

# **Reflection on My Interview with Cyril Mae Alegro Combo**

Amos, Timothy Jules

Campo, Ramon Brendt D.

Diaz, Jannus Recz C.

Garcia, Dennis James T.

Libo-on, Gian Carlo G.

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Engr. Ji Han Gang

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## **Introduction**

To gain additional knowledge and advice for our future endeavors as a fresh graduate, we interviewed Cyril Mae Alegre Combo, a Computer Engineering alumnus from the Polytechnic University of the Philippines. This interview tackled her career experiences and insights on how we as future engineers, could have better confidence and create opportunities in the industry.

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## **Summary of the Interview**

Among the experiences shared by the alumna, she proved that she was a hard-working and dedicated software engineer. She stated such strong analytical and meticulous efforts and was able to apply that in line with proficient knowledge about numerous softwares to look and gather solutions. She also shared that as a fresh graduate, she had challenges on her journey and that there was an urge to keep up, adapt to the flow, and reach the levels of her colleagues. Fortunately, her colleagues didn't make her feel insecure. Her experience served as a reminder to maintain a positive approach in similar situations and also to comprehend the objective to strive for what can make us better.

In her advice for future graduates, academic materials or class lessons won't be completely utilized but the life lessons throughout our journey will aid as guidance. Failure in college doesn't already define our future, she stated that we can redeem ourselves another way with our efforts throughout our professional journey. It's not always about academics that matters in progressing our careers but rather how we can find our own ways to achieve that goal which means also taking risks no matter how challenging. Lastly, she stated that failure and shortcomings will always be there which gives us a reason to become more proficient, by taking certifications that will benefit us in job opportunities.

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## **Personal Reflection**

Our group realized from the alumnas's experiences that success in a career is not only about academics but also about how we adapt, take risks, and build our skills. She shared that being meticulous, analytical, and hardworking helped her navigate challenges, especially as a fresh graduate working with more experienced colleagues. Facing these pressures showed us the importance of staying confident, maintaining a positive mindset, and focusing on self-improvement to grow professionally.

As 1st-Year students of Computer Engineering, gaining insights on this matter instills the idea to exert more effort to have us ready to navigate in the workforce as we complete the

years of pursuing our studies within this course and institution. We were also inspired by her advice about turning failures and shortcomings into opportunities. The alumna emphasized that life lessons and practical skills often matter more than what is learned in class. Pursuing certifications, enhancing abilities, and creating our own paths can open doors and lead to career progress. The interview motivated our group to be proactive, resilient, and intentional in both our studies and future careers, using every experience as a stepping stone to become more capable computer engineers.

Furthermore, career uncertainty may develop as our interests start to surface. Which is why having direct goals and confidence helps us be more clear on the idea of what kind of professionals we want to become. This not only prepares us to be engineers but also prepares us throughout our decisions in life.

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### **Connection to Course or Program**

This interview helped our group understand the value of the computer engineering program not only in gaining knowledge but also in preparing us for different career paths. As students of this course, we will encounter a variety of options such as software development, hardware design, systems administration, etc., and it is important to be confident in identifying our own goals within these possibilities. The alumna's experience, particularly her decision to take a risk by applying to a global IT company despite not coming from a top university, showed us that determination, initiative, and the practical skills we develop in the program can help us create valuable opportunities. This interview reminds us that the lessons and habits we gain in the course, from analytical thinking to problem-solving, directly contribute to our success in the diverse careers that computer engineering offers.

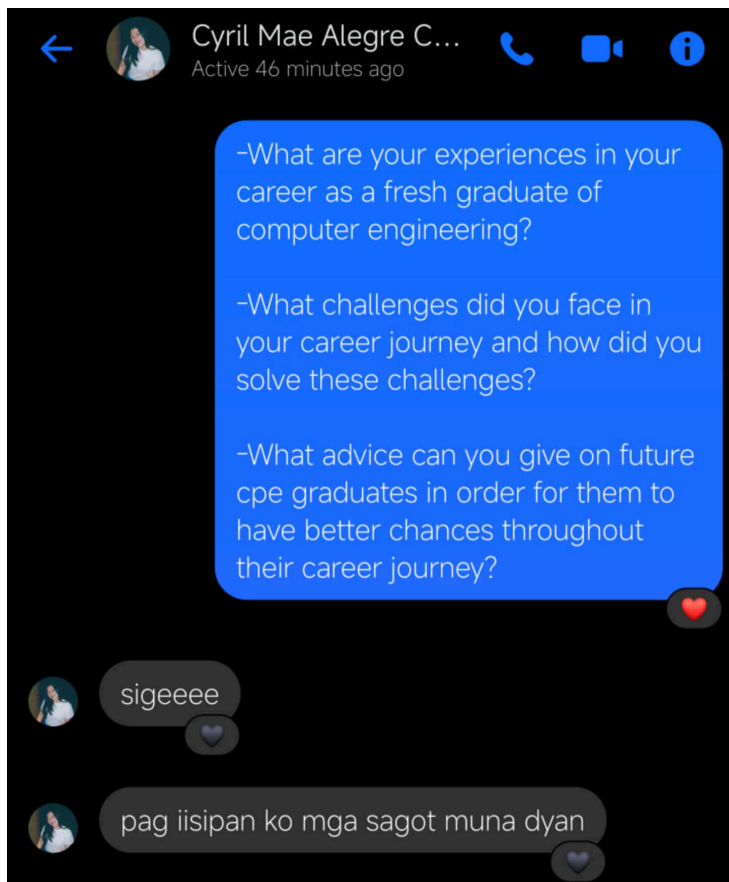
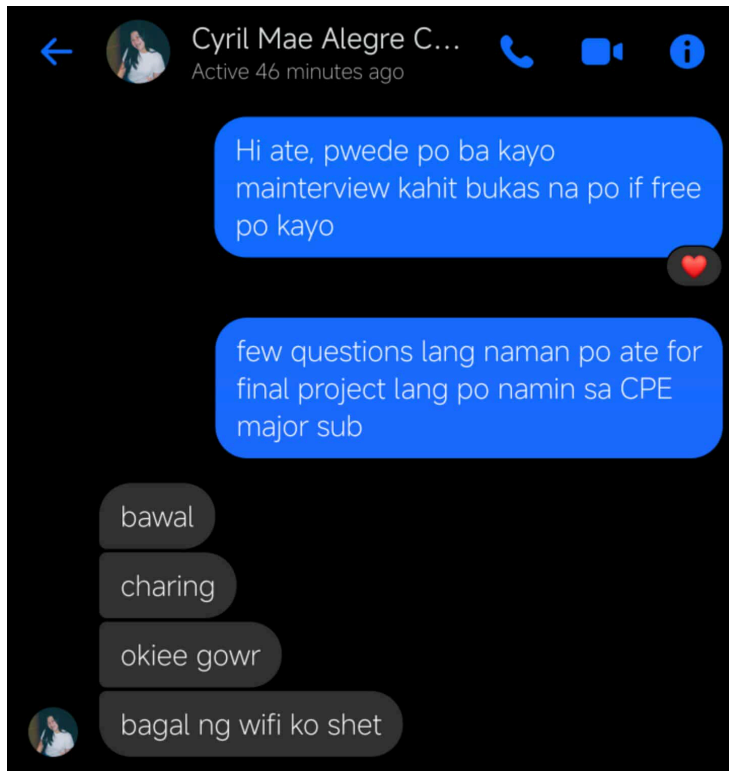
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### **Conclusion**

Overall, the interview offered clear insight into both the academic and professional aspects of a computer engineering graduate's journey. It highlighted the importance of building skills, taking risks, and being proactive in pursuing career opportunities. This perspective is especially helpful for future students, as it emphasizes practical approaches to overcoming challenges, preparing for the workforce, and creating their own paths in the field.

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## Appendices





Cyril Mae Alegre C...

Active 46 minutes ago



-What challenges did you face in your career journey and how did you solve these challenges?

Maybe one of the challenges I faced is that since I was fresh graduate that time and my co workers been working for more than 2 years, I need to be like them, like already know what we are doing, wherein fact I just graduated that time, and I have to go with the flow with them. But luckily, they dont make me feel insecure.



Cyril Mae Alegre C...

Active 46 minutes ago



-What are your experiences in your career as a fresh graduate of computer engineering?

So far, it is good in my 1 year of work. As a graduate of computer engineering, I was able to apply different skills in my software engineer career such as my dedication, strong analytical abilities, and meticulous attention to detail. I was able to apply my highly proficient with various software and always look for efficient, well-structured solutions.



Cyril Mae Alegre C...

Active 46 minutes ago



-What advice can you give on future cpe graduates in order for them to have better chances throughout their career journey?

Lessons in college won't be fully applied in your career, but the life lessons are. When you already failed in your college, it is your time for you to redeem in your career. In career, it is not about academics. It is about how can you make your own way to get that career or goal. Also, don't be scared to take risk. As for my career, I knew that DXC Technology is a global IT company. They might have high qualifications and will qualify only fresh grads from the big 4 universities. But as a PUPian, I took risk and applied for the software engineer position. By God's grace, I got in. That risk was worth it.

Lastly, don't worry if finding your career will take long. Failed interviews, failed tests will always be there. Use your spare time to have upskill, wherein you take certifications and etc. This would help you to find job and have a better offer of salary.