

By Sarah Lim

OdySEA is an amazing programme that NUS students, regardless of faculty, shouldn't miss out on. What attracts students to go on OdySEA will often be the opportunity to travel in summer. However, what they depart with will not only be the fun memories of summer, but a heartfelt understanding of the country visited and its people. For that, the classes of *SC2207* (Peoples and Cultures of Southeast Asia) and *GEK1058* (Language and the Preservation of Culture) have our lecturers, Dr Charles Carroll and Dr Stephanie Lo-Phillip, to thank.

The main course was *SC2207*, a fantastic module on visual ethnography in Southeast Asia (SEA). It was obvious that Dr Carroll loved what he was teaching, and it was definitely evident that he loved teaching itself. The enthusiasm and extensive knowledge he brought to every class infected even the sleepiest students and commanded our attention, even during the early 9am classes. My best memories of the course were of the days after the SEA trips, when our class started the mad rush to finish our projects and essays. Dr Carroll was there for us every step of the way. Not just during lesson time, but he even dedicated his weekends and stayed nearby in the event we ran into difficulty in the mad rush for submission. His patient presence for consultation saved many a project from burning and crashing. No, he did not "spoonfeed" or "hand-hold" us in any way. Rather, his presence mattered because he patiently listened, gave sound advice, motivated us to be creative and step out of our comfort zone in our projects.

His style may be starkly different from what I was used to, but it is definitely the most inspiring one. Just ask around, I know the other students in the course had an incredible experience with Dr Carroll. I've declared my major in Sociology and really look forward to taking another course with Dr Carroll.



Evidence of our work in progress





We learnt a lot about Philippines from the people and from the nature as well... the locals volunteered to show us around their beautiful waterfalls.





Traditional Filipino breakfasts... imagine what they eat for lunch!



We went as classmates... (Changi Airport)



And came back as great friends (Manila Airport)





Ramon Obusan Folkloric Group (Makati City, Manila) welcomed us and introduced to us traditions from all over Philippines.









There's more than one way of travelling in the Philippines... Horse, Carabao, Tricycle, Bicycle and even Jeepneys (covered lorries)