

NEWS AND RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

Nominees for PSS elections

On November 30, 1971, the Nominations Committee for the forthcoming PSS elections (January 30, 1972) presented to the Secretary the following names, the top 14 candidates for the seven positions on the Board of Directors:

Wilfredo F. Arce	Sylvia H. Guerrero
Rodolfo A. Bulatao	Mary R. Hollnsteiner
John J. Carroll	F. Landa Jocano
Gelia T. Castillo	Patricia B. Licuanan
Mercedes B. Concepción	Virginia A. Miralao
Wilhelm Flieger	Gerard Rixhon
Aurora Silayan-Go	Josefa Saniel

Regular members of the Society will vote for seven of the above, the ballots to be counted at the Special Meeting at 4 p.m. Sunday, January 30, 1972, at the Ateneo de Manila Law School. The four receiving the highest number of votes will be members of the Board for two years (1972-74), while the other three will be in office for one year (1972-73). In the 1973 elections only three Board Members will be elected — but for two-year terms (1973-75).

PSS lecture series

Encouraged by the success of their 1970-71 public lecture series, the PSS Board of Directors is planning a second series to begin early in 1972. Lectures will be held weekly — every Thursday — for eight weeks beginning February 3. As in the first series, admission will be free for faculty members and students. Others will pay a fee which includes a subscription to the 1972 PSR, in which the series of lectures and comments will

be published (the 1970-71 series is found in PSR Vol. 18, Nos. 3-4 [July-October 1970]). The title of the series has not yet been determined (as of December 8, 1971), but speakers and panelists have already agreed to address themselves to the following topics: land reform, placement of college graduates, the Tasaday, Muslim-Christian conflicts in Mindanao, the Chinese, management in development, the Constitutional Convention to date, and strategies for change. The title might well be something like "Social Issues '72."

MASA program, Ateneo de Manila

The staff of the department of sociology and anthropology, Ateneo de Manila, has worked out most details of an academic-work program which leads to the degree of master of science in applied sociology. Because of its developmental, grass-roots orientation, this non-thesis study plan is referred to as the "MASA" program (MASA may stand for the "masses," or for Masters in Applied Sociology and Anthropology).

As the department chairman, W.F. Arce, says in his description of the plan:

This new program is in direct response to a need often expressed by both students and by members of government and private agencies involved in types of work that require personnel able to apply the knowledge and skills of sociology and anthropology to practical problems. Thus, this new program should prove useful, not only to new college graduates, but also to those individuals who are already directly involved in industry, rural and urban community development and planning, public health, social welfare, and similar lines of

activity that confront directly the complex problems of a developing nation.

Two distinctive features of the MASA program, departures from the usual M.A. in anthropology or sociology, are its provision for inserting the student early into an actual work situation, and its substitution of monitored field-work and field reports for a thesis. As presently structured, the program involves 45 academic units. Staff who are preparing courses for the program include, besides Dr. Arce, J. Dacanay, Sr. D. Decaesstecker, S.H. Guerrero, M.R. Hollnsteiner, F. Lynch, and V.A. Miralao.

Demography at UP

Since 1963 courses leading to the M.A. in demography have been offered at the University of the Philippines. The training program, open to those who have an average undergraduate grade of 2.25 or better, requires completion of at least 30 units of graduate work (24 units of formal courses and six for the thesis). Faculty members involved in the program include Mercedes B. Concepción (Dean, UPPI) and the following staff: E.M. Pascual, T.S. Osteria, M.R. Rañoa, Z.Z. Zablan, and C.M. Raymundo. Visiting faculty are W. Fliieger, T.R. Pullum, J.E. Laing, and P.C. Smith.

Financial assistance for students is available from two sources: from FAPE (the Fund for Assistance to Private Education) for faculty members on the staff of private universities; from the Ford Foundation for others. Work experience can be gained through association with projects conducted at the Population Institute (founded November 1964), UP Padre Faura campus.

Principal UPPI projects include analyses of national sample survey results on the labor force, mobility, fertility, and fertility planning; evaluation of family planning programs; investigation of labor force, social mobility, family and household concepts used in local and regional studies, and the development of computer programs for demographic analyses. Inquiries should be direct-

ed to The Dean, Population Institute, University of the Philippines, P.O. Box 479, Manila D-406.

Demography at XU

Relevant to the Philippines' population problem, Xavier University seeks to prepare persons equipped to cope with its implications. These persons must be capable in talent and competent in training to participate meaningfully in the research, administration, and policy-making activities that undoubtedly will be necessary in the near future because of population growth.

The University has therefore undertaken to implement a full major in population studies and demography on both the master-of-arts and undergraduate levels. Present plans call for the expansion of the department of sociology, locus of this new program, in demography, sociology, or economics, to a full six Ph.D.s, supported by several faculty members with the master-of-arts degree in sociology whose research and teaching may be considered equivalent to advanced degree work in the field of population.

Courses taught during the first semester (July–November) of the first academic year of the new major (1971–72) are as follows: Introductory sociology, Introduction to statistics, Rural sociology, Social structure, and Problem areas of population theories. During the second semester (December–April) these courses are offered: Introductory sociology II, Introduction to methods of population study, Introduction to census and vital statistics operations, Research methods in human science, and Societies and culture of north Mindanao with special reference to family planning operations.

Other courses which form part of the major in demography and population studies include additional demographic and statistical offerings, as well as training in other aspects of sociology, in anthropology, mass communications, and geography. For information on curriculum, admission requirements, financial assistance, and job opportunities for students, write to The Chairman, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Xavier University, Cagayan de Oro City.

PSS seminar at Silliman U

Editor's note: Dr. Lourdes R. Quisumbing, president of the Visayas-Mindanao Chapter of the PSS has submitted the following account of the Chapter's Social Structure and Planned Change Seminar for Con-Con delegates and social scientists, which was held at Silliman University, Dumaguete City, on April 28-30, 1971.

The seminar was an attempt to bring together constitutional framers and leading social scientists for a free and open exchange of ideas. It was believed that exposure to research data, recent trends, and expert opinion would throw light on Philippine realities and emphasize the fact that the new Constitution, to be workable, should be related to Philippine needs and resources and compatible with the Philippine social structure, value-system, and temperament.

The Seminar, co-sponsored by the Philippine Sociological Society (Visayas-Mindanao Chapter), Silliman University, and the University of San Carlos, was attended by a small number of participants (fluctuating from 24 at some sessions to 40 at others) and Con-Con delegates (seven).

The size and quality of the group, however, made possible a high level of discussion and maximum interaction. Sessions were lengthy (three to four hours each) but passed quickly, in part because the few Con-Con delegates present took every opportunity to ask questions, exhibited an attitude of receptivity and openness to the replies they received. Those who stayed for most of the sessions were Delegates Timoteo Ruben of Occidental Misamis, and Ernesto Amatong and Augusto Saguin of Zamboanga del Norte. Delegate Margarito Teves of Negros Occidental, discussant, contributed significantly to the two sessions for which he was present. Ex-President Carlos P. Garcia, delegate from Bohol, who was later elected President of the Constitutional Convention and who died soon after the Convention had begun sessions, did much to sustain enthusiasm till the very last session, during which he shared his views and insights, based mostly on firsthand presidential experience.

Lively discussions centered on the following topics: Philippine socioeconomic problems; changes in political structure — presidential vs.

parliamentary forms of government, unicameral vs. bicameral legislature; the kinship system and Philippine value-orientation; and the relevance to the Philippine situation of the American experience, particularly in revisions of state constitutions.

In his keynote address, "Social structure and planned change in the Philippines," sociologist Wilhelm Flieger, S.V.D., of the University of San Carlos and the U.P. Population Institute, pictured the Philippines as a society in turmoil, an unfinished society beset by struggles. He observed that constructive proposals had been very few, with solutions based on very restricted views. Philippine problems, he said, call for re-adjustment and changed relationships among people, for new and different forms of organization. To make a modern society function, the total ecological system must be taken into account — population, environment, technology, and social organization.

Atty. Jeremias Montemayor, president of the Federation of Free Farmers, presented a vivid and realistic picture of the Philippine socioeconomic situation. That the Philippines is a social pyramid standing on its apex, he said, is caused by social imbalance and the maldistribution of the fruits of production. He suggested "transferring the center of gravity to the base" by going down to the roots, by a rethinking and a redefining of *concepts, attitudes, structures, and programs*. He asked for a tie-up between production and social justice, a stronger emphasis in the Constitution on the social element of property, national planning where the people have the right to be heard and are given a chance "to make their own mistakes," signifying faith in the people, dignity before relief, revolution of attitudes, a leadership able to absorb the image of the people, purify it, and give it back to them.

Dr. F. Landa Jocano, head of the U.P. Department of Anthropology, used the "analytical approach to the Filipino value-orientation," pointing out the country's sociocultural base: the kinship system and family organization. Maintaining that the Filipino family is more supportive than authoritarian, he stated that

Filipinos should build on existing structures instead of breaking away from them. However, such family practices as the use of intermediaries early in life, leading to the *bata-bata* and *lakad* system, should undergo change, since they breed paternalism and favoritism.

Sociologist John J. Carroll, S.J., director of the National Secretariat of Social Action, instead of dwelling on ideology, envisioned programs — the creation of a responsive and sensitive coordination center, and the realignment of social structure along more horizontal lines; in a word, the crystallization of an ideology.

Mr. Allan Croghan, Assistant Cultural Affairs Officer of the American Embassy, recounted the varied and interesting experiences of several American states in making and revising their constitutions. His talk was an eye-opener on the complex and intricate process of making the constitution a responsive and representative document of the American people's needs, ideals, and aspirations. The need for constant revisions to accommodate proposals and to satisfy demands like lower taxes and increased services gave most of the audience a new awareness of American realities and made them realize the relevance of the American experience to the Philippine situation.

Dr. Remigio Agpalo of the U.P. Political Science Department, in his paper, "The Philippine Political System," showed the historical

evolution of a Philippine national policy, the unique concept of the Philippine liberal democracy, the existence of a political system that has been modernized, politically developed, and uniquely evolved with its own peculiar history and resources. To the question as to which model should best guide Filipinos, Agpalo's answer was: "that one which we can abstract from Filipino political experience."

The seminar was not wanting in camaraderie. President Cicero Calderon of Silliman University, a Con-Con delegate for Negros Oriental, tendered a picnic luncheon at the beach, while Mr. Richard P. Harris, Public Affairs Officer of the United States Information Service (Cebu), entertained the delegates at a cocktail party. On this occasion the Silliman Choral group presented a generous selection of local songs. Mr. Gorgonio Siega, chief librarian of Silliman, gave a luncheon at his residence, and President Calderon honored ex-President Carlos P. Garcia with a reception at the University presidential residence. The main papers of the seminar are to be published in a special number of the *Silliman Journal*.

It was evident to all the participants that the Seminar provided valuable insights, provoked intellectual exercise, presented challenges, and showed that constitution-making and national development were legitimate concerns, not only of Filipinos, but also of other nationals in the Philippines who are desirous of her progress and welfare.