

Terrapi NOISE!

Thursday, April 4, 2013



On March 9, Filipino Cultural Association invited grade school students to attend the annual youth outreach event, Terrapinoy Day. The day was filled with various workshops, intended to expose them to college life and develop leadership skills. Many of the youth that attended were part of the community organization, Asian American LEAD (AALEAD), which seeks to promote the well being of low income and underserved Asian American youth through education and community building. I was able to talk to Francine Gorres, the High School Program Manager for AALEAD, and ask her for her feedback on our event.

What do you think about Terrapinoy Day?

I thought that the event was well organized and was a great way to connect to the surrounding Asian American community. It was a great way to bridge the generations together in order to show the youth a different side of college.

How did you think FCA was able to make an

impact on the youth that attended?

Through the different games, activities, and discussions many of the youth were able to open up and step out of their comfort zones. FCA was able to create a fun environment where even a single middle school student could step out of her shy social awkwardness to interact with her older peers. The discussions helped the youth to reflect on some of the things that they normally wouldn't on a regular school day, like culture, family, and role models in their life. For Asian American youth these discussions play a huge role in their positive self identity and help them to realize their experience is shared and gives them a sense of community that supports them.

Why do you think it's important that an event such as Terrapinoy Day is available?

In general many college events and tours for the public go over very broad topics of the university and don't have an intimate environment where college students can interact closely with

the youth. Many of the high school youth find the college process particularly daunting especially if it is going to be their "home" for the next four years of their life. They don't know what college life is like and are afraid of making friends and finding a supportive community. Events like Terrapinoy Day expose high school students to college information, but more importantly exposes high school students to community. It helps high school students see that it is possible to find a family at any college as long as they are open and friendly themselves.

Also, it's a great way for college groups like FCA to connect themselves to the surrounding community in order to make a greater impact. There's a lot college students can offer and mentoring the youth in the community is definitely a powerful experience. I encourage students in the FCA and other students to take the challenge of becoming a selfless role model and to get involved in the community! Your service will be noticed, and sometimes from the most unexpected people!

**By Pauline Masigla
Publication Editor**

In this Issue...

**Community Service:
Why is it so important?**

**Recap: Merienda with
Ambassador Cuisia 2013**

**Diary of a Young
Freshman Rep**

Upcoming Events

Modern Practices
Every Mon and Wed
6PM, Chem Atrium

Intramural Volleyball
Mon. April 8 at 7PM
The Armory

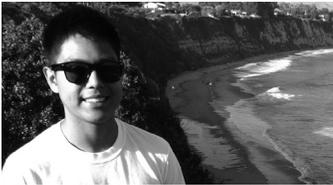
**Philippine Culture
Night (PCN)
"Fanning the Flames"**
Sat. April 20 at 6PM
Stamp Grand Ballroom
Tickets on sale now!

Do you want professional leadership experience?

Run for FCA's Executive Board! During our next GBM on April 18, we will accept nominations for elections to determine next year's officers

Why is Community Service so important?

There are so many opportunities for you to help people in the community, whether you are donating money or supplies to local shelters or you are volunteering your time to support charity events. However, why is it so important to contribute to the community? I've asked FCA's three most recent Community Service Chairs for their opinions.



Ryan Toledo Community Service Chair 2012-2013

Community service is the easiest, most effective way to understand and unify your community. In my opinion, I believe that community service is key to personal growth. It is important because not only do you have the opportunity to make a positive impact, it allows you an opportunity to interact with a variety of people and experience a lifestyle unlike your own. Consequently, you are able to gain several perspectives from different groups of people within the community. You are able to have a grasp of the social problems surrounding your community and understand the steps needed to take in order to solve them. Community service

opportunities are virtually limitless. I would strongly encourage anyone to go out and explore the ends of your community that you have yet to experience. There is a good chance that you will have at least one experience that will change your perspective.



Tyler Babich Community Service Chair 2011-2012

I believe community service is important because it is the best way to make a change for the better. Service requires honest involvement from people, so you are collectively working to invest in something, whether a school or town or country. This committed involvement is the foundation of meaningful

change by giving people more resources so they are enabled to improve their condition and pass on the benefits. If everyone gives a little of their resources to help other people, the whole world will be empowered and able to continue helping each other.



Christine Bustamante Community Service Chair 2010-2011

To be honest, I started my journey in community service for more selfish reasons. I wanted to have something to enhance my resume, just to say I did something. However, the more involved I became in community service, the more I realized what it truly meant. The

heart of community service is exactly that - heart. It's all about showing some brotherly love to people you don't even know, who are in dire need of help. It's all about thinking about yourself less, thinking about others' needs more, and actively doing something to change someone else's life. It's all about going out of your way, maybe even spending loads of time, money, and energy. It's all about doing work that could be tedious, uncomfortable, dirty, or challenging, and more importantly, doing it with a smile, an open mind, and an open heart. In reality, you're not only giving help but you're giving hope. Once you realize the kind of impact you're making, you begin to see how fulfilling and humbling an experience it can be. It's amazing to see this kind of positive influence, but more amazing to be this kind of influence. I do community service because giving my heart up for others actually fills it, and that does more for me than keeping it all to myself.

Member Spotlights!

Get to know your
Eboard Members!

Cecily Jurlano Co-Cultural Chair



Major:
Early Childhood
Education

Favorite Quote:
"You're braver than you believe, and stronger than you seem, and smarter than you think." -A.A Milne

Favorite FCA Moment:
Watching the ending of last year's PCN from the side of the stage or winning Turkeybowl 2012 with my lady terps!

What do you do as Co-Cultural Chair?
I work with my partner, Joan, to promote cultural awareness in the group as well as coordinate cultural activities for the group as well as the cultural dances.

Most important lesson you learned during your term?
I think the most important lesson that I've learned from being on E-board this year is the importance of having a good mentality

about things. Regardless of the situation, it's so important to remember that positivity breeds positivity. It's so easy to get stressed out when you have a lot on your plate, but if you can just jump start that mentality of yours, it's going to make getting through that work load much easier.

Merienda with Ambassador Cuisia 2013

This year's Merienda, hosted at Catholic University, featured a panel of guest speakers who discussed topics concerning "Preparing for the Workforce" and "Community Engagement." This event was an opportunity for young Filipino Americans in District VI to connect with successful Fil-Ams and receive advice for tackling the future.

Written by Daniel Tamayo

The Merienda with Ambassador Cuisia was great. The event was essentially a bunch of us coming together and listening to various speakers, namely prominent Filipinos from various professions empowering us to take charge of our futures. As the keynote speaker, the Ambassador did an excellent job of setting the tone for the evening. He was interesting to listen to, as he did a good job of talking to those of us in the audience on our level and directly to us, rather than as someone distant. His encouragement also met us on a personal level, making that much more effective. He gave a lot of credit to others who helped make the event happen,

which I thought was very nice gesture.

The first panel was centered on giving advice to prepare us to go into the workforce. Specifically, they aimed to prepare us to go out and be productive despite any stereotypes that we may face as Filipinos. They gave their own personal stories about how they reached the place they are at today, which gave us a great idea of how one can be successful not just in work but also in their working community, and how we can change what people think about us. In short, it showed us that you can keep your cultural identity but still be successful.

The third panel focused on how to do great things in your

community, whether that is your home, neighborhood, or a group of other Philippine-Americans you associate with. The speakers for this panel were very passionate, which emphasized their advice as well as to drive it home (not to mention that two were from UMD). Some of the advice that

they emphasized was that you should be yourself, pursue your goals with vigor, and become involved in a community that you know you can rely on. Some of this may seem cliché, but to hear this rather than "conforming to the American culture is best" was a welcome comfort.



Diary of a Young Freshman Rep

By Lorenz Cruz
Freshman Representative

About a month before I entered college, while the air was still warm and the sun beamed down on golden leaves, I decided to start a journal. In the same way that people vented out their pent up emotions in drafted emails that were never sent, this journal would be the catalyst in which my unspoken words would be set free; the same words which never seemed capable of being articulated to anyone else. Unfortunately, despite my initial intentions, I never felt inspired enough to write in it as often as I hoped. As I write this reflection now, I have only 12 entries in my journal thus far (including four ruminative posts from when I tried out Tumblr). You may be beginning to wonder, "How does any of this relate to FCA?" Well, let's take a closer look at a specific entry from September 2, 2012.

Sitting in my room, typing up this reflection at two o'clock in the morning, the same yearning thought echoes constantly in my head: "I miss dorm life!" How quickly I had seemed to

forget that I didn't always have this mentality. Its instances like this where it's nice to look back on a past perspective. In the journal entry, "Dorm Life," I had actually written things like "I miss home," or "I sit here alone too often." Quite the glum college kid, wasn't I? Nevertheless, I wrote myself a little note at the end of it all.

"Future Lorenz, I hope you have something better in store. Please."

After having written the (almost pathetic) plea, I did just that: I found something better. Grasping the black-and-white flyer I was handed at the school's First Look Fair, I made my way towards the Art/Soc building. As I stepped inside, I discovered something that would change my entire college experience... The Filipino Cultural Association! Honestly speaking, I'm not quite sure what I was expecting to find in this club. Having been the Treasurer of the Asian American Student Association in high school, maybe I was just looking for something familiar. None-

theless, what I found was more than anything I could have ever imagined: I found a family. Albeit a little intimidating, hysterical, and often pretty weird, these people would become an integral part of my life at UMD.

Coming into college, I never expected to run for a leadership position right away. I thought I'd be cooped up in my room with a heavily drinking roommate and no other company than my textbooks. It was a big surprise when I found myself typing up my Freshmen Representative application with my future partner, Margaret Magnaye, and fellow FCA freshman, Rochielle Canare in my floor's lounge. First of all, I was quite the antisocial dork in high school. The fact that girls came up to my dorm to hang out was a little foreign to me. Still, I treated that application like my life depended on it and made it through to the interview, where I kept the same belief that I even answered a question with: "The more you say no in life, the more you miss out." Though your stomach may be full from

the cheese of that quote, I kept that fortune cookie-like saying ringing in my head. So much so, that I somehow ended up being chosen to be the new FCA Freshmen Rep.

It would be difficult to go through everything that's happened since then. The Eboard Retreats, CP's Three-peat victory at Turkeybowl, FilAmplified, Dancing at Semi, FAST Gala... Before joining FCA, I wouldn't have thought of taking part in any of these now fond memories. Heck, I still can't dance, but I can manage some sort of body roll now. If I had to give any advice to anyone in the same situation, it would definitely be to get involved. What you put into this club is what you get out of it. I'm glad to say that there was something better in store for the Lorenz who wrote "Dorm Life." FCA has taught me just as much or more than anything I'd find in a huge lecture hall, but if it taught me anything these past two semesters, it's the affirmation of the belief I came to college with: **"The more you say no, the more you miss out in life."**