

ACOSMOPOLITAN

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE FACULTY OF MANAGEMENT (LEARNING)

Vibrant Side of Studying at ACOS



By Reginald Mangilit

Studying at the Australian College of Studies is not only moving and rewarding but also incredibly fun. This institution offers a wide range of courses and programs that cater to students' diverse interests and career goals. From business management, early childcare, and hospitality, to health care courses, there is something for everyone at ACOS.

One of the main reasons why studying at ACOS is so enjoyable is the vibrant and diverse campus community. Students from all over the world come together to form a caring and compassionate learning environment. The college also organizes regular social events and group trips, giving students plenty of opportunities to interact with their peers and make lifelong friendships.

Another reason studying at ACOS is amusing is the administration and faculty; the dedicated and experienced staff and trainers go above and beyond to ensure that students receive a high-quality education. They are always available to provide guidance, support, and mentorship, making the learning experience both engaging and enriching.

In addition, the Australian College of Studies prides itself on providing students with practical learning opportunities that allow them to apply their knowledge



Acosmopolitan 3rd issue launching with trainers and administrative staff.

in real world settings. Whether through industry work placements or hands-on projects, the college ensures that students gain valuable experience that will help them stand out to employers upon completion.

Furthermore, the campus facilities at ACOS are top-notch, providing students with everything they need to succeed in their studies. The college ensures that students have a comfortable and conducive learning environment.

Lastly, the location of ACOS adds to the overall fun of studying here. Situated in the radiant city of Parramatta, students have easy access to a wide range of cultural attractions, entertainment venues, and recreational activities. Whether it's exploring the city's glowing arts scene, dining at trendy cafés and restaurants, or taking a weekend trip to the beach, there is never a dull moment for students at ACOS.

Overall, I can say studying at the Australian College of Studies is a truly fun and exciting experience. With a diverse campus community, dedicated administration, engaging extracurricular activities, top-notch facilities, and a prime location, students are guaranteed to have a memorable and rewarding learning journey at ACOS.



Diploma of Early Childhood Education and Care on their visit to the Reverse Garbage promoting environmental creativity

THE BUSINESS AND TECHNOLOGY

Role of Artificial Intelligence in the Disability Sector

In the field of disability services, various technologies and trends are emerging to enhance accessibility, inclusion, and independence for people with disabilities. Here are some notable ones:

Assistive Technologies.

These encompass a wide range of devices, software, and equipment designed to assist individuals with disabilities in performing tasks that might otherwise be difficult or impossible. Examples include screen readers, magnifiers, alternative input devices (such as eye-tracking systems or sip-and-puff interfaces), and adaptive switches.



Photo grabbed from: <https://www.dctmagazine.online/issues/ai-innovation/the-benefits-of-ai/ai-support-for-disabilities-at-work>

Augmented and Virtual Reality (AR/VR). They are increasingly being used to create immersive experiences that can simulate real-world environments and scenarios. In the realm of disability services, these technologies can be utilized for training purposes (such as simulating mobility challenges for caregivers or providing virtual exposure therapy for individuals with anxiety disorders) and for enhancing accessibility in gaming and entertainment.

Wearable Devices.

Wearable technologies offer new opportunities for monitoring health, providing real-time feedback, and enhancing accessibility for individuals with disabilities. Examples include smartwatches and fitness trackers equipped with features such as fall detection, medication reminders, and activity tracking.



Photo grabbed from: <https://disabilityinsider.com/story/5g-iot-and-wearable-a-game-changer-for-persons-with-disabilities/>

Internet of Things (IoT). IoT devices are being integrated into smart home environments to automate tasks and provide greater independence for people with disabilities. This includes voice-controlled assistants like Amazon Alexa or Google Assistant, smart thermostats, lighting systems, and home security devices that can be controlled remotely.

Robotics. These technologies are being developed to assist individuals with disabilities in various ways, such as robotic exoskeletons for mobility support, robotic prosthetics, and robotic assistance for activities of daily living (such as feeding or dressing assistance).



Photo grabbed from: <http://rctmagazine.com/ja/robotics/ai.html>

By the students from Certificate IV Disability Support



Photo grabbed from: <https://transportnw.info/tickets-opal/ticket-eligibility-concessions/people-with-disabilities>

Accessible Transportation. Advancements in transportation technologies are improving accessibility for individuals with disabilities. This includes the development of wheelchair-accessible vehicles, ride-sharing services with wheelchair-accessible options, and innovations in public transportation systems to accommodate diverse mobility needs.

Universal Design. The concept of universal design promotes the creation of products, environments, and systems that are accessible to people of all abilities. This approach is becoming increasingly important in various fields, including architecture, product design, and digital technology development.

Telehealth and Teletherapy.

Telehealth services, including remote medical consultations and therapy sessions conducted via video conferencing platforms, are providing greater access to healthcare and therapeutic interventions for individuals with disabilities, especially those living in remote areas or facing mobility challenges.



Photo grabbed from: <https://zshhealth.net/telehealths-next-frontier-improving-access-for-the-disabled/>

Artificial Intelligence (AI). AI technologies are being leveraged to develop innovative solutions for accessibility and inclusion, such as AI-powered captioning and transcription services, natural language processing for communication assistance, and predictive modeling for personalized support and intervention strategies.

Social Inclusion and Advocacy. Beyond technological advancements, there's a growing emphasis on promoting social inclusion, advocacy, and policy changes to ensure the rights and dignity of individuals with disabilities. This includes initiatives to improve accessibility in public spaces, educational institutions, workplaces, and digital platforms, as well as efforts to combat discrimination and promote equal opportunities for all.

These technologies and trends are continuously evolving, driven by ongoing research, innovation, and the collaborative efforts of stakeholders across various sectors.

THE BUSINESS AND TECHNOLOGY

The Senate Inquiry: Coles and Woolworths Under Fires

By Jeanilyn Lamigo



Woolworths and Coles are the two largest supermarkets in Australia, which collectively control two-thirds of the market. They were scrutinized in the Senate to address concerns concerning how they set prices, anti-competitive behavior, supplier relations, supply chain issues, and market dominance.

It has been said that the two giant supermarkets have a duopoly and have access to the same suppliers due to the global supply chain, so they mainly compete on price, and to lower the prices of the products that they are selling, they need to negotiate lower prices with suppliers, and this will affect the supplier greatly, mainly because they will get low returns or they can no longer gain profits.

Woolworths and Coles market power can impact suppliers and producers, as they may have limited bargaining power when negotiating with these large supermarket chains, and it is hard for newcomers attempting to enter the market to compete with these giant supermarkets, often with unsuccessful results.

Having competitors in the market is essential for businesses to thrive harder and enhance their products and services to meet the needs and expectations of their customers, and it is important to practice fair competition in the market to balance the stability of the economy.

In the end, we were all rooting for the Senate to shed light on market dominance and ethical concerns regarding these two giant supermarket issues in Australia and to have meaningful reform if needed that will promote fair competition, protect suppliers and small retailers, and ensure the welfare of consumers.



Coles and Woolworths are set to be grilled at an upcoming Senate inquiry that will look into price gouging during Australia's cost of living crisis.

(Photo and caption grabbed from: <https://mumbrella.com.au/coles-and-woolworths-to-front-senate-over-price-gouging-809647>)

The Adventure of a Lifetime

Life is a long journey; if you give up today, you'll never know how far you could have gone.

Everything wasn't planned, not even my life here in Australia. I can still remember how exhausted I was last year, as well as how my life would be after giving up what I was hoping would be a better life for me and my family. Then, out of my dreams, this opportunity came to me.

Yes, this was never my dream – working and living a different life outside my comfort zone – which was why life brought me here to Australia. I applied for a tourist visa to visit a family in Perth, WA. They sponsored me for everything. Then, my best friend, who was working and living her life here in Sydney, offered me an opportunity – and I didn't even know what would happen to me after!



By Janet Rose Jumila



But I immediately said yes; and that was to convert my tourist visa to a student visa.

So, from Perth, I flew to Sydney to start my application for my student visa. Everything proceeded smoothly; I successfully finished the process, attended my orientation at ACOS, and then lodged my student visa.

It was not easy at first. I started questioning myself: Why was I here? What was I doing here? Was this really what I wanted? While my classmates were also struggling to find jobs, and some were already doing well, I found myself only attending school and staying at home due to my current visa restrictions. As the days went by, bills were also increasing. I found ways to make money by collecting 10c bottles. I was still lucky because my friends cheered me on, and they became my helping hands. I always believed that everything I was going through was preparing me for what I asked for. I was struggling so badly that I didn't know what to do other than pray.

It was a 6-month journey from my tourist visa to my student visa. Yes! It took six months of waiting and praying, but it was all worth it. Two days before my birthday, I received my visa grant. I was the happiest person, and I cried out of joy. Indeed, His plan is better than mine. And achieving success never comes from staying in your comfort zone. When you step out of it, magic happens.

THE BUSINESS AND TECHNOLOGY

Social Media and Its Vital Role in the Community



By Christelle Espinosa

The internet is the backbone for instant information access with just a click. Part of it is the establishment of a global network that enabled instantaneous communication and information sharing, which eventually paved the way to what we refer to today as "Social Media."

One of the most significant impacts of social media is its ability to connect people globally, breaking geographical barriers and fostering global communities where people can share experiences, cultures, and ideas. These platforms have eased building and maintaining connections with friends, family, and long-distance connections, contributing to a more interconnected world.

Social media has also provided a powerful platform for advocacy and social change, with accessibility to media outlets providing a more effective medium for self-expression and addressing social matters. Information dissemination has also been made easier, with world news updates available instantly on devices and directly from credible sources. This has helped educate the public, debunk myths, and reduce panic during crises. Social media boosted social awareness of national disasters, health crises, and social movements, increasing public involvement in taking action.

Social media has also played a transformative role in education and learning. From the traditional method of learning, educators and institutions also employed the use of social media's advantages in the form of posting educational content, thereby enhancing their creativity in teaching methods and reaching a broader audience in classrooms and the wider population of social media users. It has made education more accessible while maintaining its quality and integrity. Today, we have platforms like YouTube, LinkedIn Learning, and even TikTok, conveniently available resources for everyday



(Photo grabbed from: <https://www.shutterstock.com/search/social-media-sketch>)

use and consumption for learners of all ages offering lectures and tutorials on a wide range of topics.

The economic impact of social media is substantial, influencing both businesses and consumers. For businesses, social media serves as a vital marketing tool, enabling them to reach a broader audience, engage with customers, and build brand loyalty. Consumers use social media platforms to gather insights and reviews about products or services, extending the reach of products and shaping consumer perception and behavior.

Social media has become an integral part of our daily lives, bridging distances and fostering a sense of global community. While it is essential to address the associated risks and challenges, the positive contributions of social media to community dynamics are significant. As social media continues to evolve, its potential to foster a more connected, informed, and engaged global community remains strong. By leveraging the strengths of social media and mitigating its risks, we can harness its power to create a more inclusive and supportive world.

ENTERTAINMENT

acossip!

guess who!



by Charrey Mae Tiangha

Who is this woman who got her tourist visa from home to experience Australia for all its amazing wildlife and diverse culture, wanting to learn more? Amazingly, her enthusiasm led her to enroll in ACOS and get her student visa to be granted. Cheers as we all uncover the fun and brilliance of the Australian way of living!

Clue: Name starts with the letter J.

Aspiring international students, especially in developing countries, are all getting worried about getting their student visas granted. But there is no stopping this newly-arrived friend of ours who immediately flew from the Philippines after receiving her visa grant notice. In less than a week, this girl is already rocking her new beginning and creating new aspirations in this land down under. It's a blessing indeed.

Clue: She's a Negrense like Mimi and Ralph, and her name starts with the letter R.

ACOS

goes to The Philippines



COMIC STRIP



Concept and
Illustration
by
Queen Alyssa
Diwa

TRAVEL AND LIFESTYLE

Climate Chronicle: Extreme Heatwave Sweeps the Philippines



By Kent Jay Begis Dulas

As the summer heat fiercely scorches, the Philippines finds itself in the grip of an extreme heat wave. Temperatures have soared to unprecedented levels, breaking records across the archipelago. From the bustling streets of Manila to the remote mountains of Luzon, the sweltering heat is palpable, leaving no corner untouched. Camiling town in Tarlac, meanwhile, registered the hottest temperature yet in 2024 at 40.3°C.

The blistering heat isn't just uncomfortable; it's also a significant threat to health, education, and livelihoods. Hospitals are overwhelmed with cases of heat-related illnesses, with reports of heat stroke and dehydration on the rise, particularly among the elderly and vulnerable populations. In a statement, the DOH said that 34 cases were recorded from January 1 to April 18 in their event-

based Surveillance and Response System, with most of the cases coming from Central Visayas, Ilocos region and Soccsksargen. It added that six of the 34 cases led to deaths, although the actual causes of death are still being verified. Schools, unable to adequately cool their classrooms, are grappling with the challenge of ensuring that students can concentrate and learn effectively in such oppressive conditions, forcing schools in some areas to suspend in-person classes. The long-term impacts on education and prospects for these students are a growing concern. Additionally, small businesses in the Philippines said the nation's ongoing heatwave have severely impacted their earnings especially those in the agriculture sector, farmers are facing immense challenges as their crops wither under the relentless sun, jeopardizing their livelihoods and food security for entire communities.



People visit the remnants of the old sunken town of Pantabangan on April 28, 2024 in Nueva Ecija province, Philippines. (Photo and caption are grabbed from: <https://www.9news.com.au/world/philippines-drought-village-emerges-pantabangan/27375668-398c-41ec-a6f3-a6af3d2548b9>)

In the midst of environmental upheaval, there emerges a fascinating tale of resilience and adaptation. A community that was about 300 years old and covered by a large dam has surfaced again as the reservoir has dried up due to extreme heat and drought. After months with virtually no rain, structures including a portion of a church, tombstones, and a municipal hall marker resurfaced in the center of Pantabangan Dam in Nueva Ecija province in March. The area was flooded in the 1970s in the dam's construction, the town's return offers

a glimpse into the ever-changing landscape shaped by climate change.

As we navigate these turbulent times, let us heed the warnings of extreme weather events and their profound impacts. From the scorching heat to the hidden depths of the ocean, the effects of climate change are all around us. Together, let's work towards a more sustainable future, where communities can thrive in harmony with our planet.

THE COMPLETER'S NOTE

Two years ago, I embarked on a journey from the Philippines to the sun-kissed shores of Australia. My family, steeped in disbelief, watched as I left behind the familiar embrace of my business roots to seek crazy adventures and horizons unknown. Little did I know that this decision would lead me to a place where knowledge, friendships, and cherished memories would blossom.

At ACOS, I have met individuals from myriad backgrounds, each bringing a unique story, a piece of the world's tapestry. We have shared ideas, challenged perspectives, and grown together. My wish for all of you, my dear friends, is simple yet profound: open your eyes to taking risks, never back down in the face of adversity, and always fight for what is right. Life's most valuable lessons often come wrapped in the thorns of challenge.

This brings to mind the ancient Greek myth of Sisyphus, condemned to push a boulder up a mountain, only to see it roll back down each time he neared the summit. It is easy to see this as a tale of endless futility, but within it lies a deeper truth. Each of us has our own mountains to climb, our own boulders to push. These mountains represent life's challenges, and to avoid them is to miss out on the essence of living. The relentless spirit of Sisyphus, forever striving, never yielding, teaches us that the struggle itself is where we find our strength and purpose.



Each mountain we encounter is not a hindrance but a testament to our resilience. Embrace these challenges, for they shape us, forge our character, and define our journey. Just as Sisyphus pushed his boulder higher with each attempt, so too must we rise above our struggles, learning and growing stronger with every step.

In these narrow halls, I have pursued academic excellence and found joy in the laughter and chaos of our shared moments. I have delighted in creating a bit of chaos, stirring up laughter, and bringing a smile to your faces (I hope). These moments of levity have been the glue that bonded us together, a reminder that amidst the seriousness of our pursuits, there is always room for joy.

As I stand before you today, on the brink of a new chapter, I carry with me the lessons learned, the friendships forged, and the memories created. Thank you, ACOS, for being my home away from home, for the knowledge imparted, and for the camaraderie we shared.

May we all continue to push our boulders with courage and grace, never shying away from the challenges that lie ahead. Farewell, and may our paths cross again, higher up on those scary mountains we choose to climb. The terrors persist, but so do I.

Written by Alphaeus Ralph Cornejo



ACOS 2024-2025 ACADEMIC CALENDAR



2024 ACADEMIC CALENDAR
(International Students)

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2025 ACADEMIC CALENDAR
(International Students)

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Public Holidays

Jan 1 - New Year's Day	Mar 31 - Easter Sunday	Oct 7 - Labour Day	Study Period
Jan 26 - Australia Day	Apr 1 - Easter Monday	Dec 25 - Christmas Day	Break
Mar 29 - Good Friday	Apr 25 - ANZAC Day	Dec 26 - Boxing Day	Public Holiday
Mar 30 - Holy Saturday	Jun 10 - Queen's Birthday		Weekend Sun Sat

Public Holidays

Jan 1 - New Year's Day	Apr 20 - Easter Sunday	Oct 6 - Labour Day	Study Period
Jan 27 - Australia Day	Apr 21 - Easter Monday	Dec 25 - Christmas Day	Break
Apr 18 - Good Friday	Apr 25 - ANZAC Day	Dec 26 - Boxing Day	Public Holiday
Apr 19 - Holy Saturday	Jun 9 - Queen's Birthday		Weekend Sun Sat

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