

RETROSPECT ON THE U.P. COLLEGE OF LAW *

Though the writer is no bard who sings praises to Bacchus, yet what follows is a case of the proverbial "old wine being poured into new bottles." This narration is merely a paraphrase or the writer's reproduction of previous historical accounts of the College of Law of the University of the Philippines, written on two different occasions by Dean George A. Malcolm and Dean Jose A. Espiritu, and which appeared respectively on the 25th and 40th anniversary souvenir presentations of the College.¹ However, the history is brought up to date by the faithful portrayal of the events which transpired beyond the periods covered by those former chroniclers, as recollected by the writer and as gathered from the Annual Reports to the Board of Regents by the different U.P. Presidents.

*Establishment and Growth*²

At the turn of the century, the Philippine legal system occupied a unique position with the blending of Anglo-American common law and the Roman-Spanish civil law. The then existing law schools in the Philippines taught Spanish law and had the Castilian tongue as the medium of instruction. However, with the advent of American sovereignty American laws, especially the commercial and procedural, became the prototypes of Philippine legislations, and Anglo-American decisions found their way into Philippine jurisprudence. By legislation, as well as by presidential instructions to the Philippine Commission, English was made the common medium of communication and was prescribed to become the official language in the courts. It was not surprising, therefore, if English gradually supplanted Spanish in the schools and in the courts.

Since English had been decreed to become eventually the official language in the courts, there was therefore a consequential need for a law school conducting its instruction in that language. Beginning 1906, the Philippine Normal School and later the Academy and Junior College of Liberal Arts had been offering pre-legal courses in English. However, only law schools in Spanish existed so that this young Filipinos who were not trained in Spanish and who had their pre-legal education in English, had no law school to enter. The Secretary of Public Instruction at that time did not favor the establishment of a College of Law for the University of the Philippines. The pitiful plight of these students appealed to the sympathy of Mr. George A. Malcolm, at that time an Assistant Attorney of the Bureau of Justice and who later became an Associate Justice.

Mr. Malcolm succeeded in enlisting the support of and stirring the interest of the Young Men's Christian Association Educational Department to offer law

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¹ Souvenir, College of Law, Silver Jubilee, 1911-1936. The First Quarter Century of the College of Law, U.P.; and U.P. Law Alumni Homecoming and Fortieth College Anniversary Souvenir Program.

² G. A. Malcolm, The Purpose of the Establishment of the College of Law, U.P., written in 1914 while still the Dean, and reproduced in Souvenir, College of Law, Silver Jubilee, 1911-1936, pp. 20-30; also J. A. Espiritu, A Brief History of the College of Law, in the U.P. Law Alumni Homecoming and 40th College Anniversary Souvenir Program, 1951, pp. 12-13; also Vol. II PHIL. L. J. No. 1, pp. 46-47, August, 1915.

courses opened to both Filipinos and Americans. This YMCA Law School was really the forerunner of the U.P. College of Law and of all other English speaking law schools in the Philippines. Through the assistance of the Director of Education, the Superintendent of City Schools and the Municipal Board, a room in the Manila High School was gratuitously availed of as a classroom, whereas in another quarter was housed a studyroom equipped with a small working library. An impressive array of faculty members was headed by the Dean of these law courses, the Honorable Charles Burke Elliott, formerly Justice of the Supreme Court of Minnesota and Justice of the Supreme Court of the Philippines, and who was then Secretary of Commerce and Police. Dean Elliott also authored standard textbooks on insurance, private corporations, and municipal corporations. Mr. George A. Malcolm acted as Secretary. The other members of the faculty were Mr. Justice Johnson, Judge Lobingier, Mr. Clyde DeWitt, Mr. W. L. Wright, U.P. Professor Fansler, Judge Crossfield, Solicitor General Harvey and Judge Goldsborough. Fifty enthusiastic and hard-working students, among whom were a future president of the Republic, a future Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, and future congressmen and legal luminaries attended the opening exercises on July 1, 1910.³ In consonance with the policy it had previously announced, and upon recommendation of the Dean and Secretary of law courses, the Educational Department of the YMCA discontinued this legal instruction at the end of the school year 1910-11, when the Board of Regents of the U.P. decided on January 12, 1911, to establish the College of Law as a separate department or unit of the University.

The favorable report and recommendation of the special committee composed of Regents Rafael Palma and Frank R. White constituted the basis for the approval by the Board of Regents of its January 12, 1911 resolution providing for the establishment of the College of Law. This committee recommended that the College be organized should offer a four-year course divided into semesters or as might otherwise be prescribed. Recommended to be admitted were holders of the degree then known as "Bachiller de Artes"—which was the equivalent of the present "Associate in Arts" title—obtained from schools and colleges duly recognized by the Secretary of Public Instruction, or those who had finished the pre-law courses at the College of Liberal Arts, U.P., or who had completed studies equivalent to the foregoing requirements as shown by the ability to pass the required entrance examination. This two year collegiate work as an entrance requirement was made effective only in June, 1913, so that when the College of Law formally opened in June, 1911 the admission requirement was the completion of high school or secondary course, whereas in June, 1912, the requirement was raised to one-year college work, until it became a two-year collegiate work starting in 1913.

As a distinct unit of the university, the College of Law was formally opened in June, 1911 at a rented building, No. 68 Isaac Peral, which was at the intersection of Isaac Peral and Nebraska streets in Ermita, Manila. In the opening program, Mr. Justice Adam C. Carson, then of the Supreme Court of the Philippines and who became professorial lecturer in International Law, delivered the address before the faculty members and students. When the college opened, two classes were enrolled, the freshmen consisting of 125 members, composed of Filipinos and several Americans, and the sophomores who commenced their studies in the said law courses sponsored by the YMCA Edu-

³ G. A. MALCOLM, *AMERICAN COLONIAL CAREERIST*, as serialized in the *Manila Times*, p. 10, Sept. 4, 1957.

cational Department. At the beginning, a three-year and a four-year course of studies had been prescribed by the college. A professional student who devoted his entire time to studies could follow the three-year plan while one who was employed could take a lesser number of subjects and had therefore to follow the four-year plan. However, starting with the academic year 1917 to 1918, the three-year course was discontinued without prejudice to the students already enrolled under such plan from finishing their studies in three years.

During the first year of its existence in 1911-12 under President Murray Bartlett, the faculty members of the College of Law were: Acting Dean, the Honorable Sherman Moreland; Secretary George A. Malcolm; Professorial lecturers—Hon. Adam C. Carson, Hon. Amasa S. Crossfield, Hon. Charles Burke Elliott, and Hon. Charles Summer Lobingier; as lecturers in law, Mr. Jorge Bocobo, Mr. Clyde A. Dewitt, Hon. Washington L. Goldsborough, Hon. George Rogers Harvey, Hon. Frank B. Ingersoll, and Mr. Carlos A. Sobral; as lecturers on special topics, Mr. John W. Ferrier, and Hon. John P. Weissenhagen; and as instructor in public speaking, Mr. Wallace L. Wright.⁴

Deans of the College

Justice Sherman Moreland of the local Supreme Court was designated Acting Dean or first Dean of the College of Law. Mr. George A. Malcolm who was then an assistant attorney at the Bureau of Justice was the College Secretary. However, it was Mr. Malcolm who ran the College since Mr. Justice Moreland, after presiding over one faculty meeting, then abdicated all his prerogatives in favor of the Secretary. Justice Moreland acted as dean from July 1 to October 14, 1911. There was an attempt to avail of the services of an elderly law professor from Indiana who graciously declined the offer. Although Professor E. B. Conant of the University of Nebraska came in as an experienced law professor, yet he was not interested in administrative work so much so that Mr. Malcolm who was designated Acting Dean upon the resignation of Mr. Justice Moreland, continued to run the college. On July 1, 1913, the temporary designation was confirmed when Mr. Malcolm was appointed Acting Dean, and Lecturer of the College. The word "Acting" was removed from his title and Mr. Malcolm was designated permanent Dean on November 10, 1913. Dean Malcolm held the position until July, 1917 when he was appointed Associate Justice of the Philippine Supreme Court, by President Woodrow Wilson.⁵

On July 9, 1917, Professor Jorge Bocobo was named Acting Dean upon the resignation of Justice Malcolm. Dr. Bocobo was made permanent Dean on January 12, 1918 and he served in that capacity until his elevation to the presidency of the University during the later part of 1934. Dean Bocobo was succeeded as Dean of the College by Professor Jose A. Espiritu who was the incumbent Dean at the outbreak of the Pacific War on December 8, 1941. The College did not reopen during the occupation in spite of the fact that Dr. Antonid Sison who was then University President had, on several times, asked Dean Espiritu to study the feasibility and advisability of reopening the College but Dean Espiritu believed it was neither advisable nor propitious to resume at that time the operation of the College of Law.⁶

⁴ A Brief History of the College of Law, appearing in the Souvenir, College of Law, Silver Jubilee, 1911-36, *supra*, pp. 31-45.

⁵ G. A. MALCOLM, AMERICAN COLONIAL CAREERIST, as serialized in the *Manila Times*, p. 10, Sept. 4, 1957.

⁶ J. A. Espiritu, A Brief History of the College of Law, *supra*, p. 13.

Upon the reopening of the University of the Philippines on August 6, 1945, President Bienvenido M. Gonzalez acted as Dean of the College inasmuch as Dean Espiritu had been previously appointed an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court. However, Dean Espiritu returned to what Dean Abad Santos termed his first love, the College of Law, wherein he rendered faithful and dedicated service up to the time of his retirement in December, 1953. Upon the retirement of Dean Espiritu, Professor Vicente G. Sinco, who was then serving the Republic in diverse capacities, was appointed Dean of the College and so Dean Sinco returned to the College to be its head. During the 1953 Christmas vacation and when classes resumed in January, 1954, Dean Vicente G. Sinco started his very constructive and prolific tenure in which capacity he also served with distinction; and he was with the College until his appointment as U.P. President on February 18, 1958. However, President V. G. Sinco continued to discharge the functions of Dean of the College until Judge Vicente Abad Santos of the Court of First Instance of Bukidnon, Misamis Oriental, and of Cagayan de Oro City was appointed Dean of the College on April 10, 1958. Dean Abad Santos a *cum laude* graduate of Class 1940, and who was formerly Professor and Secretary of the College and later Professorial Lecturer, and who, like Dean Espiritu returned from the judiciary to the College at a great personal sacrifice, began dispensing the functions of Dean on April 30, 1958.

Undoubtedly, the services rendered by Mr. Justice Malcolm during the formative or founding years had been very valuable not only to the College but to the University as well. He was really an organizer *par excellence*. He originated the Student Council, the annual oratorical contest, the Debating Club, the regular convocation, the Philippine Barristers, the Junior Senate, the Juniors' Prom or reception for the Seniors, the College Glee Club, the Philippinensian, originally called the "Woolsack," and the *Philippine Law Journal*. Dean Bocobo displayed leadership in the educational works and civic activities of the College. He started the weekly and later bi-weekly assemblies where students met to discuss their problems and to hear inspiring talks by prominent speakers. He adhered to rigid scholarship rules and raised the general average to 2.75 or better for graduation with the degree of Bachelor of Laws.⁷

Dean Espiritu, though paternalistic, was a stern disciplinarian and adherent to the letter of the rules especially when it concerned scholarship matters. To his credit goes the immense task of reopening and rehabilitating the College after Liberation, after serving as Justice of the Supreme Court. Always a father to his official family consisting of the student body, the faculty and the personnel, Dean Espiritu had at heart the interest of his students to whom he had acted a ready counsellor, and he had always championed the cause of his teaching and administrative staffs. Dean Sinco, a man of various talents, served with distinction the deanship and the various capacities in which his services had been utilized by the Republic, e.g., as chairman of the Export-Import Committee and member of the Monetary Board of the Central Bank, as chairman of various presidential investigating committees, and as chairman of the Working Group or Technical Panel of the SEATO organizational conference in Manila. He believes in a well-rounded education, thus he is partial towards the humanities, has added more jurisprudence subjects into the curriculum, has introduced legal accounting, and has originated and prescribed the courses of study leading to the degrees of Bachelor of Science in Jurisprudence,

⁷ A Brief History of the College of Law as narrated in the *Souvenir, College of Law, Silver Jubilee, 1911-36*, *supra*, pp. 31-45

and Master of Arts in Jurisprudence. He organized the Order of the Purple Feather, the Law Honor Society, and revived extra-curricular activities, and launched the publication of the *Law Register* as a supplement to the *Philippine Law Journal* and he encouraged faculty research. He envisioned and started the means for construction of a Law Cultural and Social Center to fill the standing need of the College of Law for a larger auditorium. Having been Commissioner of Foreign Relations and being a diplomat in his own right as he had represented the Philippines in several international conferences, Dean Sinco has always been diplomatic, tactful, and understanding especially in dealing with his subordinates. However, he is a strict observer of the rule of law which trait he has consistently displayed during his short but very constructive college administration. Thought it may be too early to appraise the administration of the present Dean for he is in office barely for two months, yet we can say that Dean Abad Santos' appointment is a very happy choice and the College is in very good hands. Since Dean Abad Santos is continuing the good work of his predecessors, and knowing his qualities as a U.P. law professor, as a Technical Assistant in the Department of Justice, and as Judge of the Court of the First Instance, we can say that his guiding principles of scholarship, reason, and discipline, augur well for his continued success. First important reform accomplished by Dean Abad Santos is the taking over by the College, from the general graduate school, of the administration and control over the postgraduate course in law.

*Faculty*⁸

A complete list of the faculty of instruction and of the professorial lecturers, past and present, follows:

Abad Santos, José; Abad Santos, Vicente; Abello, Emilio; Abreu, Jose; Albert, Mariano; Altavas, Enrique; Alvendia, Carmelino G.; Ambión, Bienvenido C.; Anzures, Pablo; Aquino, Ramon C.; Baizas, Crispin; Barredo, Antonio; Barrios, Carlos A.; Baviera, Araceli (Miss); Bocobo, Jorge; Benitez, Conrado; Campos, Jose Jr. C.; Crossfield, Amasa S.; Carreon, Francisco; Carson, Adam C.; Capistrano, Francisco; Cortes, Irene R. (Miss); Conant, Ernest Bancroft; Cruz, Angel; Diaz, Anacleto Carbonnel; de los Angeles, Sixto; de Castro, Tomas G.; de Joya, Mariano H.; del Pan, Rafael; DeWitt, Clyde A.; Duran, Pio; Delgado, Francisco A.; de Leon, Dionisio; Espiritu, Jose A.; Escaler, Jose; Elliot, Charles Burke; Feliciano, Florentino; Fernandez, Patricio; Fernando, Enrique M.; Ferrer, John W.; Florendo, Gerardo; Gamboa, Melquiades J.; Gana, Mariano S.; Garcia, Gaudencio; Gatmaitan, Magno S.; Gilmore, Eugene; Goldsborough, Washington L.; Gonzaga, Luis J.; Guevara, Guillermo; Guevara, Sulpicio; Harvey, George Rogers; Hilado, Serafin; Ingersoll, E. Frank; Jacinto, Generoso; Johnson, E. Finley; Jaranilla, Delfin; Jarencio, Hilarion U.; Labrador, Alejo; Lantin, Gregorio T.; Lapus-Laurea, Norberta (Mrs.); Laurel, Jose P.; Lontok, Vicente; Lopez-Campos, Marita A. (Mrs.); Luna, Juan Jr.; Luna, Rufino; Lustre, Julian; Makasiar, Felix; Malcolm, George A.; Manotok-Bocanegra, Perpetua R. (Mrs.); Meer, Alberto; Mendoza, Estelito; Mikami, Y.; Montemayor, Marcelino; Monzon, Leoncio; Moreland, Sherman; Muñoz-Palma, Cecilia (Mrs.); Navarro, Emiliano R.; Newberne, Robert; Noble, Lawrence H.; Ortigas, Francisco; Padilla, Ambrosio B.; Palma, Rafael; Panis, Emiliano; Paredes, Quintin; Pascual, Crisolito; Puyat, Deogracias; Quiazon, Troadio Jr.; Quisumbing, Norberto; Ramos, Aurelio; Ramos, Eusebio; Regala, Roberto; Re-

⁸ Enumeration contained in Dean Espiritu's A Brief History of the College of Law, *supra*, and which has been brought up to date.

villa, Eulogio P.; Reyes, Alexander; Reyes, Jose B. L.; Rivera, Juan F.; Romualdez, Norberto; Salonga, Jovito R.; Santiago, Vicente; Santos, Juan T.; Sibál, Ernesto Y.; Sinco, Vicente G.; Sobral, Carlos; Solidum, Arsenio; Solis, Pedro; Sumulong, Juan; Sycip, Albino Z.; Tolentino, Arturo; Varela, Vicente; Ventura, Francisco; Villamor, Ignacio; Villa-Real, Antonio; Virata, Melquiades Jr.; Weissenhagen, John P.; Yamson, Victoriano; Ylagan, Pedro Y.; Yulo, Jose; and Zavalla, Domingo T.

*Reopening and Rehabilitation*⁹

A few days after the outbreak of the Pacific War on December 8, 1941, President Quezon ordered the University of the Philippines to be closed, and thus the College of Law was closed on December 13, 1941. However, although classes were suspended, the administrative staff of the College continued maintaining offices up to the end of April, 1942. Dean Espiritu did not consider it advisable to re-open the College during the entire occupation, so that it was only after liberation, that on August 6, 1945 together with other units of the University that the College of Law re-opened. It assumed a different location at the Institute of X-Ray and Radium Therapy or the Cancer Institute at Padre Faura, Manila, inasmuch as only ruins were left of its pre-war quarters at the University Hall.

Later, in 1946 the College of Law transferred to the third floor of the Engineering Building. From this site the College of Law during the Christmas Vacation of 1948 moved to a Quonset Building in Diliman, and finally to its present concrete structure known as the Law Building.¹⁰ At present the evening classes of the College are held at the third floor of the University Extension Division, former U.P. Palma Hall, Padre Faura, Manila. When the post-liberation evening classes of the College were offered for the first time in 1951 at the Institute of Hygiene building, they were under the auspices of the University Extension Division, although during the incumbency of Dean Sinco, these evening classes in law were taken over by the College of Law from the administration of the Extension Division. Parenthetically, Dean Sinco also initiated the move by the College to take over from the Graduate School the administration of the graduate studies in law.

In consonance with the policy of the University to maintain the high standard of the College, upon recommendation of Professor Arsenio Solidum, Acting Secretary of the College, and upon approval of the U.P. President, completion courses were offered for First, Second, and Third Years from August 6 to October 8, 1945. Seniors at the outbreak of the war, though they passed the Bar Examinations given during the occupation, had to enroll for the second semester of the Senior Year in order to be recommended for graduation. These completion courses were offered by Professor Juan T. Santos, Prof. Arsenio Solidum, Prof. Hilarion U. Jarencio, Prof. Norberto Lapuz-Laurea, Prof. Enrique Fernando, and Prof. Magno Gatmaitan. At that time Dean Espiritu was still serving with the local Supreme Court to which he was appointed an Associate Justice immediately after liberation, although Dean Espiritu returned to the College after a brief stint at the high Court.

⁹ Based largely on Dean Jose A. Espiritu's "A Brief History of the College of Law" appearing in the U.P. Law Alumni Homecoming and 40th College Anniversary Souvenir Program, Jan. 12-14, 1951, pp. 12-14, 87; and the 33rd Annual Report of the U.P. President to the Board of Regents, Academic Year, 1945-46.

¹⁰ Actually the transfer took place on December 16, 1948 to January 11, 1949 pursuant to plans conceived as early as 1938 by the late President Quezon. 36th Annual Report of the U.P. President to the Board of Regents, Academic Year 1948-49, p. 5.

Among the pressing problems first attended to and satisfactorily solved by Dean Espiritu was the rehabilitation of the Law Library. Completely destroyed was the College library which enjoyed the distinction of being the biggest pre-war law library in the Island. With more than 30,000 volumes, it had sets of Philippine Reports, sets of U.S. Supreme Court Reports, the National Reporter System, the U.S. Code Annotated, valuable collections of annotated cases including the Philippine Decisions, American Decisions, American Law Reports, Lawyers Report Annotated, the American and British Ruling Cases. It had an extensive collection of digests and public laws, legal periodicals, law reviews and encyclopedias. Its vast collections included the civil jurisprudence of Spain, and civil, criminal, commercial, procedural, and international law treatises, texts, and casebooks by prominent and authoritative Filipino, American, English, Spanish, Italian, French, and other continental as well as Latin-American writers.¹¹

In a letter written by Dean Espiritu on August 23, 1945 addressed to Dean Everett Fraser, of the Minnesota Law School, and at that time the President of the Association of American Law Schools, Dean Espiritu informed the Association of the total destruction of the Law Library as a result of the ravages of the last war, and the resulting inability of the College to comply with the library requirements of the Association for the maintenance of our membership in the Association. Dean Fraser sympathized with the sad plight of our College, and he appealed for possible aid to several members of the Association to whom he distributed copies of Dean Espiritu's letter. The response was enthusiastic. Among those who offered their sympathy for the destruction of our library and who offered our library some books which the College gratefully accepted were: Prof. Edward S. Bade, librarian of the University of Minnesota, in behalf of his law school; Prof. Arthur C. Pulling, librarian of the Harvard Law School, who donated a set of Massachusetts's Reports in behalf of the Harvard Law School; and Mr. Robert von Mehren, president of the Harvard Law Review Association, who donated to our library a complete set of Harvard Law Review already bound. The Association of American Law Schools appointed a committee to assist us in the reconstruction of our library. On December 19, 1945, former Professor Melquiades J. Gamboa, then with the Philippine Resident Commissioner's Office in Washington, D.C. was requested by Dean Espiritu to act as our representative to supervise the selection and shipment of books which might be donated to our library. Professor Gamboa graciously consented. On May 2, 1946, Dean Espiritu was informed by Dr. Arturo B. Rotor that some of the books donated to our library were already shipped and were on their way to the Philippines. Even after the grant of Philippine independence, those donations keep on coming to the College library, not only from members of the Association of American Law Schools, but also from other friends and sympathizers in the United States, such gifts being coursed through the Cultural Affairs Officer of the United States Embassy in the Philippines.

The reconstruction of the Law Library is a task well done by Dean Espiritu for which he deserves the utmost praise and commendation. In 1945 the Law Library had books of 548 volumes and 50 titles and serials of 18 titles and 95 issues. As of April 24, 1957, the Law Library contains some fourteen thousand eight hundred and twenty volumes, 9,846 serials, 289 pamphlets, and 518 theses.¹² Gifts and current appropriations steadily increase this collection. It

¹¹ Particulars in this sub-topic, especially in this and in the following paragraph are based on Dean Espiritu's "A Brief History of the College of Law," *supra*, p. 14.

¹² Sources are the Law Librarian's Annual Report for the academic year 1956-57, and the Report of the Acting Law Librarian for the academic year 1945-46. See also U.P. College of Law Catalogue, 1957-58, p. 8.

has several sets of the Philippine Reports, the Philippine Digest, the United States Supreme Court Reports and a complete set of the National Reporter system; the English Reprint and English Law Reports; the United States Code Annotated; the American Law Reports; the Lawyers' Reports Annotated, old and new series—several sets of different State reports as those of Massachusetts, California, Michigan, Wisconsin, Illinois, Kansas, and Iowa, legal treatises by leading law alumni authors; and a growing number of authoritative textbooks, casebooks, and treatises in different branches of the law, as well as law journals and periodicals, digests and encyclopedias. The present library located at the third floor of the Law Building is a very far cry from the small working library situated at the Alumni Building when the College reopened and later transferred to the Engineering Building. The present library has two large reading rooms, has new electric clocks and fans, several filing cabinets, racks, and the latest reading materials and books on legal topics, thanks to the progressive ideas, and executive ability, zest for ordering books, and the willingness to assist the faculty, the student body and the alumni who go to the library from browsing, study, or research, consistently displayed by the energetic librarian, Miss Clarisa Dimalanta; the usual support extended by the Dean in matters affecting the library, and to the generosity of the numerous donors, among whom is the U.P. Senior Council.

The retention of the U.P. College of Law of its membership in the Association of American Law Schools was discussed by the Executive Committee of the Association on December 23, 1945 at Chicago. By mail vote the Executive Committee adopted Emergency Resolution No. 5 to the effect that during the war "the continued compliance with the provisions of the Articles of Association with respect to membership in the Association, including the payment of dues, be waived as to the University of the Philippines College of Law, and that College be continued as member of this Association." It may be mentioned that the College of Law has always been prompt in the payment of its dues to the Association; and the College has always been sending, whenever possible, representatives to the annual meeting of the Association of American Law Schools, namely, Professor Melquiades J. Gamboa in 1946, Professor Enrique Fernando in 1947, Professor Emiliano R. Navarro and Dean Vicente Abad Santos in 1949, and Professor Bienvenido C. Ambion in 1952, being the recent or postwar delegates.¹³

Dean Frazer, on January 14, 1946, informed Dean Espiritu that the recommendations of the Executive Committee had been unanimously approved by the Association during its annual Conference on December 27, 1945, in Chicago. In 1957, Dean Sinco received a communication from the Association of American Law Schools informing us that due to the change in the political status of the Philippines as we are no longer part of the United States, and considering our valued membership in the Association since 1914, the membership of the U.P. College of Law is continued in an associate capacity. The Dean conveyed his belief that membership in the association should not be governed primarily by territorial or geographical basis, but rather by the community of ideas and principles obtaining in our respective systems of law and of legal education.

Ever since the reopening of the law school, the resumption of publication of the *Philippine Law Journal* had always received top priority in the rehabilitation program of the College. It was only in the school year 1946-47 that suffi-

¹³ 34th, 35th, and 37th Annual Reports of the U.P. President to the Board of Regents for the Academic Years 1946-47, 1947-48, 1949-50, respectively.

cient funds and suitable facilities were available for the publication of post-war *Philippine Law Journal*. Although its page contents have been limited due to lack of funds, its publication has been received with favor by various legal quarters. By such publication the College is able to fulfill its obligation to the law schools abroad which have been sending us their law reviews on the exchange basis. Besides the journal undoubtedly enhances the prestige of the College.¹⁴ An official publication of the College of Law, the *Philippine Law Journal* is the best vehicle for the output of students in Legal Writing courses. Launched during the time of Dean Malcolm and with the assistance of Professor Bocobo and Mr. Espiritu, the Journal was first edited by an alumnus, Mr. Alexander Reyes, at present an Associate Justice of the local Supreme Court. Financial limitations forced the publication to be discontinued from 1919 to 1926. From 1926 up to the outbreak of the war, the then Professor Vicente G. Sinco was the Faculty Editor supervising the work of a Board of Student Editors composed of ranking Seniors. After liberation, several faculty members had discharged the functions of faculty editor, namely, Prof. Emiliano R. Navarro, Prof. Norberto Quisumbing, Prof. Enrique M. Fernando, Prof. Crisólito Pascual, and the present incumbent, Prof. Bienvenido C. Ambi6n. The *Philippine Law Journal* places within the easy reach of the students and practitioners the latest legal developments and trends, especially when we consider the issues devoted by the Journal to the annual survey of the decisions of the Philippine Supreme Court.

As early as 1936, Dean Espiritu had recommended the revival of post-graduate courses leading to the degree of Master of Laws. Actually, the graduate courses in law were resumed in 1952 to prepare graduates of duly recognized schools of law for law teaching and public service. The preceding year, 1951, the resumption of evening classes in the College also took place under the auspices of the University Extension Division where almost all students were employed and therefore the evening law course was on a five-year study plan. However, during Dean Sinco's time when the College took over from the Extension Division, these evening classes also follow the four-year plan. Similar to pre-war days, the College is therefore accessible at present to working students.

It is a well known fact that the College is very selective and adheres to very high standards of academic standing, teaching experience, legal proficiency, and good moral character in the choice of its faculty. Almost all of the present faculty members are honor graduates and are at the head of their respective classes. Though these faculty members are of recognized competence in the teaching of their respective courses, yet the College believes in upgrading the faculty, for it cannot be denied that in striving for perfection, there is always room for further intellectual pursuits in a chosen field of study. While in pre-war days there were only few fellowships granted by the University to law faculty members, however, after the liberation, many of the law faculty members were sent abroad to pursue graduate studies in law and were therefore the recipients of partial or full U.P. fellowships and or awards or grants under the Fulbright Exchange Visitors Program. Professors Enrique M. Fernando and Jose C. Campos, Jr. and Juan Luna, Jr., were sent to Yale where they secured their Master of Laws degree. Attending the same law school on their own were Professors Maria Clara L. Campos, Angel C. Cruz, and Florentino Feliciano, all of whom obtained their LL.M. while Prof. Feliciano studied further

¹⁴ 33rd Annual Report of the U.P. President to the Board of Regents, Academic Year 1945-46; and 34th Annual Report of the U.P. President to the Board of Regents, Academic Year 1946-47.

and obtained his J.S.D. Also on his own was Prof. Crisolito Pascual who worked for his Masters degree in law at Boston University. Prof. Emiliano R. Navarro and Prof. Irene R. Cortes were also detailed in Michigan where they were granted their Master of Laws degree. Prof. Estelito Mendoza, Prof. Bienvenido C. Ambión, and Dean Vicente Abad Santos obtained their Master of Laws degree at the Harvard University Law School, the first one was then on his own while the last two were recipients of a U.P. fellowship and of a Harvard Sterling Scholarship. Undoubtedly such advance training in law redounds to the benefit not only of the individual professors, but also to the College for the added prestige, and also to the graduate and undergraduate law students to whom such additional knowledge has been and will be imparted or inculcated.

Activities and Achievements

After the celebration of the Silver Jubilee of the U.P. College of Law, an impartial appraisal of the achievements of the College appeared in an editorial of *The Tribune*, one of the leading and most influential newspapers in the Philippines.¹⁵ In praise of the College, the editorial follows, in part: "It is a record of which they may well be proud. The graduates of the College figure among the foremost executive leaders of the government, among the honored members of the judiciary, among the influential lawmakers. In business and private life they are respected for their professional integrity. The College of Law is a great institution. Without it, the State university would decline in prestige."

The praise is more than deserved for the recipient is the school of three (3) Presidents of the Philippines—Manuel Roxas, first president of the republic, Elpidio Quirino, second president, and Jose P. Laurel, Occupation president. Justice Malcolm in his latest book, *American Colonial Careerist* in the Philippines, fondly recalls that the College was also the Alma Mater of a host of national leaders. With his apologies for not naming them all, Dean Malcolm mentions Secretary Jose Yulo and other members of the Cabinet; at a given period, in the legislative branch, besides the Speaker, approximately one-third of the members of the House and a number of influential Senators; and in the highest tribunal, during 1954-56, Chief Justice Ricardo Paras and eight of the Associate Justices.¹⁶

To the general public, topping the first ten places in the Bar Examinations is also a major achievement of a law school. In general averages and in topping the bar examinations, the graduates of the College have consistently made good since 1913 when it turned out its first graduates. The Monroe Commission after tabulating the bar examination results from 1920 to 1924 where the U.P. College of Law led all the law schools observed: "It is obvious from a study of this table to what an extent the College of Law is rendering a service in maintaining standards to which the private law schools must at least attempt to measure up."¹⁷

The list of U.P. bar topnotchers with their respective averages, follows:¹⁸ 1913, Manuel A. Roxas—92.00%; 1914, Manuel Goyena—93.00%; 1915, Francisco Villanueva, Jr.—90.00%; 1916, Paulino Gullas—93.00%; 1917, Felipe Ismael—92.00%; 1918, Alejo Labrador—87.00%; 1922, Amando L. Velilla—

¹⁵ Souvenir, College of Law Silver Jubilee, 1911-1936, p. 86.

¹⁶ MALCOLM, *AMERICAN COLONIAL CAREERIST*, as serialized in the *Manila Times*, p. 10, Sept. 4, 1957.

¹⁷ Report of the U.P. President to the Board of Regents for the Academic Year, 1934-35.

¹⁸ J. A. Espiritu, *A Brief History of the College of Law*, *supra*, p. 37.

89.00%; 1923, Roque Desquitado—91.10%; 1925, Rafael Dinglasan—91.10%; 1927, Cesar Kintanar—87.70%; 1929, Lorenzo Sumulong—92.50%; 1930, Tecla San Andres—89.40%; 1931, Jose Leuterio—89.10%; 1932, Hermenegildo Atienza—93.00%; 1935, Enrique Estrellado—92.70%; 1937, Cecilia Muñoz—92.60%; 1939, Ferdinand E. Marcos—92.25%; 1941, Emmet P. D. Shea—92.00%; 1944, Jovito R. Salonga—94.75%; 1946 (Aug.), Gregoria Cruz—92.25%; 1946 (Nov.), Pedro L. Yap—91.70%; 1947, Ameurfin Melencio—93.85%; 1952, Pedro Samson Animas—94.25%; and 1957, Gregorio Castillo—89.15%. (List does not include Carolina Griño who finished her 3rd and 4th years at U.P. College of Law, 1950, and who with an average of 92.05% topped the bar in the same year.)

The College trains the students not only in law but also for leadership. Extra-curricular activities contribute much to the well-rounded education of the law student. Besides the principal College activities, the law students have always participated in University affairs and programs. Invariably the College of Law students dominate campus politics in the University. Dean Sinco attached great importance to extra-curricular activities so that he revived the annual oratorical contest and introduced the annual "Day Meets Night" debate. It would be remembered that whenever the U.P. has been called upon to debate with other universities whether at home or abroad, the members of the U.P. debating teams have invariably been selected from the students of the College. The most famous debating team of the University was its undefeated round-the-world debating team composed of Teodoro Evangelista, captain, and Pedro Camus, Deogracias Puyat, and Jacinto Borja, with Prof. Carlos P. Rumulo, then Professor of English at the College of Liberal Arts, and at present Philippine Ambassador to the United States, as coach and adviser. This team debated with many important universities in the United States among which were Harvard University, Cornell University, Stanford University and the Universities of Nevada, Utah, Michigan, Oregon, Washington, and Wisconsin, and others.¹⁹

Besides debating, the oratorical ability of the student is also cultivated or trained by the College. An annual oratorical contest is held where gold and silver medals are given as First and Second Prizes for excellence in oratory. These medals had been donated by Mr. Justice Adam C. Carson from 1913 to 1919, by Mr. Eliseo Hervas in 1920 and by the late President Quezon from 1921 down to the outbreak of World War II. From available records the following were the recipients of these gold and silver medals respectively: 1913 Eulogio Benitez and Victoriano Yamzon; 1914 Juan L. Luna and Elpidio Quirino; 1915 Marceliano Montemayor and Paulino Gullas; 1916 Jose Melencio and Jesus de la Rama; 1917 Alejo Labrador and Emilio M. Javier; 1918 Bibiano Meer and Mariano Ampil; 1919 Dionisio de Leon and Ramon B. Felipe; 1920 Vicente G. Sinco and Pio Duran; 1921 Benito Soliven and Cipriano Navarro; 1922 Jose E. Romero and Lorenzo Tañada; 1923 Simon Santos and Juan S. Reyes; 1924 Gerardo Florendo and Jose A. Uy; 1925 Martin Dolorico and Feliciano Tirona; 1926 Lamberto Macias and Deogracias Puyat; 1927 Jacinto Borja and Pedro Camus; 1928 Macario Zamuco and Juan C. Pajo; 1929 Felismino Rivera and Magno Gatmaitan; 1930 Sulpicio Guevara and Emerito Ramos; 1931 Salvador Esguerra and Alejandro Sebastian; and 1932 Wenceslao Vinzons and Hilarion Jarencio.²⁰ The annual oratorical contests of the College continued down to 1941 and when the College reopened after liberation it was during the incum-

¹⁹ A Brief History of the College of Law, narrated in the Souvenir, College of Law, Silver Jubilee, 1911-36, *supra*, pp. 31-46.

²⁰ U.P. General Catalogue, 1932-33, p. 329.

bency of Dean Sinco that these oratorical contests have been revived, as an annual activity or offering of the College.

The Order of the Purple Feather, is the law honor society composed of 36 members who are the first 12 honor students in each class from the second year to the fourth year. This honor society, the OPFE, of which the writer is the adviser since its founding in 1954, sponsors the annual College symposium on a contemporary problem in law, government, or economics. The Law Student Government is composed of the presidents and representatives of all the classes and the other societies in the College like the Portia Sorority and the OPFE. It is a student governing body which participates in the general direction or guidance of the extra-curricular activities of the students. It sponsors the regular Saturday convocations, to which prominent leaders in their respective fields have been invited to address the student body on current topics.²¹ Each class organization holds an affair during the academic year, to wit: the Freshmen's "Pow-Wow," the Sophomores' Excursion, the Juniors' "Shindig" and the Seniors' Graduation Ball. For closer supervision, these events are scheduled before the start of the academic year in order to prevent a crowded schedule of activities which usually impairs scholastic work. While students hold such get-together, the faculty members hold a monthly meeting to receive instructions from the Dean, to discuss problems involving student-faculty relations, to exchange ideas relative to teaching technique and research.

Faculty research in law and jurisprudence has been encouraged by the Dean. Members of the faculty in spite of a very heavy teaching load, have conducted researches in their respective fields of studies and they have produced valuable contributions to Philippine legal literature. Most of their writings appear in the *Philippine Law Journal* and other Philippine legal periodicals. As a consequence of this activity, a considerable number of textbooks, treatises, casebooks, compilations, and outlines of courses constituted the output, most of which are prescribed not only locally but in other schools as well. Some of these books written by faculty members have become authorities on the subject, and have therefore been cited every now and then in decisions promulgated by our Supreme Court, Court of Appeals, and the other local courts, as President V. G. Sinco's "Philippine Government and Political Law," Prof. Francisco Ventura's "Land Registration and Mortgages," and Prof. Ambrosio Padilla's "Revised Penal Code Annotated," and Dean Jovito R. Salonga's "Private International Law." More of these activities and achievements appear below in the discussions on Reforms and Innovations recently adopted by the College.

Reforms and Innovations

When the College reopened after liberation, one of the chief concerns of Dean Espiritu was the revision of the law curriculum for the purpose of bringing it up to date with the most recent developments in legal education. A committee composed of Prof. Arsenio Solidum, Chairman, and Prof. Juan T. Santos, Prof. Magno S. Gatmaitan, Prof. Hilarion U. Jarencio and Prof. Enrique Fernando, as members, prepared a revised law curriculum which was approved by the Law Faculty on May 1, 1946, by the Curriculum Committee on May 20, 1946 and finally by the University Council on May 22, 1946. Our revised curriculum, with slight modifications was adopted by the Commissioner of Private Education as the uniform or common curriculum for private law schools and the College

²¹ U.P. College of Law Catalogue, 1957-58, p. 21.

of Law again asserted its leadership in setting the pace in legal instruction in the Philippines.²²

During the school year, 1951-52, the law curriculum was again revised to harmonize the needs of legal education with the development of our laws, Civil law was emphasized because of its expanded field arising from the promulgation of the New Civil Code. Procedural law subjects were taught to first year and second year students in order to initiate them immediately into the case-method study of law.²³ During Dean Sinco's incumbency, in the academic year 1954-55, the law curriculum was again revised impelled by a long-felt need for better integration and a more logical and more effective arrangement of courses. A more solid intellectual foundation is provided for by the reforms by prescribing additional courses in Jurisprudence, Legal History, Legal Philosophy and Comparative Law. The course in Legal Accounting is introduced and emphasis is placed on accounting problems oftentimes encountered in the law practice. Courses in Legal Writing have been increased in order to develop skill, accuracy, brevity, and clarity of expressions in the preparation of legal essays or law review articles, or pleadings, or deeds in conveyancing.²⁴

A change in the order of studies is made to obviate difficulties encountered by a freshman on being immediately introduced to technical law courses. Thus in the first year, the student learns the nature and theories of the law, and he thus assimilates the fundamental legal concepts. The usual one-hour period is lengthened to one and one-half hours, and a course meets everyday until terminated, and only two subjects are taken everyday. This procedure is conducive to a better and more thorough understanding and retention of the subject matter and this procedure has been overwhelmingly approved—i.e. by 90% favorable indorsement—in a 1955 survey conducted among U.P. law students who had studied under the old and the new systems or set ups.²⁵

Another reform introduced by Dean Sinco towards integration is the coordination of instruction of professors handling the same subjects belonging to the same branch of or general department in law. Thus, Prof. Ramon C. Aquino is the coordinator in Civil Law, Prof. Irene R. Cortes is the coordinator in Political Law, Prof. Estelito P. Mendoza is coordinator in Criminal Law, Prof. Crisolito Pascual is the coordinator in Jurisprudence, Prof. Jose C. Campos, Jr. is the coordinator in Commercial Law, Prof. Bienvenido C. Ambion is the coordinator in Public and Private International Law, while Prof. Carlos A. Barrios is the coordinator in Remedial Law and all other remaining branches of or departments in law. Such coordination will promote uniformity of standards in grading and in the estimation of degrees of scholarship of students and will afford an opportunity to the professors to agree on the scope of the course and to exchange views towards the possibilities for a more effective presentation of the subject.

As an incentive to scholarship, medals for excellence are awarded to the valedictorian and salutatorian of the graduating class, and to the students obtaining the first and second honors in each class from first year to fourth year. These medals, to be distributed during the College graduation program, are donated by faculty members. Dating back to 1918 down to the present, the Faculty of the College has been giving recognition every year to the two stu-

²² J. A. Espiritu, *A Brief History of the College of Law*, *supra*, p. 37.

²³ 39th Annual Report of the U.P. President to the Board of Regents, Academic Year, 1951-52.

²⁴ 42nd Annual Report of the U.P. President to the Board of Regents, Academic Year, 1954-55.

²⁵ V. G. Sinco, *Objectives of the New Curriculum of the College of Law, U.P.*, Vol. XXXIX PHIL. L. J., No. 3, pp. 307-11, July, 1954, and see Editor's note in Vol. XXXII PHIL. L. J., No. 3, p. 364, July, 1957.

dents obtaining the highest standing during the entire course by declaring them valedictorian and salutatorian. According to available records for the period starting 1918 up to 1958 these honors were awarded to the following who graduated as valedictorians and salutatorians respectively: 1918 Ramon San Jose (with honors) and Mariano Ampil (with honors); 1919 Cesar Bengzon (with honors) and Ramon B. Felipe; 1920 Francisco Ventura and Ladislao Yap; 1921 Manuel Lim (with honors) and Emiliano Remo; 1922 Vicente Faelnar (with honors) and Jose B. L. Reyes (with honors); 1923 Paulino Ybañez (with honors) and Vicente de la Cruz; 1924 Domingo Zavalla (with honors) and Francisco Capistrano (with honors); 1925 Rafael Dinglasan (*magna cum laude*) and Feliciano Tirona; 1926 Pompeyo Diaz (*cum laude*) and Pedro Albano; 1927 Domingo Guevara and Exequiel Grageda; 1928 Octavio Maloles and Evaristo Sandoval; 1929 Lorenzo Sumulong (*magna cum laude*) and Emilio Abello; 1930 Carmelino Alvendia (*cum laude*) and Ramon Diokno, Jr. (*cum laude*); 1931 Magno Gat maitan (*cum laude*) and Alberto Dizon; 1932 Juan R. Liwag (*cum laude*) and Ernesto Sibal; 1933 Lourdes P. Paredes (*cum laude*) and Estanislao A. Fernandez, Jr.; 1934 Arturo M. Tolentino (*cum laude*) and Ambrosio B. Padilla; 1935 Enrique E. Estrellado (*cum laude*) and Elisa Santillan; 1936 Macario Peralta, Jr. (*cum laude*) and Jaime R. Agloro; 1937 Conrado Vasquez (*cum laude*) and Jose H. Lava (*cum laude*); 1938 Enrique M. Fernando (*magna cum laude*) and Carlos Moran Sison (*cum laude*); 1939 Ramon C. Fernandez (*cum laude*) and Felix V. Makasiar (*cum laude*); 1940 Emiliano R. Navarro (*cum laude*) and Bienvenido C. Ambión (*cum laude*); 1941 Carlos F. Ledesma (*magna cum laude*) and Antonio Moran Sison (*cum laude*); 1946 Alberto M. Meer (*magna cum laude*) and Pedro L. Yap (*cum laude*); 1947 Ameurfina Melencio (*cum laude*) and Aguedo Agbayani (*cum laude*); 1948 Angel C. Cruz (*cum laude*) and Irene R. Cortes (*cum laude*); 1949 Enrique Belo (*cum laude*) and José C. Campos, Jr. (*cum laude*); 1950 Restituto Roman (*cum laude*) and Mariano Ampil, Jr. (*cum laude*); 1951 Teodoro R. Padilla (*magna cum laude*) and Priscilla Santos (*cum laude*); 1952 Florentino P. Feliciano (*magna cum laude*) and Bartolome Fernandez, Jr. (*cum laude*); 1953 Rafael K. Hernaez (*cum laude*) and Juan Ponce Enrile (*cum laude*); 1954 Minerva Gonzaga (*cum laude*) and Efren Plana (*cum laude*); 1955 Belinda Ty (*cum laude*) and Manuel P. Dumatol (*cum laude*); 1956 Sotero B. Balmaceda (*cum laude*) and Ramon C. Portugal (*cum laude*); 1957 Gregorio C. Castillo (*cum laude*) and Sabino Padilla, Jr. (*cum laude*); 1958 Agnes L. Mamon (*cum laude*) and Jose C. Concepcion (*cum laude*).²⁶ Those graduating with honors are also the recipients of the U.P. Presidential Scholarship Pin. The faculty medals given during Dean Sinco's time may spur the students to work harder for honors.

At the College graduation program, prizes and honors are also awarded to the winners of the Legal Writing Contest sponsored by the *Philippine Law Journal*, in line with Dean Sinco's policy of promoting legal research. In 1956-57 the first honorable mention and a cash award had been conferred on Perfecto V. Fernandez, while the second honorable mention and a cash award had been granted to Mariano Tajon. In pre-war days the College also chose the two students writing the best graduation theses. Available records show that the following received the said awards and honors in Thesis Writing consisting of First Prize and Honorable Mention respectively: 1918 Manuel Gallego and Felix Bautista; 1919 Vivencio F. Reyes and Engracio Abasolo; 1920 Leon-

²⁶ U.P. General Catalogue, 1932-33, pp. 323-324. Professor Jose C. Campos, Jr., acting University Registrar at time of writing, and Mr. Jaime C. Opinion of the Office of the Registrar and chairman of the Student Editorial Board of the *Law Register* have kindly extended their assistance to the writer in making this enumeration up-to-date and complete.

cio Monzon, Bibiano Meer and Ladislao Yap; 1921 Manuel Lim and Benito Soliven; 1922 Crispin Llamado and Leocadio Lalin; 1923 Jose Batungbacal and Bernardo Farrales; 1924 Jose Bonto and Estela Romualdez; 1925 Feliciano Tirona and Eudacio Cacho; 1929 Pedro Mardia and Honesto Bausa; 1930 Ramon Diokno, Jr. and Wenceslao Mabasa; 1931 Rosario Esquivel and Francisco Ortigas, Jr.; and 1932 Apolonio Santiago.²⁷ In 1946 the first prize was awarded to Gonzalo W. Gonzalez while the second prize was obtained by Jovito R. Salonga. When Dean Malcolm returned to the College after liberation to deliver lectures in Legal Ethics, he encouraged research and legal scholarship by conducting nationwide legal essay writing contests on the life of the late President Roxas and on the life of the late Chief Justice Abad Santos. Second prize was obtained by Mariano Ampil, Jr. in the contest on the life and works of Chief Justice Abad Santos, while Cesar Francisco received the first prize in the contest on the life and works of President Roxas.²⁸ The forementioned prize-winners were from the U.P. College of Law where they were then being trained in the art of effective legal writing. Stressing the importance of legal draftsmanship in the curriculum, Dean Sinco introduced additional legal writing courses.²⁹

In addition to the *Philippine Law Journal*, published by the College for the promotion of legal research and the advancement of legal science which comes out in January, March, July, September, and November of each year, edited by a faculty member who at present is the writer, and who is assisted by a student editorial board, the College has another publication which is designated as the *Law Register*. Although timely legal articles appear thereon, yet the *Law Register* is primarily a school news organ published monthly during the academic year as a monthly supplement to the *Philippine Law Journal* and is for exclusive distribution to the students of the College. The paper is published by a student board of editors supervised by Professor Crisolito Pascual, faculty adviser. Similar to the *Philippine Law Journal*, the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Student Editorial Board are chosen through competitive examinations.

Another project of Dean Sinco which has passed the planning stage since the campaign for its realization has already started is the establishment of a Law Cultural and Social Center. The faculty, the students and the alumni will be received at the Center and the construction of which will remedy a long-felt need of the College for a larger auditorium for its extra-curricular activities held during the entire year. Approximately fifteen thousand (P15,000.00) pesos have already been contributed to the College and now constitute a trust fund for the setting-up of the said Cultural and Social Center.

The large number of Freshmen dropped from the College rolls after the end of their first year work shows the inadequacy of the academic preparation of plenty of registrants at the College. To remedy the situation, the applicant whose pre-law academic record satisfies the requirements of the College, must still pass an interview, and if there need be, a written examination, conducted by a faculty member. Among other things the applicant must have maturity of judgment and facility of expression.

²⁷ U.P. General Catalogue, 1932-33, p. 324.

²⁸ Assistance has been extended by Mr. Macario Cargado, of the Office of the Secretary of the College of Law in the ascertainment of these facts from the voluminous files of the College.

²⁹ See the U.P. College of Law Catalogue for 1957-58, p. 22, for the revised law curriculum which contains four (4) legal writing courses. Refer to note 25.

Another remedy adopted by the College is the extension of the preparatory law course. It was proposed that commencing with the school year 1959-60, the College shall require for admission a preparatory law course of at least three years of academic work consisting of at least 84 units at the rate of 18 units per semester, and which total number of units must include at least 18 units of English. The Supreme Court was furnished a copy of this Resolution of the Law Faculty. Our Supreme Court went one step further by requiring a Bachelor of Arts degree, starting 1960-61 of every student enrolling in the law course proper. However, it may be mentioned that such rigid entrance requirements had already been proposed in Dean Espiritu's Annual Report for the academic year 1936-37 where it was recommended that beginning 1940-41, a 3-year preparatory course be made an entrance requirement to the College, and beginning 1943-44, a Bachelor's degree in Arts, Philosophy, or Science be made an entrance requirement to the College of Law.³⁰

Among the innovations introduced by Dean Sinco we may also mention the granting of the degree of Bachelor of Science in Jurisprudence (B.S.J.) which is different from the Bachelor of Laws degree and the granting of the degree of Master of Arts in Jurisprudence (M.A.J.) which also differs from the Master of Laws degree. The B.S.J. degree is awarded upon completion of the first three years of the law course provided the student has completed no less than 18 units of English and Humanities, that his average for the entire three-year law course is 2.75 or better and provided that he has not received a grade of "5" in any of the subjects taken during the said three-year law work. With the exclusion of the procedural law subjects, the course covers the entire field of jurisprudence and substantive law subjects offered by the College for the degree of Bachelor of Laws. However, the holder of the degree is not entitled to take the bar examinations. As a cultural and semi-professional degree this would be ideal for those who desire to study law but not to engage in the practice thereof, but as a preparation for government service, executive positions, for legal research, or simply for effective citizenship. The graduate course leading to the degree of M.A.J. prepares the student for teaching or research work in law and jurisprudence. Juristic and political theories and techniques are emphasized in this course.³¹ After closing the recital of innovations introduced by Dean Sinco to the College, it is no wonder therefore when students refer to him with fondness and with gratitude as "The Reformer".³²

Principal Problems of the College

The two principal problems of the College of Law are: (1) the need for a large auditorium or theatre; and (2) the need for and retention of an ample number of faculty members who will devote their full-time to the teaching of law and make the same as a life-calling. With the resurgence of extra-curricular activities as the revival of the oratorical contest and the annual debate, and the adoption of the symposium as an annual offering of the Order of Purple Feather—Law Honor Society, there is a continuous demand throughout the year for a Law theatre where such functions or activities can be held. If the College of Law has such a commodious theatre of its own, there will no longer be any hiring of auditorium in Manila nor asking favors from the other units of the University for the use of their theatres and reception halls. Be-

³⁰ Report of the U.P. President to the Board of Regents for the Academic Year, 1936-37, p. 64.

³¹ U.P. College of Law Catalogue, 1957-58, pp. 17, 18, 19.

³² Sinco, *The Reformer*, Vol. III, *THE LAW REGISTER*, No. 6, pp. 1 & 6, April 1, 1958.

sides our entire student population will be accommodated in such a large auditorium during our weekly convocations. At present, at a well-attended convocation, the law theatre is filled to overflowing with one-third of our students hearing the speaker from the outside. It is this problem that the then Dean Sinco sought to remedy when he launched the drive for the construction of a U.P. Law Cultural and Social Center. The response in encouraging for within the brief span of time that the campaign has been waged, and in spite of the lack of publicity, some fifteen thousand pesos (P15,000.00) have already been collected and at present deposited in trust for the U.P. Law Cultural and Social Center.

A twin faculty-problem exists at the College. During their respective incumbencies and most vocal among them was Dean Sinco, several deans have espoused the cause of the overworked but under-paid full-time faculty members. A U.P. law professor's regular teaching load of 15 units per semester, or 15 hours a week is too heavy when compared with the five-unit load per semester of his counterparts in the U.S. in schools which are also members of the Association of American Law Schools. Thus, the U.P. law professors have practically no time for research. However, in all fairness, it may be mentioned that there are also some of our law professors who, on their own time, not on university time have, by their researches and publications, ably contributed to the advancement of legal education and legal literature in this country.

As advocated by Dean Sinco, shortly before he became U.P. President, the teaching load of the law professor should be reduced to say seven to ten units a semester, and his honorarium should be considerably increased, for in the University there must different rates of remuneration based on reasonable classification, for professors from professional colleges of the University should be entitled to salary scales different from and much higher than professors from non-professional colleges. Salary adjustments have been recommended by the WAPCO, revision and increase of salaries based as closely as possible on the recommendations of the Elliot-Packer Survey, and selective improvement of academic salaries in the light of the Hannah Report, are plans for the improvement of the lot of the U.P. professors, but they are still plans in blueprints. The much needed increase in compensation will solve the pressing problem of the retention of sufficient number of experienced full-time faculty members whose continuous presence in and service to the College are indispensable to the effective maintenance and improvement of the high standard and quality of an institution. The mental discipline, well-rounded training, character, experiences of and social esteem enjoyed by the law professor place him in great demand in the judiciary, in the legal departments of the Government offices, in the consular and diplomatic services, to mention a few, where the honorarium is relatively much higher.³³ Speaking on the low salaries of U.P. professors, the late President Bienvenido M. Gonzalez, while paying tribute to the personal sacrifice, loyalty, and idealism of the U.P. professor, was also mindful of the ever-growing family and the ever-rising cost of living; thus, he had always been a persistent advocate of salary increases of his subordinates.³⁴ Thus, the giving of higher compensation will enable the College to retain the services of the experienced faculty members and will avert their transfer to the other better-paying government positions; and the reduction of the teaching load will enable the law professors to devote more time to research and to

³³ J. A. Espiritu, *A Brief History of the College of Law*, *supra*, p. 37.

³⁴ 33rd Annual Report of the U.P. President to the Board of Regents, Academic Year 1945-46; and 35th Annual Report of the U.P. President to the Board of Regents, Academic Year 1947-48.

contribute more to the cause of legal erudition in our country. If these remedies be applied, then we can say that the twin faculty problem shall have found a satisfactory solution.

What has been written constitutes in a nutshell the brief history of the U.P. College of Law—its organization and development, its deans and faculty members, its re-establishment and rehabilitation, its activities and achievements, its reforms and innovations, and its principal problems at the moment. Indeed, this is a retrospection, or in the words of Dean George A. Malcolm, founder and former chronicler of the College—this is a narration of events depicting the manner by which the U.P. College of Law upholds its tradition of excellence, and by which the U.P. College of Law remains—first among the Colleges of the University, first in legal education among law schools of the Islands, and first in devotion to the Constitution and to the Republic.³⁵ With the justifiable pride and becoming humility of the faculty, student body, and alumni of the U.P. College of Law after such impartial portrayal and reappraisal of the College this writer brings to a close this never-ending chronicle of the U.P. College of Law in the performance of its principal missions of the inculcation upon the youth not only of the abstract law dogmas but also of the principles of good government and effective leadership under the rule of law!

BIENVENIDO C. AMBION **

³⁵ Message from Justice Malcolm, XXX PHIL. L. J., No. 1, p. 171, Feb., 1955.

³⁶ LL.B. (U.P.), LL.M. (Harvard); Professor, College of Law, University of the Philippines; and Faculty Editor of the *Philippine Law Journal*.