

CAS

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CAS@50 PAYS TRIBUTE TO ITS RETIREEES, OUTSTANDING AWARDEES, FORMER DEANS

UP LOS BAÑOS — To give tribute and recognition to its retirees, outstanding awardees, and former deans on the commemoration of its 50th anniversary, the College of Arts and Sciences (CAS) commences “Laksang-Diwa”, CAS @50 Awards Night on the 21st day of December 2022 at Baker Hall.

Kickstarting the event with welcome remarks by CAS Dean Maribel L. Dionisio-Sese, DSc, two parts of the awarding have ensued in “Laksang-Diwa” as presented by several appointed faculty members to award its

retired professors, outstanding personnel and students, as well as former deans of the said college.

With their corresponding presenters for the award, eleven of the CAS retirees are as follows: Dr. Larcy C. Abello, Associate Professor 4 (as presented by DHUM Chair, Dr. Katrina Ross Tan); Dr. Augustus T. Añonuevo, Associate Professor 7 and Dr. Gloria E. Melencio, Assistant Professor 4 (both presented by DSS Chair Asst. Prof. Athenee

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P. Mercado); Dr. Lourdes B. Cardenas, Professor 9 and Dr. Damasa M. Macandog, Professor 12 (both presented by IBS Director Dr. Vachel Gay V. Paller); Mr. Manuel V. Linis, Administrative Aide V and Ms. Felicitas DR. Valencia, Administrative Assistant V (both presented by IC Director Marivic S. Lacsamana); Assoc. Prof. Alleli Ester C. Domingo, Associate Professor 7 and Assoc. Prof. Lynie B. Dimasuy, Associate Professor 7 (both presented by IMSP Director Dr. Editha C. Jose); Ms. Alma M. Malabayabas, Administrative Assistant II and Assoc. Prof. Dalisay S. Maligalig, Associate Professor 6 (both presented by INSTAT Director Dr. Liza N. Comia).

Furthermore, the college also recognized its outstanding personnel and students in the latter part of the awarding ceremony, with outstanding awards separated into several classifications: Outstanding Researcher (Junior and Senior Category), Outstanding Research Team, Outstanding Administrative Personnel Award (Blue Collar Category, Office Personnel Category, and Technician/Craftsman Category), Outstanding Extension Personnel/Public Service Award, Outstanding Extension/Public Service Team, Outstanding Teacher Award (Junior and Senior Category), and Outstanding Student Award (Arts and Sciences).

To start off, the Outstanding Researcher Award as presented by the 2020 CAS Outstanding Researcher, Dr. Vachel Gay V. Paller is given to the following

recipients: Asst. Prof. Monica C. Torres (IMSP) in the Junior Category (Physical Sciences); Asst. Prof. Cheeno Marlo M. Sayuno (DHUM) in the Senior Category (Humanities and Social Sciences); Prof. Darwin B. Putungan (IMSP) in the Senior Category (Physical Sciences); as well as the Materials Computation (MATCOM) Group (IMSP) being awarded the Outstanding Research Team.

Consecutively, the Outstanding Administrative Personnel Award is also presented by Ms. Rhona F. Anenias, 2021 CAS Outstanding Administrative Personnel (Office Personnel Category) and Mr. John Leonell A. Vargas, 2021 CAS Outstanding Administrative Personnel (Technician/Craftsman Category), with its recipients as follow: Ms. Edna P. Valenzuela (IC) in the Blue Collar Category, Ms. Marites M. Gironella (ICS) in the Office Personnel Category, and Ms. Roxanne D. Fajardo (IBS) in the Technician/Craftsman Category.

Likewise, the Outstanding Extension Personnel/Public Service has also been awarded to Assoc. Prof. Nancy A. Tandang (INSTAT), while the Outstanding Extension/Public Service Team has been awarded to the ZOOTRIP (Zoonotic Transmission of Intestinal Parasites: Implications for Control and Elimination) (IBS), with both awards presented by the 2020 CAS Outstanding Extension Personnel Dr. Aimee Lynn B. Dupo.

Sequentially, the 2016 CAS Outstanding Senior Faculty Dr. Editha C. Jose presents the Outstanding Teacher Award to Asst. Prof. Krissah Marga B. Taganas (DHUM) in the Junior Category, and to Asst. Prof. Cheeno Marlo M. Sayuno (DHUM) in the Senior Category.

Lastly, the Outstanding Student Award is given to Ms. Margaret Anne C. Mediano (BA Communication Arts) for the Arts, and Mr. Diego Leandro L. Contreras (BS Biology) for the Sciences, with both awards presented by Asst. Prof. Gemalyn H. Lozano, Assistant College Secretary.

On the other hand, eight of the former Deans of CAS have also been acknowledged and recognized starting with the Founding CAS Dean Dr. Edelwina C. Legaspi (award received by Mr. Michael Alexis C. Legaspi and Dr. Eric Dennis C. Legaspi), Dean Percy E. Sajise (award received by Prof. Damasa M. Macandog), Dean Carlito R. Barri, Dean Pacifico C. Payawal, Dean Corazon B. Lamug, Dean Asuncion K. Raymundo, Dean Zita V.J. Albacea, and Dean Felino P. Lansigan—all presented by Asst. Professor James Roldan S. Reyes, College Secretary, and Dr. Chrystine Margus N. Pihol, Associate Dean.

The CAS @50 Awards Night "Laksang-Diwa" was hosted by Prof. Rosemarie D. Eusebio and Asst. Prof. Jerard Ancei D. Eusebio concludes its event with closing remarks from Asst. Prof. Frederick G. Precillas, Chair, CAS@50 Committee. ■

JR Dela Cruz & M Apurados



Laksang-Diwa
CAS@50 Night

CAS@50

CAS@50 Night



PROF. DAMASA B. MAGCALE - MACANDOG



Prof. Damasa B. Magcale-Macandog has served the Institute of Biological Sciences (IBS) and the whole University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB) community for 43 years in terms of instruction, research, extension and public service, and administrative work. Professor Magcale-Macandog, or "Ma'am Demi," as her students and colleagues pleasantly call her, made significant contributions to the university. Her contributions to a wide range of Ecological Modeling applications have left a lasting impression on UPLB's history and extensive list of accomplishments.

In addition, she was a very active member of several national and international organizations, making her truly the epitome of honor and excellence.

As an educator and researcher, Ma'am Demi is renowned for her extensive studies on climate change adaptation and mitigation, ecosystem modeling, and sustainable management of natural resources. She received several national and international awards for her outstanding contributions to the scientific community. She has many things to be proud of, including the 2021 Achievement Award of the National Research Council of the Philippines – Division of Biological Sciences, the 2007 UPLB Outstanding Researcher Award, and the Philippines National Academy of Science and Technology (NAST) Outstanding

Young Scientist (OYS) Award in the field of Botany.

Ma'am Demi served as the Director of IBS from 2009 to 2012 and as Head of the institute's Environmental Biology Division (EBD) from 2016 to 2018. Her leadership and excellence as the IBS Director and EBD Head made significant progress in attaining the institute's mission and vision in instruction, research, public service, internationalization, infrastructure, faculty, staff, and student development. ■

JG Campang

CAS@50 Night



PROF. LOURDES B. CARDENAS



Dr. Lourdes B. Cardenas is a Professor 9 at the Institute of Biological Sciences (IBS) under the Plant Biology Division (PBD). She served the University for over 40 years. Building on the path that her mentor, Prof. Ludvina de Padua, had started, she strengthened the study of medicinal plants and their products through biotechnology in the Philippines.

Finishing her Doctor of Natural Sciences at the Heinrich-Heine-Universität Düsseldorf set off her greater interest in Plant Biotechnology and Pharmaceutical Biology. Thereafter, her prolific

research on medicinals and natural products involved collaborations with national agencies, such as the Department of Agriculture (DA), Philippine Council for Agriculture, Aquatic and Natural Resources Research and Development (DOST-PCAARRD), and Philippine Council for Health Research and Development (DOST-PCHRD). Prior to her retirement, she established the Philippine Biorepository Network (PBN) garden at IBS, a nod to Prof. de Padua's initial efforts to house a medicinal plant garden at the university.

For these works, Dr. Cardenas received numerous awards such as Professional Chair Lectures, Publications Awards, Outstanding Monograph/Book from NAST, to name a few. She was also named the CAS Outstanding Senior Faculty in 2004.

With her extensive research

experience, Dr. Cardenas, or "Ma'am Lu" to her students, weaves these effortlessly into the topics she teaches just by showing a pertinent picture or two. Her exemplary mastery on the subject matter encourages one to think critically and inspires students to venture towards research. This also translates to her mentoring style. She trains her mentees to swim on their own, with her as water - there to support and guide each of her mentees' own destinations.

Establishing a career path in teaching and research is a noteworthy journey. As retirement comes, leaving a mark and inspiring students is indeed rewarding. Ma'am Lu has truly blazed a trail that others are now actively pursuing, and this remains her greatest legacy. ■

MP Rivera, EC Villaverde, & FA Aguilar

CAS@50 Night



**ASSOC. PROF.
ALLELI ESTER C. DOMINGO**



Where there is passion, there is Alleli.

Passionate is the word most of her students would use to describe their math professor, Ma'am Alleli Ester C. Domingo. She always came to class with her cleverly crafted examples and had the talent to make a five-year-old understand what nonlinear programming and game theory are about. She displayed such dedication in all her classes in UPLB for more than 44 years. Her passion for math models and optimization was not contained within the four walls of the

classroom as she served as the president of Operations Research Society of the Philippines from 2007 to 2010. With her leadership, UPLB students and colleagues became actively involved with leaders at the forefront of operations research in the country. She also served as Associate Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences in 2010-2011 where she was able to promote her passion for mathematics and the arts through different activities spearheaded by the college.

Another unique trait of Ma'am Alleli is the pride she has for her Filipino heritage. She actively embeds local arts, craftsmanship, and our National Hero in her presentations. She does her storytelling in all her public lectures so well that she is a crowd favorite among teachers and colleagues all over the world.

Ma'am Alleli's invaluable contributions to education and the university have been recognized with numerous awards, including the 2018 CAS Outstanding Personnel Award, One UP Professorial Chair Award for Applied Mathematics (Operations Research) for Outstanding Teaching and Public Service (2016 - 2018), The Many Faces of the Teacher Honoree, Bato Balani Foundation Inc. (2015), and Distinguished Alumni Award for Education Innovation (UP System Alumni Association, 2011). ■

DSM Lutero

CAS@50 Night



**ASSOC. PROF.
LYNIE B. DIMASUAY**



"Teaching is not only about imparting knowledge of the subject matter. What is equally important, if not more, is being able to share wisdom and skills outside the syllabus that my students will carry with them as they go on their respective journeys."

A.Prof. Lynie B. Dimasuay, or Ma'am Lynie, is known for her passion in teaching and promoting useful tools and techniques to improve teaching and learning mathematics. As a result, most of her research and extension projects focus on improvement

of teaching materials for basic education and several trainings for teachers about strengthening classroom approach in teaching mathematics.

However, she also recognizes that our approach to education needs to keep up with the ever-changing technology. For seven years (2004-2011), she was the Director of the Interactive Learning Center (ILC), which allowed her to be more open to adapting software and applications that could help her broaden her teaching avenues. During her term as an ILC director, they initiated the development of Learning Objects, which is later known as Interactive Learning Materials. As an adviser to several MST students, she also inspires them to keep enhancing the quality of teaching materials

and to be more adaptable in designing alternative methods of instruction to further improve the engagement of students as we adjust to the new normal.

Ma'am Lynie's efforts to improve the quality of teaching not only at the university but throughout the country have been recognized with several awards. Some of them are UP System One UP Professorial Chair Award for Teaching and Public Service (January 2019-December 2021), Faculty Grant Awards for the Development and Production of Interactive Learning Objects (August 2016-July 2017) and UP System One UP Professorial Chair Award (January 2016-December 2018). ■

JCC Duero

CAS@50 Night



**ASSOC. PROF.
LARCY C. ABELLO**



"Ang praktikalang walang teorya ay bulag; ang teoryang walang praktika ay baog."

Sa mahigít na isang dekadang paglilingkod ni Associate Professor Dr. Larcy C. Abello mula Hunyo 2004, naging malaking bahagi siya ng mga mag-aaral sa Unibersidad ng Pilipinas Los Baños, lalo na sa mga mag-aaral ng BA at MA Communication Arts.

Tángan ni Dr. Abello ang PhD in Reading Education na kanyang nakamit sa Unibersidad ng Pilipinas Diliman taong 2003. Natamasa niya rito ang Presidential Scholarship

mula 1998 hanggang 2003 at naging University at College Scholar sa mga taong 1999, 2000, at 2001. Siya rin ay gradwado ng MA in Education (English) sa San Pablo College (1993-1997) at kumuha ng MA in Education (TESL) sa Meritissimus Notre dame University (1986-1989).

Bilang isang dalubhasa, si Dr. Abello ay nakapagharap na ng kanyang mga pag-aaral sa loob at labas ng bansa. Kabilang dito ang "Developing Sustainable Quality in English Language Education: Evolving Policies, Innovating Practices, Transforming Learning" na kanyang ibinahagi sa Asia TEFL 12th International Conference and 23rd MELTA International Conference sa Malaysia noong 2014. Nagpresenta rin si Dr. Abello sa International Conference of the Pan-Asian Consortium of Language Teaching Societies at Philippine Association for Language Teaching, Inc. sa

University of San Jose Recoletos, Cebu noong 2013.

Pinakahuli niyang publikasyon ang "Collaboration and Negotiation: Scaffolding and Empowering Adult Learners of English" na inilathala ng Malaysian English Language Teaching Association noong 2014. Nakapag-ambag din si Dr. Abello ng kanya pang mga lathalaín sa Asia Book 2 ng Asian Institute of Management, The UPLB Journal, The ACETL Forum, at The RAP Journal, lian pa sa mga kumperensyang dinaluhan at mga larang na kanyang dinalubhasaan ay ang Discourse Analysis, English Teaching in the Context of Science, Scientific Paper Writing, Teacher Education, at Global trends in English Language Learning. ■

AA Estacio

CAS@50 Night



**ASSOC. PROF.
DALISAY S. MALIGALIG**



Over the past seven years, Dr. Dalisay S. Maligalig built a lasting impact on the Institute of Statistics (INSTAT) by serving as an exemplary mentor to younger faculty members. Ma'am Dax, as she is fondly called by her students and colleagues, brought her extensive experience and excellent character in refining the instruction, research, and public service activities of INSTAT. This includes the improvements she initiated in the teaching and learning activities of survey sampling courses at the undergraduate and graduate levels. The survey projects carried out as

part of the learning activities in an undergraduate course on survey operations have benefitted not just the UPLB community but also the Los Baños community. Notable were the survey projects on the work-life balance of UPLB employees, satisfaction on local government services of Los Baños residents, and the perception towards blended learning of CAS students.

Throughout her career at the university, Dr. Maligalig has served as an adviser to numerous undergraduate and graduate students. She dedicated her time and energy not only to guide them in their research studies, but also to empower them to create and achieve their academic and personal goals. She prioritized her regular "kumustahan" sessions with her advisees to talk about their goals, progress, or any challenges they were facing.

Dr. Maligalig's immense contribution to statistics was highlighted in their recently concluded DOST-funded project, Improving the Design, Conduct, and Analysis of the Survey on Research and Development Expenditures and Personnel. This project also opened research and learning opportunities for younger faculty members and students.

Despite her short stay as a regular faculty member of INSTAT, Ma'am Dax has nurtured rich and long-lasting personal relationships with her students and colleagues. Her dedication and wisdom have surely inspired the next generation of statisticians, both within the academe and outside it. Ma'am Dax is surely an embodiment of a true and excellent mentor. ■

JLA Yambot

CAS@50 Night



**ASST. PROF.
GLORIA E. MELENCIO**

Her retirement seems to be the beginning of a glorious new chapter in her life.

After reaching the mandatory retirement age, Asst. Prof. Gloria E. Melencio, or Ma'am Glo as she is called, has embarked on new milestones immediately after retiring from the UPLB Department of Social Sciences (DSS) on August 28, 2022.

Ma'am Glo is now a senior lecturer at DSS, and continues to teach Philippine History in the University on a part-time basis. Meanwhile,

in January 2023, she will defend her dissertation for PhD in History at UP Diliman, where she also earned her MA History and BA Philippine Studies.

"Never too late!" Ma'am Glo exclaimed, as she shared these latest developments in her life – ones that are typically unusual and unexpected from a retired public servant.

This former journalist added that she plans to write more articles and books soon. Before teaching at UPLB in 2016, and previously at the National University and the University of Santo Tomas, Ma'am Glo worked for eight media organizations. She also served the Commission on Human Rights as an administrative officer and media officer of the chair.

During her service as a regular faculty member at DSS, Ma'am Glo taught History 1/Kasaysayan 1, Kasaysayan 4, Philippine Institutions 10, Social Science 3, and History 2. Her publications and other scholarly works tackle gender issues, culture, migration, history, indigenous people, political science, governance, journalism, education, human rights, and environment.

Now that she has retired from full-time work in the University, Ma'am Glo admits that she misses her former home department. "I miss seeing the colleagues – bantering and exchanging stories about life after faculty meetings," she said. ■

MJE Gloria



**ASSOC. PROF.
AUGUSTUS T. AÑONUEVO**

enjoy being with his grandchildren in Toronto. When asked what he will miss about teaching, he said, "I will surely miss teaching sociological theories and qualitative research. I will miss pushing my students to read more and appreciate sociological theorizing and question the relevance of Sociology. I will miss pushing my students to do studies on important issues and concerns and to be methodologically creative towards answering their research questions".

Looking back to his 27 years at the university, Sir August said that he learned to love Sociology and how to teach it well. He said, "I learned that to teach well, one has to read, write, and conduct studies well, one has to engage students, push them to study, and encourage them to lead socially relevant lives".

Dr. Añonuevo received his Doctor of Philosophy in Sociology from the University of Bonn, Germany in 2019. He earned his BS in Psychology and MA in Sociology

from the University of the Philippines Diliman. Unknown to many, he studied the German language at the University of Cologne and the University of Mainz, Germany (1988-1991) and passed the Prüfung Zum Nachweis Deutscher Sprachkenntnisse (German Language Proficiency Exam). He also studied for three semesters and earned units in MA Soziologie (MA Sociology) at the Johann Wolfgang Goethe-Universität, Frankfurt Germany (1991-1993). His publications and other scholarly works focus on Filipino migration and development, and the successful return migration of Filipino migrant workers. Dr. Añonuevo has also been a recipient of several professional chair awards, and faculty and study grants.

Sir August admits that his stay at UPLB was a learning experience. He is grateful for his UPLB experiences, both the good and the bad, that made him a better person, academic, and Filipino. ■

STS Alcantara



**PROF. ELIEZER A.
ALBACEA**

System Computer Science Program.

He helped strengthen and develop the programs offered by the institute as well as improving the faculty lineup and institute resources.

Prof. Albacea passed away in October 2022. He was a leader and prominent figure in his academic field, but he is held in equally high regard for being a compassionate educator. He will be missed. ■

MGCB Carandang

Prof. Albacea was also a NAST Academician, and was a prolific researcher, and writer of books and technical papers about computer science. He is known for his Leapfrogging Samplesort, a sorting algorithm which contributes to time savings in data-processing applications.

He was also awarded the UPLB Outstanding Teacher Award for Physical Sciences.

Professor Eliezer "Eli" A. Albacea was a key figure in the Institute of Computer Science (ICS).

After the ICS was elevated from a division to an institute, Prof. Albacea became its first director.

Prof. Albacea led ICS when the institute became a pilot institute to implement the concept of a System Academic Program to which he was designated System Director for the UP



**MS. ALMA E.
MALABAYABAS**

other admin staff to approach her whenever needed.

Throughout her entire career at INSTAT, she was also considered a reliable and well-organized staff which led to her effectively managing administrative duties.

She also progressively found her way to coping with changing times due to her eagerness to learn and keen attention to detail. Her dedication towards work significantly contributed to the institute's progress through the years.

Tita Alma's pleasant character made it easy for all INSTAT constituents to find a friend in her, which eventually manifested into smooth and efficient transactions. Her commitment and loyalty to INSTAT were evident in her years of hard work and diligence.

With all these, she'll forever be cherished as a Tita who is likeable, thoughtful, and affectionate towards other people. Her smile in the corridors may now just be a memory, but a kind that will be forever treasured and valued by the people whose lives she once touched. ■

KDR Alcalde

Alma E. Malabayabas, or Tita Alma as everyone fondly called her, has been known to have a positive attitude towards her work as an Administrative Assistant. She served the Institute of Statistics for over 35 years and during that period, not a day passed that she has not graced the corridors of INSTAT with her warm and welcoming presence.

She had an infectious smile and laugh, which significantly lightened the working environment. True enough, she made it easy for both faculty and students, as well as



**MS. FELICITAS DR.
VALENCIA**

staff records such as the DTR and leave applications.

She also provided assistance to the IC faculty, administrative staff and students whenever needed.

Tita Peach is a certified fashionista of IC. Her sweet smile and warm personality served her well in her post in the Institute which required her to constantly interact not only with UPLB constituents but also with people from outside the University.

Tita Peach and her fondness for cooking for her fellow admin staff are surely missed but IC can only wish her the best in her retirement. ■

JZ Paddayuman

Ms. Felicitas Dr. Valencia is a former administrative assistant at the Institute of Chemistry (IC).

To her colleagues and students, she is Tita Peach.

She served in the IC Director's Office for 36 years where she was in charge of the faculty service records and SET results of the IC faculty, and administrative



**MR. MANUEL V.
LINIS**

able to provide assistance not only to the IC Analytical Services Laboratory (ASL) but also to the IC thesis students for their needs for reagents and glassware.

Manong served IC well for more than 40 years, and for this IC is grateful to him and misses him. ■

JZ Paddayuman

Mr. Manuel V. Linis, also known as Mang Manny or Manong in the Institute of Chemistry (IC), is a former administrative aid.

He was responsible for facilitating and processing the procurement needs of IC.

Due to his experience in laboratory work early in his employment in IC he was

Manong was also in charge of the control and monitoring of IC's usage of restricted chemical reagents and the reportorial requirements involved to ensure that IC keeps its PDEA license.

Manong is the chef among the IC admin staff whose "adobo" and "pansit" are must-tries, as attested by his colleagues.



DR. DARWIN B. PUTUNGAN

His research on the physics of 2D materials for energy conversion and storage made a considerable impact in the scientific community and inspired experimentalists to explore these ideas in the design and implementation of prototype energy devices.

Dr. Putungan is also a Junior Associate of the Condensed Matter and Statistical Physics Group at the International Center for Theoretical Physics (ICTP), Trieste, Italy.

He was conferred the rank of UP Scientist I under the UP Scientific Productivity System in 2019, and was recognized as the First Prize winner in the National Academy of Science and Technology (NAST) Talent Search for Young Scientists in the same year. ■

A Santos-Putungan

Dr. Darwin B. Putungan, a professor at the Physics Division, Institute of Mathematical Sciences and Physics (IMSP) is a passionate computational physicist and is an advocate of fundamental research.

He supports the idea that theoretical calculations pave the way for new discoveries and innovations.



ASST. PROF. MONICA C. TORRES

cutting to a terrestrial plant community with microhabitat locality, and exaggerated evolution of male armaments via male-male competition.

Moreover, Asst. Prof. Torres has contributed to crafting policy notes that concern public safety during the peak of the COVID-19 pandemic through the UP Resilience Institute (UPRI). Specifically, she is part of the team who worked on mathematical models and simulations of the spread of SARS-CoV-2, considering different interventions at different demographic scales and context.

All these, together with her participation in other research for safeguarding the public against the virus, show Asst. Prof. Torres' commitment to

public service.

Currently, she is an associate member of the National Research Council of the Philippines and working on two projects under UPLB Basic Research and UP System Enhanced Creative Work and Research Grants. ■

MJV Cortez & ER Rico

Since entering the academe, Asst. Prof. Monica C. Torres of the Institute of Mathematical Sciences and Physics (IMSP) has exhibited a passion for research work. Young as she is, her body of work already covers a wide variety of interests and topics, ranging from optimized approaches to meaningful systems, ecology, and evolution, up to solving problems of national concern.

Some of her research and publications deal with faculty-course allocation, effects of tree



MS. EDNA P. VALENZUELA



Ms. Edna P. Valenzuela, or Tita Edna, as everyone fondly calls her, is an Administrative Aide III and is in charge of the Institute of Chemistry (IC) reading room. Since joining the Institute in 1984, Tita Edna has demonstrated invaluable service to the Institute, especially to its students.

She started her journey in IC as a research aide and later became a member of the Organic Chemistry and Natural Products Division where she served as a laboratory technician for 20 years.

Unfortunately, she had a stroke that resulted in the left side of her body being paralyzed. This incident opened a new chapter for Tita Edna as the guardian of the IC reading room.

Aside from ensuring that the reading materials and the whole reading room are in order, she also extends her service in a lot of ways. She helps with some procurement processes and paper copy requests, and attends to students' inquiries about form processes.

Tita Edna also initiated the compilation of thesis manuscripts and ensures that students submit their hardbound manuscripts and other requirements. Tita Edna's support to the Institute does not end there.

The moment you open the door to the IC reading room, you will be greeted by Tita Edna's good morning and sweet smile. Her friendly demeanor makes not only her coworkers but also her students feel at ease around her. She is also a strong supporter and morale booster for IC students who frequent the IC reading room, especially the chemistry board takers.

She makes sure that the reading room pantry is well stocked, even using her own money to do so, and pushes students to study when they are exhausted. Tita Edna is well-loved in IC and a lot of the IC alumni always make it a point to visit her when they are in UPLB. ■

J Paddayuman



MS. ROXANNE D. FAJARDO



Ms. Roxanne D. Fajardo is recognized for her excellent contributions as a project support staff of the UPLB Limnological Station. Ms. Fajardo, or "Rox", as fondly called by her peers, has been with the Limnological Station for 7 years and has been vital in the maintenance of various cultures of phytoplankton and zooplankton, which are used as natural live food for the rearing of fishes.

One of the challenges in rearing live fish is producing food that

is part of the fish's natural diet and is small enough for the newly hatched larvae to feed on. Ms. Fajardo has made a breakthrough in successfully culturing a small rotifer named *Filinia longiseta* that can be used as the first feed for fish larvae of the endemic ayungin (*Leiopotherapon plumbeus*).

In fact, her ability to successfully culture copepods and cladocerans, which is the known food of tawilis (*Sardinella tawilis*) in the wild, was instrumental in the Limnological Station's first ever successful short-term rearing of this endemic and endangered species outside their natural habitat of Taal Lake.

Aside from natural food production, Ms. Fajardo is also involved in the production of

several ornamental species like *Betta splendens* (fighting fish), *Danio rerio* (zebrafish), African cichlids and ornamental shrimps.

The UPLB Limnological Station is proud of her achievements and hopes to continue their research and development programs in the rearing of valuable fish resources with her involvement. ■

ME Aurellado & JM Castro

Outstanding Student for the Sciences



MR. DIEGO LEANDRO L. CONTRERAS



Acclaimed as one of the top UPCAT Passers in 2019 and unmatched as the CAS Top Student for two consecutive years (2020 and 2021), Mr. Diego Leandro L. Contreras, or Diego, as he is fondly called, is a senior student under the BS Biology degree program of the Genetics and Molecular Biology Division (GMBD), Institute of Biological Sciences.

His zeal to broaden his knowledge and skills in the field of science led him to venture in Cell and Molecular Biology as his major.

Diego's unparalleled commitment to achieve excellence, as exemplified

by his being a consistent University Scholar (GWA ≥ 1.45), has earned him a DOST merit scholarship from 2019 to present. In addition, he is concurrently, an ISKOLAR NG LAGUNA scholarship program recipient.

He is a resident member of PHILOBIOSCIENTIA, The UPLB Life Sciences Society, where he actively takes part as a contributor to their official newsletter, Perspicientia. Apart from his love for life and knowledge, he is engaged in youth leadership and academic affairs and is also an active volunteer of the UPLB Ugnayan ng Pahinungod.

In his pre-college years, he was a consistent academic awardee, an active competitor in science-related contests, an enthusiast for outreach programs, and a notable representative abroad as a Yale Model United Nations XLIV regional scholar. He also attended numerous

seminars and training related to science, skills improvement, and some youth symposia. Furthermore, he organized numerous seminars and training as part of his advocacy to improve leadership qualities and was an active participant in academic-related dialogues.

His dedication to help others learn and love learning brought him to engage in the UPLB Learning Resource Center's academic review and tutorial session programs as a peer mentor for BIO30 (Genetics).

Diego continues to inspire students with his humility and generosity as he devotes his time and talent over promoting the biological sciences. ■

CD Palao

Outstanding Student for the Arts



MS. MARGARETE ANNE C. MEDIANO



outside the University. Some of her notable works are published by the UPLB Writers' Club and Umalohokan Inc.

Matching this scholastic involvement is her strong participation in various socio-civic initiatives, by holding several key positions in the UPLB Gabay Volunteer Corps, since 2022. Her undeterred passion to succeed and serve is rooted in the realization that she has the capacity to drive change. "What I'm doing, what I'm learning, is not just for me alone, but more so for society and service to the people.

Each step is an assurance and commitment to achieve growth and success together", says Mediano. Being acknowledged as CAS Outstanding Student for the Arts, Maan hopes to "pay it forward, and hopefully inspire more students in our Department and College to aim for the stars, work diligently, share and dedicate their success

to the people, organizations, and communities that offer and merit support. This success is for all of us learners, dreamers, and doers".

Ms. Mediano majors in speech communication and is a resident member of The Rhetoricians. She graduated valedictorian in senior high school from the STI College of Novaliches in 2019, and finished her basic education and junior high school with high honors at the Grace Montessori School of Novaliches. ■

KA Salvador

Outstanding Teacher Award Senior Category



**DR. CHEENO MARLO D.
SAYUNO**

As a University Artist 1, his remarkable contributions to research and praxis in interdisciplinary fields earned him the CAS Outstanding Researcher Award for Humanities and Social Sciences (Senior Category). His works have been recognized by the Carlos Palanca Memorial Awards for Literature, twice.

In 2017, his work "Tiya Salome" won 3rd prize under the category Kwentong Pambata, while his work "The Magic Bahag" won 2nd Prize under the Short Story for Children category in 2013. Among his other works that also garnered recognition were "Gustong Mag-Kini-Kini ni Ahil", "Kung Paano Kami Nagkaroon ng Kamay na Bulaklak" and "The Missing Blanket".

His recent creative works include storybooks entitled "Mga Kamatsile ni Ina Binyag" in 2021, and "Sayaw ni Dayaw" published by Anvil in 2020 that indeed attempt to

preserve culture and to continue the spirit of service that UPLB embodies as an institution. Moreover, two of his research works were published in international journals in 2021.

Dr. Sayuno remains optimistic despite the challenge to teachers in balancing teaching, research, extension, and creative work. He shares, "there are always ways to marry our research/creative work and our teaching." ■

MA Sto Tomas

Outstanding Teacher Award Junior Category



**ASST. PROF. KRISSAH
MARGA B. TAGANAS**

to name a few. Such commitment to excellence in philosophical disciplines in theory and practice has likewise earned her numerous honors, grants, and awards. She has also delivered public lectures and paper presentations at various local and international conferences in Philosophy such as in Germany and New York, USA.

Guiding Asst. Prof. Taganas in her service to the students and the University is her teaching philosophy informed by feminist pedagogy and values. She aims to develop a community of learners who are empowered to take part in the construction of knowledge in the classroom. This is based on her strong belief that the context and experiences of the students bring deeper and shared meanings into their lives.

Thus, her courses are designed with flexibility and guided by philosophical questions that encourage students to practice

critical, creative, and caring thinking.

Aligned with the values of the University, she hopes to instill in her students the importance of UP education to contribute to dismantling oppressive systems and commit to social justice. Being recognized as CAS Outstanding Teacher will further motivate Prof. Taganas to continue promoting philosophy to transform society and contribute to nation-building. ■

KA, Salvador

Personnel Award Office Personnel Category



**MS. MARITES M.
GIRONELLA**

Better known as "Tita Mayeth," she is now in charge of handling incoming and outgoing documents and requests such as FSRs, grade sheets, student forms, and application letters.

Tita Mayeth is reliable and consistent in her duties, a friendly face to all in the institute, and always ready to help. ■

M Carandang

Marites M. Gironella is an Administrative Assistant II in the Institute of Computer Science. She joined the institute in 2010 and, for several years, oversaw managing the library and reading room, as well as administering the Student Evaluation of Teachers (SET).

During the pandemic, Tita Mayeth was invaluable in keeping the wheels turning in the institute. She was responsible for collating the numerous forms, letters, and various student-related documents and making sure that they were seen by the concerned faculty or staff.

Outstanding Extension Personnel/Public Service Award



**DR. NANCY
TANDANG**

students in the undergraduate and graduate level in their own research. Since 2020, Dr. Tandang has been a member of the UPLB Interdisciplinary Studies Center on Organic Agriculture, a program that aims to pursue more holistic inter-, multi-, and transdisciplinary basic and applied research, development, and extension (RDE) programs of UPLB.

She is also a highly requested resource person for statistics training courses within and outside the university. Many of her engagements are in the fields of food and nutrition, as well as social science. She has demonstrated technical competence in conducting trainings on basic and advanced statistical analyses for both qualitative and quantitative research, survey operations and questionnaire design, estimation and sampling weights, data management, and data visualization, just to name a few.

Dr. Tandang has also served as a statistician in different human nutrition and public health projects funded by agencies such as UNICEF, FAO Philippines, National Nutrition Council, and UPLB. She has also been a reviewer for various journal publications, and organizer and moderator of several national student-faculty conferences on statistics.

Dr. Tandang is highly regarded by her peers and students. She is conscientious about completing more extension services alongside research and instruction. Her deep commitment to providing quality service as a statistician is evidenced by her outstanding performance in several engagements. ■

*LC Aguila &
HM Remolacio*

In her 24 years of service at the Institute of Statistics (INSTAT), Dr. Nancy Tandang has been an excellent professor, prolific researcher, and active extension personnel. In 2017, she was awarded as the CAS Outstanding Senior Faculty.

This year, her exceptional list of extension work/public service is recognized as she brings home the CAS Outstanding Extension Personnel/Public Service Award. Dr. Tandang is an active member of the INSTAT Statistical Consulting Group, the extension service arm of INSTAT, where she has guided

Outstanding Extension Personnel/Public Service Team



ZOONOTIC TRANSMISSION OF INTESTINAL PARASITES: IMPLICATIONS FOR CONTROL AND ELIMINATION (ZOOTRIP)

Led by IBS Director Prof. Vachel Gay V. Paller, the "Zoonotic Transmission of Intestinal Parasites: Implications for Control and Elimination" (ZOOTRIP) team advocates for improving the health of Filipinos and supports the One Health agenda of UPLB AGORA by advancing control and elimination strategies of parasitic zoonotic diseases.

As part of their capacity-building activities, the ZOOTRIP team has spearheaded several training workshops and courses focusing on the identification and diagnosis of parasitic worms in livestock, and quantitative applications of parasitology in epidemiology and ecology.



The team has been an instrumental partner of various government agencies, and state universities and colleges in conducting research addressing parasite contamination in food and the environment. Among their notable outputs are the review of farming practices, the adoption of the WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene) program in agricultural settings, and the review of policies on the Intestinal Helminth Program in Caraga Region by DOH.

The team has also produced several peer-reviewed journal articles, scientific presentations, training manuals,

and other information dissemination materials for their advocacies.

The team is a collaboration among faculty, researchers, and students from different colleges in UPLB and other units. Among the team members are Prof. Vicente Y. Belizario, Jr. (UP Manila), Prof. Billy P. Divina (CVM, UPLB), Prof. Rico C. Ancog (SESAM, UPLB), and Prof. Jomar F. Babajante (MSP, UPLB). Other project staff and research associates include Kennesa Klariz R. Llanes, Moses Edric G. Abadilla, Sheina Macy P. Manalo, Norvin P. Bansilan, Kim Louise A. Patagnan, Ericka Joy U. Ancayan, Jeph Roxy M. Macaraig, and Jasmine Renette D. Jimenez.

The team envisions to continue translating their research into enhancing transdisciplinary strategies for controlling parasitic infections and improving the ecosystem, animal, and human health. They hope to reach and serve the underserved Filipinos while upholding the ideals of honor and excellence through service. ■

ME Aurellado & AJ Alonte

Outstanding Research Team



MATERIALS COMPUTATION (MATCOM) GROUP

Doing "computer experiments" and with the aim of finding new materials and their properties, the Materials Computations (MatCom) Research Group of the Institute of Mathematical Sciences and Physics is this year's CAS Outstanding Research Team.

MatCom's main research thrusts are to perform Quantum Mechanics-based first-principles calculations to predict materials' physical properties, reveal materials' electronic properties, provide insights on materials/systems that cannot be probed by experiments, and support and supplement experimental findings.

The Group believes that all innovations start with fundamental research. With this in mind, the Group continues to perform research with the aim of starting the exploration toward the fabrication of actual devices.

MatCom's research interests include energy conversion and storage, batteries, gas interactions, and storage catalysis. In addition, the

Group is exploring the use of machine learning to predict the properties of materials. MatCom has an active collaboration with different countries worldwide, including Taiwan, Japan, Italy, and the Netherlands.

The current faculty members of MatCom include Asst. Prof. John Symon Dizon, Assoc. Prof. Alexandra Santos-Putungan, Prof. Allan Abraham Padama, and Prof. Darwin Putungan.

MatCom was originally founded in 2010 with Prof. Darwin Putungan as the faculty-in-charge. It was reestablished in 2019, and current faculty members include Asst. Prof. John Symon Dizon, Assoc. Prof. Alexandra Santos-Putungan, Prof. Allan Abraham Padama, and Prof. Darwin Putungan. As of reporting, the research group trains 15 students. ■

A Santos-Putungan



CAS@50 CELEBRATES CASININGAN WITH ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS ON LITERATURE AND CREATIVE ARTS



Photo credits to UP Photographer's Society



In celebration of the 50th founding anniversary of the College of Arts and Sciences, the Committee on Festival on Literature and Creative Arts spearheaded several activities and events for CASinigan which took place from October to December 2022. The theme of the festival was Memory, Mime and Music. Literary activities included Poetry and Essay Writing Contests, and Parang Tagpuan: A CAS@50 Zine Fair for the Memory theme. Photographs of CAS infrastructures for the CAS@50 Coffee Table Book as well as the THEA 157-Play Production class's staging of *The Palanca in My Mind* comprise the activities for the Mime theme. For the Music theme, selected artists and student organizations from UPLB were invited to participate in the Music Performance Videos which were featured at the CAS@50 FB page from December 12 to 16, 2022.

The winning entries for the Poetry Writing Contest included "2043" by Benedict Megrino, 1st prize; "Sister Cities" by Harvey Russel Antita, 2nd prize; and "Sa mga mata ng manlalakbay" by Sam Albert Medina, 3rd prize winner. The winners were all BA Communication Arts students. For the Essay Writing Contest, the winning entries consisted of "Mapagbalakayong Mahika" by Diego Leandro Contreras (BS Biology) for the 1st prize, "Hidden Foundation of Connections" by Ma. Elena Manalo (BS Chemistry), for the 2nd prize, and lastly "Knowledge, Perceptions, and Recollection as a University Student Under the College of Arts and Sciences" by Christine Taganguin (BA Sociology), for the 3rd prize. The winners of the literary competitions received a cash prize of Php2,500, Php1,500, and Php1,000, for the 1st, 2nd and 3rd prize, respectively. The judges for the Poetry Writing Contest were Assoc. Prof. Dennis Aguinaldo, Asst. Prof. Ivan Emil Labayne, and Asst. Prof. Reya Mari Veloso whereas Prof. Leonora Fajutagana, Asst. Prof. Rogelio Panuelos, and Ms. Rachel Katimbang served as judges for the Essay Writing Contest.

Thirteen contributors consisting of ten students, one faculty, and two alumni responded to the call for contributions of photographs of CAS Infrastructures that were presented for the CAS@50 Coffee Table Book. A total of 38 photographs were received and 18 photographs were selected by Asst. Prof. Eugene Raymond Crudo and Mr. Neil John Callado who were members of the Selection Committee for this call.

Another literary activity, Parang Tagpuan: A CAS@50 Zine Fair, was held in front of the Old Humanities Building on the afternoon of December 16, 2022 from 2PM to 6PM. It was participated by the members of the UPLB Writer's Club and HUM 100 students of Asst. Prof. Ivan Emil Labayne, Ms. Roma Estrada, DHUM faculty, and Ms. Ida Palo, a BACA alumni and Regional Coordinator of the College Editor's Guild of the Philippines-Southern Tagalog served as the event speakers and shared their experiences in writing zines.

Occurring on the same day as the Zine Fair was THEA 157-Play Production's *The Palanca in My Mind* with 3PM and 7PM shows at the NCAS Auditorium. The production was participated by THEA 157 and THEA 151-Acting students under the supervision of Asst. Prof. Julia Melissa Pacificador.

And lastly, five Music Performance Videos were featured on the CAS@50 FB page on each day of the festival week. Featured artists and student organizations include: Asst. Prof. Leandro Martin Ong who performed on his classical guitar the musical pieces "Langit Ka Sa Lupa" and "Bayan Ko"; Pauline Theresa Arejola, a classical soprano singer, rendered "Mutiya ng Pasig"; Graceline Magpantay, a CAS alumna, performed "Iba Ka"; Umalohokan, Inc. performed "Himig ng Pagsibol"; and the UP Rural High School Glee Club members sang "Isang Bangka" and "CAS Hymn" as Asst. Prof. Marife Rebutar conducts. ■

AC. dela Cruz



CAS HOLDS “CASAYAHAN” IN CELEBRATION OF ITS 50TH FOUNDING ANNIVERSARY

As part of the year-long celebration of the College of Arts and Sciences 50th Founding Anniversary, the college held an event called “CASayahan” with the theme, “CASayahan 2022: Forda Solid na CAS! Celebration, Aktingan, Awrahan, at Saya sa Ika-Singawenta,” last 19 December 2022 at EB Copeland Gymnasium. CASayahan is a fun night filled with entertainment and competitive showcase of the talents and performances of the CAS constituents namely: the Institute of Biological Sciences (IBS), Institute of Chemistry (IC), Institute of Computer Science (ICS), Institute of Mathematical Sciences and Physics (IMSP), Institute of Statistics (INSTAT), Department of Humanities (DHUM), Department of Social Sciences (DSS), Department of Human Kinetics (DHK), and UP Rural High School (UPRHS).

Aside from the competing performances from each unit of the college, there were in-between special performances by Asst. Prof. Leandro Martin S. Ong of DHUM, Ms. Cobe Jaliya B. Briñas, grade 10 student from UPRHS, and the CAS Executive Committee Members.

In this event, UPRHS emerged as the Champion while the INSTAT and IBS were the first- and second-runners up, respectively. The winners were judged based on the following criteria: performance and entertainment value – 50%, creativity – 30%, and audience impact – 20%. Winners were given token and monetary awards – Php 10,000 for the Champion; Php 7,000 for the first runner-up; and Php 5,000 for the 2nd runner-up.

“Preparing for the CASayahan was a bit challenging since the timing coincides with the most hectic time of the semester but it was made easy with the harmonious coordination of the organizing committee members. It was really exciting and fulfilling to see the myriad of talents from the different constituents with their awe-inspiring performances,” Asst. Prof. Romella T. Beringuela, one of the lead organizers, said in an interview. ■

JG. Campang & RB. Payod



casaccents

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