

The early years of the University of the Philippines School of Economics

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As a young and newly minted PhD, I arrived at Diliman in January 1967 on leave from the University of Wisconsin as part of a Ford Foundation financed loan of North American faculty to beef up the economics department. Amado was a central player in getting intellectual loans like me and using them so effectively.

Recently tenured, but only six years since my Stanford PhD, it was an exciting environment to set me firmly on a lifetime academic course. The UPSE was a great place to do it in the late 1960s, and Amado's leadership had put it together. Every day Pepe (José Encarnacion) showed me how important it was to maintain high academic standards and the value of institutional loyalty. And every day Gerry (Gerado Sicat) raised the research bar as he poured out working papers (and I tried to keep up the pace).

Young faculty recently recruited by Amado (with the help of Dodong Kintinar)—like Romeo Bautista, Mahar Mangahas, Edita Tan, and Rosa Linda Tidalgo—helped keep the seminars and hallways lively. As a young economist who specialized in economic history and development, being in a young department where debates about policy in fields different from my own made me a much better economist.

Some flatter me by saying I made an important contribution to the UPSE during my 15 months at the University of the Philippines, but I think it made a bigger contribution to me. I have never forgotten the gift, thanks to Amado.
