



UPLB gets 31 of 68 UP Scientist Awards for 2017-2019

PHOTO BY CV LABE/OPR

Almost half of the 68 awardees of the UP Scientific Productivity System (SPS) for CY 2017-2019 are from UPLB. The recent release of the UP Office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs shows that with 31 awardees, UPLB remains to have the highest number of new and renewed UP Scientists in the UP System.

They are led by UP Scientist III awardees Dr. Christian Joseph Cumagun of the College of Agriculture and Food Science (CAFS) and Dr. Juan Pulhin of the College

of Forestry and Natural Resources (CFNR), who both retained their designations; and Dr. Vachel Gay Paller of the College of Arts and Sciences (CAS), Dr. Virginia Ocampo and Dr. Barbara Caoili of CAFS, and Dr. Maria Victoria Espaldon of the School of Environmental Science and Management (SESAM), who were all promoted to the said title.

One remarkable UP Scientist III appointment is that of Dr. Rico Ancog of SESAM. The 34-year old faculty member

reached the highest designation there is on his first inclusion in the UP Scientists circle.

Meanwhile, promoted as UP Scientist II are Dr. Rowena Bacongus of the College of Public Affairs and Development (CPAf), Dr. Aimee Lyn Barrion-Dupo of CAS, and Dr. Pablito Magdalita of CAFS.

Receiving the title of UP Scientist I for the first time are Dr. Elda Esguerra. Dr. Antonio Lalusin, Dr. Ireneo Pangga, and Dr. Sheryl Yap of CAFS; Dr. Isabelita Pabuayan,

Dr. Zenaida Sumalde, and Dr. Agham Cuevas of the College of Economics and Management; Dr. Rex Demafelis, Dr. Jessie Elauria, and Dr. Delfin Suministrado from the College of Engineering and Agro-Industrial Technology; Dr. Editha Jose, Dr. Allan Abraham Padama, and Dr. Jomar Rabajante of CAS; Dr. Aimee Sheree Barrion from the College of Human Ecology; and Dr. Joseph Dela Cruz of the College of Veterinary Medicine.

UP Scientist ... page 7

UPLB undergoes EU SHARE institutional assessment



FIRST PH PUBLIC UNIVERSITY ASSESSED BY EU SHARE. Vice Chancellor Portia G. Lapitan, Chancellor Fernando C. Sanchez, Jr., and UP Assistant Vice President for Academic Affairs Alyssa Alampay (1st, 4th, and 7th from L) join EU SHARE assessors (from L-R) Dr. Oliver Vettori, Dr. Jacques Lanares, Prof. Chavalit Wongse-ek, and Dr. Agus Setiabudi at the closing program of the EU SHARE institutional assessment. UPLB is the first public university in the country to undergo the assessment. (Photo by JGS Sarol/OPR)

UPLB has reached another milestone in its goal to become a globally competitive graduate and research university.

On Feb. 5-6, the University took part in the institutional assessment of the European Union Support for Higher Education in the ASEAN Region (EU SHARE). EU SHARE aims to strengthen the Region's higher education system and collaboration and hopes to build a scholarship scheme in ASEAN similar to Europe's Erasmus. UPLB is the only public university in the country to participate in the said assessment.

The two-day activity was conducted to enhance UPLB's capacity to keep track of its internal quality assurance (QA) system and raise points and recommendations to improve it. Assessors from different countries interviewed students, faculty, staff, and officials. UPLB, on the other hand, presented its self-assessment report to the assessors.

Dr. Alyssa Alampay, UP assistant vice president for academic affairs, in her message, commended UPLB "for taking the QA challenge" during the opening program at the REDREC Auditorium. Dr. Alampay reiterated the confidence of the UP System in UPLB's readiness to participate in the assessment.

EU SHARE ... page 7

UPLB highlights food security on its 109th year President Concepcion to grace convocation program

Twelve UPLB personnel, one research and one extension team are this year's honorees for being exemplars in dispensing their respective duties and responsibilities in the university. (See pp 4-6 for articles on the 14 award recipients.) Gracing the convocation program where the 14 will be honored is no less than UP President Danilo L. Concepcion who will also be the guest speaker in the program to be held at the Charles Fuller Baker Hall at 1 p.m. on March 6.

This year's celebration will also serve to bring to everyone's consciousness

UPLB's focus on food and nutrition security as the centerpiece of its instruction, research, and extension programs and initiatives. The theme for the 109th foundation day celebration is "Sustaining academic excellence and leadership in food security."

On the same day, the College of Agriculture and Food Science (CAFS) will also mark its 109th year with a series of activities. UPLB has its beginnings in the College of Agriculture (UPCA) that was created in 1909 and became UP's first

autonomous campus 63 years later. With UPLB's elevation to university status, the CA became one of its first few colleges. In late 2016, it was restructured into the CAFS.

The College will be opening its celebrations on March 5 with a three-day R&D symposium, with the theme "CAFS: Converging RDE innovations in agriculture and food science" at the PHTRC Annex Building. To be held on the first day will be a series of discussions by institute directors regarding their research thrusts and programs, while March 7 and 8 will

be allotted to paper presentations from each institute.

The CAFS' traditional commemoration program at the UPLB Foundation Site in Brgy. Timugan, Los Baños will take place on the Foundation Day proper, March 6, at 6 a.m. This will be followed by a recognition program for its outstanding constituents and partners at 9 a.m. at the ASH Lobby.

CAFS' Institute of Crop Science (ICropS) will launch an exhibit and fair on March 6 at the Seniors' Social Garden. This will also serve as the Institute's official public launch as one of the units of the restructured CAFS. The ICropS' activities will last until March 9. (Jessa Jael S. Arana)

UPLB student org wins top TAYO awards



A NEW GAIN FOR THE UP GRAINS. UP GRAINS members Atiana Inzon, Albert Caraan, Alexandrinne Pinca, and Mark Mariano (5th to 8th from L) receive the symbolic check representing their Ten Outstanding Youth Organization (TAYO) honors. Joining them in the awarding ceremonies are (from L-R) OSA's division heads: Dr. Erick Vernon Dy (ISD) and Prof. Allen Nazareno (SOAD); Marites Mojica, SOAD administrative officer; and Camille Antonio, PR manager of Lenovo Philippines. (Photo courtesy of Lenovo Philippines)

UPLB students won awards from the Ten Accomplished Youth Organizations (TAYO) Awards Foundation, Inc. during the 15th National Awarding Ceremonies on Feb. 22, 2018 at the AG New World Manila Bay Hotel in Malate, Manila.

One of the top ten winners was the UP Genetic Researchers and Agriculture Innovators Society's (UP GRAINS) Lakbioteknologiya Biotech Boot Camp. UP GRAINS also won the Lenovo Outstanding Tech Visionary award. The award is given to the organization that embodies the "Different is Better" mindset by being unafraid to stand out and be different and has the ability to leverage technology to affect positive change in society.

In addition, two of the top three GenTAYO music writing entries were from UPLB alumni. The song composition entitled "TAYO" by Jeroel A. Maranan, BS Food Technology, Batch 2010 and Patricia Mae T. Rafols, BS Forestry, Batch 2009, emerged as the grand champion. Jennifer Milante, BS Development Communication, Batch 2013 with her song entitled "Magkaisa" was also one of the top three winners. "TAYO" will be the official song of the 15th year anniversary of the TAYO Search.

TAYO is a non-stock, non-profit organization that recognizes and rewards the efforts of youth organizations from all over the Philippines. In cooperation with the National Youth Commission (NYC), the Office of Senator Bam Aquino, Office of Senator Francis Pangilinan, Coca-Cola Foundation Philippines, Inc., and San Miguel Corporation, TAYO aims to highlight the skills and talents of young Filipinos.

As the biggest and most prestigious award for youth groups in the Philippines, TAYO 15 continues to offer opportunities and exposure for young groups of change makers and trailblazers. The Search aimed to find, recognize, and reward youth groups that made great impact in different communities. Alongside the Search, the TAYO Foundation launched the GenTAYO: Music + Youth, a song writing contest for singer and songwriters all over the Philippines. GenTAYO is the online search for original compositions that embodies the ideals of the TAYO Search such as bayanihan spirit, love of country, integrity, commitment to nation building, and excellence. (Erick Vernon Y. Dy)

UPLB student is Most Outstanding Jose Rizal Model Student

"Naniniwala ako na may iba't ibang paraan para maging bayani. Tandaan natin na lahat tayo ay inaasahan sa pangakong serbisyo at paglilingkod sa bayan (I believe that there are different ways to be a hero. Let us remember that we are expected to fulfill our promise of service to the nation)," said recently hailed 2017 Most Outstanding Jose Rizal Model Student of the Philippines, Paul Joshua Marquez.

A senior BS Agriculture student, Marquez was chosen to represent UPLB in the annual search for the Top Ten Jose Rizal Model Students of the Philippines, a nationwide search for students who exemplify the qualities, values, and virtues of national hero Jose Rizal.

The representatives from different universities were evaluated based on their academic excellence, extra-curricular activities, affiliations, and community involvement – areas in which Marquez excel. Apart from being a candidate for *summa cum laude*, he also holds key positions in numerous student organizations and volunteers for worthy causes.

Marquez intimated that he got a lot of inspiration from written works about the life of Rizal and the letters he wrote for his fellowmen. He also had an exchange of insights with

2016 Jose Rizal Model Student of the Philippines, Paul John Diezon.

Marquez was presented his award during a ceremony held at the Knights of Rizal International Headquarters in Port Area, Manila on Dec. 30, 2017. In his speech, he encouraged the audience to follow the example of Rizal—a man who valued education and who stood by his beliefs.

Marquez said that he believes that there are many unnamed Jose Rizal Model students. He emphasized that not only grades and achievements make up a Jose Rizal Model Student, but love for learning, open-mindedness, and conviction. *"Kung mayroon man akong maipagmamalaki bilang Iskolar ng Bayan, itong tatlong characteristics na ito ay confident akong taglay ng kapwa ko mga iskolar (If there is something I can be proud of as an Iskolar ng Bayan, it would be that these three characteristics are possessed by my fellow scholars),"* he added.

Present during the awarding ceremony were Dr. Nina M. Cadiz, director of the Office of Student Affairs (OSA), and Prof. Allen L. Nazareno, head of OSA's Student Organizations and Activities Division. (Juan Carlos Matias)



LEADER AND ACHIEVER. Paul Joshua Marquez (6th from L) receives his trophy and certificate from the Knights of Rizal as the 2017 Most Outstanding Jose Rizal Model Student of the Philippines. (Photo by MMojica/SOAD-OSA)

PHSA concludes National Arts Month at UPLB

"Art plays an integral role to an individual's experience of the world. It makes us humans. It gives us that humanity. It makes us whole." This was how Dr. Serlie Barroga-Jamias, vice chancellor for community affairs, underscored the importance of the arts in education.

Her message was a fitting conclusion of the 5th Makiling Inter-cultural Arts Festival or MAKILINC V, the Philippine High School for the Arts's (PHSA) annual event for National Arts Month. PHSA concluded the week-long exploration of various art forms on Feb. 24 at the DL Umali Auditorium by showcasing their outputs in a culmination program.



DANCERS, ARTISTS. Students of the Philippine High School for the Arts showcase their learnings in dancing during their performance at the closing program of the 5th Makiling Inter-cultural Arts Festival, the School's annual celebration of the National Arts Month. (Photo by VR Maningas)

This year's workshop mentors included Joey Ayala who engaged students in songwriting; Ony Carcamo who introduced the basics of ventriloquism; Alex Flett who mentored for visual/conceptual art; Aishwarya Manivannan who helped students combine grace and strength through Silambam, a weapons-based

martial art; Inshallah Montero who helped creative writing students translate their ideas in film; and Ching Ching Wong who guided students in exploring space through dance.

Dr. Jamias, who represented UPLB Chancellor Fernando C. Sanchez, Jr., commended PHSA for allowing

students "to be trained by the masters." She recognized the ability of the arts to affect humans and shape students beyond the measurements of science. "This form of artistic mentoring will ensure that we will continue producing not only brilliant artists, but citizens with hearts, souls, and humanity," she said. (Jessa Jael S. Arana)

UPLB officials honor 'unsung heroes' at the CES centennial



GIVING LIFE TO RESEARCH. UPLB officials and staff led by Vice Chancellors Crisanto A. Dorado and Portia G. Lapitan (seated, 3rd and 4th from L) celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Central Experiment Station. Special guest in the celebration was Vice President for Administration Nestor G. Yunque (5th from L). (Photo by VR Maningas/OPR)

"You are the unsung heroes of the College of Agriculture and Food Science (CAFS) because of the support that you give to our research," said Dr. Enrico P. Supangco, dean of CAFS, to the workforce of the Central Experiment Station (CES).

CES, an academic support unit of CAFS that provides mechanized farm operation services to the College's field research,

celebrated its centennial anniversary on Feb. 15 at its headquarters.

"We have many scientific publications, but it is never stated there that the land and support given to them came from the CES," Dr. Supangco continued. The primary services that CES provides are land preparation and irrigation, which are both fundamental to agricultural field experiments.

Dr. Portia G. Lapitan, vice chancellor for academic affairs, also commended the CES personnel. "*Ako po ay nagpupugay sa inyo dahil kayo po ang bumubuhay sa mga pananaliksik na ginagawa ng CAFS (I salute you because you are the ones who give life to the research being conducted by CAFS),*" Dr. Lapitan said.

"CES has served as a venue for CAFS' numerous instruction, training, and

extension activities, making the Station a major contributor in executing UPLB's mandate as a national university," Dr. Lapitan added, as she read the message of Chancellor Fernando C. Sanchez, Jr.

Serving as special guest was Dr. Nestor G. Yunque, UP vice president for administration. In his message, he reiterated the UP administration's steps to increase UP's manpower, and acknowledged CES as one of the UPLB units that deserve additional personnel items.

During the program, CAFS gave service awards to personnel who have served the Station for straight 10, 15, 20, 25, 35, and 40 years and to its staff who had recently retired from government service. The College also recognized its past station managers, namely: Dr. Jose Nestor M. Garcia, Dr. Cesar C. Sevilla, Dr. Supangco, and the incumbent Dr. Mafeo B. Bejo.

A tree-planting ceremony was held at the CES compound prior to the program.

CES was first named Agricultural Experiment Station and traces its beginning to the passage of Act 2730 by the Philippine Legislature on Feb. 15, 1918. (Mark Jayson E. Gloria)

UPLB strat plan zeroes in on food security



A LEADER IN FOOD SECURITY. UPLB officials gathered at Camp John Hay, Baguio City for the 2018 Strategic Planning Workshop and identified food security as UPLB's priority theme in its tripartite functions. Joining them are the organizing committee members. (Photo by KE Araguas/OPR)

UPLB is going to push for a concerted effort towards promoting food security in its instruction, research, and public service initiatives in the next two years.

The UPLB Executive and Management Committees, headed by Chancellor Fernando C. Sanchez, Jr. set this overall direction for UPLB at the UPLB-UPLBFI Strategic Planning Workshop at the Forest Lodge, Camp John Hay, in Baguio City on Jan. 24-26, 2018.

The UPLB officials participated in a series of workshops and sessions including making individual reports of their unit's accomplishments and plans. The workshops were facilitated by a team led by Mr. Christopher Lomboy, director for markets and enterprise of RARE Phils and UPLB alumnus, who also facilitated the strategic planning workshops of UPLB in the years 2015 and 2017.

According to Chancellor Sanchez, he would like food security to be the priority theme in the instruction, research, and public service efforts of the University. "I would like people to think UP Los Baños when they hear the phrase food security," he added.

The Chancellor directed the ExeCom and ManCom to rally the colleges and units towards this direction, still with the goals of sustaining academic leadership and excellence, promoting the use of UPLB's knowledge and technologies to attain inclusive growth, and creating an enabling environment for creativity and innovation.

The workshop also served to identify the key performance indicators (KPI) for these three goals. These KPIs will be streamlined and cast into clearly stated indicators by a committee that will be headed by Vice Chancellor Portia G. Lapitan before this will be cascaded to the UPLB units. (OPR press release with reports from AGT Lim)

UK-Ph educ fair features UPLB-UoR dual PhD program



UPLB'S NEW PARTNER IN THE UNITED KINGDOM. Chancellor Fernando C. Sanchez, Jr. (rightmost) and Graduate School Dean Jose V. Camacho, Jr. (leftmost) meet the delegation from the University of Reading (UoR) during a courtesy call on Feb. 12 at the BM Gonzalez Hall, UPLB. The two universities are implementing a dual program towards a Ph.D. by Research. (Photo by VR Maningas/OPR)

UPLB's new collaborative endeavor with a British university made its debut in the academic circle during the First United Kingdom (UK)-Philippine TNE Conference and UK-Philippine Education Fair on Feb. 16-17 at the Makati Shangri-La Hotel.

One of the postgraduate programs featured in the event was the dual PhD degree offering between UPLB and the University of Reading (UoR) in Berkshire, UK.

Prospective students under this program can specialize in courses relevant to agricultural development and food security: agricultural economics, agronomy, animal

science, environmental economics, and horticulture.

The UPLB-UoR joint program stemmed from the British Council and Commission on Higher Education (CHED)'s Joint Development of Niche Programmes through Philippine-UK Linkages. It is a two-year program that aims to provide both funding and capacity support for higher education institutions in the Philippines to establish international connectivity and engagement through the development of transnational education (TNE) partnerships with other HEIs in the UK.

UK-Ph ... page 7

Alumni modernizes CFNR room

What used to be the old administrative services room at the College of Forestry and Natural Resources (CFNR) has been overhauled into a modern multifunctional room complete with new light fixtures and audio-visual equipment.

Now renamed in honor of its benefactor, the "Varrons Room" is designed to hold small classes, lectures, social functions, and conferences for the students of CFNR.

The UP Varrons group includes the student organization UP Varrons Ltd. (UPVL), the UP Varrons Alumni Association (UPVAA), the UP Varrons International, and the UP Varrons Foundation.

The newly renovated room was turned over by the UPVAA to UPLB-CFNR on Jan 29 during a short program at the CFNR Administration Building.

Leonardo Lapie, UPVAA president, said that their organization saw an opportunity to give back to the University by helping CFNR further improve its facilities in time for the Forestry Chapter's 50th anniversary. Lapie said that UPVAA wanted to give something that the next generation of students can use.

Chancellor Fernando C. Sanchez, Jr., in his special remarks, lauded the UPVAA's



RENOVATED FOR THE NEXT GENERATION OF FORESTERS. Students and personnel of the College of Forestry and Natural Resources (CFNR) can now use the renovated room at the College named in honor of its benefactor, the UP Varrons. (Photo by CV Labe/OPR)

effort to help the University achieve an enabling environment for its students.

The turn-over ceremony was attended by Dr. Manuel Bonita, international

forestry consultant and one of the first Forestry student members of UPVL; Dr. Willie P. Abasolo, dean of CFNR; and members of the UPVAA. (Jessa Jael S. Arana)



OUTSTANDING PERSONNEL AND RESEARCH AND EXTENSION TEAMS 2018

KATRINA JOY M. ABRIOL-SANTOS: BREAKING CLASSROOM WALLS OUTSTANDING TEACHER IN PHYSICAL SCIENCES (SENIOR FACULTY)



At her relatively young age, Katrina Joy M. Abriol-Santos, assistant professor at the Institute of Computer Science (ICS), is already a senior faculty member, an administrator, and an authority in Information Technology (IT) education and research. Ma'am Kat, as she is fondly called, is an expert on computer vision, web information systems, and process optimization. As a teacher, she has broken the limits of classroom walls by using IT tools and blended learning to keep up with and elevate the students' learning habits.

Ma'am Kat developed INSTANT, an automated examination system which facilitates the creation and evaluation of unique examination sets in her large lecture classes. Through this system, students are given access to their personalized exam reports so they would know the areas that they need to work on. She also developed tools such as Text Quiz Contest, SMS Auction, Tech Pitch, and Digital Palengke in order to facilitate student interaction in her classes.

This IT expert has led in the development of IT systems that streamline operations at the Office of Student Affairs. She has also helped bridge information gaps about certain livestock by putting forward the use of IT in livestock research. Together with her colleagues, she has helped develop web information systems for breeder swine, native pigs, chickens, and ducks, and led the development of an e-Commerce system for breeder swine. These systems are designed to help a wide range of stakeholders toward sustainable development and utilization of different animal breeds. *(Juan Paolo A. Aquino)*

DR. BENJAMINA PAULA G. FLOR: AN ADVOCATE OF INNOVATIVE TEACHING AND COLLABORATIVE LEARNING OUTSTANDING TEACHER IN SOCIAL SCIENCES AND HUMANITIES (SENIOR FACULTY)



While some are still learning the ropes of innovative and creative teaching, Dr. Benjamina Paula G. Flor, or Ma'am Benj, associate professor at the College of Development Communication, has not only mastered it. She has actually pioneered it within her circle. She has been using information and communication technologies and collaborative approach through blended learning, flipped classroom, e-Learning, and authentic assessment in her classes. Today, experts promote these teaching strategies in educating the 'millennials.'

Ma'am Benj's dexterity in using effective online and offline teaching platforms reflects her rich work experience. She learned the different facets of tertiary education for almost two decades of working at the Commission on Higher Education. She also teaches at the UP Open University. As a communication and education consultant, she has worked with international experts in countries like Lao PDR, Indonesia, and Pakistan. Her studies about online and distance education and rural development have been published in refereed and SCOPUS- and ISI-indexed international journals.

With her current appointment as the director of the Learning Resource Center, Ma'am Benj has led activities in support of UPLB students' academics. DevCom students also seek counselling from her, being the first Faculty-Student Relations Officer of CDC. These two roles perfectly fit her teaching style that allows her to reach more learners beyond the traditional and virtual classrooms. *(Reinier Jan G. San Gabriel)*

MICHELLE GRACE VALLE PARASO: RESEARCH POWER, TEACHING PROWESS OUTSTANDING TEACHER IN BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES (SENIOR FACULTY)



Her slight built belies her scientific productivity at a young age, the scientific productivity that partly makes her the teacher that she is. Doc Michelle to colleagues and students, she uses the blended learning and case-based teaching strategy, thus enhancing learning among her students and making her a recipient of the 2018 UPLB Outstanding Teacher Award (Biological Sciences-Senior Faculty category).

She graduated with a degree of Doctor of Veterinary Medicine *cum laude* from UPLB and obtained her Master's in Veterinary Medicine from the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences in Uppsala Sweden in 2001. She was an Academic Excellence Awardee when she finished her Ph.D. in Environmental Science in UPLB in 2011. Dr. Paraso was also awarded the National Academy of Science and Technology (NAST) Outstanding Young Scientist Award in 2012 and won the NAST Outstanding Scientific Paper in 2014.

Her field of interest is aquatic ecotoxicology and the most noteworthy of her researches established the link between animal health and environmental health. She co-authored 25 publications that include scientific articles in ISI/Scopus-indexed journals and a monograph. Just recently, Dr. Paraso co-authored a policy brief based on her research on endocrine disruptors in Laguna de Bay. Dr. Paraso is also an active member of the National Research Council of the Philippines and the Philippine Society of Animal Science where she served as a governing council member from 2012-2014. *(Juan Paolo A. Aquino)*

JASON R. ALBIA: A FAST RISING STAR IN RESEARCH OUTSTANDING RESEARCHER (JUNIOR FACULTY/NATURAL SCIENCES)



Assistant Professor Jason R. Albia ranks first among his peers when it comes to research drive and productivity. After obtaining his master's degree in Materials Science and Engineering, he continued his research in computational materials science under the mentorship of his thesis adviser, Dr. Marvin Albao. In 2015, he became part of OVPAAL Balik-PhD Project of Dr. Allan Abraham Padama in which he helped set up a computing cluster for computational materials research.

In 2016, he was awarded a startup research grant under the CHED Faculty Development Program II for the project "Defect-mediated stochastic ripening in 1D nanowire formation: a kinetic Monte Carlo Study." The study led to reliable predictions of parameters that describes the formation of one-dimensional nanowires on silicon surface. With the tremendous support from his mentors in the last three years, Asst. Prof. Albia has been involved in two completed research projects and co-authored seven articles published in refereed journals and presented numerous papers in several local and international conferences and symposia.

Currently, he and his collaborators are designing an algorithm that maps and records the history of adatom movement to further elucidate the dynamics of nanowire formation. In addition, he is also leading a team of young researchers in developing an artificial intelligence (AI)-driven computational framework to facilitate the rapid and effective evaluation of massive healthcare data for disease detection and diagnosis. *(John Glen S. Sarol)*



ELDRIN DLR. ARGUELLES: SEEING THE MIGHT OF THE MICRO
OUTSTANDING RESEARCHER (JUNIOR REPS/NATURAL SCIENCES)

Eldrin DLR. Arguelles is among the young breed of researchers who is assiduously promoting biological science research in UPLB. As a University Researcher at BIOTECH, he is recognized for his passion and dedication in studying and characterizing microorganisms, contributing to future studies in biotechnology and the development of other researches such as sustainable energy, agriculture, and medical science.

Eldrin is a graduate of BS Biology, major in microbiology and MS Molecular Biology and Biotechnology from UPLB. He was a consistent college scholar and he extended this commitment to excellence in the workplace by being a producer of quality research. Through his work, he has discovered strains of microalgae with antibacterial properties that could potentially contribute to medical science, especially in fighting some species of disease-causing bacteria. His study and discovery of an oil-producing strain of the *Desmodesmus microalgae* species has also opened new opportunities for the production of high quality biodiesel.

Aside from these achievements, Eldrin is a valuable asset to his research institute. He has greatly contributed in creating parameters to ensure that BIOTECH has a sufficient supply of high quality microbial strains that can be used in research. He was also instrumental in achieving the ISO 17025:2005 accreditation of the Philippine National Collection of Microorganisms (PNCM), the only Microbiological Testing Laboratory in the UP System to receive such recognition. *(Jessa Jael S. Arana)*



DR. DINAH PURA T. DEPOSITARIO: EX-ANTE ECONOMICS EXPERT
OUTSTANDING RESEARCHER (SENIOR FACULTY/SOCIAL SCIENCES)

It's not easy to try a different approach aside from the traditional research methodology, but Dr. Dinah Pura T. Depositario has promoted the case study as a legitimate form of empirical research output. A well-published professor at the Department of Agribusiness Management and Entrepreneurship of the College of Economics and Management (CEM), Dr. Depositario has made significant contributions to the fields of entrepreneurship and technopreneurship through her research publications, paper presentations, and project engagements.

She helped advance the use of business management research methodologies in combination with economic techniques to address critical issues related to agriculture and science and technology. Her ex-ante and impact assessment researches were used as guide for decision-makers in making investment decisions related to the improvement of socio-economic interventions in the agriculture sector. They also served as valuable materials for most on-going R&D projects funded by PCAARRD-DOST.

Last year Dr. Depositario was CEM's Outstanding Researcher for Senior Category and also a member of CEM's Outstanding Research Team. She was also one of only two Filipino faculty members out of 90 delegates that produced cases under the US Agency for International Development-Science, Technology, Research, and Innovation for Development Case Writing Initiative from 2014 to 2017. *(Kristine E. Araguas)*



KAREN P. QUILLO: A RESEARCHER AT HEART
OUTSTANDING RESEARCHER (JUNIOR FACULTY/SOCIAL SCIENCES)

Prof. Karen P. Quillo, assistant professor at the Institute of Cooperatives and Bio-Enterprise Development (ICOPED) at the College of Economics and Management (CEM), definitely knew her calling the moment she graduated from college. She may be relatively new to teaching, having only entered the practice in 2013; however, she is proud to have been doing research for 12 years. Her pursuit of knowledge and love for solving social issues have kept her going in her career, and they have produced spectacular results that benefit not only fellow researchers but many lives in the community as well.

Her research on cooperatives and agricultural and rural development stands out for creating new knowledge and learning resources that improve cooperative management, enhancing S&T interventions in the crop sector, and formulating policies and programs that support agricultural and rural transformation in the country.

Karen makes sure that her research outputs are not confined within the walls of the University but are applied in communities as well, by making them accessible through conferences, seminars, forums, and workshops. She also initiates active information sharing through conventional and online platforms by creating booklets and training brochures and as administrator of the ICOPED website. Her efforts have been lauded by her home college when she was awarded CEM Outstanding Junior Researcher in 2017. *(Jessa Jael S. Arana)*



DR. ANTONIO G. LALUSIN: A VETERAN RESEARCH CHAMPION
OUTSTANDING RESEARCHER (SENIOR FACULTY/NATURAL SCIENCES)

Dr. Antonio G. Lalusin's research involvement transcends far beyond what is expected of him as a full-time faculty member. He has advised 37 undergraduate students and 12 MS students and served as a committee member in 16 MS Genetics and 4 PhD students in plant breeding, molecular biology and biotechnology, and genetics.

His work as a principal plant breeder is vital in the development of many of UPLB's NSIC-recommended root crop varieties. His successful endeavor in breeding abaca bunchy top virus-resistant abaca hybrids can also be considered a breakthrough in the rehabilitation of the Philippine abaca industry.

He has authored and co-authored 24 ISI journal scientific publications covering his varied research undertakings. His outstanding accomplishments have merited him several awards such as the 2017 Crop Science Society of the Philippines Achievement Award; the 2016 Nelia T. Gonzalez Award of Excellence in Teaching of the College of Agriculture; and the 2009 NAST Outstanding Young Scientist Award in the field of Genetics and Plant Breeding. He was also recently named UP Scientist I for 2017 to 2020. His research accomplishments translate to achievements not only for the College of Agriculture and Food Science, but for the whole University. *(John Glen S. Sarol)*



FRUIT AND SHOOT BORER RESISTANT (FSBR) RESEARCH TEAM: PROMOTING THE GOAL OF FOOD SECURITY
OUTSTANDING RESEARCH TEAM

The name of the team – Fruit and Shoot Borer Resistant (FSBR) Eggplant Research Team – may sound ordinary. But the reputation of the 22-member team led by Institute of Plant Breeding's Dr. Desiree Hautea, precedes itself. It pioneered the application of genetic engineering in the Philippines' principal vegetable crop, the eggplant, through which it successfully controlled the crop's most serious pest, the insect pest fruit and shoot borer.

With this, the team was able to make a significant contribution to food security and in terms of economic and environmental benefits to eggplant farmers and consumers. The project faced controversies in the past, but the overwhelming support from national organizations, industry groups, as well as other sectors, and the reversal of an earlier adverse ruling of the Supreme Court, validated the importance of their work.

The FSBR team also generated over Php 31.5 million research funds for UPLB in the past four years and contributed to the huge improvement and upgrading of laboratory facilities essential to the commercialization of genetically modified crops. FSBR team members were also able to avail themselves of professional growth opportunities through graduate studies, trainings, and other extension activities.

In the last four years, it published eight ISI-journal articles, with its two posters garnering awards of recognition. The FSBR also published the first ever publicly available data on the efficacy of BT eggplant and its impact on non-target organisms and developed four non-BT eggplant hybrid varieties in the Philippines. *(Kristine E. Araguas)*

GLENN N. BATICADOS: AN EXTRAORDINARY ENTREPRENEUR-EXTENSIONIST OUTSTANDING EXTENSION PERSONNEL



Entrepreneurs' innovative spirit make them stand out among their fellow businessmen, but there is one in UPLB who shines even brighter in the league of entrepreneurs. He is not only a practitioner, but also an advocate and a scholar who has inspired many to succeed in their enterprises.

He is Glenn N. Baticados, a seasoned entrepreneur who has mentored more than 40 micro, small, and medium entrepreneurs via the national advocacy program of GoNegosyo as an "Angelpreneur"; has motivated more than 3,000 farmers, professionals, and aspiring businessmen in his talks and trainings on entrepreneurship and innovation for the past three years; and has molded future agribusiness leaders at the College of Economics and Management where he resumed teaching in 2013.

This Agribusiness and Business Management alumnus of UPLB is also at the helm of extraordinary milestones as director of the Center for Technology Transfer and Entrepreneurship. Among these are the regular application of a technology patent every month and the approval of the DOST Fairness Opinion Board (FOB) for 16 technology commercialization contracts in 2017. The DOST-FOB linked the UPLB inventors to prospective licensees from industry to help them arrive at mutually beneficial and satisfactory contract. No wonder that the Royal Academy of Engineering in the United Kingdom has recently named him as one of its Leaders in Innovation Fellows.
(Mark Jayson E. Gloria)

NATIONAL CROP PROTECTION CENTER QUICK RESPONSE TEAM: A BOON TO FARMERS' PEST PROBLEMS OUTSTANDING EXTENSION TEAM



Despite their ability to provide bountiful harvests to humans, plants and crops cannot defend themselves from their enemies. Thanks to the National Crop Protection Center-Quick Response Team (NCPC-QRT), a group composed of six entomology and plant pathology experts from UPLB, natural enemies have been enlisted into the war that threatens food security in the country.

The NCPC-QRT has devised easy, eco-friendly, and cost-effective strategies to solve some of the recent pest outbreaks in the country. One of this is through biological control, or the use of natural enemies to combat pests. The classic example is the use of parasitoid *Comperiella calauanica* Barrion et al. to overthrow the infamous Coconut Scale Insect, or coccolisap, as employed in Zamboanga City in 2017. The same approach was also used in 2016 to fight the onion armyworm in Regions I and III through the biocontrol agent called Nuclear Polyhedrosis Virus.

The Team was also able to identify the culprits responsible for rice infestation in M'lang, Cotabato and Sipalay and Himamaylan, Negros Occidental (rice grain bug, *Paraeucosmetus pallidicornis*); yellowing of coconut in Compostela Valley (lophopid plant hopper); tobacco pest attack in Claveria, Misamis Oriental (tobacco borer); and the infestation of sweet lanzones in Laguna and Zamboanga (Lanzones Scale Insect). The Team also completed projects and published advisories and information materials to protect major crops against the ravages of pests and diseases. *(Mark Jayson E. Gloria)*

ADORA DE CASTRO: A CLASS UNTO HERSELF OUTSTANDING ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF (TECHNICIAN/CRAFTSMAN)



Ms. Adora M. De Castro of BIOTECH is a class unto herself when it comes to understanding and dispensing her duties as a laboratory technician at the National Institute of Molecular Biology and Biotechnology (BIOTECH). She did not let her position description define what she is capable of doing and contributing to the accomplishment of the goals of BIOTECH.

She took her work to heart, seeking what gave her a deeper appreciation of biofertilizers, enabling her to become an innovator and a co-inventor of biofertilizer products VAMRI and Brown Magic, a trainor, and a co-author of technical papers. Ms. De Castro generated savings for BIOTECH in terms of resources and time by devising a process of producing biofertilizers without having to use expensive reagents. She also came up with a safe way to produce biofertilizers by eliminating the use of carcinogenic reagents.

Indirectly, Ms. De Castro helped researchers and students through the introduction of a cost-effective research technique, and farmers through an invaluable product that is effective, cheap and an environment-friendly alternative to synthetic fertilizers. Since the mass-market release of these biofertilizers, farmers were able to save 90% in terms of materials and time with regard to agricultural production.
(John Albert Pagusanan)

DIVINIA B. PADUA: EXEMPLIFYING SERVICE AND COMPASSION OUTSTANDING ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF (OFFICE PERSONNEL)



The UPLB adage to "serve the people" is one that has been repeatedly drummed into our collective consciousness and many invoke it in the name of being a UP faculty, researcher, staff, or student. But it takes a special level of dedication to truly live out the spirit of selfless volunteerism – and fortunately (for UPLB) found it in the recipient of the 2018 Outstanding Administrative Staff Award for Outstanding Office Personnel, Ms. Divinia B. Padua of the Office of Student Affairs.

Tita Vines, as she is affectionately called, has been a member of the OSA staff since July 1990. In her 28 years of service, she has come up with innovations in the SDT (Student Disciplinary Tribunal) case filing and general record keeping systems that have increased in office efficiency and effectiveness. Compassionate and reliable, she is always ready to help even after official hours. Her willingness to help exceeds the bounds of the University, as she has volunteered her time as a Sagip Kapamilya Volunteer for Yolanda, at Dugong Alay-Dugtong Buhay and other blood donation drives, the STET-VIP program, as well as other community works.

Her commitment and devotion to the service of others truly make her an admirable and outstanding member of the UPLB family.
(Albert Geoffred B. Peralta)

JENETTE LORY P. TAMAYO-ESTABILLO: A STUDENT ALLY AND A DEDICATED CIVIL SERVANT OUTSTANDING ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF (SUPERVISOR)



Education is expensive, quality education even more so. Despite the bulk of their education costs being shouldered by the government, many of UP's *iskos* and *iskas* are still in need of financial assistance, and for UPLB students, they turn to the head of OSA's Scholarship and Financial Assistance Division, Mrs. Jenette Lory P. Tamayo-Estabillo.

Ma'am Jen, a warm and welcoming presence at this frontline office, first began work in UPLB, her alma mater, as a Scholarship Affairs Officer in 2011. She spearheaded several measures towards proactively informing students of the scholarships and financial aid available to them. These are through the production of the scholarships and financial assistance handbook and brochure, and holding of the "Active SFAD System Informing SHS of Technical Services" or OSA-ASSISTS. During Typhoon Yolanda, she was also instrumental in facilitating and coordinating donations to the disaster-stricken students.

While she assists students in these ways, Ma'am Jen helps see to it that the University is able to implement an equitable assessment of tuition and other fees. She came up with a system to monitor the students' capacity to pay and in the process, helped generate PhP 1.5 million of what could have been foregone income of the university. Considered a friend and mentor by her subordinates, she is well-liked by her colleagues and superiors. Without a doubt, Mrs. Jenette Tamayo-Estabillo truly exemplifies excellence and service that UPLB is known for. *(Albert Geoffred B. Peralta)*

UP Scientist fr p. 1

Renewing their UP Scientist I titles are Dr. Willie Abasolo and Dr. Edwino Fernando of CFNR, Dr. Leonardo Florece of SESAM, Dr. Maria Ana Quimbo of CPAf, and Dr. Merlyn Mendioro and Dr. Maribel Dionisio-Sese from CAS.

Approved by the Board of Regents in August 2005, the UP SPS was devised to encourage UP constituents to increase their scientific research output. Awardees do not only gain the coveted title, they also receive a monetary reward.

Under this batch of UP Scientists, the remaining 13 are from UP Diliman, 10 from UP Manila, and the rest are from UP Baguio, UP Visayas, and UP Mindanao. (Albert Geoffred B. Peralta)

EU SHARE fr p. 1

She encouraged UPLB constituents to look at the assessment as a learning experience. "It's not about the score; it's about the process and learning from that process," she said.

Meanwhile, Prof. Chavalit Wongse-ek from Mahidol University, Thailand, who spoke on behalf of the EU SHARE assessors, encouraged UPLB to live up to its commitment in pursuing quality education through the assessment. "Quality is not an accident, it needs intense effort," he said.

Other assessors were Dr. Agus Setiabudi of the Indonesia University of Education, Dr. Jacques Lanares of the University of Lausanne in Switzerland, and Dr. Oliver Vettori from Vienna University of Economics and Business in Austria.

Chancellor Fernando C. Sanchez, Jr., who officially opened and closed the event, expressed his hopes that the assessment would help uncover "blind spots" in the University's performance. This way, it would be able to reform its strategies towards its main goal and increase efforts in food security and public service in the next two years. He also recognized the assessment as an opportunity for UPLB to reflect on building a regional higher education space in the ASEAN region via QA systems.

In his concluding statement, Chancellor Sanchez encouraged UPLB to uphold its culture of honor and excellence. "The assessment might be over but the real work is cut out for us. With the EU SHARE assessment, we have gained insights on how we can strategically invest in our vision for the University." (Jessa Jael S. Arana)

UK-Ph fr p. 3

The Memorandum of Understanding for the UPLB-UoR collaboration was signed on May 30, 2017.

Present during the said education fair was Chancellor Fernando C. Sanchez, Jr.

Opportunities for internationalization and the TNE in the Philippines, post graduate degrees, short master class sessions, and other relevant information about studying in the UK were introduced during the event. (KEAraguas with reports from www.britishcouncil.ph and UPLB Chancellor's Report Nov 2014-Oct 2017)

LQLG launches Sierra Madre greening campaign



#GREENING SIERRA MADRE. UP President Danilo L. Concepcion (7th from left) led UP and UPLB officials and staff in the launch of the #Greening4 Sierra Madre campaign at the 88th Foundation Day celebration of the Laguna-Quezon Land Grant on Feb. 9. (Photo by VR Maningas/OPR)

With the increasing incidence of devastating typhoons over the years, the slopes and peaks of Sierra Madre have stood their ground to buffer storms before they hit inland and create more havoc. But the Laguna-Quezon Land Grant (LQLG) team believes we may not have this luxury for long.

"The massive deforestation in the area has significantly weakened the mountain," said For. Reynaldo E. Lorida, LQLG area manager.

This issue is being addressed by the LQLG team with the launching of the #Greening4SierraMadre campaign during the LQLG 88th Foundation Day at Brgy. Magsaysay, Siniloan, Laguna on Feb. 9.

The campaign encourages everyone to help save the Sierra Madre by planting and growing trees in the mountain range.

"We can appreciate the importance of our land grant if we look at it not just for UP but for the betterment of the environment," said Dr. Virgilio T. Villancio, the Land Grant manager.

Gracing the event was UP President Danilo L. Concepcion, who, in his message, shared his vision to harness the potentials of the land grant to generate income for the whole UP System, aside from developing it as a research and experimental laboratory for faculty and students.

At the end of the program, For. Benjamin D. Arizala was awarded a

plaque of recognition as the former Land Grant manager.

Others who attended the event were Dr. Elvira A. Zamora, UP vice president for development and Dr. Marish S. Madlangbayan, UPLB vice chancellor for planning and development, who represented Chancellor Fernando C. Sanchez, Jr.

The LQLG is a 6,765-hectare property that straddles Siniloan, Laguna and Real, Quezon. It was acquired by UP on Feb. 8, 1930 by virtue of Republic Act 3608 – "An act endowing the University of the Philippines with portions of the public domain for additional support and maintenance, and for other purposes." (John Glen S. Sarol)

UPLB scholars sign agreement with NGCP



A COMMITMENT TO ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE. UPLB's five scholars hold the Memorandum of Agreement signifying the scholarship grant that NGCP has awarded to them. They are flanked by (from L-R) NGCP's Advocacy Officer Eva Elizabeth Malilay; Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs Portia G. Lapitan; UPLBFI Executive Director Casiano S. Abrigo, Jr.; and NGCP's Scholarship Coordinator Jojilen Vanessa Gluda. (Photo by GC Matienzo/OVCAA)

Five new scholars from UPLB signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the National Grid Corporation of the Philippines (NGCP) on Feb. 26 at the Executive Conference Room of BM Gonzalez Hall, UPLB.

The scholarship program, Educational Assistance for Tertiary Edification (EDUCATE), aims to provide opportunities to underprivileged but deserving students coming from their transmission lines' host communities to finish their degrees and be assured of a better future. It is an initiative of the privately owned corporation that is in

charge of operating, maintaining, and developing the country's state-owned power grid.

The undergraduate students who were awarded full scholarships were the following: Maria Adriana Isabella G. Claravall (Pre-Veterinary Medicine), Dhan Michael L. Dela Peña (BS Development Communication), Albert John Enrico A. Dominguez (BS Development Communication), Kristine Nicole P. Manabat (BS Agricultural Economics), and Marielle Joy D. Wapanio (BS Agriculture). Each scholar is entitled to academic fees, uniform and book allowance, and monthly stipend effective First Semester, AY 2017-2018.

On behalf of Chancellor Fernando C. Sanchez, Jr., Dr. Portia G. Lapitan, vice chancellor for academic affairs, welcomed the scholars and guests headed by the NGCP Advocacy Officer Ms. Eva Elizabeth P. Malilay and Ms. Jojilen Vanessa L. Gluda of the Corporate Initiatives and Advocacies Division of NGCP.

Also present during the event was Dr. Casiano S. Abrigo, Jr., executive director of UPLB Foundation, Inc. (UPLBFI), who delivered the closing remarks. UPLBFI manages the scholarship funds. (Agnes M. Mora)



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Feature

BUILDING THE ROBOTS OF TOMORROW



Bryan Paul Altoveros of Project SARAI conducts a drone test flight at the UPLB Freedom Park. The drone is equipped with a multi spectral camera primarily used for agricultural application. (Photo by JGS Sarol/OPR)

Drones, unmanned vehicles that roam the skies, can record breathtaking sceneries from a whole new vantage points. They have taken over media production, from the news to the big screen with their high-quality imagery, garnering quite a number of enthusiasts from all over the country.

A group of professors from UPLB share the same fascination for these flying machines, but not for the same reasons.

Since 2016, Prof. Danilo Mercado and his colleagues at the Institute of Computer Science (ICS) and Institute of Mathematical Sciences and Physics (IMSP), have been teaching robotics to students to aid agriculture and the environment.

TESTING THE SKIES

“Since drones are capable of processing digital images, we have been exploring their potential to determine agricultural crops’ nutritional deficiencies, stress, lack of water, and many other problems being faced by our local farmers,” said Prof. Mercado.

“If we can point these out as early as possible, we also have a better chance to come up with remedies. I believe this is something that would greatly lessen the losses of our farmers,” he added.

The UPLB professors have also been trying to develop the drone’s application to determine whether the right crops are planted in areas based on crop suitability maps, to monitor farm productivity and characterize plant nutrition. They have already submitted a proposal to the Department of Agriculture to start an Agricultural Drone Academy to further develop applications of drone technologies for farming and to train potential users.

TESTING THE WATERS

From the skies, the team also dove into building water crafts that take water samples to keep track of lake temperatures, pH and oxygen level, and other important data.

Mercado gives it emphasis as he explains that it will soon be an essential tool in the early detection of fish kill. “It serves as a water quality sensor and an early warning device for fisherfolks.” Together with other UPLB professors and students, he plans to test the boat in Taal Lake, which has recorded numerous fish kill incidents in the past resulting to millions of pesos in losses.

In the long run, the team would also like to develop an image processing

remotely operated underwater vehicle that could assess coral reefs and determine the classification and quantity of each.

HAND IN HAND

“Robotics is a collective and multi-disciplinary effort, it is at its best when it is done through a collaboration of different experts,” Mercado said.

Dr. Nelio Altoveros, a professor at IMSP, spearheads the initiative to establish the UPLB Robotics and Instrumentation Study Center that aims to conduct researches on robotics application for agriculture and to train professionals and students from all over the country.

The center, once functional, would propose studies on technologies such as farm drone application, automation of irrigation, and GPS-guided machines like driverless tractors.

Other than this initiative, UPLB has already been active on other on-going projects related to robotics agricultural and environmental application.

APPLICATIONS

UPLB, through Project SARAI or Smarter Approaches to Reinvigorate Agriculture

as an Industry in the Philippines, has developed multi spectral drone system and uses free satellite images from NASA and the European Union to monitor farming areas to determine crop status and crop health. It also estimates actual damage after typhoons and other natural disasters.

Meanwhile, the Phil-LiDAR 1 project produced high resolution maps that show the extent of flooding across major rivers in the country. This is done using aircrafts equipped with Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR) which scans and reflects the Earth’s surface and its features to a sensor.

“Our dream is to be able to tap these existing applications from the university and also to come up with new concepts. Once we package all these technologies, we might even be able to convince more young people to venture into farming and environment protection,” a hopeful Mercado shares his ambition.

Right now, these robotics experts from UPLB are focused on building mature technologies for the future — the robots of tomorrow to secure food production and preserve our natural resources. In the end, there is still a lot of work to be done but a vision has been set and the sky’s the limit. (John Glen S. Sarol)

UPLB showcases electricity cost savings practice at students’ forum

UPLB’s growing savings in electricity cost as a direct member of the Wholesale Electricity Spot Market (WESM) was one of the highlights at the UPLB Energy Forum on Feb. 26 at NCAS Auditorium.

“UPLB has saved around PhP 10 million since becoming a direct member of the WESM on May 25, 2017,” UPLB’s WESM compliance officer, Engr. John Davis Mangubat reported. Engr. Mangubat is based at the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Planning and Development, which manages the electricity supply concerns of UPLB.

The said figure is based on a comparison of UPLB’s historical average of generation costs during the past years and using the old generation rate of PhP 4/kWh that the University used to pay to its previous power supplier. Generation cost is the total amount of the generation component of the electric bill, while generation rate is the

amount of electricity consumption per kWh.

The University started to work on managing its power supply since 2013 and applied for WESM membership in 2016. As a direct member of WESM, UPLB may choose to buy its electricity every interval where the price is cheaper, be it directly from the Market or from its contracted power supplier.

According to Engr. Mangubat, one of the benefits that can be derived from direct membership in WESM is the continuous supply of electricity after the expiration of an institution’s power supply agreement (PSA), which is the case in UPLB now. “Right now, UPLB is 100% supplied by the WESM after the expiration of its power supply contract,” he said. UPLB’s Transition Supply Contract (TSC) with Aboitiz Power Renewables, Inc. ended on Nov. 25, 2017.

While waiting for the final approval of the PSA under the UPLB Competitive Procurement of Power Supply (UPLB CPPS), which would determine UPLB’s new power supplier, the University has obtained a much lower generation rate from WESM at PhP 2.59/kWh for 1,117,830 kWh consumed in December 2017 and PhP 2.68/kWh for 1,063,090 kWh consumed in January 2018. This has given UPLB savings of about PhP 3 million for the past two months alone.

Two other speakers, both UPLB alumni working at the Philippine Electricity Market Corporation, the current market operator of WESM, graced the forum. Engr. Marcial Brummel Jimenez, market analysis assistant manager, and Engr. Dennis L. Enciso, corporate operations and business development senior specialist, talked about the WESM, the Electric Power Industry Reform Act, and the energy market negotiation, retail competition, and open access.



SAVINGS IN ELECTRICITY COST. Engr. John Davis Mangubat shares to students how the University saved on its electricity cost as a direct member of the WESM during the Energy Forum 2018. (Photo by VR Maningas/OPR)

The Energy Forum is organized annually by the UPLB Society of Electrical Engineering Students (UPLB SELES). Students from UPLB and the Polytechnic University of the Philippines-Sto. Tomas Campus attended the event. (Mark Jayson E. Gloria)