

## 11<sup>th</sup> DITECH Fair highlights innovation, IP to achieve UN SDGs

**SHOWCASING INNOVATION, CREATIVITY, AND INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY**, De La Salle University hosted the 11th DLSU Innovation and Technology (DITECH) Fair last April 3-5 at the Henry Sy, Sr. Hall.

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This year's theme, "Catalyst for Change: Innovation and Intellectual Property for the Advancement of the Sustainable Development Goals," emphasized the crucial role of innovation and intellectual property in achieving sustainable development.



DITECH 2024 featured keynote addresses, plenary and panel discussions; an exhibit showcasing Lasallian innovation and creativity; collaboration opportunities with industry experts and innovators; and the YGNITE SDGs Innovation Pitching Contest, where participants proposed ideas aligned with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

Delivering the keynote message was Intellectual Property Office of the Philippines Director General Atty. Rowel Barba, who talked about "Beyond Boundaries: Charting the Philippines' Path to Progress through Innovation, Creativity, Intellectual Property, and Technology Transfer."

Melvin Jeffrey Chan, PLDT Vice President and Head of Innovations, Business Development, Consulting and Presales, talked about "Call to Animo: Supporting Progress through Lasallian Ingenuity" in response to the keynote speaker.

The first panel discussion centered on the topic: "Innovate to Elevate: Building Solutions through Industrial Property for Accelerated Progress in SDGs."

Discussants included Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) Undersecretary Dr. Rafaelita M. Aldaba; DTI Digital Philippines and E-Commerce Lead Mary Jean Pacheco; NEDA National Innovation Council Executive Director Diane Gail Maharjan; award-winning inventor and founder of Pili Seal, Engr. Mark Kennedy Bantugon; Ideaspace/QBO Innovation Hub Executive Director Jay Fajardo; DLSU Vice President for Research and Innovation, Dr. Raymond Tan; and Accenture Business Architecture Manager Jay-Vee Bonsol.

DLSU Intellectual Property Office Director and Manager of DLSU Innovation and Technology Office Atty. Christopher Cruz moderated the discussion.

For the second panel discussion, the topic was about "Crafting Progress: Copyright, Creative Arts, and Sustainable Innovation." Participants included Rep. Juan Carlos Atayde, member of the Special Committee on Creative Industries; Modern Ilongga owner Maggerose Corrado; Performer's Rights Society of the Philippines BOT member Mitch Valdez; NSCBB, DESA/DSDGNational Consultant Joel Santos; Atty. Emerson Cuyo, Director IV, Bureau of Copyright and Related Rights of IPO Philippines; and founder/chief greenovator of Everything Green Trading and Consulting, Camille Duque Albarracin. Moderating the discussion was Atty. Ma. Janice Tejano, director of the IP Management Center of De La Salle College of Saint Benilde.

## Lasallians bag P1-M in First Gen tilt for climate solutions

**FOR THEIR INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS TO CURB CAMPUS EMISSIONS**, a team of students from De La Salle University bagged the P1-million grant grand prize of the "Code Green for Campuses", a competition sponsored by Lopez-owned First Gen Corporation. The team also received P100,000.

The final leg of the innovation tilt was held last March 16 at the Novotel Manila Araneta City in Cubao, Quezon City, with five teams chosen from more than 50 teams from 29 schools nationwide that submitted their concepts.

DLSU's team, composed of manufacturing engineering student Fernando N. Magallanes, Jr., organizational communication student Alexia Roman, and economics student Ralph Stephen Saavedra, designed a compact anaerobic digester system that can convert cafeteria food waste to biogas. Inspired by existing anaerobic digestion tanks used in large farms, the team created a scaled-down, modified version that would allow the system to fit indoor facilities.



According to the team, the grant will be used to install a digester that can accommodate all food waste generated in the three cafeterias of the Manila campus. Another digester is also planned to be implemented on the Laguna campus. They also plan to create a variant of the design that can be used in hospitality establishments and restaurants.

First Gen opened the tilt as a way of encouraging students to contribute to the campaign against adverse climate change—a problem being aggravated by the continued buildup in the atmosphere of carbon dioxide and other heat-trapping greenhouse gases.

# NEW ACADEME-INDUSTRY LINKAGES

## Groundbreaking partnership for healthcare research

In a significant stride towards enhancing healthcare research and innovation, De La Salle University and Inje University from South Korea sealed a Memorandum of Understanding last March 20 at The Roof Deck of the Henry Sy, Sr. Hall of DLSU. The agreement focuses on fostering collaboration within the Cardiovascular and Metabolic Disease Core Research Support Center (CMDC).

The MOU was signed by Br. Bernard Oca FSC, president of DLSU, and Dr. Jin Han, director of CMDC, Inje University. The signing was witnessed by Prof. Hyoung Kyu Kim, vice director of CMDC, and Dr. Laurene Chua-Garcia, vice president for External Relations and Internationalization at DLSU.

Attended by delegates from both institutions, the event emphasized a shared commitment to research excellence and innovation. The collaboration aims to address a wide array of healthcare challenges, ranging from chronic diseases to emerging health threats. The partnership also seeks to foster enduring relationships grounded in mutual respect and trust.

Project ALPAS, the flagship initiative under this partnership, aims to revolutionize the treatment and management of diabetic ulcers. Leveraging cutting-edge molecular and additive manufacturing



Photo shows, from left, Prof. Hyoung Kyu Kim, Dr. Jin Han, Br. Bernard Oca FSC, and Dr. Laurene Chua-Garcia

technologies, the collaboration seeks to enhance the quality of life for patients in the Philippines.

The partnership between DLSU and Inje University further underlines a vision of shared progress and mutual learning to pave the way for transformative advancements in healthcare research and practice.

Engr. Joseph Rey Sta. Agueda, program leader of ALPAS, expressed optimism about the partnership's potential. He stated, "Beyond connecting with such a prestigious institution and having the opportunity to access their established knowledge base and laboratory equipment, we feel immensely validated that they have shown interest in our current and future research ideas. We are gaining confidence in the competitiveness of Philippine research and Filipino researchers as well." *Contributor: JM Mondragon*

## Promoting an innovative approach to waste management

**PUSHING FOR INNOVATIVE APPROACHES TO WASTE MANAGEMENT AND SUSTAINABLE PRACTICES,** De La Salle University signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Evergreen Labs Philippines for the recycling of residual plastics, which comprise about 50% of the campus waste.

The ceremony was held last March 13 on the Manila campus with DLSU President Br. Bernard Oca FSC and Evergreen Labs Philippines Managing Director Erica Cardoso as signatories of the MOU.

Evergreen Labs Philippines will be collecting the University's recyclable plastic and residual wastes and will be processing them for recycling.

DLSU is the first school to partner with Evergreen Labs for this environmental and sustainable effort. The company will be issuing

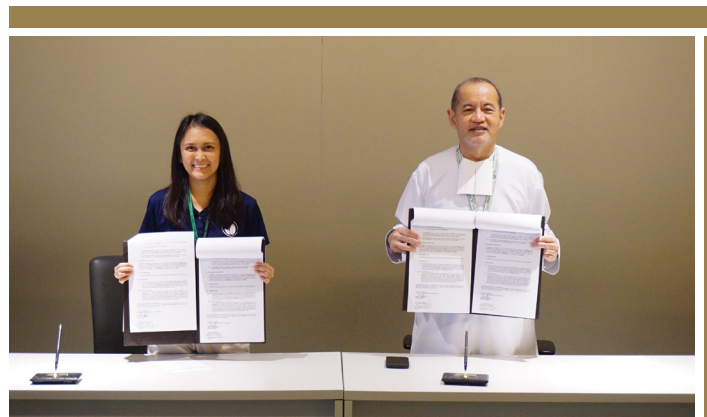


Photo shows Evergreen Labs Philippines Managing Director Erica Cardoso and DLSU President Br. Bernard Oca.

plastic credits to the University corresponding to the recyclable plastics collected.

# GOKONGWEI COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING WELCOMES GLOBAL AI EXPERT

**THE DE LA SALLE UNIVERSITY GOKONGWEI COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING (GCOE) RECENTLY WELCOMED VISITING PROFESSOR SEYEDALI MIRJALILI**, considered as one of the most influential researchers in the world and an expert in the field of Artificial Intelligence.

Mirjalili is currently a professor of Artificial Intelligence, specializing in Optimization and Swarm Intelligence at Torrens University Australia. He is also the founder of the Centre for Artificial Intelligence Research and Optimization and he has more than 500 published works and over 100,000 citations

The GCOE Department of Electronics and Computer Engineering (DECE) has hosted his various activities in the university, including lectures, speaking engagements, research consultations, project development, and workshops.

Some of his lectures included talks on application of optimization to real-world problems, how to make impactful research, and AI ethics. He also collaborated with DLSU researchers who are planning to use his developed algorithms. He also sat down with faculty members for a workshop on drafting research projects for funding.

He likewise represented DLSU in the National Academy of Science of Technology (NAST-DOST) as a resource speaker for the roundtable discussion on Advancing Innovation Coordination in the Artificial Intelligence Services Industry.

On his work as a researcher, Prof. Mirjalili noted that while there are indications of the impact of his work and contributions to science, he pointed out that the true measure of success for him would be the number of people he has mentored and helped grow as a researcher, helping them solve their problems and improving their products and services.



Mirjalili

## Forum on health technologies commercialization held

**THE DLSU INSTITUTE OF BIOMEDICAL ENGINEERING AND HEALTH TECHNOLOGIES (IBEHT)**, in collaboration with the newly established Research Communication and Data Analytics Office (RCDAO), organized the DLSU Research eXchange: BEYOND THE LAB forum on March 5 at the Henry Sy Sr. Hall roof deck. The event aimed to explore the nexus of research and commercialization.

To provide insight into the trajectory and forthcoming endeavors of IBEHT, Engr. Munsayac, Jr. III, Executive Officer of IBEHT, delivered an overview of the institute. Following this, Dr. Armyñ Sy, TAYÔ project leader, shared insights into TAYÔ's journey towards commercialization, while Engr. Kenbert Ting outlined IBEHT's plan to

establish the La Salle Biomedical Science Park.

The forum also included a panel discussion with esteemed speakers from DLSU's technology transfer support offices, such as DLSU Intellectual Property Office and DLSU Innovation and Technology Office Director Atty. Christopher Cruz, IBEHT founder Dr. Nilo Bugtai, former Animo Labs Executive Director Engr. Federico Gonzalez, and Lasallian Social Enterprise for Economic Development Center Director Dr. Norby Salonga.

Also present during the event were Vice President for Research and Innovation Dr. Raymond Tan, Research and Grants Management Office Executive Director

Dr. Feorillo Petronilo Demeterio III, and RCDAO Director AARichela dela Cruz.

During the panel discussion, speakers emphasized IBEHT's mission to accelerate the development of biomedical and health technologies across disciplines. They highlighted the Institute's commitment to fostering collaboration among researchers, scientists, clinicians, and engineers.

Attendees not only discussed the complexities of transitioning ideas from lab discoveries to real-world applications but also laid the groundwork for future collaborations and innovations in health technology research.



# DLSU LAGUNA CAMPUS UPDATE

## DLSU Integrated School earns PAASCU Level I Accreditation

THE DE LA SALLE UNIVERSITY INTEGRATED SCHOOL HAS ACHIEVED A SIGNIFICANT MILESTONE BY SECURING LEVEL I ACCREDITATION from the Philippine Accrediting Association of Schools, Colleges and Universities (PAASCU) for its Basic Education Program (Nursery to Grade 10).

The accreditation brings several benefits to the school, among them: partial administrative deregulation, particularly in managing student promotions and graduation records, subject to DepEd review; financial deregulation; partial curricular autonomy; independent graduation authority; scholarship and grant opportunities; public recognition, with the use of the term "Accredited" in its official publications and advertisements; and reduced DepEd oversight.

For the successful accreditation of the institution, School Principal Tricia Anne Castro cited the contributions of various stakeholders, including Leo Vicentino, who led the accreditation process, the accreditation team leaders, administrators, faculty, parents, students, co-academic personnel, directors and employees of DLSU Laguna Campus, contractual personnel, and Dr. Jonathan Dungca, the Vice President for Laguna Campus.



## CCS EXHIBIT SHOWCASES RAPID ADVANCEMENTS IN COMPUTING

THE COLLEGE OF COMPUTER STUDIES (CCS) SHOWCASED THE EVOLUTION OF COMPUTER ARCHITECTURE WITH AN EXHIBIT CENTERING ON THE THEME, "THEN & NOW: A JOURNEY THROUGH COMPUTER COMPONENTS" last March 7- 8 on the DLSU Henry Sy, Sr. Hall grounds.

Hosted by the CSARCH2 students of CCS faculty member Roger Luis Uy, the exhibit traced the journey of computer

components from their humble beginnings to the cutting-edge technologies of today, highlighting the rapid advancements in computing that have transformed industries and societies globally.

The exhibit featured discussions and creative presentations that explored the intersections of computer science, engineering, and other fields. It also encouraged students to promote innovation and development in the realm of computing.

Some of the highlights of the exhibit included the presentation of the evolution of storage media and digital cameras; the history of two iconic operating systems, Microsoft Windows and Apple macOS; the advancements in software and hardware that have revolutionized speech synthesis as a field of computing; the evolution of the gaming industry; and the development of smartphones, which have revolutionized communication, entertainment, and productivity.

“ The more you give to God, the more He will bless you. ”

*De La Salle*

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# 2024 Lasallian Scholarum Awards

DLSU, through the Strategic Communications Office, holds the annual Lasallian Scholarum Awards to honor the country's journalists, particularly those who have produced outstanding works related to the youth and education sectors. "Youth Beat," this year's LSA theme, highlighted the integrity, truth, and excellence in their works as they continued to explore the voice of the Filipino youth.

**Rhia Grana** (ABS-CBN News)  
 "Filipino invention that could give robots human-like feeling wins robotics award in UK"  
*Outstanding feature story on De La Salle University*



**Atom Araullo** (GMA Public Affairs)  
 "Batas Bata" - *The Atom Araullo Specials*  
*Outstanding video feature story on youth and education*



**Kurt Dela Peña** (Inquirer.Net)  
 "Numbers fall but PH teen pregnancies persist, mirror economic, learning gaps"  
*Outstanding online feature story on youth and education*



**Patrick Kyle Adeva**  
 (Philippine Collegian, University of the Philippines)  
 "Will AI Chatbots Take Over Education?"  
*Outstanding published feature article on youth and education in a school organ*



**Marge C. Enriquez**  
 (Philippine Daily Inquirer)  
 "When Young People Conquer Cancer"  
*Outstanding published feature article on youth and education in a nationally circulated publication*



**Kara David** (GMA Network)  
*Outstanding Media Personality*



Source: STRATCOM



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.

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