



THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF
DE LA SALLE UNIVERSITY-MANILA

2401 (tweñ'tē fōr'ō, wun) is a landmark number along Taft Avenue. It is the location ID of De La Salle University-Manila, home to outstanding faculty and students, and birthplace of luminaries in business, public service, education, the arts, and science. And 2401 is now the new name of the official newsletter of DLSU-Manila, featuring developments and stories of interest about the University.

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La Salle shares Christmas blessings with the needy

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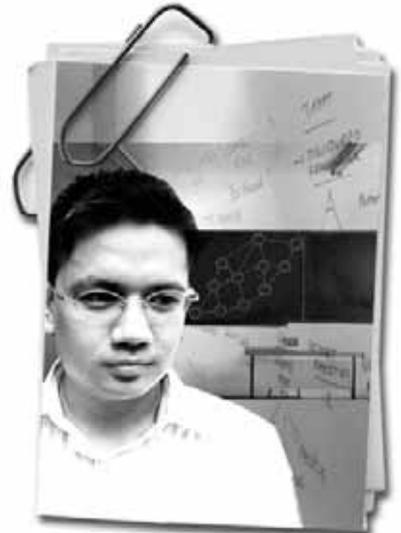
Sounds of Christmas



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Field Notes: Sayang

By Wilfrido Kabling



Br. Armin honors Lasallian faculty achievers

Acknowledging the international and national achievements reaped by Lasallian faculty members in the first part of School Year 2005-2006, De La Salle University System President Br. Armin Luistro FSC held a luncheon in their honor at the Marilen Gaerlan Conservatory on December 7.

Titled “Leadership in the Service of Nation-Building,” the event recognized 25 DLSU-Manila faculty members and two professors from DLSU-Dasmariñas. Former President Corazon Aquino served as inspirational speaker during the event. She likewise presented gifts to each of the honorees.

The DLSU-M honorees are Dr. Cirilo Bautista, Dr. Marjorie Evasco, Dr. Shirley Lua, Dr. Ronald Baytan, Dinah Roma, Ernesto Carandang, John Iremil Teodoro, and Isidro Hildawa (Literature); Dr. Wilfrido Villacorta (Political Science); Dr. Ronaldo Mactal (History); Dr. Pag-asa Gaspillo and Dr. Joseph Auresenia (Chemical Engineering); Dr. Angelo Unite and Dr. Emily Christi Cabegin (Economics); Dr. Irene Samonte (Biology); Dr. Clodualdo Del Mundo Jr., Michael Lim, Maricris Calilung, and Vicente Groyon III (Communication); Dr. Manuel Belino (Mechanical Engineering); Dr. Florentino Timbreza (Philosophy); Dr. Jose de Mesa (Theology and Religious Education); Dr. Fanny Garcia (Filipino); Dr. Andres Winston Oreta (Civil Engineering); and Wilfrido Kabling (Industrial Engineering).

Also present during the event is Dr. Estellita Gruenberg, executive vice president of DLSU-Dasmariñas. The ceremony was hosted by University Fellow Dr. Isagani Cruz.



SOUNDS OF CHRISTMAS.

Showcasing Lasallian talents, the DLSU Pops Orchestra gives holiday shoppers at the Shangri-la Plaza a big treat with a round of classical and contemporary Christmas songs. The performance was held on December 3, coinciding with the exhibit of the Lasallian Scholarum Awards at the third level of the

Sayang

I've heard it all. "Teacher? But why?" "Teacher? Nyek!" "Teacher? Ayaw mo talaga sa corporate?" "Sayang ka eh." The last one is particularly caustic. "Sayang ka," resounds as though I were a thousand-peso bill being used to wipe out snot. I have absolutely nothing against those who've made such comments. If you're one of them, really it's ok. I know you mean well. I consider myself lucky that my parents and good friends have been more than supportive. But this does say a lot about the image of a teacher in society's eyes in the recent generation.

I must admit I once adhered to the prevailing school of thought. In high school, we once had a substitute teacher who introduced himself by citing some of his credentials, which turned out to be more than impressive: graduating with honors from a prestigious local university, earning graduate degrees abroad, and the like. But at least to the little corner of the classroom where I was seated, this was a pathetic picture. If he was such a standout, what was he doing in our highschool giving us boring reading exercises? Today, I find myself with the desire to champion the cause of yesterday's loser.

One of the very best teachers I've ever gone through challenged us to postpone any desires of working our minds off to get rich once we graduated, and instead dedicate even just one year to teaching. He reminded us that Christ, aside from being a carpenter, a King, the Messiah, was and is in a very pure sense a teacher. What honor therefore lies in pursuing a profession perfected by Him. Why teach? This is why.

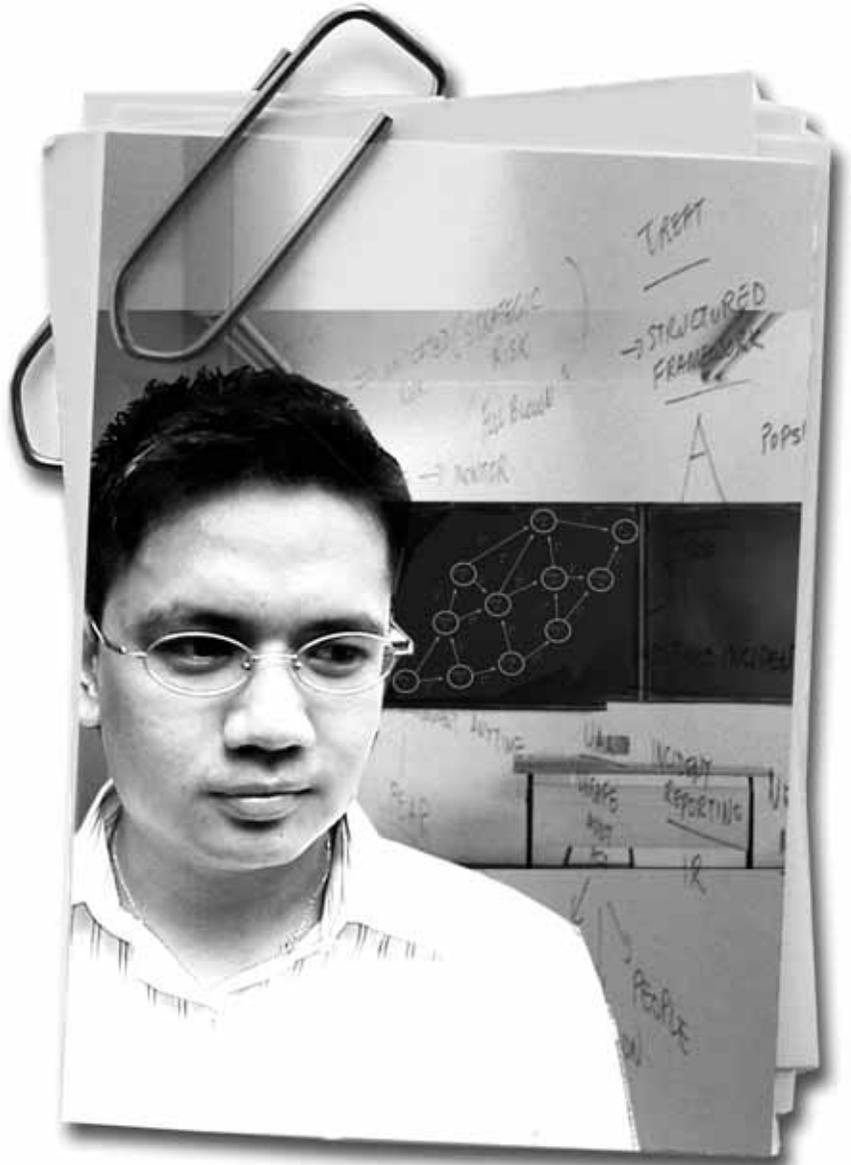
OK, don't get me wrong. I do not teach in parables. In fact, a typical class in one of the courses I teach, Operations Research, can be visualized as a blackboard infested with numbers, exuding some dingy air, some awkward melancholy, and then there's me, standing there, with a smile, amidst a hoard of angry students thinking, "This guy is a total crackpot." I am not exactly opening the doors of heaven, am I?

Nevertheless, operations research, as well as most tools used by industrial engineers, is by no means just an inane nerdy profusion of mathematical mumbo jumbo, as some students, and even some professionals tend to think. It provides a set of tools that, if used with enough practical sense, can be applied to a host of areas,

including education, health care, employment, traffic, agriculture, environmental protection, waste collection, and pretty much any of the problems one can associate with our country. I wouldn't even be surprised if someone came up with an Operations Research study aimed at mitigating political greed and bickering. It is this side of operations research, apart from the nightmare tests and unfriendly grades usually associated with them, that I would like foremost to impart to my students. Thus, if even just one of them in some point in their life can contribute to an OR solution that touches even just the slightest bit on reducing poverty in our country, I would be very happy and fulfilled. Why teach? This is why.

Moreover, teaching allows me to be life's chisel. Teaching allows me to make a difference. As much as I try to impart lessons to my students, I try to understand them, and in doing so, I begin to more deeply understand myself. To be listened to, taken seriously, maybe admired, even ridiculed, hated, remembered, forgotten? Regardless. By teaching, I become a part of people's lives at a time that is crucial. Why teach? This is why.

It isn't very easy to explain these reasons to someone who has just asked you, "Teach? But why?" You know what will follow even before you can even open your mouth. "Sayang ka." It doesn't matter being dumbfounded by such rhetoric objection to your choice of career, since the prejudice of our day keeps most people from liking any answer you might have given anyway, no matter how justifiable, no matter how reasonable, no matter how sincere. But then again, there is no need to justify anything in the first place. There is nothing I would find more fulfilling than



Wilfrido Kabiling (BS/MS IE '05), a Star Scholar who graduated with a string of awards, is now teaching full-time at the Industrial Engineering Department. He was a finalist in the 2005 World Bank International Essay Competition.



From page 1

La Salle shares Christmas blessings with the needy

The Lasallian community reaches out to the less privileged this Christmas as this year's institutional Christmas celebration is centered on the theme, "Kalinga sa Kapwa sa Kapaskuhan." The Lasallian-Gawad Kalingan (GK) Village Project in Baseco is among this year's beneficiaries.

The Lasallian-GK Project will be implemented for the informal settlers in Baseco, Tondo. An initiative of the University Student Council, Council of Student Organizations, and the Center for Social Concern and Action, it aims to build 150 houses in three years.

On November 29, DLSU-Manila ushered in the Advent season with a Eucharistic celebration at the Chapel of the

Most Blessed Sacrament. The traditional lighting of the Advent wreath was held during the mass.

The entries to the annual University-wide lantern-making contest are now on exhibit at the Central Plaza starting December 13. Judging of the Christmas lanterns will be on December 15. Winners will receive P10,000 (first prize), P7,000 (second prize), and P5,000 (third prize).

The traditional *Misa de Gallo* was held on December 16 and 17, 5:30 a.m. at the Amphitheater. After the mass, the community gathered for a fellowship meal of traditional Filipino delicacies at the Marian Quadrangle.

On December 20, a Thanksgiving Mass will be offered at 9 a.m. at the Central Plaza. This will be followed by a program at 10 a.m. featuring the different sectors of the Lasallian community as well as the various cultural groups on campus. A group of children from Baseco will also share their talents.

The distribution of course cards will be suspended from 9 to 11 a.m. to allow all community members to participate in the celebration. The festivities will end with a *salo-salo* of food shared by various University offices and units at the Marian Quadrangle.

YC to develop reproductive health monograph for UNESCO

The Asia-Pacific Regional Office of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in Bangkok commissioned the Yuchengco Center (YC) to prepare the country profiles of selected Pacific Island countries on Adolescent Reproductive Health (ARH). The five countries covered by the monographs include Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Vanuatu, and Marshall Islands.

The country reports will include the following information: (1) *Demographic, social and economic characteristics of adolescents*; (2) *Gender equality*; (3) *Religion and cultural factors*; (4) *Program responses to ARH problems (government and NGO programs)*; (5) *Advocacy and information, education and communication (IEC)/behavior change communication (BCC) strategies used in project*

implementation; and (6) *Lessons learned in implementing the ARH program/projects*.

The monograph will be used by the respective governments to prepare guidelines on advocacy, information provision, and services for adolescents.

The Center has just completed 8 *Toolkits for Faith-Based Advocacy for Adolescent Reproductive and Sexual Health in Asia and Pacific*. The toolkits cover the three predominant religions in the region—Catholicism, Islam, and Buddhism. These will be used to enlist religious figures in the promotion and support of adolescent reproductive health in the Asia-Pacific region. The task was commissioned by the UNESCO regional office.

Institutional Christmas card and 2006 calendar

You may now place your order for institutional calendars and Christmas cards at the Marketing Communication Office.

The calendar costs P50. Christmas cards are priced at P25 per card.

Call Virgie at local 144 or visit us at LS-163.

