

A man with dark hair, wearing a black shirt, is shown in profile, looking upwards and to the right. He is holding a bundle of red sticks, possibly incense, in his right hand. A tattoo of a dragon or similar mythical creature is visible on his left forearm. The background is dark and textured.

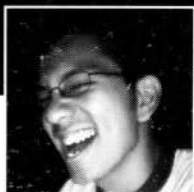
# Chinoy<sup>27</sup>

Vol 7, Issue 2, (December 2005)

The official publication of the Ateneo Celadon

## Beyond the Chants and Charms:

peering through the windows  
of Chinese Mysticism



| letter from the editor |

## ATENEO DE MANILA UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES

You see them everywhere. From the little red nylon knots that swing under the rear-view mirror of jeepneys, to the little cats who raise their hands at customers at the local sari-sari store, to the be-warted frogs with coins in their mouths sitting on the table-tops at your favorite dentist's place.

It's an intriguing thing, these mysterious and esoteric artifacts. Where did they come from, and how did they come about? Are they really effective? Do they really change lives the way their patrons profess? Lots of questions linger around this very curious topic of Chinese mysticism. However, what's more interesting is the fact that this aspect of Chinese culture – the different superstitious beliefs regarding charms and such – has well embedded itself into our very own Pinoy lifestyle.

In this Issue, Chinoy takes these Chinese superstitions and beliefs out of their dusty old boxes and cupboards, as with Ryan Chung's piece on Chinese names and the treasure-trove of meanings behind them, or Vix Hernandez's feature on the different lucky *feng shui* charms.

With these articles, Chinoy aims to bring these quirks to light, with the hope that, with this closer look, people will begin to see that these practices are important not just because of the alleged *magic* that they bring to our lives, but because they remind us of the greater design that they are part of – the Chinese-Filipino culture. With these stories and snippets, we hope to usher in, together with the incoming new year, a greater, more thought-of view of Chinese mysticism: that their true magic lies in their power to rekindle in us the memories of the Chinese-Filipino culture.

Love and Light,  
editor-in-chief

Mikhail Douglas Ong Quijano



*beyond chants  
and charms*

### features

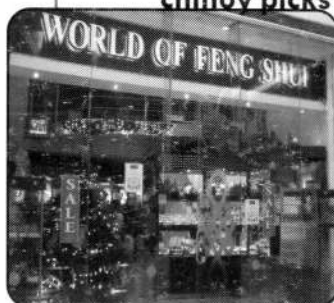


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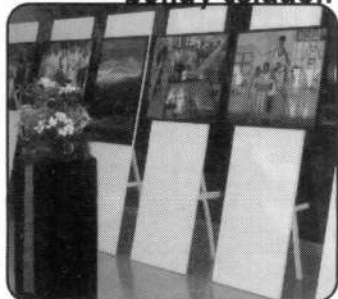
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readers' tasteful eyes

vp for comm&pub  
avp for comm&pub  
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*Have you ever been stuck in a rut? Ever felt like the world is leaving you behind? Vix Hernandez dusts the old storage cabinets and brings to light one of the most popular aspects of our tradition and culture – Feng Shui charms – and tells us their different mystical attributes and histories.*

# CHARMING THE WIND AND WATER

Changing the flow of luck with

Feng Shui Charms

by Ma. Victoria Hernandez - 2 BS IS

There are some people who make as much money as Lucio Tan but have terrible luck in finding their soul mates. And there are people who seem to have it all – money in the bank, an exciting love life and a stable career. However, for some reason, they're not completely happy with their lives because they don't have a son or daughter to share their happiness with.

It seems that no matter how fortunate a person is in one aspect of his life, he cannot be completely happy because something is missing in another aspect. Wouldn't it be fantastic if we could all just get what we want in life? I bet that people would be happier if they were like Aladdin, with their own magic genies to grant them their every wish.

In reality, though, we have to deal with the fact that there are no magic lamps in this world; but the good news is, we can have something close to that – charms. *Feng Shui charms*, for instance, are said to bring all forms of good fortune to its owner. These charms may come in different forms – as bracelets, coins, pendants, amulets or even wind chimes.

*Feng Shui* ("wind water") is part of an ancient Chinese philosophy. It advocates the understanding of the relationships between nature and ourselves in order to live harmoniously within our environment.

Feng Shui charms are usually in the form of different animals and creatures. For instance, the dragon, phoenix, tiger and tortoise are considered the four most important celestial creatures in Feng Shui. Thus, charms are obtained for the unique

characteristics that these creatures represent. For instance, some tortoises can live up for up to a century. A person may then buy a statue of a tortoise because it is said to bring the owner longevity.

So, for people who wish to improve their luck in love, career, wealth, children, health, or networking, they may want to obtain one or more of these charms:

### Love: Dragon and Phoenix

The Chinese believe that two individuals should complement each other for love to prosper. The Taoist symbol *yin yang* stands for the two major cosmic forces in the universe. *Yin* (moon) represents the female force while *Yang* (sun) represents masculine force. The *yin yang* symbol thus represents harmony in the universe due to the balance of forces.

In Feng Shui, the dragon and the phoenix make the perfect couple. The dragon is the "yang" while the phoenix is the "yin". Coins that have conjoined inscriptions of a dragon and a phoenix are said to make the owners' love lives flourish. They are said to strengthen relationships (strength from the dragon) and to "relight the fires" of dwindling relationships (fire from the phoenix).

### THESE CHARMS



MAY COME IN  
DIFFERENT  
FORMS – AS  
BRACELETS,  
COINS,  
PENDANTS,  
AMULETS OR  
EVEN WIND  
CHIMES.

### Career: Carps and Fishes

Carps are found abundantly in China's Yellow River. They can also be found in the ponds of emperors, officials and tycoons. In China, the carp is the most popular kind of fish that's said to increase the owner's wealth. On the other hand, the most popular Feng Shui fish in Hongkong is the goldfish.

Similarly, the *arowana* is also a popular kind of fish that is said to enhance one's luck in career. Lilian Too, one of China's most popular authors, believes that the *arowana* made her prosperous enough to retire early.

### Wealth: The *Pi Yao*

The *pi yao* is a celestial creature that looks like a cross-breed of a lion, a bird and a dog because it has little wings, a lion-dog face and a tail. Usually, they're sitting on Chinese coins to show that fortune is being protected. Statues of the *pi yao* are usually found outside banks in China. The most interesting feature of the *pi yao* is that it doesn't have an anus and is thus, incapable of egestion. So when money is poured in the *pi yao*, it is incapable of "egesting money from its system". Owners of *pi yao* charms are ensured of good fortune because their money, like in the case of the *pi yao*, stays with them. The *pi yao* is also known for being loyal to its owner.

### Children or Health: The *Fuk Luk Sau*

The *Fuk Luk Sau* (Three Lucky Immortals or Star Gods) are found in most Chinese households. The white-haired man with the long beard (Peach) brings longevity. The man decked in the most ostentatious attire, wearing a crown (*Ru Yi*) brings success. The man holding a scroll and a

slab of gold (Wu Lou) brings wealth. Parents who wish to have children are encouraged to have a set of Fuk Luk Sau statues in their households. They will be successful not only in having babies, but also in rearing their children. Their children will also benefit from the Fuk Luk Sau's promises of health, authority and fortune.

### Networking: Dragon Tortoise

Networking, in this sense, refers to one's capacity to establish good relationships with other people. A dragon tortoise is a mythological creature that has a dragon's head and a tortoise's body. It endows its owner ambition (from the dragon) and wisdom (from the tortoise), which are needed for successful networking.

This symbol is usually located in ancient palaces to signify the peace in the empire, the emperor's good health and the steady rule of the subjects. The dragon tortoise is also placed in homes for harmony, long life and high status.

Though there are claims that Feng Shui charms really do have mystical powers, it's still wise to take these claims with a grain of salt. Phillip Johnson is skeptical of the magic that supposedly yielded by charms, saying that "Those who want to believe in the power of charms will attribute the good fortune to the charm, conveniently forgetting the bad fortune that the charm failed to prevent. In short, many people believe whatever they want to believe, and support their belief with bad reasoning."

Thus, these charms, though important aspects of our culture and tradition, serve a greater purpose as reminders of that great power that still has a ruling over our lives. In the end, what matters more is not the charm that we purchased from the old mystic in Binondo anyway. It's what we make of our lives that's more important. ☺

THESE CHARMS, THOUGH IMPORTANT ASPECTS OF OUR CULTURE AND TRADITION, SERVE A GREATER PURPOSE AS REMINDERS OF THAT GREAT POWER THAT STILL HAS A RULING OVER OUR LIVES



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<http://www.burgy.50megs.com/demon.htm>

Want to know where you can get a hold of these charms and more? Check out Kevin Tsai's feature on The World of Feng Shui on page 12



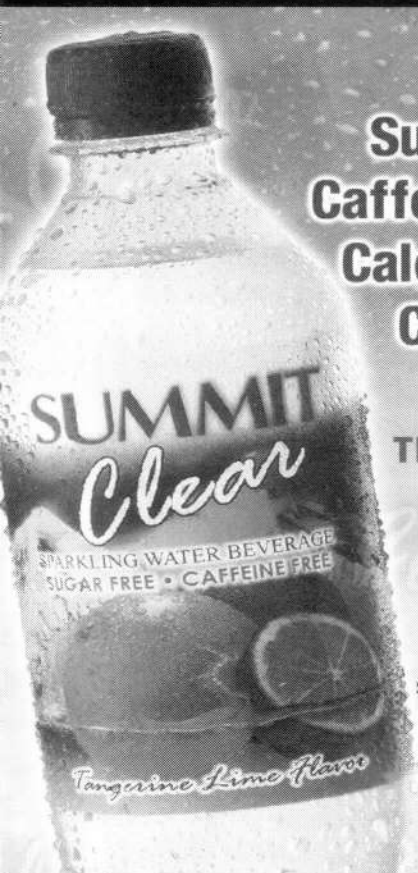
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# Mythological taxXON

**DRAGONS. VAMPIRES. UNICORNS.**

We've seen those Western beasts trample civilizations in Hollywood. Ever wonder what monsters our beloved Middle Kingdom has to offer? Join Adrian Dy as he features the magnificent creatures that thrive in the old forgotten caves of ancient Chinese Mythology.

Go up to a little kid and tell him or her "if you don't behave, the vampire's going to get you," and he or she will definitely sit up straighter and act like a little angel for as long as their attention span can maintain their façade. Go up to a little kid and tell him or her "if you don't behave, the hopping corpse's going to get you," and he or she will probably just stare at you, with thoughts of bunny rabbits in their heads (they probably wouldn't get what a corpse is, depending on how precocious the little kid is).

Chinese monsters and spirits have been getting the short end of the stick for almost as long as the emergence of pop culture. For the longest time, European frights have dominated the scene with vampires and werewolves cluttering up print, and both the



# an introduction to CHINESE MONSTERS

omy

by Adrian Dy - II BS MCT

Art by Mike Jarantilla - III BS MIS



silver and small screen. It was only recently that the scene shifted to Asian monsters, Japanese ones in particular. Now that other Asian countries are converting their myths to the silver screen, it's only a matter of time before legendary Chinese beasts get into the act. So here's a heads-up on the most popular creatures of Chinese myth, courtesy of Chinoy:

## The Hopping Corpse

Some call it "The Chinese Ghost" while others disagree and say that it's "The Chinese Vampire." In Mandarin however, its name can be roughly translated to "blood-sucking ghost," so it's really both. They are said to be created when a person's soul stays behind on Earth because of things unfulfilled on Earth. Depending on their manner of

death, their skin turns whitish or bluish, but in all cases, their arms stretch out and stiffen, perfect for catching and strangling victims.

*"Now that other Asian countries are converting their myths to the silver screen, it's only a matter of time before legendary Chinese beasts get into the act."*

While you might think the stiffening of their legs is the reason behind hopping being their main mode of transportation, it actually has roots in a myth called "The Corpses Who Traveled a Thousand Li" in which wizards send corpses back hopping to their hometowns for proper burials.

These Hopping Corpses have several weaknesses, quite different from their Western cousins. For starters, Hopping Corpses detect living creatures by listening for their breathing. Holding your breath can throw a Hopping Corpse off your trail, long enough, perhaps, for you to prepare a piece of yellow paper with a specific Chinese spell on it. Doing so will put the Hopping Corpse to sleep indefinitely. On a more hilarious note, some more esoteric books of *feng shui* may still mention the need to create a "threshold," a six-inch high piece of wood installed at the base of the door. Presumably, this will cause any Hopping Vampire to trip, leaving you with enough time to run, should one happen to be after you.

It is also interesting to note that the notion of Hopping Corpses may have originated from smugglers, who would drape corpses over themselves as a disguise, to throw authorities off and prevent townsfolk from being too inquisitive at night.

### Fox Spirits

These are the Chinese equivalents to the European faeries or sprites. Although, the idea of fox spirits is also found in Japan where they are called *kitsune*. Fox spirits often take on a semi-human form, like a fox on two legs, except with clothes, and are known to possess magical abilities. Fox spirits are known to be mischievous, often using their magical powers to amuse themselves, and so they can rarely be clearly labeled as "good" or "bad." However, most fox spirits are portrayed as female, and Chinese and Japanese myths are rife with stories of "fox girls" falling in love with humans (in fact, author Neil Gaiman devoted a *Sandman* special to such a story, entitled "The Dream Hunters").

*"Fox spirits are known to be mischievous, often using their magical powers to amuse themselves."*

The legend of fox spirits may have arisen from the fact that foxes were a part of folk religion in China. Nowadays however, calling someone a "fox spirit" has negative connotations in China. A "*huli jing*" is a colloquial phrase for a dangerous seductress, or a whore.

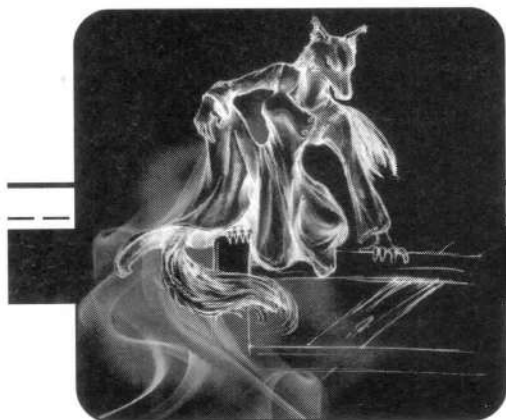
### Chinese Dragon

For some, there is nothing more "Chinese" than a Chinese dragon. It is, after all, a symbol of great power for the Chinese as well as the symbol of the emperor. And if the myths are to be believed, they are larger, more regal, and mightier than those in Europe. It is the yang to the Chinese phoenix's yin and is usually associated with the element of water, to the point where it became part of Chinese folk religion to give offerings to

dragons to prevent floods and heavy rain.

The most common origin of the Chinese dragon states that Huang Di's (Yellow Emperor) coat of arms began with a snake, but as the number of victories he had over the other tribes grew, his snake became more and more like a dragon, as he incorporated the elements of their coat of arms into his own. Another legend says that if a simple carp were to leap over a mythical "Dragon Gate," it would of course, turn into a dragon. No one knows where this "Dragon Gate" is though, despite the fact that many waterfalls are named in Chinese Myth.

*"[The Dragon] is a symbol of great power for the Chinese as well as the symbol of the emperor...they are larger, more regal, and mightier than those in Europe."*



Wherever they came from, Chinese dragons are said to possess 81 scales, corresponding to the number nine, which is lucky for the Chinese (9x9). Chinese dragons rarely have wings, but are often portrayed as carrying a pearl in their front limbs. This pearl is the source of their power.

### Other Chinese Monsters

The **Fenghuang** is the Chinese Phoenix, and is considered to be "yin." As such, it is often paired up with the dragon, and it is common to find both on decorations for a Chinese wedding as they symbolize a loving relationship between husband and wife.

The Fenghuang is the ruler of all birds, and is a symbol of the six celestial bodies, sky, sun, moon, wind, earth and the planets. The Chinese Phoenix, thanks to its female connotation, usually symbolizes grace and beauty. It is also considered as something of a prophet, as it only appears during peaceful times. Its disappearance usually means war and strife are near.

**Nian**, which is Chinese for "year," also happens to be the name of a monster that lives under the sea. Like clockwork, it comes out each year in hopes of devouring some people. This lead the Chinese to develop several customs of celebrating Chinese New Year with red decorations, fire crackers, and the lion dance, all of which are used to scare the Nian off. Thus, the origins of the Chinese New Year are said to arise from the awakening of this beast.

Another beast that has analogues in both European and Japanese culture is the **Qilin**, which can be seen as the Chinese Unicorn, and is known in Japan as the Kirin. There are however, different views pertaining to how the Qilin looks. During the Ming dynasty, it was thought to be an ox-hooved animal with the head of a dragon. When the Qing dynasty rolled around, it absorbed even more parts from other animals, such as deer antlers, fish scales, and a lion tail, making it more of a chimera than a unicorn.

However it looks like, the Qilin is quite a benevolent creature. According to legend, this beast cannot harm another beast, as it is lord of mammals, second in rank in Chinese mythology only

to the Dragon. It only appears in areas governed by equally benevolent rulers as their guardians, provoked only if a pure individual is harmed by someone "unclean." They are also the guardians of forests, causing growth wherever it walks.

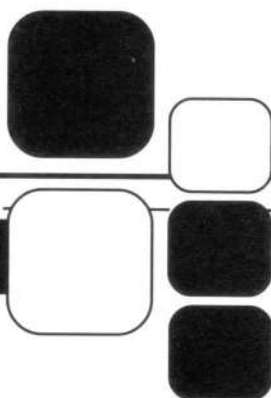
*"While the creatures from Chinese myth are hardly terrifying, they sure are awe-inspiring, and are grounded in beasts we are already familiar with."*

China is known in the dinosaur world as a place ripe with fossils. It is possible that some Chinese villagers discovered a pteranodon skeleton, a flying dinosaur, and to explain it, came up with the myth of the **People of Ch'uan-T'ou**, who are said to be humans with bird beaks and bat wings.

While the creatures from Chinese myth are hardly terrifying, they sure are awe-inspiring, and are grounded in beasts we are already familiar with. It probably won't take very long for them to be popular with the general populace, once a talented writer or movie director gets his or her magical touch on them. Sadly, they won't really scare the pants off your little brother or sister though, in fact, you might just get the opposite result. You could have your younger sibling, clamoring for more stories, about these fascinating Oriental legends. ☺

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<http://www.wikipedia.org>  
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**Shopping for the ultimate gift this Christmas? Curious about Feng Shui and other Chinese trinkets that can possibly bring you that gorgeous boyfriend or girlfriend? Ready your shopping carts and join Kevin Tsai as he conquers the World of Feng Shui!**

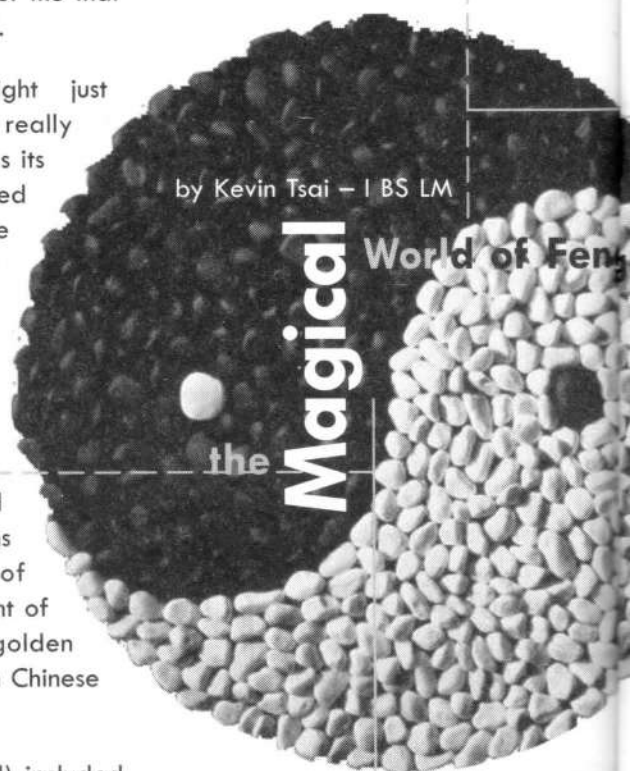
I was strolling along the Podium one boring day when a particular shop caught my eye. I wondered why I never noticed the shop before; I could've sworn I passed by this place not long ago. I wondered how an eccentric store as this not have caught my attention. Before I entered, I first browsed across the display window to find out what items they had to offer. *I definitely have never been here before*, I thought. Eager to find out what was in store for me that day, I casually entered the *World of Feng Shui*.

At an initial glance, the first floor of the place might just seem like a picturesque boutique, but when you really look into the details, each object specifically has its own placement and the design is no less devised with precision. Unlike most other shops in the Podium, this shop has a second floor, where you can find more stuff, as I was told. Apparently, the second floor is also where the owner holds consultations with clients in her office.

The shop offers a wide range of Feng Shui merchandise which are said to not only bring prosperity and joy but also add a refined and tasteful touch to any home or office. These items include paintings, ornaments and figurines of various sizes, water fountains, and an assortment of trinkets, amulets, charms and of course, the golden toad with a coin in its mouth commonly found in Chinese restaurants.

Other items (which I didn't even know existed) included huggable kitty plush dolls, elegant jewelry, scintillating crystal orbs, compass key chains and an umbrella with images of various currencies printed inside it, symbolizing wealth showering down on the bearer.

They also offer a variety of articles for leisurely purposes, namely chess sets, books, magazines and videos of The Lillian Too Show, which is aired in Malaysia. For the OC, they carry desk organizers, notebooks and pens all carrying some logo or insignia commonly used in Feng Shui.





They also carry exclusive apparel such as T-shirts, caps, wallets, and pouch-like bags for those who would want a little extra luck with them when they're traveling.

One thing I found very interesting (and helpful) about the shop was that each merchandise had a detailed description of its purpose and the specific area you are to place it on. That way, you'll be able to know what you want, get what you want and know where to place them properly.

LUCKILY, I was able to get an exclusive interview with the shop owner, Ms. Marites Allen:

**Curious question. How is the shop constructed in accordance to the concepts of Feng Shui?**

First and foremost, we need to bear in mind that each of us has his or her own auspicious and inauspicious zones. I had a hard time finding the right place at first. I was debating whether to construct the shop in Makati or Ortigas. It took me three to four months of searching before I was offered four spots here in The Podium. Of the four primary and four secondary directions, I had to look at my compass to choose the location facing east, as east is my auspicious or lucky zone. This Feng Shui concept generally applies to selecting any space, such as for a condo unit or a house.

During the construction, we buried thousands of prosperity coins or *Ang Pao* underneath the tiles on both floors. There are 168 coins under the big compass circle; 88 under the cashier, another 88 under the water fountain; 8 coins under each cabinet and a few placed beneath as 8 is the lucky number from February of this year up to the next twenty years.

We also observed a strict policy with regards to hiring the architects and constructors, as well as

the staff. Their signs shouldn't be in conflict with my sign. It is very important to be surrounded by your friends, especially in business.

For the grand opening of our shop, I referred to an almanac which states the good days and bad days for certain ceremonies, such as marriage or engagements. According to the almanac, November 18, 2004 was a very auspicious day for opening our shop.

**What inspired you to establish World of Feng Shui here in the Philippines?**

I first took a Feng Shui course at the Lillian Too Institute of Feng Shui in Malaysia, and studied business further at the Ateneo Graduate School of Business in Rockwell, Makati. Coincidentally, I was very interested in Feng Shui; and I figured franchising is the best form of business. And that's how World of Feng Shui Philippines came to be.

**So what makes World of Feng Shui different from shops found in Chinatown?**

Before I even accepted the responsibility to operate this franchise, I already had high regard for those Feng Shui shops located in Chinatown. But what makes us different is that we are here to stay. Not only do we carry charms and items but we offer books and magazines as well. It's one thing to have all these amulets and figurines, and it's another to place them in a precise place. We don't just sell Feng Shui; we teach it. After every consultation, we have a report and we want our client to understand the interpretation. It is only when our client understands that we can fully help him.

**How is Feng Shui recognized here as compared to how it is abroad?**

Here in the Philippines, we have social classes. All I can say is, Feng Shui has been around for many, many years now. Lillian Too has written over eighty books on Feng Shui and it has been successfully accepted. The number of people coming in for consultations has surpassed my

We at  
World of Feng  
Shui just want  
to disseminate the  
beauty that is Feng  
Shui. It  
encompasses race  
and social status

expectations.

In the Polytechnic University of Singapore, they are planning to offer courses in Feng Shui, similar to those in the Lillian Too Institute of Feng Shui, Malaysia.

People from all over are awaiting the predictions for the year 2006, as the fashion and car industry would be highly dependent on them. These industries would like to find out which fads and trends would be the most and the least appealing to the public.

**What practical Feng Shui concepts can you give that the average person can practice everyday?**

We have to understand that there are three types of luck; and Feng Shui is only one of those three.

The first third is called heaven luck, which is what fortune tellers can predict for us. For example, we see people readily born beautiful or born to rich and powerful families. This type of luck might change when one marries or gives birth. It's all preordained and destined; hence, we do not have any control over it.

The second one is called mankind luck, which is affected by our daily actions and decisions and *pagsumikap*.

Finally, we have what we call earth luck, and this is where Feng Shui comes in. In her books, Lillian Too, a world-renowned Feng Shui expert from Malaysia, tells us that if we weren't born with heaven luck, we still have the mankind luck and earth luck to help change our destiny for the better.

We're all the same. Some might be wealthy and powerful but they can't find real happiness or

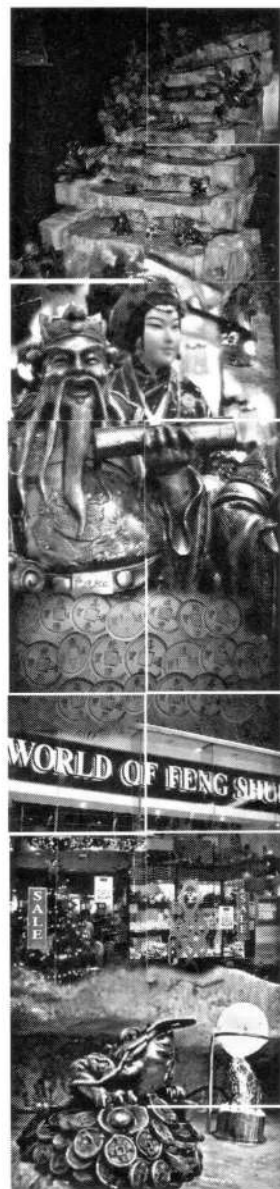
the right mate or can't conceive a child. So how do we activate our earth luck? First, I would like to reiterate over and over that we should start each day with a positive mind and point of view.

There are items that help enhance our luck.

We can wear so-called "lucky charms" and place figurines in our homes. Also, consultations in Feng Shui help lessen or prevent the negative effects should we fall, figuratively speaking. Take me, for example. In selecting my boutique, I chose the one which is most auspicious for me. And I had the prosperity coins buried underneath the place. Ultimately, it narrows down to making the right decisions and the best choices, guided by the principles of Feng Shui, of course.

**What do you have to say for those who doubt Feng Shui?**

If people choose not to believe in it then there's really nothing I can do about it. All I can say is that it exists. An example



is when choosing clothes or cars. Oftentimes, we are attracted to a certain color and repulsed by another one. Or when we wear a particular shade, our mood and aura seem to change along with it. If there was no truth to Feng Shui, it would have died a natural death.

Moreover, when I planned to open World of Feng Shui here in the Podium, I would like to mention that the Henry Sy Group of Companies was very glad and encouraging of it. Why would big-time businessmen like Henry Sy and John Gokongwei regularly fly to China to consult Feng Shui experts there? Obviously, they wouldn't waste time and money if it isn't true.

We at World of Feng Shui just want to disseminate the beauty that is Feng Shui. It encompasses race and social status. You don't have to be rich or Chinese to imbibe Feng Shui into your lifestyle, as I myself am a Filipina. Although Feng Shui did begin more than 5000 years ago in China, not all Chinese know the

purpose and meaning of Feng Shui. Furthermore, concepts and formulas in Feng Shui are the same all throughout the world and are applicable for anyone. It is not superstition, nor a religion. It can't give you results within twenty-four hours. Feng Shui is all about living in harmony with your environment.

~~~

Aside from being an expert Feng Shui consultant for the past fourteen years, Marites Allen is currently a businesswoman venturing into leasing executive office spaces in Taipan, along Emerald Avenue, Ortigas. She is also a loving wife and mother of four. She has been featured in a number of publications for the past few years, including the Manila Bulletin, the Philippine Star, the Philippine Daily Inquirer, Planet Philippines, Mabuhay, Feng Shui World, Inklings, and Sense and Style Magazine.

World of Feng Shui is located at the ground floor of The Podium. Telephone numbers 9147112 or 9147888. ☺



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AMP

277

"If I had so much as a seed of hope, if I saw an end, however far away, that one day we could rise up and push the enemy into the sea! But all we do is to endure, and can victory be won only by endurance?" – Ling Tan

# SEEDS OF HOPE

by Margaret Michelle Tan  
IBS MCT

Join MM Tan as she brings to us the pain, passion and perseverance in Nobel Piece Prize for Literature Award Winner Pearl S. Buck's classic *Dragon Seed*

**S**tories behind the magic in every Chinese paperback range from the status of the people under Communism to the silent afflictions of women who have bound feet and minimal privileges. Every tale produces a rather unique and special edge different from others among their kind, reflecting a culture that has been passed on through generations.

The book "*Dragon Seed*" is proof to the living authenticity of Chinese chronicles. The author, Pearl Buck, is an American whose parents were Southern Presbyterian missionaries stationed in China. From childhood, Buck's first language was Chinese. She started writing novels in her early twenties, most of which dealt with life in the Asian countries, particularly the confrontations between the East and the West. In this 1942 novel, Buck tackles a concrete instance through the raging war between Japan and China, and its effects towards its people.

Set in a small village in China, *Dragon Seed* tells the story of a family who struggles continuously in the midst of war. We meet Ling Tan, a farmer who has lived all his life in a piece of land where his house and livelihood are grounded on. His wife, Ling Sao, bore the family three sons (Lao Ta, Lao Er, and Lao San) and two daughters. Simple joys would come to them in the form of good harvest and having every family member present during mealtime. Their way of living is one of simplicity and happiness, one that has kept them contented and gratified with what is in their hands.

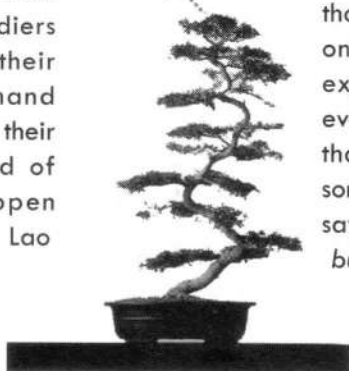
Their quiet life was disturbed when they saw the brutal signs of the enemy's invasion. Since these enemies wanted to conquer their country, each family member had their own plans and decided on what they had to do to be able to survive alone. While the others from their neighborhood tried their luck and silently battled through



with their own ways of trying to escape the enemy, Ling Tan and part of his family decided to stay in the land where his ancestors had lived and died, and decided to fight the enemy in every possible way. Only two of his children: his elder daughter, who married a city man, as well as his second son, Lao Er, with his wife Jade, decided to head on to the city.

Drowned in this tumultuous time, Ling Tan's humble family tried their best to survive amidst the iron fist of the East. The women in their family had to hide outside their village where all the women were to be kept safe, away from any danger. Soldiers would come to their house and demand large amounts of their harvest. Terrified of what might happen next, Lao Ta and Lao

...[the novel] shows that there is nothing wrong with hoping or dreaming for something - as long as we fight for it.



San would go to the hills every now and then just to check for any tell-tale signs of the enemy coming in. However, despite all of these hardships, Ling Tan found a sort of light at the end of the tunnel with the people who shared the same grievances — and dreams of peace — as he did. Together with his fellow farmers, Ling Tan was able to see hope in starting anew.

*Dragon Seed*, as aptly entitled, shows the role of the animal as the people's guide. The dragon, being a "god and a friend of men who holds in his power prosperity and peace", became a symbol of hope for the Chinese during these times of grief and hardships, such as this war. Being an entity of power, prosperity, and even rain — as is an important thing for farmers such as Ling Tan — the dragon became the symbol of hope and endurance for the people during these times, giving them the persistence to continue fighting even their own battles.

Overall, Buck's novel is one that is an exposure to life's basic realities — one's endless search for hope, love, peace, and unity. It also portrays the ideals of what family life should be like, even through the impossibilities that war can bring. What stands out in this book are the roots of Chinese culture and traditions that remain present until today, specifically, the characters' belief that everything laid before them was given by Heaven, despite every good or bad fate that has come upon them.

Though written in the 40's, *Dragon Seed* still contains a story that reflects what every kind of family goes through — not only with waging war but through the trials every kind experiences. I recommend this story to everyone because even if it is a tale that speaks of war and chaos, it shows us that there is nothing wrong with hoping or dreaming for something — as long as we fight for it. As what Lao Er would say, "Hope must come out of what we have, or it is not hope, but a dream." ☺



## Celadon goes to UAP

Celadoneans visited the UA&P campus in Ortigas as part of the The UA&P Student Exchange last August 19. This event was the first of two parts where FU, the Chinese-Filipino Organization of UA&P, hosted this one-day affair. On the part of the Celadoneans, it was organized by Trina Coleen Ong (II AB EU), Adrienne Gopoco (2 BS MGT), and Eleanore Co (III BS MAC). According to the organizers, the Celadon contingent numbered 20 in all, and the event went smoothly despite minor difficulties encountered during the event.

## AIR, The Amazing Interdepartment Race

"A success!" exclaimed Ivan Caw, one of the managers who organized the Amazing Interdepartment Race, held last September 9 around the Ateneo College Campus. The turnout was high as opposed to initial estimates made from the dry run.

Overall, seven teams participated in the race itself with four members in each team. The participants dealt with different obstacles along the way, prepared by the organizers with the help of Daphne Uy, VP for Human Resources. Even Mother Nature got into the act by sending rain to test the participants, but this did not dampen their spirits. In the end, the team of Kim Chua (II BS MGT-H), Lance Tan (II BS MA), Stephenson Sy (III BS MIS) and Justin Lim (II BS MGT-H) prevailed as the overall winners of the race. "It was very innovative and the exciting stops proved to be a formula for fun!" exclaimed Kim Chua, a member of the winning team. They received a total of five hundred pesos in cash and products from Home of Beauty Exclusive.

# buhay c

## Rediscover China Photo Ex

The Rediscover China Photo Exhibit opened last in the Rizal Library. The event was spearheaded by the Social Sciences with the theme of "Rediscover China". and attended by the dean of the School of Social Sciences, the Chinese Studies Program led by the chair of the Gonzalez – Intal, VP for the Loyola Schools and the Republic of China, Mr. Dai Xing Yuan. Ribbon cutting Schools and the Cultural Councilor of the Embassy of the

The exhibit featured different facets of Chinese, converging of old traditions with pop culture. "We are, Fr. Aristotle Dy, S.J., the head of the Chinese Studies Program exhibit. Decades of change ushered in by its progressive current leader Hu Jintao have led to the rapid growth and leaves us with [a] very powerful feeling... It would take Jose Cruz S.J., dean of the School of Social Sciences, different facets of Chinese culture which has blended in and show both the historical value and thoughts for the



by Jennelyn Charmé Ang II BS LM  
and Nina Suzette Lim II AB COM

## Gratia

Every year, Celadon organizes Gratia, an event to give members of the Ateneo student population a chance to show their appreciation to members of the faculty. Students were given a chance to vote for their favorite teachers in several categories. This year, voting was held from September 12 to September 21 and on the evening of the 21<sup>st</sup>, the awards ceremony was held at the Manuel V. Pangilinan Room, CTC 201, sponsored by Chikka.com and Pizza Hut. It was organized by Malerie Dy (III BSM AMF), Earl Keh (III BS ME), Armstrong Lee (III BS ME), and Neal Lee (III BS MA) and graced with the special performances by the Ateneo College Ministry Group (ACMG), Blue Repertory, Big Blue Blog (which is comprised of the staff of the Philosophy Department), Celadon Dance Troupe, and the Celadon Choir. Masters of the Ceremony were Kevin Tsai (I BS LM) and Jennelyn Charmé Ang (II BS LM). Awardees were given plaques of honor and appreciation.

For more info, see the special section on Gratia on page 22

## Exhibit

and last September 19 at the Pardo de Tavera Room  
by the Chinese Studies Program of the School of  
ina". Ceremonies were led by Mr. Clark Alejandrino  
Sciences, Fr. Jose M. Cruz, S.J., Faculty and Staff of  
of the program Fr. Aristotle Dy, S.J., Dr. Anna Miren  
the Cultural Councilor of the Embassy of the Peoples  
giving ceremonies were led by the VP for the Loyola  
y of the Peoples Republic of China.

ines, culture and society in the 20<sup>th</sup> century and the  
e ar, seeing a brand new nation over the decades"  
ies Program mentioned in his opening speech for the  
gressive-minded leaders from Deng Xiaoping to its  
wth and development of China. "The word 'Discover'  
uld take an eternity to discover China" mentions Fr.  
iencies. As such, this exhibit served to highlight the  
ded in with the times from such a conservative nation  
for the future of China.

## Double Yum!

The SEC Field teemed with sumptuous delights as Celadon held two food projects simultaneously from September 19-23: the Major Food Sale and the Just Desserts Food Sale.

Entitled "Fusion: Asian Delights," the Major Food Sale featured Filipino, Japanese, Chinese, and Korean rice meals on each day of the week and a combination of all these cuisines on the last day of the sale. On the other hand, the Just Desserts Food Sale was a Communication and Publication (Comm & Pub) project that sold cream cheese brownies, coffee jelly, and its best-selling products: chocolate crinkles from Hungry Pac, and Bulla ice cream imported from Australia (which came in low fat and regular flavors).

next page ---->

september



## Celadon Visits Englicom

The Ateneo-La Salle student exchange 2005 as Celadon meets Englicom, the organization of De La Salle University. On MGT), Laurelle Lau (2 BS ME), and Teege aimed to build friendship and camaraderie.

The rainy weather didn't prove to be a hindrance to make friends and bond. Right after the tour, Chu, the president of Englicom, Celadonear games to get to know each other better. Ambassadors dished out interesting trivia about the university during the campus tour. Lunch was the opportunity to sample the gustatory delights and bond with their new-found friends. They then went to Englicom and its various activities, where members of the Englicom choir left the audience.

One of the highlights of the event was a scavenger hunt by an Englicom member, teams searched the campus to obtain puzzle pieces by solving riddles, performing challenging tasks like asking two people to eat a sandwich with a piece of dead worm. Teams that succeed in the assigned tasks had to perform a task with puzzle pieces. At the final station, teams had to form the letter E and finish the hunt. They received prizes, while the last team to finish lost the use of the camera as a consequence. A group photo was followed by the distribution of handouts as a commemoration of the wonderful day that Celadoneans of their newly-made friends.

## (cont.) Double Yum!

The main problem encountered during both the food sales was lack of manpower due to the approaching finals week. The managers in both projects had to get help from other managers, the Executive Board officers, and some very active members. The Comm & Pub minor food sale experienced minor problems as well - some products, like the Bulla ice cream, were so in demand that customers had to wait for the next day to avail of the treats.

Aside from raising money for the organization, the food sales aimed to offer Ateneans a wider variety of food choices aside from the food served in the campus, to give members and managers a sense of responsibility by giving them important roles, and to let the members bond well.

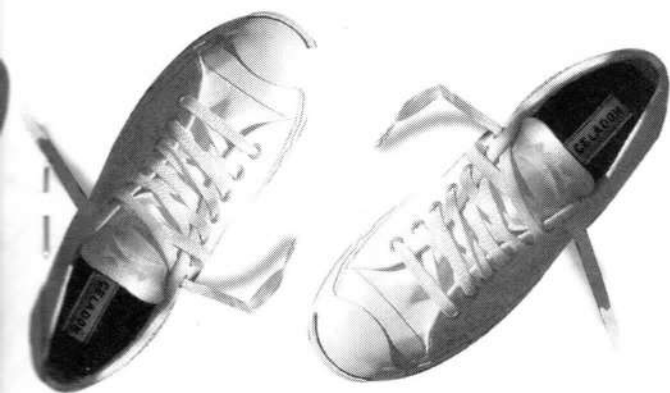
october



## Exceladon

On the 17<sup>th</sup> of October, Celadon unleashed its sembreak event designed for its members to relax and enjoy the beginning of the month-long break - Exceladon. A day of sports, fun and games were launched at the Greenhills West Clubhouse from dawn till dusk, organized by Jared Ang (III AB MECO), Zaza Chiusinco (II BS MGT-H), Stephen Go (III BS MGT-H), and Cheryl Lu (II BS MGT) and sponsored by Clark Hatch, Hakata and Aquasafe. Although Basketball and Volleyball were the sports most people participated in, there was a considerable number who also took part in Badminton, Table Tennis, and Boggle. Amidst the sweat and tears of the participants, everyone played with a sense of camaraderie and zeal which made each and everyone of them winners in every respect.





2005<sup>celadon</sup>  
9002

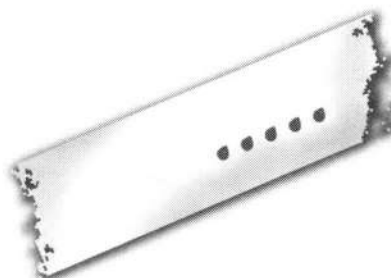
a look at what has been.  
what will be in 2006?

icom

exchange kicked off on October 19,  
the official Chinese-Filipino student  
y. Organized by Jenny Huang (2 BS  
eegee Go (2 BS MGT-H), this event  
aderie between the two schools.

e to be a challenge for the participants  
ter the opening remarks from Oscar  
eans enjoyed rounds of ice breaker  
better. Members of the La Salle  
ia about the different buildings inside  
Lunch break provided Celadoneans  
y delights of the university cafeterias  
ds. Video presentations introduced  
ies, while a romantic duet by the best  
e audience wanting for more.

event was the Treasure Hunt. Assisted  
ched for different stations within the  
olving mind-boggling questions and  
ing two volunteers from each team to  
worm stuck in it. Teams who did not  
perform consequences to obtain the  
ams assembled the puzzle pieces to  
The winner and the runner-up teams  
finish had to do a sexy pose in front  
group picture capped off the event,  
and made bookmarks not only in  
ay they shared, but to remind the  
ends.



november



## UA&P Visits Ateneo

After Celadoneans visited UA&P last August 19, members and officers of FU, the Chinese-Filipino Organization of UA&P, reciprocated and visited the Ateneo campus last November 23. The welcoming rites and various activities were held at the Ching Tan Room. As with the visit to UA&P, Trina Ong (II AB EU), Eleanore Co (III BS MAC) and Adrienne Gopoco (II BS MGT) were the organizers in charge of the event. "The event was quite successful despite the late start and several postponements that happened which were beyond us" Trina Ong relates. Indeed, the event was postponed three times due to some concerns and circumstances beyond the organizers control. Aside from that, members of FU arrived late for the event due to a misunderstanding on their part yet despite all obstacles, as Trina says, "everyone had fun and many memories to cherish from the event". ☺

Thank you Merci 谢谢  
Danke Grazie 感謝の  
Gracias Dank  
Ευχαριστιες Obrigado  
Спасибо

# Gratia

I taught Mathematics in the High School in the 1960s and Mathematics in the College and Graduate School through the 1970s and 1980s. More recently, I have been teaching a Problem Solving course in Mathematics together with Dr. Queena Lee-Chua. What I enjoy most in teaching is seeing young minds grow. Moments of understanding and insight and mastery of skills are always very rewarding for a teacher. As the years have gone on, I have seen my students become professors and teachers in their own right. This is perhaps the greatest reward for a teacher – to form a new generation.

Congratulations to Celadon on your **Faculty Appreciation Week**. May I end with a motto which we saw during a Mathematics Education Conference in Shanghai last August 7-11, 2005. It is the motto of a teacher training school, East China Normal University, and it says, "Seek truth, foster originality and live up to the name of teacher."

Bienvenido F. Nebres  
S.J. President, Ateneo de Manila University

Спасибо Thank you Merci 谢谢  
Danke Grazie 感謝の Gracias Dank  
Ευχαριστιες Obrigado  
Спасибо  
Thank you Merci 谢谢  
Danke Grazie 感謝の

Dear Fellow Teachers,

September 28th is the birthday of Confucius. Even under China's Socialist government, the day is celebrated with programs that honor teachers, who are the spiritual descendants of Confucius. In the Philippines, many Chinese schools celebrate Teachers' Day on September 28th.

I am happy that Celadon, the Ateneo's official Chinese-Filipino student organization, has been organizing Gratia night for three years now. It is their way of bringing to the Ateneo the Chinese value of deep appreciation and reverence for teachers. They have taken the trouble to prepare a program, little tokens for the faculty, and a nice meal, not to mention all the logistical requirements. This year, they even solicited the active support of the Vice-President for the Loyola Schools, and Dr. Miren Intal graciously hosted the affair at PLDT-CTC 201 and co-sponsored the special Chinese dinner. It was her way of sharing Celadon's desire to show appreciation for our faculty.

You may wonder why Confucius is considered China's greatest teacher. In the 5th century BCE, the problem he faced was one of governance, of how to unite China's many kingdoms and how leaders can earn the respect of their people. His vision of society and the human relationships that make it function well remain as ideals for China and all Chinese. It is for this reason that his teachings hold pride of place in the Chinese psyche, and all teachers look to him for inspiration.

Not all of us will have the time to study Confucius, but let Gratia—this unique gesture from Celadon and the student body—inspire us to be better mentors to them.

God bless us all!

Fr. Ari C. Dy, SJ  
Moderator, Celadon 2005-2006

## Sticking Your Neck Out

How do things get started? It can happen in many ways. One way is when some individual sees the need for it to take place then sticks his or her neck out to get it going.

Ateneo is the only school that offers taichi as a P.E. subject on a regular basis. Do you ever wonder how it came about? Well, some "discerning" individual – namely me – stuck his neck out to introduce it to the Ateneo. How did it happen?

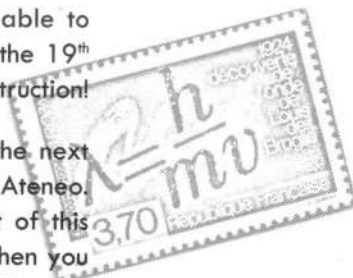
For a long time I had wanted to learn taichi because I heard it is a "low-impact" exercise which has a lot of health benefits. Unfortunately, I was not aware of any taichi being taught anywhere except perhaps in faraway Binondo. Then, in 1997, I learned that a class on the basic 24-step taichi was being organized with Ateneo as venue, to be handled by a renowned Beijing Sports Coach (Qigong Master Li Jun Feng). I made certain that I would be a member of that class. So I learned the basic taichi in night classes that took place on the stretch of road running through the Social Development Complex. I was a very serious student, even making notes of something akin to a dance class. But I enjoyed the lessons. I felt that I benefited so much from learning taichi that I wished others could learn about it too.

I then thought of suggesting to the PE Department that it open a class on basic taichi in the coming semester. Who would teach the class? I said I would! (*Lakas ng loob lang!*) The PE chairman was happy about the offering, probably tickled pink by the novelty of a math teacher handling a PE class! I was amazed at my own rashness, doing something I'd never done – me with my two left feet, lack of body coordination, etc. Fortunately, I did not know enough about taichi to realize that its teaching has been done according to a rather rigid master-disciple kind of arrangement. Here the master is supposed to be able to trace his ancestry to some revered martial arts genius who lived in the 19<sup>th</sup> century or earlier! Seen in this light, I was a nursery student giving instruction!

I found and recruited a more qualified teacher for Ateneo PE in the next semester. Since then, I think "PE taichi" has already taken root in the Ateneo. But one wonders if Ateneo students would have gotten the benefit of this art if one individual didn't care – and dare – to stick his neck out! When you realize you have discovered something of value and you want others to have it too, maybe you are the person who should do something about it. ☺



by Norman F. Quimpo,  
Mathematics Department





# Jasmine's Tears

by Dr. Queena Lee-Chua, Math Department

The class gazed back with various expressions of polite disbelief. My opening day spiel did not seem to be going well. Granted, Math 22 – Intermediate Calculus – was not guaranteed to strike joy or excitement in undergraduates' souls. However, as computer science majors, didn't these students realize that aside from whatever academic content they would manage to retain in the future, advanced math would be the best training ground for developing the logical discipline and rigorous reasoning they would need for their career?

This was not their first calculus class. Last year in Math 21 they were introduced to basic concepts – limits, continuity, derivatives, integrals, applications – by an experienced and dedicated teacher, one of my trusted colleagues. But upon perusing their final scores, I felt a stab of dismay. The class' average was a mediocre C, and the highest student only got a B. A couple of students flunked out, and soon shifted to less mathematically-demanding courses.

No wonder my students did not look enthusiastic today. Intermediate Calculus was just another Calvary to be endured, with agonizing bouts of exam-cramming and fervent prayers for succor. To their credit, my students blamed themselves for their dismal grades. They confessed they did not study much. Jasmine, seated in the third row, had a

particularly distressed look on her face. Later she would come to me and confess that she barely understood anything in Math 21. She also enlightened me on the attitude of the class. "We did so badly in our first test that we gave up hope." Her final grade in that subject? A hair's breadth from doom – D.

That first day, I finished lamely, "Once you really master math, you can begin to see the beauty of it – its austere elegance, its sound rigor, the way things just fall into place when done well. Trust me." The students filed away silently.

I have always believed that mathematics is but a microcosm of the real world, and just as experts in piano, basketball, and cooking hone their craft through constant practice and understanding of the fundamentals, the same is true with math. How could Jasmine even deal with double and triple integrals, or theorems involving functions of two or more variables – if she could not make sense of single integrals or functions of one variable? Expecting her to do so would be like asking a student to interpret Rizal's *Noli* in the original – without mastering Spanish 1.

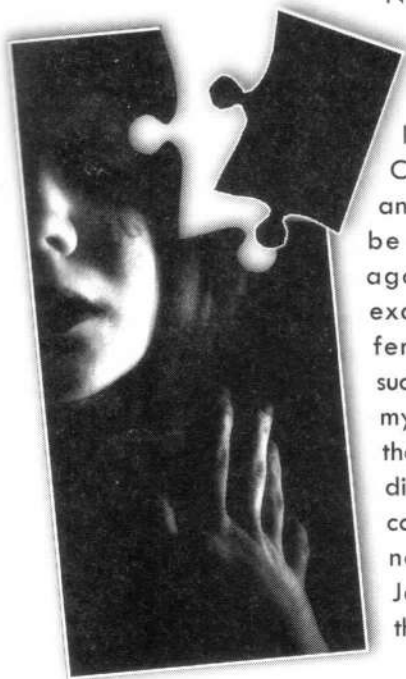
On our next meeting, I made a deal with my class. "I promise to try my best to make the lessons interesting and relevant for all of you. In return, you also have to promise to do your best. This means solving all the class exercises, reviewing all the things you did not understand last year, studying your lessons everyday for at least a couple of hours, and consulting me the moment you do not understand the topic."

Some students looked aghast, but eventually, all of them promised to do so. I looked at Jasmine.

She nodded her head solemnly.

I had to make my students believe in themselves – that excelling in high math could be done. The whole class watched the inspiring and true-to-

...turn to p29





HAVE BEEN TEACHING FINANCIAL AND MANAGERIAL

ACCOUNTING OVER THE PAST 15 YEARS TO MOSTLY

SOPHOMORE MANAGEMENT ENGINEERING STUDENTS.

ACCOUNTING IS NOT EXACTLY AN EXCITING TOPIC, AND THE RIGOR

OF DEBITS AND CREDITS CAN BECOME QUITE BORING AT TIMES.

IT'S A CHALLENGE FOR ME, THEREFORE, TO TRY TO FIND WAYS TO

MAKE MY STUDENTS WANT TO LEARN ACCOUNTING, AND TO LEARN

IT IN A WAY THAT WILL BE USEFUL TO THEM. I USUALLY START THE

SEMESTER BY TALKING ABOUT WHAT ACCOUNTING MEANS — NOT

SO MUCH AS A SYSTEM OF RECORDING, PRESENTING, AND

ANALYZING FINANCIAL INFORMATION — BUT RATHER AS A MEANS

TO PROVIDE ACCOUNTABILITY. YES, AT ITS VERY ROOT,

ACCOUNTING CAME ABOUT BECAUSE PEOPLE ARE ESSENTIALLY

STEWARDS, AND THEY NEED TO EXPLAIN TO THEMSELVES, AND TO

OTHERS, HOW THEY HAVE USED THE MONEY THAT HAVE BEEN

ENTRUSTED TO THEM TO ACHIEVE A CERTAIN PURPOSE. I HOPE

THAT MY STUDENTS WILL UNDERSTAND THAT ACCOUNTING HAS A

HIGHER MEANING, AND THAT THIS WILL INSPIRE THEM TO REALLY

STUDY THE SUBJECT.

WHEN I THINK BACK OF MY OWN EXPERIENCE AS A TEACHER,

AND TRY TO IDENTIFY THE OTHER THINGS I DID THAT HELPED ME

CONNECT TO MY STUDENTS AND MAKE THEIR LEARNING EXPERIENCE

MORE MEANINGFUL, THESE ARE THE ONES THAT CAME TO MY MIND:



## EIGHT TIPS TO BETTER TEACHING

**1** Never solve assigned problems for the first time in class.

I know of some teachers who either do not prepare, or feel so confident about their own problem-solving skills, that they do not solve assigned problems before going to class. There is nothing more embarrassing than muddling through a problem-solving process in front of the class. Instead of using the problem to illustrate good problem-solving techniques, the teacher only succeeded in showing that assigned problems are best done outside class hours first, or else, risk losing face. This tip, of course, falls under the more general tip of always being prepared for class.

**2** Try to picture how the blackboard will look like at the end of class.

Students usually don't grasp the concepts you are explaining right away, and so they just listen and follow your lectures, hoping that they'll get it at some point. It helps that the way you write on the board shows the logical progression of the concepts you are expounding, so that students have a way of referring to the earlier parts of your lecture. They also get a better sense of how the different parts fit together if all the parts still appear on the board. I find it helpful to visualize how the board should look like at the end of my lecturing a concept, so that I can point to the more important parts when I summarize my lecture.



by Dawn D. Yu

### 3 Be demanding, but also be fair.

In almost all academic fields, the only way for students to understand and integrate the skills and knowledge is to actually do the work. This means they have to read the assigned chapters, do the homework, rewrite their class notes, solve extra problems, and practice on past exams. At the very basic level, students can be motivated to do all these work if they get a good sense of how the subject matter can prepare them for their career. They also need to see that all the hard work they put in will also benefit their grades. This means that exams should not include situations that require stretching the student's imagination too much so as to test a particular concept taught in class. On the other hand, exams should not be too easy since those who did not study may be able to answer the questions just as easily as those who studied a lot. Exams should allow us to identify the good students from the poor ones. As a rule of thumb, about 50-60% of the exam should be C-level questions, 20-30% B-level, and 10-20% A-level.

### 4 Stories help students remember.

As much as we try to impress upon our students the technical jargon that each of our fields possesses, at the end of the semester, I don't think it's the technical jargons that stick to the heads of the students. I think students tend to remember better the stories that carry the technical jargons. For instance, when I teach inventory valuation methods in financial accounting, I talk about last-in-first-out (LIFO)

and explain how it affects cost of goods sold and inventory. Yet, I find that students respond better when I start talking about how pancakes fresh from the stove are piled up in the serving plate. The freshest pancake is always on top ("last in"), but this freshest pancake is also the one that gets served first ("first out"). Students laugh when I tell them that the next time they look at pancakes, they can't help but think about LIFO.

### 5 Be honest.

Sometimes, students ask us questions which we really do not have answers to. Instead of trying to appear extremely knowledgeable and trying to fashion an answer on the fly, we should just admit that we don't know the answer, and promise the students that we'll get back to them with an answer within a reasonable time. We may do more harm by giving the wrong "right" answer.

### 6 Always engage your students.

Look into the eyes of your students as you teach. Eye contact keeps your students occupied to what you are saying since you've established a bond with them. It's like talking to a person sitting across you at a dinner table, except that in the classroom, you are keeping a series of 5-second conversations with each of your 30 students. After you've swept your gaze through the whole room from left to right, you go back to the left side of the room again to re-establish your eye

contact. This way, students won't feel that you are just talking to a few of them. You also get a better sense of how students understand your lessons. If their faces are troubled, or their eyes look glazed over, don't proceed without clarifying your point.

**7** If they don't ask questions, it doesn't mean that they understand.

At the end of lecturing a topic, we often ask our students if they have any questions. If students don't ask questions, we often assume that they've understood the lesson to a large extent. Oftentimes, this has to be verified. Shoot a diagnostic question to a student whom you think does not understand. Or create a slightly different situation from the one you used in your lecture and pick a student to think aloud about how they would solve the problem. If students are able to give the right answers, then you've connected. If they are not able to, then at least you know which part of your lecture you have to review with them.

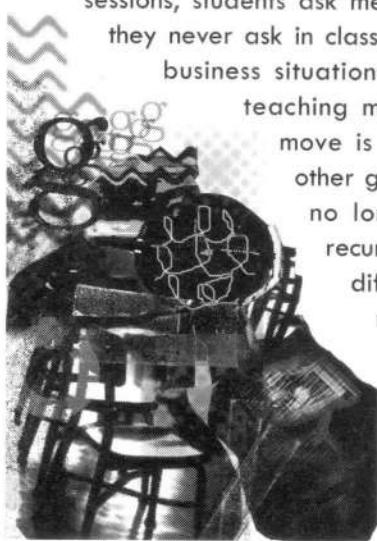
**8** Make learning a multi-dimensional experience.

The chalk-and-talk method is probably the most common mode of teaching, and with superb preparation and excellent delivery, this can be a very effective way of helping students learn. The concepts should be reinforced in many other ways though. Give students projects so that they can explore the topic more deeply. Last year, I asked my students to pick a small business, a micro-business in fact, with no accounting system in place, and then to set up one for them. The output is an accounting procedure manual. In our consultation

sessions, students ask me questions about accounting that they never ask in class as they are confronted with real business situations. Gaming is another effective

teaching mode, especially if each group's move is dependent on the moves of the other groups. The students' analyses are no longer linear, but branching and recursive, as they try to anticipate the different scenarios and how they will respond in each scenario. A lot of

opportunities for "eureka" moments arise in the debriefing session when students explain to each other why they did what they did. ☺



IN THE BEGINNING, I  
THOUGHT MY

TEACHING WOULD BE JUST A  
J O B .

BUT AFTER MANY YEARS AT IT,  
IT HAS BECOME MY VOCATION.

MY PAST TEACHING YEARS  
HAVE BEEN RICH IN MEMORIES.

THE PRESENT IS STILL  
EXCITING, ADVENTUROUS, AND  
FUN BECAUSE I AM ALLOWED TO  
WORK WITH THE FUTURE.

*by Mr. Walfredo P. Belen*  
*Senior Faculty, Department of*  
*Economics*

*On Teaching*



life film *Stand and Deliver*, where a special class of Garfield High School, encouraged by their math teacher Jamie Escalante, not only mastered arithmetic and algebra in a year, but also managed to pass the Advanced Placement Exam for college calculus. Of course these students had to give up a lot – summer vacation, after-school jobs, hanging out – but the rewards were well worth the effort. I was not as vibrant as Escalante, but fortunately, my students would be starting out with a better math background (after all, they did pass Math 21). However, surely, everyone needs a little inspiration now and then. After the movie, Jasmine whispered, "Maybe I can do that, too. But I need help."

Not only did I have to make them believe it could be done, I also had to ensure that they had sufficient reason to believe in themselves, and the only way was to foster a sense of competence. In short, my students would be motivated to excel if they had a tangible reason to believe they could do so. Success begets success. I prepared lectures, interspersing them with anecdotes about Newton, Leibniz, and other calculus masters, to retain their interest. I demonstrated various kinds of exercises and problems on the board. Most of all, I concentrated on their Waterloo, which was proofs of theorems, corollaries, and chapter problems. Assignments were given on every meeting, and throughout the semester, students were required to discuss the proof of a thorny problem in front of the class one by one, which meant they really had to know what they were doing.

Slowly but steadily this hard work paid off. The first exam involved techniques of integration, and

though three students did not pass, the average was a respectable C+. Jasmine was one of them.

Our enthusiasm did not wane. Though the class average for the midterms was a C+, four students got an A and best of all, nobody flunked! To my secret joy, Jasmine got a B+. "Ma'am," she beamed at me, "I think I am getting it. Finally!"

One sunny morning, we were engrossed in a lengthy and complicated proof involving differentiability and continuity of a split function of two variables, which entailed several cases, a three-dimensional figure, two blackboards, two white boards, and 45 minutes of discussion – all on one problem alone. At the end of the proof, when I triumphantly wrote "Q.E.D." at the end of the solution, the class heaved a collective sigh of relief.

Suddenly Jasmine began to cry.

Concerned, I reflexively inquired, "What's the matter?"

Somebody cracked, "Ma'am, Jasmine is crying because how can we even finish that proof on the test?" A few students giggled.

But Jasmine shook her head. She stood up, went to the front of the class, and waved her hands, encompassing the scribbles, the drawings, the painstaking step-by-step details. In a trembling voice, she announced, "*Napakaganda ng proof. Nakakaiyak!*"

Tears sprang to my eyes. At that moment I realized that even if Jasmine still had many battles to fight, the war has already been won. ☹

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Some images from:

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## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Greetings to all Chinoy readers!

During the start of the school year, I knew it was going to be an interesting year for Chinoy. With a fresh new staff, the ideas were percolating non-stop and the motivation for change was inspiring. After joining them in their 1<sup>st</sup> meeting, I already knew Chinoy magazine was going to be one of Celadon's highlights for its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The experience was simply refreshing, like washing one's face in the morning, feeling at ease and looking forward to the day to come.

This year's volume of Chinoy has been a great treat to look forward to: For starters, look forward to the fresh new articles and content regarding the Chinese Filipino culture and way of life. Also, expect an eye-pleasing and organized design and layout, completely better than before. More than the glossy paper and pretty pictures, Chinoy magazine has evolved throughout time, similar to the Chinese Filipino community and staff who make it possible. I am amazed at how the magazine has grown ever since I was a freshman.

Again many thanks and congratulations to the hardworking staff of Chinoy: the amazingly talented leader, visionary and editor-in-chief, Mikes Quijano (3 – AB PSY), his spunky assistant editor-in-chief, Olive Go (4 – AB POS), the dedicated features editor, Harold Lu (3 – AB POS), the motivated and ingenious creative design editor, Nati Go (3 – BS ME), and the driven art editor, Mike Jarantilla (3 – BS MIS).

More power to Chinoy and Celadon!

Edward Cheson Sy  
Celadon President

# Yugen

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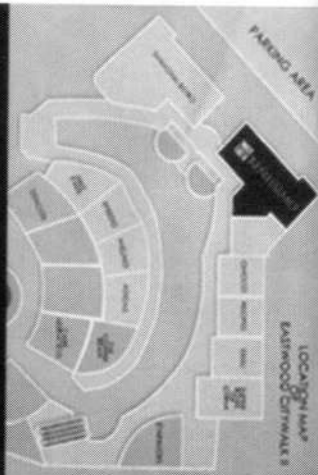
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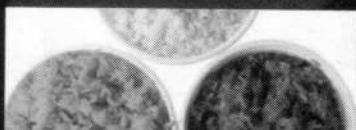
# 6,593 Miles *Away* From Home

by Kira Ang [3 BS LM]  
currently in France in a student  
exchange program

Everyone we've met so far, except this one Canadian who had a Filipina nanny when she was young, has never met a Filipino, much less know where the Philippines is (honestly no exaggeration). In fact, our international classmates are already very confused when I try and tell them "yes I'm Chinese, but I live in the Philippines, thus making me a Filipino Chinese. Oh and yes, I do happen to speak fluent Filipino and a sufficient string of Chinese, as well as being very articulate in English." I think they find it disconcerting that we can speak immensely fluent English, much more than they can.

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## Konichiwa and Kama Sutra

What does it mean to be a Filipino-Chinese student studying in France? It's not just a simple matter of language or physical differences. It means having to be greeted with Ni Hao (你好) or Konichiwa by complete strangers (I can never tell whether they're mocking me or they're really just being friendly and I just have this paranoia thing going on). It means having to constantly convert the prices into pesos, then exclaim

loudly how expensive things are, and thus go off in a huff to find the cheapest brand of the same product (ah, frugality, isn't it a virtue?). And in our residence halls where breakfast is included in the rent, it means eating 6 pieces of bread every morning, hoarding all the Nutella, and getting numerous refills of coffee, milk, or tea, partly because we're really used to heavy breakfasts and partly because we're paying an arm and a leg for the rent, thus consuming a lot is our way of making every euro paid worth it.



Well, we still unperturbedly cook rice for meals; though the dorm people used to look at us strangely whenever we do, they have realized that we don't care what they think - we're eating rice.

It also means, in a way, being seen as "unsophisticated" because we still eat with spoons and forks, instead of forks and knives (unless we're in restaurants). It also means scaling and gutting fishes while everyone stares at us and whispers loudly because we craved for fried fish. Being here also means being subject to higher risks of lung cancer, because most everyone here smokes - even the landlady. The cherry on top, however, being asked if you know Kama Sutra, because you're Asian.

## Tragic Ironies: Defying and Accepting

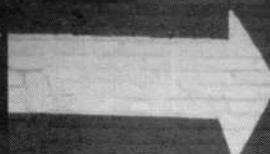
Every day, we are faced with circumstances where we always end up saying to ourselves, It's because we're Filipinos. But disheartened we are not. It is through both our acts of defiance and acquiescence that the differences, glaring or subtle, eventually gave way to a deeper affirmation and appreciation of who we are, of whom we represent.





Defiance? Well, we still unperturbedly cook rice for meals; though the dorm people used to look at us strangely whenever we do, they have realized that we don't care what they think - we're eating rice. It means talking and laughing out loud during dinner time in the kitchen, even if some of the people (who don't seem to understand that for us, mealtime is a time for "kwentuhan" and "tawanan") evince their disdain for our uncouthly dinner graces by mockingly mimicking us or pointedly telling us to keep quiet. Defiance is also when we defend our country from misconceptions; it is in the way that we point out there is a future for us, though things may currently be bleak.

But if we constantly elapsd into eristics moment after moment and coaxed a challenge out of every critic, then we would've been bigoted nationalists - intransigents disregarding the parity of esteem and culture so strongly impressed upon us by JGSOM before we left for our terms abroad. Thus, we lent to a margin of concession. In the brevity we've stayed here, we've come to acquire some of their mannerisms, we've strived to study the language, bite our tongues whenever a person would say something negative about us in French and we can't



understand it. We're here as ambassadors of our school, our country, and for me, the Filipino-Chinese population.

### Of Pasalubongs and Patriotism

Given the disparities, in defying and accepting differences and difficulties, love for country grew, along with pride of culture. Sometimes we didn't care about the differences, didn't care about what negative things were said about us, leading us to appreciate better our ways and practices. But sometimes, we had to concede, to learn that we're not always right or better. Seeing how quality of life is better here, being reminded that our country isn't even familiar to most international students (countries such as Laos or Bangladesh are better known than ours) doesn't douse the fire, but rather, we're more emblazoned to make a difference.

We left Manila filled with plans for Euro trips. We arrived here shocked with the unisex bathrooms. Up to now, we still couple our broken French with pantomimes, so we can actually be understood. And we're coming home; Balikbayan boxes filled with pasalubongs, and renewed senses of ambition and initiative. ☺

# MANDARIN SURVIVAL GUIDE 2: HOLIDAY EDITION

Lost for words this coming holiday season? You're in LUCK!  
Chinoy brings you Mandarin Survival Guide 2: Holiday Edition!



Merry Christmas and  
a Happy New Year!

祝你聖誕節快樂，新年快樂

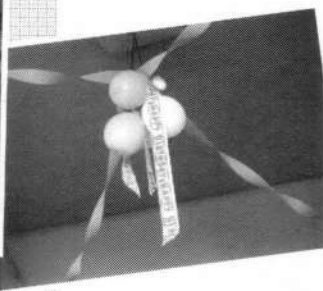
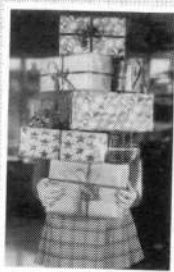
Zhu ni, sheng dan kuai le. xin nian kuai le.

Hey, Santa Claus is  
stealing the  
Christmas tree!



嘿，聖誕老人在偷聖誕樹

Hei, sheng dan lao ren zai tou sheng dan shu!



Happy Birthday, Jesus!

祝耶穌，生日快樂！

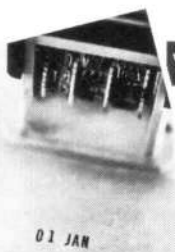
Zhu ye su, sheng ri kuai le!

I saw mommy kissing  
Santa Clause!



我看到媽咪在親聖誕老人

Wo kan dao ma mi zai qin sheng dan lao ren!



What are your New Year's Resolutions?

你新年有什麼新希望嗎?

Ni xin nien yo she me xin xi wang ma?

1 Lose weight. 減肥 Jian fei

Never be late. 2 不再遲到 Bu zai chi dao

3 Get some sleep. 能多睡些覺 Neng duo shui xie jiao

Find a boy/girlfriend. 4 找個男/女朋友

Zhao ge nan/nu peng yo

How has the past year been?

去年過得怎樣?

Qu nian guo de zen yang?

The best.

很好

Hen hao!



Okay lang.

不錯

Bu cuo.



Hell.

很糟糕

Hen zao gao..



And for those who can't wait for Valentines' Day...

Will you be mine?

你願不願意當我的女/男朋友

Ni yuan bu yuan yi dang wo de nu/nan peng yo?



**S**o you want to have a Chinese name, huh? Choosing a Chinese name isn't as easy as picking two random words from the dictionary and putting them together because they "sound nice". If you want to learn a bit more about the traditional ways of obtaining a Chinese name, read ahead and get a crash course on the proper ways of getting names that will aid you in life and bring you luck.

*Giving names to things is a way of knowing them and of seeing them as well. Knowledge deals importantly in names, and naming requires the sort of vision that discerns that these two objects are of the same kind and those other two are not.*

- Allen Lacey

**Names. 名字.** People say that names give more than just the power to identify a person. Others believe that one's name can define who a person is, or who he will grow up to be. The Chinese, for one, believe that naming a child will determine his or her fortune. Thus, unlike some cultures, the Chinese are very careful and meticulous in giving names to their children, following some rituals and traditions in order to ensure that the names of their offspring will aid them in their lives.

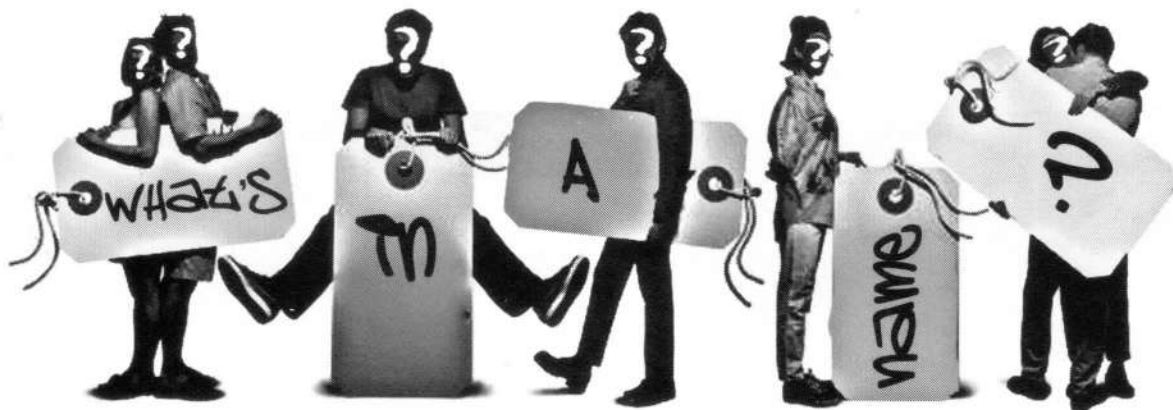
### East vs. West - The Basics

Before we go into the nitty-gritty of naming, let's first identify the basic characteristics of Chinese names. Here in the Philippines, almost every Chinoy has adopted two names: one Western and one Chinese, two identities that distinguish two very different cultures. Of course, the Western culture is poles apart from Chinese culture and the tradition of picking out names is no exemption. Chinese names have certain kinds of customs that are very much unlike Western names. Most evidently, the structure of a Chinese name is written in such a way that the first character is the family name, while the next one or two characters is a person's given name. For instance, Yao Ming is Mr. Yao, not Mr. Ming; and Zhang ZiYi is Ms. Zhang, not Ms. Yi.

Also, in many Western countries, there is a short list of the most popular given names and an incredible number of family names but for the Chinese, it is the other way around. Although there are over 700 different Chinese family names today, as few as twenty cover a majority of Chinese people. The variety in Chinese names therefore depends greatly on given names rather than family names.

Nevertheless, Chinese and English names both possess a few similar characteristics. Both have such things like a family name and a given name. Just like their Western counterparts, family names are passed down by the men in the family from one generation to the next. Family names always come first in a name because Oriental culture is more communal than individualistic. A lot of family names of Chinoys are also derived from their Chinese family names. For example, "Ong", "Go" and "Lee" actually came from the Chinese characters 王, 伍 and 李 (In Mandarin, Wang, Wu

By Ryan Chung - II BS BIO, together with Olivia Go - IV AB PSY and Mikes Quijano - III AB PSY





and Li, respectively). It is also interesting to note that some Chinoy families derive their family names from the whole Chinese name of a relative, in recognition of that person. Just like children who copy the names of their parents and add "II" or "III" to their last names, some Chinoys take the first name of the relative and add it to their family names. The family names "Cojuangco" and "Gokongwei" are a few examples.

### The Nuances of Naming

At the same time, Chinese given names are unique from person to person. As said a while ago, there are numerous characters and combinations used for given names while Western names have a set list of favorites. For the infinite multitude of Chinese names, there are plenty of different sources to find a good name for a newborn child.

Moreover, picking a name in Chinese isn't as simple as picking out a name from a book of baby names or even from the dictionary. What plenty of families usually do is to follow a certain tradition. For starters, the number of strokes of each character (or the number that a character sounds like) can play an important role in choosing a name, since it is believed that these can determine a person's luck. Certain numbers are said to be lucky, and others unlucky; for example, 1-Ching numerology says that the number 8 is lucky, while the number 4 should be avoided.

*Sometimes, parents would follow a certain theme for one generation of children. For example, parents want to have the names of their children based on nature or forests so all the children have given names taken from trees, flowers, etc.*

Also, given names which show some qualities which are perceived to be either masculine or feminine are frequently given, with males being linked with strength and firmness, and females with beauty and flowers. Females sometimes have names which are repeated, for example Xiuxiu (秀秀) or Lili (麗麗). However, this is less common in males.

Another interesting method Chinese families employ is what is called a generation poem, (*banci lian* 班次聯 or *paizi ge* 派字歌 in Chinese). Although few Chinoy families still keep this tradition, it is more common in places like Hong Kong and

Singapore. The rule in the generational poem is that each family has a unique poem. Every time a new family member is born, the first character in the poem becomes the given name of the child. When the next child is born, he or she takes the next character and so on and so forth. After the last character is used, the family can extend the poem by adding characters or reuse it by starting over when the next child comes.

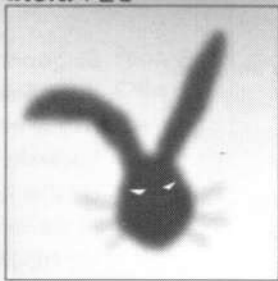
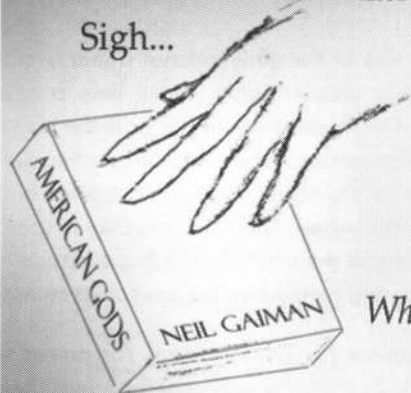
Another good source for getting ideas for names is from the Eastern Zodiac. Parents usually name their children based on what sign they were born under. The meanings of their names are based on the traits that are usually associated with their sign. If a child was born under the year of the tiger, his or her name could be something related to bravery or strength. If a child was born under the year of the rabbit, his or her name could be synonymous to gentleness or kindness.

Some families also consult other people when it comes to choosing the best name for their children. It is not uncommon for parents to seek the advice of monks or Feng Shui experts when naming their children. Monks usually focus on names that mean something positive. If monks think that a child is lucky, a name that means "ten thousand opportunities" can be a possible choice.

Feng Shui on the other hand, bases their findings on the "elemental" strengths of a person. The Chinese believe that every person possesses more of a particular corresponding element (fire, wood, metal, water, earth) based on his birth date, year and time. For example, if someone has a strong affinity with the elements of water and wood, then a name that means "rainforest" can be a good candidate.

These are just a few ways the Chinese and us Chinoys pick Chinese names for their children. There are a lot more methods out there that are even more creative than the ones listed here. One family might have a different practice from another. Although picking a person's name is a serious matter, nowadays, choosing a Chinese name is sadly becoming less important to many people. Nevertheless, Chinese names might seem to be a small aspect of being Chinoy but they represent a direct and personal connection to our culture and heritage, a culture and heritage that is definitely worth being proud of. ☺

Sigh...



What is up, my lady?

Just finished another  
depressing book...

"American Gods?"

Yes. It reminds me so  
much of how I'm being  
forgotten back on earth...  
Being exiled all the way  
to the moon isn't doing  
much for my image.

But surely they haven't forgotten about  
you. People still eat mooncakes to cele-  
brate the mid-autumn festival every year.

Well, yes, but it's as  
in the case of Eostre  
of the Dawn...

People hunt for  
painted eggs for her,  
thinking it's for  
Jesus. Even I can  
hardly remember my  
own story...

If you put it that way, there's  
not much we can do about it,  
is there?





The three legged toad symbolises prosperity and good fortune!

Keep him near the door of the room, on the floor and looking into the room for good luck.



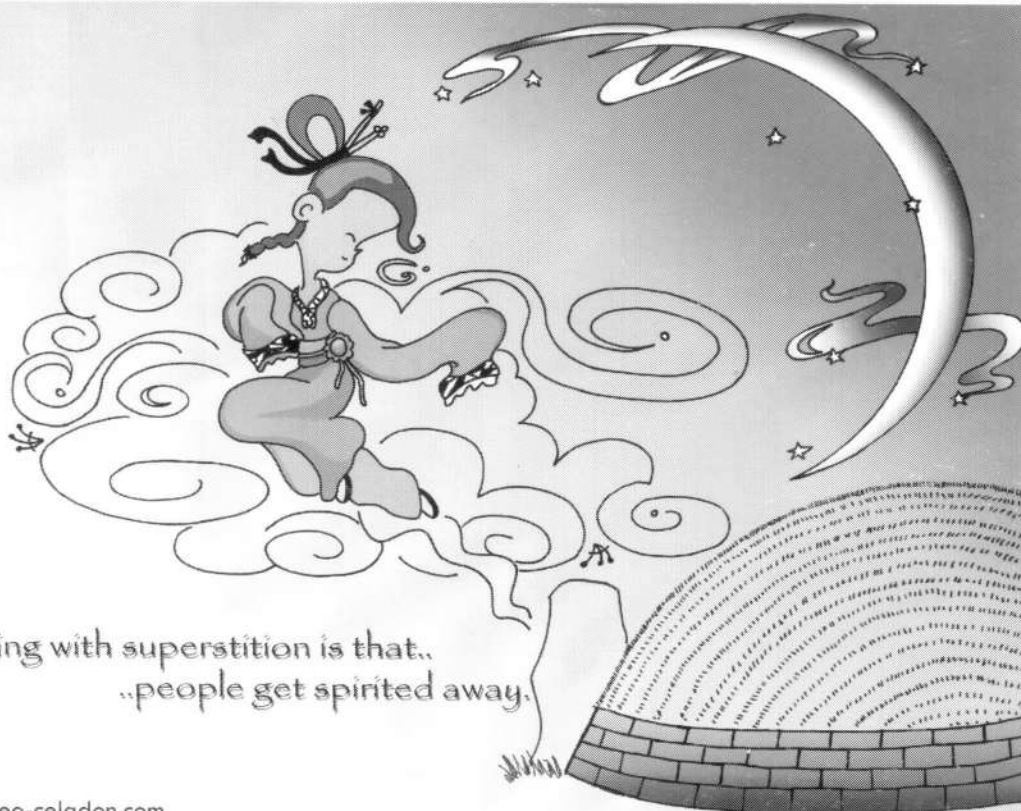
The Beckoning Cat found its way into many business establishments as its waving paw beckons people into visiting the shop.

Keep it near the door or a window to entice good luck into entering your life!



The Fortune Bamboo is a living bamboo and is said to bring luck to whoever is given one.

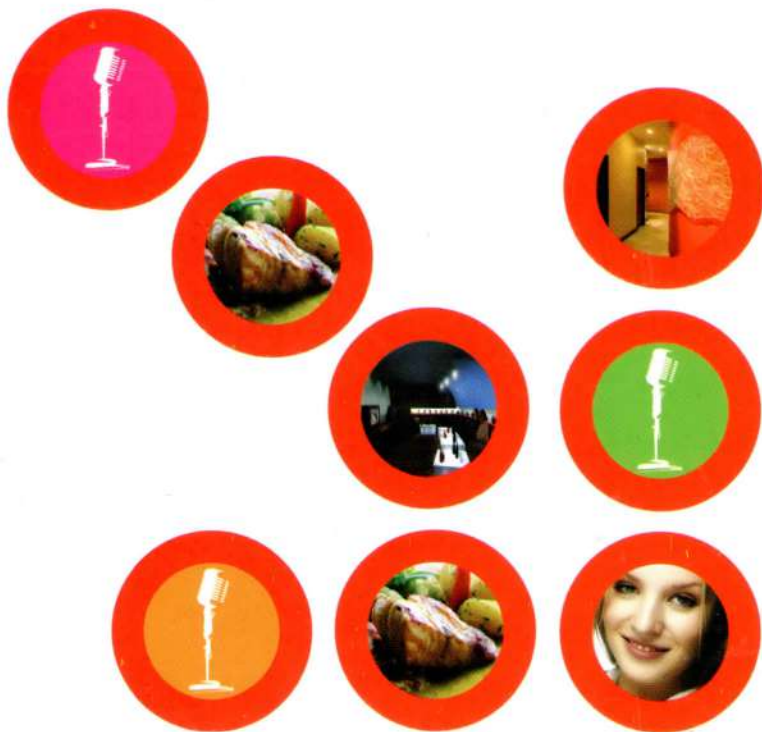
Why not share the good luck this plant brings by giving one to a friend?



The thing with superstition is that..  
..people get spirited away.



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