



(L-R) DLSU-D's Br. Gus Boquer FSC and Lewis University's Br. James Gaffney FSC, D. Min, share a light moment with Brothers Angelo Paragas FSC and Mark Salvan FSC at the DLSU-D Museum Complex just before DLSU-D's conferment of the degree Doctor of Humanities on Br. James. Story on p. 34. (Photo by Jojo Romerosa)

DLSU-D TO OUT MANUAL ON DISASTER MGT

WITH TALKS OF impending disasters triggered by possible movement along the Marikina Valley Fault Line, De La Salle University-Dasmariñas' DRRM (Disaster Risk Reduction and Management) Group has come up with a manual on on-campus disaster preparedness and management which is set to be released anytime soon. The manual, says Edwin Bunag, head of DLSU-D's GSO (General Services Office) in charge of DRRM Group, is already with the University's Operations Council for review and approval.

The manual, titled "Disaster Risk Reduction Management Safety and Security Manual," contains different scenarios of disasters and the school's prescribed protocols and guidelines on how people on campus should act when disasters strike.

As soon as the manual is approved, the different sectors of DLSU-D (De La Salle University-Dasmariñas) will have to be oriented with it. "By then, we will have standard procedures and policies on how to respond [to disasters] and how we can minimize certain risks whenever they strike," says Bunag.

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DLSU-D TO OUT MANUAL...from page 1

City benchmark

Even in its unpublished state, the manual's prescriptions in case of an earthquake have already been used as benchmark by Dasmariñas City government.

"They referred to our earthquake protocol, and it's what they're using now for their earthquake drills and trainings," says Jhelyn Relopez, project officer of DRRM and faculty with DLSU-D's community extension arm LCDC (Lasallian Community Development Center). "LCDC served as guide to Dasmariñas' CDRRM (City Disaster Risk Reduction Management) Office in forming the City Emergency Response Team. That is how they got to benchmark with us."

As part of the CDRRM Council, LCDC, headed by its director Dr. Rosalina Dulog, has proposed for the use of some parts of DLSU-D as evacuation areas. "But that's only for major disasters," clarifies Relopez. "We would be a last option [for evacuation] since each barangay in Dasmariñas already has its designated evacuation areas."

The University's proposed evacuation areas include the stretch of the JFH Parking lot, COSC Building ("when school days are off"), and the oval track. According to the CDRRM Council, should a major disaster strike, DLSU-D would serve as an evacuation area for the entire province Cavite, adds Relopez.

DLSU-D also helps the council in trainings, policy-formulation and protocols, besides serving as a local research institute.

Preparedness

The University is still working on its contingency protocols in the aftermath

of disasters. These include dealing with food and water shortage, power and communication outage, and business continuity. Also, it has yet to assess its preparedness for disasters.

However, a risk assessment of the school's buildings has already been conducted by the College of Engineering, Architecture and Technology. Among those examined are the buildings' structure, fire exits and alarm system. Besides this, fire and earthquake drills have been regularly conducted before.

"Right now, I'm trying to organize again the DRRM team," says Bunag, whose stint as GSO director began only this schoolyear. "It's just a matter of reinforcing the team by having replacement members for those who have already left the school so that we could already execute fire and earthquake drills sometime in September."

Also, the team is conducting information dissemination drives via DLSU-D's web portal, video clips on

on-campus LED monitors and a safety and health forum on August 4.

"The initial stage is massive information drive, inform the community about the importance of campus security and safety," says Bunag. "Hopefully, it becomes part of our culture as well as our curriculum."

Hinged on Republic Act 10121 (Philippine Disaster Risk Reduction Management Act of 2010), DLSU-D's DRRM Group is the emergency preparedness and response group of the institution spearheaded by the office of the General Services under the office of the Vice Chancellor for Finance and Administrative Services' supervision. It aims to build a disaster-resilient academic community for sustainable development...making our university an "emergency- and accident-free campus."

Past heads of the group include Segundo Añonuevo, Alfredo Caracena, Dr. Pat Alcartado, Joseph Dinglasan and Eduardo Rubi II. It was during Rubi's term that DLSU-D's DRRM manual was initiated.



FIRE OUT. Volunteer firefighters put out the "fire" in this file photo of a DLSU-D fire drill held January 2014. Photo by Jojo Romerosa.

DLSU-D studes, Tops 1 and 5 in ASEAN Best Engineering Student search

This year's ESTA (Engineering Student Talent Award), a yearly "Best Engineering Student" search via quiz competition among students from participating ASEAN countries, concluded with two DLSU-D students ending in the 1st and 5th positions from among the Top 20 distinguished from over 60 participants.

The two students were Hexina Madolid (champion) and Glen Andrew Tadeo (Top 5). They were coached by Engr. Conrado Monzon, associate dean of DLSU-D's College of Engineering, Architecture and Technology.

The quiz provided for participants to present their knowledge in Mathematics and General Engineering; their understanding of the need for alternative energy; and their capability to search for the Engineering/scientific solutions to meet the challenges.

ESTA 2015 was presented by the Indian Institutes of Technology Alumni Association Thailand in collaboration with Rajamangala University of Technology Thanyaburi, and was held February 7 in Thailand.



New architects post 100% for 8th consecutive time

DLSU-D's Architecture graduates continue their perfect passing rate streak with the latest batch posting 100 percent in the June 12 and 14 licensure examination. The national passing rate was 61.15 percent.

Our successful examinees are Ken Jerome Balagot, Patrick Owen Corpuz, Ana Mariel Deliva, Armon Joseph Jarillas, Angelbert Sam Lazaga, John Erico Perez, Merian Leslie Viterbo.

CCJE grads pass April Criminology board

Graduates from DLSU-D's College of Criminal Justice Education recently posted a 63.64 percent passing rate in the April 2015 Criminology licensure exam. The national passing rate was 29.51 percent.

The new criminologists are Martin Baclayo, Elmer Bondoc, Regie Calape, Aries Kent Comia, Kithy Boy Costelo, Dee-jay De Jesus, Noel Fello, Angelico Lansangan, Ronnel Martinez, Arnel Mendoza, Lloramae Nallos, Gil Poli, Val Jornie Rosano, and Kevin Sealongo.

2 PolSci students among RP's 10 outstanding

Glenn Marie Esmero and Mariko Iwaki, Political Science students under DLSU-D's College of Liberal Arts and Communication, placed 5th and 9th respectively in this year's TOPSSP (Ten Outstanding Political Science Students of the Philippines) search during the 7th PSSAP (Political Science Students Association of the Philippines) National Convention, February 10. They were among the 14 nominees representing 28 participating schools nationwide. Esmero also emerged champion



in the convention's essay writing competition.

The two were coached by Dr. Aquino Garcia.

TOPSSP is an annual search conducted by PSSAP and is determined based on candidates' participation in regional, national and international conventions on discussions related to political or social sciences. This year's PSSAP National Convention was themed "ASEAN Integration" and was held at Cebu Normal University, Cebu City.

Bio students' paper wins 2nd in Parasitology society meet

A paper by senior BS Biology students Nathaniel Peter Glenn Castasus and Anna ShieluChandumal was adjudged second best paper in the Research Poster Competition in the 7th Scientific Meeting of the Philippine Society of Parasitology at Far Eastern University in Manila, March 6-7.

Their paper, "Detection of Parasites in *Chanos Chanos* (Milkfish) and *Oreochromis niloticus* (Nile tilapia) from Laguna Bay," was chosen second best among 11 competitors from different prestigious universities in Manila. They were coached by Dr. Cristina Salibay.

The Parasitology Society meet is an

annual event that brings together teachers, students, researchers and health professionals in parasitology and infectious diseases interested in doing research on parasitic diseases. The meet's theme this year was "Impact of Current Environmental Challenges on Parasitic Disease Dynamics."

Accountancy boasts of new CPAs, CMAs

DLSU-D's new CPAs (Certified Public Accountants) posted a 100-percent passing rate in the May licensure exams. Meanwhile, three other DLSU-D graduates also passed the CMA (Certified Management Accountant) board. The new

CPAs are Emilyn Garcia, Midori Cosico and Rafael Anthony Ramirez, while the new CMAs are Melvin Brutus (CPA, CMA), Paul Matthew Parcon, and Joelle Celline Reyes.



Casamorin, 8th placer, leads DLSU-D LET passers

Leading DLSU-D's passers in LET (Licensure Examination for Teachers) in the secondary level was Mac Anthony Casamorin who placed 8th in the March board. First-time takers from DLSU-D posted 69.23 percent (57.14 percent overall) vis-à-vis the national passing

rate of 31.64 percent. Meanwhile, for LET in the elementary level, our first-time takers posted an 80-percent passing rate (42 percent overall), with the national passing rate at 27.42.

Here's the list of our successful examinees: Elementary level: Jackie Balauro, Jennifer Bayot, Marites Caparic, Imee Casalme, Vivian Panigbatan, Regina Louise Suarez, Jennifer Valle, Kimgel Virtudez, Ana Diana Yumul.

Secondary level: Rosalinda Alcantara, Donnalyne Alpas, Mary Queen

Arguelles, Ma. Yvonne Armada, Donna Grace Bunyi, Mac Anthony Casamorin, Michelle Fe Comia, Julius Conde, Regina Carmela Cubos, Joy Dayto, Cherry Pink Decena, Kazuya Kuruma, Venus Lim, Vinci James Lorica, Neri Jia Magnaye, Karen Mendoza, Kimberly Ann Pineda, Audrey Anne Reyes, Wiljuber Romero, Joshua Jonathan Rozul, Bernard Santos, Reverie Sapul, Leslie Ann Sayaman, Mark Paolo Simon, Genine Ysabel Sipin, Annalyn Suarez, Paul James Tamayo, Paolo Torreliza, Rene Villamino, Armina Villanueva, John Jeffrey Villanueva, George Zaragosa.

Biology team dominates interschool pre-med quiz

A team of DLSU-D Biology students composed of Grace Maniago, James Daniel Omalin, Javee Anne Pelayo, Marco de Guzman, and Bianca Moredo won the championship in the 16th Interschool Pre-Medicine Quiz Show

held at PLM (Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila), February 21. This is DLSU-D's first championship win in eight years since 2007 when DLSU-D last won it with Dr. Johnny Ching, dean of the College of Science and Computer

Studies, coaching. This year's team was coached by Norbel Tabo.

For their prize, the team received P7,000 and a trophy.

The event was sponsored by PLM's Brotherhood of Medical Scholars.

DLSU-D's new engineers named

The April board examinations for Engineers yielded new Electronics, Electrical and Civil engineers from DLSU-D. They are Ryan Nasserr Brania, Mark Anthony De Taza, Bryan Delos Santos, Mary Louise Dinglasan, Michael Gibson

Lasala, Amstel Renz McGinnis, Francis Neil Moral, Mark Jose Pascua, Ace Gabriel Salcedo, Kevin San Andres, Janine Denisse Santos, Kim Sarmiento, Hubert Sumulong, Ayra Joyce Tapawan—all new electronic

engineers posting a 55.56 percent passing rate vis-à-vis the national passing rate of 34.95 percent; Reiv Matthew Realuyo, new electrical engineer; and Cilla Lois Marie Famero, new civil engineer.

Sanitary Engineering students top quiz bee

Sanitary Engineering students Earl Jethro Campaner, John Kevin Heim Laude and Jhoanna Matining won the top spot in the quiz bee competition of the 2015 Philippine Society of Sanitary Engineers Midyear National Convention. The competition covered topics like water resource, plumbing, wastewater, environment and public health. The convention was held at Century Park Hotel, Manila, April 15.



Psychology students, champions in Junior AASHPI

(Note: We reprint this story to make up for the inadvertent exclusion of some details when it was previously published. Our apologies.)

DLSU-D AB Psychology and HRD students topped four competitions at the Junior AASHPI (Asian Association of School Human Resource Practitioners), Inc. National Convention, January 23. Dan Albert Merais topped the Junior AASHPI Essay Writing competition, while John Michael Mojica, Holie Dawn Morales, Angella Jimenez and Denise Ysabelle Argamaso dominated the Junior AASHPI Inter-school HR Trivia Challenge.

In Junior AASHPI Jingle Writing, our champions were Janica Villarosa, Dan Albert Merais, Alexander Solleza, Hurdy Anthony Bocao, and Shannen Kyle Benolirao, followed in third place by Kevin Paolo Vallido, Jevsen Paul Acabal, Michael Kenneth Tabuton and Joshua Ken Toribio.

The students were accompanied by their coaches Dr. Lina Varias (Psychology Department) and Epitacio Mendiola (Management Department).

The convention, themed this year

as “Opportunities and Challenges for the Generation Z in the ASEAN Integration,” was held at DLSU-D’s Ugnayang La Salle and participated in by students from colleges and universities all over the country.



DLSU-D Vice Chancellor for Mission, External Affairs and Advancement Dr. Myrna Ramos (left) meet with UCAM (Universidad Catolica De Murcia) President Dr. Jose Luis Mendoza Pérez (center) and Vice Rector for International Relations and Dean of the Faculties of Social Sciences and Communication Dr. Pablo Blesa during Ramos' visit to UCAM in Spain, May 12-18. Ramos also made a visit to University of Coimbra in Lisbon, Portugal aided by Filipino expat Susan Selasor. Earlier in January, DLSU-D and UCAM signed a memorandum of understanding for academic exchange and cooperation.

Meanwhile, Ahmiel Justine Zaragoza emerged champion in the Logo Making Competition.

Communication students rake in AdSpeak finishes, awards

Senior AB Communication students taking up Advertising under DLSU-D's College of Liberal Arts and Communication raked in awards at this year's AdSpeak at Colegio De San Juan de Letran-Manila, February 13.

Of 729 entries from universities and colleges nationwide, seven from DLSU-D became Top 10 finalists, both in Practitioners'/industry's and Students' choice categories. Of the seven, three gained podium finish.

The pack of DLSU-D winners was led by Ira Guillera, Camille Guinday, Selina Lim, Alyssa Villaflores, and Pauline Yago whose entry "If" bagged 1st runner up in the TVC (Television Commercial) category in the Students' Choice division; 2nd runner up for the Online Choice Award; and was a Top 10 finalist in both Practitioners'/industry's choice and Students' Choice.

They were followed by the team of Neil Dominic De Luna, Maria Hennah Alhambra and Julie Ann Navarro whose TVC entry "Batang Barker" was 2nd runner up, and a Top 10 finalist in Students' Choice.

Joining them were Emmanuel Domingo, Coleen Manalaysay and Hezekiah Cu, whose Radio PSA (public service



announcement) entry "Meron-merong Chika" was also adjudged 2nd runner up for the Online Choice Award. It was also a Top 10 finalist in both Practitioners'/industry's Choice and Students' Choice. Incidentally, Domingo's team's entry "It's Pee Back Time" in the TVC category also made it to the Top 10 in both Practitioners'/industry's Choice and Students' Choice.

DLSU-D's other Top 10 finalists were Angela Ayson, Dan Elairon, and Peter Anthony Garcia for their TVC entry "Psst, Miss" (Students' Choice); and

Bernard Peñaranda, Bea Faicol, and Arianne Mae Soniega for their Print category entries "The Man in Every Woman" (Students' Choice) and "Perfect Fit" (Practitioners'/industry's Choice).

The students were all mentored by Advertising Professor Juan Luis Perlas.

AdSpeak is an annual advertising competition presented by Colegio De San Juan De Letran-Manila and the Advertising Foundation of the Philippines. Its theme for this year was "AdSpeak 2015: Values Power Up."

(Juan Luis Perlas)

IT students bag silver, bronze in skills olympics

Two team delegates from DLSU-D's BS Information Technology program under the College of Science and Computer Studies brought home silver and bronze medals in two of seven Olympic events in the 5th IT Skills Olympics hosted by the University of Makati, February 27.

Syeya Omelig and Michael Angelo Go, coached by faculty Jayson Sable, won the bronze award in the IT Quiz Bee, while Juvar Abrera and Rafael Bono III, coached by Kathleen Lumandas, won silver in the Web Design category.

Participants from 40 schools in Metro Manila to even as far as Nueva Vizcaya and Pangasinan participated in the event, which was themed this year as "Sustaining the Passion through Relevant IT Education."

Effects of cybergames to students, discussed in SAdO seminar

Exposure to video games, specifically RPGs (role-playing games), could cause higher aggression, higher physiological arousal, and lower prosocial behavior, leading to depressed moods, tendency to associate with delinquent peers, negative relations with adults and anti-social personality traits. So said Dr. Joy Avi Arañas, a registered guidance counselor and psychologist, to high school guidance counselors from all over CALABARZON who attended the seminar “Cyber Wellness: Understanding School Counselors Role

in Shaping Students’ Behavior When Using Technology,” March 4.

Gamers, said Arañas, get addicted to games because of various reasons: they tend to score higher than other gamers, because they want to be better gamers, etc.

But while there is a downside to playing RPGs, Arañas also said that RPGs can help children develop decision-making skills, provide socialization opportunities without cues, and improve literacy, among others.

He encouraged his audience to raise awareness campaigns on cyber usage, develop a cyber-wellness program in their schools, participate in the review of policies on the use of the technology, and familiarize themselves with the laws pertaining to the use of technology in the classroom.

The seminar was presented by DLSU-D’s SAdO (Student Admissions Office) and was part of SAdO’s programs for DLSU-D’s feeder schools, aimed to equip counselors with knowledge of trends in Psychology and counseling.

n e w s

Padernal, Bunag, Microsoft ambassadors

Jenielyn Espineli-Padernal, Educational Technology Center’s faculty in-charge and Business Management Department faculty, represented the country as Microsoft Ambassador in the Global Educator Exchange in Redmond, Washington, USA, April 28-May 1 this year.

Dubbed as an MIE (Microsoft Innovative Educator) Expert, Padernal was one of two educators chosen in the country for their outstanding MS instruction when they were screened

in October last year. Padernal’s presentation for the screening comprised two learning activities, “The Technopreneur in You” and “Experiencing e-Training.”

Meanwhile, Edwin Bunag, a faculty with the Mathematics and Statistics Department of the College of Science and Computer Studies, was also chosen to represent DLSU-D for the Microsoft Educator Network, which had its training at Microsoft’s Makati Office on April 16-18. The three-

day training focused on honing the trainees’ “soft skills” (self-confidence, presentation skills, etc.) on Day 1 and technical skills with different Microsoft Programs (Excel, Word, Office Mix, OneNote, OneDrive) on Day 2. Day 3 was teaching demonstration day.

The Microsoft trainings were free. But for both Padernal and Bunag, they have to teach and pass on to other teachers what they have learned as Microsoft educator ambassadors.

CHED appoints Francisco to Filipino Technical Panel

Dr. George Francisco, dean of DLSU-D's College of Liberal Arts and Communication, was appointed member of the Filipino Technical Panel in the Country by the CHED (Commission on Higher Education). Francisco's appointment was certified on April 13.

The panel is tasked with studying the Filipino programs offered by all schools, colleges and universities in the country. Its members will also have

regular meetings at CHED Central Office to discuss matters related to the Filipino language.

Along with Francisco, also appointed were Dr. Pamela Constantino (University of the Philippines-Diliman), Dr. Corazon Lalu-Santos (Ateneo de Manila University) and Dr. Lydia Liwanag (Philippine Normal University).



n e w s

Polo reelected PACE president

DLSU-D Communication Professor Marco Polo was reelected president of PACE (Philippine Association of Communication Educators), along with 15 trustees from its roster of members during their general assembly at DLSU-D's Tanghalang Julian Felipe, April 16-18.

Joining Polo in the executive committee of "the country's oldest and largest professional organization of teachers of media and communication" are Joeven Castro (FEU or Far Eastern University) as VP (vice president) for Luzon, Derek Alviola (VSU or Visayas State University) as VP for Visayas, Mahalia Acuña (Central Mindanao University) as VP for Mindanao, Mark Lester Chico

(University of the Philippines Los Baños) as secretary, Jed Asaph Cortes (VSU) as assistant secretary, Monina Bello (St. Paul University, Quezon City) as treasurer, Dr. Bettina Joyce Ilagan (Cavite State University) as assistant treasurer, Dr. Rowena Capulong-Reyes (FEU) as public relations officer, and Gene Pamittan Jr. (FEU) as compliance officer.

The trustees are Ben Domingo (formerly with Central Luzon State University and current chair of CHED Technical Committee on Journalism), Nicky Salandanan (UST or University of Santo Tomas), Dr. Wolfreda Alesna (VSU), Janet Tibaldo (St. Louis University) and Joseph Tubilan (Cebu Normal University), with Dr. Gwen Pusta (UST) serving ex-officio.

The election and general assembly coincided with PACE's national conference on "New Media and Political Discourse: Literacies, Advocacies, Challenges," which looked into the public has actively engaged governments and institutions toward positive social change through new information and communication technologies.

Plenary speakers included Inday Varona-Espina, former Philippines campaigns director of Change.org; Gang Badoy, RockEd Philippines founder; John Nery, Inquirer.net editor in chief; Russel Shepherd, Rappler data scientist; and Howie Severino, GMA Network's vice president for personnel development.

DLSU-D profs present paper in Portugal confab

DLSU-D faculty Dr. Susan Mostajo, Ricardo Clores (Psychology Department), Rowell Paras (Hotel and Restaurant Management), Grace Cella Mejia (Tourism Management Department) and Romano Angelico Ebron (Allied Business Department) teamed up with Dr. Jesus Alcoba of La Salle Centro Universitario de Madrid to write and present their multidisciplinary research “Tourism as a Life Experience: A Service Science Approach” at the 6th IESS (International Conference in Exploring Service Science) in Porto, Portugal, February 4-6.

The paper, anchored on DLSU-D’s 50-year research road map under its Cavite Development Research Program, was an attempt to map out the sentiments of foreign tourists in the Philippines,



particularly in the CALABARZON region. Expected to be expanded countrywide in scope, the research has been included in the official Springer publication of Service Science.

Henriqueta Novoa, current IESS editor and official program chair, said that IESS received 69 submissions from 16 countries, but only 27 papers were considered

for presentation and publication in an international publication series.

The paper is the first collaborative project between DLSU-D and La Salle Campus Madrid in Spain, a response to one of the objectives of IALU (International Association of Lasallian Universities) for collaboration among La Salle institutions across the globe.

n e w s

LLD profs hold English academic writing seminar in Thai U



Languages and Literature Department professors Dr. Teresita Pareja and Dr. Constantino Ballena flew to Thailand to conduct an academic writing seminar-training in English among faculty members of RMUTT (Rajamangala University of Technology Thanyaburi), May 6-8.

The training was to help Thai faculty participants from different fields of learning to enhance their academic writing skills. This would help them adjust to the much-anticipated ASEAN Integration taking place this year, said Pareja.

The training included writing the different parts that make up a research article; paraphrasing; formulating titles; writing research abstracts; and presenting and critiquing the participants’ outputs.

One boost to the participants’ confidence was helping them realize that there is such a thing as “Thai English,” said Ballena. Both he and Pareja were all praises for the participants’ attentiveness and eagerness to learn.
(Report by Erika Uy; photo by Venus Ma. Hilario Pablo)

Dr. Sonia Gementiza: 'Outstanding' by the book(s)

f e a t u r e

By Orlando A. Oliveros

There's a science involved in the proper care of a book. It depends on the book, says Aklatang Emilio Aguinaldo's Dr. Sonia Gementiza. There are many kinds. There are those which are easily worn and damaged, like paperbacks. And there are also those really rare, really old books that need to be "properly" shelved—when not in use—and "properly" retrieved and handled—when in use.



But the science of book care really begins when the books are first bought. Gementiza says that, for DLSU-D's library, they prefer buying books that have good binds and are printed on quality paper. Durably made, those are the ones "recommended for library use."

Of course, as director of AEA (Aklatang Emilio Aguinaldo), Gementiza knows so much more about books than the rest of us. And well she should. She has been librarian with DLSU-D for the last 24 years (she came here in 1991). For both her undergraduate and master's degrees, she took up Library Science as major. She would have gone on to earn a doctorate on the subject if only such a program was offered in the country (she instead majored in Educational Management for her doctorate here at DLSU-D).

And you know what else? Because she was so good at her job, Gementiza was named Outstanding Librarian in the

entire province of Cavite for 2014 by the Cavite Librarians Association early this year. And then on June 18, she received a special citation for being one of the country's three outstanding librarians, as

deemed by the Professional Regulation Commission and the Philippine Librarians Association, Inc.

Not bad for someone who first thought she should be an accountant.

*Her vision for
DLSU-D's library:
"That we will be
recognized as one
of the outstanding
academic libraries,
not only here in
Cavite, but all over
the Philippines."*

From Bulacan to Manila

Gementiza grew up in Bulacan among four other siblings. Their father was a farmer; their mother, a part-time beautician. Of the brood, Gementiza says she was the most independent: "Gala ako e (I was such a roamer)." Counting the number of years since she left home, she computes she has stayed in Cavite more than the number of years she lived in Bulacan.

But before she came to Cavite, she first went to Manila to finish college. Back then, Accountancy was the course to take. "It was a very popular course then, so I wanted to be an accountant." But when she inquired at UST (University of Santo Tomas) about it, she was told:





transferees from other schools were not accepted in UST's Commerce program. And so, Gementiza settled for BS Education instead. Her major then was Mathematics.

She became a working scholar to support herself. "I was given a set number of work hours, and an allowance which was more than enough to cover my daily expenses while staying in Manila." She didn't have a hard time being away from home for months. "I just got used to it," she explains. "As I was a working student, I didn't go home that often. Instead, I just saved up my money."

Her work assignment was for six hours at UST's main library—in the Humanities and Religion Section to be exact. "I was on duty until 7 in the evening. There was this one part of that section that was seldom opened. It's where the really rare, really old books are. If you could see it, it's creepy. But usually, there were other librarians on

duty with you...although sometimes, you ended up scaring each other..."

It was mainly her immediate superior, the assistant chief librarian, who convinced her to shift her major to Library Science. But it was a fellow working scholar whose broken class schedules kept her from graduating on time who gave her the pivotal piece of advice: "Just look at me. I've been here for 10 years!"

And so, Gementiza got convinced. She gave Library Science "a try" and found it "okay." Her schedule became more convenient because her classes were all in the morning which allowed her to work straight at the library in the afternoons. Aside from that, "Lib-Sci" was better related to what she was doing as a working scholar. The only catch in it was that "for each subject, we were required to read 10 references, and we were to provide an analysis for each reference." Around that time, her reading list leaned

more toward the more popular genres: from Robert Ludlum to Sidney Sheldon; other than these, she had "not-that-much" love for reading books. Yes, not all who live on books are consummate book lovers.

From Manila to Cavite

Came graduation time, Gementiza was already prospecting for jobs. Two of her choices were DLSU-D (De La Salle University-Dasmariñas) and SGV & Co. (SyCip, Gorres, Velayo and Company), the country's largest professional services firm.

It was Maribeth Aguila who invited her over to DLSU-D. Aguila used to be with the UST library as cataloguer before she became director of DLSU-D's library. "Come join us," Aguila told her, "we're hiring."

SGV & Co., on the other hand, needed a librarian. Gementiza had applied for the position, and had already undergone

six interviews with them. Later, however, she reconsidered: she had observed how a friend—who also worked at SGV & Co.—had to wake up very early in the morning to get to work and then come home very late at night. Aside from this, the firm is in Makati, and this same friend had been telling her how bad traffic was in Makati.

“I never liked getting stuck in traffic,” she says. Back at UST, she didn’t have to contend with heavy traffic: the dormitories were just within walking distance from the school.

Given that picture, she opted to take on Aguila’s offer instead. She moved to the lush and tranquil town of Dasmariñas, Cavite and became an AEA staff. “I was cataloguing, indexing journals,” she relates, “that was my first job here—as periodicals librarian.”

That was 1991. The DLSU-D library was still housed on the cheerless, badly lit, not-so-well-ventilated second floor of Emilio Riego De Dios Hall or, more popularly, “Building II.” (This building, along with “Building III”—Olivia Salamanca Hall—was demolished in

2008-2009 to make way for the CTHM Building). A year later, the library was moved to a home of its own—a newly constructed, more brightly lit and colored edifice with its façade patterned after that of the historic Emilio Aguinaldo Shrine in Kawit, Cavite. Thereafter, DLSU-D’s library was officially named “Aklatang Emilio Aguinaldo,” which had grown to two library buildings lining one side of the plaza in DLSU-D’s Museum Complex (the second building was built in 1998-1999).

Just as things were then about to look up for AEA, newly hired Gementiza was already mulling over how she could improve herself in her field: she wanted a master’s degree. Not for anything, she says. Back then, as “nonteaching staff,” DLSU-D librarians were not required to have a master’s degree to gain permanent status in their jobs. “It’s just that continuous education is something inherent in me,” she explains.

True enough, besides her dream of graduate studies, Gementiza was also continuously educating herself by dabbling with computers on the side.

“That time, it was just the secretary and library assistants who were using the computers for encoding,” she relates. “They were still using WordStar then. I remember I would ask them, ‘How do you operate that?’ Because when I was in college, we were not taught how to use computers. So, during my lunch break, that’s what I did: I studied it.”

Gementiza thinks that, perhaps, it was what her boss (Aguila) saw in her: her initiative, her drive to learn new things. Her job assignments made the rounds of the library’s different sections—reference, technical, readers’, etc. Aguila also sent her through trainings—mostly about computer programs and gadgets that aided in the library’s operations—which she echoed to her colleagues.

And then, in 1998, the library’s ERS (Electronic Resource Services) unit was set up, with Gementiza as its head. This unit houses and provides AEA’s services and facilities for internet, CD-ROM collection, multimedia and other materials in electronic format. It is also in charge of the different library databases and the very helpful OPAC (Online Public Access Catalog), which



aids in searching the library's collections with just a couple of clicks on the OPAC computer.

Through these developments, AEA has also made its collection accessible across the globe. And thus was how AEA broke into worldwide interconnection and into the 21st century.

Gementiza finished her M.A. in Library Science at Centro Escolar University in Manila (thanks to her FAPE scholarship), and then her doctorate degree at DLSU-D. Along with these, of course, was her rise from the ranks: she became AEA's assistant director, and eventually, its director in 2009—18 years after she first came to AEA.

Management style

At present, Gementiza is already well settled in Dasmarinas, Cavite. Married and with five children (all boys), her typical work day starts at home, waking up at around 4:30-5 a.m. to prepare breakfast and get four of her sons ready for school. "My eldest has already graduated from college. Right now, I have three college boys. My youngest is in high school." When everything is already taken care of with her school boys, only then does she get herself ready for work.

Arriving at the office, her home life automatically gets sequestered into a separate compartment—"I temporarily forget all about them (her family)... we each have our own lives to live. Of course, in cases of immediate concern, they could always come to me." Being a stickler for organization, she's also a big fan of punctuality. "Ever since I got employed, I never came in late. Even when I was a student, I was never late nor was I ever absent." Maybe it's her body clock, she says. Or maybe it's just by course of habit—her vacation leaves at HR piled up high from *habitual* disuse.

Is she strict with her staff? It depends, she says. "My only rule for them is that their sections should be manned all the time so that whenever a student comes to ask for something, someone would be

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there to assist. As [President] PNoy says all the time, they are our boss." As for delinquent personnel, Gementiza recognizes her role as part-time guidance counselor. "I talk with them. I ask them what the problem is. You don't just start nagging at them without knowing what the problem was all about." Often, the typical image people have of

librarians is that of quiet, bespectacled, always-straight-faced-Miss Tapia (or Miss Minchin) types manning their work stations, keeping records, putting books in order, and shushing noisy library users. Strict, curt, and sensitive to the slightest noise, they are a natural antithesis to the young and restless (read: students), and are models of restraint despite the weight of the world in their corsets.

But then, that image is false now, says Gementiza. "That was ages ago; it's not true anymore." Truth is most librarians these days exert effort to live down that image and actually be more approachable and innovative.

Thanks to computer technology, our librarians need not find it hard to live down that "burdened" image. Just imagine if all the library's collections are still recorded in card catalogue—the cabinets would occupy half one wall of the library and even reach up to the ceiling! And worse, what if our library is run by grumpy little elves?!

"We should be more friendly [and] introduce ourselves to students. Because if you're grumpy and overly strict, no one would use your library. And isn't it our role as librarians to give support to the academic institution? We're here to help people."

Outstanding

This year, the library's official name has been changed to AEA-IRC (Aklatang Emilio Aguinaldo-Information Resource Center). Part of the reason was to hint on its "top-of-the-line resources, facilities and equipment that promote a learning experience in tune with the current generation's schema." In other words: "We're high-tech, dynamic, and not all just about books anymore, baby!"

Asked if she shares the belief that books are now becoming *passé* and that information-sharing would soon be entirely paperless, Gementiza couldn't help letting out a disdainful "I don't think so!" to the "ridiculous" idea. It should be a balance of both, she says. On the one hand: "you still need to

maintain the print collection because there are still people who like to read the printed word, and would like to actually see their physical collection.” On the other: “because our students are more into technology, you need to cater to that.”

And to cater to that, the library makes an effort to evolve. Besides having Wi-Fi zones, it has also been building its e-book collection and its presence on Facebook and Twitter, partly so as to keep its ears to the ground. “We have an okay relationship with our students, faculty, administrators... We get feedback from them—we make that as basis for improving our services.”

The staff, of course, must also do their share. “We cannot just rely on what we have learned in college. Being a librarian, it doesn’t end there. You have to explore to discover new things on how to improve on what you know....” Part of this “explore-and-discover” scheme is the library tour they conduct every two years. In June last year, they spent a whole day touring the libraries of DLSU-Manila, ADMU (Ateneo de Manila University), and De La Salle-College of St. Benilde.

“We may be in the province, but whatever they have to offer in their libraries in Manila, we’re also offering here. In some cases, we’re even more advanced than many of those libraries.”

Of course, besides the tour, there are also the trainings they undergo to keep themselves abreast with the latest developments in Library Science. “Right now, there’s a new cataloguing policy that is being implemented all over the world. We have trainings for that, too.”

When asked about her vision for AEA-IRC, Gementiza did not even mull over her answer: “That we will be recognized as one of the outstanding academic libraries, not only here in Cavite, but all over the Philippines.”

Her confidence in the feasibility of this vision is made strong by her observation that AEA-IRC does not fall behind in terms of trends, technology or collection. “We may be in the province, but whatever they have to offer in their libraries in Manila, we’re also offering here. In some cases, we’re even more advanced than many of those libraries.” She mentions AEA-IRC’s membership in IATUL (International Association of University Libraries), a forum for the exchange of ideas relevant to librarianship in technological universities throughout the world, of which, in the Philippines, only three schools are members: DLSU-Manila, ADMU, and DLSU-D.

Even among people in the know, AEA-IRC has met with approval. Gementiza relates: “Atty. [Antonio] Santos (director of the National Library) was here recently. He dropped by our library and he was surprised: ‘*Ganito pala kaganda ang library n’yo!*’ (So this is how beautiful your library is!)’ he said.” PAASCU accreditors say the same thing: “This is one library I’ve seen where there are lots of students coming in.” Gementiza thought the comment was an overstatement. “All the while, I was thinking there weren’t enough students coming in, that we still needed to promote the library more....”

Yet, promote the library, they still do. It currently has a radio show—“Airwaves Research”—which promotes the library’s various services and is aired over at 95.9 Green FM, DLSU-D’s campus radio station. But even with this, still, nothing

beats service with a personal touch, says Gementiza. “Once you did something good for them—if you accommodated them well—word spreads around.”

Lasallian librarians

That’s just how Lasallian librarians should operate, she believes. There should be a deeper, more service-oriented commitment to the job. “That’s one thing I’m most proud of about our library. There’s a very welcoming, very accommodating atmosphere you feel the moment you enter. ‘We’re at your service. How can we help you? What do you need?’ We try our best to accommodate everyone equally and without bias.”

She laments the fact that not all librarians share these traits. “That’s one of the main problems in the public schools. Most teacher-librarians are not professionally trained. And they don’t see the need to train. They think it’s all just about arranging books and cleaning after their clients. Yet, there are so many possibilities. You could be a researcher, a manager in your own way...”

This being the Information Age, the craft of library science is indeed severely underrated. But as a way of community service, Gementiza and her colleagues are preaching the “good news” (along with the know-how) to other librarians in Cavite by way of seminars and trainings. And Gementiza says that whenever she does it, it’s a labor of love: “For the profession, as long as I could do it, they could count on me anytime.” Should anyone come up to her, asking her how to succeed as a librarian, Gementiza tips: “They just have to study hard, love the craft, and have the patience for it.”

But on how to be an outstanding librarian?

Gementiza overlooks the science: “Don’t do it just for the recognition. I do my job well because I love what I do, and it’s been helpful to a lot of people. One thing I do know: *Masarap maging librarian* (It’s great to be a librarian!)” **n**



Faculty Recognition Rites 2015

y e a r e n d e r

Among the honorees in this year's Faculty Recognition Rites were faculty from DLSU-D Junior High School who have earned their graduate degrees and faculty who published research studies in ISI Journals, remarkably led by Dr. Cristina Salibay (Biological Sciences Department) with three citations.



4. Mr. Ronante M. Angeles - Campus Ministry Office
5. Ms. Jennifer T. Arroyo - Kagawaran ng Filipino at Panitikan

Graduate Degree Holders

Master's Degree

Yolanda Del Rosario, Jocelyn Dimaala, Sr. Jovita Maniti FMIJ, Marilou Medina, Marissa Rogador, Verna Santos (High School); Deogracias Esplanada (Tourism Management); Mian Rayray (Marketing); Ramir Rodriguez (Information and Communications Technology Center); Emmanuel Gerardo Sia (Professional Education).

Doctorate Degree

Dr. Airill Mercurio (Biological Sciences); Dr. Kristine Patinga (High School); Dr. Consuelo Peralta (Psychology); Dr. Maria Rosario Salibay (Physical Education).

Past Administrators

Dr. Mary Felidora Florinor Amparo (Marketing); Juvenal Bautista (Information and Communications Technology Center); Demetria Panganiban (Student Wellness Center); Gerardo Sergio III (National Services Training Program Office).

Past President of Faculty Association

Jerome Buhay (Mathematics and Statistics)

Publications in ISI Journals

Dr. Cristina Salibay, Hazel Anne Tabo, Norbel Tabo, Marlon Pareja, Dr. Janet Macawile (Biological Sciences).

Department with the most number of completed URO Research:

Large category: Biological Sciences

Small category: Environmental Resources Management Center

Long Service Awardees

5 Years

Federico Abut, Mae Casiles, Christopher Peji, Marichou Señorin (Hotel and Restaurant Management); Agnes Berosa (University Advancement Office); Romano Angelico Ebron, Don Malabanan, Rosario Reyes (Allied Business); Challiz Gigante (Mathematics and Statistics); Arch. Rosauro Jamandri (Architecture); Engr. Lucy Magleo (Physical Sciences); Lourdes Rudio (Languages and Literature).

10 Years

Rona Alayon, Iris Diorella Andaya, Frederick Godinez (Lasallian Community Development Center); Mary Felidora Florinor Amparo, Arlynne Awayan (Marketing); Ronante Angeles, Maria Gracia Olorga (Campus Ministry Office); Jennifer Arroyo (Kagawaranng Filipino at Panitikan); Dr. Luis Carmelo Buenaventura, Josephine Cruz, Chealyn Llano, Jeffrey Lubang, Gilbert Macarandang, Dr. Jose Aims Rocina (Social Sciences); Princess Joy Buenviaje (Hotel and Restaurant Management); Edito Busayong (Allied Business); Ethel Cacayuran, Geraldine Gile, Jemily Mamayson, Julius Tibayan, Eric Vargas (National Services Training Program Office); Sancho Castro (Accountancy); Engr. Marina De Salit, Ma. Beata Mijares (Physical Sciences); Christopher Gabriel, Dr. Lucio Hernandez, Dr. Betty Puzon, Evelyn Rayos, Mark Ignacio (Languages and Literature); Joseph Daniel Guerrero, Jonah Dave Mendez, Ramir Rodriguez



'To say thank you is to say yes again to the mission'

(Excerpt from Juan Medrano awardee Pedro Dotillos'
acceptance speech on behalf of this year's faculty honorees)

"Thank you"... indicates [the acceptance of] a responsibility one has to take, promising to embrace it...similar to the responsibility of Christ to humanity installed in the sacrament of thanksgiving—the Holy Eucharist. Thus, to say "thank you" is to say yes once again to the said responsibility or mission and its accompanying spirit.... Faculty recognition, to my mind, is not only about giving recognition to faculty members who have excelled in their [respective] fields and have contributed well enough to the upkeep and prestige of our University, but is also about giving attention to faculty members' mission for humanity and country. Faculty recognition then is a kind of spiritual retreat into that mission, to recognize it, to re-live it once again as a community of educators. And so here, we are gathered once again responding to that mission, and saying, in the silence of our hearts, "thank you."

Thank you, God, for keeping us always blessed through the years. Thank you, De La Salle University-Dasmariñas, for allowing us to participate in your mission. Thank you for allowing us to see you grow, starting from your humble beginning as a college to a robust and vibrant Catholic University in the heart of Cavite, with linkages to other



universities in Asia and the rest of the world. You are truly amazing. Thank you for giving us refuge, for being our fortress and our light...

K-12 will soon cast its shadow upon us. Most of us are a bit anxious. We don't want to stay in the dark. Will you stick to be our refuge, our fortress and light? Working with you for the past 25 years is truly a blessing. We are very proud and grateful to have been part of this blessing, and hope to continue to commit even if our time to shine with you [were to be] be obscured by K-12. One thing I learned from you all

these years—and which I will never forget—is [that] to make teaching truly effective, I must live out my baptismal vow. How does a baptismal vow make teaching effective? Our baptismal vow makes us spiritual. Being spiritual is to be animated by the spirit of Christ's love, joy, stillness, enthusiasm... These qualities make teaching definitely effective.

Many of life's surprises are not really material but spiritual. Greed and selfishness which breed stress are spiritual. We get tired and rattled up so easily about what to do next simply because we are not used to connecting to benevolent spiritual forces such as wisdom, justice, temperance, etc. St. Paul in one of his letters to early Christians, said: "Our battle is not against human forces but against the principalities and powers of this world of darkness, the evil spirits in the region above. You must put on the armor of God if you are to resist the evil of the day" (Ephesians 6:12-13).

And so, I conclude that the only way to beat the powers of darkness is by living in the powers of the light of Christ right at the heart of the BAPTISMAL VOW, the armor of Christian identity and spirituality.

Socrates and Peter Abelard said: "Know thyself." Knowing one's self is basically knowing one's terrain—one's strengths and weaknesses...one's identity. From there, one can start beating the enemy hard! We are Lasallians! We are Filipinos! We are Christians! This is our terrain! Let's fight for it!

Christian education, which Lasallian spirituality seeks to promote, should be an antidote to the culture of death—a culture of rugged individualism and competition espoused by consumerist ideologies of capitalism amplified by dominant political parties in connivance with mass media and some educational institutions. Christian education is a responsibility, a commitment to Christ and humanity, and a thanksgiving. Thanking God above all for the gift of life.

To receive the gift of life is to give thanks. And to give thanks is to commit to such a gift and the auxiliaries that enrich it. DLSU-D is one of those. To the administrators, particularly the prime mover of the physical and academic growth of this University, Brother President Gus, thank you very much for showing us the way to faith in Divine Providence amplified by your passion for excellence...

Special thanks to VCAR Dr. Olivia Legaspi, to our Finance Officer Ms. Bel Nervaez, and to the Chair of my home department Social Sciences, Ms. Josephine Cruz, for helping me discern the step I needed to take in October 2014. To my colleagues in the department, for their love. And to my colleagues at the Religious Education Department with whom I had shared joyful memorable moments teaching the values of Christ for 17 years... To each and everyone here present: thank you! May God bless us all. May God bless DLSU-D. ANIMO LA SALLE!



Faculty Recognition Rites ... from page 25

(Information and Communications Technology Center); Eduardo Malvar (Business Management); Rodol Mercado, Laurence Rebuyas, Dr. Maria Rosario Salibay (Physical Education); Azenith Mojica, Joseph Ribo (Computer Studies); Joel Refuerzo (Office of Student Services); Jacquelyn Torres (Marketing Communications Office); Ma. Theresa Christine Valdez (Mathematics and Statistics).

15 Years

Marilyn Abrera (Kagawaranng Filipino at Panitikan); Dave Gregory Antenor-Cruz, Marianne Planas, Rowel San Sebastian (Religious Education); Napoleon Bataclan (Mathematics and Statistics); Jose Ritche Bongcaron (National Services Training Program Office); Dr. Manuel Camarse (Professional Education); Cherry Cuevas (Biological Sciences); Arlene Manzo (Aklatang Emilio Aguinaldo); Dr. Vangie Montillano (Physical Education); Pedro Peñalba (University Lasallian Family Office); Allan Rosarda (Lasallian Community Development Center).

20 Years

Dr. Constantino Ballena (Languages and Literature); Maria Concepcion Bayot, Dr. Roslin De Ala (Psychology); Cynthia

Camarce, Dr. Ann Margaret Martin (Student Wellness Center); Jose Legaspi, Neddy Oraña (Physical Education); Rosanni Sarile (Communication and Journalism); Dr. Jose Alejandro SJ Tenorio (Social Sciences).

25 Years

Normita Atrillano (Psychology); Joseph Dinglasan (Environmental Resources Management Center); Pedro Dotillos Jr., Dr. Rosalina Dulog (Social Sciences); Dr. Olivia Legaspi (Professional Education); Monina Remulla (Business Management).

35 Years

Mercedita Lee (Business Management).

Juan Medrano Award

Normita Atrillano (Psychology); Pedro Dotillos Jr., Dr. Rosalina Dulog (Social Sciences); Dr. Olivia Legaspi (Professional Education); Monina Remulla (Business Management).

Luntiang Parangal 2015

fetes outstanding student achievers

Themed “Pagbubunyi sa Galing ng Lasalyano,” Luntiang Parangal 2015 honored outstanding DLSU-D students for their performance in extra- and co-curricular activities on March 24 at Ugnayang La Salle. Leading the winners were Royce Salva (St. John Baptist De La Salle Award for Excellence in Leadership), Angelito Miguel Adrias (Leader of the Year), and Arleah Parado (Cultural Arts Group Leader of the Year).

The College of Education received this year’s “Home of the St. John Baptist De La Salle Awardee for Excellence in Leadership.”

The rest of the awardees are: De La Salle University-Dasmariñas Chorale (Performing Arts Group of the Year), College of Education Student Council (College Student Council of the Year), Electronics Engineering Program Council (Program Council of the Year), Junior Philippine Institute of Accountants (Co-curricular Organization of the Year), DLSU-D Communication and Media Society (Interest Organization of the Year), Biology Program Council (Best Student Fund Raising Project);

Patricia Loise Lucero (BGM, Heraldo Filipino): Visual Artist of the Year;

Cerisse Madlangbayan (HRD, Heraldo Filipino): Writer of the Year; Maxell Queen Olaes (BSA, Junior Philippine Institute of Accountants): Co-curricular Organization Student Officer of the Year; Jeseree Patalud (CJD, DLSU-D Communication and Media Society): Interest Organization Officer of the Year;

Angelito Miguel Adrias: Council of Student Organizations Officer of the Year; Dastin Tabajunda (BSE) University Student Council Officer of the Year; Maureen Bautista (CRI): Student Commission on Election Officer of the Year;

to page 25



Royce Salva,

St. John Baptist De La Salle leadership awardee:

‘To lead is to inspire and influence’



The 2015 recipient of the St. John Baptist De La Salle Award for Excellence in Leadership said he challenged stereotypes—and prevailed over them. When most people think that many public elementary and high schools nowadays are incapable of producing exceptional students, Royce Salva’s parents chose to enroll their children in public schools instead of in private schools. “If you want [your children] to be competent and competitive,” so believe Mr. and Mrs. Salva, Royce said, “put them in public schools where they are much more exposed to problems and challenges that will develop their strengths and weaknesses.”

Salva graduated salutatorian at Dasmariñas North National High

School. Upon starting college here in DLSU-D, he challenged yet another stereotype. “I was about to take up Engineering here, but I decided to go on a certain path where I would be challenged. I want to change the stereotype that teaching is a mostly female profession. And that if you’re a teacher, all you do is teach. I want to be that instrument for people...to be inspired to do more and to serve more.” To challenge himself further, he majored in Special Education, in which teaching kids with special needs—while requiring tremendous patience—has so far proved rewarding for him. “I teach them the letter ‘A’ and it takes me two-three weeks. But once you see them writing it and saying it, you feel successful already.”

An optimist of the Meliorist variety (from Meliorism: the belief that the world tends to improve and that humans can aid its betterment), Salva says he is never one to dwell on hardships and setbacks. “No matter how hard the situation is, believe it will progress. It’s really the process that matters.”

Perhaps it is this perspective that pushed him to achieve. Besides having been part of two DLSU-D student organizations, he’s also a member of the Autism Society of the Philippines (Cavite Chapter) and is among the Jesse Robredo Youth Ambassadors of Kaya Natin Movement for Good Governance and Ethical Leadership.

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Royce Salva ...from page 23

He also travelled abroad—a first in his life, he says—representing DLSU-D as well as the Philippines, to Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia and Thailand. In these travels, he immersed himself in his host country's culture, had his leadership, analytical and presentation skills honed, and even his diplomatic skills tested. In Thailand, “we were asked to make a stand as president and secretary of certain countries. My country was China, and the topic was passing a UN law protecting homosexuals from crimes. How could I defend China when they don't condone homosexuality?” There was a debate about it. In the end, Salva's position was “if we can't accept homosexuality, then just respect.” His presentation skills accorded him “Best Accent” and “Best Suit” in the Thailand conference.

On being a leader, one's objective is to inspire and influence, Salva believes. “Don't let yourself be restricted to obligations...that you only have to make projects and events. You're not an event organizer; you're a leader.” What makes



a great leader? “If you can create a great leader out of your followers, then you can consider yourself a great leader.” Salva could have been in the running for magna cum laude at the 2015 graduation rites. In two subjects, however, his grades proved insufficient, making him ineligible for the

distinction. But no matter. “I know the St. John Baptist De La Salle Award for Excellence in Leadership will always be better than any Latin award I could get. [The Latin award] only measures my intelligence and grades. But selflessness and leadership—it all boils down to [the St. John Baptist De La Salle Award].”



MOBILE NBI AND SSS APPLICATION

A graduating student examines her newly acquired NBI (National Bureau of Investigation) clearance at the Mobile Application of NBI and SSS (Social Security System) E1 Number at Ugnayang La Salle, March 26. The event, sponsored by DLSU-D's Alumni Relations and Placement Office, lasted from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. (Photo by Jojo Romerosa)



Luntiang Parangal 2015 ...from page 22

Most Outstanding Advisers Cristina Padilla (COE): College Council Category; Kathleen Ann Villanueva (Compute Engineering): Program Council Category; Mian Rayray (Junior Marketing Association): Co-curricular Organization Category; Chona Bautista (Marche Society): Interest Organization Category;

The year's Outstanding Student Council Officers Elisha Marie Negrillo (BOM): College of Business Administration and Accountancy; John Aldrin Dela Cruz (IEE): College of Engineering, Architecture and Technology; Janyn Marian Lumanglas (DES): College of Liberal Arts and Communication; Jon Ken San Agustin (HUB): College of Science and Computer Studies; Roi Martin Diaz (HRM): College of Tourism and Hospitality Management; Charlene Marie Cron (BEE): College of Education.

An annual institutional awards ceremony, Luntiang Parangal is organized by the Office of Student Services under Dean Paulino Gatpandan. This year's event was hosted by Agnes Berosa and Pete Mendiola.



Naca, Sayas lead this year's staff awardees

This year's awardees at the Staff Recognition were led by Cynthia Naca (Physical Sciences Laboratory) who was awarded "Outstanding Staff of the Year" and Eduardo Sayas (Accounting Office) who won "ASP of the Year."

The Good Attendance Awardees are:

For CY 2014: Ricardo Aclag, Michelle Agulto, Henry Autor, Ma. Ailene Azarcon, Mario Beltran, Kathyrine Bengil, Merle Besa, Venetia Bruza, Jose Ariel Calvo, Mary Jane Crucena, Nida Cruzada, Mylene Delatado, Antonia Derain, Jesse Desingano, Dante Doctama, Perlincio Dultra Jr., Jayson Duque, Edison Espineli, Eberliza Espinosa, Jodel Xavier Gemanil, Arlene Hayag, Elmer Hondo, Janeth Jonson, Joselito Lobrio, Marilyn Macario, Katherine Malonzo, Roel Malubag, Amie Mejica, Robert Mendoza, Eleanor Mercado, Lydia Mercado, Michael Merced, Heidi Ingrid Morallo, Cynthia Naca, Michael Nicart, Romeo Pardeño, Mary Joy Pasco, Jaime Patani Jr., Reynario Peñalba, Felicitas Poblete, Gilbert Poblete, ErañoPortera, Joel Purca, John Paul Repato, Edelberto Reyes, Jayson Reyes, Melvin Reyes, Rizza Sabater, Felix Sarreal Jr., Dante Saul, Lyn Saul, Richard Allan Saylon, Mary Jane Signo, Lodivico Sinigayan, Marineth Soberano, Annabelle Solis, Hazel Ann Telmo, Charlotte Visperas, and Eva Zaldibar.

For seven consecutive years (CY 2008-2014): Maria Luisa Abiador, Dionisia Alberto, Bibiana Alcantara, Gerry Alcaraz, Maximo Algara, Roger Alupay, Rex Anilao, Mary Ann Anquilo, Erwin Arciaga, Christine Joy Avena, Aireen Balallo, Ryan Barlao, Luisito Batuto, Dennis Ian Bautista, Nolasco Bayalan, Gregorio Bilugan, Joel Blasurca, Evelyn Bonilla, Armando Borromeo, Ronaldo Bucal, Dario Cadavedo,



SAYAS

Aida Caluscusao, Josel Caluscusao, Rizaldy Campaner, Tomas Capili, Jaselee Carandang, Dennis Cavalida, Jesus Rex Ceballos, Marlyn Ciudad, Romeo De Lara, Tomas Dela Rea, Ervin Ronnie Doroteo, Rodolfo Frani, Joseph Jardiniano, Edwin Javier, Adornado Jordan, Susan Joya, Eduardo Lara, Augusto Laudato, Adelina Leyba, Alfredo Macam Jr., Ariel Magsino, Olimpio Manreza, Cedina Melendres, Danilo Mendaro, Domiciano Mendoza, Elizabeth Mendoza, Gerald Mojica, Benjamin Montallana, Julio Monte, Dionisio Natanawan, Freddie Parcerro, Lorna Parcerro, Lorelie Reyes, Maria Lourdes Reyes, Placido Robles Jr., Novelita Rodriguez, Jennie Santos, Romulo Sarno, Wilma Sayas, Randolph Schroeder, Almira So, Melody Tadena, Nestor Tercero, Marinesa Toledo, Mark Jayson Torres, Rosalie Valera, Maribeth Valerio, Marites Velado, Marissa Villatura, Joilo Villena, Jose Vinoya and Joel Ybera.

Long Service Awardees were (five years) Aline De Aro, Eberliza Espinosa, Janeth Jonson, Amie Mejica, Michael Merced, Dennis Pontanilla, and Michael Niño Ramirez; **(ten years)** Maria Heide Abella, Vincent Paul Alaman, Mellany Alvaran, Ryan Barlao, Venetia Bruza, Jaselee Carandang, Ruthchelle Dineros, Ervin Ronnie Doroteo, Maria Louisa Encina, Marlene Guevarra, Marilyn Macario, Cedina Melendres, Lovella Porras, Felix Sarreal Jr., and Charlotte Visperas; **(15 years)** Prosefina Austria, Luisito Batuto, Marilen Fonollera, Aimee Rose Hernandez, Adornado Jordan, and Reynario Peñalba; **(20 years)** Ricardo Aclag, Elsa Mercado, Cynthia Patriarca, Ruby Saquiton, Randolph Schroeder, Marites Velado, Melanie Velante, and Marissa Villatura; **(25 years—Juan Medrano Service Awardees)** Dante Doctama, Leopoldo Lamqui, Olimpio Manreza, Dionisio Natanawan, and Felicitas Poblete; **(30 years)** Teodocia Beltran, Susan Joya, and Bonifacia Reyes; **(35 years)** Tomas Dela Rea, Gloria Santiaguél, and Eduardo Sayas.

Also honored were master's degree holders: Gregorio Bilugan (Master of Science in Criminal Justice Education with Specialization in Criminology—with Distinction) and Benjamin Montallana (Master in Library and Information Science); retirees: Danilo Mendaro, Romeo De Lara, and Teodorico Manreza; and KABALIKAT ng DLSU-D officers Lydia Mercado, Edelberto Reyes, Maricar Bullecer, Sheryl Ann Bruza, Imelda Adaon, Gregorio Bilugan, George Muñoz, William Rivero Jr., Placido Robles Jr., and Benjamin Montallana; and retirees Danilo Mendaro. Staff Recognition 2015, themed “Staff Goes Hollywood,” was held at Ugnayang La Salle, May 15, and was emceed by Noli Ligsá.



DLSU-D Batch

y e a r e n d e r



A total of 1,902 graduates (1828 from undergraduate programs, 74 from graduate programs) marched on as DLSU-D held its 36th Commencement Exercises at Ugnayang La Salle. The rites were held for three days, from April 22 to 24, dividing the batch in three: Colleges of Science and Computer Studies (together with Graduate Studies) and of Tourism and Hospitality Management (1st day); Colleges of

Education (together with Graduate Studies), of Engineering, Architecture and Technology, and of Liberal Arts and Communication (together with Graduate Studies) (2nd day); and Colleges of Criminal Justice Education (together with Graduate Studies), and of Business Administration and Accountancy (together with Graduate Studies) (3rd day).

This year's honorees were led by Dhenmar Chua (BS Applied

Mathematics), Clarimond Patrizia Lubigan (AB Psychology), and Charlene Joyce Magtabog (AB Psychology) who have all earned the Magna Cum Laude distinction.

Other academic honorees were: Cesar Enrique Modina, Joselito Estacio, Marites Aguilar, Lorenzo Frias, Evelyn Pilpil, Sarge Millen Pilpil (with High Distinction); Rennel Bolisig and John Carlo Manalo (with Distinction).

2015 totals 1,902



Honored with special awards included: Br. Dennis Magbanua FSC (Doctor of Philosophy major in Educational Management) earning “Outstanding Dissertation”; Joel Fababaer (MA in Mathematics), Darylle Cesar Hilapo (MS in Environmental Science), and Leny Saldo (MS in Biology) earning Outstanding Thesis; Royce Salva (BS Elementary Education) earning the St. John Baptist De La Salle Award for Excellence in Leadership; Kristine Ann

Bonete (BS Office Administration) earning the Golden Scroll Award; Aaron Dela Rosa (BS Business Administration major in Marketing and Advertising Management) and Katrina Fornoles (BS Hotel and Restaurant Management) earning the Cultural Award; and Marc Daven Agdasiw (BS Hotel and Restaurant Management) and Anjiyah Gimena (Bachelor of Physical Education) adjudged “Athletes of the Year.”

This year's honorees were led by Dhenmar Chua (BS Applied Mathematics), Clarimond Patrizia Lubigan (AB Psychology), and Charlene Joyce Magtabog (AB Psychology) who have all earned the Magna Cum Laude distinction.





Grad rites speakers give Leads, clicks, and guideposts for Batch 2015 sendoff

y e a r e n d e r

Three commencement speakers delivered leads, “clicks,” and guideposts as a sendoff for Batch 2015 at DLSU-D’s 36th graduation ceremonies, April 22-24, at Ugnayang La Salle. They are De La Salle Health Sciences Institute Board of Trustees member Vicky Amalingan-Sales, President and Chancellor of De La Salle College of St. Benilde and OIC of DLSU Br. Dennis Magbanua FSC, and Bank of Commerce Branch Banking Group Head EVP Emmanuel Herbosa.

Leads

Faced with the “new realities” of life (employment, income-earning and saving, helping out the family, etc.), graduates are now in charge of their destiny, Amalingan-Sales told her listeners at the April 22 rites. “Each step, each choice, and each course you take will now be your own. Make each step, each choice, and each course count.”



She asked her audience to have a good look around them and introspect on what they see: “Am I happy with what I see? What is it that I could do to change the world?”

She reminded them of the reason for their Lasallian education: “to help change the world into a better place.” “Indeed the quintessential Lasallian prayer begins with the line ‘Let me be the change I want to see,’” she added.

Amalingan-Sales then gave her listeners five “leads” or “rules” that are hinged on St. John Baptist De La Salle’s teachings.

(1) Be an example to others. Said St. La Salle: “Example makes a much greater impression than words, [and that those around you] should be able to see in your wisdom how they should behave.”

(2) Relate well with everyone. “Be warm-hearted to everyone, speaking to others in a gentle and respectful way,” said St. La Salle. “Put up with the faults of others and be generous towards them.”

(3) Always have faith. As St. La Salle put it: “The light of faith makes you see things quite differently and quite clearly.”

(4) Never underestimate the power of prayer. “The more you devote yourself in prayer, the more you will do well in your work,” said St.

La Salle. “Each day, renew your offering to God, thanking him for the many graces He has given you.” St. La Salle also taught: “You must pray not only for yourself as prayer draws down God’s graces on others.”

(5) Be an agent of change by touching the hearts of others. Said St. La Salle: “Inspire and lead others by encouraging them—you can perform miracles just by touching the hearts of others.”

“Remember,” she advised the graduates, “you will not be known for what you have achieved and learned from school but from what you make out of it.”

With the five rules, you will be remembered, she said, “for caring enough, for helping someone, for making someone feel special and appreciated.”

“You may not be able to change the world in a big way...but I assure you... you will be able to change the world—the world of other people around you, the world of your family, the world of the people in your community, the world of your co-workers. And isn’t that how we should change the world? By being the spark, if we cannot be the light?”



'Clicks'

Inspired by recent advancements in technology and gadgets, Br. Dennis' message to the graduates at the April 23 rites played on words PAUSE and PUSH as "buttons" to click on as they commence life after college.

"In the next few days, find time to PAUSE and look at your life," he told his listeners. "Be aware of the people who made college education possible for you...thank them.... Take into consideration what's happening to the world...as Lasallian graduates, how can we contribute to the betterment of our nation and the world?"

Wary of the possibility that some of his audience might have "stopped dreaming" for whatever reason, Br. Dennis, who was also graduating with the batch with a doctorate degree in Philosophy major in Educational Management and was also being awarded "Outstanding Dissertation," alluded to a video presentation with the words "Somewhere in the process of growing up, we quit dreaming... Security and safety took the place of risk and adventure... But what if God is asking you to dream again?"

"I call on you not to forget your original dreams—what you are really passionate about," Br. Dennis told the graduates, "because today, you are encouraged to dream again."

At this point, he introduced his audience to the PUSH button "that is found in you"—in the heart. "After pausing to

reflect on life and knowing that you can dream again, work for it, do something about it. College graduation is not the end. It is just the start of something big."

He told his listeners of a sentiment that the Dalai Lama and David Orr (author of "Ecological Literacy: Educating Our Children for a Sustainable World") share regarding success: "The plain fact is that the planet does not need more successful people. But it does desperately need more peacemakers, healers, restorers, storytellers, and lovers of every kind. It needs people who live well in their places. It needs people of moral courage willing to join the fight to make the world habitable and humane. And these qualities have little to do with success as we have defined it."

Br. Dennis then encouraged the graduates to "celebrate success"—not based on money, high position, power and fame—but along the lines of what Orr wrote. "We celebrate success from the perspective of the new breed of 'peacemakers, healers, restorers, storytellers, and lovers of every kind'—you who are our future creative professionals."

He furthered: "As future Lasallian professionals, it is your responsibility to make other people learn and understand through your work that there is another way to live life, that there is another way to achieve success. That is, by doing what you are passionate about and where your talents lead you to shine. That, my dear graduates, is the formula for the real kind of success!"

Guideposts

From more than 30 years of his professional life, Herbosa, who delivered the commencement address at the April 24 rites, culled four "guideposts to a lifetime of growth." These guideposts, he said, made the most impact on his own behavior. They are:

Guidepost 1: Look forward to a bright future: "Leave," and not live the past. Herbosa told his audience that, as graduates, they now have the power to pursue their dreams and ambitions—"for indeed the opportunities are endless."

But he said that within each opportunity lie the possibilities to make things happen for better or for worse. However, "there will always be a possibility to make up for mistakes, to learn new things, to come up new ideas, to reform ourselves—so that we come out of these experiences better persons."

"We are the only limit to what we can achieve," he said.

Guidepost 2: Strive to have a positive contribution and not think of the reward. "With a college diploma, you have a ticket to a leadership position," he informed his listeners. Such a position gives anyone the power to impact on the

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DLSU-D honors Br. James Gaffney FSC with Doctor of Humanities degree

For his “meaningful contributions in the educational ministry...for leading the way in advancing a student-centered educational ministry anchored on a rich heritage and its Catholic and Lasallian identity that defined young people’s educational experience—a lasting testament to the value of education as a worldwide ministry beyond borders worth emulating among Lasallian institutions all over the world,” Br. James Gaffney FSC, D.Min., was conferred the degree Doctor of Humanities *honoris causa* by De La Salle University-Dasmariñas, June 4. The conferment was made by DLSU-D

President and Chancellor Br. Gus Boquer FSC, and DLSU-D Board of Trustees Chair Br. Victor Franco FSC, and was witnessed by Dr. Emmylou Yanga, director IV of Commission on Higher Education Region IV-A.

Br. James was also gifted with the Medal of St. John Baptist De La Salle “as a gesture of esteem and appreciation for his valuable contributions in the Lasallian mission worldwide as exemplified by his being a true witness to the mission in his dedication as a Brother and educator, leading by example in his commitment to promote

personalized, value-centered, faith-filled and academically rewarding educational experiences—a true mark of what it means to make a difference in the lives of countless persons.”

Br. James and Lewis University

Br. James was inspired to follow the religious life by the De La Salle Brothers at his high school. “I was particularly impressed with how they (the De La Salle Brothers at St. Mel High School) reached out to students, especially students who were really struggling, or [were] financially needy,” said Br. James in a 2010 internet article (“Celebrating

a milestone: Br. James Gaffney, FSC celebrates his 50th year as a Christian Brother”). “And it seemed to me that that was a really great calling in life.” In the said article, he also expressed that the Christian Brothers in his high school were not only “grounded and rooted,” they were also good disciplinarians like father figures, as well.

And so, at age 18, Br. James committed to the Brotherhood. Thereafter, he served as faculty with the Christian Brothers High Schools in suburban Chicago and Missouri; as vocation director, then formation director, with the Chicago Province of the Christian Brothers; and as president of Joliet Diocesan Religious Education Board.

A most notable achievement, however, is his stint as current president of Lewis University, which started in 1988. “We saw in him this young rising star who would bring fresh insight to his work and get us back on track,” said James Perrone in a Lewis University website article (“Brother James Gaffney, FSC: Celebrating 50 Years as a De La Salle Christian Brother”) in 2013. That time, Perrone has been a Lewis University Accounting professor for over 30 years. “He immediately went out into the community; he earned the support of the business community and got to really know as many people as possible.” Prior to Br. James’ term, the university’s facilities and landscaping were worn out—“there was little pride in facilities”—and it left a “bad impression” on visitors. But with Br. James, small improvements, started in 1988 and which still continue to this day, immediately made a big difference.

Mission renewal project

In the 1990s, Br. James led a multi-year effort to renew the Mission of Lewis University, “meant to refocus the institution, unify the Lewis community and provide a framework for academics and planning.” Because of this project, the community had a better understanding of their heritage and their Catholic and Lasallian heritage; that the Mission “wasn’t only embodied in the Brothers themselves, but was something

that everyone had an important role in modeling to students and the community.”

“The Brothers have chosen to live among students, to interact daily with the students, and to teach students—not only in the classroom, but by example,” said Sharon O’Connell, a 1996 Lewis University graduate. As of 2013, some 20 Christian Brothers were serving with the university in various capacities: some taught and chaired academic departments, others served in administrative and staff roles, while retirees continued to be active among the campus community—all of them, regardless of their positions, remaining a source of inspiration and encouragement to the rest of the community.

Lewis University bestowed upon Br. James several awards, including “Teacher of the Year” award (1988), “Administrator of the Year” award (five-time recipient), and an honorary doctorate. Other universities have also honored him with doctorate degrees, including Bethlehem University (2013), Saint Mary’s University of Minnesota (2014), and University of St. Francis (Joliet, Illinois; 2015). His other awards include the Roger Osman Award for Distinguished Volunteer Service from the United Way of Will County (1997), “Citizen of the Year” award from the Irish-American Society of Will County (2003), JD Ross Extraordinary Service Award from Joliet Junior College (2004), the Brother John Johnston FSC

National Award (2014) and the 2015 Distinguished Citizen Award from Boy Scouts of America.

Marvelous

Receiving his Doctorate in Humanities degree from DLSU-D, Br. James thanked and congratulated De La Salle-Dasma for, among many things, its academic programs (“...for being awarded institutional accreditation at Level IV status, the highest available in the country...”), its efforts at environmentalism and sustainability, its rigorous research activities, collaborations and partnerships aimed at social transformation, and its scholarship programs—all attainments that “reflect well your mission and your vision and your commitment, that is, to integrate your core values of faith and service and communion for mission throughout the curriculum and in the holistic development of the members of this learning community.” Concluding his speech, Br. James expressed once more “abundant thanks,” and “much esteem for each of you and for this marvelous learning community engaged in the transformation of life similar to what the Brothers and, for many decades now, our Lasallian partners worldwide have been doing since 1680.”

“How marvelous it is to be with you, how marvelous it is to recognize this University for all it has become!” **n**



“there will always be a possibility to make up for mistakes, to learn new things, to come up new ideas, to reform ourselves—so that we come out of these experiences better persons.”

lives of many people. Thus, Herbosa said he ardently hopes that, “as Lasallians privileged with first-class education, we bring the Good News to others.”

“It is so appropriate that we have the Lasallian star as our school logo,” he furthered. “It serves to remind us of Christ whose light pierced through the darkness, in the same way that it challenges us to become bearers of light that can transform lives. If we can achieve this, then our performance would be greater than our applause.”

Guidepost 3: Give of yourself ahead of demanding from others. It is better to give than to receive, so explained Herbosa. He related his climb up the management rung, and said he remembers best those “who took that extra step for me, those who put in some sacrifice to see me through.” They are people who impact those around them in many ways—“those who have touched our lives for good, in their silent ways, deserving far more applause than what they could ask for.”

Guidepost 4: Always have a grateful heart! “Let us make our gratitude greater than our success,” he enjoined everyone. “It is because what we are today, what we have become, is the product of the many unique encounters with others. Life is a collection of experiences that we continue to build up to the very end, where there is a yardstick that we will have to measure up to.”

Herbosa then moved on to define success (“success is the yardstick by which society judges us”), but as seen

from another point of evaluation: “it is called fulfillment, and fulfillment is the measure by which you judge yourself.”

He shared Michael Josephson’s discourse: “What will matter is not what you bought, but what you built; not what you have but what you gave. What will matter is not your success, but your significance in the lives of others. What will matter is not what you learned, but what you taught. What will matter is every act of integrity, compassion, courage or sacrifice that enriched, empowered or encouraged others to emulate your example, and in turn make a difference in life. What will matter is not your competence, but your character.”

Concluding his speech, Herbosa enjoined everyone: “Let us live a life that truly matters. Let us never be afraid to fight for what is right because doing good is its own reward. Take that first big step boldly because you are now armed with the best education and the Christian values that go with it: faith, service and community. Live the Animo!” **n**



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