Amparo B. Ojeda (nee Buenaventura), 80, Professor Emerita of Anthropology at Loyola University of Chicago, passed away on June 23, 2010 in Chicago, Illinois. She was a founding faculty member of the Department of Anthropology and the first Anthropological Linguist at Loyola. She was educated in the Philippines at the University of San Carlos earning her B.S. in Education in 1951; M.A. in English Literature in 1960; and Ph.D. in Anthropology in 1974. In 1960 she was awarded a Fulbright Scholarship which enabled her to earn an M.A. in Linguistics from Georgetown University in Washington D.C. She taught at the University of San Carlos until 1967 when she and her husband, Lorenzo, immigrated to Chicago.

Amparo began her career at Loyola in the Department of Modern Languages as the Director of the Modern Languages Laboratory, a post she held until 1969. At that time Fr. Grollig, S. J. recruited her to the developing and expanding Anthropology Department. With a commitment to the four fields of Anthropology, Amparo took on the responsibility of developing the linguistic component of the department both at the undergraduate and graduate level. Her research interests centered primarily on language and culture. This included cultural contact and linguistic change; and the experience of recent immigrants trying to find their way in American Culture. In 1991 Amparo became a Fellow of the American Anthropological Association. She published in the American Language Institute, American Anthropologist, Anthros, Filipinas, Philippine Sociological Anthropological Review, The Social Science Research Council of the Philippines, The Pacific International Congress Publication Series, and a number of the University of San Carlos publications. She also contributed a number of chapters to edited volumes on linguistic acculturation and Filipino identity.

As a teacher Amparo had a gift in fostering a relaxed atmosphere in the classroom which encouraged students to master difficult subject matter. She was a popular teacher who developed a strong following. Also she was involved in student’s lives as an advisor to the Chardin Anthropological Society (Loyola’s undergraduate anthropology club) and as the advisor to Filipino-American students. She expanded her offerings in response to student interests and departmental needs to include an international emphasis, especially in Southeast Asia. With her contacts within the Southeast Asian Communities in Chicago, she was an active sponsor of student ethnographic research. As a colleague Amparo always enthusiastically supported the projects of her peers and the work of the department. In 1994 Amparo took early retirement. Following her retirement Amparo intensified her commitment and work within the Catholic community serving on the board of the Office of the Filipino Apostolate at the Archdiocese of Chicago.

Amparo was predeceased by Lorenzo her husband of 42 years who died in June of 2009. She is survived by her daughter Lorraine Ojeda Ryan, a son-in-law Will G. Ryan Jr., and three grandchildren, Liam, Jack Bear, and Sean Lorenzo.

(Christine L. Fry with the help of Lorraine Ojeda Ryan)
Amparo B. Ojeda, 2009