From trash to art: DLSU-D joins Dasmanila

The creative work of recycled flowers made by a group of women, supported by the De La Salle University-Dasmariñas’ Livelihood and Enterprise Development Center (LEDC), Inc., from Paliparan, Dasmariñas City were featured at an exhibition mounted at the Ayala Museum in Makati City. Dubbed “Dasmanila,” the exhibition is a collaboration between the University of New South Wales (UNSW) in Australia and De La Salle-College of Saint Benilde. The public art installation is made up of hundreds of hand-woven flowers made from recycled garbage which aimed to highlight the problems of pollution in Manila's rivers and waterways.

Through LEDC, the university assists this group of women through capital loans and marketing. This group joined together to produce and sell unique craft objects made from recycled garbage that they gather, clean and weave by hand. Moreover, DLSU-D served as a collaborator to this project through the initiatives of the Behavioral Sciences Department’s AB Community Development program coordinators and students who were tapped to improve the organization of this group. LEDC also coordinated with the Lasallian Community Development Center to provide faculty and student volunteers, and the Environmental Resource Management Center to collect the segregated foil garbage which served as the women’s raw materials for the project.

This project is under UNSW’s Omnium Outreach Projects. Omnium is a research group composed of artists, designers, programmers, staff and students from UNSW’s College of Fine Arts. According to Dr. Rick Bennett, founder and director of Omnium, “we devote a proportion of our time to conducting community outreach projects to aid other creative groups in less fortunate situations worldwide.” Dasmanila is their third outreach project in the Philippines.
DLSU-D hosts SEAAIR 2010

Intensifying its research capabilities and linkages, the university hosted the South East Asian Association for Institutional Research 10th Annual Conference at the Summit Ridge Hotel and Promenade in Tagaytay City. Themed “Towards Global-ASEAN Institutional Research Strategic Alliances,” the conference gathered more than 100 participants from Philippines, Thailand, Malaysia and Indonesia.

The theme, according to SEAAIR President Teay Shawyun, “is timely and highly fitting given the continuous changes, competition and challenges higher education institutions are faced with today.” These changes were also reflected upon by DLSU-D Vice Chancellor for Academics and Research and 10th SEAAIR Conference Chair Olivia Legaspi in her message, “changes in education are on a full and high gear. It is imminent on our parts that we remain on track of the latest developments in technology, competitiveness and research.” A pre-conference seminar on “Applied Quality in Education” was also held at the university’s Severino de las Alas Hall Auditorium with Shawyun and Prof. Nirwan Idrus as resource speakers.

In related news, Allied Business Department Chair Alice Valerio received the Best Paper Award for “Factors Affecting Burnout of Faculty Members in Selected Tertiary Schools in Cavite: A Basis for a Stress Management Program.” Co-authored by Mervin Marasigan, the paper shows that there were differences in the level of burnout when the respondents were grouped in terms of age, civil status, monthly salary, employment status, among others. Consequently, the number of weekly workload, harmonious relations with co-faculty members and balanced workload, among others, proved to significantly affect their burnout level.

One ton of paper = priceless

By recycling 1 ton of paper, you save:
- 17 trees
- 463 gallons of oil
- 6,953 gallons of water
- 587 pounds of air pollution
- 3.06 cubic yards of landfill space
- 4,077 Kilowatt hours of energy.

Source: Weyerhaeuser
Situated at the heart of Cavite, with 27 hectares, besieged with lush green trees, De La Salle University-Dasmariñas (DLSU-D) has always been a true steward of nature. For over thirty years of existence as a Lasallian Institution, the university is continually exerting efforts in initiating projects for protecting the biodiversity through its Environmental Resource Management Center. Among the various projects initiated were the Green for Life: One Million Trees and Beyond (OMTB) Project, a project under the Lasallian Institute for the Environment or LIFE that addresses environmental problems through tree planting in various areas in Cavite such as Mt. Palaypalay, Ternate and other near provinces such as Calatagan and Batangas. Through the unified efforts of the academic community, a total of 20,698 seedlings have been planted for this year alone.

DLSU-D has taken numerous initiatives to help in conserving and preserving Mother Nature. Various agencies and institutions have recognized the university’s environmental efforts, thus, receiving awards such as the Dark Green #1 Status in the Philippines by the Environmental Education Network of the Philippines.
On campus waste management

Solid waste management has been one of the major concerns of DLSU-D, it paved the way to the construction of a new Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) recently awarded as the Model MRF in the Province of Cavite, this facility reduced solid waste through the process of resource, recovery, recycling and composting. Recyclable materials even generated funds to support more projects on waste management.

Tying bonds

Currently, the university is strengthening ties with other organizations and institutions sharing common goals of protecting the biodiversity. For the OMTB project, a memorandum of agreement has been inked with the following: Tenured Migrants of Mts. Palaypalay Protected landscape and Seascape, Philippine Marines, Samaka(Calatagan Batangas), The Orchard Golf and Country Club, Dasmarinas City Local Government and Jabez School.

Moving on

To further strengthen its campaign for environmental program, the university took a step to even ignite students’ involvement during the summer of 2010 where student leaders from the university actively participated with other students from different La Salle schools in the formulation of action plans during the 4-day eco-camp.
With the goal of achieving another level of being “green” – that is to create a “green” educational network that is carbon neutral, the Lasallian Institute for the Environment or LIFE spearheaded the Project Carbon Neutral (PCN). This project seeks to assess the De La Salle Philippines (DLSP) schools’ carbon footprint. Undoubtedly, DLSU-D is more than willing to take part in this worthy endeavor, formulating its action plan on how the university can help LIFE create a better life for the future generations.

First off, DLSU-D organized its own PCN Team in June 2010 with the Environmental Resource Management Center (ERMaC) as the lead unit or the DLSU-D Carbon Neutral Champion. The center is also tasked to ensure that PCN plans and projects are implemented according to schedule and to represent the university in the DLSP PCN steering committee. The DLSU-D PCN Team members include all the sectors and select offices of the DLSU-D community: the students led by the University Student Council; the faculty with the Faculty Association; the support staff as headed by the KABALIKAT; the Parents Organization of La Salle Cavite; the De La Salle University Alumni Association-Dasmariñas Chapter, Inc.; the Lasallian Community Development Center; and the Housekeeping Departments.
With everyone on board, through the assistance of LIFE as represented by DLSU-D Biological Sciences Department faculty and LIFE Technical Programs Director Marlon Pareja, several orientation seminars were conducted for the DLSU-D PCN Team. These orientation seminars covered the scope of work that needs to be accomplished including the time frame for the continuity and completion of the project.

Based on the DLSP PCN Team’s project implementation plan, there are four phases geared towards the completion of the project: Phase 1—Carbon foot printing and sequestration activities; Phase 2—Energy Auditing; Phase 3—Curriculum Integration; and Phase 4—Extension and Trainings.

As part of the plan, ERMaC conducted an inventory of trees in the campus on August 2010—covering the tree species, number, diameter in breast height (DBH) and height—thereby gathering information for the computation of the carbon amount sequestered by the university. By September 2010, the DLSU-D PCN Team began its data gathering for foot printing on energy and lighting. For starters, they gathered information on number, type and wattage of lighting systems and appliances in the university buildings. The team also gathered the Electric Consumption Report of all departments and buildings from January 2008 up to present through the Accounting Office, as well as the fuel and oil usage of the transportation from 2008 until May 2010. These steps were taken for the formulation of recommendations and measures to be taken to offset the university’s carbon emissions.

DLSU-D continues its tireless efforts to help not only for the fulfillment of this project, but, ultimately, for the conservation and preservation of the environment. With the university’s battle cry of “creating possibilities,” this is a clear manifestation that possibilities created are not solely for academic excellence or the goal of producing globally competitive graduates. We also create possibilities for the environment— for the future generations to still enjoy fresh air, feel the grass on their feet and the cool breeze when climbing a tree.
Promoting information literacy and showcasing their resources and services, the Aklatang Emilio Aguinaldo led the academic community’s celebration of the National Libraries and Information services Month and the 76th National Book Week on Nov. 22-27.

With the theme “Pandaigdigang Pakikipag-ugnayan sa Pamamagitan ng mga Aklat at Impormasyong Teknolohiya at Komunikasyon,” the celebration featured lectures and seminars that aim to enhance research and documentation skills of the faculty members. For the opening of the celebration, the unveiling of the new English Proficiency Program (EPP) module “Communication in the Workplace” highlighted the event. Language Learning Center (LLC) Director Christopher Gabriel also presented the center’s faculty roster, shared the findings on the EPP module by BS Education representatives and began the formal countdown to the implementation of EZone at the Administration Building.

Other activities during the week-long event include the presentation of Research and Publications by the University Research Office (URO); a film showing on novels turned into films such as the Chronicles of Narnia, the Harry Potter series, among others; a storytelling/puppetry lecture workshop; lectures on “Google Applications and Tools for Libraries and library users,” “Philippine Educational Websites and its Importance to Learning;” and seminar-workshop on “CDS/ISIS for Windows (Winisis) and on “Weblog: Innovate Library Services.”


In honor of the 67th birthday of Br. Gus Boquer, DLSU-D president, the University Development Office kicked off Project 67 which seeks to promote the culture of giving to the needy for 67 days.

For 67 days, members of the DLSU-D community are enjoined to show their Lasallian spirit of faith, zeal for service and communion in mission by making donations in cash or in kind for the benefit of the Bahay Pag-asa, a transformative facility for children in conflict with the law, and the One La Salle Scholarship Fund. The project aims that by the end of the program on Jan. 17, 2011, the university would have raised P900,000-P1.2 million in pledges from donors, employees, and willing students to support this endeavor.

Meanwhile, gifts in kind should be coordinated with the officers of Bahay Pag-asa to ensure that the items will fit the needs of the center. For further queries on how to support the project, call (02) 844-7832 local 3004 or send an email to development@dlsud.edu.ph.
Br. Nicodem visits DLSU-D

“To be ready to work in their ministry anywhere they are asked to go.” This is one characteristic of a Lasallian Brother. Thus remaining unfazed despite the recent bad news about the country, Br. Edgar Genuino Nicodem FSC, General Councilor for RELAL (Région Latinoamericana Lasallista) visited DLSU-D for a dialogue with the community last Nov. 23.

After the warm welcome at the airport by Br. Rey Mejias FSC and University Linkages Office Director Wilson Jacinto, Br. Nicodem went straight to the campus to meet the university president and vice chancellors. Br. Nicodem then met adult lay Christians from DLSU-D who has been called by God in a special way—the Signum Fidei members. Select faculty, staff, and students were given the opportunity to have a small group sharing with the Brother as well.

Br. Nicodem was toured in the campus after the dialogues with the various groups despite the little rest from his long flight. He was treated with glimpses of university landmarks like Museo De La Salle, Antonio & Victoria Cojuangco Memorial Chapel of Our Lady of the Holy Rosary, Aklatang Emilio Aguinaldo, and Bahay Pag-asa.

In one of his dialogues, Br. Nicodem challenged the community to touch others’ lives in concrete and practical ways—through their job, their words, or whatever it is entrusted with them. According to him, these will be fundamental contributions to the Lasallian mission. And through the General Councilor’s short visit in the university, he did exactly that—he touched the lives of the DLSU-D community.

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