



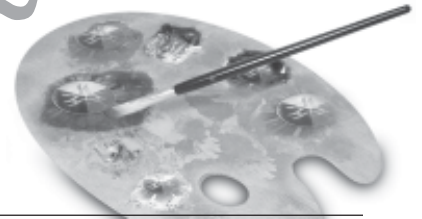
THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF
DE LA SALLE UNIVERSITY-MANILA

2401 (twen 'iē 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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By Dr. Wilfredo Licuanan



Global Resource

This section highlights Lasallian educators with outstanding research projects. Experts in their respective fields, they share their new ideas and learning in national and international discussions on various areas.

SCIENCE

Dr. Robert Roleda, Physics Department associate professor, presented the paper “Grassmannian Grand Unified Theories” during his research visit in Osaka University from April 1 to June 30.

Dr. Florencia Claveria, Biology Department full professor, shared her paper “Status of Studies on Waterborne and Water-related Parasitic Infections in the Philippines” at the 15th European SOVE Meeting from April 9 to 15 in Serres, Greece.

LIBERAL ARTS

Dr. Alfredo Robles Jr., full professor of the International Studies Department, gave a series of lectures on “The Political Economy of Asia-Europe Relations” at the Asia-Europe Institute of the University of Malaysia in Kuala Lumpur on March 20-30.

Judy Freya Sibayan, assistant professor of the Department of Communication, attended the National Review of Live Art Festival of Multi-disciplinary Arts by New Moves UK and performed three artworks from February 6-13 in Glasgow, Scotland, UK.

Dr. Madelene Sta. Maria, associate professor of the Psychology Department, presented the paper “Pathways of Risk and Opportunities among Street Youth in India, Indonesia, the Philippines, and South Africa” during the Research Project Meeting in Tshwane (Pretoria), South Africa on February 13-17.

images of excellence

Upcoming activities

I. Artist's Talk: The National Artist Napoleon Abueva
June 21 (Wednesday), 1-2:30 p.m.

Meet Napoleon Abueva, National Artist for Sculpture (1976), and listen to his sharing about his life as an artist—his inspirations, struggles, and success.

II. A Lecture on EKPHRASIS by Dr. Marjorie Evasco
July 26, 2006 (Wednesday), 1-2:30 p.m.

Learn Ekphrasis, the verbal expression of visual representation. Explore the world of visual arts and see how it can be your infinite source of inspiration in writing.



DLSU Press publishes Casaje's prize-winning plays

Mga Premyadong Dula, a collection of Lito Casaje's award-winning plays published by DLSU Press, was launched on June 6 at the Main Theater Lobby of the Cultural Center of the Philippines.

The book features Casaje's five contemporary plays, "Juan dela Cruz, New York City," "Editorial," "Separasyon," "Matrimonyal," and "Padre de Familia." The plays, except for "Matrimonyal," have been staged previously.

Characterized by fast-paced sequence of events, realistic dialogue, uncluttered setting, and credible characters, these dramas explore human relations as well as conflicts triggered by betrayal, love,

separation, hubris, and loss of reputation and dignity.

Lito Casaje, a Palanca award-winning playwright, was recognized as a Local Fellow for Drama by the UP Creative Writing Center in Diliman in 1991-1992. He is the president and artistic director of *Dramatis Personae*, an alternative theater group founded in 1989. He is a known director and actor both on stage and on television, script/screenwriter, photographer, videographer, and director of *Batang Pro* (1999) of Golden Harvest Films of Regal Productions.

He is professor and chair of Production Design, School of Design and

Arts, De La Salle-College of Saint Benilde; professor and chair of the Department of Language and Mass Communication, and director of Performing Arts at La Consolacion College-Manila; guest lecturer at the English Department, College of Arts and Sciences, Holy Angel University (Angeles City); professor at the Department of Mass Communication, Institute of Arts and Sciences, San Sebastian College-Manila; and professor at Thames International Business School (Eastwood, Libis).

During the launching, theater, movie, and television actors did a dramatic reading of selected excerpts from the plays.

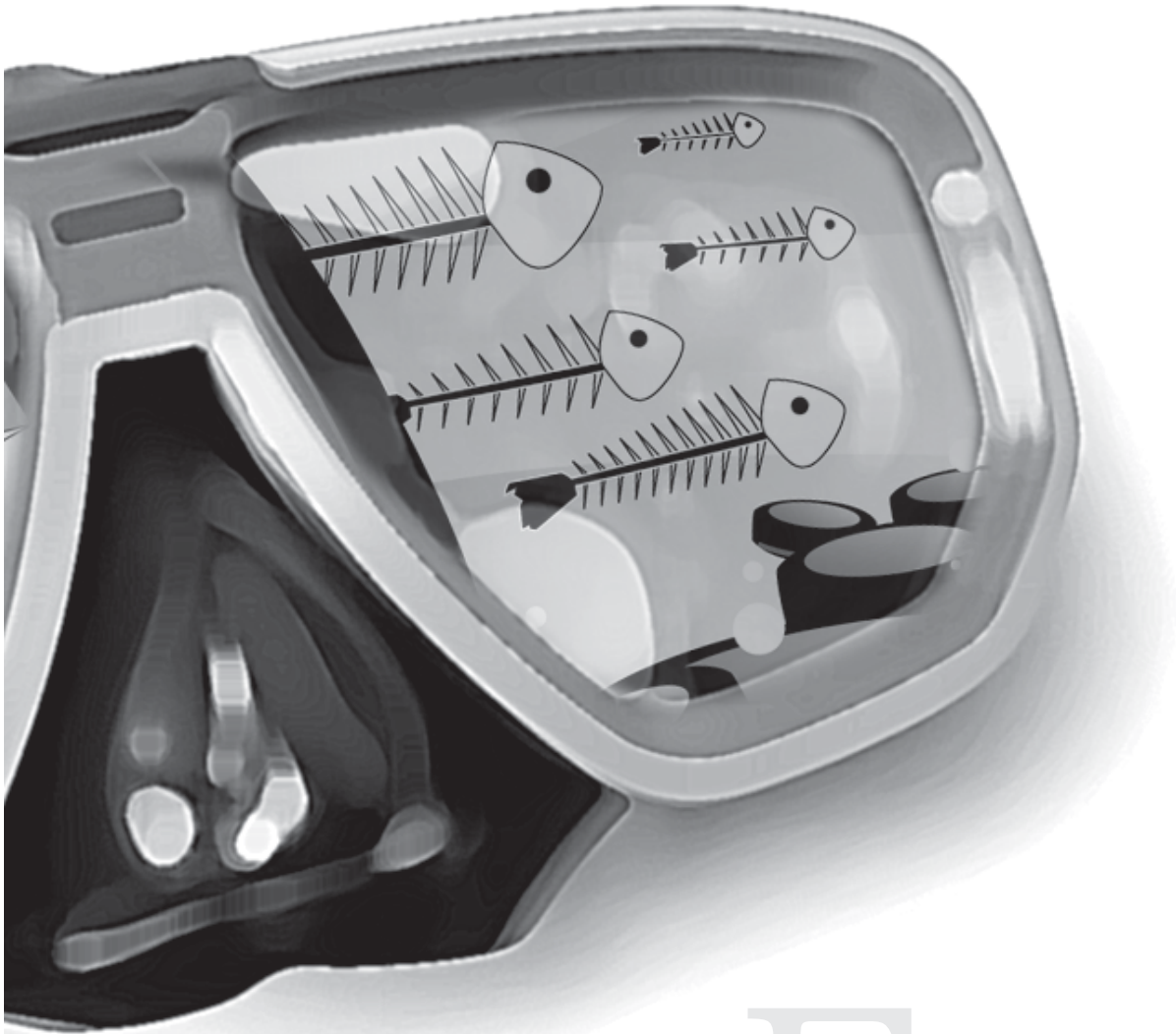


Field Notes

The law of unintended environmental consequences:

Why planting trees is not the same as setting up a forest

By Dr. Wilfredo Licuanan



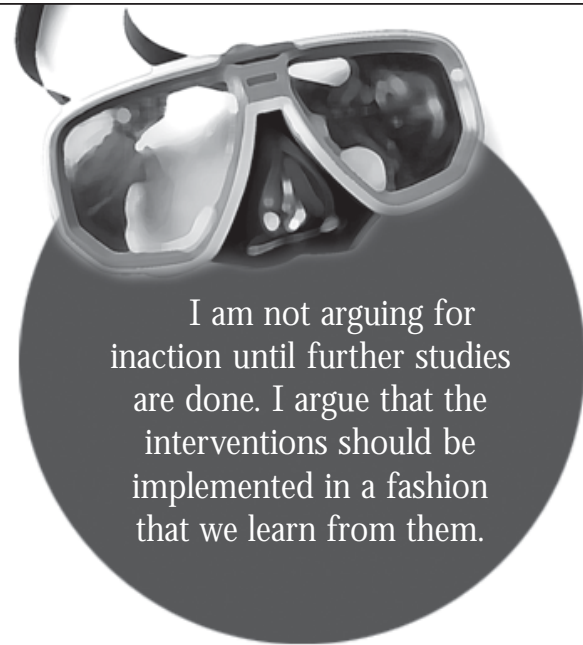
The history of the environmental movement in the Philippines is rife with examples of good intentions, limited understanding, and often severe, unintended consequences (Jared Diamond’s latest book “Collapse” shows this is by no means a Philippine problem only). This generalization applies to efforts aimed at conserving and ensuring sustainable use of marine resources.

For example, artificial reefs made of bamboo, used tires and vehicles, or concrete were deployed all over the country in the 1970s and 1980s in an effort to introduce more habitats for fish and improve fish catch.

However, most deployments were so poorly planned that the artificial reefs ended up being too deep, or being dropped on and damaging the natural reefs, or poisoning the sea with the chemicals leaching from the tires, paints and lubricants from the used vehicles and ships used to make these artificial reefs. Even concrete, if not made of the right mix, can remain toxic to marine life for years. Further, artificial reefs, if deployed too close to natural reefs, can actually help make the latter easier to be depleted of fish. One reason for this is that it is typically easier to entangle fishing nets in natural reefs than artificial reefs and thus fish roaming around artificial reefs are more likely to be caught.



FIELD NOTES. What in the world is going on? We ask our faculty members to make sense of what we need to know, understand, and reflect upon. They agree to share insights and observations about their respective fields or special interests. Field Notes serves as a window to different worlds where we all belong.



I am not arguing for inaction until further studies are done. I argue that the interventions should be implemented in a fashion that we learn from them.

Another example is *pa-aling*, a fishing method designed to replace *muro-ami* because of the damage the latter inflicts on corals. Just in case you didn't see the Cesar Montano movie of the same name, or too young to remember this practice, *muro-ami* involves several swimmers (mostly kids) using sticks and ropes with rocks at one end to probe and pound the reef so that fishes are driven into an encircling net. *Pa-aling* is less destructive to the reef because weighed hoses (connected to compressors) are used to make a moving curtain of bubbles which is used to drive the fish into a waiting net. Some whales also use curtains of exhaled bubbles to drive schools of fish to swim closer into an easily ingested ball (the original fish balls). Anyway, subsequent studies have shown that even though *pa-aling* is less damaging to the reef bottom, it is so efficient that even many damselfishes that are not typically targeted by fishers are depleted by the operation—leaving the reef fishless.

Another, albeit more limited intervention are the attempts to transplant corals to damaged reefs in the hope of speeding up the latter's recovery. Although some local scientists are in the forefront of developing the scientific bases for such reef restoration efforts, the technology is not yet mature, and knowledge of the idiosyncrasies of common local species remains limited. Hence such intervention will more likely lead

to two, instead of one damaged reef—the original damaged reef and the reef where the transplants are sourced.

Sadly, the mistakes just described continue to be made. Even DLSU was not spared from the “law of unintended environmental consequences”. About a decade ago, the university's Marine Biological Station (now the Alfred Shields FSC Marine Station) initiated a mangrove reforestation project along the coast of Talim Bay, Lian, Batangas. Mangrove trees, by the way, are salt tolerant plants that grow along our coasts and estuaries, and serve as natural sewage treatment facilities, fish and invertebrate nursing grounds, and natural buffers against tsunamis and storm surges. With advice from the Department of the Environment and Natural Resources, we got students and local residents to plant *Rhizophora* (“bakhaw”) trees. Local scientists (and eventually DENR- I hope) now know we cannot repair our depleted mangrove areas with single- species monocultures where diverse, multi-species stands (or seagrass) used to be, and that *Rhizophora* is rarely the best species to plant because it is not very wave-resistant as other species like those of *Sonneratia* (“pagatpat”) and *Avicennia* (“piapi”). And most importantly, you shouldn't be introducing species that didn't grow there before.

I am not arguing for inaction until further studies are done. I argue that the interventions should be implemented in a fashion that we learn from them. I argue that these interventions should be well-controlled, replicated studies, done in phases so that adjustments are possible, and with monitoring of impacts and costs to give us bases for the adjustments. This is what is referred to as adaptive management.

Is the unintended environmental consequences law really a law with no exceptions? Does the introduction of marine protected areas (a.k.a fish sanctuaries) have unintended consequences too? Well if they are too small, or put in the wrong places, and are not monitored properly, they can lead to one intended consequence that may be the most serious of all—the loss of the credibility of the scientists in the local communities we are trying to help. And that would definitely have serious environmental implications.

To those involved in DLSU-Manila's effort to plant a million trees, please take note.

Biology Department Chair Dr. Wilfredo Licuanan is the deputy director of the Br. Alfred Shields FSC Marine Station. A coral taxonomist, he has extensive experience in survey and monitoring of coral reef communities. He is also chief scientist and project leader to several international and local marine life conservation projects.

From page 1

World leaders to converge in La Salle confab on terrorism

More than 100 government leaders of nearly 30 countries will converge at De La Salle University-Manila during the University's international academic conference on "Liberal Perspectives on Terrorism and Civil Liberties" on June 23 at the Don Enrique Yuchengco Hall.

Organized with the National Institute for Policy Studies, the conference is part of the joint meeting of the Council of Asian Liberals and Democrats (CALD), Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe (ALDE), and Liberal International. It will be held from June 21 to 24 in Manila, Cavite, and Tagaytay.

The convention will be participated by five incumbent ministers, one former prime minister, a former chief minister and more than two dozen members of parliament, members of the European parliament and senators from Asia, Europe, and Africa.

During the conference, political leaders from around the globe will state their positions on terrorism, which has been highlighted since the 9/11 incident. The Philippines is considered as one of the most vulnerable targets of terrorist acts in the Asian region.

The welcome remarks during the conference will be given by DLSU-Manila President Br. Armin Luistro FSC and CALD Secretary General Hon. Dr. J.R. Nereus Acosta MP. The speakers will be Hon. Dr. Yoo Jay

Kun, MP from the National Assembly of Korea and Hon. Graham Watson, MEP of the European Parliament. Dr. Rajiva Wijesinha from Sri-Lanka and Dr. Renato de Castro, International Studies Department associate professor will serve as reactors. Political Science Department Chair Dr. Julio Teehankee will be the conference moderator.

Founded in Bangkok, Thailand in 1993, CALD is an organization of liberal and democratic political parties with members and observers from Burma, Cambodia, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Pakistan, Philippines, Singapore, South Korea, Sri Lanka, Taiwan, and Thailand. CALD holds international conferences, workshops and missions in order to give solutions to pressing problems in Asia.

Meanwhile, the Liberal International is the world federation of liberal and progressive democratic political parties. Founded in 1947, this London-based organization has members in 86 member parties, organizations, and partners worldwide.



University honors outstanding Lasallians in graduation rites

De La Salle University-Manila recognized its outstanding graduates during the 146th Commencement Exercises at the Plenary Hall of the Philippine International Convention Center on June 17.



STUDENT LEADERSHIP AWARDEES. (From left) Margiorico Salaveria, Kiran Budhrani, Marie Goldilyn Uy, Christina Marie Young, and Ramon Felipe Rubio.

Out of the 1,262 candidates for graduation for the first term of SY 2006-2007, nine students have been selected by the Honors and Awards Committee to receive the Graduation Special Awards. Each showed excellent performances in both academics and extra-curricular activities.

Star Scholar Ramon Felipe Rubio (BSMS IE) leads the roster of awardees with two honors, the Student Leadership and the Community Development Awards.

Other Student Leadership Award recipients are Kiran Budhrani (CS-IST), Margiorico Salaveria (CS-IST), Marie Goldilyn Uy (PSM-MMG), and Christina Marie Young (BS-ECED). This award is given to students who have ably balanced

their academic studies with student activities.

Meanwhile, two other students received the Community Development Award. They are former Student Council leaders Gregorio Mercado Jr. (AE-MFI), DLSU Gawad Kalinga Project chair, and Army Padilla (AE BMG), Student Council chair. The award recognizes outstanding civic-minded students who have contributed to the upliftment of their fellow Filipino through their tireless and selfless service.

During the graduation ceremony the University also gave out the Athletics Award to two student athletes. They are Janet Jill Uy (BSMS IE) and Antonio Jesus Veloira Jr. (AB PHM).



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