



INSTITUTE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

February 29, 2020
IAPT Research Grant Application
Recommendation Letter for Glenn Cedrick V. Gamus

Dear Madam/Sir,

I have served as supervisor to Mr. Glenn Gamus for almost three years now, starting in June 2017 when I hired him as a research associate immediately after he completed his Bachelor's Degree in Biology with honors. The position had a steep learning curve as Glenn had to assist two other faculty researchers apart from myself. I worked on plant ecology while the other two focused on the taxonomy of algae and fungi, each field requiring different collection and preservation techniques. Add to that, Glenn was tasked with filing administrative documents for any purchase, requisition, off-campus activity, cash advance, and others. This was even more difficult than usual, as Glenn happened to be the first ever University Research Associate in FEU Manila. Still, Glenn more than rose to the challenge, managing through many unexpected circumstances and situations of some urgency. Today, the Department (of Biological Sciences) relies on Glenn to take charge of senior high school students from various schools needing an introduction to botany and botanical research. Glenn is also proficient in molecular phylogenetics so he incorporates an introduction to molecular techniques as well. It is clear that he makes an impact on these students as at least one has told him he was what inspired the student to enroll in FEU's BS Biology program.

With about a year's experience in research work under the FEU Herbarium research program, Glenn applied to the MSc in Biology program and qualified for a graduate scholarship after earning high marks in the entrance exam. He continued with his post while pursuing his graduate studies and apart from doing well in his coursework, he began presenting his research on algae in local conferences. As his undergraduate thesis was on the brown algae of Sorsogon, he was able to continue his interest in seaweeds through the 'Rhodophyte Diversity of Sorsogon' project of his undergrad supervisor, Dr. Richard Dumilag. He is currently contributing to a paper under revision, led by Dr. Dumilag on the Ulvophyceae of Sorsogon, submitted to *Botanica Marina*.

Glenn has selected the genus *Bangia* to study given its taxonomic uncertainties and initial indications that what is currently known about *Bangia* in the Philippines is incorrect. Given that at least one species is an economically important one, this research has much to contribute to society at large as well. As a matter of fact, he is working on a manuscript documenting the use of *Bangia* in Ilocos Norte, which has the potential to be the first paper reporting on the edible character of *Bangia*.

Having just begun his academic career through this master's program, it is nevertheless highly apparent that Glenn will make significant contributions to algal research. It is thus in this regard I strongly recommend that he be awarded an IAPT Research Grant.

Sincerely,

Sandra L. Yap, PhD.