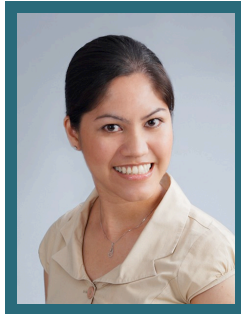


PrimeTime Member Spotlight

September 2010

Each month *Connections* talks to a PrimeTime member to find out more about them, what they do, and their association with PrimeTime



This month:
Johncy Concepcion
Senior Speech Therapist,
Khoo Teck Puat Hospital

Interviewed by:
Andrea Chalupova Hessmo

Personal talk...

Connections: Where are you from originally, and how long have you been in Singapore?

Johncy: I was born and raised in the Philippines. I grew up in a small town, now a city that is south Manila. I came to Singapore in 2007.

Connections: What brought you to Singapore?

Johncy: In 2006, I decided what my long-term career plan would be. It was a great coincidence that when I attended a seminar/workshop in Kuala Lumpur, the speaker was from a hospital in Singapore. I had a chat with him and the practice of speech therapy in Singapore looked like something that could happen. A month after that seminar in KL, I received a note from the same doctor informing me of another seminar, this time organised by his team in Singapore. I attended the seminar, met with the senior speech therapist at Alexandra Hospital and enquired about job openings. The rest is history.

Connections: What do you enjoy most about living here?

Johncy: Public transportation here is very convenient. That I can walk in the streets even late at night without having to worry about someone grabbing my bag or my phone from me is also a factor. I also enjoy the efficiency at the airport since I love to travel.

Connections: What are your interests and hobbies?

Johncy: I would not say that I have specific interests and hobbies because I try almost anything. I have mixed interests. While I enjoy the comfort of being surrounded by friends, I also find solace in my own company. I can often be found with my Kindle on hand reading fiction or leadership/management books. Recently I started a blog (<http://the-erudite-in-motion.blogspot.com>) though it's so new that there are not many entries yet. I plan to write about books I have read, movies I have seen and interesting activities in which I have taken part.

Connections: Have you had any particularly interesting experiences you would like to share with us?

Johncy: I could not really single out anything in my life that is more interesting than others. I find everything in my life equally important and worthy to draw lessons from. And these lessons I learn are the things that make my life more interesting.

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Professional talk...

Connections: Could you tell us a little about the company you work for and your current role?

Johncy: I am currently with Khoo Teck Puat Hospital (KTPH) that just started operations in March this year. It is one of the restructured hospitals in Singapore and is managed by Alexandra Health Pte Ltd. I am a Senior Speech Therapist and I oversee the speech therapy services offered by the hospital. By the time this newsletter is published, it is likely that I will have served my last official working day at KTPH.

Connections: How long have you been working in your present role?

Johncy: KTPH is under the management that used to operate at Alexandra Hospital. I have been with the hospital for more than three years.

Connections: Have you always worked in the same industry? If not, what else have you done/where else have you worked in the past?

Johncy: I have been working as a speech therapist since I obtained my qualifications in 2001 in various capacities. My first job was as college instructor in the same university where I graduated. I did both clinical and classroom teaching roles plus some executive function as well. While employed at the university, I was appointed the Officer for Student Relations. After four years, I moved on to consultant in several private hospitals and clinics in the Philippines while still holding a special lecturer post in the University of the Philippines. That was what I was doing before I relocated to Singapore.

Connections: What do you enjoy most about your job?

Johncy: I enjoy almost everything about my job. My patients tend to have communication and swallowing issues after illness or stroke, so I'm particularly fascinated with my interaction with patients, witnessing how therapy planning and implementation can allow them to achieve an improved or better quality of life. I also enjoy the time I spent training younger clinicians. I think, above all else, I enjoy learning from my patients, their families and the other clinicians I work with. I am really a very curious person.

Connections: What do you enjoy most about the company you work for?

Johncy: As I have said, I enjoy learning and finding solutions to problems. If there were one thing I am most grateful for about AH/KTPH, it would be the many training opportunities they provided me with. They partially supported all the courses, meetings and workshops I attended in New Zealand, Hong Kong and the US.

Connections: Have any of the PrimeTime programs you've attended helped you in your job?

Johncy: I think the PrimeTime programs I have attended not only helped me in doing my job, but also in teaching me lessons that I can apply anywhere else. Some of my perceptions about certain cultures and practices have changed since I started participating in PrimeTime events. Interacting with other PrimeTime members allowed me to be more confident. My exposure in PrimeTime also helped me in coming up with more concrete steps on how I can achieve my professional dream. I cannot say anything more about that here as it is still premature and I have just left my previous company.

Connections: Do you have any advice for job hunters trying to move into your industry?

Johncy: There is really nothing much I can say because to practice as a speech therapist, one must have the right qualifications.

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PrimeTime talk...

Connections: When did you join PrimeTime and how did you find out about it?

Johncy: I joined PrimeTime in January 2010. As odd as it may sound, I encountered PrimeTime while I was in the process of looking for a mentor. A friend from the Philippines introduced me to a former colleague of his who is based in Singapore to be my mentor. This person happened to be a part of the Women's Business Club and they helped organise the ASEAN Women's Forum in December. I attended that event and I met Juanita there. Then, one of the ladies on my table suggested that if I were looking for activities with like-minded women, it would do me good to find out more about PrimeTime, which I did. The first activity I attended was the 2nd Thursday Meeting held at the Tanglin Club. I brought along two of my friends and we all became members that same night.

Connections: Which PrimeTime subgroups do you belong to?

Johncy: I am a member of both PrimeTime Outreach and the Book Review Group.

Connections: Do you volunteer at PrimeTime?

Johncy: I volunteer at PrimeTime as the Programmes Analyst. I enjoy it tremendously. I never thought that I would be capable of looking at spreadsheets with such eagerness! I also volunteer at the registration table during 2nd Thursday Meetings. Of course, since I am part of Outreach, I was involved in the selection of the charity organisation that PrimeTime will partner for the year. I was one of the volunteer models during the fashion show when this partnership with the Mother and Child Project was launched.

Connections: What do you personally feel are the benefits of being a PrimeTime member?

Johncy: I think at this point where I am at a juncture in my career, I am very pleased to be part of the PrimeTime network. I feel so free to consult with some of the ladies that I have been in touch with regarding options I have. I am very thankful for the advice and guidance that I have been given thus far. It is also a wonderful resource for foreigners like me as to how to get things settled in Singapore. As it turned out, I was only looking for one mentor last year, and now I find myself with so many. It is really good to be in the presence of people who try their best to do better in whatever they do, serving as inspirations and sources of strength of character for younger ladies such as myself. I think I should also mention that in PrimeTime I have found life-long friends.

Connections: Which was the most interesting or inspiring PrimeTime event you've attended?

Johncy: I enjoy each book group meeting I go to because of the insights and opinions I get from the participants, who are from diverse backgrounds and cultures. Of the 2nd Thursday Meetings that I have been to, I particularly liked the one in March by Dr Dawn Dekle.

Thank you, Johncy!