

## **Twenty Plus Years of Recollections**

President Emeritus Wilfred P. Leon Guerrero, Ed.D. enjoyed a long and successful career in Academia at his Alma Mater, the University of Guam for over twenty years before retiring in 1994. Born in the village of Dededo on the United States territory of Guam, he received his Bachelor of Arts degree in Mathematics at the University of Guam in 1969. Two years later, he earned a Master of Arts degree in Mathematics Education from the University of Northern Colorado as well as a Doctorate Degree in Education at the University of Northern Colorado in the following year before returning home to Guam. In 1974, Dr. Leon Guerrero was named one of the Outstanding Men of America. He received a scholarship from the Government of Guam in 1968 along with a John Hay Whitman Fellowship in 1971. He is a lifetime member of the Young Men's League of Guam.

His history in the developmental of Micronesian Scholarship and Cultural Awareness can be attributed to his wealth of experience in community and educational leadership. He is a respected advocate of Education and has served as the President of the University of Guam (UOG) in addition to being the founding Dean of College of Agriculture and Life Sciences when the United States Congress designated the University of Guam as a Land Grant Institution; as well as being the Dean of the Land Grant Program and the Associate Dean of the College of Education. Dr. Leon Guerrero was instrumental in laying the groundwork for the future successes of the University of Guam's Reserved Officers Training Corps (ROTC) Program, and among the program's many accomplishments, it continues to provide Guam's young adults with the foundation necessary to succeed as Commission Officers of the U.S. Army.

Dr. Leon Guerrero's tenure as the UOG President lasted from 1988 to 1994, during which his leadership helped secure funding for the construction of the various UOG Academic facilities, including what are now known as the Division of Agriculture and Life Sciences, the Micronesian Area Research Center/Emeritus Hall, the School of Education, and the School of Business and Public Administration. He worked diligently to remove accreditation sanctions which plagued the school in the decade prior to his presidency. Through his leadership, the university was granted sanction free accreditations for the next five years. After this tenure as UOG President in 1994 and his retirement from the university thereof, he was named President Emeritus.

With his extensive knowledge and experience in working to address various educational and community issues both locally and regionally, Dr. Leon Guerrero was appointed in 2000 by President William "Bill" Clinton to serve as a member of the President's Advisory Commission on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. This commission helps Asian American and Pacific Islanders participate in policy making, as well as with federal workplace issues and programs. In 2006, Dr. Leon Guerrero became a trustee of the Government of Guam Retirement Fund Board as an elected trustee. He was elected Vice Chairman by fellow trustees. Additionally, he was designated Chairman of the Investment Committee. Since 2019, Dr. Leon Guerrero has been chairman of the Retirement Board.

In 2020, Dr. Leon Guerrero was invited to join the Asia Pacific Association for Fiduciary Studies as a Board Member. As a Chairman of the Board, Association members are primarily institutional Investors from the Micronesian Islands, including such political entities as Territory of Guam, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of Palau, and the Republic of the Marshall Islands.