

The creation of the Oblation traversed two presidencies of the University. It started when in the early 1930s Guillermo Tolentino was called to the office of then UP President Rafael V. Palma (1923-1933) who requested him to translate the second stanza of José Rizal's *Mi Ultimo Adios (My Last Farewell)* into a monument which Palma conceived of to be an identifying landmark of the University.

In barricades embattled;
Fighting with delirium,
others donate you their lives
Without doubts, without gloom,
The site doesn't matter
Cypress, laurel or lily
Gibbet or open field,
combat or cruel martyrdom,
are equal if demanded
By country and home.

—Translation by Nick Joaquín

The monument was envisioned as an homage to both sung and unsung heroes who sacrificed their lives for the liberation of the land as well as a symbol to inspire the youth for grand and noble aspirations. Palma called the monument *Oblación* in Spanish, *Oblation* in the English language and *Paghahandog* in Tagalog.

Oblation, as a term, comes from the Late Latin *oblatio*, from *offerre, oblatum*, to offer. In ecclesiastical usage, it means a solemn offering or presentation to God and is applied to certain parts of the Eucharistic service in the Roman Catholic Church.

The word oblate is likewise an ecclesiastical term to refer to people who have devoted themselves or children who have been devoted by their parents to a monastic life. Given the etymology of what appears to be a religious term, UP's beloved icon debunks the notion that the University is a Godless institution.

Palma's choice for Tolentino to do the project did not only have to do with Tolentino's acclaim as a sculptor of the first calibre at that time, but proceeded also on Tolentino's renown as a Rizalist. And true enough, when Tolentino finished the sculpture, he did not only give shape to the second stanza of *My Last Farewell*, he also drew inspiration from another Rizal work, that of the opening stanza of *To the Filipino Youth* which goes thus:

Filipino Youth, now raise your novice brow
Display your wealth of graces, you who are
The fairest promise of my native land;
And may the Muse come winged to infuse
The noble thought that, swifter than the wind,
Will sweep the fledgling mind to seats of glory.

—Translation by Leon Ma. Guerrero

In capturing the essence of the verses and transforming them

into tangible form, Tolentino opted to depict it through the image of a completely naked human figure, a long adhered ideal of perfection tracing back to the ancient Greeks. The maestro submitted the final design to President Palma who was just too delighted to affix his stamp of approval.

When the statue was finally done in 1935, a fig leaf had been incorporated to conceal the exposed male genitalia in the original design. President Jorge C. Bocobo (1934-1939), equally fascinated with the work, succinctly suggested the addition of the fig leaf probably as a concession to the prevailing morality at that time.

Fashioned out of concrete and painted to simulate bronze, the Oblation was unveiled and dedicated on National Heroes Day, November 29, 1935, (some records put the date as November 11) by the Lakambini of the Katipunan, Gregoria de Jesus de Nakpil, the widow of Andrés Bonifacio, in ceremonies graced by President Manuel Luis Quezon and where President Bocobo extolled the spiritual value of the University symbol.

The symbolisms embodied in the Oblation have been articulated by Tolentino himself, who wrote:

The completely nude figure of a young man with outstretched arms and open hands, with tilted head, closed eyes and parted lips murmuring a prayer, with breast forward in the act of offering himself, is my interpretation of that sublime stanza. It symbolizes all the unknown heroes who fell during the night. The statue stands on a rustic base, a stylized rugged shape of the Philippine archipelago, lined with big and small hard rock, each and every one of which represents an island.

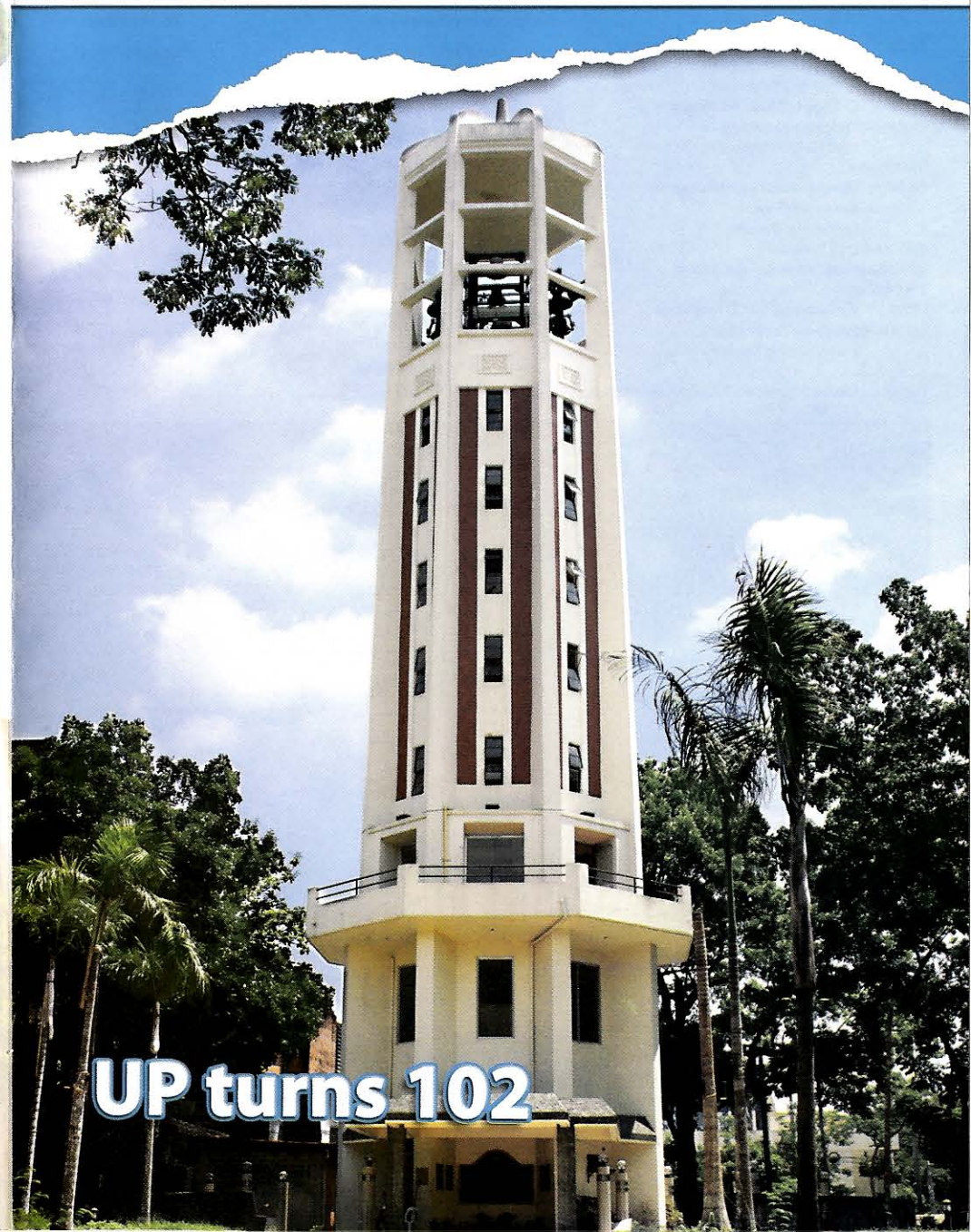
The *katakataka* (wonder plant) whose roots are tightly implanted on Philippine soil, is the link that binds the symbolized figure to the allegorical Philippine Group.

Katakataka is really a wonder plant. It is called *siempre vivo* (always alive) in Spanish. A leaf or a piece of it thrown anywhere will sprout into a young plant. Hence it symbolizes the deep-rooted patriotism in the heart of our heroes. Such patriotism continually and forever grows anywhere in the Philippines.

The 3.5 meter height of the statue stands for the 350 years of Spanish rule in the Philippines. The rocks on the base of the relic were taken from Montalban (Rizal) gorge, site of the fierce fighting between Filipino guerillas and the Japanese army during the Second World War.

What's UP?

JUNE 2010



UP turns 102



Yasmin Almonte, *Malcolm Hall*, 2008

EXHIBITS

Diliman: Tracing the Terrain: This exhibition traces the physical genesis of the flagship campus of the University of the Philippines in Diliman, from its inception in 1939 to the present via the original drawings, archival blueprints and other artifacts from the University's institutional collection.

The University of the Philippines in Diliman has proven to be a model of campus architecture and planning. It boasts a stylistically diverse ensemble of buildings and public art set in a landscaped environment – creating a milieu where thought and discourse freely take flight. This diversity is the result of the evolution of its campus plan, in face of changing architectural theories and styles, and as a manifestation of its dynamic and ensconced relationship with the concerns and events of the nation.

While the campus now has a number of landmark buildings by name architects and National Artists, its buildings do not operate as individual units, but as an ensemble, collectively creating spaces that are conducive to scholarly pursuit. The name Diliman may have originated from the edible species of fern which once thrived abundantly in the area, but now, the name Diliman is synonymous to architectural integrity and intellectual inspiration, due in large part to the University of the Philippines. A distinct sense of place has been created – a

venue that hones convictions, shapes values and nourishes critical minds and creative imaginations.

Dr. Gerard Rey A. Lico curates the exhibit.

Monochromed Memories: UP Landmarks Exhibition: The University of the Philippines (UP) turned a century old in 2008.

To mark the milestone, the Philippine Republic gifted the University, by way of an amendment of the very charter that created the institution in 1908, the status of being the national university in the Philippines for its trailblazing role in advancing the cause of higher education through excellent academic program, cutting edge research and exemplary public service.

From a small campus with seven colleges in downtown Manila, the University has grown today into a multiversity with seven constituent universities throughout the country, nurturing the intellectual and cultural growth of the Filipino people through the widest and most varied undergraduate and graduate degree offerings, and producing creative and intellectual outputs of the highest and finest calibre in the service of the nation, the region, and the world.

In memorialising this historic appointment, the Office

for Initiatives in Culture and the Arts (OICA) presents *Monochromed Memories: UP Landmarks Exhibition* consisting of prints, sketches, and drawings of campus landmarks done by alumni and student artists of the College of Fine Arts (CFA)—one of the pioneering units of UP and the oldest school of fine arts in the country.

The 35 drawings comprising the collection are handsome portraits of the University that generously depict its vastness and illustrious history. The collection foregrounds the University as a heritage educational site in the Philippines, presenting a rich legacy of buildings and artworks of national import and renown. Wall texts serve as contextual pivots in the continuing narrative of the University and the nation.

Prof. Rubén D.F. Defeo curates the exhibit.

Both exhibits open on June 18 at the Bulwagan ng Dangal and Atelyer, respectively. Exhibits run until September 15, 2010

Bound, Mirror Bomb and Yari: The University of the Philippines Jorge B. Vargas Museum (UPVM) simultaneously opens three exhibitions on June 18, Friday at 4 p.m. The exhibition *Bound* presents the works of Roberto Feleo, Jose Tence Ruiz, and Gaston Damag that explore the feeling of being suspended, or the state of transition between the past and the future, or the thin line that divides the normal and the berserk. Their projects take us to different moments of transcendence and defiance of gravity, free fall and whirling in space, on the one hand, and the inevitability of ground, the attachment to structure, on the other.

Kawayan De Guia's *Mirror Bomb* will be at the third floor with rotating disco balls suspended from the museum's ceiling. Together with reworked jukeboxes at the North wing and a video projection on the third floor landing, the suite of works

crafts for us the mirages prompted by the mosaic of light, violence and play.

Yari opens at the West Wing Gallery and features works by the ANINO Shadow play Collective, a group of multimedia artists committed to popularizing the art of shadow play in the Philippines. *Yari*, a Filipino term for "made," alludes to artists' creations using found materials recycled for ANINO's various productions. *Yari* in the vernacular loosely means "screwed up" too, a strain found in ANINO's interpretations of the political landscape and the paradoxes of Philippine society. Through critique, humor and the stealthy presence of shadows, the exhibit unmasks 'puppetry' and deception that keep society on a string. The silhouettes of Yari's projection on the museum's exterior glass wall magnify themes of transcendence, structure and transition evoked by works in *Bound* and *Mirror Bomb*.

Yari runs until 03 August 2010, while *Mirror Bomb* and *Bound* will be on show until December 2010. For more information, contact the UP Vargas Museum at (02) 928-1927 (direct line), (02) 981-8500 loc. 4024 (UP trunkline), or write vargasmuseum@gmail.com.

CONCERT

Handog Indak sa Freshmen: Ika-2 Yugto: With the success of the Handog Indak sa Freshman last year, the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, the Office for Initiatives in Culture and the Arts, the Colleges of Human Kinetics and of Music once again stage a welcome dance concert for the 2010-2011 freshmen dubbed Handog Indak sa Freshmen: Ika-2 Yugto on June 8, 2010, 3 pm, at the University Theater.

Featured performing groups are the UP Pep Squad, the UP Street Dance Club, the UP Filipiniana Dance Group, the UP Dance Society, the UP Dance Company, the UP Symphonic Band, the UP Kontra Gapi and the UP Perc Ensemble.



UP Dance Company



The fabled academic oval of UP Diliman provides the iskolar ng bayan the much need shelter from the scorching sun during summer.

June 2010

1, Tuesday
General registration for freshmen & graduating students

2, Wednesday
General registration for other students (until June 7)

4, Friday

07:00 NIMBB Groundbreaking Ceremonies
Site of former National Book Development Board

05:00 Luz Morete-Martinez students' recital
Aldaba Hall

5, Saturday

02:00 Free Lecture
Alternative Health Care
UP Abot-Kamay Para sa Kaunlaran Pampamayanan (UP AKKAP) in front of the UP Track Oval

7, Monday

08:00 College of Science Freshmen Orientation
NISMED Auditorium

06:00 ENG'GRANDENG Selebrasyon ng Sentenaryo: Gabi ng Kawani ng Kolehiyo
College of Engineering Lobby

8, Tuesday

Opening of Academic Year 2010-2011
Start of Classes

12:30 CAL Freshman Welcome Assembly
CM Recto Hall, Bulwagan Rizal

01:00 College of Music Freshman Welcome Assembly
Mini Hall, College of Music

03:30 *Handog-Indak sa Freshmen: Ikalawang Yugto*
University Theater

9, Wednesday

09:00 *Welkaman: CSWCD Freshman Welcome Assembly*
Bulwagan ng Tandang Sora

06:00 Dinner in honor of Dr. Ameurfina D. Santos
Executive House

10, Thursday

09:00 The 2nd Results-Based Monitoring & Evaluation Seminar
UP College of Architecture Building 2

06:00 Dinner in honor of Dr. Cristina Pantoja-Hidalgo
Vice President for Public Affairs (March 1, 2005- May 31, 2010)
Executive House

12, Saturday
Philippine Independence Day

02:00 Free Lecture
Food and Nutrition
UP AKKAP (in front of the UP Track Oval)

02:30 VMC Music Center 30th students' recital
Aldaba Hall

05:00 *The UP Eng'g Fraulein*
Launching of coffee table book "Women of Today"
UP Alumni Engineer's Centennial Hall (Eng'g Library 2)

13, Sunday

05:00 UP Alumni Engineer's Homecoming
Melchor Hall steps

14, Monday
Special holiday to commemorate Philippine Independence

15, Tuesday

01:15 Science Technology Society Seminar "An accelerated history of the universe" by Dr. Daniel Holz
College of Science Auditorium

16, Wednesday

Free Teacher Training: *Outsourcing Management*
UP ITTC, Vidal A. Tan Hall (until June 18)

01:00 CSSP Freshman Orientation
NISMED Auditorium

18, Friday
Deadline for filing of application for UPCAT for Metro Manila schools

08:00 Flag Raising Ceremony
102nd UP Foundation Day
Oblation Plaza, Quezon Hall

03:00 Celebrating 100 Years of the Department of English and Comparative Literature
CM Recto Hall, Bulwagan Rizal

04:00 *Bound, Mirror Bomb, and Yari*
Opening of three exhibitions
Vargas Museum

06:00 *Diliman: Tracing the Terrain*
Invitational Opening
Cocktail Reception
Bulwagan ng Dangal

Monochromed Memories: UP Landmarks
Invitational Opening
Cocktail Reception
Atelyer, Bulwagan ng Dangal

19, Saturday

09:00 21st Accounting for Non-Accountants Training
UPISSI, 3rd floor (until July 17, every Saturday)

02:00 Free Lecture
Household Cleaning Materials
UP AKKAP (in front of the UP Track Oval)

21, Monday
Curriculum Committee Meeting

College of Science Freshmen Week (until June 25)

Gaston Damag
Artist in Residency Program
College of Fine Arts (until June 27)

09:00 Freshman Orientation Program
Amorsolo Hall, College of Fine Arts

10:00 Org Fair
College of Science Atrium

22, Tuesday

Deadline for students to file application for graduation for 1st semester 2010-2011 graduates

Deadline for colleges to submit approved list of candidates for graduation for Summer 2010 graduates

05:00 "French Film Festival: Focus on Eric Rohmer"
Cine Adarna (also at 7 p.m.)

23, Wednesday

Free Teacher Training: *Open ERP: Logistics, Accounting & CRM, Sales & Purchasing*
UP ITTC, Vidal A. Tan Hall (until June 25)

05:00 "French Film Festival: Focus on Eric Rohmer"
Cine Adarna (also at 7 p.m.)

24, Thursday

05:00 "French Film Festival: Focus on Eric Rohmer"
Cine Adarna (also at 7 p.m.)

25, Friday
Deadline for filing of application for UPCAT for Non-Metro Manila schools

08:00 *UP Galingan Pa*
UPAA Alumni Council Meeting
Ang Bahay ng Alumni

05:00 Mr. and Ms. Freshman
Freshmen Acquaintance party
College of Science Atrium

26, Saturday

09:00 3rd Strategic Human Resource Management Training
UPISSI, 3rd floor (until July 24, every Saturday)

10:00 Dennis Ortega students' recital
Aldaba Hall

02:00 Free Lecture
Recycling Newspapers into Bags
UP AKKAP (in front of the UP Track Oval)

06:00 UPAA General Alumni & Faculty Homecoming
Ang Bahay ng Alumni

28, Monday

09:00 Distinguished Alumni Lecture Series
College of Engineering Theater

05:00 Asian Visions Film by Tsai Ming-Lang
Videotheque

29, Tuesday
Deadline for colleges to submit tentative list of candidates for graduation for 1st semester 2010-2011 graduates

Gaston Damag and Goetz Arndt Installations
Vargas Museum grounds (until July 29)

05:00 Asian Visions Film by Tsai Ming-Lang
Videotheque

30, Wednesday

07:00 Asian Visions Film by Tsai Ming-Lang
Cine Adarna

UP Naming Mahal/UP Beloved

The institutional anthem of the University entitled *UP Naming Mahal* was sung in its original *UP Beloved* English version for the first 50 years.

The original music and lyrics were the product of two separate contests conducted by the University in 1917 to capture the UP spirit, "capable of touching the heart and soul of every UP student and alumnus." The winning poem entitled *UP Beloved* was written by Teogenes Velez, a liberal arts student.

UP Beloved

UP Beloved
Thou Alma Mater dear
For thee united
Our joyful voices hear
Far tho we wander
O'er islands yonder
Loyal thy sons we will ever be
Loyal thy sons we will ever be

Echo the watchword
The red and green forever
Give out the password
To all our brave sons rare
Ring forth the message
Ring out the courage
All hail, thou hope of our dear land
All hail, thou hope of our dear land

Setting it to music was the winning composition of Nicanor Abelardo, then a student of the Conservatory of Music.

Put together, it was first sung by students of the Conservatory the same year with Abelardo himself at the piano. Since then, it has been known and sung as the University hymn with nary a revision, except when the original B Flat major composition, found too high for the average vocal range, was downscaled to G major by Professor Hilarion R. Rubio of the Conservatory of Music. The original tempo of eighty quarter notes in one minute, however, was maintained.

Fifty two years later, in 1969, during the incumbency of President Salvador P. López, another contest was put in place to translate *UP Beloved* into Pilipino. The screening committee, however, did not find any one translation "to be, in full, suitable to the hymn's musical accents nor literally acceptable." The committee came out with a composite poem culled from seven entries, submitted by Carlito R. Barril of the College of Agriculture; Conrado Galang of UP Baguio; C.P. Habito, also of the College of Agriculture; Bienvenido T. Miranda, then director of the Natural Science Research Center (now Institute); José L. Pelayo of the College of Engineering shops; Hilarion R. Rubio, then retired from the College of Music; Tomás N. Aguirre of the Department of Pilipino and Philippine Literature; and Severino S. Tabios, of the UP Los Baños Legal Office.

The screening committee was chaired by then music dean Ruby K. Mangahas, with the following members: Antonio Buenaventura, Felipe Padilla de Leon, Aurelio Estanislao and Regalado José.

UP Naming Mahal was first sung during the general commencement exercises on 11 April 1970.

UP Naming Mahal

UP naming mahal
Pamantasang hirang
Ang tinig namin
Sana'y inyong dinggin
Malayong lupain
Amin mang marating
Di rin magbabago ang damdamin
Di rin magbabago ang damdamin

Luntian at pula
Sagisag magpakailanman
Pagdiwang natin
Bulwagan ng dangal
Humayo't itanghal
Giting at tapang
Mabuhay ang pag-asa ng bayan
Mabuhay ang pag-asa ng bayan

Excerpted from *Bulwagan ng Dangal* by Rubén D.F. Defeo, *Pag-asa ng Bayan* commemorative brochure, 2009, pp. 6-7.



For many UP alumni, the University Hymn, whether in the English or Filipino version, becomes etched in their hearts, largely due to the chiming of the tune on campus by the carillon bells before sundown everyday.

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Schedules subject to change without prior notice. For confirmation of program schedules, please call OICA at 928-1928.

*The Vargas Museum is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. from Tuesday to Saturday.

Time in blue indicates ante meridiem (a.m.); in red, post meridiem (p.m.)