

August 2025

# OSS NSPIRE

(OSS Newsletter for Student Programs, Initiatives, and Recent Engagements)



*Forging New Beginnings, Advancing with Purpose*



*Featured Student Organization: Business and Operations Management Society*

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# DLSU-D Welcomes Freshmen with PANIMOLA 2025



*The community celebrates Day 1 and Day 5 with a Eucharistic Celebration.*

The Animo spirit came alive at De La Salle University-Dasmariñas as the campus welcomed its newest Lasallians during PANIMOLA 2025 held from August 11 to 15, 2025. More than just an orientation, the week-long program combined tradition, fun, and discovery, giving freshmen their first taste of life in the Lasallian community.

## A Grand Kick-off

The festivities opened on August 11 with the Animowalk, where students paraded from the Rotunda to Ugnayang La Salle (ULS), symbolizing their official entry into the Lasallian family. A Eucharistic Celebration followed grounding the week in faith and community.

The day continued with Animoventure which introduced university administrators, offices, and services. The afternoon was capped with videos, bench cheer competitions, and a performance by GMA Sparkle artist Lee Victor.

## Exploring Identity and Community

On August 12, students learned about the life and mission of St. John Baptist de la Salle in the “Meet the Founder” session, followed by an orientation on the Student Handbook and university policies.

From August 13 to 14, freshmen participated in College Orientations and Campus Tours where they met their deans, professors, and peers while exploring facilities and resources that will support their academic journey.



*Freshmen join a guided campus tour.*

Running from August 12–15, the Student Organization Recruitment Booths drew strong interest as organizations showcased their causes, activities, and communities ranging from leadership and advocacy to arts, culture, and sports.

### A Celebration to Remember

The week concluded on August 15 with a Reflection Session led by Br. Mandy Dujunco, FSC inviting students to pause and look forward with purpose. That evening, freshmen gathered for Student LIFE: The Frosh Party which featured campus talents and a headline performance from Magnus Haven.

### Animo for the Journey Ahead

Through traditions, orientations, and shared experiences, freshmen found not only their classrooms and organizations, but also a sense of belonging. Panimola 2025 marked not just the start of college life, but the beginning of their Lasallian journey at DLSU-D.





# PANIMOLA 2025 Facilitators Gear up to Welcome Freshmen



*ULFO Director Ms. Diana Jean Roque discusses the module on St. La Salle.*

On August 5, 2025, faculty members gathered for PANIMOLA 2025 Facilitators Orientation at the ADG Dining Hall of De La Salle University-Dasmariñas (DLSU-D). The session, organized by the Office of Student Services (OSS) prepared faculty facilitators for their role in guiding freshmen on Day 2 of the upcoming freshman orientation week scheduled for August 11 to 15, 2025. PANIMOLA is said to be a weeklong program that introduces freshmen to the university's mission, values, and student life.

The orientation highlighted two foundational modules. The first, presented by Ms. Diana Jean Roque, Director of the University Lasallian Family Office (ULFO) focused on the life and legacy of St. John Baptist De La Salle. Facilitators were trained to share his story in a way that inspires reflection and commitment to the Lasallian core values of faith, service, and communion.

The second module, delivered by Mr. Ruel Elias, Director of the Student Welfare and Formation Office (SWAFO), introduced the SPADE Program. This aims to equip freshmen with essential knowledge of the DLSU-D Student Handbook, emphasizing student rights, responsibilities, and behavioral standards expected of them Lasallians.

In her closing message, OSS Dean Dr. Jacqueline Morta reminded the team, *"PANIMOLA is not merely an introduction to student life, but the start of a transformative Lasallian journey."*



*PANIMOLA facilitators listen attentively during the session.*

Beyond content delivery, the orientation underscored the role of facilitators as mentors tasked with fostering an engaging and welcoming environment for freshmen.

# Faculty Assembly 2025 Features Student Services Updates

The Office of Student Services (OSS), led by Dean Dr. Jacqueline L. Morta, presented her office's services and initiatives during the Faculty Organization General Assembly 2025. The session aimed to strengthen collaboration between faculty members and student services offices to support holistic student development.

Dr. Morta discussed the following updates from the different offices under OSS.

## **Student Welfare and Discipline**

The Student Welfare and Formation Office (SWAFO) emphasized the faculty's role in guiding students and referring disciplinary cases. SWAFO also manages the lost and found section and reminded the community to review the student handbook.

## **Student Leadership and Engagement**

The Student Development and Activities Office (SDAO) encouraged faculty members to serve as advisers or accompanying faculty in student events - roles that help align activities with the university's mission and policies. Faculty contributions are credited as community service hours with SDAO providing orientation and support.



*OSS personnel with DLSU-D President,  
Br. Iñigo Riola FSC, EdD.*

## **Student Wellness and Career Readiness**

The Student Wellness Center (SWC) continues to offer individual and group counseling, wellness programs, and interventions to address academic and personal challenges. Career guidance and development services are also available to prepare students for life after graduation.

## **Student Media and Publication**

The newly established Student Media and Publication Office (SMPO) was introduced and includes digital and multimedia platforms. Student media groups were invited to seek accreditation to access training and support for responsible and creative journalism.



*Dr. Morta presents OSS programs and initiatives to the members of the DLSU-D Faculty Organization.*

### **Civic Engagement Through NSTP**

The National Service Training Program – Civic Welfare Training Service (NSTP-CWTS) was presented as a platform to develop students' physical, moral, and social well-being through community service projects, and ROTC training.

### **Compliance and Policy Updates**

Faculty were also reminded of relevant CHED Memorandum Orders (CMOs), namely:

CMO 63, s. 2017 – Local Off-Campus Activities

CMO 26, s. 2015 – International Educational Trips

CMO 03, s. 2022 – Gender-Based Sexual Harassment Guidelines

The assembly underscored that faculty play a vital role in student formation, and collaboration with OSS offices helps foster a safe, supportive, and mission-driven university environment.

## **SWC Opens its Doors on Saturdays to Better Serve Students**



The Student Wellness Center (SWC) has expanded its services this academic year by making guidance counselors available on Saturdays. This initiative aims to ensure that students continue to receive support when they need it, even outside the usual weekday schedule.

This initiative is part of the office's thrust to ensure that guidance and counseling services are accessible to undergraduate and graduate students who have scheduled classes on Saturdays or have limited availability on weekdays due to academic, extracurricular, or personal commitments. By extending its availability, SWC seeks to provide greater access to counseling for a range of concerns including socio-emotional wellbeing, academic challenges, career planning, and self-enrichment.

SWC strongly encourages students to take advantage of these services as part of their holistic Lasallian education. It remains committed to being a safe and welcoming space where students can find guidance, clarity, and encouragement from SWC's pool of dedicated counselors and staff.



# OSS and SDAO Conduct Leadership Workshops at De La Salle Bataan



*Dr. Morta emphasizes the importance of aligning student activities with the school's vision and mission statement.*

The Office of Student Services (OSS) Dean, Dr. Jacqueline Morta and Student Development and Activities Office (SDAO) Director, Dr. Eric Vargas led a Leadership Training Workshop for student leaders of St. Jaime Hilario School - De La Salle Bataan on August 9, 2025.

Dr. Morta delivered her talk titled "Mission Possible: Leading Student Organizations with Purpose and Passion" which emphasized the importance of aligning student activities with the school's vision-mission and Lasallian values. She highlighted strategies for purposeful programming, values-based leadership, and strategic engagement that reflect both the institution's goals and its 20th Founding Anniversary theme.

A featured activity, Lasallian Service Day, demonstrated how faith, service, and community engagement can be integrated into outreach programs that advance student development and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

"Being a Lasallian leader means living the values of faith, service, and community, and transforming lives through purposeful action," says Morta.



*Dr. Vargas engages participants during the workshop.*

Dr. Eric Vargas followed with "L.E.A.D. the Way: Learning, Empowerment, Action, and Development for Student Leaders," where he underscored the role of purpose-driven leadership. He addressed common challenges faced by student leaders and guided participants through the project activity management cycle – from setting SMART objectives to planning, implementation, and evaluation. "Leadership must start with a clear sense of purpose, as this "why" serves as the foundation for both planning and implementation," he stressed.

His session also introduced creative fundraising strategies and essential leadership practices such as accountability, collaboration, and empowerment to strengthen student organizations. He concluded by reminding participants that while student leadership is temporary, the impact created through integrity, service, and commitment can be lasting.

A day before the event, Drs. Morta and Vargas met with the De La Salle Brothers from the Philippines, Brazil, and Myanmar, together with Br. Rafael Cerón Sigala FSC, a De La Salle Brother from Mexico and General Councilor of the Generalate of the Brothers of the Christian Schools in Rome.

## **OSS Dean Presents Service Delivery Enhancements for SY 2024-2025**

On August 4, 2025, the Office of Student Services (OSS) Dean Dr. Jacqueline L. Morta presented key improvement initiatives and service delivery enhancements implemented by OSS for SY 2024-2025 during the Management Review Based on ISO 21001:2018 Standards held at the Ayuntamiento de Gonzalez Reception Hall. These initiatives aim to strengthen student support and engagement and underscore the office's commitment to providing responsive, and impactful services to foster student success.

Under the OSS Dean's Office, several initiatives were launched. For instance, the PANIMOLA 2024 freshman orientation was expanded from a half-day to a weeklong program to offer students a more engaging transition experience.

Student activities were aligned with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UNSDGs) to meet accreditation standards. The OSS-AFSSDP program provided eight training sessions for administrators, faculty, and support staff to ensure continuous professional development. Research efforts were also expanded with two completed projects presented at international forums and seven new proposals lined up for implementation this school year. Other highlights include a 99% participation rate in mandatory drug testing for upperclassmen, the launch of OSS NSPIRE newsletter, and the first-ever Gawad Lingkod Lasalyano to recognize outstanding OSS faculty and staff.



*Dr. Morta presents the web-based version of OSS NSPIRE to the audience.*

The Student Welfare and Formation Office (SWAFO) introduced the Special Program on Advanced Discipline Education (SPADE), updated forms to comply with the Data Privacy Act of 2012, and launched the Vanguard of Student Discipline (VSD) to reward honesty in the classroom. Additionally, a new category was added to the Luntiang Parangal awards to honor exemplary colleges in discipline.

Meanwhile, the Student Development and Activities Office (SDAO) rolled out updated policies for student activities clarifying event coordination and fund management. Its SIBOL Leadership Program was revised based on survey results to better support student leaders.

During Students' Week, the Student Administrators Program gave students the opportunity to take on leadership roles. The office also integrated SDG alignment into the Luntiang Parangal awards.

On the other hand, the Student Wellness Center (SWC) conducted a socio-emotional learning (SEL) test and survey which addressed PAASCU recommendations and CHED guidelines.

Furthermore, the NSTP-CWTS Office introduced Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (DRRM) training, which included water rescue skills, and embedded SDG lessons into its curriculum. The LIKAS program was also launched to further develop leadership and service competencies among NSTP graduates.

Together, these initiatives highlight OSS's commitment to continuous improvement and delivery of its mission to deliver services that elevate the quality of student services.



# DLSU-D Launches Student Media and Publication Office for SY 2025-2026



*The SMPO Team led by Director Jem Puchero (center) with Graphics and Layout Artist Jay Allan Francisco (second from left), Office Associate Edwin Abinales Jr. (left), Heraldo Filipino Managing Director Charles Emmanuel Cruz (second from right), and Vicissitude Associate Editor Mikylla Joy Hermoso (right).*

De La Salle University–Dasmariñas announces the creation of the Student Media and Publications Office (SMPO) this school year. The new unit is tasked with supporting student publications and strengthening campus media.

The SMPO will manage DLSU-D's official student publications, including Heraldo Filipino and Vicissitude. It will also provide training and guidance for student writers, editors, and staff members.

In addition to publication management, SMPO will coordinate workshops, assemblies, and programs that promote collaboration among student media groups.

Its work is aligned with the university's mission to help students develop communication skills, critical thinking, and leadership grounded in Lasallian values.

The establishment of the office underscores the university's recognition of student media as an important part of campus life. Through SMPO, students will have a structured platform and support center to practice responsible journalism, share their work, and contribute to the DLSU-D community.

# OSS Support Staff Trains on ISO 21001:2018 Documentation

In line with De La Salle University-Dasmariñas' commitment to quality assurance and continuous improvement, the Office of Student Services (OSS) participated in a Support Staff Development Training on ISO 21001:2018 Documentation held on August 12, 2025 at the OVPGEER Conference Room.

The session facilitated by Ms. Maricar Panganiban focused on strengthening the support staff's capability in managing institutional documents in accordance to ISO standards.

Key areas of the training included:

- Document Type Codes – Staff were introduced to standardized codes for policies (POL), procedures (PRC), forms (FRM), and records (RCD) to ensure consistency and traceability.
- File Naming Conventions – Participants learned to use clear and consistent naming practices to minimize confusion and support efficient retrieval.
- Document Registry Management – The training covered maintaining a centralized registry with essential metadata such as title, code, version, and responsible personnel for easier monitoring and compliance.



*Ms. Panganiban receives her certificate and token.*

Participants appreciated the hands-on approach as it clarified ISO documentation processes and equipped them to better support the university's quality management efforts.

The initiative underscores OSS's proactive commitment to aligning with international standards and cultivating a culture of excellence in service delivery.

# At Your Service!



*Dr. Venicris Alonsozana*  
*Student Engagement Program (SEP) Coordinator*





*Sir Cris facilitating a SEP student Orientation.*

Dr. Venicris Joseph Martinez Alonsozana, fondly known as “Cris” to family, relatives, friends, and colleagues, is recognized by many titles. Students call him “Doc Cris” in graduate school, “Sir Cris” at OSS and across the colleges of DLSU-D, and “Tito Cris” by countless participants of seminars and recollections he facilitated. Each name reflects the deep respect and warmth he inspires in the communities he serves.

Beyond the Religious Education classroom, his student engagements always begin when organizations invite him to facilitate their spiritual activities. One highlight was a special student tribute when he was featured on DLSU-D's Green FM Radio 95.9, interviewed by his former student, now GMA News reporter-Jonathan Andal. His role as Coordinator of the Student Engagement Program (SEP) at the Office of Student Services (OSS) further exemplifies his passion for mentoring students beyond academics.

### Road to SEP

Sir Cris started at OSS as its first SEP Institutional Coordinator in SY 2019–2020 when the program was introduced at DLSU-D. Invited by then OSS Dean Arch. Tony Gutierrez, he embraced the challenge without hesitation. His prior experiences as adviser of Youth for Christ (YFC)-Campus Based and the College of Education Student Council (COESC), as well as trainer of the COE Rondalla, prepared him well for the role.



*Sir Cris as COED Rondalla Trainor with Bishop Rey Evangelista of the Diocese of Imus.*

What motivated him most was SEP's uniqueness: no other school in the country offered a program like it. With the full support of OSS administrators and the pioneering SEP College Coordinators, Sir Cris helped shape the program's maiden implementation. As he put it, “*Ang SEP ang pumalit sa INTRO 01 at 02 kaya ito ang nag-udyok sa akin upang tumulong sa pagpapatupad ng SEP ng OSS.*”

## Successes and Setbacks

Sir Cris shared that from the beginning, SEP has been activity-based rather than classroom-based, with students graded on their participation in institutional events. The first year coincided with the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, forcing SEP to quickly adapt. Engagements shifted online, and the traditional passport-and-stamp system gave way to digital documentation through the SEP Schoolbook which requires proof of online engagement.



*Tito Cris facilitating Recollection to DLSUD SHS students.*

Monitoring students remained a challenge, especially given the coordinator-to-student ratio. Still, Sir Cris recalls the rewarding effort of tracking individual student engagement across activities. Even when SEP was suspended for two academic years, completion guidelines were carefully aligned with CHED and DOH regulations. By SY 2022-2023, SEP returned with improved systems, replacing stamps with photo documentation and renewed momentum.



*OSS SEP Coordinator since 2019*

## Turning Points

A constant highlight of SEP is its orientation program for first-year students. Even before PANIMOLA was established. Sir Cris and fellow coordinators introduced the program to every college. They emphasized how SEP fosters the Lasallian core values of Faith, Service, and Communion.

For him, the Q&A portion of orientations is particularly significant. According to Sir Cris, *“this is the point at which we must demonstrate to every student the importance of participating in DLSU-D events related to the Lasallian core values of Faith, Service and Communion”*. This year’s presentation even included a video presentation he developed which featured the key program information with photos and captions. This, he proudly calls their best SEP presentation yet.

Looking ahead, Sir Cris and the team plan to revive the Best in SEP Student Award, a recognition first given during the program’s inaugural year.

## Ways Forward

*“Continuously motivating and patiently encouraging students to be actively engaged in institutional activities are the primary roles of a SEP Coordinator in shaping students’ lives and personal development in the university,” Sir Cris affirms.*

His vision was supported by research he co-authored with former SEP coordinators Dr. Marnon Regis and Mr. Jun Reblora. Together they found that students perceive SEP as a valuable contributor to their learning experience.

Sir Cris envisions that SEP will continuously be offered as an institutional requirement in the university curriculum.

*“There are institutional activities that are easy to engage in and enjoy, and there are those that will be difficult to engage in and least enjoyed, but SEP coordinators will work tirelessly for better promotional strategies and activities to make the program more engaging for students.”* He said that an engaged person finds his life purpose and can lead to greater happiness and a successful future.

Indeed, through SEP and his many roles, Sir Cris continues to guide students toward growth that extends far beyond the classroom. As he puts it,

*“My job is not to teach, but to truly reach.”*



# At Your Service!



# NSTP Orientation 2025 Kicks Off for Freshmen

The National Service Training Program (NSTP) implemented by the Civic Welfare Training Service (CWTS) Office and the 267th Naval Reserve Officers' Training Corps Unit (ROTC) jointly conducted the NSTP Orientation 2025 on August 23, 2025. With the theme "Shaping Socially Responsible, Disciplined Lasallian Citizens and Leaders," the event aimed to guide first-year students in choosing their NSTP component in line with Republic Act 9163, also known as the NSTP Law.



*Freshman students attentively listening to the NSTP orientation.*

The orientation was held in four sessions: 7:00 AM, 9:30 AM, 12:30 PM, and 3:30 PM to accommodate all freshmen. Each session provided comprehensive information on both NSTP components, outlining their objectives, activities, and contributions to student formation.

Students actively engaged throughout the event, with many expressing interests in CWTS while others showed enthusiasm for ROTC.



*Student asking question about the benefit of taking ROTC.*

The sessions provided a decision-making platform for students to determine which program best aligns with their personal goals and interests.

The initiative highlighted the institution's commitment to forming well-rounded Lasallian leaders grounded in discipline, service, and social responsibility. By ensuring students are well-informed, the NSTP Office empowers them to take ownership of their civic role in nation-building.

The day-long activity concluded at 5:30 PM with strong participation from the student body. The collaborative effort of CWTS and ROTC not only fulfilled the university's compliance with NSTP requirements but also reinforced the Lasallian spirit of leadership and service to others.

# DLSU-D and DLMSHSI Strengthen Ties Through NSTP Benchmarking

Representatives from the De La Salle Medical and Health Sciences Institute (DLMHSI) visited De La Salle University-Dasmariñas (DLSU-D) on August 11, 2025 for a benchmarking activity on the National Service Training Program-Civic Welfare Training Service (NSTP-CWTS) component of the program.

The DLMHSI team led by Mr. Roel Hayag, CWTS Chair, along with Mr. Julius Tepora and Mr. Rolly Capistrano were welcomed by Ms. Linda Lou Palomino, Chair of DLSU-D's NSTP-CWTS Office.

## Sharing of Best Practices and Innovation

The session provided an opportunity for both institutions to exchange strategies, address challenges, and highlight innovative approaches to NSTP-CWTS implementation. A key point of discussion was DLMHSI's interest in integrating the Literacy Training Service (LTS) component. While DLSU-D does not offer LTS, Ms. Palomino shared how literacy-focused initiatives have been embedded within CWTS under the Education Program.



*Ms. Linda Lou G. Palomino, NSTP-CWTS Chair of DLSU-D, shares the university's CWTS experiences and best practices.*

## Expanding Collaboration

The dialogue also emphasized the value of building networks among higher education institutions in Dasmariñas. A proposal was raised to convene NSTP implementers across the city to share expertise, coordinate community assignments, and explore collaborative outreach projects to maximize the collective impact of NSTP efforts.

## Advancing the Lasallian Mission

The activity concluded with both institutions reaffirming their commitment to excellence in NSTP implementation and to the Lasallian mission of service and nation-building. The initiative stands as a model of how shared learning and cooperation can expand the reach and effectiveness of community service programs.

# 267th NROTC Unit Holds Courtesy Call with the Brother President



*Engaging discussion during the 267th NROTCU courtesy visit with the University President.*

The 267th Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps (NROTC) Unit conducted a courtesy call with Br. Iñigo Riola, FSC on August 27, 2025, marking a significant step toward strengthening institutional collaboration.

The delegation included LCDR Freddie Navarro PN (Assistant Commandant), Dr. Jacqueline Morta (Dean, Office of Student Services), Ms. Lanie Barrera (ROTC Coordinator), and Ms. Linda Lou Palomino (former ROTC Coordinator). They were joined by the unit's top cadet officers, Corps Commander C/LTCOL Jacob Elijah Sanchez 1CL and Vice Corps Commander C/LTCOL Andrae Raphael Muncada 1CL.

Discussions focused on strategies to increase ROTC enrollment. One proposal was to develop a comprehensive list of universities and colleges in nearby areas that do not currently offer ROTC as part of their NSTP.

The unit also presented its plans and initiatives to the University President, who expressed full support and commitment to their endeavors. This assurance from the administration is viewed as a key step in strengthening the program and extending its reach to more students.

The 267th NROTC Unit expressed gratitude for the warm reception and meaningful dialogue. Both parties shared optimism that the meeting will pave the way for expanded cooperation, with continued collaboration to enhance leadership and educational opportunities for cadets.



# 267th NROTC Unit Joins First Flag-Raising Ceremony of SY 2025-2026



*Cadet Officers of the 267th NROTCU during the University's first flag-raising ceremony.*

The 267th Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps (NROTC) Unit participated in the University's first flag-raising ceremony for the academic year 2025-2026.

The cadets facilitated the entrance of colors, a regular feature of the ceremony that formally opens the program. Their participation served as part of the University's continuing tradition of involving student groups in institutional activities.

"This ceremony represents more than just raising the flag," said an ROTC representative. "It embodies our commitment to service and nation-building, values that will guide our cadets throughout the academic year."

The flag-raising ceremony has been established as a monthly tradition, scheduled for the first Monday of each month. The 267th NROTC Unit will continue to participate in these ceremonies as part of its role in promoting service to both God and country.



*University administrators, faculty, and staff with DLSU-D President Br. Iñigo Riola FSC (center) joined by the 267th NROTCU cadets.*

The event also marked the beginning of the unit's activities for the year, highlighting its mission of developing future naval officers and leaders. By opening the school year with this ceremony, the 267th NROTC Unit set the tone for an academic year focused on service, leadership, and patriotic duty.

# SWAFO Turns Over Unclaimed Lost and Found Items



*The Lasallian Community Development Center (LCDC) receives unclaimed items from SWAFO's Lost and Found Section.*



*Unclaimed monetary amounts from the Lost and Found Section are turned over to the Accounting Office to support student scholars.*

On July 31, 2025, the Student Welfare and Formation Office (SWAFO) formally turned over all unclaimed items from the Lost and Found Section for school year 2024–2025 to the Lasallian Community Development Center (LCDC) and Accounting Office.

Throughout the school year, various personal belongings including umbrellas, sunglasses, tumblers, mobile accessories, jackets, and other items were surrendered and stored in the Lost and Found Section. After remaining unclaimed, the items were documented and officially transferred to LCDC for safekeeping and appropriate use.

Meanwhile, unclaimed monetary amounts collected through the Lost and Found were handed over to the Accounting Office. These funds will be allocated to support student scholars, allowing lost resources to contribute to the academic pursuits of others.

This initiative highlights the University's commitment to accountability, stewardship, and solidarity. By transforming unclaimed items into meaningful contributions, the turnover demonstrates how simple acts of responsibility can advance the broader mission of service and care.

# Basic Education Division Principal Delivers Lecture on Systems Thinking



*Mr. Pareja discusses the key attributes of systems thinking with the participants.*

As part of its ongoing development program for administrators, the Office of Student Services (OSS) held a seminar on systems thinking in strategic planning on August 7, 2025 at the OSS Conference Room.

Mr. Marlon Pareja, Principal of the Basic Education Division at DLSU-D, introduced participants to the Systems Thinking Iceberg Model, a framework developed by Michael Goodman in 2002. This model helps analyze complex systems by looking beyond visible events and exploring recurring patterns, structures, and underlying mindsets that shape long-term outcomes.

He also cautioned participants against end-of-pipe thinking, which focuses only on addressing problems after they occur. Such an approach often leads to short-term fixes rather than lasting solutions as it neglects the deeper structures and contexts that sustain recurring issues.

A workshop followed applying the Problem Tree Approach where participants mapped and analyzed the causes and effects of a central issue. The exercise encouraged them to look past surface-level symptoms and understand the interconnected factors contributing to challenges.

Integrated into the OSS Administrators, Faculty, and Support Staff Development Program (OSSAFSSDP) for SY 2025-2026, the seminar introduced systems thinking as a strategic planning tool for analyzing organizational complexity, identifying key interconnections, and designing effective long-term strategies.



# SIBOL 2025 Nurtures Next Wave of Lasallian Leaders

The Student Development and Activities Office (SDAO) successfully held the annual Strategies in Inspiring and Building Organizational Leadership (SIBOL) 2025 on August 19, 22-23, 2025. The three-day leadership formation program gathered newly elected and appointed officers from Student Governments, Recognized Student Organizations, Student Publications, Student Auxiliary Groups, and the Performing Arts Group for orientation and leadership development.



*SDAO Director Dr. Eric Vargas presents policies and guidelines for student activities.*

## Orientation and Technical Training

Day 1 was held on campus and featured parallel sessions across three venues:

SDAO Director Dr. Eric A. Vargas oriented student leaders on policies and guidelines for student activities at the Alumni Auditorium.



*Procurement Director Ms. Arni Llaneta discusses procurement policies.*

Sessions also included safety and security protocols from the General Services Office (GSO), venue reservation policies from the Retreat and Conference Center-Sports Recreation Complex (RCC/SRC), and professional writing tips from the Student Media and Publication Office (SMPO).



*Student leaders attend the RCC Dining Hall parallel session.*

Meanwhile, SDAO Associate Director Ms. Joan Bermundo led sessions on service and faith-based programs. The Lasallian Community Development Center (LCDC) and Campus Ministry Office (CMO) followed them up with topics on outreach, service learning, and spiritual activities.

At the ADG Reception Hall, sessions focused on financial and resource management. After an AVP message from OSS Dean Dr. Jacqueline Morta, representatives from the Advancement and Alumni Relations, Procurement, and Finance offices presented policies on crowdfunding, procurement, and accounting. Workshops on financial management and ODOO systems capped the day.

### Teambuilding and Leadership Formation

Day 2 brought participants to Camp Tipolo in Antipolo City for teambuilding activities that tested teamwork, resilience, and leadership under pressure. Rope courses, mud crawls, and balance challenges pushed student leaders to overcome obstacles together.

In the evening, the leadership series continued with Systems Thinking for Strategic Student Leadership by Basic Education Principal Mr. Marlon Pareja, and Strategic Alignment of Activities with Vision, Mission, and SDGs by OSS Dean Dr. Morta. Socials night, hosted by the Performing Arts Group also provided a space for fellowship and collaboration-building among organizations.



*Mr. Marlon Pareja, Basic Education Principal, delivers a session on Systems Thinking.*

### Reflecting on the experience, one student shared:

“The highlight of my SIBOL experience was the trek and teambuilding challenges. Leadership is the same. The path may be tough, but with resilience and the right people beside you, every struggle becomes meaningful.”

Another added:

“I'm thankful for the social's night. Beyond the fun, I gained new friends and even professional connections that will help our organizations collaborate this year.”

### **Culmination and Commitment**

Day 3 opened with morning praise led by the Student Auxiliary Groups followed by a session on the Student Activity Portal. The leadership formation series concluded with The Lasallian Leader's Path: A Commitment to Serve and Inspire delivered by Br. Fernando I. Sanding FSC, Vice President for Administrative Services. He reminded student leaders that effective leadership is rooted in faith, service, and communion.

The program ended with a pledge of commitment, where leaders vowed to apply the lessons of SIBOL to their organizations and the wider Lasallian community.

### **Growth and Renewal**

True to its name, SIBOL from the Filipino word "to sprout" symbolizes beginnings and growth. By combining policy orientation, technical training, teambuilding, and a culminating pledge, SIBOL 2025 prepared student leaders to take on their roles with competence and compassion.

Through this initiative, SDAO reaffirmed its mission to support, guide, and inspire the next generation of Lasallian leaders, ensuring that their leadership journey remains anchored in service, integrity, and excellence.



*SIBOL 2025 Day 2 participants.*





*Rope activity during teambuilding.*



*Monkey Bars challenge at Camp Tipolo.*



*Trekking to Camp Tipolo.*



*OSS Dean Jacqueline Morta guides leaders in aligning plans with the University's vision, mission, and SDGs.*



*VP for Administrative Services, Br. Dan Sanding FSC inspires student leaders to embrace Lasallian leadership.*

# BOMS Preps Members to Lead with Impact

## Commitment to Growth and Service

Founded in 2011, the Business and Operations Management Society (BOMS) has spent the past 14 years advancing the Lasallian mission of providing human and Christian education. Grounded in service, leadership, and professional development, BOMS brings students together through seminars, workshops, and practical experiences that prepare them for life beyond the classroom.

At DLSU-D, the organization serves as a bridge between academic learning and real-world practice, equipping students with skills for careers in business and operations management. Beyond the university, BOMS extends its mission through outreach programs, promoting ethical leadership and social responsibility.

## Adapting Through Challenges

Like many student groups, BOMS faces the challenge of balancing member engagement with students' busy schedules. To stay relevant, the organization continuously adjusts its activities to meet student needs.



*BOMS' holds its General Meeting for SY 2024-2025.*

During the pandemic, BOMS quickly transitioned to virtual events by offering webinars, online workshops, and donation drives that kept members active and connected. More recently, the group has learned to adapt to unexpected disruptions, such as rescheduling three major events within the same month due to weather-related class suspensions. Despite the difficulties, BOMS successfully carried out all activities, demonstrating teamwork and perseverance.

## Excellence and Impact

BOMS' dedication has been recognized through several awards, including back-to-back honors as "Ko-Kurikular na Samahan ng Taon" in S.Y. 2023–2024 and 2024–2025. The group was also named the Top 1 Recognized Student Organization of the Year during Luntiang Parangal.





*BOMS recognized as Top 1 RSO of the Year at the CSO-RSO Awarding Night, SY 2024-2025.*

One notable project was “Play it Forward: Climbing Ladders, Spreading Generosity” during Student’s Week. The event combined fun and collaboration while raising funds for the Hapag Project of LCDRC, demonstrating how student engagement can directly support community causes.

Through these efforts, BOMS continues to stand out as more than just an academic organization. It provides real experiences that build skills, foster connections, and encourage students to live out the Lasallian core values.

### **Leading with Purpose**

BOMS reminds its members that involvement is more than attending events; it is about contributing to a shared mission. The organization develops leaders who understand that personal growth must go hand in hand with service to others.



*BOMS awarded “Ko-Kurikular na Samahan ng Taon” during Luntiang Parangal, SY 2024 – 2025.*

For new students, joining BOMS means gaining skills, forming friendships, and engaging in activities that benefit both the university and the wider community. As Executive Director Heart Bernales (S.Y. 2024–2025) puts it:

“Our message is simple: growth, service, and collaboration are key to not just achieving your goals but also lifting others as you rise. We hope BOMS inspires future generations of students to always act with integrity, compassion, and a sense of responsibility.”

With its strong foundation and clear vision, BOMS continues to prepare students for success while making a positive impact on the community and beyond.



# DLSU-D Choral Shines at AOVCIF 2025



*DLSU-D Chorale competing in the Popular Music Category on August 22, 2025.*

The De La Salle University – Dasmariñas Chorale has long aimed to be a globally recognized ensemble that inspires communities, shares the beauty of choral music, and nurtures future generations of musicians. That vision continues to take shape as the group represented the Lasallian community in the Andrea Q. Veneracion Chorale International Festival 2025 (AOVCIF 2025) last August.

This biennial event, organized by the Cultural Center of the Philippines and hosted this year at Ateneo De Manila University, is one of Asia's premier stages for choral excellence. Amidst a field of thirty-five choirs from the Philippines and abroad and across six categories, DLSU-D Choral successfully earned one Gold Diploma (Musical Sacra) and two Silver Diplomas (Popular Music and Mixed Voices), a remarkable achievement that reflects their hard work, artistry, and Lasallian spirit.

## Preparing for the Competition

The road to the festival was paved with discipline and dedication. For eight months, the group rehearsed to perfect 10 pieces across three categories: Popular Music, Musica Sacra, and Mixed Voices. Every detail, from finances and costumes to travel logistics was carefully planned by the Executive Board, their conductor John Angelo Damos, and the entire membership.

During the opening ceremony, each choir performed a short excerpt from their repertoire. The DLSU-D Chorale chose a vibrant piece from their Popular Music category, *"Ballelakka"* (arr. Ethan Sperry). The moment ended on a high note as all choirs joined in singing *"Why We Sing"* by Greg Gilpin and conducted by the Philippine Madrigal Singers' Mark Anthony Carpio, a strong reminder of music's ability to unite.

## Taking the Stage

On August 22, the group first competed in the Popular Music category at the Arete Hyundai Hall. Their repertoire blended heartfelt pieces like "Imagine" (arr. Nilo Alcala), "Handog," (arr. Eudencie Palaruan), and the rhythmically demanding *"Ballelakka."* (arr. Ethan Sperry). Initially nervous, the singers found strength in their conductor's encouragement: *"Sing intelligently and from the heart, trust each other, and sing as an ensemble."*



*DLSU-D Chorale in rehearsal for the Musica Sacra Category.*

Later that evening, they joined 18 choirs in the Musica Sacra category, performing *"Tu es Petrus"* (Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina), *"Vinea Mea Electa"* (Francis Poulenc), and *"Gloria in Excelsis"* (Ivo Antognini). Despite a brief hiccup when their repertoire was announced out of order, they regrouped quickly and performed with poise, leaving the stage with pride.

The following day, Chorale competed in their final and most challenging category, Mixed Voices. Their repertoire showcased different musical periods: *"Già torna a rallegrar l'aria e la terra"* (Luca Marenzio), *"Hörst du nicht die Bäume rauschen"* (Fanny Mendelssohn Hensel), *"Umai Gulai"* (Ryan Cayabyab), and *"Ave Maris Stella"* (Josep Ollé i Sabaté). This carefully curated set highlighted the group's versatility, combining historical depth, national identity, and emotional resonance.



*DLSU-D Chorale all set for the Mixed Choir Category of the competition.*

### **Triumphs and Takeaways**

At the closing ceremony on August 24, 2025, DLSU-D Chorale was honored with two Silver Diplomas in the Popular Music and Mixed Voices categories, and the coveted Gold Diploma in the Musica Sacra category. A milestone that celebrated not just technical excellence, but also the heart and unity of the ensemble.

While not every category brought a podium finish, the experience was transformative. Choral forged new friendships, learned from world-class jurors, and deepened their passion for choral music. More importantly, they carried with them the inspiration to pursue greater heights, with eyes now set on the National Music Competitions for Young Artists (NAMCYA) Choir Category this September.

### **More than Awards**

For DLSU-D Chorale, success is measured not only in medals and diplomas, but in the memories made, lessons learned, and the audiences touched by their music. Their journey at AOVCIF 2025 reaffirmed that when a group sings with from the heart, they can move, inspire, and unite people across cultures and borders.

This year has been a season of growth, perseverance, and artistry. And as the final note of the festival fades into memory, the voices of the DLSU-D Chorale continue to echo with pride, passion, and unyielding spirit of the Lasallian community.



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