Chancellors Cruz and Velasco honored in testimonial lunch

The UPLB Office of Alumni Relations hosted a testimonial lunch in honor of outgoing chancellor Dr. Luis Rey I. Velasco and incoming chancellor Dr. Rex Victor O. Cruz on Oct. 26 at the Alumni Center. The event, entitled “Team in One: Taking UPLB to Greater Heights,” also served as an informal turnover ceremony between the two administrators.

In her opening remarks, Dr. Mimosa Ocampo, OAR director, explained that the title of the program was lifted from the respective slogans of Chancellors Velasco and Cruz, which is “TEAM (Together Everyone Achieves More)” and “One Goal, One Destiny, One University,” respectively. She thanked Chancellor Velasco for six years of dedicated service and leadership and gave a warm welcome to Chancellor Cruz who will officially assume office in November.

Chancellor Velasco delivered a message after an AVP highlighting his contributions, accomplishments, and legacy to the University was shown. He said that the event should not be about him but rather for the incoming chancellor. According to Chancellor Velasco, he really enjoyed the last six years of being chancellor but it is not because of the power and authority that comes with it but rather “the opportunity of being able to work together towards a common goal for the University.” He also cherishes the friendships that he developed with his colleagues and staff.

He shared that one of the biggest challenges when he first assumed office was how to effectively manage people who are older than him. Even though his colleagues are a good 5 to 10 years older than him, he was able to work well with all of them, he said.

Chancellor Velasco also said that he felt fortunate that President Emerlinda R. Roman, a UPLB alumna, was sympathetic to the causes of UPLB and this made his job easier. He also took the opportunity to thank former Chancellors Emil Q. Javier and Ruben L. Villareal for their continued support to his administration, the former for his constant insightful advice and the latter for helping make UPLB constituents more involved in Gawad Kalinga.

VC Laude orients SOT participants on faculty code of ethics

In one of her last official acts as vice chancellor for instruction, Dr. Rita P. Laude oriented the University’s new teachers and other faculty members on the Faculty Code of Ethics during the Seminar on College Teaching on Oct. 24-28.

Dr. Laude told the faculty members that the code of ethics contains “what is expected” of teachers such as commitment to academic excellence, honesty and integrity, and being loyal to the University. She also reminded them to uphold the integrity and dignity of the teaching profession because it is a noble profession. Because UPLB is part of the civil service, its teachers must observe the Civil Service rules particularly on dress code that prohibits the wearing of very revealing clothes for women.

She also stressed the need to abide by the provisions of the university charter, the UP code and lawful rules and orders within the UP System, and the autonomous colleges and units. She also cited the importance of dealing with constituents in the spirit of camaraderie, cooperation, and respect and encouraged them to resolve conflicts guided by conscience and the best interest of the University.

Dr. Laude noted that as teachers,
CVM professor is NAST Outstanding Young Scientist

Dr. Waren N. Baticados, associate professor at the Department of Veterinary Paraclinical Sciences of the College of Veterinary Medicine (CVM) was named Outstanding Young Scientist for 2011 by the National Academy of Science and Technology (NAST).

Dr. Baticados is one of the most productive researchers at the CVM. His contributions are the molecular detection of animal diseases caused by protozoans and rickettsia, specifically trypanosomes (cattle and canines and livestock *Trypanosoma*), *Ehrlichia canis*, and *Anaplasma* rickettsial organisms (*Ehrlichia*, *Babesia*, *Neospora*, and *Rickettsia*, specifically *Trypanosoma brucei* and *Babesia*), in native horses in the Philippines. His researches are geared towards the rapid diagnosis of animal diseases caused by protozoans and rickettsia, specifically *Trypanosoma evansi*, *Anaplasma* and *Babesia* species in livestock and companion animals in the country, and the establishment of appropriate protocols that have been found to be promising in the quick diagnosis of these infectious agents through DNA-based detection system. Research results in these various animal diseases are critical in policy formulation by concerned government agencies.

His works have been published in various international journals in Australia, Brazil, Croatia, Iran, Israel, Japan, New Zealand, and Switzerland. In 2010 alone, he was able to publish a total of 11 peer-reviewed journals. Currently, he is the senior author of 12 and co-author of 14 publications in ISI-indexed and other peer-reviewed journals in 13 different local and international journal publishers.

Dr. Baticados has been the recipient of several research grants, ten UP System International Publication Awards and four UP Professorial Chair Awards. He was head of the Parasitology Section of the Department of the Veterinary Paraclinical Sciences for five years and also headed the Veterinary Molecular Biology Laboratory. He has been a resource speaker in several veterinary conferences and has conducted seminars to farmers, farm owners, and fellow veterinarians. In addition, he was also involved in extension service to the K9 Unit of Presidential Security Group (PSG) and various communities.

Dr. Baticados obtained his DVM at UPLB in 1996. He finished his Ph.D. in Veterinary Science at Gifu University in Japan in 2005. He is married to another CVM faculty member, Dr. Abigail Morales-Baticados, and they are blessed with one daughter, Anika Maya M. Baticados.

DZLB program wins KBP Golden Dove award

Radyo DZLB’s *Tinig ng Agricultura Sa Barangay* (TAB) bagged the prestigious 2011 Kapisanan ng mga Brodkaster ng Pilipinas (KBP) Golden Dove Award for Best Radio Science and Technology (S&T) Program. Radyo DZLB, on the other hand, topped major radio networks in the S&T category. The awarding ceremony, which was attended by almost 500 TV and radio personalities from Metro Manila and the rest of the country, was held on Oct. 26 at the Star Theater in CCP Complex.

TAB’s lone entry, which featured Aster Production Technology, was chosen from three finalists which included DZUP’s “Kwentuhang Pets at IPB,” DXND’s Special Reports on “Ang Lindol,” and “Nuclear Explosion sa Japan”, and “Ang Supermoon.”

TAB has benefitted from the series of partnering workshops and technical training and assistance extended by the DZLB staff. Being new to radio broadcasting, TAB members were able to gain experience and confidence through the theories and actual practice based on the participatory and partnering principles forwarded by Radyo DZLB.

DZLB had the distinction of being awarded by the KBP as the Best AM Radio Station in 1994. This year’s award marks another milestone in DZLB’s pursuit of excellence.

The KBP Golden Dove Awards, which is the country’s top award-giving body, annually confers awards to individuals, groups and stations who have contributed directly or indirectly to the broadcast industry. It also pays tribute to those who have shown outstanding performance and contributed to the improvement and upgrading of standards in their respective fields. Among the prominent awardees this year are former Vice President Noli de Castro who was the recipient of the Ka Doroy Valencia Broadcaster of the Year and the late Atty. Eduardo Montilla who was conferred the KBP Lifetime Achievement Award (Posthumous) for his invaluable contribution to the broadcast industry. (LD Amongo)
Mareng Winnie makes pitch for large class

"Large class is the way to go but the administration should get only the best and qualified teachers. Do not saddle students in large class with lousy teachers. Without qualified teachers, don't go for it," Monsod said at the "Large Class Conversation," a forum sponsored by the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Instruction on Oct. 11.

Prof. Monsod, more popularly referred to as Mareng Winnie in news and public affairs programs on television, noted that holding large classes is being done in large universities in the US. It translates to greater service to the University and serves the students' quest for learning. She recalled how UP Diliman and UP Los Baños (UPLB) for the large class project stressing that the University went through with it comprehensively to work out a program to maximize the benefits for the University and for the students.

Mareng Winnie said that how it was done in Los Baños was different from how it was in Diliman. "During my time we did not have preparation; there were no trainings; and there were no pre-tests conducted," she said. They were thrown into the fray, so either sink or swim. Unfortunately, she opined, a lot of her colleagues sunk because they did not have preparation. She recalled that during the time she was hired to be a member of the faculty, she was asked if she had training in theater and fortunately for her she was a member of the dramatics club. Being in front of large class, she said, is like being on stage acting or performing in a play - capturing, holding, and sustaining interests and attention of students.

"It is so different in a large class compared with a small class where eye contact is essential. In a large class, you know you are failing when you hear static," she said. She added that she had to learn through the years how to handle as big a class as a 300-seat auditorium can hold.

Three-fold benefits

But why go into the large class mode? "In economics, you only undertake an activity when there is a net benefit. The same principle applies to a large class mode and the benefits appear to be three-fold," Monsod said.

For the administration, the benefit is in terms of efficiency since the University is able to maximize the use of human and physical resources. On the part of the students, the benefit is that they learn from the best teachers since senior faculty members handle these classes. The benefit to the lecturer comes in the form of workload credit where the faculty member gets more credit for each course handled.

Monsod admitted that what she shared is not based on empirical studies but more on her experience as a teacher that spanned 40 years. She emphasized that the challenge for the faculty member is to be able to communicate to the students the objectives of the course, to teach them how to think, and to influence them to take a higher course. Monsod cited her experience as a student in the US where her professor, a Nobel laureate, admitted to have enjoyed the experience of teaching a bigger group of students. She said that senior faculty members attract students to the class.

The large class is a team teaching system where each lecturer has teaching fellows who also want to learn while earning. Monsod acknowledged that the disadvantage for the students is when there is no more connection between them and the teachers. And here, Monsod pointed out, is where there is a need for brilliant teaching fellows and the imperative for the lecturer and the teaching fellows to work as a team in order to get quality outcome. But to achieve that outcome, the teacher should have the discipline to be able to distill learning and should have a greater imagination to find alternative means to make the connection with the students.

Monsod also emphasized the importance of the members of the teaching team being on the same page regarding the subject matter and content of the course. The goal in the large class, she said, is holistic development that is why there is a discussion class which aims to elicit from the students what they learned and to find out if they are able to apply the concepts that they learned.

No powerpoints, no essays

Monsod suggested ways by which teachers should help add to the benefits from the large class mode. One is through the course outline which should be comprehensive and should show to the students what the teacher will teach, the requirements of the course, and the schedule of the examinations.

Another is in the exercise of teacher discretion. Monsod opined that the grade of students can be increased but not decreased. She said that here is where a teacher is allowed discretion when the students’ grades are too close to the cut-off. However, the students must have complied with the requirements of the course and have done their part such as diligently attending classes. The teacher cannot simply tell a student without any basis that he/she will fail him/her.

Last, is in the delivery of the lecture. Monsod suggested that teachers should not read from their notes when handling a lecture class. She related that when she was a new teacher she could not afford to let students see her hands shaking so she memorized her lectures and this helped her establish connection with her students. "Do not use powerpoint if possible and use it only when providing materials not found in the textbook because students have to take notes. Powerpoint presentations are only for people who are intellectually challenged. If powerpoint presentations are prepared, the same should be to supplement materials not found in textbooks," Monsod added.

Monsod suggested that teachers should also make the class interactive or get the class involved, i.e., by picking students at random and asking them where the previous lessons ended or by making them prepare presentations during the Christmas season or to celebrate the teacher’s birthday. She noted, "you can’t imagine how much talent they have."

Monsod, however, does not recommend giving essay questions in examinations for a lecture class. According to her, essay questions are the easiest to formulate but the hardest to correct, thus, she recommends giving well-formulated objective questions in examinations.
Termite management program has new head

Dr. Celia dR. Medina of the College of Agriculture-Crop Protection Cluster (CPC) is the new project leader of the UPLB Termite Management Program effective June 1, 2011 to May 31, 2012. She succeeds Dr. Menandro N. Acda of the Department of Forest Products and Paper Science, CFNR, who is on sabbatical leave.

Dr. Medina, who also serves as CPC director, aims to address the termite problem in UPLB buildings and housing units via scientific approach, wherein previous methods and termiticides used by the project are maximized by intensive monitoring and studying erratic termite behaviors. She also plans to broaden the scope of the program to push the need for Urban Pest Management courses for entomology students.

For termite treatment inquiries, the program is now stationed at the National Crop Protection Center, College of Agriculture, with telephone no. 536-2231, VOIP 2330. Please contact Ms. Josie Lyn T. Ravelas, pest control applicator, for more information. (JLT Ravelas)

Chancellors Cruz and Velasco honored in testimonial lunch

Chancellor Cruz expressed hope that University alumni will continue to be present to lend their support to the various initiatives of the University. He also expects to get some help from the outgoing vice chancellors to ensure the continuity and completion of ongoing projects as well as the council of deans which he hopes will continue to be a functional and supportive body to the new administration. In the next three years or so, Chancellor Cruz said that he expects that they will all help him pursue transdisciplinary and interdisciplinary programs in research and instruction.

In closing, Chancellor Cruz reminded everyone that the event is an occasion of looking back and paying tribute to Chancellor Velasco and his administration, who were able to accomplish significant gains during the past six years despite limited resources and various constraints. He also bid farewell to the outgoing chancellor and wished him all the best in his endeavors.

UPLB Alumni Association President Simeon Cuyson, who gave the closing remarks to end the program, said that it seems to be more than coincidence that the Chancellors Velasco and Cruz both come from the same Class 1978 and that seems to be more than coincidence that Chancellor Cruz’s destiny to become UPLB chancellor, “he said. (MJC de Roma)

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they must treat students with respect, fairness, and dignity and imbue them with love of country, humanity, and respect for individual persuasion. She emphasized that teachers of UP should be living examples as the conscience of the nation.

She said that the University upholds the right of faculty members to academic freedom and to teach the subject of the teacher’s specialization according to his or her best light. Academic freedom also grants to individual teachers the right to express opinions on public questions without interfering with faculty duties. However, she also stressed that teachers should not inculcate sectarian tenets nor influence students for a particular church, group, or political party.

Dr. Laude also informed the seminar participants of restrictions on conduct and discipline for teachers, discouraging acceptance of valuable gifts from students, and prohibiting giving of private tutorials to students since University rules allow tutorials only during the declared consultation hours of faculty members. (AP Dominguita)

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Fantastic teacher

For Monsod, the key is to have a fantastic teacher for the large class, someone who is a senior faculty member because one cannot get wisdom from a young teacher. “Experience is the best teacher. The teacher should have the talent and should be up to the challenge of teaching a large class,” Monsod added.

She also stressed that the administrator must know that the teacher is a capable teacher and in the exigencies of the service, the said teacher must say yes and share his/her talent to the students. Teachers must think of it as a challenge and not as a problem. Addressing the concern that there are senior faculty members who refuse to handle large classes, Monsod said that if it were up to her, she would talk to the faculty and she would convince such faculty to allow students to benefit from their wisdom.

Monsod personally considers it an honor to be asked to be a large class lecturer. “But we have to hone our skills and maintain the energy. You have to see it like you are appearing on TV where the energy should always be higher,” Monsod said. (AP Dominguita)
RM0 acquires automated document management system

As UPLB grew by leaps and bounds since it was established more than 100 years ago as the UP College of Agriculture, so did the records and documents pertinent to its development as an institution and to its constituents. And as records grew with each day, so did the need for a more efficient and risk proof record keeping system, and easily accessible information.

This has become an abiding concern for the Records Management Office (RMO) for 20 years now and the efforts of the people behind it have paid off. Recently, the RMO achieved another milestone in its continuous effort to make records management more efficient, risk-proof, and accessible through the acquisition of an automated document management system (ADMS). The ADMS is the latest of the RMO’s equipment acquisition that will bring it closer to full records digitization and electronically available information.

In the mid 1990s, the RMO sought the assistance of the Institute of Computer Science (ICS) to help make its record keeping work more manageable, less paper-dependent, and less demanding of space. It had then accumulated stacks of documents to fill up a large room and rows of filing cabinets that required much storage space. The only way to protect the files from the vagaries of weather was 24-hour air conditioning. Even this did not assure that the records would be safe from fire and the stronger-than-usual rains and typhoons.

The RMO saw that the solution to each of the concerns they had in record keeping dovetailed towards computerization. With the help of ICS, it set out to develop a database management system (DBMS) that recorded and stored digital information and documents and enabled generation and retrieval of summary reports. The DBM had a search function mechanism that helped pinpoint documents in their exact physical location.

In early 2000 when electronic document management systems (EDM) had gained popularity in managing paper-based documents, the RMO started document imaging and digitization. The digitization project expanded on the functionality of the DBMS by capturing and storing the document’s digital image into the database using a newly acquired Canon DR 7580 scanner worth almost P400,000. Digitization offered a way to safely back-up and store paper-based documents onto the computers’ hard disk as images. It also allowed the RMO to limit access to or referencing of these documents to their digital copies, thus protecting the original paper document from damage, wear and tear, and exposure to the elements. To date, the RMO has successfully digitized over 500,000 documents including academic 201 and administrative 201 files and general and board records.

EDM is not merely limited to the capture and storage of digital images. More importantly, digital images are managed efficiently for maximum benefit. At present, the RMO’s acquisition of the ADMS is a step towards full electronic document management system. ADMS is an integrated hardware and software system focused on the capture, storage, indexing, and retrieval of image file formats. Although the records are captured as images, a full text search is made possible because the system handles the extraction of the text from the document in the process of capture, and the text-indexer function provides text-retrieval capabilities. This basically means that digital images can be searched for keywords, phrases, and through the document numbers. Indexing can hasten the search and is highly accurate.

The ADMS was presented and demonstrated by the RMO to Dr. Roberto F. Rañola, Vice Chancellor for Administration, as well as to all the unit heads under it – the Accounting Office, Budget Office, Cashiers Office, Business Affairs Office, Supply and Property Management Office and the Human Resources and Development Office. The presentation focused on how the system captures the digital images, tagged, and indexed them, then searched and retrieved images using keywords. The system demonstrated how fast and accurate searching the database is. It exhibited complete and general functionality towards efficient document management.

The RMO remains steadfast in its commitment for efficient document management through ADMS. It has identified the current records to be the main priority to enter into the system. With careful planning and utilization of scarce resource, the RMO hopes that even non-current records will be uploaded into the system in due time. Eventually, the RMO hopes to give the University constituents access to these records so that they can search and print these documents remotely from their computers. (RMO Release)
UPLB Administration Statement on Campus Security Measures

We would like to assure the university constituents, our students, faculty and staff, the parents, and donors and benefactors that we are continuously intensifying efforts to strengthen security in the campus and to ensure the safety of everyone. We remain committed to our mission of providing a better and more conducive environment for the education of our students and we will pursue programs and means that promote their welfare.

We wish to stress that we will always assert the authority of the UPLB administration to enforce its rules and regulations not only within its jurisdiction but also to provide assistance whenever necessary to the constituents of the University.

The University administration takes the responsibility of providing a safe and secure environment for everyone, even for non-constituents. We have complemented the security efforts of the University Police Force (UPF) with the activation of the Community Support Brigade or CSB. The presence of the members of the CSB in strategic locations in the campus deters criminal elements. Their concerted actions have resulted in the apprehension of law breakers and violators of our own rules and regulations.

Among the other initiatives we have already implemented include the installation of wireless surveillance and monitoring system using closed-circuit television (CCTV) cameras, motion sensors, campus-wide street lighting, periodic review of campus security plans, constant cooperation and dialogue with local government units at the municipal and barangay levels and the Los Baños PNP station, and close coordination with security agencies of institutions inside and around the campus. Their concerted actions have resulted in the apprehension of law breakers and violators of our own rules and regulations.

To further protect students from danger outside the campus, the Municipal government is installing additional 100 lamp posts in critical areas. For greater police visibility in the critical areas of Barangay Batong Malaki, the Los Baños Police Station has posted more police personnel between the UPLB main gate and Junction and has intensified police patrol for stronger police presence. The Los Baños LGUs are strictly implementing municipal ordinances especially the implementation of curfew for minors, regulated business hours of computer shops, and regulations against sale of liquor and other alcoholic beverages within the premises of schools and other public places.

We are doing everything we can to maintain campus peace and order and strengthen security interventions. The UPLB campus, however, remains very porous to criminal elements. Thus, we would also like to solicit the cooperation of our constituents. Together, we must always remain vigilant for each other’s safety and have emergency and hotline numbers of the University Police Force and the Los Baños Police Station in the speed dial of our mobile phones. Together, we are stronger. Together, we can do more.

SPMO to hold training workshop on procurement system

The Supply and Property Management Office (SPMO) will conduct a Training Workshop on Procurement from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., at the Operations Room, A.G. Samonte Hall and will be done in two batches on Nov.7-8 and Nov.10-11.

The training workshop aims to professionalize the rank of University employees and officers involved in public procurement and ensure compliance with the mandates of RA 9184 (Government Procurement Reform Act); increase the participants’ knowledge on RA 9184 and its Revised Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR); equip the participants with the necessary tools and techniques to properly perform the functions of a public procurement officer; and build the capacities of procurement officers to perform their role of effectively and efficiently implementing the University procurement processes based upon the mandates of the Revised IRR of the Act.

The two-day training workshop will include lecture discussions with the aid of presentation materials and administration of a pre-test and a post-test to gauge the participants’ learning.

The UPLB Link is published fortnightly. To submit contributions, please email articles and photos (jpeg format, 300 dpi) to opr@uplb.edu.ph and cpaa_uplb@yahoo.com.