



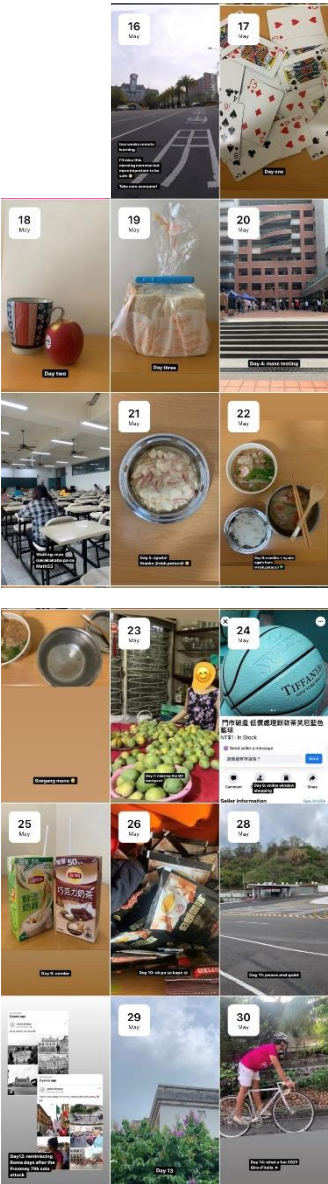
Love in Chaoyang

my learning experience in Taiwan during the epidemic

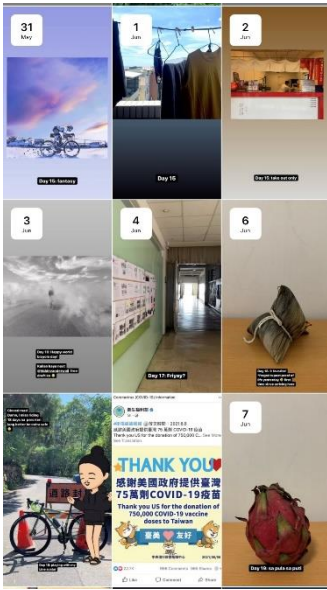
When the epidemic protocols were put in place beginning in the middle of May, it felt like Groundhog Day as I found myself in a situation where covid was beginning to spread in the Taiwanese Community. I could feel the anxiety of everyone as people start to adjust their daily routines to fight the spread of the disease. Much like in the Philippines, uncertainty, worry, panic could easily be seen. While my sentiments were “oh, here we go again,” I

believed that the responsiveness of CYUT and the national government of Taiwan would be different – and it was. Thanks to the support of everyone with contact tracing, vaccinations, and limiting human physical interactions, the country was able to successfully manage community transmission. During this span of uncertainty, I kept in contact with my Filipino family and friends to update them about my situation. Honestly, I never felt really worried about being alone here in Taichung, and with regards to the virus, I believed I was safer in my Dorm 3 room. My way to keep track was to post a story on social media (Instagram and Facebook) as a “sign of life” counting the days from May 16. Allow me to share my experience:

DAILY LOG :



- May 16 – Day 0: Preparing for remote learning, had to pick up lab materials to bring to the dorm.
- May 17 – Day 1: Playing cards to pass the time. Solitaire works.
- May 18 – Day 2: Stocked apples and green tea in the room. I do believe an apple a day, keeps the doctor away.
- May 19 – Day 3: Stocked some bread too and instant coffee. Nice to have the crusts removed.
- May 20 – Day 4: Mass testing at the school to control the virus. Really worried but, it is important to know the status of the students. Waiting was scarier than a multivariate statistics exam.
- May 21 – Day 5: Dormmate prepared tofu *sisig*, a yummy Filipino dish.
- May 22 – Day 6: Another dish from my dormmate: *sinigang*, a sour Filipino dish. Also ate some noodles.
- May 23 – Day 7: Mango harvest of my mom and dad at our home in the Philippines.
- May 24 – Day 8: Online window shopping.
- May 25 – Day 9: Stocking my favorite milk teas.
- May 26 – Day 10: Mr. Brown coffee really nails it. Perfect price and taste balance.
- May 27 – **forgot to post**
- May 28 – Day 12: Went to the Administration to pay some school fees. Really quiet.
- May 29 – Day 13: Trees are flowering as the season changes to summertime.
- May 30 – Day 14: Looking at past photos I took before leaving the Philippines. I miss this vintage bike.



May 31 – Day 15: Playing with an app called *Montionleap*.

Jun 1 – Day 16: Since protocols, I've been washing clothes by hand.

Jun 2 – Day 17: Ramen day! Take out only!

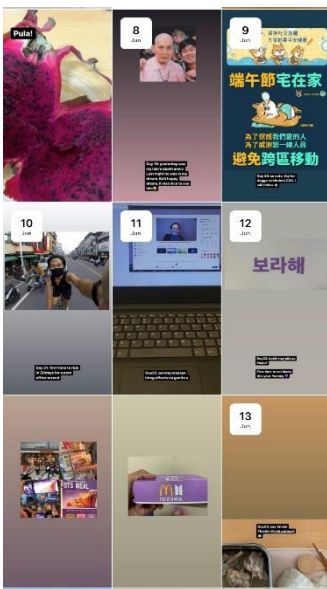
Jun 3 – Day 18: Happy World Bicycle Day!

Jun 4 – Day 19: Back to the lab again to pick up some stuff.

Jun 5 – **forgot to post**

Jun 6 – Day 21: My favorite local breakfast. In the Philippines, we call this *matchang*. No cycling yet, too risky to get injured to maybe get COVID, so I just play with my Line avatar.

Jun 7 – Day 22: Always an interesting experience to open a dragon fruit because it can be white or red.



Jun 8 – Day 23: Woke up from a happy dream where I interacted with my grandfather. It was his death anniversary the day before. I miss him.

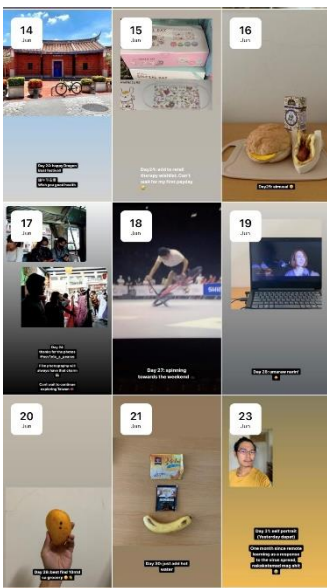
Jun 9 – Day 24: Though I can't read Mandarin, I can appreciate the beautiful graphics CDC creates to engage people in the country.

Jun 10 – Day 25: Went out to the post office in Wufeng to pay for a Conference.

Jun 11 – Day 26: Since my laptop isn't high-end, the camera malfunctions with background effects with video calls.

Jun 12 – Day 27: Time to join the BTS meal hype!

Jun 13 – Day 28: Another homecooked Filipino dish from my dormmate, *tinola* – chicken soup.



Jun 14 – Day 29: Another post office errand. Passed by Wufeng Lin garden.

Jun 15 – Day 30: Hello Kitty masks. Yay or nay?

Jun 16 – Day 31: Typical sandwich breakfast.

Jun 17 – Day 32: Amazed with analog photos taken by a friend from a previous trip to Jifeng.

Jun 18 – Day 33: Watched BMX World Championships.

Jun 19 – Day 34: Ohhhhhh. Parasite on Netflix! Good movie for the weekend.

Jun 20 – Day 35: Found some discounted mangoes at Simple Mart!

Jun 21 – Day 36: Breakfast combination: instant oatmeal, banana, and instant coffee.

Jun 22 – **forgot to post**

Jun 23 – Day 38: Self-portrait. Haven't shaved since remote learning. Also celebrated finishing the finals exam with instant noodles.



Jun 24 – Day 39: Packed up. Ready to move to another room in the dorm.

Jun 25 – Day 40: 11th anniversary with my fiancé. I miss her.

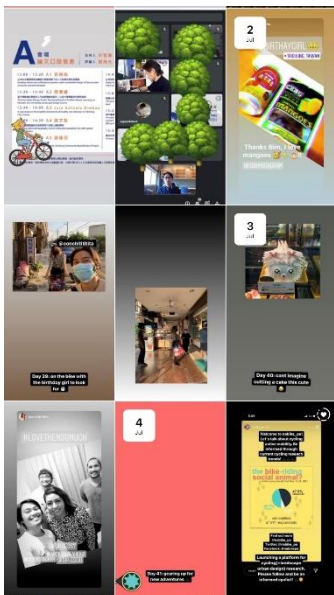
Jun 26 – Day 41: Flower arrangement gift to my fiancé.

Jun 27 – Day 42: Neighbors hanging some laundry.

Jun 28 – Day 43: Golden shower by the riverside.

Jun 29 – Day 44: Rainy afternoon walk around the city.

Jun 30 – Day 45: Got new glasses! Working back at the Ph.D. office.

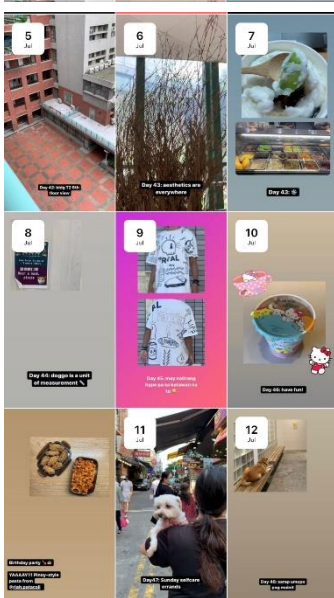


Jul 1 – Day 46: My first conference as a Ph.D. Student! Paper presented orally online.

Jul 2 – Day 47: Friend's birthday. No dine-in yet, but at least we can take out the cake.

Jul 3 – Day 48: Cute doggie cake.

Jul 4 – Day 49: Started an online platform about cycling research. Nabike_pa!



Jul 5 – Day 50: Started a cleaner job at the University.

Jul 6 – Day 51: Broomsticks are art.

Jul 7 – Day 52: Beating the heat with snow ice.

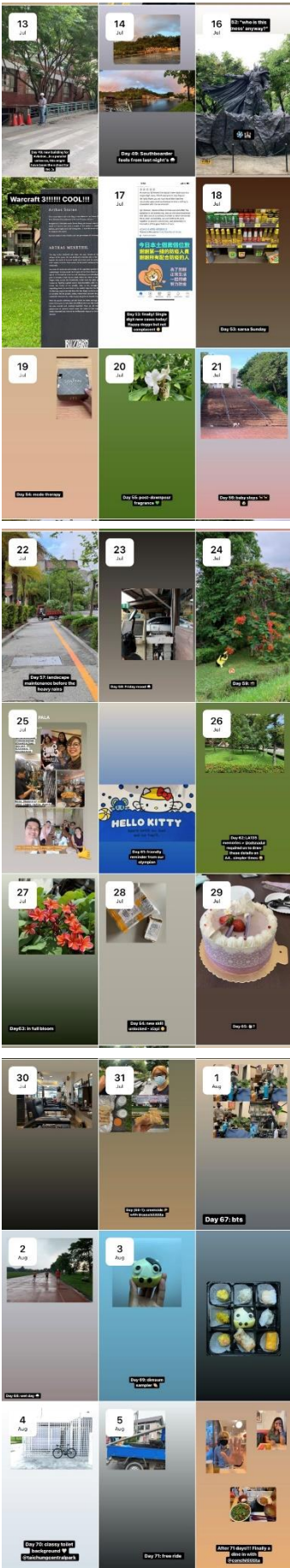
Jul 8 – Day 53: Another cute graphic about physical distancing.

Jul 9 – Day 54: Nice shirt from the thrift store.

Jul 10 – Day 55: Cute Hello Kitty cup design for breakfast. Fried chicken and homemade pasta (by dormmate) for dinner.

Jul 11 – Day 56: Had to do some errands at the night market in the afternoon.

Jul 12 – Day 57: Resting dog reminds me that rest is important.



Jul 13 – Day 58: Aviation building construction progress looks great!

Jul 14 – Day 59: Rainbow after the rain.

Jul 15 – **forgot to post**

Jul 16 – Day 61: Nostalgic to see a Warcraft III statue.

Jul 17 – Day 62: Single-digit cases after two months of protocols! Scanning all those QR codes is all worth it.

Jul 18 – Day 63: Time to the store to buy some Filipino goods.

Jul 19 – Day 64: Sometimes, I crave McDonald's.

Jul 20 – Day 65: New blooms!

Jul 21 – Day 66: Cute dogs walking around.

Jul 22 – Day 67: Landscape maintenance day around the campus.

Jul 23 – Day 68: Beheaded mannequin at the outdoor sink.

Jul 24 – Day 69: Picture taking under summer blooms.

Jul 25 – Day 70: Enjoying some memories from social media. Also, let's go Tokyo Olympics.

Jul 26 – Day 71: Tree guying. CYUT really takes care of its landscape.

Jul 27 – Day 72: Another blooming plumeria on the campus.

Jul 28 – Day 73: Shopee order arrived!

Jul 29 – Day 74: Another birthday celebration.

Jul 30 – Day 75: Went to the barbershop.

Jul 31 – Day 76: Went to the barbershop...to bleach my hair. I gotta do it once. Taco night by the waterside too.

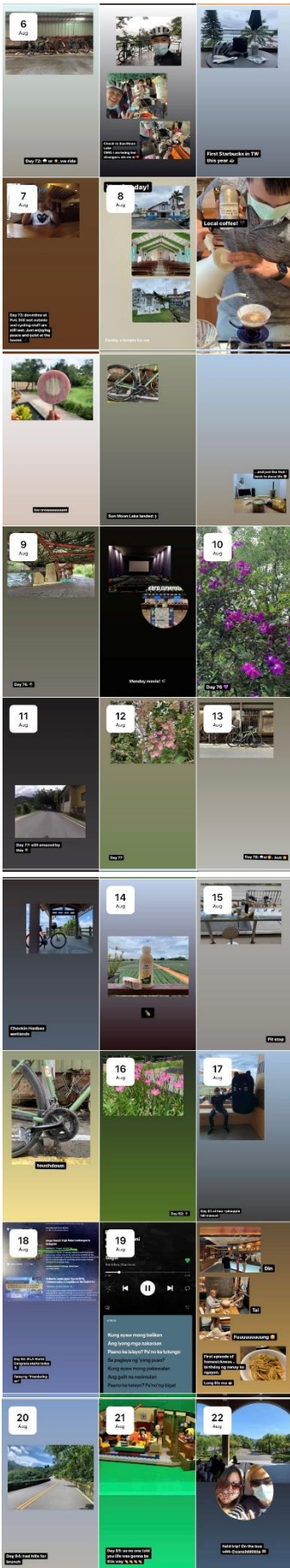
Aug 1 – Day 77: Snaps from the bleaching.

Aug 2 – Day 78: Running regularly, rain or shine.

Aug 3 – Day 79: Cute dimsum.

Aug 4 – Day 80: Did a bike survey at Taichung Central Park for my laoshi.

Aug 5 – Day 81: Dogs really know how to ride vehicles here in Taiwan. Finally, indoor dining is allowed again!!!



Aug 6 – Day 82: Time to travel! The bike is ready. Legs too. Sun Moon Lake, rain or shine.

Aug 7 – Day 83: Still raining hard, might as well rest at the hostel.

Aug 8 – Day 84: Catholic church, Nantou grown coffee, and Paper Dome: nice morning in Puli.

Aug 9 – Day 85: What a beautiful tree. Also, my first time to watch a movie in a Taiwan cinema.

Aug 10 – Day 86: Purple bloom.

Aug 11 – Day 87: Still, what a beautiful tree.

Aug 12 – Day 88: Pink bloom.

Aug 13 – Day 89: Time to travel again.

Aug 14 – Day 90: Pineapple farm.

Aug 15 – Day 91: Usual bike ride pit stop, convenience stores.

Aug 16 – Day 92: Groundcover bloom.

Aug 17 – Day 93: Remembering the Pineapple farm from a few days ago.

Aug 18 – Day 94: Another conference coming soon.

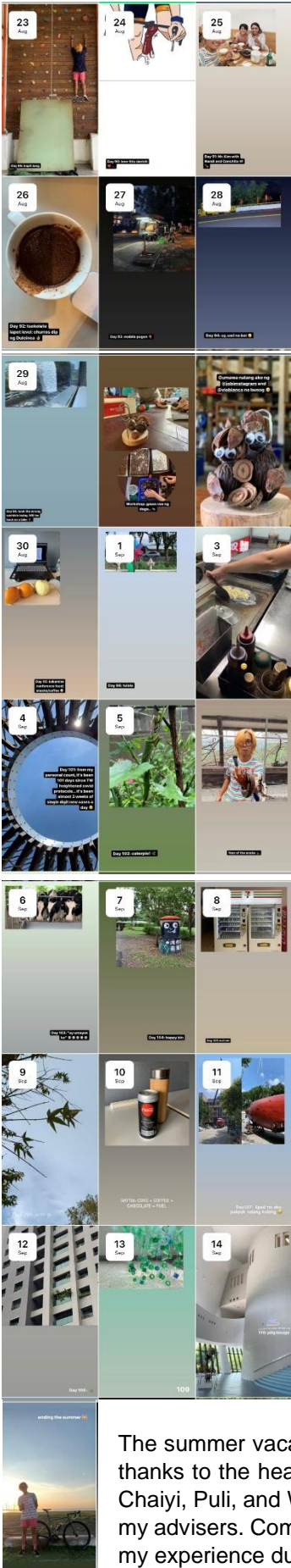
Aug 19 – Day 95: It's my mother's birthday. Din Tai Fung to celebrate. I miss her.

Aug 20 – Day 96: Route today is Route 136.

Aug 21 – Day 97: *"so no one told you life was gonna be this way.."*

Aug 22 – Day 98: Sun Moon Lake trip organized by the Leisure Department.

Aug 23 – Day 99: Photo from the trip the day before at Hohocha.



Aug 24 – Day 100: Got my commissioned artwork.

Aug 25 – Day 101: Another dine-in with classmates. Great night.

Aug 26 – Day 102: Hot chocolate!

Aug 27 – Day 103: Saw a cool mobile pizza kitchen.

Aug 28 – Day 104: Late night working at the lab.

Aug 29 – Day 105: Another trip is taken care of by the Leisure Department. Made a paperweight of me and my fiancé together.

Aug 30 – Day 106: Usual diet: apples and oranges.

Sep 1 – Day 107: Enjoyed the pinwheels the day before.

Sep 2 – **forgot to post**

Sep 3 – Day 109: Favorite neighborhood dumpling stand. Yummy!

Sep 4 – Day 110: Almost 3 weeks of single-digit cases, amazing progress!

Sep 5 – Day 111: Pokemon-like insects and friendly snakes are fun.

Sep 6 – Day 112: Cows looking for milk.

Sep 7 – Day 113: Bins can be happy.

Sep 8 – Day 114: New vending machine at the E building!

Sep 9 – Day 115: Maple Park at Xitun! First time exploring the park.

Sep 10 – Day 116: First time to try coffee and Coke, kind of weird.

Sep 11 – Day 117: Interesting method for moving this decommissioned plane inside the building.

Sep 12 – Day 118: It's a little bit boring without greens.

Sep 13 – Day 119: Recycled art inside the Design Building.

Sep 14 – Day 120: Last day of summer – went to the Cycling Culture Museum and the Gaomei wetland sunset. Great day! Was just difficult to bike home after the sunset.

The summer vacation was great to recharge for this semester. Although it was a difficult end of the semester, thanks to the health management of the authorities, I was still able to travel outside of Taichung and explore Chaiyi, Puli, and Wuling. At the same time, I was able to work on some conference papers with the guidance of my advisers. Compared to other countries, it seems that Taiwan has been great in managing the epidemic, and my experience during the past few months has reflected that.