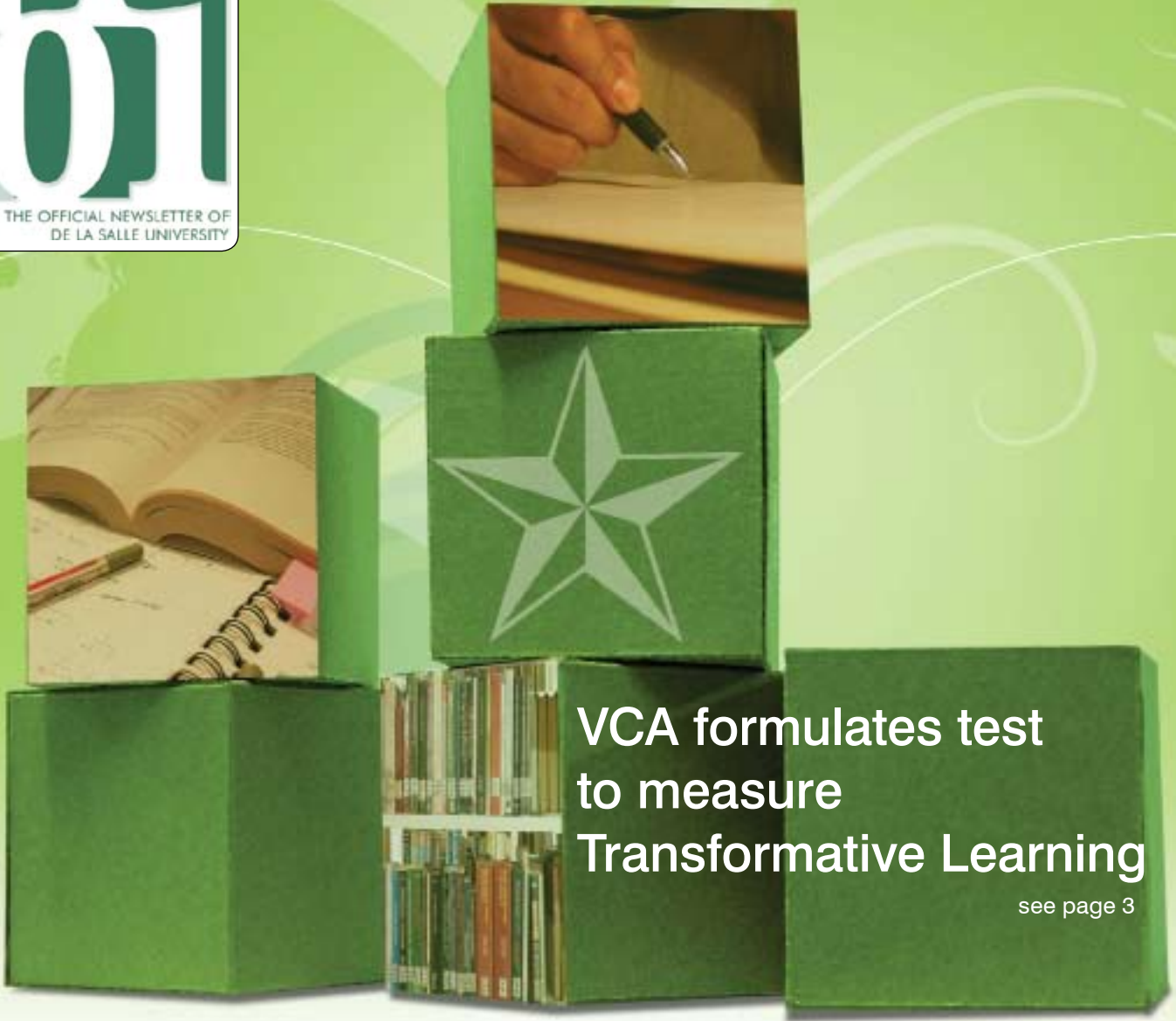




2401 (twen 'tē fôr 'ō, wun) is a landmark number along Taft Avenue. It is the location ID of De La Salle University, home to outstanding faculty and students, and birthplace of luminaries in business, public service, education, the arts, and science. And 2401 is the name of the official newsletter of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

30 JUNE 2008. VOLUME 40. NUMBER 3. 12 PAGES



Meditations:
Encountering difficulties
in teaching



4

Field Notes:
A Lasallian prophetic
voice in Palestine

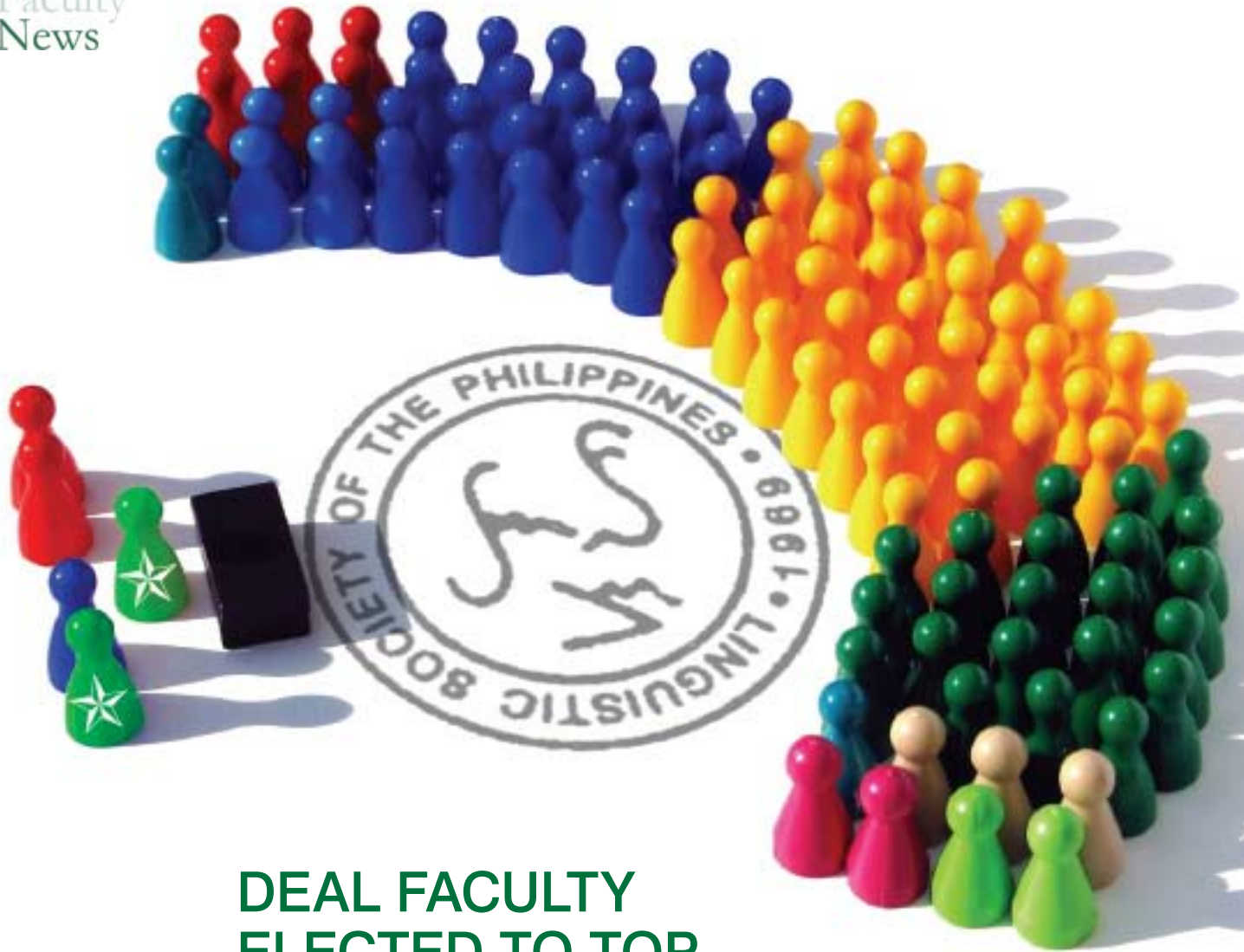


5

La Salle profs join ASEAN
meet on social development



10



DEAL FACULTY ELECTED TO TOP POSTS OF LINGUISTICS BODY

Two faculty members of the Department of English and Applied Linguistics (DEAL) were elected as officers of the Linguistic Society of the Philippines (LSP) during its first board meeting last June 3 at the Makati Sports Club.

Associate Professor and DEAL Chair Dr. Danilo Dayag and Assistant Professor and DEAL Vice Chair Sydney Gonzales-Villegas were elected president and secretary, respectively, and both will serve a two-year term.

With their election, Dayag and Villegas join the distinguished list of LSP officers from De La Salle University, which includes the late Br. Andrew Gonzalez FSC who served as the society's executive secretary from 1974 to 1993, and Professor Emerita Dr. Ma. Lourdes Bautista who was at the helm of the organization from 1996 to 1997.

The LSP's first board meeting followed the election of the Executive Board in the 2008 International Conference and General Meeting on "World Englishes and Second Language Teaching and Learning," held at the University of Santo Tomas from April 28 to 30.

During the conference, a number of DEAL faculty and graduate students presented papers for the parallel sessions. Dayag was the director of the conference, while Bautista was one of the keynote speakers together with Dr. Andy Kirkpatrick from the Hong Kong Institute of Education.

Plenary speakers in the seminar were Dr. Kingsley Bolton from the University of Stockholm, Dr. Andrew Moody from the University of Macau, and Dr. Loy Lising of Macquarie University in Sydney, Australia.

VCA FORMULATES TEST TO MEASURE TRANSFORMATIVE LEARNING

The Office of the Vice Chancellor for Academics, through the Institutional Testing and Evaluation Office (ITEO) and the Center for Educational Multimedia-Academic Support for Instructional Services and Technology (CREM-ASIST), formulated the DLSU Thinking Skills Test, a 50-item exam measuring the critical thinking and inquiry skills of Lasallians.

ITEO started administering this examination this month to freshmen, who will provide baseline data on the students' level of thinking skills.

The examination will be taken again by the same examinees every March from 2009 to 2012. The results of this series of tests will be used to determine if there are significant changes in the students' level of thinking skills as a result of their exposure to the Transformative Learning set-up, which was introduced by the University in SY 2006-2007.

The Transformative Learning framework makes the student the primary agent of learning. This set-up envisions Lasallians to become good at a wide variety of modes of learning and thinking, such as historical; scientific and quantitative; humanistic, interpretative, and aesthetic; and ethical, value-based, or faith-based inquiries.

"The employment of this test will give us data that will serve as a basis in the formulation of Lasallian educators' training modules," said Dr. Mike Rapatan, director of CREM-

ASIST, which facilitates educators' training in curriculum development, technology-based instruction, and learning. "At the end of these students' stay in the University, we will see how much they have improved."

There are seven kinds of questions adopted for the assessment of critical thinking skills: (1) summarizing the main conclusion, (2) drawing a conclusion, (3) identifying an assumption, (4) assessing the impact of additional evidence, (5) detecting reasoning errors, (6) matching arguments, and (7) applying principles.

On the other hand, problem solving skill involves reasoning using numerical and spatial skills. There are three kinds of questions for the assessment of problem solving skills: (1) relevant selection, (2) finding procedures, and (3) identifying similarities.

According to ITEO Director Violeta Valladolid, the work on the Thinking Skills Test, based on the frameworks and tests developed in other universities abroad, started during the 2nd term, School Year 2007-2008.





Lasallian techies behind ASEAN game software

ASEAN Quest—a computer game that aims to familiarize the youth about the 10 countries comprising Southeast Asia—will be formally launched during the ASEAN Youth Summit to be held in the country on July 8.

The Lasallian team behind the game was headed by Dr. Mike Rapatan of the Center for Educational Multimedia. Dr. Alvin Culaba, Rafael Cabredo, and Isidro Marfori III of the Center for Engineering and Sustainable Development Research served as technical consultants.

Photo shows the Lasallian team with Department of Science and Technology Secretary Filemon Uriarte Jr. (front row, right) and Apichai Sunchindah, then executive director of the ASEAN Foundation (front row, left). Ajie Akhmad Wahidin, program officer of the ASEAN Foundation (second row, leftmost), stands beside Rapatan.

Meditations

ENCOUNTERING DIFFICULTIES IN TEACHING

St. John Baptist de La Salle, from *Meditations for the Time of Retreat*



When you encounter some difficulty in the guidance of your disciples, when there are some who do not profit from your teaching and you observe a reckless spirit in them, turn to God with confidence. Earnestly ask Jesus Christ to make his Spirit come alive in you, since he has chosen you to do his work.

Recognizing the pains and challenges of the first Christian Brothers, St. La Salle steadfastly reminded them to keep their faith in their vocation. The teachers who worked with him introduced educational innovations to empower the poor with knowledge. They expectedly faced disappointments with their students and harassments and persecutions by authorities. Who knew among them that their works, borne out of joys and sacrifices in the service of teaching, would spread across the world centuries later? St. John Baptist de La Salle often quoted the works of St. Paul, who said that we plant and water the seed, but it is God through Jesus Christ who makes it grow.

For St. La Salle, the key to fulfilling the Christian Brothers' mission is to ask God for the grace needed to bring about the conversion of the hearts under their care. Lasallian teachers today will most likely discover such transformation among their students, especially among the difficult ones, once they learn to muster the same spirit of surrender to God's will.

A Lasallian Prophetic Voice in Palestine

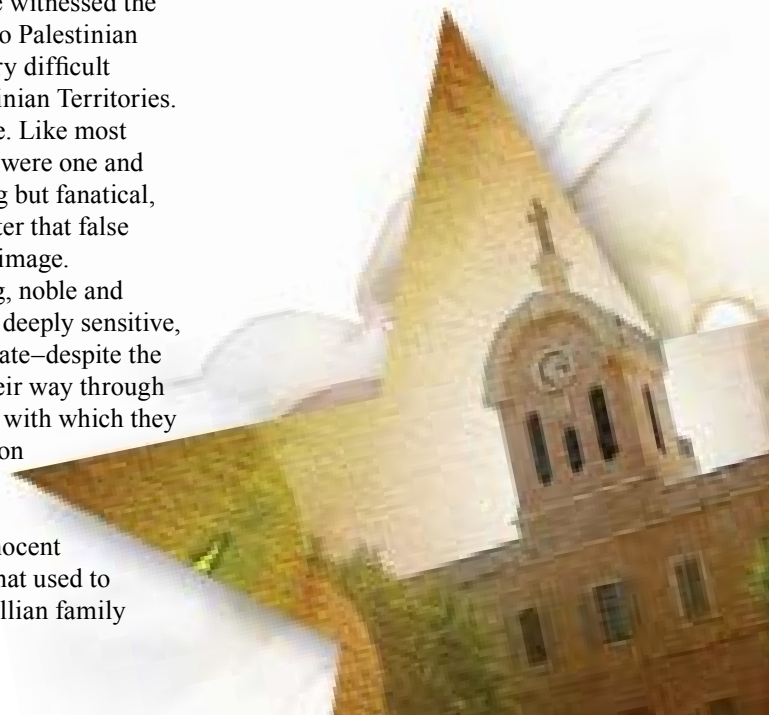
by Br. Rolando R. Dizon, FSC, Ph.D

The avowed mission of Lasallian institution of higher learning is usually twofold: to provide a high academic quality of education, and to be a center of Christian formation, where the core gospel values of truth, justice and peace are nurtured and developed among faculty and students. Bethlehem University in the West Bank of Palestine shares the mission.

In my term as the university's Quality Assurance Director, I have witnessed the institution's commitment to provide a high quality, relevant education to Palestinian youth, as well as to the promotion of truth, justice and peace amidst very difficult circumstances brought about by the illegal Israeli Occupation of Palestinian Territories. Before coming here, I had a very ignorant, truncated image of Palestine. Like most foreigners who had never lived here, I thought that Israel and Palestine were one and the same, that the Jews were the good guys and the Palestinians nothing but fanatical, suicidal terrorist bombers! Thankfully it took only a few weeks to shatter that false image and I realized quickly that the truth was very different from my image.

First I discovered through my students and colleagues how strong, noble and fiercely loyal to family the Palestinian character is, not to mention how deeply sensitive, warm, hospitable it is, and how they love to eat, sing, dance, and celebrate—despite the oppressive conditions they are subjected to. As I watched them fight their way through the walls and checkpoints, I admired the courage, dignity, and serenity with which they cope, with the terribly unjust and oppressive impact of the Occupation on their daily lives.

The truth must be told to the outside world, the truth that what the Zionist and militaristic Israeli government is inflicting upon the innocent Palestinians is nothing less than apartheid, even more inhuman than what used to exist in South Africa. The truth must be told and the international Lasallian family





“In this holy land promised by Yahweh to his chosen people of old, the sad reality is that it is now more of an unholy land full of broken promises. But it doesn’t have to stay that way.”

must help put an end to the Occupation. Bethlehem University has tried to do its part. Whenever we have visitors and conference participants from the West, and more recently from our Lasallian colleagues from the Philippines, we try to proclaim the truth. But we need a lot of help.

Our Lasallian institutions especially in the United States must play a more prophetic role in helping put an end to the grave injustice inflicted on Palestinians. They must lobby their government to stop turning a blind eye to the blatant Israeli abuses. Their government must stop vetoing the U.N Security Council sanctions against the crimes committed by Israel, all in the name of “national security”.

Doubtless Israel has a right to protect itself against the terrorist attacks of a few desperate Palestinians, but their defensive response has been extremely disproportionate to the attacks. Surely there are more reasonable and humane ways to defend their right to security, ways that are more just and can therefore bring a peaceful end to sixty years of conflict.

Bethlehem University strives to contribute to this search for peace. We teach our students to respect cultural and religious diversity, and provide an atmosphere where the 70% Muslim majority learn to understand, respect and value the 30%

Christian minority, and vice versa. Admittedly it is much harder to teach them how to overcome their anger and hatred toward the Jews, but the channels for dialogue and peaceful resolution of internal conflicts can provide them with a good basis for resolving external conflicts.

In one of my education classes on comparative religious beliefs, I narrated the parable of the Good Samaritan, then I asked the class, “If you pass a wounded Jew along a highway, what would you do?” Some said they would not help him, but some said they would—provided he is not a soldier! Certainly not perfect, but already a step closer to loving one’s enemy. It gives me hope that the university is slowly getting across the gospel message of a universal love that can overcome injustice and hate.

In this holy land promised by Yahweh to his chosen people of old, the sad reality is that it is now more of an unholy land full of broken promises. But it doesn’t have to stay that way. The Bethlehem University community of Christian Brothers, lay colleagues, and students are committed to help give birth to a new Holy Land, a new Jerusalem, where truth and justice will prevail, and all the children of Abraham will live together in peace; every tear shall be wiped away, and the lion will lie with the lamb. **INSALLAH, IF GOD WILLS IT!**

Br. Rolando Dizon FSC was president of the former DLSU System from SY 1998-1999 to SY 2002-2003. He later served as chair of the Commission on Higher Education. He is in the faculty roster of DLSU’s Educational Leadership and Management Department and Religious Studies Department.

The article above first came out in a U.S. Brothers Conference publication. Br. Roly says that the opinions expressed are strictly personal and do not necessarily reflect official university views.

LA SALLE STUDENTS SCORE HIGHEST IN CPA, ECE BOARD EXAMS

This year, La Salle students once again bagged top spots in the recent board exams, with two students emerging as topnotchers in the fields of Accountancy and Electronics and Communications Engineering (ECE).

Kristine Pineda bested more than 4,600 examinees in the Certified Public Accountant (CPA) board exams last May, garnering a score of 91.43. Helvin Khen Gonzales Cheng Chu, meanwhile, topped the ECE board exams with a score of 89.

The passing rate of DLSU in the CPA board exams this year improved, jumping to 79 per cent from only 70 per cent last year. But it was in the ECE board exams that DLSU ranked first among other schools, with a passing rate of 81 per cent.

Certified Public Accountant Board Exams

- 1st - Kristine A. Pineda – 91.43
- 3rd - Ryan Oliver T. Dy – 90.86
- 6th - Jonathan T. Bino – 89.71
- 7th - Marvin F. Chua – 89.57
- 9th - Jiansa Camille D. Diaz – 88.86

Electronics and Communications Engineering Board Exams

- 1st - Helvin Khen Gonzales Cheng Chu – 89.00
- 4th - Ron Michael Dimaano – 86.00
- 9th - Mark Anthony Te - 84.90

Mechanical Engineering Board Exams

- 5th - Lee Aldrich Rimando - 88.95
- 10th - Bob Lester Rimando - 87.50

Chemical Engineering Board Exams

- 9th - Evan Wong Yeung – 77.50
- 10th - Genevieve Cherube Ragos Carlos – 77.10

Civil Engineering Board Exams

- 10th - Carlos Alfonso Ventura Fabie – 91.75





CCS PARTNERS WITH MICROSOFT FOR CONSULTING SERVICES PROGRAM

The College of Computer Studies (CCS) recently entered into an agreement with Microsoft Philippines for the development of a Post-Graduate Consulting Services Program that will involve Information Technology training and consulting engagements across the country.

In the memorandum of understanding signed by Vice Chancellor for External Relations and Lasallian Mission Br. Bernie Oca FSC and Microsoft Philippines Human Resources Director Maria Amor Villalón last June 11, the collaboration between DLSU and Microsoft aims to work on an information technology training program for fresh graduates of CCS. The project will answer to a regional and worldwide need for the development of expertise in technical services and consulting.

The University, through the CCS, commits to recruit qualified participants selected by both the CCS and Microsoft. DLSU is responsible for the administration of all nominated participants for the program. Benefits and other perks for the participants will likewise be shouldered by DLSU.

Microsoft, in turn, is responsible for providing the necessary hardware, software, and training materials needed for the setup of the program. It will also provide necessary reimbursements for travel and accommodation if the participant needs to travel abroad to conduct consulting activities.

Participants are expected to perform on-the-job training for at least eight hours a day, required online courses, a professional development program once every quarter, coursework, and consulting work as defined by mentors from Microsoft.

Also present during the signing of the agreement were CCS Dean Dr. Rachel Edita Roxas and Microsoft Philippines Services Director Sitas Yu who served as witnesses in the memorandum.



LA SALLE PROFS JOIN ASEAN MEET ON SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

De La Salle University faculty members participated in the 8th Inter-University Conference on Social Development of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) last May 28 to 31 at the Century Park Sheraton Hotel, Manila.

The conference theme was “ASEAN as a Community: Solidarity in a Globalizing World.” Social Development Research Center (SDRC) Research Fellow Dr. Jesusa Marco chaired an organized panel for DLSU-M during the parallel sessions.

Tackling the issue on “Conflict and cooperation in interregional and intraregional interactions,” International Studies Department (ISD) Associate Professor Dr. Dennis Trinidad discussed the domestic actors, market reform, and the integration of Southeast Asia. Dr. Renato De Castro, also of ISD, shared his paper on the dynamics of 21st century Chinese statecraft in Southeast Asia.

Moreover, Political Science Department Professor Dr. Antonio Contreras discussed the issues, social context, and institutional responses of transboundary environmental governance in Southeast Asia, while Dr. Eric Vincent Batalla, also from the same department, questioned in his presentation whether the convergence of ASEAN as an economic hub and community was by design or accident.

The inter-university conference was organized by the University of the Philippines College of Mass Communication and the UP School of Labor and Industrial Relations with the support of the Department of Sociology

of the National University of Singapore, the Union Network International, the ASEAN Service Employees Trade Union Council (ASETUC), Fair Trade Alliance, and Friedrich Ebert Stiftung. DLSU-M was also one of the sponsors of the conference.

Coinciding with ASEAN’s 40th year, the conference was aimed to serve as a venue for regional integration through the gathering of various stakeholders such as artists, academics, media practitioners, workers, and peasants from the Philippines and other countries to discuss possible solutions to many issues confronting Southeast Asia’s economy, culture, and security.

CHEMISTRY FACULTY, STUDENTS JOIN INTERNATIONAL FORA

Three faculty members and 21 senior undergraduate students under the Chemistry Department of De La Salle University participated in the 2nd USM Penang International Postgraduate Convention held at the University of Sains Malaysia, Penang Malaysia last June 18-20.

Attending the event were Dr. Julita Robles, Dr. Eric Punzalan, and Dr. Nancy Lazaro-Llanos, who led the Biochemistry majors. With the theme, “Chemical Biology: Innovative Explorations of New Horizons in Science,” the participants were able to meet and share ideas with students from international universities. The convention also served as a venue for researchers to present their works in the field of life sciences, chemistry, medical sciences, social sciences, and humanities

The convention was a fusion of four conferences namely: 2nd Health and Medical Sciences Conference; 4th Life Sciences Postgraduate Conference; 2nd Penang International Conference for Young Chemists; and International Conference on Social Sciences and Humanities.

Poster presentations included the following papers of DLSU-M faculty:

- *Sorption of Cu (II), and Zn (II) from Aqueous Solution By Powdered Santol (Sandoricum koetjape merr) Rind* by A. Tardaquilla, E. Punzalan, J. Sy, J. Astorga, C. Bumanglag, and D. Tuyugon
- *The Structural Characterization of Metal Carboxylates $Cu(HCOO)2 \cdot 4H_2O$ and $Cu_2(HCOO)_4 \cdot 2H_2O$* by J. Robles and W. Patalinghug
- *Artificial Neural Network Model For Predicting Carcinogenicity Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAHs) Using Constitutional And Topological Descriptions* by J. Sy, A. Tardaquilla, D. Tuyugon, and E. Punzalan

- *Total Glucosinolate Content of Local Vegetables And Effects of Processing and Storage on Broccoli (Brassica olerace L var italica) Glucosinolates* by R. Malabaed, F. Sandoval, and M. Noel
- *Electrophoretic Profiles of Water and Salt-Soluble Proteins From The Seeds of Citrus Species as Genetic Markers* by J.I. Janairo, K. Saulog, and N. Lazaro-Llanos
- *Secondary Metabolites from Diospyros philippinensis* by C. Ragasa, R. Puno, and J. Sengson
- *Glucosinolates in Brassica Sp.: GC-MS Analysis of Non-Volatile Enzymatic Breakdown of Products* by A. Castro, J. Duque, and M. Noel





LA SALLE'S MARINE STATION LAUNCHES TALIM BAY SEA SCOUTS

To offer the youth of coastal communities an education option that is community development and conservation oriented, skills-based and ladderized, the De La Salle University Br. Alfred Shields FSC Marine Station (BASMS) in cooperation with the Matuod Homeowners' Association and Matuod Free School launched the Talim Bay Sea Scouts in Sitio Matuod, Lian, Batangas last June 8.

According to BASMS Director and project proponent Dr. Wilfredo Licuanan, the program aims to develop and implement a supplemental curriculum for the Matuod Free School.

The recruited Sea Scouts whose age would range from 7 to 18 years old and divided into four classes of reef, mangrove, sea grass and beach scouts would help in the conservation of marine life within the area.

They will be taught using a multi-level and comprehensive curriculum that will increase awareness and prepare the students

to serve as guides, masters and facilitators for beach camps and field trips; assistants and assistant instructors to students undertaking field work; assistants to research and thesis students; assistants to the research and monitoring, and habitat protection and restoration programs; and facilitators in the coastal resource management and disaster preparedness programs.

Particularly, the curriculum is divided into basic, intermediate and advanced with courses in reef, mangrove, sea grass, and turtle and

will incorporate reward and evaluation systems, scholarships, and lectures on first aid, life-saving techniques, camping skills, and public speaking.

The program launch was attended by the interested participants, their parents and guardians, and the barangay captains within the Talim Bay area. Also present were DLSU-M alumna Maricar Samson, Maximo T. Kalaw Institute for Sustainable Development trustee Ma-an Hontiveros, and Marilin Matute of the Matuod Free School, who all support the Talim Bay Sea Scouts program.



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