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DLSAA
90 YEARS AND COUNTING



ALUMNEWS

COMMEMORATIVE ISSUE

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ALUMNEWS

COMMEMORATIVE ISSUE

OCTOBER 2006

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www.dlsaa.com

90
years and counting

The DLSAA owes its anniversary to six Lasallians who studied in other Christian Brothers schools in the region. On October 31, 1916, Juan Atayde, Jose Brimo, Arnaldo da Silva, Francisco da Silva, J. Preysler, Manuel Santibañez, and Manuel Vallejo signed DLSAA's first known Articles of Incorporation.

This World War I organization now counts more than 62,000 members in its database and is among the best in Philippine alumni associations with its stable finances, devoted national and international governance, established procedures, and extensive communication network. The 44 presidents from 1916's Arnaldo da Silva to 2005's Juanito Gervasio volunteered service to alumni and students in an association that paralleled the metamorphosis of a benign college in Paco, Manila to an 18-school 'One La Salle' of the Christian Brothers. Indeed, the DLSAA has reasons to celebrate.

And more will come. The DLSAA and its College of St. Benilde Chapter will soon launch their most ambitious initiative, the creation of an employment and livelihood corporation for alumni and graduates. And, like its co-birthday celebrant, the City of Carmel-by-the-Sea in California that embraces the environment, DLSAA will participate in planting one million trees by 2011, the Alma Mater's centennial.

For the moment, enjoy the evening that DLSAA has prepared for you in thankful appreciation for your fellowship and contribution.



The Board of Directors
of the
De La Salle Alumni Association
cordially invites you to its

90th anniversary celebration

on Saturday, 14th October 2006
at De La Salle University - Manila
Taft Avenue

2:30 pm

DLSAA Lasallian Merit Awards
Chapel of the Most Blessed Sacrament

4:00 pm

Thanksgiving Mass
Chapel of the Most Blessed Sacrament

5:30 pm

Dinner
Ground floor, Don Enrique T. Yuchengco Hall

7:30 pm

A Tribute to the Lasallian Alumni
Teresa G. Yuchengco Auditorium

Kindly confirm your attendance by 30th September with:
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Attire: Smart casual



De La Salle Alumni Association



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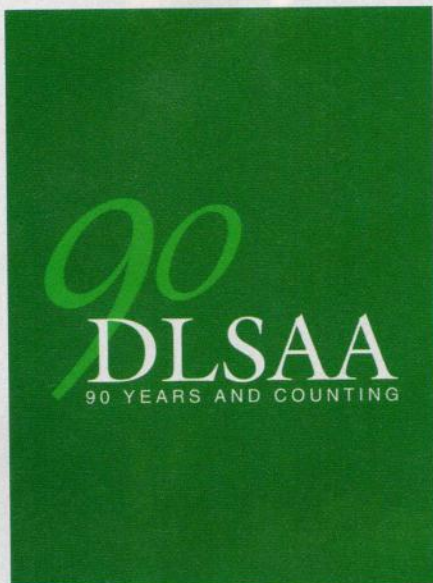
RYAN MOORE - ZIP TYE GOLF SHOE

THE SWEET SPOT IS ACTUALLY ON RYAN'S FEET.
OAKLEY GOLF SHOES GIVE RYAN MOORE THE GRIP TO RIP, BUT HE WEARS THEM FOR WHAT THEY
DON'T GIVE. ACES AND PAINS. "ZIP TYE IS THE MOST COMFORTABLE SHOE I'VE EVER WORN. PERIOD."
THAT MEANS THERE'S NOTHING TO DISTRACT RYAN WHEN HE GETS READY TO UNLEASH HIS SWING.
MAKING THE POWER OF TRACTION AND COMFORT A LETHAL COMBINATION.

OAKLEY 



DE LA SALLE COLLEGE



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"My Czech heritage compels me to continually save pictures and documents that may have historical value in the future. How many times I have looked at the picture of the first community of Brothers in Manila (1911)? I'll never know."

It was during one of those rare occasions when I dared linger inside the DLSAA office of Br. Benedict that he proudly showed me his collection of memorial cards of deceased Brothers on his desk. He had vignettes for each of them—brutally frank recollections of their personality quirks and other tales passed around as urban legends around the Brothers' communities. For those with whom he lived, he had stories of their long-standing disagreements or heated discussions on particular issues. But even with those whom he obviously disliked, he always had a good word to add for each—distinct contributions and commitment to the Lasallian mission, loyalty to the institution, or good memories of their fraternal warmth and concern for himself or for someone in the community. He had boxes of other memorabilia and files that he kept and intended to pass on to the archives "so that the next generation of Brothers and Lasallians would understand better their history". Of course, his interpretation of that history had the unmistakable bias of someone who considered it his duty to be the guardian of the Philippine Lasallian tradition and who watched over it with eagle eyes and, once threatened, would not hesitate to defend the territory with every ounce of his strength.

I got to know him belatedly and only during the last seven years of his life in my capacity as Brother Visitor. Prior to those years, self-preservation required that I stay as far away from him as possible. In fact I never really had the opportunity to live with him in community since three months before I was to move to my new assignment at De La Salle University, he passed away. I now occupy his bedroom at the farthest end of the north wing, thus giving me a view of the campus from where Br. Benedict would start and end his day during those

45 years of residency in his one and only community in the Philippines. Before I ended my term, I would have a better understanding and appreciation of the perspective he was coming from and so, in one of my last few letters to him as Brother Visitor, I wrote:

"Thank you for all the notes, questions, suggestions, and even complaints which you send to me regularly on matters that you feel are crucial to the life of the University, the community, or the District...

I am sure that you recognize that your influence in the life of the community is such that it has the power to divide or unify, ostracize or welcome, intimidate or reassure. Beyond the roughness, I know that many Brothers are able to sense your own warmth, sincerity, and affection. I ask you to continue to exert an effort in becoming more at home with expressing what is deepest and truest, and to learn the graciousness that comes with the assurance that ultimately God is in charge and we can trust that He will never fail us. I know that while you have very strong opinions on certain matters, you can still remain open to new possibilities and that while you can disagree with your brothers, you will still be there for your brothers when push comes to shove."²

Born John Wenceslaus Lidinsky on July 7, 1927, it is clear that the most influential people in his youth were the Brothers at St. Mel High School in Chicago. The impact they made on him went beyond classroom instruction as can be gleaned from his account of those years:

"I came from Brother Jerome Benjamin's famous 'Freshman 3' group at St. Mel High School. Brother Ben Hartigan coached me in 'peewee' basketball, and Brother Harold Robert taught me how to play the clarinet..."

Athletic activities included almost every sport popular among typical American teenagers of the last century—basketball, handball, ice skating, and hockey. Sports played a formative role in his search for identity as these gave him the opportunity to experiment on his strengths and limitations, and play out his need for achievement, as well as face the reality of defeat in the competitive arena of athletic activities. In the process, he established life-long friendships with his peers and sought out mentors who could guide him in his search for identity. The Brothers were his coaches and the impact they made on his adolescent identity would certainly leave a potent seed for him to subsequently discover his life-long vocation as a Christian Brother. He relived this moment in his adult life many times

Domesticating an American Eagle

a Br. Benedict post-mortem





over and in a variety of ways during community recreation in his early years of formation as a young Brother—during his coaching assignments in school, throughout his tour of duty in his home district in the Midwest, and in those early years of his missionary assignment in Manila. This was especially when he had direct engagement with the athletic life of his students, and during those later years when he had shifted his athletic passions to golf while spending quality time with his alumni friends.

Christened Brother Josiah Benedict FSC upon his entry to the Novitiate in La Salle Institute, Glencoe, Missouri in 1944, his formation as a De La Salle Brother created an imprint that will mark his long journey as a religious, an educator, and a missionary. He was most appreciative of the fact that he joined a religious community that strengthened his commitment to education and molded him into the Lasallian tradition that will now become part of his identity for the rest of his life:

"It was then the fastest-growing district in the history of the Institute. In the late fifties and the early sixties, the St. Louis Brothers...were leaders by responsibility of position and by natural talent and ability. They were movers and doers. They were a group of hardworking, multitalented monks, typical of the Brothers of the mid-1900s."⁴

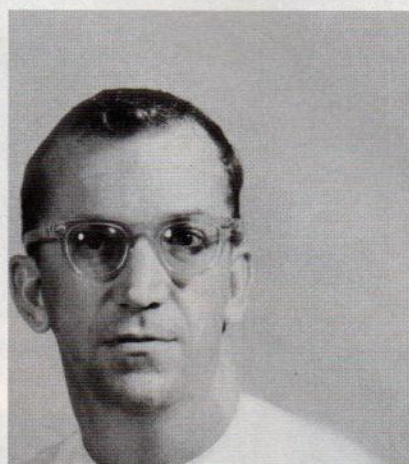
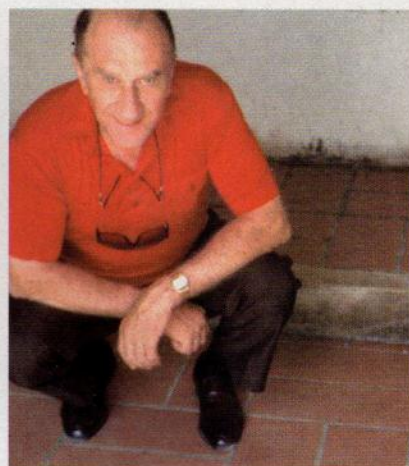
By his own account, Br. Benedict acknowledges that his training in pedagogical and administrative skills came from the Brothers who formed him or with whom he worked with. While I knew him only in his work with the DLSU Development Office and Alumni Affairs, I did not quite realize that he was in charge of the Computer Center when I took my first computer course as a college freshman. Now I remember that one of the bonus questions during our final exams included the item—"What does the 'J' in Br. J. Benedict's name stand for?" Of course, none of us ever imagined that it stood for Josiah.

Perhaps the older alumni and faculty would remember better his contributions as the faithful steward as he moved up the ranks, beginning as a high school principal just barely six months after arriving in Manila, a position he kept for four years. He then took on the position of dean of the College of Engineering for eight years while serving concurrently as chair of the Mathematics Department and alumni moderator. Later, he moved on as Executive Officer, handling registration and other data systems, then serving as founding director of the Computer Center in 1975, and finally capping his years of service in the University as Vice-President for Development and Alumni Affairs. All throughout those years, he always held an administrative position not only because that was the best use for his talents and skills, but also because it kept his passions at bay. I think people knew that if he was not in charge of something, everyone would have a more difficult time.

He counted 45 years of very productive and passionate service to De La Salle University, which was his only real home in the district. During his active years in the University,

he lived out the work ethic of the Brothers he knew and loved from his home district, and that could be the reason why he kept those memorial cards on his desk. Those active years were only interrupted by a three-month renewal program at Sangre de Cristo, New Mexico in 1970 followed by an interesting 18-month computer apprenticeship program with San Miguel Corporation, which he chose over an offer to take a full-blown doctoral degree in either Ateneo or UST. He also skipped a year's sabbatical for church leaders in Notre Dame, Indiana in 1987 and another short renewal program for Brothers in later years in Narooma, Australia in 1998.

His work ethic was such that he relayed to me his criticism for sending close to 20 young Filipino Brothers to a formation program in Pattaya, Thailand since he considered it a mere "safari". I had to write him back and explain that this was a formative experience for them with a solid week-long program that comes only once in a lifetime as it was the first regional gathering of young Brothers in Asia-Pacific. He definitely had strong opinions about the Lasallian mission in the



Philippines since all of his energies during those generative years found meaning in his engagement with the growth of the University. This legacy he sought to pass on to his loyal flock of alumni who called him *Aguila* "probably because of [his] 'eagle-eye' discipline as well as [his] large nose".⁵

Those who were closest to him knew that beneath those eagle eyes was a soft spot in his heart for the Philippines and for all those who cared for the Lasallian mission. For all his faults and strong opinions, he was an all-bark-no-bite Brother who loved his vocation, committed to his work, and was faithful to his vows. This gentle side of Br. Benedict was expressed in his love for music and in the warmth and affection which unfortunately he could only express to a select few. As we remember him fondly today and miss the man with the big nose, we thank the Lord for the gifts that he has shared with the University and to the Lasallian family in the district. I am sure that even today, he looks on all of us with a kind gaze so he could raise us up on eagle wings as he holds us on the palm of his big hands.

LEFT: Br. Benedict's mother Rose (left), at the Lidinsky home in Chicago.

MIDDLE: Br. Benedict's only sibling, Eleanore, a former nun and school teacher.

RIGHT: Br. Benedict's close friend and soul-mate, Br. Justin Lucian FSC, the first Brother Visitor of the De La Salle Brothers - Philippine District in 1970. Br. Lucian said, "No one has ever organized and followed-up the Old Boys, the alumni, better than Ben...He has the record for having the greatest number of warm beds awaiting him anywhere in the world when he is travelling."

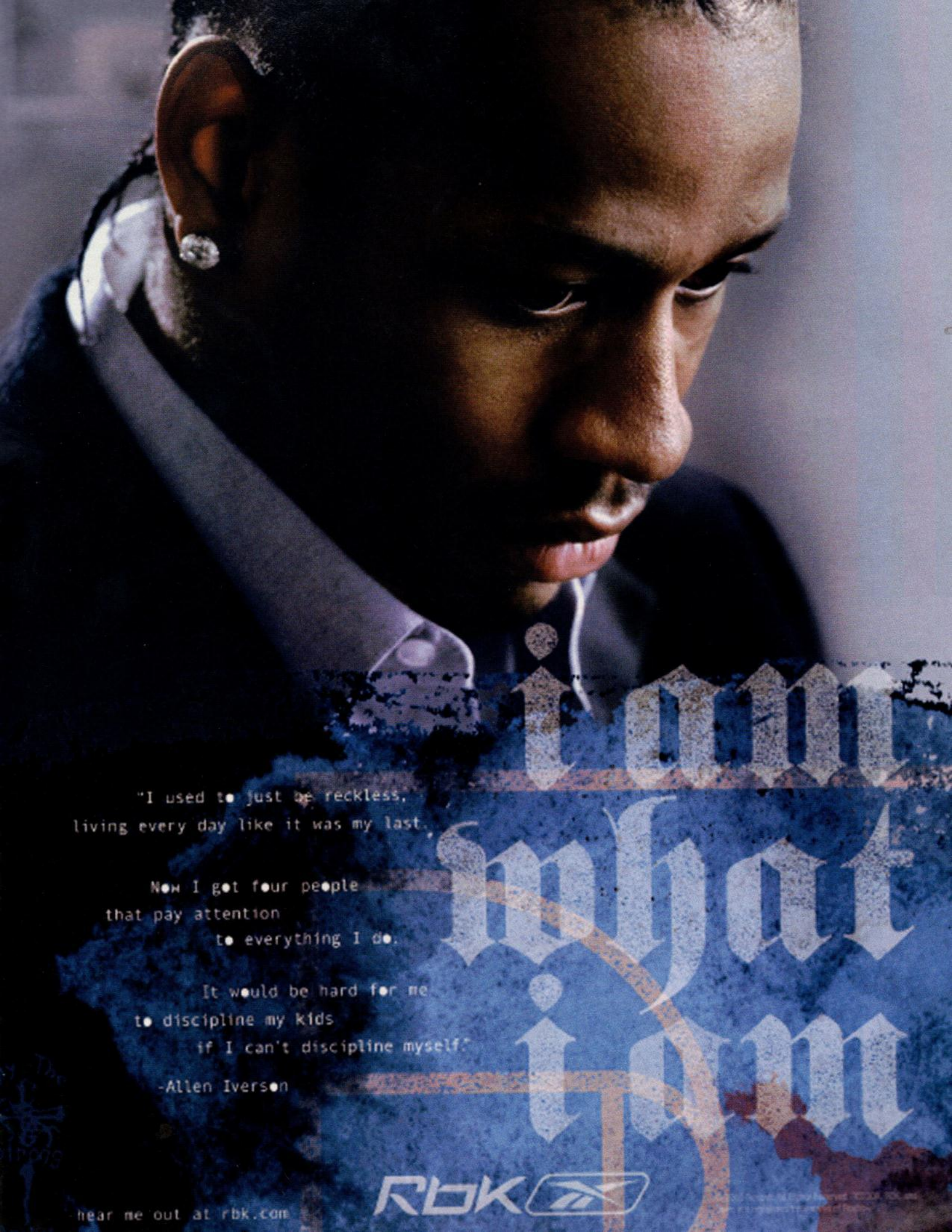
1. Brother J. Benedict Lidinsky FSC, *China Clippers: A Century of American Brothers from the Midwest in the Philippines, 1911-2011* (Manila: De La Salle University Press, 2004), 3-4.

2. Br. Armin Luistro FSC, Letter to Br. J. Benedict Lidinsky FSC dated September 27, 2002 (unpublished).

3. Lidinsky, *op. cit.*, p. 124.

4. Lidinsky, *op. cit.*, p. xix.

5. Lidinsky, *op. cit.*, p. 126.



"I used to just be reckless,
living every day like it was my last.

Now I got four people
that pay attention
to everything I do.

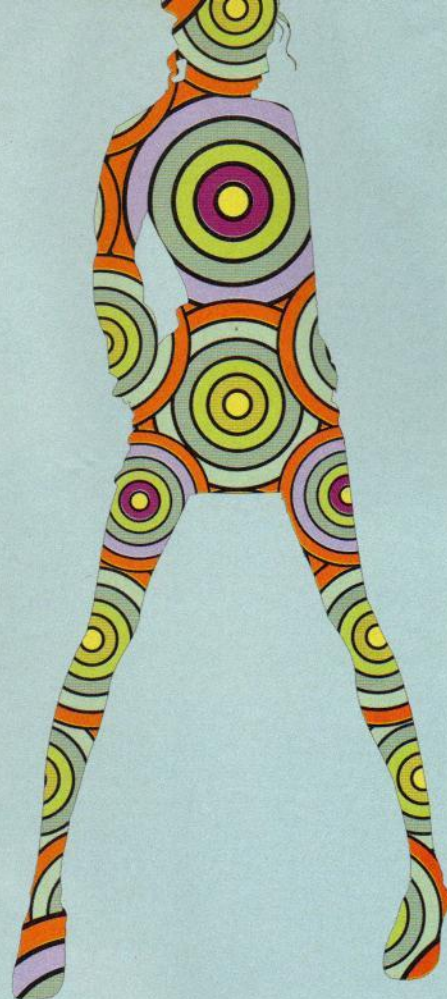
It would be hard for me
to discipline my kids
if I can't discipline myself.

-Allen Iverson

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ALBERTO ROMULO 2003 VICTOR CORPUS XAVIER DE IRALA JAIME LAPUS CESAR PURISIMA

LAWRENCE QUA 2001 MANUEL MARAMBA 2000 JUVENAL CAOILI RAMON MARCOS 1999 JORGE JOSE

PATRICIO LIM JOSE REYES 1998 ANDREW GONZALEZ FSC SERAFIN GUINGONA DANTE LANTIN

LUIS LIWANAG II JESUS YUJUICO 1997 PASCUAL ADORABLE SJ DAVID CONSUNJI RENATO DIAZ

JESSE ROBREDO NOEL REYES 1996 RAFAEL ALUNAN III ROBERTO DE OCAMPO

LEANDER FIDELIS FSC 1983 HARRY ANGPING KURT BACHMANN, JR. HORACIO MARASIGAN

VIRGILIO PANTALEON ARTEMIO VERGEL DE DIOS 1982 ANTHONY GOLAMCO OSCAR ILUSTRE

CALIXTO LAUREANO HENRY NG ANTHONY ZAMORA 1981 COSME ABOITIZ LUIS ABOITIZ

SAMUEL BUESER FSC CRISTINO CONCEPCION H ERBERT DEE HERMINI O DISINI ANTO N IO GARCIA

JOHN LITTON PLACIDO MAPA, JR. FRANCISCO ORTIGAS III WALDO PERFECTO LEOPOLDO PRIETO

DIONISIO RIVERA SEBASTIAN R O XAS-CHUA R AMON S UTER BERNARDO VILLEGAS ALFONSO YUCHENGCO

ENRIQUE ZOBEL 1980 AURELIO CALDERON PEDRO GABRIEL GUILLERMO HERNANDEZ, SR.

MIGUEL ORTIGAS JOSE SANDEJAS, JR. MIGUEL ZOSA 1979 JAVIER CALERO

VICENTE CAMPA MAURICE GALLAGA ANDREW GONZALEZ FSC ERNEST KAHN TOMAS MANOTOC

FRANCISCO ORTIGAS, JR. 1978 RAFAEL BELTRAN, SR. JOHN BRIMO RAMON ECHEVARRIA

ADOLFO ROENSCH, JR. 1977 EDUARDO ABOITIZ CONRADO AYUYAO, JR. EDUARDO COJUANGCO, JR.

VICENTE PATERNO RONALD TABLANTE 1975 FELIX PEREZ GERONIMO VELASCO 1974 LEANDRO LOCSIN

LORENZO TAÑADA RAMON OROSA 1973 VICENTE CAMPA MIGUEL CAMPOS JOSE GATCHALIAN

1972 VICTORIUS FELIX FSC VICENTE PATERNO JOSE RAMIREZ, JR. LORENZO TAÑADA 1971 VALENTIN EDUQUE

SALVADOR GONZALEZ LUIS JALANDONI 1970 ANTONIO BELTRAN, SR. FELIPE MONSERRAT, SR.

1969 GINES RIVERA ALFONSO FELIX, SR. 1968 JOSE CONCEPCION, JR. VICENTE GOMEZ, JR.

WALDO PERFECTO RENE KAHN, SR. 1965 JOAQUIN QUINTOS 1961 HERIBERTO AGUINALDO

RAMON DEL ROSARIO, SR. ARISTON ESTRADA, SR. JOSE FERIA, SR. ANTONIO GARCIA RENE KAHN

CARLOS LEDESMA VIRGILIO LOBREGAT, SR. ANTHONY MACLEOD JOSE OLBES, SR. SIXTO OROSA, JR.

FRANCISCO ORTIGAS, JR. LEONARDO OSORIO ERNESTO RUFINO, SR. SEBASTIAN UGARTE CARLOS VALDES

RAFAEL YGOA JESUS YUJUICO 1950 RAMON ARANETA RAMON DEL ROSARIO, SR. DALMACIO URTULA, JR.



WRITTEN BY Neni Sta. Romana-Cruz

“We shall respond to the needs of society and the local community..., mustering sufficient support...and daring to try the untried....we shall not be afraid to venture into fields where we have not treaded....”

Br. Andrew Gonzalez FSC

By their graduates, you shall know them. The true measure of the caliber of an educational institution lies in the quality of graduates that leave its campus. The school's legacy endures and lives on in the kind of lives its graduates lead—and in the contributions they make to society. Have their lives and careers touched other lives and made their communities a much better place? Have their individual imprints made a difference at all? Have they helped transform Philippine society?

JOS DLSAA's tribute to *succès fou* and *succès d'estime*

It is easy to be impressed by the alumni who are newsmakers and undisputed leaders in society. They would be hard to ignore, publicized and photographed and visible as they are. But for every prominent alumnus who has succeeded and surpassed expectations are many others who live *religio mores et cultura* as impressively, although perhaps in quieter and more anonymous ways. These are all lives which in a sense, also pay tribute to St. John Baptist de la Salle, the patron saint of all teachers.

It is frequently argued that virtue and good deeds are rewards in themselves, making honors, awards, and distinctions superfluous in the lives of these individuals. But it is incumbent upon the De La Salle Alumni Association to recognize alumni who have broken ground, made significant and outstanding contributions, and have thus served as role models in society and for the Lasallian student community. These DLSAA awards are distinct from those given by De La Salle University-

Manila, De La Salle Philippines, Inc. or any other school of the De La Salle Brothers - Philippine District.

This public recognition of individuals in different fields of endeavor who exemplify the University ideal of being "Christian achievers for God and Country" is not merely for the recipients, but also the institution's way of openly thanking them. The school takes pride in recognizing them with gratitude for taking the lead, despite seemingly insurmountable odds, in building a "just, peaceful, stable, and progressive Filipino nation".

In this all too human process of selection and evaluation, many other worthy individuals may most likely be overlooked. But this risk of omission should not detract from giving tribute to those truly deserving. Quite fortunately, the many award categories and the regularity in which these are given, allow the DLSAA another chance, another opportunity to continue to give recognition where it is due.



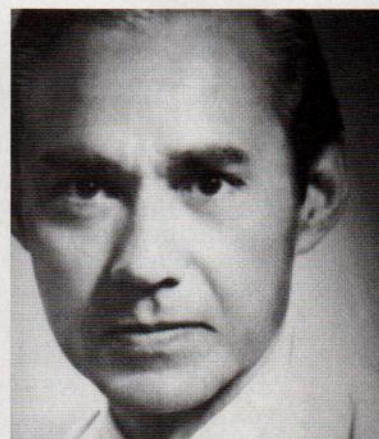
2006 DLSAA Sports Hall of Fame inductee Emilio Ugarte, Jr.



2006 DLSAA Lasallian Achievement awardee Gerardo Ablaza, Jr.



2006 DLSAA Lasallian Sports Achievement awardee the women's football team



2006 DLSAA Br. Benedict awardee Marcos Rocas, Sr.

DLSAA SPORTS HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

2006

FERNANDO ALVAREZ
SAMUEL ANG, JR.
MICHAEL BARREDO
ANGELO DAUDEN
FRANCIS GASTON
EMILIO UGARTE, JR.

2005

ENRIQUE FRUCTUOSO
GUILLERMO HERNANDEZ, SR.
DANIEL JOSE
ERNESTO LAGDAMEO, JR.
GUILLERMO MANOTOC
JOSE MENDIETA, SR.
LUIS PERTIERRA
FREDERICK PUMAREN
ENRIQUE RAZON, JR.
JOSE SANTOS

2004

CONRADO AYUYAO, JR.
RAFAEL ESTEVA
JOAQUIN HENSON
JOSE RAMIREZ
RAFAEL VILLARREAL

2003

EMMANUEL CALUAG
CELSO DAYRIT
MANUEL GONZALES
STEPHEN HONTIVEROS
MARK JOSEPH
EDUARDO LLAMAS, JR.
RAFAEL NEPOMUCENO
CARLOS VELEZ

2002

EDUARDO COJUANGCO, JR.
EDUARDO GASPAR
CARLOS IÑIGO
ALBERTO VILLARREAL

2001

REYNALDO BAUTISTA
MACARIO DOMINGUEZ
JOSE DUARTE
PHILIP JUICO

2000

JOSE AVILA, JR.
LUIS AYESA, JR.
TOMAS MANOTOC
FRANCISCO PACLA
ALEJANDRO PRIETO
BENITO RAZON

1999

ALBERTO DE LARRAZABAL
RAMON ECHEVARRIA, SR.
MARTIN URRRA

1998

ROBERTO DA SILVA, JR.
ALEJANDRO KANAAN
LIM ENG BENG
ADRIAN MANZANO
HENRY VIRGIL FSC

1997

JOSE MIGUEL BILBAO
FLORENTINO BROCE
ALBERT GARCIA
BIENVENIDO VALDES
HUGH WESTER

1996

KURT BACHMANN, JR.
ANTHONY FERDINAND FSC
ANDRES FRANCO
JUAN JOSE
CELSO TUASON

JOSE VILLARREAL, JR.
DANILO WIENEKE

1995

MANUEL ARANETA, JR.
RAMON CAMPOS, JR.
EDUARDO DECENA
ROBERT DEE, JR.
VALENTIN EDUQUE
CARLOS LEDESMA
MARCOS ROCES, SR.
CHARLES RUSSELL

1994

DOMINGO CUATICO
JOSE ESTEVA, JR.
ANTONIO GARCIA
ROGELIO LAÓ
JOHN LYNAM FSC
CHARLES O'CLASSEN
JOAQUIN ORTIGAS
LEOPOLDO PRIETO
ENRIQUE VALLES

1993

FRANCISCO AGUINALDO
DIONISIO CALVO
HORACIO CEBRERO, JR.
ERNEST KAHN
VIRGILIO LOBREGAT
PEDRO MORRO
FRANCISCO ORTIGAS, JR.
EMILIO UGARTE, SR.
SEBASTIAN UGARTE
FERMIN UY
RAFAEL YGOA

The 2006 DLSAA Distinguished Lasallian Awardees.



EDGARDO A. BAUTISTA



JOSE L. CUSALA, JR.



RAFAEL S. DONATO FSC



OSCAR J. HILADO



VICTOR PERSONAL SR. ORDOÑEZ



JOSE T. PARDO

We salute them.

© De La Salle Alumni Association

It is a policy of the DLSAA to recognize and honor alumni...
who have either:

- Achieved distinction and unusual positive recognition in their chosen fields, professions, or public service, and who have demonstrated outstanding achievement thereby serving as role models on a community, provincial, national, or international level;
- Brought honor and glory to their Alma Mater, community, or country;
- Rendered dedicated and exemplary volunteer service or support to either the DLSAA or their Alma Mater or both;
- Attained notable ratings in government licensure examinations; and/or
- For an individual who is not an alumnus as defined in the DLSAA's Honors and Awards System, possessed loyalty and rendered volunteer and unsolicited support to the DLSAA or any De La Salle Brothers - Philippine District school's projects or concerns.

The DLSAA Honors and Awards System has six main categories. These are the DLSAA Exemplary Honors, which is subdivided into the **DLSAA Distinguished Lasallian Award** and the **DLSAA Achievement Award**; the DLSAA Sports Honors, that is categorized into the **DLSAA Sports Hall of Fame Award** and the **DLSAA Lasallian Sports Achievement Award**; the **DLSAA Br. Benedict Award**; DLSAA Chapter Honors, which has three levels—the **DLSAA Outstanding Chapter Award**, the **DLSAA Outstanding Chapter President Award**, and the **DLSAA Chapter Special Citation Award**; the **DLSAA Lasallian Merit Award**; and the **DLSAA Honorary Membership**.

Jose W. Diokno

GS 1933, HS 1937, BSC 1940

WRITTEN BY Eunice Lucero

A citation of DLSAA Distinguished Lasallian awardee and true Filipino Jose "Ka Pepe" Diokno, read on July 7, 2005.



Jose "Ka Pepe" Diokno embodied excellence even during his early years. A valedictorian in high school class and a summa cum laude graduate from De La Salle in 1940, "Ka Pepe", at the tender age of 18, topped the CPA Board Exams and in 1944, without finishing his law degree, also topped the bar examinations with a grade of 95.3 percent. His outstanding performance as a law practitioner led him to public prominence and in 1958 and 1960, became a member of the special committee to investigate the Department of Finance and the Bureau of Supply Coordination anomalies, respectively. In 1962, President Diosdado Macapagal appointed him Secretary of Justice, where he staunchly opposed and prosecuted the controversial American tax evader Harry Stonehill.

In November 1963, "Ka Pepe" ran for senator and won. He was a strong advocate of pro-Filipino legislations and a steadfast supporter of humanized taxation. He worked strenuously to put control of Philippine

economy back in Filipino hands. He was a Filipino delegate for numerous commissions which included the United Nations General Assembly in the mid-1960s. Such was his influence on the people as the quintessential lawyer and street parliamentarian that when martial law was declared in September 1972, he was the first member of the opposition to be arrested and imprisoned. After being detained in maximum security on an arrest and seizure order and kept under solitary confinement, he was begrudgingly released by President Ferdinand Marcos, without ever being charged or tried, two years later in 1974.

Upon his release from political imprisonment, "Ka Pepe" founded and led the Free Legal Assistance Group (FLAG), the Philippines' first pro bono legal service group that renders free service to martial law human rights victims. At its height, FLAG handled almost 90 percent of all human rights cases and its success christened "Ka Pepe" as the Father of the Human Rights Advocacy.

He was the chair of the Civil Liberties Union from 1975 to 1982 and the secretary general of the Regional Council on Human Rights in Asia from 1983 to 1987, in concurrence with his ongoing anti-Marcos/pro-Aquino rallies on the streets. For six years, he battled the supremacy of American bases in the Philippines via his secretary general post in the anti-bases coalition, and in 1983, founded the Kilusan sa Kapangyarihan at Karapatan ng Bayan (Kaakbay) as yet another campaign for Filipino and human rights, which he considered a cause greater and worthier than any other.

In 1986, he was the chair of the Presidential Committee on Human Rights and resigned in protest of the Mendiola farmers' massacre. He furthered on to be the principal negotiator in peace talks with the National Democratic Front.

The ultimate Filipino human rights advocate and patriot was described by the late Senator Ninoy Aquino as "the most brilliant Filipino", by Professor Randy David as the "best president we did not have", and by London's Amnesty International as the "champion of justice and human rights in Asia". Jose "Ka Pepe" Diokno zealously defended his ideals and belief in the sacredness and dignity of the human person. The Lasallian community is deeply honored and humbled to have shared in the history of one of the greatest nationalists who ever lived.

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Taking care of business

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AST

A tribute
to the fathers
of the DLSAA

Term	Years	Name	Count
69th and 70th	2001-05	JOSE S. TANJUATCO	43
68th	1999-01	DELFIN L. WARREN	42
	1997-99	EDUARDO R. LUCERO (acting)	
66th and 67th ¹	1995-99	LAMBERTO V. DE OCAMPO	41
65th ²	1993-95	EDUARDO R. LUCERO	40
62nd to 64th	1990-93	FRANCISCO K. SANZ	38
61st	1989-90	ANTONIO A. VALDES	38
59th and 60th	1987-89	ANTONIO M. ORTIGAS	37
57th and 58th	1985-87	BENITO R. ARANETA, JR.	36
56th	1984-85	FEDERICO C. GONZALEZ	34
55th	1983-84	GABRIEL A. VALDES	34
54th	1982-83	RAMON F. MARCOS	
53rd	1981-82	RICHARD W. POWELL	33
52nd	1980-81	JESUS P. CARDENAS	32
50th and 51st	1978-80	ENRIQUE B. LAGDAMEO	31
49th	1977-78	ALEXANDER C. YSRAEL	30
48th	1976-77	RAMON F. MARCOS	29
47th	1975-76	MIGUEL M. ZOSA	28
46th	1974-75	MAURO B. BLARDONY, JR.	27
45th	1973-74	ALFRED XERES-BURGOS, SR.	26
44th	1972-73	RAFAEL P. TODA	25
43rd	1971-72	JOSE V. LIM III	24
42nd	1970-71	AUGUSTO G. SYJUCO	23
41st	1969-70	CARLOS J. VALDES	22
39th and 40th	1967-69	ANTONIO L. DE LAS ALAS, JR.	21
36th to 38th	1964-67	RENE L. KAHN, SR.	20
34th and 35th	1962-64	GUILLERMO M. JOSE, SR.	19
33rd	1961-62	RAMON F. CAMPOS, JR.	18
32nd	1960-61	ANTONIO J. BELTRAN, SR.	
31st	1959-60	MARCOS B. ROCES, SR.	17
30th	1958-59	RAOUL E. KAHN	16
28th and 29th	1956-58	PAUL H. HEREDIA	15
27th	1955-56	FELIPE C. MONSERRAT, SR.	14
26th	1954-55	FRANCISCO R. AGUINALDO	13
24th and 25th	1952-54	ERNESTO D. RUFINO, SR.	12
23rd	1951-52	MIGUEL Y. ORTIGAS	
22nd	1950-51	EDUARDO J. VIAPLANA	11
21st	1949-50	RAMON V. DEL ROSARIO, SR.	
20th	1948-49	MIGUEL Y. ORTIGAS	
19th	1947-48	SEBASTIAN UGARTE	10
18th	1946-47	MIGUEL Y. ORTIGAS	9
16th and 17th	1944-46	ANTONIO J. BELTRAN, SR.	8
15th	1943-44	CARLOS L. LEDESMA	7
14th	1942-43	RAMON V. DEL ROSARIO, SR.	6
12th and 13th	1940-42	ADOLFO G. ROENSCH, JR.	5
11th	1939-40	MANUEL H. BARREDO	4
4th to 10th	1932-39	FRANCISCO V. ORTIGAS, JR.	3
2nd and 3rd ³	1930-32	VIRGILIO LOBREGAT, SR.	2
1st	1916-17	ARNALDO F. DA SILVA, SR.	1

RESIDENTS

Involvement reinvented

WRITTEN BY **Eduardo R. Lucero**
AND **Christopher Rainier O. Chua**

In the year of the ninetieth anniversary of the DLSAA, it is timely to examine how the job description of the DLSAA president has evolved to a serious commitment that will determine the response of members to the Association. Today, the unforgiving demand of time, management, and innovation to deliver new services was, in a way, preordained because 43 men from 1917 completed the prerequisites of growth.

The president of the DLSAA is a member of the DLSAA Board who is elected by co-members and presidents of regional and international chapters during the biennial World Congress. The election is not a popularity contest because, among other qualifications, the president who must be a chapter president/board member must "...have actively served in the chapter board and/or been active in its operations and/or projects...". Like the practice in other organizations, a potential DLSAA president must have the demonstrated capacity to become one through actual devotion of time and participation in material projects. Indeed, the position seeks the man and not the other way around.

The officers of the DLSAA, with the exception of the Executive Director, do not receive any form of compensation for their services and serve in the spirit of volunteerism. The downside of volunteerism is its effectiveness only in projects which have well-defined beginnings and ends. In this sense, most alumni associations locally can

¹Lamberto V. de Ocampo (1995-99) filed a leave during his second term for health reasons.

²Starting with the term of Eduardo R. Lucero (1993-95), the term of the president was changed to two years.

³There was no election or president for 12 years from 1917 to 1930.



A gathering of past presidents. This photo was taken during the "1911-1925 Reunion" attended by 47 alumni on November 14, 1964 at the Br. C. John Memorial Hall. FRONT ROW, LEFT TO RIGHT: Br. Josiah Benedict FSC (alumni coordinator), Ernesto Rufino, Sr. (1952-53), Rene Kahn (1964-67), Br. Augustine Philip FSC (auxiliary provincial), Felipe Monserrat, Sr. (1955-56), Sebastian Ugarte (1947-48), Br. Crescentius Richard FSC (president). BACK ROW: Guillermo Jose, Sr. (1962-64), Marcos Rocas, Sr. (1959-60), Antonio Beltran, Sr. (1944-46; 1960-61), Miguel Ortigas (1946-47; 1948-49; 1951-52), Francisco Ortigas, Jr. (1932-39), and Ramon Campos, Jr. (1961-62). Francisco Aguinaldo (1953-54) was present during the reunion, but not in the picture. Ramon del Rosario, Sr. (1942-43; 1949-50) and Paul Heredia (1956-58) were out of the country.

comfortably operate in this mode with their major activities oriented to fund-raisers and homecomings.

The DLSAA today, however, has gone beyond this level. It is a fully-functioning corporation with regular operations—communications, both print and electronic; chapter management and coordination; homecomings and reunions; World Congresses; honors and awards; etc.—and, surely, projects that benefit both regular alumni and alumni-in-residence. Accordingly, to fund these, it has to explore all potential income sources for it does not receive any subsidy from the University.

The current president has said that, "The DLSAA must provide value for membership. The often-heard 'What is in it for me?' retort when appealing for membership dues is, in the end, valid. We cannot continue to be an Association with members for membership sake." Its current funds and various business avenues can provide the investment to create a value in services and hopefully, generate profits. This progression spells growth.

Growth, however, exacts its toll. The onus of work mainly gravitates towards the president and the DLSAA's lean staff. It is not uncommon

"The often-heard 'What is in it for me?' retort when appealing for membership dues is, in the end, valid."

In its 90-year history, the DLSAA has had 43 presidents, 16 of whom served at least two terms or more—a testament to their drive to continually generate successful projects for the Association. And these projects are what make the DLSAA back in the 1990 (or even in its early years) different from the DLSAA in 2006.

Furthermore, these presidents shared the primordial tradition of service to disparate alumni whom they tried to unify in fellowship. Former president Guillermo Jose, Sr. (1962-64) said, "It is also my sincere wish that the members should become more active in their participation in our fraternity, which has become an essential reference among the old graduates as well as the young ones."

And when unifying the alumni community is mentioned, two family names automatically stand out—Ortigas and Valdes. Francisco Ortigas, Jr., aside from being the longest serving DLSAA president for seven years (1932-39), started a trend of having DLSAA presidents in the Ortigas family, namely first cousin Miguel (1948-49) and nephew Antonio (1987-89). On the other hand, patriarch Carlos Valdes (1969-70) is joined by his sons, Gabriel (1983-84) and Antonio (1989-90), in the elite list.

The earliest by-laws even point to the establishment of a clubhouse as one of the purposes of the DLSAA. To be sure, the earlier presidents launched scholarship and charitable projects, but none eclipsed the confraternity mission that was likewise etched as a primary concern of the Association. They were all too successful in building a bonded organization that building upon it for other purposes was almost a sin to miss. President Enrique Lagdameo (1978-80)

said, "I speak of unity because no set of officers, no matter how competent, can replace the membership...to achieve anything, we need unity, but this must be a unity not in appearance alone, but one that is born out of desire to be of service to the De La Salle Alumni Association, strengthened by sharing of common goals."


Therefore, the DLSAA today owes its renewed vision to the 43 men who laid the groundwork such that investments in jobs and livelihood or health are not unthinkable. These are Lasallians who gave a part of their lives and did not regret. And even if 23 of them have passed away, they have left a legacy for future DLSAA presidents. The DLSAA salutes them.

The Association's New President

New President

RAMONCITO CAMPOS emerged as the new President of the Alumni Association as a result of the elections held during the Golden Jubilee Celebration last June.

Born December 15, 1925 to Dr. Ramon F Campos and Ester Ja... allana, a student c... second



Jose Abreu, 40, Ramon
H.S. '40, needs an in-
duction to any La
Salle. He was a th
sportsman (Swim
Football and Ba
ball) for La Salle
graduating

School before the war, graduating
played football and basketball for
while he was studying Chemistry
after the war. Ramoncito made the
don Olympic team in 1948 and the
a year at Columbia University be-
turning to Manila and back to
graduation with a BSC in 1951
idol of many a

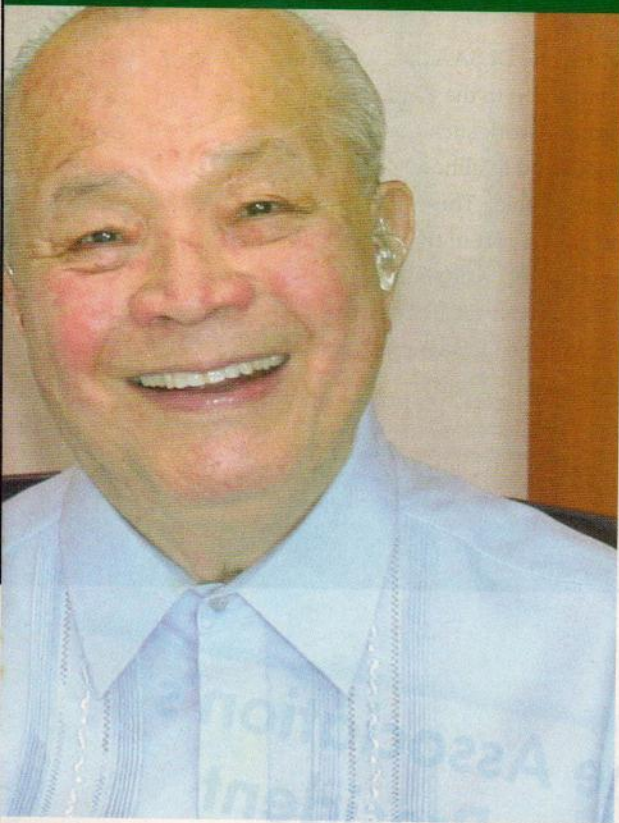


Messrs. Allison Gibbs and Dick Romulo also deserve our gratitude for the complicated work they put in to effect the merger of our associations. With this merger now been approved by all the government homecoming activities would have been quite dull.



I would like to take this opportunity to thank, on behalf of the past and new Board of Directors, all those who went out of the way to give donations to the association that made possible the big success of the last homecoming. Most of those who also gave their valuable time were Mrs. Rory Lagdameo and Chelo Javellana, our tireless modera'or Rev. Brother Manuel, and Augie Reyes and Louie Jahrling. Without their services, the homecoming activities would have been quite dull.

Ramon V. del Rosario, Sr., DLSAA president—twice from 1942-43 and 1949-50—nostalgically remembers his salad days



WRITTEN AND PHOTOGRAPHED BY **Winston Baltasar**

Monching

“The Ambassador”, they call him, an appropriate name for a man gifted with diplomatic and communication skills, honed in De La Salle debates, elocution contests, and 1930s cheerleading.

Ramon V. del Rosario, Sr., fondly called “RVR” and the oldest living DLSAA president at 88, held the position in 1942-43 and 1949-50. His biographer, Roel Landingan, wrote in *Ramon V. Del Rosario: The Making of an Entrepreneur* that he “entered into the world of business in the 50s, the golden age of Philippine manufacturing. At a time when government allocation of dollars was critical, he founded his companies and made sure they flourished on more than mere state support.”

In 1956, together with Filemon Rodriguez and Ernesto Escaler, he formed the Philippine Investment Management Consultants, Inc. (PHINMA), then the first Filipino-managed investment firm to provide business expertise for the many industrial projects cropping up at the time. PHINMA has grown to include companies in education, energy, financial services, foundations, property and shelter, and roofing.

President Ferdinand Marcos appointed him as an ambassador to Germany and resigned upon seeing the massive election cheating. Subsequent president Corazon Aquino appointed him ambassador to Japan, where he drummed up unprecedented support for her government.

RVR, a champion of management excellence, is credited as principally having conceived of the Management Association of the Philippines (MAP) in 1950. The new MAP office is called the Ramon V. del Rosario Center for Management Excellence.

Winston Baltazar (WB): Please tell us about the years you were DLSAA president.

Ramon V. del Rosario (RVR): I was a good friend of Adolfo Roensch, Jr. (DLSAA president, 1940-42). His family owned the Ermita branch of LR Aguinardo, the first suburban store. I enjoyed visiting his store. It had a soda fountain where we could hang out. I was Adolfo's vice-president. Another officer, Sebastian Ugarte (DLSAA President, 1947-48), was my good friend.

I became president because of osmosis. After Adolfo had held office, he asked me to be president. I was the youngest, the precocious one. I was calling my seniors by first name which was a big thing. The older guys saw me as quite active and enthusiastic. I was a cheerleader and a member of the debating club. Maybe, I'm just a compulsive organizer.

Del Rosario entered De La Salle in 1924. He was in Grade B—what kindergarten was called at that time—and finished high school in 1935 with awards for elocution, academic achievement, and leadership in extra-curricular activities.

De La Salle dominated football then and del Rosario helped put together a football team called the Elks. It was in these football games that he, as halfback of the Elks, started to meet girls and found his future bride, Milagros "Millie" Aragon from St. Scholastica's.

In 1938, del Rosario graduated from De La Salle College with a Bachelor of Science in Commerce, a three-year course at that time.

Landingan wrote, "To cheer, to lead, and to motivate. In time, this became his motto and mantra in life." The desire to lead and cheer on colleagues against all odds would benefit all the projects and groups he joined later.

WB: Why did you study in De La Salle instead of the other schools?

RVR: My father (Salvador del Rosario, a writer and editor of *La Independencia*, and member of the revolutionary Malolos Congress) was close to the Dominicans, but he decided to put me in an English-speaking school. He knew it was the language of the future. De La Salle already had English as its medium of in-

struction. The other schools like UST, Letran, and Ateneo were still teaching in Spanish.

Another factor, perhaps, in his father's decision, was that "a group of American educators, commissioned by the colonial government to conduct a survey of schools in the Philippines, had rated De La Salle the best private educational institution in the country", according to Landingan.

WB: What projects for the DLSAA have you been involved with?

RVR: During the Japanese occupation, the idea was that there was too much talent in De La Salle that was idle. There were many productive and imaginative minds. We didn't want to lose time (due to the war). We wanted a place where we could get together. Roensch's place was not suited to that.

We got a property in Mabini that was sumptuous. It had a small swimming pool and a handball court. It was leased to us for a minimal amount. The owner was my mother! The (original) occupants

"I was just so idealistic I didn't think of getting caught. I was just working."

were American and they were in interment. To prevent it from being occupied by the Japanese military, we made it a clubhouse for the DLSAA.

It was quite a luxury at that time for us. But eventually, the Japanese wanted the property for one of their generals so we had to move out.

I was teaching accounting in De La Salle at that time. In fact, I found out about the war when I was on my way to De La Salle. I heard that there were alarms and sirens for air raids because Pearl Harbor had been bombed.

Most of the De La Salle faculty members were looking for something useful to do. Because of the clubhouse, we organized a business training school. The Japanese prohibited the teaching of law and business, but they allowed engineering and vocational courses. So we had our school classified as vocational, even if we were teaching accounting.

We were also teaching typing, book-keeping, business correspondence, and other applicable skills. We gave CPA review classes. We were looking forward to the post-war times. *Talagang atrevido kami.*

Our banner read, "A school is only as good as its faculty." And our faculty comprised of De La Salle teachers (who could not teach because of the Japanese ban). My contemporary in teaching accounting in

another class was Pepe Diokno, who topped the bar exam without [finishing] law school.

This thing went on the basis that we were all having fun. We felt we were contributing. It was dangerous. Businesses were closed. People were in interment, tortured.

I was just so idealistic I didn't think of getting caught. I was just working.

The times were dangerous and RVR was not immune to the ravages of war. In late 1944, his brother Jose was arrested and never found again. The same thing happened to Fr. Kelly, who had just baptized his son. His next-door neighbor was accused of being a traitor and tortured outside his house. The del Rosarios could hear his shrieks of pain.

It was no small thing to dare put up a forbidden business school.

WB: Please tell us how De La Salle trained you and your peers to be Christian gentlemen and its effect on you.

RVR: It's a question of family breeding. The original families that sent their children to De La Salle were not only good Christian families, but also of the upper level. It was a relatively small school—one got to know everybody else. What emerged was a "culture by consensus" with good Christian

values.

Culture was distinguished by our Catholic background and the school. It left its own culture. In hindsight, the influence was a lot. It was the discipline imparted by a good teacher to student.

I have to live in the present and the future, and not in the past. But every step along the way, I went to church. I kept thinking, "I don't deserve this. This luck is too much. There must be a mission (intended for me)."

RVR gave back in many ways. When most industries were run by foreigners, he set up Filipino-owned businesses. Working tirelessly as Ambassador, he encouraged foreign investors to contribute to the Philippine economy.

He underwrote the construction of the main building of De La Salle University-Canlubang, naming it after his wife, Milagros. Asian Institute of Management's Center for Corporate Social Responsibility (RVR Center), chaired by his son, Ramon, Jr., is named after him.

The inscription in his signed biography "May we all contribute our very best to service of God & Country" is a simple and inspiring summation of this great man's life.



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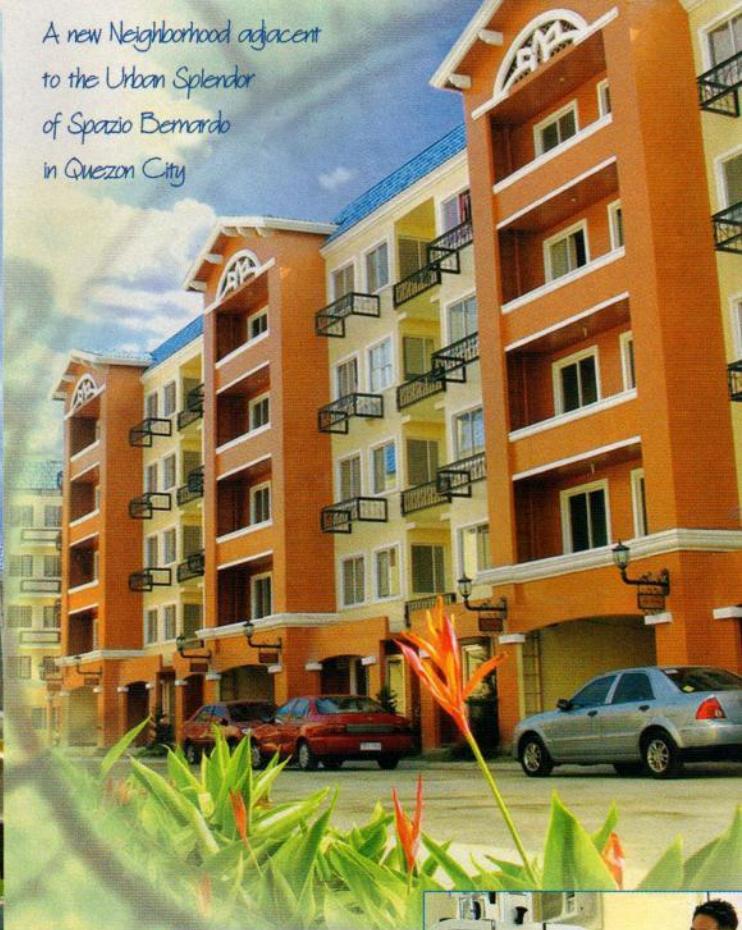
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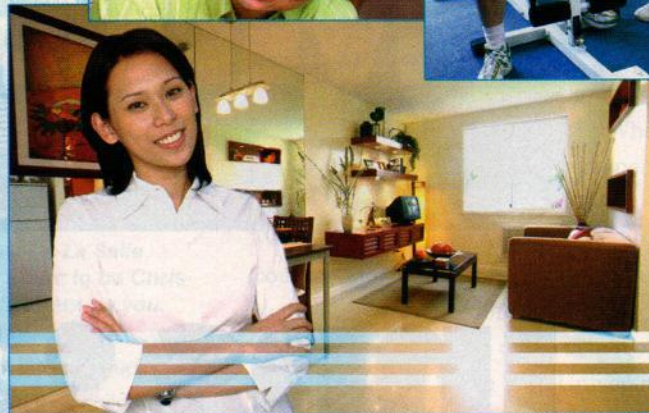
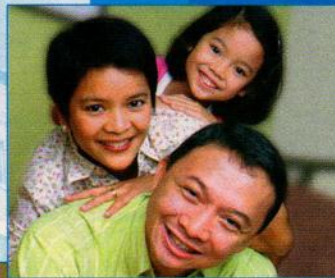
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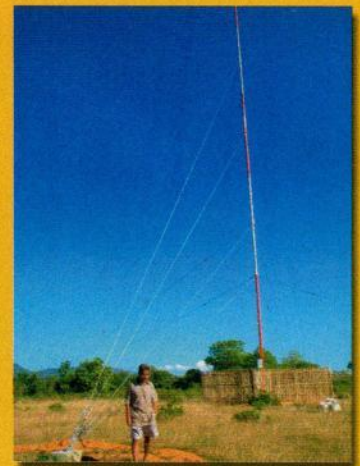
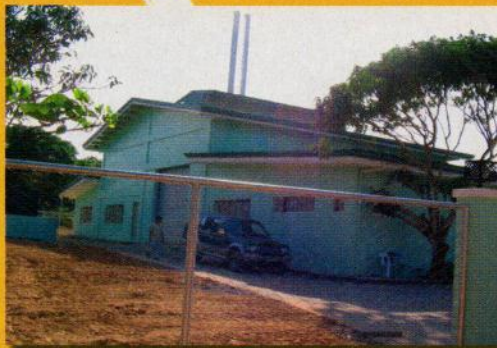
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PHINMA
Life Can Be Better



a shared anthem

The Alma Mater Hymn—a circumstantial provenance

Alma Mater

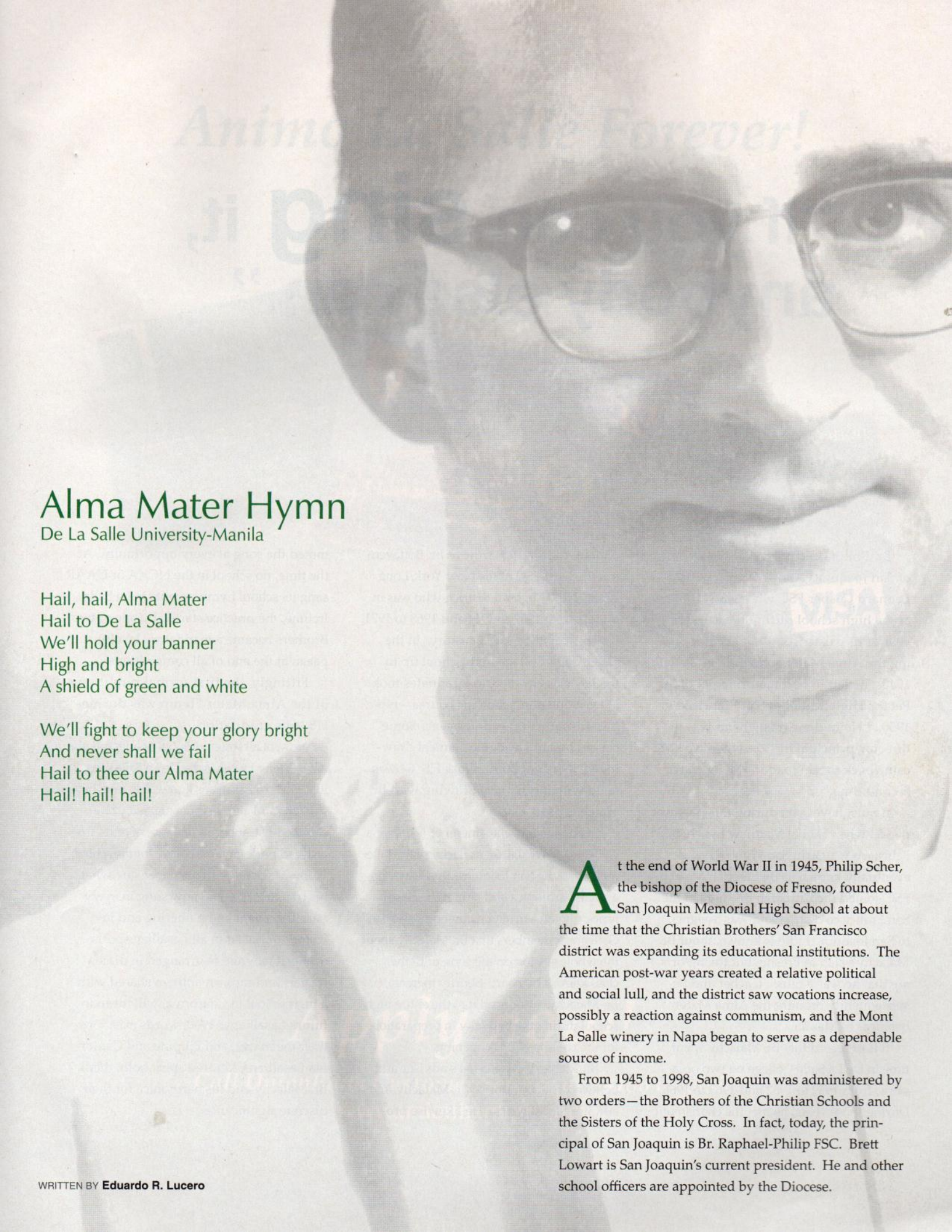
San Joaquin Memorial High School, Fresno, California

Hail, hail, Alma Mater
Hail to San Joaquin
We'll hold your banners
High and true
A shield of red and blue

We'll fight to keep your glory bright
And never shall we fail
Hail to thee, our Alma Mater
Hail, hail, hail!

Br. Stephen Malachy FSC
1959-1962; 1963-1966

OPPOSITE: Br. Bonaventure Richard FSC
1957-1964; 1968-1971



Alma Mater Hymn

De La Salle University-Manila

Hail, hail, Alma Mater
Hail to De La Salle
We'll hold your banner
High and bright
A shield of green and white

We'll fight to keep your glory bright
And never shall we fail
Hail to thee our Alma Mater
Hail! hail! hail!

At the end of World War II in 1945, Philip Scher, the bishop of the Diocese of Fresno, founded San Joaquin Memorial High School at about the time that the Christian Brothers' San Francisco district was expanding its educational institutions. The American post-war years created a relative political and social lull, and the district saw vocations increase, possibly a reaction against communism, and the Mont La Salle winery in Napa began to serve as a dependable source of income.

From 1945 to 1998, San Joaquin was administered by two orders—the Brothers of the Christian Schools and the Sisters of the Holy Cross. In fact, today, the principal of San Joaquin is Br. Raphael-Philip FSC. Brett Lowart is San Joaquin's current president. He and other school officers are appointed by the Diocese.

a shared song

“If you can **sing** it, anybody else can.”

Br. Philip confirmed that the writer of San Joaquin's Alma Mater was Br. S. Leonard Casper FSC who was stationed at the high school during the second year of its existence in 1946. After writing the Alma Mater sometime in the late 1940s, he left to become principal of St. Peter's High School in San Francisco in 1950. "He told me this when I was his director/principal in 1974 when we both came back to San Joaquin Memorial a second time."

It must have been during this post-war period when Daniel Matthew Lynch, born February 5, 1930 in San Francisco and eventually known as Br. Stephen Malachy FSC, joined the Christian Brothers in the San Francisco district and was assigned to San Joaquin. Little is known about Br. Malachy's stay in Fresno, but the reports are that he was a music teacher and he subsequently brought the Alma Mater overseas to Manila.

It is of record that Br. Malachy spent time in De La Salle College on two occasions, from 1959 to 1962 and 1963 to 1966. During those years, he met the charismatic

Thomas Martin McArrow or Br. Bonaventure Richard FSC of the New York/Long Island-New England district, who was in Manila from 1957 to 1964 and 1968 to 1971.

The rest, they say, is history. In the De La Salle College high school up to the last class in 1968, all graduates took at least one non-academic course—typing—usually in the junior year. Some classes had, instead, mechanical drawing. Others got both. Class HS '64 was fated with mechanical drawing with Br. Malachy as its teacher.

In one session, class member Jesus Gallegos, Jr. recalls, Br. Malachy played the melody of the San Joaquin Alma Mater on a small harmonica and taught the class its lyrics, "If you can sing it, anybody else can." Gallegos remembers that Br. Malachy spent the whole session on the song until the class knew it by heart. Shortly thereafter, Br. Malachy introduced it to the entire high school during the pep rally in preparation for the coming NCAA opening.

Br. Richard was HS '64's adviser and believed collaborator of Br. Malachy in adapting local lyrics. He likewise pro-

moted the song at every opportunity. At the time, no school in the NCAA or UAAP sang its school hymn except De La Salle. In time, the practice started by one or two Brothers became a mandatory loyalty paeon at the end of all competitions.

Fittingly, the first formal rendition of the Alma Mater Hymn was during HS '64's graduation.

Now, of all songs, original or adapted, the Alma Mater Hymn is the De La Salle song that modern Lasallians know. It is sung by students and alumni, punctuated by one clenched-fist, at once a defiance of odds, unabashed pride, and fierce love for the school.

Br. Malachy perhaps never saw what his transposed song, now sung in every Lasallian event and gathering and in victory or defeat in all Lasallian sports events (erstwhile re-arranged in disco, reggae, and rap), an anthem shared with a high school in California, will mean to future Lasallians. Well, words exist for their meanings, and Filipino and California Lasallians, kindred spirit both, thank Br. Malachy and his harmonica for their discrete significance.

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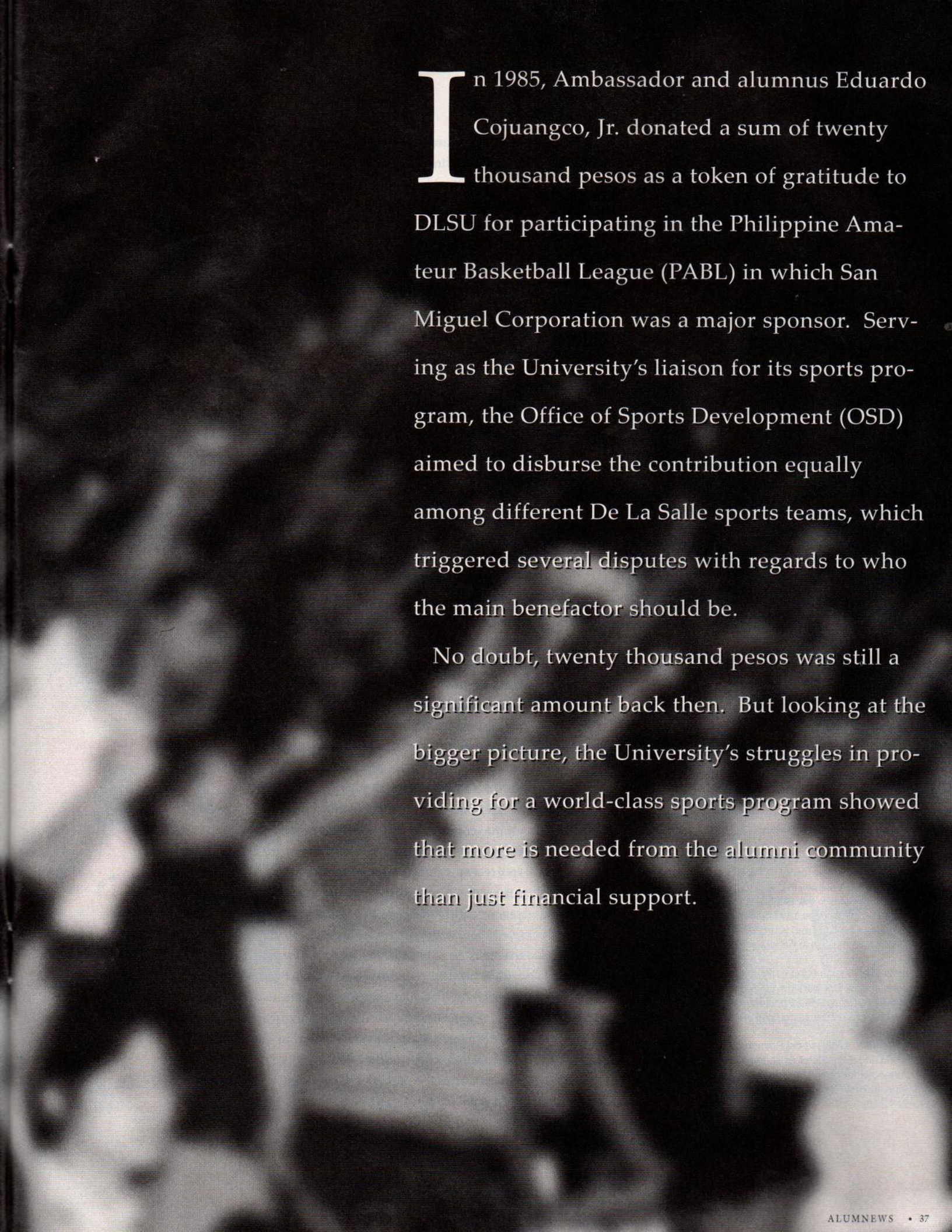
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The DLSAA's legendary support of university sports and the Lasallian world-class athletes who have earned their place in Lasallian and Philippine sports history

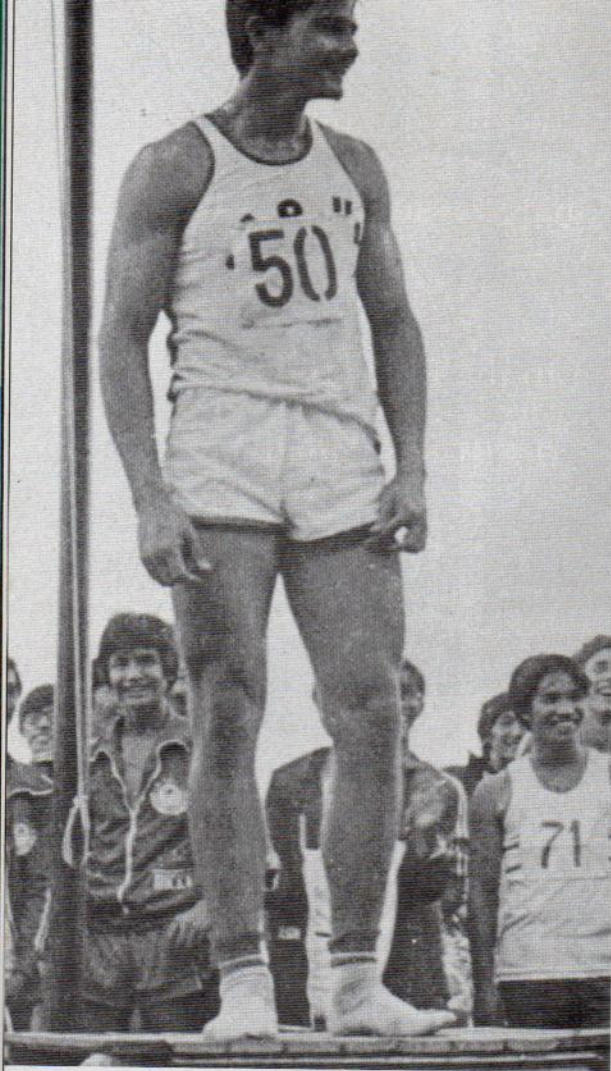
WRITTEN BY Christopher Rainier O. Chua

PHOTOGRAPHS PROVIDED BY Gerardo M. Achacoso AND Gerardo L. Largoza



In 1985, Ambassador and alumnus Eduardo Cojuangco, Jr. donated a sum of twenty thousand pesos as a token of gratitude to DLSU for participating in the Philippine Amateur Basketball League (PABL) in which San Miguel Corporation was a major sponsor. Serving as the University's liaison for its sports program, the Office of Sports Development (OSD) aimed to disburse the contribution equally among different De La Salle sports teams, which triggered several disputes with regards to who the main benefactor should be.

No doubt, twenty thousand pesos was still a significant amount back then. But looking at the bigger picture, the University's struggles in providing for a world-class sports program showed that more is needed from the alumni community than just financial support.



ABOVE: Arthur Pons, arguably the best collegiate track and field athlete of his time, was a member of the De La Salle College 1972-73 NCAA champion track and field team.

OPPOSITE, LEFT COLUMN, TOP: Stephen Fernandez won the taekwondo SEA Games 1987 gold, and 1989 and 1991 bronze. Also a two-time Olympian, he participated in the 1988 Seoul and 1992 Barcelona games, and won bronze in the latter.

SECOND: Photo shows multi-gold SEA Games wrestler Marcus Valda. In 2003, he won the Greco-Roman and freestyle, and in 2005, freestyle.

THIRD: DLS Santiago Zobel alumnus Eric Buhain who, at 15, won the gold medal in the 400-meter individual in the 1985 SEA Games in Bangkok. Breaking one of the existing records in the 1989 SEA Games, he went on to win more golds in the 1991 edition in Manila. He was appointed the sixth and youngest chair of the Philippine Sports Commission in February 2002.

BOTTOM: Alumna Edna Ledesma-Asano, with partner John Derrick Co, were the 2005 Senior Latin champions in the 80th Annual Blackpool Dance Festival, considered the holy grail of dance competitions, on May 30, 2005.

FAR RIGHT: Ma. Liza del Rosario, ranked 11th in the world and 2nd ranked Asian female bowler in 2004. Among other titles, she won the 2005 SEA Games gold trios and gold 5-man team.

Fast forward to twenty one years later, the alumni involvement in all fronts of DLSU's sports program is at its strongest as ever. And the DLSAA, now celebrating its ninetyeth year, is definitely proud of that fact.

Unified interest

Since time immemorial, sports has been one of the catalysts for alumni interest in almost every school and university. Consequently, the most passionate and dedicated alumni communities make sports programs that are the best in the world.

Renowned sports programs such as those of Duke University, Stanford University, UCLA, and other Division I US NCAA schools wouldn't exist without the timeless participation and school spirit shown by their alumni faithfuls. Whether the contributions are made on the sidelines or in the sports funds, these have monumental impacts on the respective development programs since alumni populations increase by the year.

The case is not different for De La Salle and the Animo of its alumni.

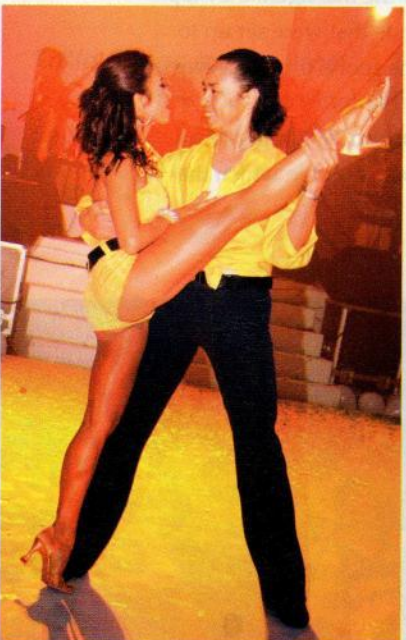
Over the past few decades, the University and its alumni have been partnering their efforts in developing the De La Salle sports program to become one of the nation's best. But it is no secret that the ultimate goal is to have a program that could be mentioned in the same line with the world's finest.

This is why the most recent efforts of the alumni community, empowered by the DLSAA, have been geared towards that particular ambitious goal.

Animo in the stands

The earliest and most obvious participation of the alumni community has been in the stands, cheering their hearts out in a show of Animo for the De La Salle sports teams during competitions and tournaments. And as the competition in sports intensified over the years, so did the size of the teams' alumni followers.

Of course, no other De La Salle sports team can say that they have beaten the Green Archers in terms of crowd support. Aside from the UAAP games where seats are treated like gold, the Archers also have a regular good-sized crowd of alumni during less-popular tournaments. This passionate group is known in the Lasallian community as "Gang Green", which started out as the Non-stop Cheering Gallery during the UAAP wars two years ago.



But recently, other teams have lured in their own groups of alumni followers aside from the regular presence of former team members. The football teams have enjoyed a good following over the years since there are quite a number of football fanatics in the alumni community, even including the golden jubilarians and above. On the other hand, the badminton teams have been building on the increasing popularity of the sport (alumni sports meets isn't pegged on just golf and basketball anymore) to further strengthen its alumni base.

Another inspiring example is the Lady Spikers, who are regarded as crowd darlings, especially after their exposure and dominance in the UAAP and Shakey's V-League tournaments amidst the media attention gotten by the sport lately. Also, it doesn't hurt if you have a very supportive manager in Philip Ella Juico, a highly regarded alumnus in the community.

Management with focus

The Lady Spikers aren't the only team fortunate to have a dedicated alumnus as its team manager. In fact, all teams have one, or even two.

Over the years, the resources needed to excel in sports have been increasing in leaps and bounds. And the DLSAA, taking a share of the responsibilities, has been making significant financial contributions to the University's sports program. These donations helped cover expenses that the University's budget for sports couldn't fully provide back then like certain material needs, tutorial fees, fitness training expenses, medical bills, and the like.

However, realizing the fact that it cannot accommodate every plea or handle every problem, the Association spearheaded a system of management wherein each team has its own individual manager/s. While the whole idea stemmed from requests made by the OSD for team managers, the DLSAA found out that a lot of individual alumni were willing to take on the roles, but they just didn't know that the University was looking.

With the new system set up, gone are the days where teams and athletes have to perpetu-

ally request for financial assistance from the DLSAA and individual alumni. But even if team managers take a share off the tab, their most important role on the team is being a parent figure who makes the team feel that they are taken cared of. Whether it's Manuel Salgado treating the Green Batters to breakfast or Manuel Acosta supplying vitamins to help with the training of the badminton teams, the intangibles that these managers bring strengthen the spirit of the teams. Some managers are even perfect fits to the culture of the teams which they manage.

Take the case of Santiago Alvarez and the Green Booters, whose team members are mostly of *Ilonggo* roots. Being an *Ilonggo* himself, Alvarez naturally had a deeper connection with his team. He visited them almost everyday in school or in their dormitories to check up on

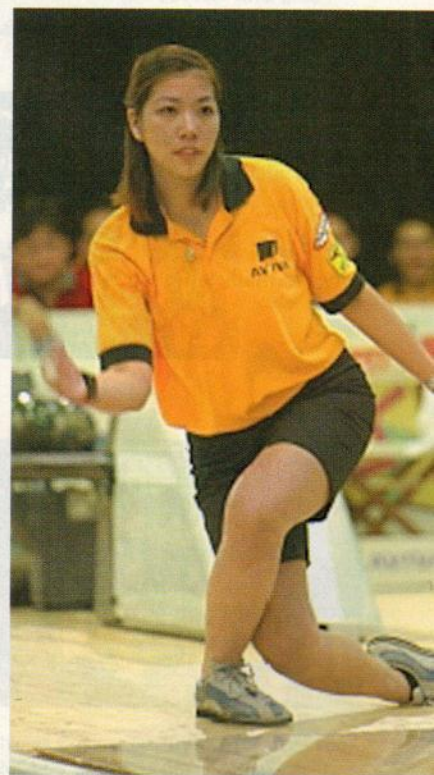


PHOTO IMMEDIATELY BELOW: The DLSU men's tennis team was UAAP champion in 2003-04 and 2005-06.

NEXT: FIDE International Master Oliver Dimaquil, ranked 1043rd in the world and sixth in the Philippines and partly responsible for DLSU's six consecutive UAAP championships from 1999 to 2004.

RIGHT BOTTOM: The DLSU men's basketball team that emerged as champions in 1989-90, 1990-91, 1998-99, 1999-2000, 2000-01, 2001-02, and by Lasallian standards, in 2004-05.

OPPOSITE PAGE, TOP: In 2004, Ralph Waldy Soguillon, with a sprint of 21.43, broke the 20-year Philippine record of 21.44 in the 200-meter dash and won silver medal in the 4x100-meter relay in the 2005 SEA Games. Soguillon holds two UAAP records—21.80 for the 200 and 48.81 for the 400.



their academic standings, since he has a better understanding of the adjustments faced by the players. In a way, having managers who are dedicated to their players provides reinforcement in terms of monitoring the overall well-being of athletes, since coaches and the OSD can only do so much.

Furthermore, the alumni involvement in sports management may have started with the individual teams, but it sure doesn't end there.

Together with various sectors of the academe and the Lasallian community, the DLSAA is a part of the Varsity Sports Council in behalf of the alumni body. And with the council providing an avenue for brainstorming and discussion on how the De La Salle sports program should be implemented, the alumni can get their ideas noticed.

The newly established Sports Marketing Office, a by-product of the discussions within the council, is a specialized branch under the OSD that handles all sports-related solicitations and the policies that go with them. Headed by alumnus Enrique Atayde, the office was established because the OSD didn't have the resources and personnel for that specific of a task, which requires a level of expertise that some alumni possess as products of Lasallian education.

Truly, the Lasallian alumni have been giving back a lot, putting into good use what they have learned during their stay in the Alma Mater.

Timely assistance and recognition

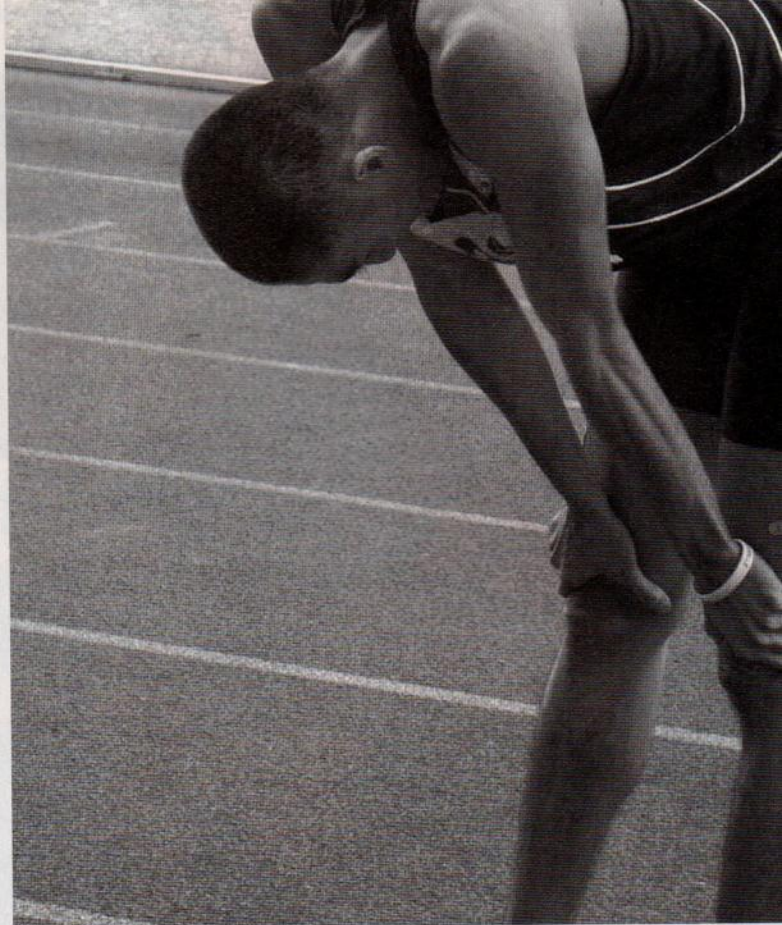
Aside from contributions made by individual alumni, the DLSAA as an organization has been a bastion of the De La Salle sports program.

On a financial standpoint, the Association has been consistently disbursing part of its annual funds to answer the teams' call for assistance over the years. Until now, it is a commitment that is taken very seriously to the point that there is now an annual budget for it, which was half a million pesos last year. Using the allotted funds to take some of the financial load off managers, the Association makes sure that it is there to back up the managers they tap.

Moreover, there are two revolving funds that were set up to guarantee supplemental cash flows for the sports program every year and for many years to come.

In 1993, DLSAA President Eduardo Lucero, Br. Bernard Oca FSC, and Noel Reyes initiated the Achievers Fund in which the





main beneficiaries are competitive sports teams and student organizations. It was operational during the 1990s, but the outflow was suspended at the turn of the millennium since the fund was exhausted for sports. It was only in August 2005 when the DLSU Achievers Foundation was incorporated to manage disbursements from the Achievers Fund. Currently, the fund garners an inflow of around P1.8 million annually from freshmen admissions at an average of 2,800 enrollees per year.

Animo Night 2004, on the other hand, paved way for the birth of the Animo Fund, which earned around P2.5 million on that night alone. Spearheaded by current DLSAA President Juanito Gervasio and Animo Night Chair Carlos Velez, the fund kicked off a campaign of raising P300 million wherein the annual interest will be used for sports development.

Through the combined efforts of the Lasallian community, the University has enjoyed numerous success stories in the field of sports. And the DLSAA has not been shy in recognizing that.

The DLSAA Sports Hall of Fame Award is presented every year during homecoming day to honor Lasallian alumni athletes who did their Alma Mater proud by excelling in their respective sports even after leaving the green and white halls. There is also the DLSAA Sports Achievement Award, which recognizes the athletic achievement or contribution of Lasallian athletes who have not yet exhausted the 20-year prescriptive period (to qualify for the DLSAA Sports Hall of Fame Award). For athletes, these recognitions serve as inspiration to those who have received it and as motivation to those who want it.

Little things matter most

As the cliché goes, the simplest things do have the greatest impact when looking at the future of our sports development program. While each of the aforementioned contributions create huge

strides for the University, the Lasallian values of faith and zeal imparted by the alumni to our athletes are fundamental to what we are trying to achieve.

De La Salle is successful in producing quality student-athletes every year. De La Salle is successful in fusing athletes with different backgrounds into the Lasallian community. De La Salle is a powerhouse in collegiate sports.

Take it from those who have come before us. Those who knew how to sing the Alma Mater Hymn despite the most silent of gymnasiums and the worst of defeats.



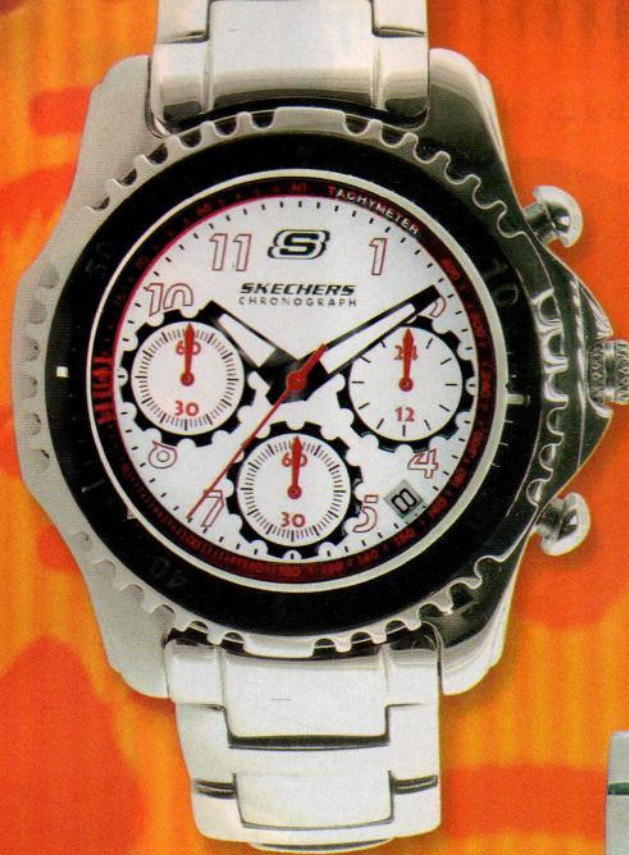
LEFT: Marielle Beninez, 2003 UAAP Female Athlete of the Year and treasurer of the Philippine Olympics Committee Athletes Commission. MIDDLE PHOTO: The female members of the DLSU Pep Squad. RIGHT: The DLSU volleyball team, UAAP three-peat champions (2003-04, 2004-05, and 2005-06) and Shakey's V-league champions (1st season, 2nd conference and 2nd season, 1st and 2nd conferences).



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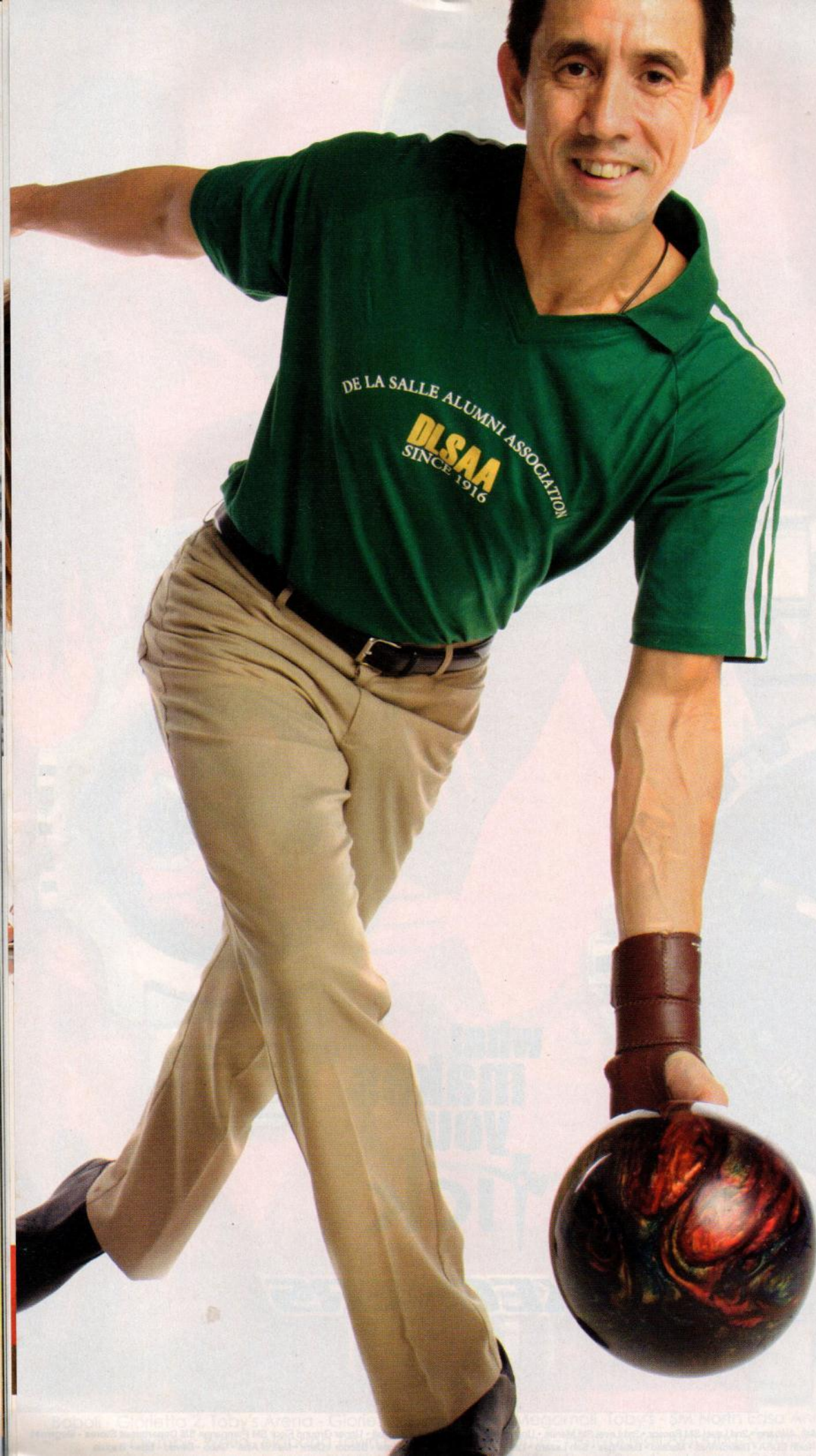
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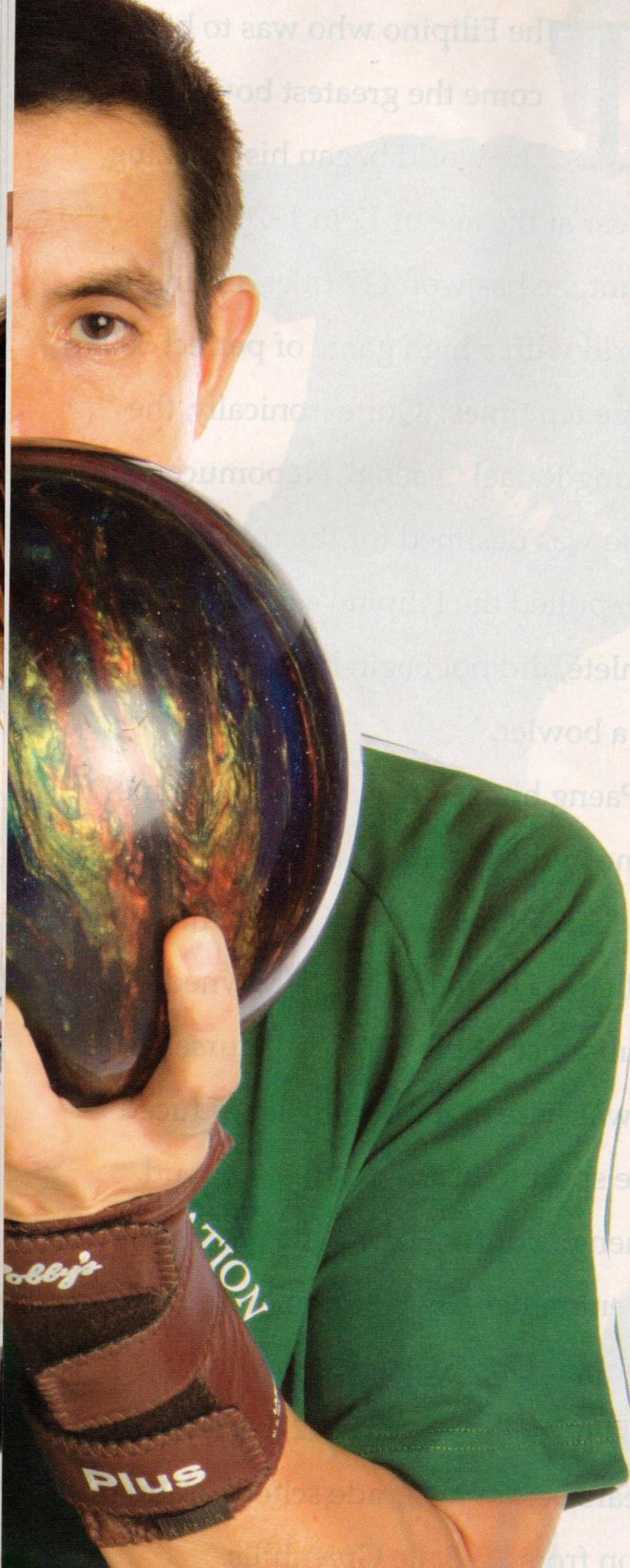
PAENG

Popoy Juico writes on the most bemedaled Filipino athlete and, hey, he's a Lasallian

WRITTEN BY Philip Ella Juico
PHOTOGRAPHED BY Louie Aguinaldo

The Filipino who was to become the greatest bowler in the world began his amazing career at the age of 12 in 1970. At last count, he has won 117 titles around the world with a high game of perfect 300 score ten times. Quite ironically, the young Rafael "Paeng" Nepomuceno, who was destined for the role that has catapulted the Filipino as a world-class athlete, did not begin his sporting life as a bowler.

Paeng himself tells the story. Sometime in the late 1960s at the age of 10, he learned the game of golf in his own village. His father, Angel, owned the clubhouse at the UP Golf Course and it was here that the latter introduced the sport to his sons, Angel, Jr. and Paeng. For two years, the threesome spent father-son bonding on the golf course. Until one fated day in 1969 when Paeng was only 12, barely two years before his grade school graduation from La Salle Greenhills.



The threesome had been playing golf at the Camp John Hay in Baguio City when at the 12th hole, heavy rains fell. Father and sons took shelter at the nearby Mile-Hi Bowling Center where they decided to wait out the rains and also to wait for their mother, Baby Villa-real, to fetch them. The youthful Paeng had never been in a bowling center before that day, so it was with unusual curiosity and enthusiasm that he and his older brother, with some coaching from his father, rolled a few balls just to while the time.

At the time, the center had only eight lanes and pin boys to man the equipment. The game intrigued the young boy and upon reaching home, barraged his father with a lot of questions about bowling and, unhesitatingly, told his father that he was very much interested in knowing more about the game. The older Angel was left without a choice but to satisfy his son's queries by doing some research on bowling.

Angel had learned that there was a junior bowling league at the popular Coronado Lanes in Makati. He enrolled Paeng for the Saturday tournaments while he himself enrolled in the adult league at night. Paeng's first ball was a 12-lb. tenpin marbleized ball borrowed from his mother, Baby.

Winning the nationals

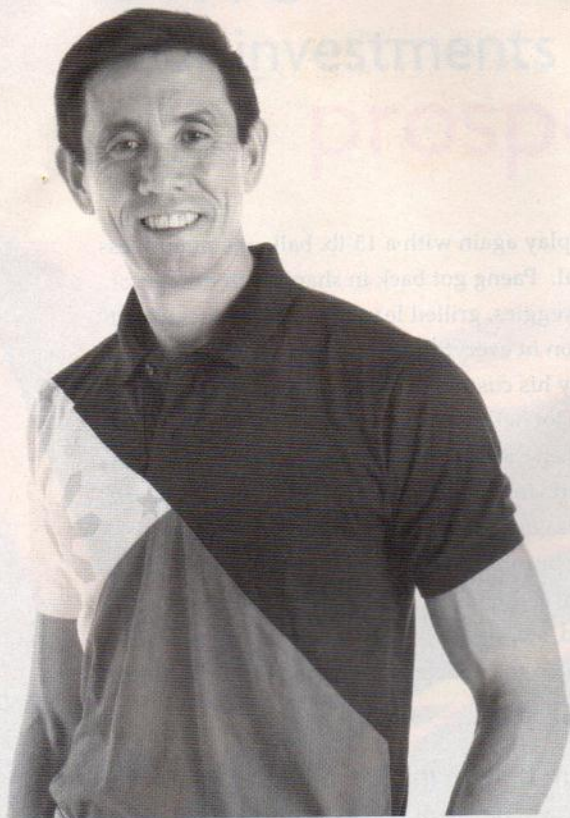
In five years, at the age of 17, Paeng won the National Open championship for age group 18 and below. This was immediately followed by another victory in the Masters championship of the Philippine Bowling Congress (PBC) Open. The following year, 1975, he captured the prestigious Astrobowl Masters championship.

International recognitions begin in the 1970s

As the youngest national champion, he captured his first international title in 1975 at age 18 in Surabaya and subsequently became the youngest Ten Outstanding Young Men awardee in the Philippines. Paeng had just graduated from high school at La Salle Greenhills. After winning the 1976 Philippine Open at 19, Paeng qualified for the FIQ Asian Zone Master championships in Jakarta and went on to win his first World Cup in Tehran on November 19. He still holds the record of being the youngest-ever to win the much-coveted Bowling World Cup at 19 years old. Four years later in November 1980, Paeng went for his second World Cup in Jakarta. All these while finishing a college degree in commerce and management.

Breaking records in the 1980s

In 1984, he won an LA Olympics side event, the World Master Invitational Tournament in Las Vegas, Nevada. In the same year, Paeng was honored with the Presidential



Medal of Merit, the highest award for a Filipino conferred by the President of the Philippines. In 1985, the Philippine Olympic Committee awarded him the Medal of Honor, and in 1989, the Athlete of the Decade award. In the same year, La Salle Greenhills elevated him to its Sports Hall of Fame as its first inductee.

More monumental awards in the 1990s

In November 1992, Paeng pocketed his third Bowling World Cup in Le Mans, France; and four years later, in November 1996, his fourth World Cup in Belfast, Northern Ireland. In 1993, Paeng became the first male bowler to be inducted to the World Bowling Hall of Fame. A seven-foot likeness has since been displayed at the entrance of the International Bowling Hall of Fame & Museum in St. Louis, Missouri, USA. After three years, he won his sixth world title in the World Ten Pin Masters Championship in London, England. To date, he is the only person to win the Bowling World Cup four times in three different decades (1970s, 1980s, and 1990s).

With six world titles to his credit, four of which were World Cups, Paeng has broken all world bowling records imaginable, including his own! Paeng's monumental feat was capped in 1999 when he was awarded the prestigious International Olympic Committee (IOC) President's Trophy by Juan Antonio Samaranch, the highest sports award that can be given to an athlete.



In the same year, the Federation Internationale des Quilleurs (FIQ), the world governing body of ten pin bowling, named Paeng the International Bowling Athlete of the Millennium. The Philippine Sportswriters Association (PSA) named him Athlete of the Century, and the first athlete to be inducted into the PSA Hall of Fame. In addition, then-President Joseph Estrada honored him with the Philippine Legion of Honor. With an unprecedented five PSA's Athlete of the Year distinctions, both houses of Philippine Congress and Senate echoed this award, naming him "Greatest Athlete of the Century".

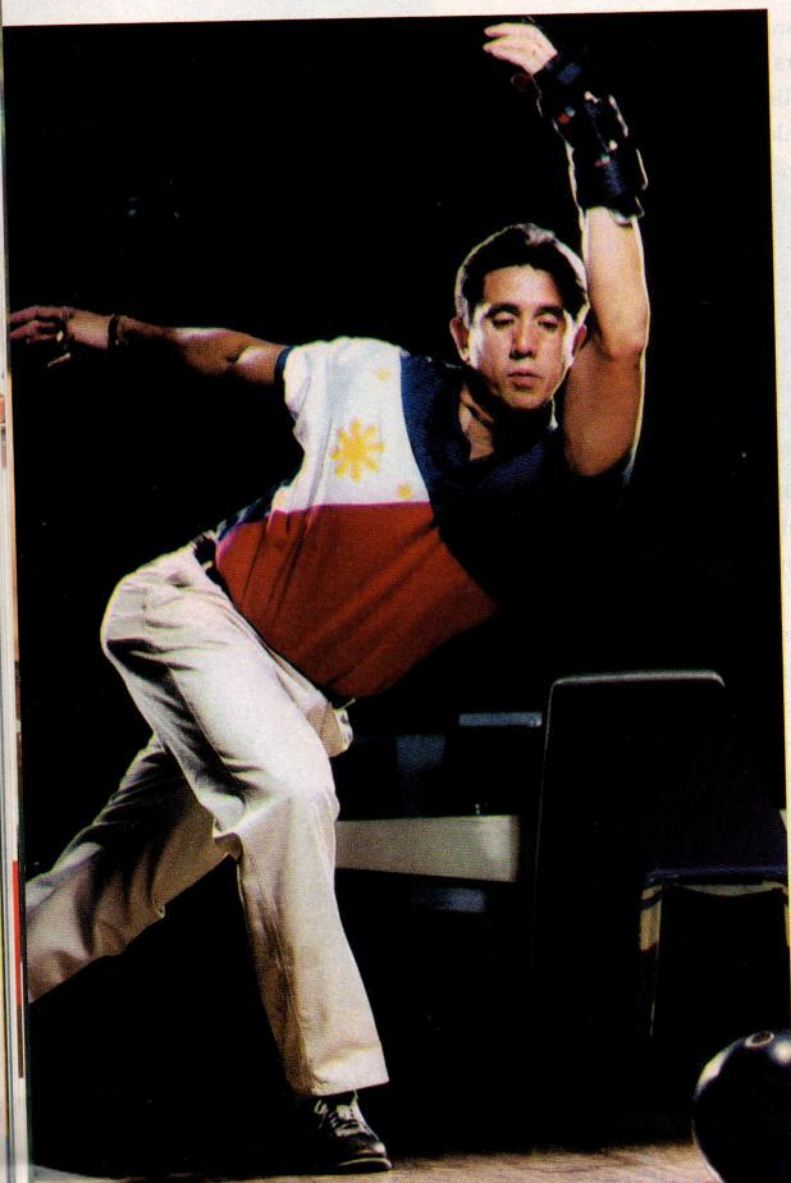
Rebounding from injury

For 20 years, southpaw Paeng had bowled without any wrist support. By the mid-1990s, pains from bone-to-bone friction started creeping into his left hand and wrist. He sought medical attention and, eventually, surgery at the Hands Center in Orange County, California. For six months, his left arm was in a cast—gradually from shoulder, then from elbow, and finally from forearm until, in the last three months, in a splint.

Paeng endured the loss of his grip and the mental anguish of knowing that pins were keeping his bones intact. More painfully, he stopped to play the game he so dearly loved for two years until 2001. Like a rookie, he began to bowl again with a light eight-lb. tenpin ball, then a 10-lb. and 12-lb., until

"No international bowling athlete is more deserving of recognition than Paeng. In addition to his long list of well-known achievements as a world champion in three decades, Paeng truly has been and continues to be an extraordinary ambassador for Filipino sport."

an FIQ official in Dubai



he could play again with a 15-lb. ball, one pound less than usual. Paeng got back in shape with his diet of steamed veggies, grilled lean meat, and a lifestyle of moderation in everything, a relaxed mindset augmented by his custom of reading spiritual books and praying a lot before a tournament.

Just when the rest of the world had accepted Paeng's "retirement" for two years, Paeng showed up in Busan, South Korea in 2002, armed with the well-known Lasallian's burning fighting spirit, took one look at those oiled lanes, and with his "hook" throw, skidded his ball till it rolled, stopped at the end, glided left to right, and struck gold in the double event for men with RJ Bautista in the Asian Games.

Highest honors in the 21st century

In 2003, with 12 South East Asian Games gold medals to his name and three World Bowling Writers World Bowler of the Year awards, Paeng appeared in the cover story of the prestigious *Bowlers Journal* as "The Greatest International Bowler of All Time". In the same year, the De La Salle Alumni Association inducted him to its Sports Hall of Fame.

To date, Paeng leads the national team, as he has done so for 30 years (from 1974 to 2002 and 2004 to present). With his team of six male and six female bowlers and a rigid regimen of regular practices at the Philippine Sports Commission and Rockwell bowling centers, he hopes to successfully defend his Asian Games title in Doha, Qatar in December.

It seems unlikely that any human being in this lifetime can top, much less duplicate, the astounding achievements that Rafael "Paeng" Villa-real Nepomuceno has earned in 36 years of mastering the game. Many of these feats were 'firsts' in the history of the sport and a good number of these were repeated that only highlights Paeng's incredible work ethic and mental toughness. Paeng's unwavering dedication to the sport, his unnerving courage against all odds, and above all, his unequivocal faith in God and his father-coach have contributed greatly to his much-deserved enshrinement to the Hall of Fame, making all Lasallians and Filipinos proud of him.

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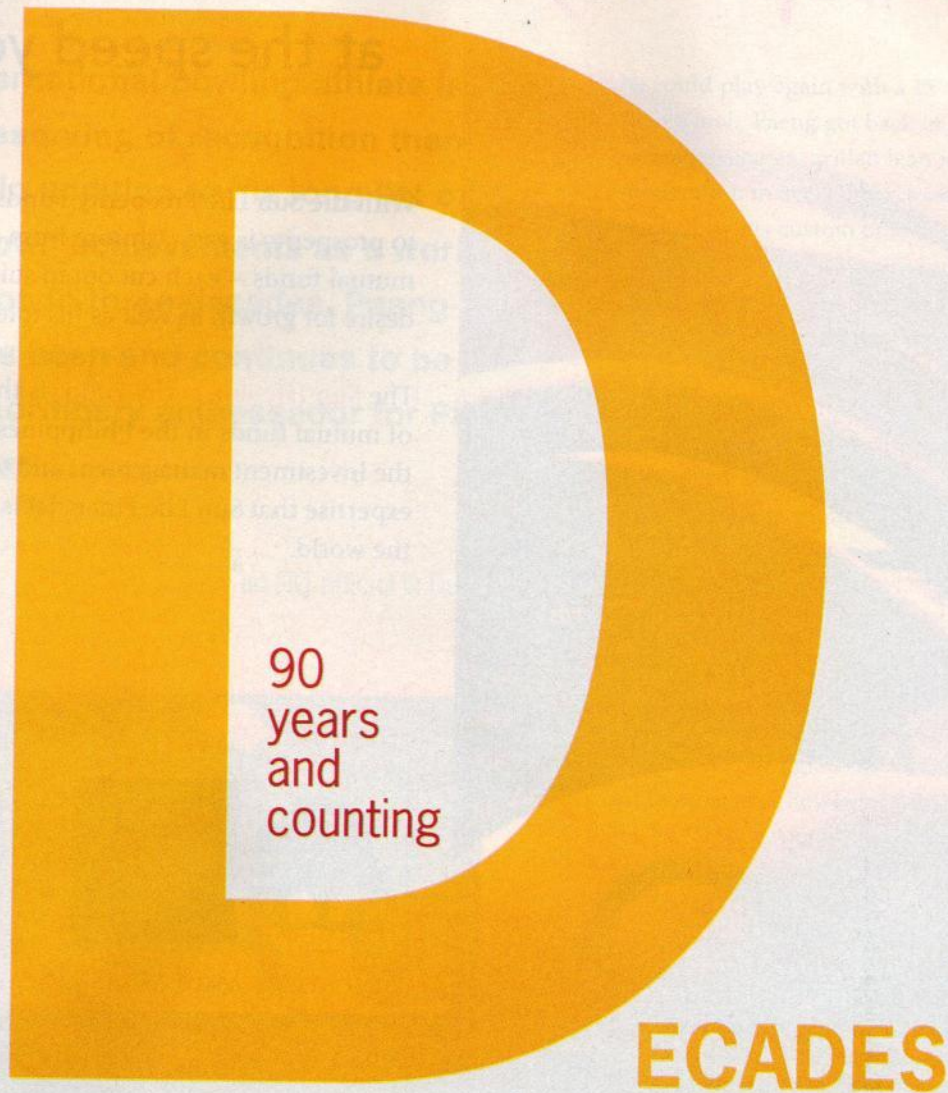
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ECADES

WRITTEN BY **Eunice Lucero**
PHOTOGRAPHS COURTESY OF **DLSAA archives**

The year was 1911 when nine Brothers of the Christian schools arrived in Manila and established the first De La Salle school in the Philippines. Br. Blimond Pierre FSC, Br. Camillus Goslin FSC, Br. Lucide Martin FSC, Br. Livran Auguste FSC, Br. Ptolemee Louis FSC, Br. Lewis (Aloysius) Gonzaga FSC, Br. Blanc Joseph FSC, Br. Imar William Reale FSC, and Br. Celba Ultan John FSC were all at the helm of the opening of De La Salle College on June 16, 1911—Foundation Day—at 652 Nozaleda Street in Paco, Manila. They had a total of 100 male students. A year later, the school's incorporation papers were approved by the then-Department of Public Instruction (Education), and by 1915, saw its first high school graduates.

On August 27, 1916, five years after its foundation, Brother Director Acisclus Michael FSC sent a circular to many former students of the Christian Brothers' schools in Hong Kong, Singapore, Kuala Lumpur, and Seremban who resided in Manila. A subtle call to arms was sent, hoping to stir up interest and financial support for the new college through the establishment

The DLSAACard through the years.

Right, top, the 1961 golden jubilee card. The February 1961 *De La Salle Alumni Newsbriefs* printed—"This beautiful new plastic Membership Card in green and gold will be mailed to you as soon as your jubilee year membership fee arrives. Send for yours today!"

No design change was made until the mid-1980s when the DLSAACard also served as a discount card, allowing holders price concessions from participating establishments.

In the early 1990s, the enrollment, monitoring, and administration of discount establishments proved too cumbersome, so the DLSAA affiliated with MBf, a discount company.

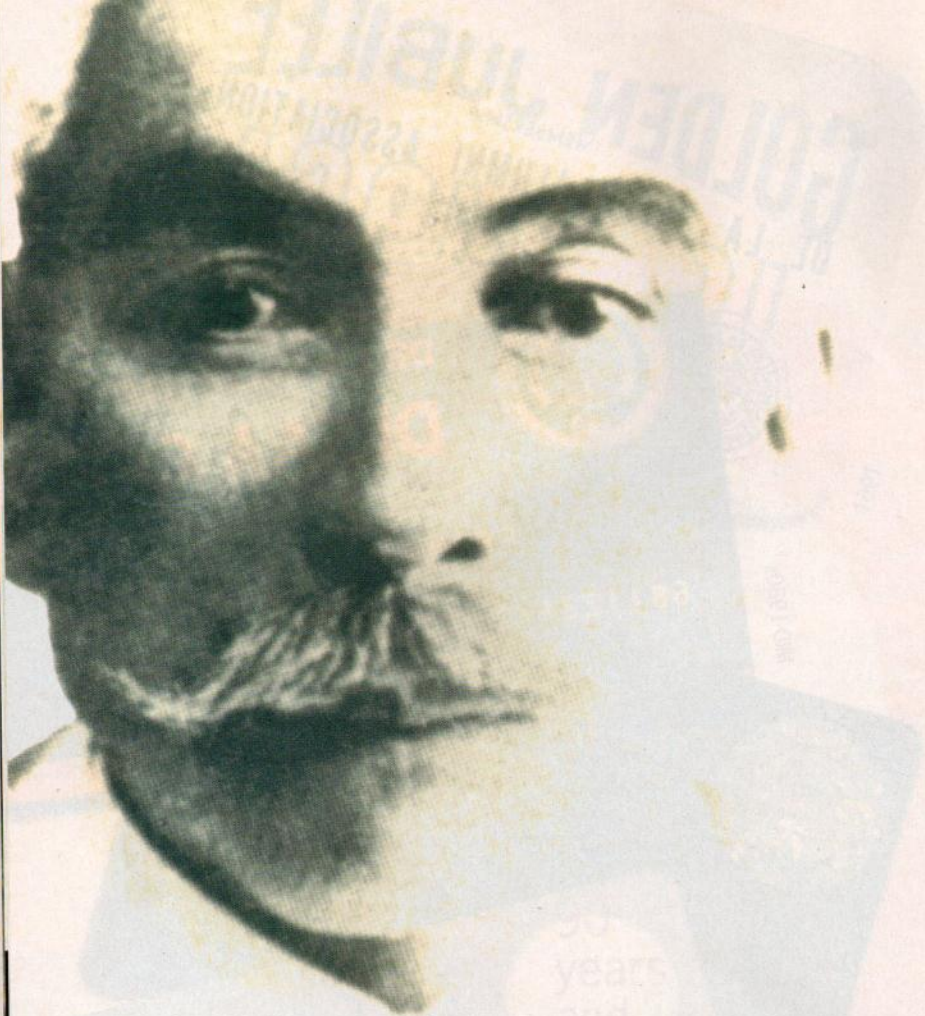
This arrangement with MBf terminated in 2000 and up to 2003, the silver card with the hologram was used.

All card blanks and embossing were outsourced up to 2003. Alumni, however, complained about the long wait—60 days—from application to card receipt. In addition, embossing did not allow pictures, signatures, and other information. To remedy these, the DLSAA purchased its own printer and produced its DLSAA-Card in-house without graphics, using only its official color, © Pantone 349. This reduced the waiting time to a mere five minutes from application.

In October 2006, the DLSAA started issuing the card with the St. John Baptist de la Salle watermark, using its official color with a metallic feature.

In June 2006, the DLSAA co-branded with UnionBank to issue the latter's VISA credit card. The card is issued to mint graduates without prior credit approval and with an initial modest limit.





First DLSAA president (1916-17) Arnaldo da Silva, Sr.

Br. Denis Ruhland FSC and Br. Celba Ultan John FSC in one of the latter's visits to Manila during the golden jubilee in 1961. Br. John was a pioneer brother in 1911 and was co-founder of the NCAA, athletic moderator, and president of De La Salle College. He served two tour of duties in Manila from 1911-25 and 1927-30. During his October 21, 1949 visit, he was treated to a round of parties and was presented with a pocket watch as a farewell gift by DLSAA President Ramon del Rosario. Sr.



of an alumni association. Thirty-five men attended the meeting in Paco and immediately elected Arnaldo da Silva, Sr., an alumnus of Hong Kong's St. Joseph's College, as president. J. Preysler and D. da Roza were the first vice-presidents, secretary was C. Franco, treasurer was Francisco da Silva, and Juan Atayde, Jose Brimo, Manuel Javier, Manuel Santibañez, Manuel Vallejo, and R.M. Siddons completed the first 11 directors of the Association. The first known articles of incorporation of the De La Salle Alumni Association (DLSAA) were signed on October 31, 1916. Unfortunately, the members' different backgrounds and past school alliances doubtlessly left them with little connection to the Manila college. This led to the organization's cessation shortly after.

A second attempt made in December 1920 saw Br. Basilian (Basillien) Coin FSC as moderator. More like a sodality than an association, the hope that the organization would prosper and effectively bring together the faculty, student body, and graduates of the college was still left unfulfilled. Again, the group's divergent nature was cited for its failure.

Despite the subsequent frustrations at a cohesive alumni association, the college, on the other hand, saw its fair share of yearly progress—on October 3, 1921, classes were held for the first time at the college's new location in Taft Avenue with enrollment increasing 325 percent to 425 boys. Expansions came the following years and numerous accolades followed, including the acknowledgment of De La Salle College (DLSC) as the best private school in the Philippines.

The year 1924 proved to be a banner year for the pre-war college. It saw the organization of the first Lasallian choir, boy scout unit, and cheering squad, which garnered international acclaim in later years. The *Green & White* became the school's official monthly publication also in 1924. More notably, however, was Sports Moderator Br. John's organization of the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) and the Philippine Amateur Athletic Association (PAAF), consequently popularizing sports among the students. The NCAA constituted of four member

schools—De La Salle College, Ateneo de Manila, University of Sto. Tomas, and University of the Philippines. Only one sport—basketball—was played that year, of which the senior championship went to UP and the junior championship went to De La Salle. Sebastian Ugarte, Benito Prieto, and Carlos O' Classen played during these years and were among the first in a long line of future green archer legends.

In 1929, the beloved Br. John was fondly welcomed back together with Br. Marcian James Cullen FSC, now the new Brother Director of the alumni association. The college held their regular annual alumni day in December, where His Excellency Governor Frank Murphy was guest of honor.

The third and most successful attempt at an alumni association was made in December 1930 by President Br. Dorotheus Joseph FSC. Holy Mass, communion, and a breakfast meeting attended by over 100 alumni took place, after which an election of officers proceeded. Some 125 alumni gathered for lunch where the results were announced—Virgilio Lobregat, Sr., alumni star athlete, was elected president; Eduardo Viaplana, vice-president; Alfonso de Lange, secretary; and Guillermo Jose, Sr., treasurer. The participation of the alumni in the activities of that afternoon's field day made for an outstanding event.

By this time, the DLSAA had continued its tradition of annual homecomings. In 1932, Francisco Ortigas, Jr. was elected president and held his post for seven years (only because, he candidly claims, no one chose to elect anybody else). By 1936, DLSC celebrated its silver jubilee year and

published a comprehensive yearbook for the event. June 28 of the same year marked the alumni's jovial and highly anticipated silver jubilee celebration.

The year 1939 was a red-letter year in Lasallian history—for the first time since the inception of the NCAA, DLSC won both the junior and senior division championships in basketball and football, much to Coach Dionisio Calvo's joy. The first-ever La Salle-Ateneo dual meet, a.k.a. the future mother of all rivalries, was also held as a pet project of De La Salle's Carlos Ledesma and Ateneo's Ben Arcenas. Commonwealth President Manuel Quezon was a guest at the games which were organized by DLSAA President Francisco Ortigas and Ateneo alumni President Manuel Lim. Also that same year, the college's south wing was completed and the chapel was inaugurated and dedicated to St. Joseph.

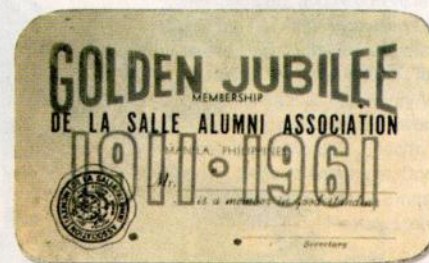
Francisco Ortigas marked 1939 as his last year as DLSAA president and was succeeded by Manuel Barredo. Since then, presidents had tenure for two years at most. Barredo was likewise responsible for the DLSAA's automatic inclusion of any past president as a member of the succeeding board in order to establish practical continuity.

During the dark, muddled times of the 1942 Japanese occupation, high school classes for De La Salle students were temporarily held at the neighboring St. Scholastica's College. The only yearbook produced during the period 1942-1944 consisted of merely eight pages; curiously enough, the DLSAA's first concrete move towards the establishment of a clubhouse occurred during these chaotic war years.

DLSAA President Barredo (1939-1940) wrote "REPORT OF THE OUTGOING ALUMNI PRESIDENT" in the Alumni section of the *The Lasallite*:

"Last year, in our annual meeting, you indicated that you wanted to have a clubhouse. We tried to secure not a clubhouse, but only a clubroom and we failed. You know the reasons—rents were and still are very high and our funds very low. [Br. Lucian Athanasius FSC], a few months ago, offered us a room in the college building itself—the room next to the former gym on the first floor—but only till June 1947 when De La Salle would open fully. After due consideration, the Board of Directors of the Association decided that it would be better to wait until we could secure something more permanent, and we advised Brother Athanasius, at the same time thanking him for his kind offer.

"For, after all, a room alone is not sufficient. There must be furniture in it for the members to browse in, to close business deals on, to play bridge at. And there must be equipment too. All this (sic) calls for money."



The *Lasallite* bannered its July 15, 1941 Alumni section with "ALUMNI PRESIDENT PROMISES ACTION". The article continued, "The Alumni Board of Directors, through its president, Adolfo Roensch, promised to place a clubhouse at the disposal of the members of the Association early next year—maybe sooner—depending on how promptly dues are paid and pledges redeemed...Mr. Roensch said that only P500.00 in dues had come in during the month of June and that the Board is taking steps to increase this amount in July...Mr. Roensch revealed that the report of the membership committee showed that only 16% of the registered alumni have responded to the first call for dues."

The clubhouse dream saw its first glimpse of reality when DLSAA President Ramon del Rosario, Sr. (1942-43; 1949-50), together with Rafael Ygoa and Carlos Ledesma, rented a house in Malate with a small swimming pool and handball court. To their chagrin, the military took over the clubhouse for its headquarters in 1942 and forced them to move to another site—the Catholic Center in Taft, now the Sta. Isabel College. Serendipitously, their new clubhouse was more accessible and spacious than the first and even had an indoor basketball court—a much-welcome city respite for alumni members in the midst of war-torn Manila.

The Japanese occupied DLSC's Taft campus until 1945. After the February 1945 tragedy where 16 of 18 Christian Brothers and 25 of 50 civilians residing in De La Salle College were mercilessly killed by retreating Japanese marines inside the DLSC chapel, the college reopened on July 9 of that year and business resumed as usual. The Green Archers' winning of its first post-war basketball championship gave comfort and hope to students, faculty, and alumni traumatized by the grisly events of the past few years. In 1949, another morale-boosting effort came when Br. Romanus Lewis FSC spearheaded a project, a "Return to Roost" campaign that involved setting up an alumni picture gallery along the walls of the main floor of DLSC. Photographs from the first high school class of 1916 to those of the present were included, as well as all graduates. Assisting Br. Lewis were Ricardo Gallaga, chairman of the DLSAA fellowship committee; and Conrado Sanchez, Jr., chairman of the DLSAA membership committee. The picture gallery project, intended as a source of information, pride, and historical nostalgia, had already existed in other Christian Brothers' schools at that time.

Handball games, movie premieres at Marcos Roces' Ideal theatre, black-tie benefits, amending of by-



The DLSAA clubhouse redux. On October 26, 1949, the DLSAA Board approved the ground floor lease of the Africa residence at the corner of Taft Avenue and Dagonoy street for its third clubhouse. It formally opened on December 11 of that year with alumnus Antonio Beltran, Sr. as elected manager. The establishment of a clubhouse was specific as one of the DLSAA's purposes in its original articles—"...to establish, maintain, and conduct a club or clubhouse for the accommodation of its members, for their amusement, social intercourse, and for instructive lectures, and otherwise for the general promotion of the spiritual, intellectual, social, and physical conditions of its members." Ramon del Rosario, Sr., DLSAA president in 1949, made the temporary Dagonoy clubhouse happen pending the completion of negotiations for a permanent site.



laws, and exciting NCAA games peppered the life of the post-war Lasallian alumni. In 1949, NCAA tickets in particular, became harder to acquire. Interestingly and not too unlike present times, to cope with increasing demand, some "deserving alumni" were given tickets based on their compliance with certain guidelines, such as attendance to monthly meetings, donations to the sports promotion fund, and payment of registration fees. The DLSAA sports promotion committee also organized an alumni bowling tournament on October 14, 1949, which was quickly followed by a warmly welcomed visit of Br. John.

On December 11, 1949, the newly-leased, temporary De La Salle alumni clubhouse at the corner of Taft Avenue and Dagonoy Street was formally inaugurated and blessed. The simple ceremony was presided over by Rev. Bather de Swaaf, chaplain of the Christian Brothers and assisting him were Br. Athanasius and various members of the DLSAA Board of Directors. Four pesos assured the use of the clubhouse for proprietary sustaining members, as opposed to six pesos a month for Association members. President Antonio Ortigas

(1987-1989), however, hardly recalls the pomp and pageantry that went with its inauguration. He simply remembers the Dagonoy clubhouse as giving him his first milkshake.

A few years later in 1952, the construction of a permanent DLSAA clubhouse was completed and blessed by Fr. Pascual Adorable SJ, an alumnus of HS '34. The proverbial cornerstone was laid by President Miguel Ortigas, who also unveiled the plaque. Included in the De La Salle Alumni Club were a bowling alley, recreation hall, tennis and handball courts, a kitchen, and lockers; the clubhouse was to become a canteen upon DLSC's purchase of the house during the construction of St. Joseph's Hall in 1955.

The Christian Brothers' continuing plans of progress and expansion took form in a new novitiate in Baguio on May 22, 1952. A few months later on July 7, 1952, La Salle-Bacolod opened its doors as the second De La Salle school in the country. Then-Bacolod City Mayor Alberto Montelibano donated 10 hectares, on which La Salle-Bacolod currently stands.

The new college building, dedicated to St. Joseph, opened on June 17, 1956, offering more

TOPMOST PHOTO: The 1957 NCAA basketball champion team. Kneeling, from left: Jose Laganson, Hector Gamboa, Licerio Alicante, Jr., Honorato Cruz, Carlo Gamban, and Niki Periplechikoff. Standing, from left: Marcelino Dizon (manager), Ramon Grey, Quirino Gamboa, Rafael Corrales, Antonio Iboleon, Kurt Bachmann, Jr., Br. Henry Virgil FSC (athletic moderator), Hever Bascon (captain), Rogelio LaO (coach), Vicente Araneta, Jesus Santamaria, Dominador Sevillano, Henry Feraren, Ernesto Hernandez, Jr., and Noel Reyes (scorer).

TOP LEFT PHOTO: The 1961-62 DLSAA Board. Seated, from left are: Angel Avellana, Br. Crescentius Richard FSC, Ramon Campos, Jr. (president), Br. Hugh Damian FSC, and Antonio de las Alas, Jr. Standing, from left are: Matias Garcia (executive secretary), Paul Heredia, John Brimo, Horacio Cebrero, Jr., Jose Lim III, Antonio Beltran, Sr. Ernesto Lagdameo, Jr., and Dionisio Calvo.

MIDDLE PHOTO: The 1983-84 Board at the Trophy Room of the Manila Polo Club.

RIGHT PHOTO: The three past presidents on September 28, 1993 at a DLSAA office blessing: Francisco Sanz (leftmost), Eduardo Lucero (third from left), and Lamberto de Ocampo (standing). Also in the picture are DLSAA directors Jose Kalaw (second from left) and Francisco Pacla (rightmost).



TOP: La Salle Greenhills opened in 1959 and completely phased out high school and grade school in Taft in 1968 and 1984, respectively. Its first high school graduates, collectively known as "Primus", include past president Jose Tanjuatco and current president Juanito Gervasio.

BOTTOM: DLSAA President Ramon Marcos with alumnus Jose Concepcion, Jr. at communion during a Mass for deceased alumni circa 1976-77.

space for the growing number of college courses. It was also a golden year for Lasallian sports—the seniors basketball team regained the NCAA championship that eluded them for 9 years, while the seniors and juniors tennis teams dominated the NCAA wars. That winning trend extended over to track & field, swimming, and volleyball during various competitions in 1958.

The start of the Lasallian expansion also took place that year—La Salle Academy opened in Iligan, Lanao del Norte with a student population of 300; in 1960, DLSC opened its Graduate Business School (GBS) for Masters in Business Administration. The former Barrio Masambong in Mandaluyong could also now credit its new, more chicly peninsular-sounding name, Green Hills—a place that would eventually be known as Mecca for discount-hunters the world over—to the albeit equally discriminating Christian Brothers when La Salle Greenhills opened to 176 preschool and grade school students in 1959.

Several standout alumni affairs took place in 1960, including Br. Anthony Ferdinand FSC's golden jubilee, the first annual alumni mass for deceased members, and more notably, the Lasallian Alumni World Congress in Rome that September. Three new alumni organizations were also inaugurated—the now University of St. La Salle Alumni Association in Bacolod with 132 members and the Cebu and Iloilo "chapters" with 48 and 36 members, respectively.

On October 30, 1960, almost 400 alumni from 1940 to 1960 visited the college campus, for fellowship games that included basketball, softball, volleyball, and handball matches. A committee was also formed for the upcoming golden jubilee the following year, with President Antonio Beltran, Sr. as chairman.

Three successful and momentous reunions were held during the 1961 golden jubilee year—the first for its post-war alumni, the second at the new Green Hills novitiate for pre-war alumni, and the third, a huge, three-day slew of festivities from June 16, the anniversary date of the founding of the college. Brothers, students, faculty, and alumni attended Holy Mass in the chapel with Monsignor Justino Ortiz, representing His Excellency Rufino J. Cardinal Santos. Br. Dorotheus Joseph FSC, former director of the college, was honored by the golden jubilee club members. A golf tournament of around 200 alumni, students, and faculty was held at the Manila Golf Club. The tournament was won, among others, by high school principal, golf enthusiast, and future DLSAA Vice-President Emeritus for System Development and Alumni Affairs Br. Josiah Benedict FSC. A presentation of commemorative De La Salle postage stamps by Postmaster General Enrico Palomar to Br. Crescentius Richard FSC followed a cocktail hour in the college library as well.

The next day, June 17, marked the official alumni homecoming. Br. Hyacinth Gabriel Connon FSC, Auxiliary Visitor, presented a testimonial of appreciation to the DLSAA from the Brothers of the Philippines. A non-ceremonial, purely convivial night of dancing and merrymaking called the Green and White Dinner was held that evening at the

Manila Hotel. In attendance were around 1,700 alumni and their wives, students and their dates, and faculty. A tribute was paid to former director and teacher Br. John's dedicated years of service. A pontifical high Mass was celebrated the next day by alumnus Bishop Hernando Antiporda at the newly-renovated Manila Cathedral assisted by Fr. Francis Bowler SJ, Fr. Felix Perez, and future DLSAA Distinguished Lasallian awardee Fr. Patricio Lim.

The last event in the series of jubilee year celebrations was the college convocation on awards which was held at the DLSC gymnasium. For the first time, 18 carefully chosen pre-war alumni were given plaques for outstanding achievements in their chosen fields. Ariston Estrada, Sr., Leonardo Osorio, Virgilio Lobregat, Francisco Ortigas, Jose Feria, Sr., Carlos Valdes, Sixto Orosa, Jr., Jose Obles, Sr., Anthony MacLeod, Sebastian Ugarte, Antonio Garcia, Rafael Ygoa, Ramon del Rosario, Rene Kahn, Carlos Ledesma, Ernesto Rufino, Sr., Jesus Yujuico, and Heriberto Aguinaldo made up the maiden roster of DLSAA awardees.

In addition, 12 distinguished persons were awarded Letters of Appreciation for their assistance to the educational work of the Christian Brothers. J. Antonio Araneta, Jose "Ka Pepe" Diokno, Miguel Ortigas, Joaquin Ramirez, Jr., Rafael Rufino, Sr., Vicente Rufino, and Doña Julia vda. de Ortigas joined double-awardees Carlos Ledesma, Francisco Ortigas, Ramon del Rosario, and Ernesto Rufino in this honoring.

Simultaneously in 1961, the DLSAA rechristened its official publication, *De La Salle Alumni Newsbriefs* to *De La Salle Alumnews*,



DLSAA mastheads. From the start, the official De La Salle College publication, the *La Sallite* carried a column "Alumni" for members of the Association. Thereafter, the DLSAA independently published its own newsletter, the *De La Salle Alumni Bulletin* (topmost). The successor was the *de la salle Alumni newsbriefs* (second). In February 1961, the *newsbriefs* launched a renaming contest and Juanito Eusebio of HS '49 won with his *De La Salle Alumnews* entry with the Archibald cartoon on the masthead (third). Finally, when the DLSAA made its *Manual of Style* that modified its logo and adopted an official typeface (Galliard BT), Archibald was dropped and the DLSAA logo substituted.

following a renaming contest launched in December 1960 won by Juanito Eusebio of HS '49. The submission by Eusebio likewise included Archibald—the rotund, lovably bald, and green archer mascot created by Ramon Echevarria, Sr. seen today—in the masthead.

The new by-laws for the DLSAA took effect on July 1, 1961 and included the elimination of all stockholders or "propriety members".

The *De La Salle Alumnews* of February, 1961 reported, "...the De La Salle Alumni Association will ultimately become a non-stock, non-profit corporation. In view of this, the present stock investments of the Association will be placed in a trust fund to be administered by a board of trustees which will be composed of some of the present principal stockholders.

"All present stockholders who own one or more shares shall be granted a life membership certificate in the Association..."

Certificates of life membership to alumni who joined the priesthood or brotherhood were also granted and, finally, all other further plans for the idealistic Dagonoy clubhouse were dropped.

A flurry of activity colored the early 1960s, starting with the honoring of Superior General Br. Nicet Joseph FSC with a reception banquet by the DLSAA. A month later in July, the Association gave another dinner in honor of former Secretary of Justice Jose Diokno at the Philippine Columbian Association. That same month, the Maryknoll sisters turned over their school in Lipa to the growing De La Salle family, which the Christian Brothers aptly named La Salle High School, Lipa City. Talks about a proposed merger between the DLSAA and the newly organized Green and White Association, Inc. also took place.

In 1964, Br. Ulbertran Bertin FSC addressed DLSC's sixth graders who were graduated and sent as freshmen to the new high school in La Salle Greenhills. Simultaneously, 160 DLSC seventh graders were likewise graduated and addressed by Br. Stephen Malachy FSC to become the last high school freshmen of the DLSC campus who graduated in 1968. The De La Salle College Alma Mater Hymn, reportedly brought by Br. Malachy from Fresno, California's San Joaquin Memorial High



In the February 1961 issue of the *De La Salle Alumnews*, the character Archibald, a brainchild of Ramon Echevarria, Sr., HS '50, was introduced. Archibald was renamed Gordo by Br. Josiah Benedict FSC who added Flaco and Sally to the DLSAA cartoon family.



NCAA, adieu. In 1980, De La Salle University withdrew from the institution it co-founded, the NCAA. Students then composed a letter, reproduced in part below, which was later approved by the

Administration:

"We ask that the NCAA management committee and the NCAA policy board reconsider their actions in suspending the NCAA league this season. In the event that the majority of member schools, however, will not be willing to reconsider their decisions, we shall take the firm position of discontinuing our participation in the NCAA league because we believe that Basketball Association of the Philippines (BAP) decision takes precedence over the NCAA Board's resolution."

School, was formally sung for the first time during the graduation rites of HS '64.

Br. Benedict attended a *despedida* in his honor before his departure for the World Congress of Alumni; sadly, shortly before, Br. John, the last surviving member of the first Brothers community that came to Manila in 1911 and the beloved purveyor of student sports and athletic camaraderie in DLSC, died on April 17, 1964.

The last high school class, the "Last of the Mighty", graduated from the DLSC Taft campus in 1968, and two years later, came the inauguration of the De La Salle Brothers independent district of the Philippines with Br. Justin Lucian FSC as its interim Brother Visitor.

Until the mid-1960s, the Brothers in the Philippines constituted a sub-district of the San Francisco district and, thereafter, up to 1970, the Baltimore district. On February 2, 1970, the Philippine province became independent to be officially known as the De La Salle Brothers - Philippine District. Myanmar was its only sub-district.

By 1974, one year after admitting its first 38 female students, the Christian Brothers converted the DLSAA to a non-stock, non-profit corporation. The granting of university status to DLSC the following year also helped pave the way for further progress of the Lasallian family—De La Salle South, Inc. (Santiago Zobel School) opened in 1978 with a co-educational population of 1,067 students. In 1980 came the start of the College of St. Benilde and the University's withdrawal from the NCAA.

Four years of basketball limbo followed until DLSU won the National Open in April 1983 and two months later, coached by Ron Jacobs, the Philippine Amateur Basketball League in June. On June 24, 1986, the UAAP Board, in a marathon meeting at the Philippine Columbian Association, voted to accept DLSU as its eighth member.

The year DLSU shifted to the trimestral system, 1981, also marked the University's seventieth year and the DLSAA's sixty-fifth. This coincided with the Association's decision to revert back to an ordinary tax-paying foundation. The awards committee also settled on the name "Distinguished Lasallian Award", the highest and most prestigious non-sports award given by the DLSAA to its exemplary alumni.

The last grade school students of the Taft campus graduated in 1984; two years later,

DLSU officially joined the Universities Athletic Association of the Philippines (UAAP). Perhaps a bigger milestone came the following year, with the inception of the DLSU System composed of DLSU-College of St. Benilde, DLSU-Dasmariñas, DLSU-Health Sciences Campus, DLSU-Manila, and DLS-Santiago Zobel. The Emilio Aguinaldo College was also acquired by DLSU that year and officially became the University's College of Medicine.

In 1989, after successful runs in the UAAP, HS '64 launched the De La Salle Alumni Sports Foundation. The three years from 1990 to 1993 proved to be remarkable sports seasons—the Green Archers won back-to-back championships and the first Sports Hall of Fame induction was held honoring 11 outstanding Lasallian alumni athletes. Francisco Aguinaldo, Dionisio Calvo, Horacio Cebrero, Jr., Virgilio Lobregat, Ernest Kahn, Pedro Morro, Francisco Ortigas, Emilio Ugarte, Sr., Sebastian Ugarte, Fermin Uy, and Rafael Ygoa made up the first batch of Sports Hall of Famers. The "Beat Brother Ben" golf tournament, fronted by Classes '72 and '73, also began its run in 1997 as a tongue-in-cheek tribute to Br. Benedict, who in 1960 began his Taft career and in 1978, assumed his post as the vice-president for Development and Alumni Affairs, while in between, lording his impressive golf game over everyone like a banner, in his signature colorful language.

In 2002, De La Salle-Araneta University became the newest addition to the rapidly expanding DLSU System and was followed by DLSU-Canlubang a year later. January 2004 started on a sad note for the entire DLSAA. Br. Benedict, now appointed Vice-President Emeritus for Development and Alumni Affairs, passed away January 3 while on vacation in Baguio. A scholarship was established by HS '62 in his name—the Br. Benedict Scholarship Endowment Fund—and an annual golf cup, the DLSAA Br. Benedict Cup, began its maiden run in his behalf.

Due to an exceptionally groundbreaking year in sports in 2004, the Animo Fund was launched to help and develop Lasallian athletes. Br. Armin Luistro FSC, Brother Visitor of the DLS Brothers - Philippine District, also took the helm as the twentieth president of the De La Salle University System on April 1, 2004, and continues to lead the University towards its much-awaited centennial year in 2011.



Br. Albinus Peter FSC has the distinction of being the first president of De La Salle College from 1920-23. Classes from the old Paco site were shifted to the present site in 1921. One of the first visitors at the present school was then-Governor General Leonard Wood. Photo shows (left to right) Archbishop O'Doherty; Humphrey O'Leary, contractor; Governor Wood; Fr. F.X. Byrne SJ; and Br. Peter.

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WRITTEN BY **Juanito B. Gervasio**
PHOTOGRAPHED BY **Louie Aguinaldo**

In 1916, the articles of incorporation of the DLSAA stated the following among its purposes:

"To promote a closer union and confraternity among its members so that they may be able to mutually assist and protect each other; to promote an 'esprit de corps' among the graduates, alumni, and those who have studied at the De La Salle College of Manila through membership in the Corporation; to encourage and cultivate cooperating between its members and the De La Salle College of Manila; to group the members into an alert and progressive body of civic spirited Catholics who shall strive always and ever to serve God and Country above all else to the best of their knowledge and ability..."

These original visions, signed-off by six Lasallians, run true today and are integral to the 1963 amended articles with the only change that replaced the word "Catholics" to "men". An amendment was surely in order not only because the De La Salle Alumni Association is now non-sectarian, but it also proudly boasts of women in its alumni roster. The framers of the DLSAA in 1916, however, probably did not see that the growth from a paltry 100 male students in Paco to more than 89,000 male and female students nationwide at the creation of "One La Salle" in 2006 will create valid, renewed concerns among alumni of not only fellowship, but also relevance, meaningfulness, and provision of tangible and genuine benefits. Briefly, the Association, now 90 years old, was ordained to effect changes in its collective vision to include the realities of twenty first century living.

Visions

Why DLSAA president Jay Gervasio wants alumni to embrace perspectives beyond homecomings and basketball

Fellowship and the combined derivative

singular of today

—improving alumni lives—

have become

Fellowship and the combined derivative singular of today—improving alumni lives—have become DLSAA's new vision and marching orders. Hence, in addition to fellowship activities, DLSAA's plans and programs today include new dimensions of jobs and livelihood, health services, and corporate alliances.

Towards greener pastures

Jobs and livelihood seeks to provide Lasallian graduates and alumni with career and business opportunities. Along with an equivalent investment of the DLSAA College of St. Benilde Chapter and the endorsement of the Parents of the University Students Organization (PUSO), the DLSAA will establish a new corporation to seriously address the needs of its members in providing jobs and livelihood.

Eduardo Lucero, the longest serving DLSAA director had this to say, "Without doubt, the investment in jobs and livelihood will also be the DLSAA's biggest

single financial exposure. However, it cannot be ignored because all homecomings, basketball games, awards, etc. are meaningless if alumni and graduates do not have the means to enjoy them. Consider this—apart from the very lucky few, jobs and livelihood is the exclusive reason why parents send their children to school. What excuse will the DLSAA have if it does not even attempt to help reach this quest?" I totally agree.

Physical well-being

The DLSAA considers quality medical and hospital care at a reasonable cost another important initiative. Apart from livelihood, personal health and well-being are equally important concerns among members. By entering into an agreement with the DLSU Medical Center in Dasmariñas, Cavite, the DLSAA will be able to provide its members with health services, from emergency care to long-term cancer treatment, at reasonable cost. In turn, the DLSAA will donate medical and hospital equipment to the Medical Center to further improve its capabilities and services. DLSAA's Vice-President for

Finance and Treasurer Juan Valdes and the president of the DLSAA Health Sciences Chapter Deo Panganiban should be credited for this noble idea.

Valdes echoes the sentiment of most DLSAA directors that "thru the fruition of one major project a year, a project that goes beyond cosmetics, but actual improvement of the lives of the members of our Association", he hopes the DLSAA will be a "source of pride among Lasallians".

Pursuit of excellence

More than ever, the DLSAA Honors and Awards Committee, headed by Vice-President Manny Blanco has been active in the past year. It has conferred awards to Distinguished Lasallians, Lasallian Achievers, Sports Hall of Famers, and Sports Achievement Awardees, which have the effect of lifting our collective worth, making us proud to be Lasallians. This year, the committee has created and conferred two new awards, the Br. Benedict Service Award for exemplary

DLSAA's new **vision** and **marching orders.**

volunteer service to the DLSAA and the DLSAA Lasallian Merit Awards for graduates who distinguish themselves in government licensure examinations.

Fellowship and unity

While the work has been extremely fulfilling and gratifying, it has also been challenging and at times, difficult. Lasallian alumni shared the pain caused by the controversy and unfair UAAP suspension, as well as the debate surrounding the moral stand taken by the De La Salle Brothers. The DLSAA fought to maintain unity and promote fellowship among members, despite many members taking opposing views. The DLSAA encouraged its members to follow their conscience and convictions, but enjoined members to respect others, especially those who differ in their belief.

In the midst of these trying circumstances and conditions, DLSAA celebrated one of the most successful homecomings in March 2006 under the organization and management of Silver Jubilarian Host Class 1981. The class' Homecoming Council, led by Jorge Buenaventura, established a new record of attendance and representation from other De La Salle schools like De La

Salle-Araneta University and De La Salle University-Dasmariñas. The DLSAA has truly embraced the call for and embodied the spirit of "One La Salle".

One La Salle

"In the next ten years," Benjamin Uichico, Vice-President for Homecomings and Reunions, wrote, "I would like to see the concept of 'One La Salle' come into full fruition with the alumni associations of all Lasallian schools and the DLSAA being a catalytic participant of this reality." He added, "the values of *religio mores et cultura* are a celebration of Lasallian oneness."

To help promote "One La Salle", the DLSAA Management Committee and the DLSAA Board now hold its meetings in different Lasallian campuses. So far, we have visited De La Salle-Araneta University, De La Salle-College of St. Benilde, De La Salle-Health Sciences Campus, De La Salle Lipa, De La Salle University-Canlubang, De La Salle University-Dasmariñas, La Salle College Antipolo, and La Salle Greenhills. Before the end of 2006, we shall continue on to De La Salle-Santiago

Zobel School and regional chapters in Visayas and Mindanao. By holding our meetings outside Manila, we have brought the DLSAA closer to other alumni members and helped foster closer relations with De La Salle schools.

A worldwide community

No longer regional and national, the DLSAA has gone global. By substantially investing in the development and operation of the DLSAA website, www.dlsaa.com, alumni overseas now receive the latest news about the Association, update their membership information, and even download current and back issues of the *Alumnews*, as well as popular Lasallian songs and cheers. No other alumni association in the Philippines can claim a website as professionally executed and comprehensive as the DLSAA's.

The decision to sever its cyber ties with the University was certainly not one of defiance, but rather an operational ex-

pediency. Immediate news updates, concerns about server space, graphics presentation, etc. suddenly became moot. The website will be an important, though not exclusive, portal for the jobs and livelihood project.

As I look back

Jose Tanjuatco, the two-term president from 2001 to 2005 and a supportive friend, is to be blamed for getting me involved in the DLSAA, first as Vice-President for Sports and eventually in other numerous alumni affairs. He continues to be active as the DLSAA chair and a director, and has helped shape many of the programs of the DLSAA and continues to guide many of its involvement in sports and activities that foster unity.

Gerardo Achacoso is perhaps the most recognizable face in DLSAA sports. Through his dedication and commitment, the DLSAA has been visible in all 26 UAAP sports, from athletics to taekwondo, attending games, cheering for

our teams, and working closely and providing meaningful support to team managers, coaches, and student-athletes.

Then there are the vice-presidents who have served selflessly and tirelessly — Camilo Reyes (Chapters and Clubs), Michael Estaniel (who succeeded Enrique Atayde in Ways and Means), and Eligio Maghirang (Spiritual and Vocations Formation). Atty. Gabriel Robeniol is DLSAA's legal counsel from the FERIA FERIA LaO Tantoco law office, while Deputy Executive Director John Ranjo, Eleanor Villanueva, Jonette Imperial, Mary Ann Medina, Vernalyn Lamigo, Luz Espinola, and Noel Napolis complete the dedicated staff of the DLSAA.

As the first DLSAA president serving without the guiding hand of Br. J. Benedict FSC, I have gained much from the sound advice of Br. Rafael Donato FSC, with his calm demeanor and articulate nature. Br. Donato is the DLSAA's adviser and my mentor. He was my home-room adviser in La Salle Greenhills, before he became president of several De La Salle schools, including DLSU-Manila.

My alumni pledge

As I move towards the second and final half of my term and the centennial of our Association in 2016, I renew the alumni pledge:

I will do everything in my power...

- To support the DLSAA and the Chapter to which I belong;
- To encourage fellowship and cooperation among members;
- To practice the Lasallian tenets of *religio mores et cultura*;
- To assist in the development of my school; and
- To serve God and country above all else.

So help me God.

Br. Donato, prays that the DLSAA will "instill in each alumnus a genuine sense of patriotism that would translate in love for God and country in each and in all they do". The past is often pre-scient prologue to the future; thus, I am confident that his prayers shall be fulfilled.

I extend my sincerest appreciation and gratitude to the DLSAA Board of Trustees, officers, and staff for their dedication and commitment in the exciting launch of our twenty first century vision.

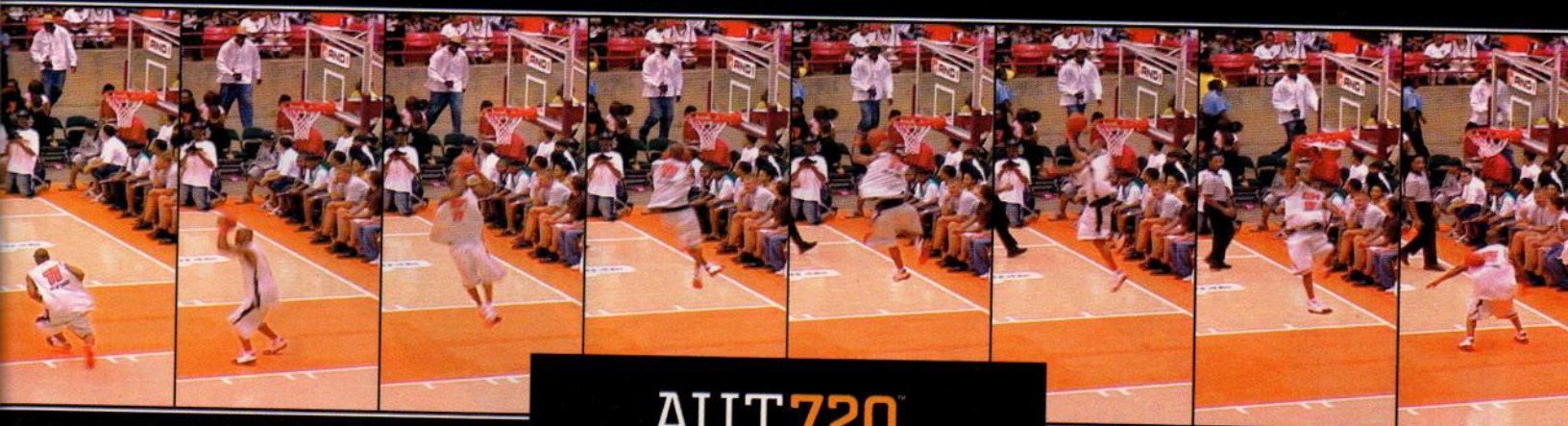




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A close-up portrait of Michael Jordan looking slightly to the right. He is wearing a black jersey. The background is a light, textured grey.

WADE



A side view of a black and white Jordan 7 sneaker with blue laces and a white midsole. The number '7.3' is printed in red below the shoe.

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A woman with long brown hair, wearing a white lace-trimmed top, is holding a brown leather sandal in her left hand and a thin stick in her right hand. The background is a collage of various images, including a person's face and a person's legs.

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hemes

1983	GOING GREAT SINCE 58
1984	COME HOME ARCHER, COME BACK TO TAFT
1985	COME HOME ARCHER, COME BACK TO THE GOOD OLD DAYS
1986	LA SALLITES ARE FOREVER
1987	HS 62 25 YEARS
1988	COMING HOME CLASS OF 63
1989	HAIL, HAIL, ALMA MATER
1990	COMING HOME
1991	FAMILY UNITY, A WAY OF LIFE
1992	SALAMAT, LA SALLE
1993	LAST OF THE MIGHTY
1994	THE FIRST OF ITS CLASS
1995	YESTERDAY, TODAY, AND TOMORROW
1996	WORLD CLASS 71
1997	ANIMO LA SALLE, WHEREVER YOU ARE
1998	CELEBRATE 98, 100 YEARS OF FREEDOM, 25 YEARS OF FREEDOM
1999	ROOTS 99: LASALLIANS, CHRISTIAN ACHIEVERS FOR GOD AND COUNTRY
2000	BLAST FROM THE PAST...LEAP INTO THE FUTURE
2001	TEN TO THE CENTENNIAL
2002	LASALLIANS ACHIEVE. THE ANIMO LIVES!
2003	(MAY) VERDE KA PA BA?
2004	ARCHERS COME HOME
2005	COME ALIVE IN FIVE!
2006	ONE LA SALLE – SARAP MAGING BERDE
2007	GREENERATIONS

Every year, many people gear up for some form of homecoming, whether in the form of a family reunion, a *balikbayan* visit, or a gathering of classmates, here and abroad. But returning to a beloved Alma Mater is one that is most evocative of both recent and distant youth. As we walk the halls once again, we meet young and old confreres who today, for the most part, only enjoy the commonality of loyalty to a single school, to a single song, to a single cheer.

WRITTEN BY Rosanna Escareal-Velasco
AND Eunice Lucero



Always honoring. The DLSAA honored former Secretary of Justice Jose Diokno with a testimonial dinner at the Malayan Room of the Philippine Columbian Association on July 3, 1962. Photo shows Diokno with President Guillermo Jose, Sr. (left) talking with two Lasallian icons, Horacio Cebrero, Jr. (second from right) and Rene Kahn (extreme right). The man in the middle with glasses was not verified but President Ramon Campos, Jr. says that he could possibly be Antonio Prieto, Jr.

Movie benefit. On December 9, 1968, the DLSAA sponsored the premiere of the movie *Who Are My Own*, the life story of St. John Baptist de la Salle, at the Rizal Theater. The proceeds went to the working funds of the De La Salle Alumni Welfare Society. Rene Kahn and Chito Madrigal Vasquez were overall and ladies committees' chairs, respectively.

Elections in Greenhills. The photo below is from the March 7, 1972 homecoming held in La Salle Greenhills. Homecomings were held in Greenhills from 1970-73, because "accommodations at the gymnasium in Taft Avenue have become 'cramped' the last few years..." In those days, elections for the DLSAA Board were held during homecomings.

Teachers at homecoming. The March 4, 1973 homecoming returned to Taft. In attendance during the day were (second from left) high school Pilipino teacher Tereso Lara, grade school assistant principal Isauro Nuñez, biology teacher Br. Benildo Feliciano FSC, and grade school faculty member Guadalupe Bulatao.



Lasallians know how to party and since the early 1980s have chucked the generic "Annual Homecoming" label and subscribed to catchy and often meaningless themes that reflect the we-have-to-be-different mindset of the homecoming organizers and, certainly, the jargon of the day. Themes nonetheless etch silver jubilarian host classes to alumni history and footnote the events that they create. But, in the end, party the Lasallian must.

The Lasallian never underestimated the power of coming together; annual homecomings, dating as far back as post World War I were testaments to this. In 1936, De La Salle College celebrated its silver jubilee year—one of the college's first major milestones, and as it turns out, one of its more light-hearted moments before the war.



Return to Taft. This 1973 homecoming lunch was held at the Athanasius Memorial Gym. The 1973 committee, composed of Luis Campos and Freddie Kauffmann, decided to return to Taft for alumni to "observe the many changes and additions in the Campus".



The carefree spirit of the swinging 1960s reflected its rosy glow on alumni as well. Casual events, glamorous black-tie benefits, sports games, the World Congresses, and more notably, the long-awaited golden jubilee enveloped each Lasallian in heartfelt conviviality and belongingness and gave the baby boomer a true sense of home. Scores later, as life became busier and more chaotic, the annual gatherings still offer the same comfort and soothing, welcome respite from the harsh world outside archer walls.

The homecoming—by definition a return or arrival to a place one calls home, has come of age or simply houses his heart. A Lasallian homecoming, by definition, is an unwavering, yearly reminder of the presence of family, of brothers in faith and constancy, no matter your corner of the world.



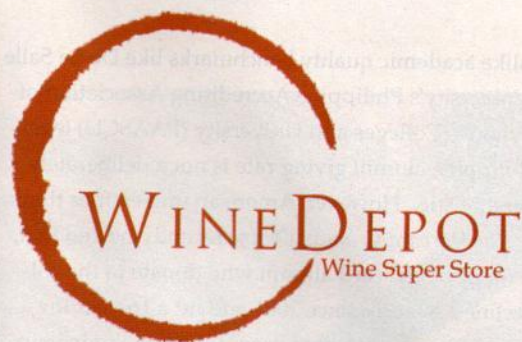
Homecoming scenes. The DLSAA presidents of the 1980s agonized where to hold homecomings. In the topmost photo, alumni led by incoming President Ramon Marcos (standing, extreme left), register for the 1982 homecoming at the Philippine International Convention Center. Marcos replaced Richard Powell, 1981-1982 president. Photo at left above shows alumni sing the Alma Mater Hymn in the "CELEBRATE 98, 100 YEARS OF FREEDOM, 25 YEARS OF GREENDOM" homecoming on March 7, 1998. In that year, basketball legend Lim Eng Beng (next photo), shown getting a hug from team member Alex Malixi, was inducted to the DLSAA Sports Hall of Fame. Above extreme right photo shows ageless cheerleader Ernesto Lagdameo, Jr. whoop up the "Rektikano" with Sports Hall of Famer Alberto Villarreal.

"The De La Salle Alumni Association (DLSAA) encourages reunions...Small reunions are normally privately organized. On the other hand, chapter-level reunions, the annual homecoming, and the World Congress are franchises of the DLSAA and, therefore, no one may organize or implement these without formal DLSAA approval."

The DLSAA Homecoming Manual



In behalf of Silver Jubilarian Host Class 1977, Jane Calderon-Buenaventura turns over the homecoming torch to SJHC 1978 representatives Oscar Razon, Katherine Caguiat, and Michael Estaniel.

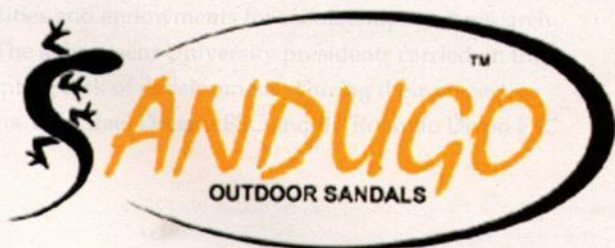


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PANDA

Unlike academic quality benchmarks like De La Salle University's Philippine Accrediting Association of Schools, Colleges and University (PAASCU) level 4 status, Philippine alumni giving rate is not a deliberately sought-after statistic. However, American universities think otherwise. *The Harvard Crimson Online* recently posted that, "The percentage of Harvard alumni who donate to the college has declined steadily since 2001 and hit a 16-year low last fiscal year, according to data provided by the university. That figure, known as the 'participation rate', now stands at 40 percent—the lowest rate since 1989. The rate fluctuated throughout the 1990s, peaking most recently in 2001 when it reached 48 percent."

There are three reasons for this American phenomenon. The first is obviously, the need to raise money for, well, anything. Universities look to alumni, parents, and friends for general financial support every year. For instance, unrestricted gifts can be used for a wide variety of purposes, such as campus ministry, student assistance, campus improvements, and academic and student programs.

The second is ranking. Gallaudet University in Washington, DC says, "Alumni giving, regardless of the amount, has tremendous impact on Gallaudet's fund raising from other constituencies, especially corporations and foundations. The percentage of alumni who support Gallaudet, not the amount, also directly affects Gallaudet's ranking in the national magazine *U.S. News and World Report*."

The third is growth and expansion. Typically, these donations go to bricks and mortar to publicly acknowledge the financial support given by a sponsor. Or ego. "In what may be the largest gift ever to a U.S. business school, Stanford University announced August 1, 2006 that Nike (NKE)

founder Philip H. Knight will give \$105 million to Stanford's Graduate School of Business.

"Of that amount, \$100 million will go toward the construction of a \$245 million campus made up of eight new buildings that will collectively be known as the Knight Management Center."

Why the odd amount of \$105 million? The answer—"On September 9, 2004, the University of Michigan announced that Stephen M. Ross, developer of the \$1.7 billion Time Warner Center at Manhattan's Columbus Circle, had donated \$100 million to the University of Michigan business school—the biggest gift in the university's history and the biggest ever to a U.S. business school." Not anymore. Stanford's Knight has the distinction.

De La Salle University has managed to keep its profit and loss in the black, so there is no apparent need for supplemental donations to bridge revenue and expense. Also, there is no university Philippine ranking partly based on alumni giving. Therefore Lasallian alumni giving must be for bricks and mortar and, in anticipation of the University's centennial in 2011, scholarships, big time, to the tune of one billion pesos.

Alumni giving has played a key role in the history of De La Salle University-Manila. As early as the DLSAA's 1916 birth, alumni were already tapped to help finance the construction of the new school building along Taft Avenue. Some of these were alumni of other De La Salle schools in Hong-kong, Singapore, and Kuala Lumpur.

Through the years, the Christian Brothers nurtured close relationships with alumni. This resulted in significant support from alumni for campus facilities. One of these major projects was the post-World War II restoration of the heavily-damaged Athanasius Memorial Gym (on which site now stands the Don Enrique T. Yuchengco Hall).

PLEDGES

Alumni giving is manifest love for the Alma Mater—and what it stands for

WRITTEN BY Jose M. Kalaw



The pro-active solicitation of financial support from alumni experienced a quantum leap during the watch of Br. Gabriel Connon FSC who was president twice—first, from 1950 to 1959; and next, from 1967 until his demise in 1978.

The onus of raising money fell on the lap of Br. Gabriel's successor, Br. Andrew Gonzalez FSC. A born fund-raiser, he appointed Br. Josiah Benedict FSC in 1978 as development officer, concurrent with his position as DLSAA executive director. Together, the two embarked on an active campaign to seek alumni support for physical facilities and endowments for scholarships and research.

The subsequent University presidents carried on the daunting task of development. During their respective terms, Br. Rafael Donato FSC and Br. Rolando Dizon FSC

A place called home. On March 22, 1926, Br. Basilian (Basillien) Coin FSC, sub-director, and Br. Anthony Ferdinand FSC went to Iloilo, Cebu, and Mindanao to solicit funds for a new chapel and to secure new boarders. On November 17, 1939, the chapel was completed and dedicated to St. Joseph. More than five years later on February 12, 1945, 16 Christian brothers and 25 civilians were massacred by retreating Japanese marines.

On December 16, 1946, Archbishop Michael O' Doherty gave his permission to rededicate the chapel to the Blessed Sacrament "for the desecrations and excesses perpetrated in the house of God...". It was officially blessed four days later on December 20.

In 1999, Br. Josiah Benedict FSC and DLSAA President Eduardo Lucero completed the renovation, lighting retrofitting, and acoustic makeover of the chapel at a cost of P3.4 million contributed by 153 alumni.

"Satisfaction with the undergraduate experience is the single most essential pre-condition for giving, the report noted. Those who are not satisfied are, without exception, non-donors."



continued to focus on alumni support for the University's needs, with much success.

In recent years, science was injected into the business of tapping donations. In 1998, the Lasallian Legacy Fund Campaign was launched by the Office of the Vice-President for Development. Backed up by the DLSAA databank, the highly-organized and aggressive program involves a massive mail campaign, as well as student telemarketers.

Now on its ninth year, the Lasallian Legacy Fund Campaign has collected about P60 million. The campaign is focused on supporting the mission to have 20 percent of the student population enjoy full scholarship by 2011.

Why alumni give

Major campus landmarks today stand as living testaments of alumni giving—the DLSU Enrique M. Razon Sports Center, Don Enrique T. Yuchengco Hall, Gokongwei Hall, and Velasco Hall. The donors shared in the construction cost of these edifices, bestowing name endurance on their chosen nominees. In some cases, the prestige alone provides strong motivation for giving among alumni philanthropists.

Other alumni carry a strong emotional attachment to certain places in campus such as the Chapel of the Most Blessed Sacrament. A DLSAA-initiated fund drive in 1999 resulted in an outpouring of generosity meant to fund the restoration of the historic and beautiful chapel.

Alumni have also given significant financial endowments, which remain in perpetuity and whose earnings are used for scholarships, professorial chairs, and research. About P542 million in endowment funds are now being managed by the DLSU Science Foundation, the repository of all endowment donations to De La Salle schools.

Many of these deep-pockets chose to endow the University to pass on what they have learned and profited from as students, and to immortalize themselves or their loved ones.

TOPMOST: The Don Enrique T. Yuchengco Hall was constructed on the site of the former Athanasius Memorial Gym through the assistance of Ambassador Alfonso T. Yuchengco and named in honor of his father.

BELOW: An untitled and undated graphite on paper by Fernando Amorsolo from the Wili and Doreen Fernandez collection of 413 art pieces donated to De La Salle University and housed in the DLSU Museum.

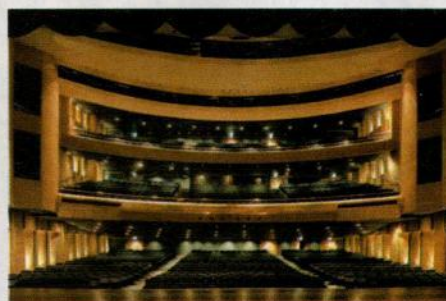
Some, who are not even alumni, simply realize the value of extending education, especially to the poor. Eduardo Fajardo contributed to DLSU for scholarships in his mother, Natividad's, memory. He recalled that what sustained his impoverished, widowed mother of nine children was "a vivid vision of a better life through education". In his commencement speech to Class 2005, he said, "Your parents have the means to get you to the best school where you can get the best education along with the best minds and talents in the country. But, even now, you must be aware that, soon enough, you will have to take care of others around you. Because you have been gifted with so much, you will be responsible for a lot more...Lasallians, donate scholarships to the deserving poor and set in motion infinite circles of goodwill."

The estate of spouses Wili and Doreen Fernandez gave a priceless legacy to the DLSU Museum of the couple's extensive art compendium. "The collection boasts of rare drawings of 'Botong' Francisco, Manansala, Amorsolo, and Bencab. There are also sculptures by Arturo Luz, Solomon Saprid, and Eduardo Castrillo."

And just last September 16, 2006, alumna Rosanna Escareal-Velasco associated giving to a Christian view, "...That which you do to the least of my brothers, you do unto me. It is a teaching which St. John Baptist de La Salle took to heart when he gave to us the gift of a Lasallian education which we in turn, bequeath to others."

Still, others choose to remain anonymous. They give simply out of the generosity of their hearts, and shun publicity and fanfare. They love their Alma Mater and unconditionally support the University's mission to provide the best tertiary Catholic education in the country.

Lately, the Lasallian Legacy Fund's demographic data have indicated an increasingly young donor base. This is an encouraging sign. "Donor fatigue" and age naturally set in among the senior alumni. At some point, they need to be "culled" from the donor list. This also shows that young alumni have developed love and loyalty for the school to support the cause of scholar-



Constructed in 2002 as a part of the Don Enrique T. Yuchengco Hall, the Teresa G. Yuchengco Auditorium is a three-storey auditorium that can seat 1,100 persons. The auditorium is named after the late wife of Ambassador Alfonso T. Yuchengco.

ships for the academically-gifted, but financially-disadvantaged. This development parallels a 1994 Stanford University survey that investigated alumni giving which concluded that, "Annual giving...is the tail end of a chain reaction that begins with the four undergraduate years on campus. Satisfaction with the undergraduate experience is the single most essential pre-condition for giving, the report noted. Those who are not satisfied are, without exception, non-donors.

"The survey found significant differences between those who are very satisfied (78 percent) and those who are anything less than very satisfied. Alumni who felt most challenged by their undergraduate program—and those who felt that Stanford worked to make them aware of the best classes and academic opportunities—were most likely to be donors, as were the third who judged their experiences inside and outside the classroom as equally valuable." The lesson—better and satisfied students equal good givers.

Meanwhile, nurturing a mission of passing it on, instilling a culture of alumni giving, go on. As long as the alumni look to their Alma Mater with the same contentment, pride, and gratitude as did the first few alumni 90 years ago, this mission is not an impossible one.

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- * 2004 Most Improved Investor Relations
- * 2002 Best Newly Listed Company in the Philippines

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- * 2006 Best Equity House
- * 2006 Best Managed Companies in the Philippines (ranked 8th)
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Life, love, and loss

WRITTEN AND DELIVERED NOVEMBER 8, 2006 BY **Br. Edmundo Adolfo Fernandez FSC**
PHOTOGRAPHS COURTESY OF **La Salle Provincialate**



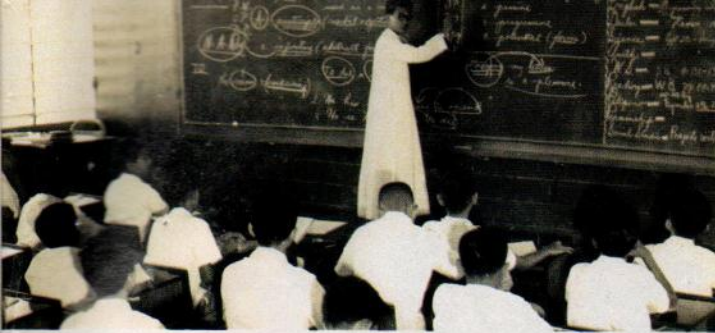
LIFE

There is much that we can learn from the passage from Ecclesiastes. It is a reading that is loved by many and often used in interment liturgies because it speaks powerfully about the Dance of Life. It talks about seasons and moments in a person's life. It tells us that life is a series of valleys and peaks, of ebbs and flows, of flux and change, of wobbles and twists and turns.

Ecclesiastes shows us that life is not an even, straight journey. It is not a smooth ride. Birth and death, planting and harvesting, killing and healing, breaking down and building up, weeping and laughing, mourning and dancing, seeking and losing, loving and hating – all these happen to each of us several times in our lifetime. As Joan Chittister writes, "Ecclesiastes invites us to see life as a mosaic made up of small pieces of human experience common to us all but lived uniquely by each one of us; it calls us to the universals of life so that we can understand it before we lose it, enjoy it before we miss it."

Rafael Serafin Donato understood this very well and enjoyed every giddy part of life. "Death is more universal than life," a writer once wrote. "Everyone dies but not everyone lives." Rafe lived life joyfully, lovingly, fully. He lived it as it was meant to be lived. He knew that life demanded much but also gave much to the generous. He epitomized the faithful and prudent manager in our Gospel: "From everyone to whom much has been given, much will be required; and from the one to whom much has been entrusted, even more will be demanded." Indeed, Rafe was given much and he gave back according to his vows, "to procure your glory as far as I am able and as you will require of me."

He knew what it was to mourn and weep. He buried his sister and his mother. He buried several Brothers including Gabriel, Andrew, and Greg Refuerzo. Rafe knew what it meant to plant seeds of hope and love because it was he himself who harvested what, in disciplined love, the American Brothers planted. He saw the great expansion of the District and enjoyed



the period of stability that he helped create. When he was in AMRSP, he broke down structures that maintained unjust systems and perpetuated wrong values.

Rafe was one of a handful of Brothers who transitioned well from a pre-Vatican II religious life to a post-Vatican II model. His openness and flexibility – characteristics that would mark his life – carried him through a difficult and tumultuous time. He was also one of the few who linked us to the very early years of the District when all we had was one school.

Rafe clearly understood that life was rough and that gave him his sense of serenity, his calmness in the face of adversity and pressure. He chose not to fight each passing wave or each undertow of life. Instead, he let himself be carried, caressed, and massaged by the beauty of it all. He didn't have to dance to a different beat because the regular rhythm of life was all he needed to make the changes he thought was important.

LOVE

We can remember Rafe for many good things, but what truly marked his life was his love for his vocation and his Brothers and his commitment to the mission.

His obedience was truly inspiring. For one who had been President of several schools, who had been Visitor, who had enjoyed so much authority, for one who was a giant in the District, he could have dodged another assignment and simply retired. I was actually stunned when he accepted on the spot his assignment to be Auxiliary Visitor. What I did not mention during his Golden Jubilee was that there was another incident when I asked him to be school head, but upon reflection and discernment thought otherwise. I rehearsed my spiel for a day as I thought he would feel bad about my decision, but after I had said what I needed to say, he looked at me straight in the eye and in the inimitable Rafe way said, "Whatever you want, Brother Visitor."

Together with Gabriel Connon, Andrew Gonzalez, and Benildo Feliciano, Rafe may be the last of the Master Builders, the end of a generation. These are the Brothers who greatly expanded our ministry, strengthened our institutions and professionalized our systems. What Gabe and Andrew did for DLSU and Benildo for the District, Rafe did for the other earlier institutions. We who come after them can only follow their tradition and example.

He took calculated risks and was not afraid to try out new things. He brought in professional men and women to help him out.

People only throw stones at trees that bear much fruit. Like Andy, Rafe had his fair share of critics and detractors – those who misunderstood him and what he did, or those who simply thought they could do better. Rafe took it all in stride and just smiled at them. To his credit, he rarely ever said anything bad about those who undermined him. Like anything else in life, he was serene and calm about it all.

Rafe wasn't a saint and he didn't pretend to be one either, but he had been made holy by his 50 long years of commitment to the mission. In his own quiet way, he loved the Brothers very much. I think this was the gift that was given him towards the end of his life. He spoke to me often about the need to understand the senior Brothers. He gave me a glimpse of their concerns. He also understood what school Presidents were going through and impressed upon me the importance of supporting them.

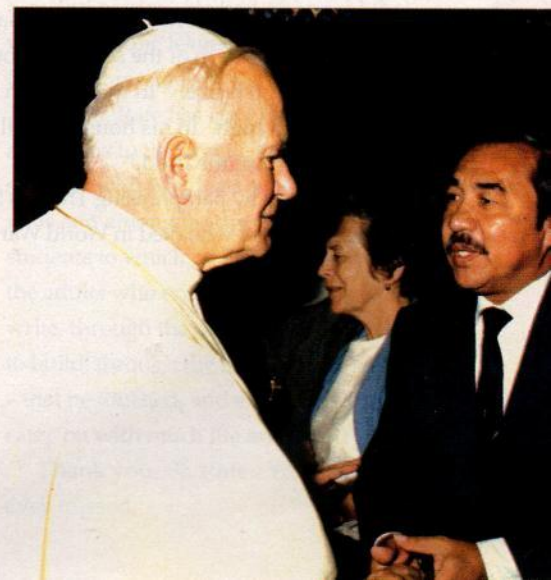
He rarely, if at all, said anything bad about a Brother or any person. But he would also not hesitate to say why a Brother should not be assigned to a certain community or a certain position. His compassion often softened his firmness.

In the last few years of his life, love shone through Rafe. He had become the Serene Elderly, the Sage, the Strong One who learned how to lose graciously. Suffering, the love of friends, family, and Brothers, his many experiences as Visitor and as President of several schools had tempered him greatly.

LOSS

And so we bid Rafe goodbye.

Let us peel away the profound sadness that we feel today and reveal that underneath all the sorrow is the joy that is Rafe's homecoming. I am certain Rafe would want it that way. We cannot hold on to Rafe much as we may want to. As Joan Chittister says, "Whatever we are not prepared to lose diminishes our sense of soul and depth of spirit."





I have heard some people say how pointless Rafe's death was. I firmly believe that there is no such thing as pointless death. It may be pointless to those who do not know him. It is probably pointless to those who have no faith.

Rafe's departure confronts us with the fragility of life. It teaches us to enjoy every little moment that life offers. It teaches us to cross every river and hurdle, every tiring obstacle, to learn from every portion and segment, to suck every marrow out of every chunk, to dance to life's mesmerizing music. Rafe knew this and did this well. He is an example of a man who lived Life upon Life upon Life, who knew Joy upon Joy.

I would like to believe that, as he was calm and serene in his life, he was also calm and serene in his departure. I am certain that at some point he realized that he was being called back to the Father's house. And when he knew that the time had come, he closed his eyes, asked for forgiveness, said a prayer and surrendered to the embrace of the sea. As in our responsorial psalm, he was ready to go home. "In the triumph that he brings me, I can hold my head high. In his house, I shall lift up my voice. I will sing, I will praise the Lord."

Let me end by paraphrasing Thomas Merton's poem for his brother John Paul who died in World War II:

Sweet Brother, if we do not sleep
Our eyes are flowers for your tomb;
And if we cannot eat our bread,
Our fasts shall live like willows where you died.
If in the heat, we find no water for our thirst,
Our thirst shall turn to springs for you, fellow traveler

Come, in our labor find a resting place
And in our sorrows lay your head,
Or rather take our life and blood
And buy yourself a better bed –
Or take our breath and take our death
And buy yourself a better rest

For in the wreckage of your November Christ lies slain,
And Christ weeps in the ruins on your spring;
The money of Whose tears shall fall
Into your lifeless hand,
And buy you back to your own land:
The silence of Whose tears shall fall
Like bells upon your alien tomb.
Hear them and come: they call you home.

Rafe, thank you very much for your life and your love. You have taught us much. You are truly a teacher to the end. We know that you are now experiencing the great joy that John Baptist de La Salle described in his meditations, the great reunion in heaven.

**Please pray for us.
Till we meet again, Rafe.**



I remember

WRITTEN AND DELIVERED NOVEMBER 7, 2006 BY Jose T. Pardo

Let me quote a passage from an e-mail by Br. Rafe sent last Oct. 30th:

"I thank God for having given you to me as my classmates and friends and I hope and pray that our camaraderie will not falter, and that we are able to support one another especially at this stage of our life."

Simple, direct yet profound. This perhaps is one of the most memorable lines he left us – friends, classmates, and family alike – who were touched and continue to be touched by the goodness of his heart. This, perhaps, was meant as a challenge for us to continue what he has started, to build on the gains he has pulled together, to continue spreading the love he has shared with us.

Like countless others, I am both saddened and shocked at the untimely loss. But in the midst of all this grief, let us honor him by celebrating his life.

Br. Rafe and I and many of our Class '56 classmates go way back from grade school through high school. We were all true-green boys who had our own youthful dreams and aspirations. Though in my case I chose to answer the calling for entrepreneurship, Br. Rafe took on a far greater challenge, a path that young men even today fear to tread – the religious life.

After high school I heard very little of him. I understand, though, that the Brothers undergo a rigid formation phase and Br. Rafe was among those who excelled in his chosen vocation.

While I was busy in my chosen career, Br. Rafe has all but added feather after feather into his academic cap. He earned his masters, his doctorate and rose high in the hierarchy of Lasallian educators.

It was only several years after college when we met again. He was already one of the more prominent young La Salle Brothers while I, a struggling businessman. I never even thought that in our different capacities,

we would become even closer.

I fondly recall encounters we would have at inter-university forums wondering with him how I was immersed in the academic community, not even knowing that I was chairman for many years of the Board of Trustees of Assumption College.

Our paths became closer when I was elected as Board Member and Treasurer of De La Salle University – Manila and shortly after as Chairman of the Board of Trustees. There, I witnessed his commitment and dedication to the Lasallian community and a passion to make a difference in the field of education.

It dawned on me that all these years, Br. Rafe and I shared not just dreams, but visions. Yes, he dreamed big and I am glad I dreamed big with him. With members of Class '56, we established the Foundation For Sharing Lasallian Education to give those who have less in life a chance for the best education there is – that of La Salle, of course.

Well, countless things have been said about Br. Rafe's being an educator, a mentor, a colleague, a friend, an associate, and a brother. But I most remember him as an unrelenting idealist who was always able to target a cause with a battle plan to boot. When he envisioned that the underprivileged sons and daughters of society should be able to walk shoulder to shoulder with those who have much in life, many thought it was quite hard to do. But he worked right at it. And he did not stop until he saw his efforts bear

fruit. He was a tireless campaigner and a charismatic one, too.

Among his legacies not only to La Salle, but also to Philippine education in general, is the La Salle Green Hills Adult Night School and the Night College of De La Salle University. Indeed, many of those with less in life who otherwise would not have had formal education have been gifted with Lasallian education.

With Br. Rafe as classmate, we became movers and not just passive participants. We learned to take the bull by the horns and put our stake in worthy causes.

Under different circumstances, walking down memory lane with him would have been a more pleasant journey. But today, we remember not only the deeds of the man, but also the heart of the man. After all is said and done, Br. Rafe was truly a man who had a genuine concern for the poor.

Through the years, we learned a lot from him and of him. He had often said that when someone leaves the world to meet his Creator, it manifests "the fragility of life."

Yes, Br. Rafe has gone back to our Creator and left us to this fragile life. But he left us stronger with his ideals as he continues to live in us and among us: through the poor young students to which he has given hope, through the adults who now know how to read and write, through the communities he helped to build, through the lives – yours and mine – that he touched, and expect to share and carry on with much life and much love.


Thank you, Br. Rafe. You will be forever missed.

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