



Academician Biological Sciences Division



Dr. Wilfredo Roehl Licuanan
Distinguished Full Professor
and University Fellow
Department of Biology

Outstanding Young Scientist



Dr. Rowalt Alibudbud
Assistant Professorial Lecturer
Department of Sociology
and Behavioral Sciences



Dr. Andres Philip Mayol
Associate Professor
Department of Manufacturing
Engineering and Management

Outstanding Scientific Paper



Dr. Mitzie Irene Conchada
Associate Professor



Dr. Marites Tiongco
Full Professor



Dominique Hannah Sy
MS Student



Dr. Maria Victoria Migo-Sumagang
PhD Graduate



Dr. Michael Angelo Promentilla
Full Professor



Dr. Antonio Samuel Mamauag
Associate Professor

Outstanding Book



Mariveve Manuel Santos
PhD student



Jane Santiago Santos
Assistant Professorial
Lecturer



Dr. Ma. Carmen Ablan Lagman
Full Professor

DLSU outstanding researchers win 2025 NAST Awards

DE LA SALLE UNIVERSITY FACULTY RESEARCHERS WILL BE HONORED IN JULY by the National Academy of Science and Technology for their outstanding contributions to their fields.

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Leading this year's awardees from DLSU is University Fellow and Distinguished Full Professor Dr. Wilfredo Roehl Licuanan of the Department of Biology, who will be inducted as Academician.

Two faculty members will receive the Outstanding Young Scientist Award: Dr. Rowalt Alibudbud of the Department of Sociology and Behavioral Sciences and Dr. Andres Mayol of the Department of Manufacturing Engineering and Management.

Recipients of the Outstanding Scientific Paper Award include Dr. Mitzie Irene P. Conchada, Dr. Marites M. Tiongco, and Ms. Dominique Hannah A. Sy of the Carlos L. Tiu School of Economics for their paper, "Investigating the Impact of a Conditional Cash Transfer on Adolescent Pregnancy: Incidence and Health Outcomes"; Dr. Maria Victoria Migo-Sumagang and Dr. Michael Angelo B. Promentilla of the Department of Chemical Engineering for their study "A P-graph Approach for Planning Sustainable Rice Straw Management Networks"; and Dr. Antonio

Samuel Mamauag of the Department of Biology and one of the co-authors of "Ensuring Aquatic Food Security in the Philippines."

Also from the Department of Biology, Marivene Santos (student), Jane Santiago, and Dr. Ma. Carmen Lagman will receive the 2025 Outstanding Book Award for their work titled, "Guidebook on coral reef associated organisms collected for Autonomous Reef Monitoring Structures (ARMS) in the Philippines: A tool for capacity building in monitoring biodiversity at selected reef sites in the Philippines."

"It is truly inspiring to witness our respected researchers achieving such remarkable milestones. This acknowledgment not only highlights their individual accomplishments, but also reflects the collective commitment of our institution to excellence in research and innovation," DLSU President Br. Bernard Oca FSC said in his message.

LAGUNA CAMPUS, DOST-PCIEERD LAUNCH SUSTAINABLE WHEELS PROJECT

DE LA SALLE UNIVERSITY LAGUNA CAMPUS HOSTED THE LAUNCH OF SUSTAINABLE WHEELS WITH INNOVATIVE METAMATERIALS FOR FUTURE TRANSPORTATION (SWIFT)

at the Enrique K. Razon Function Room last June 10.

Funded by the Department of Science and Technology - Philippine Council for Industry, Energy and Emerging Technology Research and Development (DOST-PCIEERD) through the Center for Engineering and Sustainable Development Research (CESDR), the project focuses on developing an airless tire (also called non-pneumatic) using sustainable metamaterials.

Dr. Aristotle Ubando, the project lead and full professor of the Department of Mechanical Engineering, shared that SWIFT aims

to design and develop a unique metamaterial for wheel applications that offers enhanced strength, longevity, and lightweight properties compared to traditional tires. It also seeks to create cost-effective and commercially viable prototyping processes for these metamaterial wheels.

By introducing these sustainable airless tires into transportation, the project anticipates a significant reduction in environmental impact, along with improved operational efficiency and safety. The lightweight and durable nature of the metamaterials are expected to boost fuel efficiency and decrease emissions, contributing to climate change mitigation.

Among those who graced the event were Vice President for Research and Innovation and Distinguished Professor Dr. Raymond Tan; Enrique Razon Logistics Institute Executive

Director and Department of Mechanical Engineering Full Professor Dr. Jose Bienvenido Manuel Biona; DOST-PCIEERD Executive Director Dr. Enrico Paringit; DOST Advanced Manufacturing Center Executive Director Engr. Fred Liza; and Central Instrumentation Facility Scientific Director Dr. Anna Karen Laserna.



Dr. Aristotle Ubando, SWIFT project lead

FACULTY JOINS THINK-TANKS FOR ASEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN



DLSU SOUTHEAST ASIA RESEARCH CENTER AND HUB (SEARCH), THROUGH DIRECTOR DR. FERNANDO SANTIAGO, JR., was among 23 academic institutions selected by the ASEAN Secretariat to participate in the Regional Socialisation of the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) Strategic Plan under the ASEAN Community Vision 2045. The event was held last June 12 at the Ministry of Investment, Trade, and Industry of Malaysia in Kuala Lumpur.

This Regional Socialisation will serve as the official launch of the AEC Strategic Plan 2026–2030. Convened by the High-Level Task Force on ASEAN Economic Integration (HLTF-EI), this event brought together senior government officials from ASEAN Member States and Timor-Leste, alongside regional and global business leaders, startups, MSMEs, academia, think tanks, civil society organizations (CSOs), dialogue partners, and international groups.

Through multi-stakeholder panel discussions, the event sought to elevate awareness of the Strategic Plan and foster a shared understanding of its priorities. It also reaffirmed ASEAN’s commitment to building a resilient, competitive, and future-ready single market, anchored in collaboration, inclusivity, and sustainability.

New president of PAASCU

THE PHILIPPINE ACCREDITING ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOLS, COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES (PAASCU) announced that DLSU President Br. Bernard Oca FSC was recently elected as its new president.

PAASCU’s 15-person Board of Trustees and nine Commissions aim at supporting member schools in their journey toward quality improvement that is grounded in their educational philosophy and vision-mission. The association accredits academic programs and institutions.

Br. Bernie receives citation from NY State Assembly

THE NEW YORK STATE ASSEMBLY PRESENTED A CITATION TO BR. BERNARD OCA FSC in an awarding ceremony that coincided with the recent gathering of the United Federation of Fil-Am Educators, Inc. last May 25 at the New York LaGuardia Airport Marriott.

Part of the citation, which was signed by NY Assembly member Steven Raga, read: “As a dedicated Lasallian, he has exemplified an unwavering commitment to the mission and values of the Lasallian educational tradition.”

Br. Bernie “has shown leadership qualities and a dedication to his community. He truly represents what serving a community is all about, and we know he will continue to lead in all his future endeavors,” the citation further noted.



EU'S TOP DIPLOMAT VISITS MANILA CAMPUS



PROMOTING THE EUROPEAN UNION'S REGIONAL PARTNERSHIPS, EU High Representative and Vice President of the European Commission Kaja Kallas visited De La Salle University for an open dialogue with selected students last June 2 at the DLSU Henry Sy, Sr. Hall.

Prior to her campus visit, Kallas met with President Ferdinand Marcos, Jr. and other top government officials including Foreign Secretary Enrique Manalo, Philippine Coast Guard Commandant Ronnie Gil Gavan, and National Security Adviser Eduardo Año as she underscored maintaining regional stability.

The EU Delegation to the Philippines had recommended DLSU to be part of her visit in view of the EU's long standing relationship

with DLSU. The University houses the European Research and Documentation Center in the country and is part of the consortium of universities in the Philippines offering a European Studies program.

The meeting provided a platform for Lasallians to share their views about the EU and its role in the Philippines, as well as its commitment to stability and the rules-based international order in the region and the rest of the world.

Hosting the event were the Office of the Vice President for External Relations and Internationalization and the College of Liberal Arts - International Studies Department-European Studies.

La Salle hosts AUN Summer Camp 2025



DE LA SALLE UNIVERSITY RECENTLY HOSTED THE ASEAN UNIVERSITY NETWORK (AUN) SUMMER CAMP 2025, a comprehensive two-week summer program from May 26-June 6 that spanned across its three campuses in Lian, Laguna, and Manila.

At the Br. Alfred Shields Marine Station in Lian, Batangas, the 21 participants—among them 18 foreign and 3 local delegates—engaged in activities and discussions that focused on SDG 14: Life Below Water. Students were exposed to the issue of

coral monitoring and the vital role of citizen science in protecting marine ecosystems.

Meanwhile, the DLSU Laguna Campus hosted a cultural immersion program for the campers, allowing them to experience Filipino food and traditional games. They also conducted wellness activities, such as forest bathing and practicing mindfulness and breathing exercises.

The program also included further discussions on social entrepreneurship as a strategy to localize SDGs. Campers engaged

with Teresa Charities and tried soap making, rag making, and gardening. LSEED Center hosted a talk on Bridging Leadership in Practice, featuring Kevin Martin dela Cruz, MPM, lead consultant of Strago Solutions.

On the DLSU Manila campus, the campers gathered for the International Coffee Hour, which allowed them to enjoy each other's company on the closing day of the program. They represented AUN member universities from seven countries, namely Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Thailand, and Vietnam.

DLSU PROMOTES COLLEGE AND GRADUATE PROGRAMS IN NY

DE LA SALLE UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT BR. BERNARD OCA FSC LED A UNIVERSITY DELEGATION

in various activities in New York to promote its college and graduate degree programs.

Br. Bernie encouraged the recent graduates from US universities and their families to consider pursuing further studies in DLSU during the Philippine University Fair held May 31 at the Kalayaan Hall, Philippine Center in New York.

His talk highlighted the strengths of DLSU in teaching, research, community engagement, facilities, and campus life. He also mentioned some outstanding Fil-Am students who went back to the Philippines to take up grad studies in DLSU.

Br. Bernie was also among the select Philippine HEI heads who presented medals

to the Filipino graduates from the tri-state area during the Philippine graduation ceremony held before the fair.

Last June 1st, the University also participated in the 127th Independence Day Celebration in New York held at Madison Avenue with an exhibition booth highlighting its various programs. The Brother President joined the parade with DLSU alumni and represented the Philippine universities during the program.

The following day, Philippine university representatives visited The High School for Global Citizenship and Clara Barton High School for Health Professions in Brooklyn to touch base with students and administrators. The officials discussed the quality and affordability of higher education in the Philippines.

The initiative was organized by the Philippine Consulate in New York and the Philippine Independence Day Celebration Council.



University, HARI to build Volvo Safety Labs

WITH A COMMITMENT TO PROMOTE ROAD SAFETY AND INNOVATION, DE LA SALLE UNIVERSITY AND HARIPHIL ASIA RESOURCES, INC. (HARI) signed a partnership to build Volvo Safety Labs at the Richard L. Lee Engineering Technology Block on the DLSU Laguna Campus.

This hub will serve as a center for students and researchers to develop and test solutions aimed at preventing road accidents. The partnership is a cornerstone of Volvo Philippines' new national campaign, "Volvo: Being Alive," which strives for a future with zero traffic accidents.

Signing the collaborative agreement last May 30 were DLSU Vice President for Research and Innovation Prof. Raymond Girard Tan

and HARI Vice Chairman, President, and CEO Maria Fe Perez-Agudo. They were joined by DLSU Center for Engineering and Sustainable Development Research Director Prof. Alvin Culaba and HARI Chairman Richard Lee, as witnesses.

In the same event, Volvo Cars inaugurated "Voice of Volvo: Driving a Safer Future," where Prof. Jose Bienvenido Biona, Executive Dean of the DLSU Enrique Razon, Jr. Logistics Institute, served as the academic expert on mobility engineering. He was in a panel with policy representative Sen. Win Gatchalian, Department of Transportation Asec. Dioscoro Reyes, and academic expert on political science, Dr. Grace Gorospe-Jamon.

“By the care you take of your students, show that you have a real love for them.”

De La Salle

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ACADEMICIANS from DE LA SALLE UNIVERSITY

Academicians are distinguished members of the National Academy of Science and Technology (NAST), the highest recognition and scientific advisory body of the Philippines. Founded in 1976, NAST provides expert advice to the Philippine government, recognizes the achievements of Philippine researchers, and promotes linkages with counterpart science academies of other countries.

The Academy gathers together and welcomes new members during its Annual Scientific Meeting. DLSU's Prof. Wilfredo Licuanan, University Fellow and Distinguished Full Professor of the Department of Biology, will be among the new Academicians to be honored during the NAST event this July.



**Br. Andrew
Gonzalez FSC***
Social Sciences
1996



Prof. Allan BI Bernardo
Social Sciences
2007



Prof. Alvin Culaba
Engineering Sciences
and Technology
2008



Prof. Raymond Tan
Engineering Sciences
and Technology
2017



Prof. Elmer Dadios
Engineering Sciences
and Technology
2023



Prof. Wilfredo Licuanan
Biological Sciences
2025



2401 (twen'te fór'o, wun) is a landmark number along Taft Avenue. It is the location ID of De La Salle University, home to outstanding faculty and students, and birthplace of luminaries in business, public service, education, the arts, and science. And 2401 is the name of the official newsletter of DLSU, featuring developments and stories of interest about the University.

2401 is published bi-weekly by the Office for Strategic Communications (AH-21F, intercom 144). Editorial deadline is 3 p.m. Tuesdays. Contributions should include the name, office and signature of the sender. Materials may be edited for clarity or space.

2401 may be accessed online through the URL: <http://www.dlsu.edu.ph>.