



Vantage Magazine

Freshmanual 2022 - 2023

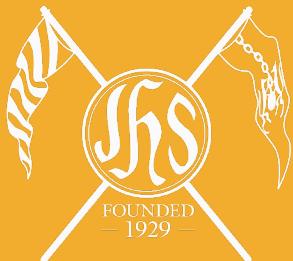
OBFI!

MAGIC

OBFI! OBFI! OBFI! OBFI! OBFI!



SCAN THIS!



The GUIDON

Editor-in-Chief
Mina Mata

Associate Editor
Joachim S. Melo

Managing Editor
Enrique B. Halili

Design Executive Editor
Alissa Evangelista

Vantage Magazine Editors

Therese Garcia
Gabrielle I. Lombos

Writers

Martin Mariano Celiz
Kris M. Fetiza
Giu Martinez
Jewel Ruther Miraña
Ryan Reyes
Leila Simon

Photos Editors

Stella Arenas
Daryl D. Sy

Photo Credits

Inez Ponce De Leon, PhD
Christopher K. Peabody
Ceej Atienza
Janine Balajadia
Ria Nolido
Christian Tiu

Graphic Design Editors

Jezzyrae B. Maglente
Samantha Rose Ragaza

Illustrators

Pau Lasala
Franz Manlutac
Julia Isabelle Yabut
Gabrel Gaditano

Layout Artist

AJ Raymundo

Cover Art

Danelle Erin Natividad



A message from the O-Chairs

WELCOME HOME!



The past few years have been a challenge for everyone—we shifted to online learning and juggled various commitments alongside the unprecedented events that came our way. However, if there is one thing that the pandemic has taught us, it is that we must navigate gracefully through change, regardless of the obstacles we face. This remains true in university life as well. In the coming years, you will confront—and overcome—unpredictable environments and uncomfortable situations. More importantly, however, you will be surrounded by blessings in all shapes and sizes.

As you begin this new journey, we encourage you to pay attention to the people and the experiences around you and allow these to be channels of hope, love, and joy. While the Ateneo and its community have so much to offer, what you make of the next four or five years is entirely up to you. For now, this OrSem is the first step you will take into your new home. That first step in itself is worth celebrating and being proud of.

As upperclassmen, we want to extend our love and support to each and every one of you. Once again, congratulations and welcome to the Ateneo!

Kasama niyong tumitindig,

Gabriela Pinga and Matthew Gapuz
OrSem 2022 Chairpersons





MEET THE O-HOSTS

BEA VERDADERO (2 AB COM) is OrSem *Tindig*'s "BV na nagdadala ng GVs (Bea Verdadero who brings good vibes)." She's the quintessential communication major, being a self-proclaimed *daldalera* (chatterbox). However, despite Bea's easy going demeanor, her journey wasn't all Canvas confetti and celebration.

Choosing the right college definitely was the first bump in her path. With no fixed expectations, she shares that the decision was both liberating and pressuring. After passing the Ateneo, she still had apprehensions about the school's expectations and culture. She was particularly worried about the Atenean stereotype that students need to speak English fluently.

Bea Verdadero:
Your sweet, substantial daldalera
By Jewel Ruther Miraña

Adjusting to online classes was another roadblock. As someone fond of handwritten notes, the digitalization of everything—from scheduling events to using Canvas—was unfamiliar to her. "*Hindi ko talaga na-get 'yung Notion nung start* (I really didn't understand Notion at the start)," she states.

However, Bea credits luck and confetti for making the obstacles worthwhile. Quite literally, the Canvas confetti shower after a submission was a surprising yet rewarding event for her. Meeting like-minded blockmates was also essential for settling in. "I met people that I vibe with, '*yung kalog rin magsalita at kalog rin humor* (people with the same way of speech and humor)," she says.

As Bea entered college, she was pushed to try out novel things and seek experiences that would be gratifying. The girl who was "*kinakain ng hiya* (being eaten by shame)" in high school wasted no time to grab opportunities in college. Following a New Year's resolution to be more assertive, Bea took the initiative to meet new people during her own OrSem *Tayo* last year. Outside block sessions, she reached out to people for group chats and Discord groups. Her OrSem experience became especially memorable as she clicked with her blockmates, even forming inside jokes with them. Putting herself out there made her OrSem journey, albeit online, fun and enjoyable.



However, Bea still longed for the onsite OrSem experience. For this reason, she took the chance to audition as an O-Host this year. "Audition pa lang naman (It's just the audition)," she joked at the time about the uncertainty she felt. Little did she know that her decision would lead to her first onsite triumph—a real life confetti explosion as she was appointed to become an O-Host.

Given Bea's diverse set of experiences in the Ateneo so far, she naturally chose "Miss Relatable" as her hosting persona. "I really like that version of myself—may napapala 'yung kadaldalan ko (my talkativeness gets me somewhere)," she shares.

Hoping to become relatable to the freshies, Bea aims to spread her infectious smile and her Pinterest-sounding advice with all of them. Her hosting persona has also been molded by her involvement in two organizations: the Ateneo Association of Communication Majors (ACOMM) and the Company of Ateneo Dancers (CADs). While ACOMM helped her to develop the hard skills and confidence for hosting, CADs allowed her to infuse her sense of groove from dancing into her persona—cementing her "sweet tooth who likes to groove" tagline.

HE'S THE seatmate who always has pad paper on hand. He's the beadle who knows the class announcements better than the professor does. Duane Madriñan (4 AB DS) is your ever-reliable, brightly beaming O-Host for this year's OrSem Tindig.

No one was more surprised than Duane when he found out he managed to successfully pass the grueling O-Host selection process. He insists that if anyone who met him in freshman year was asked, they would never believe that he managed to pull this off. To many, Duane could be described as someone serious and put together.

Yet, becoming an O-Host was one of the things Duane had always set his sights on since his own OrSem in 2019. Since then, he became determined to show a different side of himself that is still innate to him—even if he was responsible, he was fun all the same.

"[I told myself that] before we graduate [the] Ateneo, let's just do something crazy and out of the box, something people wouldn't expect [us] to do [like be] an O-Host," he beams.

As a freshman entering OrSem Silay in 2019, Duane was confronted with a major culture shock moment. Coming from a reserved and quiet science high school, he was amazed at how much passion and joy there was in the Ateneo atmosphere. Duane also found that the various OrSem group dynamics and icebreakers were great avenues for him to meet his fellow freshies in his dream school.

"Generally it was a way for me to know people better and to see a [side] of things completely different from what I

As OrSem *Tindig* approaches, Bea urges the freshies to embrace change. One of her life philosophies is Heraclitus' quote: "No man ever steps in the same river twice, for it's not the same river and he's not the same man." The quote embodies her openness to change, extremely important today given the rapidly changing times.

With her platform as an O-Host, she seeks to make all Ateneans—from the Taglish speakers to the Jose Mari Chan meme enthusiasts—feel included. As Bea steps foot on campus for onsite classes, she wants to spread her wisdom with everyone, meet the tight-knit Atenean community, and get lost in the beauty of campus. Most importantly, she wishes to introduce Canvas' post-submission confetti system to her onsite classes, with professors showering students in confetti after they pass their papers.

This OrSem *Tindig*, Bea assures freshies that they can count on BV to shower GVs with her uplifting *chika*. Whatever change anyone faces, she's there to be our cheerleader, philosopher, and confetti sprinkler.



to see a [side] of things completely different from what I was born and raised into in Valenzuela in the public school system," Duane recalls. For him, his Ateneo journey is continually marked by a series of moments that compel him to "open up," especially towards the multitude of perspectives that the Ateneo has to offer.

Throughout freshman year, he didn't have a lot of friends because he purposely isolated himself, especially from his block. "I was isolating myself *kasi natatakot ako na baka hindi ako maging kin sa kanila* because I'm from a public

high school," Duane admits. He was scared that he wouldn't be able to match the vibes, from the humor to the interests, of his peers.

However, Duane had more opportunities to interact with others in his sophomore and junior years. Through research proposals and community development work, he managed to open up to larger groups of people. His work in the Development Society of the Ateneo, Ateneo Gabay, and Habitat for Humanity Blue Chapter helps him keep engaged with his community as well.

As the University begins transitioning back to onsite classes, Duane is looking forward to meeting new people and strengthening his current bonds. "I feel like there [are] already genuine connections in the online realm, but there's more that we can do. This coming [shift to] onsite [classes], I'd like to engage more with the communities, regardless if it's inside or outside [the] Ateneo," he confides.

Duane also laments how he could've connected more with the groups he previously encountered in his Development Studies courses. "I want to feel and imbibe the legit Ateneo culture and spirit that we were deprived of in the last two years... [which was in the] Ateneo *lang pero nasa laptop.*"

Ultimately, for Duane, the Ateneo spirit is about reaching beyond the self.

Throughout his stay, Duane found that the Ateneo has changed him since it let him dig deep into his spirituality

and find that sense of community beyond himself. While he considers the saying of becoming "a person for and with others" cliché, he finds that truth within his transformation. He believes that despite the barrier of online classes, he still finds his coursework fulfilling as he gets to interact and collaborate with groups like the indigenous people of Bukidnon.

"[The Ateneo has enabled me] to see the world in a broader sense from different perspectives, and to have that genuine desire to serve and give back. I wouldn't be in [the] Ateneo if it weren't for the scholarship, and I feel obligated to share that gift of education to other people wherever I go in the future, in whatever track I plan to pursue."

However, Duane acknowledges that this kind of epiphany doesn't happen overnight. He shares that the first year of college is an opportunity for freshmen to reflect and listen to themselves, after which, during the next four or more years, they can define and pursue what they want in their lives.

Sharing advice for freshies who may feel overwhelmed by the expectations of college life, Duane advises them to take a pause. In this pause, they may find what they are looking for.

"Atenean education is a privilege. Make good use of the position you are [in] now. Always remember there's a world beyond you, your family, and immediate circles—and that world needs you because if you don't heed their call, who else will?" he imparts.



ICIA BAQUIRAN (4 BS MGT-MIS), "your Little Miss Sunshine who always beats that deadline," is one of the rare people whose energy fills an entire room. A tiny box on Zoom certainly doesn't do her presence any justice. As OrSem looks to hold some onsite activities after two years being fully online, Icia and her fellow O-Hosts are ready to release the energy they have built up.

Many people choose a university based on the program they wish to take. Although the same could be true for Icia, the vibrant student organization life was also a major factor in her decision to attend the Ateneo. She booked hosting gigs for events held by her roster of organizations, partly in preparation for her O-Host goal. An extrovert through and through, Icia thrives in these settings where she is able to interact and work with people. On top of that, she is also currently pursuing a second degree in Management Information Systems (MIS).

While Icia may seem like she's always had it all figured out, she was not exempt from the typical rocky college journey—she's also had her fair share of impulsive decisions, confusion and mistakes. Finding the right career path did not come

instantly; she shifted from economics to management, until finally realizing that a second degree in MIS was the way to go. Behind the reliable Icia people know today is a process of discernment and self-reflection that follows her journey from freshman to senior year. Looking back on her time as a freshie, Icia shares that she didn't realize that life progressed in stages, and everyone was going at their own pace.

These experiences and decisions contribute to who she is today, playing into her *tita* personality. Apart from having a keen awareness of processes such as shifting, applying for a minor, or taking a double degree, she has an endless stock of school supplies and can recall deadlines in an instant. "If you need anything, I have it," she jokes.

Since her own OrSem in 2019, Icia has been in awe of the Ateneo community's enthusiasm for welcoming freshies. To her, the O-Hosts play a profoundly important role in creating such a warm atmosphere—they didn't just facilitate an event, they shared a story. While becoming a host was always on her bucket list, seeing the O-Hosts in action through the years cemented her determination to finally tick it off.

Just like her career path, Icia's O-Host journey was a long one that began in her freshman year. She auditioned for the Association of Communication Majors' (ACOMM) Hosting Pool in her first year and was not accepted. Following her rejection, she gained experience by hosting events in her plethora of other organizations. Her dedication resulted in her acceptance into the ACOMM hosting pool in her junior year. "It's been a long time, so I can say *na* I think I deserve this spot because I really did work hard to get here," she shares.

Like the O-Hosts that came before her, Icia has a curated persona. She learned that crafting one isn't just about

putting catchy words together and embodying what they supposedly mean. Icia shared that she grew into different versions of herself in the process.

Enter "your Little Miss Sunshine who always beats that deadline." She's bubbly and bright with just the right amount of *tita* energy. "It's not really a matter of acting [but] a matter of highlighting the things that I think people do like and very much admire about me—*char*, admire?" she says with a laugh.

The pandemic necessitated a shift in nearly all of the University's set procedures, and as students return onsite, more changes are bound to happen. At this point, Icia and her batchmates from OrSem Silay in 2019 have experienced more of college online than they have onsite. Anxieties about what they can share with the incoming batch are inevitable. Rather than succumb to these anxieties, Icia aims to remind the freshies that navigating uncertainty is an inevitable part of one's college experience.

Icia offers a bit of advice to this year's freshmen, drawing inspiration from her own college journey. "When you come into [the] Ateneo and you realize that there are a lot of opportunities, and you don't really understand or you're very anxious about whether or not you're going to be making the right decisions when you have your first year, your second, and your third, you got to accept the fact that you will make mistakes. But, at the same time, you will grow from them."

Stare directly into the sun, and you'll be blinded by it. Instead, she says to focus on the world it illuminates and treasure it. This is what it means to walk on sunshine, and Icia will be walking with you.

Hello!
I am


JOHN

John Dy So:
 Blessed and at his best
 By Giu Martinez

THE ONE and only preppy *chinito* John Dy So (4 BS LM) is happy to be your "so amazing, so handsome" O-Host this OrSem *Tindig!*

Like many freshmen in the past, John was one of those who didn't ride the OrSem hype train right away. He recalls his thought process during the first day of his own OrSem Silay three years ago, saying, "I remember going through that day. I messaged my friends after and I was like, 'Ano ba ang hype ng OrSem na 'to (What even is the hype of OrSem)?" Because John tended to be closed off back then, he was not able to truly engage with his blockmates during the first day of OrSem.

A little bit of introspection, however, shifted his perspective overnight and changed his attitude towards the event. "I really appreciated all the effort they (my TNTs and

SecMobs) did," he shares. "I look back at it (the experience) with a smile—always."

In fact, John's sudden desire to become an O-Host was definitely fired up by his change of heart during his own moving OrSem experience. As a man of prayer, John says that he had written this new objective down in his prayer journal a little after his OrSem: "That was my first goal *talaga* for the year: I wanted to become an O-Host one day."

Now that he's a senior—who has never applied as an OrSem volunteer in the years prior—applying for the O-Host role during the Hunt was a now-or-never opportunity. Inevitably, he hesitated to take the leap as his plate was full with academics and internships. He had also been inactive in his organizations, such as Ateneo Lex and the Ateneo Junior Marketing Association because he wasn't fond of the online setup.

However, the Ateneo's gradual return to onsite campus life has motivated him to be more involved. "I want to be more active *kasi na-miss ko 'yung* new people and the company," he says. Ultimately, John believes that the college experience is one of a kind when he is onsite and face to face with others. He particularly thinks that becoming an O-Host is the first step into immersing himself in extra curriculars once again. "Little did I know that dream would come true," he says.

Before getting to his current position as an O-Host, however, John's college journey was all but easy. In his freshman year, he initially started out as an AB Communication student before shifting into his current course BS Legal Management. He explains, "I gave it a year, pero I felt that COM wasn't the right place for me."

JOSHUA PANGAN (2 AB POS-MPM) is "your *spicy* Kapampangan, written by a woman," and he can't wait to grace the OrSem *Tindig* stage as an O-Host.

"My character blossoms with heavily feminine characteristics: sensitivity, sophistication, and spiciness!" he exclaims. Raised by a single mother, Josh considers himself a proud product of his matriarchal family, as his spiel suggests.

He is as bubbly as he is approachable—his poise costing him none of his congeniality. Even over a Zoom call, Josh's energy is infectious in conversation; one can't help but smile while listening to him speak about his Ateneo experience.

A self-proclaimed extrovert, Josh sorely misses the thrill of making new friends at school. "I super love meeting new people that I can bond with. That's my top priority, looking forward to the onsite experience," he says.

John was soon granted his change in degree during the first semester of AY 2020–2021, which fueled his drive to study harder and be a more motivated student. "I'm not sure if I'm going to pursue law in the future, but the fact na you see these [legal] cases come to life—*sobrang* interesting siya for me," he elaborates.

Despite the change in John's course trajectory, he never doubted that the Ateneo was his home because he strongly felt that the University's values align with his own. "It's always been a dream; I just knew I would fit right in here in Ateneo, and I really do," he beams. "I'm really happy to be here."

John also appreciates the openness and diversity of the Ateneo community—so much so that he's grown to value engaging with people and hearing their stories. He finds excitement in experiencing the magic that occurs as he talks to someone in real life as opposed to interacting with them online. "I can't wait to see my fourth year [in college] come to life," he excitedly proclaims.

In the past three years of his college journey, John's realized how valuable it is to put himself out there and learn from the people around him. With that in mind, he leaves incoming freshmen with his life motto: Leave people better off than when you first met them. Ultimately, Ateneo becomes home when you know there are people waiting for you—people who deeply and genuinely care about you.

"Be a blessing to others," John says. "That starts in your small encounters: Be the first one to greet them, be the first one to smile because that changes everything."



This O-Host admits that he found his first year in college a bit underwhelming but only due to circumstance. "I wouldn't really message or call people [online]. I'm more extroverted onsite."

Although Josh's freshman year was not everything he had hoped for, he sees this year's OrSem as a chance for him to reconnect with the school. "When [the] time came that school opened for onsite [classes], and O-Hosts auditions came, [the] Ateneo suddenly became my home. I felt that this is actually where I want to be—not in any other place."

Josh hopes to share this excitement for the Ateneo experience with all the incoming freshmen. In fact, he considers the upcoming OrSem event as his first as well, as it will be partially onsite, unlike his own OrSem during his first year in college. "I wanted to be an O-Host [because] I think I would experience it better if I'm also on the center stage," he adds.

Never shying away from new opportunities, Josh wants to be his flamboyant yet genuine self in front of the freshmen. He hopes they would be more comfortable in their own skin, too. "Just be you, but don't be scared... it's okay for you to not yet know who you are, but what's important is just to be real," he assures.

Josh's sense of identity has developed over his life and his time in Ateneo. He particularly credits the experience of interacting with other people as an opportunity to find himself. "There are some

people that have a preconceived description of you, and it is up to you to break that stereotype," he explains.

Josh loves the challenge brought by meeting new people and getting past the initial judgment people make of him. "The more that they fit me into a stereotype, the more that I get to express my personality, my character. I'm becoming more 'me' with these challenges," Josh shares.

One way that the Ateneo challenged this flamboyant O-Host is with the experience of impostor syndrome. Josh explains, "[I would ask myself.] 'Do I deserve to be here? Am I being someone else when I am in the Ateneo? Is this just a facet of my character?' It challenged me to express the real me, [and] that's still a struggle for me."

Beyond the realm of academics, college also offers other opportunities for self-discovery in other avenues. Josh encourages the freshmen to take the time to find themselves. "It really doesn't matter what other people say about you or think about you as long as you're happy being yourself without hurting others. That's the moment when you start to be real with yourself," Josh says.

Behind his *bibo*, sophisticated self, this sweet and spicy O-Host experiences the same struggles any regular Atenean would. Josh serves as a loud and honest reminder for the freshmen that it's okay to be yourself and to simply take things one step at a time.



vant's declassified admu survival guide

By Martin Mariano Celiz
and Giu Martinez
Page Design by Julia Isabelle Yabut

IT'S THE moment you've been waiting for. After two years in the online classroom, the Ateneo community has finally started the transition back to onsite learning. However, the jarring adjustments have made it clear that a standard rulebook on getting through college is impossible to create.

Worry not, because your upperclassmen and faculty have got you covered with some words of wisdom to make it through your university journey! In this survival guide, Vantage asked a couple of professors and seniors what best college advice they would like to give to freshmen.



"Grades simply measure how well you did in the classroom. What you do with your learning after you leave the classroom is entirely up to you. So, focusing on your grades alone is a comfort zone—escape that comfort zone! Learn as much as you can: Take classes in new subjects that are completely out of your field of study, focus on learning rather than the numbers that come with classroom work, and always ask questions. Let college feed your joy at finding new universes of knowledge, and your grades will just follow."

— Inez Ponce De Leon, PhD; Associate Professor; LS Communication Department



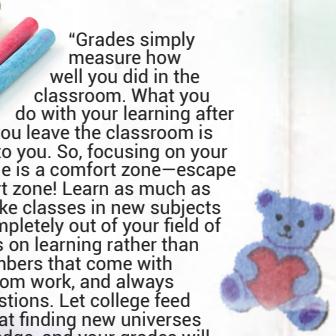
"When it comes to taking notes for a subject, try to create a shared Google Docs file with some friends! Divide the parts of the lecture among each other so that each of you only takes notes for a small portion of the class. This way, you'll be able to listen to your lecture and have complete access to your notes at the same time."

— Janine Balajadia, 4 BS HS & AB DS



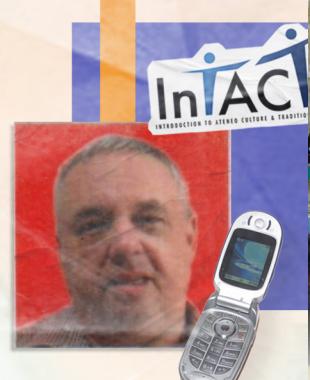
"Live day by day. It's fun to look forward and plan for the future, but don't forget to appreciate what's happening right in front of you. My advice for you is to pause and breathe every once in a while."

— Ria Nolido, 4 BFA ID



"First, remember that the Ateneo is not only a great place to grow as a person, but also a place to build long-lasting friendships. Second, you are not alone. Get to know your Introduction to the Ateneo Culture and Traditions (InTACT) Homeroom Advisor and your InTACT Student Facilitator. They will help you throughout your stay in the Ateneo. Make it a point to reach out to batchmates, classmates, and especially teachers. We do appreciate it when you contact us, whether for help or just to talk. And remember to smile!"

— Christopher K. Peabody,
Faculty, LS Chemistry Department



"My best advice for surviving college is to slow down and have some fun! College only lasts four years and having good memories to look back to when you're reminiscing with your bárka will be priceless. Attend that get together with your blockmates! Join that organization even if its app process seems tough! Have a night out after exams!"

— Christian Tiu, 4 BS PSY



"Use university as a launchpad—learn the foundations from your curriculum, then take them with you as you expand your growth in other opportunities! Orgs, internships, and side hustles will allow you to grow ten times faster because you're faced with scenarios that test how you apply what you learn. Try not to limit yourself to your academics because exponential growth starts to come when you step out of your comfort zone and try something new."

— Ceej Atienza, 4 BS ITE

Best of both worlds

By Kris Fetiza and Leila Simon
Photos by Stella Louise Arenas



EVERY AUGUST, thousands of freshmen are welcomed into the Ateneo de Manila University through the Loyola Schools' vibrant Orientation Seminar (OrSem). The annual event is a stepping stone for all freshies, and although it has sustained a slew of changes in the past years, OrSem continues to stand the test of time.

As OrSem transitions to a hybrid set-up after two years online, the challenge now falls upon the shoulders of the OrSem Organizing Committee (OrCom) to innovate while keeping the tradition alive.

This year's OrSem theme, *Tindig*, is a challenge beckoning both organizers and freshies to stand firm and remain hopeful come what may. The past two OrSems, *Tuloy* and *Tayo*, focused on reimagining tradition and putting emphasis on togetherness despite adversity. Now, Ateneans are faced with the call of *Tindig*, a synthesis of the past two themes, urging them to press onwards through the unwarranted times that blanket the community with uncertainty.

IT TAKES A VILLAGE

Despite the challenge of preparing for the first hybrid OrSem, the OrCom persists in ensuring that freshies get that experience they deserve. "It's

(OrSem) an event that only happens once in an Atenean's journey, so we wanted to strike a balance between the traditions that OrSem has been having the past years, and at the same time innovate from there," Entertainment Head Kyra Mallari shares.

Thus, an overarching challenge for OrCom was to create a delicate balance between the old and the new. They had to ensure that online and onsite activities were not considered separate but integrated as one OrSem experience. "We (OrCom) don't want them to be fully immersed in the online set-up, and then experience culture shock when they're suddenly on campus grounds," Mallari reasons.

Fortunately, a collective sentiment that all members of the OrCom share is that they have been well adjusted to the online systems based on their experiences in *Tuloy* and *Tayo*. With the tools and guidance they picked up along the way, they could properly pace all the gimmicks and activities in six days. Documentation and Publications (DNP) Head Gabriel Gaditano expresses his gratitude towards *Tuloy*'s OrCom for giving this year's team a more organized framework to work with.

Now, most of the challenges for *Tindig*'s OrCom stem from the fact that the OrCom has to become more creative and innovative as they adjust and adapt to hybrid activities. "My Design team, for instance, is a larger group now. We needed a lot more manpower because we're catering not just to online OrSem activities but to onsite initiatives as well," Gaditano shared.

It definitely takes a whole community—and a lot of heart—to carry out this year's OrSem. For instance, the University administration was more involved in the planning process, especially with the onsite activities. They were particularly keen on having campus tours as a non-negotiable activity for the onsite days, and preparation for this entails filing paperwork and meeting with different departments. For the Entertainment Committee, Mallari recalls having to abide by changing protocols while still working around OrCom's own timeline. Despite this, the heads are still appreciative of the administration's trust in the team and letting them lead the entire project.

Aside from time constraints, Logistics Head Alexa Abaya is also concerned about the safety of conducting activities and programs on

campus and following the COVID-19 protocols set by the University. As the backbone of OrSem, the Logistics Committee is in charge of streamlining communication with other committees, which includes ensuring that volunteers on the ground are well equipped for onsite work.

There's a large gap between hosting online and onsite activities as well, so Talks and Tours (TNT) Core Jose Buenaventura shares that his team has also been training volunteers to be at the top of their game. "Being a TNT [volunteer] online is different, because you're sitting down and facilitating a Zoom call. Onsite, you're expected to have good stamina," he explains.

As seniors, Abaya and Gaditano reiterate their concern about being the last batch of students who had an onsite OrSem experience. "There was a lot of handholding in the sense that we really needed to guide them (the lower batches of volunteers) and make sure they were aware of the different onsite protocols," Abaya recalls.

While inexperienced, each volunteer has demonstrated an undeniable sense of initiative that their heads are all too proud of. Gaditano commends all volunteers for always choosing to show up at work, knowing they all share the same vision of preserving the OrSem experience. "We wanted to impart our initial experience [with Silay] to not just the freshies, but also to our volunteers who weren't able to experience OrSem onsite."



These challenges reflect why *Tindig* was perhaps the most suitable theme for OrSem 2022. "It (the theme) doesn't allude to anything in particular but it gives off a sentiment of assertiveness, which we thought was very important," Mallari says.

The preparations serve as a learning process for everyone involved in OrSem—from the OrCom to its volunteers. She hopes that *Tindig* serves to remind the freshies of their place in the Ateneo, regardless of any set-up.

WARMING THE WELCOMING

Constructing a hybrid OrSem is evidently no ordinary undertaking. Gaditano mentioned that his committee is performing twice the amount of work needed to make the event a success. "During [OrSem Silay] we had the printed freshie journal.

Then for the past two years we had online journals posted on our website. But since it's [a] hybrid [set-up], we had to do both at the same time." While the onsite activities are a welcome return, there are still numerous volunteers and freshies in their respective home provinces. This is why Buenaventura states that if anything, he envisions an OrSem where both platforms are equally enjoyable. "We want to make sure that the freshies feel included. [They should] feel like they have a voice, and at the same time, also feel like they're heard, because we have to remember college is a big moment for them," he says.

Although some parts of OrSem's program, such as O-Idol, are mainstays, OrCom and its group of volunteers have created ways to innovate these





segments without compromising these traditions. Buenaventura was full of pride while discussing how the TNT volunteers have created unique group dynamics and icebreakers (GDIBs) for the online setting in the past two years. For the hybrid set-up, they're also looking back at the previous GDIBs conducted onsite for inspiration.

According to Mallari, the Entertainment Committee gathered insights from freshies and found that they wanted more activities that focus on interaction and synergy. Her committee decided to translate that evaluation into the O-Idol setup as well by creating a cross-talent round wherein dancers and singers can perform one piece together. Through this, the segment becomes much more diverse compared to its purely onsite iteration, as Abaya notes that O-Idol has also grown into a platform that showcases multiple talents such as digital illustration.

A lot of work goes into making OrSem an event memorable for the rest of freshmen's stay on campus.

"There's a lot of behind the scenes [work], discussions and arguments that happen that no one ever sees. They only just see the final product," Abaya stresses.

Many provisions and restructuring were made at the short amount of time the OrCom was afforded. Mallari admitted that while they are excited for everything they have in store for the freshies, the OrCom is still nervous over the freshmen's reaction. "We don't want to overload them with so much information about the Ateneo," Mallari worries.

Ultimately, integrating freshies well into the campus after two years online is their number one priority. Now, all focus goes towards showcasing that through *Tindig*, both volunteers and freshies can overcome any adversity despite the uncertainties of the new normal.

IT'S THE ATENEO VERSION 2.0
Tindig as a theme goes beyond the grounds of OrSem.

The past two years have left the Ateneo community with multiple

losses and what-could-have-beens, and the digital campus is now a fundamental part of the Ateneo experience. While the atmosphere will never be the same as it was back in 2019, the definition of home and the Ateneo has evolved to include the hybrid set-up.

Throughout the incoming school year, every student and staff member will face uncharted waters as the Ateneo slowly approaches full operation after two years online. All throughout Katipunan, one will see signs of student life cropping up with every returning and incoming Atenean.

As Abaya reflects on the merging of both the online and hybrid platforms, she says, "We're trying to get the best of both worlds in making sure that the freshies have an enjoyable time—not only the freshies actually, but the volunteers as well, because they also put a lot of hard work into everything [they] do."

NEED
HELP?

VANTAGE HELP DESK

OBF

READ ME

THE FIRST day of school is always nerve-wracking—even more so when it's been two years since we've had regular physical classes. That's why we've compiled a list of articles that will make your transition from online to onsite as seamless as possible!

XOXO

QR CODE:



NO-FUSS NOTION

Notion can seem overwhelming, especially when you're completely new to the application. This article will teach you the tips and tricks you need to maximize the free Premium Personal Plan that comes with your OBF account!

UNDERRATED STUDY SPACES ON CAMPUS

If Rizal Lib and Matteo Up are brimming with students on your next visit, you might want to check out these peaceful study places on campus!

STUDY BUDDY



ONLINE LEARNING DESK ESSENTIALS

The online set-up is just as tricky to navigate as the actual Ateneo campus. These study desk essentials will make your life easier, though!

QR CODE:



AISIS

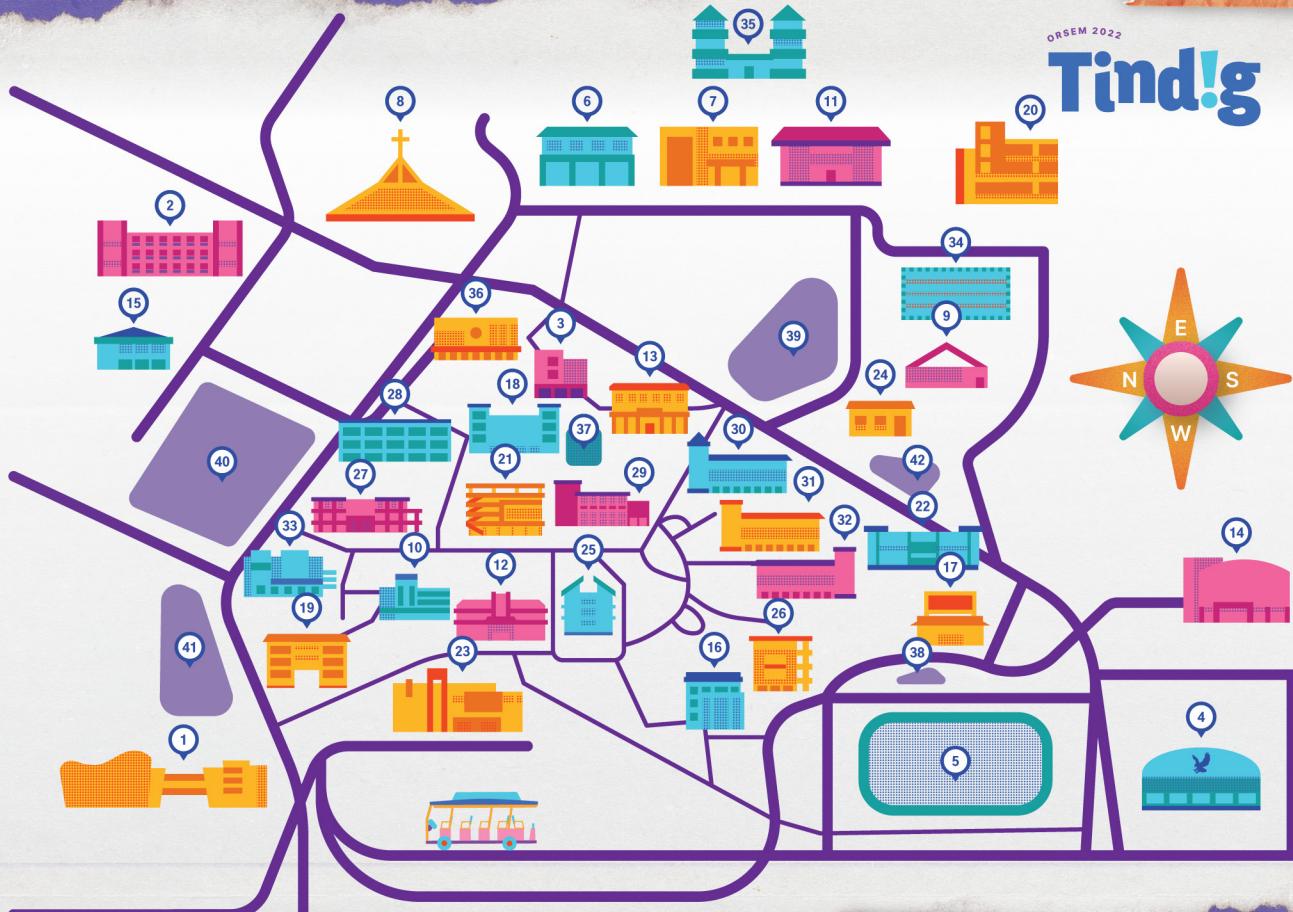
UNLEARNING TOXIC PRODUCTIVITY

While there's nothing wrong with being a girlboss or a hustler, you shouldn't have to sacrifice your physical and mental health in pursuit of your goals. Here's a reminder to take care of yourself!



QR CODE:





Campus Map

- | | | |
|--------------------------------|---|-----------------------------|
| 01 Areté | 15 ISO | 29 Schmitt Hall |
| 02 Bellarmine Hall | 16 JGSOM Building | 30 SEC A Building |
| 03 Berchmans Hall | 17 JGSOM Student Enterprise Center (JSEC) | 31 SEC B Building |
| 04 Blue Eagle Gym | 18 Kostka Hall | 32 SEC C Building |
| 05 Moro Lorenzo Football Field | 19 Leong Hall | 33 Social Sciences Building |
| 06 Cervini Canteen | 20 Loyola School of Theology (LST) | 34 Swimming Pool |
| 07 Cervini Residence Hall | 21 MVP Center for Student Leadership | 35 University Dorm |
| 08 Church of the Gesu | 22 Matteo Ricci Study Hall | 36 Xavier Hall |
| 09 College Covered Courts | 23 New Rizal Library | 37 Zen Garden |
| 10 Dela Costa Hall | 24 Old Communications Building | 38 Central Carpark |
| 11 Eliazo Residence Hall | 25 PIPAC | 39 Lower East Carpark |
| 12 Faura Hall | 26 PLDT-CTC Building | 40 North Carpark |
| 13 Gonzaga Hall | 27 Rizal Library (Old) | 41 Northwest Carpark |
| 14 Henry Lee Irwin Theater | 28 Rizal Mini Theater/ Faber Hall | 42 Upper East Carpark |

Welcome!

insert your 1x1 pic here!

pro tip: keeping copies of your ID pics in your school bag is really handy in college!

Name:

Nickname:

Pronouns:

Block & Course:

School:

Motto for College:



Favorites <3

- Study drink:
- Study snack:
- Study tunes:
- Wind-down activity:
- Tambayan in Katipunan:

THIS or THAT

- | | |
|--------------|--------------|
| online | offline |
| sunrise | sunset |
| wired | wireless |
| acads | lakads |
| talking | listening |
| dream course | dream school |
| class work | org work |
| AM class | PM class |



OBF

3 THINGS I'M GOOD AT:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

3 THINGS I WANT TO LEARN:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Psst! Join The GUIDON's Vantage Magazine! :)

Dream org

Comfort place in ADMU

Best OrSem memory

Fave OrSem host

OrSem crush



Messages from my blockmates



Hi, _____ ! Nice to meet you, I am _____. I think you would like the song _____ - it's _____.
SLAMBOOK OWNER'S NAME BLOCKMATE'S NAME SONG RECOMMENDATION DESCRIBE THE SONG

You might also like to watch/read _____ during your free time!
MOVIE/SERIES/BOOK RECOMMENDATION

School will be stressful, but you will need to wind down. I hope we can _____ some time! See you around campus. :)
SOMETHING YOU & YOUR BLOCKMATE CAN DO

Hi, _____ ! Nice to meet you, I am _____. I think you would like the song _____ - it's _____.
SLAMBOOK OWNER'S NAME BLOCKMATE'S NAME SONG RECOMMENDATION DESCRIBE THE SONG

You might also like to watch/read _____ during your free time!
MOVIE/SERIES/BOOK RECOMMENDATION

School will be stressful, but you will need to wind down. I hope we can _____ some time! See you around campus. :)
SOMETHING YOU & YOUR BLOCKMATE CAN DO

Hi, _____ ! Nice to meet you, I am _____. I think you would like the song _____ - it's _____.
SLAMBOOK OWNER'S NAME BLOCKMATE'S NAME SONG RECOMMENDATION DESCRIBE THE SONG

You might also like to watch/read _____ during your free time!
MOVIE/SERIES/BOOK RECOMMENDATION

School will be stressful, but you will need to wind down. I hope we can _____ some time! See you around campus. :)
SOMETHING YOU & YOUR BLOCKMATE CAN DO

★ A message to my future self at the end of freshie year



OBF!!

