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## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

BY TITO COLEMAN

By the time you are reading this newsletter, many things will have been defined in the larger picture. Mid-term elections, Supreme Court nominations, ongoing trade discussions, and hopefully there is a little respite and peace going into the holiday season. No guarantees, of course.

Fondo Quisqueya continues to be the little engine that could, and can, and will in the midst of the larger dynamics. We have continued on the path charted last year, with ongoing support to our scholarship programs, and as of our September meeting, plans to increase our support for students' travel and logistical expenses at the Instituto Técnico.

This newsletter is the first that we have distributed through both digital and snailmail modalities, and we look forward to your feedback as well as new metrics to see how the two compare. We recognize that the FQ community is diverse, and that both channels are useful to reach all of you. We also begin a migration towards a more digital interaction with our communities and welcome you to update our contact information for you.

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## UPDATE ON A LOU FERRAND MEMORIAL UNIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

BY KALEY MARINO AND JOANNA MAUER

In 2017, Fondo Q selected the first three *Lou Ferrand Memorial University Scholarship* recipients (from 170 applications). The scholarships support young community leaders with up to \$1,500 per year for their university costs along with mentors throughout their university studies.

One of the scholarship recipients is Oscar Pablo Sánchez from El Factor, María Trinidad Sánchez. Oscar is studying architecture at the Universidad Católica Nordestana in San Francisco de Macorís.

Oscar is a true community leader and has led several housing projects in his community and the surrounding areas through a foundation that he started. This work inspired his dream to become an architect. He is also running for mayor of his municipality in hopes to change the political scene and focus on the needs of the people. This year Oscar won the highest award from the Ministerio de Juventud, which will now cover his university tuition. Fondo Q will continue to provide support to cover his costs for transportation, books, and materials.



**Oscar Pablo Sánchez**



(Continued from page 1)

We continue to be committed to a stable, measured rate of investment in program activities, with a targeted budget of around 10% of the FQ assets. As such, windfalls such as recent stock market performance allow some expansion in proven program areas, while we still count on donations and other gifts from the FQ community for continuity. We remain cautious, knowing that outside forces are beyond our control, but committed to finding the best ways to support activities in the DR.

Fresh ideas and energy are always welcome, and we continue to invite recent RPCVs into the FQ community, especially if you are still in country.

*“We remain cautious, knowing that outside forces are beyond our control, but committed to finding the best ways to support activities in the DR.”*

## FONDO Q ANNUAL MEETING

BY MINOR ANDERSON

Fondo Quisqueya’s annual meeting was held on June 24, 2018 at the home of Tito Coleman. In addition to being a quarterly meeting of the board, the purpose of the annual meeting is to elect members and officers of the board. There were 10 board members and 4 visitors in attendance. Unfortunately there was no quorum so it was determined to meet but to defer any decisions to the next board meeting.

The board members whose terms were up were: Mike Benson, Tito Coleman, Janet Kerley, Kaley Marino, Dave Smith, and Bill Threlkeld. All agreed to stand for reelection and it was recommended that they be approved for new three-year terms. Likewise, it was recommended that the current board officers be approved for new one-year terms: Tito Coleman, President, Janet Kerley, Vice-President, Bill Threlkeld, Treasurer, and Minor Anderson, Secretary.

There was an active discussion of how best to utilize our resources to support Fondo Q’s mission in the DR. The board believes that our support of students at the ITSC (Instituto Técnico Superior Comunitario) has been very successful. ITSC trains students in a broad range of technical skills and facilitates their entry into the workforce. Fondo Q support has mostly been to help students with the cost of transportation to and from their classes and internship locations. ITSC administration has been particularly good at reporting on the progress of students supported by FQ. A proposal was made to challenge ITSC to present a proposal to the board for how to use a significant increase in FQ funding. A decision on this proposal was deferred to the next board meeting.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned to enjoy a wonderful early summer picnic. All former volunteers and supporters of FQ are strongly encouraged to attend our annual meeting and become more involved in our activities. All are welcome.

## RECENT GRADUATES OF THE INSTITUTO TÉCNICO

BY JOANNA MAUER

Fondo Quisqueya has been providing funding to the Instituto Técnico Superior Comunitario (ITSC) to cover the transportation costs of a select group of low-income students who have to travel long distances and take several buses/public cars to reach the college.

ITSC reports that of the scholarship recipients who have recently graduated, 75% are already employed. The recent graduates include Kisiger Estrella Batista, Deuri Antonio Polanco Pérez, Isaac Taveras Germán, and Victoria Hernández Ortega:

- **Kisiger** graduated with a degree in Medical Imaging and is now employed as a radiology technician.
- **Deuri** graduated with a degree in automotive mechanics and is working as a mechanic at an auto repair shop in Santo Domingo.
- **Isaac** graduated with a degree in construction. He is employed and is also working towards another degree at ITSC.
- **Victoria** graduated with a degree in nursing and is working at a pharmacy.

ITSC reports that the recent graduates are making salaries that are higher than the national average. They also report that the scholarship recipients expressed their thanks to Fondo Q and feel happy about their accomplishments.



Kisiger Estrella Batista



Isaac Taveras Germán



*“ITSC reports that of the scholarship recipients who have recently graduated, 75% are already employed.”*



## PEACE CORPS DR UPDATE

BY KRISTIN KAPER

Peace Corps/Dominican Republic currently has 134 PCVs and 45 trainees working in Community Economic Development, Youth Development, and Education. With the closure of the Health program in 2016, we have doubled our Education intake (50% of all PCVs) and maintained our CED and YFCD programs (25% of PCVs for each program). Here is a bit of updated information regarding our three sectors:

Education PCVs work directly in the primary schools with children, teachers, and parents working on childhood literacy. We have very strong relationships with the District offices, who request PCVs to assist in some of the poorest schools in the country.

Youth PCVs work in middle and high schools, as well as support Community Technological Centers (CTCs) and other community organizations. We have a relatively new relationship with the Ministry of Women and recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with them which formalizes the relationship with our PCVs in the communities. PCVs collaborate with *técnicos* from the Ministry of Women who travel out to PCV communities to train on new masculinity and gender equality.

Community Economic Development has two new MOUs with the Ministry of Industry and Commerce and JAD (*Junta Agroempresarial Dominicana*). Both of these organizations support local businesses and work closely with our team to identify coops / associations of business owners who could benefit from our assistance.

Despite PC/DR's consolidation of programs over the years and eventual closing of the Health and Environment projects, many PCVs continue to provide support to communities in these areas. In fact, Health forms a large component of our Youth programming as does Environment. Additionally, PCVs in all sectors are free to carry out secondary projects in these areas, and *Brigada Verde* continues to be strong. Our strategy as a post is to work in the poorest regions of the country. We place 75% of our PCVs in the 13 poorest provinces and the other 25% in communities with at least 50% of the population living at the poverty level (based on the *Mapa de la Pobreza*). At the end of 2018, PC/DR will be going through the program review process and rewriting project frameworks to make sure/better align our programming with local need as well as ensure that we have a country-wide strategy.

*“Peace Corps/  
Dominican Republic  
currently has 134  
PCVs and 45  
trainees working in  
Community  
Economic  
Development, Youth  
Development, and  
Education.”*

## EIGHT NEW ITSC STUDENTS RECEIVE TRANSPORTATION SCHOLARSHIPS

BY JOANNA MAUER

The Instituto Técnico Superior Comunitario has selected eight new students to receive transportation scholarships from Fondo Quisqueya. The eight students—who are from low-income families—have each encountered difficulties completing their education due to a lack of financial resources. With the scholarships, the students will no longer have to worry about whether they have the money to pay for transportation each day to and from their classes at the community college.



**Six of the new ITSC scholarship recipients along with the ITSC grants committee and the Director of Admissions.**



*“The Instituto Técnico Superior Comunitario has selected eight new students to receive transportation scholarships from Fondo Quisqueya.”*



## TREASURER'S REPORT

BY BILL THRELKELD

As we head into the final months of 2018, your support continues to give hope for the many “becarios” that FQ consistently supports so they can reach the educational and career goals they have set for themselves. Revenues advanced by about \$5,000 since our last newsletter, bringing our total for the year to nearly \$15,000. Happily, this amount nearly matches our expenses for the year. If past end-of-year giving provides any instruction to what we can expect this year, your support will cover all of our commitments for grants/scholarships for the year, while our investment income covers our modest operational costs (90% of which is dedicated to FQ’s communications/outreach to FQ supporters).

Speaking of which . . . this fall, many of you will experience (or have already experienced) FQ’s testing of an electronic newsletter. Be sure to let us know how you like it, or do not. This experiment will help us gauge success with reaching more effectively some of our “millennial” supporters while also exploring a possible reduction in our costs for communications/outreach. Any savings we attain can be plowed back into our grant-making/scholarships.

As mentioned in my last report, new tax laws in effect this year have an impact on the deductibility of charitable contributions. For many, the need to itemize those donations will go away. Yet, a recently published survey from Fidelity Charitable found the following:

*Four out of five donors (82 percent) plan to maintain or increase their giving in 2018, despite changes in the tax code. This includes 63 percent planning to give the same amount and 19 percent planning to increase the amount they give.*

*This solid commitment reaffirms what we already know about donor motivations for giving: giving back or making a difference are the primary drivers of charitable giving.*

We look forward to your renewed or newly inspired commitment to support FQ’s important mission!

*“As we head into the final months of 2018, your support continues to give hope for the many ‘becarios’ that FQ consistently supports so they can reach the educational and career goals they have set for themselves.”*

## 2018 HONOR ROLL OF DONORS

(REFLECTING DONATIONS JANUARY 1— SEPTEMBER 2018)

### GENERAL DONORS

Amazon Smile, Blair Bertaccini, Elizabeth Bivings & Graham Pallett, Larry Blaskopf, Steven & Claudia Campbell, Cristiano & Amy Castello, John Duenes, Richard Elrauch (Forlorn Family LP), Loren & Jan Floto, Lucy & Williams Friedman, Robert & Marsha Holm, Mike McCabe & Rosemarie Hidalgo-McCabe, John Miller, Faith Ortler, James & Anne O'Connor, David & Kathy Padilla, Nora Palmatier, James Petersen, John Sterling, Anne Ternes, Judith & John Thoms, Hazel Vespa, Vicent Vlastic, Robert & Clara Webb, Natalie Woodward

**IN MEMORY OF JOHN MAX GRUNEWALD, PCDR 93-95:** Andrew Chandler

**IN MEMORY OF STEPHEN SLATER:** Thomas Burton

**IN MEMORY OF TAMI PIERSON, KRISTIN FISKE, TOM KING, TONY MENENDEZ, TIM SWEENEY, LINDA NEAU DE SCOTT, AND JOHN SCOTT:** V. Diann Streator

**BJ WARREN SCHOLARSHIP FUND:** Charles Wannan III & Judith Light

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## CONTRIBUTE ONLINE OR BY CHECK

### FONDO Q

In addition to making tax deductible donations to Fondo Q by check, you can make them through **PayPal**, **justgive.org**, and by using the **Network for Good Giving System** (NGGS). To donate online, follow the links at the bottom of FQ's "Ways to Contribute" page at [fondoq.org/donatesuppor\\_our\\_work.aspx](http://fondoq.org/donatesuppor_our_work.aspx).

### MILA BROOKS FUND- WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT

If you wish to focus your FQ giving on low-income women in the Dominican Republic, please send your tax deductible donations to: FQ for the Mila Brooks Fund, c/o Fondo Quisqueya, P.O. Box 6628, Falls Church, VA 22040-6628.

### FRIENDS OF THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Our sister organization, FDR, like FQ, is a 501(c) (3) organization. FDR focuses on helping bring together the community of DR Returned PC Volunteers and staff in the US. It also raises money for two projects: a Program Development Fund, which supports Volunteers and PC programs with donations such as equipment and software, and a Community Challenge Fund, which provides grants for small-scale community infrastructure projects in poor communities. For more information, go to [www.fotdr.org](http://www.fotdr.org). Contributions are tax deductible and may be sent to John Evans, FDR Treasurer, 4512 Park Road, Alexandria, VA 22312.



*Contribute!*



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**The Dominican Republic and  
Peace Corps benefit from your  
continued support.**

**When making your estate plans, please remember Fondo Quisqueya.**