

Interview (Part 1) with Phi Nagpala on March 24, 2023

0:00:02.700,0:00:06.348

Good morning Phi, it's so nice to see you. How are you today?

0:00:06.348,0:00:10.502

I'm good. Good morning, professor, it's nice to see you,

0:00:10.502,0:00:12.246

it's been a while.

0:00:12.246,0:00:16.480

I'm so happy that you're participating in this project.

0:00:16.480,0:00:18.907

Let me begin with a little introduction.

0:00:18.907,0:00:22.852

First of all, thank you for taking the time to tell me your story.

0:00:22.852,0:00:29.801

My name is Heather Bruce Satrom, I teach
in ELAP, English Language for Academic Purposes, at Montgomery College,

0:00:29.801,0:00:37.663

and, as you know this project is called History in the Making: Documenting Stories of Immigrant
and Refugee Students at MC.

0:00:37.663,0:00:45.074

The goal is to help others better understand the experiences of immigrants and refugees
in Montgomery County Maryland.

0:00:45.074,0:00:49.468

So, telling your story will enable others to better understand

0:00:49.468,0:00:52.591

the challenges that immigrants and refugees face, and

0:00:52.591,0:00:57.449

better appreciate the resilience and perseverance of people in your community.

0:00:57.449,0:00:59.850

So I am grateful for your participation.

0:00:59.850,0:01:04.875

Today is Friday, March 24th. This is the first of two interviews.

0:01:04.875,0:01:10.623

This interview will focus on your experience related to your country of origin, the Philippines,

0:01:10.623,0:01:13.022

and we'll take about one hour.

0:01:14.000,0:01:15.200

So let me begin.

0:01:15.200,0:01:18.589

First of all, could you tell me your full name and spell it please?

0:01:18.589,0:01:21.711

Hi I'm Phi Nagpala

0:01:21.711,0:01:24.880

p, h, i, n, a, g, p, a, l, a

0:01:25.320,0:01:28.042

Do I have permission to record this interview?

0:01:28.042,0:01:29.238

Yes!

0:01:29.238,0:01:29.738

Thank you!

0:01:31.720,0:01:37.456

Let's begin with your name. Do people in the United States have trouble saying your first name,

0:01:37.456,0:01:40.576

or your family name and if so, do you use a nickname?

0:01:40.576,0:01:42.892

Yeah the..

0:01:43.880,0:01:46.980

having difficulty in saying my name.

0:01:48.180,0:01:49.985

I use my nickname,

0:01:49.985,0:01:52.606

but even my nickname,

0:01:52.606,0:01:58.570

it's hard for them, because sometimes they're laughing at me because they thought it's sounds like p-e-e.

0:01:58.570,0:02:01.680

So, yeah, and

0:02:03.720,0:02:06.485

even my family name,

0:02:06.485,0:02:07.481

it's hard for them.

0:02:07.481,0:02:11.433

And the name Phi, it's related to your home country, the Philippines, is that right?

0:02:11.433,0:02:12.449

Yeah.

0:02:12.449,0:02:17.564

It's 'Phi' Philippines and Pinagpala when you combine them it's

0:02:18.560,0:02:21.401

meaning blessed.

0:02:21.401,0:02:23.442

That's lovely, that's lovely.

0:02:23.442,0:02:26.345

Thank you for sharing that. And where do you live, now?

0:02:26.345,0:02:30.407

Yeah, I live in Germantown, Maryland.

0:02:30.407,0:02:32.455

And you've lived there since?

0:02:32.455,0:02:35.040

Since 2014, in Maryland.

0:02:36.300,0:02:38.363

And are you..

0:02:38.363,0:02:40.474

let's see, so you moved here from

0:02:40.474,0:02:42.550

Las Piñas City, is that correct?

0:02:42.550,0:02:43.980

Yeah, Las Piñas City,

0:02:44.940,0:02:46.122
Philippines.

0:02:46.122,0:02:47.802
Okay, and..

0:02:47.802,0:02:51.429
and now you're studying nursing at Montgomery College, is that right?

0:02:51.429,0:02:52.874
Yeah, I'm..

0:02:52.874,0:02:54.360
I'm studying

0:02:55.360,0:02:57.319
major in nursing, yeah.

0:02:57.319,0:03:04.066
And can you tell me a little bit about the work that you do here, in the DMV area?

0:03:04.066,0:03:06.652
I'm..

0:03:06.652,0:03:07.670
I work in

0:03:08.640,0:03:12.623
Virginia Hospital Center as a clinical technician.

0:03:12.623,0:03:14.579
My primary

0:03:14.579,0:03:16.040
job is

0:03:16.040,0:03:19.562
assisting the nurses and taking care of the patients,

0:03:19.562,0:03:24.318
and I'm assigned in Behavioral Health Unit,

0:03:24.318,0:03:26.825
wherein I

0:03:26.825,0:03:31.991
take care, or deal with people with mental issues, or

0:03:31.991,0:03:34.175
behavioral problems, yeah.

0:03:34.175,0:03:36.690
It sounds like very challenging work.

0:03:36.690,0:03:38.160
Yes, indeed.

0:03:39.160,0:03:46.167
Dealing with these people, having a difficult,
you know, time in their life..

0:03:46.167,0:03:48.420
The most

0:03:50.040,0:03:53.636
challenging is those who are really depressed.

0:03:53.636,0:03:57.060
So the people with depression is not a joke.

0:03:57.780,0:04:00.333

So seeing them

0:04:00.333,0:04:04.246

getting well, is a fulfillment, yeah. I..

0:04:04.246,0:04:06.080

I feel happy when I'm..

0:04:06.080,0:04:06.927

I'm help..

0:04:06.927,0:04:09.602

I'm one of the those teams who help them.

0:04:10.600,0:04:13.553

It sounds like it can be challenging, but also rewarding.

0:04:13.553,0:04:15.000

Yes.

0:04:16.560,0:04:18.337

So let's talk about

0:04:18.337,0:04:20.853

where you grew up.

0:04:20.853,0:04:23.866

What.. did you grow up in Las Piñas City or in a different city?

0:04:24.840,0:04:25.360

Yeah I..

0:04:25.360,0:04:27.333

I grew up in

0:04:27.333,0:04:28.627

Las Piñas City.

0:04:28.627,0:04:33.360

Actually Muntinlupa, where I born, and Las Piñas City.

0:04:33.360,0:04:38.888

I'm going to go back and forth, yes, so. but most of my,

0:04:38.888,0:04:41.880

from my teenage years up to

0:04:42.900,0:04:45.209

I got married, I was in Las Piñas City.

0:04:45.209,0:04:49.744

And can you tell me a little bit about when you were growing up, who was in your family?

0:04:49.744,0:04:53.041

So, as I mentioned, I was

0:04:53.041,0:04:54.083

go back and forth.

0:04:55.080,0:04:57.180

My childhood,

0:04:58.320,0:05:00.297

I spent it with my..

0:05:00.297,0:05:14.340

I stayed with my grandparents, wherein I lived with my cousins, aunt, uncle, yeah. And in Las Piñas, where I stayed with my parents, it's just us,

0:05:15.540,0:05:17.448

my siblings and my parents, yeah.

0:05:17.448,0:05:25.452

So when Filipinos think about family, do they think of it as a large extended family? Do you have a large family in the Philippines?

0:05:25.452,0:05:27.561

Yes, yes.

0:05:27.561,0:05:33.451

Yeah, I grew up with my cousins nearby, we grew up together, yeah.

0:05:33.451,0:05:36.836

It is fun, it's fun, yeah.

0:05:36.836,0:05:42.989

Can you tell me more about what made it fun? What kind of activities you did together or some of the memories you have.

0:05:42.989,0:05:47.604

Although it's difficult because

0:05:47.604,0:05:54.420

we are disciplined by, of course, the grandparents, we cannot.. we can't

0:05:55.260,0:06:02.700

just play at any time we wanted.. we just.. we needed to finish all the household chores first.

0:06:02.700,0:06:04.986

And

0:06:04.986,0:06:07.499

it's.. there's..

0:06:08.480,0:06:09.625

knowing that

0:06:09.625,0:06:12.651

you have the same age around you,

0:06:12.651,0:06:18.871

and you're sharing the same interest, and you're playing together, yeah, that's fun.

0:06:18.871,0:06:24.084

Can you tell me about the chores that you did when you were younger, when you were a child?

0:06:24.084,0:06:26.974

Yeah, we don't have vacuum,

0:06:26.974,0:06:32.792

so we use swept, brooms and

0:06:34.760,0:06:43.080

we have this thing called bunot, wherein we.. to make the floor shiny, yes.

0:06:44.880,0:06:46.978

That's how you do it.

0:06:46.978,0:06:50.608

We don't have this faucet..

0:06:50.608,0:06:52.380

faucet wherein you can

0:06:52.980,0:07:03.180

wash the dishes with. I don't know how to call it, but we have to pump, oh it's a pump.. we

0:07:03.180,0:07:10.620

have to pump the water out of the.. from underground, and we bring it inside the..

0:07:10.620,0:07:17.819
inside our home, and we can use it to you know wash everything, yeah, we did that.

0:07:17.819,0:07:22.699
Do you think about that sometimes, now, when you're washing dishes here how different?

0:07:22.699,0:07:28.310
Oh my God, I'm telling my kids, "how lucky you are,

0:07:28.310,0:07:36.360
you don't have to use bunot to make the floor shine," you know.

0:07:37.020,0:07:39.699
Kids now are lucky.

0:07:39.699,0:07:42.660
Thank you so much for sharing that memory, I love that.

0:07:43.260,0:07:49.500
So tell me a little bit about the language
that you spoke at home when you were growing up.

0:07:50.580,0:07:52.374
Only Tagalog.

0:07:52.374,0:07:56.220
Philippine.. our Philippine language, yeah, only Tagalog we..

0:07:57.240,0:08:02.641
we actually don't speak English.

0:08:02.641,0:08:04.980
When did you first start studying English?

0:08:06.240,0:08:10.524
When I was studying in..

0:08:10.524,0:08:12.322
from elementary to high school,

0:08:12.322,0:08:12.960
and college.

0:08:14.460,0:08:15.342
And look at you now!

0:08:15.342,0:08:16.840
Isn't that perfect?

0:08:16.840,0:08:23.522
Do you still have the opportunity to speak Tagalog with family members here?

0:08:23.522,0:08:31.320
Yeah, when I speak with my husband, with my kids.. we still

0:08:32.960,0:08:36.900
trying to encourage our children to

0:08:36.900,0:08:42.960
speak English, no Tagalog, because we want them not to forget to, you know,

0:08:45.000,0:08:46.732
our language.

0:08:46.732,0:08:49.826
Absolutely, so you raise your children
bilingually?

0:08:49.826,0:08:55.654
Yeah, but, you know what, I want to share this, my youngest son,

0:08:55.654,0:08:58.518
he has this delayed speech,

0:08:58.518,0:09:02.936
but when he started talking, like around four years old,

0:09:02.936,0:09:06.560
he doesn't know how to speak Tagalog, he speaks English, weirdly.

0:09:07.574,0:09:09.182
And then when we

0:09:09.182,0:09:17.823
came here, he doesn't have this difficulty in,
you know, communicating with the other children,

0:09:17.823,0:09:23.075
but then he learned Tagalog when he was here already, that's funny, right?

0:09:23.075,0:09:26.577
So you made sure that he did learn the language?

0:09:26.577,0:09:27.220
Yeah.

0:09:27.220,0:09:33.670
By bringing him back to the Philippines and having him spend time with your extended family?

0:09:33.670,0:09:36.214
No, we teach him here.

0:09:36.214,0:09:36.999
I see.

0:09:36.999,0:09:42.655
Yeah, he never learned.. back in my country he never learned to speak in Tagalog.

0:09:42.655,0:09:45.247
He only speaks English.

0:09:45.247,0:09:47.237
That's funny.

0:09:47.237,0:09:49.244
But now he's bilingual?

0:09:49.244,0:09:51.561
Yeah, he's bilingual.

0:09:51.561,0:09:52.849
That must make you feel..

0:09:52.849,0:09:54.780
How does that make you feel?

0:09:55.800,0:10:00.952
I feel good, because I keep telling him that
he must..

0:10:00.952,0:10:03.440
he must learn

0:10:03.440,0:10:10.464
our language. And he also took a class in Spanish, I want him also to learn Spanish.

0:10:11.440,0:10:13.080
He speaks three languages?

0:10:13.080,0:10:14.160
Yeah.

0:10:15.420,0:10:20.940
Wonderful, so tell me a little bit now about the house.. You started to tell me a little bit about it.

0:10:20.940,0:10:26.880
But tell me more about the house, or the apartment that you grew up in, and how it was furnished, how

0:10:26.880,0:10:31.200
big it was, how many people lived there? Can you describe your home when you were growing up?

0:10:32.460,0:10:35.095
It's not an apartment, but

0:10:36.080,0:10:42.469
it's like.. it's a house that they build but they don't..

0:10:42.469,0:10:46.061
but we don't own the land, you know what I mean?

0:10:46.061,0:10:54.172
So, the house is made of.. made of concrete materials, but

0:10:55.160,0:11:00.660
to compare with those who are.. people living in a village.

0:11:01.560,0:11:04.856
You know, they live in a bungalow type of house.

0:11:04.856,0:11:09.914
The house that I lived is not that fancy.

0:11:09.914,0:11:15.036
It's not.. but it's made of concrete materials, and

0:11:15.036,0:11:20.220
we have a living room,

0:11:21.660,0:11:26.519
bathroom, but then

0:11:26.519,0:11:31.256
we don't have our room for ourselves.

0:11:31.256,0:11:35.265
The only room.. we have the bedroom for only my parents,

0:11:35.265,0:11:37.782
but us, we don't have our own, so.

0:11:37.782,0:11:41.770
How many people were in the house all together when you were growing up?

0:11:41.770,0:11:45.540
In my grandparents',

0:11:47.400,0:11:50.874
one, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight?

0:11:50.874,0:11:55.227
Yeah, eight, sometimes nine, sometimes ten, whoever comes.

0:11:55.227,0:12:00.349
But in my parents it's.. my five.. we are five

0:12:00.349,0:12:06.591
children in there, with my four siblings, and my parents, my mother and father,

0:12:06.591,0:12:08.272
so it was seven.

0:12:08.272,0:12:13.500

And how did you feel about that when you were growing up, with all these people living together in one place?

0:12:18.780,0:12:20.537

I didn't..

0:12:20.537,0:12:27.149

For me, it's.. I see it as normal,

0:12:27.149,0:12:29.385

because that's what..

0:12:30.360,0:12:35.686

That's what I grew up with. I feel like it's normal, but then

0:12:35.686,0:12:37.320

when I had my own family,

0:12:37.320,0:12:40.463

I realized it's not normal.

0:12:40.463,0:12:44.019

You have your.. you have to have your own privacy.

0:12:45.000,0:12:55.000

That's interesting, so do you sometimes share these stories now, and and think about the difference between how you grew up and the way you live now? Do you share that with your children?

0:12:56.000,0:12:57.720

Do you reflect on that sometimes?

0:13:00.120,0:13:02.828

But my.. not really.

0:13:02.828,0:13:08.608

But my children, like my son, they miss

0:13:08.608,0:13:12.053

our family back there because, you know, here

0:13:12.053,0:13:14.296

you cannot just

0:13:14.296,0:13:22.869

be with your friends that easy because you have to drive, you have to.. you know, but then in..

0:13:22.869,0:13:25.520

in my country, inside..

0:13:25.520,0:13:32.520

inside the house, everyone was there. You don't have to look for another people to be with.

0:13:32.520,0:13:34.860

So, you were..

0:13:35.640,0:13:41.160

you mentioned the word privacy. Do you feel like there's a big difference between

0:13:42.000,0:13:47.580

privacy in American culture and the concept of privacy in the Philippines?

0:13:48.240,0:13:54.200

Yeah, actually I just realized that recently, because my son,

0:13:54.200,0:13:56.400

of course he has his own

0:13:57.420,0:13:59.037
bedroom.

0:13:59.037,0:14:03.178
He always wants the door closed.

0:14:03.178,0:14:06.960
Every time I come into his room, and I

0:14:08.220,0:14:13.185
turn around, he says, "can you please close my door before you..?"

0:14:13.185,0:14:18.050
Okay, I realized that we don't do that in our country.

0:14:18.050,0:14:21.952
And actually we don't have our bedroom. So,

0:14:24.000,0:14:27.300
now I realize that some.. there's..

0:14:27.960,0:14:35.460
While these kids my age during that time,
I needed privacy, too, but I didn't

0:14:35.460,0:14:42.600
have that chance to have my privacy, because me and my siblings, we shared the same..

0:14:43.620,0:14:54.000
I believe that's a room. We just, I lay a mop.. I lay down some kind of a mat, and then we all
laying

0:14:54.000,0:14:58.021
down there when we needed to sleep at
night.

0:14:58.021,0:15:00.000
Thank you for sharing that memory.

0:15:01.800,0:15:06.065
Tell me a little bit about meal times in your family.

0:15:06.065,0:15:10.499
What kind of food you would typically eat, or would you all eat dinner together?

0:15:10.499,0:15:13.440
Did you help your parents with cooking?

0:15:16.020,0:15:19.359
I remember when my mother is

0:15:19.359,0:15:23.669
cooking in our meal.

0:15:23.669,0:15:26.700
I'm looking at it so that

0:15:27.480,0:15:36.120
I learned how to cook, because at an early age, like six, you must learn how to cook. At the age

0:15:36.120,0:15:45.180
of six years old. And you must learn how to wash clothes manually by your hands. So everything we

0:15:45.180,0:15:48.390
must learn it from our parents, or we must learn it.

0:15:48.390,0:15:52.253
It's a must, so yeah, and..

0:15:52.253,0:15:54.480

I remember,

0:15:55.860,0:16:02.040

maybe I'm, as young as seven, there's that moment,

0:16:03.360,0:16:09.840

it's still in my memory, we eat together, but
it just happened that one time, after that no.

0:16:10.560,0:16:16.944

Because my parents need to work, so most of the time, it's just me and my siblings.

0:16:16.944,0:16:19.088

Just you and your siblings would eat together?

0:16:19.088,0:16:27.520

Yeah, most of the time, because they're both working, so, yeah. That's one memory that's still
in my mind.

0:16:27.520,0:16:35.511

What about at holidays, were there important holidays where you would gather together and eat
special foods?

0:16:35.511,0:16:39.780

Yeah, that's the most special moment

0:16:40.560,0:16:47.502

during my childhood, is when it's Christmas, we all get together.

0:16:47.502,0:16:51.236

Oh my God, all of us,

0:16:51.236,0:16:56.339

my grandparents, my cousins, all of us.

0:16:56.339,0:17:06.840

And we're celebrating it and we're having fun, and we exchange gifts, and that's the
most important part, the gifts that we're receiving

0:17:07.800,0:17:09.546

every Christmas.

0:17:09.546,0:17:14.835

I'd like to talk about the gifts at Christmas, but first could you tell me a little bit about..

0:17:14.835,0:17:17.229

if we could go back to food,

0:17:17.229,0:17:22.233

I've heard that rice is very important in Filipino culture. Would you agree?

0:17:22.233,0:17:25.343

Yeah, rice is life. When we..

0:17:25.343,0:17:28.380

If we don't have eaten rice during the meal,

0:17:29.160,0:17:31.362

we felt like we're weak,

0:17:31.362,0:17:32.840

we're feeling weak.

0:17:32.840,0:17:34.521

If you don't have rice, you feel weak?

0:17:34.521,0:17:43.800

Yeah, we tried that here, when we came here first, that okay, let's eat like Americans; bread,
cereal,

0:17:44.520,0:17:46.258
but

0:17:46.258,0:17:52.329
my kids are like, "mom can we have rice? We feel dizzy."

0:17:52.329,0:17:58.132
I'm telling you it's true. We feel dizzy. So yeah, back in my country we all..

0:17:58.132,0:17:59.558
morning, rice.

0:17:59.558,0:18:01.360
lunch, rice.

0:18:01.360,0:18:03.749
dinner, rice.

0:18:03.749,0:18:05.761
It sounds like a very important dish.

0:18:05.761,0:18:06.261
Yeah.

0:18:07.240,0:18:14.767
Let's go.. Are there other foods that are really important in Filipino culture, like traditional foods?

0:18:16.760,0:18:29.538
Every Lenten Season.. no, not.. on Lenten Season, we don't eat meat, we avoid meat. During Lenten Season,

0:18:29.538,0:18:34.260
we can only eat fish, that's it. And..

0:18:36.060,0:18:38.153
every,

0:18:38.153,0:18:41.968
what's this.. All Soul's Day, yeah,

0:18:41.968,0:18:47.880
we put this, we call it..

0:18:49.080,0:18:54.478
it's like a sticky rice. We put it in the

0:18:54.478,0:18:57.840
altar, it's like to..

0:18:58.620,0:19:03.900
we have this belief that our relatives who passed away will visit our homes,

0:19:03.900,0:19:06.499
and that's offering.

0:19:06.499,0:19:08.960
Your ancestors.

0:19:08.960,0:19:15.830
Yeah, not only ancestors, but any relatives or loved ones that passed away.

0:19:15.830,0:19:22.552
So you would offer sticky rice to ancestors and to other family members?

0:19:22.552,0:19:27.668
- Yeah.

- And when you mentioned the altar, was that an altar in your home?

0:19:27.668,0:19:30.084
Yeah we have an altar, yeah.

0:19:30.084,0:19:34.216
- Can you describe to me what that was like?
- Yeah, there's a..

0:19:34.216,0:19:40.000
figure of this big picture or figure of

0:19:40.000,0:19:47.931
Mama Mary or Jesus Christ, a cross and
Santo Nino, yeah..

0:19:47.931,0:19:52.380
And we see to it that we put in this

0:19:53.100,0:19:56.660
sampaguita, Jasmine flower.. yeah.

0:19:56.660,0:19:59.366
That sounds beautiful.

0:19:59.366,0:20:03.826
Do you still have an altar in your home now? Do you continue that tradition?

0:20:03.826,0:20:12.770
I have made something, but not that.. like we, back in my county, we have that special place
at home.

0:20:12.770,0:20:19.770
But now, I just brought this Santo Niño and my cross from the Philippines here, and

0:20:19.770,0:20:22.906
I just display it.

0:20:22.906,0:20:25.704
The Santo Niño, does that mean the..

0:20:25.704,0:20:26.559
the..

0:20:26.559,0:20:27.471
The young

0:20:27.471,0:20:30.840
Jesus Christ.
- I was going to say the baby, the infant, yes!
- The baby, yeah!

0:20:33.120,0:20:35.414
That sounds really beautiful.

0:20:35.414,0:20:43.140
You mentioned earlier the importance of holidays, and you started to talk about Christmas. Could
you tell me more about your memories of celebrating Christmas

0:20:43.140,0:20:45.433
in the Philippines when you were a child?

0:20:45.433,0:20:49.421
Yeah, Christmas for me is very special,

0:20:49.421,0:21:00.120
because that's the time when we can eat special food that we don't eat the ordinary days.
-What kind of food?

0:21:03.720,0:21:21.720
We have this usually spaghetti, pancit it's
noodles or pancit, lumpia..
-What is lumpia?
-It's egg roll, egg roll and..

0:21:21.720,0:21:25.269
like menudo, yeah.

0:21:25.269,0:21:27.561
What is that?

0:21:27.561,0:21:31.955
-It's beef stew.
-Beef stew?
-Yeah!

0:21:31.955,0:21:36.000
Do you associate Christmas with beef stew? You remember that?

0:21:36.000,0:21:41.640
Yeah, beef stew, we call it menudo. Beef stew,

0:21:42.660,0:21:46.857
you always find that in every, you know,

0:21:46.857,0:21:49.656
celebration,

0:21:49.656,0:21:51.705
feast, yeah.

0:21:51.705,0:22:02.280
And you mentioned earlier that gifts were very important on Christmas. Can you share any memories you have about special gifts that you received, or that you gave?

0:22:04.440,0:22:11.280
We don't give gifts in Christmas during that time, because we're just, you know,

0:22:11.280,0:22:17.580
kids, so we are the ones receiving gifts, that's why we're enjoying and we love Christmas.

0:22:19.520,0:22:24.120
I'm excited to receive money, and..

0:22:28.200,0:22:37.320
actually money, because we don't have that, you know, and, yeah..

0:22:38.340,0:22:44.700
and clothes, new clothes, because we only have clothes, new clothes every Christmas, and

0:22:44.700,0:22:53.940
that will be your your nice clothes during the entire year. Yeah, so, that's the most

0:22:53.940,0:22:57.594
memorable and exciting part of Christmas day.

0:22:57.594,0:23:05.160
Do you remember any particular item of clothing that you received, as a Christmas gift, that was particularly special to you?

0:23:06.300,0:23:13.560
I remember, that's the first and the last time that I wore that, dress because I'm kind

0:23:13.560,0:23:21.660
of boyish. So that yellow dress, that my mom, I think, bought me for Christmas party.

0:23:22.560,0:23:26.008
Yeah, that's so special to me.

0:23:26.008,0:23:30.240
Can you describe the yellow dress a little more? Tell us more about that.

0:23:31.920,0:23:40.560
It's a yellow color, and it's just simple, but it's a dress. I couldn't forget it

0:23:40.560,0:23:44.282
because it's a dress, it's made of..

0:23:47.280,0:23:51.060
On the top of the linen it's

0:23:51.780,0:23:57.240
see through, you know, and there's a floral here, and it's off shoulder.

0:24:01.360,0:24:06.240
But typically what would you.. what would be typical clothing you would wear, not on a holiday?

0:24:07.380,0:24:12.126
Shorts, t-shirts, yeah.

0:24:12.126,0:24:25.260
You mentioned earlier the Season of Lent. It's Lent now, so we're preparing for.. people are preparing for Easter. Do you have memories of Easter in the Philippines? Any

0:24:25.980,0:24:29.797
particularly strong memories of that holiday?

0:24:29.797,0:24:34.309
Yeah, every Lenten Season, we are not taking..

0:24:34.309,0:24:44.240
you're not supposed to take a shower on the Friday.. on the Friday.

0:24:44.240,0:24:45.794
Good Friday?

0:24:45.794,0:24:51.645
Yeah, Friday, you're not going to take a shower on Friday. And we..

0:24:51.645,0:24:56.443
we can only watch about Jesus Christ on television.

0:24:56.443,0:25:09.305
There's no entertainment at all. You don't have to.. you are not allowed to play music during Lenten Season. And..

0:25:11.280,0:25:18.600
in every Lenten Season, we have to..

0:25:20.880,0:25:25.657
I think, what else we do?

0:25:25.657,0:25:29.667
You have to be quiet, quiet, no playing,

0:25:29.667,0:25:31.559
no playing.

0:25:31.559,0:25:33.089
On Good Friday or throughout all of Lent?

0:25:33.089,0:25:49.082
Friday and all throughout Lent. One week, you cannot watch entertainment on TV. Just watch about Jesus Christ and religious things and

0:25:49.082,0:25:51.368
you don't play music,

0:25:51.368,0:25:53.719
you don't play music.

0:25:53.719,0:25:55.620
And on Easter Sunday, would you go to church?

0:25:57.240,0:26:00.027

Yeah, we go to church. Actually I'm..

0:26:00.027,0:26:15.000

I baptized as a Protestant. I'm not a Catholic, but I grew up with a Catholic environment, you know, I'm attending the Catholic Church mass, and

0:26:16.000,0:26:19.790

we live in a Catholic, you know..

0:26:19.790,0:26:22.616

We have this altar, yeah, but I'm a Protestant.

0:26:22.616,0:26:26.400

Can you describe any memories of

0:26:27.000,0:26:32.220

Easter when you were growing up? Do you have any particularly strong memories of that holiday?

0:26:32.220,0:26:34.216

No.

0:26:34.216,0:26:37.028

Are there any special foods that you would eat on that day?

0:26:37.028,0:26:39.240

No, we don't celebrate Easter.

0:26:40.440,0:26:47.280

Okay, so tell me a little bit more about, you mentioned that during Lent you would watch

0:26:48.360,0:26:54.256

only TV shows related to your religion.

0:26:54.256,0:27:00.180

Can you tell me a little bit more about music and entertainment and television when you were growing up?

0:27:04.800,0:27:11.880

I remember, it was.. we haven't had.. we don't have television at home,

0:27:11.880,0:27:20.169

when I was.. during my childhood. We started to have a television when my parents were able to

0:27:20.169,0:27:23.580

sold this.. we have a

0:27:24.360,0:27:30.360

small piggery. They took care of this pig and they sold it, and then that's the time we

0:27:30.360,0:27:32.812

had a television. They bought a television.

0:27:32.812,0:27:39.060

So, I remember I watched Voltes V.

0:27:41.220,0:27:44.340

Let me go back, I want to make sure that I understand that. So you

0:27:44.340,0:27:47.760

did not have a television at home, would you watch it somewhere else?

0:27:49.860,0:27:56.886

I.. we had a TV when I was, I think, already nine years old.

0:27:56.886,0:28:04.348

And so, you do remember when your parents brought the television into your house at age nine?

0:28:04.348,0:28:12.349

Yeah, we were so very happy, because we're not going to our neighbor to, you know, watch TV. We have our own at home.

0:28:12.349,0:28:14.320

But before that you would go to the neighbors to watch shows?

0:28:14.320,0:28:16.880

Yes, yes.

0:28:16.880,0:28:19.260

Tell me about the kind of shows that you watched.

0:28:21.000,0:28:23.460

Usually Tagalog film.

0:28:23.460,0:28:26.880

Tagalog shows, like a Filipino shows, yeah.

0:28:28.260,0:28:35.040

Do you remember watching any American TV shows, when you were a child, or movies?

0:28:37.560,0:28:39.504

No.

0:28:39.504,0:28:49.080

Sometimes people have memories about what they thought the United States was going to be like, and then how it was different when they got here and

0:28:49.080,0:28:54.780

sometimes that's influenced by American movies, or music, or television shows.

0:28:55.560,0:29:03.840

So, tell me a little bit about, you mentioned that during Lent, you would not play music, or..

0:29:04.920,0:29:09.723

Can you tell me a little bit about music that you enjoyed?

0:29:09.723,0:29:18.060

Did you listen to the radio? Did people play music in your community, in your neighborhood? Tell me a little bit about music.

0:29:20.340,0:29:22.742

My favorite, I..

0:29:22.742,0:29:25.033

My favorite is menudo.

0:29:25.033,0:29:28.412

Ah! Yes!

0:29:28.412,0:29:31.013

I loved collecting their stuff.

0:29:31.013,0:29:35.460

Yeah, I heard from them too, Menudo, yes!

0:29:35.460,0:29:40.860

Yeah, Menudo, yeah. I heard music,

0:29:44.840,0:29:49.383

American Music, you know, like

0:29:50.360,0:29:53.188

Skyline Pigeon Fly, it's old.

0:29:53.188,0:30:00.603

Yeah, but who's singing that song? Skyline Pigeon Fly, yeah.

0:30:00.603,0:30:03.960
and yeah I listen but my favorite is Menudo.

0:30:04.800,0:30:08.124
I didn't catch the name that you mentioned
"Sky.." what was it?

0:30:08.124,0:30:14.952
Skyline Pigeon Fly. I don't know who sings that song, but I always heard that when I was young.

0:30:14.952,0:30:16.800
Interesting! I have to look that one up.

0:30:17.880,0:30:20.867
Did you ever go to the movies when you were growing up?

0:30:20.867,0:30:25.708
Yeah, yeah, but only Filipino movies.

0:30:25.708,0:30:29.120
Do you remember any movie.. I'm sorry go ahead.

0:30:29.120,0:30:32.520
Most of the stories from rags to riches, yeah.

0:30:35.280,0:30:37.473
Is that a popular theme in Filipino..?

0:30:37.473,0:30:40.570
Yeah, it's popular during the time that,

0:30:42.560,0:30:45.696
I go to the movie by myself is Sharon Cuneta,

0:30:45.696,0:30:51.180
she's the most popular actress that time, so every time she

0:30:52.380,0:30:58.200
has a movie showing, I really go to a movie theater by my own, and then..

0:30:58.200,0:31:00.241
I like the..

0:31:00.241,0:31:04.967
I'm inspired by her. I've always go from rags to riches.

0:31:04.967,0:31:08.040
Which actress was that? Could you tell me her name again?

0:31:09.040,0:31:10.520
Sharon Cuneta.

0:31:10.520,0:31:11.988
Okay I'll have to look her up.

0:31:11.988,0:31:13.480
Yeah.

0:31:13.480,0:31:21.240
So tell me a little bit about school and education in the Philippines, when you were growing up.
Do you have any memories you could share about your school?

0:31:22.020,0:31:29.700
Yeah, we are just very fortunate that my father worked in..

0:31:31.860,0:31:39.060
in the company wherein the owner

0:31:40.080,0:31:48.984
has this presidential.. not a scholarship.. presidential

0:31:48.984,0:31:51.420
discount for the

0:31:53.220,0:31:58.142
employees and their children if they want to
study because it's a school.

0:31:58.142,0:32:03.069
it's a school, and my father worked there..

0:32:03.069,0:32:08.340
worked there, and then we had a chance to finish

0:32:09.600,0:32:12.368
high school to college. So..

0:32:12.368,0:32:15.301
What kind of work did your father do?

0:32:15.301,0:32:22.193
He was a construction before, and then he turned to Housekeeping Department.

0:32:22.193,0:32:27.978
So the school was associated with the company that he worked for?

0:32:27.978,0:32:35.220
The school itself is owned by this.. can I mention his name?

0:32:36.480,0:32:42.645
Antonio Laperal Tamayo, he's a businessman and at the same time a philanthropist.

0:32:42.645,0:32:43.443
Interesting!

0:32:43.443,0:32:51.688
So all his employees, yeah, they have that
opportunity to

0:32:51.688,0:32:54.180
study in the school he owns,

0:32:54.780,0:32:56.597
their children.

0:32:56.597,0:33:01.087
Can you tell me a little bit more about your educational experience?

0:33:01.087,0:33:06.240
How many students were in the classroom, for example, when you were in elementary school?

0:33:08.640,0:33:11.460
Elementary School I was in public, so

0:33:15.000,0:33:22.476
we are like 30 in the classroom, yeah, when I was in elementary.

0:33:22.476,0:33:23.848
13 or 30?

0:33:23.848,0:33:25.620
30. three, zero.

0:33:25.620,0:33:31.306
Okay, and then you went to a private school that was run by this company when you went to high
school?

0:33:31.306,0:33:35.425
Yeah, when I went to high school, so it's a
private school.

0:33:35.425,0:33:37.560

Was that a hard transition?

0:33:39.840,0:33:42.240
Yeah, it is.

0:33:42.240,0:33:42.740
Tell me more about it.

0:33:44.640,0:33:48.540
Because in public school,

0:33:50.040,0:33:53.751
we don't have these activities that they have in a private schools.

0:33:53.751,0:33:56.539
But here's the thing,

0:33:56.539,0:33:59.796
in a private school, you have to.. the only

0:33:59.796,0:34:07.620
free is the tuition fee, but you have to spend for the uniform,

0:34:09.000,0:34:11.726
and, of course, the books,

0:34:11.726,0:34:16.260
unlike in public, you don't have to pay for the books.

0:34:17.040,0:34:21.524
Was it challenging to pay for the books and the uniforms, was that hard?

0:34:21.524,0:34:24.281
Yeah, so most of the time,

0:34:24.281,0:34:28.434
the uniform is hand down from,

0:34:28.434,0:34:33.449
from somebody who studied there. It's a hand down.

0:34:33.449,0:34:39.840
So we don't have new ones. Books also a hand down from, you know..

0:34:39.840,0:34:42.480
How many brothers and sisters do you have?

0:34:44.280,0:34:47.342
Two sisters and two brothers.

0:34:47.342,0:34:50.160
And where do you come in the family? What number are you?

0:34:50.700,0:34:52.165
I'm number two.

0:34:52.165,0:34:57.386
Okay, so would you wear hand-me-downs from your older sibling?

0:34:57.386,0:34:59.880
No, from other people.

0:34:59.880,0:35:01.411
Okay.

0:35:01.411,0:35:02.270
Yeah, from other people.

0:35:02.270,0:35:12.120
And was it academically challenging when you went from public school to a private high school? Did you find that it was difficult?

0:35:18.000,0:35:19.686
Not really.

0:35:20.000,0:35:22.440
Did you enjoy high school?

0:35:22.920,0:35:23.440
Pardon?

0:35:23.920,0:35:25.458
Did you enjoy high school?

0:35:25.458,0:35:28.168
Yeah, I really enjoyed high school.

0:35:28.168,0:35:32.014
Tell me what you enjoyed about it.

0:35:32.014,0:35:35.340
Because it's a private school, so

0:35:36.720,0:35:38.324
I have..

0:35:38.324,0:35:40.982
I've been in this surrounding..

0:35:40.982,0:35:43.920
I'm surrounded with this, you know, people..

0:35:46.640,0:35:48.510
classmates with..

0:35:48.510,0:35:53.640
I consider them rich.

0:35:54.660,0:35:56.100
They're rich, and..

0:35:58.860,0:36:03.942
There's part of me that I felt somehow

0:36:03.942,0:36:12.231
jealous that they have this thing that I don't have. They're nice, they..

0:36:12.231,0:36:18.900
they share and they make.. they were nice to me, and, yeah,

0:36:19.440,0:36:22.699
I've learned a lot of

0:36:22.699,0:36:23.580
stuff like,

0:36:25.560,0:36:28.793
something that is.. I don't have, like,

0:36:30.760,0:36:37.212
we don't have gadgets at that time.. There's gadgets like this pager,

0:36:37.212,0:36:41.160
yeah, they have pager, and a phone..

0:36:41.880,0:36:44.981
it's the thick one.

0:36:44.981,0:36:51.049
So some of the things that you saw your peers have,

0:36:51.049,0:36:54.878

that made you feel a little bit jealous, like you wanted to have those things too?

0:36:54.878,0:37:02.780

Yeah, I'm just questioning, why I don't have that? And they actually give me some of their stuff, that's, you know..

0:37:02.780,0:37:06.396

What are some things that they gave you?

0:37:06.396,0:37:11.340

Like they share me like

0:37:13.380,0:37:18.097

a fancy book,

0:37:18.097,0:37:22.214

a bracelet, like that, you know, and

0:37:22.214,0:37:24.660

I remember, it's

0:37:25.620,0:37:31.200

most of the teenagers during that time, they have these stationaries, a special paper

0:37:31.200,0:37:32.520

with the.. you know?

0:37:32.520,0:37:33.520

Yes.

0:37:33.520,0:37:37.827

Yeah, so they give me like, you know, those kind of things,

0:37:37.827,0:37:43.193

which I couldn't buy myself, you know, so..

0:37:43.193,0:37:48.769

It sounds like your high school experience maybe opened up the world a little bit too?

0:37:48.769,0:37:52.080

Yes, yes, and I started to watch

0:37:57.800,0:37:58.681

American movies.

0:37:58.681,0:38:01.602

Oh, tell me more about that.

0:38:01.602,0:38:05.280

Yeah, what is this movie that..

0:38:08.820,0:38:13.025

Patrick Swayze the Ghost.

0:38:13.025,0:38:17.363

Yeah, Patrick Swayze and,

0:38:17.363,0:38:21.789

most of these movies of

0:38:21.789,0:38:24.280

Die Hard, yeah.

0:38:24.280,0:38:33.600

So when you saw movies like Ghost or Die Hard, what kind of ideas did you have about America based on those movies?

0:38:38.080,0:38:43.260

Actually, I have already.. I had already, I had already

0:38:43.260,0:38:49.260
an idea about America, because my great grandmother lived in America.

0:38:49.260,0:38:50.760
Oh interesting.

0:38:51.180,0:38:52.703
That's interesting.

0:38:52.703,0:38:57.780
Yeah, my great-grandmother lived in America, so every time she visited the country..

0:38:59.460,0:39:05.220
Yeah, I knew America as a place with a lot of chocolates.

0:39:05.220,0:39:07.720
A place with a lot of chocolates?

0:39:08.700,0:39:12.397
Yeah, a lot of chocolates, and a place wherein

0:39:12.397,0:39:14.360
there's a lot.. you can eat

0:39:14.360,0:39:17.860
what's this.. corned beef.

0:39:17.860,0:39:21.392
Spam.

0:39:21.392,0:39:27.309
Spam, that's interesting. I heard that Filipinos enjoy spam, is that true?

0:39:27.309,0:39:27.840
Yeah.

0:39:29.840,0:39:30.429
And how do you prepare it?

0:39:30.429,0:39:31.920
Pardon?

0:39:32.920,0:39:37.525
How do you cook it? Do you heat it up? How do you.. what do you..

0:39:37.525,0:39:38.387
Fry.

0:39:38.387,0:39:39.540
You fry it, okay.

0:39:40.000,0:39:45.737
So tell me more about your grea,t you said your great grandmother lived in the United States?

0:39:45.737,0:39:46.500
Yes.

0:39:47.760,0:39:49.299
Where did she live?

0:39:50.280,0:39:51.240
Hawaii?

0:39:51.240,0:39:55.727
Hawaii or

0:39:55.727,0:39:56.735
Guam, yeah.

0:39:56.735,0:39:59.340
Okay, so you have, in your family,

0:40:00.300,0:40:03.660
multiple generations going back and forth between the United States

0:40:03.660,0:40:06.025
and the Philippines, it sounds like.

0:40:06.025,0:40:14.340
Yeah, I also have aunt, my father's sister, living

0:40:15.600,0:40:19.689
in Chicago, and they didn't..

0:40:19.689,0:40:24.208
It's seldom they visited the country, so

0:40:24.208,0:40:31.241
our country, so whenever they visited the country, it's like a feast, it's like a..

0:40:31.241,0:40:33.920
They bring presents to you when they came?

0:40:33.920,0:40:39.480
They have a package that, you know, distributed to every, you know..

0:40:40.980,0:40:44.400
They have packages they would distribute, yeah. Did they make packages to you, as well?

0:40:46.260,0:40:48.267
I remember they..

0:40:48.267,0:40:50.760
I received lipstick.

0:40:51.760,0:40:53.800
It's interesting that the things..

0:40:53.800,0:40:58.899
Because we're a lot, so, you know..

0:40:58.899,0:41:02.652
You can just bring home small stuff, so that you can, you know..

0:41:02.652,0:41:04.018
everyone receive something.

0:41:04.018,0:41:09.480
I love that story, I love that story. So at what year did you finish high school?

0:41:12.480,0:41:13.960
Pardon?

0:41:14.920,0:41:16.001
In what year did you graduate from high school?

0:41:16.001,0:41:17.480
1986.

0:41:17.480,0:41:23.917
Okay, and then, what did you do after high school, did you work, or did you continue your education?

0:41:23.917,0:41:30.060
I, actually, on and off from college because, you know,

0:41:31.140,0:41:43.440
I had to work and stop college and I changed.. I every time I shift majors so until I ended

0:41:43.440,0:41:52.680
up taking Bachelors of secondary.. in
Secondary Education I just realized I wanted to

0:41:52.680,0:41:53.995
be a teacher.

0:41:53.995,0:42:00.691
You wanted to be a teacher, so you studied secondary education and earned your Bachelor's Degree in the Philippines?

0:42:00.691,0:42:01.537
Yes.

0:42:01.537,0:42:02.598
And did you work

0:42:02.598,0:42:06.300
as a teacher there?
- Yes, yes I worked

0:42:06.840,0:42:15.300
as a teacher for two years, I think, two years. Then I gave birth, so I had to stop from

0:42:15.300,0:42:16.497
teaching.

0:42:16.497,0:42:19.160
You stopped teaching when you had your son?

0:42:19.160,0:42:20.238
First, yeah.

0:42:20.238,0:42:24.060
Okay, and did you enjoy teaching?

0:42:25.800,0:42:29.835
I enjoyed it at first, but then

0:42:29.835,0:42:35.820
it became stressful and..

0:42:37.920,0:42:40.279
burnt, burned out?

0:42:40.279,0:42:41.779
You got burned out?

0:42:41.779,0:42:42.279
Yeah!

0:42:42.279,0:42:44.640
What subject did you teach?

0:42:45.640,0:42:46.760
History.

0:42:46.760,0:42:49.474
Interesting and

0:42:50.440,0:42:54.180
what did you find stressful or challenging about teaching?

0:42:56.400,0:43:05.700
It's because, after your hour of work from the school, you bringing your

0:43:07.440,0:43:09.625
paper work at home.

0:43:09.625,0:43:10.524
Yes.

0:43:10.524,0:43:16.661

And you have.. you have to continue studying, studying, studying, so that you know

0:43:16.661,0:43:19.333
what you're going to teach,

0:43:19.333,0:43:22.140
and then, you will have to work on your..

0:43:23.960,0:43:28.395
What do you call this?.. prepare..

0:43:28.395,0:43:32.148
prepare for your next class, tomorrow.
- Lesson planning.

0:43:32.148,0:43:33.360
Lesson plan.

0:43:34.320,0:43:37.074
It's a lot, and you have to check all papers..

0:43:37.074,0:43:38.280
all the papers.

0:43:40.080,0:43:40.580

0:43:40.580,0:43:42.630
I am familiar with this, yes!

0:43:42.630,0:43:43.553
Yes!

0:43:43.553,0:43:47.760
So did you.. so you worked as a history teacher

0:43:48.540,0:43:52.320
in a high school for a few years, and then
you stopped. Did you ever go back to teaching?

0:43:53.820,0:43:54.547
No.

0:43:54.547,0:44:00.540
Okay, and so, then when did you develop
your interest in working in the nursing field?

0:44:04.200,0:44:07.388
This is the story about behind this nursing stuff,

0:44:07.388,0:44:08.280
this nursing thing.

0:44:09.240,0:44:17.160
My father really wants me to be a teacher.. to be a nurse. He really wants me to be a nurse, but

0:44:17.160,0:44:19.967
I'm not interested with that. So

0:44:19.967,0:44:21.556
I finished as

0:44:21.556,0:44:25.320
a teacher, but then when I came here in the U.S.,

0:44:27.120,0:44:28.660
I had no work

0:44:28.660,0:44:35.460
to, you know, work to.. I cannot find work easily because

0:44:36.660,0:44:38.780

I need to

0:44:38.780,0:44:45.824

acquire these working, that the government allowed me to work here, like

0:44:45.824,0:44:49.336

a work document. I mean, because

0:44:49.336,0:44:54.180

I'm the wife, the wife of this person who came here, so

0:44:55.140,0:44:58.952

I need to apply for that. So

0:44:58.952,0:45:02.580

I met this another Filipino who

0:45:03.480,0:45:07.596

asked me if I want to take care of.. you know, as a caregiver,

0:45:07.596,0:45:08.640

private caregiver,

0:45:09.480,0:45:11.844

so that's how it started.

0:45:11.844,0:45:15.275

That's so interesting, yeah, go ahead. I'm
sorry, go ahead.

0:45:15.275,0:45:17.880

Yeah, I find myself liking it,

0:45:18.540,0:45:23.932

and it's easy for me, and, yeah so I thought

0:45:23.932,0:45:31.749

"oh my God, why didn't I finish nursing? you know, back in my country, so that I could be a
nurse here.

0:45:31.749,0:45:37.077

I find it so interesting that your father wanted you to become a nurse,

0:45:37.077,0:45:44.263

and that now you are working in nursing. Is your father still alive? Does he know that you're
working as a nurse now?

0:45:46.240,0:45:48.880

Yeah!

0:45:48.880,0:45:51.105

He must be very proud of you.

0:45:52.080,0:45:59.700

That's a beautiful story and you also realize that you really enjoy nursing, too, so I think
that's beautiful.

0:46:02.040,0:46:07.497

You mentioned that you came here to the United States

0:46:07.497,0:46:10.201

with your husband, when you first came.

0:46:10.201,0:46:20.513

That was in 2014? Can you tell me a little
bit about how you felt when you decided, the two of you, to come to the United States?

0:46:20.513,0:46:23.580

Were you excited, were you nervous what were your feelings?

0:46:24.720,0:46:31.200

First, the feeling is excitement, very, very excited.

0:46:32.220,0:46:35.640

Knowing that we're coming here the next day, I didn't sleep at all.

0:46:38.100,0:46:38.600

0:46:38.600,0:46:41.452

And did you come directly to Maryland?

0:46:41.452,0:46:42.840

Directly in Maryland.

0:46:44.700,0:46:48.847

And so, it was your husband's work that

0:46:48.847,0:46:51.781

opened the door to coming to the United States?

0:46:51.781,0:46:59.387

Yeah, my husband.. back in our country, my husband works in, he's in IT.

0:46:59.387,0:47:00.284

In IT?

0:47:00.284,0:47:06.041

Yeah, and he worked in

0:47:06.041,0:47:15.900

a multinational company, and he was.. actually a group of them sent in the U.S. to work on the project,

0:47:16.920,0:47:21.334

and it was like,

0:47:21.334,0:47:34.633

in their agreement, that they can bring their family, and we are very fortunate that the company pay all the expenses.

0:47:34.633,0:47:36.069

For the move?

0:47:36.069,0:47:39.720

To move, yeah.. no only the fair, everything.

0:47:41.340,0:47:42.104

Yeah!

0:47:42.104,0:47:44.640

Was it..? go ahead, I'm sorry, go ahead.

0:47:44.640,0:47:50.987

Yeah, so, very fortunate. Like all the documents, all the

0:47:50.987,0:47:54.194

the travel expenses, they paid for it.

0:47:54.194,0:48:02.074

Wow! Do you remember, you mentioned that you did not sleep the night before you came,

0:48:02.074,0:48:05.002

how old were you, at that time?

0:48:05.002,0:48:05.880

Oh my God!

0:48:05.880,0:48:08.741

I think I'm..

0:48:09.300,0:48:10.020

I'm..

0:48:12.840,0:48:14.842

I'm 34-37?

0:48:14.842,0:48:18.180

And so knew you would be leaving

0:48:19.380,0:48:23.397

your home country starting a new life and you felt very excited.

0:48:23.397,0:48:29.521

Were you.. Did you have any feelings of sadness about things or people that you were leaving behind?

0:48:29.521,0:48:33.480

I'm sad, I'm really so sad because

0:48:34.560,0:48:44.760

I'm on the side of my husband's family, we have this close family, very, very close.

0:48:45.600,0:48:49.280

In my husband's family, yeah!

0:48:49.280,0:48:59.280

We are going to miss every weekends that we're together; attending the church, every weekend we used to eat that..

0:48:59.280,0:49:01.080

we spending time together

0:49:02.460,0:49:05.946

and my sister-in-law brought us to

0:49:05.946,0:49:07.860

to different places.

0:49:09.240,0:49:14.525

All of us, imagine how many, two families, three families..

0:49:14.525,0:49:16.140

I experienced

0:49:16.920,0:49:20.267

to travel outside of my country.

0:49:20.267,0:49:24.060

You have to visit Singapore, Thailand. That's what I'm going to miss.

0:49:24.720,0:49:25.271

yeah.

0:49:25.271,0:49:31.045

The traveling with your large extended family. I can imagine.

0:49:31.045,0:49:33.960

And I'm so also sad that

0:49:34.860,0:49:39.600

the fact that we're going to live here,

0:49:40.860,0:49:45.702

but.. my parents, because, you know, I'm..

0:49:45.702,0:49:50.880

I'm the one supporting for them. Not that much, that time,

0:49:52.320,0:50:00.300

so, I'll be.. I'm not sure if I'm going to get a job in here, so that's one of my problems. So

0:50:00.300,0:50:09.212
by the meantime, I don't send them
money for a while, yeah.

0:50:12.200,0:50:13.600
That must have been

0:50:13.600,0:50:19.557
very stressful to think about trying to find a job, trying to send money back.

0:50:19.557,0:50:20.057
Yeah.

0:50:20.940,0:50:24.978
I.. we..

0:50:24.978,0:50:33.692
We had a spa back in my country, a spa business, spa, massage, you know.

0:50:33.692,0:50:34.943
Spa business, interesting.

0:50:34.943,0:50:38.204
Yeah, so when I came here,

0:50:38.204,0:50:43.200
I met some of the Filipinos here, so I bought this

0:50:44.160,0:50:52.680
portable bed, massage bed, and I'm bringing it, and I'm going to their homes and then I massage,

0:50:52.680,0:51:00.000
like how many people in the house, like three bodies, or every.. an hour they pay me 45

0:51:00.000,0:51:01.190
dollars.

0:51:01.190,0:51:06.726
So whenever I have money that I earn from
doing that, I send it to my family.

0:51:06.726,0:51:10.277
That sounds like physically tiring work, was it?

0:51:10.277,0:51:16.459
Yes, it is. But..

0:51:16.459,0:51:18.920
Instead of, you know..

0:51:18.920,0:51:24.664
I'd rather do that than nothing to give to my family, you know, to my parents. They needed the

0:51:24.664,0:51:27.300
support.

0:51:27.900,0:51:30.716
So would it be fair to say that

0:51:30.716,0:51:41.340
when you got here, Filipinos in this area, the larger community helped you to learn about the
area, or to find work? Did you feel like you had a

0:51:41.340,0:51:44.448
Filipino community here that was helpful to you?

0:51:44.448,0:51:45.920
Yes, yes, yes.

0:51:45.920,0:51:48.888

There's a lot of Filipinos that's been really helping.

0:51:48.888,0:51:55.800

Were there any relatives here, like cousins or aunts or uncles?

0:51:55.800,0:51:56.670

No.

0:51:59.040,0:52:04.500

Okay, so is there anything that you want to add to our conversation?

0:52:04.500,0:52:07.260

Or do you want to go back to any of the questions that we talked about?

0:52:09.540,0:52:12.013

Yeah, I'm good.

0:52:13.000,0:52:15.960

So one last question before we finish for today,

0:52:16.500,0:52:19.489

how do you feel about sharing your story today?

0:52:21.480,0:52:26.160

I feel good, yeah, because some.. every..

0:52:26.820,0:52:33.420

every person who came in here, every people who migrated, they have their own stories, and listening

0:52:33.420,0:52:39.223

to their stories is like, sometimes you can relate, and sometimes you realize I'm blessed.

0:52:39.223,0:52:41.040

You know?

0:52:43.620,0:52:46.440

I am so grateful that you shared your story today.

0:52:46.440,0:52:52.440

Thank you so much, and I look forward to our next conversation, as well. I'm

0:52:52.440,0:52:56.280

going to stop the recording right now, and then we'll talk a little bit more, okay?

=====

Interview (Part 2) with Phi Nagpala on March 31, 2023

0:00:02.100,0:00:06.103

Good morning, Phi, it's so nice to see you today, how are you?

0:00:06.103,0:00:09.606

I'm good, thank you, professor, it's nice to see you too.

0:00:10.600,0:00:11.253

So, let's see.

0:00:11.253,0:00:14.398

Today is Friday March 31st.

0:00:14.398,0:00:22.532

It is about 10 o'clock in the morning, and this is our second of two interviews. We spoke last week

0:00:22.532,0:00:25.018

about your experiences growing up in the Philippines,

0:00:25.018,0:00:29.214

and then coming to the United States, so

0:00:29.214,0:00:33.359
for people who are watching this video, a little background about you:

0:00:33.359,0:00:39.660
Phi Nagpala is originally from Las Piñas City, Philippines, and now lives in Germantown, Maryland.

0:00:40.980,0:00:44.092
She's been a student at MC since 2021.

0:00:44.092,0:00:46.740
Today she lives with her spouse and children

0:00:47.880,0:00:50.374
in, where do you live again, which city?

0:00:50.374,0:00:52.512
Germantown.

0:00:52.512,0:00:54.193
In Germantown, yeah, let me write that down.

0:00:54.193,0:00:58.923
And works as a clinical technician at Virginia Hospital Center, in Arlington,

0:00:58.923,0:01:03.863
and you're studying nursing at MC. And

0:01:03.863,0:01:07.692
in your spare time, you enjoy dancing and watching documentaries.

0:01:07.692,0:01:14.311
So we are really happy to have you back to continue our conversation that we started last week.

0:01:14.311,0:01:22.421
As a reminder, my name is Heather Bruce Satrom, I teach in ELAP, English Language for Academic Purposes, at Montgomery College,

0:01:22.421,0:01:31.130
and this interview is part of a project called History in the Making: Documenting Stories of Immigrant and Refugee Students at MC.

0:01:32.120,0:01:37.353
So to begin, could you tell me again your full name and spell it for me, please?

0:01:37.353,0:01:39.758
My name is Phi Nagpala,

0:01:39.758,0:01:43.746
p, h, i, n, a, g, p, a, l, a.

0:01:43.746,0:01:47.251
And do I have permission to record this interview?

0:01:47.251,0:01:48.600
Sure, yeah!

0:01:49.200,0:01:52.380
Before I started recording, you told me something very interesting about

0:01:52.380,0:01:57.646
your name, "Phi Nagpala," you said that it means "blessed," is that correct?

0:01:57.646,0:01:58.146
Yeah.

0:01:59.820,0:02:03.895
Phi, actually Phi is a short

0:02:03.895,0:02:11.574

name for the Philippines, and when you combine my name, and Phi Nagpala, it means blessed.

0:02:11.574,0:02:13.535
Blessed, and do you feel blessed?

0:02:13.535,0:02:17.292
I am, yeah.

0:02:17.292,0:02:19.690
Can you tell me about that, why you feel blessed?

0:02:19.690,0:02:22.140
I'm enjoying

0:02:23.820,0:02:30.420
what's here in America, that other people in my country, you know other people, not only in

0:02:30.420,0:02:35.223
my country, other people in different countries, they're not..

0:02:35.223,0:02:40.150
they don't.. it's hard for them to get in the U.S. so

0:02:40.150,0:02:45.786
being here is blessed, and at the same time, I'm

0:02:45.786,0:02:48.636
taking this opportunity that

0:02:48.636,0:02:56.100
I had here in the U.S. and, at the same time, I'm helping my family back, in my country.

0:02:57.180,0:03:01.560
And when you say that you feel blessed for
enjoying certain things here in the United

0:03:01.560,0:03:06.840
States, could you say specifically what it is
that you enjoy about living here, in Montgomery

0:03:06.840,0:03:08.004
County, Maryland?

0:03:08.004,0:03:10.538
Yeah, I just realized that

0:03:10.538,0:03:14.880
the opportunity to continue study,

0:03:18.360,0:03:20.754
it's in here, it's just how you

0:03:20.754,0:03:24.065
you grab it.

0:03:24.065,0:03:32.784
Especially that in the job I am right now, they're the one who encouraged me to

0:03:32.784,0:03:40.711
go to school to become a nurse. That's another opportunity, actually, that's the first
opportunity and when I get into Montgomery College,

0:03:40.711,0:03:49.972
there, I found out that there's a lot of opportunity you don't have the reason to not continue
studying because there's a lot of support

0:03:49.972,0:03:53.220
that the school is offering to everyone.

0:03:54.420,0:04:00.060
That's really gratifying to hear. So did you first hear about Montgomery College

0:04:00.060,0:04:03.550
through your workplace? Were they the ones who told you about it?

0:04:03.550,0:04:05.998
No, actually they..

0:04:05.998,0:04:12.461
Once they offer you, they encourage you to go to a Northern..

0:04:12.461,0:04:14.340
Somewhere in.. because it's in Virginia.

0:04:15.540,0:04:17.572
But then they also

0:04:17.572,0:04:24.803
cater, or allow students to find their own way, whatever they want to study.

0:04:24.803,0:04:28.842
And then, I have this friend of mine,

0:04:28.842,0:04:34.260
her daughter is studying in Montgomery College and taking nursing,

0:04:35.220,0:04:36.896
so that's where I

0:04:36.896,0:04:38.762
try to

0:04:38.762,0:04:43.846
find how to get into the college in Montgomery College, yeah.

0:04:43.846,0:04:47.000
So you first heard about it through this friend, or colleague?

0:04:47.000,0:04:47.666
Yeah.

0:04:47.666,0:04:48.916
I see, okay.

0:04:48.916,0:04:51.358
And can you tell me a little bit
about,

0:04:51.358,0:04:54.108
when you first heard about Montgomery College

0:04:54.108,0:04:56.424
and you started the application process,

0:04:56.424,0:04:58.560
how was that experience for you?

0:05:01.080,0:05:04.525
At first I considered

0:05:04.525,0:05:08.703
the counselor, what I'm going to do,

0:05:08.703,0:05:11.939
because I had my

0:05:11.939,0:05:14.977
bachelor degree in my country, so

0:05:14.977,0:05:19.536
I was guided accordingly

0:05:19.536,0:05:26.449
by a counselor, and that's the good thing about it. There's a lot of staff

0:05:26.449,0:05:32.867
that will help you to go through with it, so I just followed

0:05:32.867,0:05:36.903
whatever they asked me to do, and then, I thought

0:05:36.903,0:05:39.987
at first it was hard, but then,

0:05:39.987,0:05:43.578
if you just do it accordingly, you'll be guided.

0:05:43.578,0:05:44.106

0:05:44.106,0:05:47.631
When you were first..

0:05:47.631,0:05:49.620
when you first applied to the college,

0:05:50.400,0:05:55.980
you were placed into the ELAP Program, and I'm so glad you were because you were my student.

0:05:57.240,0:05:59.520
But I know that sometimes students

0:06:00.540,0:06:03.456
have mixed feelings about that, so

0:06:03.456,0:06:11.760
I'm curious about how you felt when you were told you need to take English classes before you start taking your credit classes. What emotions did that

0:06:11.760,0:06:12.777
bring up for you?

0:06:12.777,0:06:22.440
Okay, so, they asked me to take exam first, to test my English ability, so

0:06:23.400,0:06:27.512
I came up to.. I had to start from 970.

0:06:27.512,0:06:31.800
Okay, so that's one of the lower levels in our program.

0:06:31.800,0:06:36.360
Yeah, at first I was disappointed.

0:06:36.360,0:06:38.840
I think that's a common reaction.

0:06:39.000,0:06:43.932
Yeah, and I asked myself if I wanted to,

0:06:43.932,0:06:49.320
you know, continue that or back out.

0:06:49.980,0:06:53.608
Aside from, it will take too much time for me,

0:06:53.608,0:07:01.735
I have to pay for it, because that's not covered from the hospital that I work in that is paying my tuition. So,

0:07:01.735,0:07:07.003
I started 970 and I thought I will..

0:07:07.003,0:07:11.788
When I reached the 990, that's it.

0:07:11.788,0:07:14.160
That's a lot of English.

0:07:14.940,0:07:23.111
Especially when I met this, my first professor in English writing,

0:07:23.111,0:07:27.410
oh my God, we started.. how many of us, like 10,

0:07:27.410,0:07:31.980
and then we end up just the three of us, and then the two of us.

0:07:32.940,0:07:40.160
As the time goes on, students are backing out, back then.

0:07:40.160,0:07:45.719
Do you think they were blacking out because of the workload, because it was stressful?

0:07:45.719,0:07:48.622
Or it's during the pandemic?

0:07:48.622,0:07:53.015
Yeah, it was pandemic that time, so the people

0:07:53.015,0:07:57.802
are trying to get that opportunity because it's remote,

0:07:57.802,0:08:02.884
you just have to, you know, go online and everything, yeah. That's how I started, it was pandemic.

0:08:02.884,0:08:03.707
Yeah.

0:08:03.707,0:08:04.800
So,

0:08:05.700,0:08:09.442
even though it was pandemic, people who..

0:08:09.442,0:08:12.960
because of the workload, and it's..

0:08:14.100,0:08:17.991
it's different when you know how to speak English,

0:08:17.991,0:08:20.280
yes, you know how to speak English, but

0:08:21.360,0:08:23.026
it's not that it.

0:08:23.026,0:08:31.915
You have to.. the comprehension, not just you're good in speaking. Everybody can speak English,

0:08:31.915,0:08:37.399
but the comprehension is, you know, have to be.. that's how you have to learn more.

0:08:37.399,0:08:42.553
So, I know you took some academic reading and writing classes,

0:08:42.553,0:08:44.241
were those challenging for you?

0:08:44.241,0:08:47.924
It is, it is challenging, but

0:08:47.924,0:08:52.920
now that I'm taking the prerequisite for nursing

0:08:53.640,0:09:01.960
courses, I realized, yes, good that I took that before I came in, because it's not..

0:09:01.960,0:09:02.580
it's not easy.

0:09:03.540,0:09:08.621
So do you feel like the ELAP classes prepared you for your credit level classes?

0:09:08.621,0:09:12.396
Yes, it's really helpful, especially,

0:09:12.396,0:09:15.396
we.. it's not only how

0:09:15.396,0:09:21.731
you learn the English itself, but then

0:09:21.731,0:09:23.757
you know, we're in a world of

0:09:23.757,0:09:26.985
computers, so the..

0:09:26.985,0:09:27.753
Well the technology.

0:09:27.753,0:09:30.758
Presentation, yeah, I've learned a lot.

0:09:30.758,0:09:34.040
What would you say was one of the more..

0:09:34.040,0:09:35.837
I'm setting the timer here because I forgot to do that.

0:09:35.837,0:09:42.120
What was one of the more challenging experiences? You mentioned using the technology, was that

0:09:42.780,0:09:47.400
particularly hard because it was during
the pandemic and everything was remote?

0:09:47.400,0:09:50.766
Was it difficult to learn how to do that?

0:09:50.766,0:09:53.386
Yeah, yeah, difficult.

0:09:53.386,0:09:55.680
Sometimes, you really have to

0:09:57.480,0:10:03.637
learn how to access some books,
online books and

0:10:03.637,0:10:06.811
you have to use other apps

0:10:06.811,0:10:10.315
applications so, yeah.

0:10:10.315,0:10:12.400
But you learned!

0:10:12.400,0:10:22.122
You did learn, in fact you learned so well that you applied for an internship program at the
college, called The Digital Storytelling Internship program,

0:10:22.122,0:10:28.760
and then, what I loved, is that you went
on to help other students in ELAP

0:10:28.760,0:10:35.220
learn how to create digital stories. So it's interesting to me when you say that you were

0:10:36.360,0:10:41.220
a bit intimidated by the technology, but you
got so good at it, that you ended up teaching

0:10:41.220,0:10:48.000
others how to use it. So I would love if you could talk a little bit about your experience in
The Digital

0:10:48.000,0:10:53.880
Storytelling Internship program, what you learned from that? How it helped you? It's not related
to

0:10:53.880,0:10:56.267
nursing, so I'm curious about

0:10:56.267,0:11:00.180
why you decided to apply and what you learned from that experience?

0:11:02.520,0:11:08.940
First and foremost, I cannot say no to the professor who encouraged me

0:11:08.940,0:11:11.458
to join, so..

0:11:11.458,0:11:14.673
That's Professor, Heather.

0:11:14.673,0:11:16.642
You're a natural storyteller.

0:11:16.642,0:11:20.220
Yeah, and then, actually I..

0:11:21.720,0:11:27.101
I'm not expecting anything because I really don't know about it, but

0:11:27.101,0:11:33.427
as you said, I just present to you the presentation you presented in the class, okay? and then..

0:11:33.427,0:11:36.480
Working with these different

0:11:37.620,0:11:41.577
students in Montgomery College, and

0:11:41.577,0:11:44.856
learning the professionalism,

0:11:44.856,0:11:48.764
leadership, and working in the community,

0:11:48.764,0:11:53.324
It's kind of an achievement for me,

0:11:53.324,0:11:53.824
because

0:11:53.824,0:12:01.507
I've learned a lot. And how to make a story that has an impact to the other people,

0:12:01.507,0:12:08.946
that's really rewarding and unforgettable experience. And

0:12:08.946,0:12:14.826
to be in the class, because we have this

0:12:14.826,0:12:21.907
class visit, to be right in front of the class, it reminds me of being a teacher,

0:12:21.907,0:12:24.758
so that's why I enjoyed the most.

0:12:24.758,0:12:27.186
That's true, that's true, with your teaching background.

0:12:27.186,0:12:29.585
Yes, absolutely!

0:12:29.585,0:12:30.378
Yeah.

0:12:30.378,0:12:34.581
That explained why you were so comfortable teaching others, I think.

0:12:34.581,0:12:37.539
And may I just add that

0:12:37.539,0:12:40.380
I said, of course I will be

0:12:42.900,0:12:45.450
giving this

0:12:45.450,0:12:47.502
support

0:12:47.502,0:12:51.336
for tuition, out of that

0:12:51.336,0:12:53.220
digital.. being an intern,

0:12:55.380,0:13:04.100
it's just, it's like realizing that you earn money while you are learning and enjoying,
you know..

0:13:04.100,0:13:07.341
Yup, and earning money

0:13:07.341,0:13:14.341
because you're helping other students learn, so it's really beneficial for everyone; it's
beneficial for my students, it was beneficial

0:13:14.341,0:13:15.940
for me, for you.

0:13:15.940,0:13:22.910
- Yeah, yeah, yeah.
- I loved when you mentioned that you got to meet a lot of people, other students,

0:13:22.910,0:13:31.943
through the internship program, and I think that's one of the most wonderful aspects of
Montgomery College, that we have such a diverse..

0:13:31.943,0:13:37.949
well student body, we also have a very diverse faculty. So could you talk a little bit about

0:13:37.949,0:13:45.540
the friendships that you've made at Montgomery College, and other students that you have met,
and where they're
from, and what you've learned about their cultures?

0:13:49.500,0:13:52.660
I've met a lot of

0:13:52.660,0:14:00.345
different students from different countries, and most of the time when we, you know, getting to know each other,

0:14:00.345,0:14:06.780
you realize or discover that there are

0:14:08.940,0:14:14.880
not differences but they're the same culture that you, 'oh I can believe, yeah you have that?'

0:14:14.880,0:14:18.998
'yeah you we do this', we celebrate this and

0:14:18.998,0:14:22.740
I remember this particular..

0:14:23.520,0:14:30.900
we have a student, he's from the Middle East, and you know,

0:14:33.060,0:14:41.100
in the movie, or when you know Middle East, it's like tough people, you know, but..

0:14:41.100,0:14:42.030
The stereotypes.

0:14:42.030,0:14:46.704
Yeah, stereotypes, but when I met him, when I

0:14:46.704,0:14:49.415
got to know him,

0:14:49.415,0:14:58.672
he loves his mom, he's doing this, he's trying to finish college so that he can help his..

0:14:58.672,0:15:06.169
I was like, 'oh my God, they're just the same Filipino' thinking about the family."

0:15:06.169,0:15:09.620
It's good to know that

0:15:09.620,0:15:13.111
we're not different to each other.

0:15:13.111,0:15:15.480
So would you say that when you meet

0:15:16.320,0:15:19.055
students from various backgrounds,

0:15:19.055,0:15:22.580
students who've immigrated to the United States,

0:15:22.580,0:15:28.246
that the common values that you share, are related to the focus on the family?

0:15:28.246,0:15:30.900
Yes, the family.

0:15:31.500,0:15:38.233
And this.. there are some that are from Africa,

0:15:38.233,0:15:40.221
I became friends..

0:15:40.221,0:15:46.825
friends with them, we have the same culture, most culture and

0:15:46.825,0:15:49.800
the values are the same.

0:15:50.520,0:15:54.373

It's just that the difference is just how they call it.

0:15:54.373,0:16:00.205

And of course so many of our students are speaking English as a second language, so that's a common challenge

0:16:00.205,0:16:00.705

that you all have.

0:16:00.705,0:16:03.055

Yeah.

0:16:03.055,0:16:09.081

Are there any other experiences at Montgomery College that have been particularly

0:16:09.081,0:16:11.640

meaningful to you, that you would like to share?

0:16:13.440,0:16:17.968

Oh just the Digital Story Internship,

0:16:17.968,0:16:23.041

very meaningful to me, especially now, I'm in level two,

0:16:23.041,0:16:27.190

and I'm going to

0:16:27.190,0:16:30.799

visit the University of Maryland..

0:16:30.799,0:16:32.011

Oh! Great.

0:16:32.011,0:16:32.700

in Baltimore.

0:16:34.380,0:16:40.080

To present them on how to make a digital storytelling.

0:16:40.920,0:16:44.010

I'm kind of nervous because

0:16:44.010,0:16:51.325

it's the university, there's a thinking of people who's studying there are..

0:16:51.325,0:16:53.457

they cannot, you know,

0:16:53.457,0:16:58.740

study there if they're not really intelligent people. But then,

0:16:59.280,0:17:02.557

as what our supervisor says, that some of the..

0:17:02.557,0:17:07.138

Oh the professors from the University of Maryland says

0:17:07.138,0:17:11.252

they are diverse students and

0:17:11.252,0:17:13.602

some of them

0:17:13.602,0:17:17.220

they're not really good in

0:17:18.120,0:17:24.281

computers, and they not good, or they

0:17:24.281,0:17:26.954
haven't encountered doing

0:17:26.954,0:17:30.458
what we did, as making a digital storytelling.

0:17:30.458,0:17:35.204
So that's our purpose of going there.

0:17:35.204,0:17:38.195
To help them learn more about the technology?

0:17:38.195,0:17:40.910
Yeah, that is so meaningful to me.

0:17:40.910,0:17:43.740
You mentioned earlier that

0:17:44.880,0:17:51.600
you had some stereotypes about people from the Middle East, and that you overcame the stereotypes

0:17:51.600,0:17:57.600
by getting to know people in your class and in your program. What kind of stereotypes are there

0:17:58.620,0:18:03.420
about Filipinos in America? Have you faced stereotypes? Do people sometimes stereotype

0:18:03.420,0:18:04.133
Filipinos?

0:18:04.133,0:18:05.600
Yeah.

0:18:07.600,0:18:12.420
I have this experience, I was telling about how did I get into

0:18:13.680,0:18:15.278
College?

0:18:15.278,0:18:17.569
I was so proud telling that

0:18:17.569,0:18:20.930
I have five courses that

0:18:20.930,0:18:24.048
accredited that I didn't have to

0:18:24.048,0:18:30.382
take it, and he said, 'how was that?' because

0:18:30.382,0:18:34.861
I had my bachelor degree in my country, so

0:18:34.861,0:18:41.820
'Oh! Really it's credited? How come? Where did you study your

0:18:42.720,0:18:48.907
bachelor degree?' In the university in my country, 'Oh! You have a university?' I was like 'Yeah!'

0:18:48.907,0:18:56.551
It's like because we're in a developing country,

0:18:56.551,0:18:59.323
we don't have.. they think that

0:18:59.323,0:19:02.174
we don't have the university.

0:19:02.174,0:19:06.068

People assume that you did not have a university education?

0:19:06.068,0:19:06.568

0:19:06.568,0:19:08.255

Exactly!

0:19:08.255,0:19:12.642

That must have been frustrating.

0:19:12.642,0:19:16.486

And there's also one time that

0:19:16.486,0:19:21.663

this guy says that

0:19:21.663,0:19:23.820

I came here to

0:19:24.480,0:19:28.510

find an American to marry, so that I could have

0:19:28.510,0:19:31.920

residency. I was like, 'I'm sorry, I'm married to a Filipino.'

0:19:35.340,0:19:39.532

You're married to a Filipino. So people have these stereotypes about Filipino women.

0:19:39.532,0:19:40.816

Yeah.

0:19:40.816,0:19:43.032

That sounds very frustrating.

0:19:43.032,0:19:47.850

When you encounter stereotypes like that, how do you respond?

0:19:47.850,0:19:55.658

What do you do.. Do you use humor? Do you tell stories? Do you ignore it? How do you handle those kinds of situations?

0:19:55.658,0:19:59.229

I respond with..

0:19:59.229,0:20:09.095

How they take it, such as a joke, or they take it seriously, like the one who thought that we don't have university in my country, I was like,

0:20:09.095,0:20:12.354

'would you like to visit my country? You'll like the beaches there.'

0:20:12.354,0:20:15.497

Yeah that's how I respond.

0:20:15.497,0:20:19.583

Just like the guy I said, 'oh sorry, I'm married with a Filipino.'

0:20:21.560,0:20:25.680

You have an opportunity to educate people

0:20:26.940,0:20:28.380

about your culture.

0:20:28.380,0:20:30.945

In a simple answer like that,

0:20:30.945,0:20:35.637

how they'll take it, it's up to them, but I will not shut up my mouth

0:20:35.637,0:20:39.840
when after you know, stereotype me, no!

0:20:40.620,0:20:46.434
I think one thing that really impresses me about so many of our students is that,

0:20:46.434,0:20:51.041
not only are you taking care of your families here, and working, and

0:20:51.041,0:20:56.232
going to school, but many times you're also sending financial support back home.

0:20:56.232,0:21:00.294
And I find that truly admirable,

0:21:00.294,0:21:06.994
and I'm amazed by how so many students can do this. Can you talk a little bit about

0:21:06.994,0:21:11.694
that responsibility of trying to support family members back home?

0:21:11.694,0:21:17.640
Do you feel pressure to do that? What are your emotions about this? Is it tiring?

0:21:19.200,0:21:24.360
At first yes, that's why I had this

0:21:25.800,0:21:32.760
bad relationship with my family back then, because I felt like I'm pressured.

0:21:32.760,0:21:37.264
Why I'm the only one supporting this family,

0:21:37.264,0:21:39.660
when in fact, I have my siblings? That's the thinking.

0:21:40.860,0:21:46.703
But then I came to a point that I realized

0:21:46.703,0:21:48.560
that's why I'm blessed.

0:21:49.560,0:21:54.599
I'm thinking that I'm here because I was chosen

0:21:54.599,0:21:59.640
to be here to support my family, so why would I complain?

0:22:02.220,0:22:08.640
It's just a matter of how you list yourself while at the same

0:22:08.640,0:22:15.540
time enjoying what you're earning, and at the same time, give some for your family.

0:22:16.860,0:22:19.465
But then, yeah just..

0:22:19.465,0:22:23.446
I'm blessed that I'm..

0:22:23.446,0:22:26.677
I'm studying while I'm working

0:22:26.677,0:22:30.218
to support.. I don't want to give up my working because I need, I have..

0:22:30.218,0:22:32.640
I have my responsibility.

0:22:33.720,0:22:39.300
But you see, there's a support from the school and from my work, that I don't have to

0:22:39.300,0:22:41.564
pay that much for my tuition,

0:22:41.564,0:22:45.144
so I still have my.. you know, the budget is still

0:22:45.144,0:22:49.650
for my family. I still can support them while I'm studying.

0:22:49.650,0:22:51.660
Do you think that people back home

0:22:52.740,0:22:57.180
don't understand how expensive it is to live here? The cost of living here,

0:22:57.180,0:22:58.686
the cost of housing.

0:22:58.686,0:23:03.540
Do they understand how expensive it is to live in the United States?

0:23:08.800,0:23:10.902
Honestly maybe?

0:23:10.902,0:23:15.420
But.. because every time

0:23:17.160,0:23:26.858
I eat whatever I want in here, and thinking that they couldn't eat that in there,

0:23:26.858,0:23:29.340
so it's like, it's okay.

0:23:32.400,0:23:33.660
Yeah.

0:23:33.660,0:23:36.180
Do you feel pressure

0:23:37.140,0:23:42.540
to support your family? Like do you.. does it
feel.. I remember at one point in the class you

0:23:42.540,0:23:47.640
had mentioned that you had a big shift in your thinking at one point, where at first you felt

0:23:47.640,0:23:52.380
a little bit resentful, but then you changed
your mind and you thought, this is really what

0:23:52.380,0:23:57.657
I'm supposed to do. Can you talk a little bit
about that change in your thinking?

0:23:57.657,0:23:59.793
Yeah, because..

0:24:02.760,0:24:05.911
even though we spend dollars here

0:24:05.911,0:24:12.805
that's what they have to realize. We spend dollars here. Although, when you

0:24:12.805,0:24:20.460
send them money, like a hundred dollars here is too much, there's a lot for them to.. the
exchange rate.

0:24:21.420,0:24:22.485
Yeah!

0:24:22.485,0:24:29.520
But still they have to realize that we spend dollar.. we spend dollar here.

0:24:33.540,0:24:35.927
Because life in the Philippines is not..

0:24:35.927,0:24:36.427
it's hard.

0:24:36.427,0:24:37.229
Yeah!

0:24:37.229,0:24:42.161
They cannot enjoy what I'm enjoying in here. It's not the same.

0:24:42.161,0:24:45.862
So that's what makes me

0:24:45.862,0:24:50.320
change my attitude, or my relationship towards them.

0:24:50.320,0:24:53.722
One thing that, I'm sorry, go ahead, you can finish that, I'm sorry.

0:24:53.722,0:24:57.720
Yeah, I don't have to,

0:24:58.860,0:25:08.483
you know, count every cent that I'm sending to them because

0:25:08.483,0:25:12.420
the fact that it's not

0:25:12.960,0:25:15.431
enough, I think,

0:25:15.431,0:25:18.589
and the fact that they're having

0:25:18.589,0:25:24.360
difficulty in their own life over there, so it's..

0:25:25.080,0:25:29.070
Every time I send them my support, I feel good.

0:25:29.070,0:25:30.600
What makes you happy,

0:25:31.380,0:25:33.794
that's it.. that's the important.

0:25:33.794,0:25:41.756
So I feel happy whenever they're not struggling with their expenses to buy their needs.

0:25:41.756,0:25:49.450
Something that I always notice about you in particular, Phi, is that you have a very positive and optimistic outlook.

0:25:49.450,0:25:57.498
I always remember you smiling in class, a lot of energy, a lot of enthusiasm, and so

0:25:57.498,0:26:08.940
what I'd like to know is, when you experience stress or difficulties, how do you cope with that? What do you do when you are having challenging experiences?

0:26:08.940,0:26:15.900
What gives you hope when you feel discouraged? How do you maintain this positive outlook?

0:26:19.140,0:26:21.160
Think about, when you..

0:26:21.160,0:26:24.120
when you.. when you fail or something,

0:26:26.760,0:26:28.375
think about

0:26:28.375,0:26:34.320
why did you fail? Why? And then,

0:26:34.320,0:26:37.020
like, for example,

0:26:39.420,0:26:45.685
I got a bad grade in my first.. in writing 970.

0:26:45.685,0:26:51.225
So I'm so very, very disappointed that I got a C,

0:26:51.225,0:26:57.960
and to think that I have my degree in my country I got a C.

0:26:59.820,0:27:06.000
Where did I go wrong? Why, why I couldn't
understand this? so I go back to all the

0:27:06.000,0:27:09.019
lessons that we get.. we took,

0:27:09.019,0:27:14.737
and I really tried to understand how it works.

0:27:14.737,0:27:21.180
And then when I need to register to another.. to my other,

0:27:21.180,0:27:25.908
reading 980 I think, I saw her name, that Professor,

0:27:25.908,0:27:31.166
I have to.. I enrolled under her class,

0:27:31.166,0:27:43.740
and we see each other again. And she was so surprised that, 'Hey Phi! You improved a lot!' So
you have to challenge yourself. So that's what makes me turn myself..

0:27:44.640,0:27:53.880
not to dwell on the feelings that your failure.. I've got to get back and..

0:27:53.880,0:27:55.057

0:27:55.057,0:28:01.960
You purposely chose a very challenging
Professor because you wanted to learn from that experience and

0:28:01.960,0:28:04.468
try again. I love that story.

0:28:04.468,0:28:07.740
I think that's a great lesson for for other students, absolutely!

0:28:09.360,0:28:11.940
Let's see here, let me look at my questions.

0:28:13.740,0:28:20.640
Were there any resources at Montgomery
College that were particularly helpful to

0:28:20.640,0:28:24.320

you, as a student? Did you go to the Writing Center, for example?

0:28:24.320,0:28:27.411
Yes, I'm a regular visitor.

0:28:27.411,0:28:29.958
You're a regular visitor. I love that.

0:28:29.958,0:28:32.074
Yeah.

0:28:32.074,0:28:35.265
Tell me how the Writing Center helps you.

0:28:35.265,0:28:37.260
I have this particular

0:28:38.100,0:28:47.220
Professor that I owe. She's my favorite.
I always look at her schedule and

0:28:49.080,0:28:54.462
she tries to learn

0:28:54.462,0:28:55.407
your mistakes.

0:28:55.407,0:29:02.961
You have to read louder, a lot louder, so that

0:29:02.961,0:29:06.359
you hear it like, 'oh something is wrong with my sentence.'

0:29:06.359,0:29:07.769
And she..

0:29:07.769,0:29:09.488
You read your your writing out loud?

0:29:09.488,0:29:12.712
Yeah, she allows me

0:29:12.712,0:29:17.700
to find where my mistakes are, and

0:29:18.360,0:29:22.340
yeah, I enjoyed it, and every time..

0:29:22.340,0:29:26.688
Do you want to mention her name? Who it is that's helped you so much with your writing?

0:29:26.688,0:29:29.633
Her first name is Diana.

0:29:29.633,0:29:30.237
Yeah!

0:29:30.237,0:29:37.020
It's Diana yeah. So every time she, 'okay read out loud.'

0:29:38.100,0:29:47.700
'Oh! This is my,' 'oh yeah, see?' So it's very helpful. There are professors that..

0:29:47.700,0:29:55.320
this is not, you have to think.. I think this is not related to the prompt so..

0:29:55.320,0:30:00.588
I was like "oh my, yeah, you're right," so
I redo it.

0:30:00.588,0:30:08.121

If you met a new student at MC, who had just arrived from another country,

0:30:08.121,0:30:10.680
what advice would you give that student?

0:30:13.320,0:30:16.033
Don't give up.

0:30:16.033,0:30:17.133
Don't give up.

0:30:17.133,0:30:19.600
Don't back out.

0:30:20.600,0:30:21.600
I have to share this, I have my

0:30:22.320,0:30:25.849
classmate

0:30:25.849,0:30:32.440
from Myanmar, and he's really smart.

0:30:32.440,0:30:35.180
He's really smart, he's young. I'm the..

0:30:35.180,0:30:43.860
I'm the oldest in the class, but then I
encouraged him, that sometimes he's having this..

0:30:44.760,0:30:47.890
his doubt that

0:30:47.890,0:30:54.265
he might be end up not staying in the U.S.

0:30:54.265,0:30:56.580
because he's on F1, I think.

0:30:57.300,0:30:58.735
Yeah!

0:30:58.735,0:31:03.008
I always give him inspirational

0:31:03.008,0:31:05.452
word that..

0:31:05.452,0:31:12.226
try to choose a course that will..

0:31:12.226,0:31:19.980
for you to easily get a job here, that will give a sponsorship, like that.

0:31:20.580,0:31:29.100
And since he doesn't have a car, so I feel bad that he's waiting, specially it's cold, so I
always

0:31:30.240,0:31:33.568
drive him to the..

0:31:33.568,0:31:40.920
what's this, the train station?.. after school. You know,

0:31:42.420,0:31:43.625
although,

0:31:43.625,0:31:47.880
there are different status we have here,

0:31:48.840,0:31:56.460

although I'm sure of myself, that because our status is, you know, we're sure of it living here, we

0:31:56.460,0:32:00.425
don't have a problem with that. These other people,

0:32:00.425,0:32:03.780
aside from their everyday living,

0:32:05.940,0:32:11.040
they're still worrying if they're going to stay here for long or what, so might as well

0:32:12.000,0:32:23.700
help them in a way that make them feeling comfort.. you have people who are

0:32:23.700,0:32:29.940
listening to them, helping them in a way that.. it's not, it's not big that you

0:32:29.940,0:32:37.200
drive them to the the train station, no, but the thing is, there's someone who's there for them

0:32:37.200,0:32:40.831
to, you know, rely on,

0:32:40.831,0:32:41.331
so, yeah.

0:32:41.331,0:32:48.078
That's another thing that I really love about Montgomery College students is I see the way you help each other.

0:32:48.078,0:32:52.302
And I think that's a great example of students looking after each other.

0:32:52.302,0:32:56.661
And we have this, every time we have a scheduled exam,

0:32:56.661,0:33:04.460
I'm inviting them to.. let's have this group study, so that sometimes it's easy to understand when

0:33:06.440,0:33:08.001
you're explaining it

0:33:08.001,0:33:13.010
in a language that's easy to understand. Sometimes it's..

0:33:13.010,0:33:15.720
it's helpful.

0:33:17.160,0:33:23.340
I think sometimes students say to me that when they were in their home countries, they had this

0:33:23.340,0:33:32.580
idea about what life would be like in America, you know, the 'American dream.' But then when they got here, it was

0:33:32.580,0:33:34.087
much harder,

0:33:34.087,0:33:37.425
life was much harder than they had anticipated.

0:33:37.425,0:33:45.780
Do you feel that way? Did you feel like you had this idea about the American dream and then there was the reality that was more difficult?

0:33:48.600,0:34:00.420
American dream, when you say American dream it's like you have these expensive clothes,

0:34:04.400,0:34:06.000
you have this

0:34:06.000,0:34:09.498
life like, money, money, money.

0:34:09.498,0:34:10.979
That's the idea, right?

0:34:10.979,0:34:11.479
Yeah.

0:34:11.479,0:34:12.970
That's what you see in the movies or on TV.

0:34:12.970,0:34:15.420
Yeah, you're driving a nice car.

0:34:17.940,0:34:21.936
But, for me, yeah you can have..

0:34:21.936,0:34:26.820
you can have that, but then for me

0:34:28.080,0:34:35.509
the hard thing about being here is being
away from the family,

0:34:35.509,0:34:38.520
that's it. And in my country,

0:34:39.840,0:34:44.114
you don't have to work, work, work, work.

0:34:44.114,0:34:46.446
We have time for ourselves.

0:34:46.446,0:34:47.907
That's interesting.

0:34:47.907,0:34:52.592
When you step out from your home,

0:34:52.592,0:34:55.764
your friends is just nearby,

0:34:55.764,0:34:56.264
and you..

0:34:56.264,0:35:00.772
you enjoy time together,

0:35:00.772,0:35:04.648
but here you work, work, work,

0:35:04.648,0:35:09.240
home, work, study, work, yeah. That's what's amazing,

0:35:09.780,0:35:13.500
people around you, when you needed them most, especially...

0:35:14.820,0:35:19.680
I've heard a lot of students say that, that the
focus here is so much on work, and there's not

0:35:19.680,0:35:24.496
enough time to enjoy being with family, or to enjoy being with friends.

0:35:24.496,0:35:26.872
I've heard a lot of students say that.

0:35:26.872,0:35:33.534
It's difficult to gather friends, because most of them are busy.

0:35:33.534,0:35:37.739
In my country,

0:35:37.739,0:35:45.130
anytime, anywhere, there's no limitation for the time to have fun.

0:35:45.130,0:35:47.677
Although we're so,

0:35:47.677,0:35:51.247
were kind of busy with our family, kids, we still have

0:35:51.247,0:35:56.212
this chance of having.. get together.

0:35:56.212,0:35:57.660
Enjoying life.

0:36:00.480,0:36:05.820
Do you feel like that's something you can
keep here a little bit, that idea of making

0:36:05.820,0:36:12.300
time for family, enjoying life? Do you try to
teach that to your kids, that cultural value?

0:36:16.800,0:36:23.735
We tried, but my son is also busy, he's in school.

0:36:23.735,0:36:26.640
When they grown up,

0:36:27.840,0:36:29.415
they're busy with their friends.

0:36:29.415,0:36:31.100
Yeah, it's..

0:36:31.100,0:36:31.879
That happens.

0:36:31.879,0:36:32.379

0:36:32.379,0:36:36.600
What do you miss the most about the Philippines?

0:36:38.940,0:36:45.791
Every Sunday, we make sure that we're in my..

0:36:45.791,0:36:57.900
we are in my in-laws house, and we play cards, the kids, when they were young it's..
although sometimes it's chaotic, but it's so..

0:36:58.740,0:37:06.360
That memories make you laugh and smile because when they were young, there's a lot of things

0:37:06.360,0:37:15.660
going on, and they're enjoying, they're playing, and every Sunday we go to church, all of us.
And the

0:37:15.660,0:37:24.960
most memorable is my sister-in-law brought us in different countries to spend vacation, and

0:37:25.500,0:37:31.913

how many of us, we're a lot, my brother-in-laws and his family,

0:37:31.913,0:37:38.710

my in-laws; my father-in-law, my mother-in-law, and all of us. It's so fun.

0:37:38.710,0:37:40.568

It's so fun.

0:37:40.568,0:37:41.756

It does sound like fun.

0:37:41.756,0:37:52.744

Because now, when we gather here, and so.. we visited some places with me and my kids, with my husband and my kids, it's just the four of us.

0:37:52.744,0:37:56.285

It's just the four of us. It's different.

0:37:56.285,0:38:00.180

That's what I'm missing. Now it's just me and my husband.

0:38:01.500,0:38:02.937

Because my kids are grown up.

0:38:02.937,0:38:06.027

You miss that large extended family.

0:38:06.027,0:38:06.527

yes!

0:38:06.527,0:38:10.225

Do you do you go back to the Philippines, sometimes?

0:38:10.225,0:38:16.080

The last time we visited was before the pandemic, in 2019.

0:38:17.160,0:38:19.398

Do you have plans to go back to visit?

0:38:19.398,0:38:24.060

Yeah, yeah we have plans.

0:38:25.080,0:38:30.060

Can you talk a little bit about your goals for the future, what do you envision in the

0:38:30.060,0:38:31.443

next like five years?

0:38:31.443,0:38:35.241

How do you see your future developing?

0:38:35.241,0:38:38.640

I am a nurse, a certified nurse, and

0:38:42.720,0:38:47.055

I want to do my..

0:38:47.055,0:38:52.362

my profession, my career, at the same time, enjoying life.

0:38:52.362,0:38:55.740

I want to do that, yeah, and..

0:38:56.340,0:38:58.772

actually my..

0:38:58.772,0:39:13.425

my future goal is when I, after retiring age, I would want to go back to my country and go back teaching, and I want

0:39:13.425,0:39:14.467
to share what

0:39:14.467,0:39:21.911
I have learned; the education, the learning. I want to bring it there, to share with them.

0:39:21.911,0:39:27.253
You were a history teacher before, would you want to return to teaching history if you did that?

0:39:27.253,0:39:30.489
Or would you teach something different?

0:39:30.489,0:39:31.636
Different, different, not history.

0:39:31.636,0:39:35.455
What would you want to teach?

0:39:35.455,0:39:38.580
Because, maybe..

0:39:40.620,0:39:43.650
health, or yeah.

0:39:43.650,0:39:47.524
Something related to your nursing experience?

0:39:47.524,0:39:49.080
Yeah and I want to

0:39:49.920,0:39:51.353
teach English.

0:39:51.353,0:39:53.096
I love that.

0:39:53.096,0:39:53.807
Yeah.

0:39:53.807,0:39:55.433
That's a wonderful idea.

0:39:55.433,0:39:56.880
Yeah.

0:39:58.260,0:40:04.440
So is there anything else you'd like to add
about your experience in the United States, or

0:40:04.440,0:40:06.392
about your experience at Montgomery College?

0:40:06.392,0:40:08.700
anything you want to add to our conversation?

0:40:09.660,0:40:13.120
Yeah, Montgomery..

0:40:13.120,0:40:17.888
Montgomery College really have a special part of me,

0:40:17.888,0:40:20.340
because I met

0:40:22.620,0:40:25.140
kind professors, and

0:40:25.800,0:40:28.765
helpful professors,

0:40:28.765,0:40:37.200

Professor Landon, and Professor Heather Satrom. Professor

0:40:38.160,0:40:46.680

Landon is.. she's the first Professor that I encountered in my English course.

0:40:47.280,0:40:52.843

Actually, she is the one who referred me to you

0:40:52.843,0:40:59.843

when I was looking for.. she said "you really want a good professor, and the one that will challenge you?"

0:40:59.843,0:41:07.725

Choose Heather Satrom, she's good." She's related..

0:41:07.725,0:41:15.743

Yeah, related, and I get into internship because of Professor Heather Satrom, so I'm really.. I feel blessed that I'm..

0:41:15.743,0:41:24.000

I get into Montgomery College and meet these Professor, helpful professor, and my

0:41:26.520,0:41:33.060

schoolmates other.. who has an influence in me, who had a good relationship with me,

0:41:34.800,0:41:37.875

I'm so thankful.

0:41:37.875,0:41:41.640

And how do you feel about sharing your story today?

0:41:42.600,0:41:44.460

What emotions are you feeling, right now?

0:41:46.800,0:42:00.720

I feel.. I'm able to influence other students, other people, who wanted to pursue their

0:42:01.800,0:42:07.200

studies and, by the way, I consider myself

0:42:08.100,0:42:14.531

old already, but then no! There's no age..

0:42:14.531,0:42:26.940

to continue your.. even though I know some of you are like, 'oh I cannot do that anymore' and so, no, there's no age for going back

0:42:26.940,0:42:31.966

to school, and this is not actually to..

0:42:31.966,0:42:38.640

for you to.. one thing to earn more, but for your fullness,

0:42:40.020,0:42:44.514

being in the school again. You're functioning.. your brain is functioning,

0:42:44.514,0:42:54.761

feels good. So don't give up, just enjoy it while you're there, and

0:42:54.761,0:42:59.029

for sure, you'll get a benefit out of it.

0:42:59.029,0:43:04.980

That is a lovely way to conclude. Thank you so much, Phi. I really enjoyed talking with you again today.

0:43:06.300,0:43:09.300

Thank you so much for taking for taking the time to share your story

0:43:09.300,0:43:09.925
with us.

0:43:09.925,0:43:17.121
Oh thank you so much, Professor Satrom,
for choosing me to being part of this.

0:43:17.121,0:43:18.300
Thank you!

0:43:18.300,0:43:18.800
Thank you!