



Lasallian CANA's 'seedling couples' during their accompaniment at a Light of the World Retreat Center. See story on page 6.

# CEAT board passers and achievers keep DLSU-D SOARING IN ENGINEERING

SEPTEMBER 2014 PROVED to be auspicious for DLSU-D's CEAT (College of Engineering, Architecture and Technology) in the Engineering licensure exams and student research.

Two DLSU-D graduates have each landed a place among the Top 10 passers of two Engineering board examinations given by the PRC (Professional Regulation Commission) in September, and recent graduates of the college's Environmental and Sanitary Engineering Program posted a high passing rate in the Sanitary Engineering Licensure Examination, which was enough for La Salle-Dasma to retain its position among the Top 3 Performing

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## Teaching innovations behind CEAT's top form....

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## CEAT board passers... from page 1

Schools nationwide for the second year in a row. Aside from these, the paper presentation of three CEAT students was adjudged “best” in an international Engineering conference.

DLSU-D 2014 graduate Engr. Kenneth Lazo ranked 2nd among those who passed the September 6-7 Electrical Engineering board exam. Posting a 90.95 percent score, Lazo leads DLSU-D’s other passers who, together, posted a 61.54 percent passing rate, with first-time takers posting a 83.33 percent passing rate. The national passing rate was 59.82 percent.

Engr. John Angelo Michael Delos Reyes, meanwhile, placed 7th among passers of the recent Electronics Engineering licensure examination. First-time exam takers from DLSU-D posted a 65 percent passing rate; overall, board passers from DLSU-D registered a 62.79 percent passing rate, which is significantly higher than the

national passing rate of 31.59 percent.

In addition, DLSU-D passers of the August 9-10 Sanitary Engineering board posted an 83.33 percent passing rate, which prompted PRC to rank DLSU-D in 3rd place among the country’s Top Performing Sanitary Engineering schools. DLSU-D trails Manila universities Mapua Institute of Technology and National University, ranked 1st and 2nd respectively. This is DLSU-D’s second year in the Top 3. Last year, when DLSU-D graduates first took the licensure exam, DLSU-D placed 2nd. PRC recognized the three schools in an awarding ceremony held at the Manila Hotel, September 22.

Meanwhile, not to be outdone are DLSU-D undergrads Paul Anthony Gabog, Leng Ann Christi Goh, and Ken Villanueva, all Computer Engineering students. Their paper presentation “Integrated Weather Assessment Services” was adjudged “Best

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## n e w s

# Teaching innovations behind CEAT’s top form....

While their graduates’ consistent high performance in the licensure examinations (see related story on page 1) has been carving a niche for DLSU-D in the fields of engineering and architecture, CEAT’s undergraduates also have their own triumphs to trumpet about.

Earlier, ECE (Electronics and Communications Engineering) students Twinkle Roasa, Cy Chavez and Hexin Madolid were adjudged 3rd runner up in the recently concluded convention “2014 ECE and Beyond: Aerofusion National Quiz Bee.”

Before that, CEAT innovators also shone at the “2nd DLSU Innovation and Technology Fair: Ideas and Solutions for Nation Building,” participated in by roughly 50 competitors composed of students, professors, scientists and

researchers. There, DLSU-D students Alex Bersales II, Michael Angelo Bronola, Alfonso Clemente Espina, Federico Abraham and Jan-bert Gutierrez received an honorable mention in the Disaster Risk and Risk Reduction Category for their “Helmet” invention—a motorcycle helmet equipped with accident detector.

With them were David John Agui, Victor Bueno and Florisa Anne Roque who teamed up with De La Salle-College of St. Benilde in inventing the Electronic Traveling Aid Using Haptic Feedback, which won 3rd place in the same exhibition.



CEAT students conducting a topographical survey for their outreach work in Barangay Tua, Upland Magallanes, Cavite.

### Behind the scenes

On the surface, CEAT does not seem to be doing anything unusual that explains their

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# Business and the environment see eye-to-eye with GREEN ANALYTICS



Dr. Johnny Ching, dean of DLSU-D's College of Science and Computer Studies, accepts on behalf of DLSU-D a plaque of appreciation from Operations Research Society of the Philippines.

Should economic growth always be a threat to the environment? How largely should environmental issues affect business decisions and economic policies?

These questions were explored when ORSP (Operations Research Society of the Philippines) in cooperation with DLSU-D conducted the technical forum “GREEN ANALYTICS: Bridging the Gap Between Economic Growth and Environmental Protection” on August 16 at DLSU-D's Ugnayang La Salle.

In the said forum, three guest speakers—all experts in their respective fields—presented the use of OR (operations research) models, quantitative techniques, scientific approaches and procedures in decision making to 1,231 attendees, composed mostly of faculty and students from universities in Luzon.

In his talk “Systems Thinking in Solid Waste Management,” speaker Marlon Pareja, a Biological Science faculty and director of DLSU-D's Environment and Resource Management Center, discussed the systems thinking approach as applied

its waste disposal system, while at the same time, generating income that was used to finance the installation of solar-powered lamp posts on campus and other related projects aimed at maintaining a sustainably green environment for the University.

Speaker Jeremiah Dwight Sebastian, president of the Pollution and Control Association of the Philippines, Inc., started his talk with a discussion about the Earth, climate change, and the amount of pollution generated by human activity. He then went on to a presentation of different points of view on environmentally relevant approaches and procedures toward achieving sustainable solutions in various sectors of business and industry. His talk, “Going Green to Gold,” also featured short video clips showing operational procedures and strategies to achieve set standards.

Meanwhile, speaker Ma. Valle Congzon, supervising tourism operations officer with the Department of Tourism, shared how the Philippine government,

by DLSU-D in its solid waste management program. He also presented how DLSU-D utilized data gathering and analysis in coming up with an eco-friendly and sustainable solid waste management system that is now recognized by national and international institutions. This system, said Pareja, helped DLSU-D improve

through ecotourism—with its emphasis on conservation, education, traveler responsibility and active local community participation, protects the environment while generating jobs and increasing income. She said that, to achieve this, the Philippines implements the National Ecotourism Strategy, which provides for an integrated management plan for a comprehensive direction on ecotourism development in the country.

Welcoming everyone to the forum, Dr. Johnny Ching, dean of DLSU-D's College of Science and Computer Studies, commended ORSP for its efforts in promoting the use of OR not only in business but also in protecting and sustaining the environment. He stressed the need for more relevant researches and encouraged the participants to work together by doing collaborative research relevant to the theme of the forum. Elise del Rosario, ORSP executive director, opened the forum by giving everyone a brief update on what is happening in the OR world and on ORSP's participation in the international community.

The event was part of ORSP's 2014 technical forum series. **(Erwin Bunag)**

*[Systems Thinking] helped DLSU-D improve its waste disposal system while generating income that was used to finance the installation of solar-powered lamp posts on campus and other projects aimed at a sustainably green environment for the University.*



## HERITAGE LAWS AND HERITAGE BLOGGING

Museo De La Salle’s annual heritage talk this year focused on Heritage Law with Atty. Karen Lucille Malilong (*in photo, with Museo De La Salle Director Cecille Gelicame at far right looking on*), head of the NCCA (National Commission for Culture and the Arts) National Committee on Monuments and Sites; and on Heritage Blogging with Romel Leal Santiago, Heritage Conservation Society-Youth’s vice president for

external affairs.

The event, participated in by Tourism Management and Architecture students and sponsored by the NCCA in cooperation with DLSU-D’s College of Tourism and Hospitality Management and College of Engineering, Architecture and Technology’s Architecture Department, was held at DLSU-D’s Salreal Ballroom on September 22.

## n e w s

# AB Com students, faculty present papers in Thailand forum

Four 4th year AB Communication students and their thesis adviser Marco Polo, a faculty with the newly renamed Communication and Journalism Department (CJD), presented their research papers in the 7th International forum on Public Relations and Advertising at the Mahidol International University College in Salaya, Thailand, August 13-15.

Student Diana Dela Torre read her paper “A Descriptive Research on the Practice of Public Relations in the Philippine Independent Music Scene,” together with her fellow seniors Florence Bistoyong, Elyssa Dela Cruz and Angelito Miguel Adrias who presented “Evaluation of the Communication Strategies Used in the Promotion of De La Salle University-Dasmariñas High School: Basis for a Public Relations Campaign.”

Dela Torre’s paper looked into how independent musicians, composers and producers promote their craft using public relations tools. Bistoyong, Dela Cruz and Adrias, meanwhile, evaluated the communication strategies used in promoting the DLSU-D High School and proposed additional campaign strategies.

Polo read his paper entitled “The State of Public Relations Education in the Philippines: Prospects and Challenges.” With it, he presented the current landscape of public relations education in the country and discussed possible implications of the K-12 curriculum shift, the forthcoming ASEAN

Integration in 2015 and the possibility of offering a standardized public relations curriculum in higher education.

The paper presentations of the students were made possible through the support of the College of Liberal Arts and Communication Achievers Fund. **(Marco Polo)**



## Teaching innovations behind CEAT's... from page 2

performance. “We have a review program [for the board exams] in the college,” Engr. Jose Rizaldy de Armas, CEAT dean, simply explains. “Aside from that, we have very good faculty. They’re highly qualified practitioners and academicians.”

More than that, however, a closer look into their instruction reveals just how the college’s teaching innovations have been working wonders for their students’ performance.

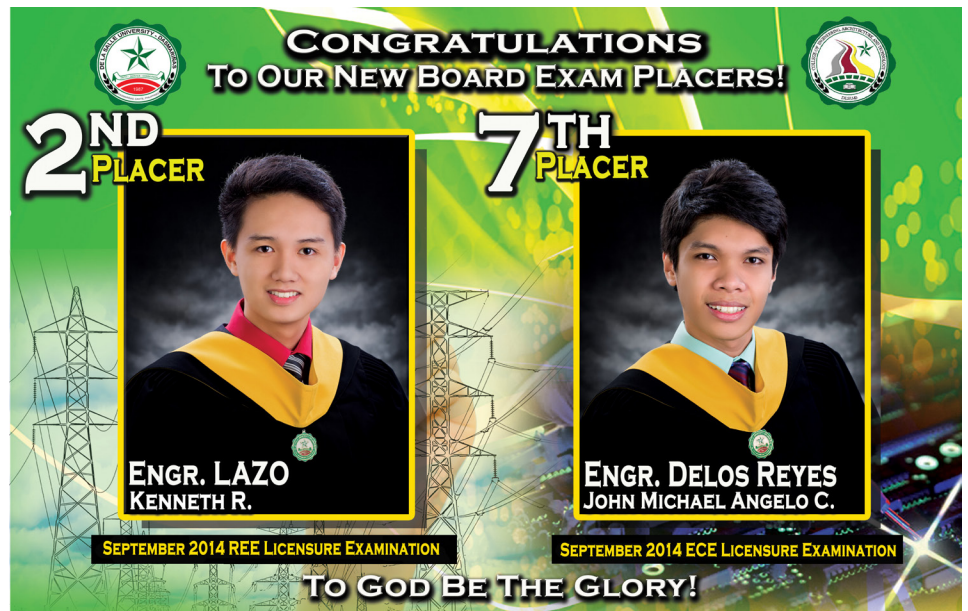
For one, their students are given opportunities and venues to present their outputs to the community. Architecture students, for example, exhibit their designs at Aklatang Emilio Aguinaldo (DLSU-D library) from time to time. And with most of the designs turning out well crafted—like they were done by professionals—they are now thinking of selling their designs to interested parties, with the proceeds benefiting the University’s outreach programs. The same thing goes for Engineering students who come up with prototypes (models) for their school projects.

Second, CEAT faculty update themselves on industry trends and technology, and then pass on the know-how to their students. For instance, Electronic Engineering faculty members recently had an immersion in Cypress Semiconductor, after which they came up with a teaching module for their students’ instruction. The result? The semiconductor company was so impressed by the students’ outputs that it now plans to expand its partnership to CEAT’s other programs and hire the students to work on a specific project for which they will be paid—in dollars.

### **CHAMP training**

Third, the college has improved on its remedial class program, turning it into what they now call as CHAMP—CEAT Holistic Academic Mentoring Program. Under CHAMP, students who excel in certain subjects are tapped and trained by faculty to become “mentors” to their fellow students who are academically behind. This mentoring program, however, is strictly monitored—especially the mentees’ performance.

“It’s because we have a retention policy,”



explains Engr. Ma. Estrella Natalie Pineda, chair of the Engineering department. “In the Engineering program, we have to screen our students, and those who do not qualify are removed from the program.”

De Armas adds: “They have to maintain a certain grade requirement per year level. They’re not allowed to fail two major subjects. Which is why as early as their first year, we already help them out—before they even get to their major subjects.”

Incidentally, not only does CHAMP help train CEAT students to become academically strong; it also trains its student mentors to become strong “quizzers”—CEAT’s name for students who represent DLSU-D in inter-school quiz competitions.

### **Outreach**

Fourth, CEAT students are immersed in outreach work where they could apply what they have learned while trying to make a difference. Through DLSU-D’s Lasallian Community Development Center, the college has just recently adopted a community: Barangay Tua, a rural community in Upland Magallanes in Cavite. Population: around 2,000.

A college-wide endeavor, this outreach program relies on the collaboration of all CEAT programs “since it is for an

entire community—meaning, we will be addressing all that a community needs in terms of architectural designs, structures, electrical, electronics, mechanical, sanitation, even livelihood.”

With mostly rough roads connecting vicinities to each other and to the rest of the province, there are no jeepneys or any other public transport plying an easy route to Brgy. Tua. With not enough water supply and electrical installations, plus a need for additional facilities in the local elementary school, there are enough “challenges” in the community that the college could use as research topics and for students to design solutions to in practical application of their learning.

For example, a common means of livelihood in the barangay is in black pepper production. Our student engineers could help design a machine to dry and grind black pepper faster and facilitate the process.

# Lasallian CANA: Letting marriage work wonders for the teaching profession

## n e w s

### How different is the teaching profession for married teachers?

**D**LSU-D's CMO (Campus Ministry Office) does not claim to have a definite answer to this. But CMO Director Dr. Gil Ellema believes that a teacher who is married or is a parent needs accompaniment with regard to his/her marital and parental life and concerns.

Accompaniment pertains to a formation program given to someone with the intention to "journey" with the individual for his spirituality and vocation.

Of course, everyone—even single people—needs accompaniment. But CMO believes it would be more to the advantage of a married/parent teacher (given his/her "concrete and experiential knowledge of rearing and caring for children") if he/she develops further that "married/parent personality" and lets that personality shine through when teaching his/her students.

### Everyone is a 'teacher'

With this in mind, CMO launched Lasallian CANA, an accompaniment program for DLSU-D's married teachers. While inspired by the Gospel passage in which Christ turned water into wine while at a wedding in Cana with his mother Mary, the word CANA here stands for "Couples Accompaniment and Nourishment Activity." Penned by Ellema himself, Lasallian CANA seeks to facilitate a married/parent teacher's personal and professional growth from the standpoint of his/her married status.

But first, Lasallian CANA establishes that:

- every DLSU-D employee (faculty, nonteaching staff, administrators, etc.) is a "teacher"—no matter what they do on campus; and, as such,
- all should associate themselves for the [Lasallian] mission, i.e., participating in the human and Christian education of the young, especially the poor.

"Our status as a married person or as a parent should be a way for us to develop and improve our profession as teachers," says Ellema. "In turn, our parent or our husband/wife personality when we face our students is how we contribute in the mission...how we associate for the mission."

### Deeper

Of course, beneath the surface, a deeper reason for the Lasallian CANA revolves around the very beneficiary of this program: DLSU-D's students.

When she was DLSU-D's vice president for academics from 1995 to 2005, Dr. Myrna Ramos was no stranger to students underperforming or even declining in their studies because of family problems. Ramos, who is now DLSU-D's vice chancellor for mission, external affairs and advancement, says that sometimes, "the problem is the parents."

"There was one student vying for a cum laude distinction," she relates as an

*Our status as a married person or as a parent should be a way for us to develop and improve our profession as teachers. In turn, our parent or our husband/wife personality when we face our students is how we contribute in the mission... how we associate for the Lasallian mission, which is participating in the human and Christian education of the young, especially the poor.*

*-Dr. Gil Ellema*



Every DLSU-D employee--no matter what they do on campus--is a teacher.

example. “In her last year here, it had reached me that that student was not performing well. So, I talked to the dean, the adviser, guidance counselor and asked them to monitor the activities of the girl.”

A week later, Ramos received a report: the girl’s parents were going through a breakup. The girl herself felt like she was a “basketball” passed around between them, and there was an ongoing legal battle in court for her custody.

Ramos says that it’s not fair to accuse college teachers for turning out “damaged” graduates: “Because when they came to us, they were already ‘molded’—it’s very difficult to ‘remold’ them in just four years.”

However, if the root cause of the problem is in the parents, she thought, why not counter this by coming to the aid of a couple who wants to be helped with their struggling marriage? Or better yet, with parents/married couples who can be “good examples”?

### Sponsorship

Ramos, however, clarifies that Lasallian CANA is not a program for “couples counseling or enrichment or what.” It’s an accompaniment, and it propagates its objectives based on “sponsorship”—those who are already in the program could then “sponsor” other married couples—

troubled or not—to participate in the accompaniment.

The multiplier effect would not just be in terms of the number of participants but, more importantly, in terms of the members’ impact on other married couples. Says Ellema in one of Lasallian CANA’s early gatherings, “being a parent is a privileged position to render this Godly duty for the children of God, since parents are the first catechists (at home). They have the firsthand experience of educating children day and night through their evangelizing example in words and deeds.”

Lasallian CANA had its launch in March 2014 with the “preparatory” seminar “On the Road to Lasallian CANA.” This was followed by the accompaniment proper which took place over a weekend at Light of the World Retreat Center in Silang, Cavite, on May 17-18, in which six DLSU-D couples—Lasallian CANA’s “seed couples”—attended. On September 13, the couples held a follow-up meeting and planned their course of action leading up to Lasallian CANA for batch 2 next year. Among their projects is a seminar on marriage and parenting, which they will be opening to everyone interested in the community.

## CEAT board passers... from page 2

Session Paper” by the International Institute of Engineers in the “2nd International Conference on Innovations in Engineering and Technology” held in Penang Malaysia, September 19-20.

Congratulations to all our achievers and board passers, including:

Electrical Engineers Jonathan MagtibayManaloto, Brian CabalticaBueno, Kenneth Domingo, Jacob Pascual Gonzales, Clifford RuelanSayong, Dominic VienePinuelaTavara, and Edraellin Christian Loyola Icaales;

Electronics Engineers John Michael CelestinoAberion, Jhon Kevin Chua Alcala, Anna Camille JosonAlvaran, JericTibayanArboleda, Harold HalidBenlot, Earl Aubrey AtienzaBuluran, John Ares Salvador Capilitan, Erika CasantosCastalone, Bryan Paolo Pinca Castro, Ian KristneyGauran Cortes, Mary Clarence Arañas Dare, Reynaldo ApangDela Cuesta Jr., Christine Labrador Du, Eduardo PustaEgagamao Jr., Tristan Harold TevesFatalla, Matthew Aquino Fernando, OrlyJavilloManalo, Nelson ManaloPanaligan, Mark Dominic Peralta Quingua, Valerie Joy TibayanRecio, Vincent Merrill Agno Reyes, John Mark Corpuz Rivera, Carla JhenalynWijangco Sales, Arden Paul Dela Cuesta Toledo, Ivy Bautista Villanueva, and Stephen Louis AlviarZurbito; and

Sanitary Engineers Judd Michael NuñezAbito, Neil Stephen Hernandez Bumagat, Seychelle Lynne Magpantay Miranda, Stephen Manasseh Rivero Pastor, and JiosoArenNatividadRamilo.



*To this day, there are people who still mistake the Cooperative as exclusive to DLSU-D faculty only. Or worse, that the Co-op is the DLSU-D Faculty Association itself.*





# 10 years of DLSU-D Co-op: *Why aren't you a member yet?*

By Orlando A. Oliveros

## f e a t u r e

**E**vangeline “Vangie” Mercado-De Castro knows the DLSU-D Co-op like the back of her hand. From its history to its bylaws and down to its past and present members, the multipurpose cooperative is like a book she has read, memorized, and understood all these years. She was there when it was still a developing embryo that almost got aborted (“I handled its processing with the SEC”—the SEC said no). She was there when, on September 8, 2003, it finally got delivered, and its “parents” had their first general assembly.

Now, 10 years later and functioning as its supervisor, De Castro remains DLSU-D Co-op’s poster girl: its tireless promoter and spokesperson; minister among the faithful; preacher to the unconverted.

To this day, there are people who still mistake the Cooperative as exclusive to DLSU-D faculty only. Or worse, that the Co-op is the DLSU-D Faculty Association itself. Understandably, this is because the DLSU-D Development Cooperative was “actually conceived and given birth to by the FA (Faculty Association).” Back then, too, De Castro was also very well identified with the FA since she served as the FA’s administrative assistant.

“The FA had a loan program then,” De Castro remembers. “They had a fund for loans, and FA members paid up through salary deductions.” In 2003, wanting to be legally recognized, the FA tried to register itself with the SEC (Securities and Exchange Commission), who said no.

Why? For one, the FA, by its nature, should not have anything to do with money or lending: “The SEC said we should not have had any loan activity whatsoever.” Should the FA think that it should still continue with lending to its members, the SEC said the FA “should be a savings-and-loan association instead, with a capitalization worth in millions.”

The FA did not have millions.

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With the SEC as a dead end, the FA then thought: Why not be a cooperative instead?

### Cooperation

A cooperative is a type of business setup that is owned and run by its members who have an equal say and share of its profits. In the Philippines, a cooperative is organized by at least 15 people, with the aim of providing goods and services to its members and thus enable them to attain increased income and savings.

Dr. Jose Domingo, a Religious Education faculty and FA's president then, knew some people at the Cooperative Division of the Office of the Governor of Cavite. He invited them over to DLSU-D to talk about cooperatives.

At the said talk, 44 participants attended. Eventually, those same 44 attendees became the Co-op's incorporators.

On September 8, 2003, the CDA (Cooperative Development Authority—the government agency in charge of cooperatives) certified the cooperative, which was then known as the “DLSU-D Faculty Development Cooperative.”

This multipurpose cooperative, however, is not under the FA. It is a separate organization and distinct from the FA—although, back then,

it had no office of its own. De Castro recalls having to divide the very small former FA office into two transaction areas—one part for the FA and one part for the Co-op.

At the heart of that cramped room in the Porteria de San Benildo Building, two filing cabinets were used to segregate the FA's and the co-op's affairs. Back then, too, it was just De Castro and Grace Sena (Co-op's current general manager, she joined the Co-op staff over a month after it was established) who manned the “two-in-one” office. By the end of its first year, it had 370 members, with P3.2 million in paid capital.

### Amendments

Forward to June 2007. The cooperative approved its first amendment, dropping the word “faculty” from its name and formally changing it to “De La Salle University-Dasmariñas Development Cooperative” or DLSU-D DC. The change in name was so that DLSU-D's nonteaching staff could join the Co-op as well.

But don't the nonteaching staff have their own cooperative (KABALIKAT Cooperative)?

“I think it was because KABALIKAT has fewer loan programs,” explains De Castro. “Here at DLSU-D DC, we offer a variety of loans: birthday loan, petty cash loan, educational loan, travel loan, grocery loan, appliance loan, and so on. Later on, besides these, they must have discovered we give out some other benefits, like Christmas giveaways. And so, more of them joined.”

Because of the increase in membership, DLSU-D DC easily reached its target capitalization.



Evangeline “Vangie” Mercado-De Castro: DLSU-D DC's unofficial poster girl.

*People should feel blessed if there's a nearby cooperative—a well-managed one, that is—that they could join.*

Thus, the cooperative had to realign itself into a higher capitalization bracket—from P10 million to P15 million then—as stipulated in the Philippine Cooperative Code of 2008. This was the Co-op’s second amendment.

Similar amendments would be made over the years, as DLSU-D DC kept on growing and growing. Today, it has reclassified its expanding membership into two categories: direct membership (for full-time/part-time faculty and permanent/contractual nonteaching staff) and associate membership (for first-degree relatives of direct members; and direct member retirees). As of this writing, the Co-op has 759 members, with capitalization at P24.3 million—“we are now in the P30 million authorized capital bracket,” says De Castro.

### The Co-op difference

There are three ways that a member earns his keep with DLSU-D DC:

- when his share capital (his accumulated contributions) earns interest (in the form of dividends);
- when he applies for a loan (and is approved), part of the interest he pays goes back to him in the form of patronage refund; and
- when he has reached his subscribed share capital, Co-op still deducts from his salary for his savings which in turn, earns interest (or savings interest).

These earnings are computed at the end of the year, and are distributed to members during the Co-op’s general assembly in March every year.

You might ask: But how does the Co-op earn money?

Primarily, DLSU-D DC earns income from its loan activities.

However, being a multipurpose cooperative (as opposed to just being a “credit cooperative”), it also earns through other means: its business ventures, for example, like its canteen outlet (which gives discounts to Co-op members), and its school bus service; or through long-term yet safe stock investments.

When these investments grow, the Co-op grows as well—which means more earnings for its members. That is the basic difference between DLSU-D DC and your regular savings bank.

### Why not join?

People should feel blessed if there’s a nearby cooperative—a well-managed one, that is—that they could join.

“So, why not join?” asks De Castro. “You will not be losing anything. Instead, you are missing a lot for not joining.”

Besides being well managed, DLSU-D DC has also been cited several times in the past by the CDA:

“Most Promising Cooperative” (2006); “Best in Asset” (2007); and “Most Outstanding Cooperative” (2010). In the last three years, citations for the Co-op have helped define its reputation in the entire province: “Most Profitable Cooperative (small scale),” “Best in Business Operations (medium scale),” and “Best in Equity” all in 2012; and in 2013, “Outstanding Small-Scale Cooperative in the Province of Cavite.”

This year, a letter from the CDA arrived: DLSU-D DC was asked to receive a certificate of recognition as a nominee in their search for “Outstanding Cooperative in the Province.”

Lately, these “province-wide” acclaims just wouldn’t do anymore. And so, says De Castro: “We just had to change our mission-vision—‘To be one of the best co-ops in Region IV-A.’”

And aptly so, since DLSU-D

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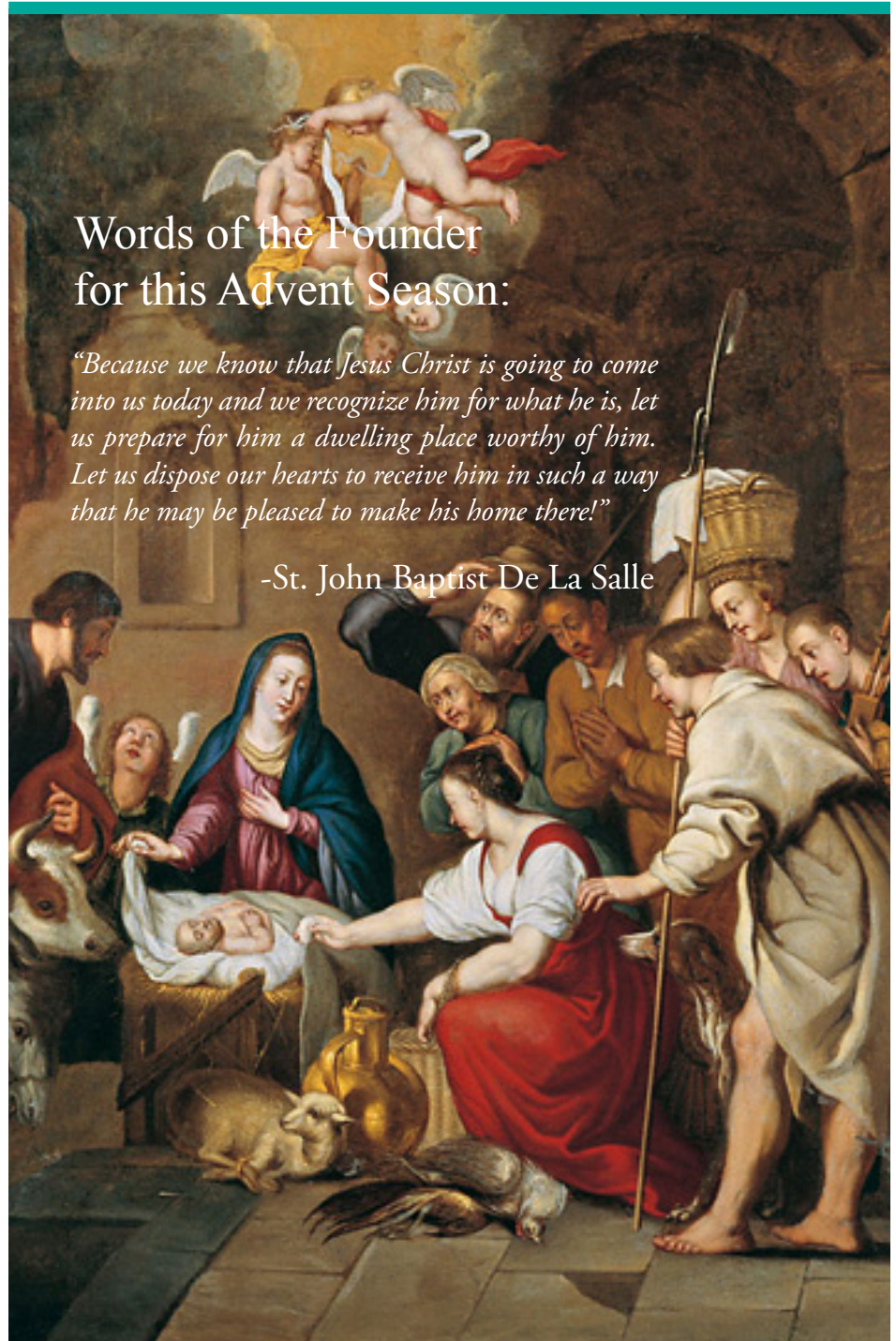
A cooperative is a type of business setup that is owned and run by its members who have an equal say and share of its profits.

DC indeed has what it takes to grow bigger and bigger. For one, there's much room to grow in terms of business ventures: a water station here, a pit stop/gasoline station there.... Second, there's also enough room to grow in terms of membership: "We could target POLCA members, the canteen concessionaires...or even our alumni."

Another course of action could be opening up DLSU-D DC's membership to the immediate community just outside the University—the market vendors and traders at the nearby Kadiwa market, for example. But then, there are still a lot of conditions to be considered, a lot of factors to be studied, "because these things would entail more changes in our policies," says De Castro.

But for now, DLSU-D DC is taking things at a steady rate. Ten years passed quickly, during which a lot of things—good things—have happened. There may be no fanfare to mark the decade, but then what for? De Castro—as with the rest of the Co-op's officers and staff—has no doubts fanfares for DLSU-D DC will sound, no matter what. She believes so. She knows so. Like the back of her hand. **n**

*(Those interested to join DLSU-D DC may call 416-4932 local 3107. Just look for Ms. Grace Sena.)*



## Words of the Founder for this Advent Season:

*"Because we know that Jesus Christ is going to come into us today and we recognize him for what he is, let us prepare for him a dwelling place worthy of him. Let us dispose our hearts to receive him in such a way that he may be pleased to make his home there!"*

-St. John Baptist De La Salle

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