

# CAS accents

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## CAS CELEBRATES 51<sup>ST</sup> ANNIVERSARY

The College of Arts and Sciences (CAS) marked its 51st founding anniversary on December 11, 2023, with a festive ceremony in front of the Dean Edelwina C. Legaspi Hall (formerly known as the CAS Building). The event, themed “Pagsulong at Patuloy na Pag-unlad,” honored and recognized the achievements and contributions of CAS retirees and outstanding faculty, personnel, and students.

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**Featured Publication****Exploring civilizations beyond our planet**

With so many stars that contain Earth-like planets out there, why haven't we encountered any extraterrestrial life?

This is the Fermi paradox. It essentially asks if we are alone in our vast and relatively old universe. Given the huge number of solar systems and planets, it is reasonable to assume that a good number of them contain life, possibly intelligent beings, and, more optimistically, advanced civilizations capable of space travel.

But why haven't we found any signs of alien life yet?

A study conducted by two faculty members from the Institute of Mathematical Sciences and Physics (IMSP) of UPLB explored the future of human colonization in the universe.

Dr. Allan Alinea and Cedrix Jadrin, both from the Physics Division of IMSP, considered how civilizations might grow in three different types of universes: static, dark energy-dominated, and matter-dominated.

In their study, they applied concepts from Percolation theory to examine how civilization

spreads as they occupy the nearest planets over time, starting from one 'mother' planet that initially solely contains advanced civilization. Dr. Alinea explained that the universe is expanding faster than we can travel, so we can only reach a limited number of planets for colonization. If there is a mechanism to drive the universe into a state such that its expansion rate is the same or similar to that of a matter-dominated universe, then we will be lucky enough to have a universe that can, in principle, be colonized up to any distance from us.

"Our work is based on an ideal framework, but there are fragments in our study and references thereto that may be helpful in a quest for space colonization, possibly for the survival and development of our species," according to Dr. Alinea.

Under the assumptions in their paper, they found that even in this dark energy-dominated setting (according to the model they used), colonization follows the Logistic Growth model.

This is similar to the behavior of the spread of communicable diseases (like COVID-19), which is slow in the beginning due to the few carriers.

However, as the number of carriers increases, so does the rate of disease spread.

"This model is marked by a three-phase pattern: (I.) slow colonization rate, (II.) fast colonization rate, and (III.) slow colonization rate. We are probably in phase I: slow colonization rate due to the small number of spreading civilizations (few intelligent and advanced civilizations).

This slow phase can be exacerbated by large distances between 'living' planets. But once some number of traveling civilizations is reached, we may enter phase II characterized by a fast colonization rate. Given enough time upon entering this phase, we may finally say hello to aliens out there," he added.

Their research can be accessed here: <https://iopscience.iop.org/article/10.1088/1361-6404/acfbcb>

Original story: <https://uplb.edu.ph/all-news/exploring-civilizations-beyond-our-planet/>. ■

**JCC. Duero**

**Dr. Clariño named new ICS Director**

The Institute of Computer Science proudly welcomes Dr. Maria Art Antonette Clariño as its newly appointed director. Outstanding achievements mark Dr. Clariño's academic journey at UPLB. She graduated Magna Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Science in Computer Science in 2008, followed by a Master of Science in Computer Science in 2011. In 2019, she culminated her educational journey with a Doctor of Philosophy in Computer Science, solidifying her commitment to advancing knowledge in her field.

With a remarkable 15-year service as a dedicated faculty member, Dr. Clariño has demonstrated unwavering

commitment to the institute. She has assumed leadership positions, notably as the former head of the Research & Development Division, where she facilitated various research-related activities and endeavors such as the CAS SFRC and the Cinterlabs ACRES.

Dr. Clariño's dedication and contributions to academia have not gone unnoticed. In 2023, she was honored with the 2022-2024 One UP Professorial Chair Award in Teaching and Public Service. This recognition is a testament to her outstanding teaching and public service performance, embodying the values and standards upheld by the One UP Professorial Chair Awards and Faculty Grant Awards.

Dr. Clariño's research interests span diverse and cutting-edge domains, including Agent-based Modeling and Simulation, Digital Image Analysis, Natural Language Processing, and Machine Learning. She has published papers in esteemed venues such as the Journal of Telecommunication,

Electronic and Computer Engineering (JTEC), the Asian Conference on Remote Sensing (ACRS), and the Philippine Computing Journal. She also reviewed papers for O-COCOSDA and ICORE.

Her vision for the future of ICS is both strategic and comprehensive. Dr. Clariño's plan for the faculty and staff aims to "prioritize the hiring and retention of faculty members by implementing deloading strategies," especially for those at the thesis stage in their study, thereby ensuring a conducive environment for teaching and research. Her commitment to fostering a robust research culture within the institute is reflected in her plans to promote and support faculty research endeavors.

To streamline administrative operations, Dr. Clariño emphasizes the importance of "prioritizing the hiring of staff members," recognizing their invaluable role in "ensuring smooth administrative operations." Furthermore, she envisions a significant enhancement of the institute's graduate programs. Developing innovative course proposals will accomplish this and foster collaborations with experts worldwide, possibly inviting adjunct professors to contribute their expertise. These initiatives aim to enrich the academic experience for students and elevate the global standing of ICS graduate programs.

In addition to internal improvements, Dr. Clariño is committed to "strengthening community ties and alumni relations." Her plans include implementing extension activities that connect ICS with the broader community and maintaining open communication lines with alumni. These efforts seek to foster a sense of belonging and engagement, ensuring that the institute continues to thrive as a supportive and interconnected community.

Dr. Maria Art Antonette Clariño's appointment as the Director of ICS at UPLB marks a pivotal moment for the institute, ensuring a promising trajectory in advancing education, research, and innovation in computer science under her capable leadership. ■

**J. Gojo-Cruz**

**IMSP Holds ATTDES 2023, a Research-Seminar on the Data-Enabled Sciences**

The Institute of Mathematical Sciences and Physics (IMSP), in partnership with the University of Houston's (UH) Department of Mathematics, successfully held the Research-Seminar on Analytic and Theoretical Tools for the Data-Enabled Sciences (ATTDES) last 17-18 November 2023.

This two-day event aimed to provide participants with the working knowledge of tools from linear algebra, functional analysis, probability, neural networks, and generative models that are necessary in solving problems in the data-enabled sciences. It also exposed the participants to various applications of said tools in acoustics and electromagnetism, biochemical networks, stochastic parametrization, and liver cancer detection.

Dr. Daniel Onofrei, a professor of mathematics at UH, headlined the event. He shared his team's work on the active control of acoustic fields and its possible applications. The rest of the talks were delivered by IMSP's own experts. Dr. Neil Jerome A. Egarguin delivered the seminar's inaugural talk, focusing on theoretical and numerical tools for solving inverse problems involving wave partial differential equations. Dr. Mark Jayson V. Cortez treated the participants to a quick course on Bayesian inference for stochastic biochemical networks.

Dr. Ranzivelle Marianne L. Roxas-Villanueva discussed graph neural networks and their work on liver cancer detection. Lastly, Dr. Jeric S. Alcala gave a quick course on generative models and their applications to stochastic parametrization.



ATTDES was attended by 16 undergraduate and graduate students from different units of UPLB, Citi Global College, and UP Diliman. IMSP will be planning to organize several ATTDES workshops in the future that focus on specific fields. ■

**NJA. Egarguin**

**24th SFCon Showcases the Power of Stat for Nat'l Progress**

The Institute of Statistics (INSTAT) hosted the 24th National Student-Faculty Conference on the Statistical Sciences (SFCon) on October 16, 2023, attracting over 200 statistics students and faculty from across the country. With the theme "Statistics Toward Achieving Economic and Social Transformation," the SFCon explored the potential of statistics as a tool for driving positive change.

The opening remarks by Chancellor Jose V. Camacho, Jr., and CAS Dean Maribel L. Dionisio-Sese set the conference for a day of intellectual discourse. The plenary sessions provided diverse perspectives on the role of statistics in modern society.

Ms. Irene Angela V. Cuya, Supervising Economic Development Specialist from the National Economic and Development Authority, highlighted the importance of data-driven policymaking, while Ms. Michelle Alarcon, President of the Analytics and Artificial Intelligence Association of the Philippines (AAP), and Z-Lift Solutions, Inc. discussed the transformative power of statistics in industries adapting to artificial intelligence.

The afternoon saw eight parallel sessions delve into various fields, including health, economics, agriculture, environment, technology, governance, and social development. A total of 29 student research papers were presented, showcasing the breadth and depth of applications for statistics across different disciplines.

Engr. Xavier Louis J. Bilon, Director for Research at the UP Diliman School of Statistics, commended the high quality of student research and faculty contributions. Awards were subsequently presented for the best student papers. The third place for the Best Student Paper Award was given to Aeram Clester A. Albo, Lance R. Fernando, and Catherine Joy A. Villafior of De La Salle University for their paper entitled "Spatiotemporal Analysis of Actual Monthly Prices for Milkfish, Round Scad, and Tilapia in Philippine Provinces from May 2020 to December 2022."

The second place was given to Francis Gian M. Yutuc from INSTAT, UP Los Baños, for his paper entitled "Modeling the Disaster Preparedness of Households in the Philippines". Finally, Angelica Joie L. Zamoranos from INSTAT, UP Los Baños,

bagged the Best Student Paper Award for her paper entitled "Estimation of the Total Number of Filipino Women who Underwent HIV Testing among Provinces and NCR Districts in the Philippines."

The closing remarks by Associate Professor and Director Liza N. Comia, PhD. emphasized the significance of SFCon as a platform for knowledge exchange and collaboration within the statistical sciences community. The conference successfully fostered a vibrant environment for discussing the multifaceted role of statistics in driving economic and social transformation.

By bringing together students, faculty, and industry leaders, the 24th SFCon served as a valuable forum for advancing the discourse on the potential of statistics as a catalyst for positive change. The event underscored the growing recognition of statistics as a crucial tool for informing decision-making and ultimately building a more prosperous and equitable society. ■

**JR. Ventura & LAF. Almero**



## Caring for ‘aspin’ resonates at Dogs in PH History convo

Giving attention and care to the Philippines’ very own dog breed, ‘aspin’—a portmanteau for the vernacular asong Pinoy—emerged as the moral lesson of the Kasaysayan 1/History 1 General Education (GE) Conversation entitled “Dogs in Philippine History.”

Held on Oct. 11 at the REDREC Auditorium, this learning event featured the talk of Ian Christopher B. Alfonso, supervising history researcher at the National Historical Commission of the Philippines (NHCP), who authored the book of the same title that was launched in August.

“Ang mga aspin na ito ay nagtagal sa Pilipinas ng libo-libong taon na nasanay [at] naghahanap ng pagmamahal ng Pilipino,” said Alfonso, whose narrative about dogs in the country’s history began with the discovery of the latter’s remains in Palawan and Cagayan that dated to 1803-1678 BCE and 500-400 BCE, respectively.

“Tandaan natin, sa loob ng apat na libong taon, nandito na ang mga aspin, at sila ay talagang ating aso,” Alfonso reminded. “Huwag sana natin [silang] pabaya, at sana ay maambunan din ng pagmamahal ng mga Pilipino ang sariling mga aso natin.”

He went on to highlight some of the documented historical milestones about dogs in the Philippines during the colonial period. These include the apparent high regard for dogs in the Visayan communities in the early Spanish period of the 17th century, as written by Jesuit Father Francis Ignacio Alcina in *Historia de las islas e indios de Bisayas*.

*Cont’d on page 7*

## KKP-ST holds Workshop on Validation and Estimation for Chem Lab



Is your test method fit for its intended purpose? This question was expounded and answered when the Kapisanang Kimika ng Pilipinas - Southern Tagalog (KKP-ST), Inc., in partnership with the UPLB-Institute of Chemistry and the National Institute of Molecular Biology and Biotechnology (BIOTECH), held a two-day training workshop entitled “Method Validation and Measurement Uncertainty Estimation for Chemistry Laboratory” last July 19-20, 2023 at the BIOTECH Seminar Room.

Ms. Lilia R. Molina, the Research Manager and Cluster Leader from IRRRI Service Laboratories, shared her knowledge and expertise on method validation (MV) and estimation of measurement uncertainty (EMU) as the resource

speaker of the said training workshop. She is a registered chemist and also a distinguished alumna of the Institute of Chemistry, UPLB. Ms. Molina earned her bachelor’s degree in Chemistry and her master’s degree in Environmental Science, majoring in Environmental Chemistry, from UPLB.

The interactive training workshop was open to all UPLB faculty members, staff, researchers, and graduate students, and there were forty-seven (47) participants from different UPLB units. The participants were randomly grouped according to their affiliation and expertise. On the first day of the workshop, different groups were tasked with carefully designing a method validation plan to answer the question stated earlier: “Is your test

method fit for its intended purpose?”.

Then, MV plans were discussed among the participants, and Ms. Molina pointed out the strengths and possible points of improvement of the generated MV plans of each group.

On the second day, sample data were provided by the organizers, and the participants were tasked with estimating the measurement uncertainties from the derived data gathered. Active discussion among the attendees was encouraged, with some participants giving valuable feedback on the outputs of the other groups, which entails a true measure of collaborative efforts among the participants.

This training workshop was recognized by the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) and deemed all licensed chemists and chemical technicians who attended the training workshop eligible for 12 CPD units.

The success of this activity was made possible by the hard work of its organizing committee, which was spearheaded by the members of KKP-ST, Inc. Board of Directors, namely Sheryl Lozel B. Arreola, Ma. Desiree B. Aldemita, Rochelle P. Ibabao, Adonis A. Yanos, Mary Ann O. Torio, Michael Sandino C. Flores, Mae Joanne B. Aguila, Amelia B. Hizon-Fradejas, Katherine Anne T. Castillo-Israel, Lilia R. Molina, and Lilia M. Fernando-Corpuz. ■

**AL. Valderama**

## Kaohsiung Medical University’s Dr. Yong-Chao Su visits UPLB

A renowned professor from Kaohsiung Medical University (KMU), Dr. Yong-Chao Su, visited the University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB) through the efforts of the Philippine-American Academy of Science and Engineering (PAASE).

It was aimed at strengthening the ties between the two universities and exploring potential opportunities for collaboration in the fields of ecology as well as evolutionary genomics and bioinformatics.

Upon his arrival on September 15, 2023, Dr. Su was greeted with a warm welcome by the faculty and students of UPLB. During his stay, he was given a tour of the campus and was introduced to several professors and researchers who are working on projects related to his field of expertise.

He was accompanied to various bee farms in the UPLB vicinity by the members of the UPLB Bee Program.

He also visited the various academic departments and research centers within the university, including the Institute of Chemistry, the Institute of Biological Sciences, the Pascual Laboratory, the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research and Extension, the Office of International Linkages, and the Office of the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences.

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## World Expert Lecture Series Symposium Introduces Students To Astro, Particle and Nuclear Physics



Students from around the country were given a glimpse of what it is like to work in some of the most high-profile fields of physics during the World Expert Lecture Series (WELS) Symposium on Astrophysics, Particle Physics, and Nuclear Physics held on 20 November 2023 at Lecture Hall B of the Physical Sciences Building.

The event, organized by the Physics Division of the Institute of Mathematical Sciences and Physics of the University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB), featured talks on topics ranging from microgravity experiments and microsatellite design to early-universe cosmology and the newly instituted Philippine Space Agency (PhilSA). The symposium’s main speaker, Dr. Alan Cornell, a theoretical particle physicist at the University

of Johannesburg in South Africa, introduced the audience to the study of the universe through the fundamental particles that constitute matter.

He also discussed dark energy and dark matter, which are some of the open questions being investigated in large-scale experimental facilities such as the Large Hadron Collider and the Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory.

The symposium, moreover, featured a presentation by William Kevin Abran, a UPLB BS Applied Physics student, on his experiment on the rotation of dumbbell-shaped objects that was recently performed in microgravity at the International Space Station.

The other speakers were Rock Christian Tomas, instructor at the UPLB College of Engineering and Agro-industrial Technology, who presented the UPLB Space Satellite Research Team’s CubeSat design that won second place in PhilSA’s Nanosat Mission Idea Contest; Dr. Allan Alinea, head of the Physics Department’s Astrophysics, Particle Physics, and Nuclear Physics research cluster, who elucidated the interlocking of cosmology and particle physics in the birth of the universe; and

Dr. Paul Leonard Atchong Hilario, Supervising Research Specialist at PhilSA, who told the story of the country’s space agency, from the Philippines’ early foray into astronomy to PhilSA’s establishment as spearhead of the Philippines’ national space program.

More than a hundred high school and college students and teachers participated in the event, which was also streamed live on Zoom and Youtube.

WELS is a grant program by the University of the Philippines (UP) System that seeks to bring in world leaders and artists from the academe, government, and industry to give special lectures or performances to UP students, faculty, and staff to enlighten and inspire.

The symposium kicked off a series of related events in the following days, including a museum-style exhibit presented by PHYSIKA UP Applied Physics Society at the UPLB Student Union Building on the physics of nuclear bombs and nuclear fallout as well as a career talk by Dr. Cornell regarding physics graduates’ professional prospects in astrophysics, particle physics, and nuclear physics. ■

**ERA. Beronio**

## 11th SEA Cinema Conference at UPLB

The 11th Association for Southeast Asian Cinemas Conference (ASEACC) with the theme, “SEA The World! Southeast Asian Cinemas and Global Film Theory,” was held at the CAS Auditorium of the University of the Philippines Los Baños from August 29 to 31, 2023. The commonly discussed themes focused on independent filmmaking across genres, gender and sexuality, oppressive regimes, and archiving among others. The association also comprises the interconnection between theory and practice, thereby covering screenings, panels, and workshops of film practitioners from Southeast Asia.

Among the seven panel sessions included Remapping Geographies, Epistemes, Transnationalities; Close-ups and Small Screens; Politics, Revolution, and the Reimaginings of the Nation; Horror and Genre Theory; and Spaces and Movements: Cinema in Intersection Practices.

The conference was attended by renowned film scholars, critics, researchers, and filmmakers

namely Jasmine Nadua Trice, Kosuke Fujiki, and Richard Bolisay (Remapping Geographies); Gaik Cheng Khoo, Dag Yngvesson, and Ella Raidel (Epistemes); Alicia Izharuddin, Bayu Kristianto, and Adam Knee (Transnationalities); Ratna Erika Suwarno and Noah Viernes (Close-ups and Small Screens); Rolando Tolentino, Laurence Marvin Castillo, and Miguel Penabella (Politics, Revolution, and the Reimaginings of the Nation); Patrick Campos, Thomas Leonard Shaw, and Adrian Mendizabal (Horror and Genre Theory); Tito Quiling, Jr., Katrina Ross A. Tan, and Bliss Cua Lim (Spaces and Movements: Cinema in Intersection Practices).

Faculty member from DHUM also presented papers during the conference: Assoc. Prof. Katrina Ross A. Tan, Ph.D. on “Archipelagic Imagination in Filipino Regional Cinema” and Assoc. Prof. Laurence Marvin Castillo, Ph.D. on “Left-wing Melancholia and Revolutionary Imagination in Filipino Cinema.”

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## CAS BSCS student wins in the 27th Ph Stat Quiz



Lance Chrysler V. De Jesus, a first-year BS Computer Science student, emerged as the National Champion in the 27th Philippine Statistics Quiz (PSQ) held on December 7 at the Century Park Hotel, Malate, Manila. Lance, who also represented Region IV-A (CALABARZON), earned his spot in the national finals after clinching the top spot in the PSQ Provincial (Laguna) Eliminations on October 2 and later in the PSQ Regional (CALABARZON) Championships on November 10. Consistently leading throughout all three rounds of the national finals, Lance’s exceptional performance, earning a total of 32 points, placed him ahead of 16 other regional finalists.

He was awarded a cash prize, a PSQ medal, and a specially designed trophy. He was mentored by his coaches, Asst. Prof. John Lorenzo A. Yambot and Ms. Vanessa Anne E. Lindayag from the Institute of Statistics, College of Arts and Sciences.

The PSQ is a nationwide annual contest hosted by the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) and the Philippine Statistical Association, Inc. (PSAI). It is open to first-time college freshmen enrolled in any college or university in the Philippines. The competition primarily aims to assess the competency and skills of college students in statistics as acquired from their secondary education curriculum.

Lance’s victory marked UPLB’s 7th PSQ National Championship, which comes 10 years after UPLB bagged the 22nd PSQ National Championship. ■

**JLA. Yambot**



## CAS begins EQA assessment

The UPLB College of Arts and Sciences (CAS) marked the beginning of its External Quality Assurance (EQA) Assessment with an opening program on Sept. 11, 2023.

Dr. Myra G. Borines, director of the UPLB Quality Assurance Office, explained that EQA is anything related to quality assurance that is driven from outside the institution and which evaluates or assesses the institution as a whole or regarding a certain topic.

The UP EQA is based on the ASEAN University Network Quality Assurance (AUN-QA) framework and has six types, from A to F.

Type A is EQA by external reviewers within the constituent university (CU), while Type B is by external reviewers from another CU. Type C combines Type A and B, while Type D is by



external local or international reviewers from outside UP. Type E is by a local assessment or accreditation body, while Type F is by an international assessment/accreditation body. The CAS EQA is a Type A assessment. Its BS Biology program is also preparing to undergo a Type F assessment in 2024.

Dr. Maribel L. Dionisio-Sese, CAS dean, welcomed the faculty and assessors who had assembled for the opening program. She talked about the importance of quality assurance as well as the readiness of the college to undergo EQA. UPLB Chancellor Jose V. Camacho Jr. said in his message that quality assurance was of

“paramount importance” and “very high in our agenda.”

He also acknowledged that QA was a very rigorous and laborious process, relating his own experiences in QA during his time as the UPLB Graduate School dean.

Camacho expressed his belief that QA was not a task delegated solely to administrators and deans but something that should

be made a regular and integrated part of university operations and practiced even by individual faculty members. He also said that with UPLB offering more new programs, QA was more important than ever.

The assessment will run from Sept. 11 to Dec. 15, 2023. It will involve 20 undergraduate programs and two graduate programs of UPLB. *(This article was originally published on UPLB Website which can be accessed here: <https://uplb.edu.ph/all-news/cas-begins-eqa-assessment/>.)* ■

AGB. Peralta

## 2023 COMM10 GE Convo reinforces Filipino Kapwa culture

Consistent with its goal of engaging students in critical perspectives in local and global communication contexts, UPLB's COMM10 cluster co-organized a GE Conversation featuring National Artist Kidlat Tahimik and academic Dr. Katrin De Guia, 29 November at the DL Umali Hall.

Themed “Komunikasyon at Kalinangan: Ang Kapwa bilang Butod ng Ugnayan”, the Conversation revisited the core values of the Kapwa psychology—kapwa (shared identity), pakiramdam (shared sensitivity or inner vision), and kagandahang loob (shared humanity), placing emphasis on Filipinos' deep sense of connectedness, empathy, and positivity.

As a General Education course, Critical Perspectives in Communication (COMM10) aims to arm students with various lenses that enable them to have critical and meaningful

engagement with issues and concerns of communication. Since its first venture in 2018, the COMM10 GE Conversations have featured experts who have enriched publics' understanding of communication with lectures on the following topics: ethical perspectives in social media engagements; media content and representation; and intercultural competence in political engagements amid mis- and disinformation.

The 2023 COMM10 GE Conversation was organized by the COMM10 cluster of UPLB's Department of Humanities, College of Arts and Sciences and College of Development Communication, in partnership with the Office for Initiatives in Culture and the Arts (OICA) and Upsilon Sigma Phi. ■

KA. Salvador

## DHUM co-organizes program to nurture nat'l cinematic heritage

Driven by a common purpose to preserve the country's cinematic heritage and establish a national audiovisual archive, the UPLB Department of Humanities (DHUM), through its Makiling Film Lab program, partnered with the Society of Filipino Archivists for Film (SOFIA) member institutions, Probe Archives, and PUP Center for Heritage Studies in holding film screenings and lecture-workshops, October 24 and 25.

Organized in 1993, SOFIA, through its membership roster, has been fulfilling its longstanding commitment to upholding Philippine cinema's power in capturing historical and cultural narratives. This year, as it celebrated its

founding anniversary, it teamed up with UPLB-DHUM and PUP in a two-day campus program themed “SOFIA, Tatlong Dekada, Padayon: Continuing the Advocacy for Audiovisual Archiving”.

October 24 was a day for screening select documentary films for the UPLB community. Titles shown featured narratives during times of atrocity and political unrest in the Philippines, thus inspiring themes of resistance, survival, and social change. Meanwhile, October 25 was allocated for lectures detailing challenges and directions for film digitization and digital preservation.

SOFIA's overarching goals align with DHUM-Makiling Film Lab's mission to house a regional films archive, further critical discourse on films, and motivate emerging talents in filmmaking. Among SOFIA's regular institutional members are the MOWELFUND Film Institute, Probe Archives, FPJ Archives, the Philippine Film Archive under the Film Development Council of the Philippines, and the UP Film Institute Film Archives; listed as associate institutional member is the PUP Center for Heritage Studies. ■

KA. Salvador

## UPLB ChemAA holds 13th General Assembly and IC Alumni Homecoming

On October 14, 2023, the UPLB Chemistry Alumni Association, Inc. had its 13th General Assembly, which coincided with the IC Alumni Homecoming at the Institute of Chemistry (IC), Physical Sciences Building, with some alumni joining online via Zoom.

The meeting was presided over by the UPLB ChemAA President, Ms. Maria Elaine P. De Velez, who also presented her report as President, which highlighted the activities of the association for the past year and its three-year roadmap. This year, UPLB ChemAA gave cash incentives to IC graduates who were topnotchers in the 2022 Chemist Licensure Examination and in the Chemical Technician Licensure Examination. It also helped in IC's efforts to promote the students'

well-being by donating funds for the IC Reading Room pantry, which provides food during the examination week.

The UPLB ChemAA welcomed two newly-elected members of the Board of Directors, namely Dr. Earl Ada and Ms. Rochelle P. Ibabao. Ms. Lilia R. Molina was again elected as a board member.

On the other hand, IC Director Dr. Marivic S. Lacsamana presented her report about the accomplishments of IC's faculty, students, and alumni, which included twenty-five (25) UP International Publication Awards, eleven (11) One UP Professorial Chair Awards, ten (10) One UP Faculty Grants, fifteen (15) students who graduated with Latin honors, and five (5) alumni

who were topnotchers in the 2022 Chemist Licensure Examination. In addition, she reported that the IC-UPLB Team won the championship in PACSiklaban 2023, an annual intercollegiate Chemistry Quiz Contest.

The UPLB ChemAA continues to support IC in achieving its goals of strengthening institute-alumni-student linkages, attracting more students to pursue Chemistry, providing adequate facilities to support learning, skill development, and research, and fostering the holistic development of its students. ■

RPP. Parakikay

### Caring for 'aspin' resonates... from Page 5



Alfonso, who serves as the officer-in-charge of the NHCP Research, Publication, and Heraldry Division, also discussed the struggles of this canine population and the people around them from the rabies crisis that spanned the Spanish and American colonial periods—from the official declaration of the presence of rabies in the Philippines on August 16, 1800, up to the first anti-rabies vaccine shot that was administered in the archipelago in 1910 in Nueva Vizcaya.

He theorized how rabies further marginalized aspins because of their perceived threats to the

human population. This, he said, worsened the then decreasing appreciation and continuing displacement of aspins during the Spanish period, brought about by the dog breed's lost role in the pre-colonial tradition of hunting and the transfer of the natives to new settlements called pueblo.

“Bumaba nang bumaba ang tingin ng mga Pilipino sa mga aso; nawalan sila ng role sa lipunan,” Alfonso noted. “At ‘yung mga foreign breed, sila ‘yung mas inaalagaan natin at itinatabi sa loob ng bahay.”Lecture reactor, Dr. Ma. Catalina T. de Luna, a veterinarian-faculty member at the Institute of Animal Science of the College of Agriculture and Food Science, expressed hope that Filipinos would give more attention to aspins. “Kung kaya nating bigyan ng pagpapahalaga ang imported breeds, sana [sa] aspin ganoon din ang pagpapahalagang ibibigay natin, at mas maganda nga kung mas mataas pa,” the animal welfare advocate said.

Fellow reactor Axle Christien J. Tugano, a history instructor at the Department of Social Sciences (DSS), further emphasized the role of dogs in

history and society. “Sila ay hindi lang hayop. Sila ay kasama natin sa agos ng kasaysayan at kultura,” he said.

Alfonso underscored the role of history in reminding the Filipinos how they have naturally cared for aspins starting from their ancestors. He inferred that such is the foundation of the care that Filipinos have been giving the imported dog breeds. “May kapangyarihan ang kasaysayan na maibangon muli ang dignidad ng mga aspin,” Alfonso concluded.

Joining the jam-packed audience of history course students and dog lovers from UPLB in the GE Conversation were Dr. Maribel L. Dionisio-Sese, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences; Asst. Prof. Athenee Pacardo-Mercado, chair of DSS; Dr. April Hope T. Castro, coordinator of KAS 1/HIST 1 Cluster; and Dr. Ariel L. Babierra, director of the Office of Scholarships and Grants. The DSS and the UPLB GE Program served as the organizers of this learning event. ■

MJE. Gloria

## DSS holds research discussion on Local Gov't Mandate for Improving Public Morals

The Department of Social Sciences' (DSS) Political Science Division organized an online faculty research discussion on October 23, aiming to introduce the Political Science faculty, familiarize attendees with the courses they handle, and showcase their current studies for those who wish to pursue political research. The afternoon program featured Asst. Prof. Gladys P. Nalangan, who discussed her paper on the intersection of politics, local governance, and public morals.

Asst. Prof. Mercado's opening remarks emphasized the pivotal role of public morals in local governance. She underscored its significance as a cornerstone for fostering an ethical society, expressing that adherence to such regulations in the government code is a commitment to building a community founded on respect, fairness, and compassion. The maintenance of social order and upholding community values, while respecting the diversity and rights of citizens in Imus, were also highlighted.

Asst. Prof. Nalangan then presented her research, titled "An Assessment of the Implementation

of the Local Government Code Provision on Public Morals by the City Government of Imus." Her study aimed to heighten awareness among Local Government Units (LGUs) regarding the imperative to implement the Local Government Code Mandate for improving public morals. Stressing that enhancing public morals contributes to general welfare, economic development, and an improved quality of life, Asst. Prof. Nalangan detailed the City Government of Imus's institutional capacity in implementing key aspects of the Local Government Code.

Her findings explored the City Government's competencies in Organization and Management, Local Development Planning, Local Finance Administration, and Local Legislation. Asst. Prof. Nalangan also discussed various government programs, projects, services, ordinances, and resolutions aligned with the provision. Finally, she presented the positive public perception of the indicators of the improvement of public morals among Imus residents.

Cont'd on page 9



# Historian stresses indispensability of “pakikipagkapwa” in research ethics

“Masasabing may katangiang etikal lamang ang isang gawain o pagkilos kung kakabit nito—ng pagkilos o gawa ng tao—ang pakikipagkapwa,” said Asst. Prof. Atoy Navarro, as he talked about ethics in historical research on Oct. 27 at the College of Arts and Sciences (CAS) Auditorium. Navarro, a faculty member and head of the Area Studies Program at the Department of Social Sciences of UP Manila, headlined the Kasaysayan 1/History 1 General Education (GE) Conversation with his lecture entitled Pangkalahatang Pagtanaw sa Etika ng Pananaliksik Pangkasaysayan.

Pakikipagkapwa, Navarro continued, is the summary of ethics. “Samakatwid, tumutukoy ang etika sa kung anong gawain at pagkilos ng tao ang makatao at hindi makatao, makatwiran at hindi makatwiran, makatarungan at hindi makatarungan, o kaya’y marangal at hindi marangal sa konteksto ng pakikipagkapwa.” In his lecture, attended mostly by UPLB undergraduate students who are taking up courses in history, Navarro, who is also a program consultant for the Forum for Ethical Review Committees in Asia and the Pacific in Thailand, reiterated the methods and processes

in historical research and emphasized that ethics should be present in all of these. As Navarro emphasized the centrality of data in historical research, he explained and warned about avoiding three scientific misconducts involving data, namely: fabrication, falsification, and plagiarism.

He also expounded on questionable research and publication practices, unethical types of authorship, the importance of author declarations, acceptable and unacceptable overlapping publications, and examples of unethical research practices in the field of history that had been committed in the past.

As he concluded his talk, Navarro offered ten practical guidelines in ethical historical research that encompass pakikipagkapwa, avoidance of fabrication, falsification, and plagiarism, and openness to criticisms and contrary evidence. Present during the learning event were Dr. Maribel L. Dionisio-Sese, dean of CAS, and Asst. Prof. Athenee Pacardo-Mercado, chair of the UPLB Department of Social Sciences (DSS).

"Mabigat ang hamon sa etikal na pagsusulat

ng kasaysayan, lalo na kung hangad natin na ipanuto ang libo-libong ‘social media historians,’ na pawang umaangkin ng katotohanan sa ating pambansang kasaysayan,” said Dr. Dionisio-Sese in her message.

"In this intricate tapestry of stories, it is ethics that acts as our guiding compass; hence, ethical consideration becomes paramount," added Asst. Prof. Pacardo-Mercado in her opening remarks. Also present in the GE Conversation were Dr. Mark Oliver S. Llangco, director of the UPLB GE Program and co-chair of the UPLB Research Ethics Board (REB); Dr. April Hope T. Castro, coordinator of KAS 1/HIST 1; and reactors Dr. Roderick C. Javar, director of the UPLB Human Resource Development Office and associate professor, and Dr. Gilbert E. Macarandang, assistant professor. All of them are faculty members of DSS.

Navarro's talk is the second KAS 1/HIST 1 GE Conversation this semester. It was organized by the DSS, together with the UPLB GE Program and the UPLB REB. ■

MJE. Gloria

# DHUM-Samasining’s “Ruminations” performs advocacy on mental health



“Be kind to yourselves.” -Julia

Said the last line that flashed on the performance screen in “Ruminations,” a biographical theatre performance, written by Department of Humanities’ award-winning playwright Dr. Layeta Bucoy, featuring veteran actress Shamaine Buencamino on September 14 at the NCAS Auditorium.

Julia Buencamino was Ms. Shamaine’s daughter, who took her own life in 2015, leaving meaningful poems she wrote herself. These were then dramatized on the performance that showed Ms. Buencamino, reminiscing and contemplating about Julia and her words.

Ruminations was part of “The Julia Buencamino Project: Will You Still Love Me?” that aimed to tackle and spread awareness on mental health issues and problems. The title was inspired by

one of Julia’s poems, which reads: “When my mask shatters / and you see how broken I really am, / will you still love me?”

The production was one of the commencing projects of the Department of Humanities - Samasining program, in cooperation with the College of Arts and Sciences, Office of the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, Office of Counseling and Guidance, Office for Initiatives in Culture and the Arts and THEA 151 - Acting class.

It involved two shows in the afternoon with post-performance discussions. Dr. Bucoy and Asst. Prof. Jeremy Dela Cruz directed the overall flow of the program with BA Communication Arts Theater students as the production staff.

The discussions involved Guidance Services Specialists (GSS) namely Analyn Rapas, Erick Dy, Gonzalo Amante, Jr., and Noemi Nuñez. Psychometricians also joined the discussions; they are Gean Rivera, Kisha Dimaisip, Kaila Navarro and Wella Mejia, Angela Jean Reyes.

Conversations entailed topics on the role of psychometricians and the different university institutions concerned on mental health problems, especially to students, who also

shared their experiences on the matter. Topics about the significance and interplay of the arts were brought up, as well as the role of the church in the issue as attested by the parish priests and members of the Care for Mental Health of the Cathedral of San Pablo who attended the event.

Also joining the audience was National Scientist for Biochemistry and Cytogenetics Dr. Dolores Ramirez, who shared her thoughts on the interplay of genetics and environment in mental health. Crucial to the discussions were the significant sharing of advice and strategies on coping and actions to take, beneficial to the students who have openly shared vulnerability about their mental health-related concerns.

Alongside the event was Dr. Jualim D. Vela’s art exhibit entitled “Resilience” at the CAS Annex 1 Lobby. There was also a guitar music performance by Asst. Prof. Leandro Ong at the beginning of each show. Meanwhile, DHUM instructors Andrew Estacio and Krisnah Ann Tan hosted and facilitated the two shows respectively. ■

A. Estacio

The 11th ASEACC was organized by the UPLB Department of Humanities (DHUM) and co-funded by the UP System. ■

IN. Jerez

# INSTAT Empowers UPLB REPS through Free Stat Training Workshops

To celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Institute of Statistics (INSTAT), the Public Service Committee hosted a four-day series of free short training courses for UP Los Baños Research, Extension, and Professional Staff (UPLB REPS). Held on August 10–11 and 17–18, 2023 in INSTAT lecture and computer laboratories, the workshops aimed to equip the UPLB REPS with fundamental statistical skills for their diverse endeavors.

The first day kicked off with Prof. Zita VJ. Albacea delving into "Statistics in Research," followed by a practical training workshop on “Data Management and Visualization” by Assistant Professors Ronald R. Roldan, Jr., Leonard Allan F. Almero, Ramoncito G. Cambel, and Reanne Len C. Arlan. A total of 22 REPS actively participated in the session. The second day focused on “Experimental Designs,” with



Assistant Professors Marie Joy L. Relente and Mark Jay P. Dating, alongside Mr. Jemuel Dave B. Dorado and Ms. Vanessa Anne E. Lindayag, engaging 21 participants in insightful discussions.

Moving to day three, the focus shifted to “Regression and Correlation Analysis,” where Associate Professor and Director Liza N. Comia, along with Assistant Professors Cambel, Lara

Paul A. Ebal, and Edrun R. Gayosa, guided 22 participants through hands-on exercises. The final day wrapped up with “Survey Operations,” guided by Associate Professors Nancy A. Tandang and Joyce DL. Grajo, and Assistant Professors Jared Jorim O. Mendoza and Maurice C. Borromeo, with 23 participants gaining valuable knowledge.

Overall, the participants expressed their appreciation for the insightful sessions and valuable skills gained. Many actively encouraged the continuation of such initiatives for ongoing professional development. This successful program by INSTAT underscores its commitment to empowering UPLB REPS with the tools they need to excel in their respective fields. ■

LPA. Ebal

## DSS holds research discussion... from Page 6

Asst. Prof. Nalangan's research highlighted the significance of electing administrators committed to enhancing public morals. The City Mayor's sponsorship emerged as a critical factor in facilitating implementation. She also advocated for strengthened structures and decision-making mechanisms to institutionalize public moral initiatives, urging the allocation of resources from the budget to support these endeavors.

In response to Asst. Prof. Nalangan's

presentation, Asst. Prof. Diosdado B. Lopega acknowledged the City Government of Imus's efforts in allocating resources for policies, programs, and services aligned with the public morals improvement mandate. His observations centered on the creation of the City Chaplain's Office, expressing concerns about potential implications for the separation of church and state and freedom of religion. Asst. Prof. Lopega recommended a reevaluation of this program, proposing the consideration of ecumenical or

non-sectarian personnel to ensure a balanced approach.

The event concluded with an open forum where Asst. Prof. Nalangan shared her research methods and offered valuable advice for students and audience members interested in conducting similar studies in the area of local governance. ■

LG. Reyes

# UPLB Stat Alumni Homecoming: Recapturing Memories and Inspiring the Future



In a heartwarming celebration of shared history and enduring connections, INSTAT hosted a homecoming event for UPLB Statistics alumni and friends on November 25, 2023 at the Seniors' Social Garden, UPLB. The activity created an atmosphere of nostalgia, camaraderie, and joy on the campus.

People who used to roam INSTAT's rooms and corridors filled the place with smiles and stories. It was like stepping back in time—sharing laughs about classes, professors, and everything in between. The current faculty and staff welcomed everyone with open arms, showing how INSTAT keeps its family close, even after graduation. The activity kicked off with a warm welcome

Then, Associate Professor Maria Dalisay G. Maligalig, chair of the CAS Alumni Relations Committee, was invited to share some thoughts on starting an Alumni Association.

One particularly heartwarming moment was the recognition of INSTAT’s past directors. Assistant Professor Roselle V. Collado (2004–2007), Prof. Zita VJ. Albacea (2009–2011), and Prof. Consorcia E. Reaño (2011–2018) received warm applause as they were presented with plaques in recognition of their exemplary mentorship and invaluable contributions in shaping the success of INSTAT. Adjunct Professor Arturo Y. Pacificador, Jr. (1998–2001) and Prof. Emeterio S. Solivas

from the current faculty and administration, emphasizing the institute's commitment to fostering lifelong connections among its alumni. To break the ice, there were fun games like Human Bingo and Tumpakners.

(†) (2001–2004 and 2007–2009) were also recognized during the awarding.

As the celebration concluded, there was a strong sense of gratitude and fulfillment among the alumni. Many expressed their appreciation for the opportunity to reconnect with their roots and witness the growth and progress of the institute.

"The alumni homecoming is a cherished tradition that allows us to celebrate the achievements of our graduates and strengthen the bonds of our UPLB family," said Associate Professor and Director Liza N. Comia. "Seeing our alumni return with such enthusiasm is a testament to the enduring spirit of our institute."

The alumni homecoming was a reminder of shared journeys, a celebration of achievements, and a promise of a brighter future for the UPLB Statistics community. ■

JKH. Abalos

## 11th SEA Cinema Conference... from Page 5

Professor Rosalind Galt of King’s College London served as keynote speaker at the conference. Galt is a Professor in Film Studies at the same institution. She holds a Ph.D. in Modern Culture and Media from Brown University.

Short films from the Philippines, Indonesia, Thailand, and Vietnam were screened for free at the program. Woo Ming Jin’s Stone Turtle and Dodo Dayao’s Midnight in a Perfect World were full-length films shown in the program. A panel discussion with the directors followed after the screenings.



*Kaohsiung Medical University... from Page 4*

One of the highlights of Dr. Su's visit was the opportunity to give a back-to-back seminar entitled "Biogeography of the Asian Honeybees, Apis cerana and their Coevolution with Varroa Mites, a Population Genomics Approach" and "Bee the Light of Darkness – Sustainable Development Project in Namasia District, Kaohsiung City (An Introduction to KMU)," which was organized by the UPLB Institute of Chemistry together with PAASE.

The faculty and the students were impressed by the presentation and discussion, which showcased the latest research of Dr. Su.

## "Sangandaan" dulang itinanghal para sa ML@51, mga martir ng UPLB

"Sa mga kagaya mong naglalakbay at namumulat, dumarating tayo sa sangandaan. Ngayong narito ka, kailangan mong magpasya. Aling landas ang susundin ng iyong puso?"

Dalawang pinagtagpong karakter sa magkaibang panahon ang nagsalubong at nagbahaginan ng mga kwento't alaala sa "Sangandaan: Kultural na Pagtatanghal para sa ika-51 Taong Komemorasyon ng Batas Militar" noong gabi ng Oktubre 19 sa CAS Auditorium.

Isang kabataang aktibistang nabuhay noong Batas Militar ang nag-iwan ng hamon sa kabataang estudyante ng kasalukuyan. "Kapag namulat ka na sa katotohanan, kasalanan ang pumikit. Ipagpapatuloy ko po ang landas ng kahapon," tugon ng tauhan ng ngayon.

Ginampanan ang dramatikong salaysayin ng

Another important component of Dr. Su's visit was the opportunity to meet with UPLB students and share with them his perspectives on the importance of pursuing higher education and engaging in research.

He emphasized the need for collaboration between universities, researchers, and the government to address the complex challenges that face our world today.

Overall, Dr. Su's visit was indeed a big opportunity for the UPLB academic community to learn from a

renowned professor and expert on metagenomics and bioinformatics.

His research and insights provided important perspectives on the challenges and opportunities of working across cultures and will hopefully inspire future generations of students and academics to engage in meaningful cross-cultural programs. ■

**RP. Ibabao**

sa panulat naman ni G. Andrew Estacio, mga guro sa Departamento ng Humanidades.

Kabilang din sa mga bumuo ng produksyon ang mga mag-aaral ng BACA Theater program na sina Zeril Jan Manaois (Stage Manager), Aldrin Bula (Asst. Stage Manager), Xairuz Jorroz Barrientos (Lights Director), Marielle Joy Apurado (Sounds Director), at Jarelle Pidlaoan (Video Editor).

Winakasan ang programa sa taimtim na pag-alaala sa mga martir ng batas militar, kabilang ang Southern Tagalog 10 at mga natatanging indibidwal mula sa UPLB na nakibaka sa tiraniyang Marcos. #Never Again #NeverForget. ■

**A. Estacio**

## IMSP Conducts Strategic Planning Workshop

To materialize its short- and long-term development plans, the Institute of Mathematical Sciences and Physics (IMSP) conducted a three-day strategic planning workshop on November 2-4, 2023, at the UPLB Baguio Satellite Station, Pacdal, Baguio City.

Some of IMSP's administrators, faculty members and administrative staff set their three-, five-, and ten-year goals in relation to the university's

tripartite functions: instruction, research, and extension.

They also evaluated the current strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats (SWOT) of the operational and administrative processes. The participants identified systems to be improved and adapted once the Mathematics and Physics Divisions become separate institutes.

The output of the strategic workshop will serve as a roadmap for both divisions to thrive and continue their contributions to the academic and scientific community with a clear vision, a shared commitment to excellence, and a determination to remain at the forefront of their respective disciplines. ■

**JCC. Duero and  
MP. Narciso**

## CAS research conference returns in-person

The College of Arts and Sciences (CAS) convened its 16th Student-Faculty Research Conference (SFRC) at the CAS Auditorium on Dec. 4, 2023, after three years of being limited to virtual gatherings. With the theme "Nurturing globally competitive scholars through research in the Arts and Sciences," students, faculty, and researchers discussed emerging developments in the fields of biology, chemistry, computer science, mathematics, physics, statistics, social sciences, arts, and humanities.

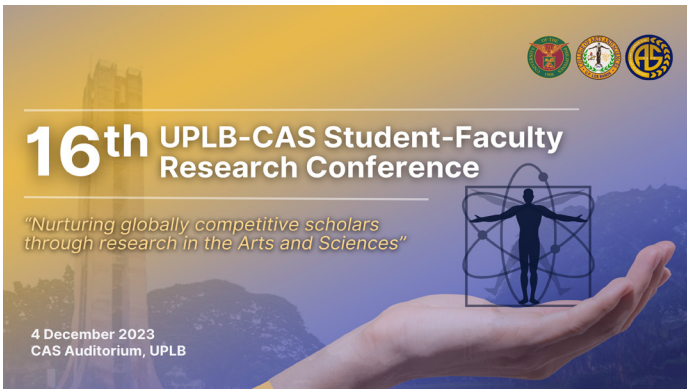
Dr. Armand Mijares and Dr. Cleofas R. Cervancia were invited as the keynote and plenary speakers, respectively.

Dr. Mijares is a renowned scientist in the field of archaeology. He is known for leading the group that discovered the Homo luzonensis. In his speech, he shared how they were able to prove the existence of Homo luzonensis and emphasized the importance of collaborating and leading in research.

Professor emeritus Dr. Cervancia, on the other hand, pioneered the UPLB Bee Program. In her talk, she highlighted the importance of being a globally competitive researcher and said that global competence is a tool to meet problems and opportunities. She encouraged the

*Cont'd on page 11*

*CAS Research Conference... from Page 10*



The conference featured 53 oral presentations in the fields of arts and humanities, social sciences, and basic sciences. The oral presentations were divided into 5 thematic categories: Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences (22 presentations), Biological Sciences (5 presentations), Mathematical Sciences (6 presentations), Biological Sciences, Health, and Agriculture (9 presentations), and Physical Sciences (11 presentations).

The SFRC also had 21 poster presentations in basic sciences, arts, and social sciences. Each session gave presenters opportunities to answer queries from the panelists and the audience.

**CAS celebrates 51st Anniversary... from Page 1**

In her message, Dean Maribel Dionisio-Sese expressed that, "Our 51st anniversary theme succinctly reflects our continuing tasks and the commitment that is asked of us. Indeed, we have nowhere to go but forward and up," Dr. Maribel L. Dionisio-Sese, the Dean of CAS, remarked in her opening speech.

"We owe this to our College, to all that it stands for: honor, excellence and service. We owe this to our students, who expect to get the best education that we can give. We owe this to our stakeholders. We owe this to our people. We owe this to ourselves," she added.

The celebration featured CASayahan 2023, a talent show where students, faculty, and staff from different institutes and departments under CAS performed various

Six research presentations were recognized at the end of the conference.

BS Statistics alumnus Wilmar P. Mangapot won Best Oral Presentation in Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences for his research "Effects of Social Media Use on the Risk of Developing Depressive Symptomatology of UPLB - CAS Students during the COVID-19."

Winning Best Oral Presentation in Biological Sciences was the research "Antibiogram Profiling of Salmonella Isolated from Eggshell Rinsate from Select Egg Retail Stores in Barangay Batong Malake, Los Baños, Laguna, Philippines" by Nelieza P. Tubeza, Laurence N. Vicera, Abbie A. Codia, Zyne K. Baybay, Homer D. Pantua, Andrew M. Montecillo, and Renard M. Jamora.

The team of Mark Cholo L. Rabadon, Nicole Cathlene N. Astrologo, and Ranzivelle Marianne L. Roxas-Villanueva won Best Oral Presentation in Biological Sciences, Health, and Agriculture for their research "Convolutional Neural Network-

based Image Classification of Healthy and Diseased Corn Crops." Cristian B. Jetomo and Mark Lexter D. De Lara won Best Oral Presentation in Mathematics for their research "Filipino Sign Language Recognition using Persistent Homology Classification Algorithm."

Awarded Best Oral Presentation in Physical Sciences were Viejay Z. Ordillo, Rizalinda L. de Leon, and Allan Abraham B. Padama for their research "Computational Investigation of Single Atom Alloy Surfaces for Carbon Dioxide Reduction Reaction: Insights from Density Functional Theory and Machine Learning."

Lastly, recognized as Best Poster Presentation was the research "Molecular Docking Analysis of the Possible Interactions of Selected Alkaloids in Sacred Lotus (Nelumba Nucifera) with Acetylcholinesterase Ic" by Angelica Paz I. Castillo, Maritess M. Lacquio, Mariam C. Recuenco, and Amelia B. Hizon-Fradejas. Since 2008, CAS has been organizing the SFRC to facilitate conversations and future collaborations on research projects within the college. ■

**PJD. Dela Cruz, VRM. Madrid,  
AAB. Padama**

numbers, such as singing, dancing, and poetry.

CAS also recognized its retirees and outstanding students, faculty, and administrative staff who have demonstrated excellence and committed service to the college.

Joven M. Galliguez, BS Applied Physics, was awarded Outstanding Student, while Jason F. Pozon, an assistant professor from UP Rural High School, was recognized as Outstanding Teacher (Junior Category).

Recognized as Outstanding Administrative Personnel were Pamela C. Joyosa (Supervisory Category), an administrative officer from the CAS Dean's Office; Emiliano

M. Tapangco (Blue Collar Category), an administrative aide from the Department of Human Kinetics; and Joan O. Lirio (Office Personnel Category), an administrative assistant from the CAS Office of the College Secretary.

Also awarded as Outstanding Researcher was Prof. Nacita B. Lantican, while Prof. Inocencio E. Buot, Jr. was recognized as Outstanding Extension Personnel. Both are from the Institute of Biological Sciences.

Despite the inclement weather, the college successfully commemorated its history and growth since its establishment on December 21, 1972. ■

**JCC. Duero**



*From left to right: Prof. Inocencio E. Buot, Jr., Prof. Nacita B. Lantican, Mr. Emiliano M. Tapangco, Chancellor Jose V. Camacho, Jr., Dean Maribel L. Dionisio-Sese, Ms. Pamela C. Joyosa, Ms. Joan O. Lirio, and Asst. Prof. Jason F. Pozon*



## CAS Alumni Awardees in 105th UPLB Loyalty Day

Three College of Arts and Science Alumni received recognition at the Alumni Awarding Ceremony as part of the 105th UPLB Loyalty Day and Grand Alumni Homecoming celebration on October 8, 2023.



**LOTUS M. POSTRADO**  
BA Sociology, 1995

### CAS Distinguished Alumna for Educational Innovation

Lotus Moreno Postrado is the first Filipina Country Director of the British Council in the Philippines. She works closely with the UK Ambassador in strengthening bilateral ties in education and culture between our two countries and leads UK's initiatives for educational opportunities and cultural relations in the Philippines.

Her leadership led to introducing innovation in higher education

through the pioneering of UK-Philippines Transnational Higher Education. She initiated and ensured the creation of 16 UK-Philippine dual postgraduate degrees between 11 Philippine universities and 9 UK universities.

This Transnational Education (TNE) project eventually led to the enactment of Transnational Higher Education Law in 2019.

Her pioneering works in transnational education and leadership in international cultural engagement continue to inspire young women in the Philippines, as she shares her journey through various media channels.

### CAS Distinguished Alumnus for Microbial Biotechnology and Natural Products Chemistry

In recognition for his multi-disciplinary approaches that amalgamated omic technologies and natural products chemistry in fighting the epidemic of the mountain pine beetle using ingenious biochemical engineering approach in Canada, safekeeping the invaluable contribution in preserving Canada's ecosystem and fighting global climate change.

With such globally important work, he was conferred the 2021 Gawad ng Pangulo - Pamana ng Pilipino by

the President of the Philippines.

His research works on the genomics and metabolomics of unique microbial resources of the Philippines has been pivotal in supporting Philippines-specific novel species speciation, discovering candidate drugs with antibacterial and anti-cancer potential, and pioneering exploration of unique environments like bat caves (Pangasinan), gold and copper mines (Baguio, Marinduque), UNCLOS-awarded marine

continental shelf territories (Benham Rise), and active volcanoes (Mayon, Taal).

These discoveries resulted in Albert's conferment of the 2023 NAST – Outstanding Young Scientist for Microbiology and Biotechnology. As DOST-PCHRD Science and Technology Fellow for Tuklas Lunas® program, his work is fundamental in shaping and supporting the drug discovery and development landscape of the Philippines.



**DR. ALBERT REMUS R. ROSANA**  
BS Biology, 2005

### CAS Distinguished Alumnus for Public Service



**HON. ADRIAN MICHAEL A. AMATONG**  
BA Sociology, 2001

Adrian Michael A. Amatong is the Representative of the 3rd District of Zamboanga del Norte. He is a member of ten committees in the House of Representatives and was part of the Philippine delegation to the 43rd General Assembly of the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly in Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

He has also represented the country in the BHR Training for Parliamentarians and Political Party Leaders in Bangkok, Thailand, the FNF for Freedom's European Dialogue on Defending Freedom and Democracy at Brussels, Belgium, and the Asia Centre's Regional Conference on Internet Freedoms in Southeast Asia at Bangkok, Thailand.

At a young age, Representative Amatong's exemplary leadership has already been recognized, as he was the recipient of the Philippine Jaycees Leadership Award and the Gerry Roxas Leadership Award in 1995.

He has founded and headed several organizations, including the Dipolog City Reef Project and the Narra & Sibs Project, Zamboanga del Norte. He was also a member of the Dipolog City Multi-sectoral Governance Council and of several student organizations in college, including the UPLB Sociology Society.

Prior to becoming a lawmaker, Representative Amatong was a journalist. In 1995, he was awarded the Outstanding

Student Journalist of the Philippines.

He was the Managing Editor of The Mindanao Observer from 2007 to 2022, the Manager of the Andres Bonifacio College Press, Inc. from 2007-2022, and a Trustee of the Philippine Press Institute from 2015-2022. In 2012, he represented the country in the Edward R. Murrow Program for Journalists in the USA, sponsored by the U.S. Department of State.

He was also a member of the National Union of Journalists of the Philippines and the Mindanao Media Forum.

## #TatakRural: Looking back, giving back to Mutyang Rural

December is the time of every year that UP Rural High School recognizes, celebrates, and welcomes its alumni from different generations, fields, and expertise. UPRHS, in cooperation with the UPRHS Alumni Association Inc., through the efforts and initiatives of the UPRHS Class of 1977, 1973, and 1998, conducted various programs and activities that highlighted the essence of looking back to Rural as their second home and giving back to their alma mater as a gesture of deep appreciation. Indeed, the school and its alumni continue the culture of camaraderie, strengthening their identity as ruralites.

### Success of Ripieno Ensemble Concert

A fundraising concert for the benefit of the UPRHS Scholarship and Infrastructure Fund last December 2, 2023, at the CAS Auditorium was organized by UPRHS and the UPRHS Class of 1977.

The concert featured world-class performers from Ripieno Ensemble PH, a contemporary chamber ensemble dedicated to the promotion and performance of new music from the Philippines and Southeast Asia, with the internationally awarded UPRHS Glee Club and Harmony: The String Ensemble of UPLB as guest performers.

With concert tickets being sold out from its matinee and gala shows, the event was considered a success. ■

### Grand Alumni Homecoming 2023

In celebration of UPRHS's 94th anniversary, the UPRHS Class of 1998 (Silver Jubilarians) hosted this year's Barn Dance-themed Grand Alumni Homecoming, held last December 9, 2023, at the Baker Memorial Hall.

It was attended by different generations of UPRHS alumni, former and current faculty members, and staff dressed in their barn dance costumes, reminiscing about their barn dance during their high school days.

Ms. Sofia Tidon, at the age of 98, was recognized by the Silver Jubilarians as the oldest living UPRHS Alumni and former UPRHS faculty member. She vividly described her experiences during World War II, how their classes were interrupted by the war, how she survived as part of the guerilla forces under the brutalities of the Japanese regime, and how she was able to live a long and fulfilling life throughout the years.

Homecoming not only celebrated the collective spirit of the UPRHS community but also marked significant milestones for the Class of 1998 and the distinguished Class of 1973, commemorating their 25th and 50th anniversaries since graduating from UPRHS, respectively. Audio-visual presentations that commemorated their journey as Ruralites were presented by the two Jubilarian Batches. The Golden Jubilarians also performed a dance number featuring songs from their high school years.

Silver Jubilarians presented their legacy project, the UPRHS Donor Recognition Wall, which aims to highlight and express gratitude to UPRHS' donors. This initiative could encourage more donors to give back to UPRHS. Also, Golden Jubilarians presented their legacy project to renovate the school gymnasium's stage and backdrop.

They are also sponsoring UPRHS students through the school's scholarship program. The UPRHS Class of 1977 also presented their total contribution, amounting to Php 1.23 Million in support of the school's scholarship and infrastructure fund.

The UPRHS Alumni Association Incorporated through its president, Ms. Monina-Ramos Recalde, also presented their plans and activities for the Centennial Celebration of UPRHS in 2029. Every year until 2029, a countdown celebration will be spearheaded by different sets of UPRHS Alumni batches.

The event concluded with the official turnover of the classes of 1999 and 1974 as the new Silver and Golden Jubilarians, respectively. After looking back at those that really matter, UPRHS is looking forward to more homecoming celebrations that showcase the triumphs of the school in producing high-caliber, dignified, and servant leaders of their respective generations. ■

### Strengthening the UPRHS and UPRHS Alumni Association's Partnership

The UPRHS Alumni Association Inc. (UPRHS AAI) organized a general assembly meeting for the alumni class representatives last December 9, 2023. Ms. Monina Ramos-Recalde, AAI President, presented AAI's mission and vision, its committees, and plans for the upcoming Centennial Anniversary Celebration, and presented recent donations from the different alumni batches. Afterwards, Asst. Prof. Mabel S. Buela, UPRHS Principal, presented the school's year-end report, which includes the school's recent achievements from its students, faculty, and staff, recently concluded school activities, and future plans for the school. Furthermore, Asst. Prof. Buela also presented the school's wish list, which enumerated the school's different services, materials, equipment, infrastructure, and other funding needs. ■

### Unveiling of the UPRHS Donor Wall

The Class of 1998 (Silver Jubilarians), together with UPRHS faculty and staff, hosted a simple Donor Appreciation gathering last December 9, 2023, at the UPRHS Building Upper Lobby in Paciano, Bay, as part of the festivities of the UPRHS Grand Alumni Homecoming 2023.

The first batch of donors for 2023 were invited to get a peek at the UPRHS Donor Recognition Wall, the legacy project of the Class of 1998. Donors were honored and invited to cut the ribbons of their stainless-steel markers.

The UPRHS Donor Recognition Wall aims to highlight and express gratitude to donors of the UPRHS scholarship and infrastructure development programs.

Aligned with the #TatakRural homecoming campaign on UPRHS' 94th founding year, the UPRHS Donor Recognition Wall provides a platform for individuals and organizations to help build the future of UPRHS as they build their own LEGACY, starting from 2023. ■

*J.F. Pozon*





# RETIREES



Ms. Daisy B. Diola

Retiring after 36 solid years of commitment, dedication, and service to the Department of Humanities is former administrative staff member Ms. Daisy B. Diola.

As dainty and true as the flower for which she was named, Tita Daisy has keenly performed administrative functions at DHUM for over three decades, significantly helping the Department to be where it is today. Her attention to detail and expertise in management and documentation have helped further DHUM's work on instruction, research, and extension.

Her tireless service is acknowledged not only among colleagues at the Department, but also at the University. Proof of this is her winning the 2015 CAS Outstanding

Admin Personnel Award, a recognition granted to a member of the UPLB community who has demonstrated exemplary performance and dedication to their work.

Tita Daisy's name and service will always be a reminder to find joy, radiate warmth, and drive motivation in every way possible. ■

KA. Salvador



Mr. Leoncio Gayas

In 1980, Mr. Leoncio Gayas, also known as Manong Onchie, started his journey with UFS. After transitioning to the roles of Food Service Worker and Utility Worker after 23 years, he later assumed the position of Administrative Aide III at the Department of Social Sciences on January 1, 2004.

Looking back on his 43 years at the university, Manong Onchie shared that he cultivated a strong work ethic, embraced a commitment to assisting faculty, and developed a genuine love for his work.

The entire DSS department benefited from Manong Onchie's administrative support for teachers and students. The smooth functioning of DSS faculty

activities, extending beyond the regular workday, stands as a testament to Manong Onchie's commitment to generously contributing his time and support to the faculty. ■

TC. Viray



Ms. Cleofe O. Manatac

The administrative office of the Animal Biology Division will never be the same as when Tita Cleo, Cleofe O. Manatac, retires after 30 years of service. Colleagues unite in heartfelt gratitude for her commitment and support.

Her wealth of knowledge and her eagerness to help have made her an invaluable resource, always ready with the perfect solution to any inquiry.

Her warm, friendly smile and motherly care have endeared her to all, making the office feel like a second home.

Tita Cleo's dependability has earned the trust and admiration of her peers. ■

IRE. Felipe



Mr. Olivio E. Matalog

Kuya Olive, Olivio Matalog, has brought over 30 years of joy to his colleagues and peers at the UPLB Limnological Station.

Retired in March, he left behind a trail of laughter and good vibes, cherished by all who worked with him.

Tito Olive is also fondly remembered as a dedicated and hardworking fellow.

His legacy of joy and diligence resonates with all who know him. ■

IRE. Felipe

# RETIREES

IBS will miss one of its "lifers" with the retirement of Mr. Isagani O. Catelo (Laboratory Technician I).

Tito Gani, to friends and co-workers, has been with the then-Department of Botany of the College of Agriculture since January 1982. With IBS from the start, Tito Gani's prints are all over, especially in the assembly and maintenance of fixtures and furniture.

In his later years, he manned the maintenance and dispensing of equipment in the Microscope Room.

Colleagues unite in wishing Tito Gani, our Chickboy/ Hilot/Handyman/Gadfly, a long, happy, and healthy retirement. ■

FA. Aguilar



Mr. Isagani Catelo

IBS will definitely miss one of its dear teachers of Botany with the retirement of Dr. Rachel C. Sotto.

She started her 45-year career and service to the University as a Research and Extension Professional Staff at the Institute of Plant Breeding and later as a faculty member of the Plant Biology Division at IBS.

Throughout her career, Dr. Sotto has published and reviewed countless studies in plant physiology, most especially in the field of fruit and seed physiology.

A mother of seven beautiful children, colleagues, and students attest to Ma'am Rachel's motherly love seeping through her academic role as a mentor, motivator, and role model. "When things go wrong, choose not to be stressed," a student remembers her advising.

With a teary smile, IBS wishes a happy and healthy retirement to our dear Ma'am Rachel. ■

FA. Aguilar and RDDR. Obena



Dr. Rachel C. Sotto

Associate Professor Nelio C. Altoveros, or Sir Nel for his students and colleagues, is known for his detailed art of instrumentation physics and his futuristic dance of drones, which left a mark on the corridors of academia here in the Physical Science building of UPLB.

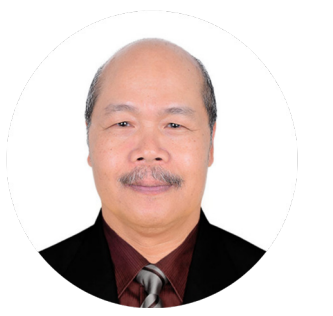
Sir Nel stood as a guide to many inquisitive minds of students and faculty alike as they unraveled the mysteries of abstract logic concepts into tangible integrated circuit boards and interconnected devices.

It was the crafting of digital circuit boards with IoT

that made Sir Nel an expert in logic designs and instrumentation.

His projects in innovative approaches to reinvigorate agriculture in the Philippines were testaments to a relentless pursuit of pushing technological possibilities for the benefit of Filipinos, especially the farmers. ■

RB. Payod



Dr. Nelio C. Altoveros

Mr. Rodolfo Caramihan , also known as Manong Odie to his colleagues in IMSP, is described as a friendly, dedicated, and hardworking staff member of IMSP.

With his 42 years of service, he became an asset to the institute and the university.

Manong Odie is admirable, as he accomplishes the tasks given to him without hesitation.

There were times when Manong Odie did not really have much of an inkling regarding some of his tasks, but he was always determined to learn and complete what needed to be done, which is a true example of an excellent support staff. ■

JD. Enera



Mr. Rodolfo Caramihan





# casaccents

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