



UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES LOS BAÑOS

# HORIZON



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## UPLB, CAFS to mark 110th year

UPLB and its College of Agriculture and Food Science (CAFS) will be turning 110 on March 6.

The 110th UPLB Foundation Day Anniversary celebration theme, "UPLB 4.0: Our future together," articulates UPLB's commitment to accomplishing its mandate within the framework of the challenges of the Fourth Industrial Revolution.

"UPLB 4.0: Our future together" encapsulates the direction in which the UPLB administration would like to direct the university through an agenda that takes into account the challenges and

opportunities of the Fourth Industrial Revolution (FIRe).

FIRe is ushered by "technological breakthroughs and the interplay of a number of fields, including advanced robotics, artificial intelligence, nanotechnology, neurotech, data analytics, blockchain, Internet of Things, and 3D printing" according to a study of the Philippine Institute for Development Studies.

At the UPLB-UPLBFI Strategic Planning Workshop on Jan. 22-24 in Baguio City, Chancellor Fernando C. Sanchez, Jr.

articulated his directive for UPLB to ensure that its academic and research programs are ready for and take advantage of opportunities that are presented by FIRe.

As has been traditionally practiced, UPLB will honor its outstanding personnel and teams during the convocation and awarding ceremonies on March 6, at the Charles Fuller Baker Hall at 10 AM.

CAFS will also mark its 110th anniversary on the same day. CAFS' one week celebration will feature several activities including commemoration rites at the Pook Pinagtagan where its first students

and teachers held their first classes, recognition of personnel and students, and the Agrifair.

UPLB was first known as the UP College of Agriculture (UPCA) in 1908. When the university was granted autonomy in 1972, CA became one of its colleges. CA was renamed and restructured as CAFS in 2016.

Expected to grace the celebration are Senator Juan Miguel F. Zubiri, Hon. Mark A. Villar, Secretary of Public Works and Highways, and UP President Danilo L. Concepcion. *(Josephine M. Bo and Mark Jayson E. Gloria)*

## "Team UPLB" sets strategic direction for 2019-2020

UPLB officials and unit heads converged in Baguio City on Jan. 22-24 at the UPLB-UPLBFI Strategic Planning Workshop to set goals for 2019-2020.

The workshop kicked-off with a report given by Chancellor Fernando C. Sanchez, Jr. on UPLB's accomplishments and priority programs.

Chancellor called on "Team UPLB" to focus its work on a 6-point agenda within the framework of the challenges of the Fourth Industrial Revolution (FIRe), which according to him has vast implications for institutions of higher learning.

First is to mobilize the activities of the UPLB Academic Assessment and Development Unit (AADU) to ensure that UPLB's academic programs are competitive and ready. The UP Board of Regents approved the creation of AADU on Dec. 3, 2018.

The second is to acquire ISO certification for UPLB's flagship programs. Chancellor Sanchez also directed "Team UPLB" to work on enhancing the university's impact on national food security.

He emphasized the need for UPLB to review programs in gender sensitivity and its facilities for PWDs to ensure an inclusive university.

He called for the creation of a student development fund to support research and paper presentations in conferences, the immediate upgrading of the Student Union into a student hub, and for the establishment of a UPLB Culture, Arts, and Sports Program.

Also present during the workshop was UP President Danilo L. Concepcion who gave a talk on his recommendations on efficiency and optimal use of resources in the university.

Prefacing his talk by saying, "ayoko ng pila," President Concepcion gave suggestions, pieces of advice, and directives on what to do concerning student registration, procurement, use of space, hiring professional and contractual services, cost cutting measures, internationalization, and declining enrollment in some courses.



**UPLB ON 'FIRe'.** The 2019-2020 UPLB-UPLBFI Strategic Planning Workshop centered on a six-point agenda, some of which aim to address the challenges brought by the Fourth Industrial Revolution (FIRe). The workshop was led by Chancellor Fernando C. Sanchez, Jr. and had UP President Danilo L. Concepcion as a speaker in one of the sessions (seated 5th and 4th from left, respectively). *(Photo by JLMagnata/OC)*

President Concepcion also suggested areas on which UPLB should strengthen such as its food technology program. Moreover, he commended the administration for focusing on cost cutting measures such as UPLB's management of its power supply.

Mr. Don Christian E. Mariano, a Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist from the USAID Philippine American Fund Project and the Gerry Roxas Foundation, and managing director of ELBIVentures, facilitated the planning workshop. *(Josephine M. Bo)*

# FOOD SECURITY AND SAFETY CHAMPIONS

The 2019 Outstanding Researchers and Research Team



(From left to right) Allen L. Nazareno, Dr. Francisco B. Elegado, Dr. Merdelyn C. Lit, and Dr. Josefina T. Dizon. (Photo by CVLabe/OPR)

In their quest to understand natural and social phenomena, this year's best research personnel and team have uncovered answers to some issues that matter to food security and safety.

**Dr. Merdelyn C. Lit**, Outstanding Senior Researcher and **Allen L. Nazareno**, Outstanding Junior Researcher, explored the world of insects to understand their roles in the ecosystem and in food production.

The work of Dr. Lit on host plant resistance helps protect important crops like corn, sweet sorghum, and eggplant from insect pests. She has published more than 50 papers in scientific journals and other publications.

A Scientific Career System Scientist, Dr. Lit specializes in entomology and is affiliated with the Institute of Plant Breeding (IPB). She pioneered studies on the Asian corn borer (ACB), making Bt corn resistant to it and the IPB Entomology Laboratory into a leader in the mass rearing of ACB.

Math Division's Nazareno, on the other hand, used mathematical modelling to understand the dynamics between small hive beetles and honey bees. This is crucial in conserving and multiplying honey bees, which as pollinators have a very important role to play in ecosystems sustainability. Moreover, he researched on mathematical modeling and its application in various areas of study and disciplines, and also



mentored thesis/special problem advisees on its use.

Among his research activities is an assessment of the K-12 career track, the results of which will be instructive towards improving the implementation of the program; and the assessment of community service in the university.

Research Professor **Dr. Francisco B. Elegado** focuses on food safety in his research work. He co-developed the BIOTECH DNA Amplification System kits and DNA-based nanobiosensors that detect food pathogens and monitor the presence of harmful bacteria in organic produce and cheeses.

He also co-produced probiotic white cheese and a guava-based probiotic drink that induces health benefits. He led initiatives on producing probiotic starter cultures and bacteriocins that can be used in various fermentation methods.

Community development expert, **Dr. Josefina T. Dizon**, a professor at the College of Public Affairs and Development, is a multi-awarded and well-published researcher whose expertise is on resource conservation, participatory development, livelihood development, and capacity building.

That she has received six research-related awards in the past five years is more than proof of her exemplary research contributions. But more than the accolades, she felt most fulfilled receiving a testimonial from a farmer on how their harvest increased after applying what they learned from a training program provided by Dr. Dizon's team.

Dr. Elegado and Dr. Dizon are recipients of the Outstanding Researcher Award for senior faculty in the natural and social sciences, respectively.

Food security is also the aim of the 61-person-strong **National Plant Genetic Resources Laboratory (NPGRL)** of IPB, Outstanding Research Team, which completed 30 researches in five years.

NPGRL uses and studies efficient conservation and maintenance practices and technologies to breed, increase, and preserve the collections of plant genetic materials containing desirable and superior traits

Since its establishment in 1976, NPGRL has conserved and managed multi-crop genetic resources that are used by plant breeders, researchers, students, and farmers. As such it could be called our last bastion for protecting plant genetic resources against the onslaught of various threats to their existence. (Mark Jayson E. Gloria, Jessa Jael S. Arana, and Kristine E. Araguas)

# EXTENSION FOR INTEGRATION AND TO ADVOCATE AN INTEGRATIVE APPROACH

The 2019 Outstanding Extension Personnel and Program



Alleli Ester C. Domingo



Language Instruction Towards Excellence (LITE) Program

Integration and integrative. These tell of the purpose and the advocacy of the recipients of the UPLB Outstanding Extension Program and the Outstanding Extension Personnel Awards, respectively.

The **Language Instruction Towards Excellence (LITE) Program**, lodged at the College of Arts and Sciences, with Dr. Felino Lansigan, CAS dean, as ex-officio manager, and Dr. Mabini DG Dizon as coordinator and faculty-tutor, is this year's recipient of the Outstanding Extension Program Award.

LITE, composed of 12 faculty-tutors and 3 support staff, has facilitated the smooth integration of foreign students not only into their UPLB classrooms but into the community as a whole through communication, culture, cooperation, and collaboration activities.

LITE not only teaches English language to foreign undergraduate and graduate students, but also to professionals affiliated with international organizations based in Los Baños from whom it has received positive feedback and glowing recommendations.

The recipient of the Outstanding Extension Personnel Award, **Alleli Ester C. Domingo**, Associate Professor IV at the CAS Institute of Mathematical Sciences and Physics, conducts extension activities to promote a "not-so-formulaic" way of teaching mathematics. She teaches how math can be taught in a more meaningful way by integrating it with other disciplines such as music, culture, dance, theater, and civic engagement.

Ma'am Alleli has gone far and beyond in her advocacy for math

education. She has spoken on a variety of topics: from integrating gender in engineering and mathematics classroom instruction to mental health awareness among math students and teachers. She has taught in far-off provinces to impart knowledge to students and fellow educators. Her initiatives in enriching mathematics education through capacity building and learning innovations have been recognized by award-giving bodies such as the Bato Balani Foundation and various UP alumni associations. (*Kristine E. Aragas and Jessa Jael S. Arana*)

## HE SPARKS JOY AND ENKINDLES PASSION IN THE ARTS

The 2019 Outstanding Artist

Rare are individuals who succeed in realizing their potentials both in science and art. Meet the gifted **Dr. Antonio Jesus A. Quilloy**, agricultural economist and musician-visual artist.

The ease with which Kils methodically explains economic theories and principles in his class is matched by the fluidity of his strokes and poignancy of his works. The ease with which he makes sense of seemingly complex agricultural processes is equaled by the smooth rendering of tunes coming from his saxophone.

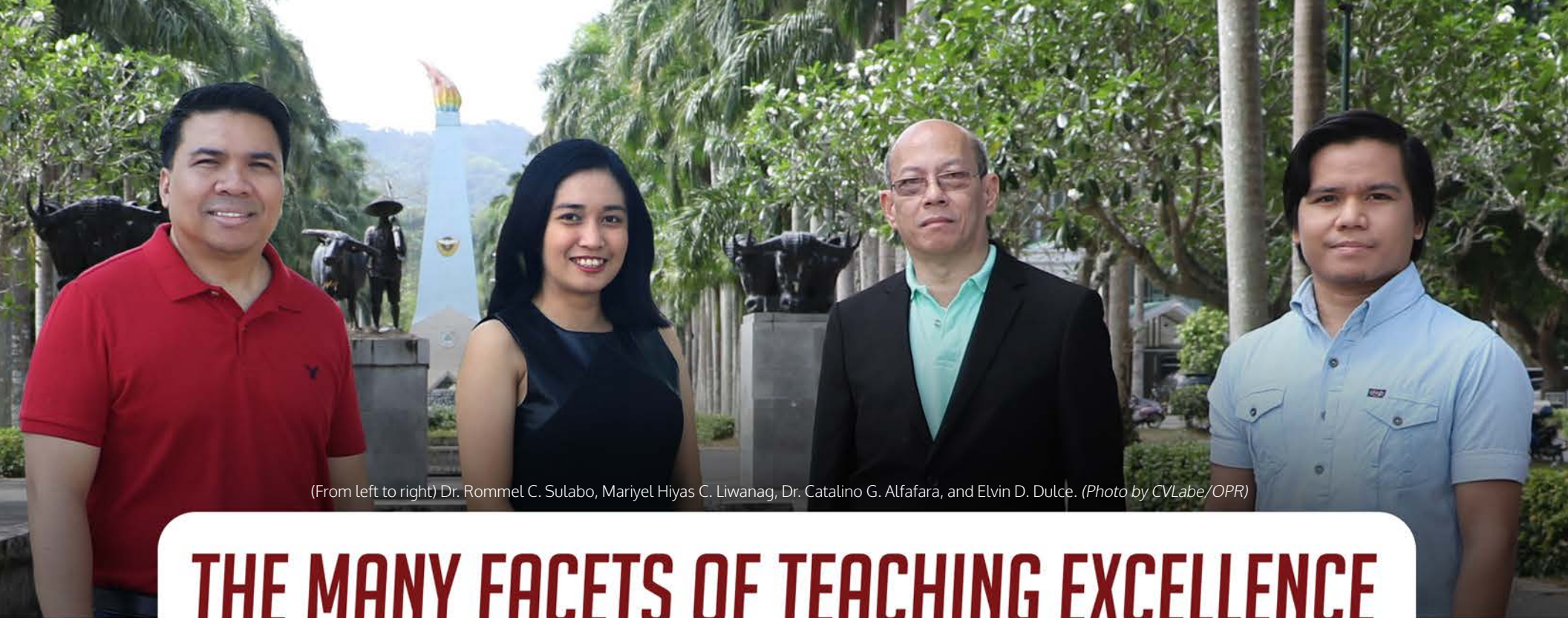
Starting as a self-taught artist, he has finally reached a certain level of confidence for his compositions, paintings, and mix-media works to gain a wider audience. In

his hands, artmaking starts as a private act, then introspection morphs into an Aha! moment when that elusive muse tells him "Go for it, Kils!" Call that his apotheosis.

Kils has earned his gravitas as an Outstanding Artist. His citation speaks, thus: "Dr. Quilloy's artistic talents and skills are evident not only in his persona as a gifted composer and musician, but also in the range of his output as a painter, sculptor, and book author; In showcasing his visual and musical gifts in public functions, he continues to enkindle passion and spark joy in the arts among university constituents." (*Jerry R. Yapo*)



Dr. Antonio Jesus A. Quilloy



(From left to right) Dr. Rommel C. Sulabo, Mariyel Hiyas C. Liwanag, Dr. Catalino G. Alfafara, and Elvin D. Dulce. (Photo by CVLabe/OPR)

# THE MANY FACETS OF TEACHING EXCELLENCE

## The 2019 Outstanding Teachers

Much is expected from UP faculty members, and there are those who have maximized their strengths to best educate the country's scholars. By doing so, they did not only stand out; they have also redefined teaching excellence.

*A UP teacher is a research mentor* who catapults students to greater heights, like how **Dr. Catalino G. Alfafara** of the Department of Chemical Engineering has helped students shine in national science awards: ten in the BPI-DOST Science Awards and four in the Magsaysay Future Engineer and Technologist Award.

His own knowledge generation and sharing track record is in itself inspiring: he has more than 20 journal publications, and

more than 60 proceedings, presentations, manuals, and book chapters about pollution engineering, bioenergy, and biotechnology.

*A UP teacher is a scientist of global caliber* whom graduate students look up to, such as **Dr. Rommel C. Sulabo** of the Institute of Animal Science. Dr. Sulabo has so far, been cited 677 times on Google Scholar and 371 times on Scopus.

Hailed as an Outstanding Young Scientist of the country in 2014, he has more than 20 publications in ISI/Scopus-indexed journals and 95 other scholarly publications. He has also worked for stronger presence of animal nutrition and entrepreneurship in the graduate curriculum.

*A UP teacher is an advocate of student welfare*, as shown by how **Asst. Prof. Elvin D. Dulce** of the Department of Electrical Engineering crafted a revised set of guidelines that addresses the academic struggles and difficulties of students.

He also follows the 60% passing criterion in all course requirements that led to a significant improvement of student performance in two challenging subjects, and keeps an open line of communication with his students through social media.

*A UP teacher is a creative professional*, like **Asst. Prof. Mariyel Hiyas C. Liwanag** of the Department

of Humanities who has innovated game-based exercises and simulations in teaching.

Instead of relying on books alone, she uses board and tabletop games in teaching language and communication theories, reinforcing students to get high scores and to look forward to level up in their academic game.

In UPLB where teachers do not only teach but have to conduct research and extension, multifaceted excellence in each of these awardees would most likely make each one of them shine even brighter. (Mark Jayson E. Gloria, Kristine E. Araguas, and Jessa Jael S. Arana)



(From left to right) Maria Cristina Wagan-Zafaralla, Jose Ogalesco, Rodel Deriquito, and Margarita Maghirang. (Photo by CVLabe/OPR)

# RAISING THE BAR FOR FRONTLINE SERVICES IN UPLB

## The 2019 Outstanding Administrative Staff

Their contributions towards UPLB's image may not be as grand recognitions as top scientists or mentors, but these carry as much weight for the impact that they make on university operations.

**Margarita "Margie" Maghirang**, Administrative Officer V at the Accounting Office, is the brains behind the Tax Collection, Remittance, and Monitoring System and the GSIS Remittance and Monitoring System that have greatly improved processes at her office, as well as helped UPLB and its personnel in making correct and timely tax payments and social insurance contributions.

Through her watchfulness, she helped ensure that UPLB pays the correct salaries to its employees. For these and her consistent outstanding rating from supervisors and consciously cultivating good working relationship with her peers, Margie has been hailed Outstanding

Administrative Personnel or OAP (Supervisor Category).

At the University Health Service, which serves both UPLB and the surrounding communities, **Maria Cristina Wagan-Zafaralla**, Nurse III, is one person who can be depended on to be available when there is an influx of people needing health service. She voluntarily takes on night shifts and is always ready to assist in surgeries and deliveries.

Recognizing the importance of promoting health awareness, Cristina spearheads the promotion and visibility of UHS activities in different media platforms. Moreover, she helped come up with hospital forms and put in place an information system that contributes to efficient service at the UHS. She rightfully earned the OAP Award (Professional Category).

Meanwhile, this one-man force, **Jose "Joe" Ogalesco**, Lineman III of the University Planning and Maintenance Office, ensures that the UPLB electrical grid is up and running to light up the campus and ensure that research and instruction proceed continuously. He does this with an uncommon dedication, making himself available even in the dead of night to troubleshoot and address problems in the electrical system.

Joe, OAP (Blue Collar Category), is behind innovative ideas that have reduced the occurrence of electricity outages in UPLB. He always makes himself available during emergencies and natural disasters to repair electrical lines in UPLB, as well as in his community. His service helped save a considerable amount for UPLB.

Before they could become sought-after builders, UPLB's civil engineering students have to pass through rigorous training.

But the intense pressure becomes a little lighter with a supportive laboratory technician. For this **Rodel Deriquito**, Laboratory Technician I, earned the OAP Award (Technician Category).

Rodel assists students and researchers in testing the strength and other qualities of various materials using the tools that he fabricated at the Innovative Engineering Materials Laboratory (InEM). His ingenuity in improvising instructional materials has helped save a considerable amount for the university.

Margie, Cristina, Joe, and Rodel proved that even behind the scenes, one can make contributions to the university that are worth celebrating. They certainly raised the bar for providing front line services in the university. (Kristine E. Araguas, Jessa Jael S. Arana, Albert Geoffred B. Peralta, and Mark Jayson E. Gloria)