*October 12, 2011* *Volume 1, Issue 3*

# TERRAPINOISE

*Putting the "know" back in Filipino.*

## Philippine Islands Battered By Quick Succession of Two Typhoons

Towards the end of September, Mother Nature's full wrath hit the Philippines in the form of two powerful typhoons.

On September 27, Typhoon Nesat, a category 3 typhoon, struck the Philippines. The tempest caused massive damage, including power outages and floodwaters above people's houses. Nesat also took the lives of over 50 people, with others still missing. Roughly 400,000 people evacuated their homes and were forced to stay at shelters until the floodwater had receded. Unfortunately, before the country could even begin to rebuild, a second storm had already formed.

Less than a week later, Typhoon Nalgae, a category 4 super typhoon, hit land and added to the country's woes. Authorities were especially worried about the people who had not evacuated for Nesat, even after their homes were badly flooded. Because the ground was still saturated from the first storm, flooding was even worse and did even more damage. In the end, at least 50 more people were killed by Nalgae.

2011 was an especially bad year for typhoons in Asia, causing billions of dollars in damage throughout the region. As a country, the Philippine Socioeconomic Planning Secretary has already announced that the Philippines will experience some economic decline as a result of the storms. President Aquino III has responded with a loan program for farmers affected by the typhoons and his administration still expects a net growth for the country's economy this year. However, the immediate future is bleak as some areas are expected to be flooded for as long as another month and thousands of people will be without homes.

*-Tyler Babich*

*Villagers wade through flooded streets in Calumpit, Bulacan province in the aftermath of Typhoon Nalgae (photo courtesy of news.yahoo.com)*

## *TerrapiNOISE Staff*

**Editor:**
Jonathan Reyes
**Writers:**
Tyler Babich……*Community Service Chair*
Melanie Balakit……*General Body Member*
Mariel Bartolome……..*Webmistress*
Peter Tarectecan……..*District VI Representative*
*Interested in contributing to TerrapiNOISE? E-mail Jonathan Reyes at jonathan.js.reyes@gmail.com*

# *The Learning:* The Story Baltimore's Filipina Teachers

On Friday, October 7, 2011, students and adults attended a free screening of *The Learning*, a documentary that follows the lives of four Filipino women teaching in public schools in Baltimore City for the first time.

Hosted by the Filipino Cultural Association, the screening was held in the Prince George room of the Stamp Student Union and was attended by approximately 65 students. The director of the film, Ramona Diaz, was also in attendance.

A Filipina herself, Ramona Diaz first read about the Filipino teachers in the Baltimore Sun. After her initial interest, she got involved with a teacher recruitment trip to the Philippines and selected which teachers to film. Diaz said *The Learning* was truly a "homage to overseas Filipino women". "It's courageous, what they do," said Diaz.

Working abroad has become common for Filipinos, who seek employment in other countries for the economic incentives. Teaching abroad is an attractive option for Filipino teachers, who can earn as much as 25 times their standard salaries in the Philippines. According to the American Federation of Teachers, an estimated 19,000 teachers working in the United States were on temporary visas in 2007, and numbers were increasing.

When the Filipino teachers reach America, they must adjust to American culture and financially provide for their families in the Philippines, all without guaranteed citizenship or tenure in the United States.

*Cultures meet in* The Learning *(photo courtesy of www.cinema.ucla.edu)*

For John Osmond, a freshman engineering major, the film helped him understand his parent's immigration experience. "Well, my parents they were immigrants," said Osmond. "They never told me their story, so the film let me see their perspective of experiencing life in America for the first time."

Tyler Babich, a sophomore government and politics major, and Community Service Chair of the Filipino Cultural Association, also said the film enlightened his understanding of immigration. "Part of my family has been since the 1700s," said Babich. "By watching the film, I just saw the reality of immigration."

The film also resonated with adults who were in attendance. Rose Bartolome, a registered nurse, was invited by her daughter Mariel Bartolome to attend the screening. Bartolome was particularly moved by the story of Grace Amper, a math teacher. Upon returning to the Philippines after a year of teaching in America, the baby of Amper was uncomfortable around his mother. "I for one, left my daughter when she was only 1 years old to work as a nurse in Kuwait," said Bartolome. "When I came back, she doesn't know me, she doesn't come to me. It really hurts your whole being."

Christine Bustamante, a junior linguistics major, said the film was a "good reminder of how tough it is to leave your family and come all the way over here". Bustamante, whose mother came to America on a working visa to teach English as a second language, appreciates her mother's hard work. "The American Dream is having a dream and working hard to get it," said Bustamante.

For many Filipino teachers, as well as thousands of other immigrants, that dream is still very much alive.

*-Melanie Balakit*

# AMIGO Brings the Philippine-American War to the Big Screen

During the first two weeks of September 2011, West End Cinema in Northwest Washington, DC held a screening of the film Amigo. The film focuses on a small village in Luzon during the Philippine-American War. It dramatizes the effect that the war had on Filipinos who tried to stay impartial. Amigo is far from a documentary.

To me, I consider it to be in the drama genre due to the situations portrayed. I thought the film was effective in its attempt to show different perspectives on both sides of the war. The film showed how native Filipinos and American soldiers tried to coexist in midst of battle.

Overall, I enjoyed the movie. Whether you know a lot about Philippine history or not, Amigo gives the audience a more personal account. It is an event that contributes to Philippine and Filipino-American history alike. There is another screening next week, Thursday October 20th. It will be at the National Museum of the American Indian in southwest D.C. from 6-9pm. I encourage anyone to go see it. The director John Sayles will be present to have a Q&A session after the movie. It is an opportunity you should not miss.

*-Peter Tarectecan*

# Upcoming Events:

October 14:
**Homecoming Parade**
3PM @ Regents Drive

October 15:
**Semi Ticket Prices Increase**
$37/person, $350/table

October 16:
**Turkey Bowl Practices**
10AM @ Chapel Fields
**Cultural Dance Practice**
4PM @ Chemistry Atrium

October 17 and 19:
**Modern Dance Practice**
630PM @ Chemistry Atrium

October 22:
**Terps Walk fAAST**
8AM @ Lake Artemnesia
(visit www.*terpswalkfaast.com* for more information)

October 23:
**Turkey Bowl Practices**
10AM @ Chapel Fields
**Cultural Dance Practice**
4PM @ Chemistry Atrium

# FCA's Good Life

*This column covers all facets of life - food, music, movies, Jersey Shore episodes, presidential debates, reader questions, anything as per request.*

*Today's column: a "Mid-Midterm-Studying Ramble"*

I'd like to take a moment to address something that's been on most of our minds lately - circular rainbows around moons. Why does this occur and should we be concerned?

In all seriousness, what I really want to ramble about at the moment is studying philosophies. Amidst all of our exams, post-exam anxiety, or overwhelming student involvement, something that I find really interesting is how we all have different approaches to studying. For example, as someone who gets distracted easily, I'm always wondering how people studying for long periods of time can refrain themselves from taking periodic interest to the ceiling. I also wonder why mountain dew and chocolate milk are often late-night studying drinks of choice.

I figure you can tell a lot about a person by the way they study, and for the sake of journalism, I thought I'd put on the chopping block a few of my thoughts on the matter.

I like to think of stress as a byproduct of responsibility. You know? Like the more efficient you are with your responsibilities, the less byproduct, and vice versa. So sometimes it's not about how much time you have to do something, but how quick you are to catch your mistakes or finding the right tempo at which you build up your knowledge cumulatively.

I also like to think of responsibilities as little life challenges. Kind of like quests in an RPG. Maybe I'm a little too optimistic sometimes, but my general attitude towards new responsibilities is usually something to the extent of "COME AT ME BRO".

I think the most important thing, however, is that if you make sure there's a passion and a purpose behind whatever you choose to do, not even physics problem sets can break your peace of mind. With that said, here's a mountain dew toast to less byproducts and happy questing.

*-Mariel Bartolome*