

MEMORIES OF 55 YEARS ASSOCIATED WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF GUAM 1967-2022

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Personal and Academic Background

Born and raised in an Iowa farm house with no running water or indoor plumbing, Dr. Lawrence “Larry” Kasperbauer - also referred to as “Dr. K” - remembers only being allowed one pair of shoes a year by the government because of the dire circumstances brought about during WWII. For a growing boy, a single pair of shoes could sometimes be pretty difficult because Larry would outgrow them within a few months! Still, he would put them on every morning and walk a mile to and from his one-room country school, which functioned without even the basic utilities. His school had one teacher, without a college degree, who would teach approximately 20 farm children in all grades and all subjects in one large room. He was a student there from kindergarten through 8th grade. Dr. K notes that he was the top student in his class and then explained that he was the only student in his class.

Remarkably, Dr. K’s parents encouraged their 9 children to go to college, knowing that they, themselves, were unable to financially support their children’s schooling. All nine attended college, 3 earned doctoral degrees.

It’s mentionable that Dr. K’s distinguished record of accomplishments in education and in promoting its critical importance on Guam were first yet conceived by a striking and indelible comment made to him as a youth by his mother, who along with his father, had an 8th grade education.

Dr. K remembers his mother telling him that in order to survive through any future major economic depression, like the one they experienced during the 1930’s when he was a child, Larry should become a teacher as there **would always** be a need for teachers because children **would always** need to go to school for an education.

In addition to being on multiple sports teams such as football, basketball, and track, Larry also played the tuba for his high school marching band, and the sousaphone for the concert band. In his senior year of high school, Larry was president of the student body, and also remained active as a member the National Honor Society, Future Farmers of America, and a 4H club. After he graduated, Larry was fortunate enough to be awarded a scholarship to attend Iowa State University. He majored in agriculture education.

Larry met his wife-to-be while in his senior year of college. Carmen Artero from Agana Heights, Guam, was the roommate of Larry’s sister, Marian. Both were attending nursing school in Carroll, Iowa. Larry and Carmen married in November 1958, with Larry earning his master's degree in school administration and supervision less than a year later. As Larry was working

toward his PhD and teaching at ISU, a land grant university, he and Carmen became parents of 4 children, which included twins. In 1963, Larry accepted a teaching position as an assistant professor in Sociology at Canisius College in Buffalo, New York. Two years later, he was awarded his PhD in Rural Sociology with a first minor in higher education and a second in statistics from ISU.



Kasperbauer Family 1966

While at Canisius College in 1966, Dr. K received a call from College of Guam president, Dr. Antonio C. Yamashita, who at the time was attending a meeting in Washington DC. He had apparently learned of Dr. K and his tie to the island of Guam - Carmen. Several months later, Dr. K received a contract to join the College of Guam at the rank of full professor of sociology. He, his wife, Carmen, and their now 5 children, all traveled to Guam where Dr. K would begin his employment there on June 7, 1967. During that time a federal security clearance was still required for entry into Guam. It's interesting to note that in that same year, Dr. K had received a contract offer to teach at the University of Hawaii but turned it down to move to Guam.

Dr. K remembers that at the time he agreed to the 2-year contract with COG, the government of Guam provided first class tickets for all 7 family members (plus, return tickets after the second academic year), moving expenses, and subsidized housing (\$65.00 per month). The population of Guam at the time totaled 53,744 of which 81.3% were identified as Guamanian, 5.9% as state-siders, 7.3% Filipino, and 3.8% as other.

Dr. K's Beginnings at the College of Guam

When he started working at COG as a sociology faculty member, the then tuition-free college, had only moved from its original site in Mongmong five years before. Two years earlier, it had also just received its initial accreditation to grant 4-year degrees. His office was located on the second floor of Building B. His office mate was Paul Carano, who became the first director of the Micronesian Area Resource Center also known as MARC.



Paul Carano 1967

Dr. K was appointed chairman of the social sciences division, which interestingly, had no departments. Instead there were subject areas such as sociology and anthropology, economics, political science, history, geography, philosophy, and psychology. In addition to these courses being taught by faculty at the Mangilao campus, they were also teaching them at satellite

locations which included: Andersen Air Force Base, Naval Communication Station, Navy Hospital, Big Navy, and Naval Air Station. Professor Scott Wilson, at that time, was the only Sociology/Anthropology instructor and was happy to have an additional faculty member to teach the classes.

As he recalls, in order to align COG's organizational structure with its counterparts in the U.S. mainland, Dr. K felt that actual departments for each of the course areas would need to be created out of that one social sciences division. Interestingly, Dr. K remembers that all he did to create the needed departments was simply write a memo to the president. The memorandum did not have to go through committees for approval. He requested President Yamashita include in the annual budget funding for the proposed departmental faculty positions. Dr. K remembers the president telling him that to get that much extra funding would surely "sink the ship." Despite his concern, the money for new hires at COG was approved.

In 1968, Dr. K was appointed Dean of the School of Education, which later that year became the *College* of Education. The change in names came after COG officially became the University of Guam. He served in that position until 1974. During Dr. K's time as Dean of COE, he initiated and facilitated the relocation of the teacher training scholarship program from the Student Affairs Office, headed by Jack Guerrero, to COE. During this time there was a major teacher shortage on Guam. Every year, planes were filled with off-island teacher recruits to work in Guam's public schools. One of the main reasons Dr. K was appointed Dean of COE was to help increase the number of local teacher hires. The scholarship program would help encourage residents to become teachers by paying tuition, books and other fees, and providing each student a stipend. Graduates under this program were obligated to work one full school year on island in order to pay down a year of the scholarship.

The success of the COE during his tenure is credited to the cooperation and support among the office staff and faculty of the College. Specifically, Dr. Lorraine Yamashita, who transferred from a teaching position at George Washington High School to the COE and served as the director of the Teacher Training Scholarship Program. Dr. K also remembers his COE support staff: Ann Delgado, Ruth Aguon, Evelyn Quintanilla, Mary Mababayag, Mary Toves, and Pete Lapata, who were all instrumental in achieving the goals of the College of Education during Dr. K's time there.

In 1967, the faculty and their classrooms were all located in Buildings A & B, which each had two levels. On the ground level of Building B at the time were the offices of President Yamashita, Vice President Alex Flores, and Dr. John Houk, Dean of the School of Arts and Sciences. The rooms had aluminum louvers and, other than the president's office, had no air conditioners or fans. Behind the buildings there was a coral road. When it was windy, the wind would sweep the coral dust right into the classrooms. The same thing would happen with the rain. It was not uncommon for female students with children to bring them along to their classes.

During the classes, the door was generally kept open for air circulation and the children could always be seen going in and out of the room to play in the hallway. Around this same time, still in '67, the marine lab and the library were under construction. The science building and student center were nearly completed. Without extra space, a classroom in Building B was converted

into an office area for new education faculty, who all had their doctorate degrees. The head of maintenance at that time, Joe Unpingco, and his crew constructed desks for the new faculty. They were made of 2x4 wooden frames with a 4x8 piece of plywood laying on top. The faculty never complained.

During his tenure at UOG, Dr. K served as Dean of Education, Assistant Vice President, Acting Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences; and as the Director of the Community Development Institute (CDI) of the College of Agriculture.

Post-doctoral Studies

In the mid-80's, Dr. K completed post-doctoral coursework in public policy education at the Minnesota State University. He also did his post-doctoral studies in Gerontology at the University of Missouri as well as at the internationally renowned Gerontology Center at the University of Southern California. This led to the development of the University of Guam's course on gerontology, which he co-taught with Dick Prelosky.

Involving Island Mayors in Teacher Recruitment Effort

While Dr. K served as COE Dean he constantly looked for ways to encourage more students to become education majors. One of his original ideas was to involve island mayors in the process. Dr. K had on-campus meetings with all the village leaders once a month for an hour to discuss and update them on COE's quest to train and hire more teachers. As a result, the mayor of Santa Rita went door to door talking with parents who had children that were high school graduates. The mayor encouraged them to talk to their children about attending the University of Guam and training to become teachers. Because of this mayor's efforts, a number of them became teachers, many filling needed positions in special education.

COE Continues to Help Guam's Public Schools

In addition to all of his other duties with the College of Education, Dr. K still ensured that Guam's teachers received needed training. He wrote grant proposals and submitted them to then Director of Education, Franklin Quitugua. These grants provided funding for up to 6 off-island faculty to come to UOG and teach summer courses primarily for in-service education for DOE teachers. Needless to say, the summer classes at UOG were full of DOE teachers and administrators because of this special program. One of the visiting professors was Dr. Alan Brown from Arizona State University, who taught special education, at the conclusion of his summer teaching, invited two of his students to pursue their master's degrees in SPED at ASU and offered them scholarships. Dr. Brown continues his relationship with Guam and the University to this day.

Special Lesson in PNG Culture

Dr. K remembers being sent to the southern part of Papua New Guinea in the mid-70's on University business. He, along with a medical student from Australia, stayed in a village near Port Moresby. He remembers that half of the people lived in homes on stilts above the ocean.

There was no transportation or real roads that led in and out of the village and all the villagers walked barefoot. This is why Dr. K took great interest in a farm tractor that he saw parked under a tree. When he asked one of the villagers why it was there and not being used, the simple response he received was, "It has no gas." Dr. K discovered that the tractor was donated by a foreign government. Because people did not use vehicles as there were no roads, there was no need for gas.

Sports Program and Facility

President Yamashita created a committee to make recommendations concerning athletics at the University and appointed Dr. K, who was already the University's Athletic Council Chairman, to lead. The committee was comprised of 5 members. Aside from Dr. K, others included: Joe Paulino, Head of the UOG PE program; Karen Carpenter, UOG Home Economics Extension Program, College of Agriculture; Attorney Jim Brooks; and PDN sports reporter, Stan Prozesky. They met every Saturday morning to discuss the University's interest in further developing athletics, specifically their basketball program. UOG sports at the time already included football, tennis, and baseball. While their basketball team was exceptional (winning games against military teams), interestingly, UOG did not have a gymnasium on campus. In the University's efforts to support their basketball program, the Committee recommended that a campus field house with basketball courts was needed and recommended that funding be sought. The need for funding was mentioned to Audrey Camba, Director of the UOG Federal Grants Office. Frank Stotts was the UOG basketball coach at the time and had developed outstanding teams that also competed against other teams in Asia. Under the leadership of Coach Harold Shiroma, UOG also had an outstanding football team. Without a UOG football field, games were played at George Washington High School and the Navy and Air Force bases. Following a game at Naval Communication Station (NCS), Dr. K and his family, who lived across the base, hosted the entire team to celebrate their win with a barbecue dinner held in their backyard.

Academic Calendar Reworked to Accommodate Students

During his tenure as the Dean of the College of Education, Dr. K remembers there was only one commencement ceremony a year. This proved to be an issue, he would soon find out, for education majors who completed their requirements for graduation at the end of the first semester and were immediately hired to begin teaching in Guam's public schools. He recollects that they were unhappy because while they had completed their education and began working in the schools, they still did not have their degrees. They would have to wait another half-year to receive them! The administration concurred with Dr. K's request to have two commencement ceremonies a year - addressing the students' concerns. Today, UOG continues to hold two graduation ceremonies annually. It is interesting to note that before the field house was constructed, commencement exercises were held at places including the Cathedral Basilica, San Vicente Church, Naval Station, and the lawn in front of the UOG RFK Library.

In the 70's, the fall semester ended in January. At the time, Dr. K served as Assistant Vice President. He learned that a number of students from the outer islands of Micronesia could not complete their fall semester because if they returned to their home during the UOG Christmas break, they found it difficult to get back in time due to the infrequent boat schedule. He brought

the situation to the attention of Vice President Andrew Shook and President Yamashita, and as a result, the fall semester was eventually changed to conclude before the Christmas break and continues to this day.

Leon Guerrero College of Business

In 1997, the UOG administrators and members of the Board of Regents seemed to be having difficulty finding approximately \$10-12 million to build their desired new College of Business (COB) building. A College of Business Advisory Committee was formed to help locate the funds, which would be in addition to a \$2 million donation made by the Jesus and Eugenia Leon Guerrero family. Now, it just so happened that Dr. K, at the time, had begun his first term as a senator and chaired the Committee on Education. COB Advisory Committee members, which included Dr. K's son, Steve, a local businessman; Dr. Wilfred Leon Guerrero, former UOG president; Current UOG Senior Vice President and Provost, Dr. Anita Enriquez; and Joe Diego, Sr., a businessman, requested a meeting with Senator and Education Committee Chair Kasperbauer seeking his guidance. Senator Kasperbauer shared with them the history of how USDA helped to fund the field house and asked if the Committee had considered the federal agency. At that point, they had not. Soon after, the Committee connected with the agency about possibly financing the brand new College of Business building. Needless to say, the meetings were successful, with USDA granting more than \$10 million for the project.

Some History About Dean's Circle

The residential housing area adjacent to the UOG campus was built shortly after the original classrooms, offices, and other buildings. It had been initially designated as housing for off-island, contract-hired faculty, administrators, and their families. Dr. K learned later that it became known as Dean's Circle because a number of deans (Shook, Houk, Sparks, and Owings) resided there. In the late 1970's, it became offices and research centers. The Community Development Institute of the College of Agriculture Extension Service was among the many offices relocated from Dorm 1 to Dean's Circle. CDI was then located in houses #4 and #5. Upon the completion of the CALS building in 1994, its faculty was relocated to the new building. Dr. K, along with his secretary, Elaine Cepeda, assisted with the architectural layout of the Cooperative Extension Community Development Office section located on the second floor. Interestingly, he pointed out that he retired from UOG several months prior to CALS faculty and staff moving in.

Latte Stones at UOG

In late '67 or early '68, Dr. Blair Sparks, Dean of the School of Education, had access to the U.S. military bases and arranged for latte stones to be moved to the UOG campus. They were placed near the library.

Artwork on Fine Arts Building

In the 1970's, art professor Joe Kagle and his class constructed a large piece of artwork using styrofoam and concrete. A styrofoam mold of the art design was used and cement was poured

into it creating the art piece we see today that is attached to the wall of the Fine Arts Building, facing in the direction of Dean's Circle.

Alumni Association Beginnings

In 1975, President Yamashita appointed Dr. K as the University of Guam's Alumni Association Director. Dr. K remembers that their initial event was quite successful. It was held at the Government House with more than 100 alumni joining and Board of Regents Chair, local businessman, Mark V. Pangilinan, donating \$1,000 to get the Association going. The late Jimmy Dee volunteered to sing during the event - at the request of alumnus, Wilfred P. Leon Guerrero. The late Jim Underwood, also a UOG alumnus, became the president of the Association. Later, Underwood would become a senator.

UOG National Honor Society Chi Omicron Gamma

In December 1967, Chi Omicron Gamma or "COG" - which interestingly coincides with the abbreviation for College of Guam - was established as a college-wide honor society by President Yamashita and Professor Margaret Alstrom. During the first year of the membership was composed primarily of faculty and administrators, which included Dr. K. The following year, select juniors, seniors, and graduates were inducted into the Society. The induction ceremonies were held at hotels and were very well attended by the inductees and their families. The organizational meeting was held on the second floor of the newly constructed building which became the RFK library. The original library was located in one room of the administration building (which faces the Marine Lab and ocean). Dr. K still has a copy of the list of Chi Omicron Gamma's first inductees.

The Significance of UOG Being a Land-grant Institution

Over the decades, Dr. K has informed faculty, students, parents, farmers and others about the significance of UOG's land-grant status. This status has 3 basic functions which are teaching, research, and community service. It was in 1972 that UOG went from a primarily teacher education university to a land-grant institution.

Even after his retirement from UOG, Dr. K, who at this time chaired the legislative committee on education, continued to promote the land-grant status to Board of Regents nominees. He would issue them a 2-3 page history of land-grant universities and then quizzing them on their knowledge of the origin and history during their legislative confirmation hearings. According to Dr. K, the reason he continued to bring awareness to incoming Board of Regents members was because they generally had limited knowledge of the 3-pronged land-grant status. Having attended and served as an instructor and research associate at Iowa State University, the first land-grant university, Dr. K has always felt an obligation to promote the significance of this very special status. Only one university or college in each state or territory can receive land-grant status. Guam's was designated by the United States Congress.

Parliamentary Procedure

Leadership training has been a normal way of life for Dr. K since his teenage years. In his 4H and Future Farmers of America program while in high school, he was taught parliamentary procedure and was able to practice principles in his agriculture classes. He would later be elected president of his high school. While majoring in Agricultural Education at Iowa State University, he, along with other students in his major, would conduct workshops in parliamentary procedure to various organizations in the community. His exposure and training in parliamentary procedure could be one of the reasons Dr. K has been elected to a number of leadership positions.

Nursing Majors Get Assistance

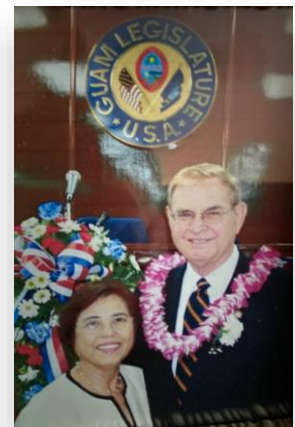
Dr. K continued to support the University even while a senator (after he retired from UOG). One piece of legislation that he authored makes it quite evident that his relationship with UOG was still very relevant to him. Dr. K's law initiated a training scholarship program for nursing majors that would make them eligible to receive free tuition, an allowance for books, cover their fees, as well as provide a stipend. All would be paid back year for year. This means that newly graduated nurses would be obligated to work on Guam for a year for each year of schooling. Dr. K, a former Dean of the College of Education, was familiar with the teacher training corps, which he also helped develop for education majors years before.

Needed Schools Built

With "Education is the Way" in mind, the former senator of 10 years authored numerous laws that supported UOG and the Guam Community College as well as the public school system.

During his campaign pocket meetings in the northern region of Guam, he remembers how parents would voice their concerns with the school bussing system. Specifically, the parents explained that their very young children, who in this case were from Agafa Gumas, would have to ride the bus to their elementary school which was far from their home (the school was near the Andersen Air Force Base back gate). Dr. K worked closely with then Governor Carl Gutierrez to build Machananao Elementary School in Agafa Gumas.

As a senator and educator, Dr. K was well aware that no new schools had been built for quite a number of years. This was a critical issue for the growing student population in Northern Guam. To this end, he authored legislation which led to a new concept in school construction for Guam. The approach allowed construction companies, including stateside ones, to lease proposed school sites and then design, build and maintain the schools for GovGuam, which would pay them back over 20 years. As a result, Okkodo High School, Adacao Elementary School, Astumbo Middle School, and Liguana Elementary were built. This immediately relieved the excessive bussing of the students and allowed students to attend school closer to their homes.



Senators Carmen & Larry 1997

The new approach to financing construction allows companies to initiate building immediately, avoiding delays which, in the case of Southern High School, led to millions more in costs. This same concept is being used today to construct new buildings on the island.

Helping UOG Even After Retirement

As a senator, Dr. K authored legislation that granted senior citizens the ability to attend UOG tuition-free. In addition, he also wrote the law that allowed students graduating from Guam High School, a DODEA school, the same privileges afforded to students from other island schools to attend UOG.

Special Research Projects

Among a number of empirical research projects conducted by Dr. K, one included his study on Filipinos living on Guam. He was invited to present his findings on Filipino migration at a special forum held at the East West Center in Honolulu, Hawaii. In addition, he also published a study on employment and unemployment on Guam. The island wide study employed approximately thirty (30) interviewers. Another empirical research project conducted by Dr. K focused on the elderly population on Guam. Other works of writing by Dr. K can be found at the RFK Library and the Micronesia Area Research Center.

Dr. K is a former member of the University of Guam's Research Council and served as the Chairman for two terms.

Since being granted professor emeritus status in 1994 by the UOG Board of Regents, Dr. K has been an active SEPRS and held a secretary, vice president, and president positions. During his tenure as an officer, the Emeritus Wall of Honor was developed, the scholarship program initiated, and the current member nomination process revised. This change has resulted in a renewed interest in retiring faculty and administrators in becoming members of the Emeritus Society. In 1974, Pauline Harvey, an art professor at UOG, was the first retiree granted emeritus status. The Wall of Honor is located on the second floor of the Emeritus Hall building, which is adjacent to the Micronesia Area Research Center.



SEPRS Wall of Honor

Through the years, Dr. K has received numerous distinctions including his induction into the Guam Educators Hall of Fame in 2005, the UOG School of Education Lifetime Achievement Award in 2020, and the Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi in 2021.

Included in Dr. K's service to the community of Guam, he has been president of the Agana Heights Parent Teacher Association (PTA), Island Rams Football Association; commissioner, Guam Youth Football League (GYFL); president, vice president, and secretary, Rotary Club of Guam; president, NCS Community Association; member, Dededo Municipal Planning Council;

president, Agana Beach Condominiums; president, Guam Girl Scouts; officer, Astumbo Catholic Family Mission; member and secretary, Western Rural Development Land Grant Universities Advisory Council - Corvallis, Oregon; member, Education Certification Commission; president, Guam Running Club (GRC); member, Emeritus Membership Rural Sociology Society of America; Emeritus member, Phi Delta Kappa Education Honor Society; chair, member, Guam Territorial Board of Education; president, Holy Names Society of the Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church of Agana Heights; Board of Directors, SIAS International University Foundation (Zhengzhou, China); Senator (24th-28th Legislatures); Vice Speaker; Acting Legislative Speaker; and Acting Lt. Governor of Guam.

Dr. K has also served as a member of the National School Boards Association. He was one of two representatives for the Pacific region, which included 9 western states and Guam. At the time, he served as the Chairman of Guam's Board of Education.

At the Regional level, he helped organize and was a charter member of the Association of Pacific Islands Boards of Education.

During Dr. K's time with the Western Rural Development Center's Advisory Council, he and his wife, Carmen, were part of the team that conducted training for Cooperative Extension agents in Alaska and the Pacific islands. The focus on it was called "Cross-reach," which helped extension agents to work more effectively with people of different cultures.

Throughout the past 55 years, as a faculty/administrator and Emeritus, Dr. K has special memories of having worked with numerous administrators, faculty, staff, and students. Some of the administrators included four presidents: Antonio Yamashita, Pedro Sanchez, Wilfred Leon Guerrero, and Harold Allen. Some faculty and staff, in addition to those mentioned earlier, include: Arsenia "RC" Procolla, Ulla Craig, Randy Workman, Victor T. Artero, Bob and Ruby Stahlnecker, Hiro Kurashina, Becky Stephenson, Leonardo M. Rapadas, Bob and Cynthia Sajnovsky, Anita Williams, Gloria Peckens, Lou Klitzkie, Troy McVey, and David Okada.

Dr. K's advice for current and future faculty and administrators is to keep in mind that UOG is a land-grant institution and that we should never undervalue any of its 3 equal missions of teaching, research, and community service. Additionally, he believes that while we are a part of the U.S. university system, Guam's very special and unique cultural and socio-economic needs must not be overlooked.



Larry Kasperbauer 2022