



# COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

*activated. updated.*

June 1-30, 2016

Official Publication of the UPLB College of Agriculture

Volume 5 No. 6

## BOR appoints UP Scientists from CA

The UP Board of Regents (BOR) appointed five faculty members of the College of Agriculture (CA) as UP Scientists during its recent meeting.

Drs. Luis Rey I. Velasco and Celia DR. Medina of the Crop Protection Cluster were conferred the UP Scientist I title while Dr. Pompe C. Sta. Cruz, director of the Crop Science Cluster (CSC), has been reappointed as Scientist III. Meanwhile, Dr. Teodoro C. Mendoza of CSC and Dr. Renato SA. Vega of the Animal and Dairy Sciences Cluster were promoted to Scientist II.

The UP Scientific Productivity System (SPS) aims to support the development of science and technology and to encourage and reward scientific productivity. Faculty members are evaluated based on their publications in reputable refereed journals and books. Deserving scientists are conferred the title "UP Scientist" with monetary awards of PhP 150,000.00, PhP 200,000.00 and PhP 250,000.00 per annum for Scientist I, II and III, respectively. (*Imelda M. Gesmundo, with information from <http://ovpaa.up.edu.ph/up-scientific-productivity-system-2/>*)

## CA associate dean is NAST's Outstanding Young Scientist

CA Associate Dean Tonette P. Laude is one of the Outstanding Young Scientists for 2016, as cited by the National Academy of Science and Technology (NAST).

Dr. Laude, also a professor from the Crop Science Cluster, has conducted numerous researches in plant breeding and authored scientific papers for local and foreign journals.

The award, which is given to young Filipino scientists for significant contributions in science and technology, will be conferred to her on July 14 at the Centennial Hall, Manila Hotel. (*Excerpted from [ca.uplb.edu.ph](http://ca.uplb.edu.ph)*)

## CA honors 2016 graduates

The College of Agriculture (CA), led by Dean Enrico P. Supangco, feted its graduates during a dinner reception held last June 24 at the Agro-Soils-Horti building lobby, UPLB.

This year's graduates were led by Pee-jay A. Rebuso, BS Agriculture, *magna cum laude*, and recipient of Joaquin J. Gonzales medal, Gamma Sigma Delta Honor Society of Agriculture medal and Dean's Medal of Excellence.

Other honor graduates were:

### Dean's Medal of Excellence

#### BS Agriculture (*cum laude*)

- Edelyn Joy M. Vicencio
- Nerisa V. Paduit
- Roselle E. Madayag
- Alberto Louis A. Basinillo
- Marielle Ann M. Solpico
- Gladys S. Morado

#### BS Food Technology (*cum laude*)

- Keiane B. Ambos
- Jana Louria M. Malingan
- Tristan John M. Zamora

#### BS Agricultural Biotechnology (*cum laude*)

- Mary Ranzelle A. Pasang

#### BS Agricultural Chemistry

- Naela V. Delmo

During the recognition program, inspirational messages were provided by Dr. Chamnian Yosraj (president of Maejo University, Chiangmai, Thailand) who served as guest speaker, Chancellor Fernando C. Sanchez, Jr., and Dr. Elpidio M. Agbisit, Jr., director of the Animal and Dairy Sciences Cluster and president of CA Alumni Association. Likewise, Rebuso gave his response message in behalf of the students. (*Apolinario L. Lantican*)

*"Weeds function as an unseen tax on the crop harvest".*

Earl M. Hildebrand

## Dean Supangco urges graduates: Be entrepreneurial & inspire people

“As you start a new journey, be your own boss”, said Dean Enrico P. Supangco as he advised the CA graduates during the dinner reception held recently.

In his opening remarks, Dean Supangco urged the graduates to be passionate and entrepreneurial as there is a bright future for them in agricultural business. He advised them to act soon as time is indeed limited.

Moreover, Dean Supangco reminded them to be humble in success because one can have a meaningful life not because of money but due to humility. “Go and inspire the Filipino people”, he challenged them, “be a true *Iskolar Para sa Bayan*”.

Lastly, he congratulated the graduates and wished them well. (*AL Lantican*)

## Chancellor Sanchez to graduates: Go for excellence, serve the people

Chancellor Fernando C. Sanchez, Jr., during the same activity, challenged the graduates to uphold UP’s standard of excellence in whatever professional career they take.

In his welcome message, Chancellor Sanchez said that they now bear the university’s legacy of producing only the best; hence, they must use the knowledge they have gained to strengthen agriculture and other related disciplines.

Likewise, Chancellor Sanchez said the graduates are now in a better position to serve the Filipino people and show their gratitude to their family, community and country.

“Relish your story of success”, he concluded, “but never lose sight of what UP stands for”. (*AL Lantican*)

## Maejo University president relates experience to graduates

Dr. Chamnian Yosraj (president of Maejo University, Changmai, Thailand and guest speaker during the dinner reception) gave some words of wisdom to the graduates.

Relating his experience as student, Dr. Yosraj urged the graduates to control and motivate themselves, do what is right, fight hard, work hard, find solutions to problems, keep an open mind, do not waste time, keep learning, adapt to situations, take risks for better life and make a big difference to society.

Dr. Yosraj opined that earning a degree is just the beginning of a lifetime process. “Thus, you should never stop learning and practicing”, he said. “Set your goals and follow them”, he concluded. (*AL Lantican*)

## Thai students undergo internship at CA

Jiraporn Autthaphong and Chalida Tanoi, two BS Agriculture students from Ubon Ratchathani University, Thailand, are attending a one and a half month internship at the CA’s Crop Science Cluster (CSC).

Since their arrival last June 7, the students had their orientation with the staff of the Office of Institutional Linkages (OIL), a meeting with the CA associate dean and the director of CSC, and a briefing with the CSC heads of offices regarding the cluster’s academic program and extension activities. The interns also toured the different facilities where some technologies were showcased by the CSC. These include the Ornamental Crops Nursery, Orchid Laboratory, Tissue Culture Facility, Postharvest Training and Research Center, Edible Landscaping, and Rooftop and Vertical Garden.

The interns were given lecture and hands-on practicum on the following: rice breeding and production, basic concepts and practical applications of gene banking, vegetable breeding and organic vegetable production, fruit crops breeding (papaya, mango and pineapple), cereals, root crops and hibiscus production, edible landscaping, SNAP Hydroponics, and postharvest techniques.

Since each intern has her own commodity interest, one of them will conduct a mini-research on rice and corn breeding while the other one will do a mini-research on postharvest techniques on fruits, specifically mango and papaya.

The interns will present their accomplishments at a closing ceremony on July 28 at the CA Dean’s Office Conference Room in the presence of the dean, the associate dean, CSC heads and a representative from OIL. (*IM Gesmundo, with information from Maria Emblem O. Grulla*)

## CA trains students on technical writing

The CA conducted a writeshop for their graduating MS and PhD students to help them finalize paper(s) for scientific journals last June 20-21 at the Development Academy of the Philippines, Tagaytay City, Cavite.

Titled, "Writeshop to Produce Ready to Publish Scientific Papers from Research of MS and PhD Advisees of CA Faculty", the two-day training was aimed to increase CA's research productivity. Hopefully, this year's target of 0.2 peer-reviewed journal article per PhD for every faculty each semester will be achieved. This initiative of the college, with the support of the university, is also geared towards maintaining UPLB's status as the premier university for agriculture in the country. Likewise, dissemination of CA's research outputs to a wider regional and global audience will also attract more research collaborators from other universities and research centers.

A total of 26 participants (21 MS, 3 PhD, 1 faculty and 1 REPS) attended the writeshop. Drs. Ofelia K. Bautista and Teresita L. Rosario, retired professor and *professor emeritus* of the Crop Science Cluster, respectively, and former editors of the Philippine Agricultural Scientist journal, served as resource persons. (IM Gesmundo, with information from Lorina M. Castillo)

## ASC revives newsletter

The "ASC Updates", the official newsletter of the Agricultural Systems Cluster (ASC), returned in the circulation last May 2016 after its last issue four years ago.

Readers can expect that the newsletter shall continue with its mission to disseminate the latest breakthroughs of ASC's programs and projects. Further, the newsletter is also aimed at recognizing the achievements of the cluster's staff and students.

The newsletter will be released every two months. As it has limited printed copies, the readers may access the publication through the official website of ASC: <http://www.ca.uplb.edu.ph/index.php/agricultural-systems-cluster>. (Augustus Franco B. Jamias)

## ASC launches free seminars

*Where one can learn from the masters*

A seminar series entitled "Learning from the Masters" was recently launched by the ASC last April. Experts in the field of agricultural research and extension are invited each month to provide free seminar to the public.

So far, two seminars were already conducted. Jim Leandro Cano, country representative of Young Professionals for Agricultural Development Philippines, presented about "Strategic Inclusion of Youth in National, Regional, and Global Agricultural Systems" last April 20. Meanwhile, Dr. Daniel Garcia, a French sustainable agriculture advocate, talked about "Making Nature Work for You: Labor Saving Techniques in Organic Agriculture" last June 7.

The upcoming topics of the seminar will also feature the *professor emeriti* and other retired experts of the College of Agriculture. Through the seminar, they will share the wisdom obtained from their years of practice in their respective fields. This will enable the younger generations to directly learn from them aside from their published works.

Knowledge seekers may check out the seminar schedules and announcements at the official Facebook Page of ASC: @agrisystems.

The seminar series is part of the Capacity Building in Agricultural Systems Development project of the Agricultural Systems Extension and Entrepreneurship program of ASC. (AFB Jamias)

## June is OJT season at IPB-CSC

Just when two BS Biology students from Southern Luzon State University in Lucban, Quezon have finished their On-the-Job Training (OJT) in plant breeding, gene banking and seed production at the Institute of Plant Breeding-Crop Science Cluster (IPB-CSC) from May 16 to June 10, four more batches came in this June.

Two BS Agronomy and Horticulture students from Ubon Ratchathani University, Thailand are having a mini-research in rice breeding and fruit postharvest techniques from June 7 to July 30; seven senior high school students from Philippine Science High School (PSHS) Quezon City Campus and five students from PSHS Clark, Pampanga Campus are doing plant tissue culture works from June 16 to July 1, and from June 20 to July 29, respectively. On the other hand, four BS Agricultural Biotechnology students of UPLB who are Department of Science and Technology (DOST) scholars are having a Summer Practical Training Program on molecular techniques in plant pathology from June 20 to July 29.

This OJT is part of the schools' or DOST's curriculum as a requirement for their graduation. (Laureano B. Lanosia, Jr.)

## FOREIGN TRAVELS\*

- ◆ **Dr. Teresita U. Dalisay**, associate professor, Crop Protection Cluster (CPC); attended and presented a paper titled "Identification of Rust Fungi on Various Plants in Selected Areas in Luzon" at the 8<sup>th</sup> International Kasetsart University Science and Technology Annual Research Symposium (I-KUSTAR 2016) in Bangkok, Thailand; June 1-5
- ◆ **Dr. Elda B. Esguerra**, professor, Crop Science Cluster (CSC); provided technical leadership and support to the quantification of postharvest losses, pilot demonstration of postharvest improvements and training of stakeholders in the supply chain of mango as part of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)'s Project titled "Reduction of Postharvest Losses in Horticultural Chain in South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation in Bangladesh; June 1-5
- ◆ **Sara Jane B. Manaday**, university research associate, CPC; attended and presented a paper titled "Sooty Molds on Foliage of Philippine Ornamental Plants" at the 8<sup>th</sup> I-KUSTAR 2016 Symposium
- ◆ **Melissa P. Montecalvo**, university researcher, CPC; presented a paper titled "Effect of Integrated Postharvest Treatment on Mango Stem End Rot Incidence" at the 8<sup>th</sup> I-KUSTAR 2016 Symposium
- ◆ **Mary Joy C. Mendoza**, university researcher, CPC; presented a paper titled "Analysis of Population Structure of *Mycosphaerella fijiensis* in Luzon Philippines" at the 8<sup>th</sup> I-KUSTAR 2016 Symposium
- ◆ **Manuela A. Samaco**, university research associate, CSC; presented a paper titled, "Occurrence, Identification, Characterization and Pathogenicity of *Fusarium* spp. Associated with Pokkah Boeng Disease of Sugarcane in the Philippines" at the 8<sup>th</sup> I-KUSTAR 2016 Symposium
- ◆ **Rizalina L. Tiongco**, laboratory technician, CSC; presented a paper titled, "Field Symptom Variability and Pathogenicity Testing of Sugarcane Leaf Scald Caused by *Xanthomonas albilineans*" at the 8<sup>th</sup> I-KUSTAR 2016 Symposium
- ◆ **Dr. Fe M. Dela Cueva**, university researcher, CSC; attended the 8<sup>th</sup> I-KUSTAR 2016 Symposium; June 2-6
- ◆ **Dr. Christian Joseph R. Cumagun**, professor, CPC; attended the 7<sup>th</sup> World Didac Asia and Technical Vocational Education and Training Connex at the Hongkong Convention and Exhibition Centre; June 6-9
- ◆ **Dr. Enrico P. Supangco**, CA dean and professor, Animal and Dairy Sciences Cluster (ADSC); attended the Multi-country Observational Study Mission on Agricultural Innovations in Tokyo, Japan; June 6-10
- ◆ **Dr. Baby Richard R. Navarro**, associate professor, Food Science Cluster; participated in the seminar and the Daegu Flower Show in Daegu Metropolitan City, South Korea; June 2-6; Also attended the Tea World Festival in COEX, Seoul, South Korea; June 9-12
- ◆ **Johnny F. Balidion**, assistant professor, CPC; currently attending a training on Cacao Pathology in the United States of America; June 12 to September 10
- ◆ **Dr. Jose Nestor M. Garcia**, university researcher, Agricultural Systems Cluster; participated in the Regional Meeting on the Improvement and Development of Emission Factor for N<sub>2</sub>O from Agricultural Soil Management in Patancheru, Hyderabad, Telangana, India; June 13-18
- ◆ **Leonisa A. Artes**, university extension specialist, CSC; attended and presented a paper titled "The postharvest situation of local bananas in the Philippines" during the 2<sup>nd</sup> Asian Food and Agriculture Cooperation Initiative (AFACI) International Training Workshop on Postharvest Management Technology for Horticultural Crops in Bangkok, Thailand; June 15-28
- ◆ **Dr. Rodel G. Maghirang**, UP Scientist 1, CSC; attended the ASEAN+6 Organic Agriculture Forum 2016: Sustainable Agriculture at Imperial Maeping Hotel, Chang Mai, Thailand; June 27 to July 1
- ◆ **Catherine Hazel M. Aguilar**, university researcher, CSC; attended the Conservation Asia 2016, a joint meeting of the Asia/Pacific Chapter of Society of Conservation Biology and Association for Tropical Biology and Conservation at the National University of Singapore; June 28 to July 3

\*Prepared by **Imelda M. Gesmundo and Erlinda A. Balot**

The **College of Agriculture Monthly Newsletter** is published through the Office of the Dean, College of Agriculture, UPLB, College, Laguna

**Advisers:** Dean Enrico P. Supangco  
Associate Dean Tonette P. Laude  
**Editor/Layout Artist:** Apolinario L. Lantican  
**Contributors:** Erlinda A. Balot, Imelda M. Gesmundo, Maria Emblem O. Grulla, Augustus Franco B. Jamias, Laureano B. Lanosia, Jr., Apolinario L. Lantican and Lorina M. Castillo  
**Circulation Officer:** Venecia B. Batain