

Gary Ruiz An electric volt



by JOSEPH PIMENTEL
AJPress

HE was in his last year of studying Pharmacology at Ohio State University (OSU), when FilAm Gary Ruiz found his passion.

He accompanied a friend to a design class. They were designing golf clubs that day and Ruiz couldn't help but feel enamored by the students putting their ideas on paper from theory to practice.

"That's when a light bulb clicked inside of me," said Ruiz to the Asian Journal. "This is what I wanted to do. I was always a good artist growing up. I've always been good at drawing but you know how Filipino parents are they wanted me to be a doctor or get into medicine. Well, I was half way there."

After graduating from OSU, he worked in a pharmacy for a few years before heading back to school.

This time he pursued his passion.

In four years at the College for Creative Studies in Detroit, he earned his BSA in Industrial Design with a specialization in transportation design.

Several years later, General Motors, one of the oldest and most respected automobile companies in the US, is touting this 34-year-old Cleveland born FilAm to the media for his design on GM's latest and most innovative vehicle—the Chevy Volt.

Ruiz, whose mother hails from

Legaspi and father from Pangasinan, is GM's E-Flex studio Lead Exterior Designer of the Chevy Volt. He's worked at GM for the past four years and prior to that, he worked at Chrysler LLC.

As lead designer, Ruiz is responsible for making the Chevy Volt look as electric as the battery it runs on.

The Chevy Volt is GM's electric vehicle prototype. Not scheduled for release until 2010 or 2011, there is currently an "unofficial" waiting list of 43,500 prospective buyers from 77 countries worldwide anticipating for the Chevy Volt's arrival, according to GM-



Galing Pinoy showcases the triumph of the Filipino spirit — the Filipino's innate perseverance to rise above. A double entendre, Galing Pinoy literally translates to both coming from (or brought to you by) the Filipino and Filipino ingenuity.

Volt.com.

And the list is growing.

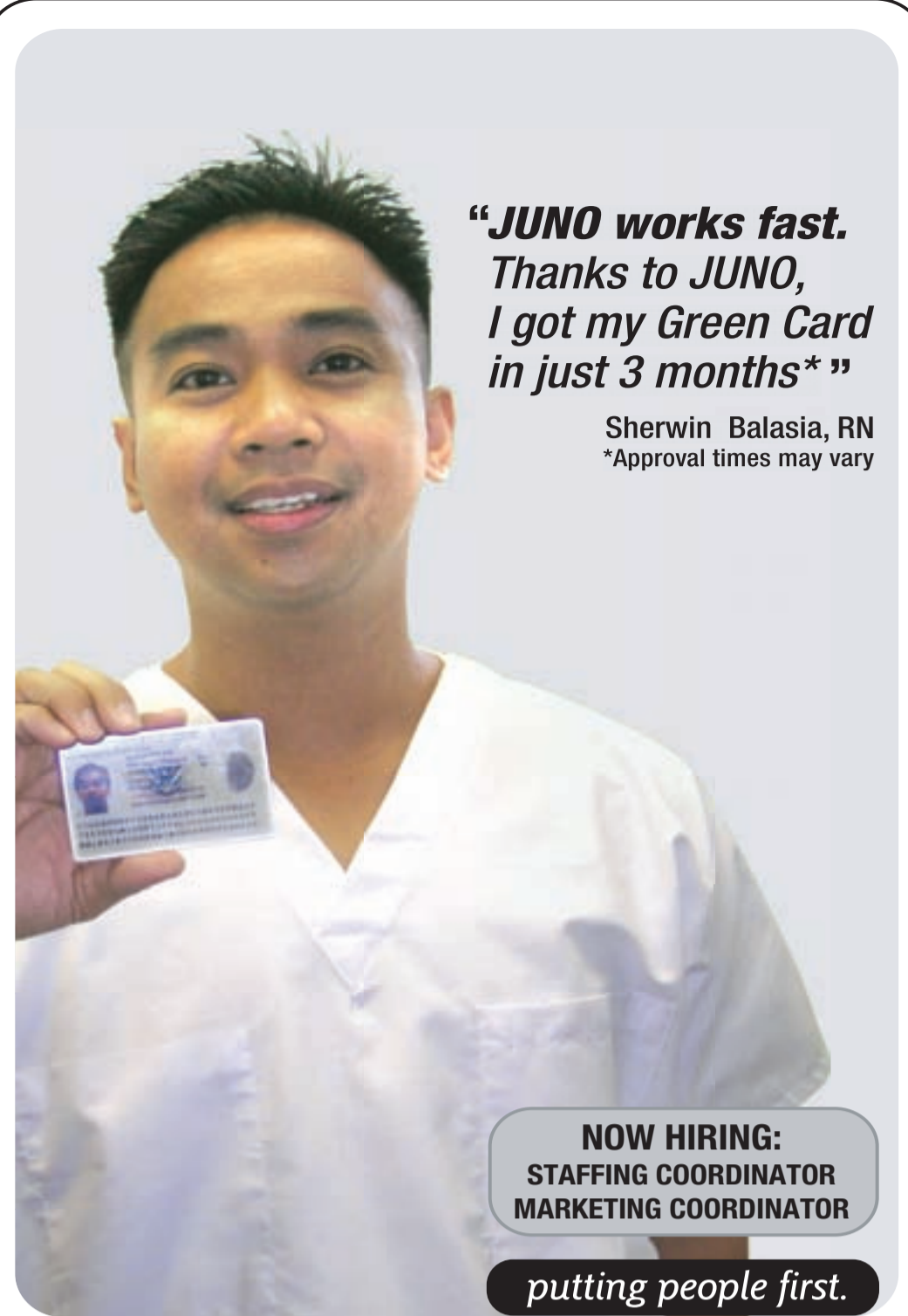
With the Toyota Prius already asserting itself as the No. 1 hybrid and the Honda FCX Clarity which will run on hydrogen fuel cells to make an appearance sometime next year, the race for the economical, green friendly, and inexpensive vehicle in the market is on.

Buyers weary of the high gas prices and dependency on foreign oil are lining up.

Ruiz said that the Volt is a "game changer" that will change people's perception of electric vehicles and personal behavior.

The Volt will run on a lithium-ion battery, similar to a battery on a cell phone or laptop. While most of today's hybrids run on a parallel of electric dependency and gas engine, the Volt will run strictly on electric motor power from an on-board generator at all times.

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