

# CAS accents

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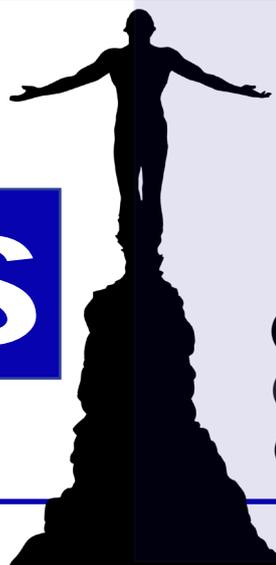
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## CAS SFRC GOES NATIONAL

The First National Student-Faculty Research Conference in the Arts and Sciences (1st NSFRCAS) which coincides with the 15th University of the Philippines Los Baños - College of Arts and Sciences Student-Faculty Research Conference (15th UPLB-CAS SFRC) was held on November 28 and December 5, 2022 via Zoom. Presenters from different parts of the country joined the conference.

Dr. Maribel L. Dionisio-Sese, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, University of the Philippines Los Baños, opened

the conference. A keynote speech was also delivered by Dr. Rhodora V. Azanza, Academician of the National Academy of Science and Technology and Professor Emeritus of the Marine Science Institute, University of the Philippines Diliman.

Plenary talks were given by Dr. Diana S. Aga, Professor of the Department of Chemistry and the Director of the UB RENEW Institute, University at Buffalo, New York, and Dr. Jose Wendell P. Capili, Professor

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## Asst. Prof. Mabel Buela appointed as new UPRHS Principal



Asst. Prof. Mabel S. Buela formally took her oath as the new University of the Philippines High School (UPRHS) Principal at the UP Los Baños (UPLB) Office of the Chancellor last September 30, 2022.

Beside former Principal Dr. Gregorio Y. Ardales, Jr., College of Arts and Sciences Dean Dr. Maribel L. Dionisio-Sese, and UPLB Chancellor Dr. Jose V. Camacho, Jr.,

Prof. Buela was officially appointed through an oath-taking ceremony, which affirmed the duration of her term from October 1, 2022, until September 30, 2025.

Members of the Rural community including students, parents, faculty members, and alumni were quick to extend their congratulations to Asst. Prof. Buela.

In a Facebook post, Asst. Prof. Leopoldo B. Laset, Jr., was among the first to greet the new principal. "I have known aProf. Mabel S. Buela for three years," Prof. Laset wrote.

"In that time, she has displayed exceptional talents and character as an educator and a leader."

Asst. Prof. Laset emphasized Asst. Prof. Buela's role in the school's transition to remote education, particularly her position as a Project Development Associate and the Chair of the Information Systems Committee, both of which have been vital for the implementation of both the online and blended learning setups of the school.

"I believe aProf. Buela is perfect for the position. I am honored to be her colleague, and now as one of her subordinates," the post read.

A former student of Asst. Prof. Buela, Maxine Dela Cruz from Grade 10 - Mayapis also expressed their congratulations to their former adviser and now school principal.

"Napaka-deserving [ni Asst. Prof. Buela] to be principal kasi simula pa lang noong maging adviser siya ng Dao, feel na feel ko 'yung kanyang leadership, comfort, and pag-aasikaso," said Dela Cruz in an exchange with The Ruralite.

"That made us bond together as a class, and naging masaya overall 'yung aming homeroom nung Grade 7."

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## UPLB CAS LITE Program wraps up this year's webinar series with "Code-Switching in Language Classes and Related Conversations"

Wrapping up the webinar series of The UPLB CAS LITE Program this year was "Code-Switching in Language Classes and Related Conversations" held last 19 September 2022 via Zoom, with Asst. Prof. Precious Sarah Añoaso, from the Language Division of the UPLB-CAS Department of Humanities as the speaker.



At the start of her lecture, Asst. Prof. Añoaso established that the classroom's range had widened from just four corners into a bigger virtual world. She also addressed the possible motivations of both students and teachers for code-switching, as well as its possible effects on one's

learning and/or teaching, especially in language classes, among other things. With the unraveling of the benefits and drawbacks that code-switching brings to learning, Asst. Prof. Añoaso stated that within the classroom, the situation of teachers and learners regarding code-switching must be assessed in order to tailor fit the learning/teaching process to the needs of the specific parties involved. "It's not a one-size-fits-all," she emphasized, noting the flexibility education should have in order to bring out the best possible outcome for everyone.

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Gracing the event was the Dean of College of Arts and Sciences and Manager of the LITE Program, Prof. Maribel Dionisio-Sese. Dean Dionisio-Sese first thanked LITE Program's Coordinator and Assistant Coordinator, Asst. Prof. Kristine Adalla and Asst. Prof. Jerard Eusebio, respectively, as well as the other members of the team. She also commended guests who attended for undertaking the task of learning languages that would surely help broaden the discourse on the field.

## Outstanding CAS alumni honored at UPLB's 104<sup>th</sup> Loyalty Day

With their notable contributions to their respective fields, three CAS alumni awardees are among this year's honorees for the 104th Loyalty Day and Alumni Homecoming with the theme "Strengthening the Partnership between UPLB and Alumni for Progressive Communities." Dr. Mark Kristoffer U. Pasayan and Dr. Marilen P. Balolong, who both graduated

from the Institute of Biological Sciences, were recipients of CAS Distinguished Alumni Awards. Further, Ms. Julieta Labog-Javellana, a Communication Arts graduate from the Department of Humanities, received The Outstanding UPLB Alumna Award (TOUAA).



**Dr. Mark Kristoffer U. Pasayan** is awarded the **2022 UPLB CAS Distinguished Alumnus Award** for his outstanding contributions to **Public Health Promotion**. He graduated in 2000 with a degree in BS Biology and is currently a medical specialist at the Department of Health – Research Institute for Tropical Medicine (RITM). As the head of RITM's AIDS Research Group clinic, his work involves caring for

people living with HIV and partnering with health organizations and other community-based groups to promote disease prevention, risk communication, and community awareness. He has played a crucial role in health education by providing numerous training on diagnosis, clinical management, prevention and control of emerging and reemerging infectious diseases. Dr. Pasayan's publications have been influential in forming new policies and guidelines on the country's approaches to infectious diseases like HIV/AIDS. Dr. Pasayan has also valiantly faced the threat of COVID-19 while treating and caring for people affected by the pandemic. His work as a clinician, mentor, and researcher shows his dedication and commitment to public health through the practice of infectious diseases and tropical medicine. ■

**MEB Aurellado**



**Dr. Marilen P. Balolong** is the recipient of the **UPLB CAS Distinguished Alumna Award** for her remarkable achievements and performance as an **educator, researcher, and public servant**. Dr. Balolong graduated from UPLB in 1995 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology and in 2002 with a Master of Science degree in Microbiology. She is currently a professor at the University of the Philippines Manila, where she is responsible

for the development of the Microbiology Track for the Revised BS Biology Degree Program, which has been in effect since 2018. As a member of the Microbiology Consortium, Dr. Balolong has taken part in harmonizing the curriculum for a standardized microbiology education in the country. In recognition of her outstanding research, she has been named one of the Outstanding ASEAN Science Diplomats for 2018. She has also been awarded the 2022 Outstanding Microbiologist Award by the Philippine Society for Microbiology Inc. Dedicated to serving the community through capacity building and science communication, she serves as a resource person and consultant in microbiology for government, academic, and civil society organizations, participating in national and international media and television programs. As the head of the Applied Microbiology for Health and Research Group at UP Manila, she is dedicated to assisting UP Manila in achieving the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals by applying a One Health approach to science. ■

**JDP Ong**

for the development of the Microbiology Track for the Revised BS Biology Degree Program, which has been in effect since 2018. As



Graduating from the BA Communication Arts program of UPLB in 1989, **Ms. Julieta Labog-Javellana** has since been offering invaluable service to the nation as an **esteemed journalist**. Driven by a mission to provide people accurate and relevant information to become empowered citizens, she brings with her over three decades of solid expertise and experience on incisive reporting and investigative

journalism. This has allowed her to report stories on human rights, corruption, and policies that stimulate positive change. Known to uphold ethical and responsible journalism, she has been trusted with key leadership positions in the Inquirer, one of the country's trusted and leading names in news reporting and publishing, and where she has been working for 32 years and counting. Having assumed posts such as Central Desk Chief and (now) Associate Publisher, she has mentored dozens of reporters and has directed content production, reputation management, and editorial operations of various Inquirer news platforms.

Her deep commitment to excellence and balanced reporting has earned her several prestigious awards — among which are recognitions from the Catholic Mass Media Awards (CMMA), the Society of Publishers in Asia, and the United States Embassy, which gave her the Ninoy and Cory Aquino Journalism Award in 2018. While at UPLB, Ms. Javellana served as editor-in-chief for Perspective, the University's official student publication. She obtained her MA in Journalism degree from the Konrad Adenauer Asian Center for Journalism of the Ateneo de Manila University in 2009. ■

**KA Salvador**

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## Stories of teenage pregnancy during the pandemic, retold by a sociologist

The Department of Social Sciences of the College of Arts and Sciences (CAS) held its annual Corazon B. Lamug Lecture Series on Nov. 21, via Zoom and Facebook Live. This learning event commemorated the legacy of the late Dr. Corazon B. Lamug, former dean of CAS and a sociologist. This also provided a platform for a sociological discussion of Filipino social realities.

The 2022 lecturer was Dr. Gloria Luz M. Nelson, a retired Professor of Sociology at UPLB and a professorial lecturer at UP Open University. She presented her study entitled "The Untold Stories of Pregnant Teens and Teen Mothers during the Pandemic".

Dr. Nelson retold the stories of 18 teenagers who were young, pregnant, and mothers during a pandemic crisis in

the Philippines' social and cultural context. According to Dr. Nelson, the study employed a qualitative method, providing thick descriptions and meanings of the experiences of Filipino pregnant teens and mothers during the Covid-19 pandemic crisis.

Screen-mediated, in-depth interviews on Facebook and Messenger were used to collect the data. The 18 participants were from nine provinces covering seven regions in the Philippines.

As a sociologist, Dr. Nelson observed that school closures, dysfunctional families, and a lack of access to sexual and reproductive health education are all mediating factors in

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**Asst. Prof. Mabel Buela... from Page 2**

School organizations such as The Rural Student Government and The Ruralite also released respective greetings for Asst. Prof. Buela.

The search for a new UPRHS-CAS Principal started back in August 2022, when the nominations for the position were opened. Nominees presented their vision, plans, and programs for the school on August 15.

An interview with UPRHS constituents, including select students, faculty, staff, and the Parent-Teacher Association, was also held from August 16 to 17.

As UP Rural gears toward a gradual transition to full face-to-face classes, the leadership of a new principal will be essential in the fulfillment of calls for Ligtas na Balik Eskwela.

In the meantime, Asst. Prof. Buela assured the UP Rural community in a shared post stating, "Makakaasa po kayo na pagbubutihin at paghuhusayan ang serbisyo. Sama-sama tayo, tulung-tulong! Lagi't lagi para kay Mutyang Rural!" ■

**JR Villanueva**  
Credits: LB Lasat, Jr. & M Dela Cruz

## Outstanding Performance of UPLB Graduates in the Chemist Licensure Examination and Chemical Technician Licensure Examination

The Institute of Chemistry (IC) takes pride in its graduates who passed the 2022 Chemist Licensure Examination and Chemical Technician Licensure Examination held last October 17–18 and October 19, respectively.

In the Chemist Licensure Examination, the University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB) was named as this year's one and only top-performing school with a passing rate of 82.35 % (42 passers out of 51 takers).

Five (5) positions in the Top Ten were clinched by IC graduates, namely Carmel Rose M. Rolloque (1st), Carlos Antonio N. Concepcion (4th), Christian John G. Cordero (5th), Justine Russel O. Molina (6th), and Rollan Paul

P. Parakikay (9th). Miss Rolloque, Mr. Cordero, and Mr. Parakikay are currently members of the IC faculty.

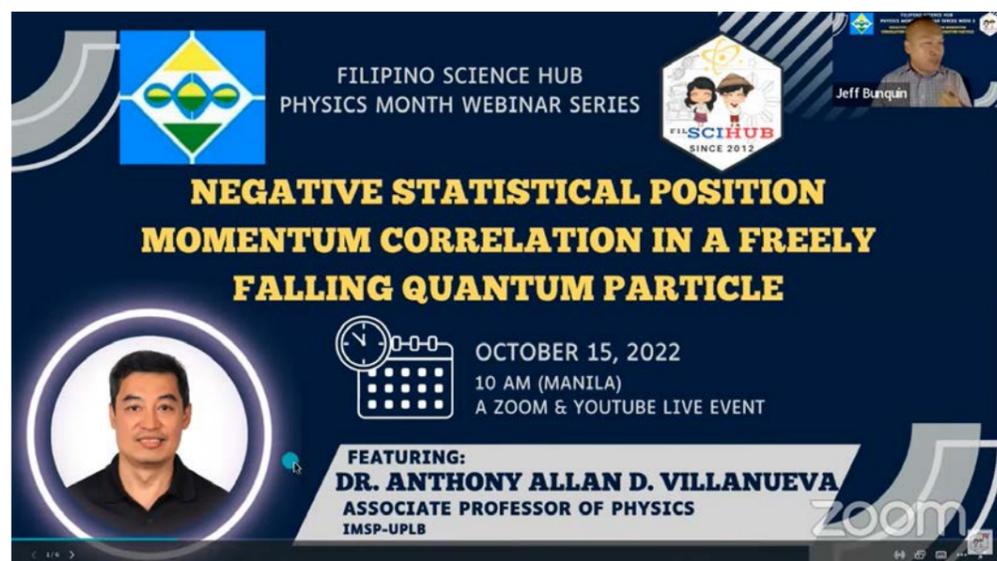
This is no mean feat by the IC graduates considering that the national passing rate is only 38.85 % (284 passed out of the 731 who took the exam).

In the Chemical Technician Licensure Examination, Carlos Antonio N. Concepcion, 4th placer in the Chemist Licensure Exam, was ranked number 1. Of the 2,588 who took this exam, 2,204 passed. ■

**MM Lacquo**

## IMSP celebrates Physics Month with FilSciHub

The Institute of Mathematical Sciences and Physics (IMSP), in partnership with the Filipino Science Hub (FilSciHub), held a series of educational and research webinars in celebration of Physics Month. The webinars and workshops were held online via Zoom and live-streamed on the FilSciHub YouTube channel. The webinars aimed to uplift the quality of STEM education and research in the country by promoting the wonders and powers of physics.



of the Phyphox mobile phone app. Another set of activities demonstrated the use of Physics Toolbox for light and optics experiments.

In the third week, Dr. Anthony Allan Villanueva delivered a talk entitled "Negative Statistical Position

Momentum Correlation in a Freely Falling Quantum Particle." The talk outlined fundamental topics on quantum mechanics such as the De Broglie wavelength, Young's double slit experiments, probability flow, and wave packets. Dr. Villanueva also shared his research on the quantum mechanical interpretation of momentum and position correlation for both free particles and free fall.

The Physics Month was concluded by Dr. Darwin Putungan in his webinar entitled "2D or Not 2D -- That is the Question!" Dr. Putungan discussed Density Functional Theory (DFT)-based calculations and kinetic Monte Carlo simulations of two-dimensional materials for energy conversion and storage. The webinar featured applications on materials such as graphene and MoS<sub>2</sub>, which exhibit exotic properties in 2D, highlighting the importance of material dimensionality.

The webinars were well-attended by high school students and educators from different parts of the country. The live stream recordings are available on the FilSciHub Youtube channel, which are tagged IMSPxFSH Webinar. ■

**FIN de Vera**

Dr. Allan Alinea's webinar "Cosmology: The Universe as It Walks With Time" kicked off Physics Month Celebration on 01 October 2022. The webinar narrated the history of human exploration and the search for the origin of everything. Dr. Alinea also discussed human curiosity and its deep connection to the night sky, as well as concepts required for understanding the universe such as quarks, photons, and relativity. He also introduced the  $\Lambda$ CDM model, which stands for  $\Lambda$  as dark energy, and CDM as cold dark matter.

An educational workshop entitled "DIY Physics Experiments" was held on the second week by Assoc. Prof. Nelio Altoveros, Asst. Profs. Arvin Jusi, Francesca Isabel de Vera, Anna Pamela de Jesus, and Rea Divina Mero. The workshop featured laboratory activities that can be performed using accessible tools such as mobile phones and the use of free mobile applications in physics laboratory experiments. The first activity was about mechanics, particularly a simple pendulum, and made use

### Stories of Teenage... from Page 4

teen pregnancy. The study shows that the 18 participants are generally happy with their new roles as mothers and mostly rely on their families and partners for financial and emotional support.

Dr. Nelson concluded that, like the pandemic, teenage pregnancy is a global phenomenon. As it is increasing, she emphasized that it requires both societal and individual efforts and should be a major concern of all social institutions.

The event was graced by Dr. Maribel L. Dionisio-Sese, Dean of CAS, who noted that the annual Corazon B. Lamug Lecture Series was the DSS's own "subli", in homage to Dean Lamug's "humbling selfless service" to the academic community. Asst. Prof. Athenee Pacardo-Mercado, chair of DSS, also joined the webinar. ■

**STS Alcantara**

### UPLB CAS LITE... from Page 2

The lecture proved to be enjoyable for attendees as questions were raised during the question and answer (Q&A) session which enriched the discussion. Moderated by Asst. Prof. Eusebio, the questions exhibited the passion of faculty and students for learning, digging deep into their own experiences during the Q&A.

Ending the program was Asst. Prof. Adalla with her closing remarks wherein she affirmed and supported Asst. Prof. Año's statements. She highlighted that there is a need to keep in check with our linguistic realities which will benefit both the educators and the students. "Because when we

do that, we can create a better learning environment for our students," she added.

The UPLB CAS LITE Program continues to have numerous projects in store, pursuing its mission to provide language training for international students and upholding what it stands for: Language Instruction Towards Excellence. ■

**EWS Rivas**

## INSTAT participates in the 23rd Faculty-Student Conference on the Statistical Sciences



The students and faculty of the Institute of Statistics participated in the 23rd Faculty-Student Conference held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Manila last October 3, 2022. This year's faculty-student conference had gone the extra mile, figuratively and literally, as there were paper submissions from different schools all over the country. This was also the first in-person conference after two years of having online conferences.

With the conference coinciding with the 15th National Convention in Statistics, the plenary session emphasized the use of Statistics to boost the country's recovery from the pandemic. The Undersecretary, Honorable Rosemarie Edillon, highlighted that Statistics could be a tool to help the government craft policies and programs that empower Filipinos to enjoy a matatag, maginhawa at panatag na buhay.

In the parallel sessions, vast applications of Statistics in fields such as media, environment, education, labor, and employment, among others were observed. The parallel session on Media presented several methods to analyze big data. It also highlighted the use of alternative data sources to gain insights on people's sentiments and attitudes. The parallel session on Labor and Employment discussed interesting topics regarding unemployment rates, salaries, and climate-smart agricultural technologies.

Meanwhile, the parallel session on Finance and Economics showcased timely studies on the effect of COVID-19 on the Philippine Economy. Non-traditional statistical methodologies which involve high dimensional data, evasive responses, and drug development were also presented in the parallel session on Statistical Methodologies.

The afternoon sessions tackled the application of Statistics in Health, Education, and Environment. In the Health and Family Planning sessions, modern techniques such as Bayesian Methods, Survival Analysis, and Small-Area Estimation were utilized to analyze health-related data. Papers presented in the session emphasized the importance of prioritizing maternal and neonatal health.

The Education parallel session focused on the use of statistics in teaching practices and strategies. Lastly, the Environment Session talked about improving biodiversity and studying socio-economic and environmental indicators through estimation and regression analysis, respectively.

These studies demonstrate the importance of statistics in today's society. Indeed, Statistics and Data play a critical role in making sound decisions and evidence-based policies for a better quality of life. ■

**LAF Almero**

## INSTAT offers Free Statistical Consulting Services

Celebrating the 33rd National Statistics Month, the Institute of Statistics offered free consulting services on 24-25 October 2022 via Zoom. The activity aimed to provide free consulting services to determine the appropriate research design, statistical methods, and interpretation of research.

The free statistical consulting services were offered to faculty and students from various senior high schools (SHS) and higher education institutions (HEIs) in the country. There were 73 who registered, but only 16 were accepted

and scheduled for consultation with the 24 members of the faculty. One graduate student also served as a consultant in addition to the faculty members.

Accepted clients unanimously stated that such consulting services aided them in understanding and employing appropriate data collection methods and statistical tools. ■

*LPA Ebal*

## History cluster conducts webinar on historical distortions

**A Webinar on Historical Distortion**  
 21 November 2022, Monday, 1:00 PM  
 Live via Zoom and the UPLB DSS Facebook Page

**Asst. Prof. Francisco Jayme Paolo A. Guiang**  
 Department of History  
 College of Social Sciences and Philosophy  
 University of the Philippines Diliman

**Assoc. Prof. Wensley M. Reyes, PhD, LPT**  
 Department of Social Sciences  
 College of Arts and Sciences  
 University of the Philippines Manila

**Senior Lecturer Gloria E. Melencio**  
 Department of Social Sciences  
 College of Arts and Sciences  
 University of the Philippines Los Baños

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Three history faculty members from constituent universities of the University of the Philippines (UP) have discussed historical distortion and its negative effects.

This was during the “Webinar on Historical Distortion” last November 21, 2022, organized by the History 1 / Kasaysayan 1 Cluster of the Division of History, Department of Social Sciences (DSS), College of Arts and Sciences, UP Los Baños.

Asst. Prof. Gloria Melencio, now a senior lecturer at the Division of History, discussed the various forms of repression against media since the 1970s in her lecture titled "Stop the Press: Social Media and Distorting History During Martial Law period. Repressions, such as Letter of Instruction No. 1 s. of 1972, were legalized through various issuances by the dictator, which forbade media facilities from being ostensibly used in anti-government

propaganda. However, in reality, the ability of such outlets to disseminate information is limited. The General Order No. 19, which is another issuance, practically ordered the arrest of journalists who reported critical news against the dictatorship. Other factors that distorted information during the Martial Law period included ownership of media outlets by Marcos' cronies and intimidation by those in power, especially during the coverage of the killing of Butbut Kalinga leader Macli-ing Dulag.

The rise of the Internet hastened the spread of news to more audiences and readers. In the social media age, trolls have become the primary tools in disinformation. Citing the study of Ong and Cabanes, Asst. Prof. Melencio classified five kinds of trolls. At the same time, they were being used to promote the image of other politicians. Disinformation

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## Dr. Bucoy wins two Palanca Awards



Seven years since her last Palanca award in 2015, Associate Professor Dr. Layeta Bucoy from the Department of Humanities is back in the winners' circle in the 2022 Carlos Palanca Memorial Awards for Literature. This time she bags not one but two prizes in two

categories and in two languages: First Prize in Full-length Play (English) for "Orgullo Compound" and Second Prize in One-Act Play (Filipino) for "Dance of the Foolies." These two awards bring Dr. Bucoy's total Palanca wins to eight.

Both plays were inspired by scientific research, specifically in nanoscience, as part of Dr. Bucoy's continuing effort to

dramatize scientific researches and develop what she has since termed as nanopoeitics of drama. The plays were first developed for her dissertation entitled "Nanopoeitics of Drama: The Rise of Three Full-length Plays from Research on Arsenic and Nanosilica from Rice Hull Ash of the University of the Philippines Los Baños Nanoscience and Technology Facility and Analytical and Instrumentation Science Laboratory".

Dr. Bucoy began work on this pioneering poetics for her MFA thesis which focused on dramatizing research breakthroughs in biotechnology. This new poetics, she explained, dramatized a given scientific paper by contextualizing and metaphorizing its scientific principles in Aristotelian complex and complete human action.

For the one-act play 'Dance of the Foolies,' Dr. Bucoy got inspiration from the research on nanosilica by now retired CAS professor Dr. Milagros M. Peralta and her research team, particularly the papers "Effects of Nanosilica Powder from Rice Hull Ash on Seed Germination of Tomato (*Lycopersicon esculentum*)" and "Growth and Yield of Tomato Applied with Silicon Supplements with Varying Material Structures. "

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## IBS offers new PhD by Research in Zoology

The Animal Biology Division (ABD), IBS announces their new program offering Ph.D. by Research in Zoology. This newly instituted program is recommended for students who want to pursue their desired fields of interest using advanced research methods, state-of-the-art research facilities, and strong financial support from funding agencies. In this program, students are expected to conduct their own research with the guidance of their research supervisor. Among the potential fields of specialization include parasitology, marine biology, freshwater ecology,

**University of the Philippines Los Baños**  
 Institute of Biological Sciences  
 Animal Biology Division

**New Program Offering**  
**PhD by Research in Zoology**

Now accepting applications for 2nd Semester AY 2022-2023

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Deadline for application: January 6, 2023

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vertebrate physiology, and invertebrate biology.

The program is now accepting applications for the 2nd Semester Academic Year 2022-2023. Interested applicants are encouraged to visit the ABD website at <https://abd.ibs.uplb.edu.ph/> to learn more about the admission requirements and to look for potential research supervisors from the graduate faculty roster. Prospective students who wish to apply are also advised to visit the UPLB Graduate School website at <https://gs.uplb.edu.ph/admission/how-to-apply>. ■

*MEB Aurellado*

## INSTAT delegates win big at the 2022 NCS and NSM events

Tricia Janylle B. Sta. Maria from the Institute of Statistics Class of 2022 bagged First Place in the Best Student Paper Competition at the 2022 Philippine Statistical Association, Inc. (PSAI) Annual Conference; while the University of the Philippines - Los Baños Statistical Society (UPLB STATS) was honored with the Circle of Excellence Plaque of Recognition during the 32nd National Statistics Months Awards. Moreso, 26th Philippine Statistics Quiz (PSQ) Regional elimination contestants Dylan Ross L. Espino and Mark M. Tangalin placed 2nd and 3rd, respectively, while Asst. Prof. Leonard Allan F. Almero won 2nd place in the National Level of the PSA Quiz Bee after reigning as champion on the regionals.

Sta. Maria's special problem entitled "Spatiotemporal Patterns and Influencing Factors of COVID-19 cases in Quezon City, Philippines", which was also this year's recipient of the Dr. Mariano B. De Ramos Statistical Excellence Award, topped the other student participants from all over the country. During the 15th National Convention on Statistics, held at Crowne Plaza Manila Galleria, Ortigas Center, Quezon City on October 4, 2022, the Magna Cum Laude graduate of INSTAT received a plaque and a cash prize of Php 30,000. The said award is granted to students in higher education institutions within three years prior to



presentation (A.Y. 2019-2020, A.Y. 2020-2021, A.Y. 2021-2022), who have submitted papers that are of excellent quality showcasing the broad field of statistics and/or especially relevant to this year's theme, "Boosting the Country's Recovery with Informed Decisions, Better Policies." Other selected finalists include Fong-Xiang G. Chen & Alyssa Gutierrez of the De La Salle University and Richelle C. Navarra of the University of the Philippines - Cebu, who won the Second and Third Prizes, respectively.

Meanwhile, the UPLB Statistical Society (UPLB STATS) received the Circle of Excellence Award for winning the Best Youth Group Advocate for Statistics for three consecutive years, from 2015 to 2017. This recognition is given to youth organizations in both private and public academic institutions who have exerted outstanding efforts and dedication in promoting statistics over the years through various activities inside and outside the university. Along with other categories, this is the first batch of Circle of Excellence awards given by the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA).

Among the advocacy venues of UPLB STATS are the ESTADISTIKA, an invitational statistics quiz, poster making and essay writing contests for high school students, Career Orientations on Statistics, annual Job Fair for statistics and related fields, tutorial sessions for Statistics courses, and STATSKI Says Survey game. The National Statistics Month (NSM)

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### History cluster conducts... from Page 8

became more prevalent during the Covid-19 -pandemic when lockdowns forced people to rely more on social media for news and other information.

In his lecture, "Identifying Historical Distortions, Nature and Traits of Online Disinformation," Asst. Prof. Guiang, from UP Diliman's Department of History, distinguished historical distortionism from historical revisionism. Historical revisionism happens when there are changes in interpretations on historical events due to new data or information. However, historical revisionism has acquired a negative connotation especially when the writer exhibits too much bias and does not meet academic standards and norms. This negative type of historical revisionism can lead to historical distortions. The most common form of distorting historical data happens when there is a removal of historical guilt; furthermore, there is whitewashing of negative details that may end up with mythmaking. Guiang, also a fact checker for Akademiya at Bayan Kontra Disimpormasyon at Dayaan (ABKD), revealed patterns in the dissemination of distorted historical data:

virality of information, making of absurd claims, and the use of clickbait titles. Guiang cited some historical thinking skills in order to refute false claims on Philippine history. For one, netizens should ascertain the credibility of the source. Second is to dissect the unfounded and absurd claims made online.

Dr. Wensley Reyes, from the Department of Social Sciences, College of Arts and Sciences, UP Manila, gave five "Ks" in Pedagogiyang Pangkasaysayan: Kuwento, Konteksto, Katunayan, Katwiran, Kabuluhan in his talk "Kasanaysayan kontra Kabaluktutan: Mungkahing Pedagogiya laban sa Distorsong Pangkasaysayan." Dr. Reyes also emphasized that teaching in Filipino culture must be literally shown and demonstrated.

Dr. Roderick C. Javar, an associate professor from the Division of History, provided a summary and reaction to the three lectures of the webinar. ■

**RJ Asuncion**

## IBS hosts 14th nat'l DevBio convention



The Philippine Society for Developmental Biology (PSDB) partnered with the Institute of Biological Sciences (IBS) to hold its hybrid 14th Annual Scientific Convention on 24-26 November 2022 with on-site sessions at the IBS Lecture Hall Main, Biological Sciences Building, UPLB Campus on Day 3. The convention's theme was "Developmental Biology Amidst Global Challenges."

The first two sessions, focusing on animal and plant development, were held via Zoom on November 24 and 25, 2022. Various papers from local and foreign universities and research institutions were presented during the poster sessions.

"We value the collaboration between our organizations and look forward to more engagements and academic ventures," Dr. Vachel Gay V. Paller, the IBS Director, said as she welcomed Day 3 on-site and online participants. Session 3 featured international developmental biology expert Susana Cohen-Cory, Ph.D., from the Department of Neurobiology and Behavior, University of California, Irvine. She discussed

neuronal connectivity in the developing brain, from axons and dendrites to synapses.

Other talks covered challenges in the study of fetocardiovascular development by Clarissa Velayo, Ph.D., from the Department of Physiology, UP College of Medicine, and the stressful impact of neonatal separation on astrocytes in the rat media frontal cortex by Rowena Antemano, Ph.D., from the Department of Biological Sciences, Mariano Marcos State University.

With 30 attendees in person and 250 online attendees, the event was successfully done in collaboration with Macare Medicals, as well as Medtest, NouveauLab, Goldquest Biotechnologies, Inc., and Merck as additional sponsors.

PSDB President Lerrie Ann Ipulan-Colet, Ph.D., capped the convention with the awarding of the poster winner, a business meeting, and the election of the next set of national officers. ■

**JP Lado**

## UPLB-DSS holds webinar on the suffragist movement and President Quezon

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SCIENCES  
COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES  
UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES LOS BAÑOS

Kas 4: Kasaysayan ng Kababaihan sa Pilipinas

### The Suffragist Movement and Manuel L. Quezon

Veronica C. Alporha  
Former DSS Faculty, UPLB  
PhD Student, University of Hawai'i Manoa

25 November 2022, Friday, 10:00 am  
via Zoom and the UPLB DSS Facebook Page

facebook.com/uplbdss | 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor NCAS Annex 1 Building University of the Philippines Los Baños, College, Laguna 4031 Philippines

The History Division of the Department of Social Sciences held a webinar on Nov. 25 with Veronica Alporha, former DSS faculty member and current PhD student at the University of Hawaii Manoa, as guest speaker, giving a lecture entitled "The Suffragist Movement and Manuel L. Quezon".

Alporha started her lecture by tracing the genesis of the Philippine feminist movement in the early 1900s, particularly the Asociacion Feminista Filipina in 1905 founded by Concepcion Felix, which was still preoccupied with women's engagement in social work and education. However, it was in this period, according to Alporha, when

Filipina suffragists started to blossom and subsequently linked up with their American counterparts in the United States. In 1920, the US Senate passed the Women's Suffrage Bill, granting voting rights to American women. It would take 13 years of struggle before Act No. 4112 was enacted in 1933, granting the right of suffrage to women in the Philippines, including eligibility for public offices.

Due to their upper-class origin, Alporha stressed that while Filipina suffragists at the time were not militants, they also rejected the stereotypical Maria Clara as being passive.

*Cont'd on page 16*

### Dr. Bucoy wins two... from Page 9

Intrigued by how small particles such as nanosilica powder could penetrate target materials, Dr. Bucoy applied the principle in the play where she dramatized how the incompetent could penetrate the halls of power surreptitiously.

Similarly, the First Prize winner Orgullo Compound was inspired by two papers on nanotechnology by a team that also includes Dr. Peralta along with CAS faculty Dr. Alvin Karlo Tapia. These were "Effect of nano-SiO<sub>2</sub> from rice hull ash on the conductivity of cement paste" and "Investigation on Performance of Epoxy Coated Steels with Nano-SiO<sub>2</sub> and Polyaniline Composite Using Complex Impedance

Spectroscopy." In both papers, the addition of nanosilica from RHA in epoxy coating and cement paste pellet increased the material's durability in terms of resistance to corrosion and electrical conductivity. The play picked up on these findings and went on to dramatize how the system benefits from welcoming and nurturing small endeavors.

Dr. Bucoy was a UP Artist from 2013 to 2019, and in 2019, she was named UPLB's Outstanding Alumna in Culture and the Arts. ■

**LM Fajutagana**

## DHUM assistant professor's media literacy video series

Asst. Prof. Madelyn Garcia's edutainment series for children "Meriam's Online World " premiered on TVUP Channel 101 last 12 December.

Meriam's Online World, a video series written and produced by Asst. Prof. Garcia, aims to increase Filipino youth's awareness on digital media literacy. By featuring the character Meriam, a tech-savvy 10-year-old girl, the series presents key issues on the Philippines' heavily saturated media ecosystem, which demands critical and advanced digital literacy skills. The series specifically promotes critical thinking, respect, and a deeper understanding of online environments among elementary pupils from Grades 6 to 9.

With this project, Asst. Prof. Garcia has earned recognition from the International Council for Media Literacy and the Marieli Rowe Innovation in Media Literacy Education, esteemed international organizations that acknowledge pioneering works focused on advancing media criticality and literacy.



The series was produced through the National Endowment Fund for Children's Television (NEFCTV) grant from the National Council for Children's Television (NCCT) and in collaboration with UPLB Foundation, Inc., Department of Humanities - College of Arts and Sciences, UPLB, and Red Motion Media. It was co-written and directed by Yam Palma. DHUM Asst. Prof. Cheeno Marlo Sayuno also served as one of the consultants.

Asst. Prof. Garcia holds a bachelor's degree in Communication Arts from the University of the Philippines Los Baños and a master's degree in Communication Research from the University of the Philippines Diliman. Her research interests include media studies, digital media literacy, and media education. Her work "Socially Shared Inquiry in Media and Information Literacy in Philippine Public K-12 Schools" was awarded Outstanding Master's Thesis by UP Diliman's Department of Communication Research in 2021. ■

**KA Salvador**

## 12th UCAAI General Assembly and IC Alumni Homecoming



Last 15 October 2022, the UPLB General Chemistry Alumni Association, Inc. (UCAAI) together with the Institute of Chemistry (IC) held the 12th UCAAI General Assembly and IC Alumni Homecoming with the theme "kimiKAPIHAN sa IC 3.0: UCAAI through the years, quo vadis?" via Zoom. There was a panel discussion on what the association has achieved through the years and what it can still do in the coming years, followed by the UCAAI business meeting.

The panelists were the UCAAI's past presidents and the incumbent, namely Dr. William G. Padolina, Mr. Emmanuel A. Florido, Mrs. Lilia R. Molina, and Mr. Miko Lorenzo J. Belgado. Dr. Padolina began the discussion by reminding everyone of the association's role in keeping the Institute of Chemistry a sustainable institution in terms of excellence and relevance. When the participants were asked about their expectations for the association, the

responses revolved around collaboration, mentoring, professional support, and other opportunities to help IC. With these in mind, the panel proceeded by leveling off these expectations and identifying the existing problems or gaps that the association can focus on, followed by their elaborate suggestions on improving the general productivity of chemists produced by the Institute. The discussion centered on improving the relationship with the IC alumni to make them more involved in the activities of the UCAAI, enriching basic science education by partnering with nearby secondary high schools, and establishing a niche in which the Institute will be known.

Overall, the kimiKAPIHAN sa IC 3.0 accomplished its goal of charting a course for the UCAAI in the coming years. ■

**JM Ferreras**

**CAS holds first... from Page 1**

of English and Comparative Literature, College of Arts and Letters, University of the Philippines Diliman.

Asst. Prof. Prince Kennex Aldama from the Department of Social Sciences; Prof. Allan Abraham B. Padama from the Institute of Mathematical Sciences and Physics; and Asst. Prof. Jaymee R. Encabo from the Institute of Biological Sciences, all from the College of Arts and Sciences, University of the Philippines Los Baños were also invited to give a talk.

A total of 69 papers were presented during parallel sessions held on the first day of the conference. Best oral papers in Biological Sciences; Education; Physical and Mathematical

Tall) by Jickerson P. Lado, Cresel M. Lawas, Odette Mirajoy T. Reyes, Alyssa Mae L. Santos

**BEST ORAL PAPER IN EDUCATION (PROFESSIONAL CATEGORY)**  
Dimensions of Student Online Learning Readiness Scale: What Matters Most? by Lara Paul A. Ebal, Joyce DL. Grajo, James Roldan S. Reyes, Liza N. Comia, Jared Jorim O. Mendoza, and Mara Sherlin DP. Talento

**BEST ORAL PAPER IN EDUCATION (NON-PROFESSIONAL CATEGORY)**  
Estado ng mga Akdang Pampanitikan sa Paaralan sa Paghubog ng Ponolohiya ng Bata sa Panahon ng



Sciences; and Social Sciences and Humanities were awarded for both professional and non-professional categories. These are the winners for Best Oral Paper:

**BEST ORAL PAPER IN BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES (PROFESSIONAL CATEGORY)**  
Molecular analysis of *Ascaris* spp. infecting humans and animals using the nuclear ribosomal ITS1 region by Knessa Klariz R. Llanes, Ericka Joy U. Ancayan, Vachel Gay V. Paller

**BEST ORAL PAPER IN BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES (NON-PROFESSIONAL CATEGORY)**  
Cellular Morphology and Cell Wall Pectin Content of the Solid Endosperms of Three Coconut (*Cocos nucifera* L.) Variants (Laguna Tall, Makapuno Tall, and Philippine Lono

Pandemya: Mga Karanasan mula sa Cabay Day Care Center by Janine R. Lardizabal and Cheeno Marlo M. Sayuno

**BEST ORAL PAPER IN PHYSICAL AND MATHEMATICAL SCIENCES (PROFESSIONAL CATEGORY)**  
Site-diluted Ising Model in two dimensions by Eduardo C. Cuansing

**BEST ORAL PAPER IN PHYSICAL AND MATHEMATICAL SCIENCES (NON-PROFESSIONAL CATEGORY)**  
Molecular Docking of Selected Phytochemicals from *Dita* (*Alstonia scholaris*) with the SARS-CoV-2 Receptor-Binding

*Cont'd on page 16*

**DHUM takes part on Martial Law@50 Commemoration**

On September 20, 2022, the Department of Humanities of the University of the Philippines Los Baños co-organized the kick-off event to commemorate the 50th Martial Law declaration. This is the fifth year since UP declared the Day of Remembrance on September 21, 2018.

Apart from the UP system-wide activities, UP Los Baños planned a series of events with the theme, "Manindigan sa Katotohanan, Itanghal ang Katarungan." It was a multisectoral event that involved the UPLB Department of Social Sciences, UPLB Department of Humanities, UP Academic Employees Union Los Baños, the University Student Council, and the UPLB Perspective.

The opening ceremonies started with a short mobilization at the Carabao Park, followed by the "Gunitang Bayan Street Art" held at the Student Union Building. According to Asst. Prof. Laurence Castillo of the Department of Humanities, the event transpired through a series of solidarity speeches "that extolled the need to commemorate the heroism of Martial Law-era activists and address the problem of historical distortion." A candle lighting ceremony happened thereafter in honor of the Martial Law heroes and martyrs.

The Department of Humanities held an audiovisual exhibit and freedom wall at the CAS Annex 1 Lobby that employees and students alike participated from September 21 to 30.

A literary contest was also held by the department in October. The ML@50 Timpalak Pampanitikan was participated by college



UPLB ML@50: Candle lighting ceremony in commemoration of Martial Law heroes and martyrs (Photo by Asst. Prof. Laurence Castillo)

students throughout CALABARZON. Essay and poetry entries focused on the relevance of studying and commemorating the Martial Law in a modern Marcos regime. Winners for the said competition were Angela Glodoviza of the Polytechnic University of the Philippines for her essay, "Hindi Kasamang Ibinabaon ang Kasaysayan sa Hukay ng Diktador", and Yasmin Vera Criste of UP Los Baños for her poem, "Elihiya para sa Bawat Pangalang Nakalilok sa Marmol".

The events culminated in a film screening and forum in partnership with AsiaVisions, IBON Foundation, and PUP Center for Heritage Studies.

"May pangangailangang maging malay sa pagsasakangkapan sa wika, panitikan, sining, kultura, at iba pang anyong pang-midya sa pagpapalaganap ng kasinungalingan", the department declared through an official statement released on September 21.

On the importance of raising awareness about truth in Martial Law, the department states, "Nakalubid sa mga paggunitang ito ang patuloy na hamon sa kolehiyo, sa unibersidad at mga institusyon ng kaalaman na magsilbing lunsaran ng mapagpalayang kaisipan at patuloy na banggain ang mga tangkang paglilihis sa katotohanan at pagpapatanggap sa sistema ng dahas at paninikil."

**MA Sto. Tomas**

**INSTAT delegates win... from Page 10**

Awarding Ceremony was conducted virtually through Zoom and Facebook Livestream last 4 November 2022.

Continuing the winning streak, delegates Espino (BS Computer Science) and Tangalin (BS Applied Mathematics) posted 2nd and 3rd places, respectively in the recently concluded 26th Philippine Statistics Quiz Regional Championship (CALABARZON) last 14 November 2022 in Lipa City, Batangas. These UPLB delegates have been the province's representatives after topping the Provincial Eliminations last 27 October 2022 at Laguna State Polytechnic University - Sta. Cruz Campus. Espino then bagged the championship and Tangalin placed third. They were both coached by UPLB INSTAT's very own Asst. Prof. John Lorenzo A. Yambot.

Lastly, Asst. Prof. Almero ranked second at the Second PSA Quiz Bee - National Finals held at Century Park Hotel, Malate, Manila last 7 December 2022. The INSTAT faculty member previously won the Regional Eliminations of the same event, which was held in Lipa City, Batangas on October 28, 2022.

This quiz contest has taken place since 2021 and is participated in by member-agencies of the Regional Statistics Committee (RSCs) among the 17 regions of the country. The said event was also live streamed via the PSA's Facebook page.

**JDB Dorado**

**CAS holds first... from Page 14**

Domain-Human ACE2 Protein Complex by Alyanna Fatima S. Micoso and Mariam C. Recuenco

**BEST ORAL PAPER IN SOCIAL SCIENCES AND HUMANITIES (PROFESSIONAL CATEGORY)**

Pagsusuri sa mga Variant ng /r/ sa Filipino bilang mga Alopono by Lexter A. Castro

**BEST ORAL PAPER IN SOCIAL SCIENCES AND HUMANITIES (NON-PROFESSIONAL CATEGORY)**

Usapang Pera at Pamilya: Exploring the Social Contexts of Family Financial Socialization through the Narratives of Selected Filipino Youth by Eugene Dale E. Trabuco

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Poster sessions were held on November 28 and December 5. Out of the 25 posters, the following were recognized as:

**BEST POSTER PAPER IN BASIC SCIENCE AND MATHEMATICS**

Analysis of shellac and rosemary extract as edible coating for shelf life improvement of Pili nut (*Canarium ovatum* by Carrillo, Patricia Mae G., De Jesus, Anna Pamela O., Parel, Marco Miguel P., Roxas- Villanueva, Ranzivelle Marianne L., Herrera, Marvin U.

**BEST POSTER PAPER IN SOCIAL SCIENCES, HUMANITIES AND EDUCATION**

The Influence of Pedagogical Love on Student Motivation in Learning Mathematics in the Height of Pandemic by Shielo May A. Tombon, Judith Camilotes, Ivan Veloso, Eugene Dodongan

The conference ended through a synthesis given by Assoc. Prof. Neil Jerome A. Egarguin from the Institute of Mathematical Sciences and Physics (IMSP) and closing remarks by Dean Maribel L. Dionisio-Sese. ■

**RA Ramirez****UPLB-DSS holds webinar... from Page 12**

More importantly, it was the figure of babaylan that was reclaimed, namely the restoration of pre-colonial rights and freedom of Filipino women.

Like other Filipino politicians, Manuel Quezon was opposed to suffrage, and he continued to be double-faced on the issue even after its granting. That is why the Philippine Commonwealth under President Quezon did not immediately implement the 1933 Act. Instead, it passed Act No. 34 in 1936, setting up a plebiscite on the question of women's suffrage. Finally, on April 30, 1937, Filipino women obtained this right

after ninety-one percent favored the move. In the end, Alporha raised the necessity of being critical of Quezon and encouraged students of history to do the same, especially with his claimed legacy of advancing the right to suffrage without giving credit to the Filipina suffrage movement.

The webinar in its entirety can be viewed for free through the Facebook page of the UPLB Department of Social Sciences. ■

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