

ELEMENTS

VOLUME XIV ISSUE I
THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF ATENEO CELADON

**INTERVIEW WITH A
MAINLAND CHINESE**
HOW DOES SHE SEE HER COUNTRY?

BINONDO FOOD TRIP
FRESH AND EXOTIC EXPERIENCES

**LOVE
ADVICE**
QUESTIONS FROM THE HEART





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EDITOR'S NOTE



Chinese-Filipinos aren't strangers here. The "Chinoys" and their ancestors have been in the country for a long time already, and the contemporary Philippine society is different from the Spanish era with its ghettos that housed those of Chinese blood. Needless to say, today is a different and more accommodating time. It's not uncommon for a Chinoy to hang around with a Pinoy, as both are often treated just like anybody else.

With those cultural shifts in mind, our publication presents to you the movement of the Chinese-Filipino culture. This issue opens up with the views of a Chinese from Mainland China, with their own culture that is different from here but is identifiable for the readers. From the Mainland, the journey goes into a food trip around Binondo and a student's woes with substandard products made in China.

We also show you stories: from the glimpses of a granddaughter's experiences celebrating her grandmother's birthday, to the tales of successful Filipino-Chinese that began from small dreams, to a boy's life filmed in the span of twelve years. Behind them are traditional and everyday values with their respective take-away.

And we bring to you the Chinoy culture in the campus context. The concluding portion of this issue is dedicated to the college life, including Ateneo Celadon's culture, with the Mid-Autumn Festival, the mahjong culture in its org room, the diversity of its members, and the anonymous love advices from them.

We commemorate, with that line-up, Chinoy Magazine's new incarnation: Elements Magazine. Ateneo Celadon's official publication began in 1998 by Oscar Franklin Tan (BS ME / AB Eco-H '01). The rebrand this year accommodates our contemporary context, as the publication aims to showcase the elements of the Chinese-Filipino culture that are relevant to us Ateneans.

Long live the publication!

Joshua Cheng
Elements Editor-in-Chief



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MEET SARAH WOO: CHINESE MAINLANDER IN THE PHILIPPINES

WORDS Faith Ong and Leyah Dizon || PHOTOS Sarah Woo

Sarah Woo is a bubbly girl from Xiamen in Mainland China, where most ancestors of Chinese-Filipinos hail from. As an international student volunteer for Soochow University Taiwan, she finds herself constantly immersed in diverse cultures outside her homeland from the moment she set foot in Taiwan. Months ago, she had the chance to come to the Philippines as a volunteer for Gawad Kalinga. In her interactions with Filipinos, she was more than happy to share her life as a Mainland Chinese and some similarities and differences of cultures she sees between hers and ours.

1 THE MAINLAND CHINESE TWIST TO FACEBOOK AND GOOGLE

Sarah said she and her friends mostly use Weibo and Baidu to connect with other people across the web. According to her, Weibo is the equivalent of our big three as social networking sites while Baidu is their Google.

When Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram focus only on one aspect of social networking - friends, photos, and 140-word characters, Weibo has them all, which may be how they have charmed their way into the hearts of the mainland Chinese.

Meanwhile, Baidu, unlike Google, provides a search engine that is placed under government censorship. It is also monopolized into China's largest search engine for its incorporation of Chinese-language terms, showing just how important language can be.

Sarah also pointed out the differences she encountered with the local Chinese-Filipinos she met. While most mainland Chinese are fluent in Mandarin, they speak better English and for some, the Hokkien dialect, intermixing with Filipino terms and words.



2 ROMANCE: NOT-SO-"CHANG CHENG"

It wasn't as difficult to explain the concept to Sarah using the Chinese term "Chang Cheng," referring to the Great Wall of China. She revealed that she personally knows people in Mainland with such restrictions herself, although her family do not mind interracial or intercultural marriages.

In fact, marrying a person of a different race seemed to delight her. She also knows a lot of friends who are dating foreign men. Parental control just depends in every family. For her and her friends, they do not experience this "wall."

3 BIG, PRETTY EYES

Since Chinese people tend to have “line-eyes”, or small eyes, elderly Chinese-Filipinos often marvel at people with big eyes, calling them “ya sui” (very pretty), “ya yen dao” (very handsome), or even “hue gi bin” (American-looking). This standard of beauty has trickled down to the younger generation, where the large, folded eyes of the Filipinos and Westerners are highly coveted.

Like these Chinese-Filipinos, Sarah affirmed that girls in China, with particularly big eyes are also considered to be very pretty. To give a better idea, she sent a photo of a girl she finds beautiful from the western part of Mainland China where most girls are considered good-looking.



4 GENDER EQUALITY

Chinese culture is also popular for having “Zhong Nan Qing Nü” which is the Chinese saying that literally means “heavy on men and light on women” or the system of patriarchy. Footbinding practices in the past and the one-child policy have further pushed the idea of male supremacy as Chinese preferred sons than daughters.

Recently, there was a documentary about China during the Nationalist period, where a woman was interviewed. In it, she reveals that female life was to revolve around “the three must-obey” — obey your father, husband, and son.

Sarah shares that such things aren’t as prevalent anymore in the Mainland. The poorer communities in China may still favor men over women. However, girls like her are now gaining equality with boys. For one, she could choose and has chosen to study in Soochow University away from the universities at home to get better education - a privilege girls couldn’t have back in the day.

Although she misses her hometown in the Mainland, Sarah is currently enjoying and learning in Taiwan, which opened to her a lot opportunities including coming to the Philippines. She remains in touch with some of her Filipino friends and is even considering coming back to Ateneo as an exchange student. Her insights are some things one can get a glimpse of among the mainland Chinese youth. ☺

5 POLITICS: A SUBJECT FOR THE ADULT WORLD

And while some Filipinos she met openly talk about politics, Sarah said that as part of the youth, she is naturally more interested in talking about music, fashion and entertainment. Yet, if persistently asked, she would reveal her own thoughts about her country’s politics and governance.

It doesn’t feel as communist as what we’d think it’d be or how it was like when Mao was in power. But since she and her fellow youth know the fact that they “cannot do anything about it,” they simply brush off the topic and leave it to the adults.



BINONDO!

FOOD TRIP

WORDS Zia De Leon || PHOTOS Mark Yu

From your go-to fancy Chinese restaurant to the siomai stand down at the train station, one can see that Chinese food is everywhere. The popularity of Chinese food not only reflects just how long the Chinoy community has existed, but also it shows how it highly influenced Filipino tastes, and vice versa. For example, combining *tamis* (sweet), *asim* (sour), and *alat* (salty) is a characteristic and a norm in Filipino cuisine. In time, these characteristics found their way into Chinese cuisine.

To get a taste of the longstanding bond between both cultures, a food trip down in Binondo, the world's oldest Chinatown, couldn't be better. Here are some of the hotspots which one can garner a visit or two (or more).

CAFE MEZZANINE

Cafe Mezzanine is a popular restaurant in Ongpin that was featured in CNN Travel. Owned by “Mr. Ube,” Gerry Chua, all the revenues goes to the Binondo Paco Fire Search and Rescue Brigade. The cafe consists of two floors: the Chuan Kee on the first and the eating area on the second. Upon entering, one might notice that the cafe has a certain motif: purple fireman.

A specialty of Cafe Mezzanine is their Soup #5, a soup you won't find in your run-of-the-mill Chinese restaurant as it is originally a Filipino dish. If you are eating with a squeamish eater, don't ask the waiter what the soup consists of. Soup #5 is made out of bull's testicles, and is said to improve metabolism along with being an aphrodisiac. We also ordered a Kiam Pung, a Chinese sticky rice, to compliment the soup. The soup was clear, like a regular *nilaga* (beef soup), but the smell was unfamiliar and bordered on foul. There were different types of meat in the soup—some looked like regular pieces of beef and others looking akin to liver. We swallowed our apprehensions and took a bite. The meat that appeared like regular beef tasted like it. While the pieces that looked like liver had the texture of liver, it had a more flavorful taste. The muted flavour and sticky texture of the rice complimented the flavourful taste of the soup perfectly.



the verdict

Soup #5 is a good example of Chinoy fusion because it contains both the exotict flair of Chinese food (bull testicles!) and the warmth and familiarity of the *nilaga*. This is further emphasized by the way the sticky rice complimented the soup so well. The dish itself is a fun experience because of the added thrill of eating something so eccentric and exotic. Though it isn't something I would consider eating twice, it is definitely worth trying, if not only for bragging purposes.



QUIK SNACK

Lined with eateries and fruit stands, the narrow Carvajal Street is a popular backpacker's go-to place for delicious, hole-in-the-wall cuisine. It is a street that appears in a plethora of travel guides of must-see food places in the Philippines. Quik Snack, a restaurant no stranger to travel guides such as TripAdvisor, is an establishment that lives up to the good name of Carvajal.

The interior of Quik Snack was quite quaint and underwhelming. When asked for their specialty, Quik Snack suggested their Lumpia Special (fresh spring rolls), a dish quite popular in the Philippines. The lumpia was nearly too big for the plate it was served in, and it came with sweet sauce at the side. Eating the lumpia was a messy ordeal, as it was overstuffed and bursting on your plate when one slices it open. Inside was the usual combination of carrots, celery, crushed peanuts, and other vegetables, but what stood out was the balanced seasoning of the filling complemented by the wansoy (cilantro), which lifted the dense filling and rich sweet sauce.

the verdict

The problem with hyped up restaurants is that more often than not, the product does not live up to its reputation, with common dishes, no less. In the case of Quik Snack, however, they were able to deliver something good and unique. The pancit was a far cry from the usual pancit, and their lumpia is now my basis of what a delicious lumpia should taste like. It's something I would always buy when I catch myself in Binondo. Overall, though initially underwhelming, Quik Snack was able to live up to its and Carvajal's reputation of good food.

A trip to Binondo is a treat for the senses. The sights alone would make one marvel at the coexisting cultures and feel nostalgic over a time he and she was not born in. The food stalls and restaurants lining the streets are almost enough to make one full, enticing anyone walking the streets of Binondo for a taste of the exciting and the comforting. What's better than enjoying the ever-popular fusion of Chinese and Filipino cuisine in the place where it all began? ☺



MA MON LUK

From noodle peddling to owning multiple restaurant branches, Ma Mon Luk, the owner of his namesake restaurant, has made a mark in Chinese food in the Philippines, being one of the first to bring the noodle soup dish mami to the Philippines in the year 1918.

The old-style architecture of the restaurant matches the old world charm Binondo buildings had, and is a testament to how old the restaurant is. Since this is a restaurant popular amongst the Filipino-Chinese community, I asked friends for recommendations on what to order. One of them expressed her disbelief at the fact that I haven't eaten there before, and recommended their noodle soup with brown sauce. The soup by itself was pale and slightly bland, which is where the brown sauce, thick and viscous with a pungent smell, comes into play. By itself, the sauce has a strong flavour, but when added into the soup, it balances out into a salty-sweet flavour, a very Pinoy characteristic. The noodles were perfectly cooked- soft and chewy at the same time. The good (and fun!) thing about their noodles is the fact that you get to add in the sauce and spring onions, allowing you to flavour the food exactly to your preference.

the verdict

It is a surreal experience to visit one of the first Chinese restaurants in the Philippines, back to where it all began. It was enlightening to taste what a mami is supposed to taste like – a simple soup-noodles-meat combination along with a sauce. The option to season your soup to your preference is an added plus as well. It definitely stands out compared to the popular, more seasoned and spiced mamis.



Made In China

WORDS Himig Marcos || ILLUSTRATION Eliza Cua

FEB

My Samsung S4, made in China, was obviously a fake right from the start. Against the advice of others, I used the phone, hoping it wouldn't be as horrible as they, and articles on the net, described. As it turned out, I got so much more!

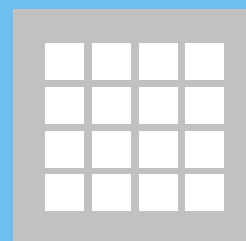
First, its Air Gestures feature taught me to never dwell on the past. When I swiped to the left, the e-book I'd be reading would turn to the next page — neat-o. But when I try to return to a previous page by swiping to the right, it would still turn to the next page. Soon, I was breezing through the books, and I could brag to my father that I wasn't reading books "cover to cover" anymore!

My phone was also like my personal assistant, cutting me off whenever I started playing 2Fuse or Injustice so that I could get back to work on my projects and homework. Of course, even if I had nothing to do, my phone would still end these apps, or restart by itself. But I believe that it did these with good intentions.

One last thing about my S4: it would dial random numbers. My days turned interesting, with random texts and phone calls from people I haven't texted for years: because they didn't pick up my supposed "calls," or they only heard the jangling keys in my pocket when they did. That's keeping in touch in a much more effective way! Eventually I had to say goodbye to my dearest phone, after only two months of service, but only because it had stopped charging and wouldn't turn on.

Kidding aside, I was, in fact, really outraged at the phone. It was a wonder that it had been used for two months. I hardly ever felt this way about a product before, and, surprising as it may seem, before the introduction of this phone into my life, I only regarded the "made in China" label as a colloquial term, much like how people would say, "in-Indian ako."

I had no experience with Chinese products that were a hundred levels below standard, much like how I've never had an Indian ditch me before. There was once a time





when I thought that Chinese products were the most sought after, from effective medicine to soft yet durable stuffed toys. However, just as I have grown, so did the rise of imitation of known brands, such as a sports store named “Adidsa” and “Boreo” cookies.

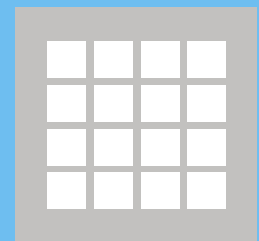
Now, I’m not saying all Chinese products are inferior and dubious. Nor will I use tricks to prove some sort of supremacy like saying “iPhones have the label ‘designed by Apple in California, assembled in China’, so it is technically made in China.”

What I’m saying is that the quality of Chinese products can be summarized in two words that Ateneans know all too well – it depends.

Despite the supposed abundance of substandard Chinese goods, there are still quite a lot of Chinese products today that can be considered as top tier. For example, my stuffed toys (Toothless, Mega Charizard, Mega Lucario if you must know) have been thrown around, bitten and chewed on, but every part and adornment is still intact.

On a bigger scale (as if my stuffed toys weren’t enough), we have the widely known and sought after smartphone brand, Xiaomi – a brand that can compete with the Apple and the Samsung.

So you see, the made in China tag does not necessarily tarnish a product, nor does it elevate its status – it all depends on the product itself, and if you are quick to put the “dein” in “made in China”, then you, sir, will find yourself in a one way trip to the – oh wait, China also makes planes.☹



How to Be Chinese:

You must wear red on the birthdays of those older than you

WORDS Faith Ong || ILLUSTRATION Clarissa Chua

生日

I'm sure you've seen a Chinese family gathered in a restaurant, all of them wearing either a red top or red all throughout, chattering away and having a good time. No, it is not because of some extreme matching coincidence—it's actually because of a Chinese custom. During the birthday of someone older than you, it's a must to wear not blue, not orange, and definitely not white or black, but the color of happiness – red. But it doesn't end there. There's quite a lot more to be observed in just one birthday.

February 21, 2014

I slept really late last night. That must be the reason why my head feels heavy and my eyes droopy when I just I woke up – and it's just 5 A.M. in the morning. The day greets me with yesterday's woes.

I have to print the written report of how my calamansi plant died before my 7:30 class begins, so I can hand it over to my Environmental Science professor and prepare for the oral report of how Marikina River should be used as a freshwater source in front of the whole class –

not my specialty, I'll admit.

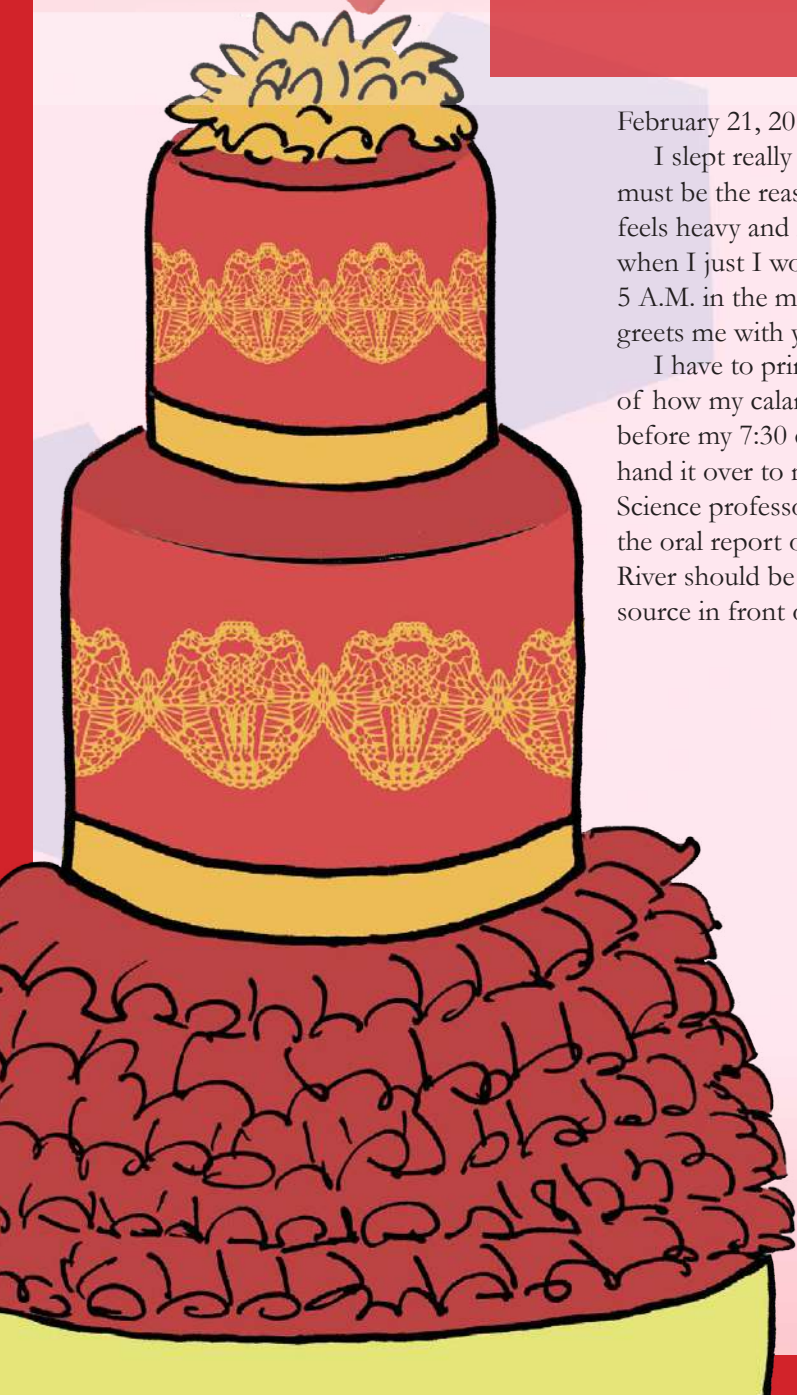
An event not to be upstaged by my reporting crisis is my *Gua-ma's* 82nd Birthday. As custom says, we have to eat a breakfast consisting of *misua* at her home – before my class. Hence, another reason for the heavy head, droopy eyes, and frequent yawns. I quickly took a bath and dressed in the appropriate clothing of the day: red.

Gua-ma – what the grandchildren call their grandmother on the mother's side

Misua – a type of noodle which is consumed during birthdays

I wore my red lace blouse I bought from Forever 21 from over a year ago out to the cold morning breeze. I entered an internet shop nearby and when it didn't offer printing services (as did every internet shop nearby, to my horror), I resigned to getting it printed in the school's Matteo Ricci or CTC printing services later on and hopped on the car. We were going to her house.

My Grandmother was the highest authority in our extended family during this time. As a young girl, her family, as many others, had migrated from Fujian province in China to evade the



scarcity of jobs there. At sixteen, she was arranged to marry my *Gua-kong* from Tha Thao province. At twenty, she gave birth to my eldest aunt and nine others soon followed in quick succession, child number eight being my mother. At age sixty-two, she was widowed by cancer. She became both

Ama – what the grandchildren call their grandmother on the father's side

Gua-kong – what the grandchildren call their grandfather from the mother's side

our Gua-kong and Gua-ma. We called her “Ama.”

Her short, black hair, adorning a youthful face at 82, Ama was a strong woman. Years of her hard work and perseverance had helped my Gua-kong in running their business. Even with no accounting experience, whatsoever, their accounting firm rose to become one of the top five in the country from the 60's to the 90's and spurned other businesses in different fields both in China and the Philippines. Even until today, she remains to be in charge of their business ventures – definitely a force to reckon with in the family. I can recall times of when she, my brother, and my mother, along with Ama and several other aunts, would have sporadic trips to Tagaytay, years back. We would pay a visit to Royal Tagaytay, a resort, and spend the afternoon observing golfers who would skillfully get the ball into the holes in their golf field. Perhaps “swim” in the public swimming pool, explore the green fields of the area, or eat in their buffet section, among other options. By the time the sun sets, we were already be on our way to her home - that familiar place that holds memories of every Sun family gatherings and also, our destination today.

It's six-something on the clock. We enter her red-painted gate into her driveway, garden, and into her two-storey home, each of us holding a bunch of baskets. Mine contained twelve boxes of uncooked misua, my

brother's a basket of twelve cans of pork leg, my Dad's a box filled with exactly a hundred eggs, and finally, my mom's which was wrapped in a neat red and gold wrapper – her personal gift. Each of which have different meanings meant to give the celebrant a happy and long life, an annual thing for Chinese daughters to give their mothers.

She was still asleep, and we had come for her to see us. But at this moment, I was worried for my school report and immediately left, not even having a bite of their delicious misua

Angpao – red envelopes containing money usually given during events (hong pao in Mandarin)

and foregoing the one thing Chinese children deem important at such events: the angpao giving.

It would always be like this: my cousins and I would always be sitting on their elongated, pink couch every visit. My fifth aunt would then call our attention one by one to Ama's presence, where she would give us our red enclosed treasures and we reply “thank you, Ama” in our provincial dialect, Fukien. I would say those words of gratitude and go back to the couch. Later, when I came home, I would stare at the beautiful, intricate designs imprinted on the skin of the envelope that matches my clothes: red, and delight in counting the crisp, new Peso bills inside. Today, however, I was going out of there empty-handed.

I arrived in school, late, but nevertheless, I was still able to print my report and managed to be on time for the submission and for my reporting. But just when school was finally over, I hurried home. I would be celebrating her birthday once more. Ama gave birth to ten children. That number multiplied into a family of over fifty members, yet everyone was present for dinner at Gloria Maris Sharksfin restaurant that night. We were all seated in two tables with Lazy Susans, making

the sharing of food easier. In these gatherings, the main star would now become the food. One dish that is not to be overlooked is the birthday noodles, thought to bring longevity. That, and an array of Chinese dishes, including roasted pigeon and steamed fish, was served to us. Forget the angpao, this was my favorite part.

Deserts – red bean soup, egg tarts, and pie – were devoured and we all stood up to end the dinner at around 10:30PM. We were off yet again, not home, but back to Ama's house for the blowing of the birthday candles.

The cake was a good three feet tall, adorned in thick red and yellow icing with a Styrofoam cutout of the Chinese character for longevity. We stood in a circle around the table and sang both the Mandarin and English versions of “Happy Birthday”. The lit candles, shaped “8” and “2”, were blown out by the birthday celebrant amidst the rapid clicking of camera shutters. My aunts sliced up the cake and when each family was given their share, the celebration was over.

It was nearing 12 A.M.

When we reached home, we were all exhausted from the day's activities. Mom placed the cake in the refrigerator; my brother opened his laptop, while I, still in red, crashed onto my bed. The celebration, albeit tiring, was worth it. Another year of Ama being with us, is indeed a blessing and this shows our love and appreciation for someone who has been a key figure in our lives.

Besides, this is what marks us as Chinese-Filipinos. The traditions reflect our roots from my grandparents' migration. I glanced at my brother's empty angpao, the beautiful, etched design of flowers behind the sole gold Chinese character on it. It read, “Happiness”. ☺

Celadon and AJMA Bring the Taipans to the Eagle's Nest

WORDS Bryan Ang || PHOTOS Belrica Ma and Stephanie King



At the same week of the papal visit, hundreds of people flocked to the Ateneo to witness an event that literally spells something big as two organizations bring the Taipans of the Philippine society into the university.

Over 400 people, inclusive of high school and college students, professors and guests, gathered for the first ever Taipan: National Business Summit held last January 17, 2015. The whole day event was made possible by the Ateneo Celadon in partnership with the Ateneo Junior Marketing Association (AJMA), and co-presented by Lee Cooper, 8990 Holdings, Inc., Blue Consulting Group and Ateneo MEcO. The event was hosted by Willord Chua, a professional host prominent in the Filipino-Chinese community, Nicole Cordoves, more popularly known as Ms. Chinatown 2014, and Jason Uy from AJMA.

With the theme “Rising Through Business Innovation,” the business summit featured a series of

talks from a few of the most iconic faces of commerce in the Filipino-Chinese business community: namely, Francis Kong (Success Options and FunWorks Inc.), Kenneth Yang (Golden Arches Development Corp.), Johnlu Koa (The French Baker), Jonathan Gotianun (Filinvest Land, Inc.), and Ana Melissa Yao (Richprime Global, Inc.). The event also featured a lunch gathering for the participants and speakers, which divided the talks into morning and afternoon conference sessions inclusive of question and answer. Also, the event features a special raffle draw prepared by the Taipan Core team in partnership with the event’s various sponsors such as Lee Cooper, Birkenstock and etc.

Just Top Class (大班)

Taipan literally means “top class.” And this word adjoins everything about the event from execution to speakers as well as Celadon and AJMA’s endeavor to embody “Taipan” as a value by promoting

excellence and innovation for sustainable development. “Rising Through Business Innovation” as the theme brings the top class business tycoons or the Taipans of the country to inspire student leaders with their first-hand knowledge and experiences

The Taipans

Definitely, the highlight of the event would be the whole conference with talks provided by the illustrious line-up of speakers or the Taipans.

The multi-talented Francis Kong, who is a broadcaster, writer, entrepreneur, consultant and speaker, shared his story of success as well as his definition of true success- which is when your family is successful. Involved in a wide portfolio of businesses and activities, Francis shared that business is always cyclical and seasonal, and that we need to be students of history so not to make the same mistakes.

“Change is scary, but it’s scarier not to change,” said Francis Kong.

How do you really start business from scratch? Kenneth Yang, the man behind the multi-billion success fran-

chise and CEO of the Golden Arches Development Corp. (McDonald's), centered his speech on the need for a vision; that without ambition there can be no action. His most important points include "libreng mangarap," having focus, just doing it, having perseverance, valuing people and staying humble.

"Focus on your own strengths and weaknesses while keeping an eye on your competitors," added Mr. Yang.

Founder and CEO of the French Baker Johnlu Koa owes his success to education. According to Mr. Koa: "Do not take for granted your accounting classes." He further emphasized the importance of getting to know your friends, having student organizations and investing in the Chinese language. "If you cannot speak Fukien, speak Mandarin," stressed Johnlu Koa. Mr. Koa pointed out that the French Baker has taken the bread and bakeshop industry in the Philippines by storm and is a pioneering force in turning it into the innovative and competitive category that it is today. Innovation at the point of success is realized in understanding that the business environment is ever changing.

"Things will not be cheaper, but things will be done differently." Mr. Koa's advice to all innovative entrepreneurs and businessmen is to know how to do the "conversation", know the science and art behind your product."

Jonathan Gotianun, director and chairman of both Filinvest Development Corp. and the flagship business Filinvest Land Inc., similar to the other speakers, also focused on education, time, humility via listening, but also emphasizing on the importance of finding the right partner. He shared his love story that eventually led to the success of his family in business. Mr. Gotianun shared some very relatable experiences; to succeed in business, prepare by studying hard, pursue by working hard and, just like the essence of his story,

marry the right person.

The last speaker Ana Melissa Yao is the managing director of Richprime Global Inc., Executive Vice President of Richwell Trading Corp, and also a woman who has been involved in diverse businesses and activities. She imparted to the participants the importance of innovation. When asked how she was able to keep Barbie - who is 55 years old as far as the market is concerned - alive and relevant, she exclaimed that innovation is the key. Mrs. Yao even shared her experiences on licensing and innovating and how she made this a success.

"Why not put the Barbie brand in things we do every day," was the start for Mrs. Yao, explaining how Barbie back then was a toy for rich girls, justifying how the iconic brand can reach out to a different segment of the market by adapting. "When a business does a same thing over and over again, it stagnates, even the most successful companies, because they fail to innovate. Technology is a big part of our life and is the key to many future innovations," she expressed.

One for the Books Indeed

Marking its first year in the history of Ateneo, Taipan was welcomed with applause and well-received by numerous participants as well as notable individuals in the university:

"First and foremost, I would like to applaud this event for its excellent execution! The values of excellence, innovation and hard work are deeply rooted in the Chinese culture and can be seen in successful companies that these Taipans represent, as well as in the organization that put this all together. The resourcefulness and determination of the Chinese

are recognized around the world at the age of globalization. It is about time that we share these values to others," exclaimed Mr. Sidney Bata, Ateneo Celadon Moderator.

"On behalf of the Ateneo de Manila University, I congratulate the Ateneo Celadon and Ateneo Junior Marketing Association for gathering an impressive lineup of speakers for Taipan: National Business Leaders Summit. They are men and women who have successfully nurtured and led their companies through many challenges, and can impart valuable lessons to you, our future business leaders and nation builders," articulates Fr. Jett Villarin, Ateneo de Manila President.

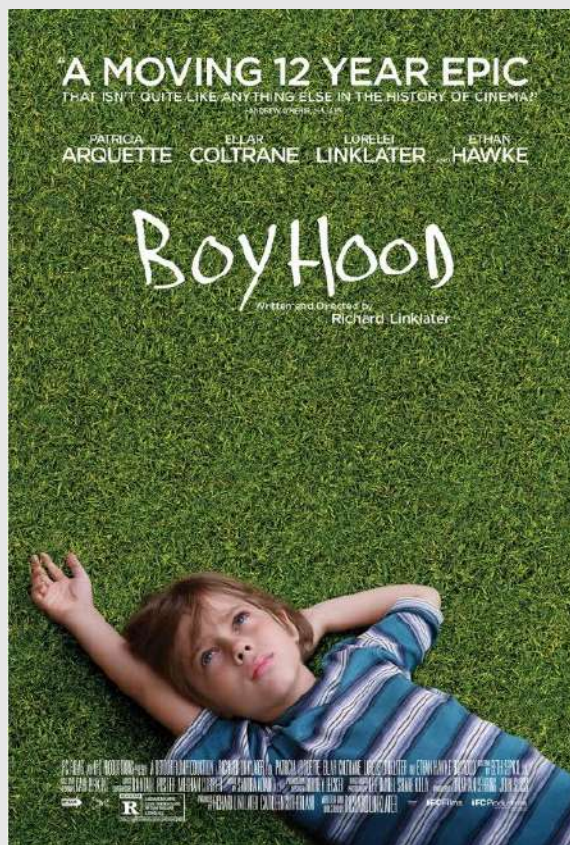
The success of the event also earned the attention of the Council of the Organizations of the Ateneo (COA) as Taipan: Business Summit is nominated for the "Breakthrough Project of the Year" of the 2015 COA Awards. ☯



A Moment Like This

Boyhood Review

WORDS Joel Lim



Why would I want to pay, let alone watch, a movie that just narrates random events of a child? That was the question that popped into my mind when I first heard of the premise of the film *Boyhood*. Little did I know that that small movie would be one of the most unique landmarks of modern cinema.

Boyhood introduces Mason Evans, Jr. (Ellar Coltrane) as a naïve six year-old and follows him as he navigates life with his sister Samantha (Lorelei Linklater) and divorced parents Olivia (Patricia Arquette) and Mason, Sr. (Ethan Hawke). As time passes by, we witness several instances in his life. He plays bowling without the safety bars. He camps with his father and they bond over Star

Wars. He meets his to-be girlfriend in a party. The film chronicles his life from that little boy contemplating in the grass to the rebellious, emo teenager to the mature college-bound student. There's no coherent story in the film, which might turn some people off. And yet, every moment somehow seems precious.

Critics may point out its use of cliché characters, but the unconventional storytelling effectively shares the events that molds Mason into the young man he becomes. A few people close to him face difficulty from alcoholism; although he occasionally drinks as a teenager, he never lets the liquor control him. His philosophical monologues stem from socio-political conversations with

his father in bowling alleys as a kid. Every major adult in his life persuades him to conform to what they want him to become; one stepfather forcefully cuts his long hair to “help” him in his journey to “become a real man.” What is a “real man,” anyway? With all the pressure mounted on him, Mason ponders his future and seems directionless when he reaches high school, but it's a nice touch that we never realize in the end what he aspires to become, or whether or not he has decided at all.

Boyhood also shows that the parents, despite being based on familiar archetypes, require growing up too. The confused, traditional Olivia becoming an empowered, confident woman later on in life echoes Ma-

son's uncertainty (or lack thereof) of his future during his youth. The initially carefree Mason Sr. accepts his responsibilities once he starts another family of his own, similar to how his son finishes high school and ponders on what to do next towards the film's conclusion.

The little details that make the film special require time to think about, and the movie never becomes sentimental. For a movie about time, nostalgia is surprisingly sparse in the movie, and only appears when the story needs it. Time passes by quickly in the film, but every moment counts. Boyhood is not for some casual viewers; since what makes it distinct to others is that it enriches the moments that people may find insignificant.

The simple idea of narrating a boy's story benefits from the vision of director and writer Richard Linklater. Not only is he experienced with several genres, but he is also a master at making the small stuff matter. In the Before Sunrise trilogy, he spiced up romantic chitchat to make it more realistic. He explored teen culture with *Dazed and Confused* (1993) and debut *Slacker* (1991). And then he made *School of Rock* (2003). Linklater knows how movies of different styles work, but *Boyhood*, adapted mostly from his own childhood, is his most personal work yet. The scope of his ambition is evident in the filming process: the film was shot in 39 days over 12 years.

One of Linklater's advantages with *Boyhood* is a cast that stuck throughout the twelve years of filming. It's surreal seeing the Before Sunset-era Ethan Hawke as Mason's slacker father who only visits him occasionally, but it's even more alluring to see Hawke's growth as an actor, as he naturally delivers the different sides of Mason, Sr., from the slacker

that tries to win over his young son to the mature grownup that imparts practical wisdom to an older Mason. Patricia Arquette delivers a memorable performance as Olivia that helps us empathize and relate with the single mother. Even when Olivia makes impulsive decisions or brings home the wrong men, we understand that all her decisions are for the sake of her children. Lorelei Linklater, the director's daughter, is underrated, as she brings the sass that makes Samantha different from Mason as both of them grow up together and eventually branch out to their own interests and stories. It's surprising, however, that Ellar Coltrane, despite having little experience with acting, delivers an unforgettable performance as Mason, and manages to convey the hero's journeys of learning, love and loss as time passes by, and to transform it into something special. It's hard to describe it in other words.

It's a miracle how beautifully shot the film is despite being deceptively simple. Linklater sets the movie in his home state of Texas, and, alongside cinematographers Lee Daniel and Shane Kelly, uses the gorgeous scenery of the fourth largest state to the film's advantage. The bright, green plains of the state and the sprawling city of Austin accompanies Mason, Sr. as he drives his kids around, while smaller, dimly lit places generate the intimacy felt by the characters with each other. Time jumps take us through each year of Mason's life, yet the transitions feel very authentic and natural, without being jarring, largely due to the consistency in direction, cinematography and character.

Boyhood also makes good use of pop culture to show how time passes, from Mason watching

Dragon Ball Z to his father's quest in 2008 to promote Obama for president. Coldplay's "Yellow", which became popular in 2002, opens the film (which begins in 2002) and we're also brought through a musical experience ranging from Blink 182 to Arcade Fire to High School Musical (Also worth noting is "Hero" by Family of the Year, the film's sublime theme song).

Mason's boyhood, from the random yet realistic events of his life to the clever pop culture references, is relatable because it's not much different from ours. The film, however, stretches beyond that. Supported by excellent direction, acting and cinematography, it's a landmark movie because it not only celebrates every moment we experience, but is a reminder of what came before and what we can do now. Feeling more like an immersion than a piece of art, it's an epic that doesn't try to be epic. *Boyhood* shines because it elevates the simple, quiet moments in life - such as growing up - into something extraordinary. ☺

Source: imdb.com



College Life: Is the Fast Pace Really Necessary?

WORDS Pio Tendaro || ILLUSTRATION Pau Era

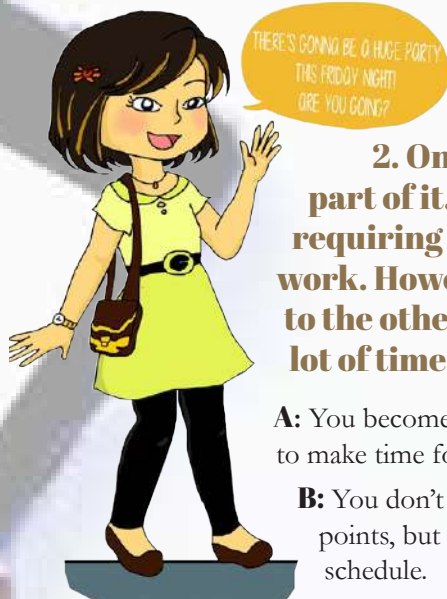
One of the best things about college life is that it's full of opportunities. College always has something to offer, whether it's about orgs, academics, or even just free time. The latest project requirement is a chance to pull up grades. The newest play production is a new story to immerse oneself into. The next big talk at Leong Hall is a chance to hear it first from someone big.

It's hard to even comprehend every opportunity being offered to us. All of them open genuinely different experiences from the other, and the ones that don't happen yearly may even be those once-in-a-lifetime opportunities. With these thoughts in mind, we can't help but step up to be part of them. I can understand that, as we wouldn't want to miss out on anything meaningful. Some of us may think, "I want to try them all." However, knowing what it's like, would you still choose to live it? Let's take a look at some opportunities.

1. It's RecWeek and you decide to check out all the stalls there. A lot of them spark your interest, but you manage to narrow down your choices to six orgs. You can decide how many orgs you wish to take from there, but you feel that more than three would begin to grow more difficult to handle.

A: You decide to join more than three orgs. This opens up more opportunities to be part of many things that interest you.

B: You narrow down your orgs to less than three. You'll miss out on being part of some of the orgs and their major events.



2. One of your orgs is having a major event and you want to be part of it. It's also a great way to rack up retention points. It'll be requiring you to open up more time for meetings and designated work. However, you realize you also have other major commitments to the other orgs you already have, and as it is, they've been taking a lot of time from you to work on academics.

A: You become part of the major event. You'll be spending a lot of time for it and will have to make time for the org requirements too.

B: You don't take part in the major event. You'll miss out on the event and the retention points, but you'll be able to prioritize your other org requirements and still have a lighter schedule.

3. A major academic project is due after the weekend. The project isn't meeting up to expectations. You know how to correct it and you'd rather fix it yourself than split the work with your group mates. However, your best friends invite you to spend a day with them over the weekend.

A: You turn down your friends, assuring them you'd go another time. You bring the workload upon yourself, spending the weekend correcting it.

B: You inform your group mates, and split the workload, leaving you time to spend a day with your friends.

4. You have a major paper due the next day and you'll need to spend considerable time for it. Before you go home, however, you receive a text from your S.O. asking you out. It's a great opportunity to bond with someone you care about.

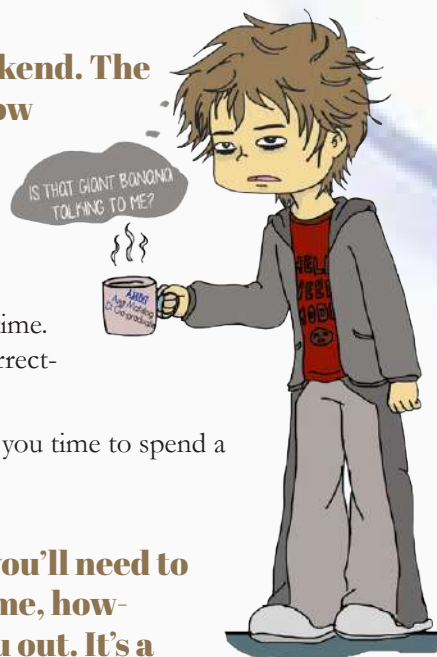
A: You accept the date and spend some quality time with the person you find dear. You'll probably have to spend the night writing your paper.

B: Sadly, you turn your S.O. down for now but assure that you'll make up for it afterwards.

5. You have two upcoming org events coming this Saturday, one being a play in the morning, the other being a concert the whole afternoon. You want to attend both of them, but you also consider your work for Monday.

A: You join both events, having a wonderful time on Saturday. Sunday is crunch time for your workload.

B: You join one of the events, clearing up more time for you to work on Saturday.



Results:

If you picked mostly A's:

You most likely prefer the fast life. This means you'll spend less time in everything you partake in. There might not be enough time to relax and slow down as you move on to the next task. The fast life is definitely demanding, but if you can keep up, you'll be able to experience pretty much everything you want.

If you picked mostly B's:

While there will be missed opportunities, you'll appreciate more the ones you've chosen when you've given more time to it. ☺



MID-AUTUMN FESTIVAL: PRIZES AND DICE

WORDS Faith Ong

ILLUSTRATION Kathleen Calasaniz || PHOTOS Audric Sy

A much awaited event in Celadon is the Mid-Autumn Festival, more commonly known as the Mooncake Festival. The main stars of the season remain to be the dice game and the different sizes and assortments of mooncake. These activities are not just a source of merriment, but also a chance to win prizes and a bonding time among the players. Rest assured, this is the one event where your luck and stomach are tested!

Celadon's very own Mid-Autumn Festival was held at the Zen Garden from September 10-12, 2014. Amidst the unpredictable weather, blue-top tents adorned

with silver pompoms surrounded half of the area with varying booths in each one. Huge crowds flocked to participate in games such as Chubby Bunny, Find the Message, Nine Suns, and the Giant Dice, where players throw a single, big dice into the air with the hopes of it landing on a four – thus, winning the game. A photobooth captured the smiles while holding up their passports, wherein completing all six activities written on it would merit a raffle ticket later on in the event's culminating night.

The culminating night was just as jam-packed as the tickets were sold out the day before. Over 250

people went to Leong Roofdeck on the night of September 12 for the dice game – a record breaker in Celadon's history. Attendees of the event arrived with great excitement and found themselves among the chatters that echo among the circular tables decked in red fabric, the prizes ranging from Lock&Lock products, Sterling notebooks, Pringles, Dorritos, Coca-Cola products, Philips earphones, and Bluetooth speakers, among others, stacked on the center.

Jason Tan and Jopi Esquivias hosted the night that began with an eating contest. A representative from each table took the challenge

as they chomp on two mooncakes each from Eng Bee Tin amidst the cheers from their seatmates. Finishing first earned the winning table extra prizes for the main event: the dice game.

Dice clinked as soon as the bowls were distributed and continued all throughout as people attempted to get one out of the four combinations that merit first prize. Screams and shrieks from lucky rolls bursted in inconsistent successions. As the prizes depleted and the bags became stuffed with goodies, those who bagged the highest prizes crossed their fingers over the chance of “stealing” their prizes when other players got higher numbers. The excitement continued through an impressive performance by Raenelle Ngo, who sang a Chinese song in perfect pitch and tone, serenading the attendees as they played and ate dinner.

If luck was not on their side during the dice game, a raffle draw featured another huge array of

items: from Bratpack and Ruffles backpacks to gift certificates from Rufo's Katipunan. The lucky souls who coincidentally have golden dice beneath their seats also played a different game, and what was at stake? A brand, new Xiaomi Mi 3 smartphone!

Indeed, the Mid-Autumn Festival was a treat to all who attended. With the hard work of all the people involved, the generosity of the sponsors, and all the participants, this year's event became a success. ☺



Mahjong in the Org Room: A Celadon Culture

WORDS Rainier David || PHOTO Belrica Ma

“Nasa Celadon ka na naman, bro! Anong gagawin mo diyan? Mahjong player ka lang ata eh!”

Those words came from a friend who happened to see me go to the Celadon room. Some fellow Celadoneans met his statement with chuckles, while the others remained busy playing or watching the ongoing *mahjong* game inside the room.

Mahjong has become a staple in Celadon and within its headquarters in MVP 313. It is common to see a game being played on the tables in the room; it is not even unusual to see two games being played, one on a table and one on the floor.

“It was already a well-established game in Celadon (before I joined),”

stated EG Dizon, Vice-President for Cultural Affairs of Celadon. “When I entered the org, I had many friends who were more than willing to learn the game and with that, the numbers started growing.”

The game was offered as one of the attractions to org events, such as the Mid-Autumn Festival and Chinese New Year, and eventually, as EG states, it became a “regular happening” in the org room. Members started to bring their own sets, and players started to come in and out of the room to play a game or two (maybe even ten or more).

“May time na medyo nag-tone down siya (There was a time when gameplay toned down in the org room),” adds EG, *“but from [my sophomore] year onwards, the players gained in number.”*

Members who pass by the org room are also initiated to the practice, being taught the game if they do not know how to play and urged to play once they learned.

“Di talaga ako tumatambay sa Celadon room dati (I did not really hang out much in the Celadon room before),” stated Yssa Yu, a manager in Celadon and another regular player, *“Pero nong dumaan ako isang beses, tinuruan nila akong mag-mahjong. And ayun.* (But when I did one time, they taught me how to play mahjong. And it started.)”

A few factors help ascribe to and sustain the boom of the *mahjong* popularity in the room. One example is the tally sheet of the org, listing down the wins of a single player in a week. *“Gusto nilang* [the org members]

Mahjong:



originated from China but eventually spread to Western nations and achieved eventual popularity



has many variants and styles (and thus, different winning objectives)



is usually played with 144 tiles, with 4 players having 16 tiles each at the beginning

makasama sa tally kaya naglalaro sila They want to be added to the tally, so they play),” said Darren Chua, the Associate Vice-President for Finance of Celadon and a regular mahjong player. “[The tally] helps pull people into playing it since it adds competition to the game experience,” says EG.

The game also proves to be a stress reliever, with members spending their breaks playing to ease their minds. “I play *mahjong* to pass the time but sometimes, I play too much *mahjong kaya minsan, wala akong nagagawa* (I play too much Mahjong that is why sometimes, I am not able to accomplish anything else.),” Yssa laughs.

Darren and Yssa acknowledge that the game may be a distraction. They do realize though that this is recreation, a kind of leisure that makes the players unwind from the everyday-college pressures.

“Kunwari, pagkatapos ng long test, maglalaro ako. Distracting siya *pero* it’s also a good stress reliever,” adds Yssa.

For EG, what keeps him going back to the game, which he likewise admits as a stress reliever, is that he has many unique experiences in playing it. “I’d also say that the friendships and connections made through the game is quite something in itself”, he adds. “It is the company of people that helps relieve the stress. It makes the Mahjong experience really worth the while.”

At present, this culture lives and breathes in the Celadon room, far from the ashes. As long as the tally exists, as long as there are *mahjong* sets, as long as there are players willing to spend their time on it--the Celadon room will continue to integrate members into the game and open up this kind of “distracting fun” to everyone and anyone who passes by MVP 313. ☺

In Celadon:



the common objective used is to be the first to have five sets of three (five trio’s), either consecutive numbers of tiles of the same suit or three matching tiles, and a pair of matching tiles to win

Mahjong, mahjong, all day long; the atmospheric mantra in the org room.

Celadon: Diversity United

WORDS Rainier David || ILLUSTRATION Eliza Cua

Ateneo Celadon is an organization that mainly celebrates appreciation for Chinese-Filipino culture, which is the primary reason as to why the members it mostly attracts are mostly from the culture it represents. This, in turn, leads some members of the Ateneo community to label Celadon as “that Chinese org” instead of “the Chinese-Filipino culture org.”

“My Chinese friend and I passed by the Celadon booth during RecWeek and he was being asked to join,” says Phil Lizarda, one of the Filipinos in Celadon, on his rationale for joining the org, “and I was as well. So I thought, ‘Why not? *Marami naman akong* Chinese friends’, so I joined.”

Frich Artificio, on the other hand, was part of the people who held the belief that the Celadon was only for the Chinese-Filipinos. “A PE classmate invited me. He told me non-Chinese could join. So I joined to try it out,” he adds.

For Erika Angeles, Celadon’s Vice-President for Corporate Relations, her reason is linked with her studies. “I’m taking Chinese Studies as my major because my Mom believed that it can take me to my Chinese roots so sige, *‘yun ‘yung na-take ko’*,” adds Erika, who is half-Chinese but raised on a predominantly Filipino setting.

For them, Celadon is no different from other orgs in such a way that they are able to interact and bond with the members. “It’s really very casual *lang talaga*”, Phil states. “They’re even the ones initiating the conversation most of the time.” Erika affirms this statement with her experience as a member of the org’s executive board (EB). “The EB doesn’t make you feel OP at any point and they don’t force in culture. More like share *lang*”, she adds. “If *di mo* type, OK *lang*.”

One might hastily assume the probable hurdle of the language barrier, considering that most of the members slip to using different Chinese dialects, such as Fookien or Mandarin, in the middle of conversation and that Filipinos are only well-versed in English and Filipino, but this is rarely an issue in the organization.

“I couldn’t understand [the Celadon members] when they speak Chinese,” says Frich. “There are some times when my Celadon friends tell me *Ni hao* (Mandarin for “hello”) and I feel stupid not knowing it because it just means ‘hello’, but it doesn’t hinder communication anyway.”

As stated earlier, Celadon is not just for the Chinese student population to have an





org, but rather, one for Chinese culture, a culture that Phil appreciates even before joining the org. “I had Chinese friends that I met in high school for debate and athletic competitions, so they introduced me to different aspects of the culture back then,” he says, “but Celadon makes me appreciate the culture more”.

The cultural aspect was what initially made Erika hesitant to join the org. “I had no idea how to go about it *kasi* I [am not immersed in] the [sic] Chinese culture,” said Erika, “*pero* joining (Celadon) made me learn a lot and realize that I missed out on much of it since I did not come from a Chinese school.”

As part of the organization’s executive board, Erika is a constant figure in the org room, playing Mahjong and chatting up with the members. As Vice-President of Corporate Relations, her committee bridges Celadon to companies and organizes the Marketing Seminar, together with the Elements privilege card.

Phil is fairly active in Celadon, being part of the organization’s Junior Manager Program (JuMP), a series of leadership seminars that train the next generation of managers. He also volunteered for the Mid-Autumn Festival and the Teachers’ Appreciation Week.

Phil initially had doubts about the organization, sensing that he may not be able to strike a chord with the members, mostly due to the stigma concerning Celadon.

“I’m lucky to have tried an org wherein most people would think I wouldn’t fit in, but the complete opposite happened, he speaks. “You’ll never really know until you’ve tried it, and I can guarantee that Celadon will be worth the effort.”

Truly, these doubts about fitting in with the Chinese-Filipino community in Celadon as well as understanding their culture may raise doubts on Filipinos to try and join Celadon. One must see Celadon not as an exclusive community but for what it is: a college organization that broadens horizons, improves its members, and as Erika sagely puts it, unites by one goal: “tikoy during the Chinese New Year.” ☺

LOVE TALKS

ILLUSTRATIONS Kathleen Calasanaz

Love goes around. We asked participants willing to anonymously share their story and looking for advice. This is what we came up with:

I've been hanging around with a blockmate I've come to love. Yes, her Chinese background is a given. I took Chn 1 for my FLC when we weren't official yet, so I was all gung-ho when we were gonna meet her family, her worries aside. The day came, and it was awkward. I couldn't get through their dialect, especially with the grandparents that spoke little Tagalog. I knew they were talking about me, but I feel bad not understanding anything. I'll think twice before approaching her family again, but I sincerely do want to get to know them. What do you suppose I do next?

-Anonymous Heart

ADVICES

Okay, you love your blockmate. You may not have took Chn 1 out of love, but the fact that you tried

to use those things in an attempt to get to know her family was truly something. You wanted to go the extra mile understand what her relatives thought. You didn't even give up on pursuing her after going through that encounter.

If your problem is communication and you do not want to use your free electives on another Chinese class, try attending Chinese classes during the long summer break ahead. Even better, ask your blockmate to try to teach you. You get to learn the language and get to spend time with her. If your problem is her family, don't give up. As the song says,
*"Ain't no mountain high enough
Ain't no valley wide enough
Ain't no river wide enough
To keep me from getting to you"*

If that person would not let even a mountain keep them apart, you should not let a wall hinder you guys from being together. I don't want you to give up on her. You have a chance. I'm rooting for you!

-Custard

Learning a language is a slow process that takes years even with passion and devotion, so I urge you not to be discouraged by that barrier. There are Chinese who can't even speak their own dialect, so the fact that you're making an effort should already mean a lot.

Hopefully, you tried to speak to her family especially her grandparents even



just a bit in their dialect to show your efforts. As long as you are sure you're ready to embrace and share her culture, as long as you know you both love each other, and as long as you're willing to move mountains to make a connection with her family, then the best thing you should be able to do is to keep embracing her language and culture and be patient.

Don't lose touch with her family even if you feel they sometimes speak about you in their own dialect. Instead, let that be your motivation; take more classes if you must. Show them your sincerity through your will and determination. After all, the strength of your love is where your fate in the end rests on.

Good luck!

-Tulip

Don't worry about the language barrier, though it is present now, through time, it will slowly fade away. You and her family can adapt. Bear with it now because I assure you it will be worth it.

-Kare





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