



# Terrapin NOISE!

Thursday, October 11, 2012



## LET'S GET CULTURAL!

'Find Yourself' this Weekend at FCA's Cultural Retreat

If you are a college student, you are probably experiencing the Mid-Semester Midterm Crunch, but if you are not and instead are happily going about your days with sufficient sleep and free time, then I envy you. If you are part of the stressed majority on this campus, then I wish you the best in your studies. However, I suggest that you take the time to relax and have fun, just for the sake of your mental and emotional health. One awesome way of de-stressing yourself is to join FCA in our Cultural Retreat



this Saturday! From Saturday to Sunday morning, we will be in Westminster, Maryland, enjoying each other's company, partaking in various activities, and getting into the heart of FCA: the Culture. The purpose of Cultural Retreat is to celebrate October as Filipino History Month, and what's a better way to celebrate than with an unforgettable overnight retreat? In anticipation for this weekend's events, I chose to interview our current VP, Krystle

Canare, who was one of the Cultural Chairs last year and organized the very first Cultural Retreat:

### How did the idea of Cultural Retreat start?

"As the first Cultural Chairs on Eboard, Christian and I wanted to do something big. The reason why we did retreat is because we wanted an event that took us away from CP. And usually, during retreats, if you're in a foreign area, you are more likely to rely on those around you. That said, we chose the Hashawha Environmental Center in Westminster, Maryland."

### What aspects of culture did you want to focus on during planning?

"We focused on various things regarding Filipino American culture. In the beginning of the retreat, we had planned different activities that are family-based. We focused on family a lot because family is very important in Filipino culture. Also, we hoped that everyone would realize that FCA is also family, and that we are all here for each other."

"Towards the end of the day, we shifted gears and focused more on the individual. Mariel

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## Farewell Words from a Departing Freshman Rep

My freshman year has been an unforgettable experience and I owe it all to the great friends FCA has given me. From dancing at semi formal, being part of the writing PCN 2012 writing team, laser tag at Shadowland, becoming modern director with Icah to falling off cars (& even kicking them), the memories and bonds are endless.

Although I am no longer part of the executive board I would like

to extend my warmest regards to the general body who trusted me, along with Patty Masigla, to be the Freshman Representative of the 2011-2012 year. I'd also like to thank my Freshman Class of 2015 because ya'll are so awesome and as our Facebook group states, we are forever the "Freshest" haha. I have no doubts that the new executive board will fulfill their dreams and create an enjoyable experience for FCA members

whether it be through events, retreats or GBMs.

In short, I cannot stress the invaluable experience and friendships FCA has given me. I have like 100+ new facebook friends now haha, but to be honest I have found friends and mentors that I cherish with all of my heart.

To the new Freshman Representatives Margaret Magnaye and Lorenz Cruz, value this experience and time.

### In this Issue...

### The Right to DREAM: The Controversy Over Maryland's Dream Act

### Filipino Nurses Win Nearly \$1 Million in Language Discrimination Settlement

### Let No Voice Be Unheard: The Philippine Cybercrime Prevention Act

### Upcoming Events

#### Bake Sale

Friday, 10/12, 10am

#### Cultural Retreat

Saturday - Sunday  
Starting at 8am

#### Turkeybowl Practice

Sundays, 10am

#### Modern Dance Practices

Monday and Wednesdays  
6pm

There will be stress and struggle, but not without its fair share of accomplishment and maturity. You get what you put in, so make the most of it! I mean, look.... I even got an amazing girlfriend out of it haha. (Happy 5 months by the way if she's reading this!)

Best,  
Kris Savvys

P.S. What did one wall say to the other wall?  
"Meet ya in the corner!"

# Cultural

(Continued)

ran a dialogue, in which we discussed what it meant for us to be an immigrant in the U.S. and how our families came here. I believe this part of the retreat hit home to many people, Filipino and non-Filipino alike. One didn't have to be Filipino to relate to each other. We are all Americans, yet we also have to keep our family's heritage in mind. Most, if not all, were second generation Filipino-Americans, or Puerto-Rican Americans, or African-Americans. We are all facing the obstacle of identity."

## Why is it important to learn about one's culture?

"I find that it is important to reflect upon who you are as a person. I always share this quote from Jose Rizal, *Ang hindi marunong lumingon sa pinangalingan, ay hindi makan-*

*karating sa paroroonan.* 'He who does not know where he came from, will never make it to his destination.' As Filipino-Americans, we have the fortune of two identities and it is important that we acknowledge such cultures as we make our mark in whatever we strive to do."

## What was your favorite memory from the whole cultural retreat experience, both in planning and in execution?

"In regards to planning, I would have to say my favorite memory was the night before, when I was spending an all-nighter with Oz, Patty, and my sister at my house. We were so tired that week, having just gotten back from D6 Film Showcase and still having so much to do. If you came to my house, you would have seen Oz in the kitchen baking cookies, Rochelle and Patty on the couch editing the roses playlist and me finishing up all of the de-



but programs and itineraries. In regards to the actual event, I unfortunately could not see too much of the events planned because I was always setting up for the next one. However, I would say that the moment that really hit me the most was Mariel's dialogue about her family, and the dialogue that followed where everyone began tearing up."

For those who are planning on attending this Saturday: participate, don't anticipate! Our Cultural Committee has

an incredible weekend planned for everyone. The only thing we need is your participation! I hope to see you all this weekend!

If you have not registered for Cultural Retreat yet but are interested in going, contact Cecily Jurlano at cecyjurlano@gmail.com or Joan Salvacion at ejoanks@gmail.com

**Written by  
Pauline Masigla  
Publication Editor**



## The Right to DREAM

The Controversy Over Maryland's Dream Act

This November, Maryland voters will get a chance to decide on historic pieces of legislation, including same-sex marriage rights and greatly expanding legal gambling in the state. The issue that seems to be getting the most attention around College Park is romantically titled the DREAM Act. Many student groups and even Dr. Loh himself have expressed support, sometimes calling themselves "DREAMers". With a

name like that, it's hard to imagine anyone could vote against it. Even the most cynical politicians would have a hard time saying "I oppose DREAMs", so why does the act have so many opponents? And why should you even care? The answer lies in the law itself.

DREAM is actually an acronym for "Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors". There are various acts and bills titled "DREAM" around the

country, and they all try to address the issue of undocumented immigrant students being able to afford a college education. Maryland's law is considered one of the more strict versions of the act, requiring a student's guardians to have paid taxes for 3 years, to earn 60 credits at a community college before transferring to a four year school, and other stipulations. This is where the act creates controversy, and reveals why voters need to educate themselves about

**Written by  
Tyler Babich  
D6 Representative**

the issue. While reading the same words, people can draw a dozen different conclusions. Opponents often claim that this will put more stress on our state's education budget, at a time when we've already felt the impact of massive cutbacks. Supporters will say that this is necessary to produce college educated workers and help lift a population with many barriers to success. Voters on more extreme sides feel that the act rewards lawbreakers, or ardent immigration activists say the act is a start, but is still not enough to help the state's immigrant population.

So who's right? That's for the voters to decide. But regardless of your stance, by attending a Maryland college you will feel effects of the DREAM Act, if it is passed. This article wasn't intended to sway you to one side of the issue, but instead to inform you that there is an issue and you might want to learn more about it.

# Filipino Nurses Win Nearly \$1 Million in Language Discrimination Settlement

Written by Cecily Jurlano, Co-Cultural Chair



A group of Filipino nurses from the Delano Regional Medical Center in California recently won a discrimination settlement of nearly \$975,000 against the center. The settlement, which was filed in 2010, included claims from the immigrant nurses that they were suffering from "constant harassment and humiliation when they opened their mouths, or talked with family members on the phone," said Anna Park, a Los Angeles-based attorney for the commission. However, the lawsuit included that when they spoke English, other workers would react as if they were speaking another language. When those at Delano Regional Medical Center commented on the settlement, they still insisted that they did nothing wrong, and that they only settled the lawsuit because it made financial sense.

Under the terms of the settlement, however, the hospital

must conduct anti-discrimination training and hire a monitor to track workplace conduct. Personally I find this whole situation ridiculous especially since the suit was not filed that long ago. Filipinos are very prevalent in this country, especially in the field of nursing. It is hard to believe that there are people in the United States who are still so close minded and disrespectful to a group of people after everything this country has been through. The hospital can try and defend itself in whatever way that it tries, but when it comes down to it, the fact of the matter is that it is discrimination. As a Filipino, the daughter of two nurses, the sister of a nurse, and the best friend of a nurse, hearing the details of the case is a little unsettling. Even though the nurses got a settlement, the fact that the Medical Center is denying the fact that they did anything wrong is still offensive.

## Let No Word Be Unheard

The Philippine Cybercrime Prevent Act Challenges Internet Freedom

Written by Adrian Francisco

On September 12, 2012, President Noynoy Aquino signed the Cybercrime Prevention Act of 2012 into law. One would think a bill outlawing Philippine hacking and cyber sex would be seemingly harmless. (For the record, I don't know what you do with your free time.) But as the 40th anniversary of martial law passes this month on the 21st, it is important that Filipinos, both in the U.S. and in the homeland, recognize the danger this law poses on civil liberties.

I read the legislation for myself to see the issues of it. The bill, for the most part, has amiable goals, banning illegal access, child pornography, data interference, and other minute things computer users appreciate. Certainly pieces of the

legislation have their merit and people would hope that their government would prosecute those offenses.

However, libel is listed as a punishable offense. Just one word in a twenty-four page document has Philippine media in an uproar. Plenty of articles and editorials ranging from the Inquirer to the Cebu Daily News have been published criticizing this line as an attack of free speech, guaranteed through the 1987 Constitution.

Libel laws in the past have been used against Philippine journalists. Reflecting on years of tyranny and oppression of basic human rights during the Marcos regime, I know this bill is dangerous in the hands of a corrupt government. Through this legislation of punishment



for libel, the can of worms opens where the government could silence all criticism, where the opposition is silenced, and free speech is dead. I can imagine a world where the government arrests online protesters, under the premise that all criticism is "libel." Based off one word, Aquino may have signed off on digital martial law.

To remain a free, democratic nation, the Philippines must

foster free speech not only in print, but on the Internet. An attack on free speech anywhere is an attack on free speech everywhere. I can only hope legislators within the federal government recognize and either amend or overturn this bill before the Internet in the Philippines plummets to the likes of China, not a home to thought and expression, but a state-governed means of thought control.

## We Want YOU!

Are you interested in contributing to the TerrapiNOISE?  
Contact Pauline at [pauline.masigla@gmail.com](mailto:pauline.masigla@gmail.com)