

Foreword

The publication of the present issue of *Suri: Journal of the Philosophical Association of the Philippines* is cause for both celebration and sadness. Although a good number of academic journals has been launched in the Philippines in recent years (and some have even been specifically on philosophy), the standing challenge remains to sustain both the quality and frequency of publication. It is thus with much pride and joy that we launch Volume 2, Issue 2 of *Suri*, after the usual birth pains and the bittersweet process of learning. What you have in your hands right now is a collection of refereed articles crafted by a wide variety of philosophy practitioners in the Philippines, from the well-established and long-revered to the younger thinkers who are in the process of carving their niche in the country's intellectual milieu. We feature in this issue Napoleon M. Mabaquiao, Jr. and Remmon E. Barbaza, both writing on the nature of philosophy, the former on the possibility of its "death," the latter on its role in the time of catastrophe. Younger contributors include Jovito V. Cariño writing on Ricoeur, Christian Bryan S. Bustamante discussing Foucault, and Raniel SM. Reyes expounding on Deleuze.

However, it was in the course of this issue's production that Ramon C. Reyes, one of the long-standing pillars of philosophy in the Philippines, passed away. Doc Reyes, as he was fondly called by many, earned his Ph.D. from the Université Catholique de Louvain in 1965. He began teaching philosophy in Ateneo de Manila University shortly afterwards, and served as the chair of the department of philosophy from 1968 to 1981. Doc Reyes was one of the handful of forerunners in the Ateneo who shaped the way philosophy is taught and practiced not just in that school, but in many other educational institutions in the Philippines as well, to a large extent by introducing existential phenomenological thought into the country. His *Ground and Norm of Morality* has been a staple textbook in classes on ethics in numerous colleges across the land. Doc Reyes also specialized in teaching modern and contemporary philosophy. Throughout his career as an educator, he had always been the model for the restraint, orderliness, and humility necessary for genuine thought, as well as for the quiet but warm friendliness that he exuded towards his students and colleagues. In recognition of his excellence in teaching, Doc Reyes was named one of the Outstanding Teachers for the year 1987 by the Metrobank Foundation. He served as president for the Philippine Accrediting Association of Schools, Colleges, and Universities

(PAASCU) from 1987 to 2006, as well as for the Federation of Accrediting Agencies of the Philippines (FAAP) for three terms. Doc Reyes was also one of the founding members of the Philosophical Association of the Philippines (PAP) and served for a time as the organization's president.

In view of all his accomplishments in the field, the PAP honored Doc Reyes as one of the Philippines' "philosophical pioneers" during the association's 2012 mid-year conference entitled "Legacy Lectures: Engaging Our Philosophical Pioneers." Doc Reyes was able to attend the conference—he was genuinely excited to do so—and even deliver a lecture on "The Role of the Philosopher as Social Critic and Thinker, Revisited," which was his re-assessment of his thoughts in an article he published in 1999. Afterwards, the editorial board of *Suri* decided to print his lecture in this current issue, as the first among the Legacy Lectures that will be published in successive instalments of the journal. The editorial board also selected Oscar G. Bulaong's "The Humility of the Modern Philosopher: Remembering Ramon Reyes' Insights on Kant's Epistemology" for publication, a piece that Dr. Bulaong delivered during the same conference as a tribute to Doc Reyes' contributions to the field of philosophy. This issue of *Suri* was already in the final stages of proofreading when the news of Doc Reyes' demise reached the editors. In the end, one may say that the PAP and *Suri* were blessed to share with Doc Reyes his last philosophy conference and publication.

We, the editorial board of *Suri*, as well as the executive board of the PAP, join the whole community of philosophy practitioners in the country in mourning the passing and celebrating the profound contributions as well as the life of Ramon C. Reyes, one of the philosophical pioneers of the Philippines. Let our continuing efforts to craft "clear, precise, and engaging" philosophical writing—as one colleague described Doc Reyes' work—be a way to sincerely remember the man.

The Editors

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