



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 name of the official newsletter of DLSU-Manila, featuring developments and stories of interest about the University.

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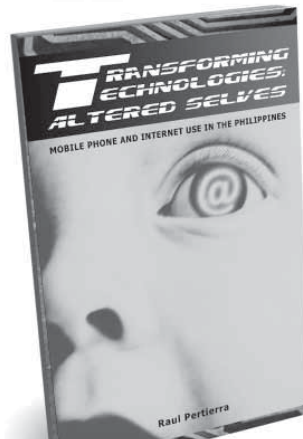
# Br. Armin highlights priority areas for SY 2006-2007

Story on page 5



# 3

La Salle educates  
media on marine life



# 4

Finnish Embassy  
launches DLSU-  
published book

May 15, *Proclamation of St. John Baptist de La Salle as Patron Saint of Teachers*

# Teacher of teachers

by: Brother Gregory Wright FSC, Ph.D.

Among other things, the 16th century religious upheavals that created a deep and enduring religious division in Europe had a profound impact on the world of education during the life of St. John Baptist de La Salle. A variety of religious leaders quickly became aware of the ignorance of the masses that made it almost impossible for the ordinary members of their churches to live good Christian lives. So free schools for poor boys and girls were proposed as a means to provide the members of their churches with the needed religious instruction.

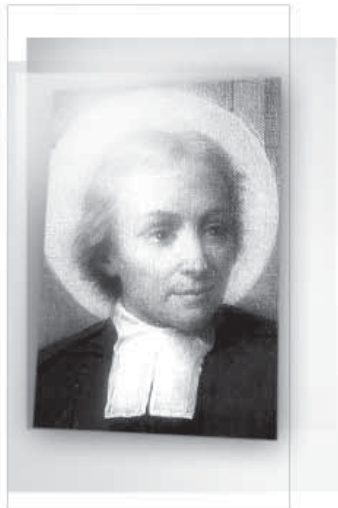
The relatively late French Catholic Reform that began only around 1600 stressed the need for the so-called “poor schools” to remedy this situation in that country. Many people including Cardinal Richelieu and M. Vincent took an interest in this task but did not achieve the desired results. So a number of students of history or of the history of education say that La Salle’s great achievement was to succeed in an area where so many others had failed to achieve their goals.

Among other things he is credited with establishing a system of popular education for the masses. He introduced the simultaneous method in elementary schools where poor boys were first taught their native French rather than Latin. The interest he showed in training the teachers

for his schools as well as for the smaller rural schools has led some to say he was one of the first, if not the first, to found successful normal schools.

Then to help his better trained teachers and others to successfully accomplish their difficult task, with help from some of his disciples he composed the *Conduct of the Christian*

*Schools* which one author said was for primary education what the *Ratio Studiorum* was for secondary education. Perceiving that the successful functioning of his schools was necessary to ensure the survival of this important apostolate, regularly he took means to see that these schools were well run. By doing all these things and others, one 19th century writer said La Salle formed the first corps of professional elementary



school teachers.

Very evident in all this is the importance La Salle placed on the teacher and his crucial role in the educational apostolate. Also, it is easy to see how he sought and found means to provide teachers who were competent to do this important work. So for these and other reasons the Superiors of the Religious Institute he founded asked Pope Pius XII to proclaim St. John Baptist de La Salle as the Patron of all Teachers as well as of all those preparing to be teachers. This Pius XII did on 15 May 1950.

# La Salle educates media on marine life

Broadcast and print media practitioners recently received a three-day training program on marine life protection from Dr. Wilfredo Licuanan, director of the Br. Alfred Shields FSC Marine Station. Titled “Marine Science Course for Media,” the training was given from March 31 to April 2 at Sitio Matuod, Lian Batangas.

Attendees of the event included reporters of the Kabataan News Network of Probe Productions, Businessworld, Manila Bulletin, and Philippine Panorama. An information officer of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources also participated in the training.

Organized by the Marketing Communication Office, the course aimed to promote conservation of the country’s coastal resources. It recognized mass media’s ability to reach out to a huge number of Filipinos and to spread knowledge about marine ecosystems, their problems, and viable solutions.

The training program was based on the University’s existing Marine Biology for Non-Biologists (MBNB) certificate course, a two-unit, 28-hour course offered at the La Salle Marine Station.

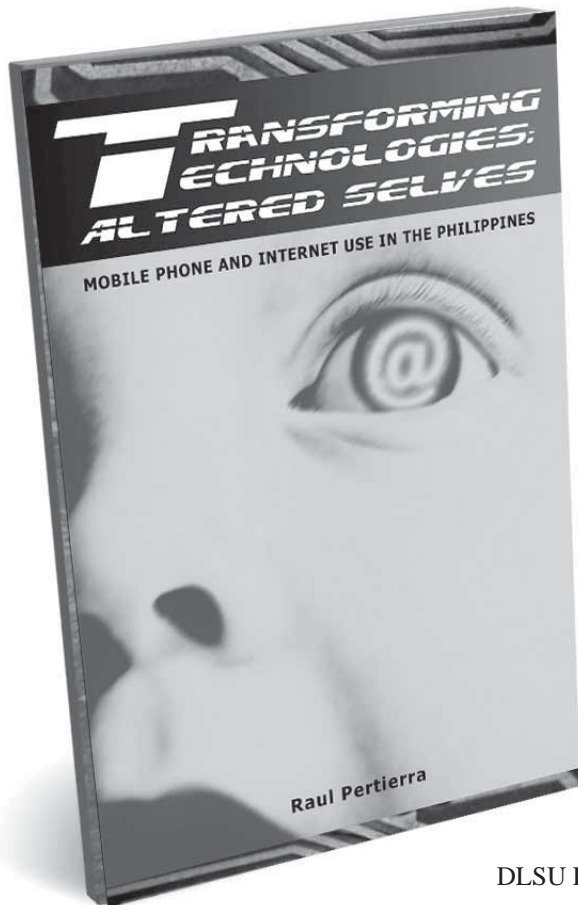
Among the topics discussed by Licuanan during the training were the physical properties of water and its implications on marine organisms, introduction to corals, coral reefs, and associated habitats (coral communities, seaweeds, seagrasses, mangroves, and soft-substrate communities), status of coastal habitats, basic fisheries, fisheries management, and basic physical and biological oceanography.

Coordinators of the Center for Social Concern and Action and graduates of the Marine Biology for Non-Biologists Course were also present during the event. They extended their assistance to the training participants during field exposures in mangrove, seagrass, seaweed, and coral communities. Meanwhile, communications practitioner Maan Hontiveros, also a graduate of the MBNB, housed the participants at her home in Lian.

The Br. Alfred Shields FSC Marine Station is a research facility of the College of Science that was established to further research and extension activities in coastal areas. It is located in Sitio Matuod, Lian, Batangas.



Media participants get snorkelling lessons before visiting a coral reef in Lian, Batangas.



## Finnish Embassy launches DLSU- published book

DLSU Press' *Transforming Technologies: Altered Selves – Mobile Phone and Internet Use in the Philippines* by Dr. Raul Pertierra was launched on May 18 at the residence of Ambassador Riitta Resch of Finland.

This research-based study develops the ideas explored in the multi-awarded book, *TXT-ING SELVES: Cellphones and Philippine Modernity* (also published by DLSU Press in 2002), particularly the phenomenon of texting among Filipinos. In his preface to the present volume, Pertierra contends that amidst the enormous socioeconomic and political changes in the country, the mobile phone and the Internet have become not mere forms of computer-mediated, interactive communication technologies (CMICTs) but also shapers of individual and collective identities. He adds that these technologies open conditions of possibility creating “new sexual mores, collective identities, and political expectations that will require novel institutional structures to encourage emancipatory opportunities while inhibiting disruptive tendencies.”

A former visiting professor at DLSU-Manila, Pertierra, whose research interests are in sociology and anthropology, currently teaches at the UP Asian Center and the Ateneo de Manila University.

*From page 1*

## Br. Armin highlights priority areas for SY 2006-2007

*De La Salle University-Manila President Br. Armin Luistro FSC highlighted some of the University's key strategic decisions and targets for 2013, in his address during the first faculty general assembly for School Year 2006-2007. The GA was held on May 17 at the Chapel of the Most Blessed Sacrament.*

Among the priority areas that he enumerated were academic programs, student and faculty development, research, academic linkages, governance, and development work.

On top of his list is the implementation of the General Education curriculum and the pursuit to earn international accreditation.

For students, he stressed the importance of formulating ingenious plans to raise resources to increase the number of University scholars.

In research, he emphasized the need for more funding, increased number of faculty publications, support mechanisms for researchers, and exploration of collaborative research efforts with other members of the Lasallian network in the country.

For the faculty, he called for the aggressive recruitment of educators with doctoral degrees and the provision of institutional support for faculty members

who are pursuing their post-graduate degrees.

In the area of academic linkages, he stressed the need to intensify student and faculty exchange programs and the initiation of serious discussions on internationalization.

On governance and development work, the setup and operation of De La Salle Philippines, "should provide us with the opportunity to review our niche within the larger framework of the Lasallian Mission in the Philippines." This will allow us "to create more effective synergy in areas of human resources, financial planning, resource management, and development work," he added.

Br. Armin also emphasized the University's need to advance constructive engagement with the world by "radically shifting the learning process from the confines of the traditional classroom to the marketplace of socio-political realities."

*(See succeeding pages for the full text of Br. Armin's speech)*



# De La Salle University

## Presidential Address

*Br. Armin Luistro FSC*

*17 May 2006*

In my inaugural address at the beginning of my term in 2004, I spoke at length about what I felt was the most engaging challenge for the eight educational units under the now defunct De La Salle University System. I felt passionate then as I feel the intensity even now of the need to put in proper perspective our aspirations to be the best private university in the Philippines under the over-arching vision for Lasallian institutions worldwide which seek to provide a human and Christian education to the young especially in schools, with the poor as a preferential option. Over the past 95 years of its existence, De La Salle University has wrestled with many seemingly irreconcilable value propositions: on the one hand, striving to be on the level of world-class universities (which many times require huge financial investments on faculty and staff development as well as facilities improvement) while, on the other hand, ensuring fidelity to our founding story of making a direct positive impact on the lives of the marginalized and the poor (which also costs money as Br. Andrew Gonzalez used to say, “It is expensive to help the poor.”); on the one hand, striving for academic freedom and academic excellence that will pass the rigors of a serious intellectual pursuit while, on the other hand, ensuring a firm grounding in the Catholic faith and Lasallian traditions as well as the enduring values of the Gospel. These and many other such tensions seize us even today.

Six weeks ago, the Rev. John Jenkins CSC, President of the University of Notre Dame, while addressing the issue of academic freedom and the university’s Catholic character, made some important assertions that I feel may be worth reiterating today:

‘This is a *Catholic* university.’ It is founded upon our belief that love of God and neighbor are eternal teachings that give context and meaning to our search for truth. As I said, Catholic teaching has nothing to fear from engaging the wider culture, but we all have something to fear if the wider culture never engages Catholic teaching. That is why the Catholic tradition must not only inspire our worship and our service on campus; it should help shape the intellectual life of the university. Our goal is not to limit discussion or inquiry, but to enrich it; it is not to insulate that faith tradition from criticism, but to foster constructive engagement with critics...

Grounded in the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the Catholic intellectual tradition develops through this dialogue with culture, as it encounters new questions and discoveries; as it speaks on emerging social questions;

as it applies the truths of the Gospel to complex situations wrought by advances in science. How our ancient but evolving Catholic tradition expresses itself in the future depends to a large extent on the work of this and other Catholic universities. After all, a Catholic university is where the Church does its thinking, and that thinking, to be beneficial, must come from an intellectually rigorous engagement with the world.

This engagement with the world can be messy. It puts all of us at the center of controversies that we all know can be dirty and ugly. It can also be very divisive. It is an engagement that radically shifts the learning process from the confines of the traditional classroom to the marketplace of socio-political realities. This university has had one too many such teaching and learning moments during this past year. But distinguished scholars who “generate and propagate new knowledge for human development and social transformation” as well as institutions which aspire to be “a resource of Church and Nation” are necessarily committed to do nothing less. Victor Ordoñez, recently awarded distinguished alumnus, reminds us that in this pursuit we need much more than intellectual brilliance. I beg his indulgence in quoting part of a personal letter he wrote me after he received his award:

I was unprepared for all that fuss about my degrees and my honors, implying a brilliant intellect. But as my grade school and high classmates will attest, I was not the most brilliant in class, and as you must have heard from the older Brothers, my seven degrees was an accident... As I reflect on my work, I attribute my success, not so much to intelligence, as to boundless energy, passion to reach a worthwhile goal, and to God’s wisdom in putting me in the right place at the right time, enabling me to grab those opportunities to work with energy on my passions.

I beg the Lord for the grace to work with energy on our passions but to do it collectively as an academic community despite our differences and, sometimes, heated disputes. At the end of last school year, the Administrators’ Planning Workshop attended by the Council of Deans and the Operations Council reviewed the strategic decisions and targets for 2013. Let me just highlight a few of those that require our attention this year.

*For after all,  
working with energy  
on our passions will  
depend on our  
ability to see  
meaning in  
what we do.*



In **academic programs**, the most important challenges for all of us this year are in the area of the General Education curriculum and our quest for international accreditation. For **students**, the goal of aggressively increasing student scholarship grants to 20% of the population is definitely ambitious and would require the identification of creative strategies to raise new funds or provide it on a no-cash-out basis. We would also need an effective support mechanism so these scholars can be fully integrated in the life of the university. In **research**, aside from new funding, we would need not only to push for more faculty members to pursue research in their own fields, provide more effective mechanisms of support using the team approach, provide avenues for publication and perhaps tap the network of Lasallian institutions nationwide in order to embark on major projects of national significance. For the **faculty**, aside from increasing research output, we are still below the mark of our target of full-timers with doctoral degrees. As several faculty members reach retirement age, we would need to aggressively recruit faculty with the necessary doctoral degrees and provide more institutional support for those currently pursuing theirs. In **academic linkages**, we should be able to intensify student and faculty exchange programs and begin serious discussions on internationalization. In the area of **governance**, the operationalization of De La Salle Philippines should provide us with the opportunity to review our niche within the larger framework of the Lasallian Mission in the Philippines without necessarily competing with other Lasallian institutions and create more effective synergy in the other areas of human resources, financial planning and resource management as well as greater connectivity and information sharing. This is also a realizable goal especially in the area of **development work** as we seek to identify a national agenda for Lasallian institutions and prioritize on community service projects that will create greater national impact, a stronger sense of camaraderie among our alumni under the 'One La Salle' banner and hopefully launch within the year an ambitious fund-raising project as a collective effort among all Lasallian institutions in preparation for our centenary.

In all of these, there may in fact be nothing new except perhaps in the search for new meaning and new relationships. After 95 years of doing what we do best, it is helpful to take a step back, review our efforts and ask ourselves the more essential question, "Why?" For after all, working with energy on our passions will depend on our ability to see meaning in what we do. Workhorses and machines need only to be fed and refueled but human beings need much more than a good compensation package and an attractive incentive. But a change in meaning would not be enough. As human beings, and most importantly as Filipinos, we need to find support in the warmth and joy and fidelity of friends and colleagues who will stand by us. We need to build a faith community that will provide us with the hidden reserves of energy when our wells run dry. We cannot afford to destroy each other however diverse our backgrounds, interests and perspectives. We need to re-learn how to live together and search for a convergence of minds and hearts towards that one passion which grips us all.



Let this be our gift to the nation as we prepare for 2011. Let our engagement with the world give young people a reason to hope. Samuel Taylor Coleridge speaks eloquently of this need to discover hope in all that we do when he says:

With lips unbrightened, wreathless brow, I stroll:  
And would you learn the spells that drowse my soul?  
Work without Hope draws nectar in a sieve,  
And Hope without an object cannot live.

God, in his wisdom, has put us here at this time to provide us with the opportunity to work with energy on our passions. This was the challenge that Nelson Mandela issued in February last year at Trafalgar Square in London reminding leaders that the world is hungry for action, not words. He urged them, "Sometimes, it falls upon a generation to be great. You can be that great generation." I now pass on this same challenge to you with the hope that you can belong to that great generation of Filipino Lasallians.



# COE receives biomedical equipment from University of Pisa



Dr. Arti Ahluwalia (center) explains the function of the Biopac Student Lab System to COE Dean Pag-asa Gaspillo (left) and DLSU-Manila EVP Dr. Carmelita Quebengco.

*The Manufacturing Engineering and Management (MEM) Department of the College of Engineering recently received a Biopac Student Lab System, a specialized equipment for teaching Biomedical Engineering, from the University of Pisa in Italy.*

Formal turn-over ceremonies were held on May 19 at the Marilen Gaerlan North Conservatory. Aside from the equipment transfer, a total of 60 books on Biomedical and Clinical Engineering were also turned over to the University.

The donation is a key component of the on-going European Union (EU)-Asia Link Project titled "Development of Core Competencies in the Area of Biomedical and Clinical Engineering in the Philippines and in Indonesia." Project proponents include De La Salle University-Manila, University of Pisa, Royal Institute of Technology in Sweden, and the University of Indonesia in Jakarta.

The two-year project was initiated in July 2005 with the commencement of a six-part series of intensive trainings on Biomedical/ Clinical Engineering. It was attended by faculty members of COE, College of Science, and the DLS-Health Sciences

Campus. Medical professionals from the Department of Health, Philippine General Hospital, and Manila Doctors Hospital were invited to the intensive training. The training series culminated on May 17.

The project aims to provide post-graduates and young university faculty of DLSU-Manila and the University of Indonesia with practical background and teaching skills to enable them to initiate undergraduate and graduate courses in biomedical and clinical engineering. It also seeks to train biomedical engineers to manage and maintain clinical and hospital equipment and promote the exchange of best practices in biomedical and clinical engineering courses between universities.

The turnover ceremony was attended by First Counsellor Guy Platton, charge d'affaires of the Delegation of the European Commission; Consul Martin Brook of the Embassy of the Republic of Italy;

Veronica Strandberg, Embassy of Sweden representative; First Secretary Mahmudin, Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia acting attaché for Education and Cultural Affairs; Dr. Arti Ahluwalia, Asia Link Project Leader.

DLSU-Manila administrators present during the event were Executive Vice President Dr. Carmelita Quebengco, Vice President for Academics and Research Dr. Julius Maridable, COE Dean Dr. Pag-asa Gaspillo, and MEM Chair and Asia Link Local Project Manager Dr. Nilo Bugtai.

In School Year 2003-2004, COE began offering its BS in Manufacturing Engineering and Management with specialization in Biomedical Engineering. This program is an interdisciplinary course that encompasses medicine, biology, and engineering. It prepares the students in the different manufacturing, bioengineering materials and processes, electronics, computer studies, automation technology, and the management of people and technology.