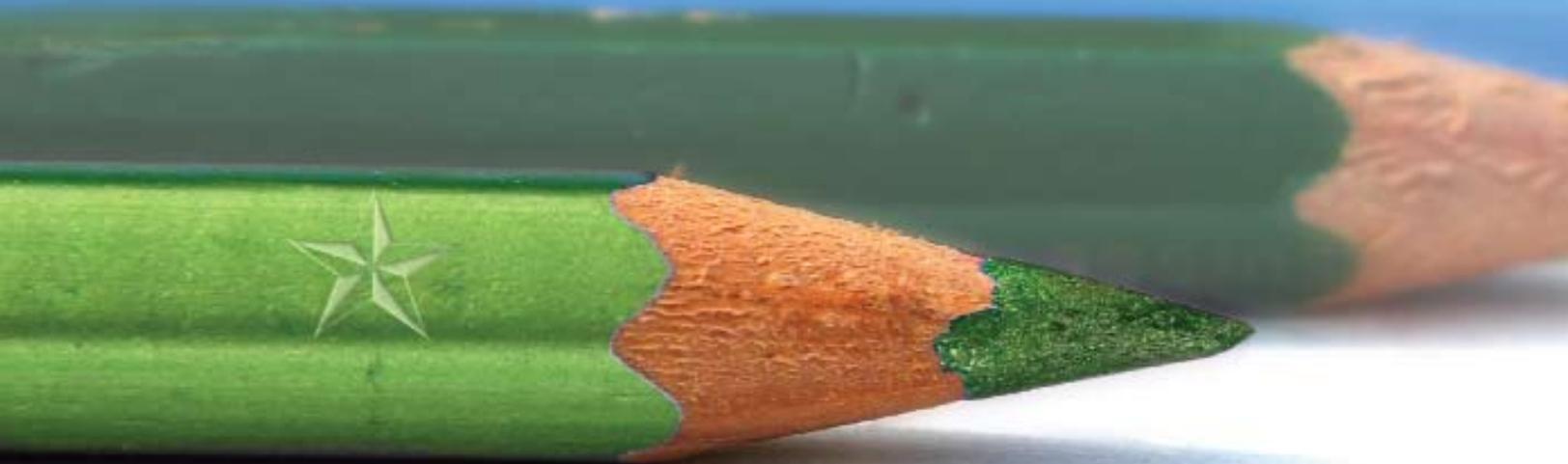




2401 (twen 'tēfōr',ō,wun) is a landmark number along Taft Avenue. It is the location ID of De La Salle University, home to outstanding faculty and students, and birthplace of luminaries in business, public service, education, the arts, and science. And 2401 is the name of the official newsletter of DLSU,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

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100% PASSING RATE FOR FIRST BATCH OF GUIDANCE COUNSELOR BOARD EXAMINEES

All of the 16 graduates of the Counseling and Educational Psychology Department successfully passed the first ever licensure examination for guidance counselors, with six of them landing in the Top 10. The board passers took their oath last Sunday, September 28 at the Centennial Hall of the Manila Hotel.

The board toppers from De La Salle University are:

Legaspi, Estesa Xaris Que (3)
Cortez, Maria Dorothy Alonzo (6)
Villon, Alexandra Wanda Lomod (7)

Pre, Julius Cuaresma (8)
Sta. Ana, Oliver Baltazar (9)
Quiba, Carolyn Cruz (10)

Psychological Association of the Philippines elects La Salle faculty to top post

Psychology Department Assistant Professor Marshall Valencia was recently elected as member of the Board of Directors of the Psychological Association of the Philippines (PAP). Other members of the DLSU faculty who are continuing their term as board members are Dr. Caridad Tarroja of the Psychology Department and University Fellow Dr. Allan Bernardo of the Counseling and Educational Psychology Department.

The new PAP Board held its election of officers last September 12, 2008. Bernardo stepped down as PAP president after three terms. Meanwhile, Tarroja was elected as treasurer and Valencia was elected as external relations officer.

PAP's members are psychologists working in hospitals, non-government organizations, and corporations. It is the largest organization of psychologists in the country.



OPERATION BIG BROTHER RENEWS SUPPORT FOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS

The Lasallian Institute for Development and Educational Research (LIDER) of the College of Education (CED) is currently laying the groundwork to expand the scope of its program Operation Big Brother (OBB), which extends free Lasallian education to outstanding students of public high schools in Metro Manila.

Guided by a vision of “quality education for the best of the poor,” LIDER started the OBB seven years ago with the adoption of select public high schools. The top 40 students of each batch identified by the schools were taken in as scholars of the OBB.

Although the commitment to the original set of OBB adopted schools transpired last May, LIDER has decided to continue the program, this time with a refined OBB template.

For the current school year, LIDER renewed OBB with V. Mapa High School while also planning the implementation the program in three other schools by June 2009. It will be replicated to as many public schools in the country as possible.

OBB was initiated in 2001 by then CED Dean Dr. Allan Bernardo, with CED Assistant Professor Marshall Valencia as project director.

Valencia said in the seven school years of implementation of OBB, DLSU was able to extend support to six public high schools, 87 teachers, and 765 students. OBB received around P18 million worth of donations sourced from various corporations and individual sponsors.

OBB records show that DLSU’s intervention increased the competency levels of OBB students in the core subject areas. Valencia cited a batting average of 25% success rate in the college entrance exams of DLSU, UP, and Ateneo.

He also noted the outstanding performance of OBB graduates, among the

finest of whom is Leo Carlo Sarion who recently graduated summa cum laude in DLSU.

Likewise, OBB was able to facilitate significant improvements in the teaching competency levels of its adopted teachers. In the process, OBB provided them with various opportunities for professional development and enhanced their morale and self-worth.

Gaps in the learning resources needs of the adopted schools were also addressed with around P3.8 million worth of OBB donations in the form of computers, audio-visual equipment, library and laboratory materials, books, references, and school supplies.

According to Valencia, OBB started as an experimental template for upgrading the quality of public high school education in the country.

The OBB intervention was a holistic approach that involved the use of a Lasallian-based curriculum in Science, Mathematics, and English; extensive in-service training and graduate school scholarships for the OBB teachers; and personal development and values formation programs for the OBB students.

OBB also provided the schools with all the learning resources supports such as audio-visual equipment, laboratory and library enhancements.

The students and teachers were provided with complete sets of textbooks, school supplies, and reference materials. Tutorials, career planning seminars, and entrance examination reviews were provided as school support programs.

Valencia revealed that OBB has been receiving commitments from individuals and corporations to cover the costs of adopting the schools. He added that Petron Foundation Inc. has already expressed interest in sponsoring three schools by next school year.



COSCA SENDS RELIEF ITEMS TO MINDANAO

De La Salle University, through the Center for Social Concern and Action (COSCA), sent several boxes of assorted relief items and cash donations to the survivors of armed conflict in Mindanao. This is in support of the on-going relief work being conducted by the La Salle Academy Iligan and in partnership with the local government units, various church groups, and non-government organizations.

Most of the relief efforts have been concentrated on the coastal communities in Lanao del Norte where most of the survivors were evacuated during the height of the hostilities between the security forces and MILF last August. However, it was reported that more Muslim and Christian evacuees are caught in the on-going military operations in the interior barangays.

COSCA is reiterating the call for Lasallians to pray for peace in Mindanao and at the same time, to continue donating relief items such as canned goods, slippers, beddings, and cooking utensils for those seeking shelter in evacuation centers. COSCA is also accepting cash or check donations.

For inquiries, please contact the COSCA Coordinator for Community Development at local 147.



DLSU JOINS BISHOPS' BANGKOK CONFAB ON ROLE OF LAITY

Committee on National Issues and Concern (CNIC) Chair Emmanuel Garcia represented De La Salle University in the Colloquium on Laity in Public Life held in Bangkok, Thailand last September 15-19.

Organized by the Federation of Asian Bishops' Conferences' (FABC) Office of Human Development, this year's conference set its sights on "Nurturing the Inner Being for a New Social Evangelization."

Topics such as the formation of laity, the importance of social communication, and the apostolate of education and catechesis were discussed among 30 participants from various Asian countries such as Malaysia, Thailand, India, Hong Kong, Singapore, and the Philippines.

Garcia shared his reflection paper on "Transformative Learning as a Tool towards a Culture of Good Governance."

In his presentation, Garcia described CNIC as a positive vehicle to increase the awareness of Lasallians regarding various social concerns.

CNIC, in tandem with the Center for Social Concern and Action (COSCA), has been taking on the task of acting as a moving force in transforming the Lasallian community, students and faculty alike, "to become social advocates with a preferential option for the poor."

Projects such as the *Kamalayan* and the Green Sense Campaign are among the projects organized by the committee in the hope of fulfilling its mission.

FABC is a voluntary association

composed of Episcopal conferences based in South, Southeast, East, and Central Asia, formed with the approval of the Papal Court. The association aims to foster harmony and a sense of shared responsibility for the welfare of society and Church in Asia.

The Colloquium organized by the FABC held in Thailand served as a venue for fruitful and deep insights among participating Asian nations, with the representatives' exchange of personal and local experiences.





PARENTS JOIN STUDENTS, STAFF IN SALIKNETA TREE-PLANTING

Members of the Parents of University Students Organization (PUSO) joined staff from the Center for Social Concern and Action (COSCA), Co-Academic Personnel (CAP), and student volunteers for a tree-planting activity in Salikneta Farm, San Jose Del Monte City, Bulacan last September 20.

The more than 30 volunteers planted 200 tree saplings as part of the University's continuous effort to contribute to the "Green for Life: One Million Trees (OMT) and Beyond" project of De La Salle Philippines (DLSP).

The group planted five different species of tree saplings—Palawan Cherry, *Lawaan*, *Kamagong*, *Kalantas*, and *Danete*. The 64-hectare farm, formerly known as Saliksik-Araneta, houses the Salikneta Research Institute of De La Salle Araneta University, which is used by agriculture students for research, practice, and on-the-job trainings.

Launched in 2006, the OMT project gathered together volunteers from various La Salle schools in the country to conduct the initial tree-planting activities in Mt. Palay-palay/Gulod National Park in Cavite. Then



*Left: DLSU-PUSO members show support for DLSP's "One Million Trees and Beyond" project.
Below: DLSU-PUSO President Yolanda Yao (lower right) with other member parents.*



in 2007, volunteers went to the site four more times to plant species endemic to the place.

Through COSCA, the University leads the tree planting in Lake Caliraya, Laguna and San Mateo, Rizal. COSCA was able to push within the OMT the use of native or indigenous trees for reforestation, the establishment of nurseries, and the raising of funds to sustain efforts and partner with local communities, local government units and other stakeholders.

Records from DLSP show that as of September 30, about 200,000 seedlings have been planted in several OMT sites in Luzon as well as in Bacolod, Iligan, and Cebu.

OMT is one of the concrete responses of

the Lasallian community to the call of being stewards of the earth, as cited in the Lasallian Ministry Action Plan (LS MAP) #7 of Stewardship of God's Creation, and to the Philippine Lasallian Family Convocation Resolution 2.4 on Environmental Concerns and Advocacy.

Through OMT, the Lasallian Institute for the Environment and DLSP, together with 18 La Salle schools in the country, intends to plant one million trees by 2011 in celebration of the 100 years of Lasallian education in the Philippines.

RECIPIENTS OF BPI-DOST SCIENCE AWARDS NAMED

Two students from the College of Engineering (COE) and one from the College of Science (COS) were selected as the recipients of the 2009 BPI-DOST Science Award.

Of the 11 nominees, Ryan Joseph Bitanga (Bachelor of Science in Computer Engineering), Charles Edric Co (ladderized Bachelor of Science and Master of Science in Chemical Engineering) and Karyl Anne Factora (Bachelor of Science in Physics with specialization in Medical Instrumentation) were chosen as this year's awardees.

The BPI-DOST Science Award is bestowed on students who excel in specialized fields of science, namely, mathematics, physics, engineering, chemistry, biology, and computer science.

Winners have to pass a rigorous screening by the University based on their research projects, academic performance, and leadership qualities.

Bitanga, a Star Scholar, worked on the research titled "Field-Programmable-Gate-Array (FPGA)-based Maximum Power Point Tracker Control Unit" which focused on the development of a microchip that controls the operation of a solar cell array. The resulting control unit, by following an improved sequence of steps, ensures that the highest possible output from the solar cells is obtained.

Meanwhile, Co, also a Star Scholar, is involved in an ongoing project with an industry partner that involves a specific type of heterogeneous catalyst used to produce biodiesel, an organic fuel produced from coconut oil and blended to ordinary diesel fuel.

Factora's research titled "Determining the anti-cancer properties of *Ganoderma lucidum*, *Phellinus silvus*, and *Termitomyces eurhizus* on Leukemia, Colon, and Breast Cancer Cells lines based on Apoptotic Mechanism" tested the mushrooms' properties responsible for inducing cell death in the cancer cells used in the study.

All three are active school leaders and volunteers of various



community service projects of the University, aside from being consistent dean's listers and winners in various competitions within and outside the University.

Bitanga was a member of the Electrical Team of Sinag, the first Philippine Solar Car. Co, on the other hand, served as chairperson of the Council of Student Organizations for SY 2007-2008. Factora is the current president of the political party Santugon sa Tawag ng Panahon.

SC PRESIDENT CHOSEN AS BAYER ENVIRONMENTAL ENVOY

De La Salle University Student Council (SC) President Nicole Villarojo has been selected as one of the four Bayer's Young Environmental Envoys to represent the Philippines in an international gathering of students in November.

Villarojo was chosen from over 100 students who joined the essay writing competition of Bayer International. Her paper talked about her initiatives as SC president: making De La Salle University styro-free, the iRecycle project, and the integration of environmental issues in the curriculum.

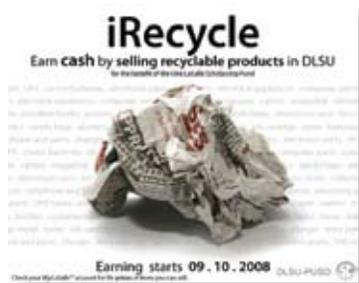
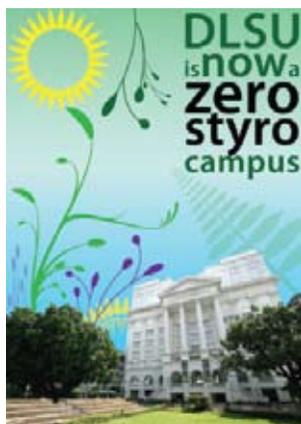
For the Zero Styro in DLSU campaign, SC encouraged the canteens on campus to use Starchware (biodegradable container made of 80% cornstarch).

For the iRecycle activity, which includes the DLSU Recyclables Fair, SC encourages Lasallians to sell their recyclables and encouraged them to contribute a portion of their earnings to the One La Salle Scholarship Fund.

SC also pushed for the integration of environmental issues in the curriculum, promoting the discussion of environmental issues in the classroom and applying what the students have learned through various research projects.

Bayer opened the essay competition to college students in the Philippines and other countries in the region, asking them about what they would like to pursue for the environment.

The essays submitted went through a regional screening, where more than 30 papers were chosen.



Students who authored the Top 11 essays were asked to defend their papers in front of a panel.

They were also invited to Bayer's Eco-camp in Balai Isabel in Talisay, Batangas from September 19 to 25. In the eco-camp, the students had a series of talks and activities focusing on sustainable agriculture. They also participated in a trek to Taal Volcano, tree planting, an eco-challenge, and an eco-debate.

In the final judging of the students, Villarojo was chosen, together with three other students from the University of Bohol, Mariano Marcos State University, and West Visayas State University.

The four will go to Bayer's main plant in Leverkusen, Germany from November 1 to 7. They will be joined by other Bayer's Young Environmental Envoys from nine other countries in the region.





BR. ARMIN ELECTED TO CEAP BOARD

De La Salle University President and Chancellor Br. Armin Luistro FSC was elected director-at-large of the Catholic Education Association of the Philippines (CEAP) for 2008-2009 during the CEAP National Convention held last September 11-13 at the Ateneo de Davao University in Davao City.

Br. Armin concurrently serves as chief mission officer of De La Salle Philippines. The following are the other members of the Board of Directors of CEAP: Mo. Assumpta David, RVM, president of the University of the Immaculate Conception, Davao City; Fr. Gregorio Banaga, Jr., CM, president of Adamson University; Dr. Carmelita Quebengco, Chancellor Emeritus of De La Salle University; and Atty. Ulpiano Sarmiento III, dean of the College of Law of San Beda College, Alabang.

The main functions of the Board of Directors are (1) to watch over the finances of the CEAP; and (2) to determine admission to and expulsion from the corporation. Aside from

these, they interpret the by-laws of the corporation and issue directives consistent with the by-laws.

CEAP is the biggest organized group of Catholic schools in the country, with about 1,194 members. Instituted in 1941, it seeks to advocate for government and NGO support to small member schools on issues affecting Catholic education and find ways for collaborative efforts among member schools.

It also aims to ensure effective and efficient delivery of services and programs in the national and regional levels and work towards financial viability of member schools as well as CEAP regional associations.



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