
With Our Contributors



CHED Commissioner Nenalyn Palma Defensor, is concurrently Chairperson of the Coordinating Council for Accreditation and of the Board of Regents or Board of Trustees of twenty-two state colleges and universities. She holds a BSE degree **cum laude** from West Visayas State University, as well as masteral degrees in Guidance and Counseling at the Ateneo de Manila University, in National Security Administration from the National Defense College of the Philippines and completed the academic requirements for a Master of Arts in Education (major in Child Study and Development) from the WVSU, all obtained as a scholar. She earned her Doctorate in Education (major in Educational Management) at the Philippine Women's University where she was an awardee for academic excellence and went on to enroll in selected courses for a Ph.D. in Counseling Psychology at the DLSU.

Dr. Defensor was a Visiting Scholar, University of South Australia, a Colombo Plan Scholar to Japan; an Asia Foundation Fellow to the United States, a British Council Fellow to the United Kingdom and a Visiting Fellow to China. She has always been both a teacher and an administrator in different educational institutions for the past years – at the University of the Philippines where she is still a professor of educational administration to date – at the PWU and at the Assumption College. Equally, she has advised Presidents, Vice-Presidents and academic deans of colleges and universities in their dissertations, aptly making her professor of professors.



Melissa Alma R. Orenca, an Associate Professor handling professional education courses at the College of Education, has been connected with PNU for the past 10 years. She currently serves as the Director of the Center for Educational Technology and Distance Education and has been involved with e-Learning since 2003. A Faculty Master Trainer of the Intel Teach Pre-Service Program in the Philippines, she is a recipient of a

Teacher Recognition Award by the Filipino-Chinese Federation of Business and Professional Women of the Philippines in 2003. At present, she serves as the Secretary of the Reading Association of the Philippines as well as a Board Member of the Philippine Association for Teachers of Educational Foundations among other professional organizations. Prof. Orencia holds a Master's Degree in Reading Education from the PNU and a BS degree, major in Psychology, from Xavier University, Ateneo de Cagayan.



René R. Belecina, Associate Professor of Mathematics and Mathematics Education at Philippine Normal University, completed his Bachelor of Science in Education, major in Mathematics (**cum laude**) at Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila and received his M.A. (Mathematics Education) from the PNU. He obtained his Ph.D. (Mathematics Education) from the UP, Diliman under the PASUC Scholarship Grant. Dr. Belecina has written books in Mathematics both in the secondary and tertiary levels. He lectures and serves as resource person in various national seminars and training programs sponsored by the Department of Education, Commission on Higher Education and the Department of Science and Technology – Science Education Institute.



Helen F. de los Santos serves as concurrent Head of the Department of Advance Professional Education and Officer-in-Charge, College of Education, PNU. She obtained her BSEEd degree, M.A. (in Social Science Education), and doctorate in language education from UP Diliman. She has presented papers in the national and global fora, written books and other instructional materials in the pre-school, elementary, secondary and tertiary levels.



Lydia P. Hilbero has just retired from PNU with the rank of Full Professor VI. She obtained a BSEEd degree from PNU, a master's degree in SPed from UP, a Certificate in Teaching Pre-School, also from PNU, and a doctorate in educational management from CEU. She held various positions at PNU – from

Head, Department of Educational Foundations and Pedagogy and Department of Student Teaching, then OIC, College of Education. She used to coordinate the Certificate of Teaching Program.



Antriman V. Orleans, a full professor of physics education at the Philippine Normal University, Manila, teaches undergraduate and graduate courses in physics and physics education and mentors graduate research students. Pursuing his doctorate at the Hiroshima University, Japan, he is developing an online training prototype for in-service secondary physics teachers in the Philippines. His nationally and internationally presented and published papers focused on assessing the effects of calculus-based college physics teaching on student achievements, appraising the condition of physics education in the Philippines, and embracing teacher competence through online trainings.



René C. Romero holds the position of full professor in Education and Political Science at the Philippine Normal University. Having served PNU for the last 38 years, he coordinated the Youth Civic Action Program (YCAP), chaired the Social Science Department, and directed the Center for Linkages and Extension Services. He was “PNU Distinguished Teacher of the Year” in 1993. He served as the UNESCO Associated Schools Project (ASPnet) National Coordinator from 1989 to 2004, and was awarded by UNESCO Director General Federico Mayor “Outstanding National ASPnet Coordinator” in 1996 in Santiago, Chile. Also he has served as keynote speaker, paper presenter and workshop facilitator in more than 25 international conferences and his papers were published by journals like *Social Alternatives* (Australia) *Hurights* (Japan), *APCEIU Journal on Education for International Understanding* (S. Korea), *Research on Conviviality* (Japan), and *ASAHIL Journal* among others. He wrote modules in each of the four UNESCO-APNIEVE Teachers Sourcebook based on UNESCO’s four pillars of learning. A nationally recognized teacher leader and former faculty regent of PNU, Prof. Romero received the PNU Alumni Association national outstanding award in the area of Teacher Education in 2006.



Marilyn Ubiña-Balagtas, a Full Professor II at the College of Education, PNU, holds the degrees of *Bachelor of Elementary Education (BEED)* with specialization in *Mathematics* and *Master of Arts in Education* with specialization in *Mathematics Education* in the same institution. She obtained a doctorate in education (*Research and Evaluation*) at UP. She graduated **Cum Laude**, and was awarded One of the Ten Most Outstanding Student Teachers in the Philippines in 1989 by **Pi Lambda Theta**. She had been a recipient of scholarships and grants for post-graduate studies and training programs abroad, among others: (1) SEAMEO-RECSAM Scholarship Grant (1995) for the program on the Development and Evaluation of Problem Solving Skills in Mathematics in Penang, Malaysia; (2) Philippine-Australia Project in Basic Education (PROBE) Fellowship Grant (1997) for the Program on Professional Education at Queensland University of Technology in Queensland, Australia; (3) Philippine Association of State Universities and Colleges (PASUC) Scholarship for her doctorate (SY2001-2005). She has equally presented papers in Shanghai, China; Warsaw, Poland, and has served as consultant in various local and international educational agencies in the area of educational measurement.



Danilo K. Villena currently heads the Department of Educational Management and Measurement and Evaluation in the College of Education, PNU. Aside from teaching, he has been involved as speaker/lecturer/resource person in various seminars and in-service trainings of teachers at various levels in different public and private institutions in different parts of the country and has been lecturer-review facilitator in licensure reviews for teachers. Dr. Villena holds a BSE degree (with majors in English and History and with minor in Filipino); a master's degree in Management with specialization in Public Management at Batangas State University, in consortium with University of the Philippines in Manila; another master's degree in education (major in School Leadership) at the University of Central Arkansas in USA; and a Ph.D degree in Educational Management, **Summa Cum Laude**, at UST. Before joining PNU in 1997, Prof. Villena taught in the public high school for 10 years,

headed a public science high school, and served as Dean of Instruction of a local government run college in Lipa City.



Lourdes L. Natal, MA in Child Study, is an associate professor of the Philippine Normal University. She is a regular faculty of the Department of Field Study and Practice Teaching in the College of Education.



Joyce V. Leviste, the faculty secretary of the College of Education, PNU, obtained her M.A. degree majoring in Child Study and Certificate in Preschool Education from the PNU. Currently, she is connected with the Department of Early Childhood Education of the College of Education. She has been teaching preschool and undergraduate

courses, post baccalaureate, and masteral degrees for almost 16 years. A much sought after as a speaker/resource person on topics in creativity in teaching early childhood, she has been involved in conducting group and classroom-based researches. She also writes school textbooks for preschool and college levels.



Estrella P. Mercado is the Head of the Special Education Department. Her training in teaching Teachers of Children with Special Needs included a study visit at Perkins School for the Blind in Boston, Massachusetts, U.S.A. and a series of training For Children with Multiple Disabilities and Visual Impairment. She has planned, implemented and evaluated training programs in Special Education, specifically, Training of Teachers of Children with Visual Impairment, Mental Retardation, Giftedness and Talent, Learning Disabilities and Hearing Impairment. She has also conducted training programs for principals and supervisors in Special Education, among others. Serving as a consultant in the preparation of the curriculum for children with Special Needs in DECS-NCR, Dr.Mercado advises graduate students conducting research in Special Education.



Teresita G. De Mesa is a professor at the Philippine Normal University, where she teaches courses in special education at the Department of Special Education. She is a trainer on the PNU DepEd Summer Training Programs for teachers and principals/ supervisors scholars. Dr. De Mesa, founder of St. John Ma. Vianney Special Education

Resource and Learning Center, has worked as its directress for 20 years. She is a DepEd consultant on the Philippine Transition Model and a co-author of the development of special education curriculum and a writer on distance education module for children with mental retardation. She has served on the board of the Regional Council for Handicapped Children, Philippine Association for the Retarded, St. John Vianney Foundation, Inc. Philippine Special Olympics, Inc. She has been a resource speaker in international fora in the Asian Federation on Mental Retardation in Japan, Nepal, Korea, Bangladesh and here in the Philippines. Prof. de Mesa received her masteral degree in special education at the University of the Philippines and obtained her doctorate in educational management from the National University, Manila. She regularly writes a Sped column, “The Special Learner”, among others.



Ma. Victoria C. Hermosisima, currently the Director of the Center for Research and Development in Education, PNU, specialized in Measurement and Evaluation for her MA in Education in this University. In 1989 she finished a Bachelor of Arts in Communication at the University of the Philippines, Diliman, Quezon City.



V. Lázaro Mendiola, first Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, PNU has retired from government service after 43 years of teaching. With a doctorate in literature, **meritissimus**, from the University of Santo Tomas, he still actively engages in writing – a preoccupation that gives him a sense of fulfillment.