**Solo Articles**

1. **1st Article submitted to When in Manila for *WiMtern* recruitment: Introduction (max 700 words) “Me, Myself, and Moi”**

With all the convenience that cyberspace (another pretentious term for Internet, LOL) has brought us, I have found myself scrolling through an abundant list of results on how to creatively introduce yourself in writing a personal essay. Though all of those seem ingenious and effective, I have decided to just stick with the usual. So hi there! The name’s Cassandra Nicole E. Angeles. My monikers could be either Cass or Nicole, but I still can’t figure out why they keep on calling me Liza. \*sighs\* Kidding aside, I’m 20 years old, currently taking up Bachelor of Arts in Communication at Far Eastern University-Manila, and a proud 100% *Bulakenya*.

Enough with who I am, let’s now talk about what I do (or should I say, what I did). For the past years of my happy life, I have never been sure of what I would really like to do in the future. Ever since I was a child, my heart has been consequently preoccupied with dogs, cooking, music and a bit of *acads*[academics], but never with things that would help me find my pathway to success. And this ‘pathway,’ is possibly still obscured under thick bushes of *what ifs* and shrubs of dreams that kept on sprouting throughout my life.

Looking back to almost two years ago, I have decided to try my luck and test my limits as I applied as a writer for the university’s student publication. Given that writing short poems and emotional one-liner statements are the only application of writing that I personally did during those times, writing an article technically was somehow challenging for me. Surprisingly, I don’t know why or how, but to keep it short, I made it.

For a year, I learned how to write feature articles and was so grateful for all the knowledge I gained from my supportive superiors. However, the time came wherein a normal teenager like me had to cope with sudden events in life, and compromise for the better. With all the problems that my family had to deal with, and all the stress that came with it, I found it complicated to balance everything, and my progress in writing became stagnant. I was disheartened for some time, so I chose to give up writing for the publication, and make time for other matters.

Fast forward, my family is slowly getting back on track as of now and I recently discovered how my affection for writing was never lost. The fire within me was overpowered before, but it’s still there. And to ignite it even more, I have been constantly searching for suitable opportunities where I can enkindle my passion once more. But this time, I know that my back will never have to turn and face this direction again. With high hopes, I eagerly decided to move forward and grasp my fervor in writing even more.

Just like what most people usually say, “If you really love something, you’d be willing to do whatever it takes to have it.” Furthermore, that’s what people who fall in love conventionally do right? Cross raging rivers, climb towering mountains and even go all the way back, just to be where their heart really is. So as for me, I would be more than honored to have my pinky covered with ink and consume hundreds of bottles of it, as I write thousands of pages until I entirely establish a library, to fully embrace writing again and be able to accompany readers towards the imaginative area of their own minds.

1. **2nd Article submitted to When in Manila for *WiMtern* recruitment (max 700 words) “Occupied: Saying goodbye to vacant breaks”**

As #*SaanAabotAng*Vacant*Mo?* posts took the cyberspace by storm recently, I realized how petty problems with waiting for long, real life vacant hours also needed solutions of its own. And given the fact that most students find the course of waiting to be extremely frustrating, various proposed solutions made its way towards the surface of my flooded mind.

Being a dweller in the UBelt oasis for four years, I had my fair share of different lengths and schedules of breaks. For me, six hour-breaks in between two classes were the worst. Imagine going to school for your 7:30 to 9:00 am class, while the next starts at 3:00. And when life seems to be bearable so far, you’d be washed back to the thought that you’re a transferee/temporarily loner, and knows nobody in the campus yet. \*sighs\* On the other hand, one and a half hour breaks sandwiched between three to four classes also made my college life a lot more challenging than the usual.

So my dear friends, co-inhabitants, and readers, fret no more! I’ve got a couple of tips and ideas to help you maximize your free time, and make the most out of it. \*winks\*

 a. ***Linger and learn at the library*.**

I know. I am not a hypocrite. I understand that some of us would not want to stay that long and end up falling asleep while reading books in the library. But hey! I’m sure that browsing through your notes for half an hour or more won’t hurt. And besides, you’re at school to study, not to make friends and lurk anywhere! (Don’t blame me guys, that line’s from my mom. I thought it’d be nice to share it with you. LOL) And if I may just add, libraries don’t limit us to reading scholarly books and stuff, so go ahead and grab that year-old book you hoarded and stashed up on your shelf at home and bring it to school with you. Books were meant to be read (and smelled), dear. Who knows? You might just consume half of your time, as you shower your brain with limitless knowledge in that wondrous kingdom of paper-based creatures.

b. ***Chill and cool down in Coffee Shops***

It has been a normal activity for students these days. To study, graduate, build their own family, and spend the rest of their lives in coffee shops. (LOL) Well I can’t blame them. I too, find cafes as sanctuaries, where you can nudge that bad vibes you got for failing that surprise quiz in Statistics earlier, a conducive place to study (so you can bounce back from that failed quiz LOL) where you can freely take off your shoes, yet no one will judge you for whatever that smell is or even for buying a single drink and staying longer than you were supposed to.

Aside from offering heavenly, freshly brewed or iced coffees and sugary baked pastries, I love cafes, for their purpose became similar to that of a freedom wall. You’re free to do whatever you want, as long as you want. But please don’t stay too long, or you’ll end up cutting classes.

c. ***Set you Singer Spirit free***

These stations, *karaoke* or *videoke* can be located just around your school or at the nearest mall. For just 150-180 pesos, you and your squad can finally unleash the inner diva or soul singer in each of you. This one’s my favorite, for no matter how you sing, whether you’re out of tune or not, it’s gonna be perfectly fine. I don’t know why or how, but there’s something magical in the microphones. Believe me. Through those *mics*[microphones], my voice transcended from a squealing bicycle brake to a humming Nightingale in an instant. Not only will these karaokes help you consume your lengthy, free hours, but I bet you these machines will leave you 100% stress free.

Apart from the aforementioned, there are also museums, public libraries, restaurants and other reasons to have you believing that long hours of breaks are not so bad after all. Instead, treat this as an enjoyable opportunity for you to explore, and have oodles of fun while learning outside of your school’s boundaries.

1. **Final Article submitted to When in Manila for *WiMtern* recruitment: “Unpacking: 4 things to do before another adventure” (max 700 words)**

Unpacking: 4 things to do before another adventure

Full-fledged travelers are always in for all kinds of adventure. But no matter how much they love adding up more miles to their list, there will always be a day wherein their long-hour trips, fully-loaded knapsacks and tapped-out wallets need a break.

So if you're one of them, and the time is yours to be 'unwillingly' off the road and rest, here are some things you can try for the day.

A. Have some fun with friends

For all the backpackers who's always on the road, especially those who travel solo, missing out on updates from friends can sometimes be the deal. Of course, who would want to be left out from your best friend's engagement while you're out there camping on the mountains? So when you finally had the day off, ask your besties and bros for a lunch at your favorite buffet restaurants, hang out in your secret hideouts, and even do anything under the sun, as long as you're catching up with each other's lives. Or better yet, invite them for a bonding moment to accompany you sometime on one of your thrilling escapades.

B. Soothe your soul in a spa

Traveling all the way from North to South, East to West or going all the way around could be a lot exhaustive than some may think. But to most travelers, gaining tan lines from their sleeveless tops, experiencing terrain-caused body pains, or aching feet blisters are nothing, once you've finally reached your destination.

However, after you have finished soul-searching in different places, there's nothing more relaxing than soothing not just your soul, but also your enthralled mind and weary body. Imagine the comfort of lying bare-body in a candle-lit or slightly dim room, with your back facing the ceiling. A serenading instrumental melody, echoing through your ears, as you doze off to sleep while being freed from the binding stiffness in every muscle of your body. And as you wake up, you'll be undoubtedly ready for your next tiring yet exciting adventure.

C. Allot the day for some Alone time

Having the ability to reach any far-flung paradise, *'Waze-ing'* your way to all nearby places and crossing out minor things on your bucket list is surely as easy as picking your next. So for today, why not have some of that FroYo you've been dying try? Finish that book you've stalled before your last travel over a cup of coffee and a piece of strawberry shortcake, or even order three boxes of Pepperoni pizza while having a Harry Potter movie marathon for the Nth time. Go ahead, enjoy the rest of the day all for yourself. Visit different museums in the metro, pig out in any of the food park choices you have, and just do what you'd love to do (aside from traveling \*winks\*).

D. Head home

Feeling lost and tired somewhere along the way is inevitable. But whenever a problem like this takes place, you always have the option to travel backwards. Figure out things from the starting line, and know that staying won't hurt. You've been travelling all year round, overlooking the havens hidden in your own homes. Those exotic dishes and delicacies will never win over your mom's special Sinigang. Tour guides can give you endless trivia and information, but will never be as engaging as your dad's jokes. Tent lounging and hotel accommodations can never bring the same comfort as you snuggle under the sheets in your own bedroom. And no matter how much money you've spent in all of those unforgettable trips, the solace found at home will always be free, and much more priceless.

Discovering the world one place at a time is a goal that a lot of people would want to do for most days of their lives. However, restarting your whole-being and chilling out before continuously hopping from one island to another, is something that should not be missed, as you face the next adventure that awaits you.

1. **TAMspot : Transcending**

*(https://web.facebook.com/feuadvocate/photos/a.177664285287.159946.169739495287/10154734601635288/?type=3)*

Similar to a plane about to take flight, every existing organization needs to glide above the ground to reach another level towards a new spot and move closer to its goals. This year, Far Eastern University (FEU) Theater Guild (FTG) belts upward as they proudly stage Dominique La Victoria's Ang Bata sa Drum at the renowned Virgin Labfest (VLF) 2016.

Being one of the most prominent organizations and rising contributors in the Green and Golden heritage, FTG has been noted for their sought after productions that merit praises and acknowledgements, not only from FEU alone, but also from other reputable guilds as well.

After the blockbuster Confessions, FTG, under the supervision of the eminent Dudz Teraña, once again soars up high as they give pride and honor to FEU. They navigate into higher skies of preparation and effort as they represent the university in their debut performance at the Virgin Labfest, a festival that exhibits selected unpublished plays from June until July.

Aside from being a recognized festival that showcases the "virgin" works of various passion-driven Filipino playwrights, VLF also provides an auspicious juncture to different productions like FTG. They mainly stage never been published or presented works at the country's mecca for arts and culture, the Cultural Center of the Philippines (CCP).

“*'Yung* Virgin Labfest *kasi, ito 'yung mga sinulat tapos* never *pang na*-stage. So *ibig sabihin, kami 'yung* first *na nag*-stage *ng Ang Bata sa* Drum (The Virgin Labfest is all about written works that have never been staged. Which means that we were the first to perform Ang Bata sa Drum)," Raven Relavo, the lead actress in the play, proudly shared.

Depicting an image of poverty in the mountains of Northern Mindanao area, Ang Bata sa Drum is a close-to-reality one-act play that tackles a day in the life of Roro and her older sister, Krisel, who would converse with him whenever he ends up inside a drum as a strange punishment from their usually drunken father. Experiencing such kind of living, their young innocent minds were opened to the choice of comfort in moving to the city with their mother.

"*Para sa akin kasi 'yung* (For me, the) relevance *ng* play in our society is to remind us about the importance of love inside the family. To bring us back to the idea of how a brotherly and sisterly love is. Like what Roro and Krisel, the two characters in the play is experiencing, despite of the poverty and how hard certain circumstances is for them, love still prevails because blood really is thicker than water. And I think that is something every family should always remember," one of the leads, Ron Alos, shared.

Both major roles were entrusted to two astonishing FTG members - Alos and Relavo – who caught the audience's attention through their believable, tear-jerking portrayal amidst their usage of the Visayan dialect.

Of course, when it comes to the quality of performance from FTG, hovering effort is a must. Relavo gladly stated that, "*Kapag nagpe*-perform *ka naman kasi, ibibigay mo talaga lahat. Tsaka lahat naman ng* play *na tinatanghal namin, kahit 'yung* Lab productions *ine*-effort-*an* *talaga namin 'yun. Kung paano 'yung* every production *na binibigay sa'min, gusto namin* worth it *kapag pinapanood ng* audience (When you perform, you really give it your all. And we also exert effort in each play that we perform, even the Lab productions. Because what we want is to present each assigned production to be worth it for the audience)."

Among all the talented members of FTG, only a few heads were able to partake in this significant opportune of the whole organization. Truly, Teraña chose the prime members of the guild for a specific reason as they represent FEU in the VLF.

"With my current experience *sa* (at) CCP, *tsaka ko lang na*-realize *na* (I just realized lately that) Dudz chose me *kasi* (because) he needed someone who could make a quick decision for him whenever he's not around. Also, someone who could professionally represent him, the play, and the org[organization] itself. [Someone] who could work under pressure with lots of artist *sa* (at) CCP. And I'm very, very thankful for that. I wouldn't be able to pull off running the show if I weren't part of the FEU Theater Guild," M Samonte, Ang Bata sa Drum's diligent Stage Manager heartily said.

Similar to their previous plays, FTG has a consistent goal in carrying out their performances, especially now on their first production at the VLF.

"[Our goal is] to promote FTG and FEU and to support the arts and the culture. *'Yun din kasi talaga 'yung* (That is really the) aim *ng* (of) President's Committee[on Culture], to promote the arts and culture in the Philippines," Alos stated.

Whilst lifting FEU towards the acme of culture-enriched legacy, FTG has already reached higher grounds through lofty dedication in an attempt to bestow honor to its beloved Tamaraw community.

1. **TAMspot : Tanglaw**

*(https://web.facebook.com/feuadvocate/photos/a.177664285287.159946.169739495287/10154814321855288/?type=3)*

Katulad ng isang kandila na unti-unting humahawi ng kadiliman, ang pagbibigay liwanag sa tila hindi maaninag na kinabukasan ng kanyang kapwa ang mithiin ni Hazel Baek, isang mag-aaral ng BS Education sa Far Eastern University.

Bagama't nasa murang edad pa lamang nang masindihan ang mitsa sa kanyang puso at maliwanagan ang isip sa mga nangyayari sa kanyang paligid, alam ni Baek na darating ang tamang oras upang mas makagawa siya ng iba pang mga bagay para sa kanyang kapwa.

Pagbabahagi ni Baek, "*I am a part of the young people* sa *church* namin *so we do house-to-house, peer counseling* sa mga bata. *So I was exposed at a very early age, around* 9 [years old] pero *even* hindi pa 'ko masyadong *involved, I get to see it. But* 'yung *involvement* 'ko, nag-*start* siya *when I turned high school*. 'Dun na 'yung parang *'I need to do something,' I'm old enough to understand everything* na, *so I need to do something.*"

Bukod sa nagniningas niyang damdamin sa pag-aaral, ang puso rin ni Baek ay matagal nang nag-aalab upang isulong ang mga proyektong nakatuon sa youth empowerment na talaga namang malapit sa kanyang puso.

"*The province I've been to,* Isabela, *there are many potential students but they can not afford education. Which hinders them to really read about life and death. They lost the sense of belongingness to the society*. Kung saan na sila nangangalakal na lang *for the rest of their lives*. Kahit na 'yung *potential* nila ay nan'dun," emosyonal na pagsasalaysay ni Baek.

Sa pagkakamulat ng kanyang mga mata, at pagkakaroon ng sapat na kapasidad upang gumawa ng hakbang, sinisikap ni Baek na magawa ang nararapat niyang gawin.

Nang may luha sa mga mata, ibinahagi ni Baek, "*Basically,* 'yung *advocacy* na ifo-*focus* ko *while I'm studying right now, is I will adopt that community* sa baba ng LRT. *There's so many children there, which is sad because they're near an educational institution, but really far from education*."

Maliban pa sa mga nasaksihan ni Baek mula pagkabata na kasalukuyan niyang binibigyan ng solusyon, mayroon din siyang pinagdaanan na naging pundasyon niya upang patuloy na maging tanglaw at makiisa sa mga taong nangangailangan rin ng karamay.

"*I myself, I came from a mixed family. My father is a Korean, my mom is a Filipina. So two main advocacies* ko *is youth empowerment through education, and cultural sensitivity. Why? Because I came from a mixed culture, and I've experienced the good and the bad side of it. So I faced discrimination as well, I also faced the sense of not being involved, not belonging*, " pagbabahagi ni Baek.

Ngunit maihalintulad man si Baek sa isang kandilang nagbibigay ilaw sa dilim, ano mang ihip ng hangin ay hinding-hindi mamamatay ang alab ng kanyang walang sawang pagtulong sa kapwa. Bagkus ay gagamitin niya pa ito upang mas maikalat pa ang apoy at pagningasin rin ang puso at diwa ng ibang tao.

Nang may ningning sa mga mata, isiniwalat ni Baek na, "*I never thought of it [mixed culture] as a negative side, I really think of it as a blessing*, kasi *I tried to know two cultures. I tried to know the downside and the upside of it. So it is a blessing in disguise like what you have said* [in the question], kasi nga kaya kong makihalubilo sa dalawa [cultures] *And that, at the same time, awakened my sense of advocacy in regards of culture sensitivity. So* hindi sumagi sa isip ko na hindi siya *good thing*."

Tunay nga na kung gusto ay parating magagawan ito ng paraan. Kamakailan lamang ay isa si Baek sa mga Pilipinong nakilahok sa isang Youth Workshop kung saan kanilang binigyan ng pansin ang sinasabing Global Citizenship Education.

"*So Global Citizenship, I became involved in this one* kasi (because) *it really interests me. Because you need to feel the belongingness, even though you're Afro-Asian, African, Western, you don't have the boundaries to mingle.* Kasi *we are in one world, and we're a citizen of it*, " pagpapahayag ni Baek.

Kalakip ang dedikasyon at kaalamang bawat isa sa atin ay nagtataglay ng kakayahang magbigay ng liwanag sa landasin ng ating kapwa, sana ay huwag rin tayong mawalan ng paniniwala sa kapangyarihan na dulot ng pagkakaisa.

"*I think the world is okay, but it will be better if more people get the chance to know about Global citizenship.* Kasi (Because) *we're in a culture right now that if I'm Asian, I'm only grouped with Asians, if you're American, you're only grouped with Americans. But if we destroy that barrier, we tend to eliminate that kind of thinking. We will stand united,* " paglalahad ni Baek, habang bakas ang pag-asa sa kanyang mukha.

Katulad ni Baek, nawa ay ang mga Tamaraw ay walang kapaguran ding magsilbing inspirasyon at gabay sa kanilang kapwa. At katulad ng isang kandila, sila sana ay walang sawang maging tanglaw na puno ng pagmamalasakit sa iba habang matatag na nakatulos sa kanilang kinatatayuan.

**Collaborations**

1. **FEATURES March: Scoring Success: Measured by grades or abilities?***By Keitrick Ohmar M. Alabat, Cassandra Nicole E. Angeles and Allyson Nichole Honra*

Being a training ground for holistic development, Far Eastern University (FEU) continuously produces young professionals who question the idea between grades and potentials as major means to master success. They weigh in between the importance of the two to figure out which mean will further expand their horizon in the long run.

As some Tamaraws from the land of green and gold turn their tassel to the left, the question of grades being a matter in their careers surfaces. Are high grades really a determinant, or will it just depend on their capabilities and tactics to be more successful beyond the finish line?

Insights in the lair

As students realize that entering college entails fulfilling responsibilities to survive from start to finish, different perspectives regarding the matter of grades and skills spring out.

Sagging eye bags plus days of drowning in coffee are most likely the proof of this survival. But the next step is up to the students, if they will be able to distinguish that listening to learn, is totally different from memorizing to pass a subject and eventually getting a high grade.

Between grades and potentials, students’ stance towards this has slightly turned different. The outlook became a case-to- case basis depending on each Tamaraw.

For John Patrick Nicholas, a second year BA in Communication student, and current scholarship grantee, the skills and strengths of a student are much more important than their grades.

“*Nandito tayo sa* school *para ma*-enhance *at ma*-develop *natin ‘yung* potential *natin.*

*Kaya pumipili tayo ng kurso, hindi dahil para magpakita sa* corporate world *ng magandang grado, kung hindi para ipakita kung ano ‘yung na*-develop *natin sa loob ng paaralan* (We are here in school to enhance and develop our potentials. We choose which course to take, not just to show our high grades to the corporate world, but also what we learned while in college),” added Nicholas.

Furthermore, the thought that companies only hire graduates with high grades is a continuous concern on the mindsets of a few future employees. This is due to the standard that low grades depict failure, in fact, an article posted on Rappler discusses Jobstreet’s Job and Salary Report which included the things that employers value in hiring. Though not on the top, grades are considered as the second priority at 52% according to the said article.

For Angela Raven Arquillas, first year BSBA Business Management, the process of hiring employees involves the scrutinizing of an applicant’s transcript of records.

“*May mga* company *po kasi na bine*-base *talaga nila sa* grades [ang hiring], *pero ang alam ko po, mas madami sa kakayahan ng tao* (There are some companies who hire an applicant based on the grades, but there are also companies who look for someone with greater capabilities),” Arquillas mentioned.

While for some graduating students who have already had their own taste of college, their perspective seems to be different from those who happen to be new in this sleep-depriving yet mind-awakening world.

According to Kimberly Angeles, fourth year BSBA Business Management, “*Noong* freshman *pa lang ako, mas importante sa’kin ‘yung* grades *ko. Ngayong* graduating *na ako,* feeling *ko mas importante na talaga ‘yung* potential, *kasi hindi naman talaga ‘yung* grades *‘yung basehan kung pa’no ka tatanggapin ng isang* company *eh.* Based *kasi ‘yun* on how you will use your potential at its maximum *na gamit* (When I was still a freshman student, I really value my grades so much. But now that I am about to graduate, I think that potential is what really matters, because companies do not really give much consideration to grades. They will hire you based on how you will use your potentials at its maximum use).”

Even though the students’ stands on the value of grades in their future careers seem to be heading in diverse directions, each of their takes absolutely make sense.

The points they made are acceptable and are usually undergone by most of the students in the starting line of life before, during, and after college.

And no matter how varied their perceptions might be, their views surely convey a truth about the connection between the potential and grade importance. That sometimes, both of these must be well-coordinated in order to meet the goals of academic learning.

Setting measurements

As benchmarks for comparison and assessment, professors introduce the University’s official grading system before proceeding to lessons and lectures at the beginning of every semester. With transparency and unbiasedness, they clearly deliver the formula to clarify gray areas on where students get their grades from.

Mark Lao, a Mathematics Department professor in FEU, gladly discussed how his standards of teaching as a professor are usually based on the criteria formally set by the institution.

“The FEU grading system already accounts for what is expected from college students. Ultimately, 33% of the final grade comes from homework and seatwork or recitation, and 67% comes from quizzes and exams,” Lao explained.

Aside from expecting that students meet their standards, some professors also encourage their students to perform better and earn good grades since venturing out into the real world would be a lot difficult than roaming on

“For me I would always say and tell my students that in college, your grades are your passport in getting into the job. Because what do employers look now, is of course, a part is your grades. So for me, grades could be equated to success especially in getting a job right after college,” said Reynaldo Caranguian, Literature and Humanities Department Professor and FEU-Faculty Association Treasurer.

Alongside their kind consideration yet upfront rules, professors take their stand seeing the attained grades as evaluation among students. They follow the grading system provided by FEU as this still showcases the result of their performances.

By all means, every action, effort and taken shot in the room for improvement deserves a priceless incentive. Starting inside the four corners of their classrooms, it is still up to the students to realize that the apparent purpose of their education is to have their awaited jobs in the real world afterwards.

Measured by experience

Upon the knowledge of measuring what comes first in aiming for success, those who already went through the highest point probably know how to balance the formula of combining good grades plus commendable skills to produce success.

“Been there, done that” is an expression that no other person is qualified enough to use more appropriate than the alumni. As career persons, finally, a few of them have something to impart to their fellow Tamaraws.

For Rosemarie Tan, BS Medical Technology batch 2015 graduate and owner of Rosmar Pet Salon and Hotel Services, “*Kung hindi ka masipag at* sincere *sa pag-aaral, hindi ka aabot ng* 4th year [in college]. *Aral lang ako nang aral kasi* four years *lang naman akong magpapagod* (If you are not studious and not sincere with studying, you will not be able to reach fourth year in college. After all, all I have to do is study because it is just going to be four years of exhaustion),” shared Tan.

Some alumni believe that success is not always measured by how they performed during their college years. For a number of students and working alumni, grasping success from effort and perseverance is definitely so much more than acing an exam, getting a flash of check marks, or securing a place on the dean’s list.

“Be true to yourself *kasi ‘yan ang* the best *na magagawa mo, ang gawin ang mga bagay na gusto mo at ang mga bagay* that will make you fulfill and reach your dreams. The key to become successful *talaga ay* determination *na ma*-achieve *mo ‘yung mga* goals *mo* in life (Be true to yourself because that is the best thing that you can do. To do the things you wanted to do, and the things that can push you to fulfill and reach your dreams. The key to become really successful is your determination to achieve your goals in life),” Tan imparted.

Being able to experience what it is like to be a person with a career after undergoing the phase of a student, degree-holder Tamaraws have already known that grades contribute to one’s life agenda. In spite of this, grades do not necessarily guarantee success because the height of success cannot be measured through only one angle.

As the University relentlessly yields Tamaraw graduates of great performance, the weighed potentials and grades entangle the riddle of which between the two is more essential. In acquiring the prize of a bachelor’s degree, ratings and capacities are of equal importance as success is not always quantified by a single mean.

1. **TAMBUZZ MAY : The Ultimate Senior High Guide for the Baby Tams**

***By Arianne Jeanel Calumbiran and Cassandra Nicole Angeles*** *(https://web.facebook.com/feuadvocate/photos/a.177664285287.159946.169739495287/10154673052520288/?type=3 )*

As a newborn in the Tamaraw community, you are probably clueless right now and perhaps scared. But as you set foot in the Green and Gold territory for the first time, it is best if you are equipped with the essentials!

To give the incoming Far Eastern University (FEU) - Senior High School (SHS) students a heads up, here are 10 pieces of advice from your kuya's and ate's that would definitely come in handy this pasukan.

1. Pack light, but pack smart!

Travelling with a bulky bag to a school found in the heart of a bustling city could be a hassle. But now you are entering senior high, you only need the basics.

"'Pag college kasi kailangan kung ano lang 'yung importanteng pwedeng gamitin sa school, tulad nung notebook.. isang notebook lang pero makapal at mahaba, wag nang bumili ng kung anek anek (ano-ano) pa na pampaarte lang. (In college you only need to bring those that are really important for school. Like your notebook... just one thick and long notebook. You don't need to buy a lot of other shenanigans for show)," advised Kathleen Barrera, an incoming 4th year BS in General Education student.

Don’t forget to stuff your bags with other essentials too, like the index cards, yellow pad paper (goodbye intermediate pads), I.D. photos, and of course, the ever handy pencils and ball pens.

Now that there are no bags to slow you down, your college journey may even go like a breeze.

2. When outside, keep your guard up. [#BeBrave](https://web.facebook.com/hashtag/bebrave?source=feed_text&story_id=10154673052520288)

Strutting on the streets of the concrete jungle that is Manila may take a turn for the worse. As babies of the University-Belt, you need to always keep your [#HornsUp](https://web.facebook.com/hashtag/hornsup?source=feed_text&story_id=10154673052520288) and be on the lookout to keep your valuables on check.

"Since galing silang (junior) high school, iba 'yung environment na ginagalawan nila doon. So ngayong college, maga-adjust sila. Kailangan ingatan 'yung mga gamit nila (Since they are fresh from (junior) high school, the environment they were accustomed to is different. So now they are in college, they have to adjust. They need to take care of their belongings)," remarked Dianne Halili, an incoming 3rd year BA in Communication student.

3. Portable rain gears at the ready!

Whoever said “a little rain never hurt anyone” is obviously not a student from the University Belt. The [#StudentsofMNL](https://web.facebook.com/hashtag/studentsofmnl?source=feed_text&story_id=10154673052520288) are no strangers to the struggles a little rain could bring. Tamaraws usually have to endure the coldness of the season and the flood, trying hard to act normal even if water is already filling up their shoes, just so they can get to school on fleek or go home on time.

Paula Mongcal, an incoming 4th year BS in Education student, shares her rainy school day experience. "Sobrang hirap kasi madumi ‘yung tubig, kadiri. Wala pa 'kong payong n'un, walang kasama, walang masakyan (It was difficult. The water was dirty, which was gross. I didn't have an umbrella, I can't get a ride home)," she lamented.

So if you don't want to be stranded or soaked wet, it is best to come prepared. Arm yourselves with portable umbrellas, raincoats, boots, and slippers!

4. Don't miss the online market fit for the college budget.

Looking for pre-loved textbooks and budget-friendly items but afraid of closing out a deal at Recto? Worry not because the FEU Tamaraws Marketplace is only one click away. It is a Facebook-based group made for the convenience of FEU students, from selling items such as textbooks, clothes or accessories to information about condos or apartments for rent around the perimeter, they have what you need.

"Mas madaling makakuha dun, through internet, through chat, alam mo na ‘yung information ng tao, mas safe (It's easier to get items through the internet, through chat because you know the person's information, it's safer)," explained Kate Restua, an incoming 3rd year BA in Communication student.

However, beware of online scammers. While it is a convenient platform for buying and selling, make sure that whoever you contact through the internet is a legitimate FEU student, such as yourself. Asking to show their identification cards and meeting up only within the Tamaraw territory are suggested.

5. Be on your best behavior.

"*Wag makulit, wag makulit, wag makulit* (Don't be naughty, don't be naughty, don't be naughty),” advised an incoming 3rd year Applied Mathematics with Information Technology student Ronn Rick Tanagras.

“Also exert extra effort *sa* subject *niya* (in his/her subject). Effective *rin minsan na kaibiganin siya* [professor] especially *kapag di nagkakalayo 'yung age niyo.* Be punctual *din*! One of the characteristics *ng* terror *na* prof *ay galit sa mga* late (Sometimes it's also effective to befriend your professor, especially if the difference between your ages is not that much. Be punctual too! One of the characteristics of a terror professor is that they hate those who are always late)," Tanagras added.

With these pieces of advice in mind, you're good to go! Just remember to treat your Profs with respect because they are the ones who will quench your brain's thirst for useful knowledge and wisdom.

6. Be fresh and fab, all the way!

Dealing with a sunny afternoon or maybe a rainy morning on the way to school, plus the bumper-to-bumper traffic in the Metro, staying fresh is a challenge that each Tamaraw encounters. But how come do they still look good and vibrant upon reaching the gates of their safe haven?

"Always bring tissue or handkerchief para pamunas ng pawis tsaka payong para iwas sa init (to wipe your sweat and bring an umbrella to protect yourself from the heat). Tsaka ayun nga din (And also), face powder to cover 'yung (the) oiliness tsaka (and) lipstick para dagdag (to add) freshness," shared incoming 2nd year Hotel and Restaurant Management student, Shanyne Joie Tesoro.

So Baby Tams, now that you know the essentials to keep in your purses and bags, there's should be no more room for sweaty and oily feels this coming semester. Stay cool!

7. Wait or be late? Let the elevator answer that for you!

Whether you have a sprained ankle or running late for class, elevators are the answer to your prayers.

"If the car is full, be patient and wait for the next ride. Do not overload and exceed the elevator capacity. Konting patience lang, mabilis at makakasakay ka din naman (It only takes a little patience, and you'll be able to take (the elevator) in just a few moments)," said incoming third year International Studies student, Louisse Lindero.

So the next time you hope to take the elevator, always remember the simple and logical suggestions by your ates and kuyas. Because there's no better way than going up. \*winks\*

8. College budgetarian? Say no more!

With all the pricey requirements and expenses in college, there are various ways to save extra cash for unexpected expenditures. One of the most effective, yet stress-free tip is to take a break from your usual fastfood lunches, and discover the extensive selection of low-priced meals outside the campus.

"I prefer you guys to eat in Lerma because first of all, the food here are way more cheaper than anywhere else. Not only cheaper, but also the food being served here are also delicious. I prefer you guys to try the sisigans in Lerma, it's really a must try because for me the best "sisig" are served in Lerma than anywhere else," shared Francis Daniel Cayomba, incoming third year Architecture student.

So next time, if you’re saving up for something or you’re running out of cash, try exploring your wide variety of cheap, yet satiating choices along Lerma and the well-known “HepaLane.”

9. Coffee is the key!

One of the most inevitable experiences in college is staying up late or even staying up all night just to finish a pile of schoolwork within a limited amount of time. In order to surpass this mission, each student needs a strong buddy - a cup of coffee, or two.

Incoming 3rd year Communication student Celine Bathan mentioned, "Sa'kin parang naging tubig na lang 'yung kape eh, kapag hindi ka kasi nag-kape, konti lang 'yung magagawa mo sa loob ng isang oras. Unlike kapag nag-kape ka magiging active ka, lively ganu'n. Parang pagkalipas ng oras ang dami mo nang na-accomplish (Coffee has already been my alternative to water, because it feels like you can't do much within an hour if you do not drink coffee. Unlike when you do, you will feel active and lively. And you'll feel like you've accomplished more within an hour). "

There may be some other alternatives to accompany your all-night undertaking, but take it from the experts, coffee is definitely the ultimate fool-proof key to unlock your academic quests.

10. Get ORG-anized!

Being a new member of the Tamaraw community, dealing with different types of people will be unavoidable, which can signify that loneliness will never be a problem for the Baby Tams. Aside from expanding your circle of friends, joining organizations is also a beneficial way to learn and experience more in your chosen field.

Maverick Lourduz Aguba, incoming 3rd year Communication student, stated that “Joining an organization will be an implication of how you work and how your college life goes in a productive way, you can also meet experts in your specific course field from events and personal growth of learning.”

So what are you waiting for? Watch out for org announcements or stalls, and sign up for an exciting school year ahead!

As you face another battle, no matter how nerve-wracking it may be, there's something good in knowing that you, seniors, have also been in that same spot too. They are telling you to embrace your inner Tamaraw and get your #HornsUp as you face this new chapter in your academic life. Welcome to the land that is Green and Gold in view!

1. **TAMDIGEST May : Role shifting: Leadership is motherhood**
By Natasha Nicole Dimaculangan and Cassandra Nicole Angeles

More than a leader of the troop and a captain of the ship, the country is in dire need of a gentle mother.

A soft-touch leader

When a child falls down, a mother would immediately rush to him and gently lift him up, in the same way the next leader must always be able to pick the nation up when it’s in bad health or on the brink of downfall. True enough, a soft spot exists in the whole being of a mother, something the next ruler must possess.

It is not an easy task to raise a child, same with ruling a country. There will always be booboos that would bruise its progress and setbacks that would shake the country’s core. Holding the reins on a national scale entails an ounce of patience and a sack of understanding.

“*’Yung susunod na pinuno ay kailangang maging maintindihin sa kanyang mga kababayan. Katulad ng mga nanay natin, nila tayo sinusukuan kahit paulit-ulit tayong gumawa ng mali* (The next leader must be understanding like our mothers who do not give up on their children despite their missteps in life),” expressed Jeremiah Ruth Rogan, 2nd year BS Psychology student.

Other than that, part of their duty is to fulfill the needs of the people. Most certainly, Filipinos will demand and protest for their rights to be heard and their needs to be fulfilled, just like how babies start wailing at 3 in the morning only to be pacified by being breastfed.

But no matter how hard it is to satiate all pleas of the citizens or hush their cries, the leader must always have his ear on the ground and a hand on his heart at all times.

“A mother cares for her children by always making sure that they are in good hands. She would take a bullet for her sweet kids. And a president must do the same thing for the nation,” Richard Ken Ramirez, 4th year BS Medical Technology student answered.

Indeed, the common whim of every child is to be taken care of and protected, and the country wishes for the same level of love from its leaders.

Sage ruler

More than someone who has a heart of gold, a mother has a sharp mind and a sound judgment as well. From the right color of a top to the best alternative route to a destination, it is an established truth that mothers know best.

It is a relief to have a guru assist you as you go about your life. In the larger scheme of things, this is also applicable. Leaders must have the proper discernment for they hold the steering wheel in the nation’s cruise to development.

2nd year BA Communication student, Nicole Ortanez believes that the elected leaders should make calculated and rational decisions; to go beyond what the people want and aim for what the country needs.

Aside from taking the right turns on the road, a mother ascertains to correct the wrong drifts in order to put the child on the right track.

4th year Business Administration student Kimberly Angeles shared that it is part of a mother’s role to correct her child but this does not reduce her love for him nonetheless.

The next leader must also know how to discipline its people, foster obedience within the country, and exact the right kind of power over them. For as long as the people know how to follow the rules, the most coveted peace and order could be achieved.

All in one

Like an actor in a play, they could switch roles in an instant.
“All in one *na siya eh*. *Kapatid,* best friend, *nanay, tatay, kaaway ko. Lahat na* (She’s all in one. My sibling, best friend, mother, father, even my enemy.),” Lorena del Prado, 2nd year BSBA Internal Auditing student concluded.

A mother’s role is a lifetime duty as a leader is a drawn out commitment as well.

3rd year BS Medical Technology student, Jaypee Saurez said being elected is a sacrifice, saying “Once *na ma-upo ang presidente, binibigay na niya ang sarili niya sa bansa* (Once the president is seated, he’s already giving himself to the country).”

It is not a privilege to take on the highest position but a heavy obligation. Like a mother devoting her life to her child, a leader must pledge her full service to the people too.

This beloved country deserves more than just a leader, but a mother. A mother that could nurse it back to progress and ensure its children are tucked in a blanket of comfort and protection.

1. **TamBUZZ September : Tamaraw GO! : Discovering the Green and Golden creatures**
By Marissa Castro and Cassandra Nicole Angeles

*(https://web.facebook.com/feuadvocate/photos/a.177664285287.159946.169739495287/10154914784155288/?type=3)*

Evolving into a fever pitch, the renowned reality game Pokémon GO took mobile gaming into a global phenomenon as it caught the attention of millions.

The fusion of its innovative features and the wide range of fetching characters boosted the excitement of countless hooked players. Combining the virtual world with reality, these computer-generated creatures also reflect the attitudes and personalities of various Tamaraws.

1. Caterpie: The Local Foodie

With its ravenous appetite, Caterpie lives on devouring huge leaves. And in the green and gold community, finding students like Caterpie is a piece of cake. From the long lines in the cafeteria to the blockbuster food stalls around the campus, food lovers can be catch almost anywhere.

“*Maraming* students *‘yung mahilig kumain* especially *kapag* stress, *kasi para sa iba ‘yun ‘yung nagiging* stress reliever *nila. Parang* break *nila* from school stuff (Many students are coping with their stress through eating their comfort food. It’s like a break from school stuff),” shared Faye Camacho, 5th year Architecture student.

Finding comfort in food to survive a stressful week, these students have visited almost all the diners around the lair and they still have a long list of must try dishes waiting to be crossed-out.

2. Zubat: The Freeloader

Unlike Caterpie, Zubat feeds off health from its foe. Likewise, a great number of students miraculously survive a semester without any school must-haves through leeching on their classmates.

“*Siguro* (Maybe) there are some students like Zubat using Leech Seed because they want to be on top of the class *na kahit* (even if) they know *na ‘di nila pinaghirapan ‘yung mga meron sila* (that they were not the ones who did what they have) is proud *pa din sila* (and they are still proud) for that. And that’s so sad *kasi ‘yung* recognition *napupunta sa kanila imbis na sa* original owner (because they are the ones who receive the recognition instead of the original owner.) *Sana lang magbago na ‘yung mga* Zubat-kind of students (I just wish that Zubat-kind of students will soon change).” Rommel Ramos, 3rd year Communication student stated.

As Leech seed is being used to its maximum limit, more and more Tamaraws are getting pestered by Zubats who roam around the purlieu of FEU. Always keep your headlights focused and be careful from campus Zubats, Tams!

3. Squirtle: The Flood Ranger

Equipped with a shell that is not just made for protection, Squirtle uses its grooved housing to swim and decrease water resistance whenever the situation requires it to. To develop this skill, Tamaraws evolve into something similar to Squirtle during this season of the year, and wade successfully through the murky waters of España.

“Like Squirtle, his shell is one of the resemblances why an FEU student is like this type of Pokémon. They bring their school stuff for classes (weapons for battle) despite the extreme heat or heavy rain,” said Zoe Candace Salazar, 3rd year, Business Administration, major in Business Management student.

Getting used to simultaneous knee-deep floods and dry weather, living it like Squirtle is totally a Tamaraw’s mastery. So the next time you brave the “rivers” of Morayta, you’ll know that it’s time to summon the inner Squirtle within you.

4. Psyduck: The Headache Warrior

Suffering from a hundred and one headaches is a part of a student’s struggle towards the finish line of their college life. Similarly, the cute and yellow Psyduck known for its fair share of skull-rupturing headaches, students may find themselves lost in the middle of nowhere and stuck with tons of nerve-wracking school works, wondering if they can still make it.

Just like how a Psyduck’s headache interferes most of the time but is fairly compensated afterwards, Alexandrea Balan, 3rd year Interdisciplinary Studies student, also shared a similar fate with Psyduck once.

She shared, “Last sem [semester] *lang, sabay-sabay pasahan ng* requirements *na* research paper *ng* 2 subjects *tapos* exam week *din, walang tulog, gawa ng mga* revisions. *Sulit kasi ang taas ng* grades *ko. Sulit talaga ‘yung puyat kasi maganda ‘yung kinalabasan.* (Last semester was a challenge because all the requirements are given at the same time. A lot of paper works are to be submitted and revised that we don’t have time to sleep. But all the hard work paid off when the result of my efforts are fulfilling).”

After all the multifold, brain throbbing school works, keep in mind that once the Psyduck successfully overcomes its entire headache; it can prodigiously use it as something much more powerful. And as for the Tamaraws, there's no other better reward after all the stress and headaches, but to triumphantly pass the whole semester.

5. Spearow: The Whining Wee

Whilst some Tamaraws are like Psyduck- suffering from tremendous headache- there are students who are the culprit of others’ pain, destructively oozing negativity. Complaining about everything and ranting through other platforms such as social media, some students are like Spearow- emitting high pitch noise.

“No task is hard if it's broken down into smaller pieces. You should realize that the time you consume from complaining is enough to finish that small chunk of task. One should always try before saying something is complicated,” uttered Robbie Anne R. Javelosa, 3rd Year BS in Tourism Management student.

Having a grumbler in a class is indeed annoying and infectious. Expressing thoughts can be done in a countless numbers of ways without being a loud bothersome Spearow.

6. Slowpoke: The Laggard Tamaraw

Having a pair of eyes staring blankly into nowhere, plus the fact that it takes five seconds to process and respond to pain, Slowpoke is the perfect emblem of some Tamaraws especially during examination week.

Jel Tanes, 3rd Year Psychology student recalled a ‘slowpoke moment’, “*’Yung* time *na buong* week *puro kami* quizzes, *tapos* every subject *puro kami* quizzes. Feeling *ko sa sobrang* stress, *sobrang bagal ng pag-pasok ng* information *sa utak ko* (There was a time where the whole week was hell-like. We have quizzes on every subject. The stress was overwhelming and my brain can’t handle the overload of information).”

Busting the headaches away might be a bit of a problem for some Tamaraws whose focus alternates from one subject to another. So in order to prevent headaches from coming, be sure to drink plenty of water and strive to get enough rest through proper time management. Stay focused!

7. Magikarp: The Softy Stout

Flopping around and easily carried away by the currents of water stream, the reddish-orange fish Pokémon is perceived by Trainers as weak and incompetent. Likewise, camouflaging with the mainstream or staying in their comfort zones, some students are comparable to Magikarp giving the impression of timidity.

As observed by Marc Rembrandt Guirao Santiago, 3rd year BS Psychology student, Magikarp is weak type Pokémon that takes a lot of candies to evolve but after all the effort, it will turn into something powerful and undefeatable. “*Siguro pwede natin i*-relate *si* Magikarp *sa mga* students *na may* hidden talent. *‘Yung tipong ‘di nila alam sa sarili nila na kaya pala nila ma*-achieve *ang isang bagay na akala nila’y* impossible. (Magikarp is alike with students who have hidden talents. Initially, they don’t know they can do something they supposed as impossible but eventually they have the ability,)” he added.

Discovering abilities might be a long dreadful process that seems hopeless. But with enough patience and hard work, Magikarp-like students can achieve greatness- evolving from a wimp into a great beast in its destined field.

8. Haunter: The Night crawler

As a nocturnal creature living in dark, abandoned caves, Haunter spends most of its nights licking the life force out of Pokémons who happen to stray near its territory. Whilst being a college student, Tamaraws transform themselves into a ghost-like creature, staying up all night to finish their reviews and readings.

Bryan Elijah Trajano, 4th year International Studies, stated that, “*Siguro, halos pareho lang naman si* Haunter *sa mga* FEU Students *dahil maraming* Tamaraws *na* night owls *lalo na pagdating sa pag-aaral and sa pag-gawa ng* requirements *sa* school. (Maybe FEU students are similar to Haunter because most of them are night owls especially when it comes to studying and complying with school requirements).”

Sometimes it is okay for Tamaraws to get lost through their train of thoughts, but it’s a good thing that most of them always keep in mind that taking enough rest and sleep is one of the keys in being a successful person someday. So Tams, leave the Haunter life, and sleep the stress away!

9. Snorlax: The Sleepyhead

Whilst Haunters are pulling an all-nighter, Snorlax are never ditching their sleep. In the middle of a long mind-numbing lecture, the wheeze of the crowd of Snorlax is filling the atmosphere as this type of students wander in their wildest dreams. While the sleeping Pokémon slips into its serene reverie after its hunger is more than satisfied, this type of students fall into deep slumber when their brain are like a soaked sponge that can’t absorb stuff anymore.

“It can’t be avoided that many students fell asleep during class but there are few who can’t let a day pass without daydreaming or snoozing. Having enough sleep the night before even though there are a lot of things to do is important to the health of the students,” stated Joe Marie Peralta, 4th year BSBA Internal Auditing student.

Travelling in your desired fantasy might be a good escape from overloaded dose of stress but sleeping like Snorlax might lose you a good lesson or funny joke from your serious professor.

10. Hypno: The Persuasive Pal

On the verge of deciding whether to attend a certain class or to prepare for an upcoming exam, these students greatly influence their fellow with their dumbfounding, convincing powers. Resembling Hypno’s pendulum, reassuring words and company might cause deep state of hypnosis to students.

“As students, making sound decision is really hard. Most of the time, peer pressure affects us the most. Thinking we’re not alone in the bottom or our classmates are finding some topics hard as well is somehow comforting but of course it’s not healthy to let others influence and completely change us,” said AJ Vergara, 2nd year BSBA Business Management student.

Whilst the humanoid Pokémon lull its foe to eat their dreams, students with immense talent of swaying others have their options- to become a contagious disease or a radiating sunshine.

11. Alakazam: The Brainiac

Having infinitely increasing brain cells, Alakazam can be the life peg of every student who wants to excel in class. With its high IQ (intelligent quotient) and thorough memory, it can maximize its abilities to the extreme. Lucky they are, there are students who are truly gifted to have superior intellectual capacity.

“I think we all know that one or few students who are really smart. During exams, we review all night yet we still find some questions hard but they can even have a perfect score without even putting so much effort,” said Koala Padilla, 3rd year BSBA Internal Auditing.

With their great minds, these students are fortunate to possess some of the necessary weapons to pursue their dreams but making the most out of their superior skill is a must. Without hard work, their gifts might go to waste.

Whilst Pokemons endure rigorous evolution, Tamaraws also undergo developments, which enable them to adapt and identify what Pokemon-like qualities to disregard and retain. As they take part in this era where the virtual and real world collide, they must embrace their own uniqueness and accept the fact that as participants, they all play a special part to make the game of life all worthwhile.

1. **TAMSPOT October : Masterpiece**

By Annah Marie Collados and Cassandra Nicole Angeles

Exhibiting various artworks that shades the green and golden hue in its priceless heritage and culture, Far Eastern University (FEU) aims to instill the same passion and love for art to its students as they attain glory, may it be within or outside of the university’s bounds.

As an artist who sets his imagination beyond limits, David Ryan Viray pursued to finish his studies and set out for another exciting image, as he use the university’s culture as a platform.

Given the fact that Viray’s onset in competing for art and painting exhibitions began during his college years, winning the award in the recent Metrobank Arts and Design Excellence (MADE) Award was totally beyond his imagination.

“*Nung estudyante pa lang kami, sumasali na kami sa* Metrobank*, napipili naman as* semifinalist*, tapos itong huli, gusto ko lang makabenta, tapos parang ‘di ko naman ano*[goal] *na manalo*(When we were still students, we also join contests in Metrobank and we were able to be part of the semifinalists, then during the recent contest,my only intention was to sell, It was not my main goal to win),” Viray humbly confessed.

Through creating a masterpiece that stains through the heart and mindset of the audience in his recent artwork, the young artist was able to trace the dots and form his own stairway to the top as he delineated a social theme in his painting.

Choosing the current events in our country as his palette, Viray used shades of black and gray with small spots of red as he depicted a portentous future ahead through his remarkable creation.

Given the fact that connecting a permanent line between the painter and the audience is a holy grail for artists, Viray attempts to create socially relevant masterpieces, to somehow interact with his audience as they witness his creations.

“As an artist, *gusto ko* objective, *hindi* subjective *ang* art. Objective *na may kabuluhan, hindi ‘yung dadalhin ka lang ng* artwork *sa isang lugar, na hanggang dun na lang ‘yun. Gusto ko may* function *‘yung piyesa na parang* media *na naipapakita kung ano ‘yung mga* concerns (As an artist, I want it to be objective because art is not subjective. It should be objective that has a meaning, which will not only bring you to a certain place, then that’s it. I want my piece to have its own function, like the media that can express any concerns),” Viray says.

Similar to a painting that aims to unfold a message before the viewer’s eyes, an artist also unfurls a story behind the process of discovering himself being his own artwork.

With a widely drawn grin on his face, Viray recalled how he started out the first two years of his college life as a Nursing student, and later on decided to join **FEU Advocate,** wherein he met a few Fine Arts students, who led him to a newly-painted path of happiness leading to the world of art.

Aside from being an illustrator in the school paper, Viray also shared how he extended the scope of his canvas and fully understood how it is to be an artist, through joining similar contests like Petron and Shell competitions.

Reminiscing his experiences, Viray revealed “*Ang buhay ng* artist, struggle. Strive *lang ng* strive, *minsan kasi pag* settled *at sikat na, nawawala na ‘yung gutom kasi may pera na, pero nagiging malamya na ‘yung piyesa* (The life of an artist is a struggle. All we ever do is strive and strive, because sometimes when the artist is already settled and famous, their hunger will stop because of the money, but the artwork itself becomes lame and dull).”

Thinking out of the box is an advice that Viray has emphasized, addressed to embolden young and aspiring artists. He considers the process of art as something that gives him freedom, the freedom where he can express his thoughts through painting, which gives him the taste of reality and satisfaction for being self-ruled and limitless.

According to Viray, passion and perseverance are two important materials to create a masterpiece. The process may be full of struggle but in the end, all the broken motivational brushes, blotches of imperfections, and spilling paint of imagination will surely pay off.

Equipped with the arts and culture as a foundation from FEU, most students may find college life an enthralling experience that requires a mixture of various colors of life, to come up with an astounding masterpiece that is rooted from streaks of reality and buckets of yearning to learn and explore outside of the canvas, where knowledge and wisdom surely awaits.