

first learned of their project through an article in the *Pacific Daily News* about Camp Roxas. I wrote a letter to the editor expressing my delight that finally attention is being given to this unknown but very important history, and it was through this letter that I came into contact with Munoz and Schumann.

I, too, am a descendant of a Camp Roxas contract labor worker. I grew up in Guam and came to the mainland USA to pursue my higher education goals, which culminated in a doctorate from UC Berkeley. Today I am an associate professor of Asian American Studies at California State University, Sacramento, and one of my classes involve teaching about the history of Filipino American immigration. As a historian and scholar, I am only too keenly aware of the socio-economic challenges facing people who came from a working class, contract labor community. The Camp Roxas Filipino men and their families have not only endured the difficult challenges, but they have also persevered. Their story is a classic American story.

Nevertheless, these Filipino immigrants who came to Guam after World War II had never envisioned the lives they would eventually live. Who would have thought that they would someday be offered U.S. citizenship rights and the opportunity to become "Americans"? These Ilonggos from poor fishing and farming communities came to Guam for the temporary job opportunities offered by the US military, for the chance to make some money and hopefully return "home" to the Philippines. But their fortunes changed when the 1950 Organic Act of Guam was passed, and when offered the chance at US citizenship, these Ilonggos decided to become "Americans." Little did they know that eventually Guam would become their new homes and their America.

"The Ilonggo Story: Return to Camp Roxas" will provide an invaluable contribution to a story that has never been told before. It will be a perfect film for public television broadcasting. The film will broaden the understanding of how immigrants have taken different avenues to becoming Americans.

I support this film project wholeheartedly and highly recommend funding for the film project.

Very truly yours,



James Sobredo, Ph.D.

Vice Chair

Faculty Senate &

Associate Professor

Asian American Studies

California State University

6000 J Street

Sacramento, CA 95819-6013

(916) 278-7566 (office)

www.csus.edu/aas/sobredo

Email: sobredo@csus.edu