



Empowering Women & JFC to Realize their Dreams

By Christina A. Lopez, with a report from Yuto Kawasaki

Many people understand the concept of setting goals in life to empower themselves. What most people do not know is that goals require a constant stream of force behind them to keep alive. In other words, you need to push people all the time for them to realize their dreams.

On March 25, 2012 a joint activity of DAWN and Maligaya House was conducted to identify the interests and likes of the women and their JFC and associate them with what they want to achieve in the future. The activity was conceptualized and facilitated by eight Japanese volunteers of the two organizations. These volunteers are Arisa Yoshida, Sumie Yamada, Yuto Kawasaki, Sayaka Hoshi, Mihiko Shiraiishi, Ryosuke Yaeshiro, Yuko Tanaka and Truong Dieu Mai. They are all AISEC members,

from different colleges and universities in Japan who wish to develop themselves by doing volunteer work and getting involved in the different activities of development organizations in other countries. AISEC is an international student-run organization present in over 110 countries and territories.

The activity started with a simple game called “Chair Game,” which served as the ice breaker. The purpose of the game was to give both members of Maligaya House and DAWN the opportunity to introduce themselves and become acquainted with each other in a friendly-manner and to increase their comfort level. It also aimed to establish an unconstrained atmosphere for discussion and group cohesion. The activity will help to set the tone for the time

we will spend working as a team.

After the game, the participants were divided into four groups - elementary, high school, college students, and mothers. Each group had their own activity.

For the elementary children, they did a “Mind Tree” exercise. The children were asked to write their likes and interests. These were then associated to a possible profession or career in the future.

For high school students, they had a group sharing on what they want to achieve. Most of the children said they would like to finish their studies and become successful in the profession they chose.

As for the college students, they also had a group sharing similar to the activity of the high school students. They discussed their plans and how to achieve their dreams.

For the mothers’ group, DAWN volunteer Yuto Kawasaki facilitated the discussion. The discussion focused on the current situation of the mothers and their children, the kind of relationship they have and how the mothers are able to support their children. After the sharing, the mothers were asked to compose a letter for their children which they later gave to their children.

During the plenary presentation, most children, young or old, had the same dreams. They would like to finish their



DAWN and Maligaya House staff, volunteers and members during an activity conducted last March 25

(Continued on page 3)

High School Life

By Kay Celine Andrade

“High school life, oh my high school life ay walang kasing saya..”

I could quite remember the first time I heard this song sang by a classmate, way back in my elementary days. This song appears to be odd during those times. “How does high school life differ from the other phases of learning? Why do people consider it as the best and happiest?, innocently I asked myself.

It seems like only yesterday when I took my first step at the City of Mandaluyong Science High School. The times I spent in this school have changed me in many ways. I can still remember those days when I would arrive in school without any assignments or projects to be passed because I fell asleep at home. I remember how I stood up in my Intermediate Algebra class, questioned by my teacher and I just smiled at him because I have no idea about the lesson. I remember the daily flag ceremonies we had and the fast-paced lessons which I sometimes could not comprehend. But then, this school did not just leave me with embarrassing moments. In the two years that I studied there, I had several precious and unforgettable times. It was there where I honed my public speaking abilities and more.

After two years, I transferred to the Mataas na Paaralang Neptali A. Gonzales. This school became my second home, where I found my second family. It is here where I found myself, where I discovered what I want and what I can do. I learned things I never knew before and I found the happiness I was looking for.

Being a transferee when I was already on my third year, I had to endure many trials and changes in order to survive. I had to adjust again, understand traditions and egos of other people. I will never forget how my life changed in this school. And I must admit, these changes helped me become a better person.

I can't resist and be amused every time I reminisce about the things I've done in my high school days, small things that

I can consider as my accomplishments. I thank God so much for giving me a life that is filled with trials and countless joyfulness. Because of Him, I encountered precious people who helped me find myself and discover new things. And of course, I am grateful to my family and friends who didn't give up on supporting, guiding and cheering me up.

Who would believe that a girl who is afraid of leading would turn out to be a good leader? Who would believe that a daydreamer and story writer like me would be part of our school's official publication staff? I sometimes can't believe I've been all those things, that I've done all those things! Being the class president in my junior class, class vice president in my senior year, club officer and peer facilitator club president, have helped me to be a good leader and an improved individual. Being part of the Girl Scouts of the Philippines and Peer facilitator club showed and taught me ways to serve the people and the community in simple ways. Being part of the school publication staff, I discovered the skills I can use and those I need to improve. I joined different contests, conferences and activities to help me to gain self-confidence, acknowledge my hidden talents, and be responsive in this fast-changing world. I learned to be more sociable, to be part of a different group of people who later became my sisters and brothers, second 'Nanays' and 'Tatays.' I learned how to be sensitive and feel their pains. I learned to become a good listener and a keeper of secrets. I became more tolerant and responsible. It is indeed true that there is no duty that is so underrated as the duty of being happy in what you are doing.

I love high school life, and I'll surely miss everything high school. I will miss its unique 'kulitan' and 'asaran' moments, the practices and performances inside and outside the school. I will miss the overnights, open forums, class jump shots & wacky pictures, movie marathons, fun runs and walkathons, parties, sidewalk food trips, and 'gala modes'. I will miss our common dialogues such as “may pulbos ka ba (do you have powder)?”, “pengeng

papel (can I have a piece of paper)”, “may assignment ba (did you do your assignment)?”, “nandyan na si Sir (our teacher has arrived)!”

“Make your passion, your profession.” This is what one of my high school teachers imparted to us before our graduation day. He said that no matter how hard college life would be, so long as we love what we are doing everything will be fine. Our hunger for learning should never cease.

I consider myself successful when I graduated in high school. Having received my diploma, I am inspired to be more responsible as I grow up, to contribute something which God wanted everyone to do. I should not be a burden to my society.

How time flies fast! I can't imagine that the next time I enter another classroom, it will be as a college student. It will be a new environment for me. There will be new tasks, frustrations and trials to come. I know that I will undergo painful challenges but I believe that I will gain a heart that is stronger than ever.

My high school graduation is not the end but the beginning of the genuine learning. I promise that my eagerness to acquire and improve myself will never stop. And I as go on, I pray that I will be tougher and persevere to face a hundreds of doors with endless opportunities waiting for me. All the knowledge, values and skills I learned and acquired will be my weapons in becoming a better individual. I believe that it is God's perfect plan for me.

Kay Celine Andrade is 15 years old. She recently graduated from high school and will soon be a college student. KC, as she is fondly called, is the daughter of Gina Andrade. Nicole, her sister is also an active member of DAWN. KC joins the cast of the DAWN musical play The Crane Dog, which will be re-staged in Japan this May.

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studies and become successful. Some of them would like to become medical practitioners, pilot, lawyer and teachers. Meanwhile, each of the mothers read her letter to her child.

At the end of the activity, both members of Maligaya House and DAWN discovered their talents, strengths and gifts. Through the activity, they realized that they have the ability to make their dreams come true. They just have to recognize their individual gifts and talents. Of course, the support of other people also counts.

On the part of the Japanese interns, they hope to create a webpage and share the outcome of the activity they had with the mothers and the Japanese-Filipino children in order to make people understand their situations and help, if they have the means to do so.

There were twenty eight women and children who attended the said activity.



Yuto conducting the activity with the mothers



Workshops with the JFC

(Continued from p. 8, Of Graduations...)

am I going from this point on. Up to now the feeling of finishing your studies and never to be required to go to school every weekday still has not sunk in. It feels like it's only an ordinary summer you are waiting to end and begin another year in school to see your friends and classmates. Maybe I was just so used to being a student; after all I have been going to school since I can remember. I can't think of my daily routine without ever thinking about school and home works, exams, grades and classmates. One thing I don't like about graduations is that you will eventually be separated with your classmates for years and would have to adjust again to new people as you enter your new school. But true friends will never be forgotten and should be treasured if you have found one. Because finding a true friend is hard.

I am uncertain of what "will be" and what "will come" in the future. Perhaps I am afraid of leaving the comfort of the school and standing on your own two feet outside the real world, finding a sustainable job and slowly becoming independent on your parents and family. But being afraid is only natural, it's human nature. Of course, every student will undergo this same scenario, this is the transition stage from a dependent citizen into a successful independent. We should not be afraid and be troubled of what would become of us in the near future. If we second guess ourselves it will only cause us no good. There is no benefit in doing nothing. If you want to grow and improve yourself not only as a student but as a responsible individual, you should give it all you have; nothing beats hard work as they say.

For my fellow Japanese Filipino Children (JFC) I can only share what I

have done these past few years in order to successfully conquer college life and finish with flying colors. Nothing will keep you going if you don't have perseverance, confidence in yourself and the courage to face any adversaries along the way. Do not cower in times of difficulties. You have to have faith in your own capabilities and skills. Of course, there is your family to support you on your journey but no one else can help you finish and achieve your dreams but yourself. If you don't have trust in yourself, you can never achieve anything. At the same time, as you get older and more exposed to the reality of the adult world, one cliché will definitely be realized: you can never get anything easily in this world. Perseverance is an expensive yet effective investment in this world. For me, my motivation is poverty. I have been wanting to finish my studies to become a professional someday so that I can return the favor to my parents and family for all their efforts so that I can continue my studies. I don't want to stay poor for the rest of my life. Sure there are other "easy" ways out but in doing these you will not be happy in the long run. This I can guarantee. The only right way is to work your way to the top. Finishing your studies is the stepping stone to a bright future ahead of you.

Let us never forget that education is important and not all are given the chance to be able to finish their studies. We JFC, are given this special opportunity to have a decent education by the hard work our parents, our dads and our moms, with help from DAWN. Let us be mindful of this and the only way we can give back their efforts is to work hard and to be able to finish our studies in the near future. Imagine the happiness you can have and give to the people important to you when all your collective efforts will become fruitful. Once you started something, the only option is to move forward. Do not stop halfway or else your hardships would have been for nothing. Do not stop achieving. There is no such thing as overachieving. Put a goal and aim on it. If you finally accomplished it then aim at another goal and so on. It's like you're putting seeds in a garden, your perseverance will serve as sunlight, faith as your water, and courage as your air. It will only take a matter of time to harvest your fruits.



Teatro Akebono 2012 Restages The Crane Dog



Once again, DAWN stages the original musical play written by award-winning screenplay writer Michiko Yamamoto.

Crane Dog is the story of a half-crane and half-dog who searches for her identity. In her desire to know who she really is, she leaves her family and looks for her real father. Although the search proved difficult, she was able to meet with her father and they are reconciled.

The story mirrors the experiences of many Japanese-Filipino children (JFC) residing in the Philippines who do not know their Japanese fathers. Crane Dog is the story of many JFC members of DAWN who grew up not having known nor seen their Japanese fathers. Just like the lead character in the play, many JFC would like to meet and get to know their real fathers.

The cast of this year's musical play are the following: Masami Angel Kuraoka, who plays the lead role; Kay

Celine Andrade, who plays Crane Dog's mother; Juan Miguel Miranda is the Crane father of Crane Dog; Tusyoshi Imai is the stepdad dog; Jemina Shilyn Alnas essays the role of Bully Dog; Yorgei Cerezo, and Sora Sato alternate their roles as dogs and cranes.

Prior to the selection of the cast, the children underwent a workshop, after which seven children were selected. The seven children will then undergo a series of workshops and rehearsals for the play, which will be presented in the Philippines and in Japan.

The children are expected to have their presentation in Manila on May 11 before their departure for Japan. They will have a back-to-back musical play presentation with the women members of DAWN who will present the play "Iba't-Ibang Mukha ni Misty" at the St. Scholastica's College in Manila.

It will be recalled that last year,

Teatro Akebono was unable to leave for Japan for its annual theater tour as a result of the strong earthquake and tsunami that hit Japan. Presentations were held instead in the Philippines. At the same time, DAWN conducted workshops for its women and children members after which they expressed their sympathy and support to the Japanese people. Messages and art works were sent to Japan through the Embassy of Japan and Peace Boat.

This year, the group will leave for Japan on May 13. They will have their presentations in several prefectures that include Tokyo, Yokohama, Saitama, Shizuoka, Nagoya and Osaka. Aside from the presentations, the children are expected to have interactions with members of the Japanese community. In Tokyo, Jichiro is also arranging a forum on children's rights before the presentation.

The Cast of The Crane Dog



JEMINA SHILYN ALNAS

Jemina is 12 years old. She recently graduated from elementary and will soon enrol in high school.

Jemina is an only child, but she likes to play with her cousins and classmates. She likes to play badminton and swim. Her favourite food is chicken, sinigang, and adobo. In school, her favourite subjects are Filipino and Home Economics. She wants to be an actress someday.



KAY CELINE ANDRADE

KC is 15 years old. She recently graduated from high school and will start college. She plans to take up BS Clinical

Psychology at the Polytechnic University of the Philippines.

KC values her friends and family. They are the ones who inspire her and give her strength to go on with life. She is a peaceful person and does not want to hurt other people. KC also loves listening to music. She listens to pop songs, Filipino music, Christian and love songs.



YORGEI CEREZO

Yorgei is 15 years old and is a fourth year high school student. He likes to play badminton and computer games. He also likes to

draw anime figures. Yorgei likes Japanese food and thinks they are delicious. He likes Justin Bieber and Katy Perry because they are good singers.

In the future he wants to become a photographer and take photographs of different famous landmarks all over the world. He also wants to travel.



TSUYOSHI IMAI

Tsuyoshi is 19 years old. He recently graduated from college at the University of the Philippines, with a degree in BS Biology. He graduated with honors.

After graduation, Tsuyoshi hopes to continue his studies and become a doctor.

Tsuyoshi likes to play basketball, listen to music, watch anime and read manga. He is interested in reading books on science and history and in watching documentaries from the Discovery and National Geographic channels. His mother, Analiza, is in charge of the DAWN Wellness Center.



MASAMI ANGEL KURAOKA

Masami is nine years old. She will be in Grade IV next school year at the Epifanio delos Santos Elementary School.

Masami likes ice cream. Her favourite fruits are mangoes and oranges. She also

likes to eat adobo, a local Philippine dish. Masami likes to play with other children and watch television. Her ambition is to become a veterinarian because she likes animals. Her mother, Mary Jane, works at the Sikhay project of DAWN.



JUAN MIGUEL TADAYOSHI MIRANDA

JM is 19 years old. He is taking up BS Computer Engineering at AMA Computer College. He is

very fond of dancing. He also likes to watch movies and listen to music, especially rhythm and blues and hip-hop. During his free time, JM also likes to draw anime characters or play computer games.

JM has been a part of DAWN's Teatro Akebono group since 2006. He loves being part of the group because he likes to sing, dance and act.



SORA SATO

Sora is the youngest in the group. He is only six years old. Next school year, he will start kindergarten. He has one sister, who is also his playmate at home.

Sora likes to play computer games, watch television and sleep. He wants to be a firefighter when he grows up.

SUBSCRIPTION

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People, Places, Events



DAWN Executive Director Mel Nuqui was one of the five Amazing Women honored by the Gifts and Graces Foundation in March



DAWN women members with volunteer Yuto Kawasaki and JFC Shun Sato at the Go Negosyo Summit in March



Vangie Cerezo delivering a message during the International Day of Women march held in Mendiola



Women and JFC members of DAWN receive their certificates of Noh theater training from the UP Center for International Studies



DAWN volunteer Amakasu Suguru briefing students from the Yokohama National University about DAWN's work



DAWN staff and members with UN Women Consultant Dr. Jean Franco shortly after a workshop conducted at DAWN

ALP CORNER

By Mary Joy E. Barcelona

Weaving

For the past five years, Mary Jane Kuraoka has been with Sikhay. She started as a weaver in 2007 and later on was trained in sewing, hands on computer, and beads making. She also became the manager of the DAWN Multi-purpose Cooperative in 2008- 2010. Whenever we would talk about how she started with Sikhay, she would always say, *“I only watched you on television five years ago and I wanted to be part of the organization.”*

Today Mary Jane is not only part of the DAWN family; she is also one of women advocates of DAWN. This year she was also tasked to share the knowledge and skills she has acquired in Sikhay. With constant encouragement and support, she now teaches basic weaving. From February – March, she trained Shun Sato, one of our JFC, skills in handloom-weaving. When asked how the experienced was, she said, *“When you are already the trainer that is the only time you appreciate the skills you learned. I now realize and understand how difficult it must be for the person who trained us. Now, I am responsible for the needs of the trainee. I try to make sure that Shun can execute the different steps in weaving. I now realize that we do not only teach them skills but we also impart to them discipline, focus at work, how to become creative and productive. The first step (warping) can be quite difficult, especially when we make*

designs from the ordinary thread. We have to balance the design and coordination of color. I’m glad that Shun learned fast and is now able to make good scarves and shawls that DAWN and visitors can appreciate.”

After his training, Shun is now able to produce hand-woven materials. He is now challenged to weave more complicated designs. DAWN is proud of Mary Jane and Shun.

DAWN – Multi-purpose Cooperative

Last March 31, 2012 the DAWN MPC held its General Assembly. We started the program with a prayer followed by the National Anthem. Before the Election, Education Committee chairperson Mary Joy Barcelona reported on the accomplishments and activities of 2011 through a power point presentation. It was followed by the financial report of Audit Committee Chair Maricris Tenorio. She reported on the amount of share capital that the cooperative has, as well as the different business activities and how much they earned for the year. Anna Liza Yambao reported on the status of patronage of the members of the different services and products of DAWN MPC. The reports were followed by the election of officers.

Elected Chairperson of the cooperative for the year 2012 is Analisa Carimpong, with Dolores Alnas as Vice-

Chairperson. The elected Board Members are Evangeline Cerezo, Maty Joy Barcelona and Concepcion Sato. Anna Liza Yambao is the treasurer.

The following were also elected: Maricris Tenorio and Mary Jane Kuraoka to head the Audit Committee; Rosalie Akase and Carmelita Nuqui for the Credit Committee; Christina Lopez and Rosie Verano for the Election Committee; and, Liza Garcia and Juanita Contreras for the Conciliation Committee.



Shun Sato and Mary Jane Kuraoka





SINAG (akebono or yoake in Japanese) means dawn or daybreak.

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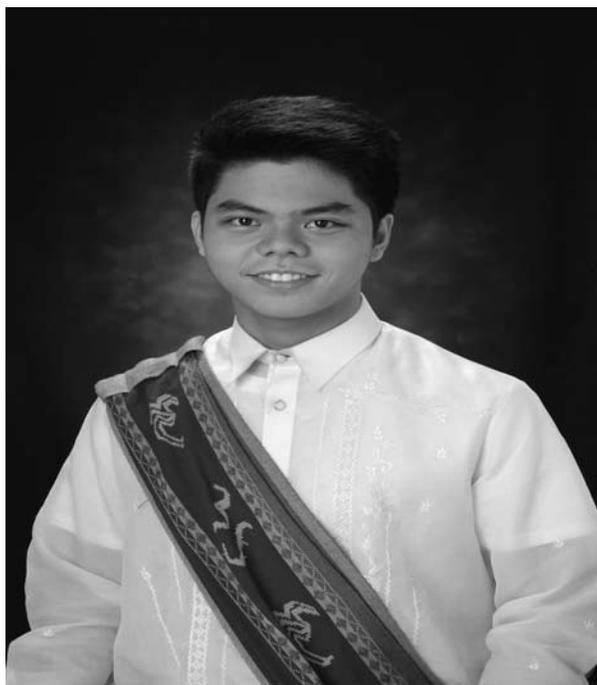
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Of Graduations and New Beginnings...

By Tsuyoshi Imai

It was certainly one of the important and unforgettable moments that I will treasure for the rest of my life. To me, and to most of the people, graduating from college is the turning point of one's life. From being a dependent student from your parents to soon becoming an independent and hard earning individual in our society. Graduation ceremonies are called commencement exercise because this symbolizes one part of your journey has already been accomplished so that you can start another path to take and accomplish. For me, these ceremonies recognize the perseverance and sacrifices graduating students were able to give in order to fulfill their dreams. At the same time, these ceremonies also recognize the hard work and patience of the parents who did not give up and did all the best they can to be able to give a decent education to their children.

I still remember the fun of being a primary school student. You don't have to give your full effort in school since the subjects were easy to understand and the school hours are short too. It will only take half of my day and the other half I use in playing, watching television, sometimes sleeping in the afternoon, and play again



with my friends outside the house until the dusk. Then I graduated and entered secondary school. It gave me a little pressure at start since the school is always telling us that we are the top class and we should live up to the expectations. So I started giving little effort on my study but still find a way of enjoying inside and outside the school, of course with my friends and classmates. But after four short years it's time again to get out of that school and begin another

chapter in my university. In college, you will realize that it is completely different from elementary and high school. You will encounter problems and difficulties you never bumped into when you were younger. Earning your grades would require huge amounts of time and effort studying, if you want to have decent grades for that matter. But I can assure that all loads will become easier if you have someone who can help you and those are your friends.

As I prepare to enter the lobby of the plenary hall where the graduation ceremony will commence, I didn't know what I felt exactly during that time since I was overwhelmed with mix emotions of happiness, excitement, and uncertainty. Happiness because at long last, all my hard work will soon be paid off since in a few minutes I will be marching inside wearing a toga for the first time. Excitement since I can't wait anymore for this day to end, walk to the stage, get the "diploma" (not the real one, only a piece of paper with reminders written inside) and be able to spread the news that I am now an official graduate. Lastly, uncertainty for the reason that I do not know for now where

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