

“I discover something new and interesting every day.”

[CC.Young.Voices]

- Interview with ‘Andres Fallas’, a youth in pursuit of new things, every day.

“I like to read and practice my musical instrument, the flute.”

Ciudad Colon. It is a city in which the majority of the students studying at the University for Peace (UPEACE) reside. While the total number of inhabitants of this wonderful city is relatively small, it is perhaps one of the most multicultural regions in Costa Rica due to the many different nationalities of UPEACE students. This melting pot of cultural and ethnicity can be best described as tranquil and calm. But there exists a dynamic space, which is the main park located in the middle of the city. The dynamic atmosphere in the main park is brought by the youth who spend considerable amounts of time at this venue. The main park is a place where those younger generations engage in various sports activity and spend hours chatting with their friends. It is at this point that curiosity is piqued with the question, “Youth is a crucial moment in their lives in preparation for the future. Could these young people be engaged in any other activities other than those exhibited here at the park? In order to find answers to this question, I interviewed Andres Fallas, another youngster I came across in Ciudad Colon..

- Could you briefly introduce yourself?

My name is Andres Fallas, and I am 20 years old. I am currently majoring topographic engineering at the University of Costa Rica. I live pretty far from Ciudad Colon, and I have to travel quite a distance every day to study. I live with my parents and two brothers and I am the second son.

- What do you usually do in your free time?

I like to read books and practice my musical instrument, the flute. And although it sounds weird, I love to spend time studying more about my major. I like to read a little bit of everything, especially history, and I also have a sweet spot for fantasy stories like Harry Potter. I am also into swimming, but not in competitions.



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- What made you join the musical band?

When I was young, I enjoyed listening to classical music so I started practicing piano when I was 10 years old at the Casa de Cultura here in Ciudad Colon. Although I started with the piano I wanted to switch to a different musical instrument because not only did I want to expand my knowledge of music, but I also had the feeling that music should be shared with other people, which I could not do by playing the piano by myself. So I learned how to play the flute. The reason I chose the flute is that usually, only two people in a musical band play the flute, which meant that joining a band as a flutist seemed more challenging. Piano is perhaps more versatile, but the flute is indeed a unique

instrument. I can also play many different kinds of popular music with the flute.

- Can you tell us more about the band?

There are a total of 15 people in the band and the structure resembles that of a big band. The band is composed of people from all ages, both old and young. 5 people are under 20 years old, but one lady is over 50.

- How often does your band meet for practice?

We meet once a week to practice at the Palestra here in Ciudad Colon.

- How about live performances? How often do you have the chance to play in front of an audience?

There are a couple of festivals in Ciudad Colon at which we perform.

On average, I think we perform about 3 times a year. Sometimes we organize youth or Christmas festivals, and the most recent performance was at the National Arts Festival.

We also go on tours



- What do you want be for in your future?

The answer to that question will most likely change day to day, because I discover something new and interesting every day. I am still on the quest to find the future I want.

Meeting Andres provided useful insights into better understanding what the younger generations who live in and around Ciudad Colon were engaged in. There were more dynamic activities hidden from plain sight. Such vibrant passion will undoubtedly work in favor of a better tomorrow for Ciudad Colon. With the most interested eyes, we carefully envision a future in which Andres Fallas grows up to become a positive force pushing Ciudad Colon to a brighter future.

(Writer' s footnote)

Andres Fallas is one of the three sons of my host family. I have known him since my first day here in Costa Rica, which is why I asked to interview him as he was more than willing to participate with both honesty and eagerness. While he no longer lives in Ciudad Colon, he spends the better part of his time here. Thus, Andres is a perfect candidate for this interview.

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