

## **GILBERTO L. GAMEZ (1922-2001)**

Dr. Gilberto Gamez was born on February 27, 1922 in Lal-lo, Cagayan. He lost his lawyer father at the tender age of four and was raised by his mother and elder brother. He lived a very simple and frugal life. He graduated valedictorian in both elementary and high school at the Cagayan Valley Institute in Aparri. In 1938, he was introduced to Father Eugenio Jordan, O.P., who was then the Rector Magnificus of the University of Santo Tomas. He served as “famulo”, Latin for servant, to the Dominican priests while taking up Liberal Arts in UST. He graduated summa cum laude with a degree of Bachelor of Arts in 1943 at the height of the Japanese occupation. He wanted to further take up law but the Japanese imperial army closed schools for law at the time. Fr. Angel de Blas, who was then Dean of the College of Liberal Arts in UST, advised the young Gilberto to take up Medicine instead. He did, and concurrently taught in liberal arts. During this time, he was likewise a member of the editorial board of the Varsitarian. He later took his internship at the Santo Tomas University Hospital where he was voted as the most outstanding intern in his time. He completed his medical education at the Faculty of Medicine and Surgery in 1949, graduating cum laude. During the term of Father Angel de Blas as Rector Magnificus, Dr. Gamez became one of the first residents in the Institute of Neuropsychiatry in 1950 while also training in Internal Medicine at UST. After completing his residency in Medicine at the UST Hospital, he underwent specialty training in Psychiatry at the Universidad Central de Madrid under Juan Lopez Ibor and later residency specialty training in Neurology at the Neurological Institute of New York under the tutelage of H. Houston Merritt and Sidney Carter. Upon the advice of Dr. Carter, he went to Louisville, Kentucky to train under Dr. Ephraim Roseman after completion of his Neurology residency training in Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center.

In 1955, Dr. Gamez came back to the Philippines together with his wife Dr. Luz Alisangco-Gamez to set up both of their practices in Manila. In 1959, he went back to the United States to take the specialty board examinations conducted by the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology. He holds the distinction of being the first non-American to pass the said board certification examinations. In 1962, Dr. Gamez, together with Neurology colleagues in Asia, co-founded the Asian and Oceanian Association of Neurology. In 1968, he petitioned the University of Santo Tomas to establish the Department of Neurology and Psychiatry, which Fr. Jesus Diaz, UST rector at the time, enthusiastically approved. Highly respected in Neurology and Psychiatry, Dr. Gamez was a founding member and first president of the Philippine Neurological Association and chaired both the Philippine Specialty Board of Neurology and the Philippine Board of Psychiatry. Dr. Gamez taught Neurology and Psychiatry at

the Faculty of Medicine and Surgery of the University of Santo Tomas for 36 years, during which time he was Chairman of the Department of Neurology and Psychiatry, Dean of the Faculty of Medicine and Surgery, and Member of the Board of Trustees of the University. When he retired from active teaching, UST honored him with the rank of Professor Emeritus in 1992, which he rightly deserved for his long, committed, dedicated and distinguished service to the advancement of medical education of the country in general, and his alma mater in particular. The academic community also voted Dr Gamez as one of the 400 outstanding alumni during UST's quadricentennial celebrations in 2011. Dr Gamez passed away in September 2, 2001. He was survived by his wife and seven children. Since 2002, the Philippine Neurological Association has been hosting the Professor Gilberto L. Gamez Memorial Lecture during the annual convention to honor its founding president, and to recognize his enormous contribution to the development of Philippine neurology.

