



CAFS honors graduates of SY 2016-2017

The College of Agriculture and Food Science (CAFS) paid tribute to its graduates for School Year 2016-2017 through a testimonial breakfast reception held last June 24 at the Agronomy-Soils-Horticulture Lobby, Institute of Crop Science, CAFS, UPLB.

This year's graduates were led by Arnel B. Villancio, Jr., Bachelor of Science in Agriculture (BSA) major in Agricultural Systems, *summa cum laude* and recipient of Joaquin J. Gonzalez medal, Gamma Sigma Delta Honor Society of Agriculture Medal and Dean's Medal of Excellence.

Meanwhile, Ma. Cristina R. Ilano, Bachelor of Science in Food Technology (BSFT), *magna cum laude* received the Julian A. Banzon medal and the Dean's Medal of Excellence.

Other graduates who were recipients of the Dean's Medal of Excellence were: Jhon Mark O. Trinidad and Nadine B. Coronado (BSA, *magna cum laude*); Elson Ian Nyl E. Galang, Rachele L. de Torres, Rex Joseph DJ. Enabore, Mary Shaddeline L. Zafra, Maeden B. Bato, Maria Kenneth Lane R. Suplito, Heway Christian A. Serra, Adelbert Adrian A. Sendon, Patricia Izabelle M. Lopez and Angel Mae D. Manato (BSA, *cum laude*); Maria Sandra Renee C. Tapia (BSFT, *magna cum laude*); Gerieka R. Anapi, Jan Michael A. Salgado, Elsa Joy T. Horiondo, Jared Lou DR. Rivera, Andreia Isabela P. Dita, Bien Coleen Q. Mayuga, Mirah Jasmine R. Agquiz, Czarina Ericka Mari A. Cruz, Joshua A. Crepa, Alden Bradley R. Lusanta and Alessandra Therese L. Matro (BSFT, *cum laude*); Zyla N. Capiz, Benjamin Christian J. Esguerra, Niña Kate C. Jingco, Maura Mercedes L. Santos, Switzer Joy L. Ducos, Kathleen B. Racho and Jomari C. Domingo (Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Biotechnology-BSABT, *cum laude*); and Gio Ferson M. Bautista (Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Chemistry-BSAgChem, *magna cum laude*).

Of the 288 graduates, 25 finished during the mid-year term (10 BSA, 6 BSFT, 8 BSABT and 1 BSAgChem). Meanwhile, 77 graduated in the first semester (40 BSA, 24 BSFT, 11 BSABT and 2 BSAgChem) and 186 did it in the second semester (77 BSA, 62 BSFT, 41 BSABT and 6 BSAgChem).

The CAFS has a long history of excellence and the tradition continues as shown by its 34 or 12% of its graduating students recognized with honors.

Also part of the breakfast reception was the recognition of CAFS volunteers to *Ugnayang Pahinungod* 2016-2017. Prof. Glenn S. Lubaguin, its director led the acknowledgement of Nadine B. Coronado; Joshua A. Crepa, Dianne ST. Bartolome, June Micah DS Capelo and Trishia Kaye DR. Paraiso (BSFT); Jan Vincent B. Beltran, Adrian G. Fernandico and Erin Marie DC. San Valentin (BSABT); and Ranelle DP. Acda and Kea Mea G. Sandoval (BSAgChem).

Recipients of the DOST Scholarship Award, DA-BAR Scholarship Grant and Sugar Regulatory Administration Scholarship Grant who are honor graduates were recognized by Dr. Alexander R. Madrigal, Dr. Nicomedes P. Eleazar and Atty. Anna V. Paner, respectively.

Gabriel M. Salazar, BSA Class 1987 and president of STERIX Inc., served as the guest speaker. (*Imelda M. Gesmundo*)

Salazar urged graduates: Be passionate and persevering

// Be passionate and persevering in the task given to you", said Gabriel M. Salazar. "If you don't have extreme passion in the thing you do," he continued, "then it is a mediocre thing".

This has been part of the message of the president of STERIX Inc., a company which is involved in the provision of pest control and pest management products and services, during the breakfast reception held in honor of the CAFS's graduates. Sharing his thoughts from his experiences in the business world and from the enterprise he is into right now, he said that companies are on the look out for potential employees that have passion in their jobs, showing leadership skills and can replicate what the owners have done for the company. "People with greed and leadership are very scarce", Salazar added,





"Hence, enterprises are looking for people who can easily innovate; people who can collaborate; people who can work smarter and who can chase skills but not titles; people who are always challenging the status quo and always thinking that a competitor may come in better than them".

Concluding his message, Salazar advised the graduates that, once they have jobs of their own, they should love their family and give them their best time; share their time with friends and celebrate with them; pursue other passion that will improve the life of other people; and have a clean and efficient workplace. (*IM Gesmundo*)

IPB turns 42

The Institute of Plant Breeding (IPB) celebrated its 42nd anniversary since its founding in 1975, and its first anniversary after restructuring as part of the reorganization of the College of Agriculture and Food Science (CAFS) last June 5 with a new found zeal.

With the theme "Science and Seeds in the Service of the Filipino Nation", it was the perfect time when this **RE**structuring, as an effect of CAFS **RE**organization, brought out several other **RE**s wherein old and new staff of the IPB gathered to **RE**new their commitment to the Institute, **RE**charge their energy, and **RE**kindle their spirit towards attaining the highest quality of education, research and public service.

The program started in the early morning hours with a motorcade from the old UPLB Administration Building, passing by the different buildings inside the campus, the International Rice Research Institute complex, up to the IPB compound. It was followed by a thanksgiving mass and a morning program which included inspiring messages from UPLB officials and IPB Council of Elders, recognition of outstanding personnel, and giving of service awards. At lunch time, a 'salo-salo' fiesta was held where each unit prepared mouth-watering food which was shared with everybody. The afternoon was devoted to a Family Day highlighted by a cheer dance competition.

A part of the celebration, a Sporstfest was held from May 15 to June 1. Four groups within the institute were formed, displayed their skills in sports and vied for supremacy in basketball, volleyball, table tennis, badminton, scrabble, dama and chess. (*Laureano B. Lanosia, Jr.*)

NCPC researchers join TARI exhibit tour

The researchers of the National Crop Protection Center's Pesticide Toxicology and Chemistry Laboratory (NCPC-PTCL), CAFS attended a collaborative research visit at the Taiwan Agricultural Research Institute (TARI) in Taichung City, Taiwan last June 5-9.

Cristina M. Bajet, Eric Jhon dG. Cruz and Jasper A. Sarmiento joined some researchers from the Benguet State University (BSU) in the visit funded by their on-going Philippine Council for Agriculture, Aquatic, Forestry and Natural Resources Research and Development (PCAARRD) project titled "Pilot Testing and Utilization of the Rapid Bioassay of Pesticide Residues (RBPR) System in the Philippines".

In a nutshell, the RBPR is a technology developed by TARI and being utilized in more than 360 stations all over Taiwan for the rapid detection of pesticide residues in fruits and vegetables prior to their acceptance in the market. It is also being used by farmers' cooperatives and associations as well as fruits and vegetable producers to check for pesticide residues in their produce prior to selling to ensure market acceptability in relation to food safety.

During the visit, an exhibit tour was conducted regarding the researches and the products developed by TARI. Scientist Bajet presented the progress of the RBPR project and discussions regarding the strategies on the promotion and implementation of the RBPR system in Taiwan was led by Dr. Ching-Hua Kao, director of the Applied Zoology Division of TARI. To witness the actual implementation of the RBPR system, the group visited the adopters of the technology, namely: farmer's associations, food suppliers for school lunches, local markets, and supermarket. In addition, the UPLB and the BSU teams were trained on the newly-developed method by TARI on the determination of pesticide residues using immunoassay method or using enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA). Also, the use of the dimetomorph rapid test kit was observed.

Lastly, the group also visited the Food and Fertilizer Technology Center (FFTC) and had a discussion with the FFTC top management and key staff regarding pesticide management and organic agriculture, and policy making in agriculture. The possibility of future collaborations between the Philippines and Taiwan through FFTC was also tackled. (*Eric Jhon dG. Cruz/Jasper A. Sarmiento*)

"The ultimate goal of farming is not the growing of crops, but the cultivation and perfection of human beings."

Masanobu Fukuoka....The One Straw Revolution

TAMIU students attend training on fruit wine processing

Students from the Texas A&M International University (TAMIU) underwent training on fruit wine processing at the Institute of Food Science and Technology (IFST), CAFS last June 29.

The said training was attended by 10 students led by their professor, Dr. Ruby A. Ynalvez who earned her BS Food Technology degree at IFST. Claire S. Zubia, university researcher, served as trainer, with the assistance of Juanito Dumayas. Aside from hands-on training, the students were able to taste some fruit wines produced by the institute. Fruit wine processing was part of the activities under the Study Abroad Program in the Philippines of TAMIU. This program was aimed to provide the students with direct experiential training for them to gain knowledge, develop skills and understand values from lived experience outside the traditional classroom.

This collaboration between IFST and the TAMIU is already on its second year. Last year, 12 students participated in the same training. (*Claire S. Zubia*)

FOREIGN TRAVELS*

- ◆ **Rainie Rich Chuckie S. Yambao**, university research associate, Dairy Training and Research Institute; currently attending a Grant-Related Research Training on RNA Sequence Analysis at University of Illinois, USA; May 30-December 4
- ◆ **Dr. Teresita U. Dalisay** and **Dr. Jessamyn R. Adorada**, associate professor and assistant professor respectively, Institute of Weed Science, Entomology and Plant Pathology (IWEP); attended the International Kasetsart University Science and Technology Annual Research Symposium at Kasetsart University, Faculty of Science in Bangkok, Thailand; May 31-June 4
- ◆ **Michelle S. Guerrero**, university researcher, National Crop Protection Center (NCPC); attended the Short Course on "Integrated Pest Management and Food Safety at Wageningen Centre for Development Innovation, Wageningen University and Research, The Netherlands; June 3-25

- ◆ **Cristina M. Bajet, Eric Jhon dG. Cruz** and **Jasper A. Sarmiento**, scientist 1, university researcher and university research associate respectively, NCPC; attended a collaborative research visit at the Taiwan Agricultural Research Institute in Taichung City, Taiwan; June 5-9
- ◆ **John Carlo M. Marasigan**, university researcher, Institute of Plant Breeding (IPB); presented a scientific poster at the 14th International Symposium on the Biosafety of Genetically- Modified Organisms (ISBGMO 14); attended the Insect Resistance Management and Public-Private Partnership meetings in Guadalajara, Mexico; June 3-10
- ◆ **Catherine Hazel M. Aguilar**, university researcher, IPB; attended the 9th Asian Crop Science Association Conference at Jeju Island, South Korea; June 3-9
- ◆ **Dr. Susan T. Bacud**, university researcher, IWEP; presented a paper titled, "Cognitive Decision Making in Evolving Transformative Resilience: Responses to the Livelihood Risks of a Marginalized Sampaguita Growing Community in the Philippines" in the 8th Asian Conference on the Social Sciences in Kobe, Japan; June 7-11
- ◆ **Dr. Rommel C. Sulabo**, professor, Institute of Animal Science; served as resource speaker during the Amino Acid Forum in Animal Nutrition 2017 in China; June 11-14
- ◆ **Dr. Filma C. Calalo**, assistant professor, Agricultural Systems Institute; currently participating in the 7th Asian Association of Agricultural Colleges and Universities (AAACU) Study Tour in Changmai, Thailand; June 18-July 2

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FEEDBACK

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