

UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES ALUMNI ASSOCIATION (SINGAPORE)

PRESS RELEASE: UPAAS-PNB OBLATION TALKS



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(July 12, 2012) The University of the Philippines Alumni Association (Singapore) (UPAAS) and its title sponsor, Philippine National Bank – Singapore (www.pnb.com.ph/singapore), presented *Oblation Talks: Find Your Passion!* to an estimated audience of 65 professionals on July 12, 2012 at The Substation Theatre, 45 Armenian Street. *Oblation Talks* is a series of career-oriented talks open to Filipino professionals in Singapore.

Oblation Talks: Find Your Passion! featured:

- VJ Yamat, MD, Managing Director, McCann Healthcare Worldwide (Philippines)
- Danny Santos II (UP Economics), Singapore's Street Photographer (<http://www.dannyst.com/>)
- Gladwin Pantastico (UST Conservatory of Music), Classical Guitarist
- Mr Kirby Chua , Counselor and Psychologist , Grace Counselling Center

Successful networking platform

Gladwin Pantastico opened the night with a lively rendition of the *Verano Porteño* a tango music by composer Astor Piazzolla on classical guitar. The Substation Theatre, home to Singapore's finest art performances was filled with Filipinos from diverse professional backgrounds who came on a busy weekday evening to relax and share the night with friends and colleagues. Dr VJ Yamat , keynote speaker for the night who has briefly stayed in Singapore as a top executive for a global advertising company noted, " we never had this type of Filipino networking event before, thank you (UPAAS) for this opportunity." Atty. Oscar Franklin Tan, UPAAS President, welcomed the attendees, "Networking does not seem to come as naturally for Filipinos abroad. We hope to provide a venue for professional networking and development in Singapore through the Oblation Talks."

Passion redefined

Dr VJ Yamat pointed out that passion exists when attraction is coupled with tension. He discussed that while passion is essential to success, a robust support system and a positive attitude are just as important to a person's success. Through bold and striking images, Dr Yamat stressed various elements required to successfully achieve a healthy and effective personal brand: reinvention, focus, relevance, and profitability are just few of these key points. "I don't believe in the X factor. You can never teach passion. You only hire passion." Dr Yamat exclaimed when asked about the key factors he looks for when hiring people. "Your brand has to be meaningful and unique", he further noted as he flashed a winning commercial clip to emphasize his point.

Passion has many faces

In one of the portraits, Danny Santos II whimsically noted, "a face without freckles, is like a night without stars.". As images of his subjects' photographs flash before him, Danny Santos II, irrepressibly shared anecdotes behind each of his masterpieces. Danny beamed as he discussed shooting under the rain and playing with shadows as he searched for the "right" shot amidst the sea of faces in Orchard Road. "I still fear the sting of rejection each time a potential subjects says 'no'...fear is always there. You just have to face the fear and do it", Danny shared. Danny continued, "Passion comes from within. Profiting from it is secondary."

Anticipation

"Thank you very much for inviting me to a very inspiring (and passionate) program. It was wonderful listening to stories that enlightens." Blanca Patwardhan of Human Heart Nature (Singapore) exclaimed. "It was a wonderful night", Jess Emerson Uy, an Ateneo de Manila University alumnus and a regular Oblation Talks attendee noted. "It was such a great evening and am really impressed ... it is no mean feat to gather such a diverse group and it was such a fun evening.", UPAAS member, Mary Ann Chua shared. Kenneth Innocencio, UPAAS Vice President, gave the closing remarks and with much allure, UPAAS Secretary Windel Lacson impressed the audience with her rendition of Carly Simon's *Anticipation* and Labuyo's *Tuloy pa Rin Ako* on Gladwin's classical guitar. Finally, Dr Vans Lacuesta and Monti Lazaro, the event's emcees for the night thanked the audience. "All in all, it was a pleasant evening for our fellow Filipinos and their friends.", Vans said.

Ongoing series

Oblation Talks is an ongoing series. *Oblation Talks: Magaling Ka Pinoy!* last June 16 featured seven prominent Filipino professionals from multinational companies such as IBM, Hewlett-Packard and Cisco Systems. The successful event was attended by a 150 strong audience from various professional groups.

UPAAS organized *Oblation Talks: Brewing the Right Mix* last May 10, featured Maria Mercedes "Mercy" Corrales, independent director of Fraser & Neave and former President of Starbucks Asia-Pacific.

UPAAS is a society registered in Singapore in 2003 for the primary purpose of bringing together University of the Philippines alumni in Singapore. The organization seeks to devote its efforts to the advancement of the UP Cause and Ideals as well as pioneer in the identification, conceptualization and implementation of projects for the benefit of the university and its community at large. For queries and feedback, please contact Oscar Franklin Tan (oscar.tan@post.harvard.edu).





Ms Cristy Vincentina , Treasury Chief Dealer of Philippine National Bank (Singapore) addresses the audience at the UPAAS-PNB The Oblation Talks: Find Your Passion! last July 12, 2012.



(Left) Dr VJ Yamat of McCann Healthworld Worldwide, keynote speaker for the night gives a talk on *Building Your Personal Brand*; (Center) Danny Santos II shares a light moment with host for the night, Monti Lazaro; (Right) Gladwin Pantastico fascinates with a lively rendition of the *Verano Porteño*, a tango music by composer Astor Piazzolla.on classical guitar.

