

## Research

- **DLSU UNDERWENT** the ASEAN University Network-Quality Assurance (AUN-QA) assessment for its Chemical Engineering and Economics programs, which were both given ratings of "better than adequate," based on international standard
- **DLSU JOURNAL** The Asia-Pacific Education Researcher (TAPER) became the first journal from a Philippine private university to be included in Thomson Scientific
- **SINAG**, the country's first solar car and La Salle's flagship project on sustainable development, became the front liner of the Filipino nation in the world's premier solar car race



- **ASEAN UNIVERSITY NETWORK/ SOUTHEAST ENGINEERING EDUCATION DEVELOPMENT NETWORK(AUN/SEED-Net)** selected DLSU as its main facilitating institution for biotechnology education in the region beginning AY 2007-2008
- **CENTER FOR LEAN SYSTEMS AND MANAGEMENT**—a research center to help small and medium enterprises through research—was established

## Community Service

- **THE ONE MILLION TREES (OMT)** and Beyond project comes closer to its goal of planting one million trees by 2011; the project covers OMT sites in Luzon, Bacolod, Iligan and Cebu



- **FREE EDUCATION** through programs such as Operation Big Brother to aid outstanding public high schools students and the St. La Salle Preschool for Leveriza children was continued
- **A(H1N1) INFORMATION DRIVE** was conducted to prevent the spread of the virus and to raise awareness on proper health practices
- **BOTO LASALYANO SULONG PILIPINO 2010**, an extensive information campaign on the national elections, was sponsored by the different sectors of the University
- **UNIVERSITY MOBILIZED** volunteers for Typhoon Ondoy victims
- **TEACHER DEVELOPMENT EXTENSION PROGRAMS** were spearheaded by the College of Education
- **ACCESSIBLE AGRI-INFORMATION NETWORK** for farmers was developed through a project by the College of Computer Studies



## Like an archer, like our Founder

Excerpts from the testimonial speech delivered by Br. Ricky Laguda FSC, last June 29 at the M. Gaerlan Conservatory

This morning when I was trying to make this testimonial for Br. Armin, I tried re-reading it after 30 minutes and I felt it sounded like a eulogy. But somebody told me there is a difference between a testimonial speech and a eulogy: In a testimonial speech, there's one person who believes it.

Br. Armin, when you gave the eulogy to our beloved former President Cory Aquino, you expressed the sentiments of many Lasallians at that time saying: "Paano na ngayon kami? Well, Br. Armin, we echo the same sentiments today when you accepted the offer of President-elect Noynoy Aquino. "Paano na ngayon kami Br. Armin?" On a personal note, Br. Armin has been a mentor to me in more ways than one ever since I was a novice. And when Brother Visitor, Brother Dodo, assigned me to be in DLSU, I was so looking forward to work with Br. Armin because in my years as Brother I've grown to appreciate his ways and the way he handles life in general. I know that in many ways I've been a better Brother and better person because of him. Yet, only to realize that after being with him a week after the elections, he confided to me that that Education portfolio was being offered to him by President-elect Noynoy Aquino. At that time, my immediate reaction was for him not to accept it but for reasons that were very selfish. Though as a friend and brother, I kept my silence and listened to his personal discernment, and the rest is history.

Br. Armin, while it's very difficult for us to let you go because of the many good things and accomplishments you have started in DLSU, it is also an honor and pride for all of us that one of our own is given the opportunity to be the Secretary of Education. We may feel orphaned now by your leave, but let it be said on record, that we are behind you and we will be with you all the way in your tasks ahead as a disciple of Jesus and son of our Founder St. La Salle.

Br. Armin, like an archer, may you learn to aim high, and focus on the target at hand, (amidst the dangers and difficulties that come in being a Secretary of Education). Br. Armin, like our Founder St. La Salle, may you learn to give yourself to the needs of our country, especially in providing a good quality education to the poor (no matter what others will throw at you). Br. Armin, like us, may you show our fellow countrymen and women what it truly means to be a Lasallian for God and country.



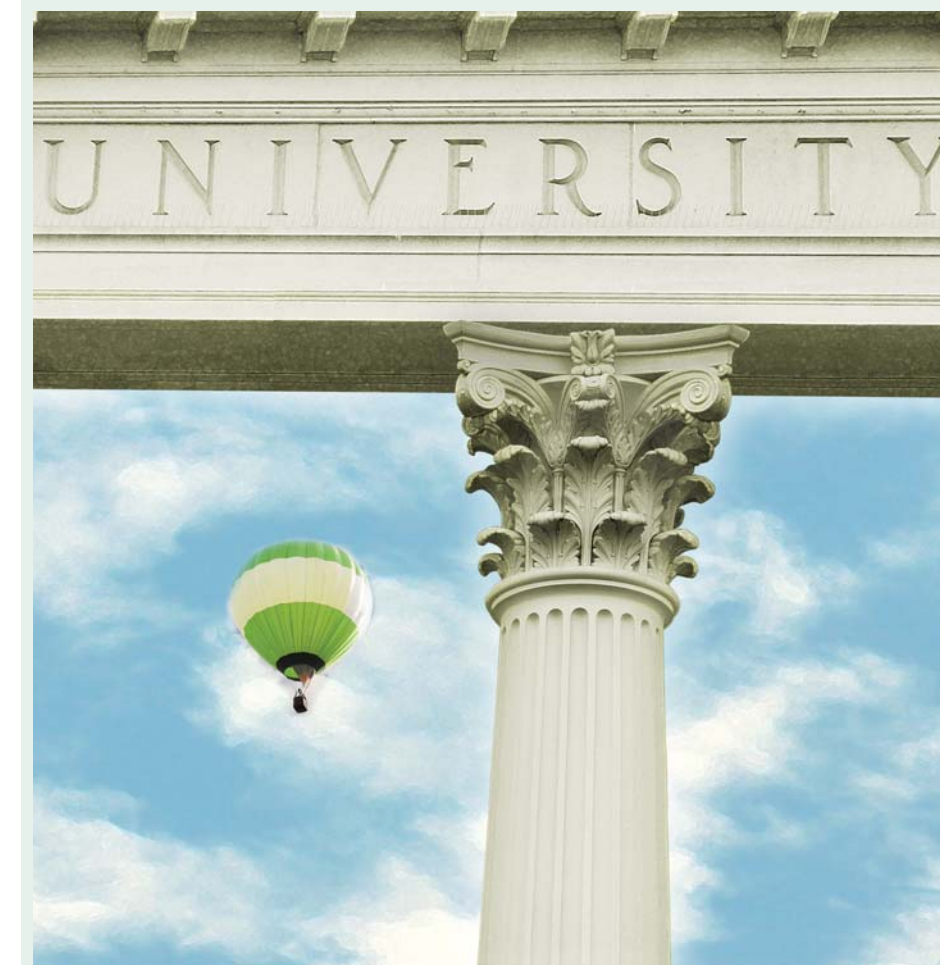
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DE LA SALLE UNIVERSITY

12 JUL 2010



## Continuing a tradition of excellence and service

INSIDE:

Br. Armin answers  
10 questions

Highlights of  
Br. Armin's presidency



Community members of De La Salle University paid tribute to Br. Armin Luistro FSC on the eve of his appointment as Department of Education Secretary.

"I AM CONFIDENT that the tradition of excellence and resilience so deeply embedded in our Lasallian community

will give rise to a stronger institution, ever more committed to both Church and Nation," Br. Armin Luistro FSC assured

2401 (twe'n 'te for',c, 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.

### Towards, from page 1

the DLSU community following his acceptance of the invitation by President Benigno Aquino III to serve as Department of Education Secretary.

Upon his own discernment and his consultations with various stakeholders in the Lasallian community, Br. Armin decided to assume the government position. He said that his decision was shaped by "a very Lasallian bias

to always try to do something for the last, the lost, and the least."

A Search Committee constituted by the Board of Trustees (BOT) has started the call for nominations for the position of DLSU president. The Brother Visitor, Br. Edmundo Adolfo de Leon Fernandez, will serve as the DLSU Officer-in-Charge effective immediately, until the new president has been duly elected by the DLSU BOT.



## Highlights of Br. Armin's presidency

Among the accomplishments and achievements during Br. Armin's term as DLSU president and chancellor, from AY 2004-2005 to AY 2009-2010:

### Teaching

- COLLEGE OF LAW WAS ESTABLISHED in AY 2009-2010
- COLLEGE OF BUSINESS AND ECONOMICS SEPARATED into two entities: the College of Business and the School of Economics
- COLLEGE OF COMPUTER STUDIES was acknowledged by the Commission on Higher Education as a Center of Excellence beginning AY 2006-2007
- HYBRID PROGRAM, featuring a comprehensive online learning curriculum alongside classroom teaching, was introduced to 86 undergraduate classes and 20 graduate classes
- TRANSFORMATIVE LEARNING FRAMEWORK was adopted by the University
- THROUGH THE PACIFIC ASIA REGIONAL CONFERENCE-LASALLIAN FORMATION INSTITUTE, DLSU embarked on formation programs for Brothers and lay partners who are educators, administrators, and apostolate leaders
- PROJECT BEYOND 100 CONCEPT was introduced to map out plans beyond the DLSU centennial celebrations
- DLSU WAS CHOSEN to host the 2011-2012 World Universities Debating Championships, considered one of the biggest international student events



## 10 QUESTIONS

Br. Armin Luistro FSC takes time to answer questions relating to his decision to accept the DepEd post.

**1** What do you think is your greatest legacy to the Lasallian institution?  
I think it is forming the Lasallian community, the sense of participation, the sense that everyone's voice is heard and that everyone is part of a bigger academic community. During the countdown (to DLSU centennial), for example, the celebration included the security guards, students, faculty, staff, and even contractual workers. I thought that's the essence of what a Lasallian community is all about.

**2** How will your Lasallian management experience help you in your new post?  
I've seen the best and the worst, I've seen the big challenges and the trivial things one has to deal with. I have learned, for example, that every time you push for change, you need to take care of your people too. You need to spend time patiently listening to the real concerns of those who oppose change, as there are painful decisions that the administration will have to take. I've learned that when people are working together towards a shared vision, something can really be owned and implemented very well.

**3** Coming from a tertiary private institution, how will you address the concerns in the primary and secondary levels of education?  
Actually during the week following the message that I got from the President-elect, I asked myself, why was the offer not to head CHED? I would have readily said no. Higher education, especially when I view La Salle and the network of schools and universities that I have worked with, really have leaders.

I think part of my bias (to DepEd) remains a very Lasallian bias to always try to do something for the last, the lost, and the least. There is a call to respond to the very real and urgent needs of out-of-school youth, to problems like lack of classrooms, facilities, resources, and textbooks. It is something that is very close to the La Salle Brothers' vocation.

**4** In La Salle, you had the resources to implement trailblazing or significant initiatives and programs. How will you be as effective a leader in DepEd as you were in La Salle, knowing there are limitations in resources?  
Actually that's the other point of excitement for me. It is not true that it's easier to move in higher education and in La Salle. When I asked the (DLSU) faculty and students to give me their wish list, I nearly fell off my chair because

they did not realize how much these things cost. If you want to be world-class, your resources will always be limited. What excites me in DepEd is precisely because there are very limited resources; we will have to rely on volunteerism, on networking, and on very creative means of responding to those real and urgent needs of education.

**5** What are the lessons from Br. Andrew's experience as DepEd Secretary that you will bring with you?  
There is one line in Br. Andrew's "Unfinished Symphony" that says the most important thing for a Secretary to have when one pursues the necessary programs would be the 100 percent support of the President. He says in the book that a lot of the problems he encountered happened when other politicians tried to get into the DepEd programs. There should be unity of vision; being an alter ego of the President, I'd have to share that both as a personal conviction as well as in terms of the DepEd programs.

I realize that there will be many others who will try to derail (the President's) flagship goal. I think I have to learn to work with politicians. I suppose I will have to learn to do that, to be able to tell them nicely, but firmly, that some programs cannot work and to please leave the concerns of education to educators. I think, essentially, that is his message to us.

**6** What is the single, most important advice that you would like to impart to your successor at DLSU?  
There are several major programs that are ongoing and just about to be finalized. Part of the pain of leaving at this time is, really, I have no assurance that those would be continued. At the same time, the institution is so stable and resilient that the change of personnel, even in the top-level administration, should not unnecessarily derail those plans, especially if these are shared by the community. My hope is that my successor will continue to share those dreams.

**7** There are already your critics asking: how will you tackle DepEd's sex education/population control program, with your religious background?  
An educator or a teacher always looks at the underlying value system that is part of a curriculum. An educator always consults as wide as possible with all the stakeholders. An educator takes on the pedagogical philosophies and modes of transmitting knowledge always with a sense of humility. He is always monitoring whether a program has, in the end, contributed to the formation of young people.

I think part of my fear with the sex education program is that people take very extremist positions: no sex education at all, or push for it like it's the answer to all of our problems. I'm very convinced that extremist positions are never helpful.

The main issues of sex education are not comprehensively discussed. My first question to somebody who was pushing me to take a stand on sex education was, "What is your definition of sex education?" You have a whole wide range of definition of sex education; it could be differentiating what is a male and a female. It could be how a boy relates with a girl. We need to identify what is at the heart of the controversy; and that's why I would rather discuss that with the major stakeholders in a rational manner but also without taking extremist positions.

**8** Assuming that after consulting with all the concerned sectors, you still come to a position that the Church opposes and the State supports, what will be your stand?  
Will it ever reach a point where the Church will take a stand that this Administration will oppose? I have never seen that in Philippine culture. I think even in the past administrations, there has never been a President who has actively pursued something that goes against the essential truths of the basic religions in the land. I've never seen that. I think we disagree on the methodology, maybe one or two things. But even in the sex education case, those who promote the RH Bill say they really are against abortion. Sometimes people think that they disagree on the essentials but actually, if you look at it, the disagreements are really on the externals.

**9** What will be the first thing that you will do as DepEd Secretary?  
Honestly, the first thing I will do will be to go around the offices, and a few of the public schools, maybe first in the city. I will listen and I will get a sense of the programs. Some people have asked me to come up with pronouncements and pivotal thrusts. I don't think any administrator would do something like that. I am approaching it from a teacher's point of view. We always try to get our feet well-planted on the ground. We want to listen carefully to what's happening and make an

assessment—I'm not saying I'd do that forever. Then we can craft a program that I think we can pursue realistically.

## 10

Will we still see you in La Salle UAAP games?

Of course you will see me there. I don't know if Br. Bernie would give me a ticket. I'm not sure if I can rally behind La Salle as much and as passionately as I did in the past. But I always enjoy watching a La Salle game whether that's with Ateneo or some other group. I suppose people realize that I cannot overly focus on La Salle. At heart, I will always be a Lasallian. What can I do? I'd have to cheer for La Salle.

You should have a great tenderness toward the poor and help them spiritually to the best of your ability.

---St. John Baptist de La Salle

