



DLSU breaks ground for Villa-Abrille Center at Davao Global Township

DE LA SALLE UNIVERSITY AND YHEST REALTY AND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION, marked a Lasallian milestone with the groundbreaking ceremony of the Davao Global Township Cultural Center, which will house the DLSU Villa-Abrille Center for Professional Development at the DLSU Villa-Abrille Microcampus.

The event signified a shared commitment to education, innovation, and community empowerment, bringing world-class learning opportunities to the burgeoning Davao Global Township.

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DLSU President Br. Bernard Oca FSC said, “Through this continuing education campus, we aim to provide high-quality, future-ready programs designed to empower professionals, entrepreneurs, and lifelong learners in Mindanao.”

The DLSU Villa-Abrille Center for Professional Development will offer a range of future-ready programs designed to empower professionals, entrepreneurs, and lifelong learners in Mindanao, delivered through the DLSU School of Lifelong Learning (SoLL). Courses will include Communications Management, Data Science, Leadership, Compliance, Governance, Network Security, Cybersecurity Operations, Human Resource Management, and Risk Management, among others.

Br. Bernie also acknowledged the partnership with YHEST Realty and Development Corporation, highlighting the transformative impact of collaboration in bridging education with industry needs, fostering leadership, and nurturing a community that values excellence and service.

The project also pays tribute to the legacy of the Villa-Abrille Clan, whose pioneering spirit has significantly contributed to Davao’s development.

Representing DLSU at the ceremony were President Br. Bernard Oca FSC, School of Lifelong Learning Dean Dr. Rodiel Ferrer, Advancement and Alumni Relations Executive Director Edwin Reyes, Campus Planning Office Director Engr. Ma Emilia Sevilla, Strategic Communications Office Executive Director Jingo Badillo, Donor Relations and Alumni Relations Officer Tina Aurelio, and SoLL Director for Training Dr. Rowena Caguiat.

YHEST Realty and Development Corporation President Mr. Frederick Yuson, Cebu Landmasters Incorporated Chairman and CEO Mr. Jose Soberano, Cebu Landmasters Incorporated President Franco Soberano, Mr. Jason Huang, esteemed representatives from the Davao City Government and the Department of Tourism, and other valued partners and distinguished guests were also present.

CSN2025: ADVANCING INNOVATION IN CONCRETE AND STRUCTURAL ENGINEERING

IN ITS CONTINUOUS PURSUIT OF INNOVATION AND EXCELLENCE IN CONCRETE ENGINEERING, the De La Salle University Department of Civil Engineering hosted the 5th International Symposium on Concrete and Structures for the Next Generation (CSN 2025) last March 3-4.

The event was held in collaboration with the Japan Society of Civil Engineers and the Cross-Ministerial Strategic Innovation Promotion Program (SIP) by the Council for Science, Technology, and Innovation (CSTI) of the Japanese Government. CSN2025 builds on the legacy of the Ikeda-Otsuki Symposium (IOS2016), first held in Tokyo, Japan, in May 2016 to honor Dr. Shoji Ikeda and Dr. Nobuaki Otsuki, renowned figures in concrete engineering.

This year’s symposium featured cutting-edge research presentations and keynote speeches by distinguished experts, including Dr. Jason Maximino Ongpeng of DLSU, Dr. Shinichi Miyazato of Kanazawa University, Japan, and Dr. Pitiwat Wattanachai of Chiang Mai University, Thailand.

Composed of researchers, industry professionals, and academics, the participants explored advancements in sustainable and resilient infrastructure, particularly the emerging trends in sustainable concrete



materials, advancements in durability, and strategies for structural resilience in an era of rapid environmental and technological change. Beyond the technical sessions, CSN2025 also served as a vital platform for networking and collaboration.

Additionally, the symposium was accredited for seven (7) Continuing Professional Development (CPD) units by the Professional Regulation Commission of the Philippines.

Since its inception, the symposium has traveled across Asia—Manila in 2017, Bangkok in 2018, and Kanazawa in 2019—continuing its mission to foster international collaboration and drive advancements in concrete technology.

SEMINAR UNVEILS CUTTING-EDGE SOLUTIONS FOR CONCRETE DURABILITY



CONCRETE CRACKING REMAINS A MAJOR CHALLENGE IN CONSTRUCTION, affecting structural integrity and longevity. To address this, a Crack Seminar organized by the DLSU Department of Civil Engineering, in partnership with the Japan Concrete Institute (JCI), was held last March 5 at the Br. Andrew Gonzalez Hall.

This seminar brought together experts to discuss the latest advancements in crack investigation, repair, and strengthening.

A key focus was the JCI's Practical Guidelines for Investigation and Repair of Cracked Concrete Structures, a globally recognized resource since 1980. The latest 2009 edition continues to guide engineers in diagnosing and addressing cracks effectively.

Invited resource speakers from the JCI discussed the chapters of this guideline, including Dr. Kei-Chi Imamoto, Dr. Keiyu Kawaai,

Dr. Shinichi Miyazato, and Dr. Takahiro Nishida. For his part, Dr. Rodolfo Mendoza Jr. discussed some case studies on structural engineering in the Philippines.

The seminar featured interactive discussions, case studies, and expert demonstrations, covering early detection techniques, advanced strengthening solutions, and innovative repair technologies. These advancements are shaping more sustainable and resilient infrastructure.

While concrete cracks are inevitable, their impact can be managed and prevented with the right knowledge and innovations. This seminar was accredited for three (3) Continuing Professional Development (CPD) units by the Professional Regulation Commission of the Philippines.

13th KRITIKA La Salle National Workshop on Art and Cultural Criticism

TWELVE FELLOWSHIPS HAVE BEEN AWARDED FOR THE 13TH KRITIKA LA SALLE NATIONAL WORKSHOP ON ART AND CULTURAL CRITICISM

held from March 23 to 30, 2024 at San Antonio Resort, Roxas City.

Organized by the Bienvenido N. Santos Creative Writing Center (BNSWCW) of De La Salle University, in partnership with the Roxas City Government, KRITIKA13 covered various arts and cultural practices, including literary studies, diaspora studies, visual culture, urban studies, performance studies, indigenous studies, children's literature, disability studies, art history and queer screen cultures.

The workshop gathered established art critics and talented young scholars to

tackle artistic and cultural texts through an interdisciplinary approach.

The 2025 fellows are Kelly Camille G. Alair (Diasporic Literary Studies), Harvey James G. Castillo (Visual Arts and Urban Studies), Yves Paciencia Cuenza (Performance Studies from the Regions), DJ Ellamil (Indigenous Queer Studies), Jan Marvin A. Goh (Literary Studies and the Philippine Gothic), Abigail C. James (Ethics and Literary Studies), Ivan Emil Labayne (Language and Literary Studies), Zarah Meneses (Children's Literature and Disability Studies), Angela Nicole R. Mistranza (Ecocriticism and Art History), Jenno Roquero (Queer Cinema and State Violence), Thomas Leonard Shaw (Ecocritical Literary Studies), Reya Mari S. Veloso (Queer Media Studies).

Dr. Rolando B. Tolentino, cultural studies scholar and BNSWCW Associate for Criticism, served as the workshop director. Dr. Carlos M. Piosos III, Chair of the Department of Literature and BNSWCW Associate for Poetry and Literary Studies, was workshop deputy director. The panel of experts included Dr. Isidoro Cruz, Lisa Ito-Tapang, Dr. Ronald Baytan, Dr. Jazmin Llana, Dr. Anne Frances Sangil, Dr. Jose Kervin Cesar Calabias, and Dr. John Iremit Teodoro (Director, BNSWCW).



UC Berkeley launches Br. Andrew Gonzalez Lecture

DE LA SALLE UNIVERSITY
PRESIDENT BR. BERNARD OCA FSC
ATTENDED THE INAUGURAL
BR. ANDREW GONZALEZ
LECTURE OF THE UNIVERSITY
OF CALIFORNIA, Berkeley Center for Southeast Asian Studies (CSEAS) and the Philippine Studies Program at the Howard Room, Faculty Club last March 20.

The lecture was delivered by Professor Caroline S. Hau from the Center for Southeast Asian Studies, Kyoto University, Japan.

Br. Bernie delivered the introduction about Br. Andrew, who earned his PhD in Linguistics at UC Berkeley. “To know and work with Br. Andrew Gonzalez at close quarters was to discover the full life of a great scholar, a Christian Brother, and, in the words of his dissertation supervisor, a “once in a century” Filipino who emphasized the need to grow a global network of academics, with members working together and appreciating each other for all their shared values as well as differences.”

He shared about Br. Andrew’s impact on the field of linguistics, for which he would receive



the title of Academician from the National Academy of Science and Technology. He pioneered the study of Philippine English and he pushed for the use of the Filipino language in all domains, even the most scientific and technical, and for the preservation of regional languages.

A well-respected, visionary school administrator and academic leader, Br. Andrew supported the development of various fields of study, invested in research, and promoted life-long education, especially for the faculty. He also pursued low-key advocacies, among them supporting hundreds of students from poor families until they graduated and helping put up a free hospital in his community in Apalit, Pampanga. At one point, he served as Secretary of Education.

For the lecture, Prof. Hau tackled José Rizal’s novels Noli me tángere (1887) and El filibusterismo (1891), noting that “the novels’ openness to multiple interpretations accounts for their longevity and storied afterlives and highlights the fragility of projects aimed at making community, especially the national one—a lesson that is all the more relevant in the contemporary era, even in so-called “developed” countries.”

Br. Bernie acknowledged the support of the Philippine Consulate in San Francisco and the diplomacy initiative spearheaded by Philippine Senator Loren Legarda for the inaugural lecture.

CHAMPION TEAM AT ASEAN COMPETITION

A BSMS INDUSTRIAL ENGINEERING STUDENT FROM DE LA SALLE UNIVERSITY, TOGETHER WITH HIS TEAMMATES FROM OTHER ASEAN-MEMBER UNIVERSITIES, won first place at the ASEAN Future Innovators Challenge held on February 19-23, 2025 at the Asia Pacific University of Innovation and Technology (APU) in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Jeremy Gabriel Uy, who is also a research assistant at the DLSU Department of Industrial Engineering, was coached by Vice President for External Relations and Internationalization Prof. Dr. Anthony SF Chiu and Nelca Villarin.

In line with the theme, “Empowering ASEAN Youth: Leadership for a Sustainable Future,” the program aimed to address challenges faced by Southeast Asian countries and advance the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Referencing the Southeast Asia Climate Outlook 2024 Survey Report, Uy and his group collectively identified climate change, particularly urban flooding as the pressing issue they wanted to address. They found that “over 60% of urban drainage canals in ASEAN cities are clogged with plastic waste and debris”.

To combat this, the group came up with the Aqua-Sentinel Youth Force, a multi-sectoral, technology-powered solution to creating flood-resilient cities. The model involves the collaboration of government, academe, industry, and communities.

For the technology support, the team mentioned an AI-powered Smart Drainage System and a mobile app to alert communities in real-time.

The project, mainly aligned with SDG 13, is also anchored with SDGs 11, 6, 9 and 17.



DLSU CELEBRATES 20 YEARS OF AWARDING OUTSTANDING MEDIA STORIES ON YOUTH AND EDUCATION

DE LA SALLE UNIVERSITY HONORED MEDIA PRACTITIONERS IN ITS ANNUAL RECOGNITION PROGRAM FOR OUTSTANDING MEDIA COVERAGE OF YOUTH AND EDUCATION ISSUES in the Lasallian Scholarum Awards held last March 13 on the DLSU Manila campus.

In its 20th year, the advocacy-driven awards program carried the theme “Hayag,” which highlighted the media practitioners’ continuous fight to uphold truth, excellence, and compassion in their work while inspiring people, especially the youth who follow their path.

DLSU President Br. Bernard Oca FSC in his welcome remarks paid tribute to the country’s media practitioners, highlighting their important role in upholding truth for the pursuit of justice and peace, as well as for the development of a sustainable society. He cited their coverage on former President Duterte’s war on drugs, which mirrored their courage and commitment to their work.

The 20th anniversary of the Lasallian Scholarum Awards coincides with the golden jubilee year of DLSU’s University Charter. As a special treat for the occasion,



Keynote Speaker, EDCOM II Executive Director, Dr. Mark Karol Yee

the LSA introduced a new category – The Outstanding Feature Film on Youth and Education.

In partnership with the DLSU Student Media Office, LSA also presented the Outstanding Media Personality Award to Patricia Evangelista, author of the New York Times bestselling book *Some People Need Killing* and former investigative reporter of Rappler.

Executive Director of the Second Congressional Commission on Education (EDCOM II) Dr. Mark Karol Yee shared in his keynote address how valuable access to information is, and highlighted the need to confront uncomfortable realities and unsettling narratives in the education sector.

He mentioned some of the highlights from the EDCOM II report, which tackled the

learning crisis affecting the future of Filipino children. He also emphasized the moral imperative to reach policymakers and other sectors of society.

“We must amplify these voices and build a narrative of possibility, one that is grounded on truth. Our work must be a catalyst for change and a bridge between diagnosis and action scheme,” he added.

The Board of Judges for this year’s edition was composed of Komisyon sa Wikang Filipino Commissioner Dr. Arthur Casanova; National Youth Commission Executive Director Leah Villalon; University Fellow Dr. Clodualdo del Mundo, Jr.; Bato Balani Foundation Inc. Managing Director Natalie Christine Jorge; and DLSU faculty member Br. Richie Yap FSC.

Winners in the professional categories each received a sculpture especially designed and crafted by sculptor Toym De Leon Imao.

The Lasallian Scholarum Awards contracted an independent media-monitoring agency for the screening of youth and education news and feature stories and, for the new category on film, announced a call for entries in November last year.



From L-R: Br. Richie Yap FSC, Ms. Leah Villalon, Dr. Arthur Cassanova, Ms. Ching Jorge, Dr. Mark Karol Yee, Br. Bernard Oca FSC, Dr. Clodualdo del Mundo, Dr. Shirley Lua, Dr. Frances Sangil, Ms. Fritzie De Vera, Mr. Gerard Mariano

“God’s compassion for you is greater than the troubles you have.”

De La Salle

Hayag



20th Lasallian Scholarum Awards Winners

Outstanding feature story on De La Salle University

DLSU's Coffee Science Class Proves There's So Much Behind Making the Perfect Brew - Christa De La Cruz, *Spot.ph*

Outstanding published feature article on youth & education in a nationally circulated publication

"Why are more students graduating with Latin honors?" - Pam Pastor, *Philippine Daily Inquirer*

Outstanding published feature article on youth & education in a school organ

"A tale of the Lumad Schools: Trailing mounts of deprivation towards academic recognition" - Eunhice Corpuz, *FEU Advocate*

Outstanding online feature story on youth & education

"The Cost of Miseducation" - Giselle Ombay, *GMA News Online*

Outstanding video feature story on youth & education

"Silid-aklatan sa Lansangan" - Lilian Tiburcio, Jenica Villanueva, *DigiDokyu, GMA Integrated News*

Outstanding Media Personality

Patricia Evangelista, *Rappler*

Outstanding feature film on youth & education

"Firefly" - Zig Dulay, Nessa S. Valdellon, Angeli Atienza, *GMA Pictures, GMA Public Affairs*

Source: STRATCOM



2401 (twen'te för'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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Contributions should include the name, office and signature of the sender. Materials may be edited for clarity or space.

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Executive Director | Johannes Leo Badillo
Editorial Supervisor | Ruby Carlos
 (ruby.carlos@dlsu.edu.ph)
2401 Vol. 56 No. 11 Artist-in-charge | Arjay Rigantes

Issue No. 11 Writers |
 Arfie Koc, Karen Escamillas,
 Giorla Pauline Negre,
 Roy Monarch Sy

Student Writer | Jardine Peare Sy
Sources | AARO, Department of Civil
 Engineering, BNSWC

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