



1. If anything was possible, what would your dream job be, and why?

I would be an entrepreneur doing business related to graphics design, if anything is possible. Maybe the kind of business that does photo booths for occasions (weddings, baptisms, reunions, alumni homecomings, and the like) with those printed photos with personalized design as the guest's keepsake. Or those print shops making souvenir items, personal branding of bottled scents, or customized mementos and T-shirts. I think it will be more compelling to do something you are passionate about as a means of living. Aside from the joy of doing what you truly love, you will always have the liberty to manage your time more deliberately and do other things you like. That kind of business will also enable me to help others who have a limited budget for the important moments they want to celebrate. Losing loved ones early makes me want others to enjoy being with their own. I mean, being a business owner does have its own advantages. It will allow some 'leg room' for however you'd like to decide about finances and make the most out of your time and spend it on something beneficial like traveling, discovering new gastronomic treats, or learning a new hobby.

2. Have you ever experienced a stressful situation in your past workplace (college if fresh graduate), what was it and how did you overcome it?

When I joined the shipbuilding company, I had zero knowledge about construction and was only equipped with the manufacturing discipline I learned from my previous work. It was a huge adjustment as most manufacturing process cannot be applied to the shipbuilding industry. The company is new and on set up, the first of its kind in the country, (aluminium – instead of the usual steel), so there was no 'tenured' Filipino colleague to ask from. Most suppliers and counterparts are overseas, and to make matters worse, my immediate manager resigned shortly at the peak of the project. I ended up alone in the Project Management Team, spearheading four projects at one time, then the earthquake hit Cebu and Bohol so badly. Supplies were delayed, and there was no clear resolution to port issues. I was on the brink of giving up at that time, but I had to make face and keep the 'Filipino Pride' and I really want to finish the project so badly. I went into a meeting with the company's country head and convinced him that we need a decent PM tool for construction to make it happen and work closely with the team to ensure that the project milestones are achieved weekly and get the best team resolution to delay. I also had the courage to liaise with my counterparts and we were able to successfully complete the project within the contract terms.



3. In your previous position, what task did you find most challenging and why? What task did you enjoy most and why?

I find the leadership position quite challenging. Managing the team on daily operations is generally all right. However, the duty of ensuring their overall career growth is quite tough especially when it is a team of truly talented people whom you respect and feel strongly about. As a manager, you would always want your team to have a bright future ahead of them and as much as possible, you want to train them as early to be able to replace you. Despite that, being of different personality types, you must consider all areas of interest and how they wanted their growth to be, and the pacing will also be different. Training should be personalized, and the worst is when the company needs to streamline the business and remove people from the job.

The part that I will always enjoy best is the annual planning and team-building activities. That is where you can discover how diversity in a team can come up with the best ideas and how talent and dedication everyone puts into a company's success.

4. How would your past colleagues or managers describe your work ethic?

I think my colleagues and managers will always describe me as someone who gets the job done. My manager once quoted that I am like 'silent waters that runs deep'. Generally, I can be quiet at work, just doing my own thing and getting the tasks done. When there is a need to raise an issue about work though, I can be quite assertive with what needs to be addressed. And I can do that promptly, too. My colleagues also know that I take feedback as something valuable and necessary so that tasks are done seamlessly or that the process of doing work is improved. Sometimes, this may give the impression that I am overly passionate. Bottom line is, I can be bantering happily but I suppose I have a very strong dedication to work, and they consider me as someone who works with integrity and delivers what needs to be done.

5. What personal or professional accomplishments are you most proud of?

I am most proud of having achieved my father's dream of having all his children have a professional license. I just had that realized recently, and I am the last one from the three of us. This is truly meaningful to me as my parents have not finished school and it is their dream to have all their children get a degree and be a professional in whatever their chosen field is. Having achieved that, I know my parents are proud. Regardless of how old someone gets, we always want the best things for our loved ones and please them. It is just sad that some of us don't get to have much time with our family, so it is the most precious thing that at least we get to keep our promises. I take pride in knowing that I can face my parents again one day and I can say I did my best, as promised.