



At 46th Commencement Exercises

UPLB to honor 2,450 graduates, Senator Villar

UPLB's 46th Commencement Exercises is going to be a double celebration - the conferment of degrees upon 2,450 candidates for graduation and the Doctor of Laws upon Senator Cynthia A. Villar, who is also the guest speaker.

The Class of 2018, 2,450 all in all, is led by Paul Joshua C. Marquez, BS in Agriculture, *summa cum laude*. Thirty five and 223 will also graduate *magna cum laude* and *cum laude*, respectively.

Out of 2,450, 389 are graduate degree candidates, 83 of whom will earn their doctoral while 306, their master's degree.

The graduation ceremonies that will be held at the DL Umali Freedom Park will also highlight the conferment of the Doctor of Laws upon Sen. Villar, which was approved by the UP Board of Regents at its 1335th meeting on May 31, 2018.

Sen. Villar is known for her staunch championship of the cause of Philippine agriculture through legislative initiatives

that promote the sugar industry, prevent illegal fishing and large-scale smuggling of agricultural products, and develop farm tourism.

She led in implementing projects on urban gardening, organic farming, and sustainable agriculture and agro-ecology to ensure food security, nutrition improvement, and poverty reduction among small farmers and fisher folks.

Some of the laws that she helped enact are: RA 9178 – the Barangay Micro

Business Enterprises Act of 2002; RA 9231 - An Act for the Elimination of Child Labor of 2003; RA 9262 - Anti-violence Against Women and Children Act of 2004; RA 9208 - Anti-Trafficking of Persons Act of 2003; RA 9710 - Magna Carta of Women Act of 2009; and RA 9257 – Expanded Senior Citizens Act of 2003.

She also led in pushing for the passage of important legislations in education such as RA 9500 – The UP Charter of 2008; RA 10650 – Open Distance Learning in Tertiary **Sen. Villar ... page 7**



PAUL JOSHUA C. MARQUEZ

Class 2018 Valedictorian Paul, a young champion for agriculture

As early as grade school, Paul Joshua C. Marquez was already fascinated with plants and animals. He shared this interest with his late grandfather who taught him basic gardening and pet raising. And when he told his father that he wanted to be a farmer, the head of the family delightfully enlightened his son.

"Hindi magsasaka ang tawag doon, agriculturist iyon. Mag-BS Agriculture ka doon sa UPLB," advised his father. (I

think you want to be an agriculturist, not a farmer. Go to UPLB.) That was the first time Paul heard the word "agriculture."

And so it was that Paul found himself in UPLB in 2014 with the highest UPCAT scores among the BS Agriculture (BSA) freshmen. Four years later, as an agronomy major who specialized in plant breeding, Paul achieved another feat — graduating as the lone *summa cum laude* of Class 2018.

Getting to this place was a result of his grit and perseverance. "Na-develop ko 'yung attitude na hindi basta-basta sumusuko sa lahat ng mga bagay at pagbibigay ng 100% ko sa lahat ng ginagawa ko. Hindi ako mag-isa sa laban na ito dahil suportado ako ng pamilya at mga guro ko sa lahat ng mga bagay," he said. (I developed the attitude of

determination and perseverance in me. I had the support of my family and teachers.)

Paul said that university life was difficult, but he tried his best to keep his balance, primarily by sharing his gift for music as a violinist of Harmony: The String Ensemble of UPLB. "Binigyang-kulay ng Harmony ang buhay-kolehiyo ko. Hindi naman talaga ako magaling tumugtog pero tinanggap at binigyan nila ako ng pagkakataong ma-improve ang sarili ko to the point na tuluyan kong niyakap ang musika," he said. (Harmony gave color to my college life. I am not good in playing the violin but Harmony welcomed me. This motivated and helped me to improve myself and fully embrace music.)

As if the challenge of academic work was not enough, he still found time to **2018 Valedictorian ... page 7**

Regent Laurel to speak at GS hooding, recognition rites

UPLB alumnus and UP Regent Francis C. Laurel is the guest of honor and keynote speaker at the Graduate School's (GS) Hooding and Recognition Ceremonies on June 22, at 6:00 PM, at the DL Umali Freedom Park.

The GS Class of 2018 has produced 306 master's and 83 doctoral degree holders. UPLB will confer the degrees to them and present academic regalia to PhD graduates, as well as honor the top five outstanding graduates at both levels during the program.

Regent Laurel earned his BS Agriculture (BSA), *magna cum laude*, from UPLB in

1969. He was part of the third batch of BSA students who majored in agricultural business through the then UP College of Business Administration (now Cesar EA. Virata School of Business) at Diliman. It is the precursor of the BS Agribusiness Management offered by the College of Economics and Management.

He later pursued his Master of Business Administration at the Kellogg School of Management, Northwestern University in Chicago, Illinois, USA. He is the president of Toyota Batangas City, Inc., Toyota Camarines Sur, Inc., and the Philippines-Japan Society,

Inc. He is also the past president and chief executive officer of YKK Philippines, Inc.

Regent Laurel was appointed to the UP Board of Regents by President Rodrigo R. Duterte on Nov. 14, 2016. Last year, he was named as the UPLB Alumni Association Presidential Awardee. In his message of acceptance, Regent Laurel attributed to UPLB his values of honor and excellence.

"These two have become the centerpiece of my life. I have viewed them as guides in all my decisions and strategic plans. Honor and excellence have become my formula for success," he said. (Mark Jayson E. Gloria, with information from www.up.edu.ph)



REGENT FRANCIS LAUREL



DR. JOVITA D. LAYOSO-MOVILLON



DR. EDWINO S. FERNANDO

Movillon, Fernando are named prof emeriti

The UP Board of Regents (BOR) appointed two UPLB faculty members as professor emeriti at its 1334th meeting on April 6. They are Dr. Jovita D. Layoso-Movillon from the College of Engineering and Agro-industrial Technology (CEAT) and Dr. Edwino S. Fernando from the College of Forestry and Natural Resources (CFNR).

Dr. Movillon is a Professional Sugar Technologist who has earned the moniker “Sugar Technology Queen of CEAT.” She is a pioneering faculty member of the Department of Chemical Engineering, having joined the then newly founded CEAT in 1983.

Since then, she had helped institutionalize undergraduate and graduate courses in sugar technology. She also spearheaded researches on the said discipline and contributed to the development of the BS and MS Chemical Engineering.

Aside from her scholarly outputs on sugar technology, including sugarcane by-products utilization, Dr. Movillon also contributed to bioethanol production, waste management, and carbon footprint researches. She earned her BS Sugar Technology in 1973; MS Agronomy in 1977; and PhD Agronomy in 1986, all from UPLB. She started teaching at the University in 1975.

The second professor emeritus from UPLB, Dr. Fernando is a forest botanist and plant taxonomist who discovered and described at least 15 species under Arecaceae, the family of palm trees. He specializes in biodiversity and protected areas, biodiversity conservation policy and planning, and conservation and plant genetic resources.

Dr. Fernando finished his BS Forestry from UPLB in 1975. He has two master’s degrees: one in forestry (1980, UPLB) and another in plant taxonomy (1981, University of Reading, United Kingdom). He earned his PhD Botany in 1984 from the University of New South Wales, Australia.

Among the awards that Dr. Fernando has received are the 1991 Outstanding Young Scientist in Plant Taxonomy from the National Academy of Science and Technology and the more recent, the 2011 Outstanding Teacher in the Biological Science from UPLB-CFNR.

The Professor Emeritus appointment is given to a retired faculty member with the rank of professor who has rendered at least 20 years of active and faithful service to the University with marked distinction as a productive scholar, artist or scientist, and effective and dedicated teacher. (*Juan Paolo A. Aquino, with information from mnh.uplb.edu.ph*)

To fast-track global competitiveness UPLB aligns with K to 12 and OBE

If higher education were to be compared to a train, higher education institutions (HEI) must all be onboard by now in order to be globally compliant and competitive.

For UPLB, the process to get a seat on the speeding train has been long and tedious, but today University is more than ready.

According to Dr. Portia G. Lapitan, vice chancellor for academic affairs, the process started in 2015 with University Curriculum Committee meetings held every Monday to review the 28 baccalaureate programs of UPLB.

The revision process was done in response to the K to 12 Basic Education Program, ASEAN integration, the new General Education Program of UP, and in line with the paradigm shift to outcomes-based education (OBE) and UPLB’s commitment to quality assurance.

“I remember the members discussing then that the work at hand is monumental, a legacy for our beloved UPLB that we cannot afford to take for granted,” Dr. Lapitan said of the revision process. The work the curricular committees completed was subjected to a round of review by the Executive Committee of the University Council.

At the review, Chancellor Fernando C. Sanchez, Jr. emphasized the need to exhaustively examine the revisions to ensure that each will meet the necessary prescribed qualifications and to ensure that these are geared towards students’ enhanced learning and character building. “Only then can we confidently say that we have provided them with the necessary academic and social support that they need to be prepared in the real world,” he further said.

OBE-QA DYNAMICS

To address the need for the learning outcomes of courses under the 28 baccalaureate degree programs to be

learner-centered, UPLB recently held the series of Training-Workshops on Outcomes-Based Education for Quality Assurance (OBE-QA).

Although not the first to be held on the topic in UPLB, it was unmatched in scale with all the faculty members participating, highlighting the University’s determination to be at par globally through quality assurance.

The training-workshop series, spearheaded by the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and held starting May 24 and until July 3 at the Electrical Engineering Auditorium, focused on teaching the participants about outcomes-based learning objectives.

The seminar-workshop resource person, Dr. Greg Tabios Pawilen, is an associate professor at the Department of Human and Family Development Studies at the College of Human Ecology.

Dr. Pawilen, a curriculum studies and development expert, said that OBE is a “learner-centered paradigm” in higher education that is closely linked with QA. OBE is concerned with a university’s essential conditions and opportunities, which are ensured through QA mechanisms, in order to achieve the expected learning outcomes from students.

These learning outcomes, Dr. Pawilen said, must be clearly defined, organized, and directed in a learner-centered curriculum.

Dr. Pawilen discussed the principles of OBE, the OBE as a learner-centered curriculum design, and the OBE and ASEAN University Network (AUN)-QA standards for teaching learning and student assessment. In the workshop, the participants reviewed their teaching practices and syllabi’s compliance with OBE and AUN-QA standards.

Feature



FOR A LEARNER-CENTERED PARADIGM. Dr. Greg Tabios Pawilen, a faculty member at the College of Human Ecology discusses outcomes-based education to one of the nine batches of faculty members that he trained in the approach from May 24 and until July 3.

OVERALL PICTURE

In his message at the opening program of the OBE seminar series, Chancellor Sanchez expressed the need for faculty members to understand the significance, requirements, and processes of QA, as well as the role of OBE in QA.

Chancellor Sanchez said that as the country’s national university, UP is expected to serve as a model of higher education and excellence in the country. “As one of UP’s constituent universities, UPLB is determined to be an essential and significant contributor towards fulfilling UP’s duty,” he added.

OBE-compliance is part of an overall campaign of the University to be a globally competitive HEI. On the months prior to the seminar series, faculty members and officials revised

UPLB’s 28 curricular degree programs for K to 12-alignment adopting the OBE philosophy.

These were initially reviewed at the Special Executive Committee Meeting Workshops at the Pontefino Hotel in Batangas City on April 12-14 and were finally approved by the University Council on its May 21 and 22 meetings.

Prior to this, five of the programs were assessed and certified by AUN-QA while other programs are now preparing to undergo the same process.

Today, it can be said that UPLB is well on its way to global competitiveness as all the hard work has earned it a seat on the global higher education bullet train. (*Kristine E. Arugas, Agnes M. Mora and Ma. Arabella Caridad E. Ricarte*)

UPLB steps up technology commercialization

The numbers are unprecedented. Fourteen UPLB products that had been approved by the Department of Science and Technology Fairness Opinion Board (FOB) in 2017 have recently been picked up by the private sector for commercialization.

The 14 that were the subject of a signing of a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the University and the private sector are the Sintá Hiyas, Liyag and Timyas papaya hybrids; Microbial Rennet, a substitute for animal rennet used in cheese making; Trichoderma and ACTICon, a biocontrol agent and a biopesticide, respectively; biofertilizers MykoPlus, Nutrio, Biogroe, NitroPlus, Nano-PGR, Nanofertilizer and Mykovam; and Fruitect and Pectin, which provide edible liquid coating formulations that can delay fruit ripening.

As part of the commercialization process of state-funded technologies, these

products underwent deliberation by the FOB to evaluate the price and terms between the licensors and licensees. Eleven of these technology transfer agreements are the result of a fast-tracked evaluation process held on Technology Transfer Day, which was organized by the Center for Technology Transfer and Entrepreneurship (CTTE) that also spearheaded the MOA signing ceremony.

The MOA signing, held on May 2 at the Obdulia F. Sison Hall in UPLB, marked the official beginning of commercialization activities for the 14 UPLB products.

In his short message delivered at the signing ceremony, Chancellor Fernando C. Sanchez, Jr. said that this is a major step in ensuring that the University's research outputs are promoted to the general public, allowing UPLB to contribute further to national development.

Glenn N. Baticados, director of the CTTE and faculty member at the College of Economics and Management, vowed that the Center will continue to build good



TECHNOLOGY COMMERCIALIZATION. Chancellor Fernando Sanchez, Jr. and East West Seed general manager Henk Hermans (4th and 6th from L) present a newly signed memorandum of agreement licensing the distribution of papaya hybrids. They are joined by CTTE Director Glenn Baticados (3rd from L). (Photo by CV Labe/OPR)

relationships with its stakeholders to bring UPLB's technologies to the market.

In an interview, he further said, "With closer ties and collaboration between the academe, the government, and

industry, we hope to foster an inclusive innovation ecosystem wherein the University is in touch with the actual needs of the public and industry." (Jessa Jael S. Arana)

BOR approves GS Dual PhD by Research Program

The UP Board of Regents (BOR) unanimously approved the Dual PhD by Research program proposed by the UPLB Graduate School (GS) at its meeting on May 31, 2018. The program, which is the first of its kind in the UP System, will be offered in the first semester of the School Year 2018-2019.

At the same meeting, the BOR also approved the first partnership agreement in offering a Dual PhD by Research program with the University of Reading in United Kingdom (UK); Curtin University in Perth, Australia; and the School of Management of the University of the Philippines Mindanao.

The Dual PhD program aims to produce graduates who demonstrate the creation and interpretation of new knowledge through original research; a systematic acquisition and understanding of a substantial body of knowledge; a general ability to conceptualize, design, and implement a project for the generation of new knowledge, applications, or understanding of the discipline; and a comprehensive understanding of techniques

applicable to their own research or advanced scholarship.

Graduates of the program will have advanced systematic knowledge and skills applied in a highly specialized or complex multidisciplinary field of professional work, research, and/or further study that require management expertise, innovation, and leadership.

According to Dr. Jose V. Camacho Jr., dean of the GS, UPLB proposed the new program to attain the vision of becoming a top graduate and research university in the region that contributes to intellectual capital and helping attain national development by producing a cadre of researchers and scientists.

Fields of study that are included in this initial offering of the Dual PhD by Research are economics, agricultural economics, agronomy, animal science, development communication, environmental economics, or horticulture. Students under the Dual PhD by Research register 15 units for eight semesters.



TRANSNATIONAL COLLABORATIVE EDUCATION MODALITY. Approval of the Dual PhD by Research program by the UP Board of Regents makes the UPLB Graduate School the first to implement this modality of graduate work in the country. (Photo by CV Labe/OPR)

The approval of the program sets the requirements that need to be satisfied in the offering of a Dual PhD by Research program with a reputable higher education institute (HEI) in the Philippines and abroad.

The offering of the Dual PhD by Research with the University of Reading is part of UPLB's commitments as one of the ten Philippine HEIs that was awarded a grant by the British Council and the

Commission on Higher Education to implement a Transnational Education-Joint Development of Niche Programs (TNE-JNDP).

The TNE-JNDP is aimed at developing collaborative programs and joint research leading towards research-based graduate degrees with partners in the UK, and ultimately, to boost internationalization of HEIs in the country. (Josephine M. Bo)

Forestry students undergo entrepreneurship training



SIMULATING COMMUNITY COLLABORATION IN THE CLASSROOM. Student participants of the FORESTERS Bootcamp 2018 attempt to build a tower while inhibiting one of the five basic senses as part of their exercise in social entrepreneurship. (Photo from the Department of Forest Products and Paper Science)

Agroforestry meets entrepreneurship in a training workshop for forestry students at UPLB.

Dubbed the Forest Entrepreneurs as Social Transformers (FORESTERS) Bootcamp 2018, the 2-day workshop equipped students taking up BS Forestry with the relevant and appropriate entrepreneurial skills to implement change in the community.

The boot camp focused on training the students in social entrepreneurship, which aims to develop mission-driven business ventures that enact social change through innovative solutions.

During the training, students learned basic entrepreneurial skills that would enable

them to create social ideas appropriate to the needs of the local community. They also engaged in classroom exercises that simulated how they will pitch ideas to community partners. For the agroforestry sector, it translates to creating viable solutions for the problems in forest-dependent communities.

Entrepreneurial experts were invited to facilitate the training. They are Glenn N. Baticados, director of the UPLB Center for Technology Transfer and Entrepreneurship and assistant professor at the College of Economics and Management; Rodel P. Anunciado, business consultant; and Gian Carlo de Jesus, developer of the Balaiwari learning methodology.

The activity was spearheaded by Dr. Ramon A. Razal, a professor at and former dean of the College of Forestry **Forestry students ... page 7**

ASIAN SCIENTIST 100



Of the eight Filipinos selected into the Asian Scientist 100 List of prize-winning Asian researchers, academicians, innovators, and business leaders from across the Asia-Pacific region, three are UPLB alumni.

They are Dr. Rogel Mari Sese, Dr. Aletta Concepcion Yñiquez, and Phillip Alviola.

These three represent the younger generation of UPLB alumni who by their work, sustain and uphold UPLB's contribution to the fund of knowledge in science. Their accomplishments hold promise not only for the country, but also inspiration for future scientists from UPLB.

In recognition of their accomplishments, the Horizon came up with these short articles, a brief look-see into what helped them land their slots in the reputable Asian Scientist 100 List of the Singapore-based Asian Scientist magazine.



DR. ROGEL MARI SESE

REACHING FOR THE STARS AND BEYOND

We have all been encouraged to “reach for the stars” at some point in our lives. For Dr. Rogel Mari Sese, this endeavor is literal, being the program leader of the National SPACE Development Program (NSDP), a project under the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) that aims to establish a national space agency in the country.

At the tender age of 5, he already knew that he was going to pursue a career in space science. He had been exposed to scientific inquiry quite early and knew how to splice DNA at 11, through his mother who is a biology professor. He studied BS Applied Physics at UPLB, the closest program to astrophysics, his “true calling.”

His choice did not disappoint as it opened numerous opportunities for him. Dr. Sese has gone from teaching physics at UPLB, to becoming a proponent of space education among high school and elementary students through the Philippine Space Science Education Program (PSSEP) under the DOST-Science Education Institute. He has also learned the intricacies of pushing for a space law in the Philippines.

Dr. Sese, however, admits that his advocacy for space education was not always met with enthusiasm. But he braved these doubts with a vision and a strategy: “It’s a matter of educating the public on the value and benefit of space. That it’s not as out of this world as they think and it’s something that they use in their everyday life, even without them knowing,” he said.

Until 2012, the Philippines was far from creating a national space agency. But the notion gained momentum with the filing of the Philippine Space Act of 2012 when it was finally given more attention in Congress. Space science had finally begun to take some traction.

In 2016, the Philippines launched the microsatellite Diwata-1, the first satellite built and designed by Filipinos. Through the PSSEP, more and more universities are now offering programs in aerospace engineering. Dr. Sese believes that soon, young researchers will be ready to man the space agency and the space industry.

Meanwhile, his unwavering efforts have drawn international recognition when he was listed in the Asian Scientist 100. But this is just icing on the cake because what Dr. Sese wants to ultimately set up is a space program in the country. “Without a space program, we’ll be definitely left behind. It’s vital to the long-term sustainability of the country,” he said.

Despite the big amount of catching up that the country has to do, Dr. Sese is ready to do what it takes and turn this late foray into space science into an advantage, by learning from other countries’ experiences.

In the face of it all, Dr. Sese maintains the child-like wonder that got him started in the first place. He sums up what made space science exciting for him, “just looking up at night to see the sky, all the stars – everything. There’s nothing like it.” (*Jessa Jael S. Arana*)



DR. ALETTA CONCEPCION YÑIGUEZ

MAKING A SPLASH IN MARINE BIO AND FISHERIES RESEARCH

She made headlines in UPLB when she graduated in BS Biology, *magna cum laude*, and as the valedictorian of Class 1999. In 2017, the National Academy of Science and Technology (NAST) named her an Outstanding Young Scientist.

This time, she is making a splash in the science community with her inclusion in the Asian Scientist 100 List.

Dr. Yñiguez is a biological oceanographer and assistant professor at the UP Diliman Marine Science Institute (MSI). She is leading researches that contribute to the country's fisheries sector.

"We're trying to develop models and figure out when and where red tide would occur," Dr. Yñiguez said in an interview with DOSTv, the official science program of the Department of Science and Technology (DOST). The biophysical models for sardine fisheries and red tide that she spearheads have earned for her the NAST and Asian Scientist honors.

A team that she led used the data to come up with computer and mathematical models to forecast the occurrence of red tide or harmful algal bloom, which causes fish kills and makes shellfish poisonous for human consumption. These models serve as decision-support system for government agencies and

fishermen. Dr. Yñiguez's inquiring mind also takes her to the world of microorganisms at the base of the food web of marine ecosystems because they are critical to our marine ecosystems.

A year after earning her PhD in Marine Biology and Fisheries from the University of Miami's Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science in 2007, Dr. Yñiguez joined the faculty of the UP MSI. She was UP MSI's Deputy Director for Instruction from 2009-2012 and currently heads the Biological Oceanography and Ecosystems Laboratory (BiOME Lab).

She makes certain that a next generation of students will aspire to become marine scientists by serving as camp director of the DOST Science Education Institute Climate Change and Marine Science High School Summer Camp. "We're surrounded by waters; we're an archipelagic country. We need more marine scientists who will make sure to sustain our marine resources," she said in the DOSTv interview.

Making a splash in marine biology and fisheries research, she is, and this is because Dr. Yñiguez is powered by the passion to contribute towards developing and protecting marine resources in our country. *(Mark Jayson E. Gloria)*



PHILLIP ALVIOLA

CRUSADING FOR THE CAUSE OF BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION

"Not all superheroes wear capes."

This can be said of a rare breed of "superheroes" in the Philippines – the scientists who, sometimes foregoing creature comforts, devote their entire life in the country for the betterment of their field/s of expertise.

UPLB's "Batman" is one of them, but he not only earned this moniker by being a self-sacrificing "superhero-scientist" but also because one of his crusades is the protection of bats.

He is Phillip Alviola, an associate professor at the Institute of Biological Sciences (IBS) and a curator at the Museum of Natural History (MNH). He studies the ecology of cave-dwelling bats, as well as the conservation and protection of biologically rich cave systems in the country.

This year, the Asian Scientist Magazine featured him in its annual listing of Asia's 100 best researchers, academics, and innovators. In 2017, he was also awarded the Outstanding Young Scientist in Wildlife Biology by the National Academy of Science and Technology.

Having lived his whole life in Los Baños, Phillip has grown with the MNH, which he considers as the launching pad of his academic career. At an early age, he learned a lot from the Museum where his father, the late wildlife biologist and IBS Professor, Pedro Alviola III, worked as a curator.

"UPLB has been the cornerstone of my educational attainment, and the University's teachings and values have been pervasive in my personal development and every academic achievement I have attained," he said.

Phillip and his team's research on cave bats have been significant in the implementation of the Republic Act 9072, a law that protects and manages caves and cave resources as part of the country's natural wealth. No wonder that the House of Representatives bestowed upon him the Medal of Excellence in Wildlife Biology in 2012.

Apart from the ecology of cave-dwelling bats and bat virology, Phillip's research also dwells on mammalian ecology, taxonomy, and conservation biology.

"By discovering new, locally restricted, and threatened mammals in different mountain ranges, our work on Philippine mammals in Sierra Madres, Cordilleras, Caraballos, and Bicol Peninsula has resulted in designating or proposing these areas as natural parks by the national government," Prof. Phillip said.

From 1999 to 2010, his team traveled to many natural parks in the country to train staff and local villagers to conduct a community-based biodiversity monitoring system. In turn, most of them have been regularly reporting on the status of their park's biological diversity and how they are countering man-made threats.

"I'm always motivated by the numerous questions that often arise out of our research. It's the eagerness, or sometimes the frustrations as well, to answer these questions that drive me to conduct more research," said Prof. Phillip, who is also one of the most "Googled" scientists in the Philippines.

Driven by this mission and his passion for conservation, UPLB's own Batman crusades for the protection of the country's biodiversity-rich areas so that ecologically important species, like bats, will continue to fly freely. *(John Glen S. Sarol)*

Feature

The BABY-GAS PROJECT: LEARNING CONSEQUENCES

Have you ever seen students in the campus carrying rag dolls as though they were real babies?

The female students are usually met with faint amusement, but the males, with puzzlement.

This is an exercise that is part of the baby-gas project that students enrolled in HUME 10 (Sexuality in Adolescence) experience.

The first part of the project, dubbed as “baby making,” requires students to make baby-gas, a rag doll filled with three kilos of uncooked rice.

The project then assigns weekly tasks that highlight the different layers of responsibilities attached to parenthood.

On the first week, students research on the cost of baby care. HUME 10 Instructor Katherine Del Rosario said that at this stage, most of the students realize that their allowance is not enough to support a child.

On the second week, the students focus on the socioemotional needs of the baby and the role of the father in raising a child. During the third week, students interview mothers on breastfeeding. Finally, on the fourth week, the students talk to their parents about their experiences in raising them.

By the end of the month, their reflections are compiled into scrapbooks or any other creative form chosen by the students.

“Basically, we want them to experience what it’s like to be a parent while balancing it with their academics. In this way, they can have a glimpse of what the consequences are when they engage in risky behaviors,” said Del Rosario.

Renelle Saguisin, a BS Forestry student, said that the experience has impressed on her valuable life lessons. “You carry with you everything that you have learned because you have experienced the consequences first-hand.”

THE BIGGER PICTURE

In 2016, the United Nations Population Fund reported that the Philippines is the only country in Asia-Pacific where the rate of teen pregnancies rose over the last two decades.

The 2017 National Demographic and Health Survey by the Philippine Statistics Authority found that nine percent of women age 15-19 have begun childbearing while seven percent have had a live birth.

The said survey also revealed that the proportion of teenagers who have begun childbearing rises rapidly with age, from one percent at age 15 to 22 percent at age 19.

Rhea Bailey, who also teaches HUME 10, believes that these reflect eroding cultural and family values. “Our youth tend to get easy and fast access to information where accuracy and credibility of sources can be put in

question. There is a need to promote rapport, transparency, and friendships among family members in the early years so that sensitive situations and queries may be addressed by more reliable members of the community.”

Bailey said that the baby-gas project facilitates proper guidance seeking by the students from their parents, teachers, and from medical practitioners.

Baby-gas is a component of HUME 10, a subject under the Social Sciences and Philosophy domain of the Revised General Education Program which is offered by the College of Human Ecology.

HUME 10 is now on hold as the University adjusts courses to conform to changes under the K to 12 program. Its proponents are, however, preparing to implement it again. (John Glen S. Sarol)

Photo News



CELEBRATING EXCELLENCE. Top-performing senior high school graduates from UP Rural High School perform a song number during their testimonial program held on May 30 at the UP Open University. (Photo by CV Labe/OPR)



FOOD SECURITY AND PUBLIC SERVICE. Katherine C. Villanueva, Nutrition Officer II at the National Nutrition Council, and Dr. Domingo E. Angeles, Chair of the Interdisciplinary Studies Center on Food and Nutrition Security speak to graduate students, and representatives of LGUs and NGOs as resource speakers at the Ugnayan ng Pahinungod’s seminar “Creating food secure communities through extension and public service” held on May 7 at the REDREC Auditorium. (Photo by JGS Sarol/OPR)



“
We need to devote a
lifetime to do this. It is an
everyday work.”

SEN. CYNTHIA VILLAR
ON THE LAGUNA DE BAY RESTORATION

SUSTAINABLE LAKES, SUSTAINABLE LIVING. Sen. Cynthia Villar addresses experts, policy makers and stakeholders on April 17 at the 2nd Lake Ecosystems Assessment in the Philippines: A Science and Policy Forum for Sustainable Laguna de Bay Management held at the REDREC Auditorium, UPLB. (Photo by VR Maningas/OPR)



COLLABORATIVE AGREEMENT. Chancellor Fernando Sanchez, Jr. (7th from L) and Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Regional Centre for Food Nutrition (SEAMEO RECFON) Director Muchtarudin Mansyur (6th from L) are joined by other UPLB administrative officials and representatives from SEAMEO RECFON after having signed a memorandum of agreement on June 24 for future collaborations. (Photo by CV Labe/OPR)

Feature

UPLB takes proactive measures towards mental health

The need to address mental health issues has become more urgent with the emergence of alarming data and incidents. A report from the World Health Organization shows that depression has affected over 300 million people globally. Meanwhile, increasing suicide cases have been reported worldwide.

It is with this sense of urgency that the UPLB Office of Student Affairs (OSA), the University Health Service (UHS), and other involved units have taken, in the words of former OSA Director Nina Cadiz, “proactive measures to address health, emotional, and mental issues among the students.”

Keeping in mind a holistic and recovery-oriented approach, OSA has rolled out programs which are all focused on prevention, preparation, intervention, and information dissemination and awareness on mental health issues.

Life Coaching Seminar for UPLB faculty and staff has been conducted since 2012 to discuss mental health issues among the youth as they are tasked to fulfill the roles of a Faculty Student Relations Officer (FSRO). The seminars train the FSROs to identify and help students at risk.

Mental Health Education and Role of Teens towards a responsible and engaging support system (MeHEART) seeks to establish a support system for the students when they are faced with life challenges and difficulties. It trains dormitory residents and managers on facilitation skills and awareness on the realities of suicide and non-suicidal self-injuries.

Health Orientation on Problems from Emotional Stress (HOPE) is a university-wide campaign that promotes awareness on mental health concerns, particularly depression, self-harm, and suicide. HOPE aims to break the stigma and suppositions



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

surrounding mental health and issues, and to create awareness among students struggling with it that help is available for them. Holistic perspectives on depression, suicide prevention, and other relevant topics are featured in HOPE. Two HOPE editions have been held in 2017 and 2018.

Psychospirituality, the newest program at OSA, is an approach to wellness that uses metaphysical science in the realm of spirituality. It also takes into consideration the individual's personal belief systems. A psychospirituality forum was held on April 16, where invited experts delivered lectures on human sexuality as approached from three different fields: medicine, law, and the Church.

Valuing Academic and Life for YOUTH to succeed (ValYOUth) is a program designed specifically for recipients of the Expanded Students' Grants in Aid Program for Poverty Alleviation (ESGPA), student assistants, and scholarship recipients. It impresses the importance of values and character in relation to academic success and intelligent decision making. It prepares

students to embrace academic life with resiliency, dignity, and a strong sense of self-worth.

Alay Turo Program is a peer teaching tutorial program that assists students with academic difficulties. Tutors are volunteer students and scholars who are academically qualified to assist their peers in “challenging” courses. The program also promotes camaraderie, helps decrease academic stress, and encourages students to communicate better with their peers.

New mental health and wellness programs in the University are in the pipeline, such as the creation of a therapy room, animal and plant therapy, and programs for promoting mental health awareness among parents and guardians of readmitted students.

Through concerted efforts to spread knowledge and awareness and break stigma and false beliefs, UPLB hopes to help the vulnerable survive their ordeals and reemerge as healthier versions of themselves. (Albert Geoffred B. Peralta)

Radyo DZLB to go online

After three silent years, the voice of development will be heard again, this time, online.

To be called DZLB Online!, the webcasting counterpart of Radyo DZLB 1116 kHz 'Ang Tinig ng Kaunlaran' of the College of Development Communication (CDC) will be launched in August.

DZLB Online! will take the teleradyo format via web streaming, and like its precursor, Radyo DZLB, it will continue to serve educational, entertaining, and informative discussions that respond to the needs of the residents of Laguna and nearby provinces.

According to Dr. Ma. Stella C. Tirol, chair of CDC's Department of Development Broadcasting and Telecommunications (DDBT), the School-on-the-Air (SOA) might also be revived on DZLB Online! SOA provides non-formal distance education to its listeners. It aims to give additional knowledge to develop competencies of participants about different topics.

The CDC-DDBT technical staff is preparing to conduct a baseline study that shall assess the information needs of DZLB Online!'s target audience. “We are linking the people with what they need,” Dr. Tirol said.

DZLB Online! was inspired by the successes of CDC's Bantay Halalan Laguna 2016, a two-day special election coverage via online media streaming, and the live broadcast exercises of DEVC

30 (Fundamentals of Community Broadcasting) classes. “DZLB Online! is our attempt to utilize and maximize the power of new media for development,” said Ryan Jay Galang, university research associate at CDC-DDBT and proponent of DZLB Online!

Radyo DZLB temporarily stopped its operation in 2012 to give way to its rehabilitation. Galang said that the radio station is expected to be fully operational in 2-3 years. Dr. Tirol believes that despite the struggles being faced by the community radio industry, it will survive.

Radio is certainly here to stay, especially in the developing countries, and it can be accessed through mobile phone or internet, too, according to Dr. Tirol. (Jonel S. Bischocho)

UPLB, CCA Manila to conduct joint project

The Philippines' leading school in agriculture and the country's first culinary institution are cooking up something new to upgrade the knowledge of chefs and restaurateurs through the design and offering of a Diploma in Culinary Agriculture.

UPLB and the Center for Culinary Arts, Manila signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on June 11 at the BM Gonzalez Hall in UPLB to design this program.

The Diploma program aims to merge culinary arts and agriculture to enhance employment and in the long term, reverse migration, upgrade agriculture, and promote eco-tourism.

Present at the MOU signing were Dr. Simplicio Medina, director of the Office of International Linkages; Dr. Enrico P. Supangco, dean of the College of Agriculture and Food Science, Dr. Fernando C. Sanchez Jr., UPLB chancellor; and on the CCA side, Marinela Trinidad, CEO; Dr. Veritas Luna, chancellor for education; and Liza H. Morales, director for business development and public relations. (Juan Paolo A. Aquino, with reports from www.cafs.uplb.edu.ph)

Sen. Villar for p. 1

Education Act of 2014; and RA 10687 – The Unified Student Financial Assistance System for Tertiary Education Act of 2015.

The conferment of the honorary degree also recognizes Sen. Villar's work on anti-poverty projects that promote self-reliance and productivity such as the livelihood project under Sagip Ilog program of Las Piñas, which received the Best Practice Award for Outstanding Contribution Towards Improving the Living Environment from the United Nations Human Settlements Program, the Dubai International Award, and the United Nations Best Practice Award for Best Water Management Practices. (Josephine M. Bo)

2018 Valedictorian for p. 1

participate in and win university and college quiz contests with his friends. He was also a member of the ROTC Batch Masidhi, the champion of the Regional Annual Administrative Tactical Inspection in 2016.

With two scholarship grants – the Estores Tiauzon Angeles Memorial Undergraduate and the UP Presidential Scholarships – Paul spared his parents from the burden of financing his tertiary education. On Dec. 30, 2017, the Knights of Rizal hailed him as the 2017 Most Outstanding Jose Rizal Model Student of the Philippines for academic, co-curricular, and volunteer service excellence.

Asked about his future plans, Paul proved his consistency: he said he hopes to contribute to the country's agriculture sector by educating and empowering farmers.

“Sa totoo lang, ang mga magsasaka ang mga tunay na manggagawa sa mga bukirin na namumuhunan ng dugo at pawis para sa pagkain ng sangkatauhan, hindi kaming mga agriculturist. Kaya balang araw ay gusto kong maging Department of Agriculture (DA) Secretary dahil gusto kong ipaglaban at iangat ang estado ng pamumuhay ng mga magsasaka,” Paul said. (The farmers work the fields in order to provide food for everyone. I want to become the Secretary of Agriculture because I want to fight for them and their livelihood.)

“Gusto kong pangunahan ang malawakang agricultural revolution tungo sa mas masaganang ani sa pamamagitan ng liwanag ng edukasyon. Gusto kong magsilbing boses ng mga magsasaka at iparating ang kanilang mga hinaing at ipaglaban ang kanilang mga karapatan,” Paul added. (I want to lead an agricultural revolution for bountiful harvest and farm productivity through education. I want to be a voice for the farmers and help protect their rights.)

For now, Paul plans to familiarize himself with the farming systems in the country and hopefully be able to teach crop science courses at UPLB. He looks forward to further understanding the farmers before becoming a worthy leader of the country's agriculture sector.

Knowing how consistent and focused Paul is, it will not be a surprise if he becomes the country's number one agriculture champion, the Secretary of Agriculture. (Juan Paolo A. Aquino)

Forestry students for p. 3

and Natural Resources. Dr. Razal said that the FORESTERS Bootcamp is part of an encompassing project supported with a cash grant from the Commission on Higher Education that aims to empower foresters as agents of change and to capacitate them to assist upland communities in commercializing non-timber forest products.

FORESTERS Bootcamp 2018 was held on June 3-5 at the Training Center for Tropical Resources and Ecosystems Sustainability, UPLB. (Jessa Jael S. Arana)





JOHN KENNETH T. MALILAY



EVA A. GOYENA

389 UPLB GS students complete their degrees

The UPLB Graduate School (GS) has 83 PhD and 306 MS candidates for graduation this year.

Leading them are Academic Excellence award recipient Eva A. Goyena, PhD in Human Nutrition and John Kenneth T. Malilay, MS in Animal Science.

The top graduate students, together with the rest of the graduating doctorate and master's students, will be recognized during the GS Hooding and Recognition Ceremonies on June 22 at the DL Umali Freedom Park.

Following Goyena and Malilay are Academic Achievement Awardees who garnered the next highest general weighted average at their respective levels.

Academic Achievement Awardees at the PhD level are Cheek S. Fadriquela (Forestry-Wood Science and Technology); Veneranda A. Magpantay (Genetics); Norberto G. Ambagan (Agricultural Engineering); and Gerby R. Muya (Development Communication).

Meanwhile, Academic Achievement Awardees at the master's level are Louise Antonette S. Villanueva; Paula Grace M. Muyco (both Development Communication); Renerio P. Gentallan, Jr. (Plant Genetic Resources Conservation and Management); and Clarisse M. Gonzalvo (Development Communication).

This year's recipient of the Leadership Award is Glenn Y. Ilar, PhD in Development Studies. Three graduating students, on the other hand, will be given the Service Awards for their exemplary voluntary service to the GS and the University: Bonxou Xayxana (PhD in Community Development); Erica B. Tabuac (PhD in Human Nutrition); and Vincent P. Reyes (MS in Genetics).

Two MS students, namely: Ralph Lauren M. Alomia (Agricultural Chemistry) and Rocky T. Marcelino (Statistics), will be given the Pahinungod Pin for volunteerism in the UPLB Ugnayan ng Pahinungod.

Ten percent of the students who will receive their graduate degrees this year are foreign students: 22 doctorate and 17 master's students. (Kristine E. Araguas)



SAVE THE DATES

Centennial Loyalty Day and Grand Alumni Homecoming

100 years of Uplifting Peoples' Lives and Beyond

OCTOBER 9, 2018

Alumni Awarding Ceremonies and Alumni Fellowship Night

For nomination, please visit <https://www.oar.uplb.edu.ph>.

OCTOBER 10, 2018

Loyalty Day Parade

Jubilarians for this year are those who graduated in the years ending in 3 and 8.

 **The UPLB Centennial Loyalty Day Music Competition is ongoing**

Deadline of entries is on July 17. Interested participants may visit <https://www.oar.uplb.edu.ph>.

UPLB BOARD EXAM RESULTS

(FOR THE SECOND QUARTER OF 2018; BASED ON DATA FROM THE PROFESSIONAL REGULATION COMMISSION)

