



Dr. Rolando V. del Carmen

October 16, 1930 - October 31, 2018

Rolando V. del Carmen died on October 31, 2018, from pancreatic cancer.

He was born on October 16, 1930, to a poor pastor and his wife in the southern Philippines. The third of ten children, del Carmen graduated as high school class valedictorian of Misamis Institute, then pursued his undergraduate degree as a working student at Silliman University, from which he received his Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Laws degrees. He was a Fulbright Scholar at Southern Methodist University, where he earned a Master of Comparative Law. del Carmen then returned to his homeland as professor; administrator; and outspoken, entertaining host of “Platters and Chatters,” a popular nationally broadcast political commentary radio program which found him interviewing such aspirants as the infamous Ferdinand Marcos. He later returned to the United States to earn a Master of Laws from the University of California-Berkeley, then a Doctor of the Science of Law from the University of Illinois-Champaign.

After beginning his stateside academic career at the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh, del Carmen joined the Sam Houston State University (SHSU) Criminal Justice Center faculty in 1974, driving his young family into Huntsville on the day of the Carrasco prison siege at the Texas Department of Corrections. During his 41 years at SHSU, he relished the opportunity to teach, research, prolifically publish, and mentor. He was, in return, awarded

numerous honors including being named Distinguished Professor, Piper Professor, and Regents' Professor; and is one of only three scholars to be recognized with all three top awards from the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences: the Founder's Award, Bruce Smith Sr. Award, and Academy Fellow Award.

del Carmen was ever grateful for the opportunities afforded him in life and enjoyed paying it forward, particularly by supporting scholarships both at SHSU and Silliman. At the latter, his philanthropic efforts culminated in the recent establishment of the Rolando Villanueva del Carmen Honor Hall, a dormitory where excellent and underprivileged scholars live and learn together free of charge.

del Carmen was preceded in death by his wife of 45 years, Josefa "Josie." He is survived by his second wife, Eryln; daughter Jocelyn (Chris) Tanabe, and grandchildren Josie and Linus of Palo Alto, CA; and stepson Joey Diao and family of Celebration, FL. He is also survived by siblings Divina Himaya, Cirilo DelCarmen, Jr., Grace Nishidera, Ben del Carmen, and Gloria Dechawan; and extended family on four continents.

A service celebrating del Carmen's life will be held on Monday, November 19, at 11:00 a. m. at the First United Methodist Church in Huntsville. Another memorial service will be held later in the Philippines. He will be interred at the Texas State Cemetery in Austin on Wednesday, November 21, at 11:00 a. m.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that in-memoriam donations may be made to the United Board for the support of Silliman University. Donations can be made online <https://donatenow.networkforgood.org/unitedboard> or checks, payable to "United Board for Christian Higher Education in Asia" (please indicate in memo line that this gift is in memory of Dr. Rolando del Carmen) can be mailed to either of two offices: The United Board for Christian Higher

Education in Asia, 475 Riverside Drive, Suite 1221, New York, NY 10115; or,
United Board for Christian Higher Education in Asia, 1/F, Chung Chi College
Administration Building, The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Shatin, New
Territories, Hong Kong.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

NOV **19**. 11:00 AM (CT)

First United Methodist Church
1016 Sam Houston Ave
Huntsville, TX 77320-3999
(936) 295-5441

Tribute Wall



“ *Dr. Rolando V. del Carmen*

November 15, 2022 at 08:33 PM



“ *I just learned of Prof. Del Carmen's death. I was a student of his in the late 90s. He forever changed my life with his classes. We used his text books at a previous college that I attended and he was one of the main reasons I chose Sam Houston State University to finish my degree. I took every class he taught. I am deeply saddened to hear of his passing and want to extend my deepest sympathies to his family and friends.*

Misty Abbott - May 11, 2019 at 12:02 PM



“ *I just learned of the death of Dr. del Carmen, a great teacher and influence for so many of us who had the high privilege of knowing him and learning from him.*

David Nelson - January 12, 2019 at 05:22 PM



“ *Rolando was, without question, the finest professor I had, either in college or law school. He was not just an academician, he was a friend to his students. Ironically, I sent him a thank you card in early October and it was returned a week before his death due to an incorrect address. He will be missed by so many people.*

Dave Colwin - December 22, 2018 at 06:48 PM



Charlotte
Efird

“ *Charlotte Efird sent a virtual gift in memory of
Dr. Rolando V. del Carmen*



Charlotte Efird - November 18, 2018 at 10:02 PM

“ *Silliman University is deeply saddened by the demise of Dr. Rolando Villanueva del Carmen, an outstanding alumnus and compassionate benefactor.*

Recipient of the Outstanding Sillimanian Award for Education in 1982 and conferee of a Doctor of Laws degree, honoris causa, from the university in 2016, Dr. del Carmen exemplified the Silliman spirit of excellence and service to others throughout his life. His Silliman awards added to the other honors bestowed on him by other entities, such as, the Academy Fellow Award in 1990, the Bruce Smith Sr. Award in 1997 and the Founders Award in 2005 from the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences, and the Regents Professor Award, the highest distinction from the Sam Houston State University of Texas, of which he was the first recipient.

Despite his illustrious career, he had remained modest and gracious, translating his achievements into an opportunity to impact on the lives of others in the Philippines and in the United States.

His latest gift to his alma mater, the Rolando Villanueva del Carmen Honor Hall inaugurated only last March, will be a lasting monument of his compassion and interest in the well-rounded education of Silliman students who demonstrate the capacity to excel. Not to be forgotten as well are the student scholarships, faculty fellowships, and grants to sustain and broaden the reach of legal advocacy work, particularly of the Dr. Jovito R. Salonga Center for Law and Development in Silliman University, the Silliman University Angelo King Center for Research and Environmental Management, the College of Business Administration, the Senior High School Program, and support for the University's Scholarship for high performing honor students.

We in the Silliman community – students, trustees, administrators, faculty and staff, and the network of Silliman alumni throughout the world – join his loving family in mourning the passing away of Dr. Rolando Villanueva del Carmen.

We thank God for sending him to Silliman University early in his life to nurture and develop into the exceptional person that he became, and for sending him back later on to be an instrument of hope for the next generations of Silliman students. We pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

Silliman University, Dumaguete City, Philippines

Silliman University - November 12, 2018 at 07:43 PM

NG

“*Jocelyn and family, I'm so sorry to hear of your loss. My thoughts and prayers are with you during this difficult time.*

—*Nancy Gajan (Gray)*

Nancy Gajan - November 07, 2018 at 01:42 PM

DB

“*On Wednesday morning, October 31, 2018, the criminal justice profession lost a great friend when Rolando del Carmen passed away following a courageous battle with cancer. While Dr. del Carmen has ceased to be with us in a physical sense, his legacy continues through the students he mentored who went on to become faculty members at institutions of higher learning or leaders in criminal justice agencies, the countless criminal justice professionals he trained at workshops and conferences, the vast body of scholarly publications, the financial support he has provided in terms of endowed scholarships, and through the enduring example of unselfish service he leaves behind. We are truly indebted to Rolando del Carmen. While we mourn his loss, we can take comfort in the knowledge that he is no longer suffering and that he is now enjoying the company of his Maker.*

Dan Richard Beto - November 01, 2018 at 07:11 PM