

# CAS accents

The Official Newsletter of the  
UPLB College of Arts and Sciences

Vol. 24 No. 2 | 2022 UPLB Graduation Issue



ISSN 0118-1998



@cas.uplb



<https://ggle.io/3JUG>



[www.cas.uplb.edu.ph](http://www.cas.uplb.edu.ph)



## CAS TESTIMONIAL PROGRAM HONORS CLASS OF 2022

For the first time since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, the College of Arts and Sciences held the CAS Testimonial Program to recognize the graduating class of 2022 last August 4 at the Copeland Gymnasium. With the theme “Pagsibol ng Kasaysayan at Kasaysayan ng Pagsibol,” the program, which was hosted by Dr. Mark Oliver Llangco (DSS) and Asst. Prof. Angella Melissa Carlos (IBS), honored the 397 members of the UPLB CAS class of 2022.

The program began with the procession followed by the singing of the National Anthem and the CAS Hymn. Dr. Chryslie Margus Piñol, CAS Associate Dean, welcomed the graduates and parents with a reflection on the program's theme and its figuring of the graduates' flourishing from, and outside the university. CAS Dean, Dr. Maribel Dionisio-Sese delivered an inspirational message honoring teachers and parents. She reminded

that the graduates now “stand at the crossroads of the history that shaped them, and the history that they will shape.”

The graduating class received their certificates of completion, and took a pledge led by Dr. Maria Dalisay Maligalig, Chair of the CAS Alumni Relations Committee, representing Ms. Buenaflor Maningas, CAS Alumni Association President.

*Cont'd on page 11*

### WHAT'S INSIDE

- » BA Socio summa cum laude grad is UPLB Class 2022 valedictorian
- » UPLB student's experiment to be performed in the Int'l Space Station
- » INSTAT releases INSTAT Comics with Super Surbeytero as its first series
- » UP Fighting Maroons Men's Basketball Team celebrates historic triumph at UPLB
- » ICS celebrates its 27th Anniversary
- » CHEM-trepreneur 101
- » DHum faculty member recognized by International Council for Media Literacy



## INSTAT releases INSTAT Comics with Super Surbeytero as its first series



With the main goal of informing and answering the public's many questions about pre-election surveys, the UPLB Institute of Statistics (INSTAT) successfully published the first series of INSTAT Comics titled "Super Surbeytero." This was published through INSTAT's pages on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter. A total of seven episodes had been published. The first one was released on 16 March 2022 with the succeeding episodes following every Wednesday, 12NN.

The 2022 National Elections

saw an intense race among national candidates and with it, the conduct of several election surveys from various individuals and companies. As part of the UPLB Halalan 2022 initiative, INSTAT sought to educate the public on election surveys through the adventures of Super Surbeytero, a fictional character whose superpower is statistical knowledge. Across seven episodes, Super Surbeytero introduced the purpose of election surveys. He also illustrated in simple terms statistical concepts such as probability sampling and bias. The series also touched upon

the limitations of election surveys in predicting the results of elections. Lastly, it emphasized that election surveys are merely tools. Ultimately, it is Filipinos' votes that determine election results. After releasing the final episode on 22 April 2022, INSTAT shared Extra Scoops which focused on demystifying sampling errors in election surveys.

The first series is a success, having garnered a total of almost 3000 reactions, comments, and shares on INSTAT social media platforms. UPLB INSTAT Comics, the Facebook

page created solely for the purpose of publishing the series, now has around 1200 likes and followers. Everyone is invited to check the INSTAT's social media pages and stay tuned for more as the institute plans to continue its initiative in improving statistical literacy through INSTAT Comics especially during this time where social media play a major role in fighting misinformation and serving truth about certain issues. ■

**KDR Alcaide,  
HMRmolacio, & RT  
Marcelino**

## Philippine historian talks about politics of memory during Fil-Am war

Historian Reynaldo C. Ileto had examined the dynamics in remembering and forgetting traumatic events in the southern Tagalog provinces during the Filipino-American war in a lecture last April 25, 2022.

The lecture was titled "Southern Tagalog Resistance to the US Invasion and the Politics of

Memory" and was streamed through the Department of Social Sciences (DSS) Facebook page. In this lecture, Ileto basically discussed the key concepts and topics in his book Knowledge and Pacification: On the US Conquest and the Writing of Philippine History, which was published by the Ateneo de Manila University Press in 2017.

Ileto discussed how some American and Filipino leaders have left out the Filipino-American War in their speeches that need to mention the Philippines. At the same time however, Ileto reminded us that some Filipino politicians, writers, and intellectuals have harkened back to the Filipino-American War in their bid to reinforce a sense

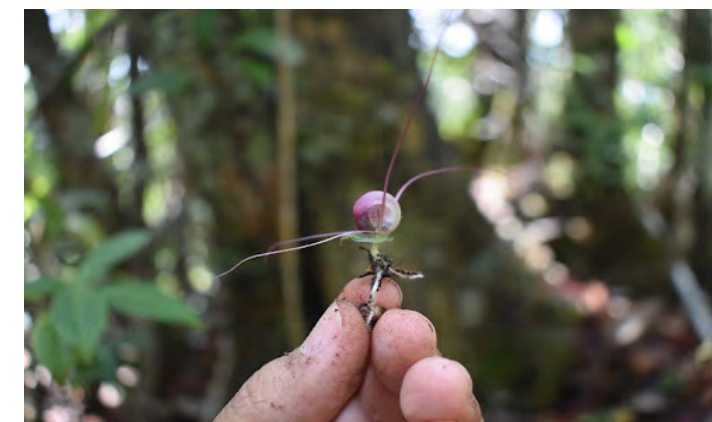
of nationalism especially during wartime periods. Ileto was known for articulating a non-documentary and "literary" approach to understanding folk mentalities during the Philippine Revolution; this led to debates with fellow historians who have reiterated the primacy

**Cont'd on page 5**

## A Newly Discovered Orchid Species

With growing popularity of many ornamental plants among "plantitos" and "plantitas," a newly discovered species of orchid from Samar Island Natural Park (SINP), Samar Island will surely capture their attention. However, this is a rare species, so they will not be allowed to have it at home.

In a collaborative effort among a team of botanists including two faculty-researchers from the Plant Biology Division of



the Institute of Biological Sciences, Asst. Prof. Marjorie delos Angeles and Dr. Inocencio Buot, Jr., a

new species of helmet orchid was described. The new species is named *Corybas kaiganganianus* in reference

to the waray term *kaigangan* which refers to forest over limestone from whence the orchid was discovered. This discovery is one of the outputs of the DOST-PCAARRD funded program CONserve-Kaigangan. This is the seventh species of *Corybas* discovered in the Philippines. The paper is available online here: <https://www.mapress.com/pt/article/view/phytotaxa.543.2.3> ■

**MD delos Angeles**

## DSS holds webinar on the Rizal walking tour in Madrid

The Philippine Institutions 10 (PI10) cluster of the Department of Social Sciences (DSS), UP Los Baños held a webinar entitled "Following Rizal's Footsteps in Madrid" last April 26. The webinar featured Dr. Ros A. Costelo from the UP Diliman Department of History as she did a virtual walking tour of landmarks and other significant areas of Madrid where Jose Rizal lived, studied, and became a voice for the movement forwarding the interest of Filipinos. The afternoon program was hosted and moderated by Mr. Jervy Briones from the DSS History Division.

The webinar opened with welcoming remarks from Dr. Mark Oliver Llangco, UPLB General Education Program Director. Dr. Llangco shared his feelings of gratitude and pride for the program as a fellow Calambaño, a member of the Calamba Culture

Heritage and Historical Society, and a Knight of Rizal. He provided an overview of the nature and history PI10, a course on the life and works of Jose Rizal.

proponents of the PI10 GE reclassification during her time in UPLB, author of The Museo El Deposito narrative for the National Historical Commission of the Philippines, and member

the Young Historian's Prize by the National Commission for Culture and the Arts in 2021.

Dr. Ros Costelo's virtual walking tour, co-presented by the NCCA and the Philippine Embassy in Madrid, began with an introduction of Jose Rizal and his travel to Europe with the intent of furthering his studies at age 21 in 1882. The tour featured the streets, buildings, theaters, and other significant establishments frequented by Rizal. Dr. Costelo explained that

Rizal lived twice in Madrid – first for his studies from 1882 to 1885 and from 1890 to 1891 when he went back to lobby and start his propaganda work. During his stay, he wrote in his letters how he came to know several Filipinos including

**Cont'd on page 6**



Dr. Ros A. Costelo in front of the former Facultad de Medicina de San Carlos where Rizal studied Medicine. Screen cap by LGS Reyes

Dr. Llangco emphasized that, uniquely in UPLB, PI10 became a GE course from 2011 brought about by efforts from the DSS History Division faculty to reclassify PI10 in time for the 150th birth anniversary of Jose Rizal. He introduced the webinar's guest speaker, Dr. Costelo, one of the

of a multi-volume book project of the University of the Philippines entitled "Philippines 1565-1898 Vol.1: Place, Identity, and Power", which aims to commemorate the 500th anniversary of Magellan's arrival in the Philippines and the beginning of the Philippine-Spanish relations. She was awarded



## Statistics' relevance reinforced in 2022 Mulat Essay Writing Contest winning piece

Statistics' significance to society, particularly in selecting the country's leaders, was reinforced in BACA student's winning piece for UPLB Statistical Society (UPLB STATS)'s Mulat Essay Writing Contest, held March 21.

Ms. Jamie Nicole S.B. Millan, a BACA senior student at the time the competition was held, tackled in her winning piece how statistics should be used in forming fact-based arguments and in making informed decisions, especially ones of national concern. She further stressed that scientific and statistical evidence should not be dismissed as fake news.

Ms. Millan's piece, entitled "I respect your opinion but accept my facts": Unraveling the Importance of Communication in Promoting Statistics among Filipinos" piqued Mulat judges' interests in that it

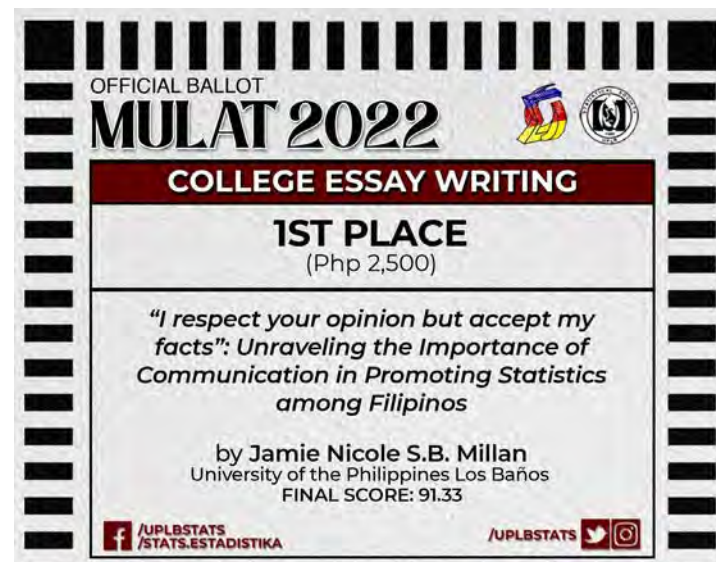
stressed the importance of communicating technical information, such as statistical results. "The

wrote. They also added that the entry demonstrated the contestant's solid understanding of statistics,

as a college student. She was also recognized as CAS Outstanding Student in 2021 for her strong demonstration of honor and excellence in leadership, scholarship, and service.

The Mulat Essay Writing Contest was organized by UPLB STATS, a duly recognized academic organization at the University of the Philippines Los Baños, committed to advancing and promoting the proper application of statistics in all fields of learning endeavors. Its theme for the essay writing contest was "Sa Kalinawan ng Datos at Lente: Suppressing the Filipinos' Refusal to Acknowledge Statistical Realities". ■

**KA Salvador**



piece brings statistics closer to various publics in how it fosters comprehension behind numbers and figures, effectively calling for the prevention of misinterpretations which could lead to distortions of fact and, consequently, of the truth", contest judges

along with a deep appreciation of how it is meant to be understandable and easily communicated beyond its usual considerations of validity and reliability.

Winning in Mulat is among Ms. Millan's achievements

## Culture and arts show the way to wise voting #UPLBsaHalalan 2022

The UPLB Department of Humanities (DHUM) and the UPLB Graduate School organized an online cultural night on May 2 to help voters correctly choose the country's leaders during the 2022 elections.

SINILEKSYON (Sining, Eleksyon, at Leksyon) Cultural Night featured various performances with the critical message of responsible and wise voting.

Chancellor Jose V. Camacho, Jr. opened the program with a call to the audience to choose

the candidates who have integrity and who give importance to transparency.

Famous novelist and master of short stories, Dr. Jose "Butch" Dalisay, Jr., gave a short message imploring the audience to choose the right leader for the nation, citing the importance of voting for leaders who are worth the sacrifices made by Filipinos over time.

Various artists gave performances during the program. A cover of Gloc-9's "Upuan" was performed by Asst. Prof. Rudell Ramirez,

a DHUM faculty member, and keyboardist, Mr. Japoy Pasigna.

BA Communication Arts students, directed by Chay Ardiente, Patricia Gregorio, and Darlene Villabriga, performed an excerpt from "Ang Awdisyon," which was written by Dr. Vladimeir Gonzales of UP Diliman.

The UPLB Filipinana dance troupe performed a dance originating from the Kalingas of the Cordillera region entitled "Banga Dance."

Dr. Emmanuel Dumlaog, a

faculty member at DHUM, gave a moving poetry performance entitled "Hinaing ng isang Dating Kakampi."

Mr. Aaron Paul Lusanta, a faculty member at the Philosophy Division, gave a mixed media performance featuring a pop-up craft that was on voting wisely.

A spoken word performance was also given by Asst. Prof. Ivan Emil Labayne, a DHUM faculty member, which featured ten select words

**Cont'd on page 5**

## Philippine historian talks.. from Page 2

of written documents as primary sources.

What is also interesting is how Filipinos in the southern Tagalog, especially in the southwestern towns of the then Tayabas province – such as Tiaong – reacted to the American invasion as it went underway. He reminded us that, in the southern Tagalog context, Filipinos resorted to overt and covert resistance depending on the degree of American presence in



their areas. In one tactic, called "amigo warfare," Filipino military and political

leaders relied on "evasion, dissimulation, and even the straddling and shifting of

identities" as they tried to hold out against stiffening US rule in the region.

This is the 2nd installment of the Dwight David A. Diestro Annual lecture series. This is being organized by the DSS since 2021 in memory of its late chairperson, Dwight David A. Diestro, who had served in the 1990s and 2010s as the department's head. ■

**RJA Asuncion**

## Culture and arts... from Page 4

from the Defecationary of Formulanguage, Purportmanteaux, & Preposterity by UPLB alumnus and UP Diliman faculty member, Asst. Prof. Tilde Acuña, and UPLB DHUM faculty member, Assoc. Prof. Dennis Aguinaldo.

The UPLB Street Jazz Dance Company gave a rousing performance from their Revive-Revibe series

followed by a message from their president, Ms. Rozzel Anne Trinos.

Assoc. Prof. Aguinaldo performed a spoken word poetry entitled "Si Vien, sa ilalim ng mga Tarp."

Short documentaries made by Asst. Prof. Linus Van Plata's COMM10 students punctuated each cultural performance.

National Artist for Literature Virgilio S. Almario, known as Rio Alma, read a short and poignant poem he wrote in October 2021 entitled "Mahabag sa Bayan."

Alongside the cultural night was the SINELEKSYON Art Exhibit organized by DHUM at the Makiling Art Gallery. The exhibit featured eight artists.

Dr. Benevieve Villanueva ,

chair of the SINILEKSYON ad hoc Committee, and Assistant to the Vice Chancellor for Community Affairs gave the closing remarks, applauding everyone involved in the program for their efforts.

View the SINILEKSYON Cultural Night performance at the UPLB Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/UPLBOfficial/videos/1379317712583588>). ■

## "TEKA LANG WAIT! 2: Katok ka muna" Play Festival



"TEKA LANG WAIT!" Play Festival was conceived at a time when everyone needed a breathing space. The pandemic has prodded the world to adapt to reimagined ways of living. And news on crisis upon crisis has been part of our everyday lives.

Two years on, students of the Philippines Los Baños continue to

work towards creating meaningful art in the pursuit of keeping the spirit of theater alive. This time they bring us "TEKA LANG WAIT!: Katok ka muna" Play Festival featuring three relevant and eye-opening theatrical productions. This season's name, a reflection of the three plays which all happen inside a room, is also indicative of the behind the scene experiences of the production team who crafted the production within the confines of their own rooms as the spaces they

occupy become even more circumscribed.

Enduring the challenges brought by the pandemic, among others, the students of THEA 102 (Theatre Communication), THEA 103 (Philippine Theatre), and THEA 152 (Directing) together with student volunteers and performers outside of the BACA program, ran the virtual stage itself and spearheaded the play festival that

**Cont'd on page 12**



fellow students, businessmen, lawyers, actors, and politicians, among others. The influx of Filipinos in Madrid was brought about by scholars sent by the government to Spain and the economic transformation experienced by the Philippines during the 19th century.

The virtual tour featured significant places such as the Facultad de Medicina de San Carlos where Rizal went to study medicine, his first residence at Calle Amor de Dios, the Facultad de Filosofia y Letras where Rizal got his degree in 1885, the headquarters of the Circulo Hispano-Filipino where Rizal discussed issues of the day with fellow members. It also showed Restaurante Viva Madrid a popular spot

for intellectual gatherings, Plaza Sta. Ana where Rizal watched theatrical performances, Ateneo de Madrid where he learned languages and listened to intellectual discourses, Real de Academia de Bellas Artes de San Fernando where he honed his skills in painting and sculpting. Dr. Costelo also showed Parque del Retiro and Palacio de Cristal where the 1887 Philippine Exposition was held, which was criticized by Rizal and fellow Filipinos for showcasing indigenous peoples under dire conditions such as the Igorots and Tingguians. She went to Calle Atocha 43 where the propaganda movement held their meetings and wrote for La Solidaridad. Dr. Costelo proceeded to the Congreso de los Diputados where the

reformists lobbied for Filipino representation in the Spanish Cortes (Parliament) and where Rizal appealed the case of his parents and other Calamba tenants who were dispossessed of their lands. The virtual tour ended with Rizal's monument in Avenida de Filipinas.

Mr. Jervy Briones, from the History Division, moderated the discussion following the virtual tour. Dr. Costelo answered questions about the production of the documentary and provided more insights to Rizal's experiences and thoughts developed from his stay in Madrid. She explained that the production sought to show Rizal's genuine experiences in Madrid and was a part of several research and

cultural heritage activities spearheaded by Filipino and Spanish scholars. Dr. Costelo also shared her own experiences in taking her PhD while producing the Rizal walking tour in Madrid.

PI10 Cluster Head Asst. Prof. Eugene Crudo delivered the closing remarks for the program. He recognized Dr. Costelo's efforts and her perspectives on Philippine history, Rizal's life in Madrid, and what it was like to study in the same University as Rizal following her own experiences. He hopes that the important role played by places and spaces in history as part of developing national consciousness would be etched in the hearts and minds of the people. ■

**LG Reyes**

## ICS celebrates its 27th Anniversary

The Institute of Computer Science (ICS) held its annual ICS Week last May 2-6, 2022 as part of its 27th Anniversary celebration. The theme for this year is "EVOLVE: Exploring Vast Opportunities while Learning in a Virtual Environment."

This week-long celebration started last May 2 with an SP/ Thesis/Practicum Orientation for incoming senior students. On May 4, career talks were held via Zoom from 10:00 am to 12:00 nn and 2:00 to 4:00 pm.

Four alumni speakers were invited for the career talks

from across the different fields that future computer science graduates can explore. For the morning

Following Dr. Madrid is Mr. Joseph Emmanuel Dayo, a Senior Software Engineer at Cheetah Digital. He

afternoon session, Ms. Andie Santos, a User Interface (UI) / User Experience (UX) Designer at Stratpoint, talked about her experience in transitioning from the development team to design. She discussed the advantages of her previous role as a software engineer as she fulfills her new role as a UI/ UX designer, along with the challenges that one might encounter in the transition process. Lastly,

Mr. Victor Bien, a Senior Software Engineer at Oracle + Netsuite, stressed the

**Cont'd on page 8**



Dr. Val Madrid during the Q&A portion of the ICS Career Talks

session, Dr. Val Madrid, an Associate Professor in ICS, talked about exploring the opportunities in the academe before and after graduation.

talked about how you can get started in the field of software engineering, along with some tips in looking for a role you want. In the

## CHEM-trepreneur 101

The UPLB Chemistry Alumni Association (UPLB CHEM AA), Inc., in partnership with the UPLB Institute of Chemistry (UPLB-IC), hosted "Chem-trepreneur 101," a Chemistry Entrepreneurship Webinar, last April 30, 2022 via Zoom.

Two IC alumni shared their knowledge and experience in the synergy between chemistry and entrepreneurship.

Ms. Irah Cunanan, CEO and formulation chemist of Hiraya Natural Skin Care,

shared her expertise in the cosmetic business with her talk entitled, "Essentials of a Cosmetics Business for Microscale Medium Enterprises (MSMEs)" and explained the different stages in establishing a cosmetic business. The other resource speaker is

Asst. Prof. Ralph Lauren M. Alomia, who is also a faculty member of the UPLB-IC. He shared his experiences in the soap-making business through his talk entitled, "Applying Chemistry in Starting up a Sabon Business." Both of them acknowledged that

their training as chemists helped them a lot especially in coming up with products of high quality.

The open forum that was conducted after the talks gave the participants the opportunity to further ask questions from the speakers

and allowed some of them to share their experiences as entrepreneurs. The event ended with the closing remarks from the UPLB CHEM AA, Inc. President, Mr. Miko Lorenzo J. Belgado. ■

**RP Ibabao**

## UP Fighting Maroons Men's Basketball Team celebrates historic triumph at UPLB

Exactly after a week of clinching the long-awaited UAAP title, the UP Men's Basketball team celebrated with the hoops-zealous UPLB community. The newly minted champions of UAAP Men's Basketball graced the UPLB grounds last May 20, 2022, for a night of fun, food, and jubilant celebration. Aptly entitled "Giting at Tapang, at Party na rin, G?", the triumphant occasion was held at the UPLB grandstand and the football field.

UPLB Chancellor Jose V. Camacho, Jr. started the festivities with his opening remarks. The event was further bolstered with short appearances of, and interviews with, distinguished UP alumni such as actor/athlete Mr. Benjie Paras, master entrepreneur Mr. Ronald Mascarinas and Nowhere To Go but UP representative Mr. Renan



The UP Fighting Maroons Men's Basketball Team together with Chancellor Jose V. Camacho, Jr. and the UPLB Management Committee (photo courtesy of Mr. Christopher Labe)

Dalisay. UPLB's very own vaunted UPLB Street Jazz energized the crowd with an exciting intermission dance number.

The main event of the night was the meet-and-greet with the champion team members. Even light rains did not deter the people from this joyous event. The crowd was rewarded by seeing the Fighting Maroons in

the flesh and gamely answering their questions. Much to the people's entertainment, some members of the team even displayed talents outside their basketball expertise. Rookie of the Year Carl Tamayo rendered a song, prized recruit Zav Lucero displayed his percussion abilities on drums, and championship clincher JD Cagulangan revealed an entertaining pre-game ritual.

It was indeed a sight to see these widely idolized athletes relax and mingle with their fellow UP constituents in Los Baños.

The celebration was concluded with the lighting of the blazing bonfire. This was commenced by Chancellor Camacho together with Finals Most Valuable Player (MVP) Malik Diouf. JD Cagulangan was supposed to join them but in a gesture of brotherhood, gave his spot to graduating teammate Ricci Rivero. Sharing of food and continued interaction with the Fighting Maroons followed well into the night. It was indeed a night of triumph and a feeling of oneness for every constituent of our dear university. ■

**MT Salangsang**



**ICS celebrates its... from Page 6**

importance of Software Test Engineers. He clarified that even though Software Test Engineers are not building the programs and applications, they still have a significant role to play in the software development process as they do manual and automated testing to maintain the quality of their product.

For May 5, invited companies introduced themselves to the junior and senior BSCS students. Two sessions were conducted for the company talks: 10:00 am to 12:00 nn and 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm. The companies who gave a talk are the

following: Edamama, QE360, Oracle Philippines, Factset

given a headstart as they got to know these companies

to unwind. Games were prepared by two academic organizations: the UPLB Mathematical Society (MASS) and the Young Software Engineers' Society (YSES). Also, a raffle was conducted at the end, along with the selection of winners for the week-long game "Who's that faculty?" Cash prizes were awarded to the winners.

At the end of the week, students could connect with companies, explore different career paths, and connect with the faculty and their classmates, despite not being able to celebrate the occasion in person.



Hosts and participants of the ICS Online Kamustahan

Philippines Inc., Dashlabs. ai, and Remitly. Ongoing students looking for internship opportunities as well as graduating students exploring possible career paths were

through the forum. On the last day, May 6, an Online Kamustahan was held for the faculty, administrative staff, students, and alumni

■ **CCL Cepe**

## IMSP - Math Research Committee conducts Webinar on Algebraic Structures in Geometry and Physics



The Mathematics Division Research Committee of the Institute of Mathematical Sciences and Physics (IMSP) conducted the first set of talks of the 2022 Mathematics Division Quarterly Webinar Series last May 23, 2022. The

Dr. Canlubo explained how these groups appear in mathematical physics. He also presented the analogues of symmetries in the quantum set-up, called the quantum symmetries also known as quantum

speakers shared their recent contributions on algebraic structures in geometry and physics.

The first speaker, Dr. Clarisson Rizzie P. Canlubo from IMSP, discussed a certain class of symmetries called Lie groups and described a very useful object associated with it --- a Lie algebra.

groups.

Mr. Clint Harry G. Angeles then shared his research about  $\Sigma$ -orthogonal Lie algebra over the integers. He considered the  $\Sigma$ -orthogonal group of  $n \times n$  matrices with integer entries, denoted by  $U_{\Sigma}$ . He showed that the groups  $U_{\Sigma} \leq GL(n, \mathbb{Z})$  are classified for any  $n$  but for particular permutation matrices  $\Sigma$ . He also proved that the Lie algebras  $A_{\Sigma}$  are classified for  $n \leq 3$ .

Combining the theories in math and physics, Mr. Marc Aaron F. Julian talked about the mathematical framework for building a gauge theory based on the idea of principal fibre bundles and associated vector bundles. The said gauge theory formulation was utilized in building the Standard Model

of Particle Physics to a grand unified theory.

The last speaker, Mr. Gari Lincoln Chua, from Institute of Mathematics, UP Diliman, discussed his research about  $\Sigma$ -unitary Lie algebras for  $\Sigma$ -nilpotent. He showed a dimension formula for the Lie algebra  $A_{\Sigma}$  for a  $\Sigma$ -nilpotent matrix of maximum rank which is used to determine the Lie algebra structure of  $A_{\Sigma}$  according to whether the size of  $\Sigma$  is even or odd.

The committee plans to hold the third and fourth installment of the webinar series in October and December on Mathematics Education and on Coding Theory and Cryptography, respectively. ■

**EO Jatulan**

## UPLB Department of Social Sciences, partners hold yearly workshop on local historical research

The UPLB Department of Social Sciences (DSS) has once again conducted its yearly "Hatid Lingkod, Ambag Kaalaman" series of webinar-workshops on researching and writing about local history.

For this year's edition, the DSS has partnered with the National Historical Commission of the Philippines (NHCP) and NHCP-Museo ni Jose Rizal, Calamba, in cooperation with the Calamba City Cultural Heritage and Historical Society. History faculty Asst. Prof. Junald D. Ango moderated the first day of the webinar series.

The first day of the workshop series was held last April 30, 2022 and was streamed via the official UPLB DSS Facebook page. For the morning session, Asst. Prof. Gloria E. Melencio gave tips on researching and writing on local history. In particular, she emphasized the importance of writing, editing, and proper referencing in order to come out with a journal article on local history. Asst. Prof. Rhina Alvero Boncocan then underscored the importance and uses of the methodology of oral history or kasaysayang pasalita. She gave tips in doing oral history especially in the appropriate way of asking questions. Meanwhile, Asst. Prof. Veronica C. Alporha tackled the problem of historical revisionism in today's social media age. In particular, Asst. Prof. Alporha also distinguished revised historiography from revisionist historiography; the first one is based on evidence and "allows for the innovation of the historical discipline and scientific reinterpretation of the past." In contrast, the

second kind is based on faulty epistemological and philosophical moorings and mixes knowledge with fiction. Finally, Assoc. Prof. Roderick C. Javar analyzed the issues

the Philippines," Mr. Briones reviewed the challenges in doing a history of labor movements in the country. This is within the context of Philippine nationalism, as a

oral history interviews, immersion with the community, and ethnographical studies as among the methods that can be used in cultural mapping in order to determine the

historical and cultural significance of sites. Meanwhile, Mr. Santos emphasized in his lecture "Panunuri sa mga Pamantayang Pampananaliksik sa Araling Polklor ng Filipinas" the communal nature of folklore narratives, such as legends, myths, and epics. Although many elements of folklore are fictive in nature, those who chant/sing these narratives have drawn from the actual experiences of the community s/he that had belonged to. These narratives are also important stepping stones in understanding the history of Philippine indigenous peoples. Asst. Prof. Pawilen discussed in "Kahalagahan at tunguhin ng Kasaysayang Pang-isports sa Pilipinas" the potentials of sports history as a relatively novel field in Philippine historiography. He emphasized the possible topics that



HATID LINGKOD, AMBAG KAALAMAN: Serye ng mga Webinar-Workshop sa Pananaliksik at Pagsusulat ng Kasaysayan



HATID LINGKOD, AMBAG KAALAMAN: Serye ng mga Webinar-Workshop sa Pananaliksik at Pagsusulat ng Kasaysayan

Speakers from the morning (top) and afternoon (below) sessions answer questions during the first day of the "Hatid Lingkod, Ambag Kaalaman" webinar series. Screen caps by RJA Asuncion from UPLB DSS Facebook page.

surrounding historical actuality and historical realities. Historical actuality refers to the events that did happen. In contrast, according to Dr. Javar, the second term pertains to the "realities that arise from a particular event." For the afternoon session, the speakers were Mr. Jervy C. Briones, Asst. Prof. Bernardo Muerong Arellano III, Mr. John Carlo S. Santos, Asst. Prof. Reidan M. Pawilen, and Asst. Prof. Ruben Jeffrey A. Asuncion. In "Rethinking Class: The cultural turn and the state of labor history in

hegemonic force that has been subsuming the narratives of various marginalized sectors, and of the continuing effects of globalization on the struggle for labor rights. Meanwhile, in "Halaga ng Saysay: Ang Pagsusuri ng Saysay sa mga Makasaysayan o Kultural na Lunan," Asst. Prof. Arellano provided the legal underpinnings and relevance of cultural mapping as a means of determining the historical and cultural significance of sites and properties. Asst. Prof. Arellano enumerated archival research,

can be explored in Philippine sports history as well as its linkages to other subfields of Philippine historiography, such as local history. Finally, Asst. Prof. Asuncion discussed the historical-geographical linkages of Kabikolan's coastal and inland areas in "Pagkarani: Ang papel ng 'ilawud' at 'ilaya' sa ugnayang Kabikolan-Katagalugan at Kabisayaan."

The second day of the webinar series was held last July 30, 2022. ■

**RJA Asuncion**



## BA Socio summa cum laude grad is UPLB Class 2022 valedictorian

TWO years after the Covid-19 pandemic started, a summa cum laude student from the BA Sociology program is Class 2022 valedictorian.

Ms. Angelamae Morales is one of the two summa cum laude graduates of BA Sociology, the first time that the program produced such honor graduates. This year's batch of Sociology honor graduates numbered 12 – three cum laudes, seven magna cum laudes, and two summa cum laudes. The BA Sociology program is under the Department of Social Sciences (DSS).

Ms. Morales also garnered the CAS Faculty Medal for Academic Excellence Award.

As a Sociology student, Ms. Morales had worked on her thesis titled "Walking the Activist's Shoes: A Narrative Inquiry on Student Protests and Activism." She was guided under the supervision of her adviser, Asst. Prof. Athenee Pacardo-Mercado, also the chair of the DSS.

### Learnings and fun, pre-lockdown

As relayed in a post by the official UPLB DSS Facebook page, Angelamae shared the two things "which (she) got

from my Sociology degree;" which are "higher eye grade" and a broadening of views on society. Prior to the pandemic which practically halted activities in March 2020, Morales said her UPLB life was "Eat.

in the Southern Tagalog Regional Association of State Universities and Colleges (STRASUC) competitions.

As Angelamae detailed her other experiences:

depth understanding of the different causes that students and sectoral groups have been fighting for."

### Changes and challenges

Angelamae recognized that all the activities that she used to do physically changed drastically with the pandemic. She stopped her varsity activities since training was then no longer possible. With the abrupt move to online platforms, she found studying also becoming more difficult since students lacked physical interactions. The constant exposure to laptop screen even for "org" meetings also led to

her "higher eye grade." Meanwhile, she also observed that the pandemic also forced students "to take a break" from their university studies brought about the pandemic's adverse economic and social effects.

At the same time since the pandemic had let us look at the already existing issues in our educational system, Angelamae believed it is a chance for the system to be made more inclusive and resilient in anticipation of future challenges. ■

**RJA Asuncion**



Angelamae Morales delivering her valedictory speech during the 2022 CAS Testimonial Program

Sleep. Study. Party. Org. Repeat but only until March 2020." She then shared more experiences in an email message. Angelamae added she was able to really experience university life of combining duties as a student ("waking up at 7am, having exams almost every day on a hell week, staying up late to finish a paper, doing readings, aching an exam, partying with friends, hanging out in coffee shops") and of fulfilling responsibilities in her organization's events and activities. She was also a varsity player, having participated in trainings and

"Before the pandemic, walkouts, protests, and commemorative activities inside the campus provided me with an idea about the issues within and outside the university (e.g., junk SAIS, MRR concerns, re-admission concerns, Martial Law). Likewise, my GE subjects and major courses in Sociology also allowed me to engage in discussions and write papers on various social issues. Aside from these, my undergraduate thesis, which delves into the narratives of student protesters, was also an experience that allowed me to get an in-



### CAS Testimonial Program... from Page 1

Ms. Angelamae Morales, BA Sociology's summa cum laude and the Class Valedictorian of UPLB, delivered her valedictory address. Reflecting on the challenges before them, Morales reminded her fellow graduates of the values of "dangal, giting at pag-asa" as they foray into the task of making and shaping history, especially at a time when "those in power try to distort our nation's history." She offered an encouraging remark on the

need to remember and fight for historical memory in the service of the future: "Huwag tayong panghinaan ng loob na tulungan ang bayan na huwag makalimot."

Mrs. Vilma Celestino Culaway, parent of Class Salutatorian and BS Computer Science summa cum laude Rene Jotham Culaway, offered a message that validated the need to honor history, all its glories and tragedies, shaped by the heroes who fought for nation

and democracy, and the people who survive the perils that have visited the country.

Dr. Jose Camacho, Jr., UPLB Chancellor, gave his congratulatory message to the graduates, recognizing their success and the university community that helped make it possible. "We trust that your education in UP has instilled in you a commitment not only to strive for individual advancement but to serve our...fellow Filipinos," he said.

Asst. Prof. James Roldan Reyes, CAS College Secretary, delivered the closing remarks, goading the graduates to serve the people. He thanked the members of the CAS Testimonial Program ad hoc committee that prepared the program. The program ended with the singing of the "UP Naming Mahal." ■

**LMS Castillo**





## Film Scholar, UPLB Outstanding Alumna Dr. Tan is the new DHum Chair



officially started on June 1 and is effective until the end of May 2025.

The Search Committee, spearheaded by Institute of Biological Science's Dr. Inocencio E. Buot, Jr., officiated the search process for the incoming DHum Chair and conducted consultation and deliberation with the DHum faculty members last March. Joining Dr. Tan in the nomination was Dr. Cheeno Marlo M. Sayuno, who both presented their visions, programs, and plans in front of the DHum body last March 28 via Zoom.

Members of the Search Committee also included Dr. Shiela S. Demegillo (Institute of Mathematical Sciences and Physics), Dr. Mark Oliver S. Llangco (Department of Social Sciences), Ms. Maria Lourdes L. Miranda (UP Rural High School), and Mr. Jose Benjamin Gallero, BS Computer Science (Student Representative).

The Department of Humanities hailed Dr. Katrina Ross A. Tan as its new Department Chair succeeding the nine-year leadership of Dr. Leonora M. Fajutagana whose term has just ended this year 2022.

Dr. Tan recently returned to UPLB after completing her Ph.D. in Film, Media, and Communications from the School of Media, Film, and Journalism, Faculty of Arts at Monash University, Australia. Her term as DHum Chair

### Seventeen years of service and counting

With more than a decade of experience, Dr. Tan has been in service to the Department and the university since 2005. She was then an instructor under the Language Division until 2011 and has served as an Assistant Professor under the Literary and Cultural Studies Division up to the present.

Also a product of the B.A. Communication Arts program under DHum, Dr. Tan graduated Magna Cum Laude in 2005, and she received her M.A. degree in Media Studies, Major in Film in UP Diliman in 2011, bagging the Outstanding Graduate Thesis on "Female OFWs in the National Cultural Imaginary: Embedded Discourses in Popular Mainstream OFW Films."

Dr. Tan's scope of leadership

expands within and beyond UPLB. She headed the Literary Division of the Department from 2016 to 2017 and became a member of the Academic Personnel Committee. She also served as Program Coordinator under the Office for Initiatives in Culture and the Arts (OICA) from 2012 to 2014.

Eminently, she served as the Director of the Ugnayan ng Pahinungod for three years (2013- 2016) and was honored the UPLB Outstanding Alumna for Community Service in 2014.

With her expertise and vision for advancing film in the region, Dr. Tan pioneered enduring projects in the university such as pelikuLAB, a laboratory film group that organized film festivals and film workshops in the Southern Tagalog region. She is also the

*Cont'd on page 15*

### "Teka Lang Wait!..." from Page 5

premiered live from June 2 to 5, 2022 on their official Facebook page.

Here are the synopsis of the works featured this season:

"Papaano Turuan Ang Babae Humawak ng Baril" by Daryl Pasion, directed by Justine Elize Gabrido and Sophia Nicole Dela Peña

Oka was a jobless farmer forced by financial circumstances to join the CAFGU, a paramilitary group organized to augment the military effort against rebels. After one such encounter, he was able to take a leave to

visit his wife Liling, who was now eight months pregnant. What was supposed to have been a much-needed reunion turned into an emotional roller coaster when an impossible request had to be decided upon.

"20 Questions" by Juan Ekis, directed by Elmer Rufo

Two friends locked up in a room test their differences through a game of 20 questions, where each of them has to answer the other's questions. With a little liquid courage from a bottle of wine, daring topics and raw emotions will reveal

troubles, concerns, and curiosities that they have been hiding. After a glimpse of each other's perspectives, where will this drunken game take their relationship?

"Joe Cool Aplikante" by Joshua Lim So, directed by Aimee Beatrice Gordula, Julia Iña Dul-loog and Stephanie Nocom

In a capitalist system, people tend to go with their accustomed way of life to work just to live. Joe Cool is a fresh graduate who is trying to get a job in Dohesta Corporation. However, he needs to earn the spot by

going through his greatest challenge— Miss Lyka Agulera, the company's interviewer. In a secluded and mysterious office room, Joe Cool's journey will show the plights of the working sector under a capitalist system.

"Teka Lang, Wait!" is still available to stream on their official Facebook page: facebook.com/WAITLANGUPLB (@WAITLANGUPLB) for free. ■

**MC Sestoso**

## Dr. Editha Jose will continue in her role as IMSP Director



The Institute of Mathematical Sciences and Physics (IMSP) will continue to flourish under the leadership of Dr. Editha C. Jose, as she was reappointed as the institute director effective 26 August 2022 to 25 August 2025.

Dr. Jose started her directorship in the institute last August 2019. During her first term, she strengthened the student-alumni-faculty relations by holding events such as research symposia, career talks, job fairs, and forums. In 2019, she laid the groundwork for the Adopt-a-Student scholarship program that launched in the first semester of A.Y. 2020-2021 to help underprivileged students by providing financial support from donor alumni. During her first term as IMSP Director, two programs were added to the offerings of the Institute. These are the MS Physics and the PhD Applied

Mathematics programs. She also ensured that the IMSP website and Facebook page are regularly updated to increase the institute's visibility.

While continuing to address the challenges of the pandemic and transitioning to the new normal, Dr. Jose will prioritize the institution of additional graduate programs (such as MS Applied Physics, PhD by Research in Applied Physics and Mathematics), the elevation of the Physics Division to an institute, and the expansion of IMSP's much-needed infrastructure. She envisions the institute to have empowered students,

strengthened support for a dynamic faculty and staff, and impactful extension and public service activities, which are all in line with the institute's mandates.

The search process, headed by the Dean of the College of Engineering and Agro-Industrial Technology (CEAT), Dr. Rossana Marie C. Amongo, commenced on May 5 and concluded last May 31. ■

**JSC Dizon**

## Is the honey you bought pure?

The Institute of Chemistry, UPLB through its Analytical and Environmental Chemistry Division (AECD) sponsored a webinar entitled "Food Authentication and Traceability through Stable Isotopes" last June 6, 2022. The speaker for the webinar was Dr. Angel T. Bautista VII, a Career Scientist from the Philippine Nuclear Research Institute (PNRI) whose work focuses on the multi-elemental and multi-stable isotope analysis for the fingerprinting of selected food commodities, specifically on the application of the Internal Standard Stable Carbon Isotope Ratio Analysis (ISCIRA) for the authentication of Philippine honeys.

The ISCIRA method, also known as the AOAC method 998.12, is the gold standard

**JOIN US AT A WEBINAR ON:**  
**FOOD AUTHENTICITY AND TRACEABILITY THROUGH STABLE ISOTOPES**

**SPEAKER:**  
**DR. ANGEL T. BAUTISTA VII**  
Career Scientist I  
Philippine Nuclear Research Institute - DOST

Monday 06 June 2022 | 10:00 am via Zoom

Brought to you by:  
**INSTITUTE OF CHEMISTRY**  
ANALYTICAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL CHEMISTRY DIVISION

Preregister using the link <http://bitly.ws/rWjz> or by scanning the QR code:

for honey authenticity worldwide. It makes use of a parameter called the carbon-13 signature ( $\delta^{13}C$ ) which is the ratio of carbon-13 and carbon-12 isotopes present in a sample ( $^{13}C:^{12}C$  ratio). In pure, authentic honey, the  $\delta^{13}C$  of the bulk honey (composed mostly of sugars) and the

$\delta^{13}C$  of the honey's protein content must be similar. The addition of adulterants to the honey will lead to deviations in the  $\delta^{13}C$  of the bulk honey sample and its protein content. In his research work, Dr. Bautista tested store- and online-bought honey samples from local and international markets. It

was found that all the store-bought imported samples were indeed authentic honey. Sadly though, 75 % of the store-bought local samples and 86.5 % of the online-bought local honey samples were adulterated by C4 sugars from sugarcane and corn.

According to Dr. Bautista, the Philippine honey market is dominated by adulterated honey, which in turn leads to industry losses of up to PHP 225 million per year. Thus, elimination of adulteration and fraud is crucial for the improvement of the Philippine honey industry. For this reason, this webinar is very timely and very informative not only for those involved in the honey industry but the general public as well. ■

**JRH Grabato**



## IBS offers short courses in collaboration with UP PSAE

The Institute of Biological Sciences (IBS) partnered with UP Professional School for Agriculture and the Environment (UP PSAE) in offering short courses on various topics under biological sciences. This collaboration was established to offer students at UP PSAE a spectrum of courses to help develop their skills on the basic sciences. Due to the online mode of delivery, these courses became available to other students, young professionals and practitioners.

The Environmental Biology Division (EBD) of IBS recently concluded the Basics of Soil Ecology Online Short Course. It was held from November 20 to December 18, 2021. A total of nineteen participants from all over the Philippines in both private and public sectors participated in the short course that consisted

of online modules and five 2-hour synchronous Saturday sessions. Topics included in the short course were soil biodiversity, processes, ecosystem services, and conservation practices. The participants gave good ratings and feedback on the course and suggested that more of these short courses that may be given graduate study credits be considered in the future.

On the other hand, the Plant Biology Division (PBD) of IBS kickstarted this project with the Short Course on Methods of Monitoring Biodiversity under Dr. Inocencio Buot, Jr. as the training coordinator and resource person together with Ms. Ailene A. Alcala. This was attended by 11 participants with profiles as graduate students, faculty, and representatives from provincial local government units and non-government organizations. For six

weeks, they were able to learn the different aspects of assessing and monitoring plant biodiversity looking into efficient parameters to use in their respective areas. This was held from November 6 to December 11, 2021. The second offering was on Algal Techniques held from February 5 to March 12, 2022. The course was handled by Professor Emeritus, Dr. Milagrosa R. Martinez-Goss, the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, Dr. Maribel L. Dionisio-Sese, Dr. Pierangeli G. Vital from the National Science Research Institute, and Asst. Prof. Therese Julianne T. Medina. The six weeks short course focused on the isolation, cultivation, and maintenance, as well as the molecular studies on microalgae. This was attended by 18 participants with a diverse mixture of backgrounds from all over the country.

Another short course by the PBD is on Leaf Architecture, which was held from June 25 to August 6, 2022. With 16 participants from different parts of the Philippines, the course was coordinated by Dr. Inocencio E. Buot, Jr., Lailani A. Masungsong, and Ailene A. Alcala. The course trained the participants to use morphological characteristics of the leaves of different plants to solve taxonomic problems. Classes were held every Saturday with synchronous lectures and discussions in the morning and performances of hands-on activities in the afternoon. PBD continues to prepare more short courses that will hopefully complete a program for professional certificates in the field of plant science. ■

**CGB Banaay,  
TJT Medina,  
& AL Rayos**

## DHum faculty member recognized by International Council for Media Literacy

Madelyn P. Garcia, assistant professor at the Department of Humanities (DHum), was recognized as one of the inaugural recipients of the Marieli Rowe Innovation in Media Literacy Education Award by the International Council for Media Literacy.

She placed fourth with her work "MOW: Meriam's Online World", a five-episode TV series that discusses media-related issues based on Filipino youth's experiences and practices on different online platforms. It is designed to be an after-school viewing program for students in Grades 6 to 9.



The Marieli Rowe Innovation in Media Literacy Education Award recognizes works that demonstrate innovative critical thinking and push the media literacy education field forward. It is given to exemplary individuals who answer the question "Where to next for media literacy?" (with information from [www.ic4ml.org](http://www.ic4ml.org)) ■

**KR Dalangin**

*Film Scholar... from Page 12*

founding festival director of Pelikultura: the Calabarzon Film Festival which, for more than a decade, has provided a significant venue for Region IV-A's budding, experienced independent filmmakers to showcase and promote their films in the university.

Dr. Tan also served as festival director of Cinema Rehiyon in 2013, a national festival of regional cinemas funded by the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA), hosted by the Southern Tagalog region for the first time. Adding to that, she initiated the establishment of the Makiling Film Lab as part of the agenda of cultivating film in the university.

While pursuing her doctorate at Monash University, she continued her community engagements, being a convenor of the Philippine Studies Network in Australia and an active member of other Filipino socio-civic migrant organizations like Migrante Melbourne.

In 2018, Dr. Tan was awarded the Julia Peluso Award by the Faculty of Arts of Monash University, an annual prize awarded to female postgraduate research students investigating screen cultures in the Film, Media, Communication, and Journalism (FMCJ) program.

Further, Dr. Tan is a consummate and prolific scholar. She has done numerous individual and collaborative works, research presentations in local and internal conferences, and authored several articles in journals and books published in the

national and international setting. Some of her recent publications include: "Nora Aunor and Sharon Cuneta as Migrant Workers: Stars and Labour Export in Filipino Commercial Films" in *Film Stardom in Southeast Asia* (pub. Edinburgh University Press, forthcoming), "Ten Years of Pelikultura: Nurturing a 'Hometown Cinema' in Calabarzon" and "Shaping Filipino Regional Cinema: Film Festival Programming in Cinema Rehiyon" (pub. Pelikula: A Journal of Philippine Cinema, resp. 2020 & 2019), "Urban Anxieties in Davao Horror Short Films" (co-authored with Dr. Laurence Castillo, pub. Humanities Diliman, 2019), "Creating Ripples in Philippine Cinema: The Rise of Regional Cinema" (pub. The Japan Foundation Manila, 2019), and the list goes on. Furthermore, Dr. Tan's thesis at Monash University exemplifies her scope in film scholarship, "Towards an Archipelagic Imagination of the Nation: A Study of Philippine Regional Cinema" (2021).

### Vision for DHum: Leading academic institution

In the nominees' presentation last March 28, Dr. Tan highlighted three key points in her vision for the Department: 1) a leading academic institution in the arts and humanities in the Southern Tagalog region, contributing to the development of the country's arts and culture, and pursuing a critical intellectual practice deeply engaged in issues relevant to local communities, the nation, and the world; 2) a unit with a stronger institutional status reflective of its growth

as a key unit in UPLB; 3) a nurturing community of students, academics, researchers, artists, cultural workers, and staff.

She also emphasized the values that the Department shall uphold under her term such as freedom, social justice, inclusivity and diversity, and a strong sense of civic responsibility.

Dr. Tan's plans for DHum's institutional development consist of elevating the department's institutional status, applying to the CHED Center of Development in the areas of Literature, Philosophy, and Communication, applying for program-level accreditation from the ASEAN University Network-Quality Assurance (AUN-QA), and developing programs and policies for the Makiling Film Lab and the Animation Studio.

She also laid out plans and programs for the clusters of Instruction, Research and Creative Work, Faculty and Staff Development, Extension, Public Service and Engagement, Administration and Management.

Some important highlights of her plans include formulating andragogical strategies and ensuring that staff are equipped for hybrid learning, reviewing and crafting curricular proposals and instituting new graduate programs, refining the Department's research agenda, and widening research opportunities and space for creative work. The Makiling Review, the Department's first refereed journal, will also be strengthened and sustained under her office.

Furthermore, Dr. Tan's plans include creating a collective DHum Faculty and Staff Development Agenda, advancing the regularization of casual faculty and staff, increasing the number of Ph.D. degree holders, and establishing postgraduate studies support program for the faculty.

For public service, Dr. Tan included the institutional revival of the UP Sentrong Wikang Filipino-LB (UP SWF-LB). She also highlighted the Department's engagement in policy-making related to culture and the arts and instituting community-centered public service programs. Among her plans for Administration and Management were requesting new items (REPS and Admin), appointing an Assistant to the Chair to enhance administrative efficiency, retrofitting office spaces, and creating a consultative and evidence-based decision-making environment.

Dr. Tan, in her introduction to her presentation, had expressed in spirit her vision and musings for the Department, taken from The Dawn's 'Iisang Bangka': "Ating liliparin, may harang mang sibat; Ating tatawirin, daluyong ng dagat; 'Pagka't kasama mo ako, iisang bangka tayo; Anuman ang mithiin ay makakamtan natin." And so was her epigraph for the Humanities. ■

**AA Estacio**



## ICS conducts its 3rd IURS



### ICS Undergraduate Research Symposium Awarding Ceremony

Last June 27, 2022, the Institute of Computer Science (ICS) conducted its 3rd ICS Undergraduate Research Symposium (IURS). The activity was held via Zoom from 9:00 am to 12:00 nn.

The symposium aimed to showcase the special problem (SP) and thesis output of the graduating class. Each advising faculty nominated a student's work. The nominees were then asked to submit their papers and a scientific poster. The papers were then categorized into two: Computer Science (CS) and Information Technology (IT). The nominees presented their work last June 27; the CS and IT categories were held via parallel sessions. The ICS senior faculty served as the panel that determined the Best SP/Thesis for each category.

For the CS Category, six papers were nominated:

- Carlo R. Catayna and Dr. Maria Art Antonette Clariño "RNN-LSTM and Multinomial Naive Bayes Sentiment and

Topic Classifier of tweets regarding face-to-face classes resumption in the Philippines during the COVID-19 pandemic"

- Akemi Ray A. Goshi and Prof. Rizza D.C. Mercado "Classifying Filipino Komiks using Convolutional Neural Networks"

- Samuel Darwin D. Lagrosas and Prof. Lei Kristoffer R. Lactuan "Peanut Mold Detection via Marker-based Watershed Segmentation and An Artificial Neural Network with Feedforward Propagation"

- Jose Enrique R. Lopez and Prof. Concepcion L. Khan "Improving Tomato Pest Image Classification with Transformative and Generative Data Augmentation"

- John Alwin R. Pamintuan and Prof. Danilo J. Mercado "Identifying Fake News in Filipino Articles with Recurrent Neural Networks"

- John Karl B. Tumpalan and

Prof. Reginald Neil C. Recario "English-Filipino Speech Topic Tagger using Automatic Speech Recognition Modeling and Topic Modeling"

On the other hand, four papers were nominated for the IT Category:

- John Calib C. Canlas and Prof. Johaira T. Arriola "Technical Trading Bot for Cryptocurrency Trading"

- Robie A. Carlos and Prof. Joseph Anthony Hermocilla "Measuring Home Network Security using Aggregated Risk-Oriented Modeling"

- Kevin A. Gines and Prof. Arian J. Jacildo "AGENT: Automated Guidance for Exercise and Therapy with Human Pose Estimation and Machine Learning"

- Lanze Andrei R. Racho and Prof. Fermin Roberto G. Lapitan "Doon Nation: A Gamified Donation-based Crowdfunding Platform"

The winners for the Best SP/Thesis were: Carlo R. Catayna, with Dr. Maria Art Antonette D. Clariño as his adviser (CS Category), and Kevin A. Gines, with Prof. Arian J. Jacildo as his adviser (IT Category). The Best Scientific Poster award was given to Lanze Andrei R. Racho and adviser Prof. Fermin Roberto G. Lapitan. His paper came from the IT Category.

The winners were announced last August 3, 2022, during the ICS Testimonials. The nominees and winners received a certificate of recognition.

The first IURS was held back in 2018 and was supposed to be an annual event. However, due to the pandemic and the K-12 program, ICS was unable to conduct the symposium for the last two years. Luckily, with the gradual improvement of the pandemic situation, the institute was able to bring the activity back. We hope to see more papers and winners from the future graduating students. ■

**CCL Cepe**

## 4 Ruralites win in GLEC Vietnam 2022 Essay Writing Contest

Four students from the University of the Philippines Rural High School (UPRHS) won the Global Leadership English Challenge (GLEC) Vietnam 2022 Essay Writing Contest, as officially announced last June 27, 2022.

The winners are:  
John Rozz Lapitan - Excellence Award (2nd Highest Award)  
Kedric Jovid Calibra - Outstanding Award (3rd Highest Award)  
Ronald Alain Tavita - Achievement Award (4th Highest Award)  
Elyna Mehriel Camus - Special Encouragement Award (5th Highest Award)

Ms. Julianne Urrea, their coach, stated, "I feel very proud that they won, but modesty aside, it was not really surprising to me because I have always known them as great writers who are not only skilled

but also very passionate about social causes and advocacies."

accredited organizations such as an international youth conference, model

their platform to represent the Filipino youth," she said.

According to Ms. Urrea, upon receiving the invitation, she and her colleagues at the English and Literature Department named eight student participants whom they agreed would become excellent advocacy writers if given the opportunity. The students attended a synchronous and asynchronous three-week training program and coaching coursework through Google Classroom and Zoom. Finally, they conducted a mock on-the-spot writing contest to simulate the GLEC final round, where they were expected to write a 500-word essay within 50 minutes.

According to Elyna Mehriel Camus, one of the participants, the general topic of the essay focused



"I also feel happy for them because winning the contest entitles them to attend events organized by UN-

UN training conferences, and other activities that will further open their global perspective and serve as

**Cont'd on page 18**

## IBS co-hosts Balik Scientist Webinar

The Institute of Biological Sciences (IBS) co-hosted the Balik Scientist Webinar on July 5, 2020 via online platform together with the Department of Science and Technology - Philippine Council for Health Research and Development (DOST-PCHRD), University of the Philippines Manila as co-hosts, and Department of Biology, College of Science, Bicol University as the main host. Entitled "Functional Food for Health: We are What we Eat," Dr Myra O. Villareal, a Balik Scientist from DOST-PCHRD, delivered the said lecture.



Dr. Villareal discussed the various kinds of food and ingredients and how it affects diet and physiology. "How much we eat is really important. Filipino food are basically healthy but civilization exposed us to

cuisines from all over the world that gave us the tendency to eat a lot. It is important to keep in mind that everything has various composition and has different reactions to our body. The idea of the functional food

was introduced by Japan in the 1980s. It emphasizes that foods do not only provide energy but can also prevent diseases", Dr. Villareal said.

Dr. Villareal is a graduate of BS Agriculture major in Soils Science at University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB) in 1995 with Dr. Erlinda S. Paterno as her adviser.

She obtained her Master's degree in Microbiology from the same university in 2000 with Dr. Asuncion K. Raymundo as her adviser. ■

**JG Campang**

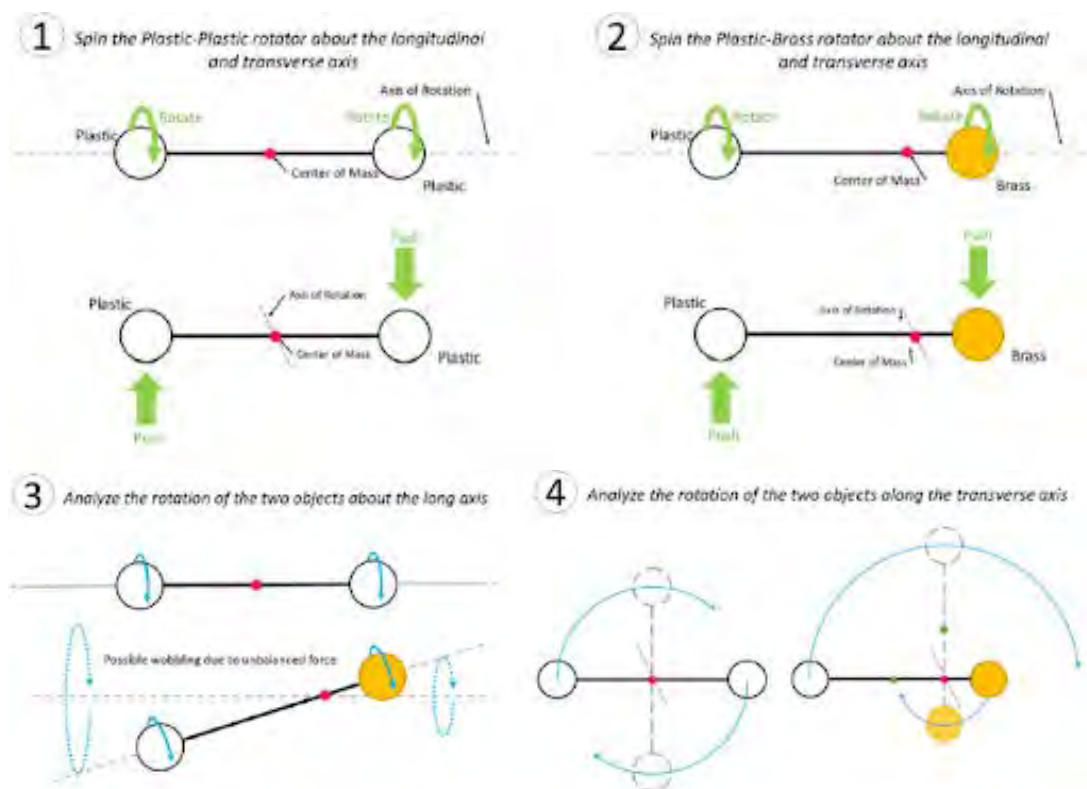


## UPLB student's experiment to be performed in the Int'l Space Station



A dream for young scientists of the country is to have their experiment proposal conducted in the International Space Station (ISS). William Kevin L. Abran, an incoming third-year student of the University of the Philippines Los Baños, made this dream come true when his proposal was among the six submissions chosen to be carried out in the ISS as part of the 2022 Asian Try Zero-G (ATZG) competition.

Entitled "Rotation of 'Dumbbell-shaped' Objects



The methodology of the experiment [original photo from Philippine Space Agency (philsa.gov.ph)]

in Space", Abran's proposal is set to be performed by astronaut and engineer Koichi Wakata in December 2022.

The Philippine Space Agency (PhilSA) initiated

the call for proposals for this year's ATZG in the Philippines and selected five experiments to enter the final round of evaluation by the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA). According to JAXA's point of

selection, "This theme aims to systematically examine the behavior of rotating objects in orbit and the Dzhanibekov effect using two rigid bodies with different

**Cont'd on page 22**

### 4 Ruralites win... from Page 17

on Sustainable Development Goal No. 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth. Camus was invited by one of her friends, Kedric Jovid Calibara, to join the contest. She stated that it was necessary to give it some thought since GLEC is a huge competition.

"I told myself that it would be a great way to get out of my comfort zone for a little while, get the thrill of competing and being among other international students

as well," she said when asked about her participation in the competition. "Plus, I also take a liking to writing, so I figured I would enjoy the competition either way."

On the day of the official announcement of the winners last June 26, she felt rather confused due to the early award announcement but also extremely happy.

"I was honestly already satisfied with having no award because it was the

experience of competing among other international students that mattered to me the most. But, winning an award gave me this mindset that I had done more than sharing my ideas for a contest; I had perhaps inspired others with my ideas as well," Camus said in response to her winning the award.

As the world faces numerous problems, the Global Leadership English Challenge aims

to spread awareness regarding contemporary global issues such as environmental and refugee crises through writing and sharing participating students' perspectives. The competition has been calling on the participation of the youth since its establishment last 2012 to solve these problems by sharing their opinions and ideas. ■

**PM Laset & AKM Santos**

## LITE Program highlights importance of Filipino language in August webinar

In celebration of Buwan ng Wikang Pambansa, the UPLB CAS LITE Program held the webinar entitled, "Ang Pagsulat ng Pananaliksik sa Filipino ay Paglinang sa Kulturang Pilipino"

on August 29, 2022. Educators, students, and other guests from all over the country came to attend – eager to learn to apply the topic to their thesis writing, improvement of classroom activities, or even for personal development. The lecturer was Asst. Prof. Jonelle Marin, head of *Dibisyon ng Wika* in the Department of Humanities.

Present at the event were LITE Program Manager, Dean Maribel L. Dionisio-Sese, LITE Coordinator, Asst. Prof. Kristine K. Adalla, and Asst. Coordinator for

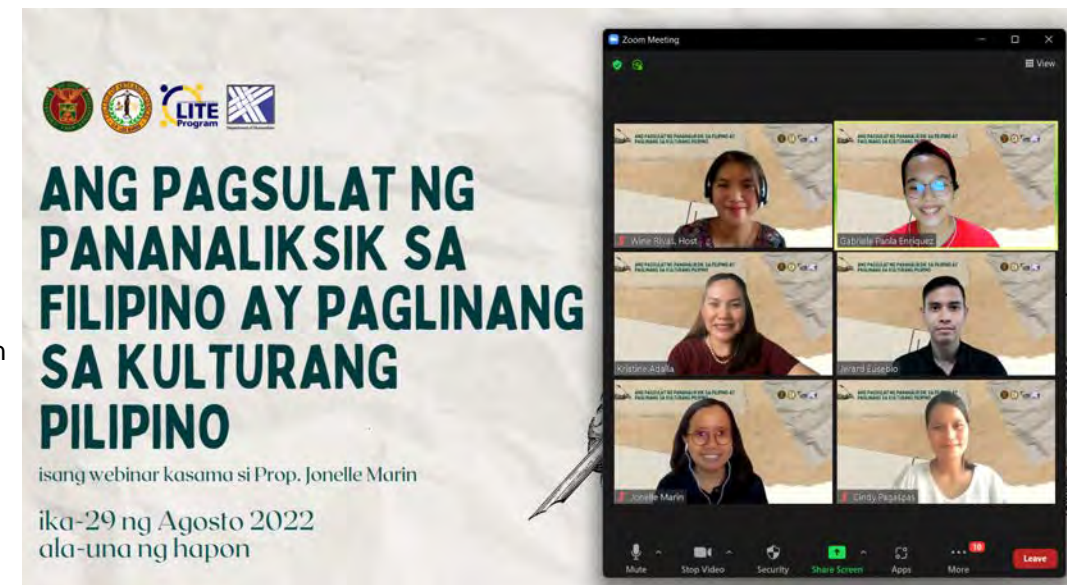
language for research, but at the same time, also encouraged the participants to rise above the challenges as it is essential to nurturing our culture. She emphasized

*pagkatao ng isang nilalang, ang kultura ng isang lahi, o ang kaluluwa ng bansa kung hindi uunawain at pagyayamanin ang sariling wika."*

Prof. Marin's lecture primarily tackled the interrelationship of language, research, and culture. Three main points were explored in her lecture, namely: *Ang pagsulat sa Filipino ay gawaing kultural* (writing in Filipino is cultural work); *Ang pagsulat sa Filipino ay pagsusulat*

*para sa Pilipino* (to write in Filipino means to write for the Filipino people), and; *Mahalagang may laya ang*

**Cont'd on page 21**



Special Projects, Asst. Prof. Jerard Eusebio. For her opening remarks, Dean Sese acknowledged the challenges and issues with using Filipino as the

that language is the cornerstone of the culture of our people and that it is part of the soul of our country. In her words, "*Hindi lubos na mauunawaan ang*

## Ruralite qualifies for first-ever EducationUSA Philippines Honors Program



A student from the University of the Philippines Rural High School was recognized as one of the 13 passers in

the first-ever EducationUSA Philippines Honors Program, as announced through the organization's Facebook page last March 9, 2022.

Carl Audric Guia is an incoming Grade 12 student who has participated in many extracurricular competitions, such as the Philippine Physics Olympiad, Philippine Mathematical Olympiad, International Space Challenge, and Likhayan. While looking into ways to further his interest in astronomy for college, he discovered EducationUSA

and other non-profit organizations that support Filipino students studying in the United States.

"EducationUSA Philippines has been one of the first doors that led me to this path of applying to the US," Guia stated in an online exchange with The Ruralite. "I would admit that seeing this array of organizations just helped me believe more about how I might be able to carve a path of my own, at least in the name of a childhood dream."

Guia recounted various

experiences in how he applied for the program, such as having to complete a four-hour Khan Academy test. He claimed that through EducationUSA, he had the opportunity to meet incredible college advisors who always encouraged him to grow intellectually and socially.

"I had a lot of opportunities to show parts of my personality that haven't been reflected in my report cards," Guia mentioned. "An example

**Cont'd on page 22**



## CAS@50: CASaysayan Series

Since its founding in 1972, the UPLB College of Arts and Sciences (CAS), then known as College of Science and Humanities, has remained at the forefront of promoting liberal education and nurturing knowledge creation and innovation both in the arts and sciences.



National Scientist Dolores A. Ramirez speaking during the CASaysayan: Panimula at Pag-unlad ng Kolehiyo ng Agham at Sining, a kick-off activity of the CASaysayan series

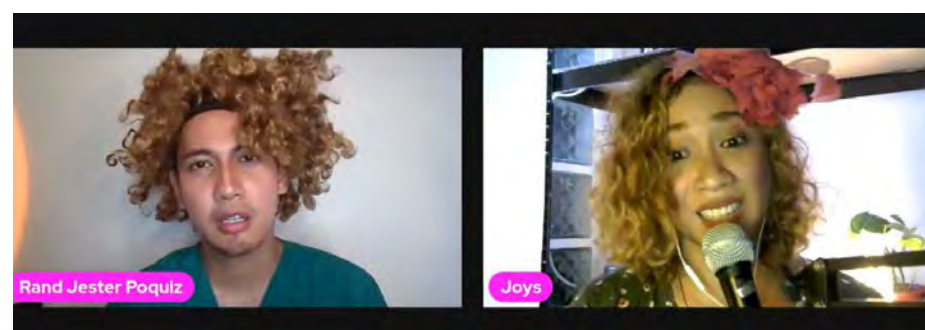
The College's 50th founding anniversary, themed "50 Years of Strengthening Connections and Solidarity", is being celebrated this year through programs and activities designed to run for eight months. Said activities highlight CAS's beginnings and how it continues to create impact today.

after. The College's early struggles in maintaining a balance between arts and science education,

the academic institution Dean Legaspi [first dean of the College] led was created three months after

Following this kick-off activity, a dean's legacy series called CASaysayan:

of [UPLB]... it must have been a tightrope act for her to hold the lead torch of academic freedom up high, away from the forces that must have sought every which way to pull it down and extinguish its light", said current Dean for CAS, Maribel L. Dionisio-Sese, PhD, during her closing message.



A telematic performance during the tribute to Dean Edewina C. Legaspi

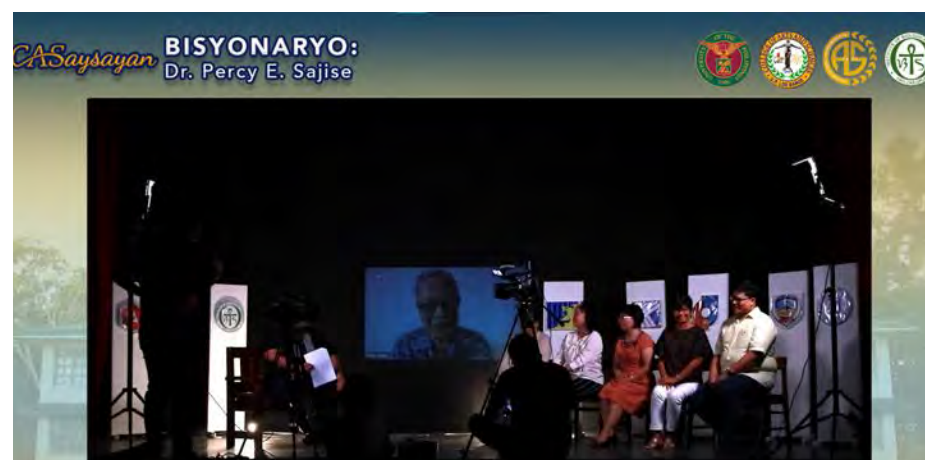
In April, the celebration was set in motion with the virtual conduct of the program, CASaysayan: Panimula at Pag-unlad ng Kolehiyo ng Agham at Sining. It featured the College's history through narratives about and from its pillars. The event recalled how, under the leadership of Salvador P. Lopez (12th president of UP), the adoption of the university system and creation of autonomous campuses was pushed, and how UPLB CAS was established soon

along with fostering liberal education at a time of grave dictatorship was also revisited. "It is a supreme irony that

Martial Law, yet expected to serve as the fount of liberal education and bedrock of basic sciences instruction of all students

in rhetoric, language, and literature, aided the College in institutionalizing what liberal education should look like. Her other contributions to the College were summarized in the virtual tribute "The Human Heart under the Agricultural Sun: Tribute to Dean Edelwina Cu Legaspi".

In May, the second episode of the series, entitled "Bisyonaryo: A tribute to



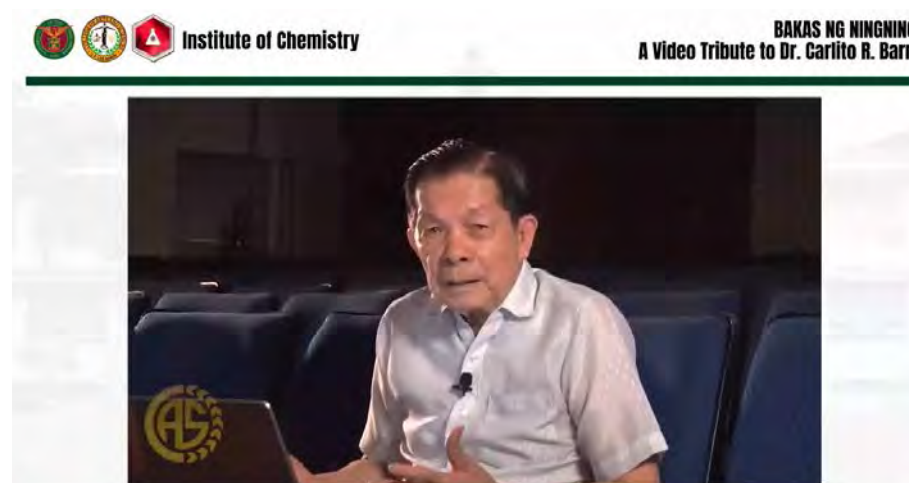
The panel of interviewees talking with Dr. Sajise himself during the "Bisyonaryo: A tribute to the legacy of Dean Percy E. Sajise"

Cont'd on page 21

CAS@50... from Page 20

the legacy of Dean Percy E. Sajise", honored the College's second Dean. Dr. Sajise, known for his expertise in human ecology, plant ecology, and natural resource management, among others, enabled the interdisciplinary infusion of different sciences highly evidenced in teaching and research.

In June, the third installation of the series, "Bakas ng Ningning: Dr. Carlito R. Barril", was aired. Dr. Barril, aside from his rich experience in chemistry (with focus on toxicology, biotechnology, environmental pollution, and crop protection, to name a few) is well remembered for his leadership that unified all offices of CAS into one cohesive unit that brought excellence in instruction, research, and public service.



An interview with Dr. Barril during the tribute to his legacy entitled "Bakas ng Ningning: Dr. Carlito R. Barril"

Honoring the legacy of CAS's fourth Dean was

the episode "Tatak ng Kahusayan: Dr. Pacifico Payawal", aired in July.



Dr. Cleofas T. Cervancia giving her testimonial about Dr. Payawal for the tribute entitled "Tatak ng Kahusayan: Dr. Pacifico Payawal"

The former Dean's innate passion for teaching and research propelled the College's commitment in pursuing and publishing interdisciplinary research projects.

The dean's legacy series continues with a tribute to Dr. Corazon Lamug, scheduled to air in September. Other programs about to be held as part of the eight-month celebration are: a painting competition (October 3); the second episode of CASalo sa Singkwenta, Huntahang Alumni: Dangal at Husay (October 10); and the 15th UPLB-CAS Student-Faculty Research Conference (SFRC) (November 28 and December 05). ■

KA Salvador

LITE Program highlights... from Page 19

*mga estudyante na pumili ng wika sa pagsusulat ng kanilang pananaliksik* (there is importance in letting students choose the language in writing their research). As the ending note of the lecture, she states, "Sana [...] naunawaan natin kung bakit hindi lang siya mahalaga, kung hindi kinakailangan siyang gawin para sa lubos pa natin na pagkilala sa ating mga sarili bilang bahagi

*ng komunidad at bilang isang bansa,*" reiterating the importance of using Filipino in writing research.

The Question and Answer session mediated by Prof. Jerard Eusebio provided the audience an opportunity to share their personal insights regarding the lecture and have their inquiries be expounded upon by Prof. Marin. The rich discussion during the Q&A was a

testament to the pressing need to strengthen the use of Filipino language in the educational system and in research as well. It is also reflective of people's interest in cultivating language and culture, and eagerness to learn about other relevant issues in our society today.

The event ended with Prof. Kristine Adalla's closing remarks, where she reiterated the importance

of strengthening the use of Filipino language and that there is no superior or inferior language.

The LITE Program continues with its 5th webinar on September 19, 2022, similarly addressing the topic of language with its title, "Code-Switching in Language Classes and Related Conversations." ■

EWS Rivas



*Ruralite qualifies for... from Page 19*

would be how I was able to show them what I do in my free time and also how I can thrive beyond the confines of the classroom... This was where I was able to communicate not just my academic ambitions but also the little things that make me me."

He is particularly appreciative of the program's assistance in covering some of the costs associated with studying in the US, such as the VISA application fee, travel, and tests.

With over 430 foreign facilities spread across 175 nations and territories, EducationUSA provides counseling aid to foreign students who are interested in fulfilling their academic endeavors in the

United States. Through its first Honors Program, qualifiers will participate in a 21-month training that will help them apply to US colleges and universities. They will engage in test preparation for SAT and ACT, as well as exams about the English language and coaching sessions on essay writing, college applications, scholarship research, and other group and one-on-one college preparation advice.

Once a student is given the chance to participate in EducationUSA, they must agree to attend all sessions, which will be held two to three times per month. The student will also be expected to complete homework, which will involve researching US

universities and scholarships as well as reading books for the regular English book club. The student's parent or legal guardian must also consent to send their child to study in the United States if their child is accepted to a university and is awarded a full scholarship.

The student will receive information from EducationUSA on the colleges that are most likely to provide them with full scholarships. The student must submit applications to the five institutions that EducationUSA determines are a good fit for them, but if they wish to submit applications to more than five colleges, they may do so at their own expense.

Asked for advice he would give to future applicants, Guia commented, "You don't have to worry about sounding impressive or anything like that. As cliché as it may sound, just be yourself."

"EducationUSA would not be accepting you for your grades or your accomplishments. They'd be accepting you for your personality and your passions. The important thing is you're putting yourself out there doing what you love... I think that's the best way to set yourself apart from the hundreds of other applicants."

**C Lozano &  
TM Tobias**

*UPLB student's experiment... from Page 18*

centers of gravity."

Abran, with the supervision of the Philippine Space Agency (PhilSA), developed the proposal, which entails dumbbell-shaped objects that could be spun about the longitudinal and along the transverse axis. Due to the two distinct moments of inertia, the experiment is not expected to result in the Dzhanibekov effect.

Physically simulating these motions on the ground is challenging due to the constant application of force and the pre-determination of the center of the mass. In a free environment, like microgravity, however, these rigid objects should rotate continuously for a fair amount of time, making it possible to observe the long-term stability of the rotations.

The UPLB student continues to educate people about their experiment through a TikTok video.

"I'm very happy that many Filipinos are proud and, at the same time, curious about the experiment. It has been part of my advocacy to promote space science since high school, and this event somehow helped in reaching more people," William said. "This achievement means a lot because it's a unique learning opportunity. I hope to share later with everyone all this experience and knowledge gained."

"Space science touches a lot of scientific fields. They often involve physicists, engineers, and mathematicians. However, space science also needs artists, creators, economists, and other disciplines. There are a lot of things to explore on Earth, even in space. So, stay curious, it will lead to your own discoveries," he added.

Aside from Abran's experiment, one of the proposals submitted by

PhilSA for the final selection process was the entry of Joven M. Galliguez, another UPLB incoming junior. With the title "Uniform Circular Motion in Zero Gravity", his experiment aims to determine whether a mass

attached to a string will undergo circular motion when a force is applied. ■

**FL Leal, JA Giere,  
& KG Reyes**

**casaccents**

**Editor-in-Chief:**

Laurence Marvin S. Castillo

**Associate Editor:**

Jessa Camille C. Duero

**Staff:**

Maria Eleanor B. Aurellado | Rollan Paul P. Parakikay  
Angelo C. Guiam | Marie Joy F. Lopez-Relente  
Marie Toni A. Salangsang | Madelyn P. Garcia  
Linus Van O. Plata | Ruben Jeffrey A. Asuncion  
John Cedric C. Gaza | Luis Gabriel N. Rellosa  
Roman Zigmund S. Urap | Alexa T. Fajardo

**Editorial Consultants:**

Dr. Maribel L. Dionisio-Sese (Dean)  
Dr. Chryslie Margus N. Piñol (Associate Dean)

**Layout Artist:**

Alexa T. Fajardo