103rd Loyalty Day puts spotlight on UPLB-alumni collaboration

UPLB and the UPLB Alumni Association (UPLBAA) are once more celebrating the traditional Loyalty Day and Alumni Homecoming to commemorate accomplishments and recognize outstanding UPLB alumni. This year marks the 103rd year that this tradition has been upheld.

With the theme “Bigkisang UPLB at Alumni para sa Matagumpay na Pagbangon Mula sa Pandemya,” UPLB and UPLBAA aim to highlight upcoming programs and projects envisioned to further strengthen the bonds between UPLB and its alumni.

One of these is the UPLB-Alumni Industry Summit to be held on Nov. 6. Kicking off the celebration is the opening of the “Malikling: Isang Pagpupugay” art exhibit on Oct. 5. There will also be a virtual cultural concert at 7 PM on Oct. 9, followed by the virtual Alumni Homecoming and the UPLB Loyalty Day Alumni Awarding Ceremony on Oct. 10 at 9 AM and 2 PM, respectively.

Leading this year’s alumni awardees is Dr. Weerapon Thongma, president of Maejo University in Thailand, who earned his PhD in Extension Education from UPLB in 2001. Dr. Weerapon is no stranger to UPLB’s recognition, having received both the Outstanding UPLB Alumni Award and the CPF College Distinguished Alumni Award in 2019. He is also the president of the UPLBAA Thailand Chapter.

An expert in tourism development, sustainable tourism management, agrotourism, and community development, he is recognized for his active role in promoting inter-country relationships among higher education institutions within the Southeast Asian region, as well as his advocacy of ground-breaking research such as the cultivation of cannabis for medical purposes.

Aside from Dr. Weerapon, this year’s luminaries also include former UPLBAA president, For. Leo Ballesfin (class ‘83), who will be inducting into the UPLB Alumni Hall of Fame. For. Leo Ballesfin thanked Chancellor Camacho for recognizing his former students for their significant contributions to their respective fields.

The rest of the awardees are: Dr. Lenmuel Y. Agarones (class ‘86) and Dr. Gabriel O. Romero (class ‘83), both from the College of Arts and Sciences; Dr. Benigno C. Valdez (class ’79) from the College of Engineering and Agro-Industrial Technology; Reynaldo P. Bantug (class ‘74) and Christopher S. Pantrana (class ’87), both from the College of Economics and Management; Maria Theresa M. Gendrano-Quiliones (class ’82) from the College of Human Ecology; and Dr. Reidrin G. Morales (class ’97) of the College of Veterinary Medicine.

In addition, members of Class 1971, namely: Dr. Candida Bernabe-Adalla, Raymundo M. Almarico, Dr. Aelayne Bustrillos Pacho-Ramos, Dr. Rosalina B. Mendoza-Lapitan, Dr. Emerlinda Ramos-Roman, Dr. Jose O. Sargento, and Dr. Eufemio Ter also have been named as recipients of the 2021 Outstanding Golden Jubilarian Award.

Thirty eight alumni will be recognized as recipients of the college distinguished alumni awards while five families are recipients of the UPLB Multi-Generation Award (Albert Geoffred B. Paraba).
OUTSTANDING GOLDEN JUBILARIANS

CANDIDA BERNABE-ADALLA  
BSA ‘71,  
MS ‘74,  
PhD ‘82

RAYMUNDO M. ALMARIO  
BSA ‘71

ROSALINA B. MENDOZA- 
LAPITAN  
BSAC ‘71,  
MS ‘91

THE OUTSTANDING UPLB ALUMNI AWARD

LEMNUEL V. ARAGONES  
BS Zoo ’86  
(Marine Mammal Research and Conservation & Environmental Science)

REYALDO P. BANTUG  
BSAB ‘74  
(Energy Economics and Entrepreneurship)

MARIA THERESA M. GUNGIBRANO-
QUINONES  
BSHE ‘82, MS ‘08  
(International Development Management and Cooperation)

FRANCISCO D. GORREZ, JR.  
BSA ‘55  
(International Agriculture)

CRISANTO S. GUALBERTO II  
BSA ‘62  
(Agripreneurship for Community Development)

RITA P. LAUDE  
BSA ‘70, MS ‘76, PhD ‘84  
(Academic Education Administration)

COLLEGE/SCHOOL DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI

COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SCIENCE

DELFIN A. ANARETA  
BSA ‘75  
(Hybrid Coconut Commercialization for Smallholders)

LOI SOLOMON  
L. GARCIA  
BSFT ‘85  
(Public Service)

DAMASA MAGCALE- 
MACANDOG  
BSA ‘79, MS ‘82  
(Environmental Protection)

PROCESO H. MANGUIT  
BSA ‘78  
(Ground Level Technology Commercialization)

SHIRLEY C. AGIRUPIS  
BSA ‘92  
(Educational Management, Research, and Public Service)

JONALOU S. LABOR  
BACA ‘02, MA ‘08  
(Communication Research and Education)

ARVIN C. MARIBOY  
BS Zoo ‘94  
(Public Health Service and Management)

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

NORVIE L. MANIAGBS  
BSA ‘91, MS ‘97, PhD ‘02  
(Applied Rice Science and Technology)

ANGELITO C. PATONONA  
BSA ‘74  
(Agricultural Entrepreneurship)

RENE R. ROMERO  
BSA ‘98  
(Extension)

VICENTE M. TUPAZ  
BSA ‘70  
(Agripreneurship)

ELMER JOSE A. MECEDA  
BS Zoo ‘91  
(Medical and Neurological Education, Research, and Training)

VERA MARJORIE E. VELASCO  
BE Bio ‘03  
(Plant Biochemistry and Molecular Biology & Community Empowerment)