



THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF
DE LA SALLE UNIVERSITY-MANILA

2401 (twen 'te'fof, o, 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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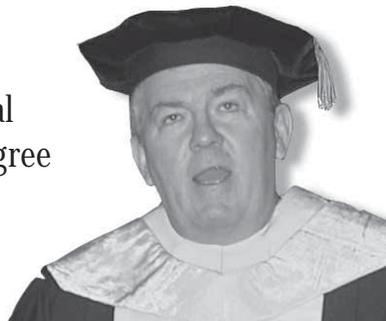


DLSU-Manila draws up new targets

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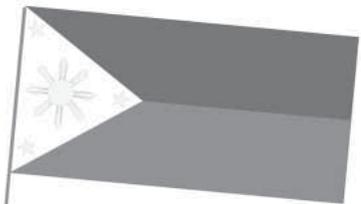
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receives honorary degree



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in international confab





To meet the Superior General's directions for Lasallian universities DLSU-Manila draws up new targets

To be relevant to the needs of the world today and in line with the directions being set for the international Lasallian community, De La Salle University-Manila will promote a multicultural community, making Lasallian education more accessible to deserving students without compromising academic excellence.

Br. Armin Luistro FSC, president of DLSU-Manila and concurrent president of DLS Philippines, said the issue of educating the poor while ensuring that the operations of a university remains viable was one of the major points raised during the recent assembly of Lasallian institutions worldwide.

The challenges for Lasallian higher education institutions were tackled by Superior General Br. Alvaro Rodriguez FSC during *Encuentro VIII*, the International Association of Lasallian Universities (IALU) conference held in Porto Alegre, Brazil last January 8-13.

According to Br. Armin, the Superior General's discussion on the role of the university highlighted several

"tensions" in higher education. One of these was educating the poor vs. keeping the viability of the university—a running issue to many Lasallian schools because it has implications on matters like the faculty's salary, training, and development, as well as investments in facilities and new technologies.

Br. Armin pointed out that "educating the poor is not an *either-or* choice," noting that "DLSU-Manila has enough stories that highlight real, direct services extended by the University to the poor."

He said it would take strategic actions to meet this challenge—such as promoting collaboration among members of DLS Philippines to get fresh funds and

embark on big research projects; cost-cutting through a central procurement system; and maximizing resources by pooling the schools' investments together to generate higher interest rates from banks.

DLSU-Manila is targeting to have 20% of its total population to benefit from the University's scholarship program by 2011, the centennial of Lasallian education in the Philippines. Current figures show that the University has already reached 14% of the total—and this figure includes undergraduate and graduate students enrolled in DLSU-Manila; subsidies in specific undergraduate programs and the graduate schools; employees taking

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La Salle Vicar General receives honorary degree

De La Salle University-Manila conferred on Br. William Mann FSC the degree of Doctor of Humanities, honoris causa, in recognition of his outstanding contributions as a Lasallian administrator, educator, and motivator. The conferment was held during the 138th Commencement Exercises held at the PICC Pleanary Hall, Manila last February 10.

Br. William was born in Brooklyn, New York, USA. He joined the Brothers of Christian Schools, District of Long Island-New England in 1965 and professed his final vows in 1973.

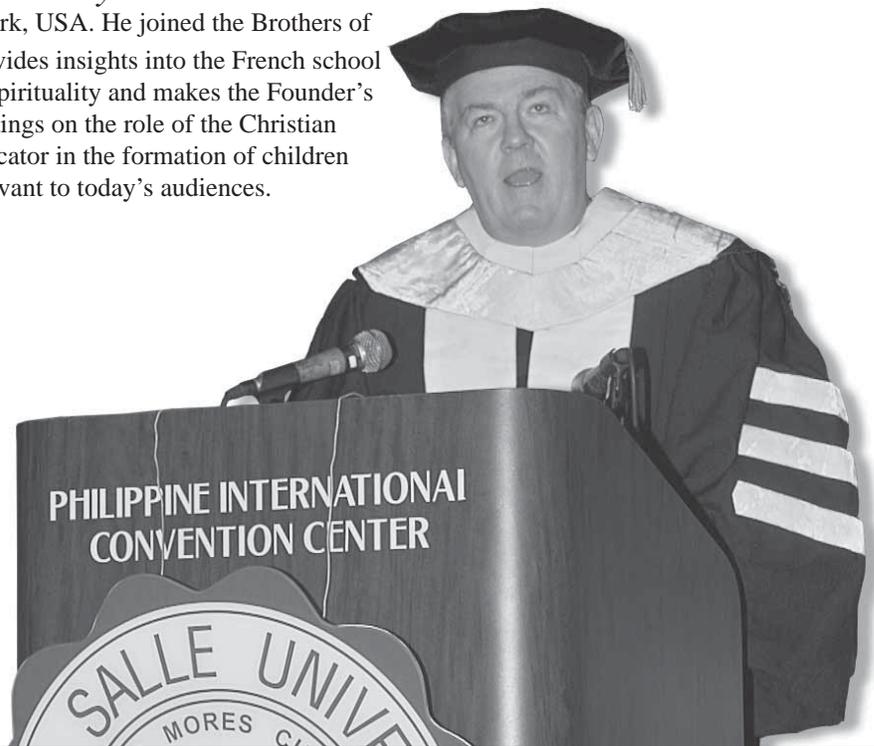
He has served various Lasallian schools with distinction as a teacher, dormitory prefect, department chair, assistant principal, and director of Campus Ministry. He has generously rendered his services to the Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools and the global Lasallian Family in his capacity as International Secretary of Formation, as Delegate of the Delegation of India, and over the last six years, as Vicar General.

As Vicar General, he replaces the Superior General in the ordinary administration of the Institute when the Superior is absent or prevented from exercising the duties of his office.

A valuable resource for the formation of Brothers and Lasallian Partners, he has organized workshops, delivered lectures, and conducted presentations, meetings, and informal talks with Brothers and Lasallian Partners worldwide.

He has made the latest findings of Lasallian research accessible to the English-speaking world through his publications, successfully contextualizing the French school of spirituality on which the Founder's teachings are based. His innovative and scholarly publications employ a hermeneutic approach that

provides insights into the French school of spirituality and makes the Founder's writings on the role of the Christian educator in the formation of children relevant to today's audiences.



International Education Expo 2007

The University will hold the annual International Education Expo on February 27-March 1, with the following participants: British Council, Canadian Embassy, German Embassy, IDP Australia, Japan Information and Cultural Center, New Zealand Trade and Enterprise, Taipei Economic and Cultural Office, and Philippine-American Education Foundation. There will also be a series of talks scheduled during the three-day event. For more information, contact the External Linkages Office, local 163.



My work as a Brother of the Christian Schools on the international level has allowed me many and diverse experiences and led me to the point in life where I have, more or less, begun to expect the unexpected. However, never had I imagined the surprise of being invited to stand before you as the recipient of an honorary degree. I assure you that it is with a deep sense of admiration for De La Salle University and its faculty that I participate in these Commencement Exercises.

That this educational institution, so very highly esteemed in the international network of Lasallian schools and universities, honors me—and through me the Brothers—is a truly humbling experience. I wish to thank Brother Armin and Dr. Quebengco and to express my gratitude to the Board of Trustees for this recognition.

A Troubled Youngster Named Calvin

I'd like to tell you a story. Not so long ago, I was touring a school much as I toured the DLSU campus yesterday and on that visit I met a troubled youngster named Calvin. He was eleven years old, and he was attending a school for the emotionally, behaviorally, and academically challenged.

The young teacher whose class I was visiting introduced all the youngsters to me (there were about a dozen), but he accidentally skipped over Calvin. I later learned that Calvin was a second generation student at this school, where his young father had also previously struggled with educational failure and emotional upset. It was the look on Calvin's face when he was passed over that I will never forget—the look of a person ignored, invisible, and once again, inadvertently marginalized. When the teacher realized what he had done and tried to remedy his mistake, Calvin then chose to ignore us. It was as though he was saying, "If you didn't see me before, I also can pretend that you are not here now."

I was reminded on that visit of John Baptist de



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La Salle, the seventeenth-century French priest for whom this university is named, who saw a whole social category passed over and excluded from having an education and who did something about it. It was only when he was about 30 years of age that for the first time in his life, he really saw the poor of his own city. He, whose eyes and heart were opened to their plight, used the many personal resources at his disposal. He had an engaging personality, a keen and disciplined intellect, and an excellent university formation and education, which he used to enhance the quality of life for the less fortunate of his great nation, and not to accrue comfort or status for himself.

This young boy Calvin remains an icon in my consciousness each time I enter another gathering of people, the majority of whom I do not know. He is a reminder of how easy it is to see a crowd, a school, a grouping of youngsters or families. Even in this Convention Center, it is easy to see all as one, but not to see individual faces, not even just a few of them. Calvin is an inspiration to acknowledge each person gathered here as a truly holy presence and to recall that this quality of seeing and welcoming and knowing each precious individual is the key principle at the heart of the Lasallian educational ethos.



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The Lasallian Educational Vision

When I was a young student, the Brothers and our teachers communicated to us that we had great worth, that we should be taken seriously, that we deserved respect, and that we could make a real difference in this world. Those were powerful lessons for me as an adolescent. I cannot imagine not having spent my life trying to communicate the same to others.

(For) This is who we are as Lasallians—we strive to unleash the creative capacity of minds and to enkindle a passion in hearts. We strive to run good schools where parents can be confident that their sons and daughters will be known and loved while receiving the best education available, where they will be seen as individuals and be treated with respect while being formed in good moral values. This is where youngsters will be welcomed into a community of belonging and belief while being prepared for civic responsibility and being formed to provide the kind of leadership for which the peoples of the nations of the world dream.

The Story of Brother Bertin Raymund

I was about fifteen years old when I heard for the first time about De La Salle-Manila, from my teacher, Brother Bertin Raymund Barry. He was a New Yorker who had worked in the Philippines from 1938 until 1945 and who had only escaped being killed in the school chapel in 1945 because he had been sent to an internment camp and then hospitalized with polio. I can still recall him saying, years after having left these islands: “The Filipinos... what promise... what potential... what faith... what enthusiasm... what generosity.”

Over the years, I have come to see and to appreciate what he attempted to share with me.

The Filipinos.

Brother Andrew Gonzalez.

Brother Rafael Donato.

Brother Benildo Feliciano.

Brother Rolando Dizon.

Brother Gus Boquer.

Brother Victor Franco.

Brother Raymundo Suplido.

Brother Armin Luistro.

Dr. Carmelita Quebengco.

What vision... what audacity... what a significant contribution each has made. Each is a giant in the international Lasallian Family.

And you, graduates, can also contribute to the greater good... especially in these auspicious and tumultuous days of the start of the twenty-first century. May you go forth from this convention center today with eyes truly opened to the hopes and the needs of others and with hearts on fire to be the artisans of a just world, a world that includes and benefits the whole of the human family.

As recipients of the very best education available, supported and held within the loving embrace of your parents and families, and prepared by your professors and your experiences at DLSU, you have the capacity to enhance the quality of life on the national and the international scenes. Go out there to embrace with both hands and a full heart the destiny that awaits you. Go out into the world and really make a difference.

The world, your Church, and your nation need you. God bless you. Thank you. And congratulations!

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further studies and enjoying subsidies; children of employees; and enrollees of St. La Salle Pre-School and Pundasyon Hanunuo Mangyan School.

“Our 20% scholarship target is achievable. By increasing the number of our scholars, we can move from having a mono-cultural perspective to getting a more relational and intellectual experience. Having a more diverse community will further improve our teaching and research,” he pointed out.

Br. Armin stressed that making Lasallian education more accessible would not mean compromising academic excellence. “The scholarship aims to get the best and brightest students who cannot afford to go here. We are not lowering our standards,” he added.

He noted that in School Year 2004-2005, for instance, when schools nationwide suffered an enrollment decline because of setbacks among educational plan companies, DLSU-Manila opted to have a budget cut rather than accept



applicants who did not pass the entrance requirements.

“We will never lower our standards of quality. The presence of more scholars will actually help widen the perspective of the Lasallian because they represent part of our society that previously never had access to our community,” he added.

Role of research

Another issue raised by the Superior General to the

Lasallian tertiary schools was the tension between applied research and pure research. To address this, Br. Armin said there should be a middle ground, emphasizing practicality but also recognizing the need for researches that have no immediate results.

He explained that this would mean prioritizing research projects that are aligned to national development goals. The University has identified these five priority research areas as poverty alleviation, environment and safety, youth-at-risk, globalization, and applied technologies.

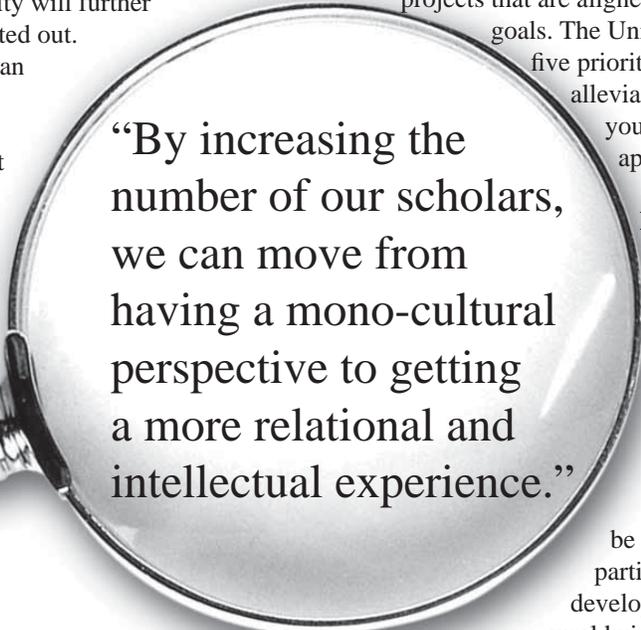
Role of lay partners

Br. Armin mentioned that the challenge of keeping the Lasallian tradition while responding to the new needs of society was likewise raised by Br. Alvaro to the international Lasallian network.

He said this would partly be addressed by the growing participation of lay partners in the development of Lasallian education worldwide. The lay partners’ role was evident in the recent conference

on the Shared Mission between the Lay Partners and the Christian Brothers conducted by the International Assembly of Lasallian Partners in Rome. Executive Vice-President Carmelita Quebengco facilitated this international assembly held October 16-November 5, 2006.

“The Philippine Lasallian schools will not be departing from their mission of serving as a resource for God and Country; we should, in fact, further see ourselves as a resource for the Asia-Pacific region and later, for the rest of the world,” he added.



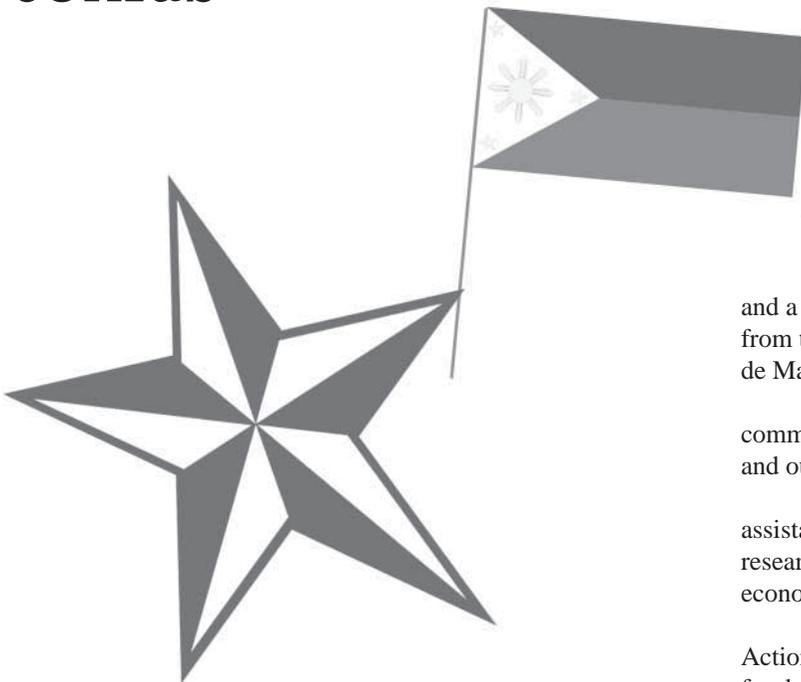
Keeping the Lasallian flame green and burning

Members of the DLSU-Manila faculty, staff, and administration show that they have what it takes to be the “Green Idol.” The variety show was part of the 2007 University Week celebrations, dubbed Greentensity, held from February 12 to 16. Proceeds raised during the show would go to the University’s Gaward Kalinga project.

Other activities during the weeklong event included Animo Ignition Level Up!, an inter-college group song and dance competition, Lovestruck, a duet singing competition, Greentensified concert party, and a fireworks display.



Lasallian represents RP in international confab



Senior student Wainwright Gregory Yu recently represented the country in the Eighth Hitachi Young Leaders Initiative (HYLI) held last January 22 to 26 in Hanoi, Vietnam.

Yu, currently pursuing a BA degree major in Philosophy and a BS degree in Accounting, joined two other students—one from the University of the Philippines and another from Ateneo de Manila University—in this year's conference.

The students were selected for their excellent communication and leadership skills, sterling academic records, and outstanding performance in extracurricular activities.

Wain, as Yu is fondly called, has served as research assistant to some of the University Fellows on campus, enjoying research projects in the fields of philosophy, psychology, and economics.

He is now on his second term as chair of the Lasallian Action for Institutional Development. He became president for documentation of the Students of Philosophy in Action and recruitment head of the Young Executive Series. He represents DLSU-Manila to the Council of Filipino Philosophers.

The HYLI is a community relations program that Hitachi developed and launched in Asia in 1996. It aims to identify and groom potential Asian leaders by bringing them together to discuss regional issues and establish contacts with prominent regional opinion leaders from the private, public, and academic sectors.

The initiative offers student participants from Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, and the Philippines a unique platform to broaden their outlook on regional and global issues while promoting a sense of Asian values and cross-cultural understanding.



IMPROVING RP-US RELATIONS. Photo shows (from left) US Ambassador to the Philippines Kristie Kenney and US Under Secretary of State for Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs Karen P. Hughes during their visit to DLSU-Manila last January 26. In the previous issue of 2401, we unintentionally mistook one for the other in the photo. Our apologies.



More firms participate in Job Expo 2007

More than 130 multinational companies participated in Job Expo 2007, the highest record ever generated by the annual University event.

The increase in the number of participating companies could be attributed to the confidence of the different industries in Lasallians, according to Office of Career Services (OCS) Career Education Coordinator Hector Miranda.

The job exposition, held last February 5 to 9 at the ground floor of the Don Enrique Yuchengco Hall, was a culmination of the impressive efforts of the university and its students, he added.

Headlining the list of participating companies were Procter and Gamble, IBM, Unilever Phils., Hewlett Packard, HSBC, Globe Telecom, Metrobank, Pilipinas Shell, Standard Chartered Bank, Nestle, Philippine Airlines, Smart, and Pfizer.

Aside from the usual booth exhibits, the five-day event also featured career talks and on-campus examinations.

On February 9, the last night of the activity, a confluence dinner attended by Human Resource representatives from various companies, the University administrators, and student leaders was also held.

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