



University of the Philippines Los Baños

# HORIZON



Official Community Newsletter of UP Los Baños

2023-01

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## UPLB marks 114<sup>th</sup> Foundation Day

UPLB will hold a series of events from March 6 to 11 to commemorate its 114th Foundation Day.

With the theme "Breaking Barriers: Community. Connectivity. Collaboration," UPLB aims to affirm and strengthen its linkages with partner institutions and communities through the celebration.

On March 6, the UPLB Foundation Day Commemoration Ceremony will be marked at the Pook Pinagtatagan or the UPLB Foundation Site located across the Los Baños Municipal Hall in Brgy. Timugan. The site is where borrowed tents were pitched to serve as the first classrooms of the then UP College of Agriculture.

It will be followed by the UPLB Convocation Program and Awarding

Ceremonies at 10 a.m. at Baker Hall where UPLB's outstanding faculty and staff and research and extension teams will be presented their awards.

Baker Hall will also be the venue for the 1st National Scientific Conference and 13th General Assembly of the UP Society of Research, Extension, and Professional Staff, Inc. to be held from March 7 to 8.

The College of Agriculture and Food Science will also hold its Recognition Day at the Seniors' Social Garden on March 7.

The Foundation Day celebrations will feature several fairs and exhibits. There will be a trade fair from March 6 to 11 at Baker Hall, an exhibit entitled "Pagpanday:

Galing sa Sining" by UPLB's cultural student organizations at the Student Union Building lobby from Feb. 27 to March 10, and the Organic Agriculture Fair at the Organic Agriculture Research Development and Extension Center on March 8.

On March 7, the 114th UPLB Foundation Day Exhibit will open at Baker Hall. Organized by UPLB's Technology Transfer and Business Development Office, it will feature innovations, programs, services, and initiatives of different UPLB units and other exhibitors from key partners. The art exhibit "Of Age and Years" will open on the same day and run until March 17 at the Sining Makiling Gallery.

Unique to this year's celebration are the games that will familiarize participants with UPLB's innovations and the research-to-commercialization process.

The games are Bingovation and PATENT-ero which will be held from March 7 to 10 and March 9, respectively. Both will be held at Baker Hall.

Bingovation is a Bingo-inspired activity that aims to familiarize participants with UPLB-developed innovations. It uses Bingovation cards bearing pictures of UPLB-developed innovations and their corresponding descriptions. PATENT-ero is an Amazing Race-inspired interactive session summarizing the research-to-commercialization process of university technologies.

UPLB will also hold seminar-workshops on entrepreneurship, marketing and branding, and career possibilities in agriculture on March 9-10 at Baker Hall. (Albert Geoffred B. Peralta)

## UP President Jimenez to keynote UPLB's 114<sup>th</sup> Foundation Day celebration

The new president of UP, Atty. Angelo A. Jimenez, will give the keynote address at the celebration of UPLB's 114th Foundation Day anniversary on March 6. Atty. Jimenez began his term of office on Feb. 10, 2023.

Succeeding fellow lawyer Danilo L. Concepcion, Atty. Jimenez is UP's 22nd president.

He is also going to present UPLB's outstanding personnel with their awards during the ceremony.

At a turnover ceremony for the UP presidency held in UP Diliman, Quezon City, President Jimenez vowed to transform UP into a "learner-centered digital university" engaged in transdisciplinary, scientific, cultural, and artistic pedagogy, research, and public service.

For the next six years, UP's hallmark, according to President Jimenez, will

be "service to the nation, which is constitutive of who we are and what we do."

President Jimenez finished Masters in Public Management at the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy of the National University of Singapore in 2013. He was a Lee Kuan Yew Fellow at the Harvard Kennedy School of Government from August 27, 2013 to December 22, 2013.

He finished his Bachelor of Laws in 1994 and Bachelor of Arts in Sociology in 1987, both in UP Diliman.

President Jimenez was a member of the UP Board of Regents from 2016 to 2021, and earlier, in 1992, as a student regent. (Josephine M. Bo with excerpts from UP to become a "transformative, learner-centered digital university" as new UP president takes the helm in <https://up.edu.ph>)





# Giving Tribute to The Outstanding UPLB Personnel

There are those who go front and center in the higher education institution arena – the officials, professors, scientists, researchers, and administrative staff. They lead and put the university out there; they teach and mentor, conduct research and produce technological breakthroughs, and provide public service by informing policy and sharing their technical expertise. Some provide support services, holding the nuts and bolts together, so that everything would run smoothly and efficiently. One cannot do without the other. All their work is crucial for the university to function well. Every time UPLB celebrates its foundation day anniversary, it pays tribute to the best of these people in the university.

## The Outstanding Administrative Personnel



### Dr. Myla Lourdes R. Avena, DDM Dentist, UHS-OVCCA Supervisor Category

Dr. Myla Lourdes R. Avena, Dentist III at the University Health Service (UHS), is this year's recipient of the Outstanding Administrative Personnel Award for the supervisor category. She heads the UHS dental clinic and attends to emergency and non-emergency dental case consultation referrals and procedures. As deputy director of UHS, she assists the medical director in managing the hospital and implementing various projects that benefit the hospital.

Myla anticipated the need for a reliable reference that would efficiently aid the university in instituting more sound public health interventions for its constituents, hence the birth of UPLB OHMS or

UPLB Online Health Monitoring System. UPLB OHMS is a screening tool capable of monitoring daily health status, exposure status, and COVID-19 infection of the university's workforce and students, leading to controlling the spread of the disease.

Myla has been streamlining processes at UHS. She has continually conceptualized, created, and omitted redundant works, ensured reportorial integrity, and added value through work quality and efficiency. *(Juan Paolo A. Aquino)*



### Mark Kevin L. Movillon Junior Scholarship Affairs Officer OSG-OVCSA Office Personnel Category

Mark Kevin L. Movillon has introduced many innovations at the Office of Scholarships and Grants (OSG) of the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs (OVCSA). He was entrusted the Student Learning Assistance System and the Student Assistantship (SA) Program. On top of these, he is tasked with drafting memoranda of agreement for private and government scholarships.

He overhauled the SA Program's technical processes by contributing and facilitating actions to reduce bureaucratic red tape, remove redundancies, improve turn-around time, streamline, simplify workflows, and recommend shortcuts to their processes.

Through his innovativeness, Mark led colleagues at OVCSA to design a work-from-home setup for the SA Program, enabling needy students to augment their income by working as SAs in their homes at the height of the pandemic's quarantine period.

His dedication, astuteness, and hard work in analyzing the Socialized Tuition System enabled the OVCSA to recover what would have been foregone income of up to PhP 1.5 million. The amount was recovered from students who settled their accountabilities with offices under the then Office of Student Affairs before these were reorganized under the OVCSA. *(John Glen S. Sarol)*





## Marissa M. Ramilo, RN

### Nurse, UHS-OVCCA Supervisor Category

Any patient at the University Health Service (UHS) under nurse Marissa M. Ramilo's care probably remembers her for her motherly mien and gentle demeanor.

How she is as a frontliner is a reflection of her compassion for people who need treatment at the UHS. "Whatever their station in life, I treat them the same," she said.

Her character was challenged at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic when hospitals were bursting at the seams, and people sought help at the UHS. When UPLB opened the COVID-19 Molecular Diagnostic Laboratory, they came in droves, and swab samples had to be extracted at the UHS.

As an emergency nurse supervisor and assistant to the chief nurse, Marissa was at the frontlines as an interviewer, encoder, coordinator of patients who needed to be swabbed, and as a vaccinator. This, even if she had good reason to be excused, being in her 60s.

She has been providing service outside her work at the UHS through medical missions and visiting people in her barangay who needed her to administer their medicine intravenously.

Her excellence in her work was recognized with the award Natatanging Kawani ng OVCCA in 2015 and 2022.

Marissa is truly a gem in her profession.  
(Josephine M. Bo)



## Arlene D. Romano

### Laboratory Technician, DFPPS-CFNR Technician Category

Faculty, staff, clients, and students of the Department of Forest Products and Paper Science of the College of Forestry and Natural Resources (DFPPS-CFNR) know that when they have inquiries or need assistance in their studies and research, Forester Arlene D. Romano is the one to approach.

Kind, considerate, and always ready to help, she demonstrated exemplary commitment to excellence, professionalism, and quality service delivery as Laboratory Technician II of DFPPS-CFNR.

Arlene has been invaluable to the upkeep and functionality of various laboratories of DFPPS, the Wood Library, and the Bamboo Museum.

Her work in the inventory of wood samples, preparation of laboratory

equipment, and assistance in the department's research, instruction, and extension aspects have been vital to DFPPS' high level of service delivery despite the pandemic.

She had also proven her dedication to the university through her willingness to work beyond regular office hours and beyond her work requirements, such as doing the work of the department's administrative assistant who resigned the prior year.

Competent and dependable, Forester Romano is an example of a civil servant who is worth emulating.  
(Albert Geoffred B. Peralta)



## Conrado L. Serrano

### Administrative Assistant, DFPPS-CFNR Office Supervisor Category

The Department of Forest Products and Paper Science of the College of Forestry and Natural Resources (DFPPS-CFNR) has found an ever-reliable worker in Conrado L. Serrano, a seasoned carpenter foreman who has served the university for almost three decades.

Conrado is a reassuring presence at the DFPPS wood machining shop, where he demonstrated exemplary knowledge and skills in woodworking and carpentry, creativity, and leadership initiative.

He enabled the DFPPS wood machining shop to produce its products and accommodate requests from the college and different UPLB units.

He supervises carpentry work in the college and assists with special projects in construction, plumbing, and electrical work. Serrano also readily teaches his junior peers and assists anyone in need.

During the quarantine period, he designed and supervised the making of wooden barriers and alcohol dispensers to help CFNR prepare its facilities for the return of face-to-face classes. He also led repair works for damages caused by Typhoon Paeng in 2022.

Conrado's supervisors and peers describe him as a proficient, trustworthy, and remarkable individual deserving of recognition as an Outstanding Administrative Personnel of UPLB.  
(Jessa Jael S. Arana)





## Merdelly J. Tabion, RM

### Nursing Attendant, UHS-OVCCA

#### Blue Collar Category

After 28 years of service to the university, Merdelly J. Tabion of the University Health Service (UHS) continues to prove that age is no barrier to selfless service for others.

She dispenses her nursing assistant and midwife duties with dedication and cheer. Her co-workers and patients at UHS recognize her for her compassion and friendly demeanor.

She is known for her unfailing commitment to her work, always arriving on time despite rains, typhoons, and even the pandemic. Despite her age and co-morbidities, she remained a frontliner for the UHS COVID-19

wards and continued caring for patients. Merdelly is an innovator—she introduced the practice of graphically plotting vital signs to make it easy for nurses and doctors to analyze and treat a patient's condition.

She also volunteers her services to the community, openly sharing her time and knowledge as a medical service assistant at the Pagmamahal sa Kapwa Foundation, Inc.

Unsurprisingly, she was awarded the OVCCA Outstanding Service Award - Natatanging Kawani in 2022, recognizing her selfless dedication and remarkable service. *(Albert Geoffred B. Peralta)*



## Imelda L. Vibal

### Laboratory Technician, IHNF-CHE

#### Office Personnel Category

Four years may be short for some, but Imelda L. Vibal, Laboratory Technician II of the Institute of Human Nutrition and Food (IHNF) of the College of Human Ecology (CHE), has demonstrated exemplary performance beyond what is expected in that time frame.

Her addition to the IHNF family has reflected a significant improvement in the maintenance and management of its facilities as she ensures that equipment management paperwork is accomplished correctly and filed.

She does not limit her task to providing support for the laboratory classes,

as stated in her job description. Instead, she contributes to CHE's work by getting involved in institutional events as part of different committees where she constantly improves and develops better systems, like turning manual record-keeping into an organized online file.

Imelda was one of the college's frontliners who braved their fears of the COVID-19 virus. Her work ethic has resulted in a positive working environment truly appreciated by colleagues and students. *(Kristine E. Araguas)*

## The Outstanding Extension Personnel



## Priscila C. Dolom, PhD

### University Researcher, FDC-CFNR

#### Outstanding Extension Personnel

Hard-working, dependable, and a charismatic leader, Dr. Priscila C. Dolom is a role model for extensionists in the university. Through her technical skills and proactive engagement with various sectors, she has been instrumental in transforming scientific knowledge into actionable policy.

Under Priscila's leadership, the Forest Development Center played an active role in shaping forest policies in the country by providing national government agencies and policymakers with vetted and science-based information. She does this by serving as a resource person in committee hearings and sharing her knowledge

in forest policy in local, national, and international forums and conferences.

Her knowledge and skills and her willingness to help others have enabled UPLB to apply research in real-life contexts, with her serving as a technical consultant in projects by the university's partner institutions. Priscila's service and leadership in projects and programs have helped communities benefit from forest resources and sustainably manage their resources. She has aided in the crafting of simplified policies and institutional regulatory frameworks and promoted effective practices in natural resources governance. *(Jessa Jael S. Arana)*



# The Outstanding Research and Extension Programs



## Mango Varietal Improvement Program

Institute of Plant Breeding, College of Agriculture and Food Science

### Outstanding Research Program

The much-vaunted delectable mango from the Philippines is one of the country's top exports. However, at USD 91 million in exports, the country only holds 4% share of the global market, benefiting 2.5 million small farmers. This could increase if the competitiveness of the Philippine 'Carabao' mango, the country's leading commercial variety, is improved.

However, the export potential of this variety cannot be maximized due to insect pests and diseases as well as other quality traits which adversely affect its demand in the global market.

But hope springs eternal as the Mango Varietal Improvement Program of the

Institute of Plant Breeding (IPB) has been making inroads into studying mango and developing mango hybrids.

The research program pioneered mango breeding in the Philippines through the support of the Philippine Council for Agriculture, Aquatic, and Natural Resources Research and Development in 2012 to enhance the competitiveness of the Philippine 'Carabao' mango.

It developed the first ever mango hybrids in the Philippines and enriched knowledge about the popular Philippine commodity by enabling investigations and leading varietal and genetic improvement programs.

As the research program aims to fast-track the long-term mango breeding program in the Philippines, they have already discovered novel molecular insights about local mangoes. It also unraveled fundamental mechanisms to establish a new efficient system for releasing value-added mango hybrids using next-generation approaches.

With the Mango Varietal Improvement Program's work, there is hope for Philippine mango demand to increase and to grace more dining tables here in the country and abroad. *(John Glen S. Sarol)*



## Biotechnology for Agriculture and Forestry Program

National Institute of Molecular Biology and Biotechnology

### Outstanding Extension Program

The multifaceted challenges faced by the agriculture sector could be addressed only partly by the availability of fertilizers, plant growth stimulants, and pesticides.

Using their commercial and synthetic variants, however, leads to environmental and soil productivity problems. Their costs have also spiraled as geopolitical crises flare up in some parts of the globe.

UPLB has so much to contribute to address this problem through the fertilizers, plant growth stimulants, and biopesticides

produced by the Biotechnology for Agriculture and Forestry Program (BAFP) of the National Institute of Molecular Biology and Biotechnology (BIOTECH).

BAFP's biofertilizers, biostimulants, and microbial pesticides will not only address productivity issues but also sustainability, soil health restoration, and cost concerns compared to synthetic variants.

Over the years, top-notch microbiologists, agriculturists, molecular biologists, and plant pathologists of BAFP have developed eco-friendly and cost-effective products

that serve as better alternatives to synthetic fertilizers and pesticides.

These products have been authorized and approved by the Fertilizer and Pesticide Authority. There is an increase in demand for these products and a positive response to their use from stakeholders.

Indeed, with these BAFP products, there is so much that UPLB offers to help address the problems of productivity, high prices of imported inputs, and their adverse environmental effects. *(Kristine E. Araguas)*



# The Outstanding Researchers



## Jennelyn C. Bengoa

University Researcher, IPB-CAFS  
Outstanding Junior Researcher  
Natural Sciences

Jennelyn C. Bengoa’s research productivity over the past 15 years has earned her the recognition as Outstanding Junior Researcher of the Institute of Plant Breeding-College of Agriculture and Food Science (IPB-CAFS) in 2009 and 2022.

She is actively involved in the varietal development and improvement of vegetable, fruit, and ornamental crops, in the development of two varieties/genetic stocks registered with the National Seed Industry Council, and another 12 registered with IPB’s Germplasm and Technology Release and Registration Office. Jennelyn's contributions in varietal development are aimed at the effective adoption of future-proof crop varieties that can endure the rapidly changing environment and help ensure food security in the country.

Her team also discovered 23 new species of the flowering vine hoyo, now registered with the International Plant Names Index (IPNI).

Through her involvement in plant pathology research on dragon fruits, Jennelyn co-authored nine scientific articles published in ISI-indexed journals that have earned 71 citations.

A project that she recently concluded contributed PhP 837,350 to IPB.

She is currently part of five research projects conducted with researchers from other SUCs. *(Juan Paolo A. Aquino)*



## Marilyn B. Brown, PhD

Research Associate Professor, BIOTECH-OVCRE  
Outstanding Researcher  
Senior Faculty, Natural Sciences

Dr. Marilyn B. Brown is a prolific researcher in plant pathology and an exemplary agricultural scientist with significant contributions to the making of biofertilizers, biostimulants, microbial pesticides, detection kits, and mushroom technologies.

Through this, she contributed to agricultural productivity and the production of high-quality, safe-to-consume food products. Moreover, she developed an innovative method to mass produce vesicular-arbuscular mycorrhizal root inoculants, paving the way for its commercial production and use by more farming communities in the country.

Among the products she has led in developing are biofertilizers, biostimulants, and microbial inoculants. These include PhosphoLink (phosphate solubilizer), NitroLink (nitrogen enhancer), Oryzinc (zinc solubilizer for rice), Biosol-P (phosphorus solubilizer), and Brown Magic (biofertilizer for ornamental plants) which serve as

bio-control of soil-borne pathogens and growth enhancers for crops.

As BIOTECH deputy director for research and extension, and later as director, Marilyn contributed significantly to the institute through her persistence in securing funding to enhance research, development, and extension.

From 2019 to 2021, Marilyn was able to generate PhP 180 million in MOOE; PhP 340 million in capital outlay for the pilot plant for biofertilizers, biostimulants, and biopesticides, and the microbial bank; and PhP 188 million for equipment.

This significantly boosted and improved activities and operations of BIOTECH, creating additional jobs, enhancing capacity, and paving the way for new opportunities in technology development, transfer, and extension of more than 60 products and technologies. *(Josephine M. Bo)*





## Margaret M. Calderon, PhD

### Professor, IRNR-CFNR

### Outstanding Researcher

### Senior Faculty, Social Sciences

Academic research must serve as the basis for writing policy to make lives better, as shown by Dr. Margaret M. Calderon of CFNR's Institute of Renewable Natural Resources (IRNR).

Marge's research studies focus on forest and natural resource economics, payments for ecosystem services, and observation finance mechanisms, with projects that are often multidisciplinary in nature and approach.

She has presented 29 papers and three posters in international conferences, published a policy brief, and produced eight publications in both indexed and refereed journals in recent years.

Her diligence and expertise in her field earned her the Outstanding Scientist Award in the field of socio-economics research in 2019 by the Forests and Natural Resources Research Society of the Philippines.

Findings of two projects where she served as project leader have successfully initiated policy changes

for almaciga resin tapping and groundwater resource conservation.

These projects are Market Assessment and Financial Feasibility of the Production of Chemical Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFPs) and Economics, Policies, and Institutions of Groundwater Use by Resorts in Los Baños and Calamba, Laguna, Philippines (Makiling Water).

These policy changes promoted and advocated increased inclusivity, sustainability, and resilience among stakeholders such as indigenous peoples and local communities.

In addition to her research proficiency, Marge mentored junior faculty members of the IRNR-CFNR: involving them in projects, letting them lead in their own studies, and serving as an example of how, with diligence, focus, and heart, academic research can make the lives of people and communities better. *(Albert Geoffred B. Peralta)*



## Fides Marciana Z. Tambalo

### University Researcher, BIOTECH-OVCRE

### Outstanding Researcher

### Senior REPS, Natural Sciences

The color of food affects people's preferences, choices, and eating desires. However, food color, especially the synthetic variant, causes adverse side effects.

This is why Fides Marciana Z. Tambalo, Outstanding Researcher, is on a campaign to introduce safe food colorants, beginning with Monascus Red™, which she developed from microbes.

Monascus Red™ is a safe alternative to synthetic food coloring. It has high antioxidant activity and contains Monacolin K, a cholesterol-lowering compound.

Monascus Red™ has contributed two patents and a trademark to the university. Three food companies have already included it in their product formulation.

How it was certified as a safe food ingredient is a story rife with lessons that Fides uses to teach researchers how regulatory processes figure into their research every step of the way.

For her, "technology must get out of the laboratory."

She also believes that technology development must be a venue for mentoring junior researchers. She does so, filled with anticipation of developing more functional foods with them.

A project she is most passionate about is finding alternative plant-based protein sources for food and feed. This dovetailed with what she saw as the need to add value to cassava leaves and give additional income to farmers. She led research to develop methods to detoxify and produce safe and protein-rich products from cassava leaves that are otherwise considered as waste.

Fides has contributed to resource generation and improvement of research, extension, and professional staff (REPS) welfare in UPLB. She is quick to downplay them, but good works always shine through, no matter how one keeps them under the radar. *(Josephine M. Bo)*



# The College Outstanding Teachers



**Cris R. Lanzaderas**  
Assistant Professor  
CAS Outstanding Teacher 2020



**Manolito E. Bambase, Jr., PhD**  
Associate Professor  
CEAT Outstanding Teacher 2022



**Melissa P. Ferido**  
Assistant Professor  
CHE Outstanding Teacher 2021



**Krissah Marga B. Taganas**  
Assistant Professor  
CAS Outstanding Teacher 2022



**Melvin C. Ilang-Ilang**  
Assistant Professor  
CEAT Outstanding Teacher 2022



**Dhino B. Geges**  
Associate Professor  
CHE Outstanding Teacher 2021



**Cheeno Marlo M. Sayuno, PhD**  
Assistant Professor  
CAS Outstanding Teacher 2022



**Bates M. Bathan**  
Assistant Professor  
CEM Outstanding Teacher 2020



**Christine Joyce B. Mendoza (†)**  
Assistant Professor  
CHE Outstanding Teacher 2021



**Elvin D. Dulce**  
Assistant Professor  
CEAT Outstanding Teacher 2021



**Rogelio T. Andrada II, PhD**  
Professor  
CFNR Outstanding Teacher 2020



**Ron Jay P. Dangcalan**  
Assistant Professor  
CHE Outstanding Teacher 2022



**Veronica P. Migo, PhD**  
Professor  
CEAT Outstanding Teacher 2021



**Larissa Lelu P. Gata (†)**  
Associate Professor  
CFNR Outstanding Teacher 2020



**Ma. Catriona E. Devanadera, PhD**  
Associate Professor  
CHE Outstanding Teacher 2022



**Maria Victoria M. Sumagang**  
Assistant Professor  
CEAT Outstanding Teacher 2021



**Pastor L. Malabrigo, Jr.**  
Professor  
CFNR Outstanding Teacher 2020



**Sarah Jen C. Paccarangan**  
Assistant Professor  
CHE Outstanding Teacher 2022

## UP BOR approves offering of BS Accountancy in UPLB

The UP Board of Regents approved the offering of BS Accountancy (BSAcc) in UPLB at its 1378th meeting on Feb. 23, 2022.

Offering BSAcc in UPLB will enable the university to respond to the overwhelming demand for an accountancy program, as seen in the number of senior high school students that apply for the BS Business Administration and Accountancy (BSBAA) program of UP Diliman.

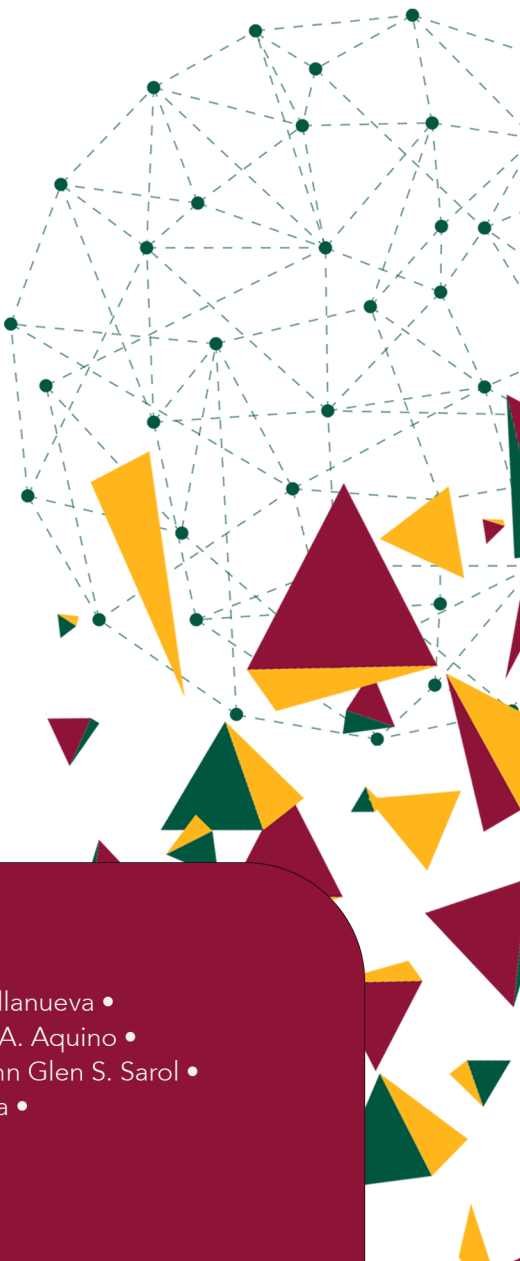
UP Diliman has an average yearly intake of only 90 first-year students, while around 10,000 students apply for admission to the BSBAA program every year.

This was shown in pre-pandemic data gathered by the Ad hoc Committee to Study the Offering of BS Accountancy created by Chancellor Jose V. Camacho, Jr. through OC Administrative Order No. 099 s. 2022 on March 1, 2022.

Moreover, addressing the demand is consistent with the mandate of UP as The National University to facilitate inclusivity and accessibility of education.

UPLB also saw the need to take the lead in producing highly employable accounting graduates, especially with the growing number of industrial and information technology parks in Region IV-A, particularly in Laguna, Batangas, and Cavite.

BSAcc students should earn at least 166 units of courses, 115 units of which are core courses and the rest are general education and legislated courses, foundation, human kinetics and NSTP, and elective courses. (Josephine M. Bo)



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