

# La Salle THE FURRO

The Institutional Newsletter of de la salle araneta university

August 2015

## New College Students in first-ever Acceptance Rites

This year's new college students became part of the University's long and prestigious history by becoming part of the first-ever Acceptance Rites on August 4 at the Institutional Activity Center.

Almost three months after the opening of the new school year, the University took the opportunity to further discuss with the new students the deeper meaning of being a Lasallian Student.





University President Br. Jun Erguiza FSC shared with the students the rationale for the first-ever Acceptance Rites and discussed the school's Honor Code of Goodness, Godliness and Greatness. He emphasized the importance of developing one's inner goodness to be able to be of service to God and Country in an excellent manner.

Together with Mr. Christopher Polanco, Dr Bjorn Santos and Dr. Allison Parpan, the Brother President distributed to the college freshmen and transferees the TED Student Handbook 2015, Lasallian rosaries and Honor Code stampita - tokens and symbols of their Lasallian identity, character and responsibility.

### IAC now officially complete

With the blessing of the newly-installed basketball posts, the Institutional Activity Center (IAC) is now complete for all sports events particularly basketball and volleyball.

Reservations of the IAC for plenary and sports events can be coordinated with the Office of the Vice-Chancellor for Students and Mission, the unit assigned to manage and monitor the said venue.





"Behold how good and pleasant it is for Brothers to dwell together in unity." (Psalm 133:1)

"Those who teach others unto justice will shine like stars for all eternity." (Daniel 12:3)

Two verses from the Old Testament. Two verses that the La Salle Brothers frequently reflect upon.

Br. Martin Sellner FSC,
Director of Laboratory
Services, is celebrating his
60th anniversary as a
La Salle Brother. As he
reflects on his many years
as a La Salle Brother, these
two verses are considered
by him as the ones that
inspire him the most.

The first verse is one that can and should be used by virtually anyone. Replace Brothers with "families," or with the "Araneta University family," or with "Filipinos," or with "world families." What a powerful and universal statement it is. If only it could be achieved everywhere. A goal that should be strived for by everyone. It is certainly one that is found in the family of the LaSalle Brothers worldwide, and especially here in the Philippines. One only has to look where the Brothers live to see that that unity exists, and with that unity, one sees an one sees an overwhelming amount of joy and happiness in their lives.

One only has to look at the various schools where the La Salle Brothers work to also see that unity, and that outpouring of love, concern, effort and enthusiasm that they have to animate, inspire and lead their work families to new heights of excellence and achievement.

The second verse encapsulates the Brothers' mission, to teach, to inspire, to lead others, to enlighten others about their capabilities and responsibilities, and to guide them to develop those capabilities, to understand those responsibilities, and to develop a sense of going out to help others, that other big family of theirs. No doubt the many stars in the universe are the stars of the many La Salle Brothers who have gone before them, who shine down upon them, whose lives light up the path before them as the Brothers continue the work entrusted to them.

With this jubilee year for Br. Martin, he was able to journey back home to the United States, to the state of Minnesota, to visit family, relatives and friends for three months, May through July. During this time, he was able to visit and celebrate with his German relatives in Germany,

family descendants from the siblings of his immigrant grandmother Sellner, who came to America as a 12-year-old girl in 1892 with three of her siblings but without her parents and two other siblings. He was also able to have a grand family reunion on the home farm where he was born and raised, 20 km from a small village named Sleepy Eye, Minnesota. Half of Br. Martin's molding minds and touching career was spent working in a school in St. Paul, Minnesota, so another gathering was held there with many former students, colleagues, and parents of former students. Finally, and most importantly, in late July he was able to celebrate with his Lasallian family, the Brothers from his home district, the Midwest District of La Salle Brothers. Celebrating with him were seven other Brothers in the Chicago, Illinois area.

While gatherings like these are important to anyone, it is what went on during those sixty years, and what is still going on today, that is of significance. For Br. Martin, it started with that first year of teaching second year high school students at St. Patrick High School in Chicago, Illinois, teaching them religion and science, but also guiding them and developing their inner selves to become leaders and examples to others as they took on their responsibilities. After four years in Chicago, Brother was moved to Hill-Murray High School in St. Paul, Minnesota, where he worked and took on responsibilities for 22 years. His teaching subjects included chemistry and

biochemistry, as well as religion, algebra, geometry, and general science. Many other responsibilities came Brother's way. He guided the student council, an organization developing leadership throughout the school. He led the parents' organizations in their work of helping and backing the school as needed. But again, the most important thing was hearts. Testimonials to that effect come forth frequently as former students come together for various functions.

For many years Br. Martin was involved in developing new curricula in science and math areas, programs funded by the federal government, and eventually promoted throughout the United States. He then was asked to teach and train junior high school science teachers in the use of the new curricula, a work he did for many summers at Christian Brothers University in Memphis, Tennessee. His expertise in designing and equipping science labs was utilized for many years in the States, as well as in the Philippines, and continues at the present time here at DLSAU, as well as at De La Salle Zobel School in Alabang.

As a student Brother in formation at the Brothers' university, St. Mary's, in Winona, Minnesota, two Filipino Brothers were sent there for their formation and education, Brothers Andrew Gonzalez and Benildo Feliciano. Years later, Br. Andrew, as President of DLSU, invited Br. Martin







Br. Martin with (Top Left) Br. Charles Kelly (Top Right) other Brothers in the Jubilee Celebration: (Bottom) Administrators from DLSAU.

to come to Manila as a chemistry professor at DLSU. What started as a short-term invitation, turned into a 15-year commitment for the Filipino students he came into contact. At DLSU he taught classes in inorganic chemistry, organic chemistry, biochemistry and coordination chemistry. Ten years after arriving Br. Andrew asked him to consider going to De La Salle Zobel in Alabang, upgrading the science curriculum as well as the science labs, a work that went on for five years. Health issues forced him to return to the States, but after 12 years, while visiting during the centennial celebration of the La Salle Brothers in the Philippines, he was invited to come back to Manila and continue his commitment to the students here. At that time he was asked by Brother Jun Erguiza to come to DLSAU and give recommendations regarding the science labs, which he did, and then was offered the position to oversee the labs, upgrade them, put then in working

condition, and get the necessary equipment that the professors and teachers needed. Br. Martin accepted the offer and returned to the Philippines in 2013. He was also asked to do similar work at De La Salle Zobel, a work that is ongoing at both schools at the present time.

As he reflects on his presence in both schools. there is no doubt that he brings an uplifting spirit to the students and staff at both campuses. Yes he may be the director of the science labs, yes he may get the labs into working condition, yes he may be equipping the labs with the needed materials to do meaningful lab exercises, all important functions. But greeting and inspiring and encouraging members of the school family is the more important function he carries out. No doubt this is what he cares about most and tries his best to fulfill each and every school day.

#### DLSAU join DLSP Fund-raising for Nepal

As a response to the call of De La Salle Philippines (DLSP) to raise awareness and funds for Nepal, the University through the different members of the community joined hands in raising funds to help in rehabilitation efforts to the earthquake-devastated country.

The P30,985.00 total funds raised was turned-over to De La Salle Philippines.

On July 27, DLSP President Br. Jose Mari Jimenez FSC turned-over the check donation amounting to P452,930.95 of the Philippine Lasallian Family to UNICEF Philippines.

UNICEF has been doing humanitarian relief efforts in Nepal with main focus on children.



#### UCSAA 5th Season PressCon Held



UGSA/A President, Dr. Nestor V. dela Gruz with other school administrators.

The 5th Season of the Universities. Colleges and Schools Athletic Association (UCSAA) was formally launched through a press conference on August 5 at the Aberdeen Court in Quezon City.

With the theme "One Vision, One Spirit, One Team: UCSAA Reaching Heights," administrators, student athletes, Ms. and Teen UCSAA candidates and the media attended this year's

press conference.

Aside from this year's host St. Dominic Savio College, other UCSAA member schools are DLSAU, Pasig Catholic College, Colegio de San Lorenzo and University of Makati.

This year's opening ceremony was held last August 14 at the Ynares Sports Arena.



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