

**REVITALIZE:  
COMING BACK STRONGER  
AND SMARTER**

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# FOUNDER'S DAY REMAINS IN OUR HEARTS

It was a sad realization for Foundation University that this year's global pandemic of COVID-19 meant the cancellation of Founder's Day on July 4<sup>th</sup>. Established in 1949 by Dr. Vincente G. Sinco, the university celebrated its 71<sup>st</sup> anniversary. He strove to provide equal opportunities for everyone through quality education, stating, "May thy light forever shine on the path of life each day. May thy banner forever lead us to a happy, glorious day."

In 1999, the university tried something new with its department heads and deans to honor the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Foundation University. They glorified the evening by following a tradition of the Japanese festival, Toro Nagashi, which translates to "floating lanterns". Sir Dean Sinco, president of the university, witnessed elements of this festival recreated in Hawaii and was inspired to bring it back home to the Philippines. In Japan, Toro Nagashi takes place in August and is meant to commemorate the souls of their ancestors. Honoring our deceased is something we can all relate to. For the Japanese, they write their cherished messages on paper lanterns, light them by candlelight, and send them downstream. It was believed that people's ancestors would visit for a short period of time so this "welcoming fire" would show them the way back. Foundation University adopted some characteristics of Toro Nagashi one fateful night over two decades ago. The deans and department heads wrote hopeful messages upon their own lanterns, adding a spiritual depth to their well wishes for the next academic year. These prayers, positive thoughts, and intentions were ones they wanted to carry forward into the future for their students.



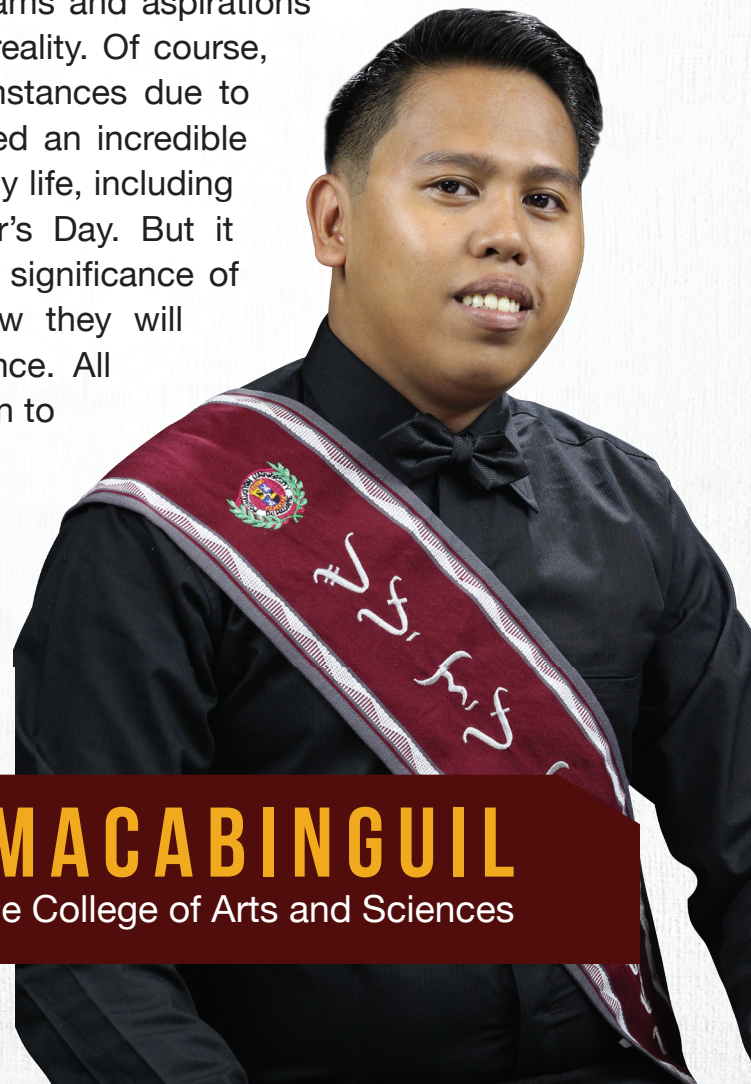
Known as the Dal-Uy Festival now, Founder's Day has become a notorious celebration not only for the university, but for Dumaguete City as well. It's even a tourist attraction now! The whole city gathers in the evening to write their well wishes full of promise onto a plastic folder that shrouds a glowing candle. Thousands upon thousands create a glowing spectacle along the sea as people ship the lanterns out, hopeful for what is to come. Their bright illumination upon the water shines like a moving beacon of the knowledge students accumulate on their academic journey, but it extends far beyond that, for life is full of learning outside the classroom. It is a gentle reminder to stay curious and keep growing no matter what age we are, evinced in the participation of all ages during the Dal-Uy Festival.

In case you were wondering about the environmental impact of these lanterns, they are collected late at night by a colossal net so as not to wash up on any shore, preventing litter and pollution. Foundation University adheres to strict environmental protection standards because we only have one planet, and it must receive the utmost respect. Each plastic cover for the lanterns and their messages is reused the following year.

Foundation University and its community, along with the rest of the world, pray next year will usher back the opportunity to host celebrations, social gatherings, and more face-to-face connections in a safe manner. Hopefully next year allows the Dal-Uy Festival to take place and commemorate the 72<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of the university. Regardless of the outcome, we can always write down our aspirations on something meaningful while honoring our ancestors, light a candle, keep the tradition alive, and preserve the spark of life aglow – wherever we are. Hopes and dreams know no boundaries.

Check out what some of our influential department heads have to say about Founder's Day and their hopes for the future:

Under normal circumstances, FU Green would be bustling with joyous laughter of students, faculty, and staff as they prepared their lantern for the Dal-Uy Festival. Amidst the resounding chatter, you would be able to still hear students sharing their stories behind their hopes and dreams written on each lantern. As the Foundationites traversed the streets of Dumaguete, jovial cheering and yelling would reach your ears. As the FU Family reached the shoreline of the Rizal Boulevard, you would feel the shift in atmosphere, from cheerful to solemn. As the Foundationites took their turns in floating their lanterns out to sea, and as we gazed on to the beauty of the lighted lanterns graced with fireworks in the background, you would hear the accompaniment of prayer and hope that those written dreams and aspirations would someday become a reality. Of course, today's extraordinary circumstances due to the coronavirus have dictated an incredible amount of change in our daily life, including the cancellation of Founder's Day. But it doesn't take away from the significance of our Foundationites and how they will continue to make a difference. All we need is a little imagination to keep the lantern light alive.



**PETER MACABINGUIL**  
Acting Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences

FU was founded on a noble purpose, which is to provide educational opportunities for all. At the time, when only a few had the privilege to earn a quality education, Dr. Vicente Sinco, in his wisdom and care for the less privileged, founded Foundation University to provide opportunity and access to those who desired to better themselves regardless of social status.

Now, FU stands tall amidst the test of time at 71 years old and remains true to its promise of providing an ecosystem for self-growth, professional development, and community progress. As we all continue to hold on to the stronghold of our beloved institution, we are reminded of the very reason and purpose of why we are here: we are part of the ripple that impacts young minds to become socially responsible individuals, individuals that are analytical and mindful of their role in societal change.

As we respond to various challenges like this pandemic, we remain steady and consistent in making education available during the "new normal". We believe that we can still continue to cultivate innovation, build strong industry partnerships, and foster meaningful community relationships.

Happy founding anniversary, our dear Foundation University – may your light forever shine on the path of life each day. May thy banner forever lead us to a happy glorious way...

Kudos Foundationites!



**CHARLOTTE VIO-CARIÑO**  
Dean of the College of Business Administration

One of the reasons FU was founded was to give education to less privileged people – to allow as many people to get an education. The university believes that education is a vital key to improving people's lives and their community. After 71 years, FU continues to affect change in its students and the community through relevant and innovative technologies. To this day, we remember and commemorate the people that started Foundation University, and we recognize the alumni that have honored FU. At 71, we appreciate the students that are the lifeblood of the institution, pushing it to better; at 71, we thank the community that has helped shape what FU is today; at 71, more than ever, we celebrate the heart, the faculty, and the staff that continue to do their work and deliver knowledge, guidance, support, and services to the university's stakeholders despite the challenges. Especially during these trying times, we continue to work as one to achieve our individual and collective goals. We are one so you can be the one.

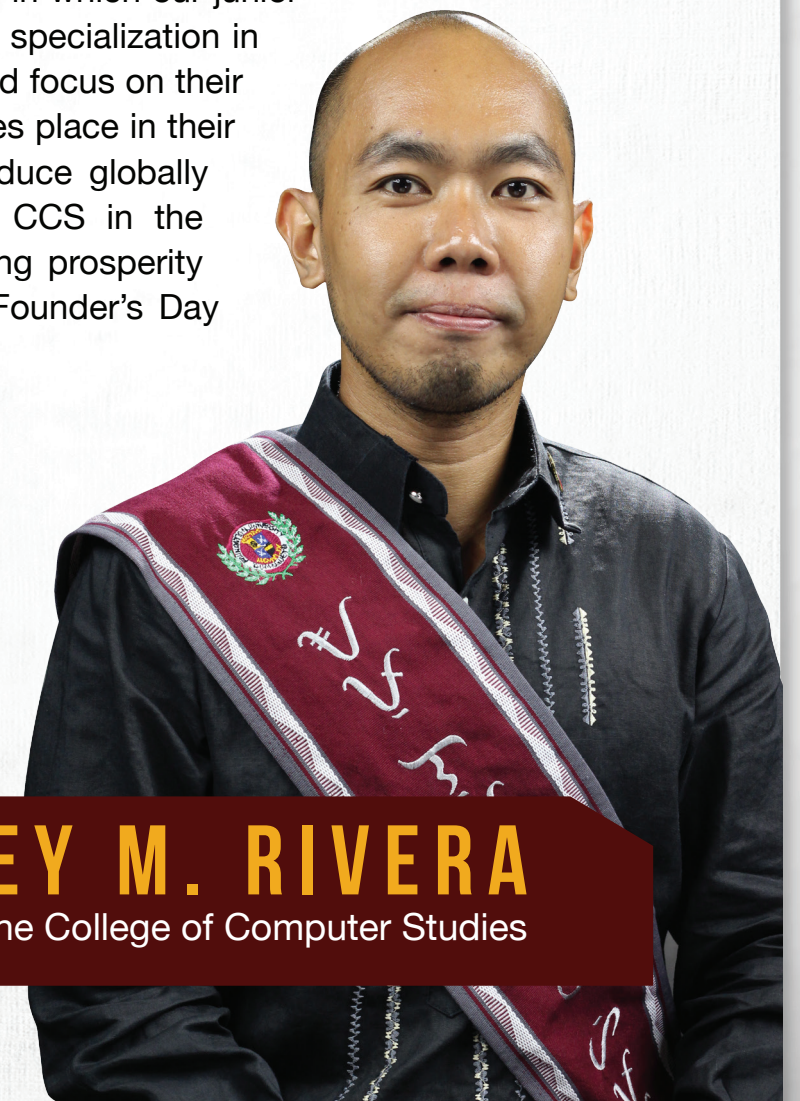


**JOBERT R. KLEINE KOERKAMP**

Acting Dean of the College of Agriculture

I am a proud Foundationite and I've seen a lot of changes in the University. Each year, FU celebrates its founding anniversary and one of its highlights is the Dal-uy, an FU tradition in which we write our hopes and dreams for ourselves and the university.

For our students, the faculty of the College of Computer Studies (CCS) adapts to what is new and the emerging trends in Information Technology (IT) and Computer Science (CS). We continue updating our topics in every major course for IT and CS as well as for some of our minor IT related courses. This year, we started our "specialization program" in which our junior students chose their area of specialization in order for them to prepare and focus on their capstone project, which takes place in their senior year. We aim to produce globally competent graduates from CCS in the succeeding years, envisioning prosperity for each one. Happy 71<sup>st</sup> Founder's Day FU, BD1!



**JEFFREY M. RIVERA**

OIC of the College of Computer Studies

Founder's Day is a time of honoring, remembering, and thanksgiving. In celebrating the 71st founding anniversary of Foundation University, we remember and honor Dr. Vicente Guzmán Sinco for his legacy of establishing FU that paved the way in creating quality education available for all. Founder's Day is also a time that we remember the other pillars of the university: the men and women who likewise dedicated their lives to ensuring the legacy of the university's mission. A mission that endeavors to enhance and promote "climate of excellence relevant to the challenges of the times, where individuals are committed to the pursuit of new knowledge and life-long learning in device of society". Finally, on this 71st anniversary of Founder's Day, we thank the Almighty Father, the omnipotent power high above, for blessing Foundation University through the years. FU continues to be steadfast and strong while upholding its vision in providing an invaluable education for its students amidst this ever-changing world.



**MARLON A. TANILON**

Dean of the School of Industrial Engineering

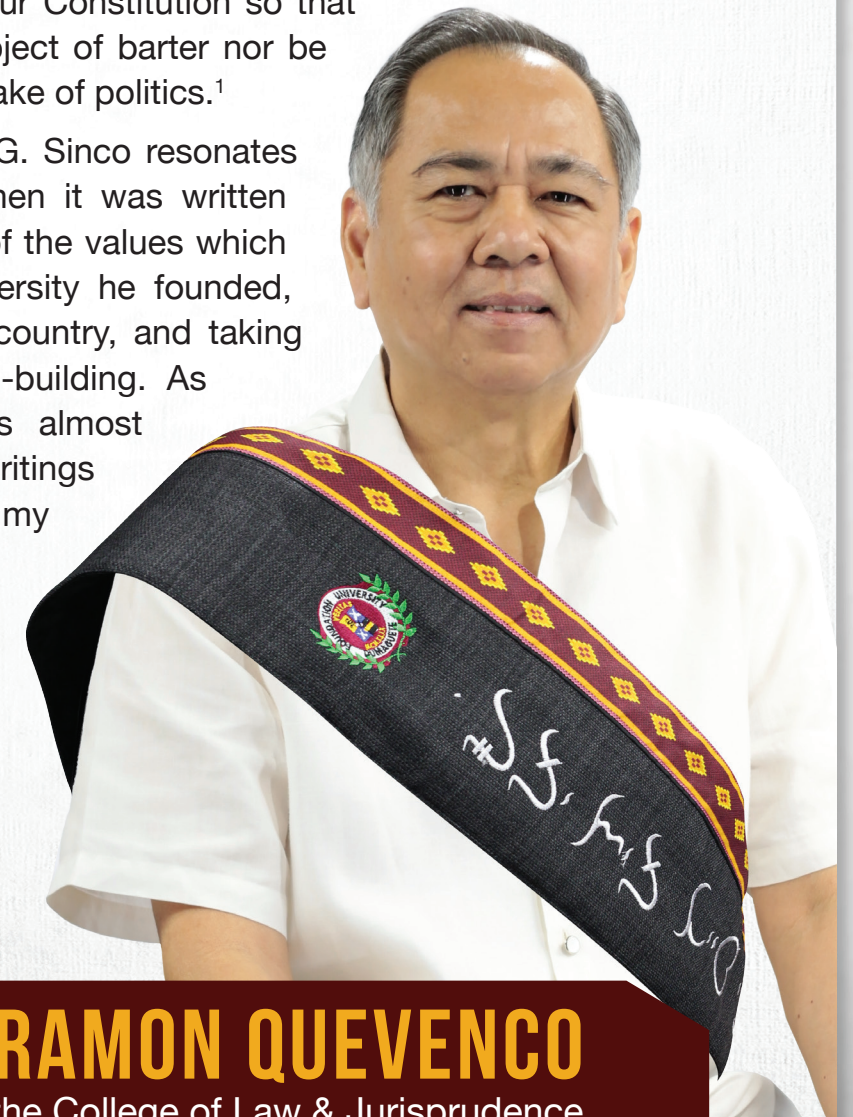
For the faculty and students of the College of Law and Jurisprudence, the significance of Founder's Day transcends the celebration and university activities held to commemorate the event 71 years ago. It comes in the, not so frequent but still momentous, encounter with Dr. Vicente G. Sinco through his words and writings in some of the law books and jurisprudence that we read and study.

Recently we had an opportunity to study an obscure 1972 case of Republic vs. Quasha. The Supreme Court decision, penned by the eminent Justice Jose B. L. Reyes, made reference to the words of Dr. Vicente G. Sinco on the issue of national patrimony as follows:

It should be emphatically stated that the provisions of our Constitution which limit to Filipinos the rights to develop the natural resources and to operate the public utilities of the Philippines is one of the bulwarks of our national integrity. The Filipino people decided to include it in our Constitution in order that it may have the stability and permanency that its importance requires. It is written in our Constitution so that it may neither be the subject of barter nor be impaired in the give and take of politics.<sup>1</sup>

The admonition of Dr. Vicente G. Sinco resonates as strongly today as it did when it was written decades ago. It is a reflection of the values which he intended to guide the university he founded, values of nationalism, love of country, and taking on the responsibility of nation-building. As we have the privilege of this almost spiritual encounter with the writings of Dr. Vicente G. Sinco, it is my firm conviction that he will hold the graduates of the college of law to a higher standard of adherence to the values he espoused.

<sup>1</sup> Congressional Record, House of Representatives, Volume 1, No. 26, page 561



**JESUS RAMON QUEVENCO**

Dean of the College of Law & Jurisprudence

# GOING VIRTUAL AS THE WORLD ENDURES THE VIRAL

By Antonio T. Bendal Jr.

When a pandemic hits a community hard, and in this case, on a global scale, how does a school adjust to embrace the change and still go the extra mile? Ever since COVID-19 struck this year, it's a question that has repeatedly popped into my mind as a university instructor. Never in my almost six years of teaching experience had I imagined a crisis as challenging as this to appear before us. The whole world is enduring its effects right now, especially in the field of education. While I am always ready with my lessons, they were calibrated for only a face-to-face approach. Ironically, "face-to-face" became a new neologism to go with the "new normal" everyone has been forced to adopt and adapt to.

As a member of the faculty in the College of Hospitality Management, I have been obliged to accept the new normal in teaching even though this entails converting lab classes into a virtual classroom for aspiring hospitality management students. Because I work mostly with HRM students in lab subjects, I have had to figure out how to make the majority of my lessons effective in a digital medium, which has proved to be quite a challenge because there are various lab activities that don't transition easily. Thankfully, Foundation University has equipped me with different seminar workshops and webinars necessary for me to continue, winning the battle to push forward despite today's calamities. It's a massive leap into technology that I'm realizing I should have prepared for long ago, and I must commend Foundation University's prompt action in dealing with this unfamiliar reality through its online distance learning program (FUEL Program), which stands for Foundation University Extended Learning. This program is dedicated to accommodate students with synchronous, asynchronous, and/or mixed learning. Its mission is to make sure no student sacrifices their education in wake of this global, viral catastrophe.

The actual transition from face-to-face to virtual teaching has been difficult to handle at times as well. This is mostly due to the internet connection problems the Philippines constantly faces. Most students struggle to attend classes online because not all of them are blessed with living in an area that has fast, reliable internet they can access at any time. It was a huge obstacle to overcome when delivering my lessons, but I managed to shift my tactics and create more versatile content for my students at large. This is where the mixed learning modality is applicable, another flexible feature I'm grateful for in the FUEL program. And for those students who truly can't partake in this mixed learning modality, they can be given an asynchronous learning style mode.

It has been a topsy-turvy kick-start of the semester on my end because I suppose most of us are still adapting to this so called "new normal". The troubles we all withstand are painstakingly real but at the end of the day, what matters the most is that our students benefit and learn. It is a summit everybody will reach no matter how far the distance is. The main goal of education, one I have always firmly believed, is that it should not be limited to the four walls of a classroom. The bright side of our current reality is that it has bridged education to new platforms, locations, and mediums like never before. It is also an opportunity to accept what is happening and improve our own adaptability to continue succeeding.

Just like a few movies have bloopers, I would have to say online teaching does too! From the cuckoo-too of roosters in the background, the never ending barking of dogs, the careless shouting of neighbours in the background, the whistling and chirping of birds, and other not so conducive distractions during class conferencing, these sounds are living proof that online learning is full of life! In contrast, there are idle moments when connectivity is interrupted, when data runs out, when the signal is too weak, etc. Online distance learning is the new alternative with its own form of effectiveness and ineffectiveness when compared to a face-to-face class. It is becoming the trend around the world as a result of restrictions by the COVID-19 pandemic.

It has been both an honor and a privilege to continue teaching young minds eager to learn despite all the odds. In every teacher's heart lies an engraved responsibility to persist in providing quality education for all no matter what. As Nelson Mandela once said, "Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world."

# OLD-SCHOOL GOES VIRTUAL

A year ago, I was off to start my new career as a college instructor. During my first few days, I was completely overwhelmed with a classroom of thirty enthusiastic students, each with unique personalities, and then having to manage this new flock (and a whole other herd for that matter). It was a challenge for me, but little did I know that what I thought was a source of anxiety turned out to be my source of gratification as well. Why? Apart from the rewarding fulfillment I get from teaching, I make the most of my spare time at the end of the class by interacting with my students. I listen to them. I learn from them. It's a truly enjoyable experience. This is where real, understated connections happen beyond simply student and teacher relations. We learn from each other.

Then COVID-19 crashed through the gate of this new decade and a complete turn of events severely affected every academic institution. Crucial decisions were made in order to carry on with advancing education for students, but it meant a sudden transition from face-to-face teaching in a traditional classroom setting to going online. It took me (and the whole world) by surprise!

Now more than a month has passed since the school year started and I am sitting at my desk, writing this while planning my next lesson for my classes. Do I like this current way of teaching? I certainly like not having to dress up and commute all the way to campus, but I would trade these conveniences in a heartbeat for the opportunity to return to school and see my students again.

Clearly, all parties involved, be it instructors, teachers, even the parents, have been steadily adjusting and adapting to this new virtual classroom setup. And it has been undoubtedly difficult. What was once a simple task of a teacher relaying information to their students has become incredibly tricky and laborious. One has to consider students' limited Internet access, which then adds more pressure on the parents to keep up with the tangible needs of their children. Education is everything. We all do what we must to make sure our students continue to progress and excel.

What I find great about Foundation University's FUEL Program is the way it teaches students how to take on responsibilities, be independent, and learn flexibility. Students also learn how to make common sense a common practice by thinking critically, how to improve online searching skills, and how to utilize and enhance creativity into their work. "It's not that bad after all," I've said to myself. This isolation may even breed more creativity amidst students, creativity that could bring about their true potential within. While I would still prefer the "old-school" way of teaching and manifest uninterrupted conversations with my students, not worrying about lost Internet connection and such, I can appreciate this new transition and see the opportunities it harbors.

We can all agree that both online and face-to-face instruction share their own combination of advantages and disadvantages, but for now during this global crisis, may we, teachers, students and parents alike, work together to keep education aflame. Hopefully, we will all grow stronger together and be more compassionate with each other when all is said and done – I believe this is how we can emerge from this pandemic triumphant.

# GOING ONLINE TAKES VISION

By Aelleiah Kaye Cortez

There have been many unexpected events that have happened in our country this year, and one of them was the outbreak of COVID-19. The World Health Organization (WHO) went on to say to the world, “COVID-19 is an infectious disease caused by a newly discovered strain of coronavirus; a type of virus known to cause respiratory infections in humans. This new strain was unknown before December 2019, when an outbreak of a pneumonia of unidentified cause emerged in Wuhan, China.” Humanity has pieced together more and more information about COVID-19 and its effects upon people as the months have passed.

This pandemic made our lives far more complicated. We have experienced a great deal of imposed changes and limitations in order to promote safety from the virus. We don't live our lives like we used to, and we have so many new rules to adhere to for hygienic protection. There isn't a person who hasn't been changed by this global pandemic; many jobs have been affected as well as people's daily routines, especially the learning system here in the Philippines. Since the government currently advises against face-to-face learning, new modalities have been introduced for us students to continue advancing our invaluable education, including modular and online learning.

As a student, experiencing this global pandemic of COVID-19 has caused many struggles for me. In March, FU and every other educational institution declared the cancellation of classes because of the virus's speed to spread and the government's mandate of a community quarantine. Everything was locked down. During this time, everything became radically different – acquiring

resources, time outside, and human interaction was severely limited. Before I had to go into quarantine, I thought activities that you do outdoors are difficult and tiring, but I how wrong I was! While we underwent the first phase of quarantine, Enhanced Community Quarantine (ECQ), I realized that life is far more tiring when it has limitations. I originally believed it was better to just stay at home, cozy up in bed, and surf the internet – but it's not. I had the epiphany that seeing people you love working outside during this pandemic instead of staying at home for safety was the hardest thing to do. They were and still are taking risks. Despite the dire situation, I have been incredibly thankful that God is always there guiding us and keeping us safe.

As we have entered this so called “learning in the new normal”, as a student, I have also experienced my own personal struggles in learning new material, struggles that I think my fellow peers are enduring too. What exactly is the “new normal” in education? It's an approach of either blended or purely online courses. No face-to-face allowed. I learned that training in using teaching and learning platforms will be available for both teachers and students, according to The Manila Times (2020). Once again, it hit me how wrong I was when I initially thought attending school with face-to-face classes was much harder than simply staying at home and taking them online. Perhaps

for some students it's a privilege, but certainly for me, it became another struggle I've had to suffer through right now. Because it is human nature to notice what is wrong or ineffective first (and sometimes we fixate on that), I've noticed a few disadvantages of online courses. The main shortcoming is not having a stable internet connection. It makes it harder to take online classes and since I live in a rural area without WiFi due to its high cost, I rely solely on my data connection when viewing my coursework. I have spent so much money on buying more and more load. I have to find other ways to earn money to sustain myself and my parents so that I may keep taking classes. Additionally, I have limited equipment to use for my online classes. I find myself asking, “Makakuha ra kaha kos mga lessons?” because I'm a slow learner who grapples with understanding my lessons, and I'm sure my fellow students wonder the same thing from time to



time. It's much harder to listen to discussion in my online classes than having a hands-on learning experience in class. There have been times that I am not able to think clearly nor can I focus on the discussion because there are many things that interrupt my studies at home. There are more distractions and disturbances that you wouldn't find in the classroom. To be clear, I do not doubt the program that FU has created; what I've had to come to terms with is doubting myself. As it turns out, I can get easily distracted with other things, to the point where it crossed my mind not to enroll this semester, but I'm glad I duked it out and remained loyal to progressing my education.

Aside from some of the obstacles we face with online classes, there are also many exceptional aspects of this approach to consider. Foundation University's FUEL Program is extremely convenient for flexible hours, especially for students that are working; they can run errands while they are studying — earning and learning at the same time. I appreciate how you can go out with your families and friends but still review or study if you have your materials saved. It is multi-tasking at its finest. Instructors give their material for you to read and study up front so that you can go at your own pace, plus you can review topics you find confusing or ask your instructor immediately. I value the level of honesty and down-to-earth quality online courses provide. For example, I can say, "Ma'am/Wir wala kaayo ko ka-g". Essentially, I've observed how I can be more open about my ideas and views because, in my own experience, talking and discussing with my instructors online provides a deeper, more special bond. This form of a relaxed setting adds to the educational practice. I can trust my instructors to be understanding of any situation and they continue to be approachable, considerate, and just downright amazing. In my 3 years attending college, I would say that this 3rd year has been the most different not because of the "new normal" but because of the experiences that I have encountered along the way; I like how I am more open about my thoughts with my teachers, expressing my hardships in comprehension during a specific discussion, and I am incredibly grateful how they go the extra mile to help and educate me. For that, they have all my respect.

Despite all of the struggles, enrolling in the FUEL Program at Foundation University has been a big opportunity for all the dreamers like myself as well as the students willing to toil. For those of us going to the roadside to get enough data; for those of us selling things online to afford load; for those of us staying up all night to complete homework. Recently, I broke my phone and God only knows the hardship I've had not being able to do my school work right now, but in the end, I have faith every effort will pay off. Through this FUEL Program, I can keep pursuing my dreams.

The COVID-19 virus proves that every little thing actually does matter, and it's only when you realize this that the deeper meaning of "the good old days" takes form. Having so much time to reflect at home, you can both realize and reminisce how great those days were when we didn't have COVID-19 yet. It is important that we keep on searching for the silver linings amidst the negativities. Learning is hard, but life's even harder if we never learn in the first place.

My biggest takeaway from the FUEL Program has been to learn how to be flexible in difficult times such as these. This program is not just a program. It can help you learn in a convenient manner, help you reach your aspirations, and make necessary changes, both in yourself and in the world, to make life all the better. It has taught me that everything will eventually work out for the better if you are determined enough. This pandemic is not actually a hindrance in achieving our dreams but instead, it's a challenge given to us to become resourceful and even more tenacious at reaching for the stars, at getting what we want out of our lives. Struggles will always be there, but it's up to us with how we can not only manage them but solve them. Let us be resilient in our journey without humiliating anyone else because NO pandemic can stop a dreamer. Foundation University's FUEL Program is made for all of the visionary students like me. We can and we will learn, and, we can and we will heal together.

This kind of program will help you tell your own story – and this is my story.

# iPADS: FIGHTING OBSTACLES DURING THE NEW NORMAL IN EDUCATION

By Kenny Jane Faturan

One of the latest approaches in teaching and learning has been the integration of technology into education. It is an aspect that Foundation Preparatory Academy (FPA) takes pride in: the utilization of iPads in the classroom setting. It is the gateway to the future.

Most people use iPads for gaming, taking pictures, using social networking sites, etc., but in reality, iPads offer a lot of advantages in the field of education. It's not a device that's just for teachers, it's especially useful for pupils and parents alike. As we experience this pandemic crisis, the iPad program has been a great avenue for us to continue learning at the comfort and safety of our own homes. Our iPads are equipped with various applications that aid students when they encounter an obstacle in their learning. Essentially, the iPad has made each student's life easier in education.

A few of the applications we utilize to enhance a student's instruction include iBooks, KeyNote, Pages, Numbers, and AirDrop. iBooks is an app that has brought convenience to the students at FPA because they no longer need to carry heavy books anymore. Every book they require is in one place; it is easy to open, search, scan, and scroll through each one. In addition, they can highlight the text or take important notes in their eBooks for future reference and better understanding. KeyNotes is another useful app because it allows teachers to create presentations for class with pictures and videos; teachers can also make notes on the margins to be given to the students. Students learn how to assemble



# THE BEAUTY BEHIND FPA'S IPAD PROGRAM

By Khyla Shane J. Acab

Change is the only constant in life. These changes transform the way we learn for the better. Over the past few decades, classrooms have been constantly evolving. Alongside our current technologic advancement we are undergoing comes the upgrading of people's needs. Foundation Preparatory Academy (FPA) continues its mission to create a learning environment that caters to the needs of every new generation of learners through the iPad Program. This program has been a real game-changer for me. iPads have made their way into the classroom and what was once a cool gadget has become a powerful, versatile learning tool. The new wave of students, including me, is undeniably tech-savvy. Incorporating the iPad we love to our own education makes learning a great deal more fun and engaging.

I can attest to the usefulness of the iPad Program because I have experienced it myself. But what is the beauty behind this program? What makes this hybrid approach better than the traditional way of learning? First, it is appealing. The utilization of iPads in education is a smart move to keep the attention of today's gadget glued learners. It's always fun to learn in a medium you love. Second, it lessens our physical load without compromising our learning resources. I was once a student who experienced the burden of carrying around a backpack loaded down with heavy textbooks, but now, with the iPad, I can eliminate the burden while maximizing my resources. This innovative device allows me to search for information on the internet, download eBooks, watch educational videos, and perform many more functions – and it's all located in just one gadget. Learning through an iPad isn't limited like a classroom to its four corners. A student can carry an iPad anywhere and then learning something new can happen everywhere! It is the most flexible learning tool on the market. It allows a student to have the luxury of having the capability to create, design,

their own presentations and reports on KeyNotes too. Pages is an application both students and teachers make use of by notetaking, essay submissions, journal writing, and crafting documents. Numbers, on the other hand, is every FPA teacher's cohort in the classroom. It is used to record student scores on tests and their overall grades.

Last, AirDrop lets students have a copy of anything they need from their teachers with just a click. It is effortless to share. Not only is everything time efficient and organized, not a single piece of paper is wasted. The iPad Program offers a way to go completely green. The screen mirroring feature on iPads has also really helped students in their learning endeavors because they are connected to Apple TV, which shows them everything in a big picture way.

These iPad applications are just some of the important and helpful tools used in education. iPads are undeniably great companions for every student and teacher at Foundation Preparatory Academy. It's another reason why the FUEL program at FPA right now is considered to be successful: its teachers and students were already trained in utilizing technology lest a crisis arise. They were the fastest to adapt to the "new normal". In short, the iPad Program has manifested greater efficiency, accessibility, and convenience at FPA.



# CELEBRATING GRADUATION DESPITE THE CIRCUMSTANCES

By Charissa Villanueva

When the pandemic started way back in February of this year, most of our activities were adversely affected, unfortunately resulting in delays or cancellation. None of us expected the pandemic to pan out for so long, extending far into September and thereby affecting one of the most anticipated events of the year: graduation. It was originally meant to take place on March 21, 2020 but only a few days before its commencement, the government mandated enhanced community quarantine measures on a national scale. It became known as ECQ. All mass gatherings and social activities were strictly prohibited.

And with it, the heartbreaking postponement of seeing the university's graduates celebrate their educational finale, their triumph, their success.

While graduation was originally rescheduled to August with the hopes of uplifted quarantine measures, regulations remained in place. The months passed and the numbers of COVID-19 victims painstakingly continued to rise. We realized the end was not in sight as we had predicted. Not wanting the students to wait any longer for their overdue ceremony, Foundation University formed a committee to plan the graduation to be held in September 2020. The committee came up with several alternatives, including one that separated graduates by discipline to lessen the number of people present in one area; however, the fact remained that not all graduates are currently in Negros Oriental to partake. With travel restrictions and health risks, it was deemed too dangerous for any form of a physical graduation to occur. It was suggested in the committee to host the ceremony via Zoom wherein each graduate would be shown live once their names were called, but due to technical obstacles, such as unstable internet connections for some graduates, this option was nullified too.

It was finally agreed upon and then approved to host a virtual graduation via Facebook Live. The graduation ceremony will follow the same flow it usually has with one exception: photos taken for the *Pillar* yearbook will be shown for each student instead. The event will be pre-recorded to be shown on September 27 and includes graduates from Foundation University's Graduate School, Law and Jurisprudence, College, and Senior High School.

We invite proud parents, cherished family, and supportive friends to join us in hosting Foundation University's graduation. Despite going online, it is a chance for everyone to come together, celebrate their accomplishments, and pray for prosperity in the next chapter of our graduates' lives. They have built a brighter future by valuing their education, and we know they will continue to learn and broaden their perspective.

Congratulations everyone!

research, submit, and share one's schoolwork. It also caters to every learner who has different learning styles. One size fits all doesn't work in education; some students learn best through visual means while others prefer kinesthetic (hands-on) experience. Then there are those who may learn best through listening to a lecture, reading, writing, playing an educational game, etc. For the iPad, there are numerous educational app options to choose from that enable us to work and succeed at our own pace, making learning far more productive for everyone. With the iPad Program method, FPA prepares students for the future unlike any other institution in Dumaguete City. It enhances our skills in both technology and self-discipline, which we will make the most of when embarking on our future careers. It is a necessity in this day and age for schools to teach students how to use technological devices properly to keep up with the times, producing competent individuals that not only know how to navigate through the 21<sup>st</sup> century, but excel in a highly competitive work environment too.

Another exceptional reason to use iPads for education is that they are environmentally friendly. Instead of investing thousands of pesos on textbooks and other printed material, an iPad reduces the cost and helps FPA to go green. It is another endeavor of the academy to promote the betterment of our environment through conservation efforts.

As you can see, the iPad Program isn't just a trend in modern learning. There is so much to appreciate about this program – its appeal, its usefulness, its versatility, the list goes on and on. During the pandemic we are enduring now, the FPA's iPad program has proven to us that indeed learning can be possible anywhere at any time using this device. Adjusting to the new normal of learning isn't as challenging for us students because we were fortuitously prepared for it. Despite the hardships of this year, especially in the field of education, the iPad Program makes sure that no learner gets left behind. We have witnessed the beauty of the iPad Program and everyone deserves to experience this quality education hybrid approach with the opportunities it has to offer.

What are you waiting for? Upgrade your learning experience with Foundation Preparatory Academy's iPad Program, where the FUn in education begins!

**REVITALIZE:  
COMING BACK STRONGER  
AND SMARTER**