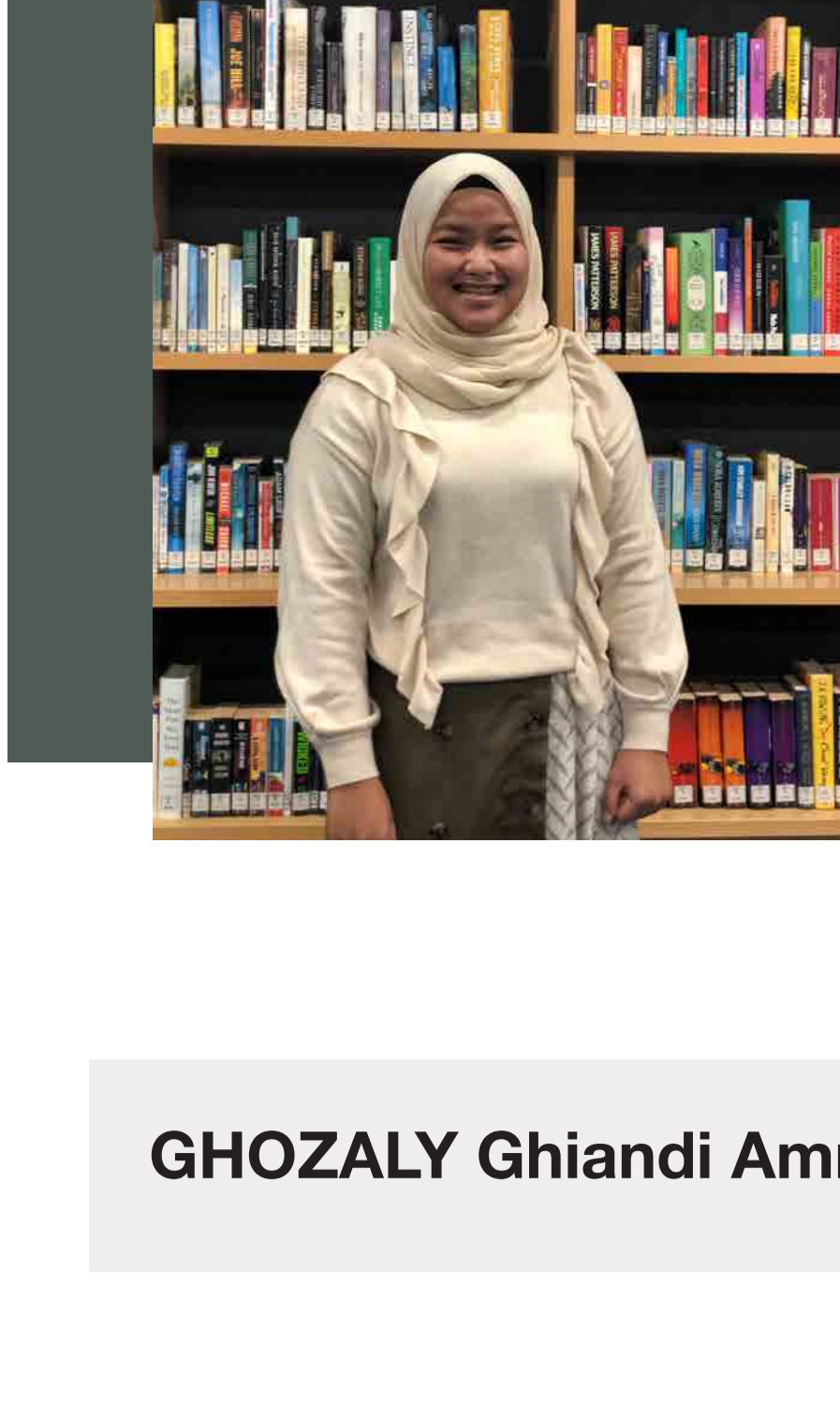


# INTERVIEW WITH CLAUDY & ALI

## BEYOND THE CLASSROOM: ADVICE FROM CO-CURRICULAR CHALLENGERS



**GHOZALY Ghiandi Amna**

**CLAUDY Putri Rusmawati**



### I. Please introduce yourself.

**Claudy:**  
My name is Claudy. I'm a 4th year, 1st semester, APM student, majoring in Accounting and Finance. I'm Indonesian. In my free time, I usually watch documentary movies.

**Ali:**  
My name is Ghozaly - you can call me Ali. I'm a 4th year, 1st semester, APS student, currently majoring in International Relations and Peace Studies. I'm also Indonesian and my hobby is playing basketball.

### II. Can you elaborate on your experiences with the co-curricular activities in which you participated?

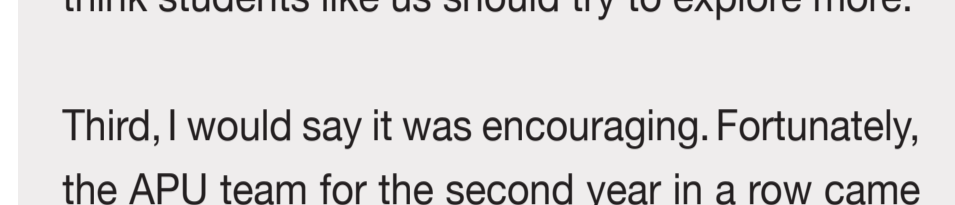
**Ali:**  
In my 7th semester, as part of my seminar on International Law, Professor Hirano gave us the option to either write a thesis or participate in competitions like the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)'s International Humanitarian Role-play/Moot Court Competition.

For an overview, in the Role-play Competition a committee provides a background scenario relating to an international armed conflict and instructions as to the roles we will be taking. Participants then respond to it on a legal basis, for example: discussing the issue with a ministry,

journalist, prisoner, detainee, or warden. The competition is about using international humanitarian law in practice, not just in theory.

**Claudy:**  
In APM, there is a template on the kinds of competitions that students can join. Mostly the competitions involve business practices, however, because I am majoring in Accounting and Finance, I focused on joining competitions which involve skills such as asset pricing and financial evaluation.

My experiences include joining the ESG Bloomberg Investing Challenge, in which we were required to choose a specific list of stocks and then perform an analysis on that list, ultimately making our own investment portfolio. My second competition was the CFA Research Challenge. In this competition, we made a 10-page sell-side report for a designated company. A sell-side report is the most common type of equity research report in which analysts offer their recommendations of "buy," "hold," or "sell" to help clients make investment decisions.



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The team with the trophy at APU campus



Final announcement of the competition where APU won 1st place; picture with the judges of the competition

### III. How would you describe your experience joining these competitions in three words, preferably adjectives? Why?

**Ali:**  
First, I think that joining the competition was exciting. Being able to visit Tokyo to do a competition face-to-face and meet new people was the exciting experience that I have been longing for and unfortunately did not get to have in my second and third year.

Second, it was also eye-opening because up until the competition, the team and I had always understood international law theory through in-school classes. We've always been thinking this and that, but to put those theories into practice and understand that there's so many aspects to be considered when acting in the field of

international law conflict was very eye-opening. That perspective is something I think students like us should try to explore more.

Third, I would say it was encouraging. Fortunately, the APU team for the second year in a row came first place in this competition. We were given the opportunity by ICRC to receive a fully funded ticket to participate in a role-play competition in Albania this March. For the three of us participants, the results encouraged us to further pursue knowledge and queries in the field of international law.

**Claudy:**  
Joining the competition was stressful. I can't lie about that because there was a lot of primary research and financial analyses that needed to be covered while trying to study at the same time.

However, my second word would be fulfilling. It's very fulfilling to know that the competition is much more of a real-life application than whatever we do in school.

And my third word is memorable. I'd say the experience was memorable in terms of the bonds I was able to create throughout the competition with the people that I interacted with, the skills I gained throughout the competition as something I can bring towards the future, and the chance to travel to Tokyo.

### IV. How did you form a balance between joining competitions, studying, doing part-time jobs, and having other commitments?

**Claudy:**  
First and foremost, it's not easy. But it really comes down to priorities. There were times when it seemed impossible to balance my commitments. In that case what I did was try to list my priorities and then let go of the commitments that seemed unmanageable. For me, I listed academic learning on campus as my priority, then the competition as my second priority, followed by the rest of my extracurricular activities, my circle, and my part-time job.

**Ali:**  
I agree entirely with Claudy. I think we should prioritize. If I may add, because of the team effort when doing such competitions, communication is essential for collaboration as each member has different priorities. Therefore, it's important to communicate to each other what those goals and priorities are and support each other as necessary.

### V. Were there any sacrifices you made when joining these competitions?

**Claudy:**  
My first sacrifice was sleep - then money because of the coffee that I bought from a fancy café to be

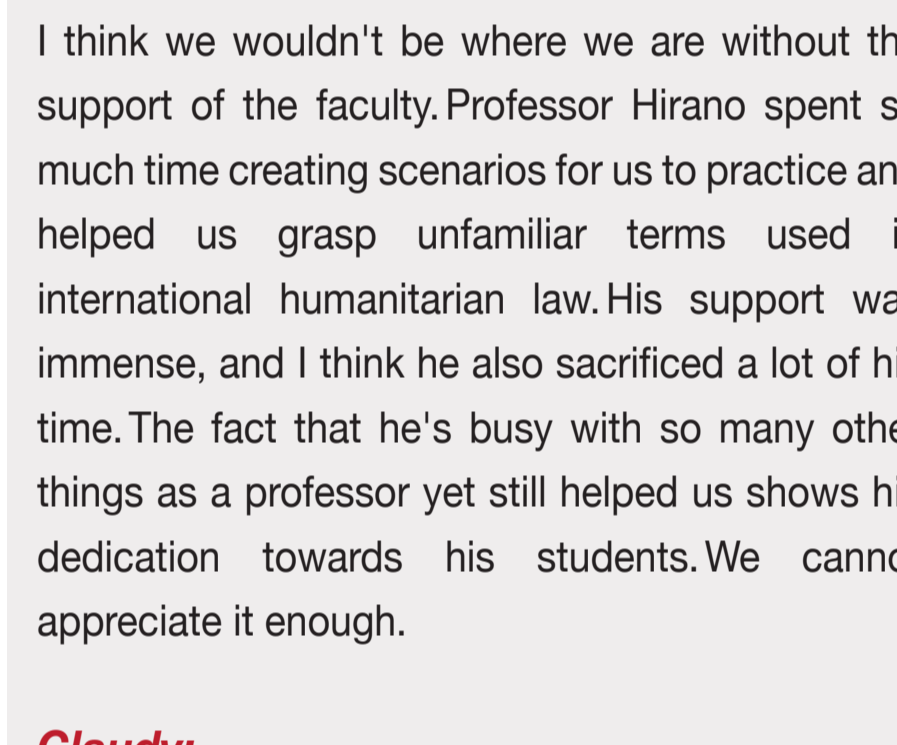
able to do the work. But yeah, I think the most important sacrifice was sleep.

**Ali:**  
Yes, sleep. Sleep and time. There were so many things that needed to be done all at once so the competition became quite time-consuming. In terms of money, we spent quite a lot on coffee, transportation, and accommodation during our Tokyo trip. However, these sacrifices and expenses were incomparable to what we were able to learn through all the experiences.

**Claudy:**  
I think when it comes to money, it's manageable. Sleep also depends on the individual. I have one question for Ali though: what about emotional sacrifice?

**Ali:**  
Yes, the mental health part. What factored in most was the pressure. I think that there is a lot of pressure to do many things over a condensed period of time mixed with the added pressure of having last year team's win the same competition. This pressure did influence our mental health. I think the best way to deal with that effect is to talk it out with teammates, friends, or the professor mentoring the participants.

**Claudy:**  
I experienced that sense of pressure as well, but I think it also became a source of motivation. At the same time, I think all the sacrifices that it took to join the competition were worth the experience I received. I would also feel the value even if we didn't win because of the knowledge gained in our major and in teamwork and communication.



Simulation 1: Meeting with the prime minister and his legal advisors as ICRC representatives

### VI. How did the advising professors or competition mentors help you during the competition?

**Ali:**  
I think we wouldn't be where we are without the support of the faculty. Professor Hirano spent so much time creating scenarios for us to practice and helped us grasp unfamiliar terms used in international and humanitarian law. His support was immense, and I think he also sacrificed a lot of his time. The fact that he's busy with so many other things as a professor yet still helped us shows his dedication towards his students. We cannot appreciate it enough.

**Claudy:**  
When registering for the competition, my team received one mentor from the CFA Institute, Ura-san, a CFA Charter holder who works with Amundi Japan Co. Ltd., and one mentor from APU, Professor Lee Geunhee. My team and I received a lot of support from Professor Lee Geunhee and Ura-san both in terms of knowledge and emotional support. Many faculty members in APU also helped us or sent words of encouragement. Our peers in class also gave us lots of support when they learned that we were joining the competition.

But one thing that I would like to note for students who are going to join competitions is that although there is a support system, its benefit ultimately comes down to whether you yourself make use of it. During my first competition, I did not receive as much support. I was able to get much more support in my second competition because we reached out to our mentors. Professors may not be available if you try to communicate. Just try to send an e-mail or ask their opinion. There is a lot of support available but taking efforts to let the supporters know that you want it is necessary.

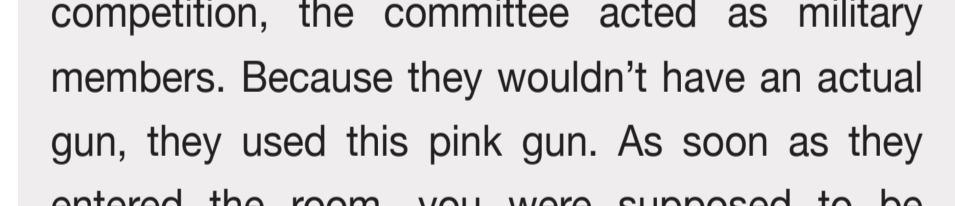
**Ali:**  
I think that's good advice. I feel like a lot of students are nervous or scared to approach professors because they are afraid that professors don't want to help or assume that they are busy. I think APU

### VII. What advice would you give to APU faculty mentoring competitions?

**Claudy:**  
Something that I wished I received before I applied was a mentoring or guidance session to learn about what we will need to do in the competition and what key aspects we should know and receive some tips on how to develop our knowledge base before we apply.

Currently the process in APU is to inform students that there's a competition and ask if they want to apply, but a guidance session would clarify the details of the competition and APU's history in joining it. For example, a session could answer questions such as: What are the necessary resources? What is the number of hours that students need to invest? What skills are required? A lot of people I've known tend to give up on the competition midway because they feel like they're taking on too much of a burden. Therefore, having the necessary information prior to joining the competition would be very useful.

**Ali:**  
I wish there was a well-known platform for students interested in participating in a competition can register. Because in my case, I wouldn't have participated if not for my seminar. A platform where students can receive mentoring and support from the professor after applying to the competition as well would also encourage students to participate more in these competitions.



During the presentation

### VIII. Please give us an example of how participating in these competitions has given you an advantage (such as in job-hunting, researching, writing a thesis, etc.)

**Claudy:**  
You may add the experience to your CV, especially if you win. Regardless of whether you win, I think that joining such competitions provides confidence through the knowledge that you have solved issues in a real-life scenario and that you can now apply textbook theories to real life. This confidence boost will provide a huge advantage when approaching the job market or when writing your undergraduate thesis. The power of being confident in yourself because you have undertaken such a task is one of the most significant rewards you can give yourself through joining extracurricular competitions.

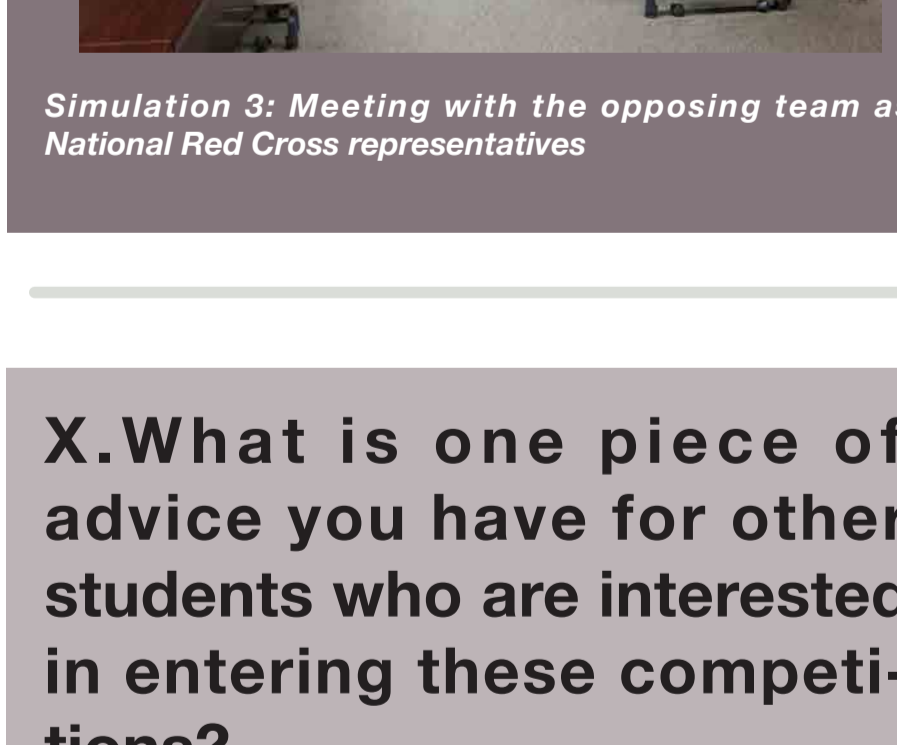
**Ali:**  
As for the participants in the ICRC competition, during our reflection of the competition we noted that we had become more interested in the topic and realized what we could explore in our thesis writing. The amount of research done prior to the competition helped us to become familiar with international law, which also made the steps to discovering and writing a thesis clearer. The three of us are currently interested in applying for graduate school. I think that this experience affected the kind of academic goal we want to achieve and the country we want to study in

(Geneva) as it gave us opportunities to learn about that major and about ourselves. In my case, I hope to specialize in international refugee law and international environment law. The ICRC competition has enabled me to see where I am heading, what changes I want to make, and meet people that are passionate in those fields.

### IX. What were some fun memories you made while participating in these competitions?

**Ali:**  
In the competition, there were two specific things that we had to practice: legal knowledge and acting skills. You are asked to role play. During our practice for the competition, it was funny because one of us had to act as a military man and one of us had to act as a prime minister. That interaction was enjoyable overall. During the actual competition, the committee acted as military members. Because they wouldn't have an actual gun, they used this pink gun. As soon as they entered the room, you were supposed to be serious, but the three of us were suddenly smirking. Overall, the acting part was a very memorable experience which revealed the unexpected fun of the competition.

**Claudy:**  
My memorable experience is not related to academics at all. For me, the most memorable (and painful) part was during the final round, which was a full day event from 9:00 a.m. all the way until 9:00 p.m. From 6:00 p.m., there was a networking session. I don't often wear formal shoes and it was my first time in two years to wear them. I had to stand there for three hours in my heels. At some point I went to the toilet, sat down on the floor, and gave myself fifteen minutes. I was too tired and when I went back, I told my teammates, "You know what guys? I don't care if you're ashamed of me, but I'm going to walk barefoot." My teammate kindly exchanged shoes for me, so I still owe her my legs now.

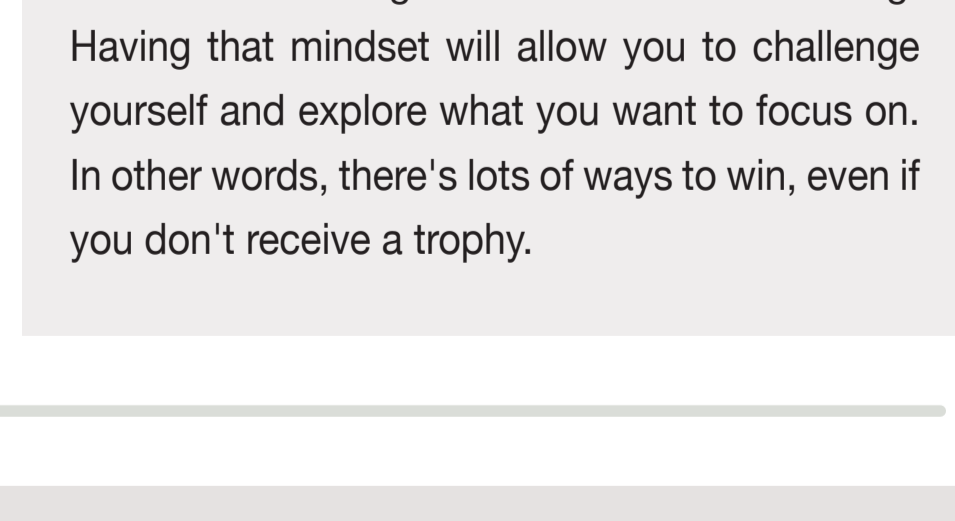


Simulation 3: Meeting with the opposing team as National Red Cross representatives

### X. What is one piece of advice you have for other students who are interested in entering these competitions?

**Ali:**  
Although this advice may seem cliché, be sure to put yourself out there and don't be afraid to try out different competitions, even if you're unfamiliar with the topic or competition. Whatever it entails, there's lots of support available and you can learn a lot. At school, you learn lots of theories. But when you participate in a competition, you will see them applied to real life which will benefit you in the long run whether you are job hunting, working, or pursuing further studies.

**Claudy:**  
One tip that I would like to give to everyone

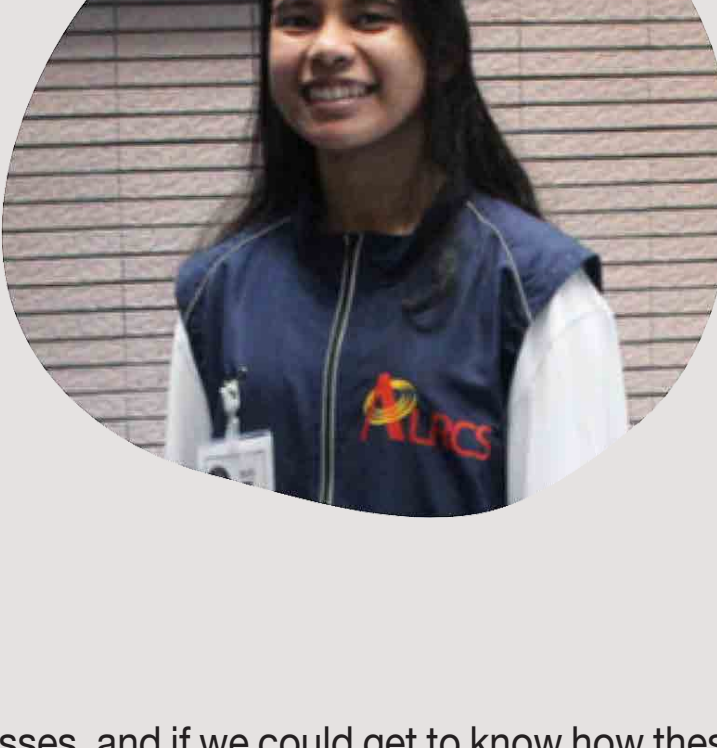


The team together with academic advisor Professor Lee Geunhee from APU (left) and mentor Ura Shohei from Amundi Japan Ltd (right)

wanting to join competitions is to know that there is nothing to lose. The worst-case scenario is not winning, but regardless of that you will have learned something. Therefore, I think it's important to approach the competition as a way to learn something rather than win something. Having that mindset will allow you to focus yourself and explore what you want to challenge on. In other words, there's lots of ways to win, even if you don't receive a trophy.

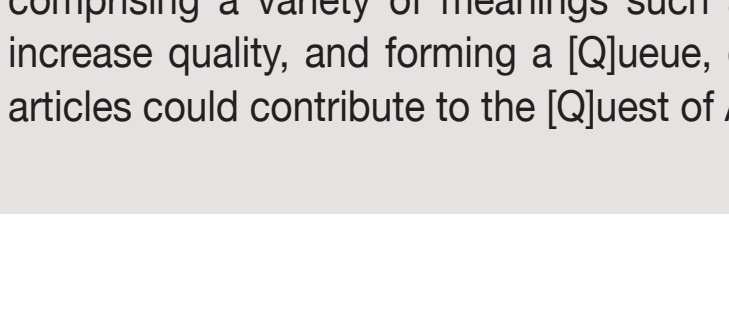
## AUTHOR'S IMPRESSION

I became highly inspired during the conversation with Claudy and Ali. They were humble, respectful, and knowledgeable about what they were saying. I hope that readers can also feel the same when reading this article. Claudy and Ali are two of the most hardworking and clever people I have ever met at APU. Through this article, I am striving to craft a story about their experiences and expertise that can inspire more people to participate in competitions, putting themselves out there and making the most of their university time.



The Project Q Team with Claudy and Ali

## INTERVIEWER and AUTHOR



**Name:** NGUYEN Kieu Chi  
**College:** APM, Accounting & Finance  
**Country:** Vietnam  
**Message:** Greetings! I'm Chi, an APM third-year student majoring in Accounting and Finance. I'm thrilled to have fruitful discussions with Professors and like-minded peers at APU. I hope someone somewhere can get inspired by my writing and make a positive change in their life. Through Project Q, I'm eager to make APU a better academic environment where students are free to express themselves and reach their full potential.

## INTERVIEWER

**Name:** LORENNIJ Kelly  
**College:** APS (ED)  
**Country:** Marshall Islands  
**Message:** lakwe (hello)! I am Kelly, a 3rd year Environment and Development major. I enjoy traveling and taking my ukulele to play wherever I visit. As a member of the Project Q team under the Academic Office's ALCRS, I have been able to get an inside look at the goals and expectations of APU faculty. Through these articles detailing the methods and motivations of each respective professor, I sincerely wish each reader takes away a nugget of wisdom.



## What is [Q]?

At APU there are many professors who put together wonderful classes, and if we could get to know how these classes are planned, it would contribute to the improvement of other professors' classes. For that purpose, we have begun doing interviews in order to learn about class planning. These articles have been entitled [Q], comprising a variety of meanings such as: increasing the [Q]uality of classes, answering [Q]uestions to increase quality, and forming a [Q]ueue, or line, of class improvements. We would be very happy if these articles could contribute to the [Q]uest of APU professors' class quality improvement.