

Message From Kevin Rowe Almoro, SCMA Scholar 2013-2014, B.S. CE



First of all, I would like to send my heartfelt congratulations to all of you as you all celebrate the association's 43rd Anniversary. It is really such a fulfillment to see that this organization has continued to reach out and help students to support their finances in finishing their education. I feel honored that I was one of your chosen scholars way back 2012-2013. Through all your help and assistance, I was able to graduate in college and that helped me to really flourish with my craft and achieve my desired goals as an engineer.

After graduating in Mapua back in 2013 and passed the board exam May 2014, I was able to work with Aboitiz, which is based in BGC Taguig City, as my first official employment. I was hired as a Project Officer - Infrastructure. My job was to facilitate and handle all structural projects that are being turned over to different beneficiaries of the company under their CSR projects. After about 7-8 months, I transferred as a Bridge Engineer for a multinational company, Arcadis (formerly Hyder Consulting) based in Makati City, Philippines.

In here, I was able to sharpen and hone my skills as a structural/ bridge designer as I was able to design different structures from different countries and territories, such as UK, Australia and Middle East Countries. I was also selected to one of the company's worldwide programs, which is the Arcadis Global Shapers, in which 100 of their employees from all their offices worldwide will be chosen from submitted applications to join a week summit for collaboration of ideas that would bolster the company's way of running the business. It is also an opportunity for us to give the company new perspectives on how it can improve its strategies and adopt to new global trends and technologies. It was truly a great experience for me as I was able to meet a lot of employees from different countries. After 3 years with Arcadis, I received an offer from a Japanese firm based in Okinawa, Japan to work as an Architect-Engineer. So February 2018, I left the the country and started my new life and career journey here in Okinawa. I work here as Civil Engineer in which I do civil design projects for the US bases. It's my first time to work abroad and really be away from the family. It was indeed a test of character as I have to face everyday battles alone. But I think the goals that I was able to build during my college stint had truly helped me to remain resilient in everything that I do. Moreover, I am so blessed by God as I am backed up with supportive family and friends that get me going every single day. That is the reason that until this moment I write this email, I am here and I am motivated to continue to live my life and career here.

Looking ahead, I still have a lot to catch up in fulfilling my career and improving my credentials. I'm thinking about masters, but I still have to see if I'll have time for it because my work is tedious and demands a lot of time, especially when projects come in all at the same time. I'm trying to find a scholarship too in one of the universities here in Okinawa. I also plan to take the PE exam, a licensure exam in the US that allows Filipino engineers to be accredited and recognized as equivalent engineers in the US. Since Mapua is ABET-accredited, there will be less pre-requisites in preparing for my exam. However, I have to take Fundamentals of Engineering exam first (as qualifying exam) before the PE Exam in which I need to choose the US State that I want to take the exam at (looking at California). I am starting to review by myself but haven't filed an application yet since I'm still supporting the family and this application is quite expensive. Hoping I will be able to save enough this year.

Regards to everyone there in SC, and again, my congratulations to this association. To Sir Berwyn Salazar, Tita Nene Irlandez, Sir Tony Ballesteros, Ma'am Glee Quiaot and to all other sponsors and part of SCMA, Maraming Salamat po and Mabuhay kayong lahat. I do hope that one day, I'll be able to do what you're doing now - that is to give back and help people who are driven to finish their studies. I promise that someday I'll be able to pay it forward. Thank you so much and God bless po!