

Coming of Age

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(Illustration by Mai Sibayan)



The next academic year will find the Department of Computer Science in its new home – the palatial College of Engineering Library and Computer Science Building, at the borders of the University’s Science and Engineering Complex.

Moving out of the historic Melchor Hall will mean a multitude of farewells. The DCS shall bid goodbye to its neighboring departments, its family for 25 years; the faculty to the College staff, with which they shared corridors and conferences; and the student organizations to their allies and rivals, worthy opponents in academic and extra-curricular competitions.

However, moving into the new building will mean a multitude of salutations as well – we shall welcome the new hardships, the adjustments, the change in the way of life, the early uneasiness (or pleasure) at isolation. Most importantly, we shall welcome a stronger Department, one which is better equipped to fulfill its mission and vision.

With the DCS’ transfer to its own building, the Department will have its “coming of age”, a time to be free and explore its full potential. Nestled in its own home, the DCS will expand the intelligence and creativity it is famous for. Students and faculty alike will gaze at the vista of UP Diliman from the

expansive windows of their “Mount Olympus”, and there will be an unmistakable feeling of pride in their chests, pride that allows them to breathlessly declare, “This is my Department.”

We admit that these visions and aspirations come with a slew of questions. How will the Department fare so far away from the College’s administrators? How will CS organizations partake in College events? Will there be new policies? Is the security of students guaranteed at night? Will the building become the hub of computer science this side of the metro?

We cannot answer these questions – the Department itself will do, slowly but surely as it evolves in new surroundings. Predictions can be made, but they will be *uncertain* predictions. After all, when the Department finally relocates to the citadel at Velasquez Street, only one thing is certain –

The DCS Firefoxes will be carrying their proven brand of excellence into new heights.