

**ROLANDO V. DEL CARMEN
(AB 53; LLB 56)**



**OUTSTANDING SILLIMANIAN AWARDEE
LEGAL EDUCATION, 1982**

Rolando V. del Carmen finished his B.A. and law degrees in the nineteen fifties at Silliman. He is one of ten children from a Protestant Evangelical pastor's family. His father, Cirilo del Carmen, was raised in Cebu City, attended the Union theological Seminary in Manila, and then served as pastor and moderator for several decades in the Northern Mindanao District Conference of the United Church of Christ in the Philippines.

Rolando started as a working student in the Silliman Cooperative Store on campus the day after he arrived at Silliman. Two years later he transferred to the office of Dr. Robert Silliman, who was Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. After finishing his law degree in 1956, he stayed on to teach Political Science and continue working in the College of Arts and Sciences Office. In 1960, he was awarded a combined Fulbright-Southwestern Legal Foundation scholarship to finish a master's degree in comparative law at Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas. He returned to Silliman after that year and served as Dean of Men and, briefly, as Acting Head of the Division of Student

Life. He was then asked by President Cicero Calderon to administer the College of Law; a holder of a Yale University doctoral degree in law, Dr. Calderon was College of Law Dean in addition to his title as President of Silliman. In 1966, Rolando was sent by the United Board for Christian Higher Education abroad to finish a doctoral degree in law. He went to the University of California at Berkeley, where he finished a master's degree in law, and then to the University of Illinois where he finished his Doctor of Jurisprudence (J.S.D.) degree.

While Rolando was writing his dissertation, President Marcos declared martial law in the Philippines. Rolando did not go back under those circumstances since his overseas education was in constitutional law and criminal procedure, both of which are irrelevant disciplines under martial law. He stayed in the United States and taught constitutional law courses at the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh. He obtained tenure there, but then moved to Texas in 1974 and taught law as a tenured professor in the College of Criminal Justice, Sam Houston State University. He retired from full-time teaching in 2011 after his first wife, Josie Flores, passed away.

Rolando has written more than 30 books and revisions and has authored and co-authored more than 80 scholarly articles with colleagues and students on various subjects related to law. His book, *Criminal Justice: Law and Practice*, is the best-selling textbook for years now on the subject in criminal justice programs throughout the United States and has been translated into various languages internationally. He is a rare recipient of all three major awards from the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences (the national and international organization for criminal justice professors). These are: the Academy Fellow Award, the Founders Award, and the Bruce Smith Award.

Through the years, Rolando has given back generously to his alma mater with his time, talent and material resources. His most recent and most visible gift to Silliman University is the Rolando Villanueva Del Carmen Hall, a dormitory exclusively for qualified honor students. It would provide free board and lodging for poor but gifted students who otherwise would not be able to afford to study and stay at Silliman University. The building was inaugurated and dedicated in March, 2018, in the presence of Dr. del Carmen and his wife Erlyn who both traveled back to Dumaguete for the occasion. In addition to the building, he pledged the sum of \$100,000 (about five million pesos a year in today's exchange rate) a year for four years in scholarships to Silliman. After that, the amount will be renegotiated up or down depending upon need and availability of funds.

In 1982, Silliman University awarded Rolando the Outstanding Sillimanian award in the field of Legal Education. He also received the Outstanding Law Alumnus Award several years later, and then **an *honoris causa*** doctorate in legal education in 2015. He is now retired and lives with his wife, Erlyn, in Huntsville, Texas. His only child, Jocelyn, graduated valedictorian from the Huntsville High School, *summa cum laude* from the University of Texas in Austin, and finished her medical degree at the Harvard Medical School. She currently practices medicine in Palo, California. Rolando has two grandchildren.