DAME’s Dynamic Duo Honored

Mrs. Imelda de Ramos Rico and Mrs. Priscila Cabrera Banasihan, two of DAME’s most dedicated administrative staff were honored on February 23, 2016 for their exemplary years of service to the department and to the university as a whole. Faculty and friends gathered to express their gratitude to and share their fondest memories of the two.

Mrs. Elda Rico or Tita Elda as she is fondly called, has served UPLB for 43 years. She was born on February 25, 1951 in Pangil, Laguna to Mr. Quinciano C. de Ramos Sr., a retired army and band leader at Camp Vicente Lim in Calamba, Laguna, and Mrs. Nenita R. Mahupil. Tita Elda is the sixth among a brood of five boys and four girls. She married Mr. Oscar Rico (deceased) on April 10, 1987 and they were blessed with a daughter, Imee Carla.

Tita Elda learned the value of hard work at a young age. She worked part time to finish her B.S. degree in Commerce at the Laguna College of Business Administration in Calamba, Laguna. In 1972, immediately after her graduation, she worked as a clerk in the Accounting Division of UPLB where she was hired as an emergency staff. In 1973, she worked as a Research Aide on a contractual basis, at the then Department of Agricultural Economics, College of Agriculture. After four years Tita Elda got a permanent post in the university. She was hired as a clerk at the Institute of Agricultural Development and Administration in 1976 and was promoted to Senior Clerk of the Department of Agribusiness Management (DAM), CEM in 1979. In 2003, she became the Administrative Assistant of DAM-CEM. She was promoted to Administrative Assistant II in 2004 and she held this post until her retirement.

Over the decades, Tita Elda witnessed the evolution, including periods of highs and lows of DAME-CEM. She assisted a number of department heads and breezed through their different management styles. Tita Elda confided that in terms of work ethics, she was greatly influenced by her mentor and friend, Dr. Fabian A. Tiongson, the department’s first Chairman. There were a few times when Tita Elda was offered work outside of DAME-CEM. But fate had its own way of making Tita Elda stay in the department.

Regarded as the university’s walking directory as she memorized the landline numbers of offices in UPLB, Tita Elda has been a great source of inspiration to the faculty, staff and students of DAME-CEM. There are certainly many people whose lives were touched by Tita Elda. Her inspiring traits shone through decades of patient and dedicated service. Her working philosophy is “Be dedicated and love your work”. 
In his videotaped message to Tita Elda, DAME-CEM’s Adjunct Professor Jimmy Williams said: “Every good thing must end. You are one of the most loyal, most reliable, most competent administrative assistants I know. Kung wala ka, di magkakaganito ang department. Kayo actually ni Dr. Tiongson ang bumuo at nagsimula nito. Everybody should know na malaki ang nagawa mo at utang na loob ng department. Goodluck and thank you very very much.”

Tita Presy, was born on July 8, 1953 in Batong Malake, Los Baños Laguna to Bartolome and Francisca Cabrera. She is the sixth among a brood of nine. Tita Presy met the love of her life, her husband of 49 years, Pepito “Pito” Gomez Banasihan at work. They tied the knot on December 19, 1976 and they are blessed with two daughters, Claire and Rose Ann.

Tita Presy started as an emergency staff at the University Food Service (UFS) in UPLB in 1972. She became a permanent staff in 1973. She considers Mrs. Susan Exconde, her mentor and friend, as one of the most influential persons in her career. In 1989, Tita Presy was promoted to Utility Worker II and in 2007, she became an Administrative Aide III.

When the UFS stopped its operations in 2003, Tita Presy moved to DAME-CEM. For Tita Presy, all jobs are equal as long as one puts his/her heart into it. She maintained good work habits and a harmonious working relationship with everyone. Former DAME Chair Dr. Reynaldo Tan said Presy always had a very happy disposition and was always pleasant to everybody. Tita Presy served DAME for thirteen years.

Adjunct Professor, Prof. Jimmy Williams extended his well wishes to Tita Presy. He even kidded that no one will prepare the best coffee for him anymore. Prof. Williams said, “Isa ka rin sa maasahan sa department. Kahit maikli lang ang panahon na ikaw ay aming nakasama, wala akong narinig na reklamo tungkol sa iyo. Presy, maraming salamat.”

MNQ Herrera

16 Graduate Students to be Conferred MM Degrees in June

Eight graduate students under the Master of Management major in Business Management (MM-BM) degree program and two graduate students under the Master of Management major in Agribusiness Management and Entrepreneurship (MM-ABME) degree program took the MM Final Exam from February 15-26, 2016 at the DAME Conference Room, DAME, CEM, U.P. Los Baños. MM-BM students Elaiza Borromeo, Jewel Joana Cabardo, Irish Gem Cachuela, Hosanna Angela Jarmin, Marc Terence Liamson, Daryl Navales, Abigail Ruelo and Juan Paulino Trespalacio as well as MM-ABME students Angelica Mae de Juras and Jamaica Angelica Deriquito hurdled the three MM Final Exam modules successfully. Ms. De Juras and Ms. Deriquito hold the distinction of being the first crop of students who completed the MM-ABME degree program.

Meanwhile, an earlier batch of six MM-BM candidates passed the MM Final Exam held last July 13-23, 2015: Maria Rowena Buena, Ian Lee Castilla, Mark Raymond Edra, Rhea Lisette Guevara, Mary Grace Rollon and Vinna-Cheng Torrente. All 16 MM candidates will join the commencement rites and receive their MM-BM or MM-ABME diplomas as members of the 2016 UPLB graduating class on June 25, 2016.

JAB Madamba

DAME Offers 2015 MM Workshop for MM-BM Off-Campus Program

The Department of Agribusiness Management and Entrepreneurship (DAME) welcomed its first potential participants for an off-campus MM-BM Program to the 2015 Master of Management (MM) Workshop on November 15, 2015. The workshop is a preparatory course for the MM Business Management (MM-BM) and MM Cooperative Management (MM-CM) programs. The participants were from the Procurement-Service Department of Budget and Management (PS-DBM), Department of Education, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, National Library, UP Diliman College of Engineering Library and the National Confederation of Cooperatives.
The Department of Agribusiness Management and Entrepreneurship hosted the 26th batch of the Tokyo University of Agriculture (TUA) Philippine Bio-business Practice from February 17-March 1, 2016. Dr. Reynaldo L. Tan and Prof. Loida E. Mojica have been coordinating this longest running international extension activity of DAME since it started in 1999. A total of 540 students and 15 professors have been hosted by DAME for this activity. For this batch, Asst. Professor Arlene C. Gutierrez also joined in the actual farm practice. The purpose of the Philippine bio-business practice is to provide TUA students exposure to tropical agriculture. TUA students do actual work in selected farms in Batangas, Cavite and Laguna, visit food processing plants, Japanese companies operating in the Philippines and various institutions that are supporting bio-business development.

The 26th batch consisting of 25 students was coordinated and escorted by Associate Professor Dr. Tomohiro Uchiyama and Assistant Professor Dr. Nina Nocon-Shimoguchi.

NA Aquino

DAME hosted TUA’s 26th Batch of Philippine Bio-business Practice

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LE Mojica
Thailand Agribusiness Tour for Two DAME Faculty Members

Prof. Loida E. Mojica and Asst. Prof. Dia Noelle Velasco together with Ms. Karla Joy S. Ty of the Animal and Dairy Sciences cluster of the College of Agriculture visited Thailand from January 23-30, 2016 for an agribusiness tour. Dr. Emil Q. Javier, former UP President and current Chairman of the Board of the Coalition for Agriculture Modernization of the Philippines (CAMP) initiated this tour to support the agribusiness program of UPLB. The purpose of this trip was to visit agribusiness companies and farms in Thailand and benchmark the different forms of integrative arrangements (e.g., contract growership) and innovations which may be adopted in the Philippines, particularly in UPLB.

The group visited farms and processing enterprises which are producing different agribusiness commodities such as vegetables and fruits, beef cattle, fish, dairy milk and sweet corn milk. The companies/institutions visited were the Royal Project’s Pesticide Residue Analysis Laboratory and Pang Da and Nonghoi research stations which were initiated by the King of Thailand, Kasetsart University’s in-campus businesses such as the KU Kamphaeng saen Campus Beef Producers Cooperative and KU Suwan’s sweet corn milk; Kamphaeng saen beef breeding and auction farms; Charoen Pokphand fish fry and fingerling business; Thai Feed Mill Association; Syngenta; and Thai Milk Dairy Cooperative.

The trip was organized and coordinated by the Biotechnology Alliance Association (BAA) of Thailand and was sponsored by CropLife Asia. The Thailand tour experience including observations/insights and agribusiness investment and development entry points were presented by the tour group to CAMP’s board of trustees March 15, 2016.

LE Mojica

Banzon Speaks at BFAR Aquaculture Forum

Dr. Agnes T. Banzon was a resource person on Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) in the Philippines at the BFAR Aquaculture Development Managers Forum-Workshop (Aqua-man) on March 16, 2016. The forum which was held on March 14-18, 2016 in Hotel Rembrandt in Quezon City aimed to formulate aquaculture development-related policies and regulations in relation to the adoption of RA 10654 Implementing Rules and Regulations among others. Dr. Banzon who conducted a research on GAP discussed the issues, challenges and policy implications of GAP adoption in the country with respect to mangoes and bananas. The learnings and insights from the research will serve as inputs by BFAR when it crafts its implementation strategy for Good Aquaculture Practices.

AT Banzon

The DAME Dispatch is published quarterly. Please email your contribution (articles in Word and photos in JPEG format, 300 dpi) to the Editor-in-Chief: atbanzon@gmail.com