

PRESS RELEASE

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For more information, contact:

Jackie Hanson
Communications Manager
University of Guam
Tel: (671) 735-0219
Email: jhanson@triton.uog.edu

UOG honors 15 key contributors to its land-grant mission

The University of Guam's 50-year history as a land-grant institution was commemorated and memorialized with the unveiling of a Land Grant Legacy Wall on Wednesday. The wall, located in the Agriculture and Life Sciences building on campus, features the portraits and biographies of 15 individuals who paved the way for UOG to carry out the land-grant mission in Guam after UOG received the designation in 1972.

Land-grant institutions are called upon by federal law to provide the population outside of the walls of higher education with practical knowledge of relevance to their daily lives. This mission was originally focused on agriculture, science, military science, and engineering in response to the industrial revolution but now pertains to a variety of fields, with agriculture still a central component.

“Our job is to make sure that we bring the community in [...],” said Acting UOG President Anita Borja Enriquez, “and taking research, taking science and converting it into something that we all understand and that we can all apply.”

The land-grant designation led to the establishment of the UOG College of Agriculture and Life Sciences in 1973, which today is the College of Natural and Applied Sciences.

As a land-grant institution, the University of Guam annually receives \$1.6 million through the Hatch Act of 1887 to operate agricultural experiment stations and \$1.6 million through the Smith-Lever Act of 1914 to share the results of its research findings from those stations with the community.

The Land-Grant Legacy Wall honors some of the first faculty and staff members of the college, who implemented the agricultural experiment stations that remain active today

in Ija, Inarajan, and Yigo. They also stood up the university's Cooperative Extension & Outreach office, which exists to educate the community on not only agriculture, but nutrition, consumer sciences, natural resources, community development, and youth development via the 4H program.

Enriquez described extension services as a means to ensure that a university's research and expertise are relevant, are responsive, and bring value to the public.

The Land Grant Legacy honorees include:

- Jeff D.T. Barcinas †
- Doris T. Camacho
- Mary Elaine Camacho †
- Karen Carpenter
- Frank B. Cruz †
- Frank Cruz
- Jose A. Cruz
- Alfred S.N. Flores †
- Gabby Guerrero †
- Wilfred Leon Guerrero
- Theodore Iyechad †
- Milagros Moguel
- Rangaswam Muniappan
- Fred Quitugua †
- Bernard Watson †

The dean of the college today, Lee S. Yudin, said they plan to continue adding honorees to the wall every year.

"We're hoping that, eventually, all these walls will be filled with individuals who have helped strengthen the land-grant mission here at the university," he said.

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Photo captions:



2022-land-grant-legacy-1a

Four former employees from the UOG College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, now the College of Natural and Applied Sciences, who helped implement the land-grant system at the university, hold the photos that will hang on the Land Grant Legacy Wall in their honor. They were honored at a ceremony on June 22 on the UOG campus. (From left) Karen Carpenter; Milagros Moguel; Jose A. Cruz; and Frank Cruz.



2022-land-grant-legacy-2a

Lee S. Yudin, dean of the UOG College of Natural and Applied Sciences, shares the contributions of 15 individuals who set the course for the University of Guam's land-grant mission. The individuals were inducted to the Land-Grant Legacy Wall at a ceremony on June 22 on the UOG campus.



2022-land-grant-legacy-3a

Jose A. Cruz — with his family and UOG Senior Vice President and Provost Anita Enriquez, standing right — holds the plaque that will honor his contributions in implementing the land-grant system at the University of Guam. Cruz was the second dean of the university's College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, which was established in 1973 to carry out the university's land-grant mission.



2022-land-grant-legacy-4a

Family members of the late Alfred S.N. Flores take a photo next to his plaque in the Land Grant Legacy hallway of the Agriculture and Life Sciences building on June 22 at the University of Guam. The newly dedicated hallway honors those central to implementing and carrying out the land-grant mission at the university.

Photos courtesy of University of Guam