page for upcoming events, summaries of board meetings, and the latest pictures of grantees and Fondo Q members.

Two new features are coming soon. The first is a "clickable" map of the Dominican Republic. When it's online you will be able to choose the province where you served as a PCV, click, and see who from your region is among the Fondo Q grantees. The second is a link to a service that will allow Fondo Q to receive on-line donations. We expect that the online donations will increase the funds available for scholarships and grants.

Take a look, bookmark the site, and visit often. Suggestions for the site are welcome. Please E-mail Janet at: jkerley@erols.com.

A New PCV assigned by PC/DR as PC/FQ Coordinator

The FQ Board of Directors recently expressed its sincere appreciation to 3rd year PCV (and now RPCV) Mark Knight for his outstanding contributions in helping to make FQ's grant submission process much more user friendly for applicants and their PCV sponsors. In recognition of Mark's fine work, Fondo Q President Roberta Warren wrote to him as follows.

"Dear Mark,
As you wind down your last days with PC/DR, we at Fondo Quisqueya wanted to let you know how very much we have appreciated your many talents, your excellent effort with the local Fondo committee, all the hard work you put into the 40th reunion, and especially the fantastic

results you accomplished with the electronic data base for the scholarship recipients.
Please remember, as you progress on your life path, that you have already benefited many people--those who have received Fondo Q scholarships and others.
Education and training are things that can never be taken away nor do they do depreciate over time; they just form building blocks for the future.
Attached is an electronic version of a certificate of appreciation--What is your home address and we will send a hard copy there as well.
Please keep us posted of your plans and if you ever need letters of recommendation or help with a job search, please feel free to contact any of us.
Again many thanks,
B.J. Warren
Fondo Quisqueya President"

As Mark departed the D.R., PC/DR was generous in assigning 3rd year PCV Jennifer Dederich to continue the close collaboration with FQ. FQ welcomes Jennifer who shows her interest and support in the following letter.



Members of the U.S. based FQ board breakfast during the reunion with the FQ DR committee and with PC/DR Deputy Director Michael McCabe to plan the mornings' presentation on FQ and to make certain the grant review process is running smoothly. In the picture from left to right are Mark Knight, 3rd year PCV assisting FQ, board members Lou Ferrand, Minor Anderson, B.J. Warren, and Tom Gittens, Mike McCabe, Jennifer McGowan, and board member Gene Lane.

"Dear Roberta(BJ),
Thanks for the opportunity to work with Fondo Quisqueya. I am looking forward to the next year here in the DR, especially in the capacity as the FQ/PC coordinator. As for your requested information on me, here it goes.
My name is Jennifer Dederich. I am a native of Madison, Wisconsin, which is also where I studied, graduating with a BA in History from UW-Madison in 1998. After graduation, I took a year-long travel hiatus which enlightened me and prompted my interest in joining the Peace Corps. In February of 2000, I came to the DR as an



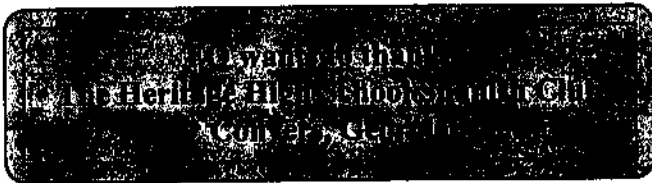
agroforestry extensionist. My project site was located in La Victoria, a small pueblo 45 minutes north of Santo Domingo. In La Victoria, I worked with an Association of Farmers in the construction of a community tree nursery, various river reforestation activities, school reforestation initiatives and community clean-up projects. I also worked closely with a variety of religious based community organizations that have on-going projects in child health/nutrition and water purification. In May of this year, I took on the position as PCV Coordinator for Environment yet I continue to have contact and support the activities in my project site. As for the future, I am hoping to continue my education by seeking a Masters degree in Urban Planning with a dual focus on land-use planning and transportation planning. I hope that this is what you were looking for. Thanks again,
Jennifer Dederich"

The money we are donating was collected during a door contest our club sponsored for National Foreign Language Week. We hope it will help someone looking to better their situation.

Sincerely,

Joy Kimble
HHS Spanish Club President"

Por nuestra parte, FQ envia un agradecimiento muy calido a los miembros del Club de Español!! Nos alegra saber que hay jovenes norte americanos quienes se interesan por sus semejantes en la República Dominicana!!



We are very pleased to see the impact of RPCVs from the Dominican Republic in the public schools. The following letter, (addressed to Mike Benson, a longtime member of the FQ DR committee that reviews grant applications and decides on all grants that don't exceed US\$250) is evidence that the spirit of extending a helping hand is thriving at Heritage High School.

"May 29, 2002

Fondo Quisqueya
Post Office Box 6628
Falls Church, VA 22040-6625

Mr. Mike Benson,

The Heritage High School Spanish Club is making a donation to your organization for \$100. Our club sponsor, Elizabeth Rojas, was a Peace Corps volunteer in the Dominican Republic and told us of the many Dominicans who were assisted in meeting their educational needs with funds from Fondo Quisqueya.