

The Life of José Gallardo

Dr. José Miguel Gallardo, also known as Joe, was born on September 29th, 1897, in San Germán, Puerto Rico. He passed away 78 years later, July 18th, 1976¹. Dr. Gallardo had a wife, Ida, and together they had a daughter, June.



Figure 3: Dr. Gallardo
(*The Bachelor*)

War II. The *New York Times* wrote: “Dr. Gallardo was governor when the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941, and was responsible for putting the island on war alert. He was appointed by Franklin D. Roosevelt².”

Dr. Gallardo was very successful as a student. He was a fervent learner, receiving his bachelor’s degree from Parks College, his master’s

Dr. Gallardo was a Puerto Rican immigrant who advocated for equality and peace between all ethnic groups. Dr. Gallardo was proud to be American. *The Bachelor* mentions that Dr. Gallardo was an American of his own accord and that he never regretted his decision to be an American. Dr. Gallardo had many interests and roles throughout his life. For example, he is most famous for serving as the acting governor of Puerto Rico during World

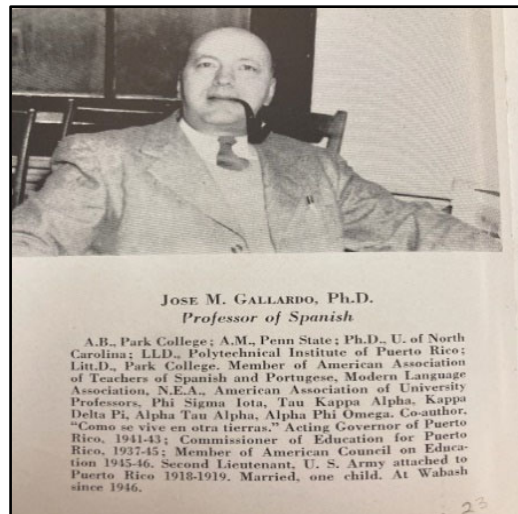


Figure 4: Dr. Gallardo via
the yearbook (1946)

¹ “[José Miguel Gallardo](#).” *Wikipedia*, Wikimedia Foundation, 17 Oct. 2023.

² “Dr. Jose Gallardo, 78, Is Dead; Leading Puerto Rican Educator.” *New York Times*, 20 July 1976.

from Pennsylvania State University, and his Doctorate from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Dr. Gallardo came to Wabash College in the fall of 1946. During his time with the college he occupied many positions and interests until his departure in 1951. The first mention of Dr. Gallardo in *The Bachelor* came in an introductory column: “Dr. José Miguel Gallardo was recently appointed to the romance languages department as a professor of Spanish. He was born in San German, Puerto Rico and has lived in that country for half of his life. He attended public schools there and after he had completed his freshman year at the University of Puerto Rico, he began rural teaching in the mountains of the island³.”

Introducing . . .

Dr. Jose Gallardo

Dr. Jose Miguel Gallardo, former Acting Governor and Commissioner of Education of Puerto Rico, was recently appointed to the romance languages department as a professor of Spanish.

In 1937 and 1941 the late President Roosevelt appointed Dr. Gallardo Commissioner of Education of Puerto Rico and the U. S. Senate confirmed his appointment unanimously on both occasions. It was during the latter term of four years that Dr. Gallardo served in the capacity of governor.

He was born in San German, Puerto Rico and has lived in one part of that country or another for half of his life. He attended public schools there and after he had completed his freshman year at the University of Puerto Rico he began rural teaching in the mountains of the island. After he had taught a few months World War I broke out and he enlisted in the U. S. Army.

Figure 5: *The Bachelor*, October 11th, 1946

At Wabash, Dr. Gallardo was passionate about campus life. For example, on December 6th, 1946, Dr. Gallardo was officially announced as the faculty advisor for Alpha



Figure 6: *Dr. Gallardo meeting with Alpha Phi Omega*

Phi Omega, a service-based fraternity. During his time at the school, Dr. Gallardo also enjoyed giving speeches—most of his mentions in *The Bachelor* are from speeches or lectures given in the previous week. On January 10th, 1947, Dr. Gallardo gave a speech to the Association of

³ “Introducing... Dr Jose Gallardo.” *The Bachelor*, 11 October 1946.

Modern Languages on a pamphlet, “Language and Politics in Puerto Rico⁴,” he published on the state of Puerto Rico, its differences from the United States, and his appreciation for its culture. On February 28th, 1947, Dr. Gallardo gave another speech in front of the convocation, “The future of InterAmerican relations,” to the



Figure 7

Pennsylvania State College for Women. On November 10th, 1950, Dr. Gallardo delivered a chapel talk about the Puerto Rican Revolution⁵. Other interesting things that he did at the college included teaching dance to students and faculty alike. October 15th, 1948, *The Bachelor* wrote that Dr. Gallardo would give Latin dance classes to students (figure 5). He was also the representative for the “Save the Shades” campaign at Wabash, which sought to stop businesses from cutting down trees in Shades State Park⁶.

Unfortunately, it was announced on January 13th, 1951, that Dr. Joe Gallardo would be leaving Wabash after the culmination of the 1951 spring semester⁷. Dr. Gallardo left the college to “[accept the position as] director of foreign relations with Latin America for the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

– Grant Umali ’26

⁴ Gallardo, José M. “[Languages and Politics in Puerto Rico](#).” *Hispania*, 30, 1, Feb 1947, 38-44.

⁵ Mention of all of Dr. Gallardo’s speeches can be found in *The Bachelor*.

⁶ “Alpha Phi Omega Opens Local Shades Campaign” *The Bachelor*, October 3rd, 1947.

⁷ “Gallardo, Dreher to Leave; Accept Government Posts” *The Bachelor*, January 13th, 1951.