



AGGIE

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From the Dean

As I end my term, I would like to express my sincere thanks and appreciation to the men and women of CA who, in one way or another, made my three-year term truly productive and peaceful. There is much work ahead of us and we should look forward to contributing our share for CA to be relevant and attuned to the realities of the present world order.



Congratulations to Dr. Christian Joseph Cumagun of the Crop Protection Cluster for being a winner in the NAST - DuPont Far East, Inc.'s Talent Search for Young Scientists. Once again, a product of CA made us proud.



The Freshmen Orientation held last June 15 was a resounding success. ASC's lecture hall was overflowing with new students intending to pursue a career in agriculture. They were very enthusiastic and had fun. I am very optimistic that from this batch will rise a new breed of agriculturists who will bring the College of Agriculture to greater heights. Welcome new freshmen! May you find a new home here at CA.



By the way, the ASC has a new director in the person of Dr. Rodrigo B. Badayos. He is a man of dedication and integrity. I believe he will make this cluster more dynamic and relevant. Congratulations!



Finally, I appeal to everyone to once again join hands and support whoever will be chosen to continue what I have started. Thank you for being with me through thick and thin.

May God bless us all!

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CA welcomes new students

“Here at the College of Agriculture (CA), we shall give you top caliber faculty, staff and facilities to help you graduate on time”. This was the message of Dean Candida B. Adalla (see right photo) on the occasion of CA's annual freshman orientation held last June 15, 2005 at the jampacked Agricultural System Cluster lecture hall.

The dean also stressed that agriculture should no longer be stereotyped as simply plowing, harrowing, planting of palay or milking cows. She added that agriculture should be viewed in terms of value adding and making the local farmers competitive globally.

Dean Adalla emphasized that the students have all the reasons to be proud of being in CA because the Philippines is basically an agricultural country. “Our gross national product (GNP) is practically agri-based and 25 - 30% of this is coming from agriculture as an industry”, she added. “Among all the students or new freshmen coming here at UPLB. You have the biggest challenge to contribute to the success of your country,” she concluded.

A total of 2,354 new freshmen are enrolled this semester with 151 students under the Bachelor of Science in agriculture (BSA) program. There are 88 students taking up Bachelor of Science in Food Technology (BSFT)



and 15 students under the BS Agricultural Chemistry program, a joint offering of CA and the College of Arts and Sciences. Likewise, 16 and 3 students from other colleges/universities are enrolled as transferees under the BSA and BSFT curriculum, respectively.

Meanwhile, Vice-Chancellor for Instruction Ernesto V. Carpio read the message of Chancellor Wilfredo P. David. According to the Chancellor, the students and other constituents have all the reasons to be proud as UP is noted for:

- ◆ Academic excellence in the field of agriculture, engineering, biology, chemistry, development communication, forestry, information technology, mathematics, physics and veterinary medicine. The graduate.
- ◆ **Quality education.** UPLB was the first state university to implement the revitalized

CA welcomes.... from page 1

general education program aimed at giving the students the freedom to choose the courses that will help them think critically, give them holistic perspective and make learning interesting.

- ◆ Likewise, affiliate faculty members who are highly regarded in their respective fields of expertise were also recruited. Newly hired faculty members have to undergo rigorous teachers training.
- ◆ **Improvement of housing facilities, medical services, power/office supply and roads.** Million of pesos have been allocated to make the students' life comfortable and safe.
- ◆ **Financial assistance such as**
 - *Student Assistantship Program* where they can work during their free time.
 - *Emergency Student Fund* for those needing medical treatment

The Chancellor also emphasized the following:

- ◆ **Value of accountability and responsibility.** He advised them to attend classes regularly, attend tutorials for difficult subjects and be critical in social and professional involvement.
- ◆ **Adhering to the highest standard of integrity.** With the aim of building them as men and women of character, he emphasized the importance of honesty in their assignments and other papers and reminded them about intellectual property rights.

Concluding his paper, the Chancellor said, "We want to give you a UP education that provides a solid foundation in developing you to be academically excellent, socially concerned, critically minded and imbued with values of ethics and integrity".

Representing the new freshmen was Zandra Gonzales. In her message, she said that as freshmen begin to carry the trademark of being *Iskolar ng Bayan* (a profound responsibility of a continuous up-bringing of the strong UP system). They are just asked to try hard to excel in accordance with the academic policy of the system. She added that the free test of their academic excellence is anchored on their ability to take the knowledge they have gained from their mentors

and translate them into deliberate actions. As agriculturists, she challenged the freshmen to enhance their human resources and help improve agricultural productivity once they graduate. Finally, she cautioned that academic instability, social and emotional insecurity, and financial problem may come their way but she encouraged them not to be defeated, instead consider it as a challenge to ignore the complexities of life and thereby help them adjust with the changing crisis of their life.

The dean also showcased the CA history and achievements to make the students more proud of their college.

Meanwhile, Prof. Glafera Janet B. Matanguihan (college secretary) and Vermont P. Dia (assistant professor of Food Science Cluster) presented the BSA and BS AgChem and BSFT curriculum, respectively. Prof. Matanguihan assured the freshmen that a College of Agriculture graduate would never run out of job because he/she has well rounded course/training. She promised them a very interesting four-year residence at UPLB.

The CA student council also made their presence felt by spearheading some games that were participated in by the freshmen. Meanwhile, Richard P. Elliot and Catherine Joyce Eusebio were adjudged as Mr. & Ms. Freshmen.

Closing the day's activity was Dr. Orville L. Bondoc, CA associate dean. Quoting Lebron James, a player of the National Basketball Association, Dr. Bondoc paraphrased James' statement in the context of agriculture: "We at the college of agriculture shall forever honor and respect our greats, but it is also our responsibility to always aspire for greatness. Our responsibility, your responsibility as new members of the college of agriculture family, starts now".

The CA freshmen orientation was well attended by representatives from the office of the UPLB central administration, CA executive committee members, faculty, staff and students. (*IM Gesmundo*)

Errata

March-April 2005 issue: p. 4; 2nd column:
Herminia V. Arena should be *Herminia V. Arenas*

May-June 2005 issue: p. 3: 1st column:
Alain L. Sherwin should be *Sherwin Alain L. Tagle*

CA alumnus feted by NAST - DuPont Far East, Inc.

Dr. Christian Joseph Cumagun, Assistant Professor at the Crop Protection Cluster was cited as a significant contributor in the area of agricultural sciences at the Paper Presentation of Finalists for the National Academy of Science and Technology (NAST) - DuPont - Far East, Inc.'s Talent Search for Young Scientists.

As one of the three young scientists armed with "best scientific papers in the world". Dr. Cumagun worked on the genetic mapping of pathogenicity and aggressiveness of *Gibberella zeae* toward wheat. His paper has an implication on the rate of evolution of the fungus called *Fusarium* based on its inheritance. He and his co-workers examined the impact of the said fungus on highly resistant varieties of wheat.

He said the study is also applicable to the Philippines because wheat is imported by the government and there is no study yet on whether or not this product contains microtoxins produced by the above-mentioned fungus.

The other winners of the award were Dr. Percival Almoro (Physics) from the U.P. Diliman and Dr. Irene Samonte (Natural Sciences) of De La Salle University - Manila. They received a cash prize of PhP 50,000.00 each from DuPont Philippines and a plaque from NAST during a ceremony at the Manila Hotel on July 14, 2005.

Primer on Soil Science off the press

A handy reference for beginning students in soil science is now available. Entitled "Primer in Soil Science", the book contains basic concepts and principles in soils and written with questions and answers in simplified format. This publication is also a useful review material for those who plan to take the licensure examination for agriculturists.

Authored by Dr. Wilfredo C. Cosico, associate professor of soil science, the book is on sale at the University Publications Office at PhP 200.00 per copy.

A new ASC - IPB corn project collaboration on-going

A US \$ 59,000.00 worth of project entitled "Site Specific Nutrient Management of Corn in the Philippines" has been approved and is now being implemented through the National Corn Research, Development and Extension (RDE) Network. This is funded by the Southeast Asia Program of the Potash and Phosphate Institute/ Potash and Phosphate Institute of Canada and International Potash Institute of Switzerland headed by its director, Dr. Christian Witt. The Department of Agriculture-Bureau of Agricultural Research has also staked a Philippine counterpart amounting to Php 1.05 million. This three-year project commenced last April 1, 2005 and will end on March 30, 2008. The Project is headed by Dr. Romeo V. Labios from the Agricultural System Cluster (ASC) and Dr. Apolonio M. Ocampo from the Institute of Plant Breeding (IPB), both from the College of Agriculture, UPLB. This undertaking, which is also supported by the Singapore-based Southeast Asia Program will be closely linked with the initiatives in Indonesia and Vietnam.

The specific objectives of the project are: 1) quantify and understand the yield potential of maize and existing yield gaps in selected major agro-ecological zones through crop simulation modeling and on-farm research, 2) develop a scientific approach and practical tools for site-specific nutrient management (SSNM) in key maize production systems, 3) evaluate the agronomic and economic performance of SSNM, and 4) disseminate simplified SSNM recommendations.

The project sites selected based on corn area and production and the availability of local expert counterparts are the provinces of Isabela, Tarlac and Bukidnon. As part of the approach, soil yield and climate data are collected from these sites during the first year to quantify the benchmark data of the soil and its yield potential for corn. On-farm trials with omission plots and fully fertilized plots will be conducted for two corn-cropping seasons at each site, comparing two different planting densities. On the second and third years, on-farm trials with omission plots will be continued and the performance

Badayos is new ASC director



Effective June 1, 2005, Dr. Rodrigo B. Badayos has been appointed as director of the Agricultural Systems Cluster (ASC), College of Agriculture, UPLB until 31 May 2008.

This appointment was approved by the Board of Regents on its 1197th meeting on June 23, 2005 upon the recommendation of the U.P. President..

Prior to this, he was designated office-in-charge of ASC since November 2004 after the resignation of its first director Dr. Eduardo P. Paningbatan in October 2004. He was also assigned as chair of Instruction Committee of ASC from 2003-2004.

Dr. Badayos is Professor I in the field of soil science. He obtained his PhD in 1982 at the Oregon State University and his MS in UPLB in 1978 with specialty in soil genesis, classification and land use. He earned his BS in Agriculture in Soil Science from UPLB in 1972. As a faculty, he teaches undergraduate and graduate courses in his field of expertise. He also guides the research activities of students in pedology and land use and has also jointly published materials related to genesis of Philippine soils and soil productivity models.

Some of his research and extension works involved among others, studies related to his specialty and the provision of technical assistance to a number of local government units, government, non-government organizations and people's organizations. Specifically, these were used in the preparation of comprehensive land use plans, development of environmental impact assessment on geothermal and hydroelectric power plant, land

resource inventory, preparation of suitable cropping systems and land use allocation and management. He has also collaborated with Japanese pedologists in characterizing Philippine paddy soils. Related to these undertakings, he was able to publish and present various technical papers in local and international journals and other publications and conferences, respectively.

Among the administrative tasks assigned to him the most challenging was his appointment as college secretary of the UPLB Graduate School from 1998-2003. He is hopeful that his 32 long years of serving the university in various capacities has honed him to experience and gained wisdom to pursue the challenges of the fresh mandate ahead of him as ASC director. (SC Seminiano)

New ASC-IPB project. . . from page 3

of SSNM will be evaluated for two successive cropping seasons based on corn productivity, profitability, nutrient use efficiency and nutrient balances.

A pocket guide will be produced to summarize project results. At the national level, annual stakeholders' meeting and seminars will be held to summarize project findings and discuss implications for national policies and follow-up undertakings.

For project updates, corn planting in the selected sites has already been started on a staggered basis. It is the goal of this project to improve the productivity and profitability of corn in major agro-ecological zones of the Philippines. (SC Seminiano and National Corn RDE Network)

We need your comments and suggestion. Your article contributions will also be appreciated. Let us make Aggie Green and Gold our conduit to development.

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