



University
Charter
Golden
Jubilee

Here for the Future



DLSU MARKS 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF UNIVERSITY CHARTER

DE LA SALLE UNIVERSITY MARKED THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF ITS UNIVERSITY CHARTER LAST FEBRUARY 19, underscoring the Lasallian legacy of faith, excellence, and service and its continuing role as a key player in nation-building.

“Our University Charter has enabled us to develop pioneering programs that respond to various challenges in our world,” DLSU President Br. Bernard Oca FSC said. “Today, we continue to serve as a leading higher education institution, developing learners into leaders and achievers for God and country, and the planet.”

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He also shared that the University is setting new strategic goals as the University enters its next 50 years. “We will continue to invest in our resources, promote innovation and sustainability, and strengthen teaching, research, and community engagement. In our journey to the future, we will likewise continue to actively work with our local and international partners in various sectors, including our global alumni network.”

Br. Bernie reiterated the three strategic goals of the University, which he first shared during the University General Assembly last year: Goal 1: Partners, which highlights faculty and staff who are Mission-focused, high-performing, and fulfilled; Goal 2: Ecosystem, which seeks to generate new sources of national growth from a green knowledge ecosystem; and Goal 3: Impact, which aims to make DLSU an internationally influential research university.

The celebration commenced with a Thanksgiving Mass held at the Pearl of Great Price Chapel. St. La Salle Hall was also lit to project DLSU’s rich history through Singkwentang Kwento, a special video mapping installation celebrating the golden jubilee. This visual journey, created by motion artist and alumnus Isaiah Cacnio, brings to life the milestones that have shaped DLSU over the years.



St. La Salle Hall also featured *Paghigmata: Gifts of Awakening*, a poem written specially for the occasion by award-winning poet, University Fellow, and Professor Emeritus in Literature, Dr. Marjorie Evasco.

CHEMICAL ENGINEERING PROF BAGS HITACHI OUTSTANDING INNOVATION AWARD

DLSU GOKONGWEI COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING (GCOE) PROFESSOR DR. MICHAEL ANGELO PROMENTILLA BAGGED THE OUTSTANDING INNOVATION AWARD from the Hitachi Global Foundation Asia last January for his research project on “Geopolymers and Alkali-Activated Materials as Eco-Innovative Composite Products.”

Promentilla is a faculty member of the Department of Chemical Engineering and head of the Waste and Resource Management Unit of the DLSU Center for Engineering and Sustainable Development Research (CESDR).

A description of his work at the Foundation website notes: “Our research program provides a portfolio of solutions in sustainable construction by developing innovative geopolymer technology and alkali-activated materials with lower embodied carbon that transform locally available industrial waste into valuable building materials.”

The research program uses eco-friendly material from coal fly ash and nickel laterite mine waste. Promentilla’s team has successfully demonstrated, in the form of pavers installed at the De La Salle University Laguna campus, its potential real-world viability and has received at least two patents and one utility model for their work.

“Imagine our preferred future where buildings are constructed with materials that heal themselves, where industrial waste becomes a valuable resource, and where construction helps heal our planet rather than harm it. Through our innovation, we’re not just building structures - we’re building our sustainable, climate-resilient future,” he said.

Launched in 2020, the Hitachi Global Foundation Asia Innovation Award is an award program to promote science, technology and innovation, putting the spotlight on research projects that contribute to solving social issues and promoting sustainability across Southeast Asia.

Last year, the selection was gathered from more than 22 universities from Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Myanmar, Philippines, and Vietnam. The 2024 edition focused on SDGs #12 (Responsible Consumption and Production) and #13 (Climate Action).



Promentilla

Read more here:
<https://www.hitachi-zaidan.org/global/topics/topics014.html>

RVRCOB FACULTY MEMBERS SERVE AS RESOURCE FOR GLOBAL NETWORKS

TWO FACULTY MEMBERS OF THE DLSU RAMON V. DEL ROSARIO COLLEGE OF BUSINESS WERE RECENTLY TAPPED to share their expertise for the University’s international linkages, the Office of the Vice President for External Relations and Internationalization announced.

RVRCOB Dean and Full Professor Dr. Emilina Sarreal has been appointed as board member of the International Association of La Salle Universities (IALU) Business School Alliance, or LSBSA, representing Asia & Pacific Islands.

LSBSA harnesses the collective capabilities of the Lasallian network to enrich the educational journey of business students and faculty, innovating to equip them with essential



Sarreal

global competencies and empowering them as ethical, transformative leaders in a diverse and interconnected world.

In other news, RVRCOB Associate Professor Dr. Jonna Baquillas of the Department of Marketing and Advertising has been invited to be a visiting lecturer for the Universidad Popular Autónoma del Estado de Puebla (UPAEP) Global Summer 2025. Her involvement in this activity stems from DLSU’s membership in Ge4 Alliance. Ge4 stands for Global Education: Exchanges for Engineers and Entrepreneurs.

The UPAEP program promotes knowledge exchange from different perspectives, emphasizing comparative approaches and sparking future collaborative projects with partners outside Mexico.



Baquillas

RESEARCH LECTURE TACKLES DIGITAL PARENTING



THE DLSU DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATION IN CELEBRATION OF ITS 50TH FOUNDING ANNIVERSARY HOSTED A SPECIAL RESEARCH LECTURE titled, “Digital Parenting Burdens in China: Online Homework, Parent Chats, and Punch-in Culture” by Prof. Sun Sun Lim of Singapore Management University last February 20 at the Br. Andrew Hall. The event was supported by the College of Liberal Arts Office of the Assistant Dean for Research and Advanced Studies.

Lim is Vice President of Partnerships & Engagement and Lee Kong Chian Professor of Communication and Technology at Singapore Management University. She has extensively researched the social impact of technology, focusing on technology domestication by families, future of work, and AI ethics.

In her talk, she shared how heightened digital connectivity in urban Chinese cities have impacted children’s academic pursuits. With digital technologies within and beyond the household, from apps, online platforms, and gadgets, parents have to reckon with parental accountability, peer pressure, and performative parenting.

She mentioned challenges on children, whose family structure is 4-2-1 under China’s one child policy. It was noted that grandparents (4) and

parents (2) engage in digital collaboration 24/7, to ensure that their only child (1) will not be left behind. She pointed out the practice of 9 am to 9 pm, 6-day workweek, which also affects the time parents spend with their children.

In her book, which was based on 80 interviews with 60 Chinese parents in Beijing and Hangzhou before and during the COVID-19 pandemic, she shared insights and reflections as she translated her research into public education and advocacy.

She has over 100 academic publications and articles in top journals like Nature, Journal of Computer-Mediated Communication, and Big Data & Society. From 2018-2020, she was Nominated Member of the 13th Parliament of Singapore, raising issues such as governance of big data, priorities in digital literacy education, and digital rights for children.

She is an honoree of the inaugural Top 50 Asia Women Tech Leaders Award 2024 and Singapore 100 Women in Tech 2020 list and is a Fellow of the International Communication Association and the Singapore Computer Society. She frequently offers her expert commentary in international media outlets and has won eight awards for excellent teaching.



DLSU administrators and scholars



Scholars taking their oath



Br. Bernie congratulates a grantee

LA SALLE HONORS NEWEST BATCH OF SHS, UNDERGRAD SCHOLARS

DE LA SALLE UNIVERSITY REAFFIRMED ITS COMMITMENT TO ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AND HOLISTIC DEVELOPMENT through the ID 124 Scholars Recognition event held on February 14 at The Verdure, Henry Sy, Sr. Hall. Anchored on the theme *Tindig Animo!* the ceremony celebrated the achievements of scholars who have demonstrated exceptional academic performance, leadership, service, and faith.

In his address, University President Br. Bernard Oca FSC underscored the vital role of scholars in shaping the future. “As Lasallian scholars, you do not only pursue knowledge; you carry the responsibility to use it for the greater good,” he stated.

The theme *Tindig Animo!* serves as a clarion call urging the new scholars to rise to challenges, lead with purpose, and create meaningful impact.

The event highlighted scholars across various prestigious programs, including the Reims Scholarship Program, Star Scholars Program, Gokongwei Grant, Vaugirard Scholarship Program, Archer Achievers, and the newly introduced Animo Grant. Representing diverse fields such as engineering, business, the sciences, and the humanities, these scholars embody the University’s values of excellence and service.

Engr. Piolo Gabriel Gervacio, an ID 118 Vaugirard Scholar and recipient of the Cinco Gold Medal for Excellence in Chemical Engineering, delivered an inspiring message, recounting his journey from scholar to licensed engineer and giving testament to the transformative power of Lasallian education.

The ceremony also featured the Scholar’s Oath, a pledge of commitment to integrity, perseverance, and service to the community.

UNIVERSITY FELLOW SELECTED AS FULBRIGHT VISITING SCHOLAR

FULL PROFESSOR AND UNIVERSITY FELLOW DR. DINAH ROMA RECEIVED THE FULBRIGHT ADVANCED RESEARCH AND UNIVERSITY LECTURING PROGRAM AWARD from the US-based Fulbright Visiting Scholar Program for the academic year 2025-26.

The former Department of Literature Chair was recognized for her interdisciplinary project, “Writing Island Geographies: Poetry, Place, and Cultural Memory.”

In April, Roma launched a collection of essays called *Weaving Basey: A Poet’s History of Home*, with the Bienvenido N. Santos Creative Writing Center and the Department of Literature.

A memoir and local history, the book was the author’s narrative of home, through prose, poems, and photos, that tells of the journey to recovery, healing, and hope in her hometown, after the devastation of Typhoon Yolanda in 2013.

Roma is also the author of four books of poetry—*A Feast of Origins* (2004, National Book Award for Poetry in English), *Geographies of Light* (UST 2011), *Naming the Ruins* (Vagabond Press, 2014), and *We Shall Write Love Poems Again* (2021, National Book Award for Poetry in English). In 2019, the Unyon ng mga Manunulat sa Pilipinas conferred on her the Gawad Francisco Balagtas for Poetry.

She has also been widely published in international scholarly journals while her poetry has also appeared in foreign and national anthologies and journals.



Roma

PAGHIGMATA: GIFTS OF AWAKENING

- Marjorie Evasco

Alang-alang sa Maykapal at sa Taong-Bayan.

-Panata ng Lasalyano

1 Among them, one who does marine science says “Underwater,
I have marvelled at the moon’s refracted light, watched
the spawning of corals, vermillion snappers, bonefish,
heard the silence of beached whales and calves.”

2 In the arboretum’s sacred tree, another who writes poetry perched
on a quantum of light, hummingbird-dives into the heart
of sweetness at 200 wingbeats per second: “Waves and whale-
songs make us porous to the mystery in which we breathe.”

3 “Endangered lives still thrive with us” the third who studies
biology names them: Whale Sharks in Oslob, Lila, Sorsogon;
Visayan Spotted Deer, Panay’s Bleeding Heart Pigeon,
Bontoc’s Peacock Swallowtail, Sulu’s Red-Vented Cockatoo.

4 “Earth is voluptuous,” chimes the fourth who loves
math, equations with integers of her discipline,
sines, parabolas, and helixes shifting in multiples
seeking horizons of the mind’s infinite universes.

5 “Do all life no harm,” speaks the medical doctor treating
her poor patients in a rural health clinic. Our living body
earth’s own, a colossal moving holograph, re-creating every
thing, rebirthing things from deep time into consciousness.

Awake each day throughout this century, from my windows,
doors, portals, and rooms, I fairly see much of how they see.



For the 50th anniversary of DLSU’s University Charter, award-winning poet, University Fellow, and Professor Emeritus in Literature **Dr. Marjorie Evasco** wrote **Paghigmata: Gifts of Awakening**. The poem was projected on the façade of the LS Hall on February 19, marking the Golden Jubilee celebrations.

“Your faith should be a shining light
for those whom you teach.”

De La Salle

-Med 178.1

BIRDWATCHING AT DLSU LAGUNA

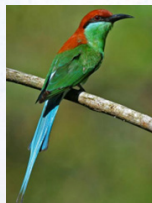
The University Sustainability Office, in partnership with the student-led Environmental Conservation Organization and the Wild Bird Club of the Philippines, has been conducting bird watching activities on the DLSU Laguna Campus since 2015.

To date, their collective efforts have listed the total of observed species that visited the campus since monitoring started.

Total observed species to date: 60

Among the birds that have been observed include:

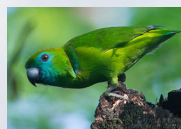
- 5 species of doves
- 2 species of raptors
- 4 species of swallows
- 3 species of flowerpeckers
- 2 species of sunbirds
- 3 species of munias
- 1 forest species of an endemic parrot
- 2 species of grassbirds
- 2 species of kingfishers
- 2 species of egrets
- 1 species of jungle fowl



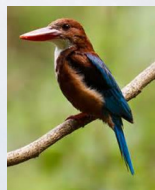
Blue-throated Bee Eater *Merops viridis*



Black-Naped Oriole *Oriolus chinensis*



Guaibero *Bolbopsittacus lunulatus*



White-throated Kingfisher *Halcyon smyrnensis*



Red Jungle Fowl *Gallus gallus*



Source: University Sustainability Office



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>.