



RAMON V. DEL ROSARIO  
**SIKLAB**  
AWARDS



**Victor Mari C. Baguilat Jr.**  
Founder, CEO, and Creative Director,  
Kandama Social Enterprise  
AB International Studies,  
Major in European Studies 2007  
Siklab Awardee 2024



**Avin C. Ong**  
Founder and CEO,  
Fredley Group of Companies  
BS Mathematics with Specialization  
in Business Applications 2010  
Siklab Awardee 2024



**Siklab Awardees 2024**

**2024 RVR AWARDS  
HONOR PHILANTHROPIST,  
YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS**

SIX EXCEPTIONAL INDIVIDUALS WERE HONORED AT THE 2024 RAMON V. DEL ROSARIO (RVR) AWARDS ON AUGUST 20 FOR THEIR OUTSTANDING CORPORATE CITIZENSHIP AND FERVENT COMMITMENT TO NATION-BUILDING ACROSS VARIOUS INDUSTRIES.

The ceremony, held at The Fifth at Rockwell, celebrated trailblazers in two categories: the Award for Nation Building, which pays tribute to PHINMA founder Ambassador Ramon V. del Rosario's legacy of shaping modern Philippine industries, and the Siklab Award, which recognizes promising entrepreneurs for their impact on communities and industries through their businesses or social enterprises.

**What's inside**

New chairman of Responsible Analytics & Artificial Intelligence Council	2
DLSU joins fight vs fake news	3
NTU-GAIP Insurance Case Competition Champion	4
MEM prof receives first Pantheon of Inventors Award	5

This year, businessman and philanthropist Ambassador Howard Q. Dee received the Nation Building Award for his lifelong dedication to social development and peace. From playing a key role in peace talks with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front and brokering the 2001 Tripoli Agreement to co-founding ASA Philippines and Assisi Development Foundation, Mr. Dee’s work testifies to his unwavering commitment to eradicating poverty and pursuing peace and social justice.

The Siklab Award was presented to five remarkable individuals for their profound passion for entrepreneurship and social change:

Ariestelo A. Asilo, co-founder and CEO of Varacco Inc. and Chief Thinnker Officer and President of ThinnkFarm, provides livelihood to 400 coffee farmers in Cavite and Mindanao. Varacco was recognized in 2021 as one of the 50 Best Small Businesses for the United Nations’ “Good Food for All”. Asilo’s leadership empowers farmers and inspires the Filipino youth.

DLSU alumnus Victor Mari C. Baguilat, Jr. (AB International Studies, major in European Studies 2007), founder, CEO, and Creative Director of Kandama Social Enterprise, empowers indigenous Ifugao women weavers by connecting their traditional hand-loomed fabrics to the global market. Kandama provides sustainable livelihood while preserving the precious weaving tradition of these communities.

Rafael Ignacio S. Dionisio, co-founder and President of Make A Difference (MAD) Travel, partners with the Aeta community to build forests of native and fruit trees in Zambales. MAD Travel creates fulfilling experiences that enable communities to develop sustainable products and supported local farmers and entrepreneurs despite the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic.

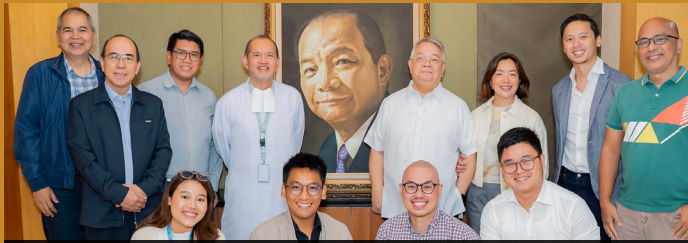
Ann Adeline G. Dumaliang, co-founder and Managing Trustee of Masungi Georeserve, has transformed a conservation area that is home to over 500 species through her innovative approach combining conservation, eco-tourism, education, and community engagement. Masungi has planted 100,000 native trees and established ranger stations to protect the watershed benefiting millions.

Another DLSU alumnus, Alvin C. Ong (BS Mathematics with specialization in Business Applications 2010) is the founder and CEO of Fredley Group of Companies, the F&B company behind brands like Macao Imperial Tea and Nabe. He built a billion-peso empire of more than 260 restaurants and 3,000 employees from humble beginnings, all the while adopting inclusive hiring practices for differently abled people.

During his remarks, PHINMA Chairman and CEO Ramon R. del Rosario, Jr. emphasized that the RVR awardees’ stories will continue making an impact beyond the ceremony by inspiring the Filipino youth and filling the void of negative information with tales of entrepreneurial peace-building, agriculture and tourism innovation, cultural preservation, environmental protection, and inclusive growth. These stories will also serve as case studies in the recently launched PHINMA-DLSU Center for Business and Society, which aims to champion business as a force for good among students.

The RVR Awards, organized by PHINMA, Junior Chamber International Manila, De La Salle University RVR College of Business, and the Asian Institute of Management RVR Center for Corporate Responsibility, continue to celebrate outstanding individuals who exemplify that business can indeed be a force for positive change and nation-building.

For more information, you may visit the Ramon V. del Rosario Awards Digital Museum: <https://www.rvrwards.org/>



RVR Siklab Awards Board of Judges with the organizing team (from top left to right): Peter Perfecto, Dr. Benito Teehankee, EJ Qua Hiansen, Br. Bernard Oca FSC, Ramon del Rosario, Jr. AFSC, Danielle del Rosario, JB Tan, Dr. Raymund Habaradas, Marianne Gonzales, Ron Ranier Reyes, Joseph Emil Santos, and John Laurence Robes

## NEW CHAIRMAN OF RESPONSIBLE ANALYTICS & ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE COUNCIL

**RAMON V. DEL ROSARIO COLLEGE OF BUSINESS PROF. BENITO TEEHANKEE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF MANAGEMENT AND ORGANIZATION** has been elected as chairman of Responsible Analytics and AI Council (RAAIC) under the Analytics & Artificial Intelligence Association of the Philippines (AAP).

AAP is taking the lead in driving the growth and evolution of the fields of analytics and artificial intelligence in the Philippines.

Part of AAP’s commitment to the responsible use of analytics and artificial intelligence (AAI) in the country was the establishment of the Council. The Council was relaunched in August 2024 under the chairmanship of Prof. Teehankee. The Council comprises seven members who are members of AAP representing various stakeholder groups related to analytics and artificial intelligence.

“Under my chairmanship, the Council will prioritize the development of a Code of Responsible AI Practice and the conduct of orientation seminars on the Code for its members during its first year,” Teehankee shared.

He added: “We will expand into broader advocacy efforts on responsible AI through media and partnerships with other organizations in the second year. We will focus on advancing professional AI practice in support of the human and national development goals of the country.”

Appointed by the board of trustees of AAP after an open application and selection process for members of the Council, Teehankee will serve as chairman for one year.



Teehankee





## UNIVERSITY FORGES NEW RESEARCH PARTNERSHIP WITH INJE UNIVERSITY

**REPRESENTATIVES FROM DE LA SALLE UNIVERSITY (DLSU) VISITED INJE UNIVERSITY (IU) IN BUSAN, SOUTH KOREA** last July 8 to 10 to strengthen ties and formalize collaborative efforts between the two institutions. The visit featured a series of productive meetings, tours of IU’s cutting-edge facilities, and the signing of a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) aimed at deepening research collaboration.

Led by its president Br. Bernard Oca FSC, the DLSU delegation included Dr. Mariquit Delos Reyes from the Department of Biology and Engr. Joseph Rey Sta. Agueda from the Department of Manufacturing Engineering and Management.

The delegation was welcomed by IU officials, including Dr. Minhyeon Jeon, IU President, and Dr. Dae Hee Lee, Vice President for External Affairs. Discussions centered on potential collaborative projects, particularly in the fields of biomedical research and education.

A key highlight of the visit was the MOA signing ceremony, where both universities formally committed to advancing joint research initiatives. The event, attended by senior administrators and faculty, underscored the shared vision of DLSU and Inje University to foster innovation and tackle global health challenges.

The partnership will initially focus on initiatives like Project ALPAS, which aims to develop cutting-edge treatments for diabetic ulcers using advanced molecular and manufacturing technologies.

The DLSU delegation also had the opportunity to explore Inje University’s state-of-the-art facilities, including the Cardiovascular and Metabolic Disease Core Research Support Center and the Korean Science Academy. These visits sought to gain valuable insights into innovative practices and technologies, particularly in online education, rapid prototyping, and advanced research laboratories.

Furthermore, the delegation met with Gimhae City Mayor Tae Yong Hong in a courtesy call, where discussions centered on the city’s GLOCAL strategy and the potential for expanded academic and cultural exchanges between the universities and the city.

The delegation also participated in a roundtable discussion at the KR-PH Academic Forum, attended by Ambassador Maria Theresa Dizon-De Vega, faculty from various Korean universities, and Filipino scholars in Korea.

During the MOA signing, Br. Bernard Oca, FSC said: “This collaboration is not just about the exchange of knowledge, but about building enduring partnerships grounded in mutual respect and shared values. Together, we have the unique opportunity to address complex problems and create transformative outcomes that will extend far beyond our campuses.”

## DLSU JOINS FIGHT VS FAKE NEWS

**DE LA SALLE UNIVERSITY HAS JOINED OTHER ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONS,** media organizations, and the Commission on Elections at the launch of the largest partnership in the fight against disinformation.

Inspired by GMA Network’s “Panata Kontra-Fake News” campaign, almost 60 partners pledged to uphold a shared responsibility and commitment to combating fake news and disinformation.

The Panata Kontra-Fake News Covenant also calls on every Filipino to stand in solidarity against the spread of fake news and disinformation.

DLSU Provost Dr. Robert Roleda, who represented the University, signed the covenant with other officials and representatives of some of the country’s most trusted media companies and media organizations, colleges and universities from Metro Manila and the regions, and the COMELEC, led by its Chairman Atty. George Erwin M. Garcia. Supporting the campaign is digital platform Google through its Government Affairs and Public Policy. (Source: *Malaya*)



# NTU-GAIP INSURANCE CASE COMPETITION CHAMPION

## IMAGINE A WORLD WHERE YOUR FACE HOLDS THE KEY TO UNLOCKING VITAL HEALTH INSIGHTS NEEDED FOR YOUR INSURANCE POLICY APPLICATION

—no needles, no waiting time and without the hefty costs. Introducing ‘Healthify’ – an AI-powered end-to-end insurance partner that could revolutionize the insurance application, underwriting, and claims processes.

This groundbreaking idea earned Team Archers of De La Salle University the top prize of SGD \$8,000 at the NTU-GAIP Insurance Case Competition finals. Jean Lenard Rosete, Louie Coderes, and Ma. Ysabel Leachon of the winning team are all senior students taking up Bachelor of Science in Accountancy.

“Team Archers demonstrated a deep understanding of both the technology and the insurance sector. Their idea was not only innovative but also highly practical, addressing real-world challenges in the medical underwriting process,” said GAIP CEO, John Maroney, who was one of the judges at the University level.

In its second year, the competition received 110 submissions: 30 from university teams and 80 from pre-university teams. For the first time, six university teams from Malaysia, Indonesia, the Philippines, Vietnam, and Thailand were invited to participate in the final round.

“We invited students from ASEAN universities to participate because we believe that diverse perspectives are crucial in tackling the complex challenges of the insurance industry. The cross-cultural exchange of knowledge and creativity enriches the competition and helps shape solutions that are truly impactful on a global scale,” said Assoc. Prof. Shinichi Kamiya, co-director of the Insurance Risk and Finance Research Centre (IRFRC) at NTU.

The NTU-GAIP Insurance Case Competition continues to be a vital platform for nurturing the next generation of insurance talents.



## SEMICONDUCTOR AND ELECTRONICS EVENTS FEATURE DLSU SPIN-OFF COMPANY VISON

**VISON TECHNOLOGIES CORPORATION, THE FIRST OFFICIAL SPIN-OFF COMPANY FROM THE DE LA SALLE UNIVERSITY-COLLEGE OF COMPUTER STUDIES**, took part in the 19th Philippine Semiconductor and Electronics Convention and Exhibition (PSECE) and the World of Consumer Electronics Expo (WOCEE) both held at the SMX Convention Center in Pasay City, last July 24-26 and August 7-10, respectively.

Co-presented by PLDT Enterprise, PSECE and WOCEE are recognized as the largest annual events in the Philippines, dedicated to spotlighting the latest trends and innovations in the electronics and information and communication technology industries.

One of the winners of the PLDT Enterprise-SMART Startup Innovation Challenge 2023, VISON Tech was the sole startup founded by faculty members and multidisciplinary researchers from the university.

During the fireside session at PSECE, VISON Tech COO and Ramon V. del Rosario College of Business faculty member Salie Ann Siao shared updates on their R&D and commercialization activities with potential collaborators from industry.

Through VISON Tech’s participation, DLSU reinforced its role not only as a research university but also as an entrepreneurial university.

Aside from Siao, other VISON Tech representatives included DLSU College of Computer Studies faculty members Dr. Joel Ilao (CEO), Jonathan Paul Cempron and Jackylyn Beredo (R&D heads), and Paulo Luis Lozano (CMO) of the DLSU Innovation and Technology Office.







## MEM PROF RECEIVES FIRST PANTHEON OF INVENTORS AWARD

**THE DLSU INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY OFFICE AND DLSU INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY OFFICE RECENTLY NAMED DR. NILO T. BUGTAI**, full professor from the Gokongwei College of Engineering's Department of Manufacturing and Engineering Management and the founding director of the Evelyn D. Ang - Institute of Biomedical Engineering and Health Technologies (EDA-IBEHT), as the first-ever recipient of the Pantheon of Inventors Award.

Professor Bugtai is a co-inventor of five inventions, each covered by at least one granted patent, including patents in the Philippines, Singapore, and South Korea. This achievement is a testament to his significant contributions to advancing knowledge and technological progress in the fields of mechanical, manufacturing, robotics, and biomedical engineering.

The Pantheon of Inventors Award is a new honor bestowed upon members of the DLSU academic community who have demonstrated exceptional excellence in research and innovation by being an inventor or joint inventor of at least 5 patents, each directed to a different invention.

Prof. Bugtai was inducted into the Pantheon of Inventors during the DIPO and DITO Annual Recognition and Thanksgiving Ceremony held last August 07 at the DLSU Henry Sy Sr. Hall.

## DLSU INTEGRATED SCHOOL LAUNCHES CAREER PATHWAY IMMERSION PROGRAM

**THE DE LA SALLE UNIVERSITY INTEGRATED SCHOOL GUIDANCE AND COUNSELING UNIT RECENTLY LAUNCHED** the Career Pathway Immersion Program. This program was made possible through a partnership with Gateway+ Singapore and their Pre-University Summer Camp.

Twenty-nine Grade 11 and 12 students participated in the program, which included soft skills building workshops, visits to technological innovations and cultural sites, and tours of universities in Singapore. The goal of the program was to provide students with career exposure and immersion experiences.

The Career Pathway Immersion Program was a success, and the students who participated in the program learned a lot about themselves and their future career options.



“It is impossible to please God if you do not live on friendly terms with others.”

*De La Salle*

Letter 47 - to Brother Robert in Darnetal, 1709





DLSU – Laguna Campus  
ONGOING FACILITIES DEVELOPMENT



**UNIVERSITY HALL**  
Completion Date: 1st Quarter 2025  
4 floors



**ENRIQUE K. RAZON, JR. HALL**  
Completion Date: 1st Quarter 2025  
5 floors



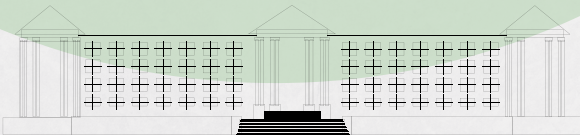
**EVELYN D. ANG HALL**  
Completion Date: 3rd Quarter 2025  
3 floors + mezzanine



**OUTDOOR SEMI – OLYMPIC POOL**  
Completion Date: 4th Quarter 2024  
8 Lanes



**ANIMAL BIOCONTAINMENT  
AND CELL CULTURE RESEARCH POD**  
Completion Date: 3rd Quarter 2024



Source: Campus Development Office

Photo Credit: The Lasallian and DLSU official Facebook pages



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>.

Executive Director | Johannes Leo Badillo  
Editorial Supervisor | Ruby Carlos  
([ruby.carlos@dlsu.edu.ph](mailto:ruby.carlos@dlsu.edu.ph))  
2401 Vol. 55 No. 19 Artist-in-charge | Miguel Pabello

Issue No. 19 Writers |  
Johannes Leo Badillo, Arfie Koc, Giorla  
Negre, Karen Escamillas, Roy Sy

Sources | RVR COB, Department of  
MEM, Paulo Luis Lozano/DITO  
Editorial support | Alaric Lopez de Leon

Creative Director | Peter Varona  
Art Director | Mark Louie Esteves  
Secretary | Virginia Umacob-Gases  
Office Assistant | Raymond Menor