

**IN MEMORIAM: PROF. ROLANDO M. GRIPALDO, Ph.D.**



1947-2017

I met Dr. Rolando M. Gripaldo way back in April 1995 during the National Conference of the Philosophical Association of the Philippines (PAP) wherein we were both elected as officers of the PAP. In 1999 I would be elected as President of PAP and he would be re-elected as member of the Board. Since then we were together in many activities and projects in philosophy. When the Philippine National Philosophical Research Society (PNPRS) was established he invited me to be one of its early members. Since then we work together for PAP and PNPRS and were together in many conferences both local and abroad.

In June 1995, he invited me to teach at the De La Salle University (DLSU) and for the next eight years I taught there as part time faculty. Dr. Grips as we fondly call him encouraged me to focus on research and attend and present papers not only in local conferences but also abroad and publish my articles in reputable journals as he regularly did. So we were together in many conferences abroad, however, these academic travels became less frequent when he retired from DLSU. In 2006-2008 we co-edited the three- volume monographs of the PAP; that was the first time I worked with him on editing articles and publishing academic works. In 2012 after I decided not to run for President of the PAP he asked me to join him in PNPRS as Vice Executive Governor and then recruited me to be part of the editorial board of *Philosophia* and eventually I became one of its Associate Editors.

Dr. Gripaldo is a tireless scholar. Even after his retirement he never stopped reading, writing, lecturing or presenting papers and publishing. He continued to be the Governor of PNPRS and the Editor-in-chief of *Philosophia*, roles and positions that I felt then he would one day leave to me. When I became the Executive Vice Governor of PNPRS and Associate Editor of *Philosophia* he started to train me on the tasks attached to these positions. He would send me several articles for review and editing and would ask me to return them to him in two-week time. He delegated to me the task of organizing the conferences and lecture series of the PNPRS. As many know, PNPRS and *Philosophia* are the other half of his life, the other half being his family. Despite his rather demanding attitude when it comes to work, Dr. Gripaldo is a gentle and fun loving person. Even when he is serious with his tasks in PNPRS and *Philosophia* which we could actually say the center of his academic life especially upon his retirement, he enjoyed conversations over a bottle of beer and could laugh at the

jokes of others and even at his own expense. I always enjoyed his company in our travel abroad because he could be an easy-go-lucky and ordinary guy. He is a supportive mentor and colleague and very simple in his ways. One can argue and not agree with him on certain terms but he will never take it personally against the other person. We argued many times in PNPRS but he never took it personally. He would never take the center stage and drive attention to himself. In our conferences and lectures he is often seated at the back listening or taking pictures of the proceeding.

Dr. Gripaldo earned his Master of Arts in Philosophy with specialization in Anglo-American Analytic Philosophy focusing on Philosophy of Language and John Searle at the University of the Philippines in 1975. He obtained his Ph.D. in Philippine Studies with specialization in Filipino philosophy also at the University of the Philippines in 1984. He also obtained a Master in Public Administration degree from the Mindanao State University in 1987. Dr. Gripaldo is a leading scholar in Filipino philosophy as shown by his numerous articles/publications on Filipino philosophy.

This issue of *Philosophia* is dedicated in his honor and memory. How PNPRS and *Philosophia* has transformed into what they are now, PNPRS being one of the most active and productive philosophical associations in the Philippines and *Philosophia* as a credible and reputable international journal of philosophy is a testament to his passion for scholarship and philosophy. *Philosophia* as an internationally recognized philosophy journal is his brainchild, and we, in the Editorial Board, are honored to continue his work and legacy.

Jove Jim S. Aguas