MAGAZINE FOR THE WELLINGTON FILIPINO COMMUNITY



Autumn 2016 • Issue No. 13

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Aimee Riddell and Lynil Yap

editorial

It was early for a Saturday morning pictorial. Except for a few joggers, the Wellington waterfront was deserted. Soon after I arrived, our two talented photographers, Aimee Riddell and Lynil Yap, and our six young talents strolled to the Frank Kitts Park and the photo session for our cover sotry was underway. Our talents were all troupers, gamely posing for the cameras, fuelled only by sausages, orange wedges and chocolates.

You may have noticed that we have been doing more photoshoots for the magazine cover. This is something we would like to continue to do now that Kabayan is celebrating its third birthday. The Kabayan team is working very hard to bring you stories about people in our community, must-see places to visit and events for and by our community.

It is a great thrill to bring to you six young students who have shared a bit about themselves and their school experiences with us. You'll also read about Sam Galope's memories of a terror professor, Belinda Bonzon Liu's advice to kababayans arriving in New Zealand on a student visa, and Judith and AJ Salamat's thoughts on studying in a New Zealand school. There are other stories in this issue that we hope you will enjoy reading too.

Mayie explains how much we value education and we get to know Antong Victorio, a Pinoy professor at Victoria University. And for a bit of nostalgia Mike Javier has drawn a map of Manila's University belt (we couldn't include all schools but we hope your alma mater is there), CJ Diaz remembers his favourite baon while I share about what school was like hundreds of years ago in the Philippines.

I must admit I have a bias towards an education themed issue. I just feel that we should acknowledge the impact education has on our lives and celebrate those who continue to strivefora better life through education. The great thing is, education can be in a classroom, an apprenticeship at a workplace or research for post graduate studies. Education is everywhere if we look at every situation as an opportunity to learn, grow and be better people. Lots of life lessons to be learned as our Pinoys on the street respondents will tell you.

We thank you for your continued support and look forward to your contributions to stories you'd like to see in our community's magazine.

Read on kabayan! Meia

Hits and misses:

In the previous issue, we misspelt Shellah Kavinta's name of Silhouette Productions NZ Ltd. Shellah and Lev produced Rey Valera's concert last November. Our apologies.



Talk to us:

How do you think we are going? How can we make it better? Any story idea you'd like to see featured in the magazine? Tell us your thoughts about the articles in this issue. Email us on kabayanmag@gmail.com. We'd love to hear from you.



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Dream big, Start small.

Let's build our Filipino Community Hall in Wellington! Support the FilCom Centre Project.

To help, go to the Bulwagan Foundation Trust website **www.bulwagan.org.nz** and check out the different fundraising programs

(Adopt a Brick, Alkansya and pledges).

News roundup

Filipino Catholic community carries on Christmas tradition

by Heni Catalan

The Filipino catholic community in the Wellington region celebrated *simbang gabi* from Dec 15 to 23, 2015 at the Sacred Heart Parish Church in Petone. His Excellency Archbishop Martin Kreb, the Papal Nuncio to New Zealand celebrated the first of the nine-day novena masses to the Blessed Virgin Mary. It then culminated with the *Misa de Gallo* (also called *Misa de Aguinaldo*) on Christmas Eve at the Sacred Heart Cathedral Dec 24, 2016 officiated by His Eminence John Cardinal Dew.

Traditionally held as dawn masses, the Wellington *simbang gabi* were celebrated as anticipated evening masses. Each night the different catholic faith communities, the Philippine embassy, various Filipino choirs and families took turns to offer their services for music, liturgy and food. The Filipino Chaplaincy Pastoral Council

would like to thank helped all who and attended this unique Filipino tradition. A truly festive and blessed celebration in preparation for the birth of our Lord Jesus on Christmas Day.





Top picture: *Simbang Gabi* mass at the Sacred Heart Parish, Petone. Bottom right: Mary, Joseph, angels, shepherds, three kings and special well wishers welcome Jesus, the baby King. Bottom left: Carol Parreno (JC Parreno in the back) with Rey and Ella Cabauatan who prepared the food for one *Simbang Gabi* celebration.

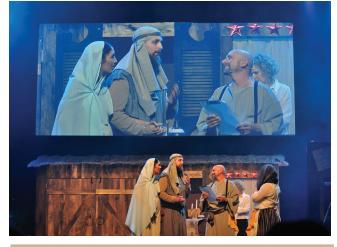
Arise Church celebrates Christmas

by Isagani Alamani

Two weeks before Christmas, 150 volunteers from Arise Wellington Campus prepared 438 Big Hearts grocery boxes and distributed these to families around Wellington. The Arise Campuses in six locations around the country received donations from church members for the Big Hearts at Christmas project. The boxes contained food items and decorations sure to make Christmas for the less fortunate families truly memorable.

The Wellington Campus also presented a free Christmas theatre production with drama, music and dance entitled ίNo Vacancy: The Untold Nativity Story' at the St James Theatre Wellington on 13 in December 2015. Its goal was not only to entertain but more importantly to share the good news of Jesus Christ.





Above: A scene from the Arise Church production 'No Vacancy: The Untold Nativity Story'.

Left: Members of the Arise Wellington Campus prepare the Big Hearts grocery boxes.

News roundup

Philippine Embassy officials commemorate Rizal Day 2015

Text based on information from the Philippine Embassy Wellington website

The Embassy of the Philippines in New Zealand commemorated the 119th anniversary of the martyrdom of Dr. Jose Rizal on 29 December 2015 with a flag-raising ceremony at the Embassy Chancery. Ms. Arlene Gonzales-Macaisa, Chargé d'Affaires, a.i., led the embassy's officers and staff in the ceremony.

The embassy opened an exhibit of Dr. Rizal's books, artwork, and photographs at the Embassy's Consular Section on 18 December 2015 where the embassy's visitors could enjoy and learn from the exhibit. A timeline of Dr. Rizal's life and works that recounted aspects of Dr. Rizal's life, his accomplishments and his enduring legacy to the Filipino people was also an integral part of the exhibit. The embassy showed the awardwinning film 'Jose Rizal' (directed by Marilou Diaz-Abaya and starring Cesar Montano as Jose Rizal) at the chancery on the 29th of December. The event culminated with a simple Filipino salo-salo.

The embassy continues to promote the country's historical and cultural heritage through the commemoration of Rizal Day. It reminds all overseas Filipinos of the heroism, sacrifices and legacy of Dr. Jose Rizal and encourages the youth to know more about their roots, history and values.

Wellington South celebrates the Sinulog Festival

The Filipino Community of Wellington South Pastoral Area celebrated the Sinulog Festival on Sunday, 10 January at the St. Anne's Catholic Church in Newtown during the 5 p.m. integrated mass. Father Dennis Nacorda officiated the mass and the Spring of Life choir led the community in the songs. Devotees of the Holy Child Jesus from all around Wellington came and joined this very popular Filipino festival.

The mass was held on the second Sunday of January "to accommodate some members of the South Wellington particularly Filipino community, nurses who would not have been able to attend the traditional Filipino celebration because of their work schedule," said Shirin Zonoobi ONZM, Filipino Community Leader of the Wellington South Pastoral Area. "This is also a community celebration. Local members of our parish attended the mass. For some of our parishioners this was their first time to witness and join the Sinulog Festival."

The Sunday mass was celebrated in a very unique way. Devotees rendered

Dancing, singing, drumming and chanting "Viva Pit Señor!!" - it could only be the Sinulog festival.

by Archie Araza

special Sinulog dances with the beat of drums (by She Kavinta and Merz Miranda) while chanting "Viva Pit Señor!". The Offertory started with the offering of images of the Señor Sto Niño followed by the bread and wine to the altar. The most significant part of the celebration was when Father Dennis blessed the children and all Sto Niño images after communion. Drumbeats signalled the end of the mass and led the people to the parish hall for the community-shared meal and some entertainment. The children from the Filifest Dance Group performed several cultural dance numbers, Ella Cabauatan performed a solo tap dance number while Cebuano singer Pete Delmiguez sang a couple of songs. Arlene Macaisa, Charge d' Affaires a.i., from the Philippines Embassy delivered a special message for the community. Father Dennis Nacorda, Shirin Zonoobi and James Cipriano, organisers of this celebration, would like to thank all who helped and joined this event.



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Bikolano Ako Group (Wellington) celebrates year one of their Scholarship Project

Two years ago, the Bikolanos in Wellington formed a social group with an aim to foster a closer relationship and camaraderie amongst the Bikolanos living in Wellington. Being Bikolanos, we host the annual Penafrancia fiesta celebration in Wellington every September, something we all take great pride in.

But more than the social gatherings and religious commitment, our group thought of giving something back to our home country - the Philippines. It was not long after the group was formed when we unanimously decided that a Bikolano scholarship fund would be a fitting idea. We identified Ateneo de Naga University (High School) in Naga City, Bicol Region, for the initial offering.

The initial funds came from members who dipped in their personal pockets to jumpstart the project. The rest was history; the Bikolano Ako Group Wellington's junior high scholarship project was born.

In January 2015, the Bikolano Ako Group (Wellington) officially and successfully launched its scholarship project. The group pledged to pay for the full tuition fees for four years for a junior high school student from 2015 to 2019. The tuition fees and other incidental expenses cost around P48,000 to P50,000 per year.



Gregg (third from right) with Bikolano Ako Group (Wellington) members last 22 September 2015. In his letter to the group, Gregg said, "You will be my inspiration. Thank you for your good heart."

by: Fil Ranga



Samu't ^{sari}

Launching of the Bikolano Ako Group (Wellington) scholarship project last 31 January 2015, hosted by Ambassador Virginia Benavidez

We asked the school to help us find the deserving student based on the student's grades, deportment and their family's financial situation. After several months of coordination and liaison work with the University Registrar and the President of the University, the idea became a reality and we found our scholar.

Some members of the Bikolano Ako Group met 13-year old Gregg of Bula, Camarines Sur during a visit to Naga City last September. He and his family were especially grateful for the scholarship and although Gregg found the year quite challenging he was enjoying himself at Ateneo de Naga University (High School).

The group personally handed the first cheque to Ateneo de Naga's President Fr Primitivo Viray and met with some school officials.

Last 26 November 2015, as part of its on-going campaign to fund the scholarship project, the group held a movie fund raising event at Petone Lighthouse cinema which screened 'The Hunger Games - Mockingjay Part 2.' The event attracted more than 160 moviegoers. It was another successful activity for the group as they were able to raise some funds for the next school year.

The group is planning additional fund raising activities to help sustain funding for Gregg and future scholars in succeeding years.

The Bikolano Ako Group (Wellington) members hope that they will inspire our kababayan in New Zealand to share their blessings back home too. Anyone interested in supporting this scholarship project can contact Fil Ranga at 0220354625 or email filranga@icloud.com.

COVEr story

ON the Spot

By: Meia Lopez and Aimee Riddell

It was a pictorial, a picnic, and an on the spot Q and A session rolled into one. Our photographer, Aimee Riddell, recalled the time she spent with each one while I got them to answer our 'slumbook' questions which they answered beautifully and candidly.

Reese was very well behaved and really cute during our photo session!

We asked AJ his favourite subject in school and as he said "Chemistry" his face lit up. He then started talking about the experiments he had done; his passion for Chemistry was very evident.



A. Dadulo

2 1/2 years old (as of February)

Mummy says: Reese will take a while to warm up to you kumbaga sa pagkain ipeprepare mo muna. Masungit talaga ang peg nya. Pero pag nakuha mo ang kiliti nya matutuwa ka sa kanya. Kilala nya yung lahat ng nagbibigay sa kanya. Nate-treasure nya yung gifts na binigay sa kanya. "This is from Mamang". Pero malambing siya sa mommy nya.

At kindy she likes to play: paint or paliguan yung mga dolls kaya laging basa yung manika.



Describe yourself: unpredictable

My favourite subject is: Science

I like it because: It includes Chemistry, a subject I cannot fathom without.

My least favourite subject is: Physical Education, as I am incredibly inept at it.

I don't like it because: I am very deficient at it, or very bad at it, to say plainly.

My favourite baon is: egg (hard boiled) with mayo/aioli sandwich.

Sino'ng best friend nya doon? Her Kiwi friend Allah. They cook together and role-play doktor doktoran.

ReeSe DOMiNique Her favourite baon is: cheese, yoghurt

Where is she studying? Campbell Kindergarten, Karori

What is her favourite thing to do when she is not in school? Playing with Peppa Pig and Barney. She also likes to pretend that she is a big sister and she takes care of her dolls. (she is the only girl and she has two big brothers)

Who is her favourite teacher and why? Michelle (and Amanda) because she always smiles! This is one of the reasons why Reese is excited to go to kindy every day.

What do you think she will be when she grows up? Programmer because she likes to play with computers and puzzles.

Complete this sentence: School is having fun with lots of friends.

Any interesting story about her? At her age, she is independent and speaks straight English. Nagpaalam sya na maglaro sa front yard sabi nya, "Don't you worry mommy I can take care of myself."

What are you studying? Year 8, Raumati Beach School. I study many various things, however I put my biggest priority into Chemistry.

What is your favourite thing to do when you are not in school? I study Chemistry or read.

Who is your favourite teacher and why? I do not have a favourite teacher. That is mainly on the fact that nonsubjectively, they are great in their profession – kind, caring, helpful, all qualities I admire and, honestly, need in a teacher. They are all absolutely outstanding and I don't know what I'd be without them.

What do you want to be when you grow up and why? Chemistry is my passion, thus I find it fitting to be a laboratory chemist. Chemistry is a subject I never ever want to abandon, as I have learnt more about it than anything else in my life.

What is the best advice you have been given (about school/life)? I quote this from Doctor Who "Never cruel or cowardly, never give up, never give in." That promise I have based my whole life upon, a guardian angel to my very self.

Complete this sentence: School is unpredictable, yet it's where you'll learn what to do with your future and how to achieve it.

Nikki can charm anyone with his voice. He is an active member of an a capella group in his college. We requested for him to sing a song during our portrait session and he was up for it. A confident young man.

Towering over me, half Kiwi and half Filipino, **Juanita** moves with finesse ala Maria Clara. She is currently studying to become a teacher, following the footsteps of the women in her family.

Describe yourself: socially awkward

My favourite subject is: English

I like it because: It allows me to express my feelings and ideas creatively.

My least favourite subject is: Physics

I don't like it because: a lot of equations to remember

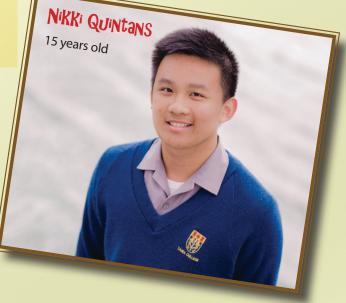
My favourite baon is: mince pie

What are you studying? Year 12, Tawa College

What is your favourite thing to do when you are not in school? Watching anime and other TV shows

Who is your favourite teacher and why? Mrs Chester (Math teacher) because when I was only year 9, I had a very lethargic attitude and my Math teacher at the time, Mrs Chester, not only taught me the ways of a mathematician but she also showed me what it means to be a good student and also a good person.

What do you want to be when you grow up and why? Somewhere around the field of psychology because I have a

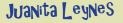


COVER story

strong sense for understanding the thoughts, feelings and the behaviour of others and hopefully be able to give them advice.

What is the best advice you have been given (about school/life)? "Live life the way you want to without being shackled by society's prejudistic ideals."

Complete this sentence: School is not bad.



17 years old

Describe yourself: love-filled

My favourite subject is: Art

I like it because: You can find a million creative ways to express your thoughts or feelings.

My least favourite subject is: Maths

I don't like it because: I'm forgetful so I don't remember the equations or how to solve them.

My favourite baon is: Pasta

What are you studying? Bachelor of Arts major in Education and Anthropology at Victoria University (first year)

What is your favourite thing to do when you are not in school? Sing, be out in nature, be around kids



Who is your favourite teacher and why? Marilyn Bargent (music teacher). She went above and beyond for her students and was like a second mother to us music kids. She believed in me and pushed me to do great things (e.g. national placings in Barbershop competition).

What do you want to be when you grow up and why? When I was young I wanted to be a cleaning lady because I loved to clean my room. But as I got older I watched my mum and many of my family members who were teachers then my heart

was set. I already loved being around kids and their crazy personalities.

What is the best advice you have been given (about school/life)? Do your best and don't worry about the rest. School can be very stressful but not as much if you give yourself the chance to do well.

Complete this sentence: School is where you will grow, through the people around you, through your teachers' belief and guidance and your own determination and passion for what you love.

COVER story

Angelique is very relaxed and outgoing. She's very confident and has got the focus to accomplish her goals.

When **Miguel** turned up with his work shirt on, we knew he was a tradesman. He is enjoying every moment of his apprenticeship.

Describe yourself: confident

My favourite subject is: Design (and Arts)

I like it because: It's where I can express my emotions and desire to inspire.

My least favourite subject is: Science

I don't like it because: It is too complicated for me.

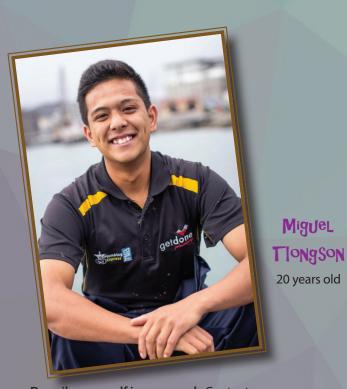
My favourite baon is: Pita Pit

What are you studying? Visual Communication Design, Massey University (third year)

What is your favourite thing to do when you are not in school? Take photos, hang out with my family and friends, karaoke

Who is your favourite teacher and why? My college teacher Mr Logan. He's one of the people who really inspired me and pushed me to do graphic design. He's also the one who introduced me to programs like Photoshop, Illustrator and After Effects and taught me techniques and so-called "cheats".

.



Describe yourself in one word: Content My favourite subject is: Hard Technology I like it because: You get to use your hands to problem solve and be creative.

My least favourite subject is: English



What do you want to be when you grow up and why? I want to pursue graphic design as I know I would be able to inspire and at the same time create a way to visualise my desires and aspirations.

What is the best advise you have been given (about school/life)? My mom always tells us that no matter what people say, whether it is good or bad, what matters most is how I view and see myself.

Complete this sentence: School is where talents are enhanced and it moulds you to become the better you.

I don't like it because: The teachers made it boring for most of our studies.

My favourite baon is: rice and leftovers/KFC

What are you studying? Plumbing and Drainlaying apprenticeship

What is your favourite thing to do when you are not in school? Hang out with my friends.

Who is your favourite teacher and why? Mr Rickson, Newlands College. Mr Rickson always encouraged us to look to the future and take subjects that would give us different options for our careers. He always took extra time after school or at lunch to help anyone who was willing to try hard. He showed us the need for trades in the world and encouraged us to do our best.

What do you want to be when you grow up and why? I would one day like to start my own plumbing business and be a fully certified plumber. Plumbing is something I can always keep learning and I can take it overseas. Two issues that differentiate first and third world countries are the availability (or lack) of clean drinking water and proper disposal of wastewater. I can use this skill to give back to communities and help other people.

What is the best advise you have been given (about school/life)? "The best place to be is where God wants you to be. Do something that you will still love to do when you are older and where you can be the best you can be."

Complete this sentence: School is good for character building.

pinoys street

Lessons Iearned

"What's the best lesson you've ever learned from your favourite teacher?"

We always say, 'Wisdom is the best teacher.' From whom can we derive this wisdom but from a teacher, literal or otherwise, who has shared with us gems of life? Some members of our community share their nuggets of wisdom gained from their teachers. --- Judith Balares Salamat

"This was from my favourite high school science teacher: 'No matter how bad it is, there is always a bright side to things." --- Nina Batucan, Waikanae





"Life is a continuous process of adjustments" – Teodoro "Papa Doy" Helbano, Paparangi



"The keys to success are good education, hard work and determination." --- Viluz Gray, Johnsonville

"We need to value the importance of education because that's our main road to success." --- Eileen Louise Cajegas, Paraparaumu





"I have learned from my teacher that patience, from all angles and all seasons of time, is really a virtue."- Ethyl Valdez, Miramar

> "Practice, practice makes perfect" – from my favourite piano mentor – Genie O'Neill, Paraparaumu Beach

"My favourite teacher is my late uneducated grandfather with whom I spent a lot of time when growing up. He shared, "If you



growing up. He shared, "If you are in need, plant a seed." – Fe Muriel, Khandallah



"Always do the best you can, not only for yourself but also to be able to help others." – Dorothy Eden Obach, Khandallah

"From my elementary Math Teacher, Ms. Daisy Furio --- "Don't hate Math if you don't want it hating you back"' – Miguel Quintans, Tawa





My Japanese teacher drew a circle on the board and asked me what it was. "A circle", I said but it turned out to be the tip of a white board pen. She said

that I should "approach everything with a 3D perspective and try to find different angles to every story." ---- Katherine Lopez, Johnsonville



"My biochemistry teacher once said, 'how organised the human body is even at the cellular level... and are you wondering who made this if there is no God?" --- Flordeliza Diaz, Paraparaumu

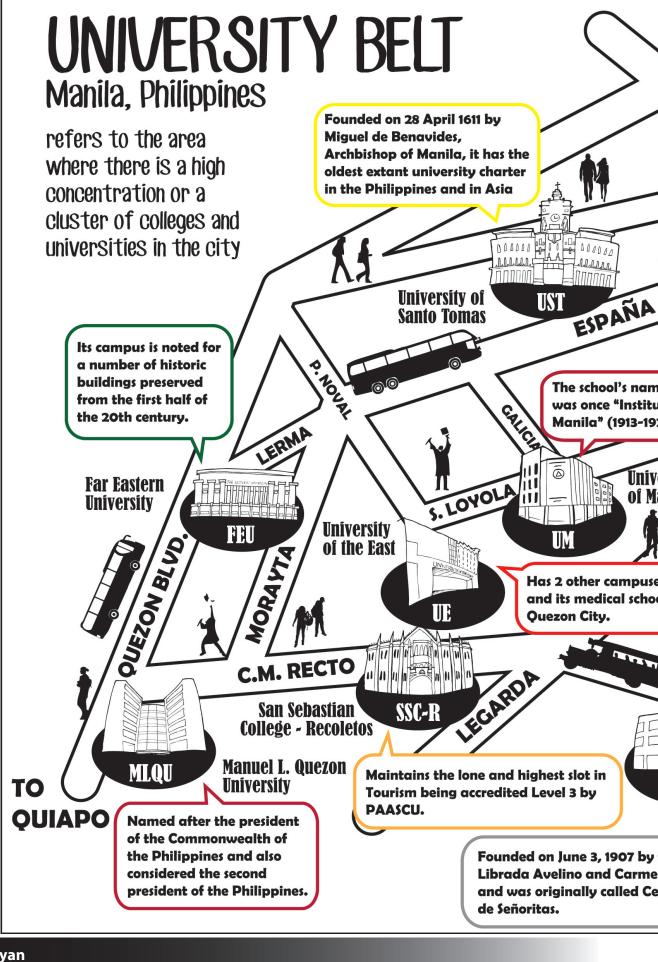


"My third grade teacher showed me that independence should come with responsibility and respect for others." – Vice Consul Glenn Joseph Obach, Philippine Embassy, Wellington

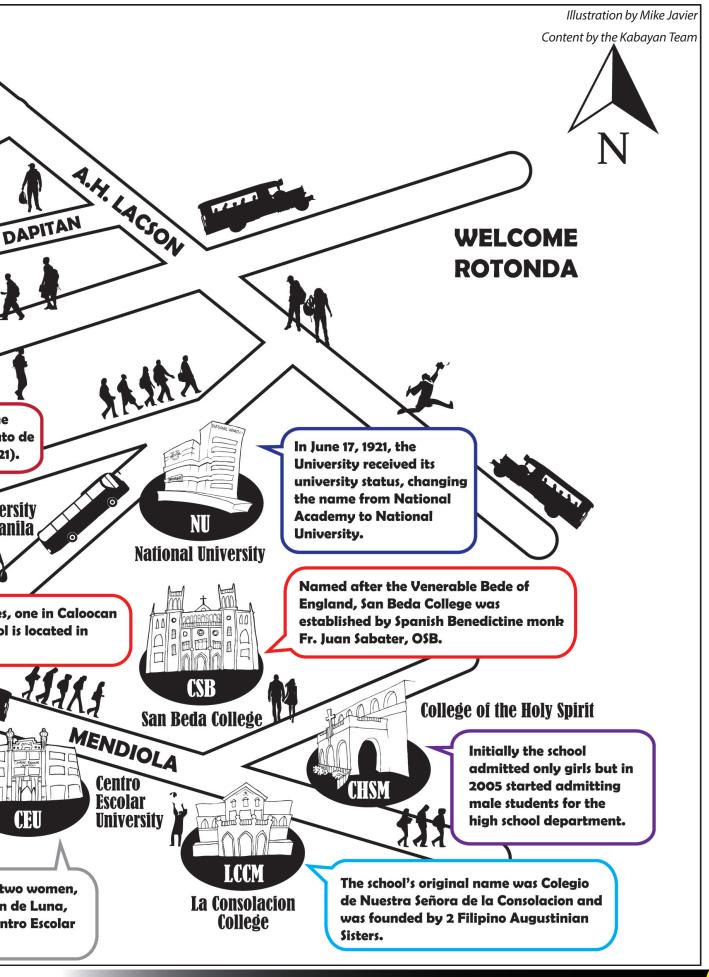


"Never use people for your own benefit." --- Lovely Joy Bote, Pahiatua

pinoy hot spots



12



Fear and loathing in birdland

By Sam Galope

In the late 70's I was a senior BS Zoology student at the College of Science - University of Santo Tomas. I was fully expecting to move on to post-graduate studies later in the year. Unexpectedly, I was advised that post-graduate placement would only be offered to the top graduates. This news sent all of us hustling for placement. One member of faculty whispered to me that an A in Advanced Ornithology (AO) would get me in for sure. The catch was that Father Pastrana, the meanest terror of a professor in the college, taught AO. He also happened to be Dean of the Graduate School.

Day One. The walls of the AO lab were lined with shelves of stuffed birds and jars of things avian. Fr. Pastrana presently appeared and addressed us: "AO is the toughest subject of your course. The grade I will give you is final and nonnegotiable, I expect you all to apply yourself".

From then on we followed the course outline. No lecture was given as everything we needed to know were in the prescribed reading material. Occasionally Father would direct a question to students at random. The two he directed at me were "explain the behaviour peculiar to the Philippine bulbul", and "briefly discuss the migratory habits of Anas Luzonica". For the record, I answered both with excellent erudition. I found myself increasingly confident of acing AO. I had memorised the prescribed literature and could identify all the birds in the lab. I was actually looking forward to the final exam.

Final exams day arrived. We were each directed to individual cubicles which had a covered tray and a test paper.

Father: "You have one hour to complete this exam. Read the instruction on the test paper then uncover your tray. The time starts NOW".

Instruction - Examine the items on the tray then indicate:

- 1. the Scientific Name and Common Name of the bird
- 2. Sex
- 3. Age
- 4. Habitat

I said to myself, with a grin: "This is chicken feed".

Then I uncovered my tray: 25 assorted bird claws (feet).

I felt a chill run down my spine. I had come prepared to identify any bird by sight, or even by plumage, but there was no way in h*ll I could tell a bird's name just by its feet!

The minutes ticked away but my brain drew a blank, overcome with shock and awe. It dawned on me that graduate school was not to be.

Time was soon up. I shuffled to Father's desk to turn in my pathetic test paper. Standing before the man, I could not contain myself, "Father, I want you to know I was fully prepared for questions based on the course outline. Instead you chose to be unreasonably mean and lazy with this exam".

Father Pastrana's face turned deep red. "Young man, I will not stand for your insolence". "Tell me your name so I can report you for disciplinary action!" he glowered.

My knees were weak with righteous indignation. I bent over, unlaced my shoe and pulled off my sock. I raised my bare foot and slammed it on his desk.

"Here Father, you tell me my name!"



samu't ^{sar}

The Filipino Student Route to New Zealand

By Belinda Bonzon-Liu

According to Immigration New Zealand (INZ), international education contributes more than NZ\$2 billion annually and supports around 32,000 jobs. In 2014, the pilot for Industry Partnerships with Educational Providers launched by INZ coincided with the increase of international student enrolment by 12 per cent. International education is the fifth most valuable industry (ICEF Monitor, 16 February 2015) in New Zealand. Those with student and work visas were the biggest migrant arrivals between January 2014 to January 2015¹. The student visa pathway is now becoming the most popular pathway to come to New Zealand. But it is also becoming an area for exploitation by unscrupulous agents.

It is not unusual to hear and read stories of how some agencies exploit students charging exorbitant amounts of money (up to P500,000) to process their paperwork. The students I have spoken to told me that agencies lure the gullible with stories of how easy it is to get jobs in New Zealand with salaries starting at P100,000 a month.

Fact 1 - It is hard to find a part time permanent job or get the salary you want. Many students I have met hold part time jobs (20 hours/week maximum allowed to work) and are paid the minimum wage.

Fact 2 – It is a bit hard to live on the minimum wage in New Zealand when the cost of living is one of the highest in the world; Number 14 on the cost of living index. **Do your research!**

Most Filipino students are using the year after graduation to look for a job. My advice is to make sure to check the skill shortage list if you are taking this route. Take all your exams and requirements before flying to New Zealand. Read the

Web research:

Check out the Immigration New Zealand and NZQA websites.

https://metamorphose2016blog.wordpress. com/2016/02/02/what-really-happens-after-payingagencies-500000-pesos-to-come-to-new-zealand/ Immigration NZ site for information. You can apply directly to the schools and to New Zealand Immigration without any agency's intervention.

Alternatively, you can take the doctoral studies route especially when you are not just after getting a job. PhD program fees command the same fees as domestic students but international students have to pay additional fees for the compulsory health and travel insurance, and student services which the universities charge.

As a PhD student, your spouse/partner is eligible for an open work permit valid for the duration of the program and your dependent children are classified as domestic students. Apply directly to the university or contact the professor that you are interested to work with for your PhD. The university will assist you in the process. As a student you have unlimited work rights under the terms of your student visa. Upon completion of your PhD, you can apply for a 12-month post-study work visa to allow you to search for employment.

A Bachelor's and Master's program fees are charged at international rates except if you find a scholarship. Every university has its own list of scholarships so it is best to contact the university.

The fees for polytechnics (polytech) and private schools are almost the same as for a Bachelor's, an Honour's or a Master's program at the six universities in the country. If you go to a polytech or private school, look at the assessment of the schools at the New Zealand Qualification Authority.

Whatever education path you take, make sure to do your due diligence. Good luck!

¹KABAYAN's Autumn 2015 issue ran a story on migration numbers, page 13.

Belinda lived in Wellington for many years but now resides in Auckland. She wrote this article to express her personal advocacy to inform prospective Filipino students about the realities of having a student visa in New Zealand and to warn them of the dangers brought on by people who may try to exploit them.

Secrets Here and There: Revelations of a School Child

School is incredibly delicate: requiring precision, bravery and thought unlike anything else in life. It is in a flux. Any change, big or small, can make your entire school year a sheer burden or an unforgettable journey to knowledge. Your journey will vary, depending on your classmates, your school, and, most of all, yourself. Your journey is personal and unique to you.

I've had a lot of ups at school, but most of them were just about learning something new from a book or finding a new friend, especially because my type of persona (singlemindedly academic and addicted to knowledge and theory) is somewhat rare in New Zealand. Initially for me, the downs outweighed the ups.

On the bright side, I had gigantic ups, like successfully getting published in two books: Flying High and Oscar Inspires. I mastered some areas of chemistry quicker and at an earlier age than my teacher did. She herself inspired me to learn things like balancing chemical reactions and, indirectly, stoichiometry. Those are some of the achievements I'm absolutely proud of, and I know I will achieve many great things as I continue studying here.



If you've come to New Zealand to study, here's some advice

My school, my classmates, and myself, are not the only ones

By Antonio Jose B. Salamat

who decide my school experience. My family environment does, too. I owe most of my success in school to my parents' untiring support.



AJ clowning around with his mum Judith

The following are my personal opinions and observations about the selection of subjects and activities here. The literacy and numeracy that we learn vary from teacher to teacher, as one might prefer teaching more of numeracy than literacy, or vice versa. The arts and crafts activities here are much more interesting than those in the Philippines. Art can take on many forms: drawing, colouring in, drama or occasionally, even music. There are also more EOTC (Education Outside The Classroom) activities, such as museum visits, overnight or weeklong camps, pool parties, Year 8 dances, and tramping.

School isn't a time to contemplate on your mistakes and let them burden you. I've learnt that myself. What's the point of life if you won't live it to the fullest? Have fun; no matter what challenges you'll face. Never dwell on your mistakes.

- Don't get confused with the Kiwi accent. They pronounce a lot of the letter e with a long sound (just as you would pronounce it as a letter). For instance, they pronounce "yes" as "yees" and death as "deeth".
- Don't make fun of people.
- Practise your English. Speak clearly and pay close attention to what others are saying so you can understand them better.
- Welcome to the British spelling system (get used to it).
- Have fun and enjoy New Zealand, whether you're a budding gymnast or a nerdy, book-loving type.



Secrets Here and There: A Parent's Musings

By Judith Balares Salamat

My son, Antonio Jose (AJ for Filipinos, Antonio for Kiwis) has been in New Zealand for nearly two years so he has spent two school years since --- Year 6 and Year 7. This year, he is in Year 8. In this current issue of Kabayan, he shares his ups and downs as a student. As a parent, I, too, am sharing mine (and perhaps, my husband's) through this article.

I would say both he and we, as parents, have had our share of ups and downs. AJ had been educated longer back home than he has here. Comparisons, nostalgia, and homesickness, among others, were a part of his first year here (Year 6), until last year, when he was in Year 7. But as the days passed, moments of comparisons faded, until there would be days and weeks that he would no longer make comparisons at all.

When AJ would compare his "better" school in the Philippines and his "sports-loving" school (from his perspective, not ours) here at Raumati (Kapiti), I would respond by telling him that he just needed to embrace the benefits of both schools and use them for his own good. These moments would be followed by "hurting" and, sometimes, "guilt-laden" feelings. I, for one, would reflect and ask myself, "Have I/we (my hubby and I) done the right thing?", "Was it good for us to have uprooted our son from a familiar setting to some other place that was unfamiliar?" I know that so many Kiwi-Pinoy parents can relate to this.

Despite these 'downs', AJ's present performance in Chemistry, his much-improved social skills and his team membership in

a Maths-Science competition, are areas I consider as 'ups'. Outside of school his participation in the Filipino church choir (now, he has outgrown this) and community events, in particular his anticipation to be an altar server in Kapiti and last year's two creative articles in two published books are also 'ups'. All these mean that he is adjusting and adapting to the NZ curriculum and culture better.

Generally, these 'ups' outweigh the 'downs'. I believe that a certain spirituality and social connections outside school are equally important to get through the 'downs'. So church involvement with friends who feel the same way he does helps a lot. Free-wheeling-cum-moderated discussion of his daily feelings, failures and successes are also factors. As a family, we always take time to talk every day about what has been upsetting him, and we try to discuss things and find ways to alleviate that.

Kiwi-Pinoy students bridge two schools' curricula, two educational orientations. Like what I wrote in a previous Kabayan article, as parents we can always pick the best of these two worlds and come up with our own recipe for our children's success. As AJ's parents, Sam and I long for the time when AJ will be able to realise his dreams, especially his passion to become a successful Analytical Chemist. Now, doesn't it sound familiar --- wishing the best for our children? We can only wish for them, then help, encourage and love them. The rest, like history, are God's and theirs.

pinoys at work

Antong, the Educator

By Matilde Tayawa-Figuracion

Nelson Mandela once said, "Education is the most powerful weapon we can use to change the world." I believe that education is our most powerful weapon to change our personal circumstances. This is why I have a huge respect for educators. I wasn't disappointed at all when Dr Antong Victorio from Victoria University agreed to talk to me about his passion for teaching and his personal interests.

Antong has very impressive credentials: a Master's Degree in Public Policy from Harvard University, a PhD in Economics from Boston College (he completed his doctoral studies while also doing his Masters at Harvard as a scholar!) and an undergraduate degree in Economics from Ateneo de Manila University in the Philippines. He has over 30 years of teaching and research experience, 23 of those years spent at the Victoria University School of Government teaching undergraduate and postgraduate students, plus a few years teaching at a business school in the US. He has published three books and more than 30 articles on economics in prestigious international journals.

He could have gone into business as what his parents wanted him to do but he preferred to be a teacher. Why? Because he idolised his college professor, a Jesuit priest, who mentored him on the importance of economics in understanding social behaviour. He also admired his philosophy professor who taught him how to question things and not just accept them as they are. Both professors were very good that he wanted to be like them and to teach like them.

"Over 30 years in the teaching profession, what is there to love about teaching?" I asked Antong. Without batting an eyelash, he answered: "I get a high when my students learn something, their eyes light up and I see the face of inspiration. I also get to do research while teaching. I'm passionate about game theory, which mathematicises bargaining between individuals and institutions. And I love that I am able to use advance statistics and economics to uncover the causes of social behaviours." Antong is one of the few economists that I know in New Zealand who advocates quantifying the value of social outcomes (such as the value of social bonding) and other intangible



benefits of a programme or a project that are difficult to measure and quantify. He specialises in Social Cost Benefit Analysis, the reason why I got to know him. But before I lose you, let me tell you about more interesting stuff about him.

I wanted to know why he came to New Zealand. I was curious because the obvious option for someone educated in a prestigious university is to stay and carve his profession in the US. Well, as expected, he had a profound reason. "NZ was on the cusp of being a market-led economy making my work and mission potentially important; Victoria University wanted the exact equivalent of my credentials." He was passionate about understanding the interplay between government and economics, especially the importance of economics in informing government decisions. But wait, there was also a personal reason – his serious relationship just ended and he wanted to get away, far far away, from it. New Zealand was the answer.

But outside the university walls, he spends his non-teaching times windsurfing, skiing, doing home and car maintenance, and tinkering with electronics stuff. I'm not kidding. He repairs or replaces parts of android mobile phones using spare parts from dead phones bought on Trade Me. He gives them to friends and family members in the Philippines as gifts when he visits, which is very often.

So do all these make him happy? "Happiness is an illusion; there is only contentment," he replied. He is contented with simple things like realising that he has accomplished something even if it is very small, seeing his students develop their academic skills, being healthy and productive, and most importantly, knowing that he has helped other people.

What can I say? Antong, you are more human and down-toearth person than I thought. Thank you for sharing your story. May your tribe increase!

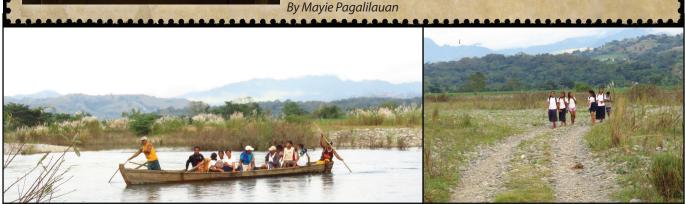
Here are some tips to those who may want to follow his footsteps:

- 1. Develop your academic skills at an early age, during your primary and secondary education. It is already too late when you get to university.
- 2. A high level of education does not suit majority of people because it requires a lot of solitude and personal sacrifices early in their career. However, the satisfaction later on is well worth the investment.
- 3. There is no substitute for hard work and diligence. As they say, it should be more perspiration than inspiration.
- 4. Networking with colleagues counts nearly as much as your career.

Samu't sari



Education: A much-valued treasure in the Philippines



At this day and age, crossing mountains and rivers to reach school seems unthinkable and belongs to a very distant past; however, this is still much of a reality in far-flung places in our beloved country. Walking to and from school for hours is not strange to many Filipinos, especially in remote areas in the countryside. Some have to walk across rice fields, cross rivers, and/or climb mountains just to get to school.

I, myself, grew up in a remote barrio where we only had electricity and motored vehicles about two decades ago. I may not have experienced walking great distances to school every day but my classmates, when I attended the local school for a few years, did. My cousins, three decades older than I am, did. My parents did. The photos, taken last December, show current high school students crossing the river and walking through cornfields to go to their high school in the adjacent barangay.

I, myself, also walked across rivers and farmlands, climbed mountains, took a boat ride, rode a jeepney even when there was a typhoon because I did not want to miss class and the periodical exams the next day. But this was just a one-time occurrence for me which is a small thing compared to my cousins who did this every weekend or my brother's students who still do this every day. That was how important going to school was for us, for my cousins and for my brother's students.

Our concept of education and its benefits are relative to our experiences; however, I believe that gaining a school qualification and education definitely provides vast opportunities. It is a great passport to the future. For most, it is the greatest key to get out of poverty. The life experiences of lah Bantang Seraspi and Efren Penaflorida are two great examples where education is used as a tool for economic and social change.

lah, who hails from Romblon, comes from humble beginnings. Life has been a struggle to make ends meet but with persistence and great support from family and friends, she has been able to make it with flying colours. While still a high school student, she tutored children to augment her family's income. She grew up without electricity until she graduated in college last year. Those situations did not dampen her motivation to study and she even became the second placer in the 2015 Licensure Examination for Teachers in the Philippines.

Similarly, Efren Penaflorida was born into a poor family. He grew up close to a city dumpsite where gang activity was rampant and children were pressured to join. A confrontation with a gang leader who pressured him to join their gang gave him a new perspective on how he could initiate change in the community. So in 1997, he set up mobile pushcart classrooms in Cavite with the help of his friends to steer children away from joining gangs and make them instead more productive members of the society through education. For his innovative service to the community, he was named CNN Hero of the Year in 2010.

Education for some Filipinos has become a privilege, not a right. For those of us who have the opportunity to better ourselves by attending school and gain work, we must seize that opportunity and make the most out of it. Let us not also forget to share the blessing by helping out when we can.

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Ano'ng baon mo?

By CJ Diaz

I spent my earlier high school days (called college here) in the Philippines, then my later college years here in New Zealand.

Through this article, I'm sharing parts of my *baon* days in the Philippines and my tips for students and parents in making their *baon* here in New Zealand.

In the Philippines, many Filipino parents cannot give their children enough and proper nutrition even though they want to. I guess it's because their family budget is quite tight. The average budget of Filipino families in 2012 was P652 every day. With that budget, many parents could just give an average of P20 - P50 for their kid's *baon* every day. All the children could buy were cheap junk food and fizzy drinks.

How could Filipino kids be healthy with their small budget? I remember my classmates and I would sometimes have a *salo-salo* meal (shared meal) and they would bring "glow" food, those that are rich in Vitamin D that gives our skin that 'glowing' appearance. Among my friends, *chopsuey* (a Filipino dish that has stir-fried vegetables and meat like chicken, pork or beef), *adobong sitaw* and *kare-kare* are quite popular baon.

I also remember bringing *baon* just for the morning recess because I would go home at noon for a nap and light lunch. Yes! Within my one-hour lunch break, I would run home and take a nap for 30 minutes, eat for 15 minutes and spend 15 minutes for travel time. I would only have a light lunch so I wouldn't feel bloated and eating light would save me from feeling sleepy. Anyway, a couple of hours later, school would be finished for the day and I would be on my way home. I had my own favourite *baon* too, the really inexpensive L*A*L*A (only P10 before, I think) was enough for the whole day. Sometimes I would have TofiLuk, Kit-Kat, Oreo cookies, Fudgee Barr, among others. Sweet drinks like C2, Chuckie, Sting, Zesto, were not so recommended, but still tempting. Shout-out to my favourite Philippine pastries, *pan de coco, pan de ube* and *ensaymada*. I would get them at our local bakery every morning or the day before school. Not only were they so good, they were also very affordable. (Now that we are in New Zealand, you should try them making them with the help of YouTube videos!)

There are other things that I remember about my *baon* in the Philippines, but let me share with you two tips in preparing baon in New Zealand, things that I also learned from my experiences back home and the available resources here.

Tip 1: Just enough sugar is okay, too much sugar is harmful

Knowing that sugary food is easily accessible and very affordable here, if you prepare your own lunch, I hope you will be smart with what you put in your lunch-box. Don't load your body with sugar that your body doesn't need and can cause problems to your health.

Tip 2: Apply time-saving techniques

I advise students to prepare their *baon* before going to sleep because we are often in a rush to prepare it in the morning. I make mine the night before because I don't wake up in time like most students do and because I put it in the fridge it doesn't spoil.

My general tip: "Eat HEALTHY, Eat RIGHT, Enjoy LIFE."

I wish we Filipinos could educate ourselves more about nutrition and healthy diet so we can live longer with our family.



Although many students bring sandwiches to school for their lunch, some Pinoys still choose to bring rice and a dish like chopsuey, adobong sitaw or the all-time favourite, fried chicken.

Sources:

20

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blast from the

THE FRIARS' SCHOOLS



By Meia Lopez

I let my mind wander to a different time, a different century and a different country - the Philippines. What was school like during the Spanish times? Did all kids go to school? What did they learn? Did the friars teach students in Spanish or other languages?

The book **The Roots of the Filipino Nation** by Filipino academic and historian Onofre D Corpuz gives us an idea of what education was like in the Philippines in the 16th-17th centuries.

When Spain colonised the Philippines, missionaries from different religious congregations were among the first Spaniards to come to the islands. How did one carry out the mission to spread the Good News in a foreign land? With great difficulty, for a start. They traversed the jungles and plains of Luzon, and went from island to island in the Visayas to establish schools for the indios. However, the Sultans of Mindanao were not as welcoming and the Spanish missionaries were not successful in converting Muslim Mindanao.

That was not the only drawback. Aside from the terrain and the resistance in Mindanao, they also had to deal with the issue of language. Being an archipelago, many regions and islands had (and still have) their own languages so being understood was a major obstacle. Despite a royal decree from Spain to teach catechism to the locals (called 'Indios') in Spanish, the friars insisted on teaching in their pupils' native languages. It was the friars who studied Tagalog, Ilocano, Camarines, Igorot and Visayan languages among others (Corpuz, 1989). This method had its benefits of course. Unlike many other Spanish colonies, we were able to retain our languages, although now heavily influenced with Spanish words. Teaching in our native languages also proved to be a divisive factor for the indios, promoting regionalism and pitting Filipinos against other Filipinos, a strategy that the friars seemed to have played up.

Regardless, these were men on a mission. The first schools established from the late 1500s were generally friar schools (The public school system would not be established until 1863) with the education centred on the Christian doctrine. Some of these originally catered only for the Spanish children but later opened up for all local children. The classroom

The University of Santo Tomas at its original site in Intramuros. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_the_University_of_Santo_Tomas

might have been at the *convento* (convent) for the boys and the teacher's house for the girls, at the stables or an open area with just a roof over their heads. The children's days were spent learning and saying prayers, reading and writing, and sewing and embroidery for the girls. Boys attended school every day and girls, only on Saturdays (Corpuz, p. 224). Corpuz cites a day's schedule at an Augustinian primary school. I could only imagine this was how it happened.

The steady peal of church bells cut through the chatter of young children and signal the start of the school day. The pupils, both boys and girls, gather in the church, form two lines and walk to the school. When they get there, the physical inspection starts. Padre will check if they have clean and tidy clothes, clean faces, nails, hands and feet. A neckerchief is a must for girls (no bare necks allowed). Any violation can result in a serious whipping. The lessons for the day will start followed by a procession back to the church for prayers ...

The honour and distinction of being the oldest existing university in the Philippines is being disputed by the Dominicans' University of Santo Tomas (1611) in Manila and present-day University of San Carlos in Cebu which claims to trace its roots to the Jesuits' (defunct) Colegio de San Ildefonso (1595). The Franciscans founded the Colegio de Santa Potenciana (defunct), the first college for orphaned Spanish girls in 1589. The Augustinian and the Augustinian Recollects also established many churches and schools throughout the country.

A royal decree made primary education free and thus more accessible to the *indios* by the 1860s. There was to be one primary school for boys and another for girls in each town; and this time, Spanish was taught in the schools. Higher schools of learning offered diverse subjects including French, Commerce, Mechanics, Physics, Literature and Arts. The new generation of educated Filipinos (*illustrados*) were graduates of these schools and became the catalyst for change.

From conventos and friar schools of the 16th century to the digital classrooms of today, we have certainly come a long way but the hunger for knowledge remains strong.



KABAYAN is 3 years old!

Kabayan celebrates its 3rd birthday this April. Our team is grateful and humbled by the support the Filipino community and our friends have shown. Thank you for sharing your stories with us and for being the inspiration for Kabayan magazine. Maraming salamat po!

Here's a collection of some of our favourite quotes from articles in the past year.

Being a stepfather to a child is not easy but being a stepfather to three children is a challenge on a completely different level. – **Brent Bautista**

My view of life, and my 'core values' were first shaken, and then substantially changed. – **Geoff Booth**

When one mentions the word Kapiti, one cannot help but think about summer picnic and crabbing alongside its beautiful warm sandy beaches. – **Bernie Velasco**

I always try to think of something new, something that's never been done before. - Chia Rubio

The success of the International Women's Day brings to mind that strong collaboration among women's organisations can bring about exciting possibilities. – **Evangeline Singh**

He sang along with the voice of Chito Miranda and finished it – the long distance version of harana. – Auie Robrigado

Just be warned: the language you speak or understand can reveal your age. – **Judith** Balares Salamat

I guess I got my modest musical abilities from my father who really loved anything musical. – Pat Salandanan

Extraordinary, talented and unassuming. The members of the Loboc Children's Choir are the perfect Ambassadors of goodwill for the Philippines – Matilde Tayawa-Figuracion and Meia Lopez

Outdoor play enriches our lives while filling our lifestories with adventure and fun. – Kris Ancog

We got gold! – Meliza Labao

As the kids grow up, it is important that both parents are aligned with the values that they want to impart to their kids. – **Christopher Ines**

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V. Garnett (Vendor) - Henrietta was extremely kind, considerate, helpful and extremely professional.

N. Adip (Purchaser) - We were very happy with the service we received from Heni being our sales consultant. She was very honest and cooperative. She provided us with most of what we expected, especially in dealing with the few discrepancies that were in the house personally before we could proceed with the deal. It was our pleasure working with Heni.

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