

Carillon

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Scan to know more about this year's Carillon feature
The Heritage Door sculptured by Francisco "Archie" Zabala.
Photo by Marvie A. Villones, UP Tacloban Information Office



Carillon

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Contents

- 4** **Arts Feature**
Living National Artist in UP (Performance Art)
- Ricky Lee (movie), Ryan Cayabyab (music),
Fides Ascencio (music)
- 7** **UP in Pop Culture**
Tailored to the Classroom: The Relevance of
Studying Celebrity Culture
- 10** **Featured Alumni Chapter Abroad**
UPAA Western Australia
- 12** **Featured Alumni Chapter in the Philippines**
The UP Mountaineers
- 14** **Biographical Tributes**
National Scientist Clare Baltazar
Francisco 'Dodong' Nemenzo, Jr.
Santanina Rasul
- 18** **Cover Page Story**
Opening Doors: Arts and Cultural Heritage
in UP Tacloban
- 20** **Spotlight**
UP Tacloban's "Road to CU-hood"
- 24** **Centerspread**
Green Spaces at UP Tacloban
- 26** **Alumni Engagement**
UP Tacloban's Alumni: Looking Forward to
Becoming the 9th Constituent University
- 28** **Science Feature**
UP's Roadmap for Responsible and Trustworthy
AI
- 32** **Sports Feature**
Celebrating UP athletic excellence in the UAAP
Season 87
- 34** **CU Hopping**
UP Manila
UP Diliman
UP Open University
UP Los Baños
UP Baguio
UP Cebu
UP Visayas
UP Mindanao
- 42** **Hindsight**
Husay at Dangal: Rediscovering the UP
Oblation and Its Symbols
- 45** **Alumni Accolades**
Topnotchers
In Memoriam
OAR Directors & Officers

From the Editor's Desk

Welcome to this issue of the UP Carillon, which reflects our University's transformative journey.

We celebrate our artistic and cultural heritage, featuring the second Tanghal Tertulia in honor of living National Artists from UP and a unique course on pop culture, as we highlight the University's pioneering academic programs and research in artificial intelligence.

We pay tribute to our UP alumni with enduring legacies – former UP President Francisco Nemenzo, Jr., Senator Santanina Rasul, and National Scientist Clare Baltazar – as we support the new generation's excellence in athletics, environmental protection, and community service.

We cast the spotlight on UP Tacloban, on its way to becoming a constituent university, the final stop of Carillon's virtual campus tour. We walk through its Heritage Door to discover the Eastern Visayas region's rich artistic and cultural traditions. We learn about their recent breakthroughs, like the innovative mussel glycogen extraction program that turns the "red tide" problem into opportunity. Just like the UP Oblation that now stands in the emerging Sta. Elena campus of UP Tacloban, we look to new horizons.

We are grateful to our dynamic UP Office of Alumni Relations team, led by Director Tricia Endozo-Villanueva, for steering the Carillon and ushering in a new chapter of UP alumni engagement. After this issue, the Carillon will become an e-magazine with limited print copies – a shift towards greater sustainability and stronger digital and global presence. It has likewise been a year of disruptive and meaningful changes for our Public Affairs team and our ever-evolving University.

We are more than an aggregation of constituent universities and campuses. We are a global symphony of UP voices, a growing crescendo of convictions. When we are at our best at leveraging our knowledge, expertise, and innovative spirit, we are an unstoppable force for change. *Para sa Pamantasan, para sa Bayan!*

Atty. Marian L. Coquia-Regidor
Editor-in-chief
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LIVING NATIONAL ARTISTS IN UP

Ricky Lee (movie), Ryan Cayabyab (music), Fides Ascencio (music)

By Thea Claudette R. Castañeda

Beyond its renowned programs in science and technology, UP also recognizes the importance of arts and culture in shaping the nation's identity. The University's core values of honor, excellence, and service, are not only exemplified through UP programs supporting science and technology, but they are also embodied in celebrating artistic excellence through events like Tanghal Tertulia, a tribute to living National Artists who are UP alumni.

UP is known for producing notable figures in various fields that help shape the nation's history to what is known today. Artists who are UP alumni have also made their mark, especially in art forms and movements that are thought-provoking and revolutionary for the industry they are in.

Celebrating the artistic excellence of living National Artists who are UP alumni, Tanghal Tertulia is a night of sharing poems, music, and other artistic tributes to art and beauty in the UP community.

The tradition began in December 2023 upon the formation of an ad hoc community consisting of Professor Emeritus Jose "Butch" Dalisay, Jr., Professor and former Vice President for Public Affairs Roland Tolentino from the UP Film Institute, Professor and Dean Jimmuel Naval from the UP Diliman College of Arts and Letters, Professor Romulo "Joey" Baquiran, Jr. from the UP Likhaan Institute of Creative Writing, Professor and Dean Patricia Brillantes Silvestre from the UP College of Music; and Tanghal Tertulia Chair Atty. Fina dela Cuesta-Tantuico. The committee was formed under the request of UP President Angelo "Jijil" Jimenez, who envisioned a poetry reading session surrounded by the bamboo trees swaying under warm yellow lights that filled the starry evening sky.

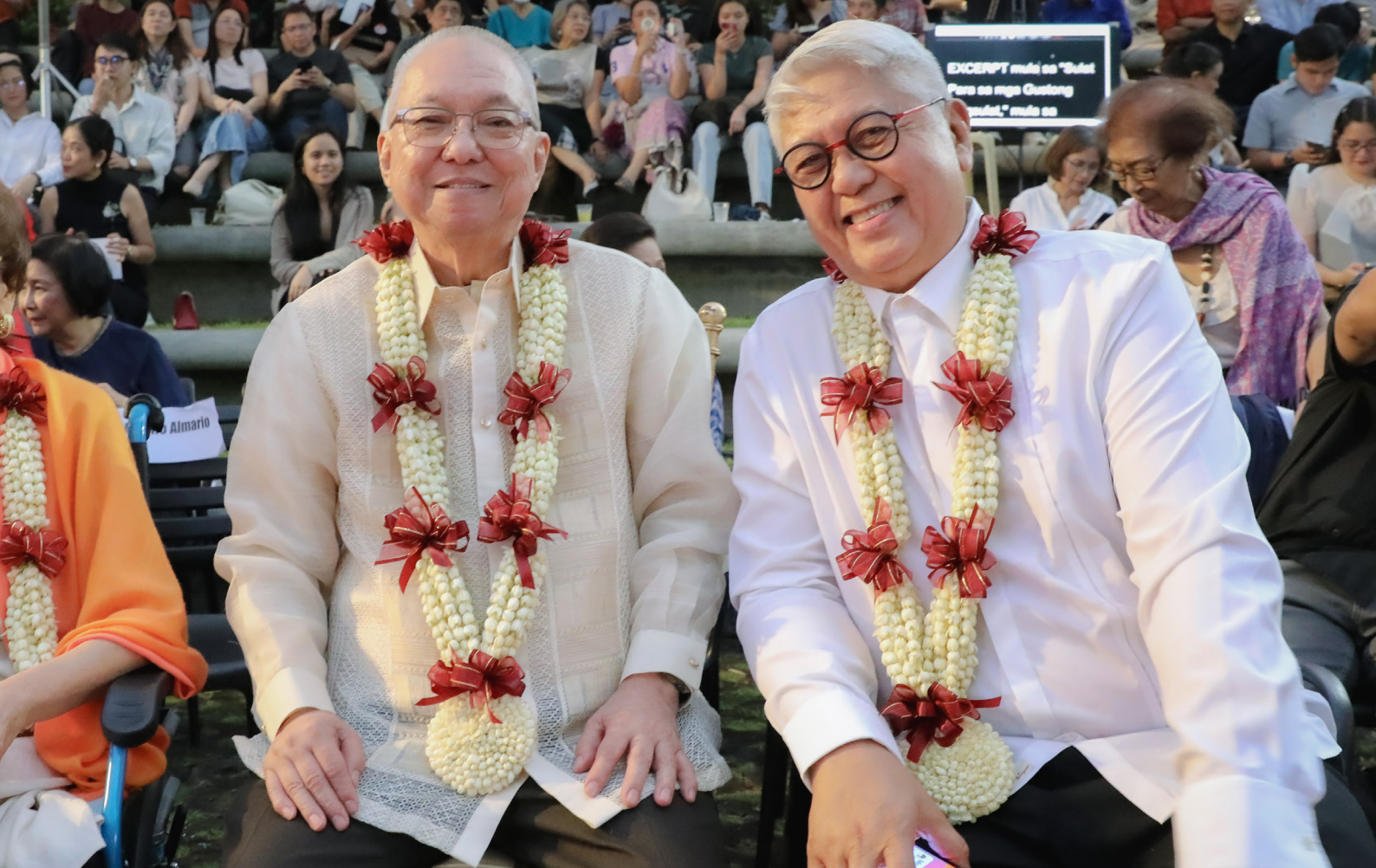
The title, "Tanghal Tertulia", came to be from the word tertulia, which embodied the Spanish tradition of an informal gathering of people, and tanghal, meaning to exhibit and perform, usually in a recital-like setting.

The first Tanghal Tertulia was held on 26 February 2024, which celebrated the works and excellence of National Artists Gémino H. Abad, Virgilio S. Almario, and Ramon P. Santos. Its success led to its second installment this year.

The 2025 Tanghal Tertulia was held on 08 March, at the Amphitheater Garden of the UP Executive House located in UP Diliman, the same venue that inspired this event in the first place. Tertulia Segunda gave tribute to National Artists Ricky Lee, Ryan Cayabyab, and Fides Cuyugan-Asensio. The event coincided with International Women's Day as well as the National Arts Month.

The series of tributes began with honoring National Artist and Professor Emeritus Fides Cuyugan-Asensio. Dubbed the "grand dame of the Philippine stage", she is a renowned coloratura soprano, actress, librettist, director, producer, and educator. A valuable faculty in UP College of Music, Cuyugan-Asensio served as Chair of its Voice and Music Theater Department from 1988 to 1997, and was conferred as Professor Emeritus in Voice by the UP Board of Regents. She was then recently hailed as National Artist for Music in 2022. Tribute performances for her included a jazz-infused rendition of "Quando Meno Vo" from Giacomo Puccini's *La Bohème*, a rendition of "Mayo, Mayo na Naman" and "Salamin, Salamin"





(From left to right) National Artists Fides Cuyugan-Asensio, Ricky Lee, and Ryan Cayabyab, taken during "Tanghal Tertulia" held at the amphitheater of the UP Executive House in UP Diliman, March 8, 2025. Photo by Jonathan Madrid, UP MPRO.

performed by soprano Bianca Lopez-Aguila, the latter song with special participation from the National Artist herself.

The second tribute was for National Artist for Film and Broadcast Arts, Ricardo "Ricky" Lee. A former AB English student of UP Diliman's Department of English and Comparative Literature, Ricky Lee has occasionally taught writing workshops in UP Film Institute. A prolific writer and screenwriter, he is known for his contributions to Philippine cinema, including films like "Himala", "Karnal", "Moral", and "The Flor Contemplacion Story", earning him his title as National Artist for Film and Broadcast Arts in 2022. The tribute for him featured a performance of the theme song of "Isang Himala" by singer-actress Aicelle Santos, and a musical and dance interpretation of the theme song from "Karnal" by the UP Jazz Ensemble and the UP Dance Company.

The final tribute of the night was for National Artist and alumnus, Ryan Cayabyab. He earned a Bachelor of Music degree at the UP College of Music, where he also taught for two decades as a professor under the Department of Composition and Music Theory. A multi-awarded musician, composer, and conductor, Cayabyab's works have become an integral part of Philippine music. Being one of the pillars for Original Pilipino Music (OPM), he earned the title of National Artist for Music in

2018. He actively participated in his own tribute performances by performing the piano alongside UP Jazz Ensemble. Other performances featured his musical pieces and hits such as "Death Duet" from the 2003 opera Spoliarium, "Minsan ang Minahal ay Ako" from Katy! The Musical, "Nais Ko", and "Awit ng Pagsinta."

The event was a lighthearted yet memorable celebration of the artistic legacies of these three National Artists.

As of writing, 44 out of the 81 National Artists belong to the UP community, whether as an alumni or as a professor in the University.

- Fernando C. Amorsolo (National Artist for Visual Arts – Painting, 1972)
- Francisca Santos Reyes-Aquino (National Artist for Dance, 1973)
- Amado V. Hernández (National Artist for Literature, 1973)
- Antonio J. Molina (National Artist for Music, 1973)
- Juan Felipe de Jesus Nakpil (National Artist for Architecture, 1973)
- Guillermo E. Tolentino (National Artist for Visual Arts – Sculpture, 1973)
- José García Villa (National Artist for Literature, 1973)



National Artists Fides Cuyugan-Asensio, Ryan Cayabyab, Gémino H. Abad, and Ricky Lee hold token mementos designed by Committee on Culture and the Arts Chair Toym Imao, taken during "Tanghal Tertulia" held at the amphitheater of the UP Executive House in UP Diliman, March 8, 2025. Photo by Jonathan Madrid, UP MPRO.

- Napoleón "Billy" V. Abueva (National Artist for Visual Arts – Sculpture, 1976)
- Vicente S. Manansala (National Artist for Visual Arts – Painting, 1981)
- Carlos P. Rómulo (National Artist for Literature, 1982)
- Antonino R. Buenaventura (National Artist for Music, 1988)
- Zacarias Francisco "Franz" Arcellana (National Artist for Literature, 1990)
- César T. Legaspi (National Artist for Visual Arts – Painting, 1990)
- Leandro Valencia Locsin (National Artist for Architecture, 1990)
- Lucio D. San Pedro (National Artist for Music, 1991)
- Catalino "Lino" Ortiz Brocka (National Artist for Film, 1997)
- Felipe Padilla de León (National Artist for Music, 1997)
- Wilfrido Ma. Guerrero (National Artist for Theater, 1997)
- Néstor Vicente Madali "N.V.M." Gonzalez (National Artist for Literature, 1997)
- Levi Celério Cruz (National Artist for Music, 1997)
- Andrea Ofilada-Veneración (National Artist for Music, 1999)
- Edith López-Tiempo (National Artist for Literature, 1999)
- Daisy Hontiveros-Avellana (National Artist for Theater, 1999)

- Ishmael Bernál (National Artist for Film and Cinema, 2001)
- Severino Montano (National Artist for Theater, 2001)
- José T. Joya (National Artist for Visual Arts – Painting, 2003)
- Virgilio S. Almario (National Artist for Literature, 2003)
- Benedicto "BenCab" Reyes Cabrera (National Artist for Visual Arts – Painting, 2006)

- Abdulmari Asia Imao (National Artist for Visual Arts – Sculpture, 2006)
- Ramon A. Obusan (National Artist for Dance, 2006)
- Federico Aguilar Alcuáz (National Artist for Visual Arts – Painting, Sculpture and Mixed Media, 2009)
- Jose "Pitoy" Moreno (National Artist for Fashion Design, 2009-2013)
- Francisco E. Feliciano (National Artist for Music, 2014)
- Ramón P. Santos (National Artist for Music, 2014)
- Raymundo "Ryan" Cayabyab (National Artist for Music, 2018)
- Resil B. Mojares (National Artist for Literature, 2018)
- Amelia "Amel" Lapeña-Bonifacio (National Artist for Theater, 2018)
- Lauro Zarate "Larry" Alcala (National Artist for Visual Arts, 2018)
- Eric Oteyza "Kidlat Tahimik" De Guia (National Artist for Film and Broadcast Arts, 2018)
- Agnes D. Locsin (National Artist for Dance, 2022)
- Fides Cuyugan-Asensio (National Artist for Music, 2022)
- Ricardo "Ricky" Lee (National Artist for Film and Broadcast Arts, 2022)
- Gemino Abad (National Artist for Literature, 2022)
- Antonio "Tony" O. Mabesa (National Artist for Theater, 2022)

The rank and title of National Artist is given by means of a Presidential Proclamation to a renowned Filipino artist to recognize their significant contributions in Philippine arts. 🇵🇭

TAYLORED TO THE CLASSROOM : The Relevance of Studying Celebrity Culture

By Arnold Rosales Lapuz

In June 2023, I had the chance to join a special BTS tour in Korea. I am not an ARMY myself, but my eldest sister is. I was supposed to be her “chaperone” because it would have been her first time going on a trip overseas. To our disappointment, her visa application was rejected – while mine was approved. I had to push through despite not having any interest in BTS whatsoever, because the visa processing fee would have gone to waste. But more importantly, the destination is a country I also dream of visiting. Sans the itinerary.

It was a five-day tour to various sites in Seoul significant to the evolution of BTS – from their humble beginnings to global stardom. 2023 was a special year for ARMYs I would eventually come to know. It marked the 10th year of BTS’ debut in the world of music and entertainment. For diehards, all roads led to Seoul that summer. The South Korean capital was in a festive mood as ARMYs from different parts of the world gathered to celebrate their love for BTS. My tour group was especially fortunate to be featured on a local Korean television show while dining at Yoojung Sikdang, the restaurant frequented by BTS in their pre-debut years. As an “outsider” to this subculture, visiting places with hardcore fans and listening to them exchange stories of BTS was an education of sorts.

In the larger context, this overwhelming love for BTS – among other things Korean – has become this East Asian nation’s soft power over the years, and has contributed positively to its economy. This popularity has translated into courses

on Korean pop culture. Study International (2022) reports that BTS is now an academic subject in the University of California, Berkeley. Interestingly titled New Generation Leaders: BTS, the student-led two-credit course aims to explore the impact of BTS on global youth culture and the globalization of K-Pop. In this period of history heavily influenced by Hallyu or the Korean wave, more universities and colleges around the world are designing courses to understand this phenomenon.

So, the news of global pop icon Taylor Swift becoming a course subject in the University of the Philippines Diliman should not come as a surprise. In a time when pop superstars are treated as modern-day heroes, studying today’s celebrity-driven culture presents many opportunities to explore and understand the contemporary world. As a student of anthropology, it is fitting to ask how someone like Taylor Swift can hold such influence over millions of people across the globe. Even national governments recognize the power of these notable personalities. Who could forget the exclusive deal arranged by the Singapore government to host the Southeast Asian leg of Taylor’s highly anticipated Eras Tour in 2024, which earned the ire of neighboring countries for the potential loss of economic revenue? What about the Twitter plea by then-Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau for Taylor to tour Canada, which was granted despite not being initially planned?

Amid criticisms regarding the course’s perceived lack of depth and social significance, Dr. Cherish Aileen “Iris” Brillon of the College of Media and Communication explains why she wants to pursue Taylor Swift as a subject of study in a January 2024 article published in the Community section of the UP website. Apart from wanting to engage in something she finds personally meaningful and interesting as a self-professed Swiftie, Professor Brillon believes that Taylor Swift, as a cultural phenomenon, could offer significant insights to enrich our understanding of the intricacies of transnational media ecology as it is mediated by the Internet. The Philippines, a global Internet powerhouse in terms of usage and online engagement, provides a noteworthy context for gauging and reflecting on the influence of media personalities like Taylor Swift. In a celebrity-saturated world, the powerful influence Taylor Swift has just cannot be ignored, Professor Brillon contends.

Moreover, in an interview with Inquirer's Krixia Subingsubing (2024), Professor Brillon shared that Filo Swifties figured prominently in the campaigns of then-presidential candidate Leni Robredo during the 2022 national elections. It was the first time that a fandom organized and mobilized support for a politico. It is also worth noting that as polling precincts began vote tabulation and partial results were being broadcast, Taylor Swift's Only the Young trended on social media, most notably on X (formerly Twitter). Then-presumptive president Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. was referred to as the "big bad man," while supporters of his election rival then-Vice President Leni Robredo were touted as the "young" (Rappler, 2022). For these reasons, appreciation of Taylor Swift should go beyond her impressive and relatable discography. The culture she inspires, especially among the youth, should not be overlooked. To dismiss it is to ignore a popular truth in today's world.

PhilSTAR Life's Gen Z correspondent Angel Martinez sat in one of Professor Brillon's Taylor Swift classes and learned many things about being a woman, being a celebrity, and, more importantly, being human. From the singer-songwriter's genre shift from country to pop and her political awakening portrayed in Miss Americana, to the emergence of her global celebrity status and the rise of Swifties forging communities conscious of their social impact, she is convinced that the study of Taylor Swift is, in every way, relevant to the times. In a landscape shaped by a superstar's persona and the culture that emanates from it, Taylor Swift should, therefore, be of interest to us all—whether you are fan or not. Figures like her merit academic scrutiny, for they are forces to be reckoned with not only socio-culturally, but also politically and economically.

Taylor Swift has become larger than life. Her celebrity has been embraced by millions of fans worldwide. She is a personification of a deity to some. She is said to be this generation's ultimate pop icon. The power she holds is undeniable. We may think that we know Taylor Swift all too well, but if we seek to truly comprehend the world we live in today, we should give celebrities the discursive engagement their influence commands. A course dedicated to Taylor Swift is not bereft of significance, but is a timely, if not overdue, acknowledgement of a phenomenon that we all need to know well. 📌

Photos by Assoc. Professor Iris Brillon, PhD, taken during the BMAS 196 course — Special Topics in Broadcast Media (Celebrity Studies: Taylor Swift in Focus).





UP Alumni Western Australia: Strengthening Bonds, Supporting Scholars

By Ruth Lopez

The University of the Philippines Alumni Association – Western Australia (UP Alumni WA) has quickly grown into a vibrant, purpose-driven community. Since its official launch on 11 November 2023, the association has welcomed over 150 members from all UP campuses, representing batches 1957 to 2018—a strong start for Iskos and Iskas now calling WA home.

At its core, UP Alumni WA is about connection, culture, and service. Guided by the ideals of honor and excellence, it champions alumni interests while promoting UP's academic mission and social values. The group focuses on building strong networks, supporting members, and collaborating with communities in both Australia and the Philippines.

A major highlight this year was Livin' La Vida '90s, the association's inaugural fundraising event held on 10 May 2025. The 90s-themed dinner dance combined nostalgia and purpose, with lively music, great food, and joyful dancing. The night also featured heartfelt presentations on the Lingap Iskolar Program, which supports students from geographically isolated and disadvantaged areas and low-income backgrounds in the Philippines. UP Alumni WA is proud to support this meaningful initiative through its own scholarship grant.



More than 100 members attended the launch of the UP Alumni WA in 2023

Earlier community events helped build strong momentum. The Tambayan networking series kicked off with Touchdown Australia, where alumni shared stories of migration and resilience. The second Tambayan celebrated Filipino food and culture; the third tested wit in a fun-filled Time's Up quiz; the fourth focused on financial literacy and empowerment, and the fifth raised funds via a quintessential Australian sausage sizzle.

Meanwhile, Palarong Pinoy brought the community together through classic Filipino games like Patintero, Sack Race, Sungka, Tumbang preso, and a zucchini-filled Pipino Relay. The laughter, teamwork, and playful energy revived memories of home and created new ones in WA. This was conducted during the Filipino Grand Fiesta, in partnership with the Filipino Australian Club of Perth.

With each gathering, UP Alumni WA deepens its roots and widens its reach—connecting alumni, honoring heritage, giving back, and continuing to offer *husay at dangal para sa bayan*. As the association looks ahead, it remains committed to making a lasting impact, both in Western Australia and in the Philippines. 🏰

For more information, check out:
upalumni.wa.org



Throwing your best thongs (slippers) for Tumbang Preso.



Jumping like a kangaroo to win the sack race.



Jiving to 90s music at the Livin' La Vida 90s dinner dance.



UP Alumni WA brought back traditional Filipino games to the WA Grand Fiesta.

THE UP MOUNTAINEERS

By DLS Pineda

The UP Mountaineers (UPM) recently turned forty-eight and as tradition would have it, we ran laps around the Academic Oval for 48 hours straight. That's from 5:00 p.m. of April 23, Wednesday, to 5:00 p.m. of April 25, Friday. The number of years UPM remains standing, the number of hours we run.

Not too many members could recall the exact year when the tradition started but in the org's archives, it states that the tradition was initiated in 1989. For most of us, running and carrying the UPM flag around the Acad Oval, making sure that it is never set down for too long while fellow members sat around, nibbled on food, and shared stories at the designated tent *tambayan*—essentially camping on campus—simply made so much sense to be considered a tradition that has been around for as long as the org existed. In any case, it's a tradition that we all hope continues. Imagine: On our one hundredth year, a hundred hours of running, eating, sitting around on campus, and sharing stories.

UPM remains young despite its current composition now where alumni, or college graduates, greatly outnumber the active members who are still in undergrad. This



UPM Batch 2015-A Aie Camara with husband, Red, joining the final lap of the 48-hour run. Aie survived the fatal truck accident in Katipunan last December 5, 2024, which killed four persons and injured over 30.



The UPM anniversary run's final lap traditionally ends at sunset by the Oblation.

AND THE 48-HOUR RUN

extended youth comes unsurprisingly from how the org's thrusts and reasons for being just lend themselves so well to people from all walks of life who still live for adventure. Perhaps, it's thanks to the mountains that have been there way before us, the mountains that will remain long after we're gone. Adventure, naturally, would always beckon.

MC Monsanto ran/walked the most number of laps around the Acad Oval in the men's category, a total of 30 laps (66 kilometers) carrying the UPM flag, while Fechi Fajardo topped in the women's category, running/walking a total of 24 (52.8 kilometers). Afterwards, the UPM Executive Board had food and drinks served at the UP Hotel where the mountaineers sat in their groups, sketched plans to climb another mountain, regrouped on the on-going creation of a network of trails in Sierra Madre, and volleyed ideas for the org's upcoming 50th anniversary. Of course, after this mess and tired from 48 hours of running, we had to transfer to our old watering hole in Krus na Ligas, outside campus, when UP Hotel called it a night. 🏠



Youth is our default nature. Jojo Guevarra (left) Bricx Dumas (right), Batch 1988 and Batch 2016 respectively.



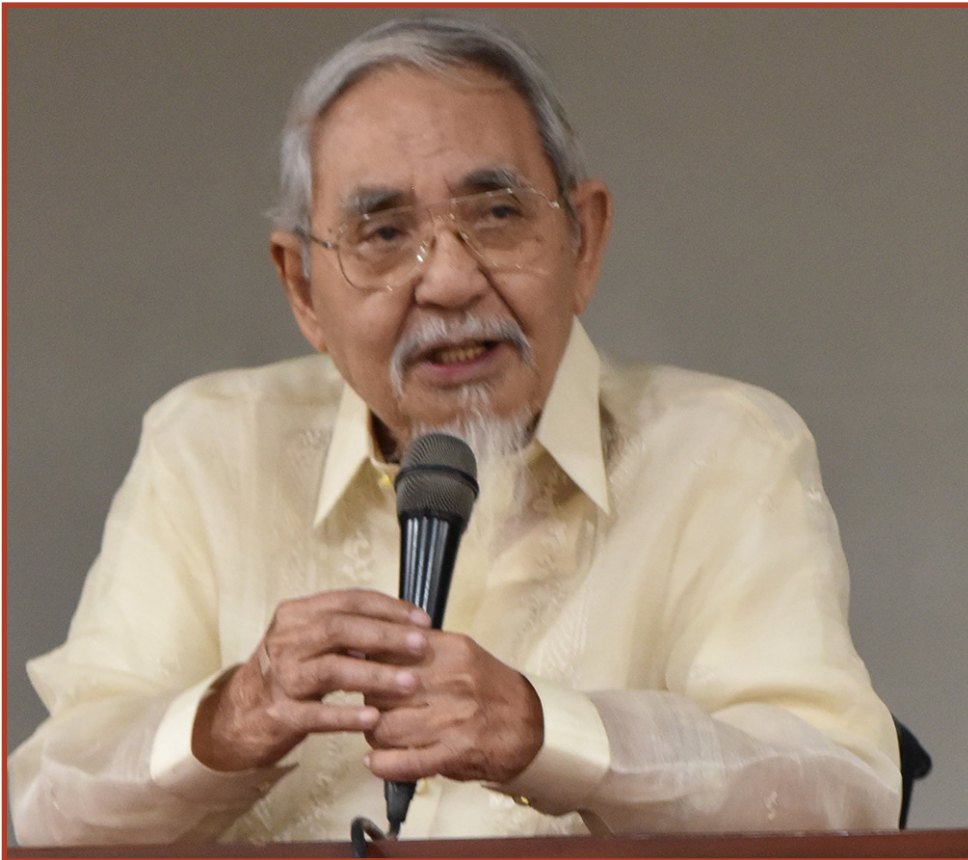
UPM in recent decades has conscientiously shed its macho image and has given greater spaces for women and the LGBTQIA+ community with all-women climbs and events geared towards making mountaineering accessible for all.

From UP, Making

By Joanna Robles

The University of the Philippines has always been more than just a school. For many, it's a place where ideas are tested, activism is born, and lifelong missions take shape.

Dodong was not the type to stay quiet. As a political science student, he threw himself into activism, speaking out against authoritarian rule and championing academic freedom. Those early experiences,



Dr. Francisco "Dodong" Nemenzo



Santanina "Nina" Rasul

In the lives of Francisco "Dodong" Alfafara Nemenzo, Jr., Santanina Centi Tillah-Rasul, and Clare R. Baltazar, we see three very different journeys. But all of them began in the same place: their years as UP students.

Dodong Nemenzo: From Student Activist to UP President

When Francisco "Dodong" Alfafara Nemenzo, Jr. entered UP, the country was in turmoil. It was the early years of the Marcos dictatorship, and the campus was alive with protest and debate.

from organizing rallies, debating policy, to writing sharp essays, would shape his life.

Dodong didn't just fight from the outside. He also believed in building strong institutions from within. Over the years, he rose through the academic ranks, teaching political science and mentoring young scholars.

In 1999, he became the 18th President of the University of the Philippines, leading the entire UP System until 2005.

ng History

His presidency was marked by an insistence that the university remain a space for free thought, even in tense political times. He pushed for reforms, improved academic

Born in Siasi, Sulu, Santanina was a Tausug woman from Mindanao at a time when few from her hometown, especially women, made it to UP. She studied education and later public administration, finding in UP an



National Scientist Clare Baltazar

programs, and defended the university's autonomy.

Through it all, he stayed "Dodong", who was approachable, witty, and still deeply committed to the ideals that first moved him as a student.

Santanina Rasul: Champion for Muslim Women

If Dodong's UP years were about political struggle, Santanina Rasul's were about breaking barriers.

environment that encouraged her to question the status quo.

UP was where Santanina learned to navigate not just the academic world, but the social and cultural barriers that often held Muslim women back.

After graduating, Santanina stepped into public life with confidence. In 1987, she made history as the first Muslim woman elected to the Philippine Senate, serving until 1995.

In the Senate, she championed women's rights, peace in Mindanao, and the recognition

of Muslim culture in national policy. She helped pass landmark laws like the Women in Development and Nation-Building Act and launched literacy programs for underserved communities.

For Santanina, UP was where she first understood the power of education to change lives — starting with her own. And she used that lesson to open doors for others, especially those from marginalized communities.

Clare Baltazar: The National Scientist

Not all UP graduates find their calling in politics or leadership. Some make their mark in quieter, but equally lasting ways.

Clare Baltazar was one of them. She entered UP to study entomology, which is the science of insects, at a time when the field was unknown. Her work took her deep into the world of parasitic wasps and other insect species, many of which she helped classify for the first time.

Over her career, she became one of the Philippines' leading entomologists and a pioneer in her field. She authored textbooks, mentored young scientists, and even had insect species named after her. Her research laid the groundwork for pest control strategies vital to Philippine agriculture.

Clare's time in UP taught her the value of disciplined research and the joy of discovery. While she didn't stand on political stages like Dodong or Santanina, her contributions were no less profound.

Different Paths, Shared Ground

Dodong, Santanina, and Clare took different roads after UP: one to the presidency of the university, one to the Senate, and one to the heart of scientific research. Yet they were shaped by the same lessons UP instills in its students: honor and excellence.

For Dodong, honor and excellence was in the rallies, the debates, and the push for democracy.

For Santanina, it was in proving she belonged in spaces that weren't built for her and using her place there to speak for others.

For Clare, it was in the patience of fieldwork and the thrill of discovery.

They also shared a sense that education came with responsibility. None of them treated their success as a purely personal achievement; they used it to push for changes they believed in.

The UP spirit is often described as a mix of courage, critical thinking, and public service. In these three stories, it shows up in different ways: in the fiery speeches of a campus activist turned university president, in the calm determination of a senator breaking barriers, and in the meticulous research of a scientist expanding knowledge.

What connects them goes beyond the degrees they earned at UP. They once walked the same halls, sat in the same classrooms, and shared the same vibrant milieu that has shaped generations of *Iskolar ng Bayan*. From those spaces, they carried with them UP's enduring creed: honor and excellence. They had lived it out in their own distinct and impactful ways.

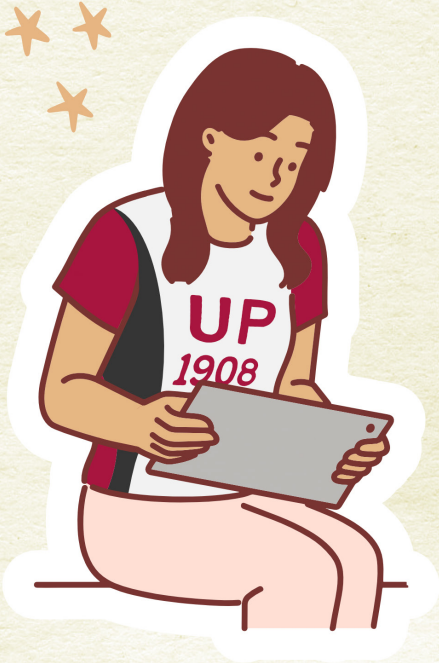
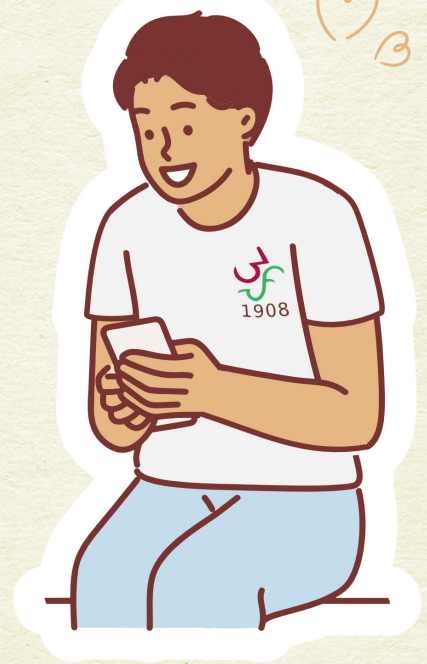
Today, students still walk the same hallways Dodong, Santanina, and Clare once did. They sit under the same trees, debate in the same classrooms, and dream of changing the world in their own ways.

If they are lucky, they will find, as these three did, that the lessons they carry from UP will stay with them long after they have left the campus.

Because UP is not just a place to get a diploma. For many, it's where you learn to live with purpose, guided by honor and excellence, for the betterment of the Filipino people. 🏰



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OPENING DOORS:

By Antonino Salvador S. de Veyra

“Kadayaw ngada han Pagsidlit han Adlaw” (Full Moon to Sunrise), a two-panel sculpture by Francisco “Archie” Zabala of Palo, Leyte, serves as the door welcoming visitors to the Leyte Samar Heritage Center of UP Tacloban. Carved out of an acacia trunk, the door features the unique flora and fauna, history, and cultural objects and practices in Eastern Visayas.

At the center, a young couple dances the kuratsa, a local dance, with an elderly couple behind them playing ancient musical instruments, the kudlong and kudyapi. The figures are surrounded by images of the lush vegetation — gabi, pako, kalipayan, and kilala — and wildlife — the tarsier, flying lemur, kalaw or hornbill, and balanak fish — endemic to Leyte, Samar, and Biliran islands. Enlarged rice grains below the elderly musicians represent one of the crops planted in fertile lowland and upland areas across the region. The feet of the dancing couple rest on a mat, signifying the traditional art of weaving mats made of ticog grass. The lower section of the door depicts the warriors of Samar disguised as women, their sundang or machetes deflecting the superior weapons of American invaders during the 1901 Balangiga uprising. At bottom left can be seen hands grabbing a pot, symbolizing how the islands’ rich natural and cultural treasures were commandeered by the foreign invaders. Also at the bottom section are flames that remind viewers of how the American forces retaliated by turning Samar into a “howling wilderness,” burning villages and killing the islanders.

The “heritage door” (as it is sometimes called) of the Leyte Samar Heritage Center or LSHC also serves as a metaphor for UP Tacloban’s goal of contributing to the preservation, conservation, and popularization of the historical, artistic, and natural and cultural heritage of Eastern Visayas. The LSHC was established on 24 October 1995 as a research and extension unit of UP Tacloban to conduct studies on various aspects of Leyte-Samar culture and environment. Under the leadership of its directors — from founding director Prof. Joycie Dorado-Alegre to the succeeding directors Dr. Margarita de la Cruz, Dr. Marieta Sumagaysay, and Dr. Stephen Lagarde to the current director Prof. Antonino Salvador S. De Veyra, the LSHC has worked to develop a deep appreciation of the tangible and intangible heritage of Eastern Visayas through research presentations, academic conferences, cultural performances, and art and natural history exhibitions.

Through the years, the Center has opened its doors to diverse audiences in order to promote the region’s rich linguistic and literary traditions. It has hosted book launches, authors’ talks, and book fairs highlighting the works of local writers as well as books on Eastern Visayas. Recent examples include the book launch of Dr. Stephen Lagarde’s



ARTS AND CULTURAL HERITAGE IN UP TACLOBAN



Kanta Binisaya, a collection of choral arrangements of Eastern Visayas folk songs; the book launch and author's talk on the literary translation of An Ditoy na Prinsipe, Northern Samar writer Jerry Gracio's translation of *The Little Prince*; the launch of Dinah Roma's *Weaving Basey: A Poet's History of Home* and the author's talk on literary and historical writing; and the launch of *Tigom: Collected Poems* and author's talk on creative writing in Eastern Visayas by UP Tacloban's Professor Emeritus Merlie Alunan.

From October 2023 to January 2024, the LSHC held an interactive exhibit on the Waray language titled “Waray Pag-ultan han Pinulungan: Mulay-mulay ha Binisaya” (Waray without Borders: Playing with Words), which highlighted how Eastern Visayas heritage is embedded and embodied in the Binisaya or Waray language. The exhibit, which was mounted in celebration of Museums and Galleries Month and the LSHC's 28th anniversary, came after a long-running interactive exhibit organized by the LSHC titled “Pagsalud han Dan-ag han Adlaw / Cupping the Flow of Sunlight (Gleanings from the Natural and Cultural Heritage of Eastern Visayas)” in celebration of UP Tacloban's 50th founding anniversary in 2023.

The Pagsalud exhibit, which opened at a shopping mall in Tacloban City on 23 January 2023 and continued at the LSHC main gallery until early October of that year, featured paintings, photographs, specimens, maps, performances, lectures, workshops, book launches, and multimedia productions drawn from some of the research and creative work undertaken by UP Tacloban scholars. The displays, interconnected by a mangrove motif, showcased the rich biodiversity, culture, and traditions of the region, as well as the resilience of Eastern Visayas communities in the face of various natural calamities and social upheavals. The centerpiece of the exhibit was a full-size replica of the UP Oblation by UP Artist and Professor Emeritus Grace Javier Alfonso. Beyond showcasing UP Tacloban's institutional research, creative work, and other forms of knowledge production, the exhibit sought to engage the public, and students in particular, in environmental and biodiversity conservation, cultural heritage preservation and promotion, and sustainable development.

In 2021, the LSHC marked its 26th founding anniversary with a multimedia presentation and artist talk on “Kadayaw ngada han Pagsidlit han Adlaw.” The theme of the anniversary celebration was “Pórta: Pathways to Promoting Cultural, Historical, and Environmental Awareness in Eastern Visayas.” Indeed, the Center's iconic heritage door symbolizes the LSHC's mandate to build pathways, establish continuities, and open up opportunities in the collective work of preserving the rich natural and cultural heritage of Eastern Visayas. 🚪

UP TACLOBAN'S ROAD TO CU-HOOD

By Arvin De Veyra & Patricia Arinto



The UP Tacloban Sta. Elena Oblation

Establishment

On 23 May 1973, the University of the Philippines (UP) Board of Regents (BOR) at its 833rd meeting approved the establishment of the University of the Philippines at Tacloban as a regional unit. The decision came five years after the Leyte Provincial Board led by then Governor Benjamin T. Romualdez submitted to then UP President Salvador P. Lopez a request, promulgated as Provincial Board Resolution No. 85, for the “opening of a branch of the University of the Philippines in the City of Tacloban.”

The new regional unit had three general objectives: “1) to provide quality education in the Eastern Visayas region and turn out graduates who possess essential attributes for becoming productive and responsible members of the community; 2) to undertake and

encourage scientific research... that will help illuminate phenomena [and] serve practical values of resolving problems and enhancing regional development; and 3) to offer technical assistance to... government, business, and the public at-large toward the further improvement of the quality of life in the Eastern Visayas region.”

UP Tacloban opened in June 1973 with 141 undergraduate enrollees and seven full-time faculty members holding classes in a small building on a lot behind the old Leyte Provincial Capitol. On 2 July 1973 the college was inaugurated by then President Ferdinand E. Marcos, with then First Lady Imelda R. Marcos as the guest of honor. The event took place on the same day that the San Juanico Bridge

was inaugurated and was marked with the installation of a plaque in front of the capitol building.

The initial program offerings were the Bachelor of Science (BS) in Community Development, Bachelor of Arts (BA) (Social Sciences), and Master of Public Administration. The college also administered the Leyte Research & Development High School (LRDHS), in collaboration with the Department of Education and Culture, National Science Development Board, and Leyte National High School. The Diploma in Fisheries, Forest Ranger Certificate, and pre-Veterinary Medicine program were added in 1977; BS in Agri-Business, BS in Development Communication, and BS in Business Management in 1978; and AB Communication Arts in 1979. By 1980, there were four degree program clusters — Arts & Sciences, Management & Technology, Agriculture & Rural Development, and Graduate Studies.

Integration into UP Visayas

On 23 March 1983, then UP President Edgardo J. Angara issued Executive Order (EO) No. 4 reorganizing the University of the Philippines into a system of autonomous universities, namely, U.P. Diliman, U.P. Los Baños, U.P. Manila, U.P. Visayas, “and others that may be established in the future.” Two years later, U.P. College Tacloban and U.P. College Cebu were placed under the administrative supervision of U.P. Visayas, and the college’s name was changed to UP Visayas Tacloban College. In AY 1985-1986 a comprehensive academic review was undertaken and the four academic program clusters were consolidated into two Divisions — the Division of Arts and Sciences and the Division of Management and Technology.

On 26 November 1998, the BOR during its 1126th meeting approved the reorganization of UPVTC into four academic divisions: Division of Humanities, Division of Social Sciences, Division of Natural Sciences and Mathematics, and Division of Management. By this time the college had 11 undergraduate program offerings — BA (Communication Arts), BA (Social Sciences) Economics, BA (Social Sciences) Political Science, BA (Social Sciences) Psychology, BA (Social Sciences) Sociology, BS (Biology), BS Computer Science, BS Accountancy, and BS Management — and the Master of Management program with specializations in Public Management and Business Management.

Three years earlier, on 24 October 1995, the BOR approved the establishment of the Leyte-Samar Heritage Center as a research and extension unit focusing on studies on various aspects of

Leyte-Samar culture and environment. A decade later, the Regional Environmental Information Systems Laboratory was established to collect and provide geospatial information in support of planning and decision-making to address problems related to climate change, disaster response and recovery, and sustainable community development. Furthermore, the MS in Environmental Science program was adopted from UP Los Baños in 2019 and the BS Applied Mathematics program was adopted from UP Visayas in 2022.

Autonomy

On 27 April 2023, on the college’s 50th year, the BOR at its 1380th meeting approved the elevation of UP Tacloban College to an autonomous unit under the Office of the UP President, to enable the unit to better fulfill its mandate in Eastern Visayas and work towards becoming the next constituent university of the UP System.

The college has since revised all of its undergraduate curricula, the BA (Communication Arts) and BA (Economics) programs have been renamed as BA Media Arts and BS Economics, respectively, and a new BA Literature program has been instituted. The BS Accountancy program continues to produce topnotchers in the Certified Public Accountants (CPA) Licensure Examination, including the first and seventh placer in 2023 and the 10th placer in 2024. A graduate of the program had also topped the CPA licensure exams in 1993 and several other graduates had placed in the top 20 passers through the years. The BA Psychology program has likewise produced topnotchers in the Psychometricians Licensure Examination, aside from 100% passing rates.

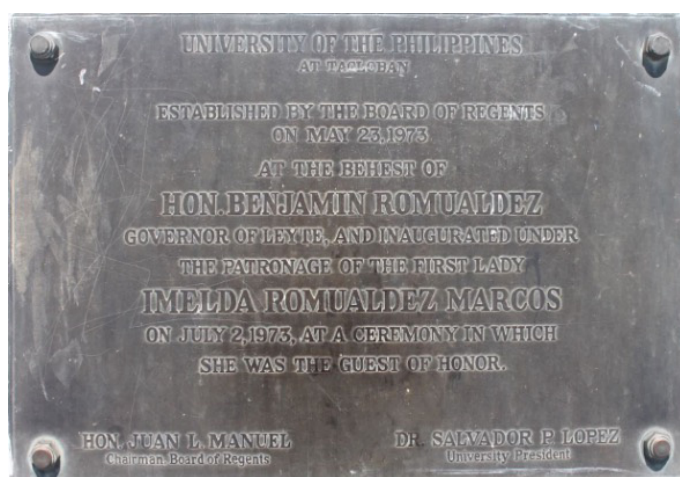


Photo of the plaque marking the inauguration of UP Tacloban on 2 July 1973

UP Tacloban's research and innovation agenda includes biodiversity conservation and environmental protection, Eastern Visayas language and culture, disaster resilience and sustainable development, and community health and well-being. For example, among its most recent projects is the upscaling of glycogen extraction from tahong or green mussels. Glycogen is a key ingredient in cosmetics and pharmaceutical products. The mussel glycogen project, which is co-funded by the Department of Science and Technology's Philippine Council for Aquatic, Agricultural and Natural Resources Research and Development (PCAAARD) and the UP System, is an innovative response to the problem of harmful algal blooms or red tide, which adversely affects the livelihood of tahong farmers in Region VIII.

Bulwark to the East

On 2 July 2025, UP President Angelo A. Jimenez and UP Tacloban Dean Patricia B. Arinto led the unveiling of a new Oblation sculpture at UP Tacloban's Sta. Elena campus in North Tacloban. The ceremony, which was witnessed by BOR members, UP System officials, and UP Tacloban's faculty, staff, alumni, and institutional partners, was part of the college's 52nd anniversary celebration with the theme "Pagtukod," meaning "to build."

In his keynote message, President Jimenez declared that the installation of the Oblation at UP Tacloban's Sta. Elena campus represents a promise that "this university that we are building here is consecrated towards the further development of the Eastern Visayas region as a bulwark to the east."

Indeed, UP Tacloban is committed to building capacities and engaging communities in the sustainable development of Eastern Visayas. It is expanding its curricular offerings, reaching out to underserved communities, undertaking groundbreaking research, and strengthening institutional partnerships and networks to address regional needs and priorities. In line with the BOR-approved UP Tacloban Land Use Development and Infrastructure Plan for 2021-2030, construction of the Administration, Innovation, and Research (AIR) Building in Sta. Elena is ongoing, detailed plans for the first academic building and student dormitory in the new campus are being completed, and, with funding from the UP System, the college has built the country's first mussel glycogen production facility in the envisioned UP Tacloban Science and Technology Park in Sta. Elena. All these in preparation for becoming UP's ninth constituent university, uniquely positioned as "UP's easternmost station" with a mandate to assist in the development of the Eastern Visayas region and the Philippines as a whole. 🏰



Photo of unveiling of the Oblation at the Sta. Elena campus on 2 July 2025



Serving the Filipino community in its own way, ***TheraFree*** is the flagship project of the UP Manila College of Allied Medical Professions Alumni Association (UP-CAMPAA). With the goal of making occupational, speech and physical therapy accessible especially in regions where allied health services are hard to reach, UP-CAMPAA teams up with local government units and non-government organizations in offering ***TheraFree***. Assessments, personalized treatment plans, caregiver and family education and distribution of home exercise programs are crucial components of this activity. ***TheraFree*** is a different way of conducting a "medical mission" and has always yielded lasting results. Two of the most successful runs were in Naga City last March 2025 and in Pasig City last July 2025.

Aside from ***TheraFree***, UP-CAMPAA is also set to relaunch its biennial convention, TheraCon, this November 2025. This is a great opportunity for allied health professionals to convene, discuss relevant clinical and social concerns in practice, and rekindle professional and personal connections. Preparations are currently underway for this year's TheraCon.

Aside from these two major projects, UP-CAMPAA's new administration also aims to conduct small-scale supportive projects for newly graduating alumni, upcoming board exam-takers, and entry-level therapists to enhance their development in their careers as occupational, speech and physical therapists. 📌

Green Spaces at UP Tacloban

Text by Antonino Salvador de Veyra

Photo by Marvie A. Villones, Information Office

Located along the scenic Magsaysay Boulevard of Tacloban City, facing San Pedro Bay, the UP Tacloban city campus is an environmental oasis in an ever-expanding and urbanizing metropolis.



Botanical Garden and Park Marker & Botanical Garden Shore

UP Tacloban students of the 1980s to the 1990s have fond memories of the UP Botanical Garden and Park. This was their go-to place at the end of the school day. Alone or with their barkada, they would enjoy the cool breeze from San Pedro Bay and the shade from the park's lush foliage.

The Botanical Garden now serves as a living laboratory for BS Biology students. They get water samples from the waters of the bay and document the flora and fauna in the area.



Library 1 and 2

When students need a quieter place, they go to the College Library with its air-conditioned reading areas. The library is on the second floor of the three-story Library Building, which has the Teaching and Learning Resource Center and the Student Council and UP Vista offices on the first floor, and a spacious multipurpose hall on the third floor.



Istambayan

Students pass the time between classes at the cluster of gazebos called Istambayan. Built in 2023, the Istambayan bustles with activity every time there are upcoming student organization fairs.



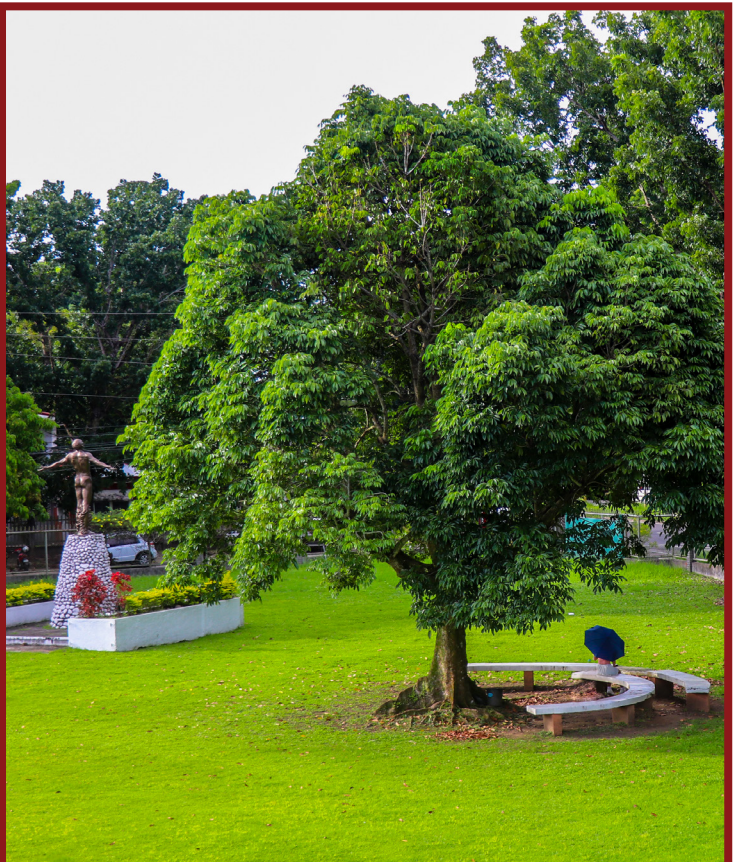
Butterfly Garden

Tucked between two wings of classrooms and offices in the Arts and Sciences Building is the Butterfly Garden. Visible through the classroom and office windows, the garden provides a green respite for students and faculty as they go about their tasks.



Mini Forest 1

Current students of UP Tacloban congregate at the mini forest during breaks to shoot the breeze with friends or do a little forest bathing. This pocket forest in the middle of the city campus has also served as a living art gallery for environmental artworks done by ARTS 1 and PHILARTS 1 students.



Oblation and Pili Tree

From the veranda of the Arts and Sciences Building, one has a panoramic view of the AS grounds with the UP Tacloban Oblation made by National Artist Napoleon Abueva (cast from the original statue sculpted by National Artist Guillermo Tolentino). Near the Oblation is the iconic pili tree, a favorite hangout spot for students.



*Venerando Arbas (Class of 1979)
Acting President, UP Tacloban Alumni Association
President, YMCA of Leyte*



*Rebecca Roldan-Dorado (Class of 1978)
Secretary, UP Tacloban Alumni Association
Former Supervising Budget and Management Specialist,
Department of Budget and Management Regional Office VIII*

Alumni Engagement

UP TACLOBAN ALUMNI: Looking Forward to

By Antonino Salvador de Veyra & Marvie Villones

UP Tacloban College was granted autonomous status by the Board of Regents on 27 April 2023. The college, which marked its 50th founding anniversary on 23 May 2023, is now gearing up to become the ninth constituent university of the UP System. Carillon sat down with UP Tacloban alumni to talk about what lies ahead for the institution.

Maria Rebecca Roldan-Dorado (Class of 1978), Secretary of the UP Tacloban Alumni Association (UPTAA) and formerly Supervising Budget and Management Specialist at the Department of Budget and Management Regional Office VIII, recalls how back in the 1970s when UP College Tacloban (as it was then called) was a small unit, everyone knew each other and students like her led carefree lives. But she quickly adds that these same students are now leaders in their respective professions.

Dan Stephen Palami (Class of 1991), who is Chairman of the Center for the Development of Sustainable Communities for Progress, Inc. and President of the

St. Therese Educational Foundation of Tacloban Inc. (STEFTI), and former Team Manager of the Philippine Azkals, echoes the sentiment. He says the college during his time was like a close-knit family, adding that he is glad that the UP Tacloban community has retained this closeness among its stakeholders up to the present.

For his part, Jimmy Yaokasin, Jr. (Class of 1989), President of Toyota Tacloban Leyte Inc. and former chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Development Academy of the Philippines, agrees that UP Tacloban has always been a source of talented, smart, and educated manpower who have assumed leadership positions not only in government institutions but also in the business sector.

Venerando Arbas (Class of 1979), Acting President of the UP Tacloban Alumni Association and President of the YMCA of Leyte, says that with the talented graduates produced by UP Tacloban, the college can do a lot for Region 8, which is listed as the fifth poorest region in the country, with a 27%



*Dan Stephen Palami (Class of 1991)
Chairman, Center for the Development of Sustainable Communities
for Progress, Inc.
President, St. Therese Educational Foundation of Tacloban Inc.*



*Jimmy Yaokasin, Jr. (Class of 1989)
President, Toyota Tacloban Leyte Inc.
Former Chairman, Board of Trustees, Development Academy
of the Philippines*

Becoming the 9th Constituent University

poverty incidence, and which is considered highly vulnerable to typhoons, earthquakes, and other natural hazards. Becoming an autonomous unit, he notes, gives the college more leeway in shaping its future directions and he looks forward to the college aligning its vision-mission more closely with regional development goals and crafting programs that respond to the needs of the region, specifically on education, disaster mitigation, and public health.

Roldan-Dorado adds tourism development, agricultural research, and food production to this list of possible programs where UP Tacloban can take the lead. Yaokasin argues for the college to do innovative research that redounds to the benefit of the people, with practical applications that will uplift people's lives. Palami bats for UP Tacloban to expand its role in the community by partnering with local government units and non-government organizations. Arbas also calls for more community engagement in terms of looking for sustainable solutions to development problems in the region.

Roldan-Dorado relates that the UPTAA is currently strengthening its organizational structure so it can more ably assist the college. Yaokasin says that the alumni continue to give back to the college by contributing to scholarship grants and meeting other financial needs of students, especially for items like student board and lodging and transportation needs that may not be included in scholarship grants. He looks forward to brainstorming with the administration on how to help shape the structure and culture of the college so its students can easily assimilate into the business and professional world once they graduate.

Palami notes that "one alumnus cannot do a lot; it will take the whole community for sustainable change to happen." But he feels proud that UP Tacloban has come a long way and he looks forward to UP Tacloban continuing to produce more able, knowledgeable, and passionate graduates who will help build sustainable communities and advance regional development. 🙏

UP'S ROADMAP FOR RESPONS

By Joanna Robles

Artificial Intelligence, or AI, isn't just a buzzword anymore. And whether we like it or not, it's already here.

It helps students with their studies through various tools, supports professionals in tasks like medical diagnostics and legal research, and even assists farmers in the Philippines with smarter planting and weather predictions. Some of us use AI daily without even realizing it.

But here's the big question: how do we, as a country, keep up? And more importantly, how do we make sure AI works for us, not against us?

That's where the UP comes in. True to its role as the national university, UP is laying down a roadmap that not only builds world-class AI talent but also makes sure we're using this powerful technology responsibly.

So, What is AI?

AI is basically about creating smart systems or machines that can see, think, decide, and act to reach certain goals. It's like mimicking how humans (and even animals) learn from experience and solve problems, only through code and data.

But it's not just about algorithms. Experts call AI a "socio-technical system." Why? Because it's not only the math behind the models that matter, but also the values in the datasets, the people using the tech, and the organizations deploying it. In other words, AI reflects us humans: our strengths, biases, and even our weaknesses.

The Good, the Bad, and the Complicated

The good part is easy to see. AI can help in drug discovery, disaster prediction, education management, and tackling climate change. In fact, one study found that AI could help achieve over 130 targets across the UN's

Sustainable Development Goals. Imagine AI helping reduce hunger, fight poverty, or manage natural resources better especially in a country like ours.

But then there's also the flip side. The 2023 AI Index Report showed that cases of AI misuse—like disinformation or unethical applications—have skyrocketed, multiplying 26 times since 2012. There are also fears of job



SIBLE AND TRUSTWORTHY AI

losses, privacy violations, cheating in schools with generative AI, and yes, the sci-fi fear that AI could someday slip out of human control. Meanwhile, the Philippines has its own AI roadmap through government agencies like the DTI, DOST, and DICT. The plan focuses on digitization, research and development, skills development, and regulation. The goal? To make AI transparent, accountable, and beneficial.

Interestingly, Filipinos are among the most curious about AI globally. In fact, we top the charts in searching for AI tools online. But when it comes to government readiness, admittedly, we're behind neighbors like Singapore and Malaysia. Clearly, there's a gap between curiosity and capacity.



Photos taken during the inaugural AI Horizons PH 2024: Conference on AI-Powered Research and Innovation on October 24, at UP Bonifacio Global City, Taguig. The two-day conference featured presentations of "revolutionary works, discoveries, ongoing research, and best practices on AI integration and development," with a focus on food, agriculture, livestock and fisheries, as well as education and governance. Photos by Kevin Roque and Jonathan Madrid, UP MPRO

Building AI Expertise and Principles

UP isn't just talking about AI. It's laying down a roadmap to train the next generation of experts while making sure this technology grows in ways that truly benefit Filipinos.

At the heart of this effort are two flagship programs: the **Master of Engineering in AI (MEng AI)** and the **PhD in AI**. The MEng AI is a flexible, practice-oriented program that students can finish in two to three years. With 31 units and a required capstone project, it's designed not just for learning theory but for building real-world applications in industries like healthcare, agriculture, and business. Meanwhile, the PhD in AI, which is the first of its kind in the Philippines, is geared toward the hardcore innovators. Whether you're a practitioner who wants to master advanced systems, a researcher pushing the boundaries of algorithms, or an academic preparing to start similar programs in other schools, this three-to-ten-year journey combines deep research with the goal of producing new knowledge. Together, these programs position UP as a hub for AI education and research in the country.

But UP also understands that AI isn't just about what it can do, it's also about what it should do. That's why it has laid out **Principles for Responsible and Trustworthy AI**, which act as a compass to guide its programs and policies. These principles emphasize that AI must serve the common good, helping Filipinos, strengthening democracy, and supporting sustainability. They highlight empowerment, ensuring that people—not corporations—have control over their future. They call for cultural sensitivity, so that AI systems align

with Filipino values and norms, and stress transparency and accountability, meaning developers must take responsibility and people must be able to understand how these systems work. Finally, they uphold fairness, safety, and sustainability, which ensures AI avoids bias, prevents harm, and respects the environment.

To make sure these ideals don't stay on paper, UP has set up two key bodies. The AI Advancement Committee (AIAC) is tasked with creating policies, designing programs, and building infrastructure to support responsible AI within the university. Complementing it is the AI Advisory Board (AIAB), a bigger, multisectoral group that brings in perspectives from government, industry, and civil society to advise on research directions, partnerships, and workforce preparation in an AI-driven economy.

With this roadmap, UP isn't just training people to use AI, it's shaping how AI will be developed and deployed in the Philippines, making sure the technology remains both cutting-edge and deeply rooted in responsibility.

At the end of the day, UP's AI roadmap is about balance. It's about harnessing the opportunities AI offers. While putting safeguards in place so the risks don't outweigh the benefits. By investing in programs, research, and principles, UP is making sure Filipinos don't just consume AI technology but also shape it.

AI is evolving fast, and with UP at the forefront, the Philippines has a real shot at making sure this technology grows with responsibility, trust, and most importantly, with people at its heart. 🇵🇭



UP President Angelo A. Jimenez delivers his opening remarks during the AI Technologies & Innovation Ecosystem meeting at the UP BOR Room, Quezon Hall, UP Diliman on May 23, 2025. Photo by Bong Arboleda.

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Fighting Maroons player Francis Lopez controls the ball in the final match against the La Salle Green Archers.

CELEBRATING UP ATHLETIC EXCELLENCE IN THE UAAP SEASON '87

By Roxanne D. Paredes

Throughout the UAAP Season 87, various UP teams demonstrated the UP brand of honor and excellence, nabbing top spots in their respective sports.

Leading the UP Men's Athletics teams to victory were UAAP CAC Season 81 Rookie of the Year Ed Delić and rising star Clint Niño Neri.

Delić won two of UP's four gold medals with an impressive throw of 14.86 meters in the shot put event, as well as a 49.41-meter throw in the hammer throw event. Neri netted two more golds, defending his title in the long jump and nabbing the top spot in the triple jump.

In an interview with Tiebreaker Times, Neri shared that his successes came from both hard work and tough life lessons.

"I got injured last December during the Philippine National Games. It happened during the 4x100 relay. Sobrang laki ng lessons na nangyari nun, and andami ko din lapses. I took it as a lesson na lang. Instead of getting disappointed in myself, ginawa ko na lang siyang motivation to come back stronger."

UP head coach Rio Dela Cruz expressed his surprise and joy for the win in an interview with Philippine Daily Inquirer. "Hindi namin 'to inaasahan pero ito naman talaga 'yung goal namin. Before mag-start, sinabi ko na sa kanila na, 'I think we have a

chance if you give your all.' Alam namin na nag-prepare naman kami and i-enjoy lang nila. And true enough, nangyari naman 'to."

Meanwhile, the Lady Maroons Shuttlers claimed the championship in the Women's Badminton Tournament Finals, going head-to-head against the Ateneo Lady Eagle Shuttlers in both singles and doubles matches..

This win marks a new era for the Lady Maroon Shuttlers, following the team's last win from Seasons 77 to 79, spanning Academic Years 2014 to 2017.

"Lahat kami nag-sacrifice para makamit itong kampeonato na ito. Lahat sila binigay iyong puso para makuha nila itong championship na ito, kasi matagal na nilang hindi nakukuha. Lahat nag-work hard para rito, kaya siguro ito iyong reward sa kanila," said first-year UP Women's Badminton Team's head coach Ariel Magnaye in an interview.

Finally, the UP Fighting Maroons reclaimed the top spot in Men's Basketball for the season, dethroning the previous winners, the La Salle Green Archers.

The Fighting Maroons overpowered the Green Archers in a close Game 3, with 66-62 on the board. This win was made possible by big man Quentin Millora-Brown's 14 points and 10 rebounds, as well as Francis Lopez, who added 12 points and 11 rebounds, and Season 84 standout JD Cagulangan, who contributed 12 points.



UP Men's Athletics member Clint Niño Neri completing a jump during the Collegiate Athletics Championship.

Fighting Maroons Coach Goldwin Monteverde attributes this second win in his term to the hard work of the team. "I'm very thankful, especially to the players. From the start of the season, after our loss last year, they worked hard every single day," said Monteverde in an interview with the Philippine Daily Inquirer, "I'm very proud of how they handled our ups and downs throughout the season. I'm also grateful to the coaching staff for their tireless efforts. Without them, I wouldn't have been able to do my part." 🏆

All photos from the UAAP Media Team.



The UP Lady Maroon Shuttlers together with UP Office for Athletics and Sports Development Director Bo Perasol (right).

UPM SHS Alumni Association: Bridging Communities Through Meaningful Initiatives

By Adelaida Gaytos Rosaldo, MD

The UPM SHS Alumni Association remains steadfast in its commitment to fostering positive change through collaborative efforts, addressing both immediate needs and long-term welfare in the communities it serves. Recently, the association partnered with UPMSHS midwifery students to leverage the results of their community survey in Barangay San Francisco East Alang-alang, Leyte. The findings revealed vulnerable families struggling with inadequate clothing, prompting the alumni association to organize a donation drive. Through the collective efforts of members and donors, appropriate clothing was gathered and distributed to each identified family, providing warmth and comfort to those in need.

Beyond material support, the association also prioritized health education by collaborating with Dagami RHU (Rural Health Unit) to conduct an Adolescent Health Awareness Forum. This initiative reached students from both public and private high schools, covering critical topics such as Mental Health and Mpox Awareness. By equipping young individuals with essential knowledge, the forum empowered them to make informed decisions about their well-being, fostering a healthier and more resilient youth population.



Building bridges before beginning! Met with Kapitan Walter P. Terceño to ensure our alumni team respects local protocols while visiting families in Brgay. San Francisco East, Alang-alang, Leyte.

Additionally, recognizing the importance of a conducive learning environment, the UPM SHS Alumni Association extended support to current students by contributing to the establishment of a Student Lounge in partnership with the UPMSHS Student Council. This space now serves as an area for students to study, collaborate, and recharge, enhancing their overall academic experience.

Through these initiatives, the UPM SHS Alumni Association continues to exemplify the spirit of service, collaboration, and compassion—proving that even small acts of kindness can create lasting impacts. Moving forward, the association remains dedicated to uplifting communities and inspiring future generations. 🏡



The dedicated midwifery students of UPMSHSAA Batch 46 help identify and prepare target families in San Francisco East, Alang-alang, Leyte, blending academic skills with community wisdom, demonstrating interdisciplinary collaboration.



(From left to right) Isles (CALSC councilor), Dela Cruz (CALSC Councilor), CAL Assoc. Dean Peregrino, CAL Dean Naval, scholarship recipients, Macaspac, DAS Chair Prof. Guillermo, Hortal (CALSC councilor, now CALSC Chair). Photo from Nemo Macaspac, Batch 15 alumni representative.

UPD CAL's Batch 2015 Alumni Pioneer a Needs-Based Scholarship Program for Undergraduate CAL Students

By Jasper Kyle Visico

UP Diliman College of Arts and Letters (CAL) batch 2015 pioneered an alumni-led needs-based scholarship program, extending the chain of kindness and generosity to financially challenged CAL undergraduate students. This initiative provides students with stipends through donation drives targeting alumni.

Spearheaded by Jeronimo 'Nemo' Ascue, BA (Speech Communication) alumnus and former CAL student council (SC) chairperson, the program was conceived in February 2024. He organized it with Kaylene Fernandez, fellow speech communication graduate, and other then-incumbent SC officers.

Ascue stated that his experience as a UP College of Law scholarship recipient and the limited opportunities for arts and humanities students motivated the initiative. He said, "Mostly it's sciences and engineering, so we wanted to try to start that awareness doon sa alumni, kasi meron at meron talagang magbibigay. It's a matter of harnessing and institutionalizing these support initiatives for our students."

During its launch in the second semester of AY 2023-2024, the program supported

two full scholars and one partial scholar, with monthly stipends of 3,500 php and 2,000 php, respectively.

Prospective applicants must submit their student profile, a narrative justifying their eligibility, and other pertinent documents (e.g., parents' ITR and payment slip). They are then ranked based on established criteria, and support is allocated based on the available funds.

As of March 2025, the program has raised 202,500 php, enabling support for eight students (five full scholars and three partial scholars) in the first semester and seven students (two full scholars and five partial scholars) in the second semester of AY 2024-2025.

"I really hope that with the support that we've garnered, considering around 30 plus donors, that's a very small number and we were able to support this number of scholars. Sana ma-enganyo 'yung CAL admin and university to really tap into CAL alumni and expand the reach of this initiative," he shared as he ended the interview. 🙏

COMING HOME : UPOU ALUMNI REUNITE TO RECONNECT, REFLECT, AND GIVE BACK

By Leah Labastilla & Anna Cañas-Llamas

“Coming Home: Reuniting, Reviving, and Rebuilding” was the theme that brought UPOU alumni together—onsite and online—for a historic first: the UPOU Alumni Social Event held on 28 February 2025 during the university’s 30th Founding Anniversary.

Organized by the UPOU Alumni Association, Inc. (UPOUAAI) and hosted by Carlos Nolido (BAMS 2019), the event was more than a festive reunion. It was a heartfelt celebration of community, resilience, and shared purpose.

UPOU Chancellor Dr. Joane V. Serrano welcomed alumni with a call for deeper engagement. “Our alumni are partners in innovation and service,” she said. “This is the beginning of a stronger, more connected UPOU community.”

Two powerful alumni testimonies reminded everyone why the Sablay is more than a symbol—it’s a story of perseverance. Dr. Rheo Umil (MPM 2022) shared his “WIFI” principle—Wa-is (wisdom), Insistence (persistence), Focus, and Intensity (passion). Meanwhile, Dr. Elvira Catangay (DRDM 2024), who pursued her degree at the age of 52, spoke about the silence, self-discipline, and strength required to succeed in open learning.

Keynote speaker Jerry Donato (DLLE 2011; MDC 2016) inspired alumni to become “bridge builders,” while Alessandra “Apples” Jalandoni (DComm 2022) urged fellow graduates to leave a legacy through service.

UPOUAAI President Tanya Capuli (DLLE 2021) shared her five-pillar vision for alumni engagement—



In her Opening Remarks, Chancellor Joane V. Serrano expressed the importance of the UPOU alumni in the university's achievement of its Transformative University of the Future Vision.

connection, innovation, impact, excellence, and pride—anchoring the association’s future in meaningful involvement and collaboration.

Support also came from university leaders, including Dr. Myra Almodiel, then-director of the Office of Public Affairs, who announced the launch of Alumni Inspiring Stories for 2025, and former Chancellor Dr. Melinda Bandalaria, who affirmed the alumni’s vital role in fulfilling UPOU’s mission.

Filled with laughter, reflections, and renewed bonds, this gathering marked a new chapter in alumni involvement. UPOUAAU calls on all UPOU alumni to reconnect, give back, and help shape the future—one story, one service, and one legacy at a time. 🏰



(From left to right) Vice Chancellor Jean Saludadez, Former UPOU Chancellor Melinda dela Peña Bandalaria, Chancellor Joane V. Serrano, and Former Office of Public Affairs Director Myra C. Almodiel, with UPOU Alumni Association, Inc. officers and other UPOU alumni, during the first-ever Alumni Social Event held on 28 February 2025.

Honoring tradition, building legacy: Golden Jubilarians' enduring impact

By Paully May Valencia

Every October, UPLB comes alive with the spirit of remembrance, gratitude, and unwavering commitment as the university celebrates Loyalty Day and Alumni Homecoming. More than just a reunion, this annual tradition pays tribute to the courage and solidarity of those who, in 1918, answered the call to serve. Their legacy lives on—not only in the history books but in the hearts of the alumni who return.

Beloved alumni do not merely come back to reminisce; they come with a purpose—to give back, to inspire, and to leave a lasting mark on the institution that shaped their journey. Through meaningful legacy projects, they continue to strengthen the UPLB community, ensuring that future generations benefit from the same excellence and dedication that once propelled them forward. Their contributions are not just monuments of gratitude but testaments to a tradition of service that transcends time.

Today, UPLB continues this legacy by entrusting the Golden Jubilarians—alumni celebrating their 50th year since graduation—with the lead role in organizing the festivities. Supported by the UPLB Office of Alumni Relations (OAR) and the UPLB Alumni Association (UPLBAA), the community comes together to celebrate the values of service, dedication, and lifelong connection that Loyalty Day represents.

As we celebrate the UPLB Loyalty Day and Alumni Homecoming in October, the Golden Jubilarians return to their alma mater with a deep sense of nostalgia, gratitude, and a shared commitment to leave a lasting mark. More than a reunion, this milestone is an opportunity to give back through meaningful legacy projects that enrich the UPLB community.

A tradition of giving back

Golden Jubilarians have championed initiatives that reflect their lifelong dedication to the



Emergency Room Extension Facility. Photo taken by Gerald G. Pasayan

University. Their projects range from infrastructure improvements to facilities addressing the evolving needs of UPLB constituents. These efforts embody their unwavering belief in the university's mission and their desire to uplift future generations.

The legacy projects is their way to give back to their beloved alma mater. After the pandemic, UPLBAA in partnership with UPLB through the OAR realized the need to upgrade the facilities in the University Health Service (UHS). After pandemic, these are the legacy projects that are installed in the UHS such as the Emergency Room Extension Facility initiated by Class of 1971, the UHS Heart Station initiated by Class of 1972, and the Cataract Surgery and Eye Care Facility initiated by Class of 1974. In pipeline, the Class of 1975 aims to contribute to the Breast Cancer program of UHS.

A legacy that inspires

As each batch of Golden Jubilarians steps forward to uphold this tradition, their contributions serve as a powerful reminder that alumni engagement is more than a nostalgic reunion—it is an active commitment to shaping the university's future. Their projects stand as monuments to their enduring bond with UPLB, reinforcing the spirit of bayanihan and intellectual generosity.

Every Loyalty Day and Alumni Homecoming, as familiar faces return and new legacies unfold, the impact of the Golden Jubilarians grows stronger. Their unwavering dedication transforms memories into milestones, ensuring that the next generation of Isko and Iska continue to thrive in an institution enriched by those who came before them.

This year we will be celebrating the 107th UPLB Loyalty Day and 2025 Alumni Homecoming themed "UPLB Alumni: A Force for Transforming Communities". 🏠



UHS Heart Station. Photo taken by Gerald G. Pasayan

Donation of UPAA Baguio-Northern Luzon Board Members (2015-2023) made possible the renovation of the Student Alumni Center



May 16, 2025. Turnover of renovated and refurbished Student Alumni Center, U.P. Baguio. (From left to right) Vice Chancellor for Administration Prof. Jerico Bacani, Former UPAA Baguio-Northern Board of Directors (2015-2023) Mr. Benedicto Alhambra, Mrs. Faith Joy F. Calderon representing Hon. Isagani G. Calderon, Chancellor Joel M. Addawe, Mrs. Lilia Bautista, Ms. Monalie Sta. Cruz-Romero. Left, below, Engr. Darvin Caliton and officers of UP Baguio Student Council, Council of Leaders, and Outcrop.

By Arellano A. Colongon, Jr.

The board members of the UP Alumni Association Baguio-Northern Luzon Chapter (2015-2023), led by former President Mrs. Lilia R. Bautista, with former Vice President Atty. Shellah Yzanne D. Merced, Secretary Hon. Isagani G. Calderon, Ms. Monalie A. Sta. Cruz-Romero (Treasurer), Atty. John Ray M. Libiran (PRO), and Directors Dr. Mario G. Imson and Mr. Benedicto A. Alhambra donated the amount of 188,000.00 php in year 2023 for the renovation and refurbishing of various structural and functional components of the Student Alumni Center, UP Baguio to improve the student offices of the University Student Council (USC), Outcrop (student newspaper), Council of Leaders (CL), and other common areas.

Construction started in December 2024, headed by Vice Chancellor for Administration Prof. Jerico Bacani, with Supervising Administrative Officer Ms. Irene J. Enriquez and Junior Office Associate Engr. Darvin A. Caliton and the UPCB Educational Foundation, Inc. Executive Director,

Prof. Cecilia Fe L Sta Maria-Abalos, and was completed in April 2025.

The official turnover of the refurbished Student Alumni Center to the officers of the Student Council, editorial board of Outcrop, and officers of the Council of Leaders was held on 16 May 2025, attended by the former UPAA Baguio-Northern Luzon Chapter (2015-2023) board of directors. Chancellor Joel M. Addawe, Vice Chancellor Jerico Bacani, staff members Ms. Irene Enriquez, and Engr. Darvin Caliton was also present during the event. The renovated office spaces and common areas are designed to ensure the safety, functionality, and aesthetics of the Student Alumni Center of UP Baguio.

UP Baguio continues to develop the campus spaces so more students, alumni, faculty members, and non-teaching staff can make use of the space. 🏗️

UP Cebu Honors Outstanding Alumni at 2024 Tatak UP Awards

By Dexter G. Gabica

The University of the Philippines Cebu (UP Cebu) celebrated its Grand Alumni Homecoming on 06 December 2024, at the newly inaugurated UP Cebu Gym. The highlight of the event was the fifth installment of the Tatak UP Awards, organized by the UP Alumni Association Cebu Chapter (UPAAC). This prestigious recognition honors alumni who have exemplified the university's core values of honor, excellence, and service in their respective fields.

The Tatak UP Awards 2024 commenced with a press conference held on 28 February 2024, at the University of the Philippines Cebu's Administration Building. This event marked the official launch of the fifth edition of the awards, which aim to honor UP Cebu alumni who have made significant contributions to the Cebu community.

During the press conference, the University of the Philippines Alumni Association Cebu Chapter (UPAACC) announced a more inclusive approach for this year's awards. For the first time, eligibility was extended to individuals who have studied in any UP campus for at least one semester, provided they maintained good academic standing. This change was implemented to recognize a broader spectrum of contributors to the Cebuano community.

In the lead-up to the much-anticipated homecoming and awards night, the UPAACC presents its celebrated video series: PAGHANDUM UG PASIDUNGOG, a reflective and heartfelt tribute to outstanding alumni and community figures who have significantly contributed to society while upholding the ideals of honor, excellence, and service. The series was produced by UP Cebu Communication alumnus Zhynton Mantos.

Building on the spirit of tribute and inspiration, the Tatak UP Awards formally recognized individuals whose achievements and service reflect the highest ideals of the University. The following awardees were honored for their outstanding contributions in their respective fields, exemplifying what it truly means to carry the mark of a UP education.

Arts, Design and Culture

- Kenneth C. Cobonpue - Internationally acclaimed designer whose work champions Filipino craftsmanship.
- Roberto G. del Rosario - A devoted music educator and arranger who has championed Cebuano musical heritage through decades of mentorship and performance.
- Prof. Palmy Marinel Pe-Tudtud - An academic leader who mobilized UP Cebu's Fabrication Lab to produce lifesaving PPEs during the height of COVID-19.
- Prof. Ligaya Rabago-Visaya - A revered educator and cultural artist whose decades of teaching have enriched Cebuano identity and performance arts.



Media and Communication

Rosette Yñiguez-Lerías - A pioneering educator who laid the groundwork for media studies in the Visayas through UP Cebu's Mass Communication program.

Business and Entrepreneurship

Lucio Roger E. Lim, Jr. - A visionary shipping executive who opened vital sea routes that transformed regional economies in the Visayas.

Public Service

Atty. Rester John L. Nonato - A lawyer-reservist whose pandemic-driven innovations and outreach efforts embodied public service in action.

Social Change and Advocacy

Atty. Jose Aaron Pedrosa, Jr. - A fearless public-interest lawyer defending environmental rights and marginalized communities against development aggression and repression.

Education

Alden F. Salazar - A returning IT and real estate professional who revitalized his family's educational legacy with a vision grounded in community empowerment and industry collaboration.

Public Health and Medicine

Dr. Juanito Zuasula, Jr. - A public health expert whose epidemiological work guided Cebu's data-driven response to the COVID-19 crisis.

Also, the following individuals were previously recognized by other UP institutions and were affirmed by the Tatak UP Awards for their continued excellence in this year's ceremony.

- Dr. Felisa U. Etemadi (Education) - An award-winning educator and researcher, recognized for her contributions to local governance and poverty alleviation.
- Dr. Peter Y. Mancao (Public Health and Medicine) - A leading surgeon and pandemic frontliner, instrumental in Cebu City's vaccine rollout and COVID-19 response.
- Eileen G. Mangubat (Media and Communication) - A trailblazing journalist whose decades of editorial leadership earned her national and international accolades.
- Alice K. Queblatin (Business and Entrepreneurship) - A tourism innovator and eco-tourism advocate linking communities to sustainable travel opportunities.
- Telibert Laoc (Social Change: Community Empowerment) - veteran of election reform, now advancing democratic practices through civic-focused initiatives.

These awardees exemplify the University of the Philippines' core values of honor, excellence, and service, making significant contributions to their respective fields and communities.

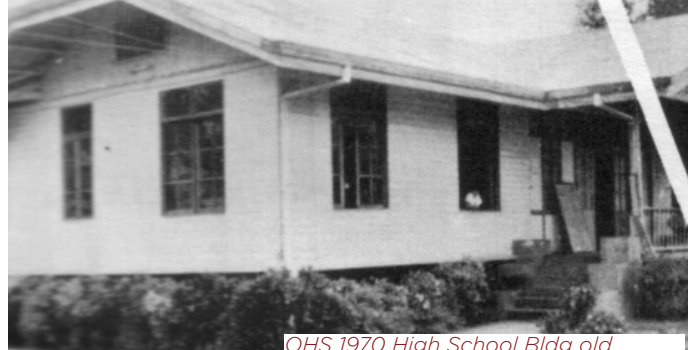
UPAAC President Marylou "Lotlot" Labrador-Neri and UP Cebu Chancellor Leo Malagar expressed their gratitude to the alumni community for their unwavering support and contributions, emphasizing the importance of unity and continued service.

The Tatak UP Awards, first held in 2011, continue to uphold the university's tradition of recognizing alumni who make significant societal impacts, reinforcing UP's commitment to nurturing leaders dedicated to public service. 🏆

(with reports from Atty. Ian Vincent Manticajon)



WC 1967 Women's Club Bldg old



OHS 1970 High School Bldg old

Of Memories and Legacies: The UPV Handumanan Buildings



WC 2024 Handumanan new



OHS 2024 Handumanan now

By GC T. Castro

Handumanan – a Hiligaynon term meaning remembrance or keepsake. This is what the two heritage buildings in the University of the Philippines Visayas (UPV) mean to its alumni.

The Old High School (OHS) and the old Woman's Club (WC) buildings were built in 1952 and 1953, respectively. They were home to generations of high school and college students, teachers, and staff alike. They held different functions throughout the decades. The OHS started as the Home Economics and cafeteria building, then later housed classrooms, faculty rooms, music room, computer room, and clinics. The WC was a venue for gatherings, recreation, training, and student/personnel support offices. Recently, an alumni group's restoration efforts of the two buildings have been fulfilled.

The plan was first announced during the "2020 UPV Alumni Zoomcoming" organized by the UPV Office of Alumni Relations (OAR). It was the first-ever virtual homecoming held in the UP system during the pandemic. In his keynote speech, retired Supreme Court Associate Justice Francis H. Jardeleza (HS '65 UPIC, BA '69 UPI) announced on behalf of his high school class, the UPIC High School Class of 1965, their donation of 300,000 php for the establishment of the Historical Preservation Initiative.

The initiative paved the way for alumni-led projects, the first of which is the Handumanan Project: the preservation of the two heritage landmarks in the Iloilo City campus, the OHS and the WC. The project was a tribute to memory and the

alumni's effort to preserve UPV's architectural and educational legacy.

Headed by then OAR Director Dr. Rey Carlo T. Gonzales, the Historical Preservation Committee gathered historical information on how the two buildings were originally built, used, and became a part of UPV's daily life. Interviews with a number of alumni from across generations, gathering of architectural documents, and consultations with heritage conservation institutions provided information for the restoration.

The project commenced after the 05 June 2023 ground breaking ceremony. The restoration was implemented in close coordination between the UPV Office of the Vice Chancellor for Planning and Development, the alumni, UPV Foundation, Inc., and UPV OAR. Justice Jardeleza and Senator Franklin Drilon (HS '61 UPIC) were instrumental in securing additional funding, including ₱25 million from the 2022 General Appropriations Act (GAA)-UP System for its adaptive reuse. On 26 September 2024, the newly-restored Handumanan Buildings were turned over to UPV.

The buildings have been repurposed as alumni heritage spaces with OHS having a gallery, a mock classroom/audio visual room, a lounge, and a wide function hall for alumni events, and the WC with a wide area which will showcase revolving exhibits, a cafe and lounge.

With the UPV Administration naming UPV OAR as custodian, these two buildings will surely become the vessels of memories and legacies, the Handumanan of UPV and its ever-loving alumni. 🏛️



At the UP Mindanao anniversary ceremony are (from left to right) UPMIn Chancellor Lyre Anni Murao, UPAA-Davao's Khalil Guinomla, UPLBAA-Davao's Michael Cantos, UP Pres. Angelo Jimenez, UPMFI's John Gaisano and Dinah Tolentino-Fuentes

Alumni at the Heart of UP Mindanao's 30-Year Journey

By Rene Estremera & KC Ann Abella

From the very beginning, the alumni have been at the heart of UP Mindanao's story. Their vision and advocacy were crucial to creating UP Mindanao through Republic Act 7889 in 1995. As UP Mindanao celebrates its 30th anniversary in 2025, the alumni's enduring spirit of collective effort and camaraderie continues to inspire its journey.

During UP Mindanao's 30th anniversary ceremony, UP President Angelo Jimenez and Chancellor Lyre Anni Murao honored alumni leaders whose collaborative work propelled the university forward. Khalil Guinomla, representing UPAA-Davao; Michael Cantos of UPLBAA-Davao; and UP Mindanao Foundation Inc. (UPMFI) trustees John Gaisano and Dinah Tolentino-Fuentes received the recognition on behalf of their organizations. Their efforts reflect the alumni's commitment to UP Mindanao's mission of excellence and service.

Alumni organizations have enriched campus life through collective action, with UPAA-Davao organizing events like the QuizUP Trivia Challenge and supporting the Kasadya celebration, Koro Kantahanay's "Sangka" and the "Sari-Sari" concerts, and the Ramadan Grand Iftar. UPLBAA-Davao introduced its UP Fair tradition to Mindanao and was named a UPLBAA Outstanding Chapter. UPMFI's scholarship program, now supporting 20 students, continues to grow through alumni generosity.

Beyond academics, alumni have delivered welfare initiatives and fellowships, including medical missions and the basketball championship bonfire. Their collective generosity also extends globally: the UP Medical Alumni Society in America, led by

founder Dr. Cosme Cagas, pledged a professorial chair and scholarships for UP Mindanao's upcoming medical program.

This milestone year will be marked by the Panagtagbo 2025: UP Mindanao's Alumni Homecoming and the UP Regional Alumni Institute in Davao City, events that highlight the shared purpose of the alumni community. Here, UP Mindanao hopes for alumni support for its expansion program.

This year, the community fondly remembers former UPMFI chairperson Sebastian "Angie" Angliongto, a key figure in UP Mindanao's founding, whose legacy of service and unity lives on.

As UP Mindanao marks 30 years looking forward, the alumni's intensified support and partnership further enriches and invigorates the university's efforts to deliver a brighter future for Mindanao. 🏰



Alumni at the bonfire, celebrating the UP and UPMIn basketball teams' achievements

HUSAY AT DANGAL :

REDIS OBLAT

By Joanna Robles

Each year, students, alumni, and visitors gather before the University of the Philippines' most iconic statue: a man with arms stretched wide, eyes lifted to the sky, body uncovered save for a single leaf.

Known as the Oblation, this sculpture by National Artist Guillermo Tolentino has stood as the enduring symbol of the university's core values: honor, excellence, and service to the nation.

More than a monument, the Oblation is a living image that continues to reflect the sacrifices, struggles, and ideals of generations of Filipinos.

A Monument Born of Sacrifice

The story of the Oblation began in 1931, when then-UP President Rafael Palma commissioned Tolentino to create a piece that would visually express the university's highest ideals. Inspired by Dr. José Rizal's *Mi Ultimo Adios*, Tolentino envisioned a man offering himself to the country, body, and soul.

The original concrete statue was unveiled on National Heroes Day in 1939 at the UP Manila campus. Standing at 3.5 meters, the statue's height was intentionally designed by Tolentino to represent the three and a half centuries of Spanish colonial rule, which lasted roughly 333 to 350 years.

Its base features a stylized map of the Philippine archipelago, embedded with rocks from Montalban Gorge, once an area of refuge for Andres Bonifacio and the Katipunan. This grounds the Oblation in the nation's long history of resistance and struggle for freedom.

In 1949, when UP moved to its new Diliman campus, the statue was relocated, and in 1958, it was recast in bronze in Italy for UP's Golden Jubilee.

Today, the bronze Oblation stands at the forefront of Quezon Hall, while the original concrete version is preserved inside Gonzales Hall or commonly known as the Main Library.

A Face of the Filipino

The question of who modeled for the Oblation has long sparked curiosity. Some claim it was Fernando Poe Sr., others suggest it was a composite of different figures. But according to official records,



Anastacio Caedo, Tolentino's student assistant, served as the model for the body. The face was based on Fidel Antonio Medalla, a UP medical student.

But Tolentino made a conscious choice not to model the statue after a known hero. Instead, he sought to represent the ordinary Filipino youth, offering themselves in service and sacrifice.

This choice underscores the democratic spirit of the statue: that greatness is not limited to the famous, but lives in the everyday *Iskolar ng Bayan* who chooses to serve.

While the nudity of the Oblation has always drawn attention, in Tolentino's vision, the bare figure represented purity of intention and the fullness of one's sacrifice. However, after consultation with then-UP President Jorge Bocobo, a fig leaf was added to preserve modesty.

COVERING THE UP TION AND ITS SYMBOLS



Even with this addition, the sculpture remains striking in its vulnerability. It is an image of strength in surrender, and of courage in standing bare before the nation.

Leaves of Meaning

At the base of the Oblation are three plants: katakataka, oliva, and laurel. Far from being decorative, these elements carry deep symbolic meaning.

Katakataka is a plant that thrives in difficult conditions and regenerates easily from a single leaf. In many rural areas, it is known as a healing plant. Its inclusion at the base signifies resilience, regeneration, and the enduring spirit of the Filipino people, particularly in times of crisis.



Oliva (olive leaf), comes from the West, where it stands for peace and reconciliation. Its presence here connects the Filipino struggle for sovereignty with a universal longing for harmony.

Laurel, meanwhile, has long been a symbol of victory and academic achievement. Laurel crowns were worn by Greek poets and Roman emperors; to be “laureled” was to be honored. In the context of the Oblation, it honors the pursuit of academic excellence, not for personal gain, but in service of the nation.

Together, these three leaves ground the Oblation in both cultural and natural symbolism, evoking resilience, harmony, and the honor found in learning.

A Witness of Resistance

The Oblation has stood not just as a university emblem, but as a silent witness to some of the nation's most turbulent times. During the Marcos dictatorship, the statue was draped in black to mourn the death of democracy.

In more recent years, it has become a rallying point for student protests, academic freedom, and resistance to commercialization.

One of the most visible traditions connected to the statue is the Oblation Run, first organized in 1977 by the Alpha Phi Omega fraternity to promote the banned film *Hubad na Bayani*. The yearly event, featuring masked students running nude across campus, has since evolved into a form of political action that draws attention to urgent social issues, from corruption to education budget cuts.

The statue, in many ways, continues to reflect the pulse of the times, changing not in form, but in relevance and context.

New Interpretations: Tree of Life Installation

In 2022, during the annual Pag-iilaw lighting ceremony at UP, artist and UP College of Fine Arts Dean Toym Imao created a striking installation titled “Tree of Life” surrounding the Oblation. Drawing inspiration from Mindanaoan and Tausug traditions, the artwork framed the statue within a canopy of katakataka flowers and sunflowers, which are symbols of regeneration and hope.

Imao said the installation was a tribute not just to the Oblation, but to the diverse cultures of the Philippines, and to the countless forms of sacrifice that make up the university's living history.

For many, the image of the Oblation encircled by blossoms during the night ceremony became an emotional reminder that tradition can evolve with a new meaning.

Revisiting the Symbols We Stand With

In 2023, as UP celebrated its 115th founding anniversary, it reaffirmed its mission through the words: For the Nation. For the People. The Oblation, which has stood through war, dictatorship, pandemics, and change, asks a question that remains urgent: What are we willing to give for our people?

For every UP student, teacher, worker, and graduate, the statue is more than a fixture, it is a mirror. It reflects not perfection, but the commitment to strive, to serve, and to resist. It reminds us that honor and excellence must go hand in hand, not for prestige, but for the betterment of the nation.

In revisiting the Oblation, we do not simply look back. We look forward, renewed by its call, grounded by its meaning, and reminded that true honor lies in giving of oneself, freely, fully, and for others. 🏛️



The UP Oblation in front of Quezon Hall, UP Diliman

Alumni Accolades

UP alumni in the 2025 Midterm Elections.

UP alumni who have been elected as representatives in the legislative branch, and local executive branch (provincial and city level) in the 2025 Midterm Elections.

Senate of the Philippines

Francis Pangilinan
BA English, 1988;
Bachelor of Laws, 1993

Pia Cayetano
BA Economics, 1985;
Bachelor of Laws, 1991

Rodante D. Marcoleta
Doctorate in Public
Administration, 2020

House of Representatives

Alexandria T. Pahati-Gonzales
BA Journalism, 2000

Marcelino R. Teodoro
BA Philosophy, 1990

Romero Federico S. Quimbo
BA History, 1991;
Bachelor of Laws, 1996

Roman Gabriel T. Romulo
BS Economics, 1991;
Bachelor of Laws, 1994

Ysabel Maria J. Zamora-Jornada
BA Political Science, 2003; Juris
Doctor, 2007

Cielo Krisel B. Lagman-Luistro
BS Zoology, 1991; Master of
Public Administration, 2015

Antonio Agapito B. Legarda, Jr.
BA Communication, 1992

Maria Angela S. Garcia
BS Business Administration,
1989

Eleanor C. Bulut-Begtang
BS, 1987

Ciriaco B. Gato, Jr.
Doctor of Medicine, 1984

Jonathan Keith T. Flores
BA Political Science, 1995

Danilo A. Domingo
Bachelor of Laws, 1976

Linabelle Ruth R. Villarica
Bachelor of Arts, 1969

Arnulf Bryan B. Fuentebella
BA in Philosophy, 1998

Karen Hope M. Flores-Garcia
BA in Mass Communication,
1995

Lorenz R. Defensor
BA Philosophy, 2000

Ferdinand Martin G. Romualdez
Bachelor of Laws, 1992

Anna Victoria M. Veloso-Tuazon
Bachelor of Laws, 2003

Richard Frank I. Gomez
Associate in Arts, 2009

Edwin C. Ongchuan
BA Sociology, 1991

Maria Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
Master of Arts in Economics,
1979; Doctor of Philosophy in
Economics, 1985

Anna York Cristina P. Bondoc
Bachelor of Science, 1988
Doctor of Medicine, 1993

Eleandro Jesus F. Madrona
Bachelor of Laws, 1978

Adrian Michael A. Amatong
BA Sociology, 2001;
Master in Public Affairs, 2006

Jeyzel Victoria C. Yu
BS Agribusiness Management,
2018

Rufus B. Rodriguez
Bachelor of Laws, 1980

Isidro T. Ungab
BS Agriculture, 1983

Shirlyn L. Bañas-Nogralles
BS Biology, 1996

Party List Representatives

Jose Manuel Tadeo I. Diokno
AB in Philosophy, 1983

Percival Vilar Cendaña
AB in Araling Pilipino, 2002

Jude Avorque Acidre
BA Social Sciences (Political
Science), 2011

Iris Marie D. Montes
BA Political Science, 1992

Franz Vincent F. Legazpi
BA Creative Writing, 2020

Paolo Henry M. Marcoleta
BA Broadcast Communications,
1998

James Mark Terry Ridon
BA Development Studies, 2006;
Juris Doctor, 2011

Antonio L. Tinio
BA Comparative Literature,
1990

Renee Louise M. Co
BA Political Science, 2018

Rolando L. Macasaet
BS Business Economics,
1980; Master in Business
Administration, 1981

Governors

Edgar Batalla Aglipay
Master in Business
Administration, 1978

Patrick Alain T. Azanza
PhD in Education, 2003;
Juris Doctor, 2007

Arthur Defensor, Jr.
AB Philosophy, 1992

Marisol Aragonés
BS Development
Communication, 1999

Ramon Velicaria Guico III
AB Philosophy, 1997;
MA Education (Educational
Administration), 2004
Dakila Carlo Cua
BS Business Administration,
1999

Trina Alejandra Q. Firmalo-Fabio
AB Sociology, 2004

Dulce Ann K. Hofer
Diploma in Public
Administration, 2004

Vice Governors

Enrico Raymundo Corvera
MS Agricultural Engineering
1983; BS Agricultural
Engineering, 1976

Farida Co
BS Tourism, 2001

Hermilando Mandanas
Master in Business
Administration, 1969

Marc Douglas Chan Cagas IV
AB History, 1997

Nathalie Ann Debuque
BS Industrial Pharmacy, 2018

Mark Ronald De Guzman
Lambino
BS Geography, 2004

Anacleto Alcala III
AB Philosophy, 2003

Josefina Galang-Gatlabayan
BS Education, 1969

Mayors

Greg Gelvosa
AB Political Science, 1992

Maria Leonor Gerona-Robredo
AB Economics, 1986

Lucy Marie Torres-Gomez
Bachelor of Business
Management, 1995

Francisco Javier Zamora
Master of Public Administration,
2007

Paul Joseph Untaran
BA Political Science, 2015

Anne Lorraine Adorable-Inton
BA Public Administration, 2003;
Juris Doctor, 2011

Ace Jello Cruz Concepcion
AB Political Science, 2005

Arth Jhun A. Marasigan
BS Economics, 1999

Nelson Perez Collantes
Bachelor of Arts, 1975

Erik Donn C. Ignacio
AB Social Sciences, 2003

Gretchen Stephanie M. Espina
AB European Languages

Emmanuel Aladin D. Tumanda
AB Political Science, 1997; MBA,
2001; Bachelor of Laws, 2002

Cesar Tomas M. Lopez
Bachelor of Science, 1981

Henry Resurreccion Villarica
Bachelor of Arts, 1967; Bachelor
of Laws, 1971

Ian Mark Panganiban Marcos
BS Mechanical Engineering, 2011

Cristina Antonio
Juris Doctor, 2013

Emerito Emmanuel Calderon
Bachelor of Science, 1985

Mar Bianca Cualing-Brua
BS in Economics, 2003

Samuel Gumaring
Master of Public Health, 1997

Florencio Nalula
MS in Civil Engineering, 1998

Victoria Ina Favis
BS Speech Pathology, 2005

Nene Loida Espinosa
BS Fisheries 2003; Diploma
in Environment and Natural
Resources Management 2008;
Master in Environment and
Natural Resources Management,
2016

Carl Vincent Mondejar
BS in Accountancy, 2014

Joe Abad Lazaro
BS in Applied Mathematics, 2011

Joelle Mathea Panganiban
BS Management Economics,
2017

Maria Lourdes Respicio-
Saguban
BA in Political Science 2001

Faustino Dy
Juris Doctor, 2009

Redentor Jardin
BS Civil Engineering 1988;
MS Civil Engineering, 1992

Solomon Vicencio
BA Psychology, 2012

Mario Lacurom
Master of Management in Public
Management, 1999

Lovella Belmonte-Espiritu
BS in Hotel & Restaurant
Administration, 1994

Antonio Sergio Bagasao
BS in Business Administration &
Accountancy, 1980

Philip Dacayo
BS in Agriculture, 1986

Casimiro Ynares
Master of Public Administration,
2006

Lisette Arboleda
AB Political Science, 2002

Viannery Mabag
BS Speech Pathology, 2013

Ronnel Lim
AB Political Science, 2002

Eliordo Ogena
Bachelor of Laws, 1978

Femilyn Sobrevilla Domingo
BS Nursing 2008; Doctor of
Medicine, 2019

Pablo Yves Dumlao
BS in Civil Engineering, 2002

Alfredo Coro II
BS Computer Science, 1998

La Rainne Abad-Sarmiento
Bachelor of Arts 1979; MA
Anthropology 1990; PhD Public
Administration, 2006

Silvano Zanoria
MS Civil Engineering, 1978

Vice Mayors

Gabriel Hidalgo Jr.
Master in Development
Management and Governance,
2013

Phillip Yerro Kimpo
BS Computer Science, 2006

Rogelio Rivera
Master of Hospital
Administration, 1996

Adam Relson Jala
BS Community Development,
2001

Marie Nickie Bolos
Juris Doctor, 2013

Gilbert Gatchalian
BS Mining Engineering, 2003

Lemuel Surtida
BA in Sociology, 1999

Jacinta Maria Remulla
Certificate in Theater Arts 2009
BA in Theater Arts 2012

Joanne Michelle Gonzales
BA in Development Studies,
1997

Michelle Alice Baguilat
BA Journalism, 2003

Rema Pazvia Cabatu
BA Political Science, 2014

Christine Garin
BS Accountancy, 1996

Arvin Losaria
Diploma in Urban & Regional
Planning, 2016

Rosario Mediatix Fernandez
BS Management, 1998

Ryan Zerrudo
BS Management, 2001

Aleli Concepcion
BA Political Science, 2006

Rexon Arevalo
BS Agriculture, 2003

Rianne May Diaz
BS Civil Engineering, 2018;
Diploma in Land Use Planning,
2021

Miguel Jorge Tan
Bachelor of Fine Arts, 2001

Romeo Albarida
Forest Ranger Certificate, 1983

Nestor Alvarez
Bachelor of Science, 1976; MS
in Botany 1986; PhD in Biology
1998

Walter Dapla
BS Nursing, 2004

Eunice Uy Babalcon
BA Mass Communication, 2002

Emilio Ubaldo
BA in Public Administration,
1996

Florence Bansuelo-Carlos
BA Psychology, 1996

Joseph Jonathan Bactad
BS Tourism, 1996

Topnotchers

April 2024 Electronics Engineers Licensure Examination

- 2nd place 91.10%
Joaquin Mateo R. Jison
- 7th place 88.00%
Rodmar T. Ramos
- 8th place 87.50%
John Rey B. Marturillas
- 9th place 87.40%
Cyrille C. Cervantes
- 10th place 87.20%
Emmanuel Paulo A. Santos

April 2024 Physicians Licensure Examination

- 5th place 87.75%
James Patrick P. Ocampo
- 7th place 87.17%
Fatima Ericka S. Vista

April 2024 Pharmacists Licensure Examination

- 2nd place 92.50%
Anthony C. Tocayon

April 2024 Electrical Engineers Licensure Examination

- 4th place 93.50%
Angelo S. Barrientos
- 8th place 92.90%
Adrian B. Ramos
- 9th place 92.75%
Jose Daniel B. Abuacan
- 10th place 92.60%
Sophielynn C. Valdez

April 2024 Licensure Examination for Midwives

- 2nd place 91.60%
Samantha May A. Torcuan
- 4th place 90.60%
Decemya W. Amayag
- 8th place 89.80%
Suhaila A. Akmad

March 2024 Licensure Examination for Professional Teachers (Secondary Level)

- 4th place 92.00%
Kristine Jhoy M. Francisco
- 5th place 91.80%
Neil Ian V. Magalang
- 7th place 91.40%
Nichol Gabriel Barino Gabuya
- 8th place 91.20%
Alvin Jay B. Estimadora

- 8th place 91.20%
Mitzi Ann Faye N. Queja
- 8th place 91.20%
Reneline T. Ragundiaz

May 2024 Chemical Engineers Licensure Examination

- 1st place 87.30%
Miguel S. Bungalon
- 3rd place 85.50%
Andrei L. Abiog
- 5th place 84.90%
Jan Czedrick Lip-Atan Mendoza
- 7th place 84.60%
Dannah C. Leonardo Gutierrez
- 8th place 84.50%
Joshua Antony G. Cruz
- 9th place 84.40%
Kim B. Dela Peña

May 2024 Licensure Examination for Certified Public Accountants

- 10th place 89.17%
Micolai Kate T. Odronia

June 2024 Occupational Therapists Licensure Examination

- 4th place 80.00%
Jasmina Anne B. Lamadrid

June 2024 Physical Therapists Licensure Examination

- 3rd place 90.95%
Nicole Deszherie M. Recaido

June 2024 Licensure Examination for Architects

- 2nd place 83.40%
Anna Patricia R. De Leon
- 3rd place 83.10%
Alyssa Rose C. Napoles
- 4th place 82.30%
Ida Talia A. Hernandez
- 10th place 81.50%
Danielle Marie L. Huang

June 2024 Licensure Examination for Dentists

- 1st place 82.97%
Nathaniel Kyle Adrian L. Delfin
- 2nd place 82.76%
Maxine Denielle T. Gonzaga
- 3rd place 82.57%
Nicole Eunice R. Alvarez

- 5th place 82.17%
John Deuter M. Figueroa
- 6th place 82.10%
Gianna Marie L. Marabut
- 8th place 81.63%
Aaron Eduardo Tuazon

June 2024 Special Professional Licensure Examination for Professional Teachers - Secondary

- 1st place 92.60%
Suzeth A. Ancheta
- 7th place 88.00%
Leah Francia G. Arzobal
- 8th place 87.80%
Kareen Jean B. Panoril

July 2024 Master Plumbers Licensure Examination

- 5th place 86.20%
Frances Elaisah Cosio De Salit
- 5th place 86.20%
Alfonso Miguel Zorrilla Santos
- 10th place 85.40%
Psyche Desiree Een E. Castillo

July 2024 Licensure Examination for Interior Designers

- 1st place 85.80%
Maria Ivanka Bagasala Añonuevo
- 3rd place 85.25%
Kaye Patricia Mogol Picazo
- 4th place 85.05%
Ruwayna C. Alqaseer-Del Rosario
- 6th place 84.65%
Mikaela Jamela A. Alba
- 7th place 84.60%
Glenn Cultura

July 2024 Licensure Examination for Landscape Architects

- 1st place 84.55%
Jose Maria Raul B. Boncan
- 2nd place 81.40%
Ivy Zyrish Vergara Ong
- 3rd place 81.35%
Hannah Kisha Mirano Samson
- 4th place 81.25%
Patrick Carl Timkang Capalad
- 6th place 81.10%
Rafael Luis Fernando Llaban
- 7th place 80.85%
Flora Mae Andalecio Sibayan

August 2024 Psychometricians Licensure Examination 19 August, 2024

- 4th place 86.60%
John Anthony Dumpit Balverde
- 4th place 86.60%
Kaye Angeli Dela Cruz Lorenzo
- 5th place 86.40%
Christine Emiliane C. Baylosis
- 8th place 85.80%
Froilan Adrielle R. Cariaga
- 8th place 85.80%
Adrian Paul Lazaga Yosa
- 9th place 85.60%
Leamsi Eniale C. Alconaba
- 9th place 85.60%
Louie Jay Sotto Managbanag
- 10th place 85.40%
Gellyn De Asis Canabal
- 10th place 85.40%
Nina Louise Lo Garcia
- 10th place 85.40%
Anna Joaquine Chico Quimsing

August 2024 Environmental Planners Licensure Examination

- 1st place 84.30%
Marco Antonino Amoranto Javier
- 2nd place 83.95%
John Andrew Binay Cruz
- 2nd place 83.95%
Raven Esporna Hipolito
- 3rd place 83.90%
Theresse Rosales Julia
- 4th place 83.65%
Ian Kenneth Morales Diñgal
- 5th place 83.45%
Jun Prosini Santos Anave
- 6th place 81.95%
Kinna Mae Gonzales Kwan
- 7th place 81.85%
Zeilanni Dale Almadrones Galicia
- 8th place 80.95%
Mary Ann Mocerro Marcellones
- 9th place 80.80%
Gabrelle Piccio Bagarra
- 9th place 80.80%
Louie Robert Cabaltera Posadas
- 10th place 80.75%
Alvin John Amorante Pajo

August 2024 Food Technologists Licensure Examination

- 2nd place 87.75%
Arvin James Guevarra Doromal
- 2nd place 87.75%
Marlen Dela Cruz Tabudlong

- 2nd place 87.75%
Jan Vincent Delos Reyes Tecson
- 4th place 87.25%
Jeremiah Albores Abog
- 4th place 87.25%
James Ryan Dioneda Aranzado
- 5th place 87.00%
Roselle Ivy Malabanan Casumbal
- 6th place 86.75%
Nicole Angeline Ang Dasalla
- 6th place 86.75%
Hannah Angelica A. Guese
- 6th place 86.75%
Claire Anne Dimagiba Samaniego
- 7th place 86.50%
Carl Katley Lising Baluyut
- 7th place 86.50%
Jozelle Mae Ballad Miguel
- 8th place 86.25%
Samantha Kathryn V. Katigbak
- 8th place 86.25%
Riley Leroy T. Lim
- 8th place 86.25%
Cecilia Louise P. Yabut
- 9th place 86.00%
Maria Shanaia Arce De Las Alas
- 9th place 86.00%
Jose Amado Delos Santos Torreda
- 10th place 85.75%
Bernadette Lusterio Clarito
- 10th place 85.75%
Francis Philip Galope Deluao
- 10th place 85.75%
Gilbert Santiago Felongco
- 10th place 85.75%
Daniel Sta. Ana Gaspan
- 10th place 85.75%
Alithea Quinto Jumawan-Balitaon
- 10th place 85.75%
Daniel Joshua Lanorio Tayamora

August 2024 Registered Electrical Engineers Licensure Examinations

- 3rd place 92.25%
Cedie Mar Abellera Magno
- 4th place 92.15%
John Dominic Antonio Agoncillo
- 5th place 92.05%
Ryan Russel Leuterio Talosig
- 7th place 91.80%
Ma. Julianna Aguinaldo Torres
- 10th place 90.50%
Chrizzelle Alexis Kue Amiyan

September 2024 Librarians Computer-Based Licensure Examination

- 2nd place 89.60%
Alexis Bellen Obiena
- 10th place 87.40%
Mark Lester Castillo Estepa

September 2024 Licensure Examination for Social Workers

- 4th place 86.40%
Jane Nicole Sabida Aurelia
- 6th place 86.00%
Jedidiah Macabasag Apolinario
- 7th place 85.80%
Kayl Danielle Francisco Costales
- 8th place 85.60%
Gabrielle Garcia Pacañon
- 10th place 85.20%
Nadya Ysabelle Dizon
- 10th place 85.20%
Golda Millenrose Aguilar Ferreras
- 10th place 85.20%
Melvin Troy Blanaque Talattad

October 2024 Licensure Examination for Fisheries Professionals

- 1st place 91.75%
AJ March Rynne B. Felongco
- 4th place 90.75%
Julie Ann Claire Nedula Nique
- 6th place 90.25%
Thea Irish Barcellano Pentason
- 7th place 89.75%
Bea Isobelle Abkila Villaluz
- 10th place 89.00%
Cryssele Anne Sepe Barniso
- 10th place 89.00%
Vyenge Erre De La Cruz Gayosa
- 10th place 89.00%
Ma. Sandrei Dejaros Sarmiento
- 10th place 89.00%
Shylamar Sefil Sañor

October 2024 Physicians Licensure Examination

- 3rd place 89.17%
Jerickson Rodney Ngo Cua
- 6th place 88.33%
Ryan Delfin P. Encarnacion
- 6th place 88.33%
Martin Aaron Miranda Mamangon
- 7th place 88.00%
Frances Dominique Velasco Ho

October 2024 Chemists Licensure Examination

- 4th place 90.95%
Joshua Aaron Barquilla Cabando
- 6th place 90.45%
Christian Paul Ybañez Ende
- 7th place 90.25%
John Francis Garcia Antiola
- 8th place 90.15%
Brainard Bontia

October 2024 Chemical Technicians Licensure Examination

- 3rd place 90.50%
John Daniel Ramos Regala
- 3rd place 90.50%
Sherwyn Ysrael Meria Santos

October 2024 Metallurgical Engineers Computer-Based Licensure Examination

- 1st place 86.65%
Russel Hibaya David
- 2nd place 85.80%
Lorenzo Espinosa Reyes
- 3rd place 85.50%
Jimuel Atienza Biacora
- 5th place 85.30%
John Marrselle Wagas Almerina
- 6th place 82.35%
Lawrence Gil Laurente Buca
- 7th place 82.30%
Jan Alfred Fernandez Galindo
- 8th place 81.10%
Kurt Cobain Silava Estrella
- 9th place 80.80%
Joanna Go Reyes
- 10th place 80.75%
Nathaniel Conel Bonita

October 2024 Geodetic Engineers Licensure Examination

- 3rd place 86.80%
Kent Jeremy Orbista Batilo
- 5th place 86.40%
Melissa Alliana Mallillin De Leon

October 2024 Electronics Engineers Licensure Examination

- 1st place 91.90%
Patrick John Gabuna Santisidad
- 2nd place 90.00%
Aaron Clark Miniano Isurita
- 3rd place 89.70%
Marion Joseph Leyson Uy

- 5th place 88.50%
Mark Nixon Prado Carvajal
- 6th place 88.40%
Jeremiah Datu Sugang
- 7th place 88.20%
Michelle Rivera Ong
- 8th place 88.10%
Terence Daniel Endaya Manansala

October 2024 Electronics Technicians Licensure Examination

- 2nd place 92.00%
Marion Joseph Leyson Uy
- 3rd place 90.00%
Stephen Nap Pena Paroca
- 3rd place 90.00%
Joyce Anne Gonzales Dasigan

October 2024 Veterinarians Licensure Examination

- 2nd place 87.82%
John-John Rodil Fatalla
- 3rd place 87.60%
Allen John Fajardo Manalad
- 5th place 87.04%
Jubilee Gapoy Balonkita
- 7th place 86.88%
Leal Paolo Abaoag Quiatchon

November 2024 Pharmacists Licensure Examination

- 10th place 94.13%
Gillelan Virgil Perez Velazco

November 2024 Nutritionist- Dietitians Licensure Examination

- 1st place 92.40%
Frances D. San Agustin Agustin
- 2nd place 91.70%
Jesse Lauren Paras Barotac
- 3rd place 91.45%
Rondell Rey Valleja Cuerquis
- 3rd place 91.45%
Tiffany Zaira Flores Garonita
- 4th place 91.40%
Saul Andrew Boquia Benabaye
- 5th place 91.35%
Mariel Keziah Solano Mallari
- 6th place 91.10%
Jenny Rose Jampil Desepeda
- 6th place 91.10%
Niel Matthew Buensalida Mahusay
- 7th place 91.00%
Tim Allen Gatchalian Ebron
- 8th place 90.95%
Aldwin Cedric Bautista De Mesa
- 9th place 90.85%
Gielledane Marie C. Villanueva

- 10th place 90.80%
Maria Theresa Ramos Lorenzo
- 10th place 90.80%
Katja Florendo Sarfati

November 2024 Licensure Examination for Midwives

- 1st place 92.60%
Bernard Isaac Badar Alido
- 8th place 91.10%
Syloan Baylon Sabong

November 2024 Agriculturists Licensure Examination

- 1st place 89.67%
Ian Gabriel Ramos Mangulabnan
- 3rd place 89.18%
Tiffany Leanne Cruz Catbagan
- 4th place 89.02%
Paula Jane Sauquillo Jamir
- 5th place 89.01%
Gwyneth Fabriga Magsael
- 9th place 88.35%
John Paulo Baral Micaya
- 10th place 88.18%
Chloe Marie Joyce G. De Leon
- 10th place 88.18%
Vance Ivan Paul D. Gamboa

November 2024 Geologists Computer-Based Licensure Examination

- 1st place 90.50%
Leandro Ceasar Aguilar Cediño
- 3rd place 84.20%
Abigail Monteloyola Manahan
- 4th place 83.70%
Caelan Philip Bragancia Diaz
- 5th place 83.50%
Kyle Villamer Gabriel
- 6th place 82.90%
Mark Bautista Sumaden
- 7th place 82.50%
Theodore Rosero Tulod, Jr.

November 2024 Chemical Engineers Licensure Examination

- 1st place 90.90%
Kenn Rovikk Estacio Logdat

November 2024 Speech-Language Pathologists Computer-Based Licensure Examination

- 2nd place 89.25%
Allyson Emie Marie B. De Guzman
- 2nd place 89.25%
Kyla Victoria M. Bernas
- 2nd place 89.25%
Leonina Angela Varca
- 3rd place 88.75%
John Frank Roman U. Baloloy
- 4th place 88.50%
Diana Lynne Alombro Palma
- 5th place 88.00%
Maryanne Luiza Cunan Nozawa
- 5th place 88.00%
Ysabella Angelica L. Javier
- 6th place 87.50%
Jonathan Layugan Manuel
- 7th place 87.25%
Ji Hee Balanon Lee
- 8th place 87.00%
Lorenz Laspiñas Reyes
- 8th place 87.00%
Mary Faye Winona O. Gloria
- 10th place 86.50%
Cyn Pascual Gutlay
- 10th place – 86.50%
Merlyn Llonado
- 10th place 86.50%
Pia Angela Punsalan Macapagal

November 2024 Philippine Nurses Licensure Examination

- 2nd place 92.20%
Arianne Marie Baltero Estrella
- 5th place 91.60%
Edline Aubrey Pineda Sarmiento
- 7th place 91.20%
Rianne Danielle Paraless Javinal
- 8th place 91.00%
Leoneil Jenz Bautista Erna
- 9th place 90.80%
Joan Danielle Dionson Gigataras
- 9th place 90.80%
Kristine Catangay Talavera
- 9th place 90.80%
Ivan John Anton Tejones Zuñiga
- 10th place 90.60%
Mark John Lucas Aguilar
- 10th place 90.60%
Kayla Angelica A. Gonzales
- 10th place 90.60%
Trevor Phoenix Estrada Lomotos

October and November 2024 Mining Engineers Licensure Examination

- 3rd place 89.00%
Keith Jeremy Ballard Miguel
- 7th place 87.30%
Aloysius Jadulco Barbarona
- 9th place 86.80%
Tiarra Ciayen Carlos Aguas
- 10th place 86.75%
Iñaki Xavier Alegria Maglipon

November and December 2024 Civil Engineers Licensure Examination

- 2nd place 92.50%
Josh Andrew Medina Martija
- 6th place 92.05%
Cherry Red Romero Marcuap
- 10th place 91.15%
Joan Chloe Uy Tan

September 2024 Licensure Examination for Professional Teachers (Elementary Level)

- 1st place 94.00%
Alyssa Jeanne C. Tamondong
- 10th place 92.20%
Jasmin Marie Marayag Pioquinto

2024 Bar Examinations

- 1st place 85.7700%
Kyle Christian Gorrero Tutor
- 4th place 84.2800%
John Philippe Encarnacion Chua
- 5th place 84.2650%
Jet Ryan Pecson Nicolas
- 6th place 84.0600%
Maria Lovelyn Joyce S. Quebrar
- 17th place 82.8700%
Rieland Joromo Cuevas
- 20th place 82.7950%
Charles Kenneth F. Lijauco

December 2024 Licensure Examination for Certified Public Accountants

- 2nd place 89.50%
Julianne Nicole Luban Vitug
- 5th place 88.50%
Cassandra Marie Rico Entico
- 9th place 87.83%
Jacob Andrew Ng Ugsimar
- 10th place 87.67%
Edward Joseph Cananua Labid

December 2024 Occupational Therapists Licensure Examination

- 3rd place 85.40%
Julius Daniel Magbujos Gutierrez
- 4th place 85.50%
Hannah Roesilej Raganit Garcia
- 7th place 84.40%
Benedict Emmanuel Magbiray Pe
- 7th place 84.40%
Paulianna Villanueva Vendiola
- 7th place 84.40%
Aleahna Shane M. Villanueva
- 10th place 83.80%
Gabriel Antonio Dionisio Bello
- 10th place 83.80%
Maria Graciela Florendo Jimenez
- 10th place 83.80%
Denise Ann Pareja Napa

November 2024 Licensure Examination for Dentists

- 2nd place 84.33%
Lovely Pamela Regarde Rizare
- 3rd place 84.30%
Kisha Dana Ang Cabuyadao
- 4th place 84.14%
Derrick Dee Vibal Haluag
- 5th place 84.10%
Jillianne Alejandro Santos
- 7th place 83.83%
Nianne Carla Santos Hernandez
- 9th place 83.50%
Sandra Rachelle Ong Yao

In Memoriam

Jose Maria Generala Alarilla
AB in Comparative Lit, 1994
July 7, 2024

Ana Marie C. Alfelor-De Jesus
BA in Speech Comm 2001 cum
laude; MA in English Studies 2013
June 24, 2025

Eden S. Alforja-Varona
BS in Agriculture 2000
November 2024

Luis Orense Amano
BS in Agriculture 1981;
MS in Agronomy 1988
March 17, 2025

Sebastian Lim Angliongto
BS in Agriculture 1959
July 26, 2024

Leonisa Alibudbud Artes
BS in Agriculture 1984; MS in
Horticulture 1994; Diploma in
Research and Dev't Mgmt 2000
January 25, 2025

Francis Alvin D. Artuz
BS in Accountancy 2000
April 2024

Carlos Ojeda Aureus
Doctor of Philosophy in English
Studies 1992
April 23, 2024

Louis Pascual Balicanta
BS in Geodetic Engineering 1999;
Master of Arts (Urban and
Regional Planning) 2011
January 19, 2025

Clare R. Baltazar
National Scientist
BS in Agriculture 1947 summa
cum laude
July 13, 2024

Helen A. Abella-Barrios
BS in Agricultural Chemistry 1986
April 2024

Corazon B. Basas-Colanta
BS in Home Technology 1956
April 2024

Restituto Bariring Bauan
BS in Forestry 1973
June 21, 2024

Niel N. Bebing
BS in Chemistry 1994
November 2024

Christopher Alexis A. Belison
BS in Biology 2013
November 3, 2024

Leticia Z. Boniol
Bachelor of Arts 1973;
MS in Development Comm 1981
June 14, 2025

Luz M. Buenavista-Tungpalan
BS in Nursing 1963 cum laude;
MA in Nursing 1976
August 19, 2024

Arnel Alan Bustamante
BS in Biology 1983; Doctor of
Veterinary Medicine 1988
April 2025

Gardie N. Canilan
Certificate in Forestry 2007;
BS in Forestry 2013
January 6, 2025

Fermin M. Caraig, Jr.
BS in Agricultural Business 1982
June 6, 2024

Arturo Sta. Ana Castillo
BS in Forestry 1971; MS in
Forestry 1978; Doctor of
Philosophy in Forestry 1986
May 2024

Minerva S. Castillo-Oliva
BS in Agriculture 1984
January 2025

Salvador Peralta Catelo
BS in Agricultural Economics
1980; MS in Agricultural
Economics 1984
March 16, 2025

Edmund Raul Y. Causing
BS in Agriculture 1991
January 13, 2025

Leopoldo Mañalac Clemente, Jr.
BS in Business Ad 1959
January 8, 2025

Josefina Dionisio Constantino
BS in Education 1940 cum laude
July 19, 2024

Nenita B. Cortez-Rosales
Ranger Certificate 1979; BS in
Forestry 1983
May 2024

Rainier Arthur Pinto Cruz
Diploma in CPMA in Voice 1999
Bachelor of Music in Voice 2002;
Master of Music in Voice 2010
August 18, 2024

Romeo C. Cruz
BA in Public Administration 1967
September 17, 2021

Jose Antonio C. David
BS in Biology 2003
July 2024

Leonardo D. De Castro
Bachelor of Arts 1972;
MA in Philosophy 1977
May 12, 2024

Christiana Jade M. De Silva-Ong
Cert of Fine Arts in Visual Comm
2007; BA Fine Arts in Visual
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BS in Agriculture 1956
January 2025

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Bachelor of Laws 1975
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BS in Agribusiness Mgmt. 1998
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BS in Agriculture 1958
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BS in Agriculture 1978
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BS in Math 1990; MS in Applied
Physics 1993; Doctor of
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BS in Agricultural Chemistry 1968;
MS in Food Science 1972; Doctor
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Bachelor of Arts 1970;
MA in Political Science 1976;
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BS in Business Management
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BS in Agriculture 1959;
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BS in Agriculture 1959 hc; MS
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BS in Biology 2002
April 2025

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BS in Nursing 1961
February 21, 2025

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March 24, 2025

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January 14, 2025

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Products Engineering 1986
January 3, 2025

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MSFish 1980
May 25, 2024

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1988; Doctor of Philosophy in
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May 26, 2024

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Doctor of Humanities 1995
October 12, 2024

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August 05, 2024

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AB 1962 cum laude; Bachelor of
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BFA 1950
May 18, 2024

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July 2024

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AB 1972
August 18, 2024

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Urban and Regional Planning 2006
December 19, 2024

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BS in Forestry 1981
May 01, 2025

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December 29, 2024

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Doctor of Vet Medicine 2003
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May 27, 2024

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Carillon

For over thirty years, the Pili Tree has long stood as a cherished space for recreation, reflection, and learning within the UP Tacloban community. It has also been a stage for countless artistic performances by both faculty and students over the years. *Photo by Kevin Roque, UP MPRO*

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