THE HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT OF
UNIVERSITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

The University of the Immaculate Conception (UIC) traces its roots to the Beaterio dela Compañia, the first community of indigenous women formed during Hispanic colonial times. Ignacia del Espiritu Santo, a mestiza from Binondo who decided to serve the Divine Majesty by the sweat of her brow started the Beaterio dela Compañia in 1684. This community of indigenous women, now better known as the Congregation of the Religious of the Virgin Mary (RVM), has grown through the years. It has extended itself through its different ministries especially in the area of education.

The mission of the RVM in Mindanao started in 1902 when the late Rev. Superior General, M. Ma. Efigenia Alvarez sent three Sisters to Davao City. They were M. Severina Santos, Superior, M. Clara Ramirez and M. Engracia Herrera. When they arrived in Davao, they met with the Hon. Teodoro Palma Gil who was appointed Davao deputy representative to Governor General Harrison. The pioneer Sisters stayed in the residence of the Palma Gil Family. After three years, the Sisters, in 1905, started to catechize Davao children. Mrs. Sinforosa Bangoy vda de Joven donated a house, which the Sisters converted into a dormitory and classrooms.

With the increase in enrollment in 1906, the house of Mr. Cenon Rasay in San Pedro-Anda intersection was used to provide classrooms. In 1907, the construction of the Sisters' Convent was started in San Pedro-Bolton-Claveria site. At the end of the year, the Sisters transferred to their new convent. Established initially as exclusively for girls, the RVM Sisters laid the foundation starting as a parochial school named "Escuela Catolica de San Pedro" with only the primary and intermediate courses offered and were given government recognition in 1933.

When the high school opened in 1934, the school assumed the name "Immaculate Conception Academy," and by 1938, the first batch of high school students graduated. By then, the school had been re-named "Immaculate Conception Institute."

As World War II broke out in 1941, the school closed and was re-opened five years later. The school received government recognition for the high school level in 1947. A year later, the school was re-named "Immaculate Conception College (ICC)" which then offered initial two collegiate courses namely: Collegiate Secretarial and Pharmacy.

In the fifties, from 1951-1958, Immaculate Conception College (ICC) opened additional courses: BS in Education, BS in Home Economics, BS in Music, and BS in Elementary Education.

With the increasing enrollment and the demand for more courses, the following programs were added in 1961-62, namely: Liberal Arts, BS Commerce, and BS Medical Technology.

In 1969, the Grade and High School Departments were moved to ICC's new site at Fr. Selga St. and followed by the College Department in 1971. Three more courses were then added namely: BS Chemistry, Pharmacy Aide, and BS in Nutrition and Dietetics.

Mindful of its mission to deliver quality education, the Grade School, and High School Departments became one of the PAASCU accredited schools in the 1970's. In 1976, ICC got its formal accreditation for the three programs, namely, Liberal Arts, Education, and Commerce.

Moreover, in 1983-1986, four more courses were opened: Cafeteria Management, BS in Civil Engineering, MA in Theology, and MA in Elementary Education. With the various expansions going on, a six-story building was built at Bonifacio Street in 1985 and was inaugurated on December 6, 1986. The building housed the Engineering, Liberal Arts, Education, and Commerce programs.

On May 1, 1992, DECS Secretary Dr. Isidro Cariño granted ICC the University Status. It took the name "University of the Immaculate Conception (UIC)." The school was then 87 years old.

It was in the nineties (90's) when the school was challenged to become more responsive to the needs of Davao City. More science and technology courses were opened, namely; BS Computer Engineering, BS Electronics and Communication Engineering, and BS Computer Science. The graduate school also picked up its pace and added more courses especially when Fund Assistance for Private Education (FAPE) identified UIC as one of the training centers of its scholars for Chemistry, Physics, and Engineering. With this, additional courses were opened: MA in Educational Management, MA in Values Education, MA in Teaching College Physics, MA in Teaching College Chemistry, and MA in Engineering Education major in Civil Engineering and Electronics and Communications Engineering. With the offering of more programs in the Bonifacio campus, another six-story building was built in 1996.

True to its commitment to lead in science and technology and to serve the larger community, UIC established in 1993 the Computer Center that paved the way to the automation of the university's registration and cashiering systems. Moreover, the Science Resource Center (SRC), a full-service laboratory was established in 1994 to provide science faculty and students with technical assistance as well as extensive, in-house, hands-on training on sophisticated laboratory testing equipment. Since then, the center offered professional analytical services to external clients for a nominal fee. It is equipped to handle analysis of soil, leaf/plant tissue, fertilizer, food/feed, water/wastewater, ores/mines, fats and oils, pharmaceutical, and other samples. It also undertakes collaborative researches with clients and funding agencies, apart from in-house researches. Since late 1999, the SRC has enjoyed the recognition as a DENR-recognized environmental laboratory, having complied with the documentation, analytical performance and technical requirements of DENR Administrative Order No. 63, Series of 1998. At the time the recognition was awarded, the Center is one of only 12 laboratories in the Philippines (and one of only two in Mindanao) that are so recognized.

Since its creation in 1994, the Science Resource Center has adhered to the quality guidelines of ISO / IEC Guide 25 in its operation. It is now geared toward fulfilling the requirements of ISO 17025, a manifestation of the SRC's continuous quest for quality!

Alongside the same thrust, the Clinical Laboratory and Training Center was also established in 1997, to strengthen the training of the Medical Technology students while at the same time catering to the needs of the outside community.

Steadfast to its mission, UIC ushered in the 3rd millennium, (the year 2000) answering the needs and challenges of the time. The College Department opened a few new courses, namely: Bachelor of Science in Information Technology and Bachelor of Science in Information Management in response to the fast advancing information and communication technology of the present global society. Likewise, other undergraduate programs offered were BA major in Psychology (2001), BS Nursing (2002), BS Pharmacy major in Clinical Pharmacy (2004), BA major in Philosophy (2006), and BS Hotel and Restaurant Management (2006). Likewise, the Graduate School in 2003 offered additional programs namely: MS in Pharmacy, MS in Information Technology, MS in Information Management and Master in Business Administration. In 2004, the first doctoral degree program, Ph.D. in Educational Leadership was offered. Doctor in Business Management, Ph.D. in Education major in Applied Linguistics, MA in Education major in Guidance and Counseling followed this offering in 2006.

In response to the needs of the community, the university launched an "E-LEARNING PROGRAM" – a web-based learning strategy serving all departments/sections. It is a network of services to create, deliver and facilitate learning-teaching process whether inside or outside the traditional classrooms.

Together with the launching of E-Learning program was the putting up of the state-of-the-art facility for Information Technology Resource Center (ITRC). It is a modern computer, information and communication technology laboratory. The installation and use of these facilities are aimed at

providing UIC students with the best training in computer science, engineering, information and communication technology.

Another most significant highlight for the year 2000 was the transfer of the Grade School and High School Departments to a beautiful, sprawling 7-hectare UIC Bajada campus. It has its own new, majestic and imposing 3-story building complete with facilities. These are the air-conditioned auditorium, audio-visual/conference room, library, computer, and science laboratories and a gymnasium. A very extensive playground and a chapel provide the pupils with an opportunity to grow not only intellectually but also spiritually, physically, and psychologically.

Hand in hand with the offering of additional degree programs and facilities development, the college department continued its pursuit of delivering quality education by working for the PAASCU accreditation of the other programs. The Pharmacy program got its formal accreditation in 2001. UIC, having exhibited excellence in its various endeavors, was granted by the Commission on Higher Education "deregulated status" in 2001. On the same year, the Bureau of Immigration also granted a permit to UIC to accept foreign students and finally UIC received its autonomous status in 2003.

The same holistic concern for the development of students led to the renovation of the former grade school building to ND/HRM Laboratory at Fr. Selga Campus in 2007. During this same year, the ITE program was given by the CHED the recognition as Center of Development (COD) for Information Technology and in 2010 the Education Program as Center of Excellence (COE). In 2009, the Grade School and High School Departments were granted Level III accreditation status by the Federation of Accrediting Associations in the Philippines FAAP while the Information Technology Education had its formal accreditation in 2009. In 2011, the Accountancy, Medical Technology, and Computer Engineering had their PAASCU Preliminary Visit.

To improve its infrastructure and provide better accommodation of the clientele, an additional building was constructed at UIC Bonifacio Campus in 2010, which housed the administrative and service offices, the Graduate School and the Mini-Auditorium.

Responding to the challenges of the changing educational landscape in the country particularly the K to 12, a separate Kindergarten building was constructed in the Bajada Campus in April 2012. In September of the same year, the Assumption Hall was built in the Fr. Selga Campus to provide wider space for the Community Development Service, Alumni Affairs, and ROTC Offices.

In line with the University's commitment to respond to the academic needs of the community, three additional degree programs were offered starting SY 2014-2015 namely: Bachelor of Science in Architecture, Bachelor of Science in Tourism Management and Bachelor of Physical Education major in School Physical Education.

The University of the Immaculate Conception (UIC) with its continuous effort of responding to the signs of the times, undertook the creation of an incubation facility that aims to put the university's research outputs into use by assisting start-up companies or entrepreneurs-to-be through a comprehensive business assistance program. This was put into action through the establishment of a new office: the IT Development and Incubation Facility (ITDIF) in 2014.

In SY 2016-2017, two additional graduate programs were given recognition by CHED. These are Master in Counseling and Master in Pastoral Ministry specialized in Family Ministry and Counseling, Pastoral Management and Retreat Directing.

Recognizing the need for continuous improvement through accreditation, three (3) more college degree programs were granted Level I status by FAAP, in May 2015, i.e., Accountancy, Computer Engineering, and Medical Laboratory Science.

During the last quarter of 2015, the University of the Immaculate Conception (UIC) finally responded to the rising demand in the technical vocational education and put up the M. Ignacia

Career Development Center. The university, with its objective to help create opportunities for people through enhancement of their technical skills has received TESDA Assessment Center accreditation in Cookery NC II, Bread and Pastry Production NC II, Bartending NC II, Front Office Services NC II, Food and Beverage NC II and Housekeeping NC II in November 2015. The following year, January 2016, UIC has also received Certificate of Program Registration in all the qualifications mentioned above. In May 2016, UIC has been approved as a Training Center in Trainers Methodology Level 1 and has been granted an Assessment Center Accreditation in TM L1 the following month.

In February 2016, the Commission on Higher Education designated the Information Technology Education and Business Education as Center of Development and in March 2016, the Education Program. The University was also granted Deregulated Status in April 2016. Moreover, in July 2016, Accounting Technology and Nutrition and Dietetics were granted Level 1 accreditation status by FAAP.

With the rollout of Senior High School in June 2016, the Grade School and High School administration shifted from departmentalized to Integrated Basic Education (IBED). Likewise, a new building was constructed in Bajada Campus, the Our Lady of Peace Building, for Grades 11 and 12 with the first phase completed in May 2016 and the second phase in May 2017. Aside from the Bajada Campus, Senior High School was also offered in Bonifacio Campus.

In December 2016, as UIC continuously strive for quality education through accreditation, the Federation of Accrediting Agencies of the Philippines (FAAP) through PAASCU awards UIC an Institutional Accreditation. This type of accreditation is comprehensive, indicates that the institution has achieved quality standards in all areas and is held in high regard in the world of education (Source: PAASCU Handbook on Accreditation, p.9).

Similarly, in the same year, Liberal Arts, Elementary and Secondary Education, and Business Administration programs were granted Level IV Accredited Status. Level IV accredited status is granted to institutions, which are highly respected, possessing very high-quality academic programs in the Philippines and with prestige and authority comparable to similar programs in excellent foreign universities (Source: MORPHE p. 55). The following year, in May 2017, the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) upgraded UIC's status from Deregulated to Autonomous. Likewise, FAAP granted Level 1 accreditation status to Hotel and Restaurant Management program in May 2017.

As UIC progresses, it was a strategic decision to adopt a quality management system that can help UIC improve its overall performance and provide a sound basis for sustainable development initiatives. Hence, UIC sought ISO certification and it was granted certificate Registration Number 01 100 1734766.02 by TUV Rheinland after meeting the requirements of Standard ISO 9001:2015 covering the scope: Design and Development, and Delivery of Educational Services including Basic Education (K to 12), Higher Education, and Technical – Vocational Training and Assessment last October 24, 2017.

The advent of Internationalization moved UIC to undertake daring strides during the AY 2015-2018, to forge academic exchange and collaboration by establishing linkage with several ASEAN countries and membership to organizations such as the University Mobility in Asia and the Pacific (UMAP) where UIC is a lifetime member and the Association of Southeast and East Asian Catholic Colleges and Universities (ASEACCU). Memorandum of Understanding was drafted and signed by UIC and schools like the Rajamangala University of Technology in Thailand, ABATA in Indonesia, MAHSA University of Malaysia, Management and Science University of Malaysia, Unibersidad Catolica San Antonio de Murcia in Spain, Universitii UTARA Malaysia, and University of Malaya, Malaysia.

UIC, ensuring their contribution to uplifting the general welfare, economic growth and development of the nation implemented R.A. No. 10912, otherwise known as the CPD Act of 2016, wherein the government shall institute measures that will continuously improve the competence of professionals in accordance with international standards of practice. In line with this, UIC opened the Center for Continuing Studies and Professional Development in 2017. UIC was approved as a Local

CPD Provider for the following professions: Accountancy, Chemistry, Civil Engineering, Medical Technology, Nursing, Pharmacy, Electronics Engineering, Nutrition and Dietetics, and Professional Teacher.

In continuous support to TESDA's vision, UIC became a TESDA accredited assessment center for two more Tech. Voc. qualifications namely, Bookkeeping Services NCIII and Pharmacy Services NCIII on November 3, 2017.

Amid the challenges brought about by the increasing demand of the fast-changing society, UIC saw the need to offer relevant graduate programs. During the AY 2018-2019, the UIC graduate school offered the following graduate programs namely, Master of Arts in Education major in Information Technology Integration, MBA for Health Professionals, Master of Science in Medical Technology, Doctor in Business Management major in Information System, and Ph.D. in Pharmacy.

Moreover, with the vision to foster quality education beyond the Philippines and ASEAN Region, UIC, was accepted in March 2018 as an Associate Member of the ASEAN University Network.

The University of the Immaculate Conception (UIC) takes on the challenge to lead in Humanities, Science, and Technology in a globalized society. It is her desire to provide transformative quality Ignacian Marian education, be relevant to the demands of the time, able to produce the ideal RVM Ignacian Marian graduates who are responsible global citizens imbued with profound faith in God, inspired by the spirituality of humble service, committed to a continuous search for excellence; and achieve its vision of a transformed society where persons live their dignity as children of God enjoying the fullness of life in Jesus Christ.