

THE SAGA OF GOOD OLD DAYS

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It is not only the efforts of men which has made the Campus of Alemaya physically unique, but nature itself has also endowed it with all its virtues. Decorated by the evergreen indigenous and exotic tree species, fragrant flowers and lush vegetation, vast stretched fertile and neatly cultivated fields; the cluster of rural villages, as traditional as they were centuries ago, in the vicinity; the adjoining scenery of Lake Alema and the moderate climate of the environment are among the eminent geographic features of the Campus which attest its real name Alemaya College of Agriculture.

Over the past 3 decades, thousands have passed through it and still call themselves the "**Alemayans**" which evokes memories of their good bygone days. Yet, today, Alemaya remains a place where many students are being absorbed, taught, and thereby cultivated to fill the gap of backwardness prevailing in the agricultural sector of the economy.

We, the present graduating students, have stayed 4 years here in the Campus. We tested its fruit in our freshman year; pondered it in the sophomore; analysed it in the junior; and deeply inculcated it only in the senior year. These few years have not by-passed without a slight or sharp turning point in the lives of ourselves and behavioral patterns. For some of us some years were not so good as others and still others might have expected that the best is not yet to come. When we felt high of ourselves in one year the reverse could happen in another year. It is obvious that such a display of heterogeneous characters started when we made our first steps on the campus. It was during this time: freshman year that we felt at being cut-off from the rest of our high school friends and parents.

Ethics of friendships on campus has not yet developed, but desperately running from dormitory to cafeteria then to classes and back to dorm. The cycle repeated itself day-by-day. Little by little, we happened to observe that our lives have been restricted and rotated within such a triangular-shaped life style. We have had very little experience of taking lectures and of social interaction. Hard periods were following when every body began studying thoroughly which would possibly make him competent enough and thereby not being the victim of 'X-mas graduation.' Some studied very enthusiastically and with full curiosity, but most with panic-stricken conditions.

Then follows the sophomore year. All the things would ever be the same now as in freshman year when everyone developed a faculty to give him self-confidence, making friends and a faculty of interpolating directions about steps and turnings. But the student has not yet known or got an initial touch of his field of interest. This

would directly correspond if someone defines the word sophomore as 'one who knows that he knows not.'

What followed was the junior year. A student in this year was on the way trying to catch up his destination. It is like a boat-man rowing to reach the other side of the sea. By the middle of this stage, things were promising and optimistic. Students within the same department were developing self-acquaintance and intimacy with one another. From the academic point of view, more of their time was devoted to their field of study. For instance, students in plant sciences were often investigating phyto-phathogenic organisms; in animal sciences ration formulation; in agricultural engineering, their stadias and workshops; and in agricultural economics, their cost-benefit analysis and linear programing. By and large, complete demarcation was apparently visible here.

Finally, the senior class appeared holding the top-ranking position in the undergraduate program. It was the direct continuation of the preceding the direct class in every similarities but with more depth and progress. The preparations of senior research projects and seminars were absorbing most of the program. Eventhough, emphasis was also given to production courses in a pro-rate basis much time was spent in exchanging ideas with dorm mates and other colleagues.

Suffice it to say, these were some of our culture on campus which implanted its memory in the back of our minds. As a result it largely helped us build up the unforgotten acquaintance of friendship feelings. As the year drew its close, students may be thinking of their future career. Some of us may be aspiring of further training. Others may soon want to be Dads. There can always be the hills and valleys of life. But let all of us be in the safest side of conditions which might appear ahead of us. Be in the mood of good-humor and good-fellowship.