



Artist Toym Imao and  
DLSU administrators



Br. Bernie



Dr. Divina Amalin at the  
research pod launch



MOA signing for the Upad facility

# DLSU reinforces research, learning ecosystem on Laguna Campus

Highlighting its journey to establish a global educational ecosystem, De La Salle University held a series of activities on its Laguna campus, which included the inauguration of a new laboratory for a pioneering research program and new facilities to support student life.

Held last October 22, the launch of the Animal Biosafety Level 3 Facility was another milestone in the University's research thrust. The first of its kind in the country, it will house research that seeks to develop a vaccine against the African Swine Flu.

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The facility was established by DLSU in collaboration with the Department of Science and Technology Philippine Council for Agriculture, Aquatic, and Natural Resources Research and Development (DOST PCAARRD), De La Salle Araneta University (DLSAU), and the Research Institute for Tropical Medicine (RITM).

Dr. Drexel Camacho will serve as the project leader, together with co-project leaders Dr. Ma. Luisa Enriquez of DLSU Manila, Dr. Faustino Icatlo, Jr. and Dr. Fidelino Malbas of RITM, and Dr. Norbert John Robles of DLSAU.

Another significant development on the Laguna campus was the signing of a Memorandum of Agreement with Summitleaf, Inc., which was represented by its president, Natalie Uy, and officers Chrystel Nadine Uy, and Jason Randolph Chua. DLSU President Br. Bernard Oca FSC, Provost Dr. Robert Roleda, and Campus Development Office Executive Director Dr. Jason Ongpeng represented the University in the ceremony.

Summitleaf, Inc. will develop the University Pad (Upad) condodormitel on the DLSU Laguna Campus, which will house students, faculty, staff, and University guests. The target completion of the construction is in 24 months.

In addition to the University’s efforts to promote sports, health, and wellness on campus, DLSU Laguna launched its first swimming pool. VP for Laguna Campus Dr. Jonathan Dungca delivered a message during the opening ceremony while Br. Bernie likewise shared his excitement about its opening, urging everyone—from students to faculty and personnel—to learn swimming.

Likewise, the guests were invited to the blessing of the One Mission sculptures on the same day. The refurbished sculptures at the One Mission Park were made by renowned artist Toym Imao, who recast his original work in bronze. Imao and other administrators graced the ceremony.



## DOST-PCIEERD supports faculty projects

**Three projects spearheaded by De La Salle University faculty members** will be undertaken in partnership with the Department of Science and Technology-Philippine Council for Industry, Energy and Emerging Technology Research and Development (DOST-PCIEERD) following the MOA signing event held at the Sheraton Manila Hotel in Pasay City last October 17.

The project “SWIFT: Sustainable Wheels with Innovative Metamaterials for Future Transportation” will be undertaken by Department of Mechanical Engineering Full Professor Dr. Aristotle Ubando as project lead.

“Support for the PH Gaming Industry Towards Embracing In-House Game Engine Development” will be headed by Department of Software Technology Associate Professor Dr. Neil Patrick Del Gallego.

“SPRINT: Filipinnovation Entrepreneurship Corps 5 (FEC5): COHORT #6 Enabling Researchers to Assess Commercial and Societal Value of their Research” will be conducted by Department of Decision Sciences and Innovation Assistant Professor Dr. Jessica Jaye Ranieses as project leader. She was represented by Senior Training Facilitator and DSI faculty Roderick Pangindian during the event.

DLSU President Br. Bernard Oca FSC, Vice President for Research and Innovation Dr. Raymond Tan, and Gokongwei College of Engineering Dean Dr. Kathleen Aviso attended the ceremony.

This year, a total of 231 proposals were submitted and 76 were green lighted by DOST-PCIEERD.

# DLSUPH books win National Book Awards

Three books published by the De La Salle University Publishing House (DLSUPH) have received the National Book Awards 2024 given by the National Book Development Board and the Manila Critics Circle.

University Fellow and author Dr. Marjorie Evasco is this year’s winner for Best Book of Poetry in English for her collection, *It is Time to Come Home: New and Collected Poems*. The volume is co-published with Milflores Publishing (under the directorship of Andrea Pasion-Flores), and the book design is by Felix Mago Miguel.

Evasco’s book is described as “her biographical narrative as a poet and mother, a homage to her literary past and present. It is a culmination of all things present, of being—an exercise in memory and nostalgia, a testament to the Here and Now.”

Likewise, *Balik-Tanaw: The Road Taken* by author Dr. Soledad Reyes was recognized as Best Best Book for Nonfiction Prose in English.

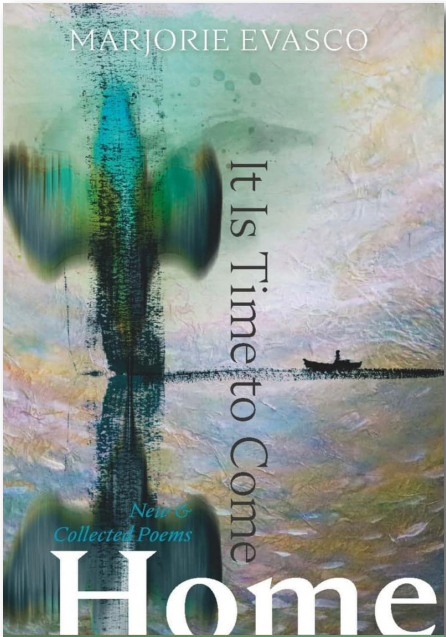
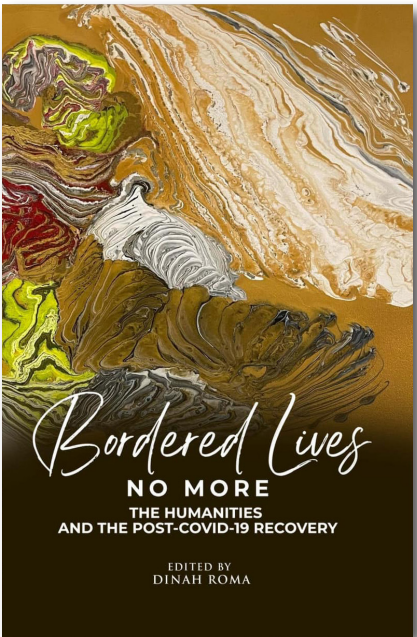
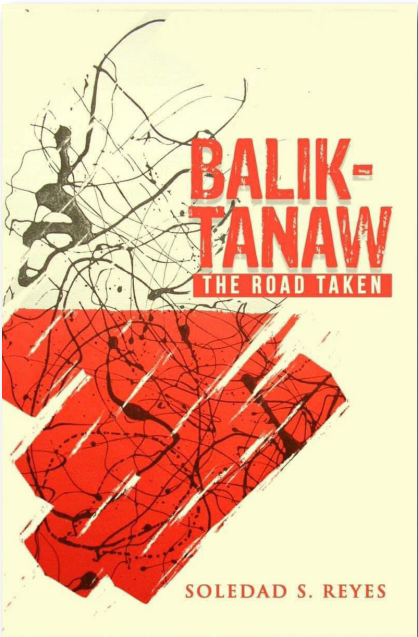
DLSUPH co-published the book with the Liverpool University Press. DLSUPH Executive Director Dr. Jonathan Bayot shared a description of *Balik-Tanaw*: “This category winner bested all the other nominees for its depth and scope in presenting Philippine literary history through

the narrative of a woman’s scholarly life. In this book, she weaves her personal stories with critical appraisal, thereby heightening our appreciation of literary criticism as well as our admiration of her scholarship.

More importantly, in this work, Reyes has also given voice to the struggles of every woman intellectual who has had to face the uphill battle of carving out a space for herself in traditionally male-dominated disciplines.”

Another book, *Bordered Lives No More: Humanities and the Post-Covid-19 Recovery*, edited by University Fellow and poet Dr. Dinah Roma, won for Best Anthology in English. DLSUPH published the book in partnership with the Social Development Research Center and DLSU Social Development Research Center (SDRC).

“The anthology contains nine essays that illuminate and analyze the multifaceted impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, specifically within a Philippine context. Collectively, the essays serve as a multidimensional prism, refracting the intricate and often complex phenomenon of the pandemic and its extensive repercussions on diverse aspects of life throughout the nation,” DLSUPH shared in its post.



## University signs agreement with DTI-NCRO

De La Salle University through the Lasallian Social Enterprise for Economic Development Center (LSEED) and the Department of Trade and Industry-National Capital Regional Office (DTI-NCRO) signed a Memorandum of Understanding last October 30 on campus to formalize their collaboration supporting local enterprises and advocating for social entrepreneurship and sustainability in the NCR.

The ceremonial signing was attended by DTI-NCRO OIC- Regional Director Winston Tan Singun, Supervising Head Jay Acar, Regional Trade Promotion Officer Loude Mae Ducay, Vice President for Lasallian Mission Fritzie Ian De Vera, Vice President for External Relations and

Internationalization Dr. Anthony Shun Fung Chiu, LSEED Center Director Dr. Norby Salonga, and Coordinator for Incubation and Acceleration Program, LSEED Center, Mary Ann Santiago.

The partnership aims to leverage the expertise and resources of both institutions to implement programs and initiatives that will enhance the competitiveness and sustainability of micro, small, and medium enterprises in the region.





# Convention tackles cellular symphony

**DLSU hosted the Philippine Society for Cell Biology (PSCB) 7th International and 15th National Scientific Convention last October 24 to 25 at the Henry Sy, Sr. Hall and online.**

Titled “Cellular Symphony: Well-Orchestrated Interactions, Networks and Processes”, the conference theme likened cellular processes to a musical symphony. This was elaborated by the keynote speaker Annabelle Villalobos from the National Academy of Science and Technology, University of the Philippines Diliman, and Central Mindanao University.

The local organizing committee was chaired by Biology faculty Dr. Mariquit De Los Reyes. Attending from DLSU were: previous PSCB President Dr. Ma. Luisa Enriquez; “Young Minds Speaker” Dr. Jennifer Maries Yap, who presented “Human Lung Fibroblasts Exhibit Induced

Inflammation Memory via Increased IL6 Gene Expression and Release”; Dr. Mark Balendres and Dr. Wilfred Espulgar who served as photo and poster competition judges; Dr. Rafa Espiritu who was a poster presenter and also a photo competition judge; Flora Querubin; Marigold Uba; John Martin Mondragon; biology students, and the DLSU Biomaterials and Tissue Engineering Research staff.

DLSU President Br. Bernard Oca FSC and Vice President for Research and Innovation Prof. Dr. Raymond Girard Tan were also present during the opening ceremony.

The pre-conference hands-on workshop on “Enzyme-Linked Immunosorbent Assay (ELISA)” was sponsored by Noveaulab and co-hosted by DLSU Central Instrumentation Facility in the Laguna Campus.



# LAGUNA CAMPUS UPDATE

## La Salle student emerges 1st runner-up in ASEAN speakers content

**Maria Arabela Guzman, MGT-BAS student from the DLSU Laguna Campus, won 1st Runner-Up in the 20th AUN and 9th Educational Forum and Young Speakers Contest** held last October 22-27 in Universitas Airlangga, Surabaya, Indonesia.

The Young Speakers Contest was participated by 18 students from ASEAN+3 network universities. It was a platform for young leaders to showcase their exceptional skills in preparing their speeches and demonstrating their understanding of the region’s realities and current issues.

Guzman delivered her prepared speech on the theme “Emancipatory Education as a Path Towards an Emancipated Future”. She also responded to impromptu questions displaying her analytical thinking and ability to communicate her ideas.

The program also included an educational forum where young leaders presented country positions focusing on their insights into emancipatory education and on how the ASEAN+3 region can push for a more inclusive future. DLSU was represented by Flynn Daryl Falcon, a BSChEM major from the Manila campus, who actively engaged in various discussions and was among those who took the lead in presenting the joint statement of the delegation.

Guzman and Falcon were selected by the Office of the Vice President for External Relations and Internationalization from among nominees from the colleges. As part of the process, they submitted their respective papers a month before the actual competition and had preparatory meetings with the other delegates from the Philippines. Vice Dean for Student Affairs - Laguna Campus Nelca

Villarín joined the DLSU delegation as a faculty mentor. She has been part of AUN programs in the past years.



# ELECTRONICS ENGINEERING LICENSURE EXAMS OCTOBER 2024

DLSU received a passing percentage of 76.19% (16 of 21) while the national passing percentage is 45.99% (999 of 2,172).

## GCOE faculty honored at PIChE National Convention

Faculty members from the Department of Chemical Engineering (ChE) of the DLSU Gokongwei College of Engineering were honored at the 85th Philippine Institute of Chemical Engineers (PIChE) National Convention held last September 11 at the Waterfront Cebu City Hotel & Casino.

Dr. John Frederick Tapia was named PIChE Outstanding Young Chemical Engineer for his significant contributions to the field of chemical engineering.

Additionally, three ChE professors were conferred as new members of the PIChE College of Fellows: Dr. Aileen Orbecido, Dr. Vergel Bungay, and Dr. Rhoda Balasadas-Leron. The PIChE College of Fellows is a group of esteemed past presidents and distinguished Filipino chemical

engineers who inspire future generations and shape the future of chemical engineering.

This year's National Convention theme, "USWAG ChE! Strengthening the Profession through Collaborative and Holistic Engagement," aimed to foster the pillars of the Chemical Engineering profession.

Emphasizing collaboration among academia, industry, and government, the institute seeks to create a community of service where chemical engineers address pressing issues and drive progress through networking and cooperation. Together, they contribute solutions to challenges in education, policy, research, industry challenges, and global integration.



Tapia



Orbecido



Bungay



Balasadas-Leron

## Excellent Paper Award at the IEEE 13th Global Conference on Consumer Electronics

A DLSU Gokongwei College of Engineering faculty member received the Excellent Paper Award for the research "Identification of Hazardous Gases in an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) with Android Technology: A Prototype" at the recent IEEE 13th Global Conference on Consumer Electronics (GCCE 2024), held in Kitakyushu, Japan last October 29-November 1.

Recognized were Dr. Ana Antoniette Illahi and co-authors, Computer Engineering alumni Adrian William Alano, Arl Marion Josef Divino, and

David Manasseh Soliman. Illahi served as thesis mentor of the team of Alano, Divino, and Soliman in 2022.

The research presents a prototype that can detect 6 different gasses namely, Carbon Monoxide, Ethanol, Toluene, Methane, Isobutylene, and Ammonia. The device is designed to learn normal values of ambient air conditions present in the present location environment and detect anomalies, if there are such.

With internet connection, the gas detector can read real-time values of air concentration

and display on both the device and an android application.

The research proponents note that such a device, which is more affordable than the detectors available in the market, is particularly useful for the country, amid efforts to ensure the safety of Filipinos.

“Enkindle the love of Jesus in the hearts of the young”

*De La Salle*

-Med 102.2





ASIA 2025

## DE LA SALLE UNIVERSITY AMONG ASIA'S LEADING HEIs according to QS World University Ranking: Asia 2025

The University improved in the **employer reputation**  
and **academic reputation** indicators

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## ANIMO LA SALLE!

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2401 (twe'n'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.

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