

## **University of Batangas vision, mission and philosophy**

**Vision of University of Batangas** is We envision the University of Batangas to be a center of educational excellence committed to serve the broader community.

**Mission of University of Batangas** is The University of Batangas provides quality education by promoting personal and professional growth, thus enabling the person to participate in a global, technology and research-driven environment.

**Philosophy of University of Batangas** is a stock non-sectarian, private educational institution, believes in the pursuit of knowledge, values and skills necessary for the preservation and improvement of the Philippine society. It has faith in the dignity of the human person, in the democratic process, in the reward for individual excellence, and in the freedom of a person to worship God according to his conscience. Thus, the institution believes that the development of the individual as a person and worker is an effective means in building a better family, community and nation, and a better world.

### **Seven Objectives of University of Batangas is:**

1. Pursue educational excellence in traditional and other modes of instructional delivery.
2. Promote well-being through an integrated process that will enhance human character and dignity.
3. Engage in community services through varied educational, health, economic and environmental projects.
4. Ensure institutional improvement through dynamic programs for human, physical, financial and technology resources.
5. Adopt global perspective to achieve international competitiveness.
6. Commit to productivity and innovation in research, scholarly and creative activities relevant to national development.
7. Maintain student leadership in academic and co-curricular activities in South Luzon.

### **Core Values:**

Every UBian is expected to possess the UB Core Values.

- Faith in God (Spirit)
- Love of Wisdom (Intellect)
- Service to Fellowmen (Purpose)

### **UB Attributes (BEST)**

The University of Batangas seeks to bring out the BEST version of each student.

**B**uilder and Innovator of Knowledge

**E**fficient professional and effective communicator

**S**ocial, moral and global-minded citizen

**T**ransformed lifelong learner

### **Writers of UBCV:**

Lionel E. Buenaflor

Edward E. Babasa

Angelito T. Masarap

Edmund R. Caraos

**UB HYMN LYRICS** is The march is on, No brain nor brawn, Can block the way of UB men, Loud rings the cry, Of grim defy, Of hard attack let loose again, O, 'tis the hike, hike, hike for victory, The call to rise and stride, For the UB men are marching, When they hear hike, hike, hike, hike! Hark to the cheerings, Songs rising high, Hark to the roar, As the ranks go marching by. Shoulder to shoulder, Chanting her glorious name. Borne high your fire, And cheer along for Philippines.

**University of Batangas Website** is type in your new browser tab the [ub.edu.ph](http://ub.edu.ph).

## LIFE OF THE FOUNDERS

### THE LIFE OF JUAN Y. JAVIER



**Juan Ylagan Javier** was born in Batangas on May 06, 1898, of a family of good standing.

#### BACHELOR'S DEGREE

- ✓ Association in Arts
- ✓ Bachelor Degree in Elementary Education
- ✓ Bachelor of Science in Education
- ✓ Bachelor of Laws

#### GRADUATE STUDIES

- ✓ Master of Arts Degree in Education at the Arizona State University in the United States of America
  - **First Filipino Graduate** in the Graduate School of the said university in Arizona

#### COLLEGE LIFE

- ✓ Juan Javier was an athlete.
  - He was a member of the baseball varsity of the University of the Philippines.

#### A MAN OF GREAT HUMILITY

- ✓ He was known to his children as a person who would rather spend his hours with the poor.
  - Mr. Javier enjoyed spending his time at his farm in Brgy. Sta. Rita where, every day, he would mingle with the farmers.

## LOVE FOR THE POOR

- ✓ His heart and his concern were the young children of the poor farmers and fishermen, who, because of their poverty, would not be able to send their children to school.

## GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY

- ✓ *"As you advance in wisdom, make sure that you leave this world a little better than you found it."*
- ✓ He saw from the young boys and girls a golden opportunity to make this world a better place than when he found it.

## PUTTING UP AN EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION

- ✓ After the informal meeting with Atty. Jesus Lorenzo A. Arguelles, he went to the venerable priest, **Rev. Fr. Vicente R. Catapang**, in order to talk about the crying need for founding a school precisely because he had in mind the young boys and girls from the farm.

## ADVOCACY

- ✓ Both Fr. Catapang and Mr. Javier shared many advocacies and ideals together. It was not surprising that Fr. Catapang readily accepted the invitation of being a co-founder of a school.
- ✓ In this advocacy, they were joined by **Atty. Pablo C. Umali**, **Mayor Roman L. Perez**, and **Atty. Francisco G. Perez**.

## ESTABLISHMENT OF WPC

- ✓ From the simple but passionate advocacies, these six good people formed their ideas and resources in order to come up with a master plan for the establishment of WPC.

## CAMPAIGN

- ✓ After the establishment of WPC in 1947, Mr. Javier would go to different elementary schools in the barrio to campaign for the Western Philippine Colleges and persuade these poor people to have their children push through with their education until they finish college so that they would be able to have a better future.

### MEMBERS OF WPC

- ✓ When WPC was established, Mr. Juan Javier was assigned as the Dean of the College of Education.
- ✓ When Fr. Catapang resigned as the President of WPC in 1952, Mr. Javier, who was then the Vice President, assumed the duties of the President.

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- ✓ On **March 31, 1953**, the Executive Committee for the management of the college affairs was inducted.
  - **Rev. Fr. Catapang**: Honorary President
  - **Juan Y. Javier**: President
- ✓ **Jose P. Laurel**: inducted the officers
- ✓ **Ramon Magsaysay**: guest speaker

### MR. JAVIER AS A LEADER

- ✓ He was said to be a charismatic and very hardworking leader.
  - His hard work paid off when WPC was able to build a P20,000.00 semi-permanent building for the use of the growing Commerce Department.
- ✓ He was well-loved and greatly admired by the staff and the faculty of WPC.

### DEATH OF MR. JAVIER

- ✓ On **January 12, 1964**, Mr. Javier's service to WPC was cut short and joined the Father in heaven due to an illness.
- ✓ President Juan Y. Javier Sr. was respected and loved by the whole population of WPC.
- ✓ He exuded the traits of a true leader: ***charismatic, kind, understanding*** and ***generous to a fault***.

## THE LIFE OF ATTY. JESUS LORENZO A. ARGUELLES



**Atty. Jesus Lorenzo Anonuevo Arguelles** was born on August 10, 1900. He was the son of **Mariano Arguelles** and **Rita Anonuevo** of Batangas City.

### EDUCATION

- ✓ Secondary Education:
  - **Batangas National High School**
- ✓ Tertiary Education:
  - **Bachelor of Arts and Law Degrees** at the **University of the Philippines**.

### HOBBIES

- ✓ He was not only a lawyer but a poet and a playwright.
- ✓ He loved playing basketball, tennis and boxing.
  - He used to play tennis with his tennis buddy, **Dr. Godofredo Rosales**.

### LORENZO ARGUELLES AS A LAWYER

- ✓ He handle cases for the poor.
  - The cases that he used to handle were almost always **pro bono** especially upon knowing that his client was coming from a poor family.

### DEDICATION TO WPC

- ✓ With the same vision as that of Mr. Juan Javier of creating a better life for the people, especially for the poor, he worked hard in order to promote WPC to the people within and outside Batangas.
- ✓ He would also go to different barangays and around the town outside Batangas in order to promote Western Philippine Colleges.

## CAUSE OF DEATH

- ✓ The great dedication of Atty. Arguelles to WPC could be the great reason why he had a heart attack which led to his early death.

## DEATH OF ATTY. ARGUELLES

- ✓ Atty. Arguelles died on **July 03, 1947** at the very young age.
- ✓ His life may be too short but his existence and, more importantly, his death, brought a great inspiration to the WPC community to really push through with what he had been started by Atty. Arguelles

## THE LIFE OF FR. VICENTE R. CATAPANG



**Vicente R. Catapang** was born in the barrio of Sambat in Taal, Batangas on September 11, 1888, of humble circumstances.

## VICENTE

- ✓ Christened after the patron saint of the day, **San Vicente de Leon** – the Spanish Abbot and martyr killed by Arian Visgoths in 630 AD – he had presumably his early education in his hometown.

## INSTRUCCION PUBLICA

- ✓ An 1895 book about Batangas by **Manuel Sastron** already mentioned about instances of ***Instruccion Publica*** (Public Instruction) in both the capital of Batangas and the town of Taal.

## MANUEL SASTRON

- ✓ Though lamentable and Backward, **Manuel Sastron** – a former Civil Governor of Batangas, a Representative to the Spanish Cortes, cited the existence of an ***Escuela de Niños*** and ***Escuela de Niñas***, the forerunners of the public school, in this *pueblo* by the lake, and even among its barrios.
  - The cases that he used to handle

## CLASSICAL LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS OF PRIESTHOOD

- ✓ The young Vicente benefited from the instruction of the instructions of the aforementioned teachers; thereby, preparing him early for the classical language requirements of priesthood a decade later.

## RAVAGES OF WAR

- ✓ When the revolution broke out, Vicente was made a messenger of **Gen. Martin Cabrera**.
  - The young Vicente already seen the ravages of war during his younger day.

## LATIN TEACHERS

- ✓ Sastron cited also the presence of two Latin teachers in Taal, **Don Florentino Laurena** and **Don Trinidad Manalo**, making the ***segunda enseñanza*** (grammar school) already accessible in the town.

## EARLY EDUCATION

- ✓ After learning his first alphabet at the school run by the family of his mother at the same barrio, Vicente went on to study in the **private school of Don Benito Punzalan** in Taal, Batangas.

## HIGHER EDUCATION

- ✓ After the Philippine Revolution, Vicente studied at the ***Liceo de Manila*** (founder by Dr. Alejandro Albert in 1903), presently the **Manila Central University**, and at the ***Seminario Central de San Francisco Javier*** (also the ***Colegio Apostolico de San Jose***, now the ***San Jose Major Seminary***).



### VICENTE'S ORDINATION

- ✓ He was ordained as a priest on **April 28, 1912** by the **Most. Rev. Giuseppe Petrelli**, the first bishop of the Diocese of Lipa.

### PREPARATORY SCHOOL AND SEMINARY COLLEGE

- ✓ In 1913, the very young Fr. Catapang put up a preparatory school for the Seminary in Bauan, Batangas upon the order of Bishop Petrelli.
- ✓ In February 1914, with the insistence of the Bishop, he co-founded a seminary-college first housed in the convent of Bauan-Batangas – the predecessor of the present St. Francis de Sales Seminary in Lipa City.

### CONSTRUCTION OF A CHURCH AND COVENT

- ✓ Also, in 1914, he organized the parish in Sampaloc, Tayabas where he constructed the church and built a convent.

### LEADING PEOPLE BACK TO CATHOLICISM

- ✓ In 1916, he was sent to Tombol, now the town known as **Rosario, Batangas**, where he, as a parish priest, led many people back to Catholicism.

### HIGHER STUDIES

- ✓ In 1920s, Fr. Catapang was granted scholarship by the **Diocese of Lipa** under **Bishop Alfredo Versoza** in order to pursue higher studies in the United States.
- ✓ He took his Master and Doctorate Degree at the **Notre Dame University, South Bend, Indiana**, which was run by the **Holy Cross Fathers**.
- ✓ He finished his Masters of Arts Degree in Education in 1923.

### PUBLICATION

- ✓ He had for his thesis the **“Development and the Present Status of Education the Philippine Islands”**.
  - This book was reprinted by the Batangas Heritage Center.
- ✓ In 1926, his thesis was published by the Stratford Company of Boston, Massachusetts in the United States.

### FR. CATAPANG: NOT ONLY A PRIEST BUT ALSO AN EDUCATOR

- ✓ His love for education brought him to accept a professorial chair at the University of Manila and the positions as Dean of Philosophy and Letters, Director of the Graduate Studies, and as the Dean of Studies of the said university.

### FR. CATAPANG: A CLERGY

- ✓ In the 1930's, Fr. Catapang was included among the clergy of the Archdiocese of Lipa, particularly as a staff of **Ang Filipinas**, a monthly religious journal.

### FR. CATAPANG: A DEVOTEE

- ✓ It was also during this time that he became a devotee of the **Black Nazarene**.
  - This resulted in the writing of a Tagalog book, which he titled **Maikling Kasaysayan ng Simbahan ng Quiapo at ng Kanyang Mapaghimalang Larawan: Hesus Nazareno**.
    - This book was published in 1937 and was also translated into English.

### STORY OF THE OUR LADY OF CAYSASAY

- ✓ Fr. Catapang was also responsible in the propagation of the stories about the Our Lady of Caysasay from his hometown Taal, of whom he was also a devotee.

### ESTABLISHMENT OF A PROSPECTIVE PARISH IN TAAL

- ✓ In 1943, Fr. Catapang received an order from Bishop Verzosa.
  - The good bishop asked Fr. Catapang to establish a prospective parish in Taal and the parish center would be placed in Sambat, his place of origin.

### FIRST CHAPEL

- ✓ The first chapel was constructed on a piece of land lent by the relatives of Fr. Catapang.
  - It was dedicated to **Santa Teresita del Niño de Jesus**.
  - Fr. Catapang was made the parish priest of this church.
  - During the Commonwealth Period, he was listed as a coadjutor of Bauan, where he was stationed until the outbreak of the Second World War.

### FOUNDING OF A COLLEGE IN BATANGAS

- ✓ A year later in 1946, Fr. Catapang was instrumental in the founding of a college in Batangas after the grim experiences of the war.
- ✓ Named **Western Philippine Colleges**, it was a war-torn society.
- ✓ He was chosen to be the founding presidents, a task he religiously pursued for three years before retiring to his hometown due to his frail health.

### IMBIBING AMONG THE YOUTH AN ENTHUSIASM FOR EDUCATION

- ✓ According to the relatives of Fr. Catapang, their *Mamay Pari* used to have his own jeep, the service of the students from Taal who were enrolled at WPC.
  - This he did every day tirelessly for three years and his only intention was to imbibe among the youth an enthusiasm for education.

### ESTABLISHMENT OF A LARGER PARISH IN TAAL

- ✓ Later on, **Bishop Rufino J. Santos** gave Fr. Catapang the permission to build a larger parish church on the same lot where the chapel was.
  - The construction began in 1951 and was finished and dedicated on **February 20, 1952**.

### FR. CATAPANG AS A PRESIDENT

- ✓ As the president of WPC, he was known as a very good administrator who understands the teachers and the students so well but did not take for granted his position as an administrator of an academic institution.

### FR. CATAPANG'S DECISION TO LEAVE WPC

- ✓ After many years of providing service to WPC, he made a decision to leave.
  - His departure brought pain not only to the Board Members but also to his colleagues, to the faculty, and other personnel of WPC, as well as to his beloved students.
- ✓ After leaving WPC, he spent the years thereafter in his beloved place of Sambat in Taal.

### STA. TERESITA

- ✓ On **December 29, 1961**, through the effort of the townspeople and with the great support of Fr. Catapang, **Sambat became a municipality and was renamed after Sta. Teresita**.

### PUTTING UP OF ANOTHER SCHOOL

- ✓ In order for him not to forget his being an avowed educator, he put up another school in the adjacent town of Lemery, the **Saint Mary's Educational Institute (SMEI)**, which now being run by the Archdiocese of Lipa.

### DEATH OF FR. CATAPANG

- ✓ Fr. Catapang died on **March 01, 1980**, at the age of **91**.

### THE LIFE OF MAYOR ROMAN L. PEREZ



**Mayor Roman Lira Perez** was born on November 18, 1894, the eldest among the nine children of **Francisco Perez** (not the Francisco G. Perez as another UB Founder) and **Anaclea Lira**.

### MAN OF PROFOUND CHARACTER

- ✓ Those who were able to know him would describe him as a man of very high principle, unending compassion, and great vision who had contributed a lot to the development of WPC as one of its founders.

### MAYOR PEREZ

- ✓ He served as the mayor of the then Municipality of Batangas during the time when the Western Philippine Colleges was founded.

## ROMAN PEREZ AS A PERSON

- ✓ Roman was a very simple person whose actions did not fit the position of a strong political leader.
  - He learned from his parents the value of respect and love for one's family as well as the value of concern for others.

## GOD-GIVEN TALENTS

- ✓ According to Ms. Belen Perez, Roman's daughter, one of the God-given talents that his father was able to develop while he was a church leader was his **eloquence in public speaking** as well as his **wonderful singing voice**.

## JAPANESE-AMERICAN WAR

- ✓ Batangueños developed fear and confusion as they were greatly affected by the Japanese-American War.
  - Due to the fear of the Mayor of Batangas on the coming of the Japanese forces to the town, he fled to the hills in order to hide.

## ROMAN'S EDUCATION

- ✓ Aware of their financial situation, Roman worked at a very young age for he had to help his parents send his siblings to school.
- ✓ The substantial number of siblings made him decide to stop schooling and helped his parents realize the dream of building a happy family of professionals.

## ROMAN PEREZ AS COUNCILOR

- ✓ When he ran for the position of Municipal Councilor of Batangas, he received substantial votes from those who knew him very well.
- ✓ During his term, the people of the Municipality of Batangas described him as "***Di-Makabutas Silyang Konsehal***" because it was said that he was very active in the performance of the tasks assigned to him and of his responsibilities to the people of Batangas.

## ROMAN PEREZ AS MAYOR

- ✓ Because Councilor Perez was considered as the most active municipal board member and probably the most responsible and most courageous among the other municipal leaders and workers, he was chosen by President Jose P. Laurel to replace the incumbent mayor.

### MAYOR PEREZ HAD LIVED UP TO THE PEOPLE'S EXPECTATION

- ✓ The people saw him as the mayor who was always willing to offer his resources and even his life for the sake of the people of Batangas.
- ✓ Mayor Roman took the courage of dealing with the Japanese soldiers in order to protect his fellow Batangueños from the cruelty of the colonizers.

### MAYOR PEREZ AS THE UPHOALDER OF THE PEOPLE'S FREEDOM OF WORSHIP

- ✓ As a layman of exemplary leadership, a person with intellectual superiority and possession of an unwavering faith in God, he was elected as the Moderator of the United Evangelical Church – Manila Conference during the same year when he was appointed Mayor of the Municipality of Batangas.

### MAYOR ROMAN'S LEADERSHIP

- ✓ His leadership, coupled with Christian principles, proved to be the most needed and effective during the gloomy Japanese period when Evangelical Protestants were suspected as pro-Americans.
- ✓ As a moderator, he necessarily put security to local churches in the Manila Conferences from not being confiscated, destroyed, and harassed by the Japanese forces.

### BATANGUEÑOS UNDER THE JAPANESE RULE

- ✓ Under the Japanese colonizers, the Batangueños experienced a lot of sufferings and difficulties.
  - The Japanese confiscated all vehicles. During that time, the only means of transportation were the *kalesas*.

### DURING AND AFTER THE LIBERATION

- ✓ Mayor Perez kept on telling the people to send their children to school and to find ways and means for their children to finish higher education.
  - He believed in the power of education and he was trying to envision a community with the youth equipped with proper education and training.

### TERM OF MAYOR ROMAN PEREZ

- ✓ During his term, the Municipality of Batangas became very productive despite the Japanese invasion.
  - There was peace and order and the people were living in an almost very ordinary life.
  - One of the livelihood projects that he organized was the ***Kumersyo ng Bao***.
  - He also organized the **Neighborhood Association** to support the small business enterprises and to organize business relations with the nearby municipalities.

### DIVERTING THE ATTENTION OF THE JAPANESE COLONIZERS

- ✓ He was able to organize entrepreneurial activities in the Municipality because the Japanese were fond of theatre plays and cultural presentations.
  - Mayor Perez deemed it necessary to organize cultural activities so as to divert the attention of the Japanese from being too tyrannical and cruel.

### AIM OF THE COLONIZERS

- ✓ The Japanese would really want to educate the Filipino people in order to make them develop a philosophical ideology that “**Asia is for Asians**” and “**Philippines is for Filipinos**”.
  - They actually would want to **de-Americanize the Filipino populace**.

### THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT VALUED EDUCATION

- ✓ For this reason, Mayor Perez was able to convince the Japanese to open the “**Batangas Boys High School**” which was actually the re-opening of the Batangas High School, the school that was built by the Americans.
- ✓ In the same manner, Mayor Perez also convinced the Japanese to re-open **St. Bridget College** for girls and for all religious sectors.

### ACCUSATION TO MAYOR PEREZ

- ✓ Despite all his efforts of saving as many Batangueños as he could, he was still misinterpreted in his actions of befriending the Japanese even up to the point of accusing him to be a Japanese collaborator.
  - This incident was even brought up to the Supreme Court after the war.

### FAMILY LIFE OF MAYOR PEREZ

- ✓ **Wife:** Manuela Villena
- ✓ **Children:** Virginia, Ernesto, Trinidad, and the twins Belen and Arturo
  - All of these children of Roman were able to finish their college degrees and were all professionals.

### BEING A CO-FOUNDER OF WPC

- ✓ He took pride in being invited to be a co-founder of WPC because he felt that he would all the more become an effective leader if he would be able to promote education.

## ROMAN PEREZ: A MAN OF VISION

- ✓ His value on education surpassed his desire for profits.
  - When WPC was founded, profit was the farthest thing in the minds of the founders for they merely wanted to develop men of talents and to have a local education.

## MITIGATING THE INEQUALITY OF EDUCATION BETWEEN MEN AND WOMEN

- ✓ Mayor Perez showcased the importance of vision, character, and perseverance.
  - Women got their rights of being educated under the guise of a visionary leader.
    - For this, he was more loved by people from all walks of life.

## DEATH OF MAYOR ROMAN PEREZ

- ✓ On **November 08, 1949**, a few days after winning in the local election as the Municipal Mayor of the town of Batangas, Mayor Perez was assassinated.
  - While reading newspaper in the front of his house, gunmen shot him that immediately killed him.



## THE LIFE OF ATTY. FRANCISCO G. PEREZ



**Atty. Francisco G. Perez** was born on April 01, 1990, by humble barrio parents who tilled the soil and planted food crops for subsistence.

### BACKGROUND

- ✓ He was a well-known politician of the 1950s.
- ✓ **Kiko**, as he was fondly called by his friends was a true-blooded Batangueños whose roots could be traced in the barrio of Mahakot in Batangas.

### FRANCISCO PEREZ: A SELF-MADE MAN

- ✓ At an early age, he strived to learn diligently.
  - With the aid of his photographic memory, it became easy for him to complete his basic education in his barrio and, later on, at the Batangas High School for his secondary course.

### BARRIO LIFE

- ✓ The young Kiko experienced the difficult barrio life that was devoid of the luxuries of material life.
  - The experience of difficulty did not weaken his spirit. In fact, it even inspired him to develop the values of frugality, industry, patience, perseverance, strong will-power, diligence, and a great love for education.

### HIGHER EDUCATION

- ✓ Kiko went to Manila to obtain a degree.
  - As a law student, he patiently copied the law books manually, word for word because he could not buy a book out of financial constraints.
  - Out of his passion of education and his determination, he was able to finish a law course and even graduated valedictorian.

### **ATTY. FRANCISCO G. PEREZ**

- ✓ He took the Bar Examination afterward and he was able to successfully pass.
  - In this regard, he became the first professional of the barrio of Mahakot.

### **ATTY. FRANCISCO: A MAN OF FIRM DETERMINATION**

- ✓ Although a neophyte in the field of politics, he dropped his hat in the political arena as a candidate to fill in one of the two board member slots of the Second District of Batangas.
- ✓ He easily won in the clean election and since then, he became popular as a political-legal luminary.

### **BOKAL FRANCISCO PEREZ**

- ✓ He authored ordinances and resolutions that were beneficial to the people of the Second District of Batangas.
- ✓ He also participated actively in board deliberations especially those that are related to education.

### **TERM AS A PROVINCIAL BOARD MEMBER**

- ✓ Because of his concern for the people and his great love and dedication to his job, he was elected again and again until he won the seat for the **fifth time** as a Provincial Board member.

### **RARE EPISODE IN THE HISTORY OF BATANGAS**

- ✓ An unknown lawyer from the barrio of Mahakot, whose name did not ring a bell, was elected for five consecutive terms in a free political exercise seeking the votes of his constituents. Yet, they gave him their votes of confidence by casting the ballot in favor of Atty. Francisco.

### **LOVE FOR EDUCATION**

- ✓ His son, **Dr. Hernando B. Perez**, made a remark that his father was so obsessed with the academe.
  - This obsession became the real reason that led to the founding of the Western Philippine Colleges in 1946.

**ATTY. FRANCISCO PEREZ:  
A CO-FOUNDER**

- ✓ He campaigned for more enrollees and assiduously worked in the opening of the College of Law.
- ✓ He was the first treasurer and Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Law on a concurrent capacity.

**ATTY. FRANCISCO PEREZ:  
CENTER OF ACTION**

- ✓ He was the center of action in solving the problems of accommodation and the financing of the Western Philippine Colleges as the enrollment was increasing year after year.
- ✓ The priority of having a lot and school building was thrown to Bokal Kiko inasmuch as brilliant minds spotted the vacant lot behind the provincial *Ayuntamiento Structure*.

**ATTY. FRANCISCO PEREZ:  
A BOARD MEMBER**

- ✓ As a Board Member, he was tasked to negotiate in behalf of the WPC Board of Directors regarding the lease of the lot on M.H. Del Pilar Street.
- ✓ Being a noted politician with an untarnished character, he was able to have the lot leased to the Western Philippine Colleges for a period of 99 years at the rate of Php1.00 per year.

**RISE OF WPC**

- ✓ The action taken by Atty. Kiko marked the beginning of the rise and growth of the college.
  - The initial construction was a two-storey building for the College of Liberal Arts, Education, Junior Normal, Commerce, and Law.
  - A one-storey structure was also built to house the high school students.

**BOKAL KIKO'S FRUGALITY AND  
THRIFTINESS**

- ✓ Dr. Abegayle Machel Perez-Chua, Kiko's granddaughter, learned that Bokal Perez, as the school's treasurer, was very frugal with the purchase and the use of construction materials to the extent of counting and picking up nails on the ground during the time of construction.

**ATTY. FRANCISCO AS A FATHER**

- ✓ Dr. Hernando Perez, the son of Atty. Francisco would remember his father as very strict who was cautious about school attendance to the extent of frequently sending his mother to monitor his schedule and school achievement.

### ATTY. FRANCISCO AS A DISCIPLINARIAN

- ✓ Dr. Perez recalled that one time, he knew very well that he would be punished due to a sin he committed.
  - He knew that he would be hit by a stick and so, he covered his behind with a notebook under his pants.
    - Atty. Francisco used his belt to punish his son. However, it produced a different sound. When Bokal Perez discovered what his son did, he laughed.

### ATTY. FRANCISCO PEREZ: A MAN OF PRINCIPLES

- ✓ **Ms. Belen Perez**, a former student of Bokal Perez, remembered him as a tenacious and highly-opinionated being who often argued and defended his points of arguments.
  -

### PLAN FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE HOSPITAL

- ✓ Upon the return of Dr. Abelardo, they would lay the plan for the construction of the hospital at a designated spot in their family-owned parcel of land. However, fate was unkind to both of them.

### CONCERN ABOUT THE PURSUIT OF LEARNING

- ✓ He used to encourage his barrio mates to send their children to school based on the premise that education is the best legacy that parents could leave to their children.
- ✓ As an incentive to the less fortunate relatives, he offered them free board and lodging in his own house so that these poor youngsters could avail of high school and college education.

### CONCERN ABOUT HEALTH AND EDUCATION

- ✓ According to his granddaughter, Loralie Miranda, Bokal Kiko had a very strong desire to put a private hospital in addition to the existing Batangas Provincial Hospital.
  - Dr. Miranda mentioned that St. Patrick's Hospital was actually the idea of Atty. Francisco Perez.

### DEATH OF ATTY. FRANCISCO PEREZ

- ✓ While Dr. Abelardo was on training in New York, in the morning of **August 29, 1959**, while he was about to prepare to hear mass, Bokal Perez complained of stomach pains.
  - Such pain was found out to be a symptom of cardiac arrest which lead to the death of Bokal Perez.
    - He was at his prime age of **59**.

**MRS. FLORDELIZA ARGUELLES ON THE DEMISE OF  
ATTY. FRANCISCO PEREZ**

- ✓ Atty. Perez was among the dedicated leaders of Western Philippine Colleges, a champion of integrity and progress.
- ✓ Although a very well-known politician, he did not involve the college in politics. Indeed, he left a void which is hard to fill.

**DR. AURORA BABASA'S DESCRIPTION  
OF BOKAL PEREZ**

He was a/an...

- ✓ Lover of pets especially rabbits and pigeons;
- ✓ Stern loving family patriarch who exercised strong parental authority;
- ✓ Disciplinarian who used the rod and the belt in disciplining his children;
- ✓ Man with a serious mind who advocated positive values among his children;
- ✓ Stalwart in the field of politics who was a staunch defender and supporter of principles;
- ✓ Educator who was known to be a lover of wisdom and knowledge;
- ✓ Generous friend who shared his talents and resources with the needy and less fortunate beings;
- ✓ Deep-rooted Christian who strictly adhered to the doctrines of the faith; and above all.
- ✓ Co-founder of the WPC and a key player in the growth and transformation that the college had undergone.

Dr. Aurora M. Babasa believed that his name will be etched in the memorabilia of the institution he helped to build.

## THE LIFE OF ATTY. PABLO C. UMALI



**Pablo C. Umali** Was born on **June 30, 1908** at Sta. Teresita, Batangas. Little has been known about him because he decided to leave WPC during the summer of 1951, five years after being a part of the institution in order to spend more time as a law practitioner in Lipa City.

### BACKGROUND

- ✓ He came from a poor family.
- ✓ He was also a working student.
  - Although he found it difficult to finish his studies because of the family's financial institution, he was still able to obtain his Law Degree from the University of Manila and was able to pass the Bar Examination afterward.

### ATTY. PABLO UMALI: A CO-FOUNDER OF WPC

- ✓ His decision to join the group in founding a school was because he understood the obstacles in the educational system as well as the problems and difficulties of the students who were coming from poor families.
- ✓ Hence, when he received the invitation from Fr. Catapang to be part of the establishment of WPC, he did not have second thoughts.

### ATTY. PABLO C. UMALI: EDUCATOR AND LAWYER

- ✓ He worked as a teacher in the College of Law in the Lipa City Colleges.
- ✓ He had also set a name in the field of law that earned him a position as a Municipal Judge in San Louis, Batangas.
- ✓ Later on, he became the City Assessor in Lipa City until his retirement.

### FAMILY LIFE

- ✓ Atty. Pablo Umali was married to **Consuelo Tempo**, who was a school supervisor.
  - They were gifted with three children:
    - **Fely Librea** – a pharmacist
    - **Norma Peña** – a medical doctor
    - **Pablo Umali Jr.** – an engineer
- ✓ Atty. Umali's concern for the family was so great that he would make it a point to spend quality time with his wife and children.

### **ATTY. UMALI AS A WRITER**

- ✓ Aside from being a lawyer, he was also a columnist at Free Press and Panorama during the 60's.
- ✓ He was also writing for Sen. Claro M. Recto.
  - These were the clear indications that Atty. Umali had a brilliant mind.

### **ATTY. UMALI'S ARTISTIC HANDS**

- ✓ According to his kins, Atty. Umali was also a painter.
  - His talent in painting had brought him to become friends with Filipino artists.
  - It was said that he even became a known model in the painting of the National Artist Vicente Silva Manansala.

### **DEATH OF ATTY. PABLO C. UMALI**

- ✓ Atty. Pablo C. Umali died on **August 15, 1982**, at the age of **72**.

#### **Appendix 4:**

##### **Principals of the High School**

##### **Department:**

Mr. Juan Y. Javier 1947-1948, Mrs. Flordeliza M. Arguelles 1948-1964, Mr. Petronilo Rosel 1964-1987, Mr. Domingo Ramirez, OIC 1987-1988, Mrs. Imelda B. Pargas 1988-2012, Dr. Roel Asi 2012-2016, Dr. Hilaria Guico 2016 to present

##### **Principals of the Elementary Department list:**

Miss Glicería Martínez 1948-1957  
Mrs. Adoración Moraleja 1957-1959  
Miss Erlinda Ilustre 1959-1960  
Miss Vicenta de J. Nacu 1962-1963  
Mrs. Violeta G. Perez 1963-1967  
Mrs. Erlinda R. Ilagan 1967-1978

Mrs. Josefina Nepomuceno June 1, 1979-April 15, 1993  
Dr. Adelaida Marquez April 16, 1993 to

June 12, 2000

Mrs. Lolita F. Tegon June 1, 2000 to present

#### **Appendix 3:**

##### **Chairpersons of the Executive Committee, Board of Trustees and Board of Regents:**

Atty. Manuel B. Panganiban 1964-1966  
Dr. Abelardo B. Perez 1967-1971  
Atty. Juan B. Ramos 1971-1973  
Atty. Vicente A. Mayo 1974-2013  
Atty. Jesus Victor V. Mayo 2013 to date

##### **Presidents of the Western Philippine Colleges:**

Rev. Fr. Vicente R. Catapang 1947-1952  
Mr. Juan Y. Javier 1952-1964  
Dr. Abelardo B. Perez 1967-1971  
Mrs. Flordeliza M. Arguelles 1971-1974  
Dr. Abelardo B. Perez 1974-August 1, 1996

**Presidents of the University of Batangas:**

Dr. Abelardo B. Perez 1996-April 18, 2009  
Dr. Hernando B. Perez 2009 to date

**Principals of the High School Department:**

Mr. Juan Y. Javier 1947-1948  
Mrs. Flordeliza M. Arguelles 1948-1964  
Mr. Petronilo Rosel 1964-1987  
Mr. Domingo Ramirez, OIC 1987-1988  
Mrs. Imelda B. Pargas 1988-2012  
Dr. Roel Asi 2012-2016  
Dr. Hilaria Guico 2016 to present

**Principals of the Elementary Department:**

Miss Gliceria Martinez 1948-1957  
Mrs. Adoracion Moraleja 1957-1959  
Miss Erlinda Ilustre 1959-1960  
Miss Vicenta de J. Nacu 1962-1963  
Mrs. Violeta G. Perez 1963-1967  
Mrs. Erlinda R. Ilagan 1967-1978  
Mrs. Josefina Nepomuceno June 1, 1979-April 15, 1993  
Dr. Adelaida Marquez April 16, 1993 to June 12, 2000  
Mrs. Lolita F. Tegon June 1, 2000 to present

**THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL AND THE ACADEMIC COUNCIL:**

Dr. Hernando B. Perez - **University President**  
Dr. Abegayle Machel P. Chua - VP for Academic Affairs

**Dean of College of Allied Medical Sciences:**

Mrs. Rosario S. Perez - VP for Business and Finance  
Atty. Jesus Victor V. Mayo - VP for Student and External Affairs  
Mr. Alex A. Ramos -VP for Administration  
Atty. Vicente Bernardo V. Mayo, Jr. AVP for Legal Affairs  
Mrs. Lily Marlene J. Hernandez-Bohn AVP for Corporate Financial Planning and Analysis  
Dr. Shirley S. Perez AVP for Quality

**Assurance**

Dr. Aurora P. Tolentino- AVP for Academics, Recognition, Accreditation, and Awards Dean, Graduate School  
Dr. Nenita E. Cuevas University Registrar  
Dr. Mercedes A. Macarandang - Director for Academic Affairs, UBLC  
Mrs. Maria Leah Sheila M. Atienza -Director for International Affairs and Special Programs  
Mrs. Maria Cecilia Q. Verceles - Director, Management of Assets and General Services-UB Batangas  
Mrs. Nena Amurao - Budget Management Officer  
Dr. Jesus P. Briones - Director for Publication, Research, Linkages and Liaison, UB Batangas  
Dr. Roel A. Asi - Director for Publication, Research, Linkages and Liaison, UB Lipa  
Mr. Judd Frederick Cauntay - Director for Corporate Communication Office  
Mrs. Lourdes Hernandez - Director, Management of Assets and General Services-UB Lipa

**The Academic Council:**

Dr. Hernando B. Perez - University President  
Dr. Abegayle Machel P. Chua - VP for Academic Affairs

**Dean of College of Allied Medical Sciences:**

Atty. Jesus Victor V. Mayo - VP for student and external Affairs  
Mr. Alex A. Ramos - VP for Administration  
Atty. Vicente Bernardo V. Mayo, Jr.- AVP for Legal Affairs  
Dr. Aurora P. Tolentino - AVP for Academics, Recognition, Accreditation & Awards Dean, Graduate School  
Dr. Nenita E. Cuevas - University Registrar  
Dr. Henry I. Cabatay - Dean, College of Engineering  
Dr. Irene R. de Villa- Dean, College of Accountancy, Business, Tourism & International Hospitality Management  
Dr. Mercedes A. Macarandang - Director for Academic Affairs, UBLC  
Atty. Hernando S. Perez, Jr.- Dean, College of Law



Dr. Roel A. Asi - Director, Publication, Research, Linkages & Liaison-UB Lipa  
 Dr. Edward Babasa - Dean, College of Education  
 Dr. Ma. Annabelle I. Tenorio - Dean, College of Arts and Sciences  
 Dr. Hilaria Guico -Principal, Junior High School Department  
 Mrs. Mylin Mauhay - Director, Technical Education Department  
 Dr. Agerico Matira - Principal, High School Department-UBLC  
 Dr. Lolita F. Tagon - Principal, Elementary Department  
 Dr. Niña Macarandang - Dean, College of Business & Accountancy  
 Mr. Alvin Mercado - Dean, College of Information & Communication Technology  
 Atty. Edna C. Del Rosario - Director, Legal Aid and Associate Dean, College of Law  
 Mrs. Maria Leah Sheila M. Atienza - Director, International Affairs and Special Programs

Mrs. Maria Cecilia Q. Verceles - Director, Management of Assets and General Services, UB Batangas  
 Mr. Frank A. Miranda - Director, Learning Resource Center  
 Dr. Imelda M. Delos Reyes - Director, Professional Development and Non-Credit Programs & ETEEAP  
 Mrs. Anna Louisa L. Cauntay - Director, SAEP  
 Mr. Judd Frederick Cauntay - Director, Corporate Communication Office  
 Engr. Joan Villanueva - Dean, College of Engineering, Information & Technology  
 Dr. Evelyn Rabino - Dean, College of Education, Arts & Sciences  
 Dr. Francia Yvette Magpantay - Dean, College of Tourism & Hospitality Management

**1979** Western Philippine Colleges acquired a larger lot at the Hilltop campus. A new property owned by Dr. Malabanan, located beside the WPC lot was exchanged where a five-storey building with a penthouse at the roof deck for the engineering students was erected and completed.

WPC appointed Dr. Corazon B. Cabrera as Academic Coordinator.

The Board appointed Mrs. Anita Velasquez-Cauntay as the Purchasing Officer. She held her position until her demise in 2012.

The administrators, upon the approval of the Board of Trustees, phased out the College of Law temporarily.

**1981** The High School department published the Westernian Pioneer, the official publication of the department. Minerva Mendoza became its first Chief Editor. Miss Lilia Aseron and Miss Araceli Perez were the first advisers.

**1982** WPC appointed Dr. Corazon B. Cabrera as the VP for Academic Affairs, a position which she held from 1982 to her retirement in 2002.

**1982** Bernardita Rodis of the Westernian Pioneer became the first Regional winner in the Regional Secondary Schools Press Conference of 1982.

The first four Civil Engineering graduates passed the board examination with a 100% passing rate.

**1983** Abegayle Machel M. Perez became the first national winner in the National Secondary Schools Press Conference in Editing and Copy Reading.  
 WPC converted College of Liberal Arts into College of Arts and Sciences. Added to their

curriculum were Mathematics, Biology, Chemistry, and Psychology.

**31 August to 15 September** - The students, led by militant leaders, staged a mass walkout and boycott of classes due to the increase of tuition fee.

**1984** The principal of the High School Department, Mr. Petronilo Rosel, commissioned Mr. Dindo Catral to organize Teatro Anino

**June 1985** - 2-year Electronics Computer Technician, 4-year Secretarial Education and Bachelor of Elementary Education were the new course offered by Western Philippine Colleges

**1987** WPC revived the Student Catholic Action and appointed Fr. Isabelo Acero permanent chaplain of the newly- constructed chapel.  
PACUCOA granted WPC the Deregulated Status and Level 1 Accreditation to Liberal Arts, Commerce and Education  
The Legacy of the Founders

**5-6 February 2002** - Training workshop and launching of the Expanded Tertiary Education Equivalency and Accreditation Program (ETEEAP).

**13-17 August 2001** Celebration of the 55th Founding Anniversary of WPC and the 5th Anniversary as UB.

**12 December 2002** The first UB Research Forum was conducted.

**February 2006** Celebration of the 60th Foundation Anniversary of WPC and 10th Anniversary of UB as a university.

**7 April 2006** Supreme Court Justice Renato C. Corona received from UB the degree of Doctor of Laws (Honoris Causa).

**18 April 2007** Dr. Abelardo B. Perez, the university president passed away due to cardiac complications.

**15 August 2007** Dr. Hernando B. Perez, younger brother of the late Dr. Abelardo B. Perez, was formally installed as the second UB President.

**27 April 2010** Launching of the first publication of the Batangas Heritage Center. The book was entitled Fr. Vicente Catapang and the history of the Philippine education.

**19 October 2005** Dr. Victor M. Arguelles, son of the founder Atty. Jesus L. Arguelles, became the Vice President for Academic Affairs.

**May 2009** Dr. Abegayle Machel Perez-Chua became the VP for Academic Affairs and Dean of the College of Allied Medical Sciences on a concurrent capacity.

**15 April 2010** The University of Batangas was conferred with the AJA JAS-ANZ ISO 9001:2008 certified institution as of 2009.

**July 2010** The UB College of Education received the Center of Excellence status and the College of Business and Accountancy received the Center of Development status.

**June 2011** Construction of the UB Lipa Campus was completed. The UB Lipa Campus started to operate with 394 students.

**22 February 2011** The book Legacy of Love was first launched.

**1995** WPC enriched academic offerings with the additional program in the Graduate School- Master of Business Management major in Human resource Management, MA in Public Administration and MS in Mathematics.

WPC also opened 2-year Marine Engineering, 2-year Marine Transportation, 1-year Basic Marine in Engine and Deck Personnel and 1-year Refrigeration and Aircon Technology.

The office of Research, Planning and Development was converted to Research and Development Center to be managed by the Assistant Vice President for Research and Development.

Community extension program was given emphasis. Faculty and students joined the outreach programs in Madalunot, Calaca.

**8 November 1995** The government granted WPC the permit to open the course BS in Mass Communication.

**1996** WPC had grown from 48 students 50 years ago to 14,465 students from the 17 undergraduate programs, 20 vocational or short-term courses, secondary school, elementary and kindergarten.

**17 to 14, February 24, 1996** Celebration of the 50th founding anniversary of WPC with a theme: "Tungo sa Pagsulong ng Tao at Mamamayan." It was week-long celebration for the 50th Foundation anniversary of WPC.

**1 August 1996** UB was granted the University status and Dr. Abelardo B. Perez became the first president of the University of Batangas.

**9-11 September 1996** Celebration of the University Week. Founders' Memorial Lecture was held with Senators Raul Roco and Ramon Magsaysay, Jr. as lecturers.

**9 November 1996** Solemn investiture of the first University president was held.

**14 August 1997** Conferment on the President of the Philippines, Fidel V. Ramos, the honorary degree Doctor of Humanities (Honoris Causa) because of his deep concern for the individual's well-being and his strong sense of national pride.

**22 March 1999** CHED permitted the UB College of Law to offer Doctor of Jurisprudence degree.

**April 2004** The first four graduates of Doctoral program received their diplomas.

**18 September 2001** Dr. Cristeto "Cristy" R. Hernandez, Board of Regents' Vice Chairman and Dean of the College of Engineering, succumbed to asthma and heart complications that led to his death.

**5 February 1987** The government granted WPC the permit to operate the first year of the 2-year Electronics Computer Technology.

**1988** PACUCOA granted WPC Level II Accreditation to LACOMED.

The government gave WPC the permission to offer new courses like BS Math, short EDP courses, Industrial Electronics Technician Courses with majors in Automotive and Bio-Med Electronics and Electronics Technician course with major in Electrical Technology.

**1989** Miss Avegale Moraleja of WPC won the Bb. Lungsod ng Batangas.

WPC offered additional six courses offerings: 2-year Civil Technology, Welding and Fabrication Technology, Construction and Carpentry Technology, Industrial Technology with major in Automotive, and 1-year Industrial Housekeeping.

WPC organized the WPC Dance Company.

**1990** The government permitted WPC to offer new courses: BS Computer Science, BS Accountancy, BS Biology and BS Chemistry.

**1991** The Board approved the opening of short-term courses like 2-year Nursing Aide, 1-year Nursing Aide, Pharmacy Assistant, Police Science, 2-year Computer Secretarial and BS Computer Education."

LACOMED received Level II Re-Accredited status

**13 February 1993** Government granted the Recognition to WPC to the 13 February following courses: 1-year Auto-Diesel Mechanics, 1-year Auto Gas Mechanic, 1-year and 2-year Nursing Aide, 2- year Electric Technology, Pharmacy Assistant and 2-year Polic Science.

**1993** Construction and completion of Tech-Voc building and the additional wings of the Engineering building.

**June 1993** WPC reopened the College of Law

The College of Allied Medical Sciences opened the 5-year BS Physical Therapy, BS Occupational Therapy, and 4- year BS Respiratory Therapy with an enrolment of 110 students.

**1994** Construction of Computer Science Building, 22 temporary high school classrooms, WPC Community Cooperative Store, Anatomy laboratory in the Engineering building and renovation of the downtown campus, the main library and the canteen became the highlight of this year.

**June 1994** The first classes of College of Nursing and Midwifery started with 13 students enrolled in the 4-year Nursing curriculum. There were also 9 students for the 2-year

**31 March 1953** President Flordeliza M. Arguelles; Treasurer Francisco G. Perez; and Secretary Aurora L. Velasquez. Senator Jose P. Laurel inducted the members of the committee. Hon. Secretary of National Defense, Ramon Magsaysay, was the guest speaker.

The first batch of graduates of the College of Law received their diploma. They were: Juan Abas, Isidoro Aclan, Pascual Deguito, Epitacio Guadez, Isidro Laygo, Godofredo Macatangay, Jorge Mendoza, Florencio Mercado, Paciano Publico, Juan V. Ramos, and Clemente Sale.

**15 June 1953** WPC received the Government Recognition No. 250, s. 1953 for the 4-year law course leading to the degree of Bachelor of Laws.

**20 March 1954** Dean Francisco G. Perez presented, during the graduation ceremonies, the first batch of law graduates, took the bar exam. Five out of eleven successfully hurdled the bar examinations. The first WPC barristers included Attorneys Juan Abas, Isidro Laygo, Florencio Mercado, Juan V. Ramos, and Clemente Sale.

**1955** The second batch of law graduates in the following year included Maximo Aguila, Dominador Atienza, Eliseo Austria, Juan de Guzman, Liberato C. de Jesus and Roseo Kabatay. Dean Francisco G. Perez presented these new attorneys in the graduation rites.

Mr. Javier introduced ROTC all-student brass band that provided music during ROTC parades and reviews. This band was the first and the only band in Southern Luzon at that time.

**1957** Mr. Juan Javier was re-elected President with Mrs. Flordeliza Arguelles as Vice President and High School Principal on a concurrent position.

**20 August 1959** Board Member Francisco G. Perez, one of the founders of WPC and dean of the College of Law complained of severe stomach pains. According to doctors' diagnosis, this was due to a massive heart attack, which caused his death.

**1960** The board appointed Atty. Pedro Tolentino as dean of the College of Law.

**1961** A P20,000 semi-permanent building was built for the Commerce Department. The expansion paved the transfer of the Elementary department, formerly housed at the rented Knights of Columbus building, to the WPC campus on M.H. del Pilar Street.

**1962** WPC opened the Secretarial department by offering the two-year Secretarial course leading to the title Associate in Commercial secretarial Sciences (ACS). department was a part of the College of Commerce under (BSEED) and Petra Ramirez (BSEEd) received the Magna cum Laude award. There were also three Cum Laude graduates.

**1970** Fanned by the intense desire to foster professional growth, the Graduate Studies and Research started to operate under a temporary permit during school year 1968-1969 with 74 enrollees for a one-course offering Master of Arts in Education every Saturday. Dr. Lydia M. Profeta was invited as consultant with Dr. Crispina Faller as the first dean and Mercedes Macarandang as first MA graduate.

The four-storey edifice for the High School worth half a million pesos at Hilltop was completed. It was named Francisco Perez Hall in the early 1980's.

**25 June 1970** The Nursery and Kindergarten classes were started at the newly opened

building.

**1971** Dr. Maximo Ramos took over as the second head of the Graduate Studies, followed by Rev. Father Peter Liu and Dr. Antonio Javier. His deanship made possible the offering of additional courses in English, Social Studies, Filipino, and Educational Administration. The enrolment increased with the addition of these courses.

The annual election of the Board of Trustees marked the election of Chairman Atty. Juan V. Ramos (1971-1973) and Mrs. Flordeliza M. Arguelles as the fourth president of the College (1971-1974).

This school year also saw the promotion of The most deserving staff of the college received promotion. They are: Atty. Florencio de Loyola, dean of Student Affairs (1971-1988); Atty. Eliseo Austria, vice president for Academic Affairs (1971-1977); Dr. Maximo B. Ramos, dean of the Graduate Studies and Research (1971-1972), Dr. Corazon B. Cabrera, dean of the College of Liberal Arts (1971-1982) and concurrent assistant dean of Graduate Studies and Research; Mr. Juan P. Lozano II, dean of the College of Commerce (1971 to May 31, 1993); Mrs. Dolores H. Solis, registrar (1971 to her retirement in September 14, 2006); Mrs. Carmen de Castro, officer-in- charge of the Property Office.

**1972** Atty. Vicente A. Mayo was elected chairman of the Board of Trustees, the position he held until his retirement on 2014.

Dr. Antonio Javier was appointed dean of the Graduate Studies and Research (1973-1983). incumbency, he strove to add major courses such as During his English, Social Sciences, Filipino, and Educational Administration to the Graduate School programs; hence, Dean Atty. Eliseo Austria.

**12 January 1964** President Juan Y. Javier, a true and dynamic leader who exuded charisma, kindness, understanding, and generosity, passed away.

**1964** WPC changed the composition of the Board. An Executive Committee chairmanned by Atty. Manuel Panganiban was created with Dr. Abelardo B. Perez as vice chairman; Mrs.

Aurora Velasquez as treasurer; Ms. Belen V. Perez as secretary; and Mr. Juanito Limbo as auditor. The board did not elect a president. The Executive Committee became the implenienting body for all policies.

**1966** The Board of Trustees was still the source of all policies but its composition was increased. The Board was composed of the five officers of the Executive Committee plus 10 members namely: Mrs. Flordeliza M. Arguelles, Mrs. Josefina V. Javier, Mrs. Ofelia J. Hernandez, Miss Rizalina V. Javier, Mrs. Conrada B. Perez, Mrs. Mary Ruth Aceveda, Dr. Severina I. Orosa, Mr. Juanito V. Javier Jr., Dr. Emiliano Aquino, and Atty. Juan V. Ramos.

Mrs. Remedios L. Cilindro was appointed dean of the College of Education-Normal (1964-1973). Soon after box her appointment, the first three (3) years of the Bachelor of Elementary Education (BEED) curriculum was approved by the Bureau of Private Schools.

Mr. Petronilo Rosel took over as High School principal from vice president Mrs. Flordeliza M. Arguelles (1964- 1987). Mr. Domingo Ramirez was appointed dean of High School boys to assist the principal in adolescent discipline.

The college administration spearheaded by Treasurer, Mrs. Aurora L. Velasquez, gradually solved the problem of accommodating the growing number of students by purchasing five adjacent lots with an area of about 23, 253 square meters at Hilltop site, Batangas City. On the corner of the newly-acquired property, a P100,000 three- storey high school building was constructed.

Dr. Abelardo B. Perez was elected chairman of the The position was subsequently Executive Board. changed to chairman and president on a concurrent capacity.

**1968** An all-college orchestra was organized with Mr. Petronilo Rosel as adviser. It was frequently invited to assist in some out-of-school formal dances and musical affairs that gave a strong competition with the famous Babat Orchestra at that time.

For the first time, two college graduates Julieta Mauhay increasing gradually the MA enrolment to 253 students.

**1973** In 1973-1974 the Graduate School Program was given Government Recognition No. 49, s. 1973.

The Revised Secondary Education Program of 1973 was introduced in the High School department. With the revision of the secondary curriculum, Preparatory Military Training (PMT) was changed to Citizens' Army Training (CAT).

In line with the provisions of the RSEP 1973, all graduating students were required to take the National College Entrance Examination (NCEE) for the assessment of their aptitudes and skills and to prepare them for college education.

WPC established the Technical-Vocational department with Mr. Domingo Ramirez. The initial offerings included Automotive Technology, Drafting, Electronics, and Food Technology with integrated practicum classes for each Courseware.

**1974** The Tech-Voc department offered Agriculture, Refrigeration, Airconditioning, and Practical Electricity. Other short-term courses like Pipefitting, Iron Works, Sheet Metal and Welding were also offered.

**June 1974** Dr. Abelardo B. Perez was again elected college president after a lull of five years. Since then, he held the position until his death on April 18, 2007.

**1975** Kindergarten classes of WPC received the Government Recognition No. 148 s. 1975. The administration's concern for the welfare of the employee motivated them to join the Private Retirement Annuity Association (PERAA).

**7 February 1977** WPC constructed a permanent stage at the Hilltop campus.

**1978** WPC launched the opening of the College of Engineering. It started to operate on a temporary permit with Dr. Cristeto Hernandez as the first dean. The courses offered were Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering, Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering and Bachelor of Science in Industrial Engineering. WPC also offered a course on Geodetic

Engineering. However, because there was no enrollee in this course, the board decided to phase out the course.

**11 June 1978** In order to protect the PE students from the elements, WPC constructed a gymnasium.

**23 April 1978** WPC capped the high passing percentage in the first Professional Board Examination for Teachers (PBET). This eventually led to a sudden increase in enrollment from 7,438 in 1974 to 10,983 in School Year 1979-1980.

**1980 March 1** Fr. Vicente R. Catapang died at the age of 9.

**1982 August 15** . Atty. Pablo C. Umali passed away.

**1994 October 4** Mrs. Flordelisa M. Arguelles passed away.

**2007 April 18** Dr. Abelardo B. Perez passed away.

**2010 January 30** Mrs. Aurora L. Velasquez died.

## **Appendix 2:**

Historical Timeline of the University of Batangas

The following were the important dates in the history of the University of Batangas:

**February 1945** As the Americans were advancing and hunting down the running Japanese, the latter started burning houses and killing the Batangueños they met. The towns of Bauan, Cuenca, Mataasnakahoy, San Jose, Santo Tomas, Taal, Tanauan and Lipa City were hard hit. The town of Batangas did not suffer much casualties due to the great efforts and sacrifices done by its town mayor, Roman L. Perez.

**11 March 1945** Batangas was liberated. The people of Batangas started to work together in order to rebuild the town.

**1946** The idea of putting up a school took shape at the printing press of Mr. Juan Y. Javier on P. Burgos Street. His meeting with Atty. Jesus L. Arguelles resulted to coming up with an idea of establishing a school that will benefit the young people of Batangas. These two, together with Atty. Francisco G. Perez, Mayor Roman L. Perez, Rev. Fr. Vicente Catapang, Ph.D., and Atty. Pablo Umali worked together in order to lay the foundation of the Western Philippine Colleges, now the University of Batangas.

**28 April 1947** The first classes were formally conducted with 48 college and high school enrollees.

**22 May 1947** The board called for a meeting in order to actualize the Important and functions of the Board of Trustees. pertinent resolutions relative to the holding of regular meetings, as well as stepping up of collections from the founders, intensification of campaign for enrollment, systematizing records, and appointing Atty. Jesus A. Arguelles as the first executive secretary and custodian of records were approved.

**1 July 1948** The Western Philippine Colleges received Government Recognition No. 524 S. 1948, giving WPC the license to operate a complete secondary course.

In the midst of the hectic preparation for college participation in the July 4 Independence Day parade of the year, Atty. Arguelles was about to leave home to supervise work on the college



float when he suffered a massive heart attack which caused his untimely demise.

**University of Batangas OPEN JAM**  
**(Open to all employees, faculty members and students)**  
**August 15, 2018 | 1:00PM - 5:00 PM VENUE: Aurora's Fountain**

According to the humanist philosophy of education, students must be taught to become humane. In other words, the students must be able to learn to become more of a human, i.e., a person who is rational, social, and political being. The then WPC, and later on, UB, had been consistent in including in the curriculum humanistic pedagogy. Aware that the pragmatic system of education had focused too much on science and mathematics so that the youth might be able to respond to the call for technological advancements, UB had provided a curriculum that would include arts and values education so that formation of the students would not only focus on the development of the mind but also of the heart. Hence, activities like Open Jams had been continuously organized. Musical groups like UB Chorale, UB Stringers, and UB Rondalla were being asked to perform in different occasions. UB Dance Company and the Tanghalang Dal'wa Singko and Teatro Anino were also established in order to develop the desire of the students to join in the performing arts activities. The Batangas Heritage Center with the help of Mr. Aguido Ebreo of the UB elementary Department extended training in arts to UBRA (the University of Batangas Recreation and Arts) group with the aim of tapping the student artists at their young age to develop the future members of the college students' organizations.

It was expected that the students' desire for the arts would be able to develop camaraderie in joining such activities leading to the development of moral values. UB placed importance in helping the students develop concern for the others and it is their belief that it is by way of teaching music and the arts that would help these young people to learn moral values. One's knowledge of music and arts would be helpful in making the students know what decisions must be made in order to create harmony and beauty. Inasmuch as beauty will always be connected with goodness, the development of the aesthetic values of the students would lead to the ethical growth of the persons.

## **Appendices**

### **Appendix 1:**

**1888 September 11** Fr. Vicente R. Catapang was born.  
**1894 November 18** Mayor Roman L. Perez was born.  
**1898 May 6** Mr. Juan Y. Javier was born.  
**1900 April 1** Atty. Francisco G. Perez was born.  
**1900 August 10** Atty. Jesus Lorenzo A. Arguelles was born.  
**1907 May 2** Mrs. Flordelisa Martinez-Arguelles was born.  
**1908 June 30** Atty. Pablo C. Umali was born.  
**1912 April 28** Rev. Fr. Vicente R. Catapang was ordained priest.  
**1914 August 11** Susana Aurora Javier Luanzing-Velasquez was born.  
**1933 August 15** Dr. Abelardo B. Perez was born.  
**1947 July 1** Atty. Jesus Arguelles passed away.  
**1949 November 8** Mayor Roman L. Perez was assassinated.  
**1959 August 29** Francisco G. Perez died of a massive heart attack.  
**1964 January 12** Mr. Juan Ylagan Javier passed away.

The idea set by the first president of WPC, and the one who is being considered as an expert in terms of running an educational institution, is that the students must be formed

physically, intellectually, morally, and spiritually. It is already given that WPC, and eventually UB, must develop the students intellectually. It is for this reason that the Western Philippine Colleges before, and now the University of Batangas, have continuously worked hard in order to obtain a very high standard that proved how UB kept on aspiring of providing quality education to its clientele.

The University of Batangas was given an Autonomous Status by the Commission on Higher Education because of its compliance to the high standard set by the Commission. The University of Batangas is definitely living the dreams of the founders of working hard to provide best services to the young people not only of Batangas but also of the nearby provinces and also from other countries.

Aside from the intellectual formation, the University of Batangas did not fail to provide training for the physical development of its students. UB is upholding the Latin principle *mens sana in corpore sano* (A healthy mind in a healthy body). A frail body will not help the person obtain success. An intelligent person must possess physical strength in order to be able to perform his duties and responsibilities to his profession and to the society as a whole.

As a Catholic priest, Fr. Catapang made it a point that WPC would be established to its student's moral foundation. This was the reason why he was the one who first taught philosophy to the pioneers of the WPC. He made it a point that moral philosophy would have a place in the WPC curriculum in order to ensure that the students would be able to possess a good moral guideline to be able to make moral decisions in ethical situations. It is for this reason that WPC also upheld the philosophy of **Humanism**.

Atty. Francisco Perez would even take himself as an example to his friends in Brgy. Mahakot. They knew that Atty. Perez came from a poor family. But because of his assiduousness and hard work, he made himself to the top and thereby obtained a much better life. He was trying to make the people realize that education is not only a preparation for life. He was actually saying that education is life itself. For this reason, he was considered a follower of the philosophy of Pragmatism. He carried this belief to the Western Philippine Colleges where the teachers and the staff learned to work hard so that the students would grow professionally.

The founders believed that education should not only focus on the mere acquisition of knowledge. Rather, education should be made practical, workable, beneficial, and useful. If education would not lead to a better life, then it is considered to be futile. Students must be prepared so that they could obtain a better job. It should become beneficial not only to one's self but to the whole family as well as it was the idea of the founders that these students would become the means for the family to obtain a much better life. If education in WPC would not be made into use, then it would become a great failure not only on the part of the founders but of the whole faculty and staff of WPC. Hence, the founders kept on imbibing the love for work to the whole working force of WPC.

One of the criticisms given to the philosophy of education of Pragmatism was that pragmatists may have the tendency to become materialistic due to the idea of beneficiality of education, which was always referred to as material benefits. Pragmatism believed that truth is a cash value of an idea. For this reason, benefits were always related to monetary considerations.

The founders believed that growth and development must not It should rather pertain to the holistic only pertain to economics. growth of the person. According to Fr. Catapang, in his message to the graduates of 1951,

... You will always remember that she (WPC) has been caring for your physical, intellectual,

moral, and spiritual education; that great part of your being today you owe to her; that she has imparted to you her best and you, in return, are expected to be ever loyal to her as she is loyal to you...

After obtaining independence, the Filipinos had the belief that they could already have a better life. But economic and political, as well as the moral development, were not obtained. The country is still being enslaved not anymore by the evil colonizers but by the present political and moral system of the country. Because of this, the task of rebuilding the nation is left in the hands of the educational institutions that actually have the capability of forming the young generations to become professionals and future leaders who will change the society for its betterment.

Immediately after the end of World War II, it was already the idea of the founders to make the society better. They thought of doing their share in order to reform the society by providing academic, moral and spiritual formation to the youth so that they could prepare these young people to face all the challenges of life and thereby become the main catalyst for change. They followed the philosophy of **Reconstructionism**. Everybody knew that the society needed a great reconstruction not only in terms of the physical edifices but also the moral and spiritual, as well as the academic formations of the people. Hence, the Western Philippine Colleges was founded.

One of the main criteria of the founders in hiring teachers was that they should imbibe in themselves a great sense of responsibility in giving these young people the hope needed so that they could improve their life. As Reconstructionists, the teachers must be able to change the mindset of the students so that they could start believing in themselves that there could still be a great future ahead of them. The WPC education must be able to prepare the students for a better life. The founders were basically following the pedagogical principle of **Realism** that "Education is a preparation for life."

This was what the founders were trying to tell the people of Batangas. Mr. Juan Y. Javier was telling his farmers and care-takers that they should send their children to college, and for that matter, to WPC, so that they could be made ready to face all the challenges of life. This was also the same message inculcated by Fr. Vicente Catapang to his parishioners in Taal and Sta. Teresita so much so that he even offered his owner-type jeep to be the means of transportation of the students who would want to enroll at the WPC and he offered it for free because he had a strong belief that this could be the only way to help these poor families escape from their miserable life.

## **Chapter Six**

### **The Philosophy of Education of UB: The Legacy of the Founders**

From our discussions of the short history of WPC, the life of the founders, and the contributions of the other personalities, it can be noted that the University of Batangas, whose pedagogy was based on the philosophical ideologies of the founders and the other contributors, has been consistent on particular philosophical systems. This chapter will elaborate the philosophy of education that the University of Batangas has been consistently putting into practice.

Consistent with what the Department of Education (DepEd) and the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) demand from all educational institutions, the University of Batangas upholds the pragmatic philosophy of education. The aim of education in the Philippines is to prepare the students for a better future. This is being done by forming the students according to the kind of profession that is very much needed by the different industries.

It can be noted that the present condition of the Philippines is no different from the economic and political situation of the country during the colonial periods. During the Spanish, American, and Japanese colonial periods, the Filipinos were living a miserable, and sometimes, horrendous life. The people were not given the freedom to rule themselves and to live their life according to how they wanted it to be lived. Economic growth was too slow, or even nonexistent. Therefore, the only desire of the Filipinos during that time was the attainment of freedom and independence in the hope that such freedom may lead the people to obtain a better life.

Abelardo was the eldest in a brood of three males and one female. He was born on August 15, 1933, to the former provincial board member of the province of Batangas, Atty. Francisco G. Perez, and housewife Conrada Benito of Manila. His hardworking parents sent him to St. Bridget's Academy for his primary education. During his elementary days, he was asked by the nuns to participate in the school play for a Christmas presentation. In the said play, Abelardo was asked to take the role of Sto. Niño because of his gentle manners and his saintly features.

He finished the intermediate level at the Batangas Elementary School while the secondary course was completed at the Batangas High School in 1949.

Atty Francisco was very much concerned about the healthcare of his constituents. Hence, he encouraged the young Abelardo to take up medical courses at the University of Sto. Tomas, which he completed in 1956. This was followed by an internship at the UST Hospital, residency training at the Batangas Provincial Hospital, and finally, at the New York Polyclinic Medical School and Hospital in New York City, USA, where he finished his residency in Ophthalmology and Otolaryngology in 1961.

While undergoing the training in New York, he grieved over the sudden loss of his father, who succumbed to a fatal heart attack. Gallantly, he faced the greatest challenge in his life. He wanted to go home in order to see his father for the last time. However, he also had to realize his father's dream of having a doctor in the family. He was assigned at the Bronx Municipal Hospital as Chief Resident in Otolaryngology in 1961-1962. This was followed by the appointment as Emergency Room Physician at St. Catherine Hospital in Brooklyn, New York from 1962-1963.

New York City did not only provide Dr. Abelardo with the expertise needed by a specialist. It also served as the setting for a romantic affair with Rose Martha MacIntosh, a beautiful Canadian from Newfoundland, Nova Scotia. She was a nurse assigned to the same Emergency Room of the hospital where Dr. Abelardo was undergoing his training.

### **Rose Martha MacIntosh and Dr. Abelardo Perez on their wedding day.**

Two people of diverse cultures became in love with each other. The cultural barrier was crossed when Rose Martha decided to follow Dr. Abelardo to Batangas after his training. The two were married in a solemn ceremony at the historic San Agustin Church in Intramuros Manila on March 14, 1964, followed by a reception at the famous Aristocrat on Dewey Boulevard (now the Roxas Boulevard).

The union brought forth six children. However, only three survived. The eldest son, Michael Francis, who is a surgeon and an internist, is married to Dr. Janet Ongkiko, who gave him a daughter which they named Amanda Allison. Dr. Abegayle Machel Perez-Chua, who is currently the Vice President for Academic Affairs of the University of Batangas, is happily married to a banker, Stephen Chua, and they have three children, namely, Stefano Abelardo, Steven Andrew, and Stephanie Anastacia. Dr. Loralie Evangeline is enjoying a comfortable life as wife to an academican and director of the Learning Resource Center of University of Batangas, Frank Miranda and mother to Abelardo Francisco.

As a seasoned physician, Dr. Abelardo was an active fellow of the American Academy of Otolaryngology, International Colleges of Surgeon, American College of Surgeon, Philippine College of Surgeon and a corresponding fellow of the American Society of Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery.

He was also a specialist (diplomate) as certified by the American Board of Otolaryngology, Philippine Board of Ophthalmology, Philippine Board of Otolaryngology, and Philippine Board for Cosmetic Surgery.

His expertise as a fellow and diplomate include his appointment as section chief (Audiology) in the Department of Otolaryngology at St. Luke's Medical Center. He led the Southern Tagalog Chapter of Otolaryngology (Head and Neck Surgery) as president and was also a member of the Philippine Board of Otolaryngology.

### **The family of Dr. Abelardo B. Perez.**

Due recognition for his successful medical career was granted when he was awarded the Outstanding "Most Physician" in 1969 by the Philippine Medical Association and the "Asian Special Award" by the Asian Interactive Association on the Hearing Impaired in 1990.

Fresh from his specialty training abroad, he offered his services to the Western Philippine Colleges. All that he wanted was to be the school's physician. However, he was also appointed as Vice- Chairman of the Executive Committee, now the Board of Regents. The help of the college was passed to him for the second time when he was elected President of the Board of Trustees that replaced the Executive Committee in 1971.

The crowning glory of his educational venture was the elevation of the Western Philippine Colleges from the rank of a college to a university on August 1, 1996, and with the

single honor of being the last president of Western Philippine Colleges and the first president of the University of Batangas.

Aside from being an excellent medical practitioner, he also had several achievements in the academe. He was an active member and officer of the Philippine Association of Colleges and Universities (PACU), president of the Philippine Associations of Private Schools, Colleges, and Universities (PAPSCU), officer of the Coordinating Council of Private Educational Association of the Philippines (COCOPEA) and adviser of the Batangas Private Schools Association (BAPRISA).

Endowed with the effective skills of leading people, he was elected president of the Maple Leaf Equipment Services Corporation and also as comptroller of Prime Career Development and Management Services.

Meanwhile, during his incumbency as college president (1964- 2007), he transformed the Western Philippine Colleges into a prime institution. His competent leadership brought about the continuous increase in enrolment, the modernization of school facilities and infrastructure, the development of human resources and the Level 1 and Level II accredited statuses granted to the different programs that started with the College of Liberal Arts, Education, and Commerce.

His dream of achieving the Level III status of the accredited programs was cut short by his untimely demise on April 18, 2007, after a dinner he shared with daughter Dr. Abegayle and some relatives on the eve of his supposed attendance in the Mid-year Conference in Baguio City. His sudden departure created a heavy toll on his family and the hospital staff of St. Patrick's Hospital and Medical Center (SPHMC) and a vacuum in the academe which ended all his plans and lifetime career after 74 colorful years. His manifold achievements and unfinished tasks are now no more but he had distinguished himself as a man ready to serve and a respected leader imbued with a high sense of vision, principles, and values.

Dr. Perez is the man whose life had been well-lived not for himself but for the service of others-the man who had touched so many lives-the man whose mortal remains had turned to dust but the memories of his fruitful earthly sojourn will be his legacy.

Abelardo B. Perez is the essence of service and commitment, lovingly remembered as a physician and academician-a respected leader of the professions.

Transportation and Communication and as Justice Secretary, chemical engineer, and a BS in Commerce graduate.

Nanay Ading disproved the essence of the poetical allusion that "East is East and West is West and never the two shall meet" with the cordial relationship she established for many years with her foreigner daughter-in-law.

When the Canadian Rose Martha MacIntosh came for the wedding to be the wife of son Abelardo, Nanay Ading fondly welcomed her, showered her with Batangas hospitality, regaled her with a Maria Clara-inspired bridal gown, and hosted a memorable wedding celebration at the San Agustin Church in Intramuros, which was followed by a sumptuous reception at the Aristocrat Restaurant in Davey Boulevard (now Roxas Boulevard).

The chemistry brought forth a strong bond that became stronger with the arrival of the grandchildren, Michael Francis, Abegayle Machel, and Loralie Evangeline. She lavished her grandchildren with tender loving care as grandma while they fondly addressed her as "Mama."

However, human beings are not destined to live forever. So, just like any other mortals, Mrs. Conrada Benito Perez, also known as Nanay Ading, bade her family goodbye on November 21, 1992. But she will always be remembered as a woman of service not only to others but to her family as well, a dutiful wife, a loving mother, a good keeper of the purse, and a caring "Mama" to her children and grandchildren.

### **Mrs. Josefina Villanueva-Javier**

A gentle woman with soulful eyes framed by a pair of black-rimmed spectacles, hair knotted tightly into a bun, garbed in a simple black dress with a pair of low-heeled closed sandals that covered her feet—this was how the elderly woman named Josefina Villanueva Javier was remembered.

At the Western Philippine Colleges, Mrs. Javier was better known as Nanay Pining, who often visited the institution to offer her services without expecting any remuneration.

Josefina was actually the sister of the first wife of the founder and the second President of WPC, Juan Y. Javier. Josefina devoted her precious time and effort as the president's second wife and stepmother to the young siblings Ofelia, Rizalina, and Juanito Jr.

Mrs. Josefina Javier did not have any child of her own. But, needless to say, she took care of the orphans as her offsprings (actually her nieces and nephew) with love and a maternal care needed by her sister's growing children. Her admiration for the children created good chemistry. Hence, the kids grew up under her wings upon the death of her husband and the father of the children, Mr. Juan Y. Javier.

As a single parent, Josefina guided the children to be good Christians and sent them to Catholic schools for their educational development. She nurtured them until the time when the two ladies were already raising their own families while the youngest ward decided to be a bachelor forever.

Every day, after the death of Mr. Javier, Mrs. Josefina would be riding the owner-type jeep of Mr. Javier. She would ask the driver to bring her to the church so she would be able to hear mass. After the mass, she would stay in the church patio for a *tete-a-tete* with the lady members of church organizations like the Apostolado de la Oracion. She would often attend the novenas or joined the meetings of the various church associations to which she was affiliated.

Two Josefina was also known for her generosity. She spearheaded the collection of funds for charitable purposes. Because of these works, she became a popular figure and a friend of all those whose lives she touched.

While the Western Philippine Colleges was still in its infant stage, Mrs. Javier was one of the founders' angels who kept the fire of enthusiasm burning. She assisted the pioneers in surmounting all challenges and faced the herculean task of founding an institution of learning with limited financial resources by providing interest-free

As an advocate of religious services, she initiated the movement for the primary school children of WPC to receive their First Holy Communion. She also took charge of the monthly

first Friday devotion by offering the mass and the regular recitation of the Holy Rosary.

Nanay Pining was very much dedicated to the observance of church holy days like the Feast of the Immaculate Conception every December 8. It is for this reason that she requested the school administration to include the Feast of the Immaculate Conception in the school calendar as a non-class day and a church holy day. She insisted that the Immaculate Conception is the patroness of Batangas and, therefore, due respect and honor must be accorded by the Western Philippine Colleges to the patroness. Unfortunately, there was a time when the Registrar failed to include December 8 in the school calendar; hence, classes were held. This made her very furious because of the non-observance of the holy day of obligation.

Being a woman of service, she would come to WPC from time to time to help in her own little way. For this reason, Nanay Pining was very much loved and respected by the students and personnel from the Board of Directors to the lowest employee.

Nanay Pining was missed by everybody who knew her. She was advised by her doctor to stay at home and rest because of her failing health. Eventually, a vacuum was created by her journey to the Great Beyond to enjoy an everlasting life of service.

Dr. Aurora Babasa wrote that she would never forget the image of a sad-looking elderly with soulful eyes framed by a pair of black rimmed eyeglasses while seated on the right side of an owner type jeep on her way to church in order to fulfill her mission as a religious advocate of service.

Mrs. Javier's granddaughter, Mrs. Lily Marlene Hernandez- Bonn visualized Mrs. Javier in the following words:

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Since Lola Pining was a prayerful woman, we thought it would be best to describe her by "attributing/paraphrasing" Proverbs 31 as follows:

'A wife of noble character who can find? She is Her husband has full worth far more than rubbles. confidence in her and lacks nothing of value. She brings him good, not harm, all the days of her life.

She selects eggs and wraps them with eager hands. She is like the merchant ships, bringing her food to priests, neighbors, and friends.

She gets up while it is still dark and attends daily Mass; she provides food for her family and portions for her entire household.

She considers a field and buys it; out of it grows rice, fruits, and vegetables. She sets about her work vigorously; her arms are strong for her tasks. She sees that her trading is profitable, and her lamp does not go out at night.

In her hand, she holds the distaff and grasps the spindle with her fingers. She opens her arms to the poor and extends her hands to the needy. She has no fear for her household; for all of them are clothed. She makes coverings for her bed; she is clothed in fine linen and purple, though, being frugal, at other times, she is clothed in chicken-feed sackcloth. Her husband is respected at the city printing press and school, where he takes his seat among the elders of the province. She is clothed with strength and dignity; she can laugh at the days to come. She speaks with wisdom, and faithful instruction is on her tongue. She watches over the affairs of her household and does not eat the bread of idleness but prays and reflects often.

Her children arise and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her: 'Many women do noble things, but you surpass them all. Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting, but a woman who fears the LORD is to be praised.

Give her the reward she has earned, and let her works bring her praise at the school



she helped build.

### **Reminiscing the First UB President: Dr. Abelardo B. Perez**

Abelardo Benito Perez was a seasoned leader of the medical profession and an idealist who strived for excellence in the field of education. His vision in upholding education became the guiding principle of his younger brother, the current President of the University of Batangas, Dr. Hernando B. Perez.

It was probably from Abelardo whom our current president had learned the true value of leadership because Abelardo was noted

three beautiful daughters: Sonia L. Velasquez-Mayo (wife of Atty. Vicente A. Mayo, the former governor of the province of Batangas and the former Chairman of the Board of WPC/UB); Adelina L. Velasquez- Quizon (wife of Fiscal Carmelo Quizon, the former Corporate Secretary of the Board of Regents of WPC/UB); and Anita L. Velasquez-Cauntay (who worked as the Purchasing Officer of WPC/UB).

Peping volunteered his services as an engineer and was commissioned as First Lieutenant of the United States Armed Forces of the Far East (USAFFE) during the American-Japanese War. Unfortunately, Peping was killed in action in Bataan on April 4, 1942. Nena was widowed at 28 years old. Out of her great love for her husband and for her three daughters, Nena never remarried. At around the time her husband was killed, everything they owned was either burned or bombed out as a consequence of the ongoing war. This was a universal experience of the entire country during the Japanese occupation. The Japanese forces would either annihilate what was useless for them and rob what was useful. During this time, Nena struggled to make a living for her orphaned children, who were then aged 5, 32, and 1 1/2 years respectively.

As a mother, Mrs. Aurora Velasquez worked hard and strove diligently to take care of and support well her daughters. She struggled to set up a pharmacy in P. Burgos corner D. Silang Streets in Batangas City. She also managed a baby dress embroidery business as a contractor, and co-partnered a gas station when gasoline was a mere 28 centavos per liter.

Nena also owned a pawnshop at her residence and became a Chemistry instructor of Western Philippine Colleges. She served the school as a Secretary, and then as Treasurer, a School Registrar, a member of the Board of Trustees, and as Auditor until she retired at 80 years old. Part of this responsibilities was her exceptional skills in using the abacus (her calculator), a daily fixture on her work table. She excelled in mental mathematics and calculation. skills and talents were external manifestations of a systematic and organized way of thinking, mirrored also in her daily living.

Adelina (the second daughter of piano teacher Mrs. Aurora Velasquez, with her Marcela Agoncillo Jr.

Nena was also known for her deep religiosity. She used to join religions and civic organizations. She was a former President of the Catholic Women's League (CWL) and equally active with the Miraculous Medal Association of the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception. She was also a member of another civic group known as the Zonta Club of Batangas. As a daily Mass-goer, she occupied a permanent seat near the middle aisle until her late 80's. Thereafter, when her knees gave way and the doctor advised her to lessen her trips outside of her home, she would sit on her favorite rocking chair, glued to her TV set for daily mass celebrations,

more especially those days when she could not go to church anymore.

Being a majority stockholder of WPC, which metamorphosed into the University of Batangas on its 50th Foundation Anniversary, Nena valued the importance of education and strongly believed that possessing a college degree could improve the life of the people for the better. This was the reason why she would send her under privileged scholars to College, who after graduation, were assisted into finding employment. Many of them are now successful business owners or employees, who live happily lives with their respective families here and abroad. Mrs. Velasquez found fulfillment in serving the Lord through helping seminarians to become priests and novices to become religious nuns. This act was also continued even by her daughters.

Mrs. Velasquez during the inauguration of the Aurora Fountain, with Atty. Vicente A. Mayo, Mrs. Sonia V. Mayo, and Adelina V. Quizon.

Nena's most beloved treasure and source of joy was her family-her children and their spouses: Vicente Mayo (Sonia), Carmelo Quizon (Adelina), and Aristedes Cauntay (Anita), her 12 to grandchildren whom she saw grow up and have families of their grandchildren. own, and her great- She completed her mission on earth on January 30, 2010. Her life, fulfilled and satisfied with the services she rendered, had seemed to become an invitation that invites the members of the UB community, both faculty, employees, and students, to immerse themselves as kins of founders; albeit not by consanguinity but by anima. Her busy life during her time would always be reverberating and sonorously resounding to the UB family clouded by trials and tribulations. Mrs. Aurora's life from the humble beginning had reached its summit through service, dedication, charity, and value.

Today, in recalling the life of Mrs. Velasquez, the UB family is being invited to humble themselves while rendering the best service that we could give to reroute the detrimental society into a more human, caring, and selfless reality. Mrs. Aurora Velasquez' absence today leads all of us to realize that sometimes, a working absence is more essential and effective than a stagnant presence.

### **Mrs. Conrada Benito-Perez**

Conrada B. Perez was born on December 30, 1907. She was the low-key wife of the former senior Board Member and renowned politician, Atty. Francisco G. Perez, of Mahakot, Batangas City. She was the loving mother to siblings Dr. Abelardo, Dr. Hernando, Chemical Engineer Rolando, and Commerce graduate Edithalden.

To be the wife of a politician in the 1950's was a great honor and a privilege. But Mrs. Perez did not take her position for granted. She maintained instead of a low profile and was more known as a kind lady with many friends and acquaintances, although a stranger in her husband's hometown. Conrada was a typical Manileña as manifested by the slur and speech intonation that characterize a city-bred speaker.

Being a woman so gentle in manners, Conrada captivated the people with her winsome smile as she talked and exchanged pleasantries with friends. Despite her simplicity as a homebody, she was conscious of her personal appearance. Hence, she could not leave the house without powdering her nose, putting on lipstick, and wearing perfume. She had a flair for beautiful and precious jewels. However, they are not fastidious as to the cost of each piece of jewelry.

Mrs. Perez was a devout Catholic, whose patron saint was St. Anthony of Padua the waist, which was the color of the cassock of St Anthony. During the first Saturdays of the month, she

would wear the navy blue and white collar dress of the members of the Catholic Women's League, the church organization that she was actively engaged in.

The saying goes: "The way to a man's heart is through his belly." With this adage in mind, Mrs. Perez used to cook delicious adobo, tasty caldereta, and other flavourful dishes that satisfied the palates of her husband and children. To them, she was a good cook-a celebrity family chef. She would always make it a point to satisfy the belly of her family and she was able to win her family's hearts.

Conrada was known as a hospitable and selfless lady, who took in the relatives of her husband and provided them with a free board and lodging if they would be studying at the Western Philippine Colleges. To them, Mrs. Conrada Perez was their Nanay Ading, their second mother, mentor, and guardian.

Although Atty. Francisco G. Perez was a politician, they did not enrich themselves with the government's money but just settled themselves through honest earnings. It could have been difficult for Nanay Ading to meet up both ends due to the number of people that they were helping, and the expenses of sending four children to school. However, her purse was never empty due to her skillful She did not become selfish nor budgeting of the family finances. stingy as shown by the financial assistance she gave to the institution which her husband co-founded. She infused the needed amount for the salary of the teachers and the other incidental expenses during the time when the school was struggling for existence.

Unfortunately, Nanay Ading lost her husband at a time when he was most needed for the upbringing and professional development of the growing children. Luckily, she was appointed by the Board of Directors to take over the position of Treasurer, the position which was formerly held by her departed husband at the Western Philippine Colleges.

Mustering enough courage and fortitude in meeting difficulties Mrs. Perez nurtured her children to be good Christians and good citizens. The intensity of the mother's love and selfless dedication for the welfare of her children as a solo parent produced a physician, who specialized in New York City, USA as an otolaryngologist, a lawyer- politician congressman twice appointed as a Cabinet Secretary of made it sure that the founders' effort for WPC would not be brought to waste. These women were the following:

### **Mrs. Flordelisa Arguelles**

One of those who worked hard in order to continue what the founders had started was Mrs. Flordelisa Martinez- Arguelles, the beloved wife of Atty. Jesus Lorenzo A. Arguelles.

Mrs. Flordelisa epitomized words of St. Ignatius of Loyola, which says that: "A life lived for others is a life worth living." Dr. Victor M. Arguelles, one of the sons of Mrs. Flordelisa M. Arguelles and Atty. Jesus Lorenzo A Arguelles attested that his mother was Mrs. Flordelisa M. Arguelles, wife of able to live her life according to this Atty. Jesus Lorenzo Arguelles.

Mrs. Flordelisa M. Arguelles during the Founders' Memorial Lecture on February 23, 2018, the following data were known that Flordelisa was born on May 2, 1907, to a middle-class family in Lemery, Batangas. Her father, Fortunato Martinez, was a successful businessman in their town, who owned a fleet of fishing boats. It was from him that the young Flordelisa was able to learn the value of hard work. Her mother, Josefa Palinsad Martinez, was the one who taught Flordelisa the values of wisdom and compassion.

The earnings from the family business provided Flordelisa and her siblings, Gliceria (who became the first principal of the WPC Elementary Department), Gregoria, Vicente, Leonardo, Crisostomo, Eufemia, and Aniceto, a comfortable life. All the siblings of Flordelisa were provided with good education.

For her basic education, Flordelisa went to an elementary school in Lemery. Later on, she went to Batangas High School where she finished her secondary education. During her college years, she went to the University of the Philippines where she finished her Bachelor of Science degree in Library Science. Every vacation from school, she would go home to Lemery in order to be with her siblings. She would be helping the family in weaving nipa sidings and roofs, for which they were paid small sums. Although the payment was not big, it did not hold back Flordelisa from doing the weaving. They considered the work to be enjoyable and at the same time dignified.

With the death of their father from typhoid fever, and with no one ready to take over the business, they decided to sell their boats and transfer to Manila where her siblings were to continue their education. The family lived in Sta. Cruz district where the Samaniego's, their relatives from Lemery, were also living. The Samaniego family became their closest friends and confidants for the rest of their lives.

During her stay at the University of the Philippines, Flordelisa met a fellow Batangueño, Jesus Lorenzo A. Arguelles. Jesus was the youngest of four brothers. He was born into a middle-class family. His mother, Rita Añonuevo Arguelles, was a successful businesswoman whose family owned a parcel of land in Sto. Niño, Batangas. It was from his mother Rita that Jesus became a good cook. Jesus' father, Mariano Arguelles, who died early on, was remembered as a compassionate man.

Jesus, who was a law student, a poet, a stage actor, an athlete, and a playwright, was able to win the heart of Flordelisa, the "Rose of Lemery." While Jesus was concentrating on his law studies, Flordelisa pursued a teaching career in a public school in Manila. With the outbreak of the Second World War, the Martinez family returned to Batangas. Flordelisa was reunited with and later married Jesus. The Martinez family, together with Jesus and his brothers and their families, sought refuge in Sto. Niño where they stayed until the end of the war.

After the war, the Arguelles brothers went back to their normal lives. The eldest, Angel Arguelles, became the first Filipino doctor of the Bureau of Science, the forerunner of the present Department of Science and Technology (DOST); Vicente, who also his children would be able to obtain a good education and eventually obtain success as professionals.

According to Jim Hartness and Neil Eskelin (2014), "The tragedy of our educational system is that we can attend school for eighteen years and never have one hour of instruction in goal-setting." This is actually true. However, during the time of Atty. Francisco Perez, he was insisting that people must have to learn to set a goal for themselves. He was telling the people that education should be the means in order to realize their goals. This was also the reason why he wanted to make it sure that WPC would be helping the students to achieve their goals and realize their dreams.

If Atty. Francisco G. Perez was alive today, he would not allow the University of Batangas to be merely a diploma mill. He would definitely make it a point that UB would be able to provide the students with the kind of education that will be used in setting up their goals and

achieving their dreams. He knew for a fact that he was able to achieve his ambitions because he was a diligent student and he motivated himself so that he could realize his dreams.

His passion for education, his dedication to the attainment of his goals, and his big heart for the poor and the young ones became his legacy. He was primarily an educator. He was even the teacher of his son, Atty. Hernando Perez in a political science course. The imprints that he left into the minds of his students were also his own legacy that his students carried with them all throughout their lives.

### **The Life of Atty. Pablo C. Umali**

#### **Atty. Pablo C. Umali**

Little has been known about Atty. Pablo C. Umali. This was because he decided to retire from WPC during the summer of 1951, five years after being a part of the institution in order more time as a law to spend practitioner in Lipa City.

Pablo Umali was born on June 30, 1908, at Sta. Teresita, Batangas. He also came from a poor family. He was also a working student.

Flordelisa and Jesus lived in a rented house in P. Gomez St. in Batangas City. The Arguelles ancestral home in Evangelista Street, which is near the present site of the market, was destroyed during the war. Atty. Arguelles continued his legal work, mostly pro bono cases. In 1946, Atty. Arguelles co-founded the Western Philippine Colleges but he died in 1947 from a fatal heart attack. He was only 47 years old.

The early demise of Atty. Jesus suddenly thrusts Flordelisa to continue the unfinished work of her husband. She served the Western Philippine Colleges in the following capacities: Member of the Board of Trustees, the First Principal of High School Department and the First Librarian on a concurrent capacity; Vice President, and later on, as the first woman president for four years: 1971-1974.

Dr. Victor M. Arguelles, the eldest son of Flordelisa, wrote that his mother is many things to many people: Ma'am to her students, Mommy to countless scholars whom she sent to school, Flooring to her high school classmates, which included former Supreme Court Chief Justice and Batasan Speaker Querube Makalintal, Mama to her two sons, Victor and Jesus. But to her family and fellow Lemereños, she was and always will be a "Rose of Lemery," an embodiment of charm, intelligence, and integrity.

### **Mrs. Flordelisa M. Arguelles died on October 4, 1994.**

#### **Mrs. Aurora L. Velasquez**

Susana Aurorah Javier nicknamed "Nena," was born on August 11, 1914. Her parents were Alejandro "Andoy" Luansing and Simeona "Monang" Javier, who was the only sister of Juan Y. Javier.

Nena was only four years old when her mother, Monang, died. She was left and her younger sibling, Alejandro "Danding" Luansing Jr. orphaned by their mother at a very young age.

**Danding and Nena during their Philippine Women's University (PWU) childhood days.**

In her early age, Nena had a very humble beginning. She was a product of public schools from primary to secondary level. During that time, the pedagogical approach that public schools were following was that which is known as the teacher-centered education where students would have a very rigid educational discipline. The students were trained to undergo disciplinary measures if they would fail to study or if they were unable to finish any school chores. But this did not prevent young Nena from finishing her studies. She knew she had to be brave for her younger brother.

Nena graduated from the Batangas High School (now the Batangas National High School) in 1931. Her pursuit in education became more steadfast when she obtained her tertiary education from the College of Pharmacy in 1931. In the following year, Nena passed the government examination which gave her the title as a Licensed Pharmacist.

Buddhism holds that if there is no way for anyone to avoid suffering in this world, then there is no way for anyone to escape being stuck in a loving connection. On March 19, 1936, Nena, at 22 years old, married Jose Raymundo "Peping" Navarro Velasquez after discovering the true meaning of love. Women of 22 were considered to be of marriageable age at that time, and it was thought that they already possessed the maturity and wisdom necessary to raise a husband and children. Peping was already starting a family because she was a licensed engineer in both mechanical and electrical engineering and a nurse professional. Capable of Peping and Nena on their March 19 wedding day, Peping and Nena received the blessing of 1936.

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WPC (now UB) had grown literally and figuratively from 48 students to an enrollment of almost 14,000 students who were once housed in semi-permanent buildings to the present modern concrete edifices and equipped with computer-based facilities that can uphold quality education. Countless alumni had passed through the portals of their alma mater and had brought fame and glory to the university and the country and elsewhere as a fitting tribute to their beloved institution.

It has been made a mission of the WPC, and now the University of Batangas, to create an environment that will give opportunities for students to boost their love of wisdom for a better realization of the meaning of life, strengthen their faith in God, and enhance their desire to serve their fellowmen. These became the mantra of a true UBian.

The UB students' desire for wisdom, which helped them realize their duties as servants of their community, has helped them achieve academic prominence in Engineering, Business and Accountancy, Liberal Arts, Education, Allied Medical Sciences, Law, Technical Education, Computer Education, Hospitality Management and Nursing and has lead them to cope with the global trends in technology and education.

Students' involvement in collaborative programs developed transformation leadership and strengthened the core values instilled by the Founding Fathers. The participation of UB in competitions fostered challenges; hence, they had become resourceful, critical, creative, ethical, and responsible. The students' best potentials are harnessed to the maximum. It is for this reason that UB is considered the Cradle of Champions with the contestants in academic, cultural, and sports bringing home the "proverbial bacon."

The University of Batangas is a top performing school in the licensure examinations in Engineering, Education, Allied Medical Sciences, Business and Accountancy, Nursing and Midwifery and Law. Examinees obtained scores way above the national passing score and at times garnered a 100% passing score in Civil, Electrical, midwifery, and Physical Therapy Board Examinations.

The first ten years after gaining the university status actually laid the foundation for blossoming into a mature university. It is not only blossoming but constantly growing with varied curricular offerings like the Doctoral Program, Expanded Tertiary Education Equivalency and Accreditation Program (ETEEAP), Review Center, and short-term courses with physical facilities always updated for quality education. President Hernando B. Perez, in his 2008-2009 Annual Report said: "We are climbing to the top. This fact is undeniable. These accomplishments of UB truly exemplify that the University of Batangas is "Undeniably the Best."

Success after success came. Levels III and IV as well as Deregulated Status has been granted by PACUCOA. AJA-JAZ-ANZ has granted the University of Batangas the ISO 9001:2008 Certified Status in 2009. At the same time, the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) awarded UB a 3-year Autonomous status and recognized also UB as the only Center of Excellence in Teacher Education in Batangas province. This was granted to UB in 2010 and is currently being maintained. UB realizes the fact that education is an investment. Parents spend money in order to provide their children with the best education possible in order to prepare them for a better future. In this regard, UB sees to it that the money spent shall not be wasted by ensuring the quality of education that it provides to the students. UB finds ways in order to get all the accreditations needed in order to maintain high quality of education.

All the accrediting agencies see to it that the institution that they are about to accredit has obtained and is maintaining the following characteristics:

1. The school is devoted to its mission;
2. The school knows itself, Le, it has thought deeply about the services it offers to students, the family, and the community;
3. The school is student-oriented. Its philosophy of education is suitable for the students and encompasses the development of the whole individual;
4. The school keeps its promises. It promises only what it can deliver;
5. The school accepts objective assessment. It is prepared to open its doors periodically for regular evaluation by the school community and by outside experienced evaluators and accreditors;
6. The school is constantly seeking to improve its performance in curricular and other areas, with an on-going focus on student learning and well-being;
7. The school plans for the future (Newsweek 26 April, 2010, 54).

As part of the ongoing nature of the evaluation process, accredited schools are continually planning for future developments. And this is what the University of Batangas had been busy with during all these years. With the status that UB has achieved, it only shows that the aforementioned characteristics have been observed and practiced. It gives an assurance to its clientele that it will continue to improve its learning outcomes so that it will become all the more capable of making the school a part of the people's life.

President Hernando B. Perez considered UB as the "University of the Future" and as a "University of Choice." With this battle cry, more and more changes and projects were initiated such as the publication of the first book about the life and works of the first WPC President and one of the founders, Rev. Fr. Vicente R. Catapang. The book was actually written by Fr. Catapang himself and Batangas Heritage Center republished the book with annotations from Dr. Lino L. Dizon and articles from Dr. Aurora M. Babasa about her personal experiences about Fr. Catapang and from Dr. Lionel E Buenaflor about the philosophy of education that Fr. Catapang was trying to uphold the western Philippine colleges.

The onset of the 21 century brought about the opening of new linkages and reaching of new borders like the exchange programs with Korea and Japan; successful presentation of papers at the ASAIHL (Association of Southeast Asian Institute of Higher Learning) International Convention in Malaysia and other foreign countries where UB presenters excelled; partnership with SMART and other industries.

Likewise, faculty members proved the popularity of UB inasmuch as they were elected to key positions in regional and national organizations like the Philippine Association of law Schools (PALS), Philippine Association for Teacher Education (PAFTE), Philippine National Philosophical Research Society (PNPRS), the Kapisanan ng Bahay Saliksikan sa Bansa (KABANSA, Inc.) the Network of CALABARZON Educational Institutions (NOCEL, Inc.), the CALABARZON Research Council (CRC), and research fellows of

Philippine Society for Educational Research and evaluation (PSERE), and Council of Hotel and Restaurant Educators in the Philippines (COHREP).

In order to enhance the quality education that UB provides, new buildings had been constructed and the old ones had a facelift. New courses were also offered in line with the demands of the time. UB's expansion program had already crossed the high seas and has traversed the highlands and cities; thereby, clearing all barriers to carry out its commitment to academic growth and development.

The College of Graduate Studies branched out to Calapan, Oriental Mindoro in the Masteral level at the Luna Goco Colleges since the opening of the first semester of School Year 2010-2011. Likewise, a Memorandum of Agreement was entered into by the University of Batangas and the Calayan Educational Foundation, Inc. (CEFI) for a partnership in the Graduate Extension Program since June 2010 in Lucena City.

The bandwagon created by the University has started rolling and blazing new trails. It will keep on going and going even beyond the 21st century. With the trail set by the founders and being followed by the faculty and staff through the leadership of the present administrators, the University's journey to the Greater Heights is on

Commerce under Dean Pablo C. Umall. The High School and the Elementary departments were also started with Mrs. Flordeliza M. Arguelles, the wife of Atty, Arguelles, and Ms. Gliceria Martinez, the sister of Mrs. Arguelles, as the principals respectively. Rev. Pr. Vicente Catapang was elected by the Board of Trustees as President and Over-all Administrator because of his wisdom and expertise as an end Over Atty. Jesus Lorenzo A. Arguelles was elected Executive Secretary.

Due to a sudden increase of enrollment from 48 to 78 students after a year, the classes were transferred to the javier house, which was located on the corner of D. Silang and P. Burgos streets, now occupied by the Jollibee Foods Corporation. From a very humble beginning, WPC was already able to create a system out of the sheer determination of providing good education to its first enrollees. emer ne WESTERN PHILIPPINE COLLEGES HORIZED • GOVERNMEN The first participation of the WPC in the town's celebration of Independence Day. The photo was taken on July 4, 1947, the day after the death of Atty. Jesus Arguelles. While WPC celebrates freedom with the Filipinos and its first anniversary, it mourns for the death of a good and hardworking man who took a great part in the establishment of the University of Batangas,

However, while everybody was preparing for the July 4 Independence Day parade, Atty. Arguelles was about to leave home to supervise work on the college float when he suffered a massive heart attack, which caused his untimely demise. He was only 47 years old when he met his tragic death on July 3, 1947. The day of his death coincided with the birth of his second child; hence, the child was

### **The Life of Atty. Jesus Lorenzo A. Arguelles**

Atty. Jesus Lorenzo Añonuevo Arguelles was born on August 10, 1900. He was the son of Mariano Arguelles and Rita Añonuevo of Batangas City. He had his secondary education from the Batangas National High School and obtained his Bachelor of Arts and Law Degrees at the University of the Philippines.

Atty. Arguelles was not only a lawyer but a poet and a playwright. He loved playing basketball, tennis, and boxing. He used to play tennis with his tennis buddy, Dr. Godofredo Rosales, the brother of the former archbishop of Manila, Cardinal Gaudencio Rosales. Atty. Jesus Lorenzo A. Arguelles.

As a lawyer, Atty. Arguelles handled cases for the poor. The cases that he used to handle were almost always pro bono especially upon knowing that his client was coming from a poor family. Those who knew Atty. Arguelles as a person and co-worker would describe him to be a father and a family man who was known for his kindness and compassion. With the same vision as that of Mr. Juan Javier of creating a better life for the people, especially the poor, he dedicated himself to the establishment of the Western Philippine Colleges. His burning desire to make the plan of establishing a school possible was very much attested of him. He worked hard in order to promote the WPC to the people within and outside Batangas. He would also go to different barangays and around the town outside Batangas in order to promote the Western Philippine Colleges.

Picture of Atty. Arguelles with his brothers and an American friend. From Left to Right: Atty. Vicente Arguelles, who became a judge of the Court of First Instance; Mr. Aurelio Arguelles, who became an official of the Department of Education and special assistant in Malacañang, Mr. McCormick; Dr. Angel Arguelles, who became the first Filipino Director of the Bureau of Science; and Atty. Jesus L. Arguelles. (Photo courtesy of Dr. Victor M. Arguelles, the son of Atty. Jesus Arguelles).

This great dedication of Atty. Arguelles to WPC could be the great reason why he had a heart attack which led to his early death. Mrs. Arguelles, the wife of Atty. Jesus Arguelles, who took the latter's place as the Corporate Secretary of the Board of Trustees, wrote of this incident as:

In the midst of the frenetic preparations for the opening of the classes on July 1, 1947 and also for the college participation on the July 4 Independence Parade of that year, Mr. Arguelles was about to leave home to help in putting up a float for the parade when he suffered a heart attack that led to his very untimely demise. He was only 47 years old when he passed away.

Atty. Jesus Arguelles died on July 3, 1947, at the very young age. His life may be too short but his existence and, more importantly, his death, brought a great inspiration to the WPC community to really push through with what had been started by Atty. Arguelles.

The first participation of the WPC in the town's celebration of Independence Day. The photo was taken on July 4, 1947, the day after the death of Atty. Jesus Arguelles. While WPC celebrates freedom with the Filipinos and its first anniversary, it mourns for the death of a good and hardworking man who took a great part in the establishment of the University of Batangas.

### **The Legacy of Atty. Jesus L. Arguelles**

Atty. Arguelles' life was indeed too short. If one would consider the length of time that Atty. Arguelles spent in the establishment and eventually the growth of WPC, his contribution could not be considered as great as that of the other founders because of his untimely death. However, his existence, and more importantly, his death brought greater inspiration to the WPC community.

Aware of the hard work rendered by Atty. Arguelles in the establishment of WPC, the other founders, as well as his co-workers and other employees of WPC, became all the more determined to pull their efforts in order to realize the dream of Atty. Arguelles of providing quality education to the

youth. They did not want to put the great efforts of Dr. Arguelles to waste. His death became the energizer for everybody so much so that, as they were mourning for the loss, they were at the same time celebrating because WPC had just started performing its responsibility of providing services for the youth.

Atty. Arguelles' philanthropic heart made him too excited to work hard in order to create a better foundation for the newly-established Western Philippine Colleges. He knew there were still a lot of things to be done and he was in a hurry because he already felt that everything must be done in too short a time. For one thing, the classes had already started and there were still a lot of things to be prepared including the promotion of WPC and prepare at the same time the classes, the classrooms, and orient the faculty of what the founders would want in the academic formation of the students.

Secondly, he knew that something was about to happen. He had already premonitions and he knew that he had to do everything as fast as he could so that he would be able to establish something for the benefit of the WPC. In his last breath, he was thinking of WPC. He devoted his life for the benefit of this institution. He sacrificed his life so that he would be able to give life to the poor young boys and girls. He sacrificed his own in order to give life to the others. His was a life of sacrifice, a gift for the others. This was the reason why his wife, Mrs. Flordeliza M. Arguelles, also sacrificed her life in order to fulfill what Atty. Arguelles had started. Atty. Arguelles' life became his own legacy.

### **The Life of Fr. Vicente R. Catapang**

Vicente R. Catapang was born in the barrio of Sambat in Taal, Batangas on September 11, 1888, of humble circumstances. Christened after the patron saint of the day, San Vicente de Leon—the Spanish Abbot and martyr killed by Arian Visigoths in 630 AD—he had presumably his early education in his hometown. An 1895 book about Batangas by Manuel Sastron already mentioned about instances of Instruccion Publica (public instruction) in both the capital of Batangas and the town of Taal.

Though lamentable and backward, Manuel Sastron—a former Civil Governor of Batangas, a Representative to the Spanish Cortes, Escuela de Niños and an Escuela de Niñas, the forerunners of the public school, in this pueblo by the lake, and even among its barrios. Sastron cited also the presence of two Latin teachers in Taal (Don Florentino Laurena and Don Trinidad Manalo), making the segunda enseñanza (grammar school) already accessible in the town. The young Vicente benefited from their instructions; thereby, preparing him early for the classical language requirements of priesthood a decade later.

After learning his first alphabet at the school run by the family of his mother at the same barrio, Vicente went on to study in the private school of Don Benito Punzalan in Taal, Batangas. When the revolution broke out, Vicente was made a worker and messenger of Gen. Classes being held at the San Jose Major Seminary. Martin Cabrera. The young Vicente had already seen the ravages of war during his younger days.

After the Philippine Revolution, Vicente studied at the Liceo de Manila (founded by Dr. Alejandro Albert in 1903), presently the Manila Central University, and at the Seminario Central de San Francisco Javier (also the Colegio Apostolico de San Jose, now the San Jose Major Seminary). He was ordained as a priest on April 28, 1912, by the Most Rev. Giuseppe Petrelli, the first bishop of the Diocese of Lipa.

In 1913, the very young Fr. Catapang put up a preparatory school for the seminary in Bauan, Batangas upon the order of Bishop Petrelli. In February 1914, with the insistence of the Bishop, he co-founded a seminary-college first housed in the convent of Bauan, Batangas-the predecessor of the present St. Francis de Sales Seminary in Lipa City. On the same year, he organized the parish of Sampaloc, Tayabas where he constructed the church and built a convent. In 1916, he was sent to Tombol, now the town known as Rosario, Batangas, where he, as a parish priest, led many people back to Catholicism.

In 1920's, Fr. Catapang was granted scholarship by the Diocese of Lipa under Bishop Alfredo Verzosa in order to pursue higher studies in the United States. Fr. Catapang studied at the Notre Dame University, South Bend, Indiana, which was run by the Holy Cross Fathers. He arrived in the Summer of 1922. He became affiliated with the Knights of Columbus and the St. Thomas Philosophical Society. He finished his Master's of Arts degree in Education in 1923. He had for his thesis the "Development and the Present Status of Education in the Philippine Islands." This book was reprinted by the Batangas Heritage Center. The convent in the Church of Bauan which became the house of the seminarians of the Diocese of Lipa

a year later, he took up his degree as Doctor of Philosophy in the same university. The yearbook of Notre Dame University, known as The Dome of 1924 described Fr. Catapang as:

Literature, languages, and philosophy are Father Catapang's hobbies—these, and fun with the other boys in Sorin. He is an ardent admirer of Notre Dame, and Notre Dame is no less an admirer of him. If he stays here, the Philippines will have one just grievance against the United States.

Fr. Catapang was among the early Filipino clerics who took up higher studies, an achievement that got the attention of prominent Church historians like Fr. Schumacher, SJ.

In 1926, his thesis was published by the Stratford Company of Boston, Massachusetts in the United States. The book bore the same title. It was among the few books by native Filipinos to have been given this privilege that included the caliber of Camilo Osias, Conrado Benitez, Francisco Reyes, and Hilario Moncado. As stated, it dealt with the history of the Philippine Educational System. brief History of the Miraculous Image Fr. Vicente was not only a MANITA priest. He was also an educator. His love for education brought him to accept a professorial chair Another book written by Fr. Catapang. at the University of Manila and the positions as Dean of Philosophy and Letters, Director of the Graduate Studies, and as the Dean of Studies of the said university.

In the 1930's, Fr. Catapang was included among the clergy of the Archdiocese of Lipa, particularly as a staff of Ang Filipinas, a monthly religious journal. It was during this time that Fr. Catapang became a devotee of the Black Nazarene, which resulted in the writing of a Tagalog book, which he titled Maikling Kasaysayan ng Simbahan ng Quiapo at ng Kanyang The young Fr. Vicente Catapang. Mapaghimalang Larawan: Hesus Nazareno. This book was published in 1937 and was also translated into English. Father Catapang was also responsible in the propagation of the stories about the Our Lady of Caysasay from his hometown Taal, of whom he was also a devotee.

Father about was Fr. Catapang was assigned in various parishes of Batangas, including the parishes in Taal and Bauan. In 1943, Fr. Catapang received an order from Bishop Alfredo Verzosa. The good bishop asked Fr. Catapang to establish a prospective parish in Taal and the parish center would be placed in Sambat, his place of origin. The first chapel was constructed on a piece of land lent by the

relatives of Fr. Catapang. This chapel was dedicated to Santa Teresita del Niño Jesus. Fr. Catapang was made the parish priest of this church. During the Commonwealth Period, he was listed as a coadjutor of Bauan, where he was stationed until the outbreak of the Second World War.

A newspaper clipping about an American G.I. from Madison, Wisconsin, Paul Karberg, during the year of liberation in Batangas (1945), told of a bishop of the Diocese of Lipa and was known as the great builder. Due to his holiness and great contribution, he is now due for beatification encounter with Fr. Catapang. Meeting Filipinos of all ages, who were feeling places still annoyed by the Japanese-in endless procession came weary men and women on foot, in high-wheeled, overloaded carts pulled by small skinny horses, and on wooden sleds pulled by fat, slowly-plodding carabao"-Paul and his companion decided to accommodate in their jeep "two dusty and tired-looking priests, dressed in the customary long black gown but with large straw hats protecting them from the sun's merciless rays, we beckoned to them." The soldiers learned that there were "some distant seminary beyond the hills and had been on the road for a couple of days. The elder priest, a slight little fellow with horn-rimmed glasses and about 40 years old, was joyful in stating that we were some of the first Americans he had chatted with in three years.

During their ride, there was a talk of football in the jeep, especially the teams of Notre Dame ("The Four Horsemen" and the Madison Badgers. The "spry little priests' name", he added, "is Fr. Vincent Catapang" and "he joined me in singing the Notre Dame Victory March while we bounced along toward a village far safer than the one he had left behind.

### **The Life of Mayor Roman L. Perez**

Mayor Roman Lira Perez was known to be a man of profound character. Those who were able to know him would describe him as a man of very high principle, unending compassion, and great vision who had contributed a lot to the development of WPC as one of its founders.

Roman Perez served as the mayor of the then Municipality of Batangas during the time when the Western Philippine Colleges was founded. He was born on November 18, 1894, the eldest among the nine children of Francisco Perez (not the Francisco G. Perez as another UB founder), a court interpreter of some lawyers, and Anacleto Lira, a simple housewife, who managed the family's small business, the Kumintang Soft drinks, a small sari-sari store, and their small wine distillery.

Roman was a very simple person whose actions did not fit the position of a strong political leader. He received a very good character training and a family breeding that developed his great sense of responsibility. This was greatly manifested by the way he took care of his siblings. He learned from his parents the value of respect and love for one's family as well as the value of concern for others. His daughter, Belen, described her father as a very gentle person in the face of problems, which she attributed to the filial love and care that Roman acquired from his parents.

Aware of their financial situation, Roman worked at a very young age. He had to help his parents send his siblings-Juanita, Petronila, Juanito, Fortunata, Alberto, Juliana, Cornelio, and Eugenio-to school. The substantial number of siblings made him decide to stop schooling and helped his parents realize the dream of building a happy family of professionals. Later on, this dream was realized through the support and the great effort of Roman.

It took the people of Batangas a good Mayor to give them the courage and hope that they needed to live. In return, Mayor Perez did his best to protect his fellow Batangueños from the cruelty of the Japanese. For instance, the mayor involved himself in saving the whole town from the fire because as the Japanese soldiers were retreating during the period of Liberation, they were burning houses as they fled. Mayor Perez, the townspeople, and the firefighters followed behind in order to put out the fire.

During the Japanese Occupation, and even after the Liberation, Mayor Perez kept on telling the people to send their children to school and to find ways and means for their children to finish higher education. He believed in the power of education and he was trying to envision a community with the youth equipped with proper education and training. It was his great belief that opportunities would knock on the door of the lowly people only if they had been properly educated.

Inasmuch as everybody who wanted to finish their college education had to go to Manila to obtain their chosen degree, it became too difficult for the people of Batangas to let their children finish their college degrees because it would be too expensive to send these young people to Manila. In addition, parents would not gamble on sending their daughters to Manila for a college degree. Those who were financially capable allowed only their sons to go to Manila for a college education.

This was the primary reason why Roman's brothers were the only ones who were able to obtain college degrees. His brother, Juanito L. Perez became a dentist; Alberto L. Perez finished Bachelor of Science in Education and ended up as a high school teacher and, later on, auditor. Cornelio L. Perez became a pilot; while Eugenio L. Perez was able to obtain a degree in Commerce. With what his brothers had obtained, Roman used to give advice to his fellow Batangueños about the necessity of education. However, he was also aware that although his sisters never obtained a college degree, all of them still became responsible citizens and very successful in their chosen life.

During the term of Mayor Roman Perez, the Municipality of Batangas became very productive despite the Japanese invasion. There was peace and order and the people were living an almost very ordinary life. Mayor Perez organized livelihood programs for the people. One of the livelihood projects that he organized was the Kumersyo ng Bao. He also organized the Neighborhood Association to support the small business enterprises and to organize business relations with the nearby municipalities. He was able to organize entrepreneurial activities in the Municipality of Batangas because the Japanese were fond of theatre plays and cultural presentations. Mayor Roman Perez deemed it necessary to organize cultural activities so as to divert the attention of the Japanese from being too tyrannical and cruel. Mayor Perez asked the community residents to organize singing and dancing competitions, *balagtasan*, and sports activities like basketball, volleyball, and other native games. These activities diverted also the attention of the Batangas folks, thereby, preventing many of them from joining guerilla activities.

Aware of the fact that any guerilla activity would bring the Japanese to become more cruel to the whole populace, Mayor Roman did everything he could in order to make Batangas peaceful; although such acts led the other guerrillas to think that he was already taking sides with the Japanese. But all he wanted was to save the lives of the Filipino people from the hands of the Japanese invaders.

However, even if the other people would think that Mayor Roman had already sided with the Japanese, at least he was able to win the confidence of the Japanese because he was able to instill on the people of Batangas the three major points of the Japanese government: cleanliness, honesty, and



courtesy. Hence, during the term of Mayor Perez, the Municipality of Batangas was always spared from Japanese atrocities. Because there was peace in Batangas even during the time of war, churches were opened and religious activities were tolerated even up to the point that some Japanese also attended religious rites. However, in truth, the Japanese were only joining religious rites in order to properly observe the people.

The Japanese would really want to educate the Filipino people in order to make them develop a philosophical ideology that "Asia is.

### **The Legacy of Mayor Roman Perez**

Mayor Roman Perez was primarily a politician before he was an educator. But unlike any other modern-day politicians, his leadership was an epitome of honesty and integrity. He never enriched himself with material things. During those times, his being a friend of the Japanese could have made himself and his family well-off. But he remained true to his being a Filipino.

As a Mayor, he was a true servant of the town of Batangas. He was always in a place where he was needed by the people. He was always willing to help the needy whether they were friends or not. It was for this reason that the people of Batangas started to appreciate and love him. This was the reason why he easily won the mayoralty race in the election after World War II. Third from left, Mayor Roman Perez initiated the establishment of the Batangas Puericulture Center, a proof that he also cared for mothers.

Rarely we can find politicians whose concern for education are as great as that of Mayor Roman Perez. Although he did not finish a college degree, it did not become a hindrance to his great love for education. However, education for him should not only be for the purpose of gaining knowledge but for the students to realize their respective duties and responsibilities as a nation-builder. The life of Mayor Roman Perez is an epitome of the philosophy of Indira Gandhi. Gandhi's philosophy is embodied in this quotation: Be mindful of the things that will destroy us: Wealth without work. Pleasure without conscience. Knowledge without character. Commerce without morality. Science without humanity. Worship without sacrifice. Politics without principle.

Mayor Perez wanted the people to learn to develop the proper values that will make everyone a human person. He wanted everyone to develop a sense of hard work. He believed that this is the only way by which people would be able to recover from the ravages of war. He believed that it is just normal to aspire for wealth. But he would always remind everyone to remain to be a moral person. Mayor Perez lived a life of the character. He set an example as to how to live a humanistic life. He remained to be a high-principled man. His great sacrifices for his people became his own legacy. His own story became his own contribution not only to the people of Batangas but also to WPC.

### **The Life of Atty. Francisco G. Perez**

Atty. Francisco G. Perez was a well-known politician of the 1950s. Kiko, as he was fondly called by his friends, was a true-blooded Batangueño whose roots could be traced in the barrio (now barangay) of Mahakot in Batangas and in the town of Ibaan, Batangas. He was born on April 1, 1900, by

humble barrio parents who tilled the soil and planted food crops for subsistence. For this matter, the young Kiko experienced the difficult barrio life that was devoid of the luxuries of material life.

The experience of difficulty did not weaken his spirit. In fact, it even inspired him to develop the values of frugality, industry, patience, perseverance, strong will-power, diligence, and a great love for education.

Francisco Perez was a self-made man, who took the long hard road to be a successful professional. Even at an early age, he strived to learn diligently. With the aid of his photographic memory, it became easy for him to complete his basic education in his barrio and, later on, at the Batangas High School for his secondary course.

Just like most of the students during that time who were dreaming of obtaining higher degrees in education, Kiko also went to Manila to obtain a degree. As a law student, he patiently copied the law books manually, word for word because he could not buy a book out of financial constraints. The books at that time were costly. But because of his strong desire to become a lawyer, he did the best he could do in order to realize his dream. Out of his passion for education and his determination, he was able to finish his law course and even graduated valedictorian. He took the Bar examinations afterward and he was able to successfully pass. In this regard, he became the first professional of the barrio of Mahakot.

According to Dr. Lorelie Evangeline M. Perez-Miranda, the granddaughter of Atty. Francisco, her grandmother, Conrada Benito-Perez, the wife of Atty. Francisco told her that he was capable of memorizing books to the letter. His photographic had paid off because he was able to rank first after the completion of the course in college and in his law degree.

Atty. Francisco was a man of firm determination. Although a neophyte in the field of politics, he dropped his hat in the political arena as a candidate to fill in one of the two board member slots of the second district of Batangas. He easily won in the clean election and since then, he became popular as a political-legal luminary.

Bokal Francisco Perez authored ordinances and resolutions that were beneficial to the people of the Second District of Batangas. He also participated actively in board deliberations especially those that are related to education. His resonant voice always echoed in the sessions which he never faltered to attend because he was always being reminded by his conscience of his duty as a politician and as a servant of the community.

Because of his concern for the people and his great love and dedication to his job, he was elected again and again until he won the seat for the fifth time as a Provincial Board Member. This was actually one of the rarest episodes that will be written in the history of Batangas province. An unknown lawyer from the barrio of Mahakot, whose name did not ring a bell, was elected for five consecutive terms in a free political exercise seeking the votes of his constituents. Yet, they gave him their votes of confidence by casting the ballot in favor of Atty. Francisco. This single act spoke of his unwavering and growing popularity as well as his closeness to the people of Batangas. The people reciprocated him for his stint as a respected and honored provincial leader.

Regarding his love for education, his son, Dr. Hernando B. Perez (now the president of the University of Batangas), made a remark that his father was so obsessed with the academe. This obsession became the essential reason that led to the founding of the Western Philippine Colleges in

1946. It was the intense desire of the founders to make the WPC grow to its full potentials. As a co-founder, Atty. Kiko campaigned for more enrollees and assiduously worked in the opening of the College of Law. He was the first treasurer and dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Law on a concurrent capacity. As he was the dean of the College of Liberal Arts and the College of Law, Atty. Francisco also acted as the Treasurer of WPC. Hence, he was the center of action in solving the problems of accommodation and the financing of the Western Philippine Colleges as the enrollment was increasing year after year. The priority of having a lot and school building was thrown to Bokal Kiko inasmuch as brilliant minds spotted the vacant lot behind the old provincial Ayuntamiento structure.

Because he was the Board Member, he was tasked to negotiate in behalf of the WPC Board of Directors the lease of the lot on M. H. Del Pilar Street (now the UB Elementary Department). Being a noted politician with an untarnished character, he was able to have the lot leased to the Western Philippine Colleges for a period of 99 years at the rate of P1.00 per year.

This action marked the beginning of the rise and the growth of the college. The initial construction was a two-storey building for the College of Liberal Arts, Education, Junior Normal, Commerce, and Law, A one-storey structure was also built to house the high school students. It should be noted that the school's enrolment increased every year which necessitated the addition of a two-storey building and another two-storey edifice between the two buildings. Bokal Perez played a pivotal role in the construction of all buildings located on the Main college campus.

Members of the 1953 WPC Faculty with President Juan Y. Javier (Seated in front), Mrs. Flordeliza Arguelles (second from left front), and Atty. Francisco G. Perez (second row-third from right).

Regarding frugality and thriftiness, another granddaughter, Dr. Abegayle Machel Perez-Chua, the present Vice President for Academic Affairs of the University of Batangas, learned from her grandmother, who was fondly called Mama by the grandchildren, that Bokal Perez, as the school's Treasurer, was very frugal with the purchase and use of construction materials to the extent of counting and picking up nails on the ground during the time of construction. Dr. Hernando Perez, the son of Atty. Francisco would remember his father as very strict who was cautious about school attendance to the extent of frequently sending his mother to monitor his schedule and school achievement. He was also a disciplinarian, who did not spare the rod.

Dr. Perez recalled that one time, he knew very well that he would be punished due to a sin he committed. He knew that he would be hit by a stick and so, he covered his behind with a notebook under his pants. Atty. Francisco used his belt to punish his son. However, it produced a different sound. When Bokal Perez discovered what the son did, he laughed. At times, he would make his children who committed mistakes to kneel on a bilao of mongo beans.

Although he was very strict, he was nevertheless an affectionate father who used to shower his children with tender loving care by giving them personal attention whenever they were sick. He would usually stay up late at night just to make sure that his sick child would be okay. His fondness for children was probably the reason why he was able to dedicate his life to the promotion of education in the whole province of Batangas.

Atty. Francisco Perez was extremely concerned about the pursuit of learning. In fact, he used to encourage his barrio mates to send their children to school based on the premise that education is the

best legacy that parents could leave to their children. As an incentive to the less fortunate relatives, he offered them free board and lodging in his own house so that these poor youngsters could avail of high school and college education. There were even occasions when he would help them with their tuition fees and miscellaneous expenses because he wanted them to have access to learning. Bokal Kiko kept on inspiring people to study for he believed that poverty is not a deterrent to success. He believed that a very productive life and a bright future could be attained through education, with himself as the best example.

Miss Belen Perez, a former student of Bokal Perez, knew her teacher as a man of principles. She remembered that Bokal Perez was a tenacious and highly-opinionated being who often argued and defended his points of arguments. He wanted to put across his ideas in a persistent and insistent manner until the issue was won. For this matter, conflicts often ensued between him and the other founders like Fr. Catapang and Mr. Javier. However, as good friends, they easily patched up differences before the end of the day's last office hours.

Bokal Perez was also identified as the man who always walked with bowed head and eyes focused on the ground. His friends in jest often asked him what he was looking for to which he gamely retorted that he was in search of gold.

Like any other human beings, there were times when he quickly lost his temper and would flare up like a volcano. However, he would easily get over with his temperamental outburst and would Atty. Francisco G. Perez and his wife, return to his normal self within a Conrada Benito-Perez. short period of time.

Despite his being temperamental, he was generous as a family head. He was also very much concerned with the health and education of his constituents. According to his granddaughter, Dr. Loralie Miranda, Bokal Perez had a very strong desire to put a private hospital in addition to the existing Batangas Provincial Hospital. Dr. Miranda mentioned that St. Patrick's Hospital was actually the idea of Atty. Francisco Perez. It was for this reason that he sent his eldest son Abelardo to the New York Polyclinic Medical Center in the United States of America for specialization as an EENT physician. Upon the return of Dr. Abelardo, they would lay the plan for the construction of the hospital at a designated spot in their family-owned parcel of land.

However, fate was unkind to both of them. While Dr. Abelardo was on training in New York, in the morning of August 29, 1959, while he was about to prepare to hear mass, Bokal Perez complained of stomach pains. Such pain was found out to be a symptom of cardiac arrest which led to the death of Bokal Francisco Perez. He was at his prime age of 59.

According to Dr. Lorelie Miranda, the night before it happened, Atty. Francisco was very happy and very much excited because he was just appointed by the President of the Philippines, Elpidio Quirino as Judge. And he was telling his wife, Conrada, that at least, they would have another source of income, which was an indication that he was a very honest politician who did not take advantage of his position in order to enrich himself and his family.

Mrs. Flordeliza Arguelles commented on the demise of a comrade in the educational field lifted from her files. She wrote: Halfway in the completion of the last building, very early in the morning, we were shocked by the grim news that our Treasurer and College of Law Dean passed away, a victim of

cardiac arrest. Atty. Perez was among the dedicated leaders of Western Philippine Colleges, a champion of integrity and progress. Although a very well-known politician, he did not involve the college in politics. Indeed, he left a void which is hard to fill.

Dr. Aurora M. Babasa, during her stay at the Batangas Heritage Center office, wrote in her description of Atty. Francisco Perez, that she had the rare opportunity of gaining the acquaintanceship and the chance of rubbing elbows with the founders of WPC especially Atty. Perez, Mr. Javier, and Fr. Catapang. Her description of Bokal Perez was that he was an epitome of dedicated service and strong leadership. Her description of Bokal Perez was that he was:

- A lover of pets especially rabbits and pigeons; • A stern loving family patriarch, who exercised strong parental authority;
- A disciplinarian who used the rod and the belt in disciplining his children; • A man with a serious mind who advocated positive values among his children;
- A stalwart in the field of politics who was a staunch defender and supporter of principles; • An educator who was known to be a lover of wisdom and knowledge;
- A generous friend who shared his talents and resources with the needy and less fortunate beings;
- A deep-rooted Christian who strictly adhered to the doctrines of the faith; and above all,
- A co-founder of the WPC and a key player in the growth and transformation that the college had undergone.

Dr. Aurora M. Babasa believed that his name will be etched in the memorabilia of the institution he helped to build.

**The Legacy of Atty. Francisco Perez** Atty. Francisco G. Perez had gone to his final resting place but his memory will forever be cherished by those he left behind. As long as the monument to his fame and glory stands proud and tall, his name will be remembered as one of the six noble founders of the Western Philippine Colleges, now the University of Batangas. Atty. Perez was known to be a man of principles. His voice will resonate in the four corners of a room whenever he would try to persuade the others in order to prove a point. He was never afraid to fight for what he knew was right even up to the point of being beaten by the Japanese when the Japanese prevented the people from passing through a Japanese sentry somewhere in the Hilltop area. Atty. Perez fought for his principle and demanded to the Japanese that he be allowed to pass through because according to him, why would he be prevented from passing through a territory that was owned by the Filipinos.

Just like the other founders, Atty. Perez was also pragmatic. He did not fight a Japanese when he encountered one and he could have won the fight but he did not do that because during that time, his eldest son, Dr. Abelardo, was with him and he did not want something bad to happen to his family. He could easily sacrifice himself just for the sake of his loved ones: his family, his constituents, and the Western Philippine Colleges.

Bokal Perez's pragmatic principle was shown in the way he set his goals for himself, for his children, and for the institutions that he was connected with. As he was pushing the people of Brgy.

Mahakor to send their children to school to finish a degree, he set himself as a perfect example of hard work and determination that could lead to success. And in order to be of a better example, he made it sure that

## **Chapter Five**

### **Other Personalities behind the Success of the University of Batangas**

The visions set by the founders became the guiding principle of the other people who took part in the development of the University of Batangas. No one can deny the fact that the founders were able to plant a good seed. However, such seed would not grow without the great contributions of the following personalities who took devoted also their life for the growth and development of the then Western Philippine Colleges, now the University of Batangas.

Because of the great dedication of the founders for the WPC, those who had been part of the institution realized that the works of these founders should not be put into waste. The people around the founders believed that the institution that they established would definitely be capable of providing better hope not only to the people of Batangas but to the Filipino people as a whole. And the ones who believed them greatly were the people closest to their hearts.

**The Women Behind the Success of WPC** An old adage says: "Behind the success of a man, there is always a woman behind." When the founders planted the seed of WPC, there was a need for somebody who would water this seed and who would take care of the said seed in order to make it grow. These were the roles of the women who also devoted their life for WPC.

Atty. Pablo Umali died on August 15, **1982, at the age of 72.**

### **The Legacy of Atty. Pablo C. Umali**

From the outsiders' perspective, Atty. Umali could not have left a great legacy in UB because of his early retirement from the service as Member of the Board and as the Dean of the College of Commerce of WPC. But what he left was his legacy of honesty and his great concern for the education of the youth. His life was actually a manifestation of what is written in Proverbs 28, 6: "Better is a poor man who walks in his integrity than a rich man who is crooked in his ways."

According to the grandson of Atty. Pablo Umali, Mr. Joel Umali Peña, his grandfather hated graft and corruption so much. His concern for the City of Lipa made him accept the position as the City Assessor in order to see to it that graft and corruption would be prevented and, if possible, totally eradicated.

As Dean of the College of Commerce, he was promoting honesty and integrity in the field of business. He knew for a fact that these students would be working as business managers or accountants. They have to be taught to uphold their dignity and they should not be involved in any forms of graft and corruption. Because of the seed that he planted to the students of WPC, the institution had been known to have produced honest accountants and good businessmen. It had somehow made the students learn that character is more important than wealth. His short stay in WPC had created also a legacy especially in the College of Commerce because of the values that he imbibed among the faculty and students.

because of the family's financial situation, he was still able to obtain his Law Degree from the University of Manila and was able to pass the Bar Examination afterward. Atty. Umali was an educator. He worked as a teacher in the College of Law in the Lipa City Colleges. He had also set a name in the field of law that earned him a position as a Municipal Judge in San Luis, Batangas, Later on, he became the City Assessor in Lipa City until his retirement.

Atty. Pablo was married to Consuelo Templo, who was a school supervisor. His decision to join the group in founding a school was because he understood the obstacles in the educational system as well as the problems and difficulties of the students who were coming from poor families. Hence, when he received the invitation from Fr. Catapang to be part of the establishment of WPC, he did not have second thoughts.

Pablo and Consuelo were gifted with three children: Fely Librea, a pharmacist; Norma Peña, a medical doctor; and Pablo Umali, Jr., an engineer. Atty. Umali was so concerned about the education of his children and made it a point that they would be able to become professionals. And so, they did. His concern for the family was so great that he would make it a point to spend quality time with his wife and children at their 2-hectare land planted with citrus fruits.

Aside from being a lawyer, he was also a columnist at Free Press and Panorama during the 60's. He was also writing for Senator Claro M. Recto. This was a clear indication that Atty. Umali had a brilliant mind. This brilliance was transformed into a great concern for the society. As a writer, he had to be reflective and had to be very much aware of what is happening in the country both politically, morally, and economically. He had to be critical in the different issues so that the concerned persons and offices in the government and in the private sectors could become aware of the state of affairs of the country.

According to his kins, Atty. Umali was gifted with artistic hands, He was also said to be a painter. His talent in painting had brought him to become friends with famous Filipino artists. It was said that he even became a known model in the painting of the National Artist Vicente Silva Manansala.