

# rotunda

The Official Magazine of De La Salle University-Dasmariñas | Vol. 1 No. 2 May 2024

## Gearing up for the Future

### What's inside:

Progress underway:  
The DLSU-D's "New Normal" Learning Transition

Embracing Blended Learning: DLSU-D's  
Journey Towards Innovative Education

Sparks of hope: DLSU-D's Transformation under  
Br. Sockie's vision

Conversation with a Mission



# Progress underway: The DLSU-D's "New Normal" Learning Transition

Vice Chancellor for Academics and Research Dr. Cristina Salibay states that it is essential to underscore the enduring significance of academic recovery even if infrastructure enhancements are being done. Hence, in the wake of disruptions caused by the pandemic, the University's foremost priority has rightly been the restoration and enhancement of academic resources, programs and facilities to ensure a seamless transition for students and faculty.

Salibay furthers that it is crucial to acknowledge that the essence of a university actually lies in its academic core—the advancement of its faculty, the breadth of its curriculum, and the extent of its local and international engagement. These aspects define the institution's reputation and impact.

Linkages and Scholarship Office Director Dr. Christian George Francisco reiterates that investing in academics could provide a more profound and enduring benefits compared to infrastructural upgrades. In fact, since 2022, his office has been accelerating their efforts to hit their intended targets.

According to Francisco, these targets include academic institution

partnerships which are intended to increase global presence of DLSU-D with various academic institutions across Asia, Europe



Linkages and  
Scholarship

SIKLAB: Student  
Innovation  
and Kickstarter  
Laboratory

Internationalization  
Program



*...By prioritizing academic resources and programs, DLSU-D is laying the groundwork for sustained excellence and innovation in teaching and research.*

- Del Rosario on SIKLAB

that emphasis on academic recovery is not just about meeting immediate needs but also about nurturing a resilient and adaptable educational environment.

On a similar note, Allied Business Department faculty Michael Del Rosario has same objective. He strongly suggests that by prioritizing academic resources and programs, DLSU-D is laying the groundwork for sustained excellence and innovation in teaching and research.

According to Del Rosario, the College of Business Administration and Accountancy (CBAA) has been pioneering in trailblazing student innovation and Kickstarter laboratory known as SIKLAB to recognize the immense potential and creativity inherent in the youth and local entrepreneurs. Del Rosario believes that this initiative aims to foster a culture of innovation, provide resources, and accelerate the growth of startups and micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) in the province of Cavite.

The SIKLAB initiative provides three things: incubation of student startups by providing comprehensive support and mentorship to nurture the students' entrepreneurial talents; empowerment of MSMEs by equipping them with tailored training programs to enhance their competitiveness and sustainability; and the promotion of innovation and collaboration by bringing together students, entrepreneurs, industry experts, and policymakers to exchange ideas, share best practices, and explore synergies.

By fostering a culture of innovation and collaboration, the SIKLAB aims to catalyze transformative change and drive economic growth in Cavite.

In the pursuit of academic recovery, the University's commitment to academic advancement is

and America. They also gain the trust of 56 industries and agencies to partner with DLSU-D for local and international internships and trainings for both faculty and students. In fact, 17 faculty members became part of the mobility programs abroad, while 192 students were sent abroad as part of the exchange program. Currently, there are 212 international students enrolled in the undergraduate and graduate programs of the University. Benchmarking engagements were also conducted by Linkages and Scholarship Office to share best practices and reframe policies and guidelines to suit the current needs of stakeholders. Francisco believes

## Table of contents

- |   |  |    |  |    |         |
|---|--|----|--|----|---------|
| 2 | Progress underway:<br>The DLSU-D's "New Normal" Learning Transition          | 6  | Sparks of hope: DLSU-D's Transformation<br>under Br. Sockie's vision | 12 | Rotunda |
| 5 | Embracing Blended Learning: DLSU-D's<br>Journey Towards Innovative Education | 10 | Conversation with a Mission  |    |         |



pivotal. The College of Tourism and Hospitality Management (CTHM) is now aligned with the standards set by the Asean Mutual Recognition Arrangement on Tourism Professionals (MRA-TP). This was announced by the CTHM Dean Paul Notorio as part of their aggressive internationalization exchange program. He further states that its objectives are to facilitate mobility, exchange information on best practices in competency-based education and training and provide opportunities for cooperation and capacity building across ASEAN member states.

According to Notorio, this internationalization program is part of their initial steps in providing students with international certification, initiating international collaboration and acquiring training using international standards. As a starting point, Notorio said that the program is now integrated in students' internship program as an option. Once they join the program, they will receive internationally recognized certificate which could be part of their micro credentialing. Notorio believes that when training is strict and competitive, students have the leverage to be recognized abroad. Part of this movement is making their courses aligned with global standards. Their courses are now named Bachelor of Science in International Tourism Management

and Bachelor of Science in International Hotel and Restaurant Management with specialization in Culinary and Food Service Administration.

Also, part of their initial steps is the decluttering of their curriculum by decreasing the number of units and focusing more on essential subjects. Since DLSU-D is the only university in the region that has its own museum, Notorio mentioned that Museology is one of the elective courses offered by CTHM which cover subjects on preservation of Philippine cultural heritage, basic museum operations, organizations and conservation of lifestyle museum, and tour guiding.

DLSU-D is also now an institutional member of the Asia Pacific Council of

Hotel, Restaurant, and Institutional Education (APacCHRIE). APacCHRIE is the leading hospitality and tourism education association within the Asia-Pacific Region. It is a global and multi-cultural community of hospitality and tourism professionals dedicated to the pursuit, discovery, advancement, and sharing of knowledge and experiences, relevant to the hospitality and tourism industry and its future leaders.

The true rehabilitation of DLSU-D centers on its academic resurgence. Students and faculty alike rely on vigorous academic offerings and opportunities for intellectual growth. Indeed, academic programs, faculty development, and research infrastructure are investments in the future of education.



Del Rosario (Far right) faculty of the Allied Business Department during SIKLAB mentoring program with CBAA students.



(From right) Dr. Francisco, Dr. Gacelo, and Dr. Gementiza with select students from the College of Education for their send-off ceremony bound for Thailand.



Dr. Francisco providing pre-departure orientation for outbound students and faculty.



LSEG



## Embracing Blended Learning: DLSU-D's Journey towards Innovative Education

*With the changing learning dynamics and the challenges posed by the new normal, DLSU-D has moved towards the full adaptation of the online learning paradigm, through its online platform SCHOOLBOOK, coupled with cloud-based courses embedded in various subject areas. This shift reflects the university's continuing commitment to nurturing a technology-driven and care-centered teaching-learning experience.*

### Teaching-Learning Vision: Cultivating Animo Through Innovation

Faithful to its Vision-Mission, DLSU-D's teaching-learning vision embraces technology as a catalyst for fostering students' innate talents and skills. The University aspires to create a flexible and collaborative

space—whether online or onsite—to empower students to understand the world and respond authentically to its needs. According to College of Business Administration and Accountancy (CBAA) Dean Dr. Elma Mallorca, the college has integrated cloud-based courses into its business subjects.

In collaboration with CloudSwyft Global Systems, Inc. a technology learning platform solutions provider

that caters to the education and corporate learning sectors in the Asia-Pacific Region, CBAA now provides cloud-based learning platforms, future-ready skills online course, hands-on labs and digital credentialing designed to upskill students for work. In fact, they can be used as an independent certification. To achieve this, each micro credential is obtained through formal online





# Sparks of hope:

## DLSU-D's Transformation under Br. Sockie's vision

De La Salle University-Dasmariñas is undergoing a profound transformation under its 9th president, Br. Francisco de la Rosa VI FSC, whose journey from Chancellor to University President is defined by his determination and deep commitment to the Lasallian values of faith, zeal for service, and communion in mission.

Fondly called by the community as Br. Sockie, he has embraced the role of University President with a focus on human connection and spiritual guidance. As part of his thrusts as president, he does pastoral visit to campus offices and departments, as he believes that genuine communication and servant leadership are essential in fostering a strong sense of community.



Transportation Department



Campus Ministry Office

### How do you value communication?

**BR. SOCKIE:** When I visit different offices and departments, my intention is to tell everyone in the community the importance of human connection. I think every time we say 'let's put ourselves in the presence of God' before we start to pray is an invitation to initiate communication which is divine. That is why when we serve, lead, and care for each other, all these no matter how trivial it is, contribute to a culture of shared responsibility and collective achievement—a working dynamic rooted in Lasallian values.

### As a school Administrator and Lasallian Brother, how important is human connection to you?

**BR. SOCKIE:** In my 30-minute pastoral visits, I love to listen, and I listen intently to the diverse Lasallian journey stories of staff and faculty members. I do not know the back story behind, but I find these stories often colorful and rich with human experiences all of which serve as a testament to the unparalleled work values and aspirations of the community I serve. I see everyone's strength and steadfast faith which serve as a source of inspiration for everyone to continue to embrace change, uphold values, and embark on a journey that reflects the heart of a true Lasallian.



Information Communication Technology Center



Building Facilities Maintenance Office

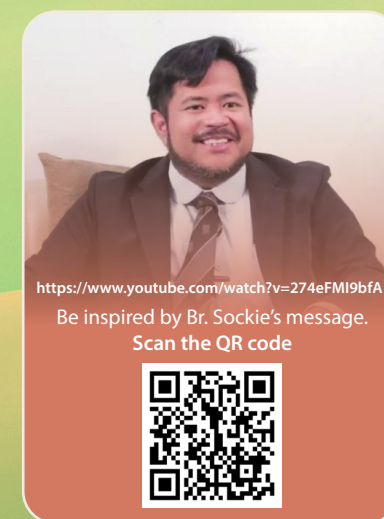
### What do you intend to achieve from the pastoral visit?

**BR. SOCKIE:** Through these spiritual exercises, I pray that this endeavor shall amplify responsive engagement and genuine communication among faculty and staff. I also hope this visit shall allow every voice to be given a platform to share their story—a story that embodies gratitude, passion, and dedication to the Lasallian mission. It is my desire that amidst our differences, these moments of shared storytelling create a divine space where every experience is heard, valued, and supported. This lays the foundation for a united Lasallian community with a shared vision and mission.

The Brother President's pastoral visits will continue to resonate across different University offices,

reflecting his commitment to listen to the voices of the community and foster a culture of inclusivity and collaboration.

Together, under Br. Sockie's gentle guidance, DLSU-D shall flourish as a beacon of Lasallian excellence—a testament to the enduring legacy of faith-driven leadership and inclusive community building not only as a Lasallian Institution.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=274eFM19bfA>

Be inspired by Br. Sockie's message.  
Scan the QR code





CBAA students engagement with cloud-based application.

## Embracing Blended Learning...from page 5

assessment embedded in the students' SCHOOLBOOK.

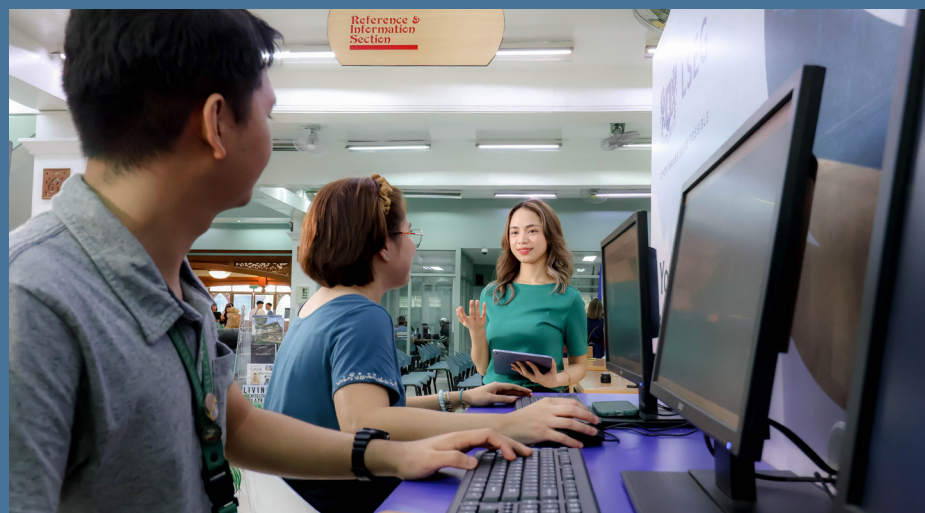
She further states that through this technology learning labs platforms and online courses, students have the chance to develop future-skills in the field of utilizing data science, artificial intelligence, machine learning, and Power BI.

## Innovating Amid Adversity

DLSU-D seized the opportunity to innovate its online learning initiatives, building upon its participation in a global community of schools that create immersive and inclusive learning experiences. Mallorca also mentioned that the

CBAA has been chosen as a recipient of the London Stock Exchange Group (LSEG) workspace. It is an academe-industry collaboration where CBAA students and faculty are given firsthand access to web-based realtime data on global financial markets infrastructure and financial data business analytics. It also allows access to non-financial subjects such as environmental, social and governance. This opportunity

allows CBAA students and faculty to understand the concepts of financial stability, empowering economies and sustainable growth which are critical for the global economy. The intention behind this collaboration is to create opportunities for the academe to participate in creating programs on strategic partnerships, charities and develop global sustainability standards and infrastructure at the school level.



The Aklatang Emilio Aguinaldo houses the LSEG laboratory.

## Personalized Learning for All

This transformative shift highlights the crucial role of technology in addressing students' individual learning needs and growth and acknowledging that education transcends physical boundaries. According to Allied Business Management Department Chair Ruel Elias, the objective of this cloud-based courses is to make the curriculum more relevant according to what the industry expects from the 21st century workforce.

The online learning platform is conducted by providing content as part of the SCHOOLBOOK activities or assessment. This online integration assesses students' performance and achievement, track their results, and promote communication and collaboration between students and among faculty.

Likewise, students can access customized study materials, interactive exercises, and real-time feedback based on their learning pace and preferences. This approach promotes deeper understanding and engagement with course content. Most importantly, students are no longer limited by the classroom-timed sessions. The possibility of learning inside and outside the campus alone or with classmates and even virtually is now the norm of the teaching learning set-up in the campus.

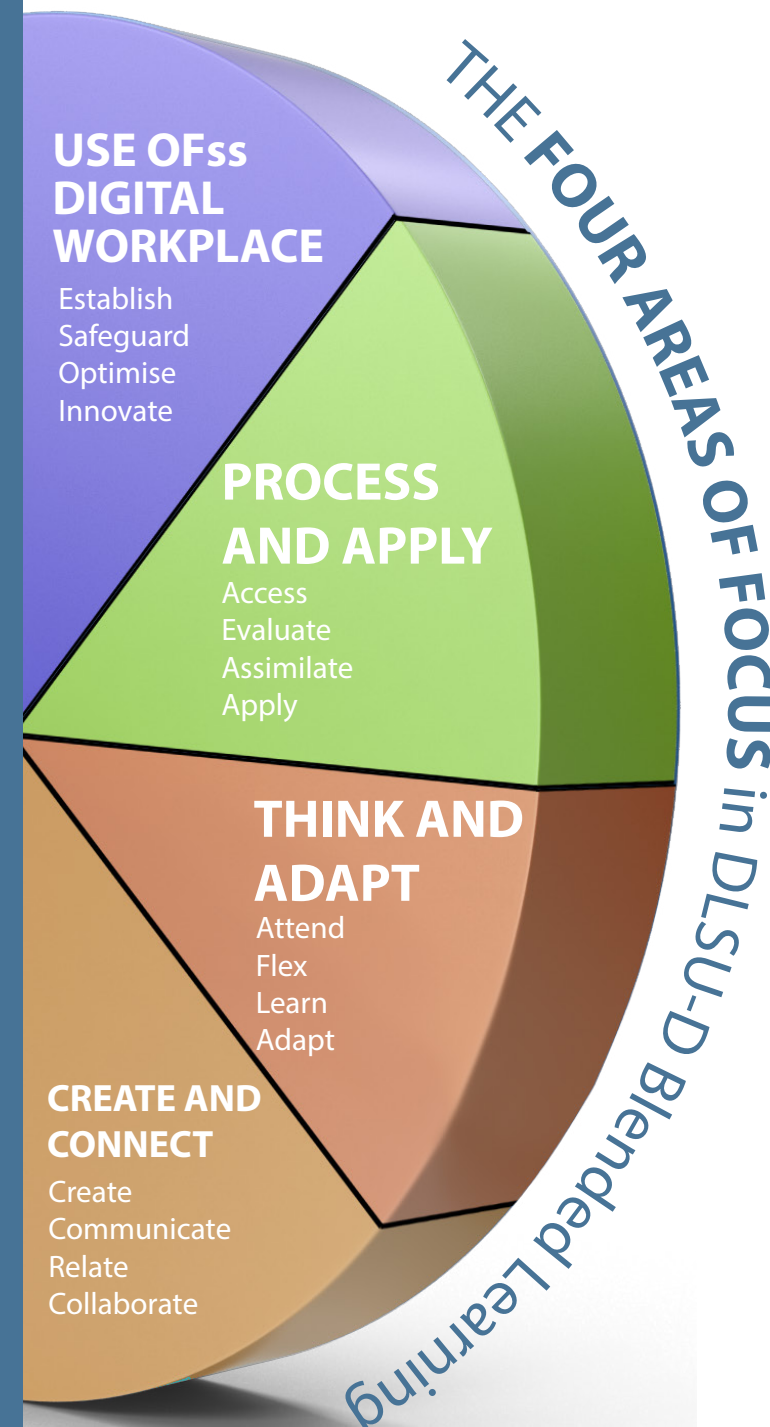
## Beyond Grades and Marks

DLSU-D recognizes the transformative potential of online engagement beyond academic metrics. By creating a digital ecosystem in which assessments in the Schoolbook prioritize tasks or activities allow exploration, collaboration, and intrinsic motivation, that empowers students to pursue learning for its own sake, nurturing a curiosity-driven approach that transcends external rewards. By integrating technology seamlessly into its curriculum, the University ensures that education is accessible anytime, anywhere. This flexibility empowers students and educators alike to engage deeply with course materials and cultivate meaningful learning experiences.

## Accelerating Innovative Learning

By harnessing online resources responsibly, the University aims to enhance student engagement, facilitate collaborative learning, and pioneer new approaches to education that transcend conventional boundaries. This emphasizes the importance of genuine online interaction to enrich the learning experience. This paves the way for a future where education transcends limitations, ignites passion, and empowers learners to thrive in an ever-evolving world.

Schoolbook is more than just a learning management system—it is a transformative platform that empowers educators and students to embrace blended learning effectively. By leveraging technology to personalize learning, foster collaboration, and enhance engagement, DLSU-D is pioneering innovative educational practices that inspire lifelong learning and academic success.





# Conversation with a Mission

The following is an excerpt of the Vision-Mission conversation hosted by Maxine Erica Santos a Psychology student and participated in by students from the colleges of Engineering, Architecture, and Technology, Liberal Arts, and Business Administration and Accountancy on October 23, 2023. The event featured University Chancellor Dr. Marco Saez and Vice Chancellor for Academic Dr. Cristina Salibay in an interview.

**Host:** In what ways have you contributed to DLSU-D's Vision and Mission?

**DR. MARCO SAEZ:** Right now, considering my position, I'm expected to come up with activities, programs, policies, and procedures, that would help operationalize the Vision Mission. When I say operationalize, that means, we need certain programs.

**DR. CRISTINA SALIBAY:** The vision, mission is like the desire of

the University. As a faculty member, I am expected to teach my students, when we say teach... the teacher continues to learn to teach more. As a teacher you must continue to upgrade yourself, so that you can help the students pursue their dreams.

**Host:** Can you tell us how DLSU-D Vision-Mission evolved over the years?

**DR. CRISTINA SALIBAY:** DLSU-D used to be part of the De La Salle system and eventually became an independent university.

Dating back from 1987, The University underwent some changes, one of which is from having 90% of its students coming from Cavite, eventually the University now caters to nearby provinces like Batangas and Laguna. In fact, students from abroad choose to study in our University and I guess because of this influx, the diversity of culture continue to evolve because we are no longer just catering to Caviteños...

**DR. MARCO SAEZ:** In my opinion the Vision Mission is essentially the same....The intention is we want the Vision Mission to be owned by the students and I guess one way of doing that is for them to memorize it....

**Host:** As a leading Catholic university, how can we pursue academic excellence?

**DR. MARCO SAEZ:** You can actually achieve excellence in so many ways, but I guess as a Catholic institution this should be guided by certain manners that would in any way help you achieve that kind of excellence. We cannot just have excellence and

gain it by stepping on someone else reputation.... It must be in the manner of integrity and honesty. That's where Catholic faith comes.

**DR. CRISTINA SALIBAY:** I guess that faith becomes our teaching foundation, and we anchor to that.

**Host:** Can you give us some specific examples of how the school aims to inspire excellence and drive Innovation in its academic, research and community involvement?



Dr. Saez (Left) with Dr. Salibay (Center) address students'quer during the VM conversation.

**DR. CRISTINA SALIBAY:** We have established our own research office and we have established our own community development office or center, and these offices see to it that we are not only coming up with research.... But we make sure that the outcomes of this researches benefit the community. We also expect that there is community involvement. For decades now, we cater to working students through the free Night College Program, we have faculty members who serve in the night college as part of their volunteer work, and I believe nobody will be involved in this work if they are not inspired of what they are doing.



*... You can actually achieve excellence in so many ways, but I guess as a Catholic institution this should be guided by certain manners that would in any way help you achieve that kind of excellence. We cannot just have excellence and gain it by stepping on someone else reputation... it must be in the manner of integrity and honesty. That's where Catholic faith comes.*

**DR. MARCO SAEZ:** If you have noticed in your classes, we tried to inject as much services components as possible, when we talk about service components it means that some of your learning plan, you would be finding yourselves using what you have learned to benefit or to come up with a project to benefit others, either to have a community service or some projects that will help certain group of people, that's one way of not just inspiring excellence but actually imprinting them to their hearts and minds. As far as research is concerned, just two years ago, Ma'am Tina took part on a conducted research that requires her to visit places in Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao. This is part of a Community Development Program, in which together with her close to 50 of our faculty members also went to different areas as well... I think other

people should get the chance to enjoy the expertise our school offers.

**DR. CRISTINA SALIBAY:** Our Bahay Pag-asa as a place for transformation of minor children in conflict with the law is a testimony of achieving the mission of the University for the society and the involvement of our University with the Local Government Unit....

**Host:** How has the University contributed to a just peaceful and sustainable society and how does this align to the University's Mission and values?

**DR. CRISTINA SALIBAY:** When you leave DLSU-D you will have your Lasallian identity as part of your graduate attributes and that that makes



## Conversation with a... from page 11

you different from others, I think that's your contribution or the contribution of DLSU-D to the society.

### DR MARCO SAEZ:

The best contribution of the school towards that kind of society that we would like to achieve is through you and hopefully I might say or I should say that we're doing our best to come up with an environment in which you would realize, discuss and even debate on what

I guess is a peaceful society and sustainable society should be. A good example would be the society which emphasizes and values of accountability and transparency, so we try to as much as possible to make that present in our guidelines, in our decisions....

## ROTUNDA The Official Magazine of De La Salle University-Dasmariñas



**Rotunda** is an offshoot of *Newsette*, the official publication of the University with more than three decades of existence, and is managed by the Strategic Communications Office.

The creation of **Rotunda** is rooted from the desire of the office to meet the changing needs and preferences of our readers in the digital publication era. The SCO team conducted a series of brainstorming sessions and started curating a publication that brings together the best of digital content, featuring the relevant happenings in the campus, catering to the interests and lifestyle of the modern readers inside and outside the University, particularly those from the academic institutions.

The name was derived from the University's Rotunda, a structure that serves as the central hub of the University situated at the main entrance, Gate 1 of the Magdalo Gate, where it provides the four main points—the access roads leading to major areas of the University.

With the publication's initial sections such as "I-quote" which features interviews from the University's key administrators; "Byaheng Lasalyano" presents stories of the members of the DLSU-D or the University itself as they take their journey as Lasallians or as a Lasallian

institution, this particularly features milestones or achievements; "Para Po" serves as the listening ear of the administration in which members of the community talk about issues or concerns that need clarifications—and all these sections are artistically executed and disseminated through the DLSU-D's official Social Media accounts.

Moreover, as **Rotunda** was born initially as a digital publication, offering a seamless experience across various digital platforms, the SCO plans to venture into print publication in the future to meet the constantly evolving dynamic landscape of media. With **Rotunda**, we aim to revolutionize the way publications are consumed, delivering relevant and captivating content that resonates with our readers and keeps them engaged in the University. Generally, **Rotunda** magazine is a reputable and insightful publication that offers comprehensive coverage of the latest news and happenings on DLSU-D campus, providing the academic community, partners and stakeholders with a panoramic view of all happenings within and around the Campus. It specifically offers a comprehensive and insightful look into the academic world, exploring everything from student life to cutting-edge research and innovations.



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