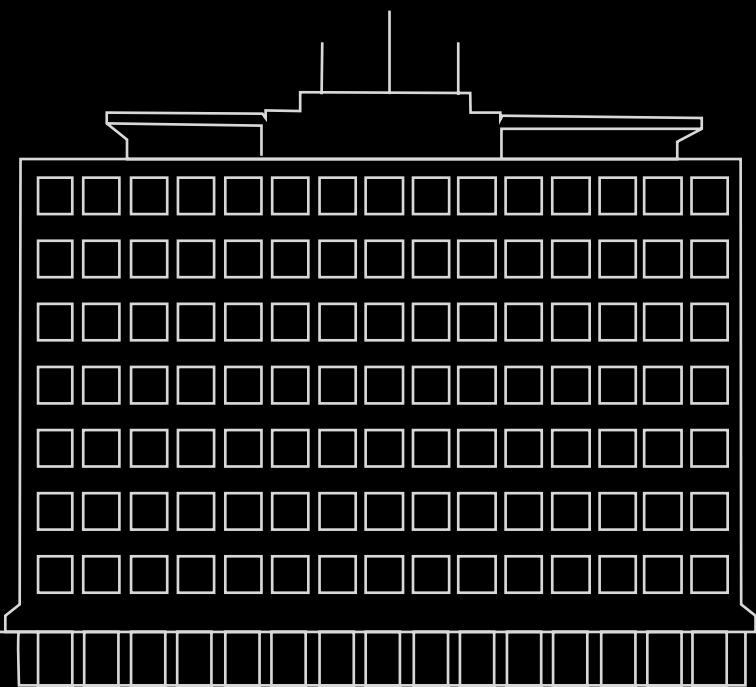




# The Presidents of the University of São Paulo

1934–2018





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USP







# The Presidents of the University of São Paulo

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1934–2018





# The Presidents of the University of São Paulo

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1934–2018



UNIVERSITY OF SÃO PAULO

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# The Presidents of the University of São Paulo

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1934–2018

*Coordination*

Vera Nakata



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\*Vice Presidents











# Preface



**Vahan Agopyan**

This book serves to tell the story of the University of São Paulo (USP) through the eyes of its presidents. It is not, however, a mere compilation of biographies but a record of the lives of each person told in their own words when possible and the words of others when not. Fortunately, ten of the previous presidents were able to offer their personal accounts, including two, Roberto Leal Lobo and Silva Filho e João Grandino Rodas, who chose to write their own chapters.

With this approach in mind, two chapters are dedicated to Miguel Reale, who held the presidency on two separate occasions, given that the near two-decade gap between his first and second term took place during two markedly different periods for the university.

The reader will be able to see over the 28 chapters how the university has developed and how the concerns of its leaders have changed over the years. In the beginning, the USP was a collection of educational and research units with their own customs and culture, including independent budgeting. Following the statutory reform of 1968, the traditional system of subject chairs was abolished and led to a notable change in how the university was managed with the establishment of departments.

During the 1988 reform, in addition to the creation of provosts which diluted the president's control over the entire university, decision-making was largely transferred to individual schools and faculties which from then on forced presidents to put their persuasion skills into practice in order for the academic community to accept and adopt their ideas. In 1989, with the achievement of administrative and financial autonomy and a percentage of the State Tax on Commerce and Services (ICMS) allocated to the USP, the president assumed the responsibility of managing the

university's financial situation with the resources available, taking into account that the collection of this tax sometimes has considerable cyclical variations.

It must be emphasized that full autonomy, administrative and financial, was a great tool for achieving academic excellence at the USP and its sister colleges, the University of Campinas (UNICAMP) and the São Paulo State University (UNESP). It is, therefore, a responsibility that the presidents of São Paulo's state universities accept with pleasure.

The issue of gender equality is also evident in this work. Throughout its history, the USP has had only one female president – Suely Vilela – and one female vice president – Myriam Krasilchik. In 2016, the university created the Escritório USP Mulheres [USP Women's Office] and has maintained an agreement with the UN Women HeForShe campaign since 2015 to advance gender equality at the university. This agreement is currently being renewed, with the USP invited to participate in a new UN program. The initiative was, and is, very important as it has been able to gradually modify gender relations and increase the number of women managing the university. To accelerate the process, several proactive measures have been taken in the last few months and it is hoped that these will increase the proportion of women professors and, consequently, the involvement of women in the running of the university.

Two vice presidents have played a significant role in running the university. Normally, vice presidents substitute presidents and continue their work in their absence. But since 2014, they have been tasked with the general administration of the USP, giving them a clear and constant duty rather than sporadic, short-term work. However, those two vice presidents made important contributions to management, not just as eventual substitutes, but as leaders of the university during difficult and important moments in its history. It is for this reason that they are included in this book.

Professor Helio Lourenço de Oliveira was already aware that he would fill the place of then President Gama e Silva, also minister of justice, when he was nominated and appointed vice president in October 1968. With this, he ordered the approval of the university's statutory reform which did away with chair professorships, opened the way to the creation of departments, subdivided the School of Philosophy, Sciences and Letters, formed semiannual courses and gave diverse powers to individual schools.

Without a doubt, it was one of the greatest changes in the institution's history thanks to the ability and competence of Professor Lourenço de Oliveira. He certainly must have caused many disputes for ending the power of chair professors, but his downfall was prompted by his opposition to the compulsory retirement of various members of the USP teach staff in accordance with Institutional Act Number Five – the notorious "AI-5." A later decree on April 29, 1969, signed by the university president who had withdrawn himself to act as justice minister, then forced the vice president to retire. The university council in an act of redemption ruled on October 4, 2016, that the portrait of Helio Lourenço de Oliveira be hung in the university's gallery of presidents.

A few months from the end of his term in August 1993, Professor Roberto Leal Lobo e Silva Filho resigned for reasons he outlines himself in his respective chapter. As vice president, Professor Ruy Laurenti was the natural candidate in the elections, but by stepping into the role he denied himself the right to run and instead led the university through those final few conflicted months. Thanks to his altruism and generosity, the situation at the USP remained calm until the next president, Professor Flávio Fava de Moraes, took over at the end of November.

I am the 28<sup>th</sup> president of the USP, but as I have already mentioned, Miguel Reale was elected twice, as was Professor Luis Antonio da Gama e Silva for two successive terms. For this reason, it can be said that I am the 26<sup>th</sup> educator

occupying this honorable role and I consider myself a privileged observer. I have followed the presidents' work closely since Miguel Reale's second term and have had the opportunity of knowing the last twelve presidents, initially as a student and later as a teacher at the start of his career and working directly in the university's management for the past eight years.

It is very interesting how the perspective of an external observer differs from the person undertaking the job. The presidents' own accounts, or those of whom were close to them, shed light on things that a student or a teacher in a non-managerial role could not envision. Some of the details in these accounts surprised me, even those that I had the pleasure of experiencing firsthand. That is the beauty of this publication: the ability to better understand the development of this institution beyond the point of view of its leaders.

I hope that each reader enjoys the book and pays special attention to how society has changed over nearly nine decades, especially in its concerns for education. At the same time, the university has met expectations and grown closer and closer to the population, and today its interaction with society is considered its third mission after education and research.

I would like to congratulate and thank the team that developed this book under the coordination of Ms. Vera Nakata and the University of São Paulo Press (EDUSP) for the editorial production. We have a historical document that will help us understand the functioning of the institution and respect its traditions. I wish you all a pleasant read.

**Vahan Agopyan**

*President from January 25, 2018 to January 24, 2022*





# Introduction



Júlio de Mesquita Filho



Armando de Salles Oliveira



Fernando de Azevedo

With the end of Brazil's "coffee with milk" politics and all the conflicts of the 1930s, there was clear discontent among the people of São Paulo. The state's leaders turned their gaze to education as a route to create an intellectual elite capable of leading the nation.

For this to happen, it became a priority to train teachers for secondary and normal schools as well as higher education institutions. Júlio de Mesquita Filho of O Estado de S. Paulo newspaper, and Armando de Salles Oliveira, the federal intervenor at the time, were the main supporters of educational institutions as a means to achieve these goals.

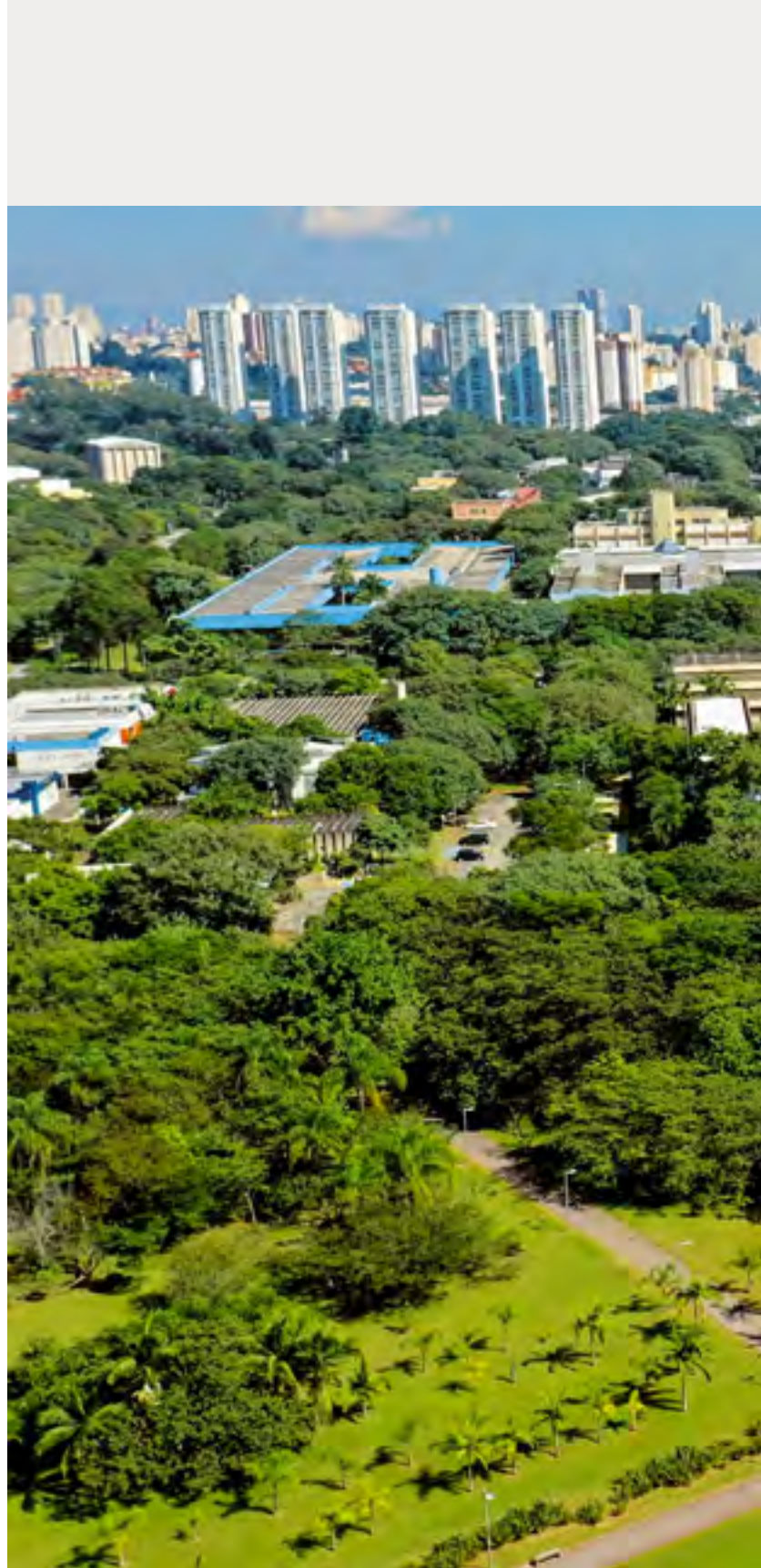
The theory was confirmed by the existence of São Paulo's engineering and medical schools and the Luiz de Queiroz College of Agriculture, all formerly isolated higher education centers, which since the 19<sup>th</sup> century had spawned graduates who went on to become politicians for the state.

Several key events played a major role in raising awareness in society of the need for developing Brazil's higher education system, notably a study by the sociologist Fernando de Azevedo published in O Estado de S. Paulo, which presented the general situation of education in Brazil.

A combination of events led to the creation of the University of São Paulo as a part of a movement to rejuvenate São Paulo centered around the Escola Normal, such as the foundation of the now-defunct School of Philosophy, Sciences and Letters in 1930 by a group of intellectuals including Ernesto de Souza Campos, André Dreyfus, Miguel Reale, Francisco Isoldi and Alberto Comte, among others.

The creation of universities across the country enabled improvements in the Brazilian educational system and, consequently, for the country itself.

Thanks to the efforts of the previously mentioned intellectuals, Fernando de Azevedo, Julio de Mesquita Filho and many others, Intervenor Armando de Salles Oliveira created the University of São Paulo on January 25, 1934, a unification of the already-established Law School of the Largo de São Francisco (1827), Escola Normal (1846), Escola Politécnica (1894), the Luiz de Queiroz College of Agriculture (1901), the School of Pharmacy, Dentistry and Obstetrics (1902), the Medical School (1912), School of Veterinary Medicine and Animal Science (1919) and the newly-founded School of Philosophy, Sciences and Letters (1934), aiming to integrate all of them. The university's first president was Reynaldo Porchat.







The Praça do Relógio [Clock Square] and the building of the president's office, 2021





Centro Universitário Maria Antônia – on-campus arts and cultural center





The InovaUSP and International Diffusion Center buildings under construction





Law School of the  
Largo de São Francisco

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1934–1938



# Reynaldo Porchat

Law School of the Largo de São Francisco

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## **A Life Dedicated to Teaching**

The first president of the University of São Paulo was a member the Brazilian National Council for Education for four decades



A lawyer and a university professor, Reynaldo Porchat was born in Santos, São Paulo on May 23, 1868, the son of Victorino, from a upper class family in the city, and Prudência da Silva Porchat. His paternal grandfather was Swiss botanist Henri Victor Porchat who by the mid-nineteenth century, had established himself in the city and purchased the island which still carries his family name: Porchat Island.

At the age of 7, Porchat moved to the city of São Paulo with his family and began his studies at Colégio Ypiranga. As a teenager, he worked at Casa Nothmann & Cia in Santos, but soon gave up commerce to study humanities. The young man first enrolled in the preparatory course to enter the São Paulo Law School of the Largo de São Francisco, known today as the Law School of the University of São Paulo (USP). He later moved to the Mosteiro de São Bento in Rio de Janeiro, which was the capital of Brazil at the time.

Upon his return to São Paulo in 1888, Porchat joined the law academy once again. As a student, Porchat advocated and promoted the First Brazilian Republic, which was proclaimed the following year. While acting as a member of the Academic Republican Club and as the editor of the academic political bulletin *A República*, he taught Brazilian History at the School of Arts and Crafts of São Paulo, where he eventually took over as director.

Porchat was granted his bachelor's degree in 1891, some months after he had married Maria Julia Escobar de Luné (1873–1921). Together, they had three children: Oswaldo de Luné Porchat, Alcy de Luné Porchat and Edith de Luné Porchat, who later married Eusébio Matoso.

After graduating, he acted as first deputy police chief for two years, before starting his academic

career. Approved by a selection process for a position at the Law Academy of São Paulo, he was appointed substitute lecturer of the First Section in October 1897. Following the presentation and approval of his thesis “Of the Legal Position of the Federal States before the Federal Government,” he received his doctoral degree on October 23, 1897, in accordance with a decree that had been issued five days prior.

In 1903, Porchat was inaugurated as the chair lecturer of Roman law by the decree of July 20, thus reaching a senior academic position within a short space of time. As a professor, he was described in a eulogy from the faculty board members of the law academy as “the most feared for his strictness and the most loved for his actions.”

Porchat was a member of the National Council of Education for the thirty-seven years after it was founded in 1911 under the name of the “Upper Education Council.” He was its eldest member, and regarded as the most respected advocate of the moralization of Brazilian education. He held the position of council president for a number of terms for which the law academy board.

Beyond his career at the USP, he was appointed as a federal government inspector at Colégio de São Luiz in the municipality of Itu by Dr. Epitácio Pessoa, the then Minister of Justice and Domestic Affairs of the Republic (1898–1901).

Following his political calling, Porchat was elected state senator in 1923 by the Paulista Republican Party (PRP). He resigned from his term in 1925 and, along with dissidents of the same party, founded the Democratic Party (PD) in February 1926 and supported the Liberal Alliance, comprising Getúlio Vargas and João Pessoa, to a win in the 1930 presidential elections.

In 1930, he was appointed Dean of the Law Academy of São Paulo by the Head of the Provisional Government

Getúlio Vargas. In 1932, the Justice Court of São Paulo appointed him a member of the then Regional Electoral Court, where he served as a judge for over two years. He left the position in 1934, when he was appointed president of the University of São Paulo by the federal intervenor, Armando de Salles Oliveira. His selection was determined by three senior professors at the university.

In June 1934, Porchat was inaugurated at the age of 66 as the university’s first president. The minutes of the second meeting of the university council conducted that month recorded: “Mr. President, in gratitude of the evidence of trust given by the government of the State of São Paulo, focuses briefly on the issue of academia in São Paulo, seeking to highlight the extraordinary benefits the university will incontestably bring to the culture of the citizens of São Paulo.”

In June of the following year, he presided over the committee appointed by the then Governor of the State of São Paulo Armando de Salles Oliveira “to determine the best location for the University City, which should assemble within a single area all the USP units that were mostly operating in provisional premises scattered across different parts of the city of São Paulo.”

Porchat was also a member of the committee corresponding to the Groupement des Universités et Grandes Écoles de France [Association of Universities and Grandes Écoles of France], which established Liceu Franco Brasileiro [the French-Brazilian Lycée], in addition to the Comité France-Amerique, the Geographic Society of Lisbon and the São Paulo Academy of Letters.

In 1938, at the end of his term as president, he returned to the Law Academy and the practice of law itself.

According to Professor Alexandre Augusto de Castro Corrêa in his speech at the ceremony given in celebration of Porchat’s hundredth birthday in May 1968, Porchat’s

“Elementary Course on Roman Law” is a work that is “quoted, recalled and – rarer still – remains equally beneficial to masters, disciples and scholars.”

Professor Porchat was also a personal friend of Euclides da Cunha, as shown in around 37 letters that have been preserved at the request of the professor and his descendants. This volume of correspondence places Porchat as Euclides’s second greatest addressee, just after Francisco Escobar, an influential lawyer and politician from Minas Gerais who served as Intendant of São José do Rio Pardo during the time that Euclides lived and worked there. Their letters indicate that the friendship between them originated from their acquaintanceship at the newspaper *Província de São Paulo*. Euclides, who lived in Rio de Janeiro, resided in São Paulo in 1889 when the two of them became close friends.

“Porchat, my friend.

I send thee my salutations!

An old style, as you can see, the style of one who takes advantage of a long stay in his sickbed with a tenacious rheumatism, to decipher the old language of the chroniclers of the XVII century. I received your letter and the copy of *Cigarra* magazine. Thank you very much. It is well that the *Estado* newspaper said nothing with regard to the *Correio*: I found everything in order. I am happily recovered from such a cruel nuisance. Did you not like Minas [...] I also confess to you that Minas is a little better. Have you read the chapter ‘Historical Problem’? What a lot of fastidious erudition! What a marvelous narcotic! Saninha and I send our best regards to all of your family. Keep writing and stand by this old friend

Euclides”

Emeritus Professor of the Law Academy of the USP Reynaldo Porchat died on October 12, 1953, at the age of 85 in the city of São Paulo.

Since 1980, the USP campus in Butantan began naming its roads, avenues and squares after its ex-presidents. One of the first to be paid tribute was Reynaldo Porchat, whose name was given to the square at the main entrance of the campus.

Streets and schools have also been named after him in different cities throughout the state of São Paulo. They are: Reynaldo Porchat Street in the Jardim Francisco Morato neighborhood, Francisco Morato; Reynaldo Porchat Street in the Vila Belmiro neighborhood, Santos; and Reynaldo Porchat State School in the Alto da Lapa neighborhood, São Paulo.

#### **Works published:**

‘Curso Elementar de Direito Romano’ [Elementary Course on Roman Law] – São Paulo: Duprat, 1907–1909.

‘Da Retroactividade das Leis Civis’ [Of the Retroactivity of Civil Laws] – São Paulo: Duprat, 1909.

‘Da Pessoa Physica: Sua Condição Natural, o Nascimento Perfeito, sua Condição Civil, o Status’ [Of the Individual: Natural Condition, Perfect Birth, Civil Condition, Status] – São Paulo: Duprat, 1915

‘A Belligerancia em Face de uma Guerra Civil – Condições de Reconhecimento da Belligerancia pelas Nações Estrangeiras, o Caso da Insurreição de São Paulo e Mato Grosso’ [Belligerence in the Face of a Civil War – Conditions for the Recognition of Belligerence by Foreign Nations, the Case of the Insurrection of São Paulo and Mato Grosso] – São Paulo, 1932.



Instituto de Física [Institute of Physics] located on Avenida Brigadeiro Luiz Antonio





Escola Politécnica

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1938–1939



# Lucio Martins Rodrigues

Escola Politécnica

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## **University and Progress**

In his inaugural address as president of the USP, the engineer by training called the university's role "the principal driving force of moral and material progress in our country"



**L**ucio Martins Rodrigues was born in April 1876 in the coastal city of Santos, São Paulo. He lost his father when he was just 6 years old and moved with his mother to the city of Rio de Janeiro. In Rio, he attended elementary school at Colégio Pedro II but returned to Santos to finish his secondary education. However, by 15 years old he had returned to Rio to study engineering at the city's polytechnic school and graduated in 1894 at just 19.

In 1897, Martins Rodrigues began working for the team of engineers responsible for constructing Brazil's now defunct railway Estrada de Ferro Central, in the tract of land between Sabará and Curvelo in the state of Minas Gerais. His interest and knowledge of topographical surveys were of great importance to the railway's construction.

His career as a university professor had its start in 1901. He earned first place in the entrance examinations for Ginásio do Estado in Campinas, São Paulo, and was conferred a chair professorship by the state's president Francisco de Paula Rodrigues Alves.

Around the same time, the Escola Politécnica of the University of São Paulo (The Engineering School) took an interest in the new professor and recruited him as a substitute lecturer of mathematics. His competences as a teacher were such that only two years later, he was awarded tenure following a proposal from the school's board of directors on April 6, 1904.

Many years passed before Martins Rodrigues was made the chair professor of Topography, Elementary Geodesy and Astronomical Surveying in 1932. However, he transferred to the same position for Vector Calculus and Rational Mechanics in 1936 following the death of Professor Theodoro Ramos who had died the year before.



As an engineer, his professional journey was linked to transportation and São Paulo's urban development. He was dedicated to the construction of the Port of Santos and was a member of the Sanitation Commission of the City of São Paulo at the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. He took on many roles over 30 years which included working as an engineer at the City Hall of São Paulo and contributed his observations and experiences from trips abroad where he had paid special attention to urban, transportation and sanitation practices, particularly in European and American cities. In 1917, Mayor Washington Luiz called on him to form the first Highway Congress of São Paulo, alongside Caio Prado Jr and Heitor Penteado.

When Martins Rodrigues was inaugurated as the second president of the University of São Paulo (USP) in 1938, he emphasized how the role of the university was central to Brazil's development:

"As I take office as the president of the University of São Paulo, let my first words be an affirmation of faith in the role that this institution is destined to play as the principal driving force of moral and material progress in our country, with moral progress before material. I am under no illusions about the effort that this will expend as there is still much to be done. The road is rough, and the journey is long and treacherous, but as the poet said: to live is to fight. I can guarantee you that the man accustomed to study, who has grown old with daily contact with books, will find in the cyclopean work of elevating and improving the work of our people, sufficient stimulus to continue the work that has been started. For this reason, I count on the necessary support of the state government and hope for the active collaboration of the illustrious members of the university council, as well as the university's professors in general."

Given his appreciation for science, his address also raised the importance of the recently-founded School of Philosophy, Sciences and Letters (FFCL), which was envisioned

as a central pillar of the USP to educate researchers in areas diverse areas encompassing biological, human and exact sciences. When complimenting the integrity of the president's character, the distinguished professor José Augusto Martins said: "At that time, the University of São Paulo and its schools depended greatly on the direct action of the state's governor. Professor Lucio Martins Rodrigues was the president of the University of São Paulo for a short time [and] was a brilliant and stern person. An issue that left a mark on his life during this time was the customary appointment of professors and other university staff by the state governor. One of the newly appointed staff members was not on the Escola Politécnica's list of requirements and instead had been put forward by the state intervenor at the time, Adhemar Pereira de Barros, without the president's consent. The protest of this man, Lucio Martins Rodrigues, shows his sheer courage and stern character. He did not even go to the governmental palace to tender his resignation, he simply vanished from the position as a sign of protest."

The departure of Martins Rodrigues from the presidency occurred in April 1939, 11 months after his inauguration.

As dedicated as he was to teaching, he also directed his interests to scientific research. His book on astronomy, entitled "Pêndulo de Foucault" [Foucault's Pendulum] was published in 1932 and was the first Brazilian study on waves and lunar phases, and an analysis of the history of 16<sup>th</sup> century seafaring. He is also credited for the construction of the Escola Politécnica's Astronomical Observatory in Buenos Aires Square and for introducing the Vector Calculus course at the Escola Politécnica along with Professors Theodoro Ramos and José Otávio Monteiro de Camargo.

From December 1941, he took on the deanship of the Escola Politécnica of the University of São Paulo. In 1943, Martins Rodrigues retired from teaching after more than 42 years as a university professor. He remained lucid and curious, dedicating himself to research for the rest of his

life. For all his achievements, he was awarded the title of Distinguished Professor in 1946.

Martins Rodrigues died on August 19, 1970, at the age of 94.

Since 1980, the USP campus in Butantan has named roads, avenues and squares after its ex-presidents. Professor Lucio Martins Rodrigues's name was given to the avenue home to the School of Communication and Arts (ECA) and the Institute for International Relations (IRI).

In 1978, an elementary school in the city of São Vicente, São Paulo, changed its name to EMEF Prof. Lucio Martins Rodrigues, after the professor. The school a hub in the community, offering numerous weekend activities in partnership with other centers, universities and NGOs.



**Lucio Martins Rodrigues and his wife**



Lucio Martins Rodrigues and visitors



Lucio Martins Rodrigues with his great-grandchildren at a birthday party





The Medical School

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1939–1941





# Domingos Rubião Alves Meira

The Medical School

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## **A Doctor in the Presidency**

The construction of the Hospital das Clínicas at the USP Medical School was authorized during his term of office

Domingos Rubião Alves Meira started his medical studies in 1894 and received his bachelor's degree from the School of Medicine of Rio de Janeiro when he was only twenty-one years old. He was born in Barra do Piraí, in the state of Rio de Janeiro on January 4, 1878, the son of João Alves Meira and Margarida Rubião Alves Meira. In 1900, one year after his graduation, he was granted a doctoral degree after presenting the thesis "Estudo Semiótico do Coma" [Semiotic Study of Coma], before settling in the small town of Piumhi in Minas Gerais, where he practiced medicine for a short period.

In April 1901, Rubião Meira relocated to the state of São Paulo and practiced in the cities of Jaboticabal and São Miguel Arcanjo shortly before choosing to settle in the state's capital. In the same year, he was appointed head of the men's health clinic at Santa Casa de Misericórdia and started to work at the Instrução Pública, an educational body under the state's secretary of the interior.

Meira joined the *Gazeta Clínica* upon its creation in 1903. The periodical was funded and written by independent doctors and published until 1954. Along with Bernardo de Magalhães, José Prudente de Moraes Barros, João Alves de Lima and Xavier Silveira, their texts discussed medical training and the profession itself, in addition to the sanitary needs of São Paulo.

From 1905 to 1906, Meira helmed the Sociedade de Medicina e Cirurgia de São Paulo [Medical and Surgical Society of São Paulo], currently the Academia de Medicina de São Paulo [Medical Academy of São Paulo], a position he held again in 1911 and 1912. He was later made an honorary member of the institution where he took the 51st chair.

Meira gave classes at the infirmary of Santa Casa de Misericórdia and was the first professor to occupy the chair professorship of internal medicine in São Paulo, before the medical school had been established. For his work, he eventually received an honorary doctorate from the Santa Casa de Misericórdia.

Besides his duties as a doctor, Meira loved literature and wrote short stories. He was one of the founding members of the São Paulo Academy of Letters where he took the 28<sup>th</sup> chair on October 5, 1909.

In 1912, the São Paulo School of Medicine and Surgery, today the USP Medical School, was established. A decree on February 10, 1916, promoted Meira to a chair professorship at the school where he worked for the rest of his life.

Always extremely dedicated to his teaching and medical activities, he helmed a group of São Paulo doctors in 1930 that advocated the establishment of an entity that would champion the interests of those in the field, in addition to tackling scientific issues. He signed the call for a general meeting and chaired the inaugural session, which assembled one hundred and forty doctors at the medical school's amphitheater which at that time was located on Rua Brigadeiro Tobias. He was elected as the chair of the body for four two-year periods, during which the São Paulo Medical Association (APM) was established on November 29, 1930. On that day, Meira expressed the satisfaction he felt to see a large number of ex-students present and promised to endeavor to make the association "a center of efficient activity and work." Two years later, the APM had already convened six hundred and fifty doctors and was recognized as a public utility by Federal Decree No. 15580, in May 1944.

On April 5, 1939, Federal Intervenor of São Paulo Adhemar de Barros appointed Meira as the president of the University of São Paulo (USP) during Getúlio Vargas's Estado Novo dictatorship. He succeeded Lucio Martins Rodrigues

(1938-1939) and was the first professor from the medical school to take the position. Adhemar de Barros authorized the construction of the Hospital das Clínicas of the USP Medical School during his term of office. Among the members of the installation and organization committee of the hospital were the secretary of education and public health, the USP president himself, the dean of the medical school dean and a doctor. Respectively, they were Mário Guimarães de Barros Lins, Domingos Rubião Alves Meira, Ludgero da Cunha Motta and Odair Pacheco Pedroso. The hospital was a funding requirement of the Rockefeller Foundation's support of the medical school. However, the construction works would only start some years later and not during his term of office.

As a university president and great champion of students, faculty members and researchers of the USP Medical School, he wrote in 1940 in the *Revista de Medicina* (v.24, no. 79) that "the *Revista de Medicina*, a body of the Oswaldo Cruz Academic Center, which has been published for years (since 1916), deserves to be considered a product of the effort and exertion of a group of young people that honor the USP Medical School. (...) I speak with unguarded enthusiasm, and the simple will to applaud values."

In 1941, Adhemar de Barros was succeeded by the ex-Minister of Agriculture Fernando de Sousa Costa and Meira resumed his teaching position at the medical school where he was an integral member of the committee for promoting academic staff for internal medicine. For many years, the ex-president was also a member of the grand jury of the São Paulo judicial district.

After the transition from the dictatorship back to a democracy in 1945, Meira became the vice president of the executive committee of the Progressive Republican Party (PRP), which he had co-founded with Adhemar de Barros. Meira was selected by the party to run for one of the two existing seats in the senate when elections were called for the National Constituent Convention in the same year, but he

was defeated by Getúlio Vargas and Alexandre Marcondes Machado Filho from the Brazilian Labor Party (PTB). It was a repeat of the situation that had occurred in 1921 when he had been a candidate for federal representative of the São Paulo Republican Party (PRP), but was defeated by José Roberto Leite Penteado.

Over the course of his life, Meira amassed a number of followers. Married with four children, his son João Alves Meira (1905-1989) followed in his father's footsteps and became a prominent doctor. Professor of internal medicine and researcher at Santa Casa de Misericórdia of São Paulo and at the USP Medical School where he served as dean from 1963 to 1970. When delivering a graduation speech for the Class of 1958, he referred to his father as one who: "possessed all the qualities of a true doctor, devoted to the practice of medicine, with distinction, with selflessness, with full dedication to his patients, whatever their social rank, without concern for material reward, without any other ambition than that of providing the support of his expertise and the satisfaction of zealously meeting his duties as a conscientious professional. During his uninterrupted forty-five years of medical practice, Meira, irrespectively and generously, with the gift of his knowledge, spread the good will of his benevolent heart to all those who approached him in need."

His grandson Domingos Alves Meira (1932-2012) was also a doctor and a researcher who followed the trajectory of his father, João, and his grandfather.

Meira died in São Paulo on January 13, 1946, at 67 years of age. During his funeral in the amphitheater of the USP Medical School, then university president Professor Almeida Prado (1946-1947) delivered a moving eulogy to his friend: "Dr. Rubião, let me call you so this final time in this brief and ceremonious speech for that is the way I always called you since the happy days of youth, in an attitude of awe and warmth that the closest and most faithful friendship put to the test through years of life spent side-by-side could

never mar. This is how I first addressed you, nearly thirty years ago when I, young and inexperienced, a recently appointed substitute professor, introduced myself in your office in order to jointly inaugurate the teaching of internal medicine with you and your vision at our school during your fourth year of teaching (...) And in this moment in which I look upon you for the last time, my conscience confides in me that I never failed you in the faithfulness that you were due, and I feel the moral comfort of always having been able to correspond to the manifestations of your heartening and dignifying friendship."

A bronze bust currently pays tribute to the ex-president at the Butantan campus of the USP. It was installed in the square named after him which faces CEPEUSP, the university's sport center.





Edifício Ramos de Azevedo da Escola Politécnica

Palacete de Alameda Gleite –  
home to chemistry, physics  
and exact sciences courses  
of the School of Philosophy,  
Sciences and Letters

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1941–1946





# Jorge Americano

Law School of the Largo de São Francisco

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## **In the Name of Research**

The fourth president of the USP headed the creation of the University Research Funds in 1942, an idea that would lead to the establishment the São Paulo Research Foundation (FAPESP) nearly two decades later

The son of Luís Americano and Amélia Cardoso Americano, Jorge Americano was born in the city of São Paulo on August 25, 1891. He received his primary and secondary education from Escola Modelo Caetano de Campos and Ginásio de São Bento. In 1908, he enrolled in the legal sciences course at the Law School of the University of São Paulo (USP), located in the Largo de São Francisco. In the same year, he was admitted as a bookkeeper in the São Paulo Treasury, a position that he held even after graduating in 1912.

At the age of 24, Americano was appointed district attorney and joined the state prosecution office in the city of Bebedouro, São Paulo. In 1918, a year after marrying Maria Rafaela de Paula Souza with whom he also had a son, he was promoted to the judicial district of Atibaia where he carried out the same function.

A personal tragedy changed the course of his career. The death of their infant son caused Maria Rafaela to fall ill, and the two decided to move to the coast in search of a better climate. In 1921, Americano left the prosecution office and the couple went to live in Santos, São Paulo, where he founded a legal practice. The following year, Americano applied for the position of substitute civil law lecturer at the Law School of the Largo de São Francisco, which did not come to fruition after the federal government suspended the selection process.

In 1925, he entered two further selection processes for chair professorships at the same school; the first for civil law and the other for civil judiciary law (today known as civil procedural law). For these roles, Americano respectively presented the theses 'Como se Aplica, nos Acidentes de Trabalho, o Conceito de Ato Ilícito' [How Can the Concept Wrongful Acts Be Applied to Occupational Accidents?] and "É cabível a Ação Pauliana para Revogação de Hipotecas

Celebradas em Fraude de Credores?” [Is Paulian Action Applicable to Abrogating Mortgage Executed in Creditors’ Fraud?]. At the same time, a vacancy opened for a chair professorship of civil law, for which he also applied and presented the already published and renowned works: “A Ação Rescisória dos Julgados no Direito Brasileiro” [Relief from Judgement of the Precedents in Brazilian Law] and ‘O Abuso do Direito no Exercício da Demanda’ [The Abuse of Rights in the Exercise of Action]. He also presented an unprecedented work entitled “Processo Civil e Comercial no Direito Brasileiro” [Civil and Commercial Procedure in Brazilian Law]. While Jorge Americano did not earn the chairmanship, he became “livre-docente” of civil law in 1927, a title that denotes the superior quality of a university professor.

In the same year, he was invited by the Paulista Republican Party to run for state representative, for which he was elected and then re-elected in 1928. During his term of office, Americano participated in the Organizing Committee for the Civil Procedure Code Bill of the State of São Paulo.

Later in 1928, he was appointed attorney general of the federal district by the then President of the Republic Washington Luís. He kept this position until 1930, the year in which the revolution put an end to the First Brazilian Republic (1889-1930).

Americano also participated in the Bucha, the informal name of the Paulista Burschenschaft, from the German Bursch, meaning “fellow,” and Schaft, meaning “confraternity.” The Bucha was a secret, liberal and philanthropic society which vindicated republican ideas at the USP Law School. The society fostered important figures such as Campos Salles, Rangel Pestana, Júlio de Mesquita (one of the founders of the newspaper O Estado de São Paulo, which was a type of official body of the Bucha), Rui Barbosa, Prudente de Moraes, Washington Luís, Castro Alves, the Baron of Rio Branco, among numerous others. The

always clandestine Bucha dissolved in absolutely secrecy following the Revolution of 1930.

After leaving the post of attorney general, Americano returned to São Paulo and started working at a law firm headed by Olegário Pereira de Almeida, an important lawyer at the time. In June 1931, he returned to the Largo de São Francisco to teach civil law, replacing Vicente Rao. At the same time, he taught Brazilian Literature at Ginásio São Bento as well as civil law at Escola de Comércio Álvares Penteado. During 1932, the then professor also actively participated in the Constitutionalist Revolution in São Paulo in which he organized the publicity service and headed the course for emergency officers.

In May 1933, he was elected as the federal representative of São Paulo under the Chapa Única por São Paulo Unido [Single Slate for a United São Paulo] for the National Constitutional Convention. He took his seat in November of that year but resigned the following month, disheartened by the direction of the Brazilian politics. He stood against the approximation policy between the federal and state governments. In 1934, he took up the chair professorship of civil law at the Law School after finally winning the selection process.

In 1937, Americano was elected chairman of the São Paulo Section of Instituto dos Advogados do Brasil [The Brazilian Institute of Lawyers]. The following year, he became the advisor of the São Paulo section of the Brazilian Bar Association (OAB) and was made dean of the Law School of the University of São Paulo, where he stayed until 1939.

Between 1939 and 1941, Americano was a member of the penitentiary council of the city of São Paulo and visited the United States of America by invitation of the United States government.

In 1941, Federal Intervenor Fernando Costa (1941-1945) appointed Americano as the fourth president of the



University São Paulo. During his term, the USP's main campus, University City, was devised to cover an area of approximately 4,700,000m<sup>2</sup> which had been provided by the first president Reynaldo Porchat in 1935.

During his term as president, the School of Nursing was incorporated into the university by Decree-law No. 13040 of October 31, 1942. In April 1944, the construction of the Hospital das Clínicas was concluded, and in February 1944, the USP had its autonomy ratified by Decree-law No. 13855. Decree-law No. 14857, of July 1945, bore the name of the School of Hygiene and Public Health which today is known simply as the USP School of Public Health. Finally, the School of Economic and Management Sciences (FCEA) was established by Decree-law No. 15601, of January 26, 1946; it is currently the School of Economics, Management, Accounting of the University of São Paulo (FEA).

Concurrently with his term as president, Americano joined the council of the Fundação da Escola Livre de Sociologia e Política de São Paulo [Free School of Sociology and Politics of São Paulo Foundation], where he held the chairmanship until 1957.

In 1941, he also provisionally acted as the state secretary of education and public health for São Paulo until 1945. In 1942, he headed the USP group of faculty members responsible for establishing the University Research Funds (FUP), which intended to fund science and technology at the university in favor of national security. Funds were provided by individuals, industries and by the state and federal governments. Research and studies on telecommunications, production of special steels, war equipment, atomic and nuclear physics, among many other areas, were therefore made possible in addition to manufacturing sonars to fight German submarines as the Second World War was well underway.

Almost two decades later, the work that FUP had started led to establishment of the São Paulo Research Foundation

(FAPESP) by Organic Law 5918, of October 18, 1960, enforced by Governor Carlos Alberto de Carvalho Pinto (1959-1963).

In October 1946, amidst a great crisis in São Paulo's higher education system, Jorge Americano resigned from the presidency, followed by the entire university council. His successor was Antônio de Almeida Prado. In the same year, Americano became chairman of Instituto Cultural Brasil-Itália [Brazil Italy Cultural Institute] and started teaching at the Free School of Sociology and Politics of São Paulo in 1950. He was also the first chairman of the Brazilian Society for the Advancement of Science (SBPC) from 1949 to 1951. He was then granted the title of honorary chairman of the entity, which is awarded to people with considerable knowledge who have provided relevant services to scientific causes.

He was affected deeply by the death of his wife Maria Rafaela de Paula Souza, which motivated him to pursue a new endeavor. In 1953, he became the founder and first dean of the Law School at Mackenzie Presbyterian University which remains a renowned institution and holds the OAB's seal of recommendation for its high pass rates in the bar examinations.

In addition to working as a faculty member, essayist, lawyer, biographer, state and federal representative and USP president, Jorge Americano was the cabinet officer to the state secretary of finance, interim fiscal deputy attorney of finance, judge of the International Court of Justice of the Hague, chairman of the Moinho Santista Foundation, director of the Molas-no-Sag do Brasil, and was a board member of the Vidraria Santa Marina and Associação Paulista de Assistência aos Paraplégicos [São Paulo Association for the Assistance of Paraplegics].

After his retirement, Americano dedicated his time to producing a collection of memoirs on the city of São Paulo which revealed his impressions of the metropolis: "São

Paulo Naquele Tempo (1895-1915)" [São Paulo A Long Time Ago] published by Saraiva in 1957; "São Paulo Nesse Tempo (1915-1935)" [São Paulo at that Time]; "São Paulo Neste Tempo (1935-1962)" [São Paulo in this Time] both published by Melhoramentos in 1962 and "São Paulo Atual (1935-1962)" [São Paulo Today] also published by Melhoramentos in 1963.

Jorge Americano died in São Paulo on February 6, 1969 at the age of 77. In the Butantan campus of the USP in the western part of the city, the square opposite the access to the Butantan Institute bears his name, as do some streets and schools in the city proper, as well as in the city of Lins, São Paulo.



The Luiz de Queiroz College of Agriculture, 1907



Escola Normal de São Paulo

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1946–1947





# Antônio de Almeida Prado

Medical School

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## **A Pioneer of the University**

15 years before being appointed president, the professor was a member of the first committee to consider the fundamentals for a university in São Paulo



In 1907, Antônio de Almeida Prado enrolled at the Rio de Janeiro School of Medicine at the age of 18. He graduated in 1912 after presenting his thesis “Das Variações Volumétricas do Baço nas Cirroses Hepáticas” [Of the Volumetric Variations of the Spleen in Liver Cirrhosis]. Born in Itu on June 13, 1889, the son of Francisco de Almeida Prado and Isabel Sampaio de Almeida Prado, the young Antônio attended the American School of São Paulo from the age of 9 to 14, before transferring to Ginásio Nogueira da Gama in Jacareí, where he studied until he was 16. He returned to São Paulo and completed his secondary education at Instituto Silvio de Almeida in 1906. He then moved to Rio de Janeiro for university and, after graduating, settled for a time in the town of São Joaquim da Barra in the state of São Paulo where he began practicing medicine.

In April 1915, he moved to São Paulo, the state capital, upon the invitation of Professor Arnaldo Vieira de Carvalho to join the teaching staff at the São Paulo School of Medicine and Surgery, which had been founded three years earlier. At the school, he acted as an assistant to the chair of Physiology, under the guidance of Professor Ovídio Pires de Campos (1884-1950), a prominent doctor who later headed the São Paulo Red Cross.

In 1916, he was appointed substitute professor of internal medicine at the school and helmed the propaedeutics course for nine years. In 1925, he was promoted to the chair professorship of internal medicine and later started teaching propaedeutics and clinical laboratory on the internal medicine course in rotation with professor Rubião Meira. In 1946, after a run of titles and works, he returned to his original teaching position.

Almeida Prado worked in internal medicine under Professor Miguel Pereira (1871-1918), a great advocate of the sanitation movement which resulted in the establishment of the Rural

Prophylaxis Service in 1918. Prado was particularly fond of Pereira, which was demonstrated in his book “Vultos and Temas Médicos” [Prominent Figures and Topics in Medicine] published in 1952, in which Prado paid tribute to the professor in its very first pages.

Over three decades between 1916 and 1946, he taught intensively and assiduously, taking leave only for private matters in very short periods up until he received the emeritus professor title.

He taught free courses and specialization courses promoted by the São Paulo Medical Association and the Centro de Estudos da Santa Casa de Misericórdia in Rio de Janeiro. He inspired a large number of undergraduate theses at the University of São Paulo Medical School (FMUSP), where he participated in committees for selecting and promoting academic staff. He participated in similar committees at the medical school at the Federal University of São Paulo and others throughout the country in Rio de Janeiro, Bahia and Rio Grande do Sul. He established conference and didactic courses, summer programs for students and participated in committees on educational reforms.

As a teaching inspector, Almeida Prado inspected the “efficiency of teaching, the abidance to regulations, and the supervision of doctoral theses” at the medical school for a number of years. This position no longer exists.

In 1930 and 1931, he took the 102nd seat and the chairmanship of the Academia de Medicina de São Paulo [Medical Academy of São Paulo]. In 1931, while acting as the state secretary of education and public health, he was appointed by Federal Intervenor Laudo Ferreira de Camargo to the first official committee to consider the fundamentals for the creation of a university in São Paulo. The project was interrupted in July 1932 when the Constitutionalist Revolution broke out. However, the committee reconvened at the end of 1933, which led to the establishment of the

University of São Paulo on January 25, 1934, by a decree issued by Armando de Salles Oliveira.

Despite being a faculty member of the USP Medical School, Almeida Prado was the dean of the School of Philosophy, Sciences and Letters (FFCL) between 1934 and 1937, which is currently the Faculty of Philosophy, Sciences and Languages (FFCL). He succeeded Professor Theodoro Augusto Ramos who had been the dean for only a few months. At FFCL, the doctor drew up the school’s regulations in collaboration with Professor Aguiar Pupo. It was the first of its kind devised in Brazil and an unprecedented document by the standard of the federal government. He published the yearbooks from 1934 to 1936 covering the school’s early years and, together with the scientific bulletins, reported on school life and its academic productivity. He was also responsible for the acquisition of two private book collections for the university. They included a large collection of classic and modern works on zoology as well as twenty thousand offprints belonging to Professor Ernest Breslau, and a collection of literature on the history of Brazil and innumerable rare documents, which had belonged to the historian Alberto Lamego.

In 1937, the professor participated as a delegate representing the USP School of Medicine at the 6<sup>th</sup> Argentinian Medical Congress of Internal Medicine in Cordoba.

As one who fostered improvements in Brazilian medical teaching, Almeida Prado joined the school’s Technical Administrative Council (CTA) in 1940 as a co-rapporteur of recommendations approved by the faculty board and sent on to the federal government. In the same year, he worked towards establishing semiology as an autonomous and fundamental discipline. He also gave an address on medical teaching at the Centro de Estudos Brasileiros [Center for Brazilian Studies] in Rio de Janeiro, which was debated by prominent personalities in the science community such as Souza Campos and André Dreyfus from

São Paulo, and Rocha Vaz and Alvaro Osorio de Almeida from Rio de Janeiro.

In 1941, on the jubilee of his service as a medical professor, the book “Livro Jubilar do Prof. Dr. Antônio de Almeida Prado 1916-1941” [Jubilee Book of Professor Antônio de Almeida Prado, 1916-1941] was published, with over a thousand pages featuring texts from his national and international scientific collaborations, as well as a tribute by his friends, colleagues and followers.

In July 1944, the FMUSP Board of Directors appointed Almeida Prado as a member of the state’s public health council, which coordinated and supervised health assistance services.

A man of great medical and humanistic knowledge, he also mastered the philosophy of medicine and studied literature, history and drama. In 1944, he penned *As Doenças Através dos Séculos* [Diseases Over the Centuries], a work that encompassed science, art and benevolence. He wrote that: “nations that do not cultivate or preserve the memory of their prominent figures that have no roots in their past, do not advance into the future,” and added, “at most, they will constitute an extended existence of individuals without roots in their native land and without defined social consistency; but they will never amount to a true people, aware of the role they should play in the world or of the responsibilities inherited from the traditions of their ancestors.”

His parallel interest in opera and its history led to Almeida Prado being invited to give a talk on June 10, 1958, at an event at the Medical Association of São Paulo, which was sponsored by its cultural office and the Sociedade Brasileira de Ópera [Brazilian Opera Society].

Following the death of Professor Rubião Meira in 1946, Professor Almeida Prado was approved by the FMUSP board to take over Internal Medicine. In October 1946, Almeida

Prado succeeded Jorge Americano as the fifth president of the USP, appointed by Intervenor José Carlos de Macedo Soares. He held the position for only three months up to January of the following year. However, his relationship with the USP predated the establishment of the university itself as he had formed the committee to develop its creation when acting as state secretary for Intervenor Laudo de Camargo’s government (July to November 1931).

During his short term as president, the Institute of Astronomy, Geophysics and Atmospheric Sciences (IAG) was incorporated into the USP by State Decree-law no. 16622 on December 30, 1946. In January 1947, Intervenor Macedo Soares promoted Benedicto Montenegro, vice-president during Americano’s term, to the USP presidency. Just as his predecessor, Montenegro only occupied the post for three months.

Throughout his academic career, Almeida Prado published a number of medical works. According to the medical professor and historian Carlos da Silva Lacaz, he was “the true standard of medical practice for the whole country.”

When announcing his death on June 7, 1965, a week before his 76<sup>th</sup> birthday, the newspaper *O Estado de S. Paulo* wrote: “following the death of Professor Antônio de Almeida Prado, São Paulo indeed loses one of the most prominent representatives of a typical São Paulo citizen, manifested by a solid and cultivated intelligence, and open to all aspects of modern cultural life. Despite obtaining the highest of honors for his studies, research and medical activities, Professor Almeida Prado did not limit himself exclusively to the field of science, in which he left work that will forever endure.”

On the Butantan campus, tribute was paid to the USP’s fifth president whose name was given to the avenue that borders the Institute for Technological Research.



The School of Dentistry





Escola de Farmácia e  
Odontologia de São Paulo  
[School of Pharmacy  
and Dentistry] located  
on Rua Três Rios

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1947–1949



# Linneu Prestes

School of Pharmacy and Dentistry

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## **Years of Expansion**

New courses at the USP's Bauru, Ribeirão Preto and São Carlos campuses were approved under Linneu Prestes, who became the mayor of São Paulo six months after leaving the university presidency



Linneu Prestes, a graduate of pharmacy, law and philosophy, was born to a humble family in the city of Avaré, São Paulo, on September 30, 1896. He later moved to the city of São Paulo itself with his parents Ana and João Prestes de Moraes. He attended high school at Ginásio Macedo Soares and graduated in 1916 as a pharmacist from the Escola de Farmácia e Odontologia de São Paulo [São Paulo School of Pharmacy and Dentistry], which later became the USP School of Pharmaceutical Sciences (FCF). In 1928, he was commissioned by the São Paulo government to work for the Oswaldo Cruz Foundation in Rio de Janeiro. In the same year, he graduated from São Paulo Law School, and in 1932, he graduated from the Faculdade de Filosofia de São Bento [São Bento School of Philosophy], also in the city of São Paulo.

He began his academic career as a chemistry and biology assistant at the School of Pharmacy and Dentistry. He was later promoted as the chemical toxicology and bromatology professor in the school by which time had been incorporated into the newly formed University of São Paulo (USP). He held the professorship from 1935 to 1937 and became dean of the school in January 1938, where he stayed until June 1941. During his term of office, all areas of the school were underwent expansion. The library was reorganized and new laboratories and clinics were opened such as the clinical laboratory and the toxicology laboratory. Moreover, unprecedented technological laboratory facilities were installed in the Industrial Pharmaceutical Chemistry Division and the Pediatric Dentistry Clinic, the latter of which opened public dental services.

Linneu Prestes's pioneering spirit also led to the creation of the pharmacy school and the community pharmacy. Foreign specialists started to be hired during his term, and the first edition of the school's yearbook was published. With so many improvements implemented, the

institution was considered the best pharmaceutical and dental teaching institution in Brazil in 1941.

In 1947, Adhemar de Barros was elected as the governor of São Paulo and appointed Linneu Prestes to the USP presidency. He was the sixth to occupy the position, succeeding Professor Antonio de Almeida Prado. From this point forward, significant advancements were made across the various USP campuses. On July 21, 1948, the School of Architecture and Urbanism (FAU) was created by State Law No. 104, in addition to the sanitary engineering course at the Faculdade de Higiene e Saúde Pública [School of Hygiene and Public Health]. State Decree No. 161 of September 24, 1948, launched the School of Pharmacy and Dentistry on the Bauru campus, which was finally inaugurated over a decade later in May 1962. The same decree established the São Carlos School of Engineering (EESC), which was opened by 1952, in addition to the construction of the Ribeirão Preto Medical School (FMRP) in 1950.

Among other achievements of his presidency were the construction of buildings for the Betatron electron accelerator, the High Voltage Laboratory and the Instituto Eletrotécnico [Electro Technical Institute], as well as the expansion of facilities at the Institute for Technological Research (IPT) on the USP's main campus.

After leaving the presidency following two years of intense work (1947-1949), Linneu Prestes received an honorary doctorate from the USP on October 12, 1949.

Besides his academic career, Prestes devoted himself to a career in public service. He took care of São Paulo's finances in the position of state finance secretary in 1949 during Adhemar de Barros's term, and succeeded Asdrúbal da Cunha as the city's mayor from February 28, 1950, for a period of 11 months. The following month, he was influenced by his chief of staff, the poet Guilherme de Almeida, to enact Law No. 3853, which authorized the opening of children's libraries in various neighborhoods

of São Paulo. As a legislator, he ran for and was elected as the alternate to São Paulo Senator César Lacerda de Vergueiro in October of the same year. He eventually took over from the senator in January 1957 following his death. His parliamentary actions emphasized public health policies and issues related to the pharmaceutical profession. Prestes penned three laws that were essential for the teaching and practice of pharmacy in Brazil. They stipulated the reform of pharmaceutical education, the autonomy of pharmacy schools, and the mandatory presence of pharmacists in drugstores.

When he left the city hall at the end of January 1951, Prestes became a member of the superior council of the public sector bank Caixa Econômica Federal, where he worked until 1958. He also helmed the Department of Leprosy's chemical service and the secretariat of the State Chemical Analysis Laboratory of the Nutrition Inspectorate. He was a member of the São Paulo Society of Pharmacy and Chemistry, the Brazilian Society of Pharmaceuticals, and the National Academy of Pharmacy. In March 1953, he retired.

The first senator from the city of Avaré died in the early hours of September 20, 1958, prior to completing his term in the senate. He was survived by his wife Iracema Prestes and their son.

At the Butantan campus, his name was given to the avenue that leads to the School of Dentistry (FO) and the School of Pharmaceutical Sciences (FCF). In his hometown Avaré, a main street also bears his name.



The High Voltage  
Laboratory of the Instituto  
Eletrotécnico [Electro  
Technical Institute]

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1949–1950



# Miguel Reale

Law School of the Largo de São Francisco

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## **A Short Stay**

The jurist and art aficionado sponsored numerous exhibitions



Lawyer, jurist, professor, philosopher, essayist, poet and memoirist Miguel Reale was born in São Bento do Sapucaí, São Paulo, on November 6, 1910. He was the son of Italian doctor Braz Reale and Felicidade Chiarardia Reale who had four daughter in addition to Miguel. However, he spent his childhood in the city of Itajubá, Minas Gerais, where he attended the elementary school Colégio Nossa Senhora da Glória until 1921. From 1922 to 1929, he went to high school at Instituto Secundário Dante Alighieri, in the city of São Paulo itself. He broke from the family tradition of perusing medicine and began his studies at the Law School of São Paulo. In 1934, he graduated as part of the school's 103rd cohort and in the same year published his first book "O Estado Moderno" [The Modern State]. While still a student, he began his teaching career giving Latin and psychology classes in a pre-law course from 1933 to 1935. In 1936, he taught Portuguese and Brazilian literature at institutions in the city.

On September 11, 1935, the recently-graduated Reale married Filomena Nuce Pucci with whom he had been classmates at Instituto Secundário Dante Alighieri and called "Nuccia" – the "brazilianized" form of her name. The two were married for 63 year and had three children: Ebe, Livia Maria and Miguel Junior.

In 1941, he passed a public examination based on his thesis "Os Fundamentos do Direito" [The Fundamentals of Law] and became the professor of philosophy of law at the Law School of the University of São Paulo (FDUSP). He was inaugurated on May 14, 1941. However, his position was only made official after he won an appeal against the school's board. He had been subjected to social and ideological antagonism because the communist and liberal sons of São Paulo's aristocracy did not look kindly on the son of Italian immigrants joining the establishment. The episode

was recounted in detail years later by Reale himself in the first volume of his memoirs, published in 1986.

Shortly before starting to teach at the USP, he had published the book “Teoria do Direito e do Estado” [Theory of Law and the State], which was considered one of the country’s benchmark works of legal and political knowledge and kick-started his tri-dimensional theory of law, which he brought to global renown with the eponymously titled book published in 1968.

As a member of São Paulo’s administrative council, he penned various important reforms of the state’s educational and cultural legislation. The council had approved a bill that was enacted by Decree-law No. 13.855 on February 29, 1944, by then Intervenor of the State of São Paulo Fernando Costa and gave autocratic status to the USP.

As the state’s justice secretary, Reale created the state’s judicial department and the country’s first technical and legislative advisory in 1947 to rationalize legislative serviced and which served as model for other states and the federal government.

In 1946, Reale became the president of the USP and held the position from August 1949 to July 1950. At 38 years old, he was the youngest president to have taken the role. During his first term, Reale, who would return to the presidency in 1969, restructured various institutes and departments within the university and drafted the first plan for its expansion across the state of São Paulo. This started with laying the foundations for Ribeirão Preto Medical School. He later stated, “nothing was possible for me to build during the few months I spent in the post, which I withdrew from due to political conflicts with the state governor....”

In October 1949, Reale was one of the founders and the eventual president of the Brazilian Institute of Philosophy (IBF) which welcomed representatives of all branches of

philosophy. It was an unprecedented choice because societies of this kind had previously only congregated members from a single branch. From 1951, the IBF began publishing the *Revista Brasileira de Filosofia* [Brazilian Philosophy Magazine], which Reale had devised and directed himself for more than 50 years. It is Latin America’s oldest philosophical magazine and has stimulated the continuous study of Brazilian philosophy throughout its existence. Through Reale’s work, the Brazilian philosophy of law has reached international recognition and his writings as a jurist on the topic have been translated in numerous countries and are studied at a number of universities.

As a descendent of Italians, a strong sense of family and love for the arts, Reale opened the first exposition of plastic arts by contemporary Italian painters with the participation of the Museum of Modern Art and in collaboration with Sociedade Amigos do Braz. The exhibit was held in the São Paulo neighborhood of Brás (also spelt “Braz”) in January 1950, which to this day is a bastion of the former Italian colonies. In his presentation at the exhibit he said, “in fulfilment of its mission for high culture, the University of São Paulo opens the doors to a painting exhibition in the hearts of the hard working people of Braz so that they might admire recent creations of Italian genius. May the University continue maintaining this same spirit in the most intimate communion with popular ideals.”

The following month, the president’s office promoted the first exposition of paintings by residents of Braz, once again in collaboration with the same Sociedade. On that occasion, the event’s presentation was made by the art section of the cultural promotion division within the Department of Culture and Social Action of the USP presidential office, which declared, “it is with great pride that the president’s office of the University of São Paulo sees that its call was answered, and that the artists of Brás have congregated here to reveal their pictorial works to the public. Assembled there are the artists, the people and those who have the responsibility of accompanying the cultural life of the state



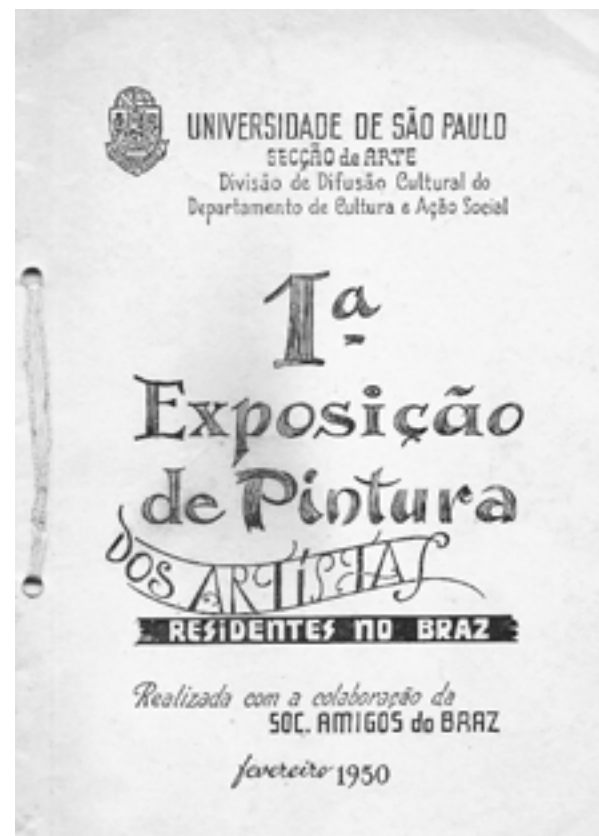
on its path without frontiers and representative of the life of the spirit of the people of São Paulo.”

In 1951, Reale was chief of the Brazilian delegation for the International Labour Organization in Geneva where he gave a speech that helped convince the court to reject the abolition of minimum salaries for plantation workers in countries including Brazil.

In 1953, he founded the Inter-American Philosophical Society where he was president for two years. During his time as heading the Brazil chapter, he participated in the society's conferences in Santiago in 1957, Washington D.C. in 1959, Buenos Aires in 1961 and Quebec in 1967. He was also a special rapporteur at the World Congress of Philosophy in Venice, Mexico and Vienna, and was the

vice-president of a plenary session in Bulgaria. At the 1954 World Congress of Philosophy in São Paulo, Reale was declared as a benefactor of Brazilian culture.

In 1963, he was named once again as the state of São Paulo's justice secretary and actively defended its autonomy and democratic regime. In 1969, President Artur da Costa e Silva selected Reale to join the country's high commission that had been formed to review the 1967 Constitution.





Escola Politécnica, 1908





The Institute  
of Biosciences

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1950–1951



# Luciano Gualberto

Medical School

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## **A Brief Term**

A poet in his spare time, the physician and urology professor spent just seven months in the USP presidency



Born in Petrópolis, Rio de Janeiro, on January 14, 1883, the Brazilian poet, physician, politician and professor, Luciano Gualberto, became the University of São Paulo's (USP) oldest president when he took office at the age of 67.

Gualberto graduated as a physician from the National Faculty of Medicine in Rio de Janeiro in 1909 after presenting the thesis "A Proteção do Operário em Casos de Acidentes do Trabalho" [Protection of Blue-Collar Workers in Cases of Occupational Accidents], which showed his concerns for society from a young age. Ten years later, the government issued Decree-law No. 3724 inspired by his studies which dealt with the protection against workplace accidents in the country.

He had a poetic streak in addition to his dedication to medicine, and published a book of poetry "Torre de Babel" [Babel Tower] in 1948. The foreword was written by Araripe Júnior, the greatest literary critic of his time. Gualberto used to joke that his poems would always come out with the final foot of the verse "broken" because, as a urologist, he had never mastered the tools used by orthopedists. Dealing with these "broken feet" was how he addressed the link between his activities as a physician, a professor of medicine and writing poetry in his spare time. Another of his books, "Poemas" [Poems] published in 1944, praised the heroism and great achievements of the Portuguese. Although not all of his poetic works were published, some ultimately did see the light of day. His poems portrayed very simply his first-hand experiences of the human suffering in clinics, health centers and hospitals, as can be observed in these lines:

"I know the taste of tears and of laughter,  
I have laughed and cried and, thus, therefore,

Sometimes the path is rough, sometimes smooth,  
I have felt the sensations of an entire existence."

The full extent of his work is unknown. Much of his poetry remained unpublished, in addition to his memoirs which detail episodes in the history of São Paulo and medicine.

During the First World War, he joined a mission sent to the frontlines where he worked in hospital blood banks with the Italian army, and as a surgeon at the San Giovanni di Dio hospital for six months. Upon his return to São Paulo in 1917, he worked at Santa Casa de Misericórdia as an assistant to Alfonso Bovero. Together they published the work "Em Torno de um Método do Prof. R. Fusari para Diferenciação Cromática em Preparados Anatômicos" [Concerning Professor R. Fusari's Method for Chromatic Differentiation in Anatomical Specimens], the first work signed by a Brazilian physician in partnership with Alfonso Bovero. He had previously collaborated with Alfonso Bovero and Arnaldo Vieira de Carvalho on the establishment of the São Paulo School of Medicine and Surgery and wrote and translated numerous works as a specialist in urology.

During the 1918 Spanish flu pandemic, Gualberto created and managed hospitals in the Second Public Force Battalion, the penitentiary and the Disciplinary Institute. He also helmed a medical-pharmaceutical clinic aimed at helping victims at home.

In addition to being a physician and a professor, he was a man dedicated to public life. In the 1920s, he was a member of the city council for consecutive congresses and in 1925 was the deputy mayor and temporary mayor of the City of São Paulo, during which time he created the

public library known from 1960 as the Biblioteca Mário de Andrade. He was also a state representative and the state secretary for health and welfare.

In 1931, the physician was promoted to the chair professorship of the urology department at the São Paulo Medical School, making him the first professor of the discipline in the state of São Paulo. Always talkative, direct and incisive, he interspersed his lectures with stories of great human warmth and kindled curiosity, imagination and creativity in his students. He also was a senior professor of the urological clinic at the USP Medical School and was head of the urological and gynecological clinic at Hospital das Clínicas.

In July 1950, he assumed the presidency of the University of São Paulo in which he combined his academic, political and administrative skills. He made efforts to raise funds that would enable him to continue the construction of the university's Ribeirão Preto Medical School, Bauru School of Dentistry and São Carlos School of Engineering. In the case of the latter school, his efforts were not enough, and the school did not open its doors until after his term.

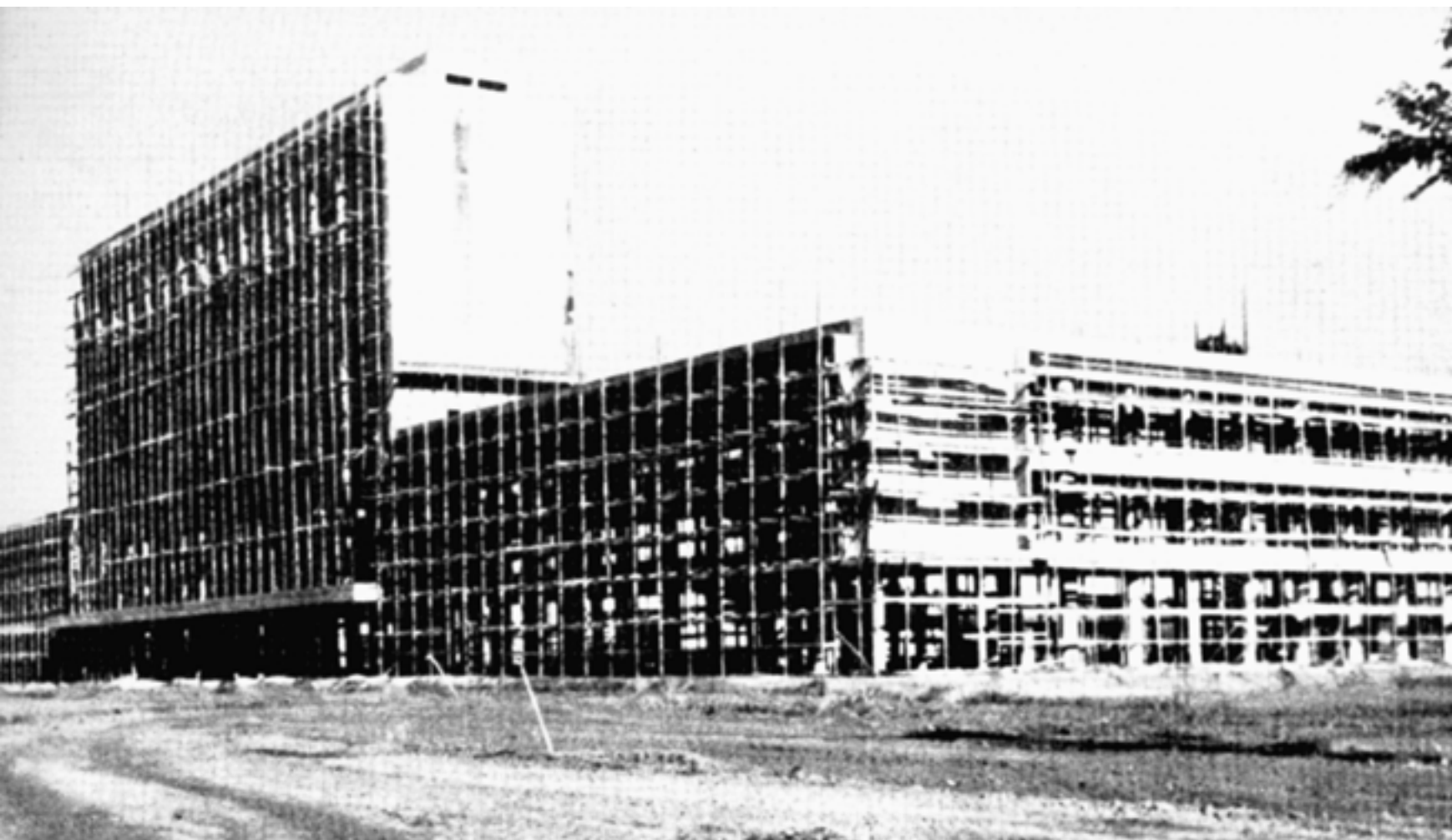
Few accomplishments were made during Gualberto's term as he stepped down seven months after taking office. After leaving, Governor Adhemar de Barros appointed him to the chairmanship of the now defunct airline Viação Aérea de São Paulo (VASP).

His career in politics, medicine and education, in addition to his passion for poetry, earned him a seat at the São Paulo Academy of Letters. Among the titles he was awarded were Commander of the French Legion of Honor, Commander of the Crown of Italy and an honorary doctorate from the USP.

According to Professor Ataliba Nogueira, even before the illness that led to his death at the age of 76 on September 21, 1959, Luciano Gualberto had turned to religion where


he learned that man and spirit were the same. Gualberto suffered for months with his illness but was in the company of a priest who had become his greatest confidant.

On the Butantan campus of the USP, the avenue named after him is popularly known as “the avenue of the banks”, and is home to the School of Economics, Business and Accounting (FEA) and the Polytechnic School.



The building of the president's office under construction





Construction beginning  
on the Torre do Relógio  
[Clock Tower] with the  
building of the president's  
office in the background

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1951–1953



# Ernesto de Moraes Leme

Law School of the Largo de São Francisco

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## **A Politician and Diplomat in the Presidency**

During his term, he initiated exchange programs between the USP and Portugal, as well as the start of the construction of the university's main campus and the presidency building

**E**rnesto de Moraes Leme lived in several cities in the São Paulo countryside during his childhood. He was born on December 30, 1896, in Bragança Paulista to Cândido Moraes Leme and Maria da Conceição Castro Leme. As farm laborers and, later, merchants, his parents often had to move around. Therefore, Leme attended various elementary schools across the state: 2nd Grupo Escolar do Brás, Grupo Escolar do Pari, and finally Grupo Escolar Dr. Jorge Tibiriçá in Bragança Paulista. He then attended middle school in Pirassununga between 1911 and 1913, during which time he lived with his brother who was a teacher at Escola Normal in the city. For the third year of his studies, he was transferred to Escola Normal de Campinas, and graduated as a teacher himself in 1914. In Campinas, he developed his taste for intellectual pursuits, including poetry. His father was a patron of the arts and there was a performance space in the city founded by Antonio Benedicto de Castro Mendes where the renowned pianist Guiomar Novaes had played.

In 1915 he began studying at the São Paulo Law School of the Largo de São Francisco at the age of 18. Interestingly, he never attended his classes. He needed to start working due to financial issues and became a substitute teacher for a group of schools in Bebedouro, a small city in São Paulo's countryside. He taught there until 1918, only returning to the law school for exams for the first three years of his course, something which was permitted at the time.

During his fourth year, he was summoned for military service and in his fifth year he moved to Rio de Janeiro after being hired as editor of the newspaper *Gazeta de Notícias*. In 1919, he returned to São Paulo for his final exams and was awarded his bachelor's degree as part of the school's 88<sup>th</sup> law cohort.

The following year, Leme moved to Catanduva in São Paulo State and opened his own law firm. This was followed by a move to the neighboring city of São José do Rio Preto before he finally settled back in the state capital in 1922.

In 1926, one year after marrying Dulce Ribeiro, he attempted to launch an academic career, but without success. The board of the Law School of São Paulo refused his application, claiming that he did not qualify for a position as he had not previously published a thesis on public and constitutional law – the area in which he was attempting to work. He was compelled to start his doctorate.

By 1931, he was made the chair professor of public law at the School of Economic and Social Sciences, and in 1933, he became the chair professor of commercial law in the law school following success in the entrance examinations and with his thesis “*Acções Preferenciaes nas Sociedades Anonymas*” [Preferred Stock in S.A. Corporations]. He was the last professor to be nominated by Brazil’s federal state. The following year, the law school was integrated into the newly-formed University of São Paulo (USP).

In his political career, he was a jurist for the Liga Nacionalista de São Paulo, which was a civic and patriotic organization founded in 1916 and comprised of professors from the USP’s law, medicine and engineering schools, journalists, students and representatives of the middle class who opposed the Paulista Republican Party (PRP). Names such as Paula Souza, Arnaldo Vieira de Carvalho, Frederico Vergueiro Steidel, Plínio Barreto and Ernesto de Sousa Campos made up Liga’s advisory and executive boards.

He was also one of the founders of the Democratic Party, established in 1925 by dissidents of the PRP. Exactly two decades later, he joined the National Democratic Union (UDN), also as a jurist. He was always greatly involved in politics and was an active participant in the Constitutionalist Revolution of 1932, having fought on the frontlines in Queluz. Between 1931 and 1935, he was the attorney

for waste management for the São Paulo judicial district. As the deputy of the Constitutional and Legislative Assembly under the Constitutionalist Party, also in São Paulo, he served in a number of commissions. In 1936, he presented Bill No. 103 to the court of the Legislative Assembly with his fellow deputy Paulo Duarte, which provided for the organization and running of libraries. The bill was passed in December of the same year and was written into law in the state of São Paulo. Archives were merged for enhanced usage and the state’s board of librarians, today known as Conselho Regional de Biblioteconomia, was created along with Catálogo Coletivo, the combined catalogue of São Paulo libraries which operated out of the USP for years.

In 1939, Leme was made an honorary member of the Brazilian Historic and Geographic Institute (IHGB) and in 1975, he became a corresponding member. Founded in 1938, the institute is Brazil’s oldest promoter of history-geographic, cultural and social science research and conservation. In June of 1946, Leme was made dean of the USP’s business school, the School of Economics, Business and Accounting of the University of São Paulo (FEA).

Governador Lucas Nogueira Garcez assigned Leme as the ninth president of the USP in 1951, where he stayed until 1953. In the year of his departure, he travelled to Portugal with the idea of creating a center for the study of Portuguese history and literature at the USP given the development of work in this field being made by School of Philosophy, Sciences and Letters (FFCL). Along with the heads of Portugal’s Instituto de Alta Cultura, the first steps to realizing the project were made. At the end of the same year, the secretary-general of the institute Professor Antônio de Medeiros Gouvea came to Brazil for the final talks on the collaboration. On November 3, the university council and the FFCL board approved the project and the cultural convention between the USP and Instituto de Alta Cultura was signed in Portugal. As a fulfilment of the agreement, the Institute for Portuguese Studies (IEP)





Ernesto de Moraes Leme laying the first foundation of the building of the president's office

was founded the following year and began the exchange program of professors between the USP and the University of Coimbra.

Leme was the recipient of several honors from international universities, including the title of Honorary Professor from the National University of San Marco in Peru in 1951, an honorary doctorate from the University of Coimbra in 1952, in addition to being decorated with both the silver medal of the University of Bologna in Italy and the Grand Cross of the Order of Malta in 1953, and the Grand Cross of the Order of Orange-Nassau in the Netherlands in 1955.

During his time at the head of the USP, the first phase of construction of the university's main campus and the building of the presidency began in Butantã, as well as the establishment of the São Carlos School of Engineering.

After leaving the presidency, he began a career in diplomacy. In 1954, the Minister of the Exterior Vicente Rao named Leme as the permanent representative of Brazil to the United Nations, becoming an ambassador from 1954 to 1955 upon President Getúlio Vargas's invite. That same year, he became the president of the Disarmament Commission under the Security Council of the United Nations and chief of the Brazilian delegation at the 9<sup>th</sup> session of the General Assembly. He was also invited to represent Brazil on the organizational committee for the Conference on the Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy in Geneva, but he turned it down stating that the role needed to be filled by an energy specialist and not a jurist.

Upon returning from his duties with the UN in 1956, he was chosen to take the 15<sup>th</sup> seat at the São Paulo Academy of Letters, while simultaneously dedicating himself to academia and law. He was elected president of the academy for two biennia in 1971 and 1973.

His final role in public office was as secretary for the state's public security department between 1964 and 1965 under

Governor Adhemar de Barros's administration. The ex-president declared years later at a conference at the Historic and Geographic Institute of São Paulo in July 1972 that, in his political career, he had "conspired in 1964, but not in 1932," highlighting his ideological commitment during a rare public appearance. As a president, he maintained a constant exchange of information with the State Department of Political and Social Order (DEOPS) and organized a surveillance of the political activities of all left-wing professors and students in the Brazilian Communist Party after having vetoed architect Oscar Niemeyer's contract with the university, which led to a strike in the School of Architecture and Urbanism (FAU).

He began his compulsory retirement in 1966 at the age of 70 and one year later was made an emeritus professor at the Law School of the University of São Paulo and was therefore able to continue his passion for teaching. From 1967 to 1969, Leme taught commercial law to undergraduates in the third year at the Faculty of Law of São Bernardo do Campo, part of the Universidade São Francisco (USF). He travelled to the city in São Paulo's ABC region twice a week before requesting definitive leave when his health deteriorated. The archives at the USF campus in Bragança Paulista are still home to the Fundo Ernesto Leme, a collection of books, periodicals, public reports and personal documents from his political, academic and private life.

Leme's productive and varied career earned him recognition nationally and internationally. He was secretary of the Institute of Lawyers of São Paulo

(1927-1930), of the São Paulo chapter of the Brazilian Bar Association (1932-1933), a member of the association's board of directors (1933-1935), of the professional ethics court (1937-1939), representative of the USP at the bicentennial of the University of Princeton in the United States (1947), and president of the third commission in the Congress of Hispanic Universities in Madrid (1953). He was also a knight of the Military Order of Jesus Christ

of Portugal, a now secularized order of the Church still active as an awarding entity which was re-established with the intention to "reward relevant services rendered to the country or to humanity by nationals or foreigners, both military and civilian."

Ernesto de Moraes Leme died in São Paulo on May 21, 1986, at 90 years old.

Since 1980, the USP campus in Butantan has named its roads, avenues and squares after its ex-presidents. In 1991, Professor Ernesto Leme's name was given to the avenue home to the university hospital. Roads and schools in the state's capital and other cities have also taken his name.

The Luiz de Queiroz  
College of Agriculture

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1954–1955





# José de Mello Moraes

Luiz de Queiroz College of Agriculture

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## **A Man of the Field**

He was named dean of the ESALQ and stayed in the role for 27 years  
He knew how to transmit all of his knowledge with enthusiasm. It  
was a delight to hear his lectures, nobody would drift off





**A**gricultural engineer, academic and politician, José de Mello Moraes graduated in 1909 at top of his class, part of the seventh cohort of graduates from the agronomy course at the Escola Agrícola Prática Luiz de Queiroz, today the Luiz de Queiroz College of Agriculture (ESALQ) of the University of São Paulo (USP). The son of Antônio Martins Duarte de Mello and Carolina Corrêa de Moraes, Mello Moraes was born in Piracicaba in the state of São Paulo on February 17, 1891. He was a fine student at each of his schools – Grupo Escolar Moraes Barros, Colégio Piracicabano, and the old Escola Complementar which is now Escola Estadual Sud Mennucci – all in his hometown.

His excellence at university earned him a trip to Europe and a scholarship to study in Germany where he went to complete his studies under 1909 Nobel Prize in Chemistry winner Wilhelm Ostwald, becoming his best student. However, following the outbreak of the First World War, Mello Moraes left for England and from there returned to Brazil and taught in Leopoldina, Minas Gerais, for two years.

In 1918, he signed up for a public examination for an assistant professorship in chemistry at the ESALQ and earned first place. From then on, Mello Moraes was part of the teaching staff until his death in 1956. He became a professor of chemistry in 1920 and was later chair professor of agricultural chemistry.

In 1927, the professor was named dean of the entire school by the president of São Paulo, Júlio Prestes (1927-1930) and stayed in the role for 27 years from 1927 to 1954. In 1951, he was conferred an honorary doctorate.

Mello Moraes stayed up to date with scientific developments and kept teaching despite his responsibilities as dean. He used to say that “administration was no reason to give up teaching.”

“Always impeccable, with a white linen suit and pipe in his mouth,” recalled his grandson, José de Mello Moraes Neto, who spoke of his grandfather’s love for teaching. His classes were always highly popular because “he knew how to transmit all of his knowledge on plant nutrition, soil fertility and fertilization with enthusiasm. It was a delight to hear his lectures, nobody would drift off,” wrote the professor Euripedes Malavolta, a friend and student of Mello Moraes, who himself became the dean of the ESALQ from 1966 to 1970. He continued: “he engaged with his students and his audience, always incentivizing them, especially those with potential and the will to work, and always showed much patience.” According to Mello Moraes, “the professor who cannot make an audience member better than he, has failed.”

In 1938, he was invited by the former Minister of Agriculture Fernando Costa to collaborate with the ministry on the creation of the Centro Nacional de Ensino e Pesquisas Agronômicas [National Agronomic Teaching and Research Center], established by Decree-law No. 982 of November 23, 1938. It aimed to promote agricultural and veterinary teaching, as well as conducting, coordinating and leading agronomical research in the country. Mello Moraes helmed the Ministry of Agriculture’s Centro de Indústria Agrícola [Center for Agricultural Industry] from 1938 to 1941 and was also a member of the Brazilian Chemical Society, Sociedade Sul-Americana de Solos [South American Soil Society] and Associação dos Agrônomos [Association of Agronomists].

In 1943, he accepted an invite once again from Fernando Costa, now the governor of the state of São Paulo (1941-1945), this time to act as state secretary of agriculture. Distribution of fuel and wheat for which the agricultural

secretary was responsible were rationed during part of the Second World War as they were imported products. Despite all his power, Mello Moraes never became corrupt.

At the same time, cattle breeders from Bauru in rural São Paulo created an exhibition center and gave it the name it holds to this day: Recinto Mello Moraes. While agricultural secretary between 1943 and 1945, he raised funds together with Governor Fernando Costa to construct new, large-scale buildings to expand the ESALQ. The initiative greatly contributed to the institution’s growth which at the time comprised little more than 200 students. As part of general reforms at the ESALQ, Mello Moraes also devised the construction of the dean’s house within the school. It was a costly endeavor, but the professor said that the



A young Mello Moraes hunting

house was not a private residence but an achievement of the state that was intended to serve the dean's family and welcome all of Luiz de Queiroz's distinguished visitors for whom he claimed there were no hotels in the city of Piracicaba. In 1990, the building in question ceased to be used as the dean's home in order to house the Luiz de Queiroz museum.

He became the 10<sup>th</sup> president of the University of São Paulo, holding office between January 1954 and February 1955, and appointed by Governor Lucas Nogueira Garcez (1951-1955) as the first president from outside the three traditional schools of the university – the law school, the engineering school and the medical school.

On May 31, 1954, Mello Moraes signed Regulation No. 54 which established the Institute for Portuguese Studies (IEP), an annex of the School of Philosophy, Sciences and Letters (FFCL), in fulfilment of the contractual agreement between the USP and Portugal's Instituto de Alta Cultura, which had been signed in Lisbon on November 3, 1953, by his predecessor Ernesto de Moraes Leme.

When he was elected to the presidency, Mello Moraes was secretary of state and worked directly with Governor Lucas Nogueira Garcez (1951-1955). In January 1955, the new governor, Jânio Quadros, wanted to choose the president himself and stopped meeting with Mello Moraes. He had a strong character and decided to step down from the presidency due to political disagreements with Jânio Quadros who appeared to not understand the importance of maintaining university autonomy, as well as not wanting to create difficulties for the USP. He was the first president to take such an action. The following day, a decree signed by the governor of the state appeared in the federal gazette, exonerating Dr José de Mello Moraes from his position as president of the University of São Paulo.

The professor then returned to Piracicaba and the ESALQ. He died the following year in the middle of a board meeting



**Tribute from the Italian ambassador to José de Mello Moraes, 1940**

in which the Supreme Federal Court's decision to make him the school's dean would have been announced.

The previous quote from Professor Malavolta on Mello Moraes continues as follows: "four traits underscored his personality: friendliness, humility, honesty and irreverence. A friendly, simple man who treated everyone in the same way, from the authorities he worked with, to the lowest level officials. Always very proper, he was never seen in a car with a white license plate outside of official business. An honest man who died poor without ever exploiting the roles he held and functions he carried out. When presiding at public examination panels and seeing the nervousness of the candidate, he would calm them by saying: 'my boy, do not be afraid – remember that out of two ignorant individuals, the one who asks a question has the upper hand.' And laughing, he would take a puff on his ever-present pipe. His irreverence earned him many enemies, some of those who are enemies of the very memory of him."

For Adilson Dias Paschoal, a senior professor at the ESALQ, Mello Moraes was "one of the institution's most competent and influential men."

On the USP's Butantã campus, the road home to the Raia Olímpica and the velodrome was named Avenida Prof. Mello Moraes after him. In Piracicaba, a state school was also name in his tribute.



Mello Moraes and his family

"Não há uma opinião tão absurda que não possa ser admitida por algum homem."

**John Locke (1632-1704)**



## Fortunato Losso Netto 1910-1985

### Com Mello Moraes perdemos um piracicabano autêntico

12 de agosto 1986

**H**a luzes na vida e a sombra e o espelho do seu rosto. Esse homem que os amigos, compungidos, vão levar hoje ao campo santo, quando a natureza armar no pórtico mais uma tarde viçosa, era um piracicabano de corpo inteiro na terra, na «luz» de vida engrandecida, na «sombra» da vida.

Menino de coisas rúas, era companheiro de peraltices e de sonhos de Francisco Lagetti no largo de São Benedito.

Estudante pobre, brilhou pela fulgorância de seu talento e partiu para o pórtico do Estágio acelerando-se nos tempos da «sombra», que tornaram os tempos os mais da química orgânica.

Professor, ganhou todo o mundo da noite cerrada, tornando-se a luz da geração, elevando a vida da comunidade científica.

Sua multifarosa personalidade se demonstrou em dedicação extre-

ma, a serviço da grandezça da Luz de Quatro. A ampliação do grande instituto, fazendas, pavilhões, laboratórios, maquinarias, um sem número de instalações, tudo Mello Moraes procurava arrancar da «sombra» burocrática que tolhe os movimentos administrativos, em todos os setores, particularmente no ensino.

Chamado a colaborar no governo do Estado, assume a secretaria da Agricultura, em momento dos mais trágicos da vida brasileira, com submarinos inimigos rondando as nossas costas, com toda a frota de veículos imobilizada, pela falta de combustível.

Crescendo carreira brilhante, é chamado ao posto máximo da universidade, sendo o primeiro engenheiro-agrônomo a ocupar a reitoria da USP (Universidade de São Paulo).

Isso tudo, com a piracicabana simplicidade do mesmo menino do largo de São Benedito. Porque Mello Moraes não sofria a vertigem das alturas. Nunca o vimos tornar-

se importante, por alto cargo que exercemos, por mais simples a estrutura que o aborçasse.

O homem que a terra generosa de Piracicaba vai receber hoje é como essas árvores frondosas cujo porte não se pode avaliar a sua sombra. É necessária a distância para que se erjam, majestosas, sobrepalrando a paisagem em seu derredor.

Através do tempo, mais e mais, há de erguer-se o culto desse homem singular: lutoador extraordinário, piracicabano autêntico, que viveu para um grande ideal: a sua Luz de Quatro. E em plena luz, em plena vida augusta da sua devida congregação expirou, como que cumprindo integralmente um glorioso destino.

Republicação dos artigos de Fortunato Losso Netto, em homenagem ao seu centenário de nascimento (1910-2010). Texto publicado originalmente em 12 de agosto 1986. Opõe-se pela correção ortográfica usual.



Instituto de Física  
[Institute of Physics],  
Basílio Jafet building  
under construction

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1955–1957



# Alípio Corrêa Netto

Medical School

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## **From the Trenches to a Bid for the Brazilian Vice Presidency**

Once an army medic, he was the only president of the university to have run for the national vice presidency in the 1950 elections



Born the city of Cataguases, Minas Gerais, on January 14, 1898, Alípio Corrêa Netto completed his studies in 1924 at the age of 25 at the São Paulo School of Medicine and Surgery, today the University of São Paulo Medical School. At his graduation the following year, he was the valedictorian of his class and was awarded a distinction after defending his doctoral thesis “Contribuição ao Estudo dos Cystos Congênitos do Pescoço” [Contribution to the Study of Congenital Cysts of the Neck].

In 1930, he began his studies at the Sociedade de Medicina e Cirurgia de São Paulo [Medical and Surgical Society of São Paulo], currently the Academia de Medicina de São Paulo [Medical Academy of São Paulo]. Years later, he was the institution’s president from 1947 to 1948. In the same year he also contributed to the founding of the São Paulo Medical Association (APM).

He was dedicated to surgery and was made the chair professor of clinical surgery at the medical school following public examinations in September 1935. According to records from the time, he had passed the test with flying colors, earning him first place. He spent 33 years at the school where he worked from 1935 until 1968. Among his students was Dr. Euryclides de Jesus Zerbiní, the first Brazilian and Latin American surgeon to perform a heart transplant, in addition to many other world-renowned physicians such as Walter Pinotti, Arrigo Raia and Jorge Zaidam.

Corrêa Netto also gave classes in the same discipline at the Paulista School of Medicine which later expanded into the Federal University of São Paulo. He had been one of the institution’s founders in 1933 and in 1936, became the chair professor of surgery there. He taught head, neck, vascular and thoracic surgery for 20 years between 1933 and 1953. In 1952, he founded and headed his own surgery department. While straddling both roles, he began elaborating

medical instruction by instituting a much broader concept of medical education. He was committed to the principle of education rather than just mere instruction.

As a surgeon in the army, Corrêa Netto actively participated in the revolutionary movement of 1932. He headed the surgery department of Sangue de Cruzeiro Hospital in the Hospital in the Paraíba Valley and recounted his experiences from the period in his book “*Cirurgia de Guerra do Hospital de Sangue de Cruzeiro*” [Wartime Surgery at the Sangue de Cruzeiro Hospital]. In 1942, he was enlisted as surgeon-general of the Brazilian Expeditionary Force (FEB) when the country entered the Second World War. This led him to the central part of the Apennine Mountains in Italy in 1944, an intense conflict zone, where he practiced surgery in the 38<sup>th</sup> Evacuation Hospital of the United States Fifth Army until the end of the war. For his work as surgeon in Italy, in addition to pioneering work in the treatment of vascular traumas and thoracic lesions, he was authorized to operate on officials in the US Army for which the Brazilian army was providing reinforcements. Corrêa Netto was ultimately awarded with the Bronze Star Medal in 1945 by General Mark Clark, then commander of US Army, for his distinguished work and saving countless ally lives. From the Brazilian government, he was awarded the Campaign Medal in October 1954 and the War Medal in 1947. France also bestowed him with a Knight of the Legion of Honor. He recounted his experiences from this time in the book “*Notas de um Expedicionário Médico*” [Notes of an Expedition Doctor]. Prior to the war, Corrêa Netto had published another work in 1934 entitled “*Tratamento Cirúrgico do Hipertireoidismo*” [Surgical Treatment of Hyperthyroidism], which introduced thyroid surgery to Brazil.

In 1941, he performed an unprecedented surgical procedure at the Santa Casa de Misericórdia Hospital in São Paulo, removing a foreign body from a patient’s heart. The patient in question had arrived with a knife lodged in his supraclavicular fossa, the handle shaking with every

heartbeat. The situation was resolved by making an incision in the chest and retrieving the knife before stitching the heart and pericardium. The patient survived which, at that time, was a remarkable feat.

Dr. Euryclides de Jesus Zerbini, a follower of Corrêa Netto, began his career at Santa Casa as his assistant and in 1968 became the first surgeon in Brazil to carry out a heart transplant.

In 1950, Corrêa Netto was the vice-presidential candidate and João Mangabeira’s running mate for the Brazilian Socialist Party. However, Getúlio Vargas was elected with João Fernandes Campos Café Filho as his vice president. He was the only president of the University of São Paulo, a post he assumed four years later, who had run for such a position.

In 1951, Corrêa Netto helped found the Brazilian Medical Association, where he acted as president for four years until his departure in 1955. As president, he bonded and strengthened the medical community, bringing it prestige with his seriousness, firmness and conciliatory character. He also took on the presidency at the Medical Academy of São Paulo and the Brazilian College of Surgeons.

In 1955, the university board elected him as the 11<sup>th</sup> president of the University of São Paulo where he remained until March 28, 1957.

He led a profoundly humanistic life and pursued a political career in addition to being a doctor and university professor. Corrêa Netto was one of the founders and also the president of the São Paulo chapter of the Brazilian Socialist Party until 1960. He was also elected as the state’s representative between 1951 and 1952 in Lucas Nogueira Garcez’s government, where he proposed two bills which were enacted into law in 1952. The “Hospital Assistance in the State of São Paulo” and “Agricultural, Medical and Social Assistance for Rural Workers” regulations were both



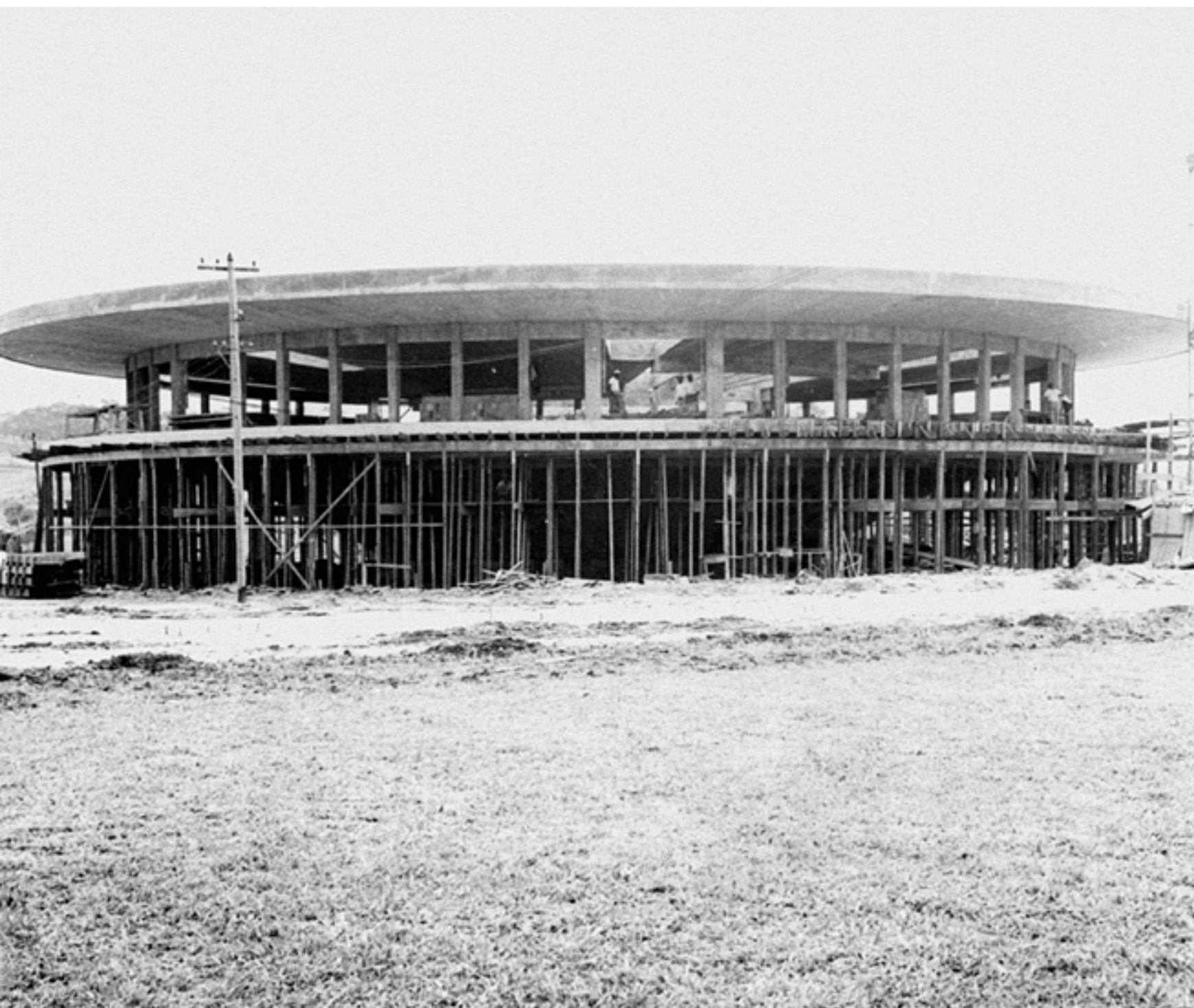
established to improve and guarantee medical support throughout the state.

In 1953, he became the sanitation secretary in Jânio Quadros's São Paulo administration during which time he coordinated staff in the city's emergency rooms. In 1958, he became Governor Jânio Quadros's state secretary of education.

His writings are still quoted today by followers and admirers: "Luck does not exist; what exists is the great effort that paid off;" "The life of a doctor is a priesthood not for the gratitude of the service, but for the devotion with which he does it;" "The importer of ideas must pay the price; the true independence of a country is won through spiritual autonomy. Only scientific research will free us;" "To teach is to guide the future doctor down the path of maturity in the comprehension of basic concepts on which to base his intelligence in the search for diagnosis and treatment."

Of his many publications, his greatest accomplishment was "Clínica Cirúrgica" [Clinical Surgery], an instructional work spanning 5 volumes which has been revised and updated up to the present day. Corrêa Netto was honored as patron of the 12<sup>th</sup> chair of the Medical Academy of São Paulo for his lifelong services in the field.

He died on May 24, 1988, at the age of 90. Today, his name has been given in tribute to a hospital, a school, several roads and the research center in the Department of Surgery of the Santa Casa de São Paulo School of Medical Sciences.



Escola Politécnica

Construction on the  
Escola Politécnica

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1957–1960





# Gabriel Sylvestre Teixeira de Carvalho

School of Veterinary Medicine and Animal Science

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## **Without a Budget or Political Support**

The veterinarian became president while Jânio Quadros was governor of São Paulo, during which time revenues reserved for research were reduced from 3.5% in 1953, to 1.5% in 1957



Gabriel Sylvestre Teixeira de Carvalho qualified as a veterinarian in 1923 as part of the first class of the University of São Paulo's School of Veterinary Medicine and Animal Science (FMVZ), which at the time was still the Instituto de Veterinária [Veterinary Institute]. Born in the city of São Paulo on December 31, 1902, the young graduate was recommended for a teaching role in Therapeutics, Pharmacology and Formulary Arts by Zeferino Vaz, a professor at the institute who years later became its dean. Carvalho was part of the teaching staff for a long time and witnessed its incorporation into the University of São Paulo (USP) in 1934. In 1938, he took responsibility for third-year clinical medicine and remained in this position until 1946 when a permanent replacement was found. From 1947 to 1949, Carvalho was dean of FMVZ and later took the presidency of the USP from 1957 to 1960.

At the end of Alípio Corrêa Netto's term as president in March 1957, the then governor of the state, Jânio Quadros, appointed Teixeira de Carvalho to the post. However, his term as the university's 12<sup>th</sup> president did not run smoothly. The austere politics adopted by Quadros made a mark on the university, even after the end of his term (1955-1959). In February 1959, the year commemorating 25 years since the founding of the USP, the university's Associação dos Auxiliares de Ensino [Association of Teaching Assistants] denounced the salaries of the teaching staff. In the medical school, for example, assistant doctors were receiving higher salaries than chair professors. Another area of contention was the lack of research resources as state revenue for this had fallen from 3.5% in 1953 to 1.5% in 1957. The association delivered a briefing on the situation to the subsequent governor, Carlos Alberto Alves de Carvalho Pinto (1959-1963). Pinto, with a different vision to his predecessor, understood the importance of education and of science and technology for the modernization of society and the country, envisioning a better future for them.


As a veterinarian, Carvalho worked in numerous institutions that included Usina Santa Cruz, Banco do Brasil, Sociedade Protetora dos Animais de São Paulo [São Paulo Animal Protection Society], Granja Normandia, Granja Bussocaba as well as directing the pastoral industry of the Ministry of Agriculture.

The ex-president died in São Paulo at 75 years old on June 3, 1978. On the USP's Butantã campus, the avenue that leads to a side entrance of the School of Veterinary Medicine and Animal Science was built with his name. Today, it leads students to the country's most active hub for ruminant animal teaching, research and care – Centro

de Pesquisa e Diagnóstico de Enfermidades de Ruminantes (CPDER) [Research and Diagnosis Center for Ruminant Diseases] and Hospital de Bovinos [Cow Hospital], both which were established with the financial support of the São Paulo Research Foundation (FAPESP).



The university's residential complex under construction



Official opening of  
the building of the  
president's office, 1962

1960–1963





# Antonio Barros de Ulhôa Cintra

Medical School

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## **In the Name of Research**

Various laboratories were built during the doctor's time in the presidency, as well as the creation of the FAPESP, one of Brazil's main promoters of scientific and technological research



**A**ntonio Barros de Ulhôa Cintra was born into an upper-class São Paulo family on September 13, 1907. He studied at Ginásio do Estado before attending the São Paulo School of Medicine, graduating as a doctor in 1930. Fully qualified, he began working at the school's Instituto de Higiene [Hygiene Institute] and at the Santa Casa de Misericórdia Hospital.

A doctor, professor and researcher, Cintra took over the school's pediatrics course in 1933, and then internal medicine in 1936. He then became interested in endocrinology after reading studies and research by German professors who had fled from Nazi terror and settled in the United States.

In 1941, he travelled to Boston with a grant from Rockefeller Foundation where he worked at Massachusetts General Hospital and Harvard Medical School, as well as Pratt Diagnostic Hospital with the professor Fuller Albright who was known as the "father of modern endocrinology". Cintra always considered his time in Boston as "a kind of foray into the future." Metabolic bone diseases, a focus of Albright's work, fascinated the professor who, on his return to Brazil in 1943, implemented new diagnostic techniques for these diseases in the Hospital das Clínicas of the University of São Paulo Medical School. There he set up the nutritional diseases service and the metabolic laboratory within Clinical Medicine and ran them until 1950 when, as a pioneer in the field, he became the course's chair professor with his thesis "*Doenças Ósseas Metabólicas*" [Metabolic Bone Diseases]. He was the doctor who spread the idea that every endocrinologist should combine an intimate understanding of clinical laboratories or research with a clinical and theoretical knowledge of disease.

In his inaugural speech as the 13<sup>th</sup> president of the University of São Paulo (USP) in May 1960, he declared, "the first mission of our university, in chronological order, is to stimulate research



**Governor Carvalho Pinto at the grand opening of the university campus**

and to disseminate and drive science. Whatever conception of life one may have, the direction of events forces material progress and, for mere survival, we must equate ourselves with other nations.” He kept to this directive. His term in office left its stamp on the university with the construction of research laboratories and the creation of EDUSP – the University of São Paulo Press.

In the same year, Cintra was appointed by Governador Carlos Alberto Alves de Carvalho Pinto to join the implementation team for the recently formed the São Paulo Research Foundation (FAPESP), brought in by Law No. 5.918 of October 18, 1960. As president, Cintra was tasked with making arrangements for the running of the foundation. At that time, meetings would take place in the president’s office on Rua Helvetia in the city center before it moved to the university campus in April 1961.

His decisive participation in the creation and implementation of the FAPESP led him to being elected as president of the institution’s first superior council, a position he held until 1973. It was, and remains, the role of the superior council to determine the “general orientation of the foundation and for major scientific, administrative



**Paulo de Camargo e Almeida, responsible for the construction fund, with President Ulhôa Cintra and Governor Carvalho Pinto**



**Alberto Rizkallah and Paulo de Camargo e Almeida. In the background, Fernando Henrique Cardoso**

and patrimonial policy decisions.” The state budget for the USP, while large, leaves little for research. Therefore, the FAPESP arrived at just the right time and minimized financing issues for scientific and technological investigation in the state of São Paulo.

Years later, in a testimonial for the FAPESP’s project “História e Memória” [History and Memory], the ex-president spoke about the significance of the creation of the foundation for the scientific community: “It was simply an enormous opening for anyone who worked in science, to be able to have the support to continue working (...) the FAPESP was created for science achieve what it wanted to achieve. It was science that would knock on the foundation’s door and declare the plan that it had.”

Carvalho Pinto also once said in regard to the FAPESP: “If I had to highlight an achievement of my unassuming public life, I would not hesitate to choose the FAPESP as one of the most significant achievements for the country’s economic, social and cultural development.”

In 1960, the fund for the construction of University City, the university’s main campus in Butantã, was also established to enable easier decision-making and second phase of building was launched. During this period, work also began on the buildings for the Polytechnic School.

The USP started growing rapidly. In 1960, there were 7,930 candidates for the university’s entrance exams, which in 1962 grew to 9,709. It became clear that urgent statutory reforms were needed to accompany the expansion. In 1962, this reform was concretized with departments organized on an optional basis, while maintaining the professorship system.

While still president, the university’s Museum of Contemporary Art (MAC) was created in 1963, with the original exhibition made up of donations from Ciccillo Matarazzo and other collectors.

Cintra ultimately faced issues, some of them particularly difficult, with political order. There were issues on a federal level with the change from a presidential to a parliamentary system and with student activism when students from the USP occupied university buildings in August 1962, which caused the president to stop all teaching. The unstable climate worsened in the following year. Adhemar de Barros became the governor of São Paulo and criticized the expenditure for the university. For him, the country did not need scientists but technicians who could resolve urgent issues.

When leaving the presidency in May 1963, Cintra returned to the medical school and dedicated himself to teaching – many of his students who had great success at the USP and at other universities – in addition to relentless research as a founder and the first director-general of the Medical Investigation Laboratories (LIM) in the USP’s Hospital das Clínicas.

Outside of the university, he was São Paulo’s state secretary of education and culture between 1967 and 1971 for Governor Abreu Sodré, where he prioritized the expansion of high school education. During his term, the Regional Educational Division was officially launched in the city of Campinas, as well as the signing of a decree on September 19, 1969, which allowed the Fundação para o Livro Escolar [Foundation for Textbooks], to establish annual textbook and cultural fairs as compulsory activities.

During the same period, Cintra joined the board of curators of the Father Anchieta Foundation between May 1968 and March 1971, which the São Paulo government had established on September 26, 1967, with intellectual, political and administrative autonomy in public and educational broadcasting, as well as in its ownership and management of the new station TV Cultura.

The decree-law of October 6, 1969, signed by Governor Abreu Sodré and Cintra as state secretary of education and culture, created the Paula Souza State Center for



During Governor Carvalho  
Pinto's speech – Mário  
Guimarães Ferri and João  
Batista Vilanova Artigas



Mário Schenberg attending the  
governor's speech



Technological Education as an autonomous entity for “the coordination, creation and development of technological curriculums in high school and higher education.”

In 1978, the professor and doctor retired at 70 years old. However, his passion and dedication for medicine meant that he remained a presence in Hospital das Clínicas, where he visited wards, participated in meetings, discussed complex clinical cases and offered his opinions on them.

The various generations that he had helped to graduate cemented him as one of Brazil’s foremost medical experts and formulators of scientific policy. He played an active role in the development of the law that created the University of Campinas (UNICAMP) and the Botucatu Faculty of Medical Sciences.

He received many tributes in recognition of his legacy during life and after his death on December 23, 1998, at 91 years old.

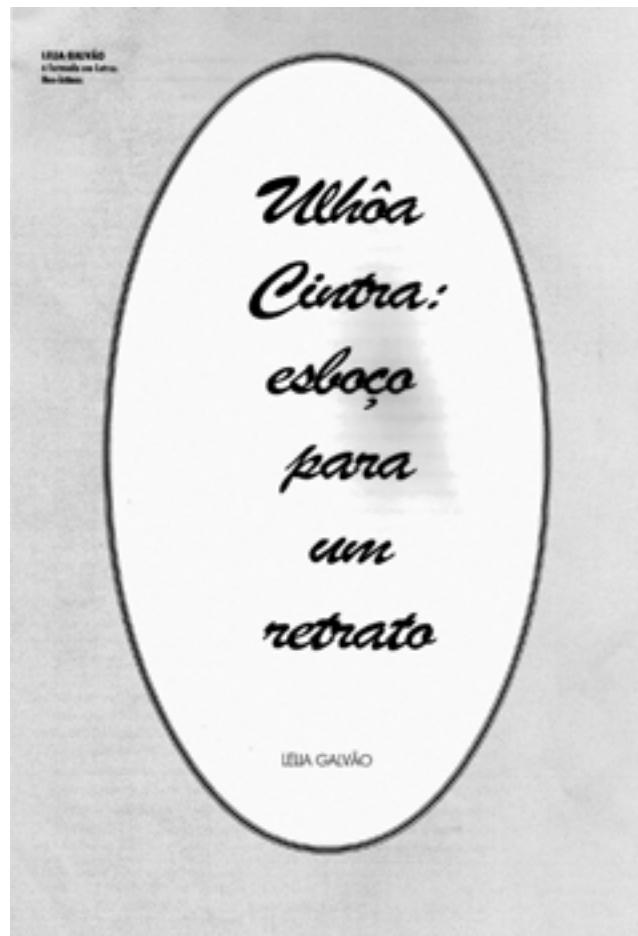
He was the patron of the 33rd chair of the Academia de Medicina de São Paulo [Medical Academy of São Paulo] for his outstanding career as a doctor, university professor, scientist and educator. At the 24<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of the Brazilian Society for the Advancement of Science (SBPC) in 1972, he was highlighted as a scientist who had made significant contributions to the development of the field in Brazil.

The Brazilian Society of Endocrinology and Metabolism (SBEM) created the Antonio Barros de Ulhôa Cintra Prize, which is awarded every two years to recognize endocrinologists whose contributions and collaboration have furthered the society’s development.

Since 1980, the USP campus in Butantã has named its roads, avenues and squares after its ex-presidents. The name of Professor Antonio Barros de Ulhôa Cintra has been given to the avenue home to the School of Veterinary Medicine

and Animal Science. In 2006 and 2007, he was also honored with his name being given to a hospital and a road.

In 1999, Lelia Galvão, one of his daughters, also paid tribute to him in a piece entitled “Ulhôa Cintra: Esboço para um Retrato” [Ulhôa Cintra: Sketch for a Portrait], published in Revista da USP. In it she wrote: “not the brilliant professional Ulhôa Cintra, but the man Ulhôa Cintra, whom I knew so well (...) I see him as a humanist, relentless in the defence of human rights, but also as a humanitarian man, capable of feeling the suffering of the other and, without making a fuss, aiding simple people who asked for his help.”



Ulhôa Cintra in his daughter’s words in Revista da USP, 1999



Aerial view of the building of the president's office, 1965



The start of construction of  
the School of Architecture  
and Urbanism

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1963–1969





# Luis Antonio da Gama e Silva

Law School of the Largo de São Francisco

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## **Somber Times**

The man who drafted AI-5, the country's most somber legal document, was also the USP's longest-serving president for six of repression-filled years



Luis Antonio da Gama e Silva was born in Mogi-Mirim, São Paulo, on May 19, 1913, to Acrísio da Gama e Silva and Ana da Gama e Silva. He studied at the elite Ginásio Culto à Ciência and Ginásio Diocesano de Santa Maria until 1929, when he completed his secondary education. Following in the steps of his father, a lawyer who had graduated in 1903 from the 72nd class of the Law School of São Paulo, he enrolled in the same school in 1934 as part of the 103rd class, and later received a bachelor's degree in legal and social sciences.

While he was a student, he participated in the 1932 Constitutionalist Revolution, fighting for São Paulo against the federal government of Getúlio Vargas and went to fight as a member of the Paulista Republican Party (PRP) after the city was defeated. He was the political editor of the *Correio Paulistano*, the party's official newspaper, until 1939, when under the Estado Novo regime, he was dismissed from his post. After the fall of Vargas's government in 1945, he returned to the *Correio Paulistano* as editor-in-chief. From then on, he became associated with the National Democratic Union (UDN), a newly formed party that opposed the politics and stature of Getúlio Vargas.

Dedicated to advocacy, with his own office in São Paulo, and to politics, he started his career as a public prosecutor in his hometown Mogi-Mirim for several months in 1935. Years later, he was appointed as a judge of the Tax Court of the State of São Paulo (TIT) from 1938 to 1945. He also taught Portuguese language and logic in the São Paulo city colleges Liceu Pan-Americano, Colégio Carlos Gomes and Colégio Rio Branco.

He participated in the brigadier Eduardo Gomes's campaign for president of the republic in 1945, but General Eurico Gaspar Dutra was ultimately elected.

At the Law School of the University of São Paulo he received his doctorate in law after defending the thesis “A Ordem Pública em Direito Internacional Privado” [Public Order in Private International Law] and in 1944 was made “livre-docente”, a title that denotes the superior quality of a university professor.

. Dedicated to academic life in the 1950s, he gave classes at the Pontifical Catholic University of Campinas and the Law School of the University of São Paulo where he became a chair professor in 1953 following the unanimous approval of his thesis “As Qualificações em Direito Internacional Privado” [The Qualifications in Private International Law]. He became vice dean of the same school in 1956, the acting dean from 1958 to 1959, before assuming the deanship itself from 1959 to 1962. In 1961, he assumed the vice presidency of the USP during President Antonio Barros de Ulhôa Cintra’s term from 1960 to 1963.

Supported by the group who had backed his predecessor Cintra (1960) to modernize the university, Silva was selected for the university council’s three-name presidential shortlist. His academic career reached its peak in 1963 when he was ultimately appointed by the São Paulo state governor Adhemar de Barros (1963-1966) as the 14<sup>th</sup> president of the University of São Paulo (USP), committed to continuing his predecessor’s program of reforms. However, after the revolution in 1964, he ceased to depend on his supporters who had taken him to the presidency and became an agent of the revolution within the USP. Silva’s entire term was marked by intense political protests from students, professors and staff in response to the nationwide military regime. Conservative and progressive groups diverged on numerous issues. The Military Police Inquest was established, and professors and students were arrested without evidence after a police invasion in the School of Philosophy was met with great resistance.

As president, Silva set up a commission to investigate and identify professors, students and staff who should

be expelled from the university for any involvement with subversive ideologies. Such punishments were only carried out in the School of Medicine on request of the school’s board, even before the inquiry had come to a close. It was later concluded that the situation that had occurred in the medical school had been a power struggle. In September 1964, the internal commission’s report published in the press suggested that the political rights of 52 members of the USP be revoked, citing each of them by name. Student and professor-led protests continued, and the university council maintained its support of the president.

Politically, Silva supported the 1964 coup d’état which deposed President of the Republic João Goulart. Without distancing himself from the USP presidency, he took over the Ministry of Justice and of Education and Culture in the few days prior to the inauguration of the new president, Marechal Humberto de Alencar Castelo Branco. In the same year he was elected as a judge of The Permanent Court of Arbitration in The Hague, Netherlands, with a mandate until 1976.

In June 1966, he was reappointed to the position by then Governor of São Paulo State Laudo Natel (1966-1967). In August he established a special commission charged with restructuring and modernizing the USP, which was formally launched in November under the name “Restructuring Commission.” However, the student movement was growing in various parts of the world and in different universities, including the USP. The president’s office was raided, the law school and the School of Philosophy, Sciences and Letters were occupied and the dormitory complex, CRUSP, on the main campus, which had opened in May 1963 to house athletes participating in the São Paulo Pan American Games, was transformed into a hub for the protestors.

In 1967, he was reappointed to the Ministry of Justice by the new President of the Republic Artur da Costa e Silva, but this time provisionally left the USP presidency. His vice president, Helio Lourenço de Oliveira, took over as president.

Silva's term in the Ministry of Justice was repressive and authoritative. He fought against the Broad Front which united forces opposing the military government and supported by many well-known figures, among them João Goulart, and prohibited all its activities through Regulation No. 177. The growing student movement in several of Brazil's states opposing the dictatorship over the course of 1968 was suppressed on his command. He ordered that any publication of a political nature produced by those individuals with revoked political rights be seized and their authors and the entities responsible for their distribution be subjected to police inquests.

The hardest period of the Brazilian dictatorship began with the announcement of Institutional Act Number Five (AI-5), broadcast nationwide on December 13, 1968. Silva had drafted the act whose authoritarian and repressive content authorized the president to suspend the political rights of any citizen for ten years, repeal terms of elected officials and eliminate habeas corpus. He declared the national congress in recess and advocated for the act to have an indefinite term in order to not limit the dictatorship's regime.

In 1969, he drafted two decrees based on AI-5 to repeal and retire 27 USP professors, people with academic prestige such as Fernando Henrique Cardoso, Florestan Fernandes, João Batista Vilanova Artigas, Caio Prado Jr, Paulo Mendes da Rocha, Mário Schenberg and Paul Israel Singer, among others. After protesting against this list with the university council's support, Vice President Helio Lourenço de Oliveira was also included on it. Some with left-wing ideas and others that he simply took a personal disliking to were all prohibited from teaching. Some went into exile and took up positions in universities abroad, returning to teach at the USP after they had been pardoned. During this time, the dormitory complex became dominated by military forces that invaded the USP campus.

With the end of the Costa e Silva government, he left the Ministry of Justice on October 30 of the same year and

worked determinedly to prevent the incumbent Vice President Pedro Aleixo, who voted against AI-5, from assuming the Brazilian presidency. The military junta tabled General Emilio Garrastazu Médici who presided over the country from 1969 to 1974.

In 1969, he left the USP presidency and was succeeded by Miguel Reale, who was also a jurist.

From 1970 to 1974, Silva was appointed as the Brazilian ambassador to Portugal, being one of the creators of the Luso-Brazilian community. He implemented the federal police, federal jurisdiction and the law on the public prosecutor's office.

Upon resignation from the post, he returned to São Paulo, practicing law and academic activities.

In January 1978, a relaxation of the dictatorship was discussed under General Ernesto Geisel's government. Silva stood against the nullification of AI-5, stating that it constituted a "fair warning to the candidates for subversion."

The "jurist that entered the history books as the man who drafted perhaps the most somber legal document of the last decades in the country," was also the president who spent the most time at the front of the University of São Paulo, for more than six years.

He died on February 2, 1979, shortly after turning 66 and left behind his widow Edi Pimenta da Gama e Silva with whom he had had four children.



Final stage of construction of the School of Architecture and Urbanism



The building of the  
School of Philosophy,  
Sciences and Letters

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1968–1969





# Helio Lourenço de Oliveira\*

Ribeirão Preto Medical School

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## **Resistance and Exile**

After fighting for the USP's autonomy during a repressive period for professors and students, the incumbent vice rector went into exile after being forced to retire by a decree signed by Luis Antonio da Gama e Silva

\*Vice president who temporarily substituted the president



**B**efore qualifying as a doctor in 1940 at the University of São Paulo Medical School, Helio Lourenço de Oliveira, the firstborn of Joaquim da Silva Oliveira and Deolinda Lourenço de Oliveira, had graduated with a degree in social sciences and philosophy. Born in Porto Ferreira in rural São Paulo on June 9, 1917, Oliveira completed his entire education within public institutions, including university.

During his time at the medical school, he was an active participant in the movement for the creation of São Paulo's Hospital das Clínicas. After graduating, he won a scholarship from the Pan American Sanitary Bureau and interned between 1941 and 1942 in Bellevue Hospital in New York City, the oldest public hospital in the United States, where he specialized in nephrology. In 1948, he was one of the founders of the Brazilian Society for the Advancement of Science (SBPC) and, in the following year, he was given the title of "livre-docente" for his thesis "As Propriedades da Dieta de Arroz, Frutas e Açúcar e o seu Emprego no Tratamento da Doença Vascular Hipertensiva – Mecanismo de sua Ação Terapêutica Relacionado com Fatores Metabólicos de Doença Vascular Hipertensiva Experimental" [The Properties of the Rice, Fruit and Sugar Diet and its Employment in the Treatment of Hypertensive Vascular Disease – Mechanism of its Therapeutic Action Related to Metabolic Factors of Experimental Hypertensive Vascular Disease].

In 1954, he accepted the invite of Professor Zeferino Vaz, the dean of the Ribeirão Preto Medical School of the University of São Paulo (FMRP-USP), to organize and direct the school's Department of Internal Medicine which offered a promising environment to establish a model of medical teaching suffused with science and where clinical investigations could be part of his daily work. Today, the department is called the Professor Helio Lourenço de Oliveira Department of Internal Medicine.



A doctor, university professor and researcher, dean of the FMRP-USP and incumbent vice president of the USP itself, Oliveira participated an important and somber time for the university. He was included on the three-name shortlist for vice president of the USP in 1967, when its president, Luis Antonio da Gama e Silva, distanced himself from the role to take over the Ministry of Justice. The job of the vice president, which at the time was equal to that of the actual president, was given to Mario Guimarães Ferri, who resigned in October 1968. On the 8<sup>th</sup> day of the same month, Oliveira's name was put forward once again and, having received the most votes from the university council, he took the presidency upon the approval of Governor Roberto Costa de Abreu Sodré (1967-1971). Despite being vice president, he had effectively already been the president due to Silva's absence, who had gone to the Ministry of Justice of the Costa e Silva government (1967-1969) without abdicating the presidency.

Oliveira left his clinical duties and opted to dedicate himself exclusively to the running of the university. In the presidency, he went on to lead a statutory reform of the university which abolished the "cátedra" system of chair professors of each discipline and substituted it for a departmental structure, consolidating the university's range of disparate schools into one institution. In his tribute, the statute was named Estatuto Helio Lourenço.

He also was opposed to the military police's activities on campus which were implemented to repress student activity. After the decree known as Institutional Act Number Five (AI-5) of December 13, 1968, the university's dormitory complex, the CRUSP, came under fire on the evening of December 14. Days after, on December 17, the entrances to the USP's main campus in São Paulo were blocked by police and military forces and the CRUSP was invaded, exposing the student residents who were expelled from the premises.

In light of the situation, the acting president united councilmembers to develop a document in protest of the surprise



**Helio with his parents Deolinda and Joaquim, 1932**

raid, defending the university's autonomy and the regularization of residential life.

The response came on April 25, 1969, in the form of an arbitrary decree based on the AI-5 which, on the initiative of the Ministry of Justice under Gama e Silva, ordered 42 personnel to retire from their roles in organs of the federal public administration. As the USP was a state university, it was also included in this decree. Oliveira contested the act that ordered the compulsory retirement of USP teaching staff via a telegram to the Ministry of Education, soliciting their intervention. On the 29<sup>th</sup> of the same month, a new decree, also based on the AI-5, ordered the retirement of 24 further personnel, including Oliveira himself as acting president. Silva had signed the order himself. This list





**After medical school, Oliveira went to New York University's Department of Medicine on a scholarship from the Pan American Sanitary Bureau, 1941**

featured the name of Fernando Henrique Cardoso and Paulo Mendes da Rocha, among others. While never being informed of the reasons for his removal, Oliveira hypothesized years later in a testament to the "Black Book of USP" that his compulsorily retirement had been a result of ongoing political disagreements between Governor Abreu Sodré and Gama e Silva, who opposed his continuation as president.

Forced into exile, Oliveira left for Alexandria, Egypt, where he directed the World Health Organization's education office and was charged with revising the teaching of nutrition in Middle Eastern schools and advising national and foreign institutions. He was also member of the UNESCO mission responsible for aiding the reform and development of higher education in Syria.

On August 28, 1979, a pardon was issued by Brazilian president João Baptista de Oliveira Figueiredo (1979-1985),

to the benefit of those in exile, including the professor. In June 1980, he returned to the FMRP-USP and reintegrated with its teaching staff. He was the chief of the Department of Internal Medicine and later the dean of school (1983-1985), elected by professors, staff and students. He died on March 14, 1985, at 67 years of age, while still in office.

Oliveira left his widow, Aparecida do Carmo Brandt de Oliveira, and their five children, one of whom is Ricardo Brandt de Oliveira, who followed in his father's footsteps and became a doctor and a titular professor at FMRP-USP.

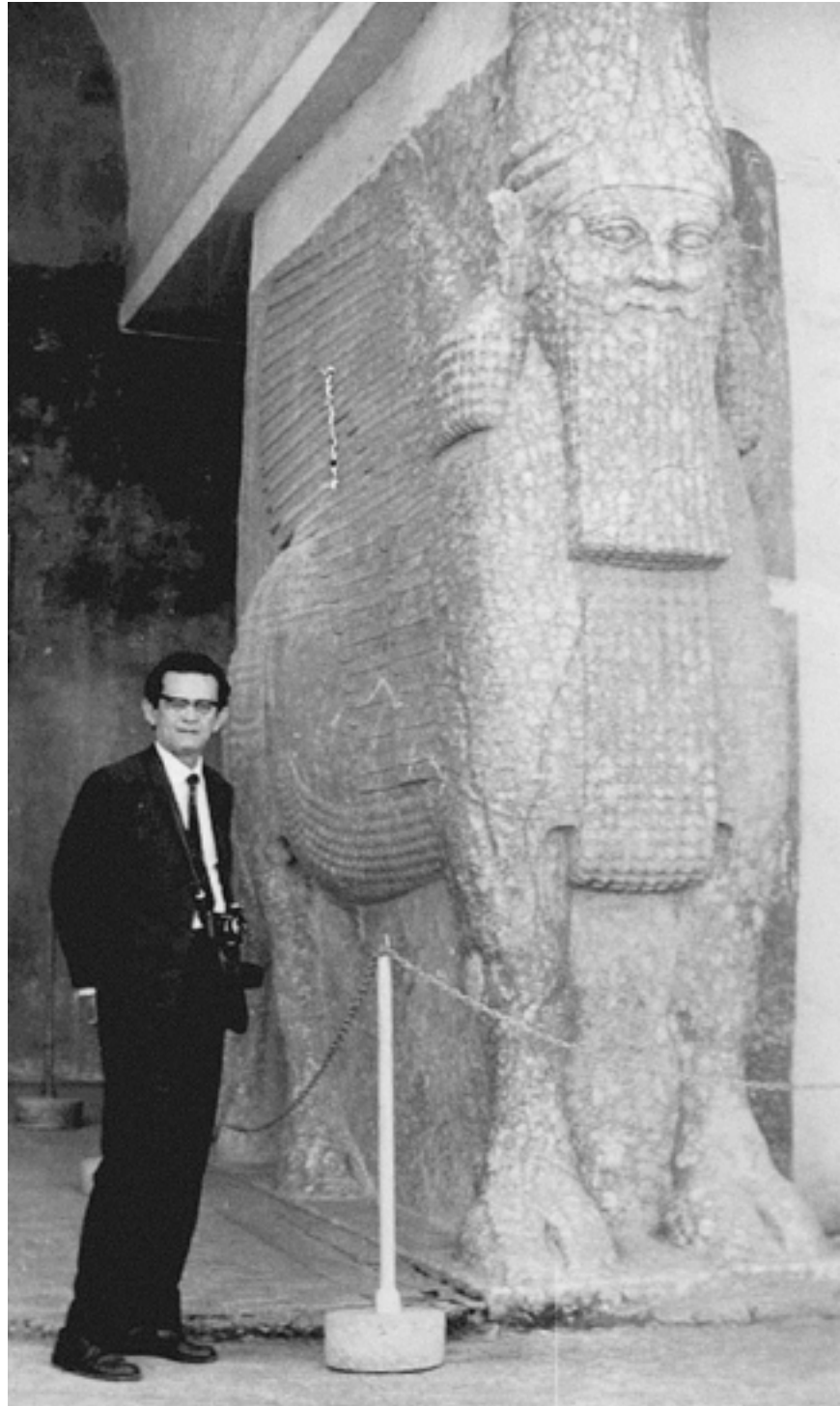
In the many statements from colleagues from his professional and academic life, Oliveira is remembered for his enviable intelligence, honorable character and abilities as a leader. "A white, beautiful, dignified, proud, reserved, valent swan," wrote Mozart Régis Fortes Furtado, a professor in the FMRP-USP's Department of Clinical Medicine. In 2017, the centenary of his birth, the book "Helio Lourenço – Vida



Oliveira shows a patient to Bernardo Houssay, winner of the Nobel Prize for Physiology or Medicine, in Ribeirão Preto, 1947

e Legado” [Helio Lourenço – Vida e Legado] was released, written by his son Ricardo and the journalist Regina Prado. At the launch, Ricardo recalled: “I had an archive at home containing documents, texts and notes my father had written at various moments, on various subjects. Although his academic career and the leadership he undertook during a turbulent time at the University of São Paulo has already been well illustrated by his contemporaries, I was convinced that from these materials that I kept, a more complete and truthful portrait of the person he was could be painted, of how he saw the world and humanity beyond the limits of academia.” That year, the FMRP-USP commemorated its 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Its dean, Margaret de Castro, declared: “I did not have the privilege of knowing him, but as a member of the Department of Internal Medicine and the school’s dean, I live with his legacy of dignity and academic principals.”

In equal seriousness, Marco Antonio Zago, the president of USP at the time, remembered: “the innovative role that



In Baghdad for the World Health Organization, 1970

Helio Lourenço had at Ribeirão Preto in his time. It would be the greatest tribute that we could pay to a man who, even having died 32 years ago, lives on in our admiration and in our respect.”

Helio Lourenço de Oliveira was ultimately forgiven by the university and the office of the president. On the initiative of the university’s truth commission, the university council approved on October 4, 2016, that his portrait be hung in the gallery of presidents of the USP in recognition of the role the professor played in the defense of the university’s autonomy and its statue of reform. The ceremony was held on September 25, 2019, in the presence of the university heads and the professor Ricardo Brandt de Oliveira, a son of the honoree. On the occasion, USP president Marco Antonio Zago emphasized that: “his portrait in a key area of the presidency building serves to remind us that, in order to achieve its mission with success, the university needs

autonomy.” The president of the Truth Commission of the University of São Paulo, Janice Theodoro da Silva, reiterated his words: “This is an act of reparation and justice for someone worthy of much applause. The professor Helio Lourenço exerted leadership because he had an intention for the university moderated by respect for this institution’s autonomy and by ambition fixed on the academic point of view of integrating diverse areas of knowledge. He was a man who believed in democratic liberties.”

In tribute to the professor, a school and a health unit in Ribeirão Preto were named after him.



In 1984, while dean of the Ribeirão Preto Medical School, Helio (left) received a visit from Carlos Chagas Filho of the Institute of Biophysics of the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, accompanied by Miguel Rolando Covian and André Ricciardi Cruz, both professors at the Ribeirão Preto Medical School



His family in 1973. Stood: his children Maria Teresa, Ricardo, Marcelo and Eduardo. Seated: Rose (daughter-in-law), Maria Luísa Funda, Maria Cistina, Maria Isabel, Elisabete (daughter-in-law), Carmita and Helio with his grandson on his lap



Start of construction of  
the School of Economics,  
Business and Accounting

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1969–1973





# Miguel Reale

Law School of the Largo de São Francisco

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## **In Two Doses**

One of the greatest jurists in the country's history made achievements in different areas during his two turns as president



In November 1969, Professor Miguel Reale became university's president for the second time, for a four-year term from 1969 to 1973. As a member of the state's council of education, which on June 16, 1969, had approved the new university statute enacted by decree on December 13, 1969, he already knew that reforms at the university would see the replacement of chair professorships with departments, and that it would be up to the president to assign more than 4,200 professors to these new departments. In his inauguration speech entitled "Perspectives on the University Reform," the professor said: "the reference to my experience as president from August 1949 to June of the following year will serve, I think, to demonstrate, on the threshold of 1970, which will be the year of the university reform, that this has not come out of nowhere, but rather constitutes the necessary result of a continuous evolution...." He predicted that such a mission would face resistance: "Everything depended, then, on a prudent passage from the monarchy of chair professorships to the collegial government of departments," declared Reale in an article published in 1994 under the title "Minhas Memórias da USP" [My Memories of USP].

In the urban and architectural plan, the president developed projects and completed buildings on more than 269,000 square feet of land for new teaching, research and sports facilities, including the headquarters for the new president's office, the amphitheater and the city hall of University City – the name given to university's main campus. He also transformed the fund for the construction of University City into the University of São Paulo Construction Fund (FUNDUSP), as a specialized agency for project management whose body of architects, engineers and technicians altered the schedules of construction work that had already started to determine strict completion times. The proposal to build a 50m-high tower on campus went ahead after being planned and approved by the university council years before and incorporated



**Paulo Vanzolini, Miguel Reale and Orlando Paiva in the Museum of Zoology**

donations from the city's Portuguese community with a design by architect Rino Levi and bas-reliefs by sculptor Elizabeth Nobiling. Two immense precast concrete walls were erected, one representing the human sciences and the other the natural sciences, both culminating in an immense clock designed to assimilate the progressive unity of time. Reale commissioned: "In the universe of culture the center is everywhere," to be written around the tower, certain that this should be "the motto to forever guide the destiny of the University of São Paulo".

The buildings for the institutes and faculties created as a result of the reform, namely the institutes of mathematics, physics, chemistry, psychology, geology, biomedical sciences, oceanography, biosciences, and buildings for the School of Communications and Arts (ECA) and the School of Economics and Administration (FEA), were completed on his watch. The complete list of the works executed and concluded during his administration are listed in the report "USP – Miguel Reale – Quatro Anos de Reitoria" [Four Years in the Presidency].

Reale's inauguration coincided with the "Tour of University City" competition. Not only did he attend the race,

he also made a commitment to leave the USP's sports campus in place. With the support of then Mayor of São Paulo Paulo Maluf, the president obtained funds for the construction of the athletics track built to technical athletic specifications.

On an administrative level, he established CODAGE, a coordinating entity for general administration which had been outlined in the statute as a means to create a technical and dynamic method of conducting bureaucratic services. And on the cultural level, he fully institutionalized the EDUSP, the University of São Paulo Press, giving the campus a bookstore, which emphasized co-publishing services and allowed works from all fields of knowledge to be published. He also set up COSEAS, a health and social work coordination office intended to offer medical services to students, faculty and staff and to manage the university restaurants and the sports department.

His vice-president, Professor Orlando Marques de Paiva, accepted the powers delegated to him and worked hard alongside Reale, who years later said of their partnership: "the greatest result for me was the consolidation of a fraternal friendship." Reale went on to say that the success



of his administration was its engagement with the new statute: "it grants the president and the university council, or the president alone until the entity is inaugurated, a whole series of implicit powers (...) the authority that has the legal attribution to accomplish certain ends also has the power to choose and use the indispensable and adequate means to accomplish these ends."

In 1972, Reale participated in the preparation of documents relating to the creation of Itaipu Binacional, structuring it as an international company. In the same year, the Abrahão de Moraes Observatory, a scientific laboratory belonging to the Institute of Astronomy, Geophysics and Atmospheric Sciences (IAG) at the USP, was founded in

Vinhedo, a municipality in the state of São Paulo. In addition to CODAC, today known as the Superintendência de Comunicação Social (SCS) was created, for the coordination of cultural activities.

In 1973, when inaugurating the Bauru School of Dentistry's center for the research and rehabilitation of lip and palate injuries, today known as the Hospital for Rehabilitation of Craniofacial Anomalies (HRAC), or "Centrinho," the president said: "To serve and to serve will increasingly be the motto of the university of our time. Here, the students learn a technical skill, and even more, love for their neighbor. Here, the University of São Paulo meets with man and, more importantly, with children. It is here that the heart of the new university beats."

Regarding the occasion, the journalist and writer Gilberto de Mello Kujawski wrote: "For Miguel Reale, the main moral virtue that has always fed his intellectual reflection is, without a doubt, courage. The courage of being, from which derives the courage of poise in the most difficult moments of his life – which were many –, political courage, the courage of pioneering and often challenging ideological positions. (...) The strong figure of a man in the public eye (...) is based on a substantial pedestal of



Reale and Gilberto Freire, 1975

courage, which has also served him in his private life as a father and head of a family." In 1973, Reale began raising three of his grandchildren after his daughter Livia Maria and her husband perished in a hotel fire in the city of Copenhagen.

Parallel to his work in the presidency, Reale was invited to coordinate the reform of the Brazilian Civil Code given his vast experience as a lawyer and his contributions in the fields of public and private law. He went on to present the preliminary draft in 1975 in his role as supervisor of a commission formed in 1969 that had drawn up and revised the new civil code. Widely debated, it was approved by the national congress and signed by the then president of the republic, Fernando Henrique Cardoso, as Law No. 10406 of January 10, 2002, and came into force in January 2003.

In the code's explanatory statement, Reale pointed out how necessary it was to update the old code, dating back from 1916, which reflected the values of a belle-époque society and unshaken by the consequences of the First World War. It was necessary to "endow it with new doctrines, demanded by today's society." The clamor for a new civil law came "from the profound changes that had taken place in the domain of facts and ideas, both because of

technological progress and because of the new dimension acquired by the values of social solidarity." On the subject of a stable union, for example, "erecting the discipline of stable union in general rule, the new Civil Code, in addition to recognizing this new social reality, has given it a higher degree of importance. To new values brought about by new facts, the civil legislation responded with new norms. And this is the three-dimensional theory applied throughout the course of national legislation regarding the stable union, until its complete consecration in art. 1723 of the current Civil Code".

The only USP president to be a member of the Brazilian Academy of Letters, Reale held the academy's 14<sup>th</sup> chair for three decades from January 1975. He wrote a biweekly column in the newspaper *O Estado de S. Paulo* on philosophical, legal, political and social issues until just before his death. He published around sixty books and hundreds of articles in newspapers and magazines in Brazil and abroad, also making a name for himself as a poet. Several of his works were translated into Italian, Spanish, French, English and German. Reale also became a member of important cultural institutions. He belonged to the São Paulo Academy of Letters, the São Paulo Law Academy, Academia Paulista de História [São Paulo Academy of History], Academia Brasileira de Letras Jurídicas [Brazilian Academy of Legal Letters], and the Inter-American Philosophical Society as its first president, in addition to other institutions in Brazil and abroad. He also presided over the Federal Council of Culture for 15 years, beginning in 1974 on appointment of the president of the republic, Emilio Garrastazu Médici (1969-1974).

He earned honorary doctorates from the Universities of Coimbra, Lisbon and Genoa, in addition to important Latin American and Brazilian universities, and was honorary president of the Internationale Vereinigung für Rechts – und Sozialphilosophie (IVR, Germany), an organization that gathers philosophers of law from around the world. He also belonged to the Brazilian Academy of Philosophy,

founded in 1989, to the Brazilian Historic and Geographic Institute and many more cultural institutions abroad.

Cultured, gifted with an encyclopedic knowledge on various subjects, a lover of literature, proficient in several languages and friendly, with his signature broad smile in every photo, Professor Miguel Reale "loved being president and lived and breathed his work during both terms. "At home, we ate, slept and breathed the USP", said his daughter Ebe.

When the jurist turned 80, 85 and 90 in 1990, 1995 and 2000, respectively, several events were held in his honor. At an event held by Empresa Paulista de Transmissão de Energia Elétrica S.A on November 16, 2000, in celebration



Assembly of the Torre do Relógio [Clock Tower]



**Bird's-eye-view of the tower**

of his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday just days before, the former president said with regard to the legal advice he had given during the creation of Itaipu Binacional: "Cooperating in the structuring of this international company, the first in the world, was possible thanks to my previous experience acquired through my work as a consultant in the São Paulo electricity sector and was, without a doubt, the greatest legal achievement of my life."

The list of honorific titles, medals and decorations he received throughout his career, both nationally and internationally, is extensive.

Miguel Reale died at the age of 95 in São Paulo on April 14, 2006, after a life of youthful enthusiasm, with the USP choir singing during a mass held seven days later.

At the University of São Paulo Law School, a classroom was given his name and the house where he was born in São Bento do Sapucaí has been preserved and is known as the Miguel Reale House of Culture. Founded in 2004, Fundação Nuce e Miguel Reale "has the primary objective of safeguarding the continuation of the Instituto Brasileiro de Filosofia [Brazilian Institute of Philosophy] and Revista Brasileira de Filosofia [Brazilian Philosophy Journal], as well



Miguel Reale, his wife and their children Ebe and Miguel Reale Jr.

as promoting and sponsoring any other cultural and social activities," in addition to putting together a bibliographic and documentary archive of the former president. The website [miguelreale.com.br](http://miguelreale.com.br) collects data and information on the professor.



Construction site of the Raia Olímpica, 1971





Installation  
of the Ramos  
de Azevedo  
monument

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1973–1977



# Orlando Marques de Paiva

School of Veterinary Medicine and Animal Science

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## **Advancements in Different Areas**

The university hospital, sports center, symphony orchestra and the FUVEST were some of many achievements made during the veterinarian's term as president





Orlando Marques de Paiva was born in São Paulo on July 26, 1915, the son of Portuguese parents from the Beira Alta region of Portugal. He attended a state school in Parque D. Pedro II in the city and graduated from high school in 1933. The following year, he enrolled in the São Paulo School of Veterinary Medicine (FMV), which is currently the School of Veterinary Medicine and Animal Science (FMVZ) at the University of São Paulo (USP). In 1936, he was an intern at the Department of Health Protection for Agriculture in 1936 and graduated first in his class the following year.

By 1938, Marques de Paiva was already an assistant professor of the Descriptive and Topographical Anatomy of Domestic Animals course at the same school. He received invitations to take on professorships at other schools but chose not to leave the USP and in 1957, following an competitive examination, he became the course's chair professor.

The professor was appointed vice-dean of the school in 1959. The following year, a grant from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs took him to Italy to study his specialty in greater depth. Upon his return, he ranked first in the entrance examination for the chair professorship of anatomy at the Rural Federal University of Rio de Janeiro.

Back in São Paulo, he directed the FMVZ from 1965 until 1972. In 1969, he was included on the three-name list of candidates for the university presidency, but Miguel Reale (1969-1973) was chosen instead and Paiva was elected vice-president. Marques de Paiva worked intensively with Reale, making him the natural successor to his friend following his term as president. He was then appointed by then Governor Laudo Natel (1971-1975) in 1973 to take over the USP presidency, promising to continue his predecessor's work.

During Professor Marques de Paiva's term, construction began on the university hospital (HU) and buildings for various institutes, schools, laboratories and administration offices on the main campus, in addition to the university's campuses in São Carlos, Pirassununga, Ribeirão Preto and Piracicaba. The USP sports center (CEPEUSP) in Praça Rubião Meira was also built, fulfilling a promise made by his predecessor on the day of the "Tour of the University City" competition. The Rondon Project was organized, with USP taking over the Marabá campus in the south of Pará State. The idea was that a group of students would spend 30 days in the region, changing every 30 days so as to maintain the project's activities 365 days a year, which received logistical support from the Brazilian Air Force.

In terms of cultural development, the USP Symphony Orchestra (OSUSP) was founded in 1975. The following

year the USP Theater (TUSP) was officially revived on May 26<sup>th</sup> through Resolution 943, signed by Marques de Paiva himself. Linked with the USP's coordination office for cultural activities, the space was used for the university's artistic productions along with the orchestra and the choir. The renowned theater critic and professor at the School of Philosophy School of Philosophy, Sciences and Letters, Décio de Almeida Prado, then took over as its director. That year, the TUSP also opened a new performance space at the auditorium of the Anne Frank Municipal Library, which was granted to the USP for a period of twenty years from 1976 to 1996.

An important project during his administration was also the creation of the University Foundation for the Vestibular (FUVEST), which was approved on April 20, 1976 by the university council with the objective of holding the



Construction site of the university's sports center





**Orlando Marques de Paiva and Miguel Reale**

Vestibular – the name for the entrance examinations to admit students into the institution.

Held in two stages, it is currently the second largest competitive examination in the country, only behind the National High School Exam (ENEM). The first exams held by the FUVEST took place in January 1977.

In October 1975, the University of São Paulo was shaken by an act of repression ordered by the DOI-CODI [Department of Information Operations – Center for Internal Defense Operations], an organ subordinated to the army during the dictatorship. Journalist Vladimir Herzog (1937-1975), director of TV Cultura and a professor at the university, was murdered in DOI-CODI facilities, causing protests from civilians and USP professors and students, who went on strike for three days.

During his tenure in the presidency, there were accusations from deputies of irregularities within the social work and

services coordination office (COSEAS), as well as in cafeteria operations, student services, the professors' salaries and the suspension of work on the university's residential complex (CRUSP), among many others. To investigate these accusations, the Legislative Assembly of the State of São Paulo set up a special inquiry commission and in 1977, the president was summoned to testify. The inquiry ended in October of the same year, with him denying that he recognized any existence of a crisis at the USP.

Marques de Paiva defended the introduction of tuition fees at state universities, even though he claimed that they only would alleviate, but not solve the university's budgetary problems. He proposed that variable payment rates be offered according to the income of the student and their family. "Instituting paid tuition, granting scholarships to needy students is a way of distributing social justice," he said at the time. In August 1977, State Deputy Antonio Salim Curiati presented a bill to the legislative assembly proposing paid education. Marques de Paiva turned out



**Miguel Reale, Waldyr Muniz Oliva and Orlando Marques de Paiva**

to be correct in his belief that the project would be not approved, since the deputy did not have the support of the Brazilian Democratic Movement party, which at the time comprised the majority of the assembly.

Marques de Paiva considered it his responsibility and right to choose the professors at the university that he headed. Thus, he took responsibility for withholding and filing the hiring processes of several professors, which led him to be accused of “ideological screening” in his hiring choices.

During the last months of his administration in 1977, a project for a total reformulation of the university statutes which dated back to 1969 was submitted and ultimately rejected. In November the president left office and was succeeded by his vice-president, Josué Camargo Mendes, from the Institute of Geosciences (IGC).

In 1986, while director of the Museu Paulista of the University of São Paulo, widely known as the Ipiranga Museum, Marques de Paiva begrudgingly returned a Kyiré – a ceremonial hatchet sacred to the Krahô people and of great cultural importance – to tribe chiefs Pedro Penon and Aleixo Parri in Goiás. The piece was allegedly taken from

the village in the 1940s by USP anthropologist Harald Schultz (1909-1966). Schultz's own widow alerted the Krahô to the artefact's location, which led them to São Paulo in search of it.

The former president held many other positions throughout his career, including: member of the Fundo de Pesquisa Pasteur, secretary of the São Paulo Society of Veterinary Medicine, vice-president of the Council for Veterinary Medicine, member of the Academy of Sciences of the State of São Paulo, and president of the Italo-Brazilian Cultural Institute. He also published more than a hundred articles and received the Alfonso Bovero Prize, presented by FMVZ alumni for the best work on anatomy in Brazil.

Marques de Paiva died on June 22, 1989, one month before his 74<sup>th</sup> birthday. Like other presidents, he was honored at the university's Butantan campus with his name being given to an avenue, which in his case is the one home to the School of Veterinary Medicine and Animal Science, where he worked for many years.

Final stage of construction on  
the civil engineering building  
of the Escola Politécnica

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1978–1982

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# Waldyr Muniz Oliva

Institute of Mathematics and Statistics

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## **On Three Pillars**

Much progress was made over four years in three different areas: teaching, research and community services, including the creation of the USP's Integrated System of Libraries and childcare center





Waldyr and his dog Cambuí

**B**orn in Santos, São Paulo, in 1930, Waldyr Muniz Oliva always had great interest in numbers. His relationship of more than 70 years with the exact sciences officially began when he enrolled on the engineering course at the National School of Engineering, part of the former University of Brazil today known as the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro. "At the time I lived with my older brother, and when he moved to São Paulo I went with him," recalls the professor, who then transferred to the Escola Politécnica of the University of São Paulo (The Engineering School). He graduated from the school in civil engineering in 1952, starting his long-lasting relationship with the University of São Paulo (USP).

Moving states was beneficial to Oliva as he quickly made precious friendships and professional contacts, among them Professor José Carlos Figueiredo Ferraz, responsible for including the then student in a project to work on the calculations for the dome of the Sé Cathedral, which had been designed by architect Maximiliano Emil Hell. "It was the end of the fourth year, and he said he would like Luiz Altenfelder and me to go to his office as interns to help with a very important challenge. Of course, we accepted," said Oliva.

Their work opened many doors and Oliva was recognized in 1952 with the Instituto de Engenharia Prize, granted to the best student in the reinforced concrete course at the Escola Politécnica. He also received a cash prize in a contest promoted by the mining company Pedreira Morro Grande Ltda. (later Pedreira Anhanguera S.A.). "It was from there that we created a firm for concrete calculation, me, Luiz and two other colleagues. I worked in this field for ten years, with great pleasure." Among the firm's achievements was the development of the structural plan for the Oca building in Ibirapuera Park, once again on the request of Professor Figueiredo Ferraz.



Waldir receives the title of Grand Officer of the Order of Rio Branco

Regarding his position as an emeritus professor at the Institute of Mathematics and Statistics (IME) at the USP, a title he received in 1994, Oliva said that mathematics had always been part of his life plan. "Since high school I saw numbers as great fun, but at that time it was not traditional to take a math course, so I opted for engineering." Even so, he decided to study mathematics in parallel at the former School of Philosophy, Sciences and Letters (FFCL) of the USP while he was in his third year at the Escola Politécnica, but he had to cancel his enrollment and finish the engineering course first before he finally returned, for pleasure, to mathematics. He earned degrees in both courses and in 1962 was awarded a Ph.D., followed by the title of "livre-docente" which denotes the superior quality of a doctorate-level teacher and researcher, in 1965, and became the chair of analytic geometry in 1967, at the USP.

Following the university reform implemented in 1970, Oliva became a titular professor at the IME. He was also titular professor, board chairman, department head and deputy director of the Department of Astronomy of the Institute of Astronomy, Geophysics and Atmospheric Sciences (IAG), as well as board representative and director of IME (1974-1978), before being elected president of the University of São Paulo. "I entered the presidency at 48, comparatively young, and at the end of my term I returned to the IME where I stayed until 1993," he said.

While still director of the IME, Oliva took a year away from the post in order to attend a course at the Escola Superior da Guerra [Superior War College] in Rio de Janeiro, focusing on institutional administration.

His tenure as president was marked by an issue relating to night classes at the university. The professors at the USP had won a court case to double their salaries, as nightshifts would become part of their full-time contracts. However, due to a lack of resources, Oliva was unable to meet the demand but was informed by a federal attorney that the



Waldyr (left) at the presentation of an honorary doctorate to Mário Soares, President of Portugal

USP must still comply with the court order. The president then immediately requested a supplementation to their budget in a letter sent to the then governor, José Maria Marin. In the document, he gave examples of the ministers Delfim Neto and Alfredo Buzaid, who at the time were already receiving nightshift bonuses as USP professors. The money was deposited in the university's account within 24 hours and the professors received their payments.

Budgetary issues have always presented challenges to presidents throughout the USP's history, but Oliva faced some particular difficulties: "At the time there was no budgetary autonomy, so we had to stretch ourselves to obtain resources for salary increases, scientific work and structural improvements." Even so, in the presidency he managed to make significant progress with proposals made during his term.

Advances in teaching, research, and community services were the three pillars of his administration. The animal science, biological sciences (in Ribeirão Preto) and geophysics courses were created, in addition to the launch of two new qualifications managed by the School of Education aiming to teach people with visual and mental disabilities.

In the field of research, an important feat accomplished during Oliva's presidency was the reformulation of the administrative structure of some of the university's specialist institutions, ensuring them greater efficiency. Among them the former Institute of Marine Biology, now the Marine Biology Center (CEBIMar) based in São Sebastião, São Paulo, the Institute of Prehistory of the Museum of Archeology and Ethnology (MAE) and the Center of Nuclear Energy in Agriculture (CENA) in Piracicaba, São Paulo, which also had physical headquarters custom-made. The



**Waldyr hands Albert Sabin his honorary doctorate from the University of São Paulo, 1979**

research and teaching unit of the university hospital was also established during his term.

In his last semester as president, Oliva headed an initiative that ensured the improvement of the research support infrastructure with the implementation of the USP's Integrated System of Libraries (SIBiUSP), currently the Academic Information Management Agency (AGUIA), and the Central Informatics Commission (CCI).

Among the services introduced for the community, the professor highlighted the creation of more than a hundred beds in the university hospital and support for the expansion of care and research at the USP's Hospital for Rehabilitation of Craniofacial Anomalies (HRAC), known as "Centrinho de Bauru". The space offers free state-of-the-art dental care to people from all over Brazil. Additionally,

the first part of the university's child daycare center was built and opened at the Butantã campus, fulfilling an old demand from employees, students and teachers.

While still president, Radio USP went live in 1978 and the following year won the Disco de Ouro [Gold Record] for best FM station. In 1979, Albert Sabin who responsible for the development of the oral polio vaccine received an honorary doctorate from USP.

According to Oliva, an interesting aspect of the presidency was, and still is, the USP's presence in several institutional councils. The professor participated in the council for Nuclear and Energy Research Institute (IPEN), the Padre Anchieta Foundation, and as the vice-president of the superior council of the São Paulo Research Foundation (FAPESP).





**The Institute of Mathematics and Statistics under construction**

His retirement from USP was by no means the end of his relationship with higher education or mathematics. As soon as his ties with the University of São Paulo ended, he was hired as guest professor at the Instituto Superior Técnico of the University of Lisbon, where he still teaches and conducts research.

Moreover, in 1999 Oliva was sworn in as a full member of the Brazilian Academy of Sciences where he had been a member since 1973. In the short biography requested by the academy, the professor stated that he was "a lover of agriculture and dairy and beef cattle breeding, and a fanatic supporter of the Santos Futebol Clube."

Oliva currently divides his time between mathematical research and working in the fields at the properties he and his family own in the São Paulo and Minas Gerais

countryside. He is a father to five children – three of them from his first marriage to Myriam Cabral da Cunha Canto, who passed away, and two from his second marriage to Ângela Maria Caleiro Guimarães, whom he married in 1966 – and has a total of twelve grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Among other titles and awards he has received throughout his career are an honorary doctorate in 1978 from Peru's Federico Villarreal National University and the Armando de Salles Oliveira Medal in 2008.



Waldyr and Angela with 11 of their 12 grandchildren

The University Hospital

HOSPITAL UNIVERSITÁRIO

1982–1986





# Antonio Hélio Guerra Vieira

Escola Politécnica

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## **On the Front Line of Re-democratization**

A period of political tension at the university followed the end of the dictatorship with the president's office withdrawing the military from the university and hiring previously banned professors





Engineer, professor and one of the developers of computer science in Brazil, Antonio Hélio Guerra Vieira was born on July 14, 1930, in Guaratinguetá, São Paulo. The son of primary school teachers, he decided to study the exact sciences. He graduated in engineering from the Escola Politécnica of the University of São Paulo (The Engineering School) in 1953 and was hired by Ford soon after. The automotive industry was developing fast, which made the role an offer he could not refuse. Shortly after, however, Vieira left the job to undertake a Ph.D. at École Normale Supérieure in Paris.

On his return to Brazil, he accepted an invitation to teach at the Escola Politécnica where he was awarded a doctorate in engineering and the title of “livre-docente,” which denotes the superior quality of a doctorate-level teacher and researcher, and later became a titular professor. Always attentive to world events and the need for innovation, Vieira became one of the founders of the school’s Department of Electrical Engineering and the Laboratory of Digital Systems (LSD), where he was the dean from 1980 to 1982. In 2002, he was awarded the title of emeritus professor.

In 1968, when running the LSD, the professor participated in a project being carried out by a group of researchers from the electrical engineering department who wanted to deepen their knowledge of the computer systems available at that time. This led them to acquire an IBM 1620 computer with the specific purpose of studying it. In 1970, the electrical engineering course split into two separate tracks: electrical engineering with emphasis in telecommunications and electrical engineering with emphasis in digital systems, the latter established by the “Curriculum 70” that Professor Vieira himself had devised. It was the University of São Paulo’s first step towards providing undergraduate education in this field of engineering.

Such initiatives enabled the development of the hardware and software of the first Brazilian computer, initially conceived as an end-of-course project concluding in July 1972. Developed entirely by the LSD team, the project resulted in a million-dollar contract between the Escola Politécnica and the Brazilian Navy. “The government wanted a Brazilian-made computer to replace the ones installed in frigates bought from England,” the professor recalled during an interview with Agência Brasil in 2018. The computer had less storage capacity than a simple calculating machine but served as a basis for the first Brazilian commercial computer, Sistema 500 (MC 500), launched by Cobra in 1975.

The project involved several professionals from different areas and was called the “Ugly Duck” in reference to the Cisne Branco [White Swan] – a tall ship of the Brazilian Navy used for diplomatic and public relations. “UNICAMP was also preparing a project for the Brazilian Navy, which was called ‘White Swan’, so we named ours after it to make fun of our competitors,” Vieira told Agência Brasil.

The engineer and professor was also one of the founders and chairmen of the Foundation for the Technological Development of Engineering (FDTE) and the chairman of the Institute of Engineering and the São Paulo State Sanitation and Energy Regulatory Agency (ARSESP). He was the chairman of the São Paulo Research Foundation (FAPESP), member of the technology board of the Union of Engineers of the State of São Paulo (SEESP) and FDTE’s board of trustees, which connects the Escola Politécnica to the business sector with a focus on partnerships to develop innovative projects.

As the school’s dean, Vieira created the undergraduate and post-graduate commissions, a notable innovation during his tenure. Now fully institutionalized, these commissions ensure more agility and participation for students and professors across different levels of the institution, aiming to decentralize decision-making processes. His work at the



**Hélio Guerra, Romeu Landi, Hélio Nogueira da Cruz and Vahan Agopyan at the 110-year commemoration of the Escola Politécnica**

school led him to the position of president of the University of São Paulo, taking office in January 1982 following nomination by then governor and former Escola Politécnica student Paulo Salim Maluf (1979-1982).

As president, Vieira faced two great challenges: political tension in a large university following the end of the military regime and budgetary difficulties. “Nonetheless, we managed to implement initiatives that had been halted during previous administrations, such as refitting and modernizing the university hospital, which started operating at full capacity and is one of the most important health care centers for the population of São Paulo today,” said Vieira years later.

In an interview published by O Estado de S. Paulo newspaper in January 2014, the professor talked about some of the political challenges he faced when he took office in 1982. “I always say that it is good to have been a president in the past, because being one is really tough. I faced interesting problems. I had to manage the reverberations of the sound of re-democratization underway in the country. (...) I was able to manage everything and the USP did not jeopardize the reopening process. On the contrary, I think the USP helped.”



**Miguel Reale, Hélio Guerra and Orlando Marques de Paiva at the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the University of São Paulo**

Besides the ideological disputes, Vieira came across mechanisms of internal control and classified documents in a space that had been occupied by the Safety and Information Special Consultants (AESI), an entity of the dictatorship that had operated inside the university to obtain information and manage hiring processes. Unhappy with the structure he found when taking office, he removed the military, hired professors previously forbidden from the university and burned documents that had been left behind. “The files were pending. There were around 12 employment contracts, internally approved, so I asked for them all to be hired. There were 12 and, back then, I took a gamble: 12 additional or fewer communists at the USP were not going to make any difference,” he stated in the interview.

The documents had been burned following the guidance of Humberto Filgueiras, the legal advisory manager at the time who discovered a decree saying that classified materials that were no longer necessary should be destroyed. “I did not hesitate and ordered for them to be burned. After that, I was criminally charged for not obeying the law during the whole of André Montoro’s administration [André Franco Montoro, governor of São Paulo from 1983 to 1987]. The governor filed the case only when a new attorney general of the state took office since they could not find anything on me, no crime to charge me of. What happened is that



**Sidnei Martini and Hélio Guerra at the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Department of Computer Engineering and Digital Systems of the Escola Politécnica**

I dismantled the ideological screening of the USP’s hiring process for both professors and other staff members. I am proud of that,” concluded the former president, who still keeps up one of his hobbies – photography – and lives with Syllene Castejon, who he has been married to for 64 years and has five children and nine grandchildren.



Hélio and Syllene with 4 of their 9 grandchildren



The start of construction  
on the building for the  
School of Philosophy,  
Letters and Human  
Sciences, 1985

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1986–1990



# José Goldemberg

Institute of Physics

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## **More Autonomy at the University**

Financial achievements ensured more agility and planning capabilities with less interference from the federal government in the university and its scientific advancements





The fourth child and only son of Jacob and Bertha, Jewish immigrants from Russia, José Goldemberg was born in Santo Ângelo, Rio Grande do Sul, on May 27, 1928. His mother died when he was 5 years old, and his family moved to Porto Alegre. Goldemberg moved to São Paulo in 1946 where he started studying chemistry at the School of Philosophy, Sciences and Letters (FFCL) of the University of São Paulo (USP), but soon changed to physics. “It’s funny, I made a mistake in the entrance examination. I was very curious and developed a huge interest in chemistry because of a teacher I had had. In 1945, there had been the atomic bomb explosions and that new type of energy intrigued me,” says Goldemberg. “I only noticed that it had more to do with physics after studying chemistry for six months. So, I took another entrance examination.” His choice of the USP was already an indicator of his inclination towards research. “It was the only place in Brazil producing significant research, so the decision was logical.”

The physics course was the first step of a long-term relationship with University of São Paulo. There he earned his Ph.D. in physical sciences, became a professor at Escola Politécnica of the University of São Paulo (The Engineering School) and dean at the Institute of Physics and later, president of the university. Goldemberg held the presidency from 1986 to 1990 and his administration was distinguished by several reforms that guaranteed the university’s autonomy and greater participation of students and employees in university governance.

A physicist, university professor, research scientist and public manager, Goldemberg became one of the top intellectuals in the country throughout his 70-year career, occupying chair no. 25 at the São Paulo Academy of Letters. His publications and considerable involvement in nuclear physics, energy policy, education, scientific/technological development and environmental issues

were remarkable not only within the university. “I have worked at different universities around the world. I still keep in touch with scientists from these institutions,” said the former president who was a professor and a research scientist at the Universities of Paris (France), Princeton (USA) and Toronto (Canada), among others.

Professor emeritus of the University of São Paulo, a title granted to him on February 14, 2017, Goldemberg said that he had never aimed to become president but considered it a unique experience. “It is important to experience it in order to understand what it means to manage a university like the USP. Of all work that I have done, that was the most interesting period.” The professor explained that his path to the presidency happened naturally after assuming more administrative positions. “There was also the political aspect, many of my colleagues thought that I should apply because I was well-known and appealed to the students. In fact, I was the first name mentioned by professors and students at a meeting before being named president by then Governor André Franco Montoro,” recalled Goldemberg.

For him, the major milestone of his administration was defending the university’s autonomy, which was already guaranteed by the constitution. “Nevertheless, the federal government interfered a lot. The list of candidates for the presidency, for instance, could have six names, which enabled the inclusion of candidates favored by the military government. During my tenure, I questioned this system with the federal supreme court and we managed to reduce it to three candidates, which is still in effect today.”

Goldemberg also participated in another significant change for São Paulo State universities. On February 2, 1989, Governor Orestes Quércia (1987-1991) signed Decree No. 29.598 granting financial autonomy to the USP, the University of Campinas and the São Paulo State University and allocated a fixed percentage of 8.4% of state sales tax (ICMS). The Council of Presidents of the Universities



of the State of São Paulo (CRUESP), created two years before and where Goldemberg was a member, established the distribution of these resources – 4.46% to USP, 2% to the University of Campinas and 1.94% to the São Paulo State University. “Thanks to this change, we were able to get a loan to re-equip the USP’s research labs,” he recalled. During his tenure, he also created the Institute of Advanced Studies, aiming to stimulate scientific debate in an interdisciplinary environment. He also introduced a new way to manage university funds for scientific research by evaluating the performance of professors in each department and began the reopening of the university’s residential complex (CRUSP), which had been out of use during the dictatorship. Moreover, he oversaw the fourth stage of building on the main campus “University City” which included the restoration of the university tower and the pool around it. Goldemberg was also in charge of the university statute reform, enhancing the representation of employees and students: “I believe that university governance is achieved by means of representation. We have guaranteed 10% of the seats of the university council to students and elevated the participation of newer professors. The current statute has not changed much since my tenure.”



A great supporter of free education at public universities, Goldemberg suggested that the institutions in São Paulo should serve as model to the whole country. “The USP must remain an elite university in the sense of being the house of great researchers and minds, for it is a reference point for all the other universities. It is not in vain that the University of São Paulo is always among the best in the world.”

His work as a nuclear physician and his fundamental role for science and education in Brazil led Goldemberg to different public positions besides the presidency of Brazil’s largest university. In the state of São Paulo, he was the president of the Companhia Energética de São Paulo (CESP) from 1983 to 1985, education secretary in 1990, environmental secretary from 2002 to 2006 and president of the São Paulo Research Foundation (FAPESP) from 2015 to 2018. In the federal government, he served as secretary of science and technology (1990-1991), environmental secretary (1992) and education minister (1991-1992).

His political career began after he became the president of the Brazilian Society for the Advancement of Science (SBPC) in 1979. “I started working during a period of great interest in nuclear power, which was exactly the object of my research. I gradually became a public figure until becoming president of the SBPC,” he recalled. “It was an era of much political movement and I bravely fought for the rights of Brazilian scientists before being named president of the Companhia Energética de São Paulo by Governor Franco Montoro in 1983.”

The professor highlights the launch of the Semear Program as one of his main contributions as a public servant, which involved reforestation works programs as well as the creation of six conservation units in different biomes: the Anhatomirim Environmental Protection Area in Santa Catarina, the National Forest of Ipanema in São Paulo, the Extractive Reserves of Ciriaco, Mata Grande and Quilombo Frechal in Maranhão, the Extractive Reserve in the far



north of Tocantins and the Pirajubaé Marine Extractive Reserve, Santa Catarina. While a minister in June 1992, he fronted Eco-92, the United Nations’ conference on environment and development held in Rio de Janeiro.

Goldemberg has never stopped his work as a researcher. “It is my gift; I have over 300 published papers and I keep working. My main occupation today is to continue contributing to the areas where my expertise matters. The interchange among scientists of different generations and backgrounds is essential,” he explained, “I am retired but I maintain several intellectual activities. I am a member of the São Paulo Academy of Letters, sometimes I write for O Estado de São Paulo, I keep track of research in the field and I have a network of friends who help me remain active.”

Among dozens of prizes and titles, Goldemberg was awarded the Grand Cross of the Order of Ipiranga from the State of São Paulo (2010), the Trieste Science Prize from the Third World Academy of Sciences in India (2010), the Blue Planet Prize from Japan’s Asahi Glass Foundation

(2008), the 13<sup>th</sup> Heroes of the Environment award in the category 'Leaders and Visionaries' from USA's Time magazine (2007), the Volvo Prize from the Volvo Environment Prize Foundation (2000) and an honorary doctorate from the Technion of the Israel Institute of Technology (1991).





Construction of the School  
of Dentistry building

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1990–1993



# Roberto Leal Lobo e Silva Filho\*

São Carlos Institute of Physics and Chemical

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## **A Determination to Change the World**

President from 1990 to 1993, Roberto Leal Lobo e Silva Filho headed the University of São Paulo with a strong sense of justice and commitment to prioritize his ideals and projects

\*Text written by the professor himself



A fan of the Botafogo football team and almost all other sports, Roberto Leal Lobo e Silva Filho was born in Rio de Janeiro in September 1938. "I lived in Rio de Janeiro until I finished the electrical engineering course, with an emphasis on electronics, which had been created by the students themselves at the Pontifical Catholic University of Rio de Janeiro," said the professor, also stating that his original plan agreed with the university was to get into a Ph.D. program abroad, "which I was denied due to an earlier trip I had made to the old Soviet Union. I understood the ideological motivation that was disadvantaging me but could not agree with it."

He then transferred to the São Carlos School of Engineering where he started his academic career as a professor in the Department of Physics, invited by Professor Sérgio Mascarenhas. "Thanks to the São Carlos School of Engineering, I had the opportunity to complete the Ph.D. program in physics at Purdue University in the USA in 1964 by means of an agreement with the Fulbright Commission." In 1991, the university granted him with an honorary doctorate.

Lobo remarked how he had lived in the country on several other occasions due to his post-doctorate and as a fellow of the Solomon R. Guggenheim Foundation and the Argonne National Laboratory in Chicago, as part of Professor Sergio Rodriguez's group at Purdue. He stated: "my most productive period as a scientist and professor was during the first 12 years divided between São Carlos and Chicago. I decided to apply for the position of titular professor in 1977."

A natural leader and passionate about physics, the professor revealed that physics is what still truly makes him happy when he feels like thinking or challenging himself. "Despite having great success in my own academic career, and because of it, too, I was invited to implement



Ex-presidents at the inauguration of Roberto Lobo e Silva in 1990

the post-graduate program by colleagues who trusted me and was later named director of the São Carlos Institute of Physics and Chemistry on several occasions." The leadership positions he held certainly hindered his scientific output but did not totally take him away from his commitment to science: "After managing the Brazilian Center for Research in Physics (CBPF) in Rio de Janeiro, I understood that I had continued serving science, just in a different way."

Lobo believes that the turning point in his career was due to the firm stance he would take on matters: "I have never sought after any position, including at the USP; I was encouraged to take positions or compete because of the projects I was backing. I consider this is an important characteristic of my life and one of which I am proud. That is how it was at the CBPF, and later as the director of the National Council for Scientific and Technological Development (CNPq). I was able to carry out one of the most important projects of my life: conceive and coordinate the implementation of the first National Synchrotron Light Laboratory in the Southern Hemisphere. In 2017, the laboratory turned 30 years old with over 2,700 active Brazilian and foreign researchers."

Before becoming the university's president, the professor had been vice-president during José Goldemberg's tenure:



Presentation of his honorary doctorate from Purdue University

"I exchanged the São Carlos campus for the large campus in São Paulo, with everything that it represents. The science involved in university education at that time became my new and all-consuming field of systematic study, my declarations in newspapers and magazines and my scientific output." Lobo said that being president of the USP deeply and permanently changes the person in the eyes of society: "The president is the one that chooses what will be the stamp of his tenure and society validates it."

Having assumed the presidency of the USP during a deep financial crisis due to hyperinflation and savings confiscation during Collor's government, his main challenge was to reorganize the university's finances: "That was the only way to develop projects in response to the proposals of my campaign as well as create initiatives that yielded results and made me proud, including the few that did not remain after I left."

Among the highlights of this tenure, the former president mentioned the beginning of the interdepartmental evaluation, Disque Tecnologia [Dial-Technology program], the IADB/USP program, the reopening and expansion of the Estação Ciência [Science Station] and opening the campus to the public with television shows such as Bem Brasil, produced by TV Cultura, among others.

Lobo also mentioned “a significant and deliberate increase of the USP making educational, scientific and technological headlines in the country’s main newspapers,” as one of the marks of his tenure. He highlighted that all efforts counted on the support of a deeply committed team. “I led processes and projects, and people carried them forward.” Nevertheless, he stated that the most important action during his tenure was in fact “a permanent conduct of unwavering commitment to the public money invested for the benefit of the quality of the university and its legitimacy in society.”

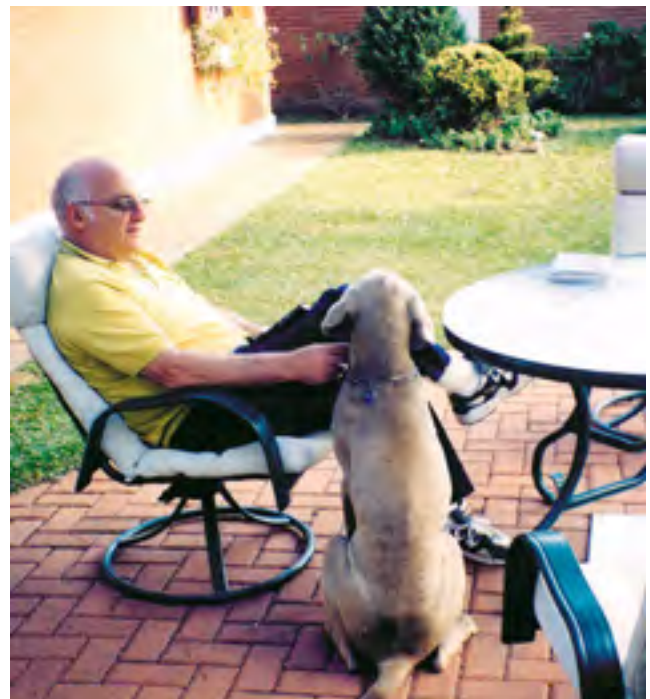
In an unprecedented and historical move, Lobo resigned a few months before the end of his tenure. The impossibility to progress with his proposals and the unfavorable political climate led him to make the decision: “I know that many people, in and outside of the USP, did not understand the reason for my resignation, but I have never remained in any position where I was not able to do what I had proposed.”

At that time, the professor explained the reasons for his resignation in a text called “Renúncia – Denúncia!” [Renouncement – Denouncement!]: “No position should bear a leader when his power is taken away and he cannot carry out the responsibilities of his role. I have never agreed or accepted to be part of anything I consider undignified in my personal or professional life. My resignation has brought more civility to the USP’s new presidential election process. I do not regret it, despite being misunderstood on many occasions by many people. It did not seem to be an option but a duty,” he wrote.

In his retirement, Lobo launched personal projects that consistently focused on education and science. “I started offering international advice and ended up facing another huge challenge: leading the process of transformation of the best private university in Brazil. In 1996, I became president of Mogi das Cruzes University and in three years we achieved a true revolution,” said the professor, adding that the movement had begun years before with the then



Presentation of the “Educator of the Year” award with his wife, Maria Beatriz Lobo, 1998



Roberto Lobo and Miró



**Roberto with his four sons, Roberto Neto, Carlos Eduardo, Thiago and Ricardo, 2005**

vice-president, who became his second wife in 1997.

He learned a great deal from the experience which is described in detail in the book "Desafios e Escolhas de uma Liderança – A vida profissional do ex-reitor da USP e da UMC" [Challenges and Choices of a Leadership – The Working Life of the Former USP and UMC President]. Produced in partnership with his wife, Maria Beatriz Lobo, the book also addresses the couple's experience as consultants and researchers in university education, science, and technology at Lobo & Associados Consultoria and Instituto Lobo: "Clients included more than 120 institutions in 24 Brazilian states, as well as others abroad. We have trained more than 20 thousand managers in courses and workshops. We have conducted and published several research projects across all fields of the university. A countless number of projects and friends made over 15 years."

This work was briefly interrupted by a five-year stay in the United States: "When we moved to the Boston region, which is one of the largest academic and innovative hubs on the planet, we had a very interesting experience as a couple, and the professional interaction with important universities which are amongst the best in the world, has enriched our international portfolio." The couple currently heads their own consultancy and Instituto Lobo. Furthermore, Lobo remains involved with the USP as a senior professor at the Institute of Advanced Studies: "I

continue producing books and articles, as well as writing for the blog of O Estado de São Paulo".

Above all, Lobo highlights love as the most valuable part of his life. "When my life was at risk due to health problems, I was able reaffirm that nothing is more important than the love I have for my wife, a love that surprises people by its intensity and transparency, that transcends anything," he revealed.

The professor admits that he is very attached to his sons Roberto Neto, Ricardo and Carlos Eduardo from his first marriage, and Thiago, Beatriz's son from her first marriage, who he treats like his own son. "My sons' concern and affection have also helped me a lot during the tough times I faced, as well as my grandchildren Eduardo, Luísa, José Roberto, Bernardo and Laura." The close connection to their family ultimately made the couple return to Brazil. "I plan to shorten the physical distance between us. Being close to them is exactly what I miss the most," he affirmed.



Construction of the  
building for the Institute  
of Biomedical Sciences

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1993–1993



# Ruy Laurenti\*

School of Public Health

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## **A Short Term**

Once the first provost for culture and extension at the University of São Paulo, the vice-president stepped into the presidency for three months following Roberto Leal Lobo e Silva Filho's resignation

\*Vice president who temporarily substituted the president



**R**uy Laurenti was born in Rio Claro, São Paulo, on August 15, 1931, the youngest of seven children of parents Rosa Campilongo Laurenti and Ernesto Laurenti. His Italian father was a skilled worker at the railway company Companhia Paulista de Estradas de Ferro and compelled all his children to study. Ruy attended schools in the region and could understand French and Latin very well; he started middle school with no idea of the career path he would choose.

Despite passing the exams to attend the University of São Paulo Medical School in 1951, Laurenti was not able to attend the university that year. There were too many candidates, which postponed his admittance until the following year. Instead, he began his studies at the university in 1952 and never left.

Laurenti graduated in 1957, began a medical residency program and volunteered for the cardiology service at Hospital das Clínicas. Hired as a teaching assistant for cardiology, he instructed third year students in the mornings and worked for the university's healthcare services in the afternoons. What little time he had left he dedicated to his own private practice.

In 1962, the professor was asked by the medical school to participate as a physician in an important international epidemiological study with the WHO about specific patterns in adult mortality. The experience aroused his interest in epidemiological studies and his involvement with the School of Public Health (FSP). In 1969, Laurenti obtained a Ph.D. in cardiology with his thesis entitled "Estudo dos Dermatoglifos em Portadores de Cardiopatias Congênitas" [Study of Dermatoglyphics in Congenital Heart Malformations]. That year, he received the Ovídio Pires de Campos gold medal for the best thesis from the Department of Internal Medicine of the University of São Paulo Medical School.



**Ruy Laurenti, Adolpho Melfi and Nina Ranieri (foreground) at a university council meeting**

In 1971, he transferred to the FSP's Department of Epidemiology for a full time role and no longer worked as a physician. He became department head, vice-dean and in 1985, he became assumed the role of dean. He built his academic career at the FSP through public tenders, becoming an associate professor in 1973, an adjunct professor in 1976 and a titular professor in 1979.

Laurenti dedicated his career to the health of the population. In 1975, he created and coordinated the Ministry of Health's Sistema de Informação de Mortalidade [Mortality Information System], adopting the WHO's international rules and procedures, receiving recognition as a reference point from the same organization in 1976. The WHO Collaborating Center for the WHO Family of International Classifications of Diseases in Portuguese was then created at the USP, under Professor Laurenti's management. An agreement of understanding was signed between the USP, the Ministry of Health and the center.

In 1989, nominated by then university president José Goldemberg, Laurenti became the first provost for culture and extension for one year period (1989-1990) – he considered the role one of the highlights of his career.

The professor later became vice-president during President Roberto Leal Lobo e Silva Filho's tenure from 1990 to 1993. In addition to simply learning a great deal during the process, he created a health advisory group that gave way to the university's healthcare system, SISUSP. It began operating in the presidency building in collaboration with Professor Erasmo Tolosa, who was the superintendent of the university hospital. The Serviço de Saúde e Medicina do Trabalho [Work Safety and Medical Service] was also under Laurenti's direction.

The professor formed another group to create and structure the university's Faculty of Animal Science and Food Engineering (FZEA) in the city of Pirassununga, which was officialized on July 3, 1992 via USP Resolution No. 3.946.

Laurenti commented that "the president asked me to form a group to design the FZEA in Pirassununga. The group was formed by professors from the School of Veterinary Medicine and Animal Science, the Luiz de Queiroz College of Agriculture, the School of Public Health, the School of Pharmaceutical Sciences, the Polytechnic School and the Food Technology Institute of Campinas. There was an academic dispute with the School of Veterinary Medicine and Animal Science, which the campus in Pirassununga originally belonged to. They feared it would harm the school but that did not happen. We concluded the blueprint for the FZEA in two years, but it only became official during Professor Flávio Fava de Moraes's tenure due to some ongoing issues."

He also participated in the creation of the Faculty of Economics, Business and Accounting of the University of São Paulo at Ribeirão Preto (FEARP) as an extension of the School of Economics, Business Administration and Accounting of the University of São Paulo (FEA). "It was quite an interesting process. In a meeting involving 100-150 people, including the president, the vice-president, provosts, councilors, and community leaders at the city council of Ribeirão Preto, they discussed which courses the



population wanted to be created at that campus. Law led the way, followed by music and economics. The FEA and the School of Music are currently up and running. Law was left aside because of the great number of law schools in the country. I believe there were two private law schools in Ribeirão Preto at that time.”

Laurenti made it known that he was always in favor of foundations. The Foundation of Support to the University of São Paulo (FUSP) was established in 1992. Laurenti commented that “since I am working with a number of covenants, I will hand over the administration to the foundation and will communicate with it when I need to (...) Had it not been for the FUSP, I would not be able to do research, or worse, it would be harder to manage other covenants.”

Regarding President Roberto Leal Lobo e Silva Filho’s resignation in August 1993, Laurenti said that it caught everyone by surprise, including himself. He tried to argue, but Professor Lobo had already made his decision and handed his resignation letter to the governor: “After all the fuss at the USP and in the press (...) I was entirely supported by the management.” This was not hard, according to him: “I always work in groups and would not have it another way. I cannot imagine a university professor working alone.” On the day after the resignation, Laurenti was supported by the whole university council, who signed a declaration in favor of keeping him as acting vice-president until the end of the term, in November 1993. He was also supported by then Governor Luiz Antonio Fleury Filho (1991-1995), which made him feel comfortable to remain until the end of his tenure, when he handed in the three-name list of candidates with the most votes for the presidency.

When asked about who he would support, Laurenti answered: “I will support whoever the university council supports. It is a three-name list and the university council submitted their wish for first place,” and so Professor Flávio Fava de Moraes assumed the university presidency on November 26, 1993.



Regarding Lobo’s resignation, the professor stated that “every resignation is unilateral, the individual decides. I cannot judge. The person has the right to do it.”

Years later, Laurenti was the first ombudsman of the USP in 2001, appointed by President Jacques Marcovitch (1997-2001). In its founding statement, it is said that “the ombudsman’s office of the USP is an informal, neutral and independent body which members of the USP community and citizens in general who do not feel that they have been satisfactorily served by the usual channels can make suggestions, complaints and denouncements regarding the university’s operations,” and was enacted during Mario Covas’s government (1995-2001) by Law No. 10.294 of April 20, 1999, which establishes ombudsman’s offices in all of the state’s public entities.

Being the first provost for culture and extension and the university’s first ombudsman were the two biggest challenges he faced in his career.

The year of 2001 was also the year of his compulsory retirement, but even that did not put a stop to the professor’s work. Upon the request of the FSP’s management team, he continued managing the WHO Collaborating Center



Ruy Laurenti (left, light-colored blazer) at the inauguration of President Flávio Fava de Mores

for the WHO Family of International Classifications of Diseases in Portuguese while carrying out and publishing research projects.

The same year, following a unanimous vote among candidates from eighteen governments, Laurenti won the Abraham Horowitz Award from the Associação Pan-Americana de Educação em Saúde due to the national and international recognition of his work at the USP. The following year, he received honorable mentions from the Ministry of Health and the title of emeritus professor from the USP, following a similarly unanimous request from the School of Public Health board members. Furthermore, he was honored by the National Council for Technological and Scientific Development (CNPq) with the title of emeritus professor in 2015 due to his remarkable work. He published two hundred articles and books about epidemiology, maternal health and health statistics.

Laurenti also represented the USP on the superior council of the São Paulo Research Foundation (FAPESP) from 1993 to 2000 and has been a full member of the Academia de Medicina de São Paulo [Medical Academy of São Paulo] since 1999.

Writing about the ex-president in the university's journal, Alexandre Chiavegatto Filho, a professor at the FSP said while he had retired, "he literally worked in the basement of the FSP building. He also had time for everyone, which is not consistent with the image we have of an important person. The difference is that he had time for everyone because he liked people. Professor Ruy did not seek out these huge tributes he has received throughout his life. It was quite the opposite. If you needed to talk, he bypassed the formalities and gave his signature, welcoming smile, even if you were a lazy student in the scientific initiation program. The memory Professor Ruy reminds us to cultivate the ideal of an academic career guided by modesty and generosity. It is, above all, understanding that you will be remembered by your friends for the great person you were, independent of your huge academic achievements."

Professor Laurenti died on June 12, 2015, at the age of 83, leaving his wife Rose Marie and two sons, Renato and Ruy.



The Praça do Relógio  
[Clock Square] in 1992,  
before the reform

An aerial photograph of the Praça do Relógio in São Paulo, Brazil, taken in 1992. The central feature is a tall, white, rectangular clock tower with a clock face at the top and a series of stylized, abstract carvings or reliefs along its length. The tower stands on a circular base. Surrounding the tower is a large, open area with a winding path and some greenery. In the background, a dense urban landscape with various buildings and a distant skyline is visible. The entire image is overlaid with a semi-transparent teal color.

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1993–1997



# Flávio Fava de Moraes

Institute of Biomedical Sciences

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## **Before You Act, Listen**

A scientist, Fava bet on active listening as a means to start new dialogues and mediate differing opinions and interests at the university





Born on May 23, 1938, in Lins in the São Paulo countryside, Flávio Fava de Moraes's decision to study at the School of Dentistry of the University of São Paulo (USP) was influenced by his uncle, who had studied there and become a renowned dental surgeon in São Paulo. However, the eventual emeritus professor of the Institute of Biomedical Sciences (ICB) decided to focus on microscopical sciences instead of working as a dentist. "I thought about studying biology instead of dentistry, but I became a teaching assistant at the histology and embryology laboratory and there I remained," he said.

After graduating in 1960, Fava started working as an assistant at the dentistry school and, following the university reform which transferred the histology and embryology teaching to the ICB, he became a titular professor at the institute. During the same period, he worked as a visiting professor at the University of Michigan, where he deepened his knowledge and abilities on both a professional and personal level: "I was lucky to have Professor Burt Lowel Baker as a mentor. It was a remarkable experience in every sense and an education in human behavior. With him, I learned to be more tolerant, more start more dialogues, to open new pathways to get closer and listen to other people." The professor stated that this was a great advantage to people in executive positions: "These positions involve the most complex issues and require active listening."

Throughout his 60-year career, Fava cultivated his philosophy of human appreciation as director of the ICB from 1982 to 1986, and later in the USP presidency. While working as director of the institute, he was invited to become the scientific director of the São Paulo Research Foundation (FAPESP), where he remained from 1985 to 1993. "I directed the institution for over six years and we worked hard to increase the budget and adopt a financial model for strategic

projects, involving people from multiple areas in a much more comprehensive way,” he said. Such changes have promoted the international interchange of information and people, which the professor considers to be currently in jeopardy, bemoaning the fact that, “today there is a certain disbelief in science and technology in the population and this is reflected in the government who has been cutting investments and on-lending to research centers.”

Fava’s personal skills were tested during his tenure as president. “There was a very active union movement inside and outside of the university, with a highly integrated claiming system and it was necessary to create a cooperative environment to protect the institution from purely political movements,” he recalled.

One of the initiatives that the president achieved with great effort was organizing the level of public presence on campus. The professor noted that there was an opposing movement that claimed that any control over this would be the same as closing the campus to the public entirely, whereas others considered it necessary to find a way for the space to be used responsibly. “A sense of leadership was mandatory so that the interests of the university, and not individuals, prevailed,” he explained.

Fava was highly concerned about the recovery of USP spaces and the improvement of the campuses across the whole state of São Paulo, later saying that he was, “very proud of the renovation of Praça do Relógio”. A public-private partnership enabled the creation of a project involving different units of the USP to salvage the area. The project won the National Award from the Brazilian Institute of Architects and was coordinated by a team from the university’s School of Architecture and Urbanism (FAU). “Every time I go there, I feel very proud of it and of the way it promotes university life,” he said.

The professor also highlights the creation of the university’s Integrated System of Libraries (SIBiUSP), currently the



Academic Information Management Agency (AGUIA), and the development of the University of São Paulo Press (EDUSP), during his tenure. Fava also served as the science and technology secretary of state from 1998 to 1999, and as a special adviser to Governor Mario Covas from 1999 to 2001. “I have never been affiliated with any political party, which allowed me to work on the organizational structure, which is what I really like to do,” he explained.

From 1995 to 2000, Fava was also the vice-president of the International Association of Universities, created under the auspices of UNESCO, during a period in which the university significantly increased its presence on the international stage.

Being part of the history of the University of São Paulo has always brought great pride to the former president: “Three of my uncles had already been linked to the university by the time it was my turn to choose a college. You could say



Arquí basketball team. Bottom row, far left, 1955

that the USP is in my blood,” said Fava, for whom the first remarkable moment of his life was passing the university’s admission exams: “I heard a lot about the university during family gatherings, so it was a special moment when I found out that I had been accepted. I am sure that each student in that position feels the same way.”

Many other remarkable moments soon followed, including being part of the histology department’s teaching staff and the day that he received his doctoral degree. “I think that the most fulfilling thing was the opportunity to make the full university journey from student to president. Dealing with people is highly motivating for me and I succeeded because of that. I am sure that the USP’s most enviable asset is its human capital,” he concluded.

In his message to the future presidents, the professor reaffirms the importance of focusing on people. “Being a president is not a job or something strictly political; it is essential to have knowledge and gather together the university’s interests. Listen to people, especially the ones on the front lines. That is where focus should be given in order to correct structuring and participation problems and that is where things really happen.”

At the age of 82, Fava is the director-general of the Medical School Foundation (Fundação Faculdade de Medicina). Founded 35 years ago, FFM is responsible for the entire management of the SUS [Public Health Services] when carrying out projects in the school’s health care centers. Fava made it his mission to foster public-private partnerships:



In the histology laboratory of the Institute of Biomedical Sciences, 1973



Fernando Henrique Cardoso and Flávio Fava de Moraes, 1994



"There is an internal ideological struggle between accepting private resources or not. Public concern must prevail, but my experience says that the source of income should not necessarily be an issue. For instance, clinical research uses mixed income the most, and we see that the public benefits greatly from it. Balance is necessary to provide a real benefit to patients and the public," explained the professor, who dedicates his spare time to reading: "I prefer books on humanities and social sciences."

Fava and his wife, artist Enice Sala, will soon celebrate their 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Fava is aware that his family was hugely impacted by his academic career, but their support has always been vital to strike a balance and for the chance to achieve his goals. He is the father of Ana Paula,

a psychologist, and Marcelo, a dental surgeon, and has two grandchildren, Giovanna and Enzo.

Included among some of the dozens of awards and titles that Fava has received over the course of his career are the Société Française D'Histochemice award (France, 1974), the Grand Cross of the Order of Prince Henry of the Presidency of the Republic of Portugal (1997), an honorary professorship at Soka University (Japan, 1997), the Grand Cross of the National Order of Scientific Merit of the Brazilian Presidency (1998), membership with the São Paulo Academy of Sciences (2000) and his election to the first chair at the São Paulo Academy of Education (2002).



Jacques Marcovitch, Miguel Reale, Hélió Guerra and Flávio Fava



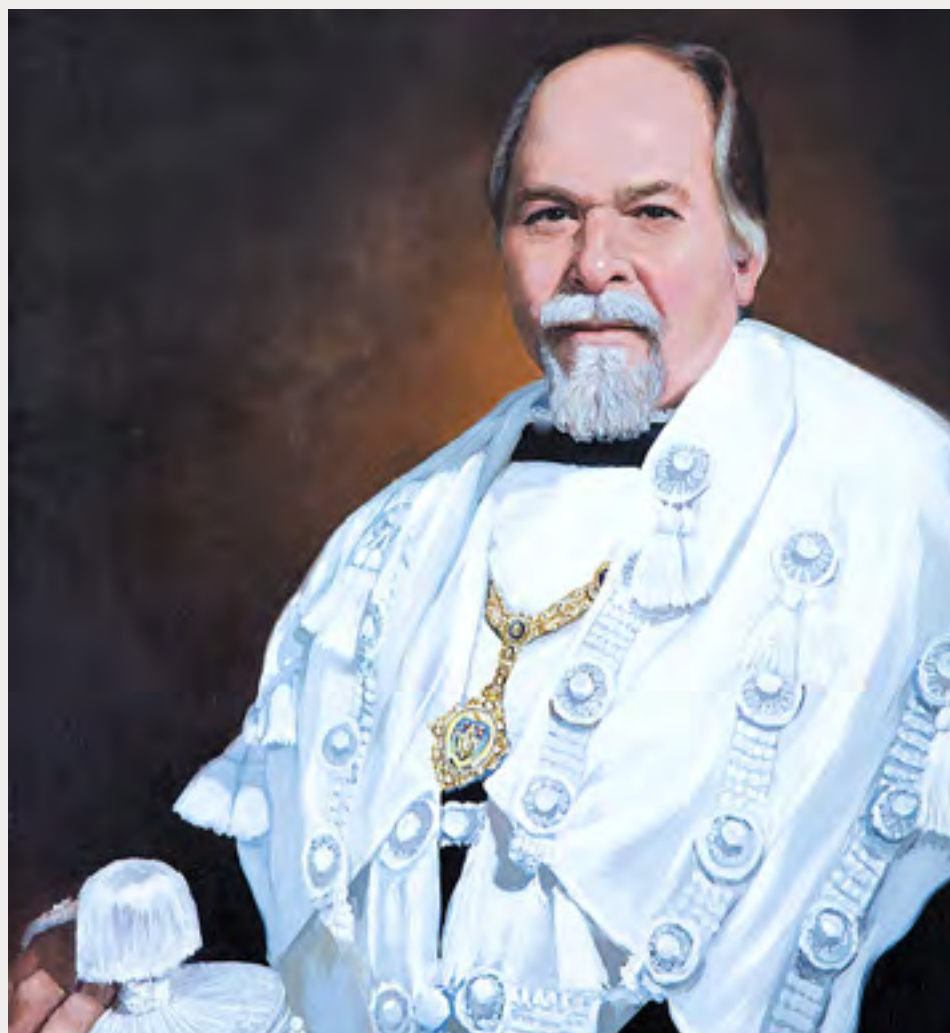
Flávio Fava with his family



The Human Genome  
and Stem Cell  
Research Center

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1997–2001



# Jacques Marcovitch

School of Economics, Business and Accounting

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## **Finances Back in Shape**

The economist and emeritus professor at the School of Economics, Business and Accounting balanced salaries and increased the teaching staff and the number of courses at the university





Born in the city of Alexandria in Egypt on February 12, 1947, Jacques Marcovitch arrived in Brazil through the port of Santos in 1961. At the age of 15, he was forced to leave his homeland and emigrate with his parents who had been forced to leave Egypt for political and religious reasons. "For me, it meant leaving behind everything I had known and face something new. A transition that affirms one's identity forges a sensitivity to other cultures and develops the ability of self-learning," said Marcovitch, who received his doctorate from the School of Economics, Business and Accounting of the University of São Paulo (FEA-USP) in 1973 and became an emeritus professor at the school in 2016. This forced cultural exchange while he was a teenager taught him many lessons which have influenced his career and life in Brazil.

His rich biography, combined with his teaching career, is full of remarkable moments that show how committed the professor was as president and in other roles, taking actions that had a positive impact on those inside and outside of the university. "I identified this disposition when I was still a student. With skilled and dedicated colleagues, we were elected to manage the Academic Center Visconde de Cairu when I was studying at FEA. The responsibility of being the president required leadership and some ability to gather people around a project. Later, when I was still a professor, the advice from colleagues willing to collaborate made me put my name forward for dean of the school. After that, invites from presidents José Goldemberg and Flávio Fava de Moraes led me to directing the Institute of Advanced Studies (IEA) and to the position of provost for culture and extension, respectively," says the professor, showing that the path he had taken to the presidency was not isolated from the rest of his career.

The former president revealed that it was his academic background, and not business connections, that led him to take on roles outside the university, including the presidency of multiple

power and energy companies in the state of São Paulo (CESP, CPFL, Eletropaulo and Comgas) during Governor André Franco Montoro's term (1983-1987), and later the state secretary for economy and planning during Governor Geraldo Alckmin's term (2001-2006). "Later, I became a senior adviser at the World Economic Forum (WEF) which was when I put together the book 'Economic Growth and Income Distribution in Brazil – Priorities for Change,' published by the university press in 2007. The book's content was an agenda for Brazil and the whole subcontinent prepared by entrepreneurs during the WEF on Latin America in São Paulo," he said.

With a master's degree from Owen Graduate School of Management from Vanderbilt University in the USA, Marcovitch authored the trilogy "Pioneiros & Empreendedores – A Saga do Desenvolvimento no Brasil" [Pioneers & Entrepreneurs: The Development Saga in Brazil], was a senior professor at the International Relations Institute (IRI) of the USP, a member of the advisory board of the Guita and José Mindlin Brasileira Library, and a member of the foundation board of the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies (IHEID) in Geneva, Switzerland.

During his tenure at the USP, the president started building a different type of relationship with Instituto de Pagamentos Especiais de São Paulo (IPESP) with a view to renegotiate unsustainable payments for the USP. That enabled the establishment of a financial reserve to cover pensions at the university, which allowed a significant salary adjustment for professors and the technical and administrative staff. "The situation at the USP has migrated from a paralyzing imbalance to a dynamic balance. All court-ordered debt has been paid," explained the professor, who increased the teaching staff from 4,700 to approximately 5,000 during his tenure. Besides that, 614 new positions opened across six new courses: "We have planned and almost implemented another five courses. The learning, research, culture and extension funds remained and the bibliographic records and IT equipment especially



**Adolpho Melfi, Myriam Krasilchik, Flávio Fava de Moraes and Jacques Marcovitch**

were prioritized." Aiming to include the low-income population living adjacent to the campus in the USP's new agenda, Marcovitch designed the Avizinhar Project. According to the professor, the initiative aimed to restore the interaction between the academic and the low-income community by means of an connected set of assistance projects. "Although it was not the USP's role to remedy the multiple causes leading to social exclusion, incidents on campus have demonstrated the need to establish a place for integration with the São Remo community, which lies near the Butantã campus. It was considered one of the most successful projects of my tenure."

Another remarkable feat in his tenure was related to hazing. The often aggressive behavior of veterans towards new students had already gained media exposure. This issue became more serious when the medicine student Edison Tsung-Chi Hsueh was found dead at the Oswaldo Cruz Athletic Association pool in February 1999. "Prohibiting hazing, beyond just convincing and persuasion, became an urgent priority in my office," explained Marcovitch. According to the professor, quick and decisive action was required and he launched a program to replace hazing freshmen

with pro-citizenship activities (Programa de Recepção aos Calouros). "The university council approved the motion submitted by the presidency requesting the hazing ban and the regulation (No. 3154 of April 27, 1999) was signed immediately." However, some hard work was necessary to change a 60-year-old culture in the university for values more coherent with modern society.

Married, father of two, grandfather of four, and still involved in academic life despite having left the presidency twenty years ago, Marcovitch continues to lecture at FEA and IRI, as well as leading projects supported by the São Paulo Research Foundation (FAPESP). "I do research in two fields: one is focused on entrepreneurship and corporate memory, and the second is focused on environmental issues with a focus on the Amazon rainforest," he explained. "In 2018, I started coordinating the Métricas Project, as requested by the Council of Presidents of the Universities of the State of São Paulo (CRUESP)." The initiative aims to assess the performance of the state universities of São Paulo and make comparisons with other international universities."

What spare time he has he invests in three routines to take care of the body and mind: "Reading to reflect, walking to meditate and listening to music to think."

Marcovitch is the author of several books, scientific works and articles published in magazines and newspapers, besides contributing to books written by other authors. Here are some of the several titles and awards he has received: an honorary doctorate from Lyon 2 University, France (1989), the "Hopes for the Future for a Sustainable World" award from the International Academy of Science in Munich, Germany (1996), Officier des Palmes académiques and Officier de l'Ordre National du Mérite, France (1999) and Grand Cross, Order of Rio Branco (2001).





Minister of Science and Technology Ronaldo Mota Sardenberg, University of São Paulo President Jacques Marcovitch and Mayana Zatz at the opening ceremony of “Projeto Genoma,” 2000

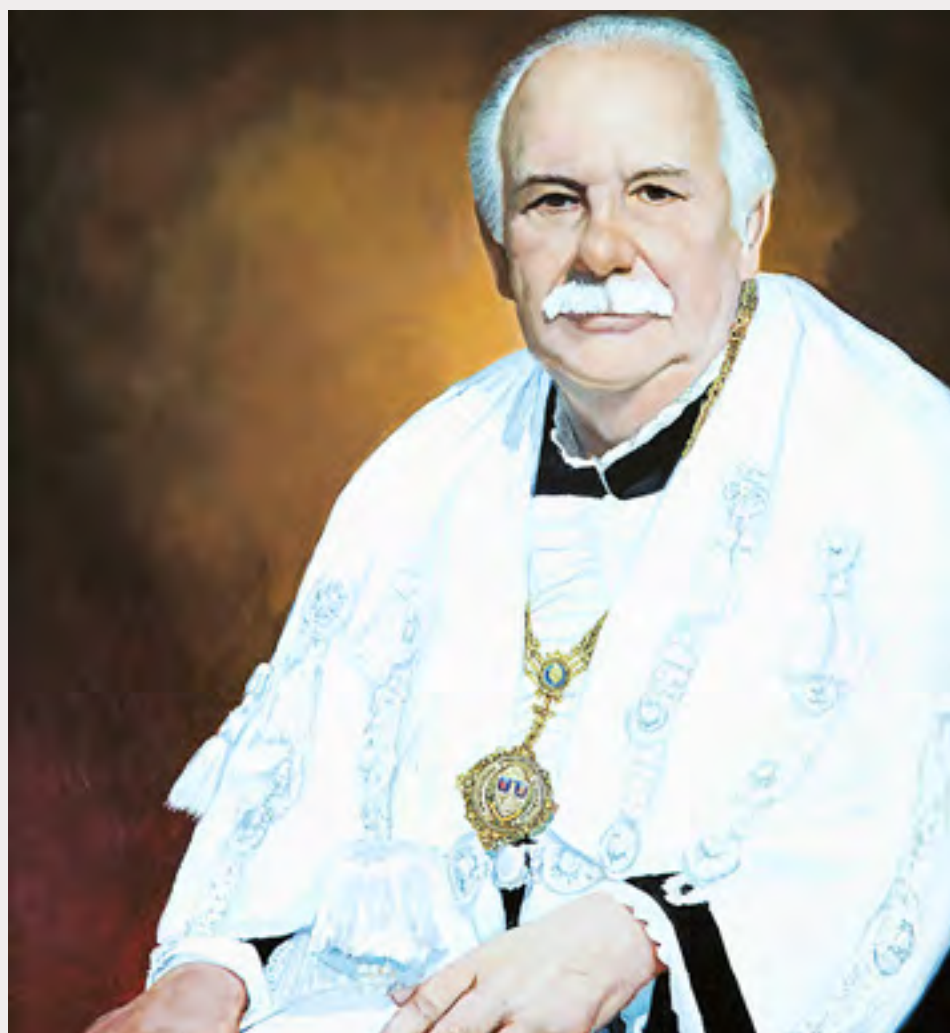




The Escola Politécnica's  
Numerical Test  
Tank facility

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2001–2005



# Adolpho José Melfi

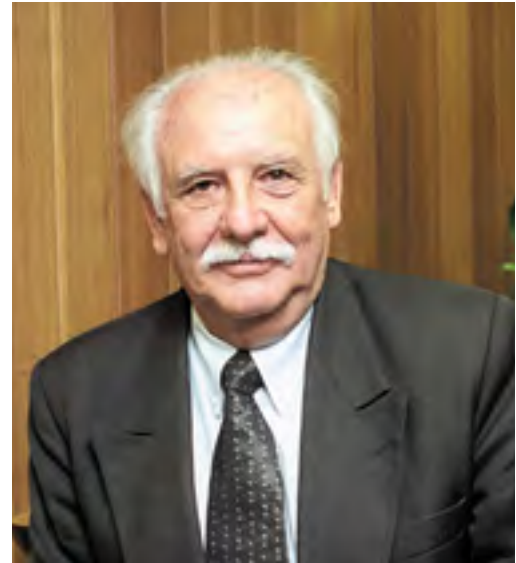
Institute of Geosciences

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## **Expanding the University**

Grow with quality – this was the challenge accepted by Adolpho José Melfi when he became the president of the largest higher education and research center in Brazil, from 2001 to 2005





**A**dolpho José Melfi's relationship with the University of São Paulo (USP) started in 1957 as a student of the newly created geology course. "My vocation was born during high school when, inspired by a geography teacher who spoke a lot about geology and geosystems, I decided to take the entrance test for the mining and metallurgical engineering course at the Escola Politécnica of the University of São Paulo. The professor says that his dream was briefly interrupted after not passing the test. "That is when I heard about the first geology course in Brazil, at the School of Philosophy, Sciences and Letters (FFCL) of the USP. A colleague told me that there would be a new entrance test to fill the remaining vacancies. I was approved, and I feel completely fulfilled with the career I have chosen until now."

Born in the city of São Paulo in March 1937, Melfi is very proud of being part of the first generation to graduate, in 1960, from the country's first geology course and considers himself privileged to be part of the USP's history. In 1967, after receiving his Ph.D., he travelled to France for a research internship at the Centre National de Recherche Agronomique (CNRA). The professor said that he stayed in the country for two years working with George Pèdro, whom he considered the great master of weathering and soil formation studies.

Back in Brazil, he dedicated himself to the "livre docência," a title that denotes the superior quality of a doctorate-level teacher and researcher, at the USP. "I have always liked lecturing on different disciplines in the field of geosciences. Lecturing and research activities have kept me away from management roles, which was reason why I never thought of holding any executive position at the institutions where I have worked or at the USP," he confessed. Nevertheless, he was chosen to be the head of the geophysics department and director at the Institute of Astronomy, Geophysics and Atmospheric Sciences (IAG) and later the provost for post-graduate



Suely Vilela, Paulo Andrade Lotufo (superintendent of the University of São Paulo hospital), Adolpho José Melfi and Giovanni Cerri (dean of the USP Medical School)

education (1993-1998), vice-president (1998-2001) and president. "I never stopped lecturing for undergraduate and post-graduate students at the Luiz de Queiroz College of Agriculture (ESALQ) and developing orientation activities for the students or coordinating research during my tenure."

During the four years that he held the most important position at the university, Melfi's priority was expanding the number of vacancies and its physical space. "Our goal was to have 10 thousand vacancies for the entrance tests as opposed to the existing 6,900. With the opening of the eastern campus (2005), the São Carlos II campus (2005) and the creation of new vacancies at the Ribeirão Preto campus, we reached 9,950 vacancies by the end of my tenure."

He stated that building the eastern campus was the biggest challenge and main achievement of his term. "Besides the creation of the space itself, we had to deal with the implementation of a single teaching and research unit, aiming to achieve several goals simultaneously such as expanding the number of vacancies in a public university, serving low-income communities and bringing social, economic and cultural development to the disadvantaged areas of our society." The new unit introduced ten new courses

at the School of Arts, Sciences and Humanities (EACH), in addition to implementing basic problem solving methods specific to disciplines being taught on the eastern campus. "The USP's interaction with society had started before the opening of the eastern campus by means of the creation of the NASCE [Center for Social, Cultural and Educational Support]. The results achieved immediately confirmed the accuracy of the decision and the adopted model."

Despite being retired, Melfi still has strong bonds with the university as a senior professor at the Institute of Energy and Environment (IEE) and lectures for post-graduate environmental science students and ESALQ undergraduates. "Except the three years working as researcher at the IAC (Agronomic Institute of Campinas), my entire professional career developed at the USP. I took compulsory retirement in 2007 at the age of 70, but I continue to be a part of the USP." He revealed that he considers the interaction with different generations very fulfilling, and the exchange between scientific minds essential. "We are concluding the implementation of the surface geochemistry laboratories at the IEE, which will inspire students from several areas of knowledge to conduct their post-graduate research in soil geochemistry and environmental studies," he stated. The



professor says that he is coordinating a large project at the São Paulo Research Foundation (FAPESP) on the impact of climate changes in the wetlands of the Pantanal region.

Besides three books and several chapters written for collective works, Melfi has published approximately 170 published articles in national and international magazines. Most of these articles are concentrated on three distinct geographical areas including 45 publications on the Amazon, 25 publications and 1 book on the Paraná basin and 33 articles and 1 book on the countryside of São Paulo. According to the professor, each of the works has contributed to establishing, step by step, a solid scientific foundation for these three areas. "I could not forget to emphasize something very relevant that has helped and still helps my scientific activities: multidisciplinary. The results would almost certainly be more limited if expertise were not shared."

During his 50 years at the USP, from enrollment in 1957 to retirement in 2007, Melfi has been a student, a professor, department head, director, provost, vice-president and president. During his journey, he received countless titles, scientific distinctions and medals in Brazil and abroad. He is a full member of the São Paulo Academy of Sciences, the Brazilian Academy of Sciences and a foreign member of the Académie d'Agriculture de France. Melfi was also awarded an honorary doctorate by the Université d'Aix-Marseille III (France) in 1997. In 2005, he was given the same distinction by the Université Pierre et Marie Curie and the Université Nice Sophia Antipolis, both in France. Also in 2005, he was given the 2004 World Academy of Sciences award for earth sciences for the advancement of science in developing countries, in Alexandria, Egypt.

His family life has been significantly impacted by his intense schedule. For this reason, whenever possible, Melfi enjoys staying with his wife Constantina Carmem Marotta, with who he married in 1961 and who has always supported his professional endeavors. They have two children and five grandchildren.

A fan of sports, the professor used to play soccer and basketball in his youth. Nowadays, he is interested in watching different types of sports and championships on the television, especially the Union of European Football Associations.



Adolpho Melfi, Flávio Fava, Gomes and Guerra Vieira, 2006



Ex-vice presidents Suely Vilela, Adolpho José Melfi, Waldyr Muniz Oliva and Flávio Fava de Moraes at President Vahan Agopyan's inauguration on January 29th, 2018



The university's eastern campus – School of Arts, Sciences and Humanities (EACH)





The university's eastern campus – School of Arts, Sciences and Humanities (EACH)





The university's eastern campus – School of Arts, Sciences and Humanities (EACH)





The university's eastern campus – School of Arts, Sciences and Humanities (EACH)

Suely Vilela visits the  
construction site of  
the Ribeirão Preto  
Law School, 2008

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2005–2009





# Suely Vilela

Ribeirão Preto School of Pharmaceutical Sciences

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## **Collective Work for Great Change**

Inclusion and innovation marked the tenure of the first, and so far only, female president





**A** titular professor at the Department of Clinical, Toxicological, and Bromatological Analysis of the School of Pharmaceutical Sciences of Ribeirão Preto of the University of São Paulo (USP), Suely Vilela was the first, and thus far only, woman to become a president of the University of São Paulo since it was founded in 1934. Throughout her career, she has ventured into territories that were traditionally dominated by men. At the time of her appointment, there were almost five thousand lecturers at the USP with only one woman for every two men. “The choice represents an important space for the woman in modern society,” said the governor of São Paulo, Geraldo Alckmin, when he appointed her on November 23, 2005, after receiving the three-name list from the university council which featured Vilela in first place.

Born in Illicínea, Minas Gerais, on February 22, 1954, she graduated from the pharmacy and biochemistry course at the USP’s Ribeirão Preto campus in 1974, followed by a remarkable career that led to being elected president of Brazil’s largest university. Her choice to study pharmacy and biochemistry was inspired by a family friend who owned a clinical analysis laboratory. “I was delighted with the infrastructure and operations being developed there,” revealed the professor. However, despite her great interest in the area, reality turned out to be considerably different from her expectations: “I started becoming restless after two months working at a private microbiology laboratory. It was a repetitive activity and that discouraged me. So, I became certain that I had been born to create, face challenges and innovate. That is how I decided to leave the old clinical analysis laboratory dream behind to attend the postgraduate program at the Ribeirão Preto Medical School.” Redirecting her career proved to be the right decision: “Being at the research laboratory with my students, developing challenging projects, exchanging ideas, and discussing results is what makes me happy. It fulfills me,” said the professor.



Oliver Smithies, winner of 2007 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine, and President Suely Vilela. Back row, left-to-right: Marcos Boulos, Selma Garrido, Ruy Alberto Altafim, Maria Fidela de Lima Navarro, Armando Corbani and Mayana Zatz

Her passion for knowledge and a hint of restlessness have always made her look for new ways to contribute to the USP. Vilela's accomplishments have been essential in and out the USP, but the professor believes that there still is some resistance to the presence of women in the academic world, even though she left the presidency more than a decade ago. "Other qualified women ran for the presidency before and after me, but failed. Partly for not having the political strength and favorable circumstances that I had, but also because of a lack of opportunities. A lot of engagement with all teaching and research units of the university is required going forward," she declared, considering herself a great motivator for women to occupy leadership positions. "I truly believe in female potential. It should be invested in leadership positions instead of

being wasted. Unfortunately, female competence is often questioned, even by other women." Like all past and present presidents, Vilela has had a strong track record and involvement with the institution since graduating: "There were many remarkable moments, each in their own time. Passing the entrance exam at the USP was the first. My graduation, starting the postgraduate program, becoming a lecturer at the School of Pharmacy and Dentistry, receiving my masters and then the doctorate, becoming a *livre-docente*<sup>1</sup> and from then an associate professor and ultimately a titular professor have all been unique moments. Being the director and provost of postgraduate education were equally unforgettable. But being the first and only woman to occupy the presidency of the 87-year-old USP was undoubtedly the most remarkable one. Being

<sup>1</sup> A title that denotes the superior quality of a doctorate-level teacher and researcher

the president was the crowning achievement of my career, but it only happened because of other previous significant and remarkable steps forward.”

Her vast experience and talent to deal with people have been decisive factors in her career, but the professor believes that she stood out for her ability to work collectively. “Nobody does anything alone; everything that I achieved during my term was the product of cooperation. Keeping the collective in mind is my working style. This ability to gather people together has always been my distinguishing feature. The USP is the best university in Latin America and one of the best universities in the world, but the institution must contribute even more for the country. The competence of its infrastructure, equipment and human resources can provide society with even more knowledge. There is always space for improvements and the mission of the president is to recognize the best of it and carry on the good work instead of reinventing the wheel.” It was her desire to positively impact the spaces where she operated which led her to a political career. “Part of our mission at the university consists of transferring knowledge for the benefit of society and that is my commitment. Whenever possible, I offer myself to help out in administrative roles using the experience I have acquired.” A considerable education in dealing with diversity in all senses – issues, areas of knowledge and people – defines the professor’s experience as president. Vilela highlights the debureaucratization and decentralization of the university’s systems which allowed transferring more freedom and responsibility to the deans of each department as one of the key points of her tenure. The growth of knowledge and research are the primary goals of her mandate, but the Social Inclusion Program (INCLUSP) of 2006 represents one of her most significant initiatives: “The program has been in operation ever since and improved by the presidents who followed me.” Vilela revealed that the creation of the program was essential to open a door to inclusion at the USP at that time. “Society was asking for it, but we were looking for a model that could answer to both the



Suely Vilela and Shozo Motoyama at the launch of the USP’s 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary book



Suely Vilela and Antonio Roque Duchen, dean of the Luiz de Queiroz College of Agriculture, during Luiz de Queiroz Week, 2008.





**Launch of the public management specialization course, the School of Arts, Sciences and Humanities (EACH), 2008**

university council and the community. We collectively created a program with socioeconomic considerations, from increasing the number of public school students at the university to ethnic diversity based on proof of their competence.” Between 2008 and 2009, more than one thousand new USP students coming from public schools went back to their schools as USP ambassadors. For the program created in 2007, these students are invited to talk about their admission to the university, give information about the public and unpaid nature of the USP, the possibility of being exempt from paying the registration fee and the existence of the student permanence support program “Comissão de Gestão da Política de Apoio à Permanência e Formação Estudantil,” which was also created in 2007. A major investment was made to build a new infrastructure for the Oceanographic Institute’s research bases in Guarujá, in the Santos region, to support its operations and increase social inclusion at the university, in addition

to a large investment made to renovate the Professor W. Besnard ship. In order to secure the financial resources needed to implement new projects and ensure the continuity of existing ones, additional sources of funding were secured, for example, with Petrobras and Companhia Vale. Preparatory science programs connected with the office of the provost for research and the “Eu na USP Jr.” program for elementary school students, developed by the provost of culture and extension, were also created during her tenure. Aiming to tighten the relationship between the university and São Paulo public schools, three programs were created: A USP vai à sua Escola [The USP at Your School], Laboratórios Móveis [Mobile Laboratories] and Projeto Celular, which involves walking through a giant cell. These programs have been taken to several schools and involved more than 10,000 students. The teachers’ training program existing since the USP’s creation in 1934 underwent changes in 2004 to meet the requirements of





**Suely Vilela, José Mindlin and the Minister of Culture Gilberto Gil at the groundbreaking ceremony of the Brasiliana Guita e José Mindlin Library, 2006**

the new national educational landscape and the university's activities gained strength with the implementation of programs focused on undergraduate students, such as Ensinar com Pesquisa, Aprender com Cultura e Extensão e Circuito Esportivo [Teaching with Research, Learning with Culture and Extension and Sports]. Funded by the USP, the Institutional Program for Scientific Initiation Scholarships was created to reinforce projects such as the university's scientific initiation programs. For this, students present their work at the International Symposium of Undergraduate Research (SIICUSP), which counts on the participation of foreign institutions, while the pedagogy course implemented in 2007 and the Portal Siga [Integrated Academic Management System], have promoted teaching activities. Key among the infrastructure investments are Pró-Lab, the educational laboratory maintenance and reequipment program, and Pró-Salas, for classroom renovation.

Seven new undergraduate courses were created: biosystems engineering – the first in Latin America; veterinary medicine at the Pirassununga campus; astronomy at the

the Institute of Astronomy, Geophysics, and Atmospheric Sciences in São Paulo; a course in statistics and another in materials and manufacturing engineering in São Carlos; two new educational and research units built for the Ribeirão Preto Law School and Ribeirão Preto School of Physical Education and Sports. More places were offered on existing courses in Piracicaba and São Carlos, where the Architecture and Urbanism Institute (IAU) were also established. In 2006, the USP incorporated the Faculty of Chemical Engineering of Lorena (FAENQUIL). The new educational and research unit called the Engineering School of Lorena (EEL), in the Paraíba Valley region, offers material engineering, biochemical engineering and chemical engineering courses and expanded the number of places to 240. The USP offered its first distance learning course for science in 2009 to meet the needs of teachers preparing science classes for the elementary schools at the São Paulo, Ribeirão Preto, São Carlos and Piracicaba campuses. Concerned with environmental issues and respecting interdependence with society and economy, and certain that the USP had the same concerns, Vilela created a sustainability commission using the Electronic Computing Center (CCE). For this, the Selo Verde [Green Seal] was created to certify the increased sustainability of new electronic devices, and the Centre for Waste Disposal and Reuse of Informatics (CEDIR) was opened. To strengthen international relations to allow mobility for students and professors, inter-university agreements and the creation of joint postgraduate programs were signed by the university on May 15, 2008, in cooperation with the Santander Group to increase scholarship offers at universities in Latin America, Portugal and Spain and an agreement between Santander and the Network for Public Macrouniversities of Latin America and the Caribbean to provide international mobility grants for university professors. On the occasion, the president declared that “the agreement between the Santander Universities program and the Network for Public Macrouniversities of Latin America and the Caribbean will enable professors to expand the exchange between the 32 institutions belonging to the network.”

Vilela produced valuable scientific work in two different areas with papers on the *Tityus serrulatus* scorpion's venom and the other involving studies on the venom of *Bothrops* and *Crotalus* snakes.

A collaborative professor at the São Paulo State University (UNESP), Vilela also worked as visiting lecturer at the Université Nice Sophia Antipolis (France) in 1993, the University of Chile (1996), the University of Costa Rica (1997), the University of London (England) in 1999, the University of Parma (Italy), the University of Havana (Cuba), Rutgers University (New Jersey, USA), the University of Barcelona (Spain) and Ohio University (Athens, USA) in 2004.

Some of the awards and titles she has earned throughout her career are: honorary citizenships of the cities of Ribeirão Preto (2006), São Carlos (2007), Pirassununga (2008) and Bauru (2009); "Comenda de Mérito Farmacêutico" for her services to the pharmaceutical profession and Brazilian pharmacy, awarded by the Brazilian Federal Council of Pharmacy (2006); the Medal of Honor from the Conference of Spanish University Rectors (Madrid, 2009); the Armando de Salles Oliveira Medal (2010); Lifetime Membership of the Brazilian Academy of Sciences, Arts, History and Literature (2014); the Imperatriz Leopoldina Medal from the Historical and Geographic Institute of São Paulo (2015); and "250 Mulheres Protagonistas na Ciência Brasileira" [the 250 Leading Women of Brazilian Science] from online platform Open Box da Ciência (2020).

When the professor earned the Armando de Salles Oliveira Medal in 2010, she felt "distinguished for being part of a list of privileged people," in reference to the ex-presidents who had already earned the award: Waldyr Muniz Oliva, Antônio Hélio Guerra Vieira, José Goldemberg, Roberto Leal Lobo e Silva Filho, Ruy Laurenti, Flávio Fava de Moraes, Jacques Marcovitch and Adolpho José Melfi.

"I accepted the challenge of being the first female president of the USP and was fully dedicated to making the university a leader in academia," she declared. "I had the privilege of managing the best university in Latin America, which was a unique experience for me. I did as much as I could to achieve the targets set." To finish, she quoted Guimarães Rosa: "O correr da vida embrulha tudo. A vida é assim: esquenta e esfria, aperta e daí afrouxa, sossega e depois desinquieta. O que ela quer da gente é coragem<sup>22</sup>." At the ceremony, the director of the Institute of Geosciences (IGC), Colombo Celso Gaeta Tassinari, highlighted the main achievements during Professor Suely Vilela's tenure such as fostering the university's internationalization, the implementation of the Social Inclusion Program, the creation of the preparatory science and "Eu na USP Jr." programs and the incentives for new models for cutting-edge research, among others. "This makes awarding the medal more than fair," he concluded. The Armando de Salles Oliveira medal was created by Resolution No. 5477 of October 2, 2008, and is named after the São Paulo governor who signed the decree creating the USP in 1934, aiming to pay homage to national and international people, entities and organizations that have contributed in an outstanding and decisive way to the institutional, cultural, social and academic progress of the USP.

On January 1, 2017, Suely Vilela became the secretary of education of Ribeirão Preto. In 2020, she ran for mayor in the same city. Willing to collaborate and use her experience whenever she has the opportunity is why she "decided to run in the mayor elections in Ribeirão Preto in 2020," and explained that, despite not winning, she considered it a positive experience and will consider new leadership positions: "It has been a great learning experience. There were 63 very intense campaign days. I had the opportunity to meet wonderful people and families who are true

<sup>22</sup> The rush of life is a mix of everything. That is life: it heats and cools, tightens and then loosens up, relaxes and then gets agitated. What life wants from us is courage (free translation)

examples of life, who have encouraged me to continue looking for challenges and try to help people who need it the most.”

Besides her professional success, Vilela considers her family as another source of great satisfaction: “I could always count on the unconditional support of my parents, especially my mother, in all of my decisions,” and continued, “my personal accomplishments are being a mother and having a close family who unconditionally supports me and is always concerned for my

happiness.” Mother of Carlos Alberto who earned a Ph.D. in international law from the USP, the professor concluded that “I could always count on the indispensable support of my husband and two sisters throughout my career.” The phrase “a healthy mind in a healthy body” has always guided her and is the reason why she makes exercise a central pillar of her routine. “Besides interacting with my family and friends, working out is what I mostly like to do in my spare time. I have been quite dedicated to it; it makes me feel physically and mentally better.”



President João Grandino Rodas at the Armando de Salles Oliveira Medal presentation ceremony. Previous USP honorees include: Hélio Guerra Vieira, Celso Lafer, Suely Vilela, Flávio Fava de Moras, José Goldemberg, Waldyr Muniz Oliva and Adolpho José Melphi.



Suely and her sister



Suely and her mother, Ana Vilela Mendes, at her son's graduation



Suely, her sisters and her mother



The Guita and José Mindlin  
Brasília Library

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2010–2014



# João Grandino Rodas\*

Law School of the Largo de São Francisco

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## **Infrastructural Renovations**

Building concluded on the Convention Center, the International Diffusion Center and the Guita and José Mindlin Brasileira Library, and an agreement was signed with the military police to improve security at the Butantã campus

\*Text written by the professor himself



Born on September 1, 1945, in the city of São Paulo, João Grandino Rodas has accumulated a number of remarkable experiences and achievements throughout his life. By the age of 24, he already held four undergraduate degrees in law, education, literature and music, the first two of which were obtained at the University of São Paulo (USP). He followed this with a master's degree, Ph.D. and a "livre-docência," a title that denotes the superior quality of a doctorate-level teacher and researcher. In 1993, he became a titular professor in the Department of International Law of the University of São Paulo, where he has lectured since 1971.

Alongside his academic career, he worked as a lawyer for Ford Brasil and after that, as a labor magistrate in 1980 and the federal justice courts in 1982 before being promoted to federal judge of the Federal Regional Court of the Third Region in 1989. Since 2004, the professor has coordinated the legal team of the law firm Grandino Rodas which was founded by his father, the lawyer José de Almeida Rodas, in the early 1970s.

His work abroad includes participation in the Hague Centre for Studies and Research in International Law in 1970, as a visiting professor at Columbia University Law School in the USA in 1985, a judge of the Permanent Review Tribunal for Mercosur since 2006, and his place on the Fulbright Commission's board of directors for Brazil and USA exchanges since 2000.

Rodas managed CONJUR, the consulting agency of the Ministry of Foreign Relations from 1993 to 1998 and led several Brazilian delegations in international diplomatic conferences.

One of the most notable episodes of his career was when he was a member of the Special Commission on Political Deaths and Disappearances of the Ministry of Justice, which investigated



thousands of deaths and disappearances linked to political motives, the majority of which had occurred during the dictatorship. From 2000 to 2004, he was the president of the Administrative Council for Economic Defense (CADE), the nation's competition regulator.

This all happened before he became president of the USP. Representing law scholars for the first time in 40 years since Miguel Reale's term from 1969 to 1973, Rodas assumed the position in January 2010, resuming his academic career which had been interrupted in the 1990s when he had worked as a professor for undergraduate and postgraduate studies, head of the Department of International Law and dean of the law school.

Work began even before he officially took office. The dean of the Law School of the Largo de São Francisco had been named president of the USP by the state governor of São Paulo, José Serra (2007-2011), despite coming in second place in the internal election – something that had not taken place since 1981. He established a transitional committee composed of six professors to work until the beginning of his tenure with the temporary president, Franco Maria Lajolo, who had formerly been vice-president to Suely Vilela, who left the presidency in November 2009.

Rodas started his tenure with an optimistic view of the future, an extensive list of duties and the challenge to generate positive debates within different groups at the university. "We started announcing and implementing 'the era of debate' and established, among other things, direct channels for contact and administrative transparency, especially concerning the implementation of the budget," declared the professor during an interview with Espaço Aberto magazine (Dec. 2013/Jan. 2014 edition).

Among his achievements during his term, the ex-president highlights improvement to infrastructure, new research and international exchange programs, improvements in human resources and the increase of security on campus. "The



Opening ceremony of the petroleum engineering courses at the Escola Politécnica, 2012



Launch event for the Technological Park Santos, 2010



Inauguration of the teaching laboratory at the Faculty of Philosophy, Sciences and Letters at Ribeirão Preto, 2010



constructions and renovations of buildings, physical and digital libraries, research and education laboratories have been essential for the university, as well as other works, to renovate and expand its infrastructure, such as the International Diffusion Center, the expansion of the Camargo Guarnieri Amphitheater, which has become the home of the symphonic orchestra, the choir and the Paulo Emilio movie theater (CINUSP), the Praça dos Museus [Museums Square], with the construction of new buildings for the Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology (MAE) and the Zoology Museum; the construction of the Convention Center; the recovery of the old presidency building and the conclusion of the Guita and José Mindlin Brasileira Library building,” he continued during the interview. “To meet the preventive and protective needs of the university, the introduction of a modern lighting system on all campuses became a reality,” Rodas added.

In a both welcomed and criticized decision, the then president signed an agreement with the military police of São Paulo in September 2011 to enhance security on the university campus. With a 5-year initial term, the measure allowed the police to support university guard patrols. The agreement itself was announced almost four months after the murder of a student during a robbery that occurred in the School of Economics, Business and Accounting (FEA) parking lot.

The professor never concealed that he was in favor of more effective policing on the campus and the managing council supported the formalization of the agreement. However, the reported excessive uses of force and misuses of power gave rise to an growing movement against the police, which led to students breaking into the presidency building and the subsequent intervention of the military police to remove them. The incident was covered by mainstream newspapers and television broadcasts in the country and was the most commented-on episode of his presidency.

With resources from the USP and the São Paulo Research Foundation, the oceanographic research vessel Alpha Crucis

was bought in 2010 to replace the older Wladimir Besnard vessel used in Brazilian research projects related to global climate change and biodiversity. It is named after the Alpha Crucis star system, which represents the state of São Paulo in the Brazilian flag. Managed by the University of São Paulo, it was inaugurated by Grandino Rodas on May 30, 2012, at a ceremony that involved several authority figures including the then governor of the state of São Paulo, Geraldo Alckmin (2011-2018).

Throughout his career, Rodas has published countless works and earned titles and awards, such as the Commander of the Order of Merit of Brasília (2002); the Grand Cross of the José Cecílio Del Valle Civil Order (2003); the Marechal Castello Branco Medal of Merit from the Army Reserve Officers Association of Campinas (2007); Grand Officer of the Order of Judiciary Merit of the Regional Labor Tribunal of the 2nd Region (2009); a full member diploma from the Academy of Legal Letters of São Paulo (2010) and the Civil Defense Medal by the São Paulo State Coordination Office for Civil Defense (2013).

Apart from his professional life, the professor has always nurtured a great passion for music. At the age of four, he was enrolled in the Sagrado Coração de Jesus Conservatory and learned to read sheet music before the alphabet. Despite his classical piano training and degree in music, he never turned it into a career but continued nourishing his passion for the instrument. Whenever possible, the professor plays his grand piano. In his spare time, he also takes care of the garden where he grows flowers, fruit trees and a small Japanese garden. He shares his house with his mother Josephina, who has been by his side during the toughest moments of his life.

Rodas was married to Danuza Fontana with whom he had a son – Omar. When they decided to separate, the professor won full custody of the son and raised him with Josephina’s support. Tragedy hit the family when Omar died after being shot by a rifle during an incident involving



Signing of the contract  
for the Guita and José  
Mindlin Brasileira  
Library, 2013



João Grandino Rodas at  
the launch of the Alpha  
Crucis research vessel,  
2021. Also in attendance:  
Governor Geraldo  
Alckmin, Bruno Covas,  
Celso Lafer (presidente  
of the São Paulo  
Research Foundation)  
and other officials.

other students at the McCallie School in Tennessee, USA, where he was a student. During an interview with *Piauí* magazine in August 2012, Rodas revealed that Omar's dream was to study abroad. Danuza died six years after their son's death. At the entrance of the house where the professor currently lives with his mother, a plaque inscribed with "Villa Josephina" is displayed in tribute.




Adnei Melges de Andrade, Fernando Henrique Cardoso, Celso Lafer and João Grandino Rodas



The Guita and José Mindlin Brasileira Library





Construction of the International  
Diffusion Center, 2015

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2014–2018



# Marco Antonio Zago

Ribeirão Preto Medical School

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## **Social Vision and Pragmatism for the University**

President from 2014 to 2018, Marco Antonio Zago was challenged with organizing the finances of the country's largest university and promoting social and racial inclusion

Born in 1946 in the São Paulo countryside, Marco Antonio Zago initially became interested in medicine due to his appreciation of the physicians in his hometown. Birigui, located around 500 km from the state capital, had a small number of healthcare experts, who were highly appreciated by the local population. "Home medical care was considerably common at that time and the way the physicians touched people lives, either healing or comforting families, inspired me," he said. Added to this, his keen interest in biology and historic findings in the area, such as the structure and function of DNA, could not have led him to any other university course. "However, I really fell in love with medicine and knew that I had made the right choice when I started at the university."

His relationship with the University of São Paulo (USP) began as soon as he enrolled in Ribeirão Preto Medical School in 1965. Later, he specialized in hematology with a master and doctorate degree, before leaving the country in 1976 for a year and a half for postdoctoral training at Oxford University, England. Back in Brazil, he resumed his career at the USP and became a titular professor in 1990. He dedicated himself deeply to studying patients with hereditary hematologic diseases such as thalassemia, sickle cell anemia and hemophilia. With a pragmatic and passionate vision, he organized medical assistance centers for these patients and participated in national movements to establish specialized medical treatment for these diseases, such as the Ministry of Health's sickle cell disease program.

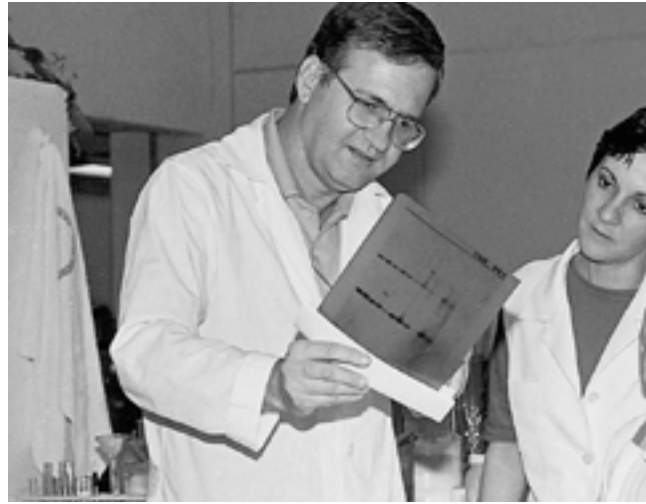
Long before assuming the presidency, he was responsible for significant improvements as director of the Hospital das Clínicas of Ribeirão Preto and head of the Department of Internal Medicine. In 1980, he started a movement to create the Hemocentro in Ribeirão Preto, where he later became its director of science and president. "No one can simply decide to become a



**Receiving his doctorate in medicine from the dean of the Ribeirão Preto Medical School, 1970**

president, commitment is not enough. It depends on the political moment and the support of the academic community and the community outside of the university as well,” said Zago, who believed that involvement in academic life and investment in a scientific career were also essential to reach the position: “I have always believed that only people who have succeeded in scientific careers are qualified for this role. For this reason, I dedicated myself to scientific and educational management and policy only after having established a strong research group and participated in internationally distinguished scientific projects.”

Zago highlights his main achievements during his presidency as the implementation of social and racial quotas at the USP, strengthening the self-governance and internal democracy of its numerous teaching units, the establishment of gender equality and prevention of violence policies and the defense of the university’s autonomy which restored financial stability by creating the university’s Controller General Office. Furthermore, his tenure was marked by the creation of the university’s third medicine course at the Bauru campus, and the Scientific Platform Pasteur — a research center connected to Institut Pasteur in Paris with the purpose of promoting permanent cooperation among



**Zago working in the molecular biology laboratory, 2002**

researchers of both institutions, as well as reopening the eastern USP campus.

Budget has always been an issue for the USP’s presidents, and it was particularly difficult during Zago’s tenure: “A major financial crisis hit the university because of the national situation, with a significant drop in revenue. Consequently, the autonomy ensured to the public universities of São Paulo by a decree signed in 1989 was threatened.”

The president adopted three key measures to face the situation: expenditure restraint, the creation of the Controller General Office and the approval of financial sustainability parameters, a set of rules to control and restrict finances. The professor considered it a historical milestone: “We were able to overcome the crisis without affecting the quality of the institution and, in the end, the university was reinvigorated. As a result, the USP recovered its financial balance with no external intervention and guaranteed its autonomy.”

Apart from financial issues, Zago also increased the autonomy of managers of the university’s different teaching units and abolished the three-name lists and delegate votes to





President Marco Antonio Zago at the academic year opening ceremony of the University of Coimbra, with President João Gabriel M. de Carvalho e Silva, 2016

improve transparency and the participation of students, professors and staff, who started choosing their own representatives including the university council via direct and electronic elections.

Another important battle that Zago faced during his tenure involved racial and gender equality issues. “The creation of inclusive quotas has always been controversial at the USP, and the percentage of students admitted here from public schools and ethnic minorities confirmed that,” he said. “It was a radical change that has definitely transformed the USP, which was achieved due to a series of measures, all of them proposed and approved by the university council during my time as president.” At the start of his term in 2014, 32% of the students coming to the university came from public schools and 17% were from black, mixed-race or indigenous backgrounds. The percentage of students who passed the 2020 entrance exam coming from public schools and ethnic minority groups was 48% and 26%, respectively.



As president of CNPq with Minister of Science and Technology Sérgio Resende at the 58<sup>th</sup> anniversary of CNPq, 2009

The team established three steps to promote this regime. Firstly, the number of places on undergraduate courses was increased following completion of the Exame Nacional do Ensino Médio [National High School Exam], which is organized by the federal government. The second step involved increasing the number of vacancies in the SISU [Unified Selection System of the Ministry of Education], which allowed USP's various units to reserve part of their ENEM vacancies for social and ethnic quotas. And, finally, in 2017, the quotas for students coming from public schools and ethnic minorities were approved. “Most important is that these vacancies are guaranteed in all courses, history, law or medicine,” he concluded.

According to the professor, establishing gender equality, women's rights and violence prevention policies were essential to changing the culture of abuse against women, respect for gender identity, homophobic attacks, hazing and other human rights transgressions at the university. A committee was created to investigate allegations, and

action was taken to promote long-term cultural and behavioral change: "As a result, the USP became a more pacified and inclusive university. We promoted integration-focused welcome events to the freshmen but prohibited parties involving alcohol and drugs. In the process, we suppressed crime and disrespectful practices against human rights and women at the university."

A head of the São Paulo Research Foundation (FAPESP) since 2018, Zago revealed that his interest in politics in the field of science started when he was a student at the university: "I was at the medical school during the beginning of the military regime. As a member of the board of the Rocha Lima Academic Center, I actively participated in the fight for democracy and in confrontations resulting from the repression of student protests." His dedication to the school was shared with his involvement at the hematology research laboratory: "Since the fourth year of medical school, I regularly visited the laboratory managed by Professor Cássio Bottura for training in hematology laboratory techniques and participated in ongoing investigations."

Zago stated that all the positions he occupied – president of the National Council for Scientific and Technological Development from 2007 to 2010, president and provost of the USP from 2010 to 2013, secretary of health for the State of São Paulo in 2018 and president of the FAPESP – had a political component: "Not in the party political sense, that has never interested me, but with activities that require intense human relationships, interaction with political and ideological groups, negotiations, evaluation, planning and, mostly, convincing the majority to provide the support to carry out a project."

In almost 50 years of scientific work, Zago has contributed to the expansion and consolidation of the concept that disease manifestations and variability can be understood and eventually manipulated for the patient's benefit, if the cellular and molecular bases are known. He has also contributed to understandings of the origins of the indigenous

and Afro-descendant populations in Brazil. The professor has published over 300 scientific articles listed on Web of Science, with 7,371 citations in the database so far. Besides his scientific work published in magazines and book chapters, Zago also edited two of Brazil's best-selling books: "Células-Tronco: a Nova Fronteira da Medicina" (2006) [Stem Cells: the New Frontier of Medicine], for which he earned the Jabuti award in 2007 and "Hematologia: Fundamentos e Prática" (2001) [Hematology: Principles and Practice].

He has been married since 1976 to Márcia Maria Fontão Zago, with whom he has a son and a daughter, Marcelo and Marina, as well as four grandchildren. "We met during the hematology classes that I occasionally gave at the School of Nursing of the University of São Paulo in Ribeirão Preto, where she studied. It has been 45 years since then and we stayed together."

The professor revealed that he has huge interest in reading, despite not having much spare time to dedicate to activities outside of professional and family life: "I am a voracious reader of very different kinds of writing. From novels to criticism, including scientific essays and publications, I am always reading something."

Here are some of the awards and titles earned throughout his career: member of the Brazilian Academy of Sciences (1991); Commendation and Grand Cross Medal of National Scientific Merit, Presidency of the Republic of Brazil (2006); member of the Academy of Science for the Developing World (TWAS, 2007); honorary member of the Brazilian Academy of Military Medicine (2016) and Officer of the National Order of Military Merit, Ministry of Defense of Brazil (2017).

Zago with Antonio C. Hernandez and Carlos G. Carlotti during the Med Run, a race through the streets of the USP's Ribeirão Preto campus



President Marco Antonio Zago and Vice President Vahan Agopyan on inauguration day (January 1, 2014) with Governor of the State Geraldo Alckmin





Marco Antonio Zago and Márcia Maria F. Zago



With his wife, Marcia Maria F. Zago, and their children, Marcelo and Marina

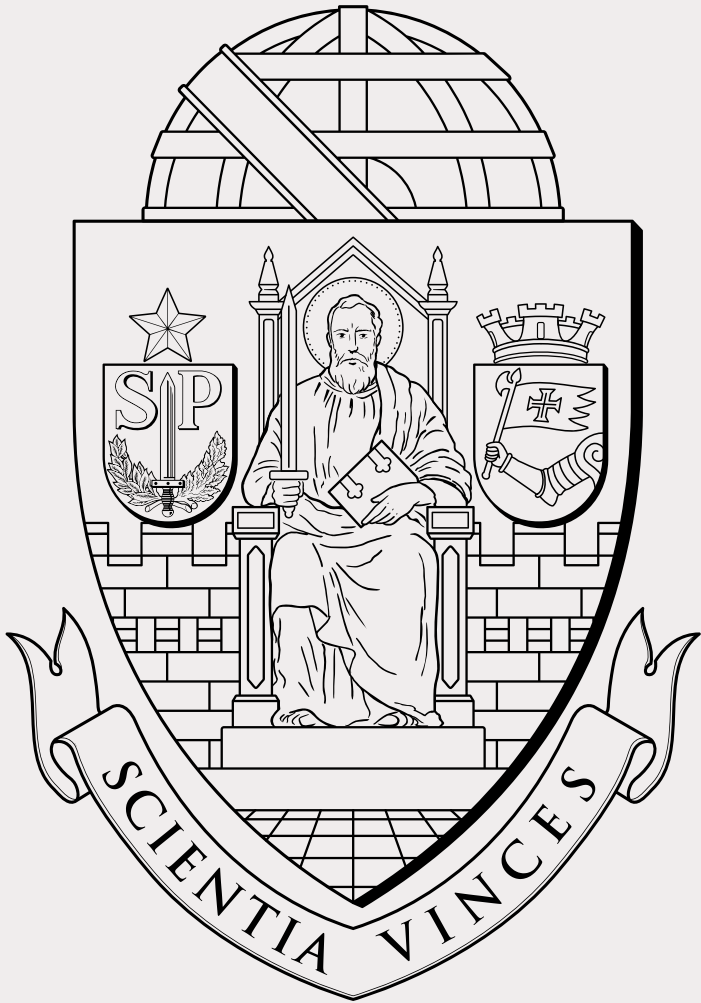




Marco Antonio Zago at the inauguration of President Vahan Agopyan and Vice President Antonio Carlos Hernandes on January 29, 2018



The building of the president's office



# They were Vice Presidents

## 1. **Antonio de Almeida Prado\* – Medical School**

Reynaldo Porchat (1934–1938) – FD

## 2. **Spencer Vampré\* – Law School of the Largo de São Francisco**

Lucio Martins Rodrigues (1938–1939) – EP

## 3. **Alexandre Correia\* – Law School of the Largo de São Francisco**

Domingos Rubião Alves Meira (1939–1941) – FM

## 4. **Benedicto Montenegro\* – Medical School**

Jorge Americano (1941–1944 e 1944–1946) – FD

Antonio Almeida Prado (1946–1947) – FM

## 5. **Henrique Jorge Guedes\* – Escola Politécnica**

Linneu Prestes (1947–1949) – FFO

Miguel Reale (1949–1950) – FD

## 6. **Luiz Ignácio Romeiro de Anhaia Melo – School of Architecture and Urbanism**

Luciano Gualberto (1950–1951) – FM

## 7. **Antonio Carlos Cardoso – Escola Politécnica**

Luciano Gualberto (1950–1951) – FM

Ernesto de Moraes Leme (1951–1953) – FD

## 8. **Luiz Cintra do Prado – Escola Politécnica**

Ernesto de Moraes Leme (1951–1953) – FD

José de Mello Moraes (1954–1955) – ESALQ

## 9. **Eurípedes Simões de Paula – School of Philosophy, Letters and Human Sciences**

José de Mello Moraes (1954–1955) – ESALQ

Alípio Corrêa Netto (1955–1957) – FM

Gabriel Sylvestre Teixeira de Carvalho (1957–1960) – FMVZ



**10. Francisco João Humberto Maffei – Escola Politécnica**

Gabriel Sylvestre Teixeira de Carvalho (1957–1960) – FMVZ

Antonio Barros de Ulhôa Cintra (1960–1963) – FM

**11. Luis Antonio da Gama e Silva – Law School of the Largo de São Francisco**

Antonio Barros de Ulhôa Cintra (1960–1963) – FM

**12. Mário Guimarães Ferri (1967) – Institute of Biosciences**

Luis Antonio da Gama e Silva (1966–1969) – FD

**13. João Alves Meira (04/10/1968–13/10/1968) – Medical School**

Luis Antonio da Gama e Silva (1966–1969) – FD

**14. Helio Lourenço de Oliveira – Reitor em exercício (10/1968–04/1969) –  
Ribeirão Preto Medical School**

Luis Antonio da Gama e Silva (1966–1969) – FD

**15. Alfredo Buzaid (05/1969) – Law School of the Largo de São Francisco**

Luis Antonio da Gama e Silva (1966–1969) – FD

**16. Oswaldo Fadigas Fontes Torres (25/05/1969–30/10/1969) – Escola Politécnica**

Luis Antonio da Gama e Silva (1966–1969) – FD

**17. Orlando Marques de Paiva (11/1969–11/1973) – School of Veterinary Medicine  
and Animal Science**

Miguel Reale (1969–1973) – FD

**18. Josué Camargo Mendes (18/12/1973–17/12/1977) – Institute of Geosciences**

Orlando Marques de Paiva (05/11/1973–04/11/1977) – FMVZ

**19. Antonio Brito da Cunha (02/02/1978–01/02/1982) – Institute of Biosciences**

Waldyr Muniz Oliva (18/01/1978–07/01/1982) – IME

**20. Antonio Guimarães Ferri (02/02/1982–01/02/1986) – Institute of Biomedical Sciences**

Antonio Hélio Guerra Vieira (18/01/1982–17/01/1986) – EP

**21. André Ricciardi Cruz (13/02/1986–25/05/1986) – Ribeirão Preto Medical School**

Antonio Hélio Guerra Vieira (18/01/1982–17/01/1986) – EP

**22. Roberto Leal Lobo e Silva (13/06/1986–08/01/1990) – São Carlos Institute of Physics and Chemical**

José Goldemberg (18/01/1986–08/01/1990) – IF

**23. Ruy Laurenti – Reitor em exercício (06/08/1993–25/11/1993) – School of Public Health**

Roberto Leal Lobo e Silva Filho (09/01/1990–05/08/1993) – IFQSC

**24. Myriam Krasilchik (12/04/1994–11/04/1998) – School of Education**

Flávio Fava de Moraes (26/11/1993–25/11/1997) – ICB

**25. Adolpho José Melfi (14/04/1998–25/11/2001) – Institute of Geosciences**

Jacques Marcovitch (26/11/1997–25/11/2001) – FEA

**26. Hélio Nogueira da Cruz – School of Economics, Business and Accounting**

(18/11/2001–17/12/2005) – Adolpho José Melfi (26/11/2001–25/11/2005) – IGc  
(23/03/2010–26/01/2014) – João Grandino Rodas (25/01/2010–24/01/2014) – FD

**27. Franco Maria Lajolo (23/03/2006–02/03/2010) – School of Pharmaceutical Sciences**

Suely Vilela Sampaio (26/11/2005–25/11/2009) – FCFRP

**28. Vahan Agopyan (27/01/2014–24/01/2018) – Escola Politécnica**

Marco Antonio Zago (25/01/2014–24/01/2018) – FM

\*Information published in the Diário Oficial do Estado de São Paulo.

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**Roberto Leal Lobo e Silva Filho and João Grandino Rodas** wrote their own chapters.

## Vice Presidents

### Antonio de Almeida Prado

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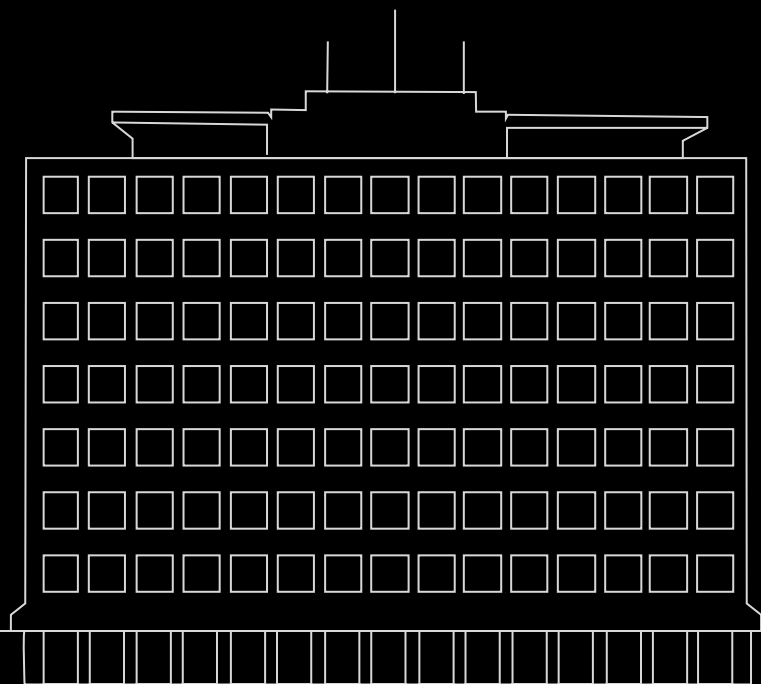
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1827

FACULDADE DE DIREITO



1894

ESCOLA POLITÉCNICA

USP

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SUPPORT

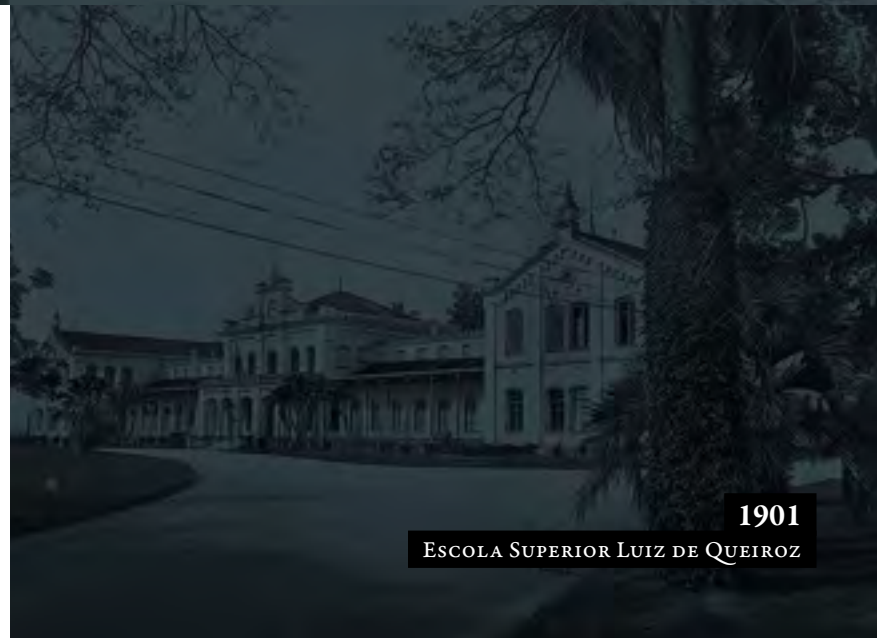
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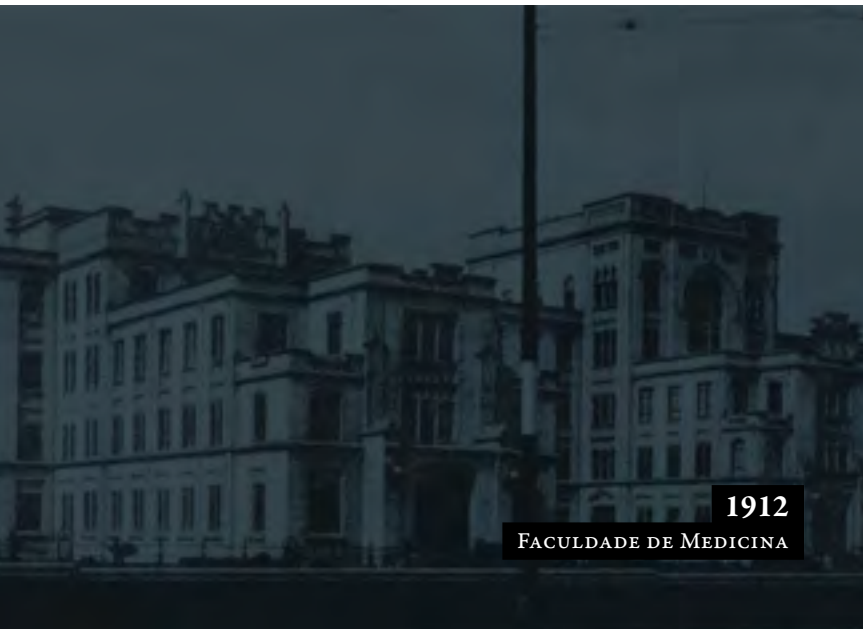


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1901

ESCOLA SUPERIOR LUIZ DE QUEIROZ



1912

FACULDADE DE MEDICINA



1919

FACULDADE DE MEDICINA VETERINÁRIA