



Students from Thailand's RMUTT (Rajamangala University of Technology Thanyaburi) engage Dr. George Francisco (center), dean of DLSU-D's College of Liberal Arts and Communication, in Ram Wong, a traditional Thai dance. The RMUTT students stayed at DLSU-D, June 4-7, for the Academic and Cultural Immersion Program for International Partners. See story on p. 5. (Photo by Jojo Romerosa)

## DE LA SALLE-DASMA'S Academic Services, Registrar NOW ISO CERTIFIED

BECAUSE THEIR operations follow a system that adheres to international quality standards, DLSU-D's Office of the Assistant Vice Chancellor for Academic Services and Office of the University Registrar have earned ISO 9001:2008 Certification.

This was the result of an audit of the offices' management system on May 21 by TÜVRheinland Philippines Inc., who recommended the said DLSU-D offices' certification.

The certification covers academic support services including Academy of Continuing Education for Professional and Personal Advancement, Student Admissions Office, Student Scholarship Office, Education Technology Center, Language Learning Center, Aklatang Emilio Aguinaldo, and Management of Student Records.

# DLSU-D student win's 'Best Presentation' in 2015 ISCES



Broadcast Journalism student Mark Vincent Bandilla won the 'Best Presentation' prize in the 2015 ISCES (International Student Conference on Environment and Sustainability) held in Tongji University in Shanghai, China. In attendance with him at the conference was AB Communication student Jessone Bautista Purificacion.

This is the first time that delegates from the Philippines were chosen and the delegates were from De La Salle University-Dasmariñas. The two participated in a series of ISCES seminars, exhibitions, and forums.

Founded by United Nations on



## n e w s

# Academic services cluster updated to 'Centers'

What used to be six offices under the Office of the Assistant Vice Chancellor for Academic Services have now been reduced to three "centers"—to facilitate "fused and focused efforts for optimal effects."

Fused together were the offices of Educational Technology Center and the ACE-PPA (Professional and Personal Advancement) Unit to become "Center for Innovative Learning Programs" or CILP. Under CILP, only the blended and fully online certificate courses were retained, says Dr. Arlynne Awayan, CILP director.

The campus-based seminars and other continuing education programs that used to be done under the ACE-PPA were all returned to the management of their respective colleges.

Meanwhile, also merged were the Students' Admission Office and the Student Scholarship Office to become "Center for Student Admissions."

Aklatang Emilio Aguinaldo was simply renamed "Aklatang Emilio Aguinaldo-Information Resource Center." Meanwhile, Language Learning Center was brought back under

the management of Languages and Literature Department of the College of Liberal Arts and Communication.

The term "center" underscores the concentration of and authority over activities related to the office, says the approved concept paper for the updated structure. "Compared [with] 'offices,' the services of the centers extend to the other areas outside degree programs which include: basic education, professional and personal advancement, and even out-of-school youths."



Environment Program, ISCES is an annual event that aims to provide international students with a platform to work together, exchange ideas and understanding on critical environmental issues, and create new solutions to the deterioration of environment and the depletion of natural resources.

“Joining this kind of conferences can give [participants] a global view of the different interventions or issues facing environment management,” said Marlon Pareja, director of DLSU-D’s Environmental Resource Management Center. “As it is a yearly event, there will be another one next year. So, students who are interested

to join or be included in the roster should be able to act on environmental issues [and] they should have a lot of exposure to environmental advocacies and programs.”

After his stint in China, Purificacion flew straight to Bangkok, Thailand to take part in the 2nd ASEAN Youth Friendship Network Camp hosted by Chulalongkorn University’s Faculty of Science. The eight-day youth camp served as a venue for international students to network and exchange ideas on various issues on environment and ASEAN integration.

**(Gidjatorn Soothsuk with a report from Jessonne Bautista Purificacion)**

## New electronics technicians

Results of the April 2015 Licensure Examination for Electronics Technicians yielded an 88.89 percent passing rate for DLSU-D graduates. The national passing rate was 71.88 percent.

Our certified electronics technicians are: Rodrigo Broas Acong, Matthew Escala Benavides, Ryan Nasserr Roquez, Keith Manguerra Carta, Mark Anthony Mojica De Taza, Bryan Manalo Delos Santos, Julius Miguel Culla Garrido, and Nasser Corral Ondillo.

## n e w s

# ACU workshop furthers e-learning among student leaders

With ASEAN (Association of South East Asian Nations) integration sweeping across the region, 35 DLSU-D students representing all seven colleges were chosen to participate in the first ACU (ASEAN Cyber University) Young Leader Workshop in the Philippines. The one-day workshop, held at the Centennial Hall on June 17, sought to “provide ASEAN young leaders with the opportunity to join an international e-learning community and develop 21st century capacity as future leaders in the region.”

The workshop utilized PBL (problem-based learning) through e-learning, and teamwork, as opposed to “individual” strategies in finding solutions to problems. “Through this workshop,” said ACU Director Dr. Sohwa Park, “[the focus is] on the students’ experience—how it is to work in a group...to have totally

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ACU's Dr. Sohwa Park (right) present a token to Dr. Willington Onuh, DLSU-D's assistant vice chancellor for research, just before the ACU Young Leader Workshop at DLSU-D.

# Dinglasan is PCAPI's new prexy

DLSU-D's Pollution Control Officer Joseph Dinglasan has been elected president of PCAPI (Pollution Control Association of the Philippines), a first for someone from the academe to occupy the post. He will be serving in the office for one year, starting July 1 this year to June 30, 2016.

Established in 1980, PCAPI is a nonstock and nonprofit NGO (nongovernmental organization) that works hand-in-hand with the government to protect the environment, particularly toward the control and abatement of land, air and water pollution. Its members

are PCOs (pollution control officers) representing different organizations all over the country. Aside from providing trainings for PCOs, PCAPI's mission is as an active partner in institutionalizing environmental conservation, continuous improvement, and compliance to regulations.

As the newly seated PCAPI president, among Dinglasan's plans is for DLSU-D to pilot a 40-hour pollution control course for students. Finishing the course would then grant accreditation for the student to become a pollution control officer. **(Nuttha Thongkaew)**



## n e w s

### ACU workshop furthers...from page 3

different perspectives [in analyzing problems]...—and the importance of communication.”

Park, together with Program Officer Jongbeom Choi, facilitated the workshop with the help of some DLSU-D faculty who were oriented about the workshop one day before the activity.

The student participants, on the other hand, had a one-week free online session with ACU in preparation for the workshop.

In a discussion with DLSU-D officials, Park stressed the benefits of e-learning

for, among others, distance education for people with access/mobility issues, and in the exchange of knowledge, culture and best practices among ASEAN members.

She also touched on ACU's efforts in developing “the most available, valuable and effective ways of delivering content, [and for e-learners] to interact with each other.”

From the participants in the workshops that ACU conducts in ASEAN countries, “ambassadors” will be selected to become delegates in the upcoming ASEAN Cyber University Ambassadorial Scholarship Program.

Last year, four DLSU-D students made it to this event.

As of this writing, DLSU-D is pursuing an MOU (memorandum of understanding) with ACU, says Dr. Arlynne Awayan, head of DLSU-D's CILP (Center for Innovative Learning Programs). The MOU would touch on faculty and student exchange programs and research collaborations on e-learning.

ACU is an international project initiated by Republic of Korea's Ministry of Education. It has member institutes in Laos, Cambodia, Vietnam, Myanmar and Thailand.

# 59 Thai U students experience CLAC's ACIP

Fifty-nine students from RMUTT (Rajamangala University of Technology Thanyaburi), Thailand were here at DLSU-D on June 4-7 for ACIP (Academic and Cultural Immersion Program for International Partners), a short-term program under DLSU-D's CLAC (College of Liberal Arts and Communication).

The program, a "creative course" for students from other countries interested in cultural exposure in the Philippines, is designed to complement the skills learned by the foreign students in their respective academic institutions.

Says the ACIP concept paper, the program provides "opportunities for intellectual growth as students are exposed to concepts and experiences that reflect a different culture; thus in the process, students display cross-cultural and intercultural competence."

ACIP activities and courses included (1) Language Assessment (to determine the proficiency level of the students to make their learning tasks appropriate, relatable and engaging); (2) Communication Skills; (3) Interaction Skills; (4) Language

Activities; (5) Communication and Leadership Skills; and (6) Cultural Immersion.

The courses were handled by DLSU-D Professors Mark Ignacio, Jesella Medina and Karol Valinton with the tours facilitated by Professors Rosanni Sarile, Brenda Martinez, Jesus Medina, Jefferey Lubang and Dr. Aquino Garcia. Dr. Jonathan Gochuico was program coordinator.

ACIP was initiated by CLAC Dean Dr. George Francisco and RMUTT President Assoc. Prof. Dr. Prasert Pinpathomrat.

## n e w s

# Students visit RMUTT Thailand for cultural exchange

Three students from DLSU-D's College of Liberal Arts and Communication visited RMUTT (Rajamangala University of Technology Thanyaburi) in Thailand, June \_\_\_\_\_, to experience the country's unique culture and share with their counterparts what makes the Philippines the way it is to Thais.

The cultural exchange visit was in fulfilment of a memorandum of understanding between DLSU-D and RMUTT, which encourages "general forms of co-operation" between the two universities. During their stay, the students—Sionna Avellaneda,

Michelle Tiongson, and Erika Uy—enjoyed Thailand's tourist spots, learned basic Thai phrases, and tasted some of Thailand's famous dishes. Moreover, the visit enabled the students to "meet new friends, experience the warmth and hospitality of the Thais, and impart their knowledge [of] Filipino culture to them."  
(Erica Uy)



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## *Q: What makes a curriculum/program globally competitive?*

Lucille Rivera-Calairo answers:

A curriculum that has a global orientation has a very good lineup of faculty members. It should have “learning outcomes” or “results” that the industry—specifically, the international industry—asks for. Especially now that there are global and regional harmonization of standards.

Like, for example, in Engineering. They are now harmonizing our Engineering standards with those of the rest of the ASEAN Region. This means we have to keep up with many developments in the field: faculty traits, curriculum, facilities, learning resources....

Keeping up with global and regional developments also means we should look into “qualifications reference frameworks.” These [frameworks] list down the qualifications the industries require of our graduates.

### *Ask the experts*

One very important way to check that is to maintain a very strong linkage with professional organizations. They are the practitioners in the industry. It is they who will tell us what the industry needs, and we can adjust/modify our curricula based on those needs.

Just last week, I was in an ASEAN conference and one of the speakers,

who is president of a certain professional association of IT and computer specialists, explicitly enumerated what many of our IT and Computer Science graduates lack in terms of competencies according to IT practitioners. And then he added, “*Bakit hindi n’yo kami tanungin? Andito lang kami. Tanungin n’yo kami* (Why don’t you consult with us? We’re just around. Ask us).”





In fact, all quality standards strongly mandate that universities and colleges should work closely with industry practitioners so that we can better prepare our graduates for the workplace, so that universities are able to address the mismatch between education and workplace requirements.

## Ask our alumni

Aside from that, we can also work closely with our alumni. They can tell us which areas of their work were not taught them in college—areas of their work where they were not adequately prepared for. What are their strong points at work? What are their weak points? That's one way of evaluating our curricula and syllabi.

This is why quality standards would also ask if we have structured feedback from our alumni, structured feedback from our industry partners. Because they can help us enrich our curricula to become globally competitive, more relevant and up to date.

Another good practice is accreditation. This is because accrediting and certifying bodies have updated standards—regional and global standards. When we subject our programs to accreditation, we can check if our programs are still okay, or are already going outdated.

## Employability

To gauge if a university is truly of good quality, one has to survey the employability of its graduates. In fact, accreditation, certification and quality assurance agencies also use this gauge. Sometimes, they ask: How long did it take them (graduates) to land on a job? And if they're currently employed, is their line of work in line with their college degree?

If it happens that the answers to these questions are not satisfactory, the most we can do is enrich/improve



*Keeping up with global and regional developments also means we should look into “qualifications reference frameworks.” These [frameworks] list down the qualifications the industries require of our graduates.*

on our current programs with our current students. That would be our responsibility.

Now, when can we rightfully say that our programs are globally competitive?

When our graduates become highly employable, not just in the country but also in the ASEAN Region and in the global workplace. That would surely speak well of our curricula/programs. That's probably the ultimate measure.

**Lucille Rivera-Calairo** has been director of DLSU-D's Quality Assurance Office for three years. She has had extensive trainings in both local and international quality assurance standards, including PAASCU (Philippine Accrediting Association of Schools, Colleges and Universities) and AQAN (ASEAN Quality Assurance Network).





# Eucharist:

*a place where the experience of  
God is lived and shared*



Filipinos can relate well when we speak of the importance of a meal. In almost every occasion in the life of Filipinos, the *salu-salu* claims its central place. When someone in the family achieves something, no matter how small, we celebrate with a meal; milestones in life are celebrated with banquets; and even wakes of our beloved departed become venues for overflowing food. The different regions of our archipelago are distinguished, not only by their beautiful environment and surroundings, but also by their sumptuous food. Sadly, even Church rituals such as weddings and baptisms are deferred because of the excuse that they do not yet have the money for the reception.



The Catholic Church is very much in line with our eating culture. In the Church, whenever we celebrate, we also eat. And the meal that we share together, we call the Eucharist. The Second Vatican Council's Dogmatic Constitution on the Church or *Lumen Gentium* says that the Eucharist is the source and summit of Christian life (LG 11). This is an affirmation of the centrality of the Eucharist in the life of the Church and of every Christian. From this meal, we derive our identity and our mission, in this meal we get our strength to continue in our working for the Kingdom, and to this meal, the Eternal Banquet of heaven, we hope to eventually partake. A former Protestant and convert to Catholicism, theologian Scott Hahn says in his book, "The Lamb's Supper," that "the Mass—and I mean every single Mass—is heaven on earth." The Eucharist is a foretaste of the Eternal Meal we will eat in heaven. In sum, we say that the Church comes from the Eucharist and the Church will find her fulfillment in the heavenly Eucharist.

The challenge for us who have our origin in the Eucharist and hope to share in the heavenly Eucharist, is to make everything in between Eucharistic also. Our lives and our communities are to be Eucharistic, that is to say, we have to be people who are given, blessed, broken and shared. There is nothing more Catholic than the Eucharist and the very identity of the whole Church

with every single member should be the Eucharist.

This year, we are intensifying our campaign as a Catholic University centered on the Eucharist. Our Brother President's number 1 agenda is for DLSU-D to be a place where the experience of God is lived and shared. This is the very essence of the Eucharist: to know and acknowledge God at work when there is sharing; the breaking of bread, the breaking of ourselves. This is in line with the Philippine Church's preparation for the International Eucharistic Congress that we will host in Cebu in January of 2016. Furthermore, in our preparation for the 500th anniversary of Christianity in our land, 2016 will be celebrated as the Year of the Eucharist.



The Chaplain's Office, together with the Campus Ministry Office, has come up with a year-long program to deepen our devotion, appreciation and love for the Eucharist, the memorial meal that enables us to relive and partake of the redemption wrought about by the salvific events on Calvary some 2000 years ago. The Diocese of Imus was recently visited by the International Eucharistic Congress Pilgrim Symbol, a miniature replica of the shrine of Magellan's Cross of Cebu. The pilgrim symbol is meant to create an awareness of the International Eucharistic Congress and at the same time encourage each diocese to hold their own Diocesan Eucharistic Congress. DLSU-D was blessed to have been chosen to be the host of one of the events in the symbol's visit. The other events that will be part of the year-long program will be our version of a "University Eucharistic Congress" which will include convocations, fora, symposia and other meaningful and enriching activities on the Eucharist. We hope and pray that the DLSU-D community may truly be a Eucharistic community, i.e., a community that lives out its deep faith-relationship with the Lord, breaking bread with each other, sharing each other's joys and struggles, and leading each other closer to Jesus.

May Jesus, our Eucharistic Lord, live in our hearts, forever. n



"This means that the processes and procedures, the type of management that we follow are at par with those [organizations] certified internationally," says Marco Saez, DLSU-D assistant vice chancellor for academic services. "That we have a quality system that is not dependent on any personality, [a system] that will not crash even if some personalities left the organization."

### Preparations

Besides affirming the quality of the offices' management system, the ISO certification would also help DLSU-D maintain both its "Autonomous" and "University" statuses with the Commission on Higher Education. "It started two years ago," relates Saez. "We were already talking about it summer of 2013-2014. It was a suggestion of Ma'am Lucille (Rivera-Calairo, head of DLSU-D's Quality Assurance Office). That time, we were concerned about renewing our 'Autonomous' and 'University' statuses. One requirement is an international certification accreditation. So I said, 'Let's give it a try.'"

Preparation for the ISO audit was merely a matter of "calibrating" the offices' existing system to suit the ISO expectations. "That has always been my belief," explains Saez, "that we already have a well-functioning system in place; we couldn't have functioned this long if

we had not been following one all these years. It's just a matter of tailor-fitting it to the expectations of ISO standards." For this, the offices had trainings under a consultant. They studied the prescribed quality management system, and from there, they organized their files and refined their processes, among other preparations.

### Stages 1 and 2

Then came Stage 1. "It's the stage in which the external auditor (a representative from TÜVRheinland) visited us and looked for gaps in our system," explains Saez. Among the areas checked was the offices' capacity to monitor and evaluate their system: "Do we have a system in which we check ourselves?"

If it happens that the external auditor has found an "NC" ("noncompliance" or "nonconformance" to ISO standards), the organization is asked to address that NC before proceeding to Stage 2, which is the "formal audit." Fortunately for DLSU-D, "they (TÜVRheinland) did not find any NC with our system, and this directly led us to Stage 2."

Stage 2 for DLSU-D was an entire day in which external auditors (there were four of them this time) simultaneously visited the offices and checked if the office personnel were "faithful" to the processes that were declared in their

operations guidelines.

"They looked for documents. Management reports, for example. Or monitoring reports: How do we check ourselves? How do we make adjustments? We readied those documents in such a way that [the auditors] could easily see them." Three years

The result of TÜVRheinland's DLSU-D audit came over a week after Stage 2 in the form of a "Confirmation Letter" recommending DLSU-D's certification. Formal certification came from DAkkS (Deutsche Akkreditierungsstelle GmbH), a nonprofit organization which is the national accreditation body for Federal Republic of Germany. DAkkS certified DLSU-D's certification under the ISO 9001:2008 category, with "9001" referring to "quality management system" and "2008" pertaining to the year in which the quality management system standards agreement was made.

DLSU-D's ISO certification lasts three years: from August 19, 2015 to August 18, 2018. Every year within those three years, the University will be subjected to external audit to check for NCs.

"If, at the end of the three years, you did not address your NCs, then the external auditor will not recommend renewing your certification," says Saez.



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