



2401 (twen 'tē for '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 the name of the official newsletter of DLSU-Manila, featuring developments and stories of interest about the University.

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FACULTY DELIVERS PAPER ON COUNTER-TERRORISM

Political Science Department Lecturer Salvador Santino Regilme Jr. delivered a paper titled, “Constructivism in the US-ASEAN Post-9/11 Counter-Terror Engagement” at the 2008 Ateneo-Harvard Project for Asian International Relations (HPAIR) National Conference last January 26 and 27.

Regilme discussed in the paper how the United States institutionalized various restructuring initiatives on its own defense and security establishments after the materialization of the 9/11 Tragedy. He added that Washington extended its counter-terror efforts in Southeast Asia, which he explained is dubbed as the second front on the war on terrorism.

However, he argues in the paper that considering the chaotic security situation in the Middle East and South Asia, the Southeast Asian-based counter-terror projects of the United States are only temporal in nature and are deemed to be in a trend of being diverted to other more unstable regions of the world.

The annual HPAIR National Conference is an avenue that aims to bring together undergraduate student leaders and some of the recognized names in business and politics today. With this year’s theme, “Towards Global Youth Leadership,” participants had the opportunity to interact with various experts and to establish relationships with their fellow youth leaders.



IS faculty examines local military's capability in AFP lecture series

International Studies Department Associate Professor Dr. Renato De Castro recently delivered a paper in the Southeast Asian Armed Forces Lecture Series on the state of the Armed Forces of the Philippines in the 21st Century.

In the paper, Dr. De Castro examines how the Philippine military’s involvement in numerous low-intensity conflicts affected its structure and combat capabilities, earning the reputation of being the most poorly-equipped armed forces in the region.

The Southeast Asian Armed Forces Lecture Series, which was organized and sponsored by the Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Institute of Defense and Strategic Studies, discusses

the major trends and developments happening among Southeast Asian armed forces.

Meanwhile, De Castro's article titled “The 1997 Asian Financial Crisis and the Revival of Populism and Neo-Populism in the 21st Century Philippine Politics” was recently published in the Asian Survey of the University of California, Berkley.

In the article, he argues that the Asian financial meltdown in the mid-1990s created the opportunity for the revival of neo-populism in Philippine politics. Published in the Asian Survey, the article is De Castro’s second paper to appear in an academic journal listed on the Thompson Scientific Index this school year.

DLSU-MANILA PREPARES FOR AUN-QA ASSESSMENT

Aiming to further bring DLSU-Manila's standard of quality to a higher level, the Quality Assurance Office of Information Technology Center (ITC) is currently preparing the various offices of the University towards the attainment of an Asean University Network-Quality Assurance (AUN-QA) label, initially for the Chemical Engineering program of the College of Engineering and the Economics program of the College of Business and Economics.

The AUN, composed of 18 leading universities in the region initiated the AUN-QA that aims to develop a common standard of quality by sharing experiences and best practices and to promote quality assurance and harmonization of quality assurance in the region.

The AUN-QA label is a marker bestowed on a university that has met the AUN-QA criteria concerning Internal Quality Assurance. It refers solely to the quality of a university's Internal Quality Assurance (IQA) System and not to the quality of the programs or the quality of the institution as a whole.

IQA in higher education aims to assure and enhance the quality of an institution with regard to its core activities: teaching and learning, research, and community service. For DLSU-Manila, the steering committee come up with an IQA model named DLSU-QA wherein it includes Linkages as additional core service.

ITC developed a DLSU-QA implementation plan that includes AUN-QA awareness and orientation for all members of the DLSU-Manila community, introduction of the AUN-QA criteria and standards to all academic departments and support service offices; training on Document and Records Control, and training on Document Management System, which manages our documentation systematically.

At present, ITC is conducting a series of training seminars that introduce the members of the community to the concept of AUN-QA. Thereafter, the concerned offices will undertake a self-assessment and submit a report to the office of the AUN-QA. Following this, there will be an external assessment to be conducted by a Quality Audit team identified by the AUN-QA.

Based on the overall assessment, the AUN-QA decides on whether or not to issue the QA label. The decision might also be conditional.

The ITC team has been coordinating with the various departments and offices of DLSU-Manila to develop documents that will define the scope of the QA system and improve processes. The AUN-QA team is scheduled to be on campus in July to conduct the external assessment.



DLSU-M BESTOWS HONORARY DEGREE ON AMBASSADOR YAN

De La Salle University-Manila conferred on Ambassador Manuel Yan the degree of Doctor of Humanities, honoris causa, in recognition of his outstanding achievements as a military man and government servant and of his dedicated service to the Filipino people. The conferment was held during the 151st Commencement Exercises last February 9 at the PICC Plenary Hall, Manila.

As a military man, Yan took on various field positions in the military for 21 years after serving the country during the Second World War. It was in 1968 that he became the chief of staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines with the rank of General.

Yan retired from the military with 35 years of service prior to the implementation of Martial Law in 1972. Upon his retirement, he was designated Ambassador to Thailand for nine years and then to Indonesia for six years.

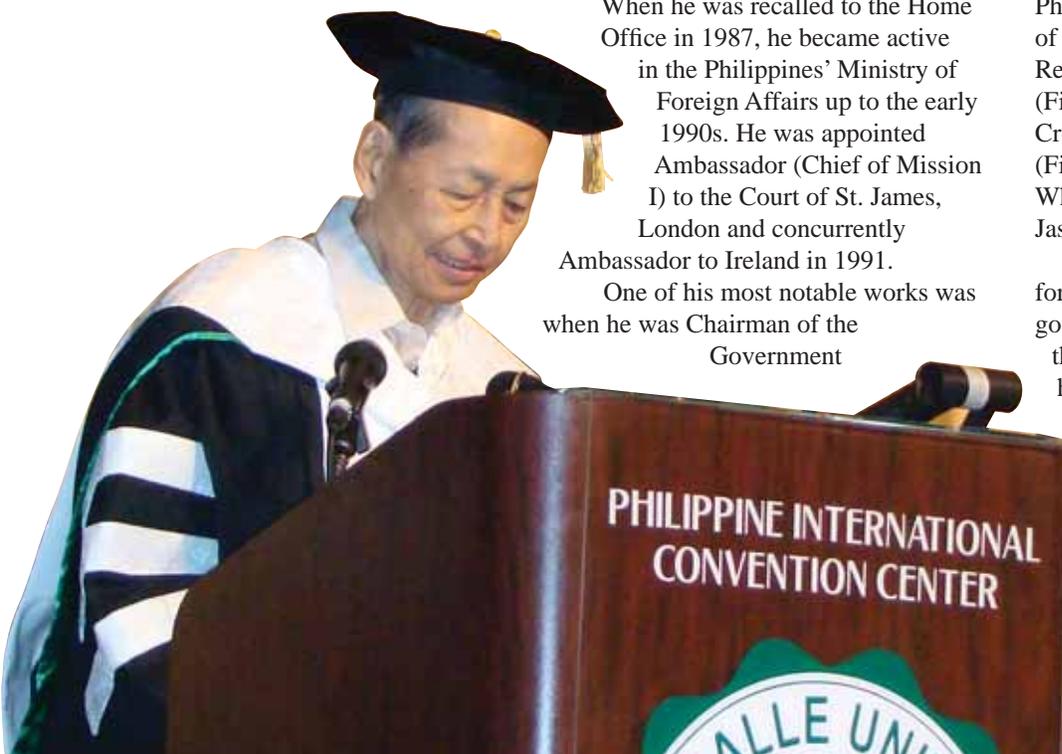
When he was recalled to the Home Office in 1987, he became active in the Philippines' Ministry of Foreign Affairs up to the early 1990s. He was appointed Ambassador (Chief of Mission I) to the Court of St. James, London and concurrently Ambassador to Ireland in 1991.

One of his most notable works was when he was Chairman of the Government

of the Republic of the Philippines Panel for the Peace Talks and concurrently as Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process with a cabinet rank in 1994. The peace talks with the Southern Philippines Autonomous Groups, which took almost four years of diplomacy and negotiation, led to the laying down of arms of about 6,000 MNLF guerillas as a final peace accord.

Yan holds various decorations for his exemplary work as a military man, a diplomat and a peacemaker, among which were from the Philippine Government and the governments of the United States, Republic of Vietnam, Republic of Korea, the Knight Grand Cross (First Class) of the Most Noble Order of the Crown of Thailand, the Knight Grand Cross (First Class) of the Most Exalted Order of the White Elephant (Thailand), and the "Bintang Jasa Utama" Award (Indonesia).

After serving the country continuously for more than 63 years, Yan retired from government service at the age of 81. He holds the distinction of being the only Filipino to have served 12 presidents.





the pursuit of peace

by Ambassador Manuel T. Yan

I accept this honor from De La Salle University-Manila with sincere gratitude on behalf of peace advocates, workers, luminaries and the peace-loving citizens of our nation. I also accept this as a tribute to our brothers and sisters in Mindanao who have already suffered so much but who remain hopeful in, and faithful to, the peace process.

I wish to thank you all for this opportunity to share with you a few thoughts on the peace process and reflect on some of the more fulfilling experiences in my career as a soldier, a diplomat and a peace negotiator.

Having been a soldier, I know—as you all know—the anguish of war, and its ineffectiveness, oftentimes, in resolving human problems. Every soldier who understands the underlying reasons behind conflict yearns for peace with honor and justice, both for himself and for his adversaries.

We all yearn not just an end to armed conflict, but for long-lasting peace for the sake of our families and communities, and foremost, for our nation. To achieve this, we must appreciate the pursuit of peace in its broad political, economic, social, religious, spiritual and personal dimensions.

This is the pursuit of a so-called “Positive Peace,” described by the noted peace researcher Johan Galtung as a condition where the roots of conflict—its structural causes such as social inequity, injustice, and poverty—have been addressed in order to create the conditions for just and enduring stability.

Positive peace is achieved because of three important reasons. These are: one, various interests are adequately represented in the overall scheme of governance and development; two, grievances and differences are resolved through means that are commonly defined and accepted; and three, stable democratic institutions are available for the people to participate in governance and to interact under conditions of fairness, mutual respect, and social justice.

Peace, therefore, requires a

transformation process that involves not just a settlement across the negotiating table, but a deliberate effort to address the roots of conflict and unrest. Perforce, it must be a continuing, holistic, universal process that requires the participation of all sectors and communities.

To better appreciate the significance of the peace process, let us take a look at some facts surrounding the Mindanao conflict. For the past three and a half decades of conflict, there are an estimated 120,000 deaths, and unaccounted numbers of wounded and disabled. More than two million people have been displaced and uprooted from their homes and communities.

We have seen the emergence of “Muslim ghettos” in various cities in Mindanao and in the whole Philippines, made up of displaced persons and individuals forced to seek employment and livelihood opportunities destroyed by the conflict. We also see the exodus of illegal Muslim migrants to the neighboring state of Sabah.

In Mindanao, we have seen the steep climb in the incidence of poverty—already the highest in the country—from 56% in



1991 to 62.5% in 1997 and 71.3% in 2000; to the extent that 14 of the 20 poorest provinces in the Philippines are found in that region.

Whilst it is true that the aforementioned facts can be very upsetting, the present environment in Mindanao, however, is also painted with hope and promise. As far as the Moro National Liberation Front, or MNLF, is concerned, we signed a final peace accord in 1996 which has seen the end of the raging war since the seventies.

This accord resulted, among others, in the establishment of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao and the integration of MNLF fighters into the Philippine Armed Forces and the National Police. Following the peace accord with the MNLF, the government has continued to negotiate with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, or MILF. This has resulted in a three-year uninterrupted ceasefire, reinforced and supported a Malaysian-led international monitoring team and development assistance from Japan, the United States and Canada and key global institutions such as the United Nations Development Program and the World Bank.

All over the country, we have peace builders and peace workers among the ranks of government leaders,

professionals, religious sectors and the civic and business community.

The national peace network has broad links worldwide. Our peace process is closely tied up with the UNICEF and the UN World Food Program in the pursuit of a culture of peace based on universally-shared moral and spiritual values, environmental sustainability, human dignity, community welfare, the rights of women and indigenous peoples, and good government.

As a peace negotiator, I have learned several lessons and insights that I would like to share with you today.

First lesson is that peace negotiations are not necessarily bargaining processes all the time, but a mutual search for solutions to problems and concerns that affect not just the rebel groups or the government, but the country as a whole. It is important to view negotiations as constructive rather than adversarial encounters, and to conduct them as problem-solving, rather than bargaining processes.

Second lesson: we must keep in mind that at the core of every peace process is the issue of trust. Trust is built as negotiations move forward, and it must begin with each side developing a common understanding of each other's positions.

Negotiations primarily focus on issues, but their success depends on people. I could cite our experience with the MNLF, where we established an

informal structure that saw counterparts having coffee and dining together at every opportunity, reinforced even by a close interaction among our spouses. As friendships broadened and deepened, so did the will to push forward and forge peace.

Third lesson: the peace process must be supported by an effective mechanism of consultation with the people. Broad consultations must be continuously held so that those whose lives and future are affected will have a stake in the outcome. In the talks with the MNLF, such consultations proved to be an effective tool for strengthening the political perimeters of the negotiations.

I share the thoughts of the Dalai Lama who once said that, "all religions pursue the same goals, that of cultivating human goodness and bringing happiness to all human beings. Though the means might appear different, the ends are the same. No matter what part of the world we come from, we are all basically the same human beings. We all seek happiness and try to avoid suffering. We have the same basic human needs and concerns. All of us want freedom and the right to determine our own destiny as individuals and as peoples. That is human nature."

Such has been the subject matter of my toil and inspiration, and I hope that it will be yours too.

This is the only country that we have. We must take care of it through perpetual search of peace.

Thank you, once more, and may God bless the Philippines.



COS STUDENTS WIN IN SCIENCE QUIZ CONTESTS

College of Science (COS) students recently won in two separate inter-university science quiz competitions.

The team of Paul Michael Abrasaldo (BS PHYEC), Jansen Calalan (BS PHY-MAT), and Ephraim Adrian Ereno (BS PHY-MED) bagged the grand prize in the annual Physiklaban, an inter-university Physics quiz contest, held last February 9 at the Tan Yan Kee Hall of the University of Santo Tomas. Physics faculty Ronald de los Reyes served as the coach of the team.

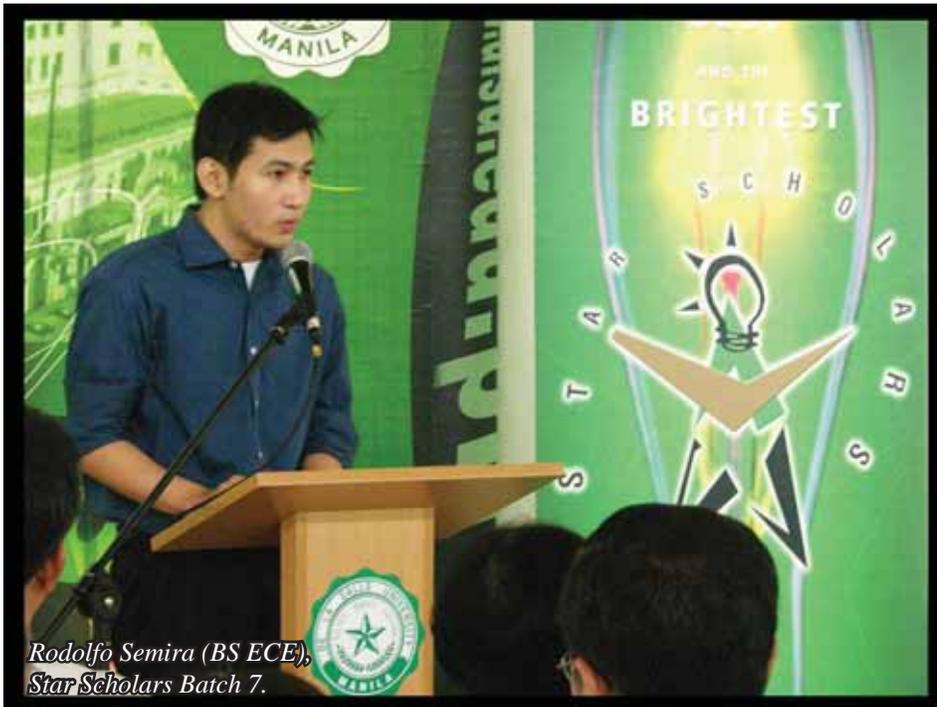
Physiklaban was sponsored by the Samahang Mag-aaral para sa Pagpapaunlad ng Pisika and the Department of Science and Technology, Philippine Council for Advanced Science and Technology Research and Development and the Science Education Institute.

For this year's Physiklaban event,

the overall coordinator was Dr. Edgar Vallar, also a faculty member of the Physics Department and adviser of the University's Physics Society.

Meanwhile, the DLSU-Manila team of Lorenzo Alba (BS BCHEM), Abegail Ceralde (BS HBIO), and Leo Carlo Sarion (BS BIO) under the guidance of Biology faculty members Jane Flores and Patrick Cantiller emerged as champions in Qwizzardy, an annual interscholastic science contest sponsored by the UP-Manila College of Arts and Sciences.

The group bested six other teams from various universities in Manila. The DLSU-Manila COS holds the championship title of Qwizzardy for the past three consecutive years.



Rodolfo Semira (BS ECE),
Star Scholars Batch 7.

SEARCH FOR STAR SCHOLARS BATCH 2008

The Scholarship and Financial Assistance Office and the Marketing Communication Office gave recognition to this year's Star Scholars candidates during the Star Scholars Orientation held last February 8 at the Marilen Gaerlan Conservatory.

The candidates are the top 64 examinees who took the 2007 De La Salle University-Manila's entrance examinations last October. The Star Scholar candidates this year came from various institutions including De La Salle Santiago Zobel School, La Salle Green Hills, Philippine Science High School (QC), Manila Science High School, Makati Science High School, Assumption College, Xavier School (San Juan) and St. Jude Catholic School among other high schools.

Launched in 1999, the Star Scholars Program offers an integrated undergraduate and graduate scholarship to the best and the brightest graduating high school students from all over the country. Those selected for the program have the unique opportunity to earn a masters degree or go into medical proper (for BS Human Biology students) after finishing an undergraduate degree on full scholarship.

DLSU-M alumni Virginia Culla (BS Biology, 1984) and Cindy Stephanie Toh (PSM-ACM, 2005; Star Scholars Batch 3) talked about their Lasallian education and how it helped them succeed in their chosen fields. Toh, along with College of Engineering student Rodolfo Semira (BS-ECE, Star Scholars

Batch 7), also shared their experiences as Star Scholars and how the program contributed into developing them into well-rounded individuals.

DLSU-M President and Chancellor Br. Armin Luistro FSC and Chancellor Emeritus Dr. Carmelita Quebengco led the University administrators who welcomed the candidates. The Star Scholars candidates met the deans and vice-deans of the different colleges, university officials and students who belong to the previous batches of Star Scholars.

After the next and final step of the selection process, an interview with the screening panel, the new list of Star Scholars will be announced in March.





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Yoly Ong, Campaigns & Grey Group Chairperson and one of the pillars of the local advertising industry, delivered a talk on the youth, particularly on their current preferences and problems, as well as on the Philippine education system, particularly the trends in basic education. Before ending her talk, she posed challenges to media institutions and the campus journalists to serve as advocates of the Filipino youth.

Philippine Daily Inquirer's (PDI) Publisher Isagani Yambot responded by sharing the efforts of PDI to help these sectors, while Vic Agustin, chairman of the Editorial Board of Manila Standard Today, shared his comments on the affairs of print media in the country.

Businessworld editor Felipe Salvosa, who was a former campus journalist, gave his insights on the

difference between being a journalist for a school publication and a national broadsheet. On the other hand, University of Santo Tomas' Varsitarian adviser and PDI assistant lifestyle editor Lito Zulueta shared the laws that govern school papers in the country and talked about the current state of campus journalism in the local scene.

Lasallian Scholarum awardees Nestor Cuartero of the Manila Bulletin-Panorama and GMA's Kara David encouraged participants to take on a more active role in nation building by sharing interesting, inspiring anecdotes on how the media has helped move people to action.

DLSU-M Marketing Communication Office Executive Director Jose Mari Magpayo closed the seminar by launching the 2008 Lasallian Scholarum Awards, which carries the theme "Be the Lead."



Kara David

2008 Lasallian scholarum awards

lead

LEAD (led),
 1. to go before or with to show the way; conduct or escort; 2. to guide in direction, course, action; opinion; 3. to act as leader of; 4. to command, direct; 5. In Journalism, a. a short summary serving as an introduction as a news story, article, or other copy. b. the main and often most important news story.

Be inspired. Be bold. Be heard.

Be the LEAD.



LASALLIAN SCHOLARUM SEMINAR FOR CAMPUS JOURNALISTS STAGED

Around 100 campus journalists from more than 20 different schools, mostly from Metro Manila, attended the 1st Lasallian Scholarum Seminar for Campus Journalists held last February 20 at the Yuchengco Seminar Room of De La Salle University-Manila.

With the theme “Campus Journalism: Promoting youth and education,” the whole-day seminar aimed to generate discussions on the power of media, through which the participants can actively respond to the needs of the youth and education sectors.

This seminar marked the start of the campaign for the 2008 Lasallian Scholarum Awards, DLSU-M’s annual award-giving body that recognizes outstanding media coverage of the Filipino youth and their education.

Invited speakers came from different sectors, including the media, government, and academe. The event served as a venue

to share recent studies on the youth sector, as well as experts’ observations and insights on the coverage of youth concerns by the media.

Commission on Higher Education (CHED) Office of Student Services’ Christian Alberto discussed CHED’s various projects that could serve as areas of interest for the campus journalists. Meanwhile, Rachel Khan, chair of the University of the Philippines’ Journalism Department, cited a survey on the extent of media coverage concerning children, noting that the stories were very few, and mostly limited to violence and abuse.

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