

»»» NEWSLETTER «««

APFNET ALUMNI

The Official Newsletter of the APFNet Alumni Network



TOP NEWS OF THE QUARTER

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HAPPY NEW YEAR FORESTERS

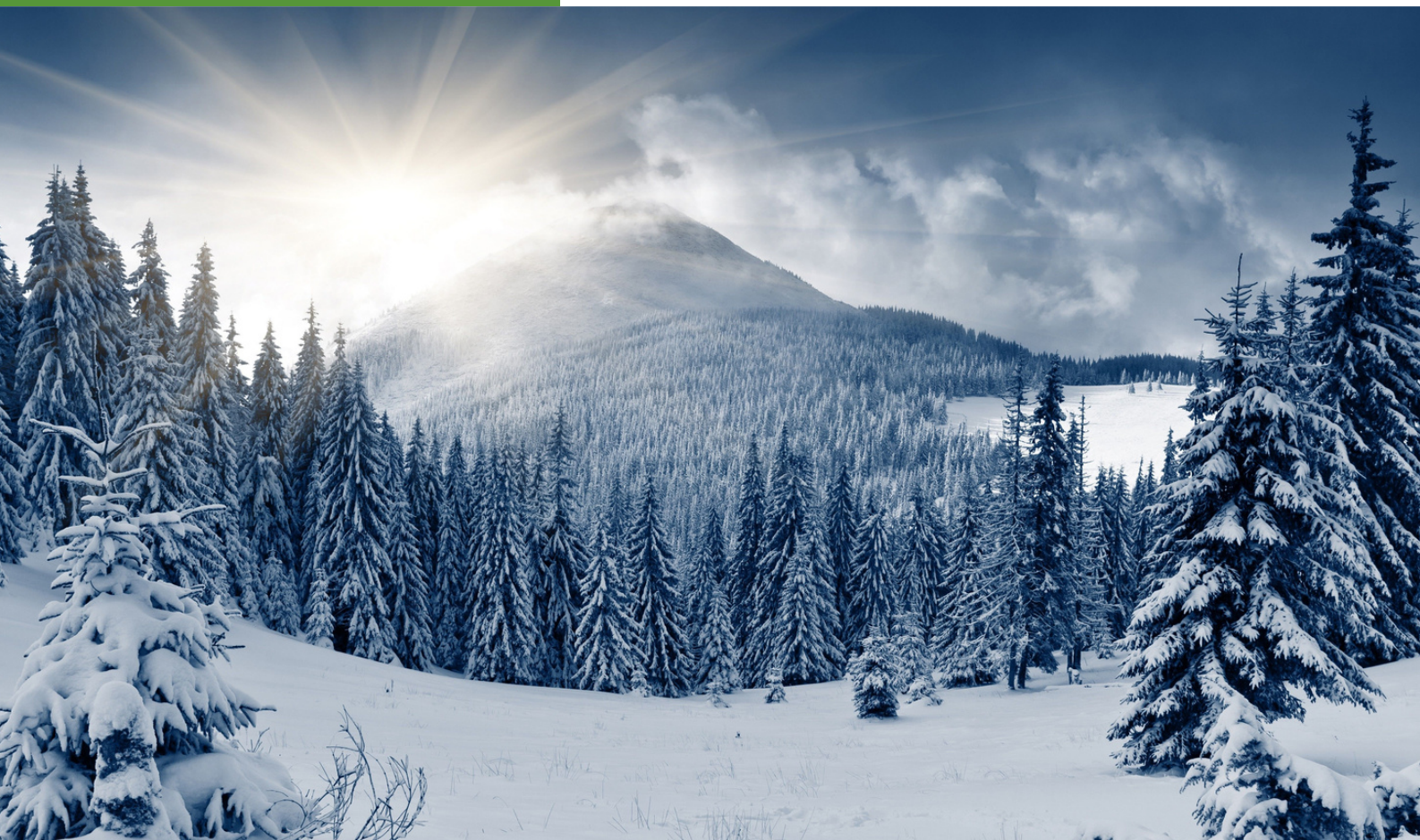
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WELCOME 2024

WE SINCERELY CONGRATULATE YOU ON THE ARRIVAL OF THE NEW YEAR 2024.

**HAPPY NEW
YEAR APFNET
ALUMNI**

The year 2023 will be marked by all young researchers and scientific communities of the globe as a year of faithful and honest academic achievements for the conservation of our planet, the realization of reasonable constructive goals, and the following achievements of our habitat improvement. We also welcome the new year 2024 with good hopes and dreams and new productive plans for the earth's conservation due to climatic threats. May the new year be a year of peace and harmony for every family, the celebration of the sun of dreams, the morning full of happiness, blessings, and further progress and achievements! In these festive moments, we sincerely congratulate all the noble and proud APFNet alums across the globe on the arrival of the new year 2023, that is, the year of the continuation of best academic progress and development works and the realization of the dreams and aspirations of the young alums, and we wish you good health and a peaceful life, good fortune, good luck, and a prosperous life.



ARNAUD EMMANUEL STUDNET

LIFE IN NWAFU

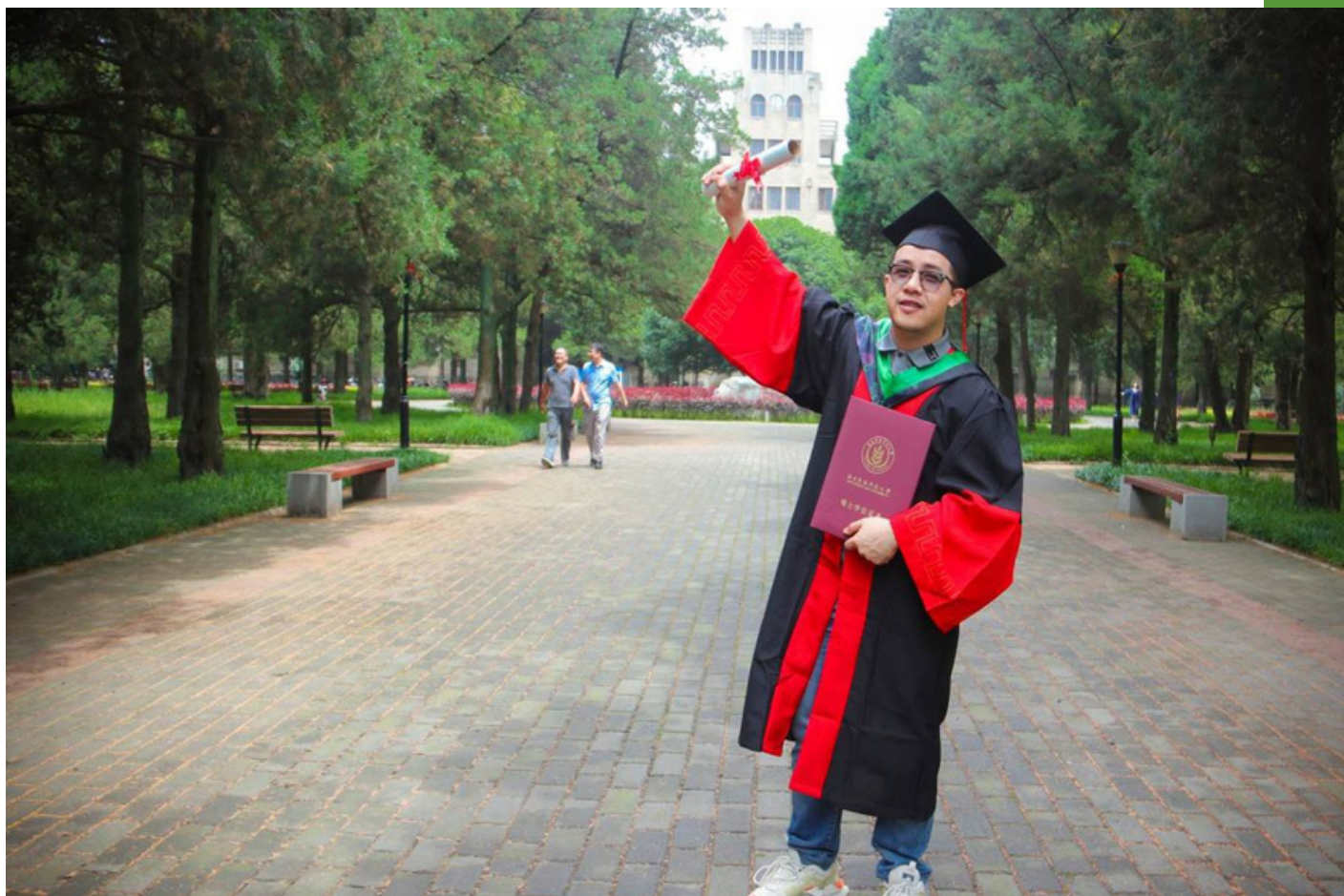
Arnaud Emmanuel joined North-West A&F University in China in 20222, He is pursuing a master's degree under the APFNet scholarship program in Soil and Water Conservation and demonstrating exceptional dedication to my study. He has done so many academic accomplishments including [academic achievements, scholarships, awards, etc.]. However, it was his involvement in research projects focusing on Soil erosion that truly set them apart.



Arnaud Emmanuel mentioned that under the guidance of renowned professors and mentors, he actively participated in research initiatives related to soil erosion. Arnaud: "Investigations primarily focused on understanding the causes and consequences of soil erosion and exploring innovative strategies to prevent or mitigate it. Through research papers and data analysis, I plan to contribute to the body of knowledge in soil science".

➤➤➤ ARNAUD EMMANUEL, AIMS TO CONTINUE MAKING SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTIONS TO SOIL SCIENCE AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION.

According to Arnaud Emmanuel, he aims to continue making significant contributions to soil science and environmental conservation. In the future, Arnaud Emmanuel aspires to collaborate with other experts and organizations, participating in multidisciplinary research that addresses the intricate relationship between soil erosion, climate change, and sustainable land management. Moreover, he also intends to inspire and mentor future generations of researchers and engage in policy advocacy to ensure the implementation of effective soil erosion control measures.



Thongsuk SOMPOUVISET is a recent PhD graduate from Laos PDR. He completed his PhD in December 2023 from the Natural Resources and Environment College at Northwest A&F University. His four-year research focused on the effects of agricultural production on greenhouse gas emissions.

Thongsuk is very thankful for his support and mentioned: "First of all, I would like to express my deep gratitude and thanks to Asia-Pacific Network for Sustainable Forest Management and Rehabilitation (APFNet) for providing funds for my four years of doctoral studies. I would also like to thank all the professors from Northwest A&F University, both in the College of International Education and the College of Natural Resources and Environment, who have taught me academic knowledge and helped me in everything throughout my studying period. Moreover, I would like to thank all who supported my dream of studying for a doctorate, becoming a reality, and succeeding as it is today".



THONGSUK SAID: "NWAUFU HAS BEEN LIKE MY SECOND HOME."

I felt love and bonded with this university because I have learned many things from this place, and it has given me good friendships and kindness from teachers and friends. Hence, I gained a precious experience".

The period of my education was quite tricky for Thongsuk, but he never got discouraged by the obstacles that came his way. He spent the first year of schooling on significant courses. Then, in the second and third years, I worked in labs inside and outside the university by collecting data and publishing articles. He wrote his final thesis in the last year and then defended it. Finally, he achieved his goal and completed the publication of three scientific papers.

As Thongsuk promised: "I am promising to bring all the knowledge and experiences gained from this study, especially the solution to the problem of global warming that our world is currently facing, to my country. Furthermore, I will continue to spread the benefits of the APFNet organization, including the strong and stable relationship between China and Laos".

PHYU THINN PRACTICAL TRAINING ON CHINA'S FORESTRY

I am Phyu Phyu Thinn from Myanmar. I have been studying as a doctoral student at the School of Economics and Management, Beijing Forest University, with the support of the APFNet Scholarship since 2020. I earned a Master's degree with a specialization in Economic Analysis of Agroforestry at the University of Forestry and Environmental Science, Myanmar, in 2018. I applied for the APFNet Scholarship to continue my Doctoral degree so that my knowledge and understanding of forest economics and management can widen.

Although I was awarded a scholarship to study for my doctoral degree at Beijing Forestry University in 2020, I cannot come and look at the University in person until December 2022 because of the COVID-19 Pandemic, and all required courses are being taught with online lessons. At that time, I sometimes felt stressed mentally and lacked motivation to study. However, I tried my best to finish my required courses with high marks and studied literature reviews for my research intensively with my supervisor during that challenging period.

In December 2022, I was allowed to enter to University and I stayed quarantine for 15 days (8 days in Kunming and 7 days in Beijing) with my expenses. After arriving at Beijing Forestry University, I can start my university student life with full participation in on-campus activities and also motivate myself for my Ph.D. study. I would like to express my deepest acknowledgment to the APFNet for granting full scholarship to continue my doctoral study and experience different cultures of international students from different countries.



PRACTICAL TRAINING ON CHINA'S FORESTRY PRACTICES IN SHISANLING, BEIJING



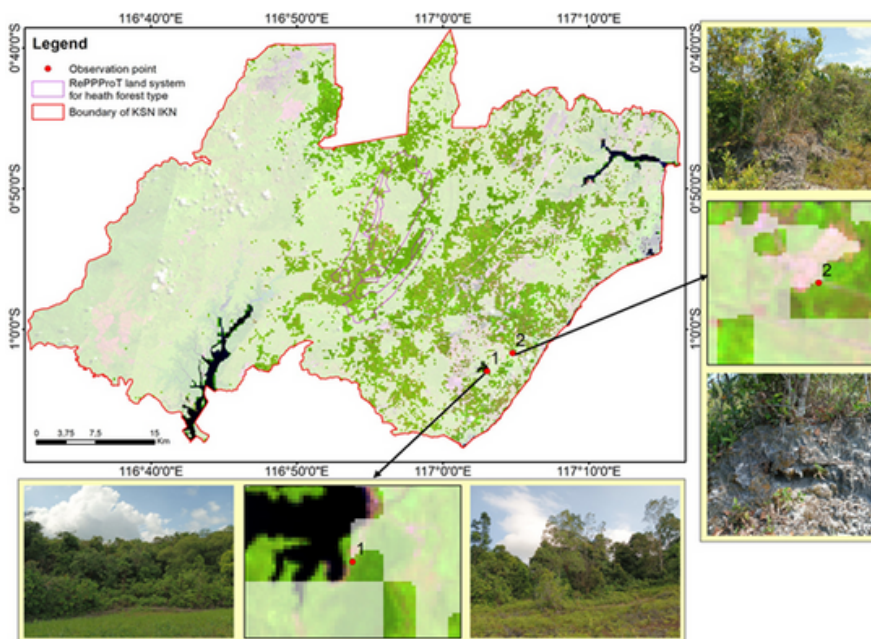
HALIZAH IS USING A GPS FOR GROUND CHECKING THE HEATH FOREST.

Heath forest is a rare and extreme habitat, thriving in nutrient-poor environments characterized by low pH, quartz sand soil, and podsol soil. It is unique, characterized by its vegetation and ecological features; and its vegetation has the potential to be a source of medicines (bio-resources) and has economic value. Heath Forest has quite an important role not only for the environment but also for the communities around the forest, which are included in supporting the forest city concept at Nusantara. However, heath forest is very easily degraded and difficult to recover.

The creation of a tentative heath forest map requires four parameters: elevation, soil texture, NDVI, and a land cover map. The parameters were then overlaid using Geographic Information System (GIS) with a binary model. The results indicated that the heath forest covers an area of 56,646 hectares, representing 23% of the total Nusantara area. It is predominantly distributed in areas with flat terrain. Notable plant species found in the heath area include *Nepenthes gracilis*, *Rhodomyrtus tomentosa*, and *Melastoma malabathricum*. Unfortunately, the health ecosystem faces significant threats from human activities, particularly the conversion of land for palm oil plantations and urbanization.

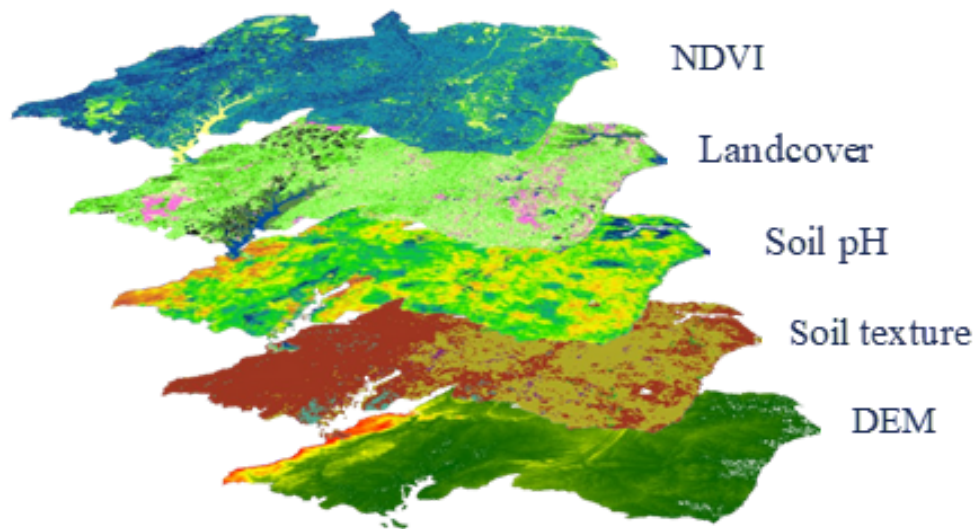
Ulfah Karmila Sari is from Indonesia. She took the APFNet Scholarship Program to study for a Master degree at Nanjing Forestry University in the class of 2020–2022, majoring in forestry. Since 2022, she has been working at the National Research and Innovation Agency of Indonesia as a researcher.

After finishing her studies and getting a Master degree from NFU, she works again as a researcher. Under the National Research and Innovation Agency of Indonesia, she got the opportunity to research the heath forest. This research is a collaborative activity of the National Research and Innovation Agency, the Ministry of Environment and Forestry, and Mulawarman University. This research aims to map the location and characteristics of the heath forest in the surrounding area of Nusantara, which is a part of the Sundaland Heath Forest. Sundaland heath forests, also known as Kerangas forests, are a distinct type of tropical forest ecosystem found in the Sundaland region of Southeast Asia. Sundaland encompasses areas in Indonesia, Malaysia, Brunei, and Singapore.



DISTRIBUTION OF HEATH FOREST INDICATION MAP

From this research, it is hoped that a basic data package will be available to support the forest city concept in the Nusantara and help formulate a spatial-based planning strategy for heath forest management. To enhance future research efforts, it is recommended to incorporate additional comprehensive parameters for determining heath forest habitats. Such as vegetation data and soil data as well as rhizosphere microbial data.

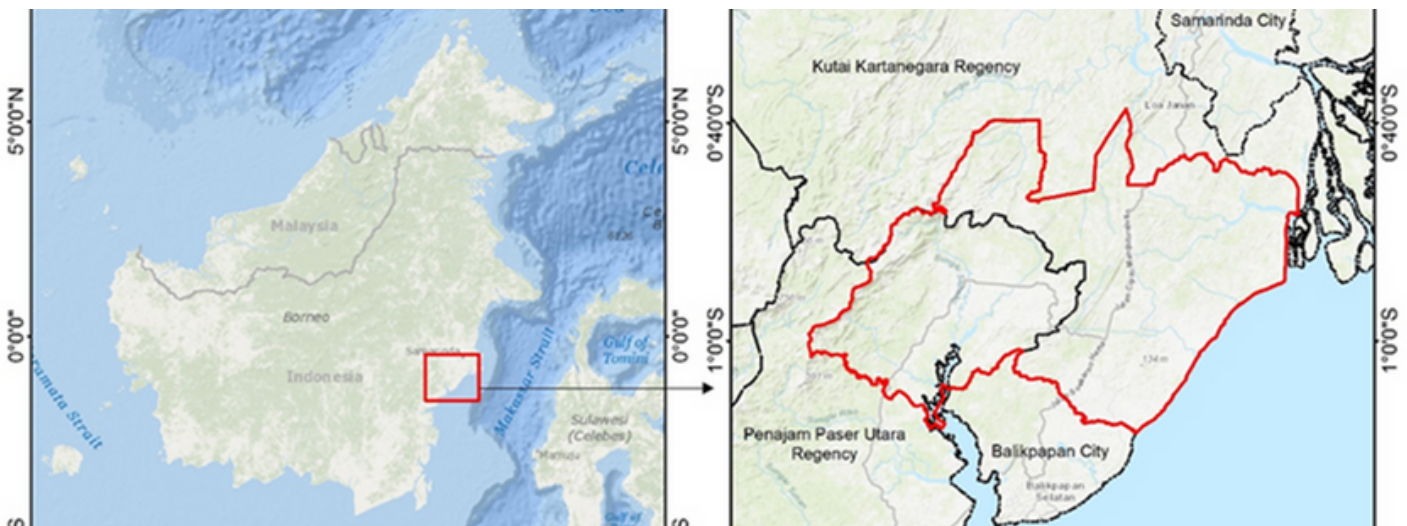


DISTRIBUTION OF HEATH FOREST INDICATION MAP

HEATH FOREST AT NUSANTARA



The findings of this study were successfully presented at the Bogor Agricultural Institute's 3rd International Seminar on Natural Resources and Environmental Management 2023. Ulfah Karmila Sari desires to have more opportunities in the future to work on additional research and investigation on this topic, thereby contributing to worldwide sustainable forest management



THE RESEARCH AREA, NUSANTARA



Hi, I'm Thao Do, hailing from the scenic landscapes of Vietnam, where the hustle of life meets the calm of nature. My journey took a thrilling turn when I became an APFNet scholarship student at Beijing Forestry University in 2018. I've always been mesmerized by the depth and richness of Chinese culture, and my heart was set on exploring forestry economics and management. Back when I was an undergraduate, my world revolved around Business English, which honed my communication skills and global perspective. However, as I grew, I found a new passion in environmental stewardship, leading me to pursue Forestry Economics and Management for my Master's, blending my business acumen with environmental concerns. This transition was not without its challenges; moving from Business English to Forestry Economics and Management was like navigating uncharted waters, requiring me to adapt to entirely new concepts and methodologies.

THAO DO (IN YELLOW) WITH HER CLASSMATE IN A FIELD TRIP IN BFU, 2018

Landing in Beijing in 2018, I stepped into a world that was so different, yet felt like home. BFU wasn't just a university; it was a community, a melting pot of ideas and cultures. Here, I found friends who became family and teachers who were more like mentors. Their support was invaluable, helping me bridge the gap between my past studies and my new field. They provided not just academic guidance but also moral support, encouraging me when the going got tough. Those two years were like living in a dream. I delved deep into my studies, absorbing every bit of knowledge like a sponge. It opened up a whole new dimension of learning, offering me the chance to participate in various significant conferences and hands-on experiences that enriched my understanding of forestry economics and management beyond the classroom.

However, it wasn't all books and theories. The love and warmth I received from everyone at BFU were overwhelming. It shaped me, not just as a student, but as a person eager to give back to society. Fast forward to today, I'm still riding that wave of learning and growing. Every day is a new chapter in my journey with the Chinese language, each word I learn intertwining with my deepening understanding of forestry economics and management, adding a rich layer to my dream and professional aspirations. And as I continue to evolve, the memories of my days at BFU, my second home, keep me anchored and inspired.