



# Terrapi **NOISE!**

Thursday September 13, 2012

## Welcome to FCA!



*End of the year picnic, May 2012*

## THIS. IS. FCAAAAAA!

By Pauline Masigla, Publication Editor

**W**hether you were enticed by our shouts of "FREE FOOD" or you heard stories of our playful antics from word-of-mouth, thank you for taking the time to attend our semester's first general body meeting! If you are not familiar with us, we are a student-run organization that aims to spread awareness about the Filipino culture to the surrounding community. But fear not! You neither need to be Filipino nor know anything about Filipino culture to enjoy being a member! There is a common misconception that one needs to be a specific nationality to join a cultural organization, but when it comes to FCA, we are very welcoming to friends and members of different nationalities!



we have an awesome talent show, a fashion show, a district-wide football tournament (Womens Turkey-bowl Reigning Champions waddup), cultural and modern dance practices, a cultural retreat, cooking workshops, and the Filipino Intercollegiate Networking Dialogue (FIND Inc.)—which all lead up to the end-of-the-year Semi-Formal Dance! Stick around a while longer and you could be part of our annual Philippine Cultural Night! In the spring, everyone in FCA collaborates together to write, direct, and portray a play in front of our family and friends! During last year's play, we performed in front of the Philippine Ambassador and the revered General Teguba! Needless to say, you should be able to find an activity or event that matches your interests.



### What Do We Do?

We do everything! Seriously. For this fall semester,

Continued in page 2.....

#### Upcoming Events

#### Bake Sale

Fri. 10am - 4pm

#### Turkeybowl Practice

Sun. 9/15, 10am - 12pm

#### FilAmplified Auditions

Sat. 9/22, 2 - 7pm

#### Next GBM

Thur. 9/27, 7pm

## All About Culture

One of our top priorities as a cultural organization is to enrich our community with the Filipino (as well as Asian) culture. Even young men and women of Filipino descent lack knowledge of their heritage, most likely as a result of the lack of cultural influence while growing up. In FCA, we have two designated Cultural Chair who plan out all of our cultural activities, such as traditional Filipino dances, cooking workshops, etc. We want to make your emersion into our culture as interesting and enjoyable as possible! If you get the chance, you should participate in a cultural activity or two. Learning more about the Filipino culture (whether or not you are Filipino) not only broadens your perspective on life, but introduces you to a plethora of new opportunities in the Asian community. If you are interested in participating in any of our cultural events, just contact one of our eboard members.



## Just Have Fun!

We hope that your first taste of FCA is as enjoyable as a delicious spoonful of Mango Ice Cream and we hope to see you come out to our events! And if mango isn't your thing, then I hope you find that taste you're looking for! This campus is full of delicious delectibles!

## China

by Tyler Babich  
District 6 Rep



My entire life I have loved traveling and dreamt about foreign travel. In high school, I finally started realizing my dream with trips to Ireland, Germany, and Spain. This summer, I took my international travel to a new level by studying abroad in China as well as seeing South Korea and Mexico. Everyone I meet seems impressed and talks about how great it is that I take the opportunity to visit so many places around the world. I usually just agreed with their remarks and reflect on the trips, until one night on a long drive home. For the first time in my life while speculating about future trips, I paused my thoughts and asked myself, "Why?"

Why did I spend so much time and money (almost my whole life savings) to visit other countries? Why did I spend hours reading about distant places and plan imaginary trips for fun?

Does travel experience look nice on a resume? Yes. Is it fun? Absolutely. But that alone can't justify what I do. I can have fun playing football in my backyard, and improve my resume by getting an internship on campus. To answer my own question, I had to dig deep into the memorable moments of my trips. What did I really learn while attending a school in China for 3 weeks? Are the beaches the only thing worth seeing in Mexico?

## Around the World

"Oh the Places You'll Go!"

Finally I concluded that the most meaningful part of any trip has always been the people that you meet, see, or encounter in other ways. In Mexico, I met a man who had been shot through the leg and found comfort in a religion I had only ever heard about in National Geographic. In China, I came across men and women who make a living by collecting empty bottles on the street. And in Germany, I buckled at the thought of the people who were enslaved in the first Nazi concentration camp.

These are experiences that you cannot buy or find in your backyard. Meeting new people will always make you grow as you learn about the world around you, and learn about yourself. But travelling allows you to grow even more as you encounter people with perspectives you could not have come to understand on your own.



## The Philippines

by Jonathan Reyes  
Treasurer

If I were to paint a picture of Manila, I think the first color I would reach for would be cream, a yellow with a strong presence of brown. I would paint the

bright building facades and the low awnings. I would add light blues and reds and browns to detail rooftops and window frames and fences. I would draw the still-under-construction towers, and then I would sharpen my pencil, collect the graphite dust, and smear it over the entire picture, a stagnant cloud behind which those towers would loom.

Then I would add the people: the shopkeepers behind walls of snacks and knick-knacks; the security guards with their shotguns and pressed pants; and the students, traveling in packs of uniformed boys and girls.

And of course, I would draw the jeepneys, the mobile rainbows filled with people looking for a pot of gold.

Or at least, I would, if the last time I had been to the Philippines was still 4 years ago. But I've paid a visit since then, this past summer, actually, and on this trip, I was struck by the lack of jeepneys. On EDSA Boulevard, the cramped artery of Manila traffic, the road seemed to be welcoming a new species to the transportation kingdom: the bus, a massive, hulking box next to the taxis, cars, and tricycles. Now, by no means did these exile the jeepneys from the road; rather, they displaced its population to the smaller streets, where their reign was left unchallenged.

Yes, the diminished proliferation of jeepneys was a marked change from the past, but this was a trip of differences. It was the first trip that we (myself, my dad, and my sister) didn't stay with my grandfather. Instead, we stayed at a Microtel next to the Mall of Asia. Consequently, it was the first trip that did not have a single home-cooked meal. Instead, we sampled the full range of menus on the island nation, from the hotel breakfast buffet to Bonchon to Reyes Barbecue and more. All of it, needless to say, was delectable - ube turon and pusit adobo are a couple of notable favorites - but that special touch was still missed.

In fact, family time at large was missed. In the past, trips to the Philippines were always small family reunions, a chance for my uncles, aunts, and cousins to come together from their lives around the United States. They were times when my cousins and I could laugh and play and act more like brothers and sisters.

Staying in a hotel did not allow such frolicking, though. The Reyes clan was spread out in different

places throughout the city, making spending time together less thoughtless than I was used to. I don't think I realized it until after our return, but it was this factor of extended proximity that made me initially feel like something was missing from the trip. That's not to say I wasn't enjoying the excursion to Palawan, the sightseeing, and the bargain-hunting, but the feeling of the entire experience wasn't quite what I expected or remembered.

It wasn't until the second half of the trip that I found what I yearned. One night, our aunt was able



to organize a huge family gathering of many of the Reyes' living in the city and those visiting from the States. Aside from the amazing seafood and the massage (yes, we had massages while we ate), I was struck by the tangible sense of family in the tiny restaurant. It's always an incredible feeling when people you barely recognize hold such genuine interest in the happenings of your life, and it's always quite funny to hear stories about yourself as a toddler.

After that night, family time became a much more common occurrence. The next day, we took a walking tour of Old Manila, during which we visited the church where my parents were married. We had lunch with my great uncle, we rode the Viking Ship on the Mall of Asia boardwalk, and, of course, did some group haggling (read: burned more paychecks than expected).

And before I knew it, the trip came to a close, but not before I found the familial magic that the Philippines holds for me, my jeepney in a small, side-street restaurant. For the last time, we had to say part from the rest of the family and return to the Microtel, saying goodnight and goodbye, but only until Christmas.

# Celebrating Philippine Independence Day

by Andrew Aggabao, President

On June 12, 2012, the Philippines celebrated Independence Day, marking 114 years since the declaration in 1898 from Spain. The Philippine Embassy to the United States held a celebration reception at the Four Seasons Hotel in Washington, D.C. Present at the event were the ambassador, his wife, as well as influential members of the local Filipino American community. The Filipino Cultural Association was lucky enough to be invited by Vicky Cuisia, wife of Ambassador José Cuisia, to perform Maglalatik, a cultural dance that she remembered from FCA's Philippine Culture Night held not a month earlier. It was performed by Andrew Aggabao, JP Clemente, Christian Enguillado, Adrian Francisco, John Osmond, and Kirk Vallespin, and organized by Culture Chairs Cecily Jurlano and Joan Salvacion. The Philippine Culture Society's Christopher Cordero and Jacqueline Puckett from George Washington University were also present and performed a cultural dance called Putritos.

Former ambassadors, Capitol Hill staffers, as well as less well known leaders and citizens were present. Most notably, the keynote speaker for the evening was former Republican presidential candidate, Arizona Senator John S. McCain. His speech before a very receptive and relaxed crowd focused on the symbiotic relationship between the Philippines and the United States since its independence. After a lighthearted mentioning of how both Democrats and Republicans were united on opposition to the loss of Manny Pacquiao in his recent fight against Timothy Bradley, he went on to a list of more serious things that Democrats and Republicans both agree are important to the future



*Posing with Senator John McCain*

of the United States and the Philippines. Things like decreasing trade limitations between the nations, sponsoring Philippine economic development and President Aquino's efforts to reduce government corruption, and the United States' ardent support of Philippine territorial claims in the South China Sea, specifically in the Spratly Islands. McCain's speech echoed what the Obama administration has called its "Asian pivot," an overall new focus in foreign policy away from the Middle East and towards issues in Asia. China's growing power, part of which is apparent in its numerous territorial disputes, including that against the Philippines with regards to the Spratly Islands, is seen by many as a signal for many changes to come in the near future. The overall feeling of the night was a celebration of the strides that the Philippines have made in recent years to make them one of the nations to pay attention to as a growing power in Southeast Asia.

## Learn Tagalog!

### Useful Tagalog Expressions

**Mabuhay! (mah-BOO-hai)**  
*Hello/Have a good life!*

**Kamusta? (ka-moo-STAH)**  
*How are you?*

**Paalam (pah-AH-lam)**  
*Goodbye.*

**Salamat po (sah-LAH-mah-t po)**  
*Thank you.*

**Mahal kita (mah-HAL kee-TAH)**  
*I love you.*

**Maligayan kaarawan (MAH-lee-GA-yahn kah-AH-RAH-wan)**  
*Happy Birthday!*

**Nasaan ang banyo? (NAH-sa-ahn ang bahn-YO)**  
*Where is the bathroom?*

**Hindi ko alam (hin-DEE KOH ah-LAM)**  
*I don't know.*

**Tumawag ka ng pulis! (too-MAH-wag kah NANG poo-LEESE)**  
*Call the police!*