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ABSTRACT

This historical undertaking, which is borne out of the need to address the scarcity of local historical narrative traces and re-constructs the highlights of events at Dumaguete City High School as a premier Secondary school in the division of Dumaguete City starting from its inception by virtue of a city ordinance to the enumeration of the different school offerings and programs from school year 1967 to 2019. The identification of the former and present school administration are also given emphasis, as well its achievement and contribution, the challenges and how they responded to the challenges. The data were collected and subjected through documentary research and identification of key informants by means of interview and external criticism.

The establishments of Dumaguete City High School is a concretive manifestation of the different factors. The significant role of the political leaders of the time serves as cornerstone in the early beginnings of the school as indicated in the numerous city resolutions and ordinances and the social impact of the creation of a City High School in Dumaguete City where we can see a clear and transparent collective and harmonious relationships with its local leaders and the immediate community with the interaction of the achievements and contributions as well as the challenges of the school heads, thus giving each school leaders the academic maneuvering on its responses.

These political and social horizons as well as the leadership style of its school’s heads are not different from each other, rather they are interconnected and very relevant as a determining factors in the establishment, operation and historical highlights of Dumaguete City High School.

KEYWORDS: Dumaguete City High School, Local history, Institutional History, School Heads, Achievement, Contribution, Challenges and its Responses.
INTRODUCTION

The knowledge of the past is pivotal in the understanding of the present. Events create a ripple effect on the present situation and that is the essence of history. Institutions of learning are agents of social transformation as well as a viable source of local historical narrative. Dumaguete City High School (DCHS), the Division Leader School in the Dumaguete City Division, is located right in the center of Dumaguete City, the capital city of the Province of Negros Oriental. Aside from being called the City of Gentle People, Dumaguete City is also known as the “university town” due to the existence of the numerous colleges and universities scattered all over the area. Additionally, it is also dubbed as the melting pot of the south. This basically means, according to Oxford Languages, that Dumaguete City is a place where different peoples, styles, theories and others are mixed together.

DCHS was established in the year 1967 through Ordinance No. 46 promulgated by the 5th Municipal Board of Dumaguete City. Ever since then, DCHS continuously acts as a catalyst of change and creates an impact on the various stakeholders in the city and its neighboring towns and cities, as well. Being the division leader school, DCHS received and continues to receive, countless accolades. One of the most recent recognitions received by the school is the Regional Pasidungog award as Outstanding School in Region 7-Mega/Large Category. In fact, as of the writing of this paper, the school is once again one of the contenders of the same award.

Since Dumaguete City High School is located within Dumaguete City, this paper aims to discuss the concept of the local history of the school as a way of creating a literature which is essential for a society, particularly an institution of learning, to survive.

As a backgrounder, the concept of local history emerged in the west after the Renaissance Period and it received greater attention after the bourgeois revolution primarily for cultural, political, and economic reasons. However, local history as an academic endeavor was introduced in the secondary schools in England only in 1908 (Ghosh, 2001). Foronda (1972) noted that the interest in research and writing local history in the Philippines increased only after World War II and this was due apparently to the resurgence of nationalism among Filipinos. History is the past and the mirror of the present. When the word “local” is prefixed to the word “history”, then the connection changes. “Local” is a word which conveys a relational concept (Doyle, 2006). According to Pasternak (2009), the term local history is a study based on a wide variety of documentary evidence and placed in a comparative context that should be both regional and national. Local history is considered to be closest to a people’s heart because it reflects their own identity, experiences and aspirations.

Accordingly, the story of Dumaguete City High School is a concrete example of local history in the context of institutional history. This term refers to a written narrative of facts that describes the growth and changes that has shaped the existence of a particular entity (Sabanal, 2002).

In relation to this, several studies were conducted to illustrate the concept of institutional history in the context of local history. First is the research conducted by Flowers (2006) entitled The Great Experiment and the Michigan State Normal School: An institutional history analysis. The said study examines the historic development of teacher-training in the western world and the United States focusing on the establishment and institutionalization of teacher preparation in the normal schools of the mid-nineteenth century.

Second is the national study on Farmer Field Schools (FFS) in Central Luzon, Philippines. The results of the study indicate that a keen understanding of Filipino culture and values is essential for people to become successful individuals. It is also noted that success is associated with cultural norms that encouraged experiential and collective learning (Palis, 2006).

Lastly, the work of Gosiaco (2008) on the Institutional History of Bago City College tackled not only on the improvement of the physical plants of the place but also on the development of the community. He added that the graduates from the school have impacted a huge difference in the lives of the local people. Meanwhile, Salindo’s research (2020) on the topic an Analysis of the Establishment, Development and Survival of Negros Oriental State University-Guihulngan Campus gives a historical narrative of the establishment of Guihulngan Vocational High School (GVHS) in 1958 until the school became a composite part of the East Visayan School of Arts and Trades (EVSAT). Later on, the school became the Guihulngan Vocational School in 1961, then to Central Visayas Polytechnic College (CVPC) in 1983. She became the Negros Oriental State University (NORSU)-Guihulngan Campus in 2004.

Moreover, the study mentioned some indicators such as political, economic and social, which are interrelated with each other. These indicators contributed greatly to the establishment, development and survival of the school. The above-mentioned studies are very relevant in this undertaking as the researcher will discuss how institutions of learning, like Dumaguete City High School, is contributory in paving the way for the development of a locality.

Furthermore, it is a given that the improvements of the physical plants and educational edifices, among others, are
indicators of development. Thus, the researcher will also include in his study the roles of the different stakeholders in making the school become established, developed and therefore, able to survive.

The Social System Theory of Talcott Parsons (1951) was utilized in this undertaking. It describes how an institution of learning affects the growth and development of a locality and how its elements affect its survival. According to the model, there are four basic functions that all social systems must perform for them to persist.

First is adaptation which is the acquisition of sufficient resources manifested in the different leadership styles of the school administrators of Dumaguete City High School throughout its more than 50 years of existence as an institution of learning. Second is the goal attainment which refers to the corresponding responses of the school managers in catering to the educational needs of the different stakeholders. Third is the integration which results in solidarity and coordination among the sub-units of the system as seen through the achievements and contribution of the school in the lives of her alumni and Barangay Calindangan where Dumaguete City High School is located. And then finally there is latency which is the creation, preservation and transmission of the system's distinctive culture and values as relived by the significant events and development of the school, her administrators, and the community as a whole.

The theory also states that the goal of an organization is to function for the larger society. An organization may expect to get resources and approval based on the importance of its functions in society. Thus, this theory is very helpful in illustrating the historical highlights of Dumaguete City High School- the school administration, the achievements and contributions manifested by the enrolment, the physical plant and facilities, the awards and citations, and the alumni recognition. Also in the list are the challenges faced by the school in terms of enrollment, physical plant and facilities, teaching and non-teaching personnel, security and safety, maintenance and operation, students’ welfare, and lastly, how all these challenges were, and are, being responded upon. Furthermore, the impact they made in the locality as an institution of learning cannot be perceived or only associated with a particular purpose as this is a result of the harmonious existence of functional systems, that is Dumaguete City High School. There is an interplay of its goal, adaptation, integration, and latency that led to the establishment, development, and survival of a local school through trying times (Salindo, 2013).

The international studies of Spicer & Karp (1996) on the topic Glendale Community College Institutional History and Profile, Quin (2003) entitled An Institutional History of the GED, Melinda (1998) entitled Akron Perkins Normal School: An Institutional History, 1898-1931, and Harrison (2005) entitled The History of Kyle, Texas Public Schools: 1911-1967 are significant in this undertaking as they narrate the establishment of different school with various programs and offerings, thus they scaffold the researcher’s primary task of highlighting the historical events of Dumaguete City High School.

Moreover, the study conducted by Ojo and Olaniyan (2008) on the topic: Leadership Roles of School Administrators and Challenges Ahead in Post-Primary Institutions in Nigeria, the research by Abdulrasheed and Bello (2015) on the topic Challenges to Secondary Schools Principals’ Leadership in Northern Region of Nigeria and the work of Jacqueline Dram-Sterling with the topic on the Biography of Joan Wint: A Principal allowed the researcher to compare and contrast the leadership styles, the responses of the school administrators in terms of the challenges faced which are essential in the researcher’s undertaking.

Meanwhile, the study of Evardone on a national level entitled Strucutation Analysis of the Transition of St. Paul University-Tuguegarao is indicative of the partnership of the different stakeholders of the school to provide a better, efficient and harmonious relationship. Also, the local works on the history of St. Paul University of Dumaguete and Negros Oriental State University, as well as the undertaking of Valencia and Real on the The History of Negros Oriental State University, Bais Campus II: An Analysis on its Establishment and Development, the writings of Sabanal and Gosiaco on Institutional History, and lastly the works of Villamil, Mondarte, and Escorial emphasize the utilization of oral history as a tool in the gathering of facts and information essential in making the researcher’s study more educational and valid.

The international, national, and local studies discussed in this research provided a wide range of enriching learnings and insights which guided the researcher on the topic at hand. This also helped the researcher to check and process each document from the conduct of oral history until its development on the format, structure, and organization. Thus, these works are very relevant to the undertaking.

Finally, this research aims to fill up the gap of the historical highlights of Dumaguete City High School by tracing its growth and development in terms of the achievements and contributions of the different school heads, the challenges they faced and how they responded to these challenges. Collectively, this undertaking aims to offer fresh insights to the Dumaguete City High School community in particular and the public in general based on a narrative historical account.
METHODOLOGY
The undertaking used the historical method of research which focused on describing and interpreting events, conditions or situations of the present. In addition, a documentary analysis was done. The researcher gathered and analyzed primary and secondary documents pertinent to the study in order to reconstruct historical accounts and events. The data were subjected to internal and external criticisms. Aside from documentary gathering and analysis, the researcher also used documentation through oral history. Furthermore, a critical evaluation on the data gathered was made to validate the process of recording and narration of events and people. For this undertaking to be valid, the respondents are the former faculty members and administrators of Dumaguete City High School for they were expected to give sufficient and vital data and information to the researcher on the events and developments of the concerned institution. To gather additional information, alumni or graduates of Dumaguete City High School were also included as respondents.

RESULTS and DISCUSSION
The establishment of Dumaguete City High School

The birth of Dumaguete City high school provided a better avenue among the young Dumaguetenos in fulfilling their educational pursuits. Before its establishment students are facing the lack of facilities due to the number of student enrolled in the Provincial High School. This dilemma prompted the local chief executive the then, Honorable Jose Pro Teves to establish a city high school for Dumaguete (Enario,1999). The scenario was also amplified by a letter request from the Governor of Negros Oriental Mariano Perdic to have a city high school, since most of the students enrolled in the provincial high are residents of the Dumaguete (Bulado,2012).

Believing it is its moral obligation to provide secondary education to the youth of the city. The fifth Municipal Board held a session on July 10, 1967 with the Honorable Vice Mayor Benjamin C. Villarin as presiding officer, and with all the Board Members present, namely: Eduardo S. Flores, Narciso Cipres, Venancio D. Aldecoa, Jr., Jesus L. Llosa, Pablo E. Cabahug, Vicente M. Teves, Maximiliana L. Alviola and Simplicio O. Manicpic (Resolution No. 125 s. 1967).

On a motion by councilor Simplicio O. Manicpic and duly seconded by Councilor Venancio D. Aldecoa Jr., the board resolved to enact and approve AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING A CITY HIGH SCHOOL IN THE CITY OF DUMAGUETE starting in the school year 1967-1968. The school started with First Year classes only and with an enrollment of not more than seven standard sections. Under this ordinance, education was not for free and a tuition fee was collected in the amount of Php70.00 pesos per school year with the inclusion of the payment of Php10.00 upon enrollment. The balance of Php60.00 was payable on an installment basis every 10th day of every succeeding month until the amount is fully paid (Ordinance No. 46 s. 1967).

A day after the creation of Dumaguete High School through an ordinance, the members of the fifth municipal council convened again on July 13, 1967 to discuss an appropriation ordinance to finance the operational expenses and maintenance of the city high school. The said session was presided over by the Hon. Benjamin C. Villarin. The councilors present were Eduardo S. Flores, Narciso Cipres, Venancio D. Aldecoa, Jr., Jesus L. Llosa, Pablo E. Cabahug, Vicente M. Teves, Maximiliana L. Alviola and Simplicio O. Manicpic. Upon the motion of Councilor Simplicio O. Manicpic, and duly seconded by Councilor Maximiliana L. Alviola, the Board resolved to enact the Appropriation Ordinance No. 47 s. 1967 entitled AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING FUNDS FOR THE OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF THE CITY HIGH SCHOOL IN THE CITY OF DUMAGUETE FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 1967-1968. Under this ordinance, an amount of Php32,435.00 or so much thereof as may be necessary was hereby appropriated for the operation and maintenance. First was the Salaries
Among the eight (8) members of the City Council, one city councilor, in the person of Hon. Marcelino C. Maxino,

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payable in monthly installment not later than 10 days of every succeeding month until fully paid with condition that the residents

student enrolled in city high school with tuition fee in the amount of Php50.00 for the entire school

59 series of 1972 (Resolution No. 218 s.

Montebon Jr. and duly seconded by Councilor Estanislao L. Alviola Jr., the Council resolved t

members of the City Council made a consensus to give priority to education and so upon motion by Councilor Jose V.

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them to pay higher

of 1967, for the school to accept enrollees from the cities and towns

fee for School Year 1972

43 entitled “An Ordinance Amending Section 3 of Ordinance No. 46, series of 1967 (Resolution No. 98 s. 1968).

Ordinance No. 43 s. of 1968 states that the following fees shall be collected: for two siblings enrolled, only one will be required to pay full tuition while the other one will enjoy a 25% per cent discount; for three siblings, two will be required to pay full tuition while the third sibling will enjoy a 50 per cent discount on tuition fee; for four siblings, only 3 of them will pay in full their tuition fees while the fourth one will enjoy a 100 per cent free tuition. Also included in the proposed amendment was the awarding of an academic scholarship of 100 per cent free tuition fees to those who graduate as valedictorians or first honors. Upon meeting the condition set in paragraph E, the said discounts took effect upon the opening of the City High School. Further, that the students enjoying the privileges were actually enrolled in City High School except for the school year 1967-1968, where brothers and/or sisters enrolled in the Negros Oriental High School shall be reckoned in the computation of the discounts (Ordinance No. 43 s. 1968).

Present during the said session held on March 22, 1968 were Vice Mayor Eduardo S. Flores as Presiding Officer and the members who were present were Vicente M. Teves, Venancio D. Aldecoa Jr., Jose S. Ancheta Jr., Manuel G. Roxas, Ma. Luisa C. Locsin, Estanislao L. Alviola, Jr., and Doroteo G. Teves Sr., while Hon. Narciso P. Cipreses was absent during the conduct of the said session. This ordinance was approved on March 29, 1968 by then Mayor Jose Pro Teves and attested by Vice Mayor Eduardo S. Flores, Legal Officer Oscar T. Tijing, who acted as the secretary, and Mr. Hoover D. Aldecoa, the secretary of the city council (Resolution No. 98, s. 1968).

On July 21, 1972, the Office of the City Council held its seventieth (70th) regular session with Hon. Jose Ancheta Jr. as presiding officer. Present during the said meeting were City Councilors Pacholo C. Carballo, Marcelino C. Maxino, Manuel G. Roxas, Jose V. Montebon Jr., Jose C. Bueno, Estanislao L. Alviola Jr., Ma. Luisa C. Locsin, and Benjamin C. Villarin. During the said session, a joint petition letter from the officers of the Parent-Teachers Association (PTA) of South City Elementary School and Mr. Alfredo Hermosa, the Principal of Dumaguete City High School, was included in the agenda. The said document requested for the reduction of the tuition fee for School Year 1972-1973 and contained an amendment to the provision of section 3 of Ordinance No. 46 series of 1967, for the school to accept enrollees from the cities and towns outside of Dumaguete City and without subjecting them to pay higher fees.

Mr. Hermosa, together with some of the officers of the Parent-Teacher Association, reiterated his request for the reduction of the tuition fee from Php70.00 to Php50.00 per academic year. After presenting the above concern, the members of the City Council made a consensus to give priority to education and so upon motion by Councilor Jose V. Montebon Jr. and duly seconded by Councilor Estanislao L. Alviola Jr., the Council resolved to enact Ordinance No. 59 series of 1972 (Resolution No. 218 s. 1972).

The said Ordinance (Ordinance No. 59 series of 1972) or “An Ordinance Amending Paragraph (A) of Section 3 of Ordinance No. 46 series of 1967, entitled “An Ordinance Establishing a City High School in the City of Dumaguete as Amended.” The said amendment is found in Paragraph (A) which states as follows: The collection of fees from every student enrolled in city high school with tuition fee in the amount of Php50.00 for the entire school year for bona fide residents of the city and allowing residents of cities and town outside Dumaguete City to enroll therein without subjecting these outsiders to the discrimination of paying higher fees, payable in Php10.00 upon enrolment and that the balance payable in monthly installment not later than 10 days of every succeeding month until fully paid with condition that the bona fide students are those whose parents or guardians have resided in the city for at least one year prior to enrollment, provided further that city residents should be given preference in enrolling (Ordinance No. 59 s. 1972).

Among the eight (8) members of the City Council, one city councilor, in the person of Hon. Marcelino C. Maxino, abstained on the matter for he noted that” while I believe in the idea of reducing the tuition fees from Php70.00 to Php50.00, I consider it more important to improve the facilities of City High School. This pertinent paper was approved
by City Mayor Joe Pro Teves on July 27, 1972 and was attested by Jose S. Ancheta Jr, Vice Mayor, Epifarnino J. Sedigo, Secretary to the Mayor and Hoover D. Aldecoa, Secretary of the City Council, respectively (Resolution No. 218 s. 1972).

This move by the City Council and the Parents-Teachers Association (PTA) of Dumaguete City High School allowed more students to enroll at Dumaguete City High School thereby providing better opportunities for the young people to be educated. This eventually transformed the society not only economically but holistically changed as they had more access to education.

**Salient features of Dumaguete City High School**

**The First Abode.** Dumaguete City High School was first located at the Cottage Industry Building in what is now the Fruit and Vegetable Market or more popularly known as Building 3 in the Dumaguete City Public Market System. First Year students from the Provincial High School, now Negros Oriental High School, who were residents of the City of Dumaguete, were transferred to the newly opened Dumaguete City High School in the School Year 1967-1968. The classes started in June that school year (Interview, Mr. Ramon Sun-Member of the Pioneering Batch 1967-1971).

Meanwhile, Mrs. Emervencia L. Ligutom, a member of the second batch of graduates said that due to the increased in the number of students for school year 1968-1969, the classrooms at the Home Industries Training Center near the bus terminal (where the fruit market is now located) were not enough to cater to the growing population. The City Central School near the city hall and the building that now houses the Dona Milagros Building were utilized to answer to the need for more classrooms.

In 1970, the school was transferred to its present site located at Brgy. Calindangan, Dumaguete City. Rooms were pre-fabricated and were called the Marcos-type classrooms. In addition, by the time Dumaguete City High School was moved to its present location, there was still an ongoing construction but the classrooms were already good enough to use. The school stage was an open space. An atmosphere of satisfaction between the students and teachers existed because of the very good rapport between learners and the mentors. The members of the faculty were caring and concerned about the welfare of the students (Interview, Mrs. Emervencia Ligutom).

As the enrollment grew by more than half of its original number, the need for a better and more spacious space conducive for learning also increased. The school, which was located at the Home Industries Training Center, the City Central School and the Building that is now the Dona Milagros building, was transferred to a four-hectare lot in Calindangan, Dumaguete City which was owned by the family of former Governor Serafin Teves (DCHS Student Handbook, 1987).

The site is bounded on the northeast with Lot. No. 6376-D4 & Road, South West-Lot Nos. 1406 and 1405, South East Lot No. 6376 and North west Lot Nos. 1400,1395 and 1393-B. The said land was for school site and had a market value of Php 4,288,350.00. The parcel of land, with improvements thereon, is situated in the municipality of Dumaguete. The area is one thousand nine hundred and sixty-seven square meters (Transfer Certificate of Title No. 4642 and 26539). In addition, the Transfer Certificate of Title mentioned earlier is indicative that the said property belongs to Dumaguete City and that it must be utilized for educational purposes (Transfer Certificate of Title No. 4642 and 26539).

Mr. Ramon F. Sun also stated that when they transferred to the present site of the school in Calindangan, there were only 7 to 8 Marcos-type classrooms.

**The Early Mentors.** The school was manned by one school head in the person of Mr. Alfredo Hermosa, a Science Coordinator at the Negros Oriental High School (DCHS Student Handbook, 1987) and seven incredible teachers namely Mr. Sergio T. Somido, Mrs Felicita A. Infante, Mr. Frederick Ma. Solis, Ms. Letecia S. Emilia, Mrs Delia T. Balolong, Mr. Jose N. Lasola and Mrs. Crescenciana Baylosis (List of DCHS Teachers). Based on the recollection of Mr. Ramon F. Sun, the mentors during his time, from 1967-1971, were the following:

- English teachers- Mrs. Felicita A. Infante (deceased), Mr. Sergio T. Somido (deceased) and Lolita Q. Luague (deceased) Mathematics and Algebra- Mr. Jose N. Lasola (deceased) and Mr. Florido A. Ruiz (deceased); Pilipino- Mr. Leonardo Teofilio; History- Mrs. Norma L. Tale and Mrs. Theodora Somido (deceased); Home Economics- Mr. Franklin Tale (deceased); Philippine Military Training- Ms. Thelma Banzon (deceased); Literature- Ms.Mirzah Rodriguez (deceased); Spanish- Mrs Letecia Emelia (deceased) and Ms. Fe Ozoa (deceased); Physics- Mr. Frederick Solis (deceased); Practical Arts and Physical Education for boys and girls- Mrs. Davelina Tayros Nocete; Music- Ms. Fe Ozoa; and for Religion and Philosophy- Mrs. Armisticia Vano.)

For the School Year 1969-1970, a total of seventeen teachers were deployed at Dumaguete City High School. Mr. Alfredo Hermosa was still the head teacher with Delia Balolong, Crescenciana Baylosis, Felicita Infante, Letecia Emilia, Jose Lasola, Frederick Ma. Solis, Sergio Somido, Josefina Baraclan, Celeta Catan, Davillena Nocete, Fe Ozoa, Norma Tale, Judine Cleope, Leonardo Teofilio, Cristeto Teves, Alejandro Transmonte, Jovita Antony and Sylvia Ybañez (Enclosure to Department Memorandum No. 16 s. 1970).
By the following school year, 1970-1971, the teaching force of Dumaguete City High School increased to thirty-five teachers. Then in 1977-1978, there was a total of fifty teaching and non-teaching personnel of Dumaguete City High School with one clerk in the person of Silverio Cuevas, a night watchman in the name of Themostecles Libosada and Felix Capitan as school janitor. Mr. Sergio Somido was the principal and Mrs. Felicita Infante was the assistant principal. In 1978, Mr Sergio Somido wrote a letter in compliance to an order dated February 13, 1978 for the submission of the plantilla of the personnel of Dumaguete City High School. It must also be noted that in this year, the total number of personnel had reached to a total of fifty-six teaching and non-teaching staff including the Camanjac Unit with Henrietta Bunagan, Lurny Yap and Isah Badon as teachers.

The Early Curriculum. The school year 1967-1968 officially opened in July 3, 1967. The said school year had one hundred ninety (190) days of school. The Grading System used was cumulative with the following subjects for first year: Reading, Grammar and Composition, Character Education and Right Conduct, Philippine Community Life and C.E. Pilipino, Math, General Science, Health and Physical Education, Home Economics and Music. For school year 1968-1969, the number of school days increased to 195 and still opened in the month of July with the introduction of Philippine History and Government as a new subject. Furthermore, school year 1969-1970 had 191 school days, still began in the month of July but with more new learning areas like Literature, Composition, Philippine Problems, Math, Advanced Algebra, Geometry and Biology (B.P.S. Form 137-A).

Meanwhile, for the school year 1970-1971, the number of school days was 192 days with more new subjects such as World History, Economics, Spanish and Physics. Numerical values are the basis for promotion having 75 percent as the passing mark. Each subject had a corresponding unit. For the first year curriculum, there was a total of seven and one half units, the second year curriculum with seven units, the third year curriculum with eight units, and the fourth year curriculum with nine units. For a student to move to the next level, he or she needed to have a minimum of thirty-one units. The Bureau of Public School Form 137-A indicated the Personal data of the student to include the elementary school where that student graduated from and the year, the occupation of the parent and other personal circumstances (B.P.S. Form 137-A).

The Early Graduation. After 4 years of educational opportunities provided by Dumaguete City High School, the first graduation ceremony was held in Calindagan, Dumaguete City. Rogen Pabillore topped the graduating class of 1971 as Class Valedictorian. Second was Corazon Ruiz as Class Salutatorian while Catherine Pacharro, Lionel Infante and Evelyn Sanico finished as 1st, 2nd, and 3rd honorable mentions, respectively. The criteria for choosing the cream of the crop were based on scholarship, 6 points; character, 3 points; and extra-curricular activities, 1 point. The ranking system was also utilized to determine the final results (List of Outstanding DCHS Students, 1970-1971).

For school year 1971-1972, the grades of the Third Year curriculum and the final grades of the Fourth Year students were added to comprise the scholarship equivalent. Emerencian Legaspi emerged victorious while Tita Balbon was declared as the second placer (Ranking list of Outstanding DCHS Students, 1971-1972).

It was in the School Year 1972-1973 when the honorable mentions were declared up to the seventh level. Valedictorian for the year was Rita Navarro, followed by Vivian Gomez as Salutatorian with Lope Mayola Jr, Estrellita Liwanag, Josefina Falsarie, Raul Carino, Cesar Corsame, Josefina Baligasa, Rosemary Miro and Luisa Jatico emerging as 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, and 7th honorable mentions, respectively (Computation of DCHS Honors Students, 1971-1972).

The Physical Plant. In terms of physical development, buildings were also constructed to address the growing population and provided sufficient facilities for the educational needs of the students. The first edifice that was constructed was the Administrative Building. The year 1972 gave rise to 20 classrooms of Pre-fab Marcos-type Building for educational use (Interview with Mr. Cornelio Umbac-DCHS Faculty). Each classroom had a floor dimension of 6x7, a floor area of forty-two square meters and a gross area per place at forty-five students per room of 0.93 (Educational Facilities Manual, 2010).

On September 13, 1990, the first two-story building at Dumaguete City High was inaugurated. This educational edifice accommodated four classrooms, a laboratory room and a library all equipped and furnished with complete table chairs, cabinets and lockers, water and lighting facilities and laboratory and science equipment. The total cost of this project was P4,698,870 pesos which came from the Economic Support Fund or ESF, the United States Agency for International Development or USAID, the Local Government Unit of Dumaguete City and the Department of Education (Magnetite, Vol. 20, No. 1, pp. 1&8, 1990).

Another milestone for the school occurred during the incumbency of Mayor Agustin “Tuting” Perdices. He paved the way for the construction of a multi-purpose gymnasium inside the campus of Dumaguete City High School. With this development, the students were provided with opportunities to conduct activities which were culture and sports-related. The edifice also served, and continues to serves, as a venue for various competitions encouraging more people to visit the school and becoming an avenue for advertising the school to the community.
Aside from the gymnasium, another educational edifice was constructed to house the students of the Senior High School Program which was implemented in the School Year 2016-2017 although this building was actually completed and turned over to the school in School Year 2017-2018. This is a two-story building with six classrooms which would later house the Special Program in the Arts (SPA) Department, a program which caters to the different specializations of the students, when another new building donated by PAGCOR became available for the Senior High School Department.

As mentioned in the previous paragraph, as part of the physical development and initiative of the school administration, another opportunity came with the donation of an eighteen-classroom three-story building that was constructed to finally house the Senior High School Department of Dumaguete City High School. Mayor Felipe Antonio Remollo expressed his gratitude to the PAGCOR officials for their contribution in helping the public schools so they will be more conducive to learning. Those who attended in the turn-over ceremony were City Councilor Manuel Arbon, Assistant Provincial Administrator Froilan Pinili, the DepEd officials led by Assistant City Schools Division Superintendent Neri Ojastro, Dumaguete City High School Principal Elueteria B. Abiquibil, the school’s faculty members and the students. Presently, this building is also utilized as the Administrative Building hosting the following offices: accounting, guidance and the school clinic. This was inaugurated in the year 2018 and it was so timely because it was at this year that the DepEd-Dumaguete City Division played as co-host of the National Festival of Talents (NPOT).

While disasters, either natural or man-made, often cause a lot of problems, they can also create opportunities. This was what happened at Dumaguete City High School. In the early morning of June 20, 2019, more than 10 Marcos-Type classrooms were razed by fire. These classrooms were occupied by the Grades 7 and 8 classes. The said incident resulted to lack of classrooms. However, with the leadership of the school administrators, the school was able to find a long-term solution to the problem. Four days after the fire incident occurred, the school administrators requested for funding from Regional Director Edgar B. Tabagon, CESO IV. The said request was for the construction of the three-unit three-story twelve-classroom each building providing the school with a total of thirty-six brand new classrooms (Interview, Dr. Alden A. Rabina, 2020).

On December 2, 2019, the offices of the Undersecretary for Finance Annalyn M. Sevilla and Undersecretary Alain B. del Pascua issued an authority to procure the construction of the said building mentioned above to DepEd Regional Director Salustiano T. Jimenez and the Schools Division Superintendent of Dumaguete City Division at that time Dr. Evangel M. Luminarias. On that same month, a Special Allotment Release Order was issued in the amount Php 96,706,000.74. The said funds came from the Regular Agency Fund for Fiscal Year 2019 under the General Appropriation Act or Republic Act 11260 and the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (Calamity Fund).

Program offerings. For the school year 1987-1988, Dumaguete City High School implemented a Special Science Class or the SSC. This was in collaboration with the Department of Science and Technology (DOST). Prospective first year students were required to take the Selection Test for the said class. The student in the SSC were required to maintain a general average of 83% with no final grade lower than 80% in any subject area (DECS Order No. 54, s. 1996). Unfortunately, the said class lasted only for one school year due to the lack of teachers trained for such. Another concern at that time was the lack of school facilities and the students’ readiness of the said endeavor.

The accommodation of the SPED-HI class for the school year 1996-1997 added color to the lives of the student populace at Dumaguete City High School. It started with five students who were all PEPT Passers from the SPED-HI class at West City Elementary School. It was in 1997 that Dumaguete City High School started the Special Education Program catering to the educational needs of the hearing-impaired learners of Dumaguete City and the neighboring places. Mrs. Cristina Centino, with Mr. Luisito Mapue, pioneered the said program. However, from School Year 2020-2021 up to the writing of this paper, Mrs. Virginia B. Divinagracia and Mrs. Psyche Mascaro are the ones handling the SPED program of the institution catering to the different needs of the students namely the hearing impaired, the visually impaired and those suffering from autism (Interview with Mrs. Virginia B. Divinagracia).

Dumaguete City High School also became the venue for the Balik-Paaralan Para sa Out-of-School Adult or the BPPOSA Program. This was in response to the need to provide an opportunity for the out-of-school adults aged 20-45 to return to school to finish their secondary education. In the event, they were expected to be able to start small-scale businesses through the assistance of the participating lending institutions. This was a community-based program which provided hands-on learning in entrepreneurship at least once a week to out-of-school adults. It made use of a competency-based curriculum that covered tasks from First to Fourth Year high school (DepEd Order No. 30 s. 2002). The year 2001 provided another milestone to Dumaguete City High School as the school opened its educational doors to the Night School Program with Mr. Alberto Tolain as Teacher-in-Charge. The faculty members for the night classes were Mrs. Psyche Mascaro, Mrs. Mitzi Amoma, Mrs. Rudita Madona, and Dr. Leizette Silot. The first classrooms utilized for the night classes were the rooms in the Marcos Type Building and classes started from 1:30 in the afternoon to 9:30 in the evening (Interview with Mrs. Psyche Mascaro-DCNHS Faculty, 2021). The students who enrolled in...
the night classes were required to submit certificates of graduation from the elementary school where they graduated from or a certificate from the Philippine Education Placement Test (PEPT), whatever was applicable for them. Students in the night secondary school were self-employed or employed by other people during the greater portion of the day. A certificate of employment duly signed by the student’s employer indicating the nature of the work of the student was also required before enrolment. However, due to the decreasing number of student enrollees, the said program was closed effective School Year 2015-2016.

For the School Year 2004-2005, a Bridge Class Program for English, Science and Mathematics was implemented in Dumaguete City High School with thirty-two male students and thirteen female students. The rationale of this program was to address the learning gaps of high school entrants as evidenced by their low performance in the National Diagnostic Tests. The results of these tests revealed the need for mastery of basic concepts and fundamental skills in English, Science and Mathematics. The target clientele were the high school entrants who, based on the results of the diagnostic tests, need to maximize the benefits they will derive from the First Year curriculum. The mode of delivery was a combination of modular, self-paced and guided learning, face-to-face, and whole-class interaction. Modules were developed to provide practice materials for the students and learning was supplemented by other educational media (DepEd Memorandum No. 147 s. 2004).

The Open High School Program of Dumaguete City High School started in the Academic Year 2006-2007 with four students enrolled in First Year. The teachers who handled the subjects were Dr. Carmelita Banua, Mrs. Martimiana Ramirez, Mrs. Paulette Erosido, and Ms. Sarah Nuico as the program coordinator. The establishment of the open high school program came as a result of Republic Act 10665 or an Act Establishing the Open High School System in the Philippines. Furthermore, DepEd Order No. 46 s. 2006 implements the Open High School Program (OHSP) as an alternative mode of secondary education that uses distance learning. It also caters to learners who are unable to attend the regular school program due to physical impairment, work, financial difficulties, distance of home to school, and other justifiable reasons. The said program focuses on the distance delivery mode of learning, thus the program required that the learners are capable of managing their own learning styles. The Open High School Program (OHSP) is aligned with the School Improvement Plan’s (SIPs) goal of producing functional and literate graduates with mastery of the basic competencies, capable of problem-solving so they will become productive members of their families and their communities (Interview with Ms. Sarah Nuico, 2020).

In June of 2007, Dumaguete City High School started another satellite school named as the Dumaguete Vocational High School located in Barangay Piapi within the premises of North City Elementary School offering the First Year curriculum with one section offering a Secondary Technical Education Curriculum. During its first year of operation, there were 40 students enrolled under two mentors namely Mr. Alfredo V. Campoy, a TLE-Industrial teacher, and Mr. Felixberto G. Calidguid, a TLE-Agriculture teacher. Mr. Campoy was designated as the Teacher-in-Charge until its conversion as a regular High School starting school year 2009-2010.

The Philippine Educational System, in its thrust to be globally competitive, continuously upgrades its programs and curricula. In 2001, the introduction of the Special Program in the Arts, which is an enhanced curriculum, became a national program for students. One pilot school per region for all regions implemented the program. The stunning success of its implementation and its great impact to student development paved the way for region VII to ignite all School Divisions to open one among their secondary schools. DepEd Dumaguete City Division took the challenge starting School Year 2013-2014 at Dumaguete City High School with the Special Program in the Arts becoming another educational endeavor.

This program is in close coordination with the Local Government of Dumaguete City, thus it has a high regard on the promotion of the students’ development in Culture and the Arts. One such manifestation is its pioneering project dubbed as Project Maximizing Totality of Skills (Project MTS) which had a core group of teachers and students trained in Music, Media Arts, Film and Drama. Teachers with inherent skills in the other forms of art to be offered were also trained further in a national training. These six arts teachers were trained in Baguio City from May 27-31, 2013 in the SANAYGURO National Arts Training for Teachers of the Special Program in the Arts. The pioneering teachers are the following: Angelo Sayson as Program Coordinator and Dance Teacher, Ana Marie Duterte (Music), Jackylyn Enumerabellion (Drama), Melanie Siquijor (Creative Writing), Marie Paulette Erosido (Visual Arts), and Julius Carballo (Media Arts). The first Special Program in the Arts building was located at the back of the school gymnasium with thirty-three pioneering students and six teachers who were assigned in each discipline. After its inception, the said program started to spread and in just two years, the enrollment increased. For school year 2018-2019, classes of the said program were transferred to the newly constructed building near the school gate fronting the open field with 136 students. Interestingly, the program had already reaped numerous local, regional and national awards. Roxandra Velez, for example, a product of the SPA-Visual Arts, placed in the National Level Competition for Young Artist. Recently, the tandem of Mahusay and Encilay represented region seven in the National Festival of Talent (NFOT) at Isabela in 2019 (Interview, Mrs. Ana Marie Duterte, DCHSFaculty).
The school year 2016-2017 offers another milestone in the history of Dumaguete City High School because of the implementation of the Senior High School Program or the additional 2 years in basic education. The school offers the Academic Track and the Technical-Vocational Track (TVL). Under the Academic track are the following strands: STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics), ABM (Accountancy, Business and Management), HUMSS (Humanities and Social Sciences), and GAS (General Academic Strand). Meanwhile, the Technical-Vocational (TVL) track offers the following strands: First is Home Economics which consists of Bread and Pastry Production (BBP); Food and Beverages Services (FBS); Cookery; Front Office Servicing (FOS); and Housekeeping. Aside from H.E., there is also the Industrial Arts which offers Electrical Installation and Maintenance (EIM), Plumbing, Shielded Metal Arc Welding (SMAW). The third is the Information Communication Technology which consists of Computer Systems Servicing (CSS) and Contact Center Services (CCS).

There were twelve pioneering teachers in the Senior High School (SHS) Department of Dumaguete City High School. They are Dr. John Robert General (Academic Coordinator and Biology teacher), Roda Baldoza (Mathematics), Romina de Guzman (Chemistry/Physics), Ma. Haide Y. Duran (Mathematics), Bernadeth Quinet (Mathematics), Ma. Eugenia N. Sedillo (English), Marilou Pidor (TVL Coordinator, BPP, Cookery and FBS), Gregorio Alvarez (CSS), Junrey Belando (CCS), Venus de la Luna (FOS, FBS and Housekeeping), Dr. Michael Guiuan (CSS) and Neldico Pagbunocan (EIM and Plumbing) (Interview with Mrs. Haide Y. Duran-Senior High School Faculty, 2021).

After two years of implementation, on April 2, 2018, 229 learners of the Senior High School, consisting of 106 males and 123 females, received their diplomas as the first graduates under the Senior High School curriculum at the DCHS Multipurpose Gymnasium. With its majestic DepEd-PAGCOR Building and another new building beside it, and all other school facilities, Dumaguete City High School-Senior High School Department is ready to embrace and embark into a new journey of educational experiences in addressing the different needs of the 21st century learners.

The life changing events. Amidst all the good things happening in the school, Dumaguete City High School was also challenged by three very significant events. First was in the School Year 1994-1995 when a group of parents and some teachers staged a demonstration against the incumbent school principal, the late Mrs. Delia Gornez. Because of that situation, the teachers of DCHS were divided into two groups. Some sided with the school administrator while the others sympathized with the strikers. The noise protest lasted for three days. After several negotiations made by the Schools Division Superintendent, Dr. Metodio Gapasin, together with the City Mayor, Hon. Agustin R. Perdices, a decision was reached and that was to detail Mrs Delia Gornez in the Division Office to take charge of the Social Studies Program. Replacing her as Officer In-Charge of the School was Dr. Emigdio Omicitin. At the time of the protest, majority of the parents showed negative actions against the teachers who worked for the continued operation of the school by ignoring their protests (Interview, Dr. Emigdio Omicitin, 2021). The second challenge was the fire incident in the early morning of June 20, 2019 when a fire broke out razing the old Marcos-type rooms of the school. Investigation conducted on the incident disclosed that the fire originated at the electrical insulation from the ceiling area which was near the panel board of the second room of the Marcos-type building that caused an electrical ignition due to overload.

Finally, the third and the worst of all, is the COVID 19 pandemic which the world still faces up to the present. Everybody knows that the entire country was placed into a state of health emergency and that was worsened even more as far as DCHS is concerned because of the fact the school was designated by the local Inter Agency Task Force in Emerging Infections Diseases (IATF-EID) as a quarantine and isolation facility for the Locally Stranded Individuals or LSI and the suspected or probable COVID 19 positive cases. Mr. Alden Rabina was also designated as administrator of the quarantine facility by virtue of a city resolution. The Dumaguete City government also opened the gymnasium of Dumaguete City High School as a community isolation center for Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) patients. It became a 40-bed capacity with complete amenities to serve the basic needs of persons with influenza-like illness (ILI) who were monitored 24/7 by the City Health Office (CHO) and the City Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office (CDRRMO) personnel (Interview, Dr. Alden A. Rabina).

The stewards of Dumaguete City High School
Alfredo Hermosa hails from Cataingan, Masbate and was born on April 1, 1910. He took his Bachelor of Arts degree in Silliman University and then his Bachelor of Secondary Education major in Biology with minor in History in the same university. He then took the Junior Teacher Examination on December 28, 1940 and got a rating of 70.02 percent. Later he took the Senior Teacher Examination and got a rating of 74.02 in June 16 of 1951. Prior to his passing the examinations, Mr. Hermosa was already an elementary school teacher in Dumaguete City until 1944. He also worked as a clerk at the Division Office until he was appointed as Senior Teacher at Negros Oriental High School on July 1, 1946 and then appointed as Head Teacher in the newly opened Dumaguete City High School. He was elevated to the rank of Principal II on July 1, 1969 with an annual salary of Php6,600.00 per Republic Act 4477 (B.P.S Form 127). Mr. Hermosa exuded authority in his bearing. He was formal and he was always well-dressed in his long sleeves, formal hat with his trademark moustache. During school activities, Mr. Hermosa was always in attendance. His demeanor was strict but he was also friendly. He went around the campus to meet and talk (even only briefly) with the faculty members and students (Interview, Mrs. Emervencia Ligutom). His assignment as the school head of Dumaguete City High School from 1967 to 1975 (B.P.S Form 127).
Sergio T. Somido was born on February 23, 1929 in San Andres, Catanduanes and he was married to Teodora S. Noblefranca. He had his elementary education at Cololbon Central School in Catanduanes and his high school at Catanduanes Academy where he was the class valedictorian. He proceeded with his college education at Southeastern College taking up Bachelor of Secondary Education and graduated as Cum Laude. His teaching career started in 1954 in Cololbon Institute, then at Décor Carmeli Academy in Zamboanguita, Negros Oriental where he was the Assistant Principal. For School Year 1961-1962, he was appointed as the Principal of Infant King Academy in Jimalalud, still in Negros Oriental. In the following School Year 1962-1963, he served as Principal of Cathedral School, now known as the Colegio de Sta. Catalina de Alexandria. From there, he was at Carmel High School for School Year 1963-1964 in the municipality of Siaton, Negros Oriental also as Principal. From August 3, 1964 to 1965, he became a classroom teacher at Zamboanga del Norte Provincial High School and in the next School Year, 1965 to 1967, he was at the Negros Oriental High School. He also passed the Senior Teacher Exam on April 19 with a rating of 70.01. He was part of the seven pioneering teachers of Dumaguete City High School until his appointment as Assistant Principal in 1973 and was then promoted to being Secondary School Principal II in 1975 (Personal Data Sheet of Mr. Somido as of June 17, 1969). Dr. Somido was responsible for the establishment of Junob High School as a composite school of Dumaguete City High School (Interview with Ramon Martin Somido).

Felicita A. Infante served with a regular plantilla as Assistant Secondary Principal of Dumaguete City High School. She graduated from Silliman University with the degree of Bachelor in Secondary Education major in English and she was part of the pioneering teachers of Dumaguete City High School (B.P.S Form 127). When she started working in DCHS in 1967, she worked with Mr. Sergio T. Somido, who was the full-fledged School Principal with an item as Secondary School Principal II. At that time, the administration and supervision of the school included its sister high schools which are Camanjac High School and Junob High School, both located in Dumaguete City and were fully funded by the Dumaguete City Government. This was in 1978. Her functions were more on the supervisory aspect such as monitoring and evaluating because the administrative duties and responsibilities were in the yoke of the School Principal II unless the delegation of power and functions exercised by the school principal (Interview with Dr. Emigdio Omictin). Delia F. Gornez’s administration is always viewed in the history of the school as the most challenging due to the many problems she faced as an administrator not only coming from the students but also from the teachers and parents. In an insight given by Dr. Emigdio Omictin, a former faculty member of the school, he said that in the School Year 1991-1992, a group of parents and some teachers staged a strike or demonstration against the administration of the late Mrs. Delia Gornez. There were two factions. One sided with the Gornez administration and the other with the demonstrators or strikers. It was a noise protest that lasted for three days. The Schools Division Superintendent that time in the person of Dr. Metodio Gapasin, together with then City Mayor, the Hon. Agustin R. Perdices made a decision to detail Mrs. Delia Gornez in the Division Office to take charge of the Social Studies Program. These negotiations were initiated by the above-mentioned personalities in order to have a smooth transition in matters of school affairs (Interview, Dr. Emigdio Omictin).

George M. Villamor is a graduate of the degree Master of Arts in Educational Management at the Central Mindanao University in the Province of Bukidnon. Born on February 22, 1942 in Dumaguete City, Mr. Villamor’s first assignment as a secondary school teacher was at the Negros Oriental High School but he later transferred to Dumaguete City High School. He also earned 45 units leading to the degree Doctor of Education in the same institution where he finished his master’s degree. Mr. Villamor served at Dumaguete City High School for 23 years starting on November 21, 1971. He was promoted as Assistant Principal starting October 29, 1992. After two years as Secondary School Principal I, he was then promoted as Secondary School Principal II and later as Education Supervisor I until his retirement on December 01, 2005 under Republic Act 8291. His appointment as a school manager resulted from a conflict which led to a strike staged by the members of the Parents Teachers Association (PTA) due to accusations of alleged corruption and mismanagement of the school by the principal at that time in the person of Mrs. Delia F. Gornez. As mentioned earlier, Mrs. Gornez was transferred to the division office. This move resulted to the reestablishment of the trust and confidence of the parents for the teachers and the school administration. Likewise, Mr. Villamor also served as the property custodian of the school starting in 1971 (Interview with Mr. George Villamor).

Emigdio B. Omictin was connected with Dumaguete City High School for 21 years both as a Mathematics teacher and later as a school administrator. He was promoted as Secondary School Assistant Principal 1 (equivalent to a School Officer-in-Charge) from August 18, 1995 to June 5, 1997. From June 5, 1997 to September 2, 1997, he functioned as a Secondary Assistant Principal 1 with a regular School Principal designation (Personal Data Sheet of Mr. Omictin, 1980). In the School Year 1994-1995, there was a strike or demonstration staged by a group of parents and some teachers against the incumbent school Principal, the late Mrs. Delia Gornez. According to Mr. Omictin, he considers that as a significant development in his life for he felt he emerged as a leader in the midst of the chaos. Mr. Omictin reflected on these experiences and realized that it was really his destiny to become a school leader. A manifestation of God’s gift to him to become a leader was when in September 2, 1997, nobody again contested against his appointment as Division Supervisor for Mathematics in spite of the presence of many teachers and incumbent elementary school principals in Dumaguete City who were majors in mathematics. Moreover, as part of his destiny, he also became an OIC-Assistant Schools Division Superintendent without undergoing the ranking upon the recommendation of the City
Mayor, the Regional Director that time and this was duly approved by the Department of Education (DepEd) Central Office. Dr. Omictin finished his Masters in Educational Management and Doctor in Educational Management at Foundation University (Interview, Mr. Omictin, 2020).

**Rosalina L. Banquerigo** was born on February 12, 1947 in Talay, Dumaguete City. Her first teaching career started at Basay Municipal High School and Bindoy Municipal High School, where she only served for one school year in each school starting from the year 1972 and 1973, respectively. From School Year 1974 until 1983, she was assigned at Sibulan Municipal High School. Her first touch at Dumaguete City High came in the Year 1983 until her retirement as Education Program Supervisor (PDS of Mrs. Banquerigo, 2000). Mrs. Banquerigo believes that hard work and discipline are the keywords in making any endeavor a success. Her performance as Coordinator at Junob High School elevated her to become a school administrator at Dumaguete City High School from school year 1995 to 2001. Then she was assigned at Junob National High School as Principal. Because of her performance, she was promoted as Education Program Supervisor at the Division of Dumaguete City. Mrs. Banquerigo finished her Master of Arts in Educational Management degree at Foundation University which equipped her with the necessary tools to become a school manager (Interview with Mrs. Banquerigo). It was during her administration that Dumaguete City High became a lead school in the Philippine-Australia Project in Basic Education (PROBE), which objective was to equip the teachers of the satellite schools in the fields of English, Science and Math. The said program also targeted to capacitate the teachers in the teaching-learning strategies. Mrs. Banquerigo also showed her love the hearing impaired students enrolled in the Hearing-Impaired Program of the Special Program in Education (SPED). She always reminded the regular students to show their love and respect for these special children. Because of this action by Mrs. Banquerigo, the hearing-impaired students felt welcomed and respected in spite of their disability (Interview, Mrs. Banquerigo).

**Alberto L. Tolin** was born on August 7, 1941 and hailed from Mang-nao-Canal, Dumaguete City. He completed his Bachelor of Arts degree in 1964 and then proceeded to take up his Bachelor of Secondary Education degree in the year 1967 at Foundation University. He came to Dumaguete City High School on July 17, 1969 as an English teacher and as the adviser of the school’s publication, the Magnetite. Prior to his assignment at DCHS, he taught at a Private school for two years. Mr. Tolin finished his Master of Arts in Educational Management at Foundation University. His last assignment was at Tacloba High School as Master Teacher/Teacher-In-charge of the school prior to his retirement on November 3, 2004. His Secondary Teachers Examination result is 71.73 percent (PDS of Mr. Tolin, 2002). “Attitude matters the most above other achievements”. This was the philosophy of Mr. Alberto Tolin (Interview with Mrs. Ruditha Madonna). Mr. Bert, that was how his close friends called him, was an English teacher, a school paper adviser and a property custodian before he got promoted to the position of school administrator. He was described by his coworkers as very hardworking, a man of principle, down to earth and a fatherly leader (Interview, Mr. Orlando Omlang). Mr. Tolin was described as respectful and authoritative and was responsible in developing and institutionalizing the night class program. He was also approachable and willing to take many challenges for the improvement of Dumaguete City High School. He met and collaborated with other school administrators, parents and some community organizations. Likewise, he also worked actively with teachers to maintain high curriculum standards and regularly conducted classroom visitations and observed classes for both the development of the students and teachers (Interview with Mrs. Pysche Mascardo).

**Norma L. Tale** is a graduate of the degree Doctor of Education and is from Banilad, Bacong, Negros Oriental. She was born on September 14, 1945. She came to Dumaguete City High School in the school year 1968-1969 and belonged to the second batch of mentors that were hired in this noble institution. Dr. Tale was also a former teacher at Dumaguete City High School for 27 years before her promotion as school administrator. She was a Secondary School Principal I for two years, a Secondary School Principal II for 5 years, and was promoted to Education Program Supervisor. Her term at Dumaguete City High School as an administrator started from January of 2002 and ended on April 15, 2006 as she was assigned to another school as educational manager (Interview with Mrs. Norma Tale, 2020). Dr. Tale also noted several insightful facts about Dumaguete City High School during her leadership as the school head. As the leader of Dumaguete City, the school is considered an IU or an implementing unit which means the school has a fiscal autonomy with its own separate budget coming from the national government, its own internet connection in partnership with GLOBE, KNOWLEDGE CHANNEL viewing, and a memorandum of agreement for the perpetual use of the City Gymnasium located inside the campus of Dumaguete City High School with the DCHS stakeholders as priority users. There is also the conduct of the Holy Mass every first Friday of the month sponsored by the different departments (Interview with Mrs. Norma Tale, 2020).

**Florido Ruiz** was born on October 22, 1944 and resided in Banilad, Dumaguete City. He had thirty-two years of unparalleled service in educating the youth in the Division of Dumaguete City. Mr. Ruiz earned his Master of Arts in Educational Management in Foundation University. For a span of eight years as school administrator, he was designated as School Principal in the various secondary schools in the Division of Dumaguete City to include Hermingilda Flores Gloria Memorial High School (2002-2004), RTPM-Dumaguete City Science High School (2004-2005), Camanjac National High School (2005-2006), and his last assignment as a school head was at Dumaguete City High School from 2006 to 2009 (PDS of Mr. Ruiz, 2010). Mr. Ruiz also championed the Gulyan at Palaisadan Ayala sa Kabataan or GPK as the school was granted an amount of Php50,000.00 from the provincial government to fully
implement the program. The person in-charge of the said program was Mr. Mescardo Banzon (Purchase Order No. 03-06-2008). Likewise, a donation from the Local Government Unit of Dumaguete in the amount of P20,269.91 which helped finance the construction and development of the fencing of the school perimeter (Purchase Order No. 07-10-2008).

Also, the Department of Education Central Office, during the leadership of Mr. Ruiz, downloaded a Special Allotment Release Order or SARO, dated November 8, 2008, in the amount of Php 500,000.00 as Maintenance and Other Operating Expenses (MOOE) to support schools with Special Education or SPED offerings. This amount was used for instructional materials, building development and improvement and capacitating teachers in this curriculum offering at Dumaguete City High School (SARO, 2008).

**Milagros Ruiz** was born on October 29, 1948 in Pamplona, Negros Oriental. She spent 31 years of her life being a classroom teacher and as a school administrator. As a classroom teacher, Mrs Ruiz joined the teaching force in September 25, 1970. On March 18, 1998, she was promoted as a Master Teacher and then as a Secondary School Principal on January 6, 2003. She became Principal II in the year 2009 and Principal III in the year 2011 (PDS of Mrs. Ruiz, 2018).

Prior to her assignment at Dumaguete City High School in the Academic Years 2009-2010 to 2010-2011, she was designated as school administrator in the following secondary schools in the division of Dumaguete City namely: Taclobo High School (1999-2003), Camanjac National High School (2003-2005), and Junob National High School (June, 2005-November, 2009). She finished her Master of Arts in Filipino at Silliman University. During her administration, the Balik sa Paaralan Para sa Out of School Adult was institutionalized at Dumaguete City High as part of the effectiveness and responsiveness of the school to the educational needs of the different sectors in society especially the various groups of the school-age population. Mrs. Ruiz was promoted as DepEd-Dumaguete City Division’s Education Program Specialist in Filipino prior to her retirement on October 30, 2013 (Interview with Mrs. Ruiz, 2020).

**Erenea M. Landa** hails from Balugo, Valencia and was born on April 1, 1954. Mrs. Landa is a Master of Arts in Filipino degree holder from Foundation University. Before joining the teaching profession, she was a former employee of the Commission on Population or POPCOM as a fulltime outreach worker and she later joined the teaching force at a private school in Valencia, Negros Oriental teaching Filipino. She then applied for a teaching position in the public school at Junob National High School where she taught for 21 years starting from January 18, 1990. Prior to her position as school manager, she was a Master Teacher in Filipino and as an Assistant Principal from November 11, 2011 to being a full Pledged Principal I on June 26, 2012 (Interview with Mrs. Landa, 2020). When the opportunity came, she then took the Principal’s Examination and fortunately passed with flying colors. Her first assignment as a school administrator was at Herminigilda F. Gloria Memorial High School as Teacher-In-charge. She was then transferred to Taclobo High School for not more than a year and was elevated to a bigger school as Officer-In-charge of Dumaguete City High School. Sometime in 2012, she was given the position of Principal I and was assigned in Junob National High School then to Camanjac National High School until her retirement (Interview with Mrs. Landa, 2020). During her term as Officer-In-charge of Dumaguete City High School, the school offered the following programs: Open High School, Regular High School, Night Class, Balik Paaralan Para sa Out-of-School Adult (BP-OSA), and Special Education (SPED).

**Ma. Gina S. Anqui** came to Dumaguete City High School in two waves. First, as a student in the years 1976 to 1980 and then second, as a school administrator. Prior to her administrative promotion, she was a Mathematics teacher at Dumaguete City Science High School. Among the schools where she was assigned as principal are Camanjac National High School, Junob National High School, Dumaguete City High School, Dumaguete Science High School and presently, she is the principal of Taclobo National High School. She is a graduate of the degree Master of Arts in Educational Management and has a Complete Academic Requirement (CAR) status for the degree in Doctor of Educational Management. During her term at Dumaguete City High School, the school offerings were the Regular Junior High School, Special Education (SPED) specializing in Hearing and Visual Impairment, Open High School Program, Night Class and, at that time, the newly offered Special Program in the Arts (SPA) (Interview with Mrs. Anqui, 2020). She was first assigned in 1987 at Negros Oriental Division until 1992. Then in November 16, 2009, she was promoted as Assistant Secondary School Principal I and in the span of two years as a full Pledged Principal in May 18, 2011 (PDS of Mrs. Anqui, 2018).

**Eleuteria B. Abiquibel** said that she had always been guided with this biblical verse in her career as a teacher and as a school administrator. She quoted Matthew 6:33 which says “Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and He will give you everything you need.” Her priorities have always been God first, family second and her job third. She found out that when she put her priorities in this order, everything went right. Mrs. Abiquibel was born on August 8, 1956 in Banilad, Dumaguete City. She started her teaching career at Pamplona National High School on July 7, 1980 as a Secondary School Teacher I with a salary of P3,444.00 until her transfer to the Dumaguete City Division on July 23, 1986. She finished her Master of Arts in Education at Saint Paul University in Dumaguete City on March 19, 2011 and also earned 45 units in the Doctor of Education program in the same university. She retired from the service on September 2018 after 40 fruitful years in the Department of Education. After serving for more than a decade as a classroom teacher, she was able to venture into another journey as she immediately passed the Principal’s
Test given to teachers who wish to take the career path as school managers in the year 2005. Her first school assignment as an administrator was at Hermingilda F. Gloria Memorial High School in the year 2005 before she was transferred to Junob National High School. Her next assignment was at Tacloblo National High School in the year 2012. She was promoted in 2013 as Principal III and with this new development, she was designated as the principal of the Regional Science High School in the Division of Dumaguete, the Ramon Teves Pastor Memorial Regional Science High School (PDS of Abiquibil, 2020). For the school year 2015-2016 up to the school year 2017-2018, she was the administrator of Dumaguete City High School until her retirement in August 2018. During her term as Principal of City High School, she had an Assistant Principal in the person of Mr. Luisito Mapue. However, when Mr. Mapue was designated to a higher post in another school, she was assigned two new Assistant Principal Designates in the persons of Mr. Alden A. Rabina and Mr. Orlando Y. Omlang to help her in the management of the school. By the way, Mrs. Eleuteria Baroy Abiquibil is also an alumna of the school belonging to Batch 1973 (Interview with Mrs. Abiquibil, 2020).

Alden A. Rabina is the present school head of Dumaguete City High School handling both the Junior High School and the Senior High Departments. Prior to his appointment as school manager, he was a classroom teacher, an SSG adviser, a basketball coach, a property custodian, an Assistant Principal Designate, and later as Officer-In-Charge when the principal’s post was vacant due to the retirement of Mrs. Eleuteria Abiquibil. Mr. Rabina holds the degree of Doctor of Education. He was given the privilege to serve Dumaguete City High School as a full fledged principal starting school year 2019-2020 (Interview with Dr. Alden Rabina, 2020). Mr. Rabina was born on April 22, 1971 and hails from Miciano Road, Tacloblo, Dumaguete City. He finished his Bachelor of Secondary Education at Silliman University in the year 1994. He then finished his Master of Educational Management in Administration and Supervision in the year 2019 and his Doctor of Education in the year 2021 both from Foundation University. Prior to this, he was a classroom teacher for three years at Infant Jesus School in Bukidnon, then as a substitute teacher at Dumaguete Science High School in the year 2000 until 2015. After this, he was transferred to Dumaguete City High School where he is still stationed up to the present (Interview with Mr. Alden Rabina, 2020). On December 5, 2020, he was elevated as Principal III of this institution. Mr. Rabina was also designated as the Isolation and Quarantine Facility In-charge for cleanliness at Dumaguete City High School of which he expressed his appreciation to Mayor Felipe Antonio Remollo and to the Schools Division Superintendent Dr. Gregorio Cyrus R. Elejorde for the fast deployment of additional personnel who are responsible for the maintenance and repair of the isolation buildings and the provision of cleaning tools and supplies including disinfectants which are necessary to keep both the COVID-19 patients and the government workers safe from infection (Interview with Mr. Alden Rabina, 2020). During the height of the pandemic, Dumaguete City High School did not stop its operation amidst the fact that the school campus and its facilities were utilized as isolation and quarantine facilities for COVID 19 patients. To continue its operation and the delivery of educational services, the school, with the leadership of Mr. Rabina, partnered with nearby schools that served as temporary stations for the teachers of Dumaguete City High School where they were able to continue to distribute the self-learning modules and other services to the learners. The partner schools were South City Elementary School for the Grades 10, 11 and 12 faculty members and the Calindagan Elementary School to cater to the Grades 7,8 and 9 (LCP- Rabina, 2020). Among other things, the need to provide for the other aspects of the school’s workforce, like mental and emotional needs, among others, the teaching and non-teaching personnel were also being taken cared by Mr. Rabina through conducting courses and programs to answer to the needs related to the mental health condition of the school personnel. On December 19, 2020 a gender equality and mainstreaming through capability building amidst the COVID-19 pandemic was conducted and was attended by the 115 teaching and non-teaching personnel of the school. It was held at El Aquino Beach Resort in Cangmating, Sibulan, Negros Oriental. Another activity was also conducted by the Guidance and Counselling office, this time on the needed psychosocial and mental health support of the school personnel who attended a virtual activity facilitated by the focal person of mental health in the DepEd Dumaguete City Division in coordination with Ms. Rosario Ma. Dulce de Guzman (Interview with Ms. Dulce de Guzman, 2020). Mr. Alden A. Rabina also formed linkages through partnerships for the school’s various endeavors. First is with the World Friends Korea or WFK-Koica Overseas Volunteer (KOV) that assisted in the enhancement of Dumaguete City High School in the field of Welding. Mr. Jonghan Kook of KOV was the person in-charge of the said partnership (Letter from Korea, 2019). To strengthen relationships, understanding and appreciation, Dumaguete City High School and Metro Dumaguete College made a pledge of commitment duly represented by Dr. Delma P. Manila for MDC and Dr. Alden A. Rabina for DCHS. The said undertaking provides the students with opportununities to familiarize themselves with real work experiences through the Interactive Work Experience Summit (IWES) where the students will tour in one of the major players of the BPO Industry. Metro Dumaguete College (MDC) also supports DCHS in the Brigada Eskwela or the School Maintenance Week (MOA, 2019). Finally, there is also the Material Reproduction Kiosk or the MRK project which provides additional opportunities for the students to continue learning even in times of the pandemic. This is an endeavor of DepEd Dumaguete City Division, represented by Dr. Cyrus Elejorde, Dumaguete City High School through its Principal Dr. Alden A. Rabina, and the Punong Barangays of Tinago, Tabuc-tubig, Mang-nao, Calindagan, Cadawinonan, Baniland Bacong, Baniland Dumaguete, Bagacay, and Poblacion 8 (Interview with Mr. Orlando Omlang, 2020).

- Increase enrollment
- Construction of additional educational edifices
- Upgrading of school equipment’s
- Outstanding Secondary School Administrator for School Year 1994-1995
- Outstanding Secondary School for Region 7-Dumaguete City High School
- Most Outstanding GPAK Implementer
- School Garden Award
- The construction of the Dumaguete City High School Gymnasium
- Alumni were invited during recognition programs, graduation ceremonies, as well in the conduct of the Founders’ Day
- Outstanding School Administrator
- Best Student Technologists and Entrepreneurs of the Philippines or STEP Implementer (Division and Regional)
- Increase participation of the stakeholders in the operation and maintenance of the school
- Awarded as Outstanding School Principal in the Division of Dumaguete City
- Dumaguete City High School was declared Over-all Champion in the City Meet
- Institutionalizing the Special Program in the Arts or SPA which would add to the number of enrollees of the school
- The Senior High School implementation
- Awarded as Best in Financial Management for SY. 2017-2018 and 2018-2019
- Best Brigada Eskwela Implementer/Large School Category in the Division for SY 2016-2017 and 2017-2018
- National Champion in the Festival of Talents - Category Direk Ko! Ganap Mo!
- 2020 Most Outstanding Secondary School (Large Category)
- 2020 Best Implementer, DORP, Region VII
- 2020 Most Outstanding Secondary School (Large Category)
- 2019 Overall Champion, Division Technolympics (Secondary)
- 2019 Overall Champion, Palarong Panlungsod (Secondary)
- 2019 Overall Champion, Division School Press Conference
- Regional Champion, Balye sa Kalye - Festival of Talents 2019
- 3rd Place, BE Best Program Implementer
- 3rd Place, DRRM Best Program Implementer
- Outstanding Teacher in the Division of Dumaguete City SY 2006-2007


- An increase of student enrollment
- High percentage of drop-outs due to failures in paying the tuition fees
- Shortage of educational facilities (chairs, desks, teacher’s tables, blackboards, laboratory rooms and equipment and the lighting of the school campus
- The safety of the students in the campus
- Teachers were overloaded due to the big number of students
- Lack of financial resources
- Home issues/family problems
- Delayed payment on the release of salaries
- The teachers and staff were disgruntled
- The presence of non-progressive and non-conforming teachers;
- Lack of teachers and staff
- Conflict between teachers and the administration as well as the parents
- Habitual absences
- Issues on graft and corruption
- The perimeter fence of the school campus was not completed
- Overcrowding of students in a classroom (60-70 students)
- Ratio of teacher and students was inappropriate
- Easy entrance of outsiders into the school
- Low academic performance
• Misbehavior
• No administrative secretary because the in-charge was in an on-leave status
• Presence of irregular students
• No Guard on duty during day time;
• The presence of campus fraternities
• Easy access of outsiders in the campus
• Burglary on the school properties
• Non-conforming teachers
• Drop Out Rate
• Students with problems
• The Opening of the Night School Program
• Due to the wide land area lightings in the school campus is poor

• Coordinated with the LGU for the provision of additional teaching positions
• Construction of additional classrooms (Pre-fabricated)
• Purchased a property for the new site of the school campus
• The officers of the Association of Parent and Teachers or APT at DCHS asked the city council to lower the amount of Matriculation from 50.00 to 25 pesos
• Students’ accident Promotion Insurance;
• Provided financial assistance to students when they participated in the different activities of the school, in the division, regional and national levels
• Ask the Division Office for an additional teaching and non-teaching staff
• The benefits as well as the salaries of teachers and the staff were nationalized
• Hired more teachers to augment the teaching force
• A dialogue was conducted between parties
• Capacitating the 3rd and 4th year students by integrating Journalism and Public Speaking as a subject effective school SY1990-1991
• A selection committee was created
• Transferees needed to undergo an ENTRANCE EXAM
• Partnered and established linkages for additional support in the provision of educational edifices
• Peer teaching was also implemented to assist the non-performing teachers.
• Hired security guards
• Institutionalization of a DISCIPLINE COMMITTEE
• Refusal to admit students from being admitted in the school;
• Transferee w/ failures in more than 3 subjects were refused admission
• Class advisers were made to conduct close supervision of irregular students
• Additional sections were created to reduce the number of students per class
• Auxiliary rooms were utilized as classrooms
• Deputizing some of the male teachers to help in the control of the outsider’s entry in the campus
• Citizens’ Army Training or CAT officers were also assigned to be informants in cases when unauthorized persons entered in the school premises
• Conducted a marathon hearing of the members of the fraternities with their parents and those suspected of using illegal substance
• Janitors were asked to look-out for outsiders
• Night guard were assigned to report on Sundays
• Tasking the PROBE teachers to assist regarding the educational practices
• Utilize the master teachers for technical assistance
• A school nurse was hired to look for health concerned of the students
• Empowered the student leaders to led and organized in the conduct of the schools’ cultural and sports activities
• A Guidance Counselor was hired
• Feeding Program was conducted for malnourished students
• Created a committee to provide short and long term solution to the presence of the fraternities and gangs and
coordinated with the Barangay Peace Council.

- Institutionalized the Faculty Club of the school
- Instituted the student insurance to aid the students in their financial needs in times of trouble and disaster
- Offered summer classes
- Created a committee in-charge of safety and security
- Values formation seminar
- Financial literacy seminar
- Provided financial aid for scholarship by the NGO’s, PTA, Alumni and DCCO
- Conducted a Virtual Psychosocial First Aid among its teaching and non-teaching staff
- Conducted Gender and Development Seminar or GAD
- Partnered with the LGU for its vaccination program against COVID 19
- Installed CCTV Cameras in the campus

CONCLUSIONS
Based on the gathered data, the following conclusions were derived:

1. Dumaguete City High School was founded on July 12, 1967 per Municipal Ordinance No. 46 s. 1967 as approved by the late Mayor Jose Pro Teves;
2. It is undeniable that Dumaguete City High School is a beacon of social transformation. Its existence in the community for more than fifty years has championed the cause of equalizing the opportunities of the locale paving the way for a holistic development not only on a personal note but also encompassing a communal development.
3. The different school administrators of Dumaguete City High School made significant differences for the development of the stakeholders.
4. Every school administrator has his/her individual achievements and contributions. The most common among the fifteen school administrators are the significant increase in the enrollment, the provision of additional educational edifices and equipment and linkages with the different stakeholders in the community.
5. The challenges that were relevant in the study is on the safety and security of the students and teaching staff of Dumaguete City High School. This is because of the rampant usage of illegal substance, the lack of perimeter fence due to wide area of coverage of the campus and lastly on the attitudes of its teachers as well as its students.
6. These challenges were responded by every school administrator in a diplomatic and holistic approach. Likewise, with close coordination with the local government unit of Dumaguete City and the barangay leaders.
7. Most of the school administrators at Dumaguete City High are holders of post graduate degrees particularly in educational management.
8. To date, the school offers five (5) out of the nine (9) program offerings namely, the Regular Junior High, Senior High School, Special Program in the Arts, Special Education for the Hearing and Visual Impairment (SPED-HI./V. I), Open High School Program.
9. The most impactful school administrations are the Hermosa, Rabina and Gornez principal ship. Hermosa being the pioneering administrator had to faced many challenges in school operation while Rabina’s time as a school administrator had to be tested by elements beyond human control. On the other hand, the Gornez time was considered to be the Dark Ages of Dumaguete City High School due to its many controversies.
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