



SCMA Scholarship

THE SCHOLARSHIP THAT CHANGED MY LIFE

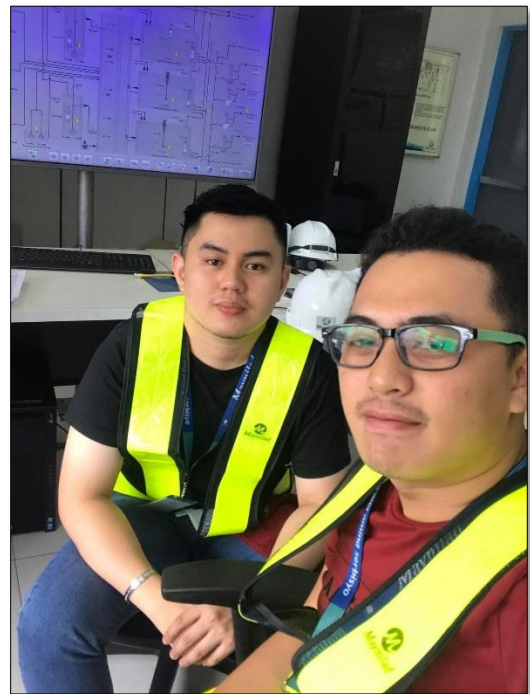
Carlos Norbert J. Abaño | SCMA Scholar | 03-09-2020

Studying for Mapúa Institute of Technology is not something that everyone can afford. With higher education, you can get a better job and a chance at a better life, but it all comes with a cost. A cost that some of us can't really afford. Studying for an institution like Mapúa Institute of Technology can be expensive, but there are scholarships that can help us pursue our dreams. *This is a story of how SCMA scholarship has changed my life.*

Hello! I would like to re-introduce myself again to the Southern California Mapúa Alumni Association. I am Carlos Norbert J. Abaño, a SCMA scholar from March 2016 up to July 2017. It has been almost 3 years since I graduated from the institute with a degree in Civil Engineering. Before working for Maynilad Water Services, Inc. I worked for Chiyoda Philippines Corporation as Structural Engineer. After 6 months in CPh, I decided to take my talents and skills to the other side of Civil Engineering which is Water Supply Engineering. I was fortunate enough to be selected as a Cadet Engineer among the thousand applicants hoping to be part of Maynilad. As of this moment, we are at our 2nd month of training.



Picture 1. Recording the results of pH and DO of Aerated Water in Alabang-Zapote Septage Treatment Plant



Picture 2. Monitoring the Alabang-Zapote Septage Treatment Plant in Central Control Room

Our work is interesting because we get to experience the different kinds of work scope of engineers. In the pictures above, I get to work as a Plant Engineer in a Septage Treatment Plant in Alabang-Zapote Road. Other than that, we also worked as a specialist in the community, specifically in septage desludging services of Maynilad.



Picture 3. Septage desludging services in Malate, Manila

Aside from work, the scholarship also helped me to realize the importance of taking care of your mental, physical, and spiritual body. It has shaped me to begin with the end in mind, as Dr. Covey said “Your most important work is always ahead of you, never behind you.” Even though it’s not directly related, the scholarship helped me realize the value of education and the thing it gives you in your daily lives. To date, it has been my personal commitment to seek continuous improvement and renewal both professionally and personally.



Picture 4. Sharpening my Physical Saw:
Mountain Climbing @ Mt. Daraitan, Tanay, Rizal



Picture 5. Sharpening my Spiritual Saw:
Weekly service @ UN Avenue, Manila

Humans, though often unintentionally, have the most detrimental impact on the environment. However, there are a multitude of ways in which we help the environment as well. As for me, I participated in the annual Battle for Manila Bay clean up headed by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources. Aside from the Manila Bay, the other bodies of water in the country have been given long overdue attention. Companies like Maynilad Water Service, Inc. have been doing their corporate social responsibility programs at coastal communities in order to try and mitigate the effects of solid waste pollution, particularly plastic that has been improperly disposed of.



Picture 6. Modern Battle of Manila Bay: Coastal clean-up in Baseco Compound, Port Area, Manila

To wrap things up, SCMA scholarship has changed my life in every single way. I owe the association a lifetime of gratitude for helping not just me but also my family. With this, I am planning to obtain a higher education in Mapúa Institute of Technology or University of the Philippines – Diliman and take a Master of Science in Civil Engineering major in Water Supply Engineering. My educational pursuits would not be possible without the generous support from scholarship sponsors like your organization. I hope I get the chance to be part of your organization again. Thank you for enabling this opportunity! God bless!