

LEGACY

BUILDING THE FUTURE THROUGH EDUCATION



GBF Scholars:
STORIES OF HOPE
AND POSSIBILITY

What's Next:
EXPANDING GBF'S
REACH AND IMPACT

Partnerships
FOR EQUITY AND
EXCELLENCE



GOKONGWEI
BROTHERS
FOUNDATION

25 YEARS
& BEYOND
• 1992 TO 2017 •

A Word from the Founder



INTERVIEW: Paul John Cafia | PHOTOS: Jun Pinzon (John Gokongwei, Jr. and cover)

The **Gokongwei Brothers Foundation** can trace its beginnings 60 years ago in Cebu. When I was 30 years old, I was asked to help a Jesuit high school there put up a new building. At the time, I contributed 30,000 pesos. That amount might not seem like a lot, but today, it would be worth maybe 50 times more.

I wasn't doing much to assist other organizations after that. This changed when I went to Harvard University to study for 14 weeks. There, I met a lot of American executives, vice presidents, and chairmen of the board. They talked a lot about foundations like the Rockefeller Foundation and the Carnegie Foundation. I recalled that, back in the Philippines, there wasn't a lot of foundation work being done.

When I came back home, that's when we decided to put up the Gokongwei Brothers Foundation by contributing shares of stock from me and my brothers to form the nucleus of the company.

From the beginning, I knew that education would be the foundation's primary advocacy. Why? Because it is my belief that education is the only way to save this country. We need quality education to compete in this world.

We're part of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and it's tough to compete, especially with the many good engineering schools in the region. We have to strengthen our

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hold on our science and engineering courses. Many people are pursuing law and medicine; most don't seem to want to take up science courses. Maybe they think these courses are too difficult. But that's the only way to help our country industrialize. This is why the GBF is committed to supporting education, particularly in science and engineering.

In the next few years, we hope to improve and continue the work of GBF. We aim to improve education in the Philippines. This is our legacy. ■

John Gokongwei, Jr.
Founder and Chairman
Gokongwei Brothers Foundation

Pillars for Progress

GBF BY THE NUMBERS

25

Years of service
(1992 – present)

337

Graduated scholars

556

Target scholars
for AY 2017-2018

25

Schools that
received donations

18

Preschool buildings
donated

80

GBF scholars hired by
JG Summit companies

7525

Land area in square meters of
the GBF Technical Training
Center in Pasig City

*Data as of September 2017

In 1992, the Gokongwei brothers John, Johnson, Henry, and James donated significant portions of their shares of stock in JG Summit Holdings to establish the Gokongwei Brothers Foundation (GBF). The foundation aims to have a lasting impact on education in the country.

PARTNERING WITH TOP ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONS

In honor of GBF's endowments, Ateneo and De La Salle renamed their departments the Ateneo de Manila John Gokongwei School of Management (2002) and the De La Salle University Gokongwei College of Engineering (2011), respectively. These endowments consist of significant allocations for student scholarships and faculty research.



DLSU-GCOE is one of the premier engineering schools in the Philippines.

The DLSU endowment has also led to the establishment of the John Gokongwei, Jr. Innovation Center (DLSU-JGIC) at the DLSU Science and Technology Center in Biñan, Laguna. To be inaugurated in 2018, DLSU-JGIC will partner with a global gaming giant to offer undergraduate degrees in interactive entertainment, among many other new courses in this center.

The Gokongwei family has also donated funds to other academic institutions such as Immaculate Concepcion Academy, Xavier School, the University of San Carlos, Sacred Heart School-Ateneo de Cebu, and the University of Asia and the Pacific.

EMPOWERING THE YOUTH THROUGH SCHOLARSHIPS

Scholarship programs help fulfill GBF's desire to give deserving young people a better future through purposeful, practical, and transformative education. One of the pioneer programs, the China Scholarship, sent young professionals to top universities in Beijing and Shanghai, China, to help future leaders better understand the country's fast-growing economy and rigorous business culture so they can bring back the knowledge gained to serve the Philippines. Seventy-four students graduated from the program for the years 2007 and 2009.

At present, GBF offers seven scholarship programs for college, technical-vocational, and high school students.

BUILDING A DEFINITIVE LEARNING FACILITY

GBF envisioned a continuing school where young engineers and technical professionals could train to help build an industrially strong Philippines. In 1999, the GBF Technical Training Center (TTC) was constructed in Rosario, Pasig. Initially supporting the upgrading of skills of JG Summit's technical workers, it is currently the home of the GBF Iskolar ni Juan Tech-Voc Program.



The Mechatronics lab is one of the industry-standard facilities at the GBF TTC where tech-voc scholars hone their skills.

COLLABORATING WITH JG BUSINESS UNITS AND STRATEGIC PARTNERS

Recognizing the need for synergy in order to expand its reach and impact, GBF supports the advocacies of various JG business units.

In 2000, GBF together with Robinsons Land Corporation (RLC) launched the Children's Library inside Robinsons Malls to promote love for reading among children by giving them access to a collection of books, comics, and educational audio and video materials.

GBF supported RLC's 2015 launch of RLove, an employee-initiated corporate social responsibility program that focuses on four main avenues of community service: disaster response, community development, health care and nutrition, and education.

GBF has launched various scholarships in partnership with different JG Summit business units such as the Universal Robina Corporation (URC) Branded Consumer Food Group, Flour Division, and Agro Industrial Group; RLC; JG Summit Petrochemicals Group; and South Star Drug.

In 2011, to address the immediate needs of preschool-age children in underprivileged communities, GBF built 18 two-classroom preschool buildings in various provincial sites as part of the "Silid Pangarap" program of Aklat, Gabay, Aruga Tungo sa Pag-Angat at Pag-Asa (AGAPP) Foundation. GBF also provided training for teachers to equip them with tools that would give their students the best foundation for their future.



GBF General Manager Lisa Gokongwei-Cheng and Board Secretary Lance Gokongwei turn over preschool classrooms to AGAPP Foundation and the Department of Education.

PHOTOS: Jun Pinzon (Mechatronics), courtesy of De La Salle University (DLSU-GCOE) from JG Summit Corporate Advertising and Public Relations (AGAPP)

GBF CURRENTLY OFFERS 7 SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMS

GBF NextGen Scholarship for Excellence • 2010

This program offers financial support to academically excellent JG Summit and Affiliates employees' children with strong leadership potential and extracurricular involvement. NextGen scholars belong to the top 20% of the batch and may pursue any field of study at any local college or university.
Graduates: 83 | Current scholars: 45

GBF Iskolar ni Juan Tech-Voc Program • 2014

GBF with URC-BCFG grants this fully-subsidized one-year scholarship to high school graduates or out-of-school youth. Boarded at the TTC, scholars take GBF's signature TESDA-registered program followed by on-the-job training and employment at URC-BCFG.
Graduates: 91 | Current scholars: 176

GBF STEM Scholarship for Excellence • 2011

This scholarship is offered to outstanding students belonging to low-income families and taking science and engineering degrees in top-ranked Philippine schools. Only students at the top 30% of the batch qualify for this program.
Graduates: 25 | Current scholars: 60

GBF-JG Business Units STEM Scholarship for Excellence • 2012

The scholarship aims to groom future leaders of JG Summit companies by immersing students in the industry and providing employment opportunities after they graduate. The program admits students who are in the final two years of their science and engineering undergraduate studies and the top 30% of the batch in top-ranked Philippine schools.
Graduates: 21 | Current scholars: 101

DLSU Gokongwei College of Engineering Grant • 2012

This scholarship supports commendable students who are taking any undergraduate engineering program at DLSU-GCOE.
Graduates: 11 | Current scholars: 93

Ateneo John L. Gokongwei Scholarship • 2006

This full scholarship is awarded to outstanding but financially needy students of the Ateneo John Gokongwei School of Management.
Graduates: 22 | Current scholars: 4

St. Stephen's High School Scholarship Program • 2012

GBF's first high school scholarship benefits indigent but exemplary students enrolled at this Chinese school, with financial assistance covering Grades 7 to 12.
Graduates: 10 | Current scholars: 5

*Scholarship statistics based on September 2017 data.

For more information and inquiries about the scholarships, contact (02) 4518888 local 1118.

The Quest for Excellence and Equity

The door to opportunity awaits those who are prepared to open it.

With an eye on developing the competencies necessary for effective nation-building, one of the Gokongwei Brothers Foundation's cornerstone missions is to improve STEM—science, technology, engineering, math—and Tech-Voc (technical-vocational) education in the Philippines through the foundation's scholarship programs such as the GBF STEM Scholarship for Excellence, the GBF-JG Business Unit STEM Scholarship for Excellence, and the GBF Iskolar ni Juan Tech-Voc Program.

GBF STEM SCHOLARSHIP FOR EXCELLENCE: UPHOLDING EXCELLENCE

“One of JG Summit's corporate values, passion to win, talks about continuously challenging ourselves to strive for excellence,” shares GBF Executive Director Grace Colet. “In the same spirit, GBF upholds excellence in education.”

In 2011, the GBF STEM Scholarship for Excellence (SFE) was launched to support outstanding Filipino science and engineering students who are financially challenged and unable to sustain their education. GBF annually supports 60 scholars from low-income families and the top 10% of the graduating class of select high schools or the top 30% of the batch in top-ranked Philippine universities such as the University of the Philippines, the University of San Carlos, Polytechnic University of the Philippines, the University of Batangas, and Adamson University. The scholarship is open to students in any year level pursuing undergraduate degrees in science and engineering. Scholars are given a yearly budget that covers tuition fees and other school expenses.

GBF-JG BUSINESS UNITS STEM SCHOLARSHIP FOR EXCELLENCE: LEVERAGING PARTNERS
Addressing the industry's needs for



1. (Left to right) GBF scholars Rose Ann Carmona, Melvin Rigodon, and Cherygold Caminian are all licensed chemical engineers at JG Summit Petrochemical Corporation. **2.** JG Summit Petrochemicals is the largest integrated polyethylene and polypropylene resin manufacturer in the Philippines. **3.** Rigodon's goal is to advance from Operations Engineer in the next five years.

excellent talents in science and engineering, the GBF-JG Summit Business Units (GBF-JG BU) STEM SFE was started in 2012. Like the SFE, it caters to the top 30% of the batch, and supports scholars who successfully maintain qualifications until graduation. This scholarship, however, places greater emphasis on identifying future leaders from top universities all over the country in the final two years of their undergraduate science and engineering programs. “The standards set are almost similar to hiring,” explains Patrick Henry Go, president and chief operating officer of JG Summit Petrochemicals Group, the pioneer BU that partnered with GBF to roll out the scholarship.

Once accepted into the program, scholars get the benefit of rigorous industry immersion and mentoring through the various business units such as JG Summit Petrochemicals Group, Robinsons Land Corporation, URC Flour Division, URC Agro Industrial Group, and South Star Drug. The

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Grace Colet, Executive Director,
Gokongwei Brothers Foundation

potential for future employment is another benefit offered to all graduates. Of the 21 scholars from the first batch, 17 are currently working at JG Summit Petrochemicals.

“Our hope is to hire them as Cadet Engineers after graduation,” says Go, noting the extensive technical training the graduated scholars had to undergo to be top-notch engineers. Every skill they will need in the field is taught and tested to ensure that they meet their certification requirements to be able to operate equipment efficiently and safely. Beyond that, the graduates' hands-on experience is matched with management training and mentoring. Go asserts that the goal is not just employment but empowerment. “We hope to develop and provide the opportunity and a way to improve lives.”

GBF Board Secretary Lance Gokongwei commends the program for the strong collaboration of GBF with the various business units of the JG Summit conglomerate, of which he is the president and COO. “We're finding more synergies with the rest of the group,” he explains, adding that these partnerships give students valuable real-life industry work experience. Gokongwei's hope for each graduate? “A lot of knowledge and, eventually, good career opportunities.”

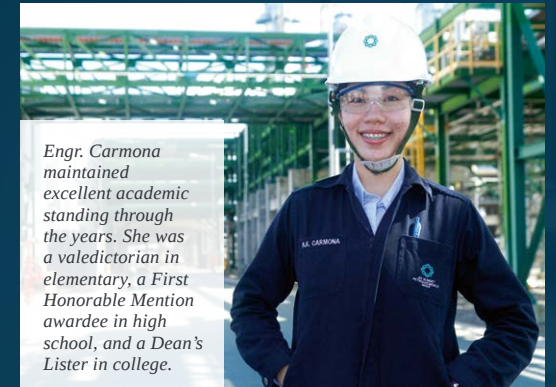


INTERVIEWS: Yvette Fernandez | PHOTOS: Jun Pinzon

SCHOLAR SPOTLIGHT:

Rose Ann Carmona

The Pursuit of Personal Excellence



Engr. Carmona maintained excellent academic standing through the years. She was a valedictorian in elementary, a First Honorable Mention awardee in high school, and a Dean's Lister in college.

Forced to stop her schooling so that her three other siblings could finish their studies, Rose Ann Carmona never lost her determination to pursue a quality education. Despite being dissuaded by her father, a farmer, and her mother, a factory worker, she took a job as a helper while she was still in high school to earn her diploma and pursued a college education through financial assistance from her brother, who shared part of a scholarship stipend he received. When she was selected for the GBF-JG Petrochem STEM Scholarship for Excellence, which covered her tuition expenses in her last two undergraduate years and offered her employment after graduation, doors that she thought were closed suddenly swung open. “This opportunity inspired me to grow. It helped me achieve my career goals by reducing my stress over the lack of money so I could focus on a well-rounded college experience,” says Carmona, a consistent honor student. She graduated among the top 20% of her batch with a Bachelor of Science degree in Chemical Engineering from the Batangas State University in 2014.

Now a licensed chemical engineer assigned to JG Petrochem's Process Automation Department-Information System Section, Carmona's determination is paying off. At JG Petrochem, she is putting her skills to good use. “I handle the Plant Information Management System, providing technical services in areas such as daily routine maintenance, engineering tasks, user training, as well as participating in safety programs and inter-departmental activities like incident investigations and audits.” Ever the achiever, she acknowledges that she has a lot more to learn. She appreciates how JG Petrochemicals actively supports its employees' career development through training, tools, and resources, encouraging them to increase their knowledge and become better at their jobs.

More than the stable income, which has allowed her to help pay for her family's household expenses and buy a family home, being an engineer has given her a sense of fulfillment and purpose. “I am a stronger person and my job gives me greater passion for what I am trying to achieve,” she says. “I've acquired valuable knowledge and technical support skills, as well as key competencies and associated behaviors required to deliver execution excellence.” Her job, she says, has expanded her horizons and encouraged her to develop her leadership skills. She considers it a privilege to work alongside peers and supervisors who continually guide her toward being a more competent, passionate, and strategic team player.

Carmona continues to work toward becoming a better version of herself. “We should never cease learning,” she says, urging young people to welcome “new ideas, facts, and experiences that become our tools in dealing with challenges in life.” The pursuit of excellence may not always be easy, but hardships have not stopped Carmona from going after her goals: “I realized that I cannot have others set my goals and dreams for me; I need to achieve these things...to be able to live up to the expectations I have for myself.” She hopes her story will inspire others to pursue their educational and career aspirations, in spite of perceived economic barriers. There will always be students like her who, she says, “are constantly fighting for the right to receive an education,” but there are also organizations like GBF that care and give generously to help overcome those barriers. ■

Passing on Excellence

The family foundation supports future leaders from its JG Summit family.

Continuing its commitment to support excellence in education and to provide educational opportunities to deserving youth, GBF launched the NextGen Scholarship for Excellence, benefitting JG Summit and Affiliates employees' children belonging to the top 20% of their batch and pursuing academic majors of their choice—from agriculture to management to film—at any Philippine academic institution.

Nicasio Lim, the Senior Vice President of Corporate Resources Group at JG Summit Holdings, encourages JG Summit employees to take part in the program: "We are with their children in their journey of reaching their dreams for their family." He sees the bigger picture: GBF's dream of helping build a generation of future leaders who will contribute to the country, in whatever field they chose to excel in. This journey, he says, starts early. "Even in their capacity as students, they can help build the Filipino nation," says Lim. "In the spirit of paying it forward, they can make life better for their families and for the country."

Danny Ventura, a store manager for Robinsons Department Store in Dagupan, calls the program "an answered prayer." He says not only is his daughter Marian motivated to study harder and focus on earning her degree, he, too, has been inspired to give his all at his job, "rendering excellent customer service to our valued customers." Generosity, truly, multiplies and gives back in dividends.

The following NextGen scholars are some of the program's outstanding awardees:

THIS SCHOLARSHIP HAS IMPACTED NOT JUST MY LIFE BUT MY FAMILY'S AS WELL.

KIM JONELLE LEONARDO
3rd Year BS Mechanical Engineering,
Polytechnic University of the Philippines,
Daughter of Jovito Leonardo,
Machine Operator at URC-MCD



MARK LAWRENCE BATCHO
BS Civil Engineering, Tarlac State University,
Son of Nolie M. Batcho, Production Supervisor
at Nissin URC-Tarlac



FRANZ BORROMEIO
BS Electrical Engineering, Cum Laude
Silliman University, Son of Landy Borromeo,
Electrical Engineer at URC Sugar Division



JASTINE KENN LEGASPI
4th Year BS Applied Mathematics,
Ateneo de Manila University,
Daughter of John Legaspi, Project Manager
at URC Engineering Service Dept.

MORE THAN FINANCIAL SUPPORT, GBF GAVE ME THE MOTIVATION TO FOLLOW MY DREAMS.

MARIAN VENTURA
4th Year BS Business Administration,
University of the Philippines Diliman,
Daughter of Danny Ventura, Store Manager
at Robinsons Department Store Dagupan



1. Scholars at the GBF TTC take written and practical tests to hone their skills. 2. It's a celebration when GBF INJ scholars graduate from the program. 3. Chris Fernandez graduated as the class valedictorian of the pioneer batch of INJ and now works at URC Calamba.

EDUCATION LEVELS THE PLAYING FIELD, ESPECIALLY IN AN UNEQUAL SOCIETY LIKE THE PHILIPPINES.

Lisa Gokongwei-Cheng,
General Manager, Gokongwei
Brothers Foundation



THE ISKOLAR NI JUAN PROGRAM

GBF Iskolar ni Juan Tech-Voc Program offers one-year fully subsidized scholarship in Mechatronics Servicing or Instrumentation and Controls Servicing, both recognized by the TESDA. Its curriculum combines academic classes at the GBF Technical Training Center and on-the-job training at URC-Branded Consumer Food Group (BCFG).

MECHATRONICS PROGRAM

This program trains scholars to install, configure, and test mechatronics devices (integration of mechanical, electrical, electronics, and computer technologies) applied in industrial machines. Graduates of this program take on machine operator or technician roles at URC-BCFG.

INSTRUMENTATION AND CONTROLS SERVICING PROGRAM

In this program, scholars are trained to install, configure, and calibrate devices controlling variables such as level, flow, temperature, and pressure in a manufacturing environment. Instrumentation graduates may work as production operators or technicians at URC-BCFG.

CHAMPIONING EQUITY

Sciences, engineering, and technical expertise are vital in laying the groundwork for a developing country's industrialization. Establishing strong manufacturing and service industries would generate jobs that would uplift the lives of the Filipino family and the economy of the Philippines. Having strong local industries also help ignite a sense of nationalism among Filipinos.

Through scholarship programs for the underprivileged, GBF invites the nation's youth to embrace their important role as builders of the nation. Through quality technical and vocational education, future members of the labor force are empowered to use their training and expertise to lead the Philippines to sustainable development. Every life changed brings about greater change that impacts us all.

EDUCATION FOR EVERY JUAN

Established in 2014 in partnership with the Universal Robina Corporation-Branded Consumer Foods Group (URC-BCFG), the Iskolar ni Juan (INJ) program seeks promising high school students and out-of-school youths who are unable to fund their own continuing education. The 12-month scholarship also takes care of the scholars' housing needs for the duration of the program, accommodating them in the 150-bed dormitory and hostel within the GBF Technical Training Center (TTC). With housing and basic expenses covered by the program, financial concerns are alleviated and students can focus on their studies.

INJ on-boards three batches of 70 scholars each in January, May, and September. Their academic year consists of three terms: two terms of academic classes at the TTC and a term of on-the-job training at URC-BCFG plants. Upon graduation, scholars are offered jobs in various URC-BCFG plants where

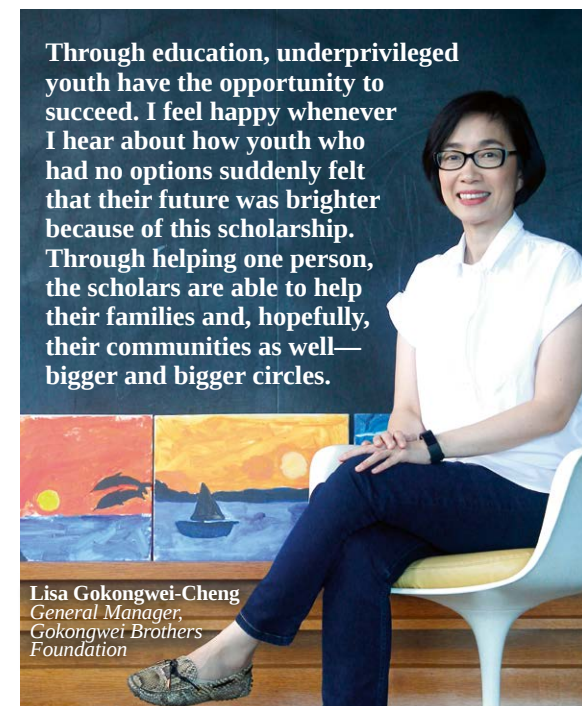
they enter as production operators or maintenance technicians. Developing an effective specialized curriculum has always been top priority. "With the help of the manufacturing group of the URC-BCFG, we tried to find out what technology the students needed to learn and at what level these should be learned," shares GBF TTC's school director Engr. Manuel Mirabuenos.

INJ graduate Christopher Fernandez, 23, credits the scholarship with helping him advance from being a palletizer before becoming an Iskolar to working in the URC-BCFG PET bottle-making line. "The scholarship made it easier for me to learn how to work the machines," he says.

The program continually improves through systematic evaluation of the curriculum, the instructors, and the students. This push for excellence has shown tangible success, as seen in the students' internal test results and 100% passing rate for every student who has taken the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) assessment exam.

But beyond a certificate and test scores, GBF's aim is for all its graduates to find purposeful employment—proof of a successful education. This is where the Iskolar ni Juan program excels. "The one-year program not only focuses on engineering and technical skills, but actual opportunities to work in real industry environments, as well as a lot of values and character-building programs," explains GBF Board Secretary Lance Gokongwei. He adds, "Our graduates become much more capable, much more confident, and easily

employable." To date, all 63 graduates of INJ's first two batches have been hired by URC-BCFG. Arnold Alvarez, the vice president for Manufacturing at URC attests to the talent, ability, and employability of INJ graduates. "They have been very well accepted by the respective sites at URC, given their skills and passion at the workplace." He adds, "This transition from being students to graduates to employees enhances the opportunities for scholars to create value and start helping provide for their needs and the needs of their families. INJ provides the hope and the means for the young population with big dreams to rise above their situations of less means." For GBF, every graduate's story is a success story. ■



Through education, underprivileged youth have the opportunity to succeed. I feel happy whenever I hear about how youth who had no options suddenly felt that their future was brighter because of this scholarship. Through helping one person, the scholars are able to help their families and, hopefully, their communities as well—bigger and bigger circles.

Lisa Gokongwei-Cheng
General Manager,
Gokongwei Brothers
Foundation

PHOTOS: Jun Pinzon (scholar at TTC, Chris Fernandez, Lisa Gokongwei-Cheng), courtesy of NextGen scholars (NextGen scholars) and URC Art Department (INU graduation)



(from left) Back in the Mechatronics lab, where his new journey started; working at URC Cavite, James controls the machine that produces Maxx, XO, Dynamite, and other Jack n Jill candy brands.

SCHOLAR SPOTLIGHT: James Cembrano

Fulfilling My Father's Wishes

From struggling high school breadwinner to family provider, one Iskolar shows the value of perseverance and grit.

Hardships and times of testing are part of life; they separate those who will be defeated by them from those who will rise above them. For those who persevere, they come out the other side with the character necessary—for the next challenge. Just ask James Cembrano, a 21-year-old Iskolar ni Juan. Left to care for his mother and seven siblings as the man of the family when his father died unexpectedly when Cembrano was just a first-year high school student, he had two options: despair or do what was needed to be done.

Cembrano chose the latter. He recalls working on weekends doing odd jobs at construction sites while still in high school, walking two kilometers to get to school every day, making do with charity from classmates, and finding ways to live on what he had. "Sometimes, all I'd have was a peso for food, so I'd buy chips and eat them with rice," he says, in Filipino. Through it all, he always put his family's needs above his own.

Due to his family's financial difficulties after his father's death, Cembrano accepted that his education would end with high school. Although, he'd had the chance to apply for a sports scholarship for table tennis at a small college in Manila, his mother had dissuaded him. The scholarship wouldn't cover other miscellaneous school fees and the family had no money to spare. But when an aunt who lived near the Universal Robina Corporation plant in Dasmariñas, Cavite, asked him if he wanted to apply for the Gokongwei Brothers Foundation's Iskolar ni Juan program, a scholarship that would not only pay for his technical education but would also cover miscellaneous fees, housing, and expenses, he wasted no time submitting the requirements. "I didn't think about whether I would pass or not; I just needed to know that I'd tried," he says. The happiest day of his life, he says, was when he found out he'd been accepted. A door that had seemed closed had opened.

As a GBF Iskolar ni Juan, Cembrano received the technical and theoretical knowledge he couldn't have just picked up on

the job from occasional construction work. Practical subjects in the Mechatronics curriculum—electricals, pneumatics, programming, hydraulics—taught him skills that would translate to more opportunities after graduation. Even more important, says Cembrano, are the values he's learned through the program. "The best thing about the Iskolar ni Juan program is that it's taught me how to be a better person," he says. "I learned the importance of discipline and how to get along with people," he adds.

Now, on the job, he continues his education through industry immersion. He works as a Production Operator in the Cooking Section at URC Cavite, where he operates a machine that makes Dynamite and XO candies. "Here, I really learned what the word 'responsibility' means," he says. "I need to be responsible because one mistake could stop the whole production and cost the company money."

With the keys to his future in his hands, he's now able to open doors for others like him. His stable income has allowed him to put two siblings through school and to help a cousin graduate. Two other siblings have followed his example and are now in the Iskolar ni Juan program. One sibling lives with him and is studying under the Alternative Learning System. Two other siblings are working students employed by one of his aunts.

His story is proof that anything is possible, so one must never stop putting in a good day's work. "I want to continue improving myself. I might have my own family one day and I want to make sure I'm able to provide for them," he says. His father left big shoes to fill when Cembrano was a boy, but he's grown into them gracefully. He texts his mom every morning and sends her money every payday, just as his father would have wanted. "I'm inspired by what my father told me before he passed away—the oldest son should stand as the father to his siblings. I feel that I've achieved this." ■

INTERVIEWS: Yvette Fernandez | PHOTOS: Jun Pinzon, courtesy of JG Summit Corporate Advertising and Public Relations (GBF TTC photo)

A Home For The Future

A long-awaited upgraded center gets ready to welcome new Iskolars.



Every dream needs a home. When the Gokongwei Brothers Foundation was established, its first project was building a 7,525-sqm training facility in 1999 called the GBF Technical Training Center. Located in the Litton Mills compound in Rosario, Pasig, the 150-million-peso project was to be the site of a TESDA-registered advanced technical school.

Its initial offerings were six- to 12-month advanced training and short courses scholarships for JG Summit employees in the field of technical maintenance and engineering. This later expanded to scholarships for professionals in the retail and service sectors. To date, GBF TTC serves its principal function as home to the Iskolar ni Juan program.

"The continuous 100% passing rate of the GBF Iskolar ni Juan Tech-Voc Program both in Mechatronics Servicing NCII and Instrumentation and Controls Servicing NCII is made possible by adopting the continuous improvement process to meet industry-based need," says school director Engr. Manuel Mirabuenos. A new facility is one such improvement that would propel the program forward.

What's next? A new home in 2018. The campus will have 11 laboratories and workshops, training grounds for developing skills in several specialties including chemistry, physics, computers, pneumatics, hydraulics, mechanics, electronics, instrumentation, and mechatronics. Furnished with complete state-of-the-art training equipment to be used to better service hundreds of scholars and manufacturing technical workers, the improved facilities, Mirabuenos says, would keep the GBF "at par with the fast changing technological developments and demands." A 200-bed dorm will address the housing needs of a growing student population. A bigger home for bigger dreams, of the foundation and scholars alike. ■



1. Aside from learning technical skills, GBF Iskolar ni Juan scholars are also taught values education. 2. The current site of the Technical Training Center in Litton Mills. 3. GBF TTC is equipped with specialized machines similar to those in actual manufacturing plants. 4. GBF Iskolar ni Juan students register excellent marks in internal tests and 100% passing rate in TESDA assessments. 5. The new Technical Training Center will have state-of-the-art equipment and facilities.



Ateneo de Manila John Gokongwei School of Management



De La Salle University Gokongwei College of Engineering



1. Professors at DLSU-GCOE continually learn about the latest engineering technology. 2. Inside the grounds of Ateneo's JGSOM. 3. GBF endowments help provide up-to-date training equipment for students.

MAKING WORTHWHILE INVESTMENTS

GBF believes that how resources are invested speaks volumes about what one hopes to see and what changes will drive an organization's continued influence and legacy. GBF's endowments are an investment, funding these avenues for growth:

Creating Synergies

Together with GBF, these two institutions raise the quality of education in the country, leading the way toward a brighter future.

The Gokongwei Brothers Foundation has seen the impact investing in education can have on the individual lives of the young people it has helped. Their stories fuel the foundation's work and renew its purpose. But GBF also recognizes that there is strength in collaboration. Through endowments, GBF is investing in academic institutions that can help secure the foundation's legacy. As GBF Board Secretary Lance Gokongwei asserts, "Uplifting education in the Philippines is not the job of one institution alone. It's a partnership."

Business management and engineering are two fields Gokongwei believes are key to the country's development. As partners, GBF selected world-class paragons of excellence Ateneo de Manila University and De La Salle University. "They have the established capability

and expertise in their respective fields, DLSU for engineering and Ateneo for management," says Gokongwei, noting their long history of consistent academic achievement. "More so," adds Gokongwei, "they both teach the right values."

In 2007, JGSOM became the first school to be named a Center of Excellence (COE) in business education by the Commission on Higher Education (CHED), cited in two areas: business administration and entrepreneurship. DLSU's Engineering programs are also CHED-certified as COEs.

EDUCATING TOMORROW'S CHANGEMAKERS

"DLSU and GBF share the same commitment to the task of nation-building through excellence and service in education," says Jonathan Dungca, Dean of DLSU-GCOE. With the GBF's

continued support, Dungca reiterates DLSU-GCOE's commitment "to maintain its position as the premier engineering college in the region." JGSOM, as well, "will strive to remain the standard for business education in the country," says Dean of Ateneo JGSOM Luis Dumlaog.

With the impact the endowments have had on ADMU and DLSU, Gokongwei sees the possibility of future collaboration with other universities who share the GBF dream. "We'll continue to work with any other established institutions that we may find," says Gokongwei. The burden is heavy, the road is long, but heavy work is made light by many hands; time passes quickly when you journey together. Imagine the great things GBF and its partners will be celebrating, 25 years from now. ■

PHOTOS: Jun Pinzon (Ateneo de Manila University), courtesy of De La Salle University, (DLSU photos) and JG Summit Corporate Advertising and Public Relations (JGSOM unveiling and DLSU awarding)

RESEARCH AND FACULTY DEVELOPMENT

The endowments allow the universities to recruit and retain high-caliber professionals, assets to the universities who continue to enhance and improve the school with their academic and administrative contributions. Faculty research is funded for further advancement of knowledge in their respective fields, with findings published both in-house and in international journals and presented at international conferences and consortiums.

1. GBF Founder John Gokongwei, Jr. and wife Elizabeth look on as the JGSOM commemorative plaque is unveiled. 2. DLSU awards John Gokongwei, Jr. and brother James Go, GBF President, in appreciation of their foundation's generous endowment.



INFRASTRUCTURE AND INNOVATIVE LEARNING FACILITIES

Through the endowment, DLSU-GCOE has been able to expand its course offerings in technology through the establishment of the John L. Gokongwei, Jr. Innovation Center in DLSU's Science and Technology Center in Biñan, Laguna. Similarly, JGSOM's endowment has also funded the building and improvement of the school's infrastructures, including the innovative Student Enterprise Center (SEC), the world's first student entrepreneur mall. From 12 stalls in 2007, it has grown to 22 stalls to date. Students benefit from the experiential learning of establishing a business, leading to valuable skills and insights they can take with them into the business world upon graduation.

SCHOLARSHIPS AND STUDENT ENRICHMENT

GBF believes that every student at its partner universities has the potential to further the country's development. To empower those with outstanding performance, the endowments fund merit scholarships such as the Gokongwei Grants, DLSU-GCOE's flagship scholarship program, and the John L. Gokongwei Scholarship, full-tuition financial assistance to deserving Ateneo JGSOM students.

Student enrichment is also funded by the endowments, supporting students who compete in competitions here and abroad and providing financial aid to students who wish to participate in immersion programs that the universities have established with overseas partner institutions. GBF recognizes that these extracurricular experiences can have immeasurable impact on the future leaders that its partners are educating.

WE BELIEVE IN SUPPORTING CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE LIKE THE ATENEO AND DE LA SALLE.

Lance Gokongwei
Trustee, Gokongwei Brothers Foundation



Looking Ahead, Leading the Way

GBF Board Secretary and Trustee Lance Gokongwei reflects on the foundation's history and hopes, and what's on the horizon, setting the stage for the next 25 years.

Why is the Gokongwei Brothers Foundation, with its focus on education, so important to your family?

GBF is fundamental to our family belief and family identity. We have all benefitted so much from the education we've received, and we want to make sure that we're able to pay it forward by focusing on education. We want GBF to be the foremost proponent of education in the Philippines, particularly for science and engineering courses.

Due to various circumstances, including the Second World War and the earlier death of his father, my father John Gokongwei, Jr., was not able to complete his university education. My father is basically a high school graduate. But because of his innate curiosity and love for learning, he's self-taught. He read a lot of books, magazines, and articles, which helped him become a successful entrepreneur. As he became more successful, he was able to pursue a master's degree. He found a lot of value in that. He was also helping his brothers go to the best schools that he could afford at that time. He saw the difference that education made in his life and that of his siblings, and he wanted to share that opportunity with as many Filipinos as he could.

How do you think education can impact the lives of the underprivileged in particular?

We can't assure equality of outcomes for most of the citizenry, but we try to level the playing field by giving equality of opportunities for one of the most critical determinants of future success: access to education. Hopefully, we're able to help a few thousand Filipinos achieve a level of education that they may not have had without the help of GBF.

Why is STEM—science, technology, engineering, and mathematics—the focus of the scholarships?

Any investment in science and engineering creates great ripple effects for the rest of the Philippine

“ WE WANT GBF TO BE THE FOREMOST PROPONENT OF EDUCATION IN THE PHILIPPINES. ”

economy. It's always been a belief of my father that the Philippines needs to broaden its base beyond just providing services—to have real institutionalized capabilities in terms of manufacturing in order for us to have a broader-based economy that can compete more effectively throughout the world. We want to make investing in STEM the main focus of our foundation. I think it's also clear from the data that the Philippines, relative to our neighbors, has a shortage of graduates from these fields.

The JG Summit Group is one of the few Philippine groups with a manufacturing focus. We have URC, which is one of the leading food companies throughout Southeast Asia and Oceania; the JG Summit Petrochemical group, which is the leading petrochemical business in the country; and, of course, Cebu Pacific, the leading carrier in the Philippines. All these three businesses are very reliant on strength in science and engineering.

The other critical issue is that new technologies are becoming manifest in every aspect of our lives, whether in business or on an educational or personal basis. Smartphones and other gadgets are becoming fundamental to everybody's lives. If we can give anybody a leg up in terms of learning about these technologies or having a stronger propensity to being open to new technologies, then we would have contributed in our own way.

INTERVIEW: Lio Mangubat | PHOTO: Jun Pinzon



Lance Gokongwei wears many hats but being GBF's Secretary is one of his most fulfilling roles.

How do you ensure that the level of excellence is maintained within the GBF?

First of all, by making sure the foundation is adequately funded and staffed by like-minded individuals who believe in the foundation's commitment to uplifting Filipino lives through education. The foundation, through the generous donation of my father and his brothers, is actually the largest shareholder of JG Summit. It owns 30% of JG Summit, and the dividends from such are really to support its long-term advocacies such as the GBF. The key, really, is to become a more effective partner of the Filipinos in building educational opportunities.

We've also been beefing up the leadership team. My sister Lisa is spending a lot more time on the foundation and she's recruiting dedicated, very successful professionals to lead the foundation.

As my father has retired from the business, he's spending a lot more time and attention on his philanthropic vision. Just as he was very focused on his work, he's now very focused on his foundation. He wants the foundation to be as effective in changing the lives of Filipinos as his corporations may have changed the lives of Filipino snack eaters,

flyers, magazine readers, and the like. At the same time, he wants to be able to measure the success that GBF has had in a more quantifiable way.

What are the opportunities for growth for GBF in the next 5, 10, 25 years? What's on the horizon?

Hopefully we will continue to give Filipinos educational access they may not have had on their own. Certainly there will be more opportunities for the foundation. It's important to focus on and specialize in education, and the main focus, at least for the near future, will still be on education, where we've already had a large impact. But as the needs of the country are so pressing, GBF, together with its affiliates, our sister companies, has actually been helping in other ways, particularly in terms of disaster relief, environmental situations, and health issues. These are all important aspects as well.

We are building a new school, which will house our new technical training center, and we're looking to further increasing the number of graduates we have. We're also trying to deepen our alliances with other universities where our company facilities are located. Moving forward, you'll see a much more prominent and active GBF. ■

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