

Obituary

The Legacy of CARMEN G. KANAPI, PhD

John Donnie A. RAMOS*

University of Santo Tomas, Philippines

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*Author for correspondence: jaramos@ust.edu.ph



Carmen G. Kanapi is a distinguished Filipino zoologist, geneticist, and an esteemed administrator. Her influence reverberated throughout the academic community, particularly at the University of Santo Tomas (UST), Manila, Philippines, where she held pivotal leadership roles as the dean of the UST College of Science (1982-1996) and the dean of the UST Graduate School (1976-1982). In

recognition of her exemplary and dedicated leadership, she was bestowed the title of Dean Emeritus by the University of Santo Tomas.

Kanapi's academic journey began with a Magna Cum Laude distinction in BS Zoology from UST in 1950. Her pursuit of knowledge continued as she honed her expertise through rigorous training abroad, obtaining an MS in Zoology from the University of Chicago, a

PhD in Zoology specializing in Genetics from the University of Texas at Austin, and engaging in pre-doctoral studies at the University of Hawaii and Johns Hopkins University. Her seminal contributions in *Drosophila* Genetics, including a groundbreaking PhD dissertation published in prestigious journals like the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, underscored her prowess in the field. Moreover, her involvement in commemorating the centenary of Thomas H. Morgan, a renowned geneticist, exemplifies her commitment to advancing genetic research.

Beyond academia, Kanapi's legacy extends to her profound engagement in community service and advocacy. She served and devoted her leadership to various associations including being a member of the Executive Board of the Asian Association for Biology Education (AABE); president of the Biology Teachers Association of the Philippines (BIOTA-Phils); vice president of the Philippine Association for the Advancement of Science (PhilAAS), a founding in-corporator of the Philippine Association of Colleges and Universities Commission on Accreditation

(PACUCOA) where she later became the treasurer and a commissioner.

She championed initiatives promoting scientific literacy and environmental stewardship. She organized the Eco Watch, Eco Act movement in UST whose awareness program resulted in the successful closing down of the incinerator on campus, and the banning of smoking within the UST College of Science which was later adopted by the whole university. She was the Project Leader of the UST Environmental Education Program Development Project or "EE for All at UST".

As a trailblazing servant leader and a woman of science, Carmen G. Kanapi's legacy continues to inspire generations of scholars and administrators. Her dedication to excellence, coupled with her unwavering compassion, serves as a beacon for those striving to make meaningful contributions to academia and society at large. Carmen G. Kanapi was a founding and an honorary member of The Asian Association for Biology Education. She passed away on 16 December 2022. We at AABE celebrate her 97 years (1925-2022) of a well-fulfilled lifetime.