

## UPLB honors compassionate public service in 112<sup>th</sup> Foundation Day celebration

With a theme, “Future-proof UPLB: Responding to the Challenges of the Times,” the University of the Philippines Los Baños celebrates its 112<sup>th</sup> Foundation Day by recognizing the importance of public service delivered with compassion and understanding amidst these turbulent times.

UPLB’s activities and initiatives in response to the ongoing pandemic as well as to the natural disasters which beset our country

last year were represented in the Foundation Day logo. The logo depicts the Oblation statue with a garment draped over its outstretched arms. Embedded in the garment are images symbolizing UPLB’s anti-COVID measures, disaster response and relief initiatives, flexible and remote learning methods, and government and institutional partnerships particularly in combating food security issues.

The main event for the 112<sup>th</sup> commemoration will be the convocation program. This year, UPLB is recognizing 13 outstanding awardees - five administrative staff members, four researchers, one extension personnel, 1 artist, 1 research team, and 1 extension program. Two research teams will also be receiving special recognition.

The convocation’s guest speaker for this year is Japan’s ambassador to the Philippines, His Excellency Ambassador Koshikawa Kazuhiko.

have made significant contributions to the field of agribusiness management and entrepreneurship.

The late Jose S. Laurel III’s legacy of rebuilding the post-World War II Philippine economy through friendship and diplomacy will live on in the professorial chair which will incentivize faculty and provide scholarships to students of the BS Agribusiness Management and Entrepreneurship.

Lastly, National Scientist Dr. Emil Q. Javier will be conferred with Doctor of Laws honoris causa. The honorary degree is in recognition of his lifelong and selfless service to UPLB, his pioneering work in plant breeding, and his invaluable contributions to Philippine agriculture as a whole. Part of the conferment program is the UPLB Legacy Lecture featuring National Scientist Javier himself. (*Albert Geoffred B. Peralta*)



### National Scientist Emil Q. Javier to be conferred honoris causa

UP will confer upon National Scientist Emil Q. Javier, the Doctor of Laws, honoris causa, on the occasion of the 112<sup>th</sup> Foundation Day of UPLB on March 6.

The honorary degree is conferred upon individuals for outstanding achievements in their fields and exemplary service to their fellowmen.

The occasion will also feature the honoring of EQJ through the UPLB Legacy Lecture Series (LLS).

The LLS honors distinguished retired faculty members and records for posterity their academic experience, scholarly knowledge, and wisdom.

Through the LLS, UPLB showcases the University’s scholarly contributions, as well as that of the Legacy Lecturer, to the field or discipline, underlining their roles in national development and in UPLB’s becoming a great university.

Packaged in a video, the Legacy Lecture of National Scientist Javier is entitled “EQJ: A Legacy of Institutions in UPLB and Beyond.” It will become part of the learning resources for students and is aimed to enhance the sense of intellectual heritage among the faculty members.

Dr. Javier, a plant geneticist, is an institution builder who became founding director of two research institutes in UPLB that today lead the way in plant breeding and molecular biology and biotechnology research in the country, the Institute of Plant Breeding (1975-1979) and the National Institute of Molecular Biology and Biotechnology (1981-1986).

Dr. Javier is a former UP president and UPLB chancellor. As UP president (1993-1999), Dr. Javier established what are now UP System’s established institutions – UP Mindanao, UP Open University, BIOTECH in other UP constituent universities, UP Provident Fund, and Ugnayan ng Pahinungod. Dr. Javier also served in various capacities in academe and government agencies.

Ugnayan ng Pahinungod is UP’s volunteer service program through which UPLB implemented initiatives and activities that aimed to empower farmers to make science-based decisions, enable students to gain insights direct from communities, and help high school students prepare to take the UPCAT. It also trained and deployed graduates to volunteer as teachers in remote and underserved areas. UPLB Pahinungod implemented relief and rehabilitation work in calamity-stricken areas, as well.

Dr. Javier was conferred the title of National Scientist of the Philippines on Jan. 7, 2020 after Presidential Proclamation No. 781 bestowing the title to Dr. Javier was signed on Aug. 2, 2019.

He chairs the board of the Coalition for Agriculture Modernization in the Philippines, Inc. (CAMP), a Los Baños-based non-stock, non-profit, non-government organization that advocates agriculture modernization in the country.

Aldo Gavril Lim, a faculty member at the College of Development Communication is the executive producer of the LLS video production. (*Josephine M. Bo and Mark Jayson E. Gloria*)

In addition to the traditional convocation and awarding ceremonies, the 112<sup>th</sup> Foundation Day will also feature the launch of the Jose Sotero Laurel III Professorial Chair in Agribusiness Management and Entrepreneurship. Sponsored by UP Board of Regents member and UPLB alumnus Francis C. Laurel, the professorial chair will be awarded to outstanding professors who



### CEM launches new professorial chair

The College of Economics and Management (CEM) is launching a new professorial chair on March 6 to further the development of the agribusiness sector.

Titled the “Jose Sotero Laurel III Professional Chair in Agribusiness Management and Entrepreneurship,” the new professorial chair seeks to promote and develop start-up ventures in the Philippine agribusiness sector by supporting lectures tackling persistent and emerging challenges in agribusiness development.

Among these challenges are integrating small farmers into the local and global supply chains, creating business resilience strategies against disasters and the effects of climate change, and formulating strategic options for micro, small and medium enterprises amidst globalization and ASEAN Economic Integration.

Candidates for the professorial chair will be screened by the CEM Office of the Dean and approved by the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs.

The professorial chair is sponsored by alumni regent Francis C. Laurel (BSA, ’70) who named it after his father, Hon. Jose Sotero Laurel III, former Philippine ambassador to Japan.

Laurel said that naming the professorial chair after his father is a way of honoring his memory as his mentor, role model, and greatest source of inspiration.

He said that it also memorializes the late Laurel’s commitment and nationalism which he displayed as the only Filipino to have graduated from the Japanese Imperial Academy, then as a soldier in the front lines of World War II, and lastly through his service as Japan ambassador and later consultant to the government regarding Philippines-Japan relations. (*Jessa Jael S. Arana*)

# UPLB’s unsung heroes

## The Outstanding Administrative Awardees



CAMUS

By the nature of their work, they stay behind the scenes, quietly supporting the others who take up the more visible roles. This is a celebration of how they, as outstanding representatives of their sector, contributed to the triumphs and milestones that UPLB made especially in 2020, the year of lockdowns, but which demanded that they come out to work, in most cases beyond the expected.

**Camus: Outstanding Administrative Personnel (Professional Category)**

Donny Rey D. Camus is Engineer III and section chief of the Grounds, Roads, and Garbage Maintenance Section at the University Planning and Maintenance Office (UPMO).

Camus took the risk of reporting for work and performing his duties and additional tasks in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, specifically in the implementation of different safety innovations and initiatives to ensure the safety of the campus and University constituents.

This paved the way for him to be this year’s recipient of the Outstanding Administrative Personnel Award (Professional Category). An administrative staff member, he also works as a part-time researcher and faculty member at the Department of Engineering, College of Engineering and Agro-industrial Technology to sharpen and hone his skills.

He finished his Masters in Environmental Science and Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering in UPLB.

He served as a Science and Technology Consultant for the UP System project entitled “Ridge-to-reef Disaster Risk Assessment and Climate Change Impact Assessment of Floods and Droughts in the Agricultural Sector of Angat Watershed, Philippines from June 2018 to June 2019. He was also a technical consultant in a project entitled “Carrying Capacity of El Nido (Mainland) and Adjacent Islands in Palawan” from July 2019 to October 2010. (Juan Paolo A. Aquino)



EDUARTE

**Eduarte: Outstanding Administrative Personnel (Field Supervisor Category)**

Richard A. Eduarte, plumbing foreman of the Plumbing and Waterworks Services Section (PWSS) of UPMO, has always been a key player in maintaining the physical arrangements in the campus and during events and functions held in UPLB.

In performing his duties, he ensures the efficient use of materials and resources. He makes sure to supervise and monitor PWSS personnel in performing repair and maintenance works. He oversees the operation of all pump houses, inspects repair requests, and prepares bills of materials and scope of works needed for the requested repair.

A team player, he provides his services in functions without hesitation and with admirable dedication. He is one of the most responsive employees of UPMO, especially during emergencies and disasters, and can be relied on to work beyond the required working hours.

He has been part of the skeletal workforce of UPMO during the lockdowns in 2020, helping the community through his unstinting service and efficiency in supervising pump operators and plumbers. He and his team also assisted in the establishment of the UPLB COVID-19 Molecular Diagnostic Laboratory (CMDL) and its preliminary operations addressing the plumbing and sewerage works. Eduarte was named UPMO’s Most Outstanding Employee for 2020. (Kristine E. Araguas)

**Posadas: Outstanding Administrative Office Personnel**

Sheryl Posadas is the lone administrative officer of the International Students Relations (ISR) under the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, making her the point person for all the office’s transactions. She is responsible for ensuring that all the ISR’s activities are properly coordinated and that all documents are accomplished correctly and on time. Posadas led in the creation of online databases for the ISR and



POSADAS

the Student Disciplinary Tribunal, which makes it easier to retrieve needed information and to transact with students.

She has helped many foreign students feel welcome and accustomed to life on campus by coordinating their activities, such as the international students’ orientation program, welcome party, ambassadorship program, and cultural night, among others.

In 2020, she volunteered in several student relief efforts, including bringing food and essentials to students through Oplan Kawingan and serving as a chaperone during the return of foreign students back to their home countries in Oplan Hatid.

Posadas’s diligence in her work has greatly benefited her home unit, other UPLB offices, and UPLB’s international students, making her a valuable and shining example among her cohorts. (Jessa Jael S. Arana)

**Javier: Outstanding Administrative Aide (Blue Collar Category)**

She is not your ordinary administrative aide as Maria V. Javier helped generate resources for the National Institute of Molecular Biology and Biotechnology (BIOTECH) even in the year of the lockdowns.

Maria serves as a laboratory technician, who, through her technical knowledge brought about by years of dedication and commitment to learning, has acquired a highly technical understanding of the job. Working for BIOTECH since the 1980s, Maria has consistently been at the forefront of research undertakings, especially those that are externally funded.

She was instrumental in the development of BIOQUICK, BIOFIX, and BIOGREEN, three of BIOTECH’s renowned rapid composting products. In fact, she is considered a key support figure and co-developer of two rapid composting technologies, having been part of their conceptualization, and served as co-author of a publication that was born during the early stages of technology research. She is always willing to assist both colleagues and students when they need her.



IRINGAN

The COVID-19 pandemic saw Maria continuing to deliver her work as one of the key production personnel of a composting inoculant of BIOTECH. This enabled BIOTECH to generate a six-figure gross income from the project for the year 2020, despite the challenges of the community quarantines and lockdowns.

Maria had an important role in this, one that she performs with a positive attitude and a happy disposition that made her a strong force for a performing team. (Kristine E. Araguas)

**Iringan: Outstanding Laboratory Technician (Craftsman Category)**

Serving the university for 34 years and counting since 1986, Delfina Soriano Iringan, Laboratory Technician III at the Mykovam Laboratory under the Biotechnology for Agriculture and Forestry Program (BAFP), has been exceeding expectations and performing more than what is expected of her.

She is one of the pioneer staff members in the development of MYKOVAM®, fertilizers that effectively promote the growth and yield of forest trees, and agricultural and fruit crops. As such, she spearheads its over-all production and mobilization. Being the lone laboratory technician, she performs the research development activities normally performed by a researcher or a research associate.

Delfina was able to modify a root staining procedure that uses less expensive chemicals through a method that is equally efficient and effective in assessing the extent of fungi colonization in the root system. She has been involved in several committees in BIOTECH on top of performing her regular duties, and also provides assistance to BIOTECH visitors and students, occasionally serving as an assistant lecturer during trainings and visitors’ orientation.

Her dedication and commitment to BIOTECH has earned the trust and confidence of her peers and team leader that led her to be recognized as the 2020 BIOTECH Outstanding Technician (Craftsman Category) during the 41st BIOTECH Founding Anniversary celebration in December 2020. (Kristine E. Araguas)



## Promoting critical thinking through his art

### Aguinaldo: Outstanding Artist

Dennis Andrew S. Aguinaldo, an associate professor at the Department of Humanities - College of Arts and Sciences (DHUM-CAS), joins the roster of awardees for his exceptional contributions to Philippine literature as a distinguished writer of fiction, nonfiction, and poetry.

An author of 13 works of nonfiction, 47 works of fiction, and over 200 poems, Aguinaldo easily wields words to explore various topics, from the mundane to the academic and the political.

He challenges the flexibility of the written medium through unconventional forms that provoke thought and discussion among readers.

His works have been recognized and distributed by international and local publishers, both established and independent, and has earned him multiple awards and fellowship positions in esteemed writing circles.

As a faculty member at DHUM, he is a dedicated mentor who has facilitated the learning of many students and has been instrumental in honing their writing skills, adding to UPLB’s pool of critical and creative thinkers who are able to use writing for the expression of ideas and free thought. (Jessa Jael S. Arana)



## Bringing innovation to extension service

### Medina: Outstanding Extension Personnel

Dr. Celia dR. Medina, a professor at the Institute of Weed Science, Entomology, and Plant Pathology - College of Agriculture and Food Science, puts knowledge and theory to practice in her capacity as an extension agent in the field of pest management.

Her innovative control and damage assessment methods for the mango pulp weevil, mango cecid fly, and coconut scale insect have helped thousands of Filipino farmers manage destructive pests, ensuring the quality of their harvests and protecting their livelihoods.

She took this service to another realm when she put it online and available to

farmers, closing spatial and temporal gaps that are the limitations of physical presence.

Yes, she is the woman behind the website mango-irm.com, which farmers may use to analyze their insecticide usage and which can also help them plan an effective insecticide program. This is a timely intervention in this time of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Dr. Medina demonstrates a willingness to share her knowledge to the public by providing technical assistance to policy makers and by speaking in learning events and forums, facilitating the creation of science-based policies and stimulating the spread and practice of agriculture research information. (Jessa Jael S. Arana)



# SARAI: Providing science-based decisions for food security

## The Outstanding Research Team



The Smarter Approaches to Reinvigorate Agriculture as an Industry in the Philippines or Project SARAI is receiving yet another accolade – the UPLB Outstanding Research Team for 2021 – after it gained recognition over the years from other award-giving bodies and testimonials from agriculture and science technocrats.

But what would probably best cap SARAI’s recognition is the use of its products and technologies by farmers toward smart precision, and future-proofed agriculture.

In its six years, Project SARAI has provided technologies and decision

support systems for nine crops, namely, rice, corn, banana, coconut, coffee, cacao, sugarcane, soybean, and tomato. Behind SARAI is a formidable team of the best and most dedicated scientists and researchers in agriculture and allied sciences.

Its technologies are the Enhanced Agriculture Monitoring System (SEAMS), Water Balance Irrigation Decision Support System (WAISS), Smarter Pest and Disease Identification Technology (SPIDTECH), Automatic Weather Monitoring System, and the SARAI Knowledge Portal.

Simply put, Project SARAI envisions Filipino farmers to have the right information at the right time – when and what to plant, when to harvest, what and how much fertilizer to use, how to manage pests effectively and efficiently, and how to optimize the use of irrigation water – with the help of mobile applications that would give precise crop advisories to farmers.

Led by Dr. Maria Victoria O. Espaldon of the School of Environmental Science and Management, SARAI is one of the action research programs that has truly parlayed the multiplicity of expertise in UPLB in agriculture and allied fields into a multidisciplinary force in agriculture.

SARAI is supported by the Department of Science and Technology, Department of Agriculture, and the Philippine Council for Agriculture, Aquatic, and Natural Resources Research and Development.

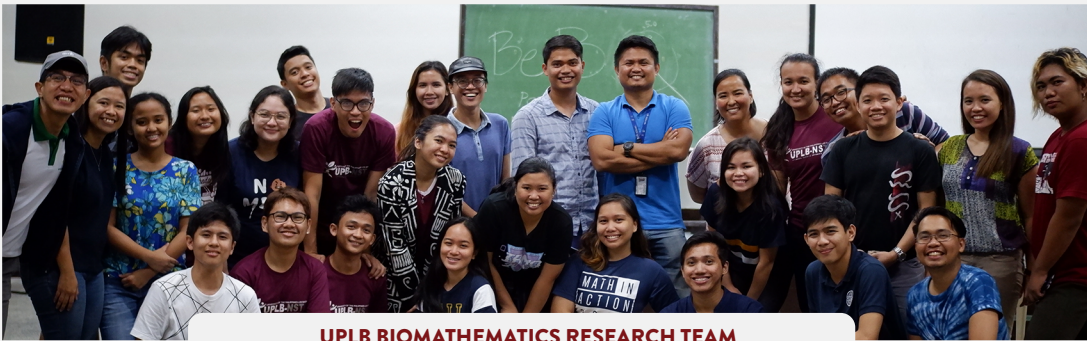
Given the support and opportunity to pursue the goal of mainstreaming these technologies, SARAI is bound to revolutionize farming and usher in a future-proofed agriculture in the country. *(Josephine M. Bo with info from “Mobile Apps for SMART Agriculture” by Mark Jayson E. Gloria and the Project SARAI website)*

# Of molecular markers and mathematical models: bringing technology and knowledge products to the people

## Special Recognition



COCONUT GENOMICS PROGRAM



UPLB BIOMATHEMATICS RESEARCH TEAM

Someone asked somewhere why people are so passionate about research. At UPLB, here are just a couple of the many compelling reasons why.

First, research will help reinvigorate the coconut industry in the country and will provide enlightenment of various phenomena and solutions to confounding problems with the use of data.

The coconut industry in the country has long been in the doldrums, partly because of its senile and unproductive coconut stands.

To help address this problem, the **Coconut Genomics Program at UPLB** has been working on genomics, genetics, and breeding since 2014.

The UPLB team also uses molecular markers in selecting and breeding coconuts that show desirable characteristics that will be used to intensify coconut hybridization.

As one of their major accomplishments, the program has sequenced, assembled,

and annotated the whole genome of dwarf coconut, the ‘Catigan Green Dwarf.’

The team also discovered 58,503 variants in coconut that will facilitate the development of varieties with resilience to climate change, resistance to pests and diseases, and improved oil yield and quality. “For conventional breeding, it takes at least 15 years to develop varieties, but with genomics technology, we can cut this to a shorter time frame,” explains program leader Dr. Hayde F. Galvez.

The UPLB-based projects have published seven papers in international science-indexed journals including the genome sequencing paper of Darlon V. Lantican, university researcher at the Institute of Plant Breeding that was published in the G3: Gene, Genome, Genetics journal of the Genetics Society of America and was also awarded as the Elvira O. Tan Outstanding Published Paper given by the DOST-PCAARRD.

The second compelling reason, though not in any way the lesser, is because research helps us understand phenomena and make

important decisions through data analytics and modeling.

This is what the **UPLB Biomathematics Research Team** has been doing, including providing guidance on decisions that have lately been under so much scrutiny in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Given the data, how much can our health care system accommodate? What quarantine measures should be taken? What adjustments should we make in the new normal in our offices, in places like schools, restaurants, and public vehicles?

The team came up with models on rates of spread and infection of COVID-19 with these questions in mind, especially with regard to age dynamics and other prevailing conditions. Their work has provided guidance to the UP COVID-19 Pandemic Response Team’s policy recommendations and results have been featured in the news.

Formed in 2010, the Biomathematics team has lent their combined expertise in data analytics and mathematical modeling to solving a

diverse number of issues and research topics such as population dynamics for the UPLB Bee Program, chemical reaction networks for cancer research, and modeling of weather parameters for climate change response.

The research outputs of the UPLB Biomathematics Research Team have been published in high-impact journals, cited multiple times, and presented in both national and international scientific conferences – a testament to the team’s productivity and quality of work. Individual members of the team have also been recognized as recipients of various awards and accolades here and abroad.

The team has also been at the forefront of the Philippine biomathematics community, pushing for the field’s recognition and advocating its use in addressing issues related to agriculture, biomedicine, public health, environmental science, biology, and others. *(John Glen S. Sarol and Albert Geoffred B. Peralta)*



# A love for research that fuels discovery

## The Outstanding Researchers



BALENDRES

Knowledge to them is always something new. It expands on and explains the old, and even overturns it. As researchers, they are always on the quest to discover how to improve the ways things are.

Consider **Dr. Mark Angelo Balendres**, a university researcher at the Institute of Plant Breeding (IPB). His dedication to science and how it could be used to protect plants from pathogens for the ultimate goal of food security has led him from one discovery to another of efficient and safer ways to study plant pathogens.

He developed a tandem procedure which cut down the detection of plant pathogens from five hours to one hour.

He studied the factors that affect the ability of the pathogens to cause severe infection in test plants and found that the length of time of the pathogen in culture affects their virulence. This improved the robustness of the data derived from trials to test the resistance of fruits and plants to diseases.

Dr. Balendres also came up with a procedure for DNA extraction that does away with the use of hazardous organic reagents.

We have not even begun yet as all these discoveries were only made in the process of conducting research on plant diseases of which he has a steady stream.

His concern for the welfare of his co-researchers manifests in his mentorship and leadership of his co-researchers at the Plant Pathology Laboratory of IPB.



PALLER

Indeed a mentor looked up to for his acumen and intelligence, Mark has an impressive portfolio of 18 ISI and 6 SCOPUS-indexed scientific papers, the G.O. Ocfemia Outstanding Plant Pathologist in Research Award of which he is the youngest recipient to date, and now, the UPLB Outstanding Senior Researcher Award.

**Dr. Vachel Gay Paller**, a professor at the Institute of Biological Sciences, is not only a researcher but also an enabler for research and creativity to flourish.

The Parasitology Research Laboratory and the Animal Biology Division, the second molecular laboratory with high throughput equipment, were established much through her vision and efforts.

These laboratories now train up students to become researchers themselves in the mold of the best in UPLB.

It is also in these laboratories where Dr. Paller works on parasitic neglected tropical diseases (NTD) that enabled her to discover neglected and underreported knowledge in parasitology.

This work enabled her to contribute policy recommendations and to advocate the promotion of science-based strategies for controlling parasitic NTDs.

Dr. Paller is a staunch advocate of One Health and promotes this through evidence-based research.

She is no stranger to awards as she has received numerous ones over the past years



QUIMBO

with the Outstanding Researcher Award that she is being given now as the sixth feather in her cap.

**Dr. Maria Ana T. Quimbo**, a social scientist, has chalked up a wealth of research outputs, mostly on evaluation studies in distance education, e-learning, educational policy and practice, student achievement, community education and development, and communities in transition.

A professor at the Institute for Governance and Rural Development of the College of Public Affairs and Development, Dr. Quimbo has outstanding research achievements in education policy and community education and development studies.

Her research works and findings made a significant contribution to institutional development on both local and international fronts as these were wide-ranged, covering research on the improvement of student learning outcomes, curriculum enhancement, to generation of valid and reliable data for effective planning and informed decision-making at the community, organizational, and institutional levels.

With over 50 publications in refereed journals, Dr. Quimbo is a mentor to graduate students, junior faculty, and research personnel in UPLB.

**Darlon V. Lantican**, a university researcher at IPB's Genetics Laboratory, Crop Biotechnology Division, is this year's Outstanding Junior Researcher. He may be

a junior, but his accomplishments put him up there amongst the seasoned.

Darlon developed the pioneer whole genome sequence assembly of dwarf coconut which is highly recognized by national award-giving bodies and peers in the international scientific community.

He now leads a multi-million DA-BIOTECH-funded research project aiming to employ modern biotechnology tools for future banana bunchy top virus resistance breeding applications and disease diagnostics. He has authored and co-authored several publications from research projects.

His published paper entitled, "De novo genome sequence assembly of dwarf coconut (*Cocos nucifera* L. 'Catigan Green Dwarf') provides insights into genomic variation between coconut types and related palm species" received the Elvira O. Tan Award for outstanding published paper in agriculture by the Philippine Council for Agriculture, Aquatic, and Natural Resources Research and Development of the Department of Science and Technology (DOST-PCAARRD) last December 2020.

He finished MS in Molecular Biology and Biotechnology (minor in Plant Breeding) and BS in Agricultural Biotechnology (BSABT) major in crop biotechnology in UPLB. Among its first batch of graduates, he finished BSABT, cum laude. (*Kristine E. Araguas and Juan Paolo A. Aquino*)

# Off-the-Street, On-to-School Program: Helping Others Help Themselves

## The Outstanding Extension Team

Back in 2005, the Counseling and Testing Division of the then Office of Student Affairs launched an extension program aimed at empowering street children while at the same time helping UPLB students learn about community engagement, social awareness, and public service. Sixteen years hence, the "Off-the-Street, On-to-School" program, now under the Office of Counseling and Guidance (OCG), has grown into an umbrella program with various activities and projects – all aimed at helping the less fortunate to grow and be the best that they can be.

The program has six subcomponents – a feeding program, gift-giving/school supplies distribution, livelihood training, Tulong Dunong modern dance competition, Sayaw ng Lahi dance competition and workshop, and values formation seminars. Through the concerted efforts of the OCG and its partner institutions such as the UPLB Gabay Volunteer Corps, Kairos Band, UPLB Filipiniana Dance Troupe, Jollibee Foundation Inc., Rotary Club of West Bay, Office of the Governor of Laguna-Special Livelihood Office, and UPLB



alumni, the program has reached out and helped hundreds of beneficiaries through the years.

The program has touched people's lives: not only of its beneficiaries who were inspired to pursue their aspirations in public service or further hone their talents in the arts, but also the implementers – the student volunteers because it sparked in them a love for and the joy in volunteerism, and the people behind the program

who believe that it enhanced their professional competencies. The program has also earned recognition for its efforts, both locally and nationally.

With the founding principle of "We help others by helping them help themselves," Off-the-Street, On-to-School stands as a testament to the strength of the volunteer spirit, the dedication to public service, and the importance of empowering communities through extension work. (*Albert Geoffred B. Peralta*)

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