



## BR. BERNARD OCA FSC ELECTED AS 24th DLSU PRESIDENT

BR. BERNARD OCA FSC, EDD, WAS NAMED AS THE 24TH PRESIDENT OF DE LA SALLE UNIVERSITY. He will assume office on August 1, 2021.

The announcement was made by DLSU Board of Trustees Chair Nestor Tan in a message to the Lasallian community. The DLSU Board of Trustees elected Br. Bernie following the search for a new president, which was participated in by multi-sectoral representatives of the University.

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Prior to his appointment, Br. Bernie has been the DLSU Chancellor since 2018.

A Lasallian through and through, Br. Bernie finished his grade school at De La Salle Taft, his high school at La Salle Green Hills, and his bachelor of Arts in Literature, Masters degree in Languages and Literature, and Doctor of Education in Religious and Values Education, from De La Salle University.

He entered the postulancy in 1971, took the habit of the Brothers in 1974, and his final vows at La Salle Green Hills in 1980.

He was the former Vice Chancellor for Lasallian Mission and Alumni Relations of De La Salle University and one of the founding Brothers of Jaime Hilario Integrated School-La Salle in Bagac, Bataan.

Br. Bernie concurrently serves as president of De La Salle Santiago Zobel School, Jaime Hilario Integrated School-La Salle in Bagac, Bataan, and De La Salle Araneta University.

In a message to the Lasallian community, DLSU Board of Trustees Chairman Nestor Tan said matters pertaining to the position of Chancellor will be discussed as soon as the new President takes office.

Tan expressed the community's "deepest gratitude and appreciation to Br. Raymundo Suplido FSC for his dedicated service to the Lasallian community and for being a beacon of hope and strength during his presidency."

"We congratulate Br. Bernard S. Oca FSC for his new designation and we look forward to the days ahead as he steers De La Salle University towards the new normal and in the pursuit of our shared mission to be a leading resource for Church and nation," he said.



## International Communication Association appoints La Salle faculty member as divisional chair

**THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNICATION ASSOCIATION (ICA) RECENTLY APPOINTED AN ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATION** to head its Ethnicity and Race in Communication Division.

Dr. Jason Vincent Cabañes started his two-year tenure as divisional chair of ICA, one of the most prestigious professional organizations in the field of media and communication. ICA has more than 4,500 members in 80 countries across the globe.

Cabañes will support a group of scholars concerned with methodological approaches and research that apply, extend, or develop communication theory and analysis, through an examination of race and ethnicity within local, international, and transnational contexts.

The division also advocates for the improved status, representation, and opportunities for underrepresented scholars in communication.





## DLSU leads Fairwork Philippines project

**DE LA SALLE UNIVERSITY RECENTLY EMBARKED ON THE FAIRWORK PHILIPPINES PROJECT**, which is part of the **GLOBAL FAIRWORK NETWORK** based in the University of Oxford, seeking to advance fair labor conditions in the digital economy, and specifically of gig workers, across the world.

Dr. Cheryl Ruth Soriano of the Department of Communication is the principal investigator of Fairwork Philippines. The project is lodged in the DLSU Social Development Research Center.

This project will examine the conditions of workers engaged in these on-demand service platforms, the communicative infrastructure underlying them, and assess the labor arrangements facilitated by labor platform design.

It seeks to arrive at key policy and program interventions for shaping fairer local labor standards and structures for gig and freelance workers (specifically) and for the global digital economy (broadly).

Soriano noted how global and Philippine-based gig work platforms catering to local demand for food, transportation, cleaning, and general service delivery such as Grab, FoodPanda, and Angkas are hiring Filipino workers at an increasing pace. This exponentially growing gig economy also provides work to thousands of Filipinos who lost jobs in the formal and informal economy during the pandemic.

“With an expanding middle-class with increasing disposable income and lockdowns pushing for on-demand goods and services, we can expect a growing demand for local gig work platforms in the months and years ahead. Intersecting with prevailing norms of labor informality and lack of viable employment alternatives, these platforms attract high numbers of workers and aspirants, often with poorly regulated standards of work,” Soriano said.

## University launches research capacity building hub



**LAST JUNE 25, DLSU LAUNCHED THE START HUB**, a training base and professional development space for individuals to gain vital skills in growing businesses or leading change in scaleups.

START Hub stands for “Skills in Technical and Advanced Research Training.” As a research capacity building hub, it aims to develop and build research-related competencies of innovation leaders and entrepreneurial talents.

START Hub was established in partnership with USAID Philippines, the DLSU Center for Business Research and Development, the DLSU Center

for Professional Development in Business, and the Science, Technology, Research, and Innovation for Development.

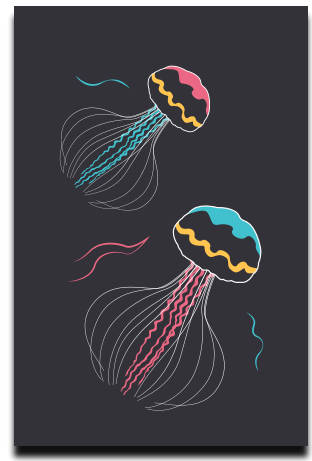
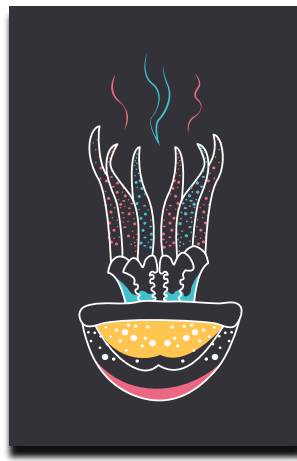
The hub is open to researchers, faculty, students, and practitioners who seek to advance their skills in the research discipline.

During the virtual launch, two special guests delivered messages: DLSU Vice Chancellor for Research and Innovation Prof. Raymond Girard Tan and Supervisory Education Development Officer for the Office of Education of USAID Philippines Dr. Thomas Le Blanc.

For its initial course offering, it provided a two-day workshop last June 25-26 on the topic, “Publishing in High Impact Journals.” The sessions covered basic steps in submitting journal articles, identifying common errors in writing and publishing, and undertaking revisions.

Its next course offering is titled, “Train The Trainers,” which will be in August 2021.





## DLSU SHORE Center studies box jellyfish envenomation

**THE DLSU BR. ALFRED SHIELDS FSC OCEAN RESEARCH (SHORE) CENTER, LED BY UNIVERSITY FELLOW DR. WILFREDO LICUANAN,** is currently working on a research project to understand the ecology and envenomation of box jellyfishes.

The SHORE Center works in Lian, Batangas and Caramoan, Camarines Sur, with counterparts from the Department of Marine Science of Mindanao State University-Iligan Institute of Technology and the Department of Biology of Ateneo de Naga.

Recently approved by the Department of Science and Technology's Philippine Council for Agriculture, Aquatic and Natural Resources Research and Development (PCAARRD), the project was also able to receive funding from the Management Association of the Philippines for a citizen science component.

Aptly called the "Jellyfish Ecology and Envenomations Project (JEEP)", the project seeks to generate and disseminate information that will help dispel fears and misconceptions about jellyfish envenomations, reduce deaths and related economic impacts in the fishing and tourism industries. JEEP conducts the initial studies on the identity, abundance, distribution, and seasonality of box jellyfishes and identifies high-risk areas and times of the year.

Box jellyfishes are considered among the most venomous sea creatures globally, and the true extent of the problems caused by envenomation by box jellyfishes is poorly known. Depending on the species, the amount of venom injected, and the victim's age, the sting can be excruciating and can lead to permanent scarring, difficulty in breathing, cardiac arrest, and even death (sometimes within minutes).

## THE ASIA-PACIFIC EDUCATION RESEARCHER GAINS MORE IMPACT

**THE ASIA-PACIFIC EDUCATION RESEARCHER (TAPER), A PUBLICATION BY THE DLSU PUBLISHING HOUSE,** was recently recognized by the **Social Sciences Citation Index™ (SSCI)** for its increasing impact factor—an indicator of peer recognition through citations.

An international refereed journal of original and innovative research in education, TAPER provides a venue for the publication of empirical and theoretical studies in education, with emphasis on the experiences of successful educational systems in the Asia-Pacific Region.

SSCI announced that TAPER is now ranked as a Q2 journal, up from being a Q4. This underscores the journal's important contributions to its discipline as it gets more citations from its peers.

**Impact factor** is one of the quantitative tools for ranking, evaluating, categorizing, and comparing journals. It is a measure of the frequency with which the "average article" in a journal has been cited in a particular year or period.

Launched in 2012, TAPER is published six times annually. DLSU's faculty member, NAST Academician and University Fellow Prof. Allan Benedict Bernardo, serves as TAPER's editor emeritus. Its current editor-in-chief is Prof. Timothy Teo of Murdoch University, Australia.

SSCI contains over 3,400 journals across 58 social sciences disciplines, as well as selected items from 3,500 of the world's leading scientific and technical journals. More than 9.37 million records and 122 million cited references date back from 1900 to present.



# DLSU LAGUNA CAMPUS UPDATES

## Laguna campus plants more trees

**THE DLSU LAGUNA CAMPUS CELEBRATED THE PHILIPPINE ENVIRONMENT MONTH AND ARBOR DAY LAST JUNE 29** by planting Balayong or Palawan cherry (*Cassia nodosa*) seedlings along the future College Road and on the grounds of its planned Academic Building.

Spearheaded by the Campus Development Office, the ceremony kicked off a series of tree planting activities on campus grounds, with plans to raise more trees and ornamental plants.

Leading the event were DLSU President Br. Raymundo Suplido FSC, Chancellor Br. Bernard Oca FSC, Vice Chancellor for the Laguna Campus Dr. Gil Nonato, Integrated School Principal Tricia Anne, and selected members of the academic community.

After the ceremony, the group had an ocular of the Shrine of St. John Baptist De La Salle, which is nearing completion. They also visited other infrastructure projects under construction.



Administrators lead the greening activity.

## RESEARCH CONGRESS 2021 CENTERS ON UN SGDS TO TACKLE PANDEMICS

**LOOKING INTO HOW THE UN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGS) COULD BE USED AS A FRAMEWORK FOR THE WORLD'S CONTINUED PROGRESS**, De La Salle University mounted last July 7-9 its annual Research Congress, with the theme, "Revisiting and Transforming the SDGs during and after the COVID-19 pandemic."

In his welcome remarks, DLSU President Br. Raymundo Suplido FSC cited collaborative faculty research projects that seek to mitigate the impacts of the virus. Vice Chancellor for Research and Innovation Prof. Raymond Girard Tan delivered the opening remarks, followed by Environment and Development Division United Nations ESCAP Director Dr. Stefanos Fotiou who gave a talk.

The keynote address on "Science Lessons from the Pandemic" was delivered by NAST Academician, Prof. Allan B.I. Bernardo, Distinguished University Professor and University Fellow at DLSU.

Plenary sessions were held from July 7 to 8, with nine featured speakers, including DLSU faculty researchers Dr. Aaron Don Africa, Dr. Stephani Macalino, Dr. Joel Ila, Dr. Marla Redillas, and Dr. Esperanza Maribel Agoo; Dr. Ruanni Tupas of the University College of London, UK; Dr. Low Ee Ling of Nanyang Technological University, Singapore; Dr. Dagmar Waltemath of the University of Medicine Greifswald, Germany; and Dr. Riza Batista-Navarro of the University of Manchester, UK.

Two University Fellows, Prof. Divina Amalin and Prof. Drexel Camacho, were also invited to share their experiences in their fields. The event also featured poster presentations and workshops. The release of the latest **QUESTIONS** magazine was also announced during the event. The Congress Chair, Dr. Ma. Joahna Mante-Estacio, delivered the closing remarks.



“ Nothing will draw down on you as many of God’s blessings as fidelity in small matters. ”

*De La Salle*

Letter 4:9 To Brother Denis. July 8, [1708]

# FACTS and FIGURES



## DLSU Research Congress 2021

Revisiting and Transforming the SDGs during and after the COVID-19 pandemic  
July 7-9, 2021

113

Entries for oral presentations

16

Entries for poster presentations

11.5K

FB views on oral and poster presentations

3

### Outstanding Paper Awards

**Kinetics of Catalytic Carbon Dioxide Gasification of Refuse Plastic Fuel**  
Vergel Bungay, Rami Benabdussalam, Luz Paula Abastillas, and Karl Paulo Opeña, Dr. Vergel Bungay, DLSU

**Target DNA Quantification Using Expectation-Maximization Clustering of Digital PCR Droplets**  
Joyce Emlyn Guiao, Prof. Romeric Pobre, and Frumencio Co, DLSU

**Linguistic and Cultural Features of Philippine COVID-19 Infographics**  
Gina Ugalingan, DLSU

1

### Outstanding Poster Award

**Bioremediation of nickel using microorganisms isolated from an active mining site in Zambales, Philippines**  
Vladimir William and Dr. Hilbert Magpantay, DLSU

1

### Most Popular Poster Presentation

**Assessing Knowledge, Attitude, and Practices of Filipino Pharmacists as Front liners on COVID-19 Health Safety Protocols**  
Madonna Sudio, Joshua Canilang, Rose Ann Carreon, Maryzthelle Castro, Florence Joan Dizon, Angelica Louise Prats, Ingrid Rose De Dios and Creon Aoi Albano  
Dr. Madonna Sudio, Angeles University Foundation

2

### Most Popular Oral Presentation

**Pandemic Struggles and Its Effects to Mangrove Crab Farming Industry**  
Kenneth Jay Solis, Michelle Rae Requejo, Lance Williamson So, Patricio Elvin Cantiller and Dr. Chona Camille Abeledo, DLSU

**Does Readability of Accounting Disclosure Matter? A Study on Readability of Accounting Disclosures, the Sensitivity of Investors' Valuation Judgement and Firm Performance**  
Dr. Arnel Onesimo Uy, Regino Shaun Gamboa, Lance Isiah Dela Cruz, Ma. Bea Santos and Khyllie Anne Nicolasora, DLSU

Source: DLSU Research Congress 2021 Committee



2401 (twen'te fôr'o, 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.

2401 is published bi-weekly by the Office for Strategic Communications (AH-21F, intercom 144). Editorial deadline is 3 p.m. Tuesdays. Contributions should include the name, office and signature of the sender. Materials may be edited for clarity or space.

2401 may be accessed online through the URL: <http://www.dlsu.edu.ph>.

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