counterpoint

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MUNTINLUPA RTC ISSUES PRELIMINARY INJUNCTION AGAINST AAVA COLOR CODING SCHEME *by Bryan Acha*

Manila – The DLSZ community received answer to its prayer last February 16 when the Muntinlupa City Regional Trial Court issued an injunction preventing the Ayala Alabang Village Association (AAAVA) from imposing a color coding scheme that would limit the entry of non-resident-school-bound vehicles to Ayala Alabang Village.

The color coding scheme restricts the entry of non-resident-school-bound vehicles inside Ayala Alabang Village to only three times a week and after 6 P.M.

Judge Philip Aguinaldo of Branch 207 of the Muntinlupa RTC said that the injunction was needed to *"urgently prevent irreparable harm to students, who are being forced to either walk 4 kilometers from the village gate to the school, or take public transportation – with risks to their security, health and productivity."*

The court noted that the plaintiffs have an unmistakeable right, there is an invasion of this right, and there is an urgent need to issue a writ of preliminary injunction in order to prevent any injury or harm that may come to the students.

Even though this injunction has already been issued, DLSZ stated in a letter dated February 16 that it is *"cognizant of the concerns of the residents of Ayala Alabang Village regarding the effects of DLSZ's operations on different aspects of their lifestyle."*

The petition was filed by the parents of five minor students and their court proceedings were scheduled last February 3, 12, and 16.

It can be recalled that the Lasallian Formation and Mission Department, headed by Ms. Evangeline De Peralta, led a prayer vigil walk prior to the Muntinlupa Trail Court's issuance of a temporary restraining order. The said activiy was participated in by the DLSZ administration, led by Bro. Bernard Oca FSC, teachers and students, as well as parents.

GATO TOPS M.O.S.T. *by Samantha Dacanay*

Georgina Mia B. Gato (Sr-A) made her DLSZ family proud after she was ranked No.1 in the 2015 Ten Most Outstanding Students of Muntilupa (M.O.S.T.), out of the 22 candidates chosen by the local government.

The portfolio of Mia Gato submitted for the said competion is undoubtedly a compilation of achievements of a student par excellence. Among these accomplishments is the Entrepreneurship project she completed, along with two other equally talented students, under the tutelage of Ms Teddy De Castro, their Entrep teacher and coach in a business competition they participated in this academic year.

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SENIOR AND JUNIOR HS STUDENTS WIN GOLD IN SCIENCE COMPETITIONS *by Samantha Dacanay*

A team of three Seniors and a Junior conquered the top spot in two nationwide science competitions held last January and February.

Last January 27, 2015, Joshua Miguel Trivino (JI) won the physics essay writing contest organized by the Adamson University Mining Engineering and Geology Association (AUMEGA) as part of their event, "MEGAMONTH 2015." Themed "Orogene sis: Building the Nation to Reach Our Peak," the contest aimed to promote the global importance of geosciences.

Joshua's essay explains the mining industry, the economy and how the geosciences affect the country. Trivino received a medal, certificate and a cash prize.

Meanwhile, Regis Kristian Casquejo(SrH), Ryan Gabriel Molen (SrB) and Kouji Tomas (SrH), along with 23 other teams, joined

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LASALYANONG BRODKASTER, BUMISITA SA GMA-7 AT DZUP *courtesy of Lasalyanong Brodkaster*



Bumisita sa istasyon ng telebisyon at radyo ang mga miyembro ng Lasalyanong Brodkaster ang noong ika-13 ng Nobyembre. Bahagi ito ng kanilang programa na naglalayong mas palalimin ang pag-unawa at karanasan ng mga miyembro sa larangan ng brodkasting. Una nilang pinuntahan ang GMA-7 Network sa Lungsod ng Quezon. Pinasyalan nila rito ang News and Public Affairs studio kung saan kinukunan ang programang 24 Oras, Imbestigador, State of the Nation ni Jessica Soho, at Flash Report. Dinalaw rin nila ang DZBB at napanood ang live broadcast nina Arnold Clavio at Ali Sotto. Bahagi rin ng tour ang panayam sa isa sa mga personalidad ng GMA-7 News and Public Affairs. Pinaunlakan naman ng batikang newscaster at reporter na si Mariz Umali ang samahan at magiliw niyang ibinahagi ang ilan niyang karanasan at mga paalala sa mga magaaral na nangangarap maging brodkaster.



Sunod na pinuntahan ng grupo ang DZUP na opisyal na radyong pangkampus ng UP Diliman. Muling nakapagmasid ang grupo sa live news broadcast ng istasyon. Nabigyan din sila ng crash course sa teknikal na aspeto ng pagbobrodkast tulad ng paggamit ng console at ilang computer programs na maaari nilang gamitin sa produksyon ng programa. Isang crash course din sa voice production ang ibinahagi ni Prof. Chryl Martinez na siya ring Program Manager ng nasabing istasyon.



Tunay na naging produktibo at punung-puno ng kaalaman ang naging aktibidad na ito ng samahan. Bukod dito, nagsilbing inspirasyon sa mga miyembro ang karanasang ito na magtutulak sa kanila upang lalo pang paghusayin at hasain ang kanilang kakayahan nang sa gayon ay masundan nila ang yapak ng mga brodkaster na kanilang nakasalamuha.

STUDENTS TEAM UP FOR TREE PLANTING AND COASTAL CLEAN-UP *by Vince Rivera*



Calatagan, Batangas – Lasallian partners from school clubs and organizations such as Tugon and Zobelunteers and other student volunteers worked together in a coastal clean-up last September 13, 2014.

De La Salle Zobel joins the said activity yearly to realize its mission to become prime movers in saving the environment. Thus, it partners with organizations like Ocean Conservancy's International Coastal Cleanup, DLSZ's partner in the said activity in Batangas.

During the clean-up, participants were able to collect debris, garbage, and even rescued animals entangled along the coast of Calatagan, Batangas.

Later part of the day, the student volunteers engaged in a mangrove planting activity. They were able to plant 2,000 propagules.



LASALLIAN HEARTS DAY 2015 *by Ali Victorio*

Love filled the air of the De La Salle Santiago Zobel community as the school celebrated the campus-wide event entitled *Lasallian Heart's Day* last February 13.

Since Valentine's Day falls on a Saturday this year, DLSZ celebrated heart's day a day earlier. To cope up with the inconvenience, Lasallian Heart's Day hosted by the Student Representative Coordinating Council (SRCC) was created as a substitute for the previous year's Green Valentine's Day.

The SRCC hosted various activities to thrill the students, even employees. A week before Valentine, SRCC officers initiated a pre-selling of roses and other Valentine paraphernalia.

To spark a friendly competition among the students, an online card making contest, participated in by students from all levels in high school was held. Moreover, along the Gate 2 covered walk, Valentine's Day themed cards were sold to serve as a fundraiser for other projects by the student government.

Lastly, a "Marriage Booth" was put up in front of the Sylvia P. Lina Theatre (CPA), wherein friends and couples could have a mock ceremony of their marriage. Adjoining the booth was "The Spark Returns" project that was previously set up during the Vision-Mission Week . The project was a photo booth wherein interested parties could have some memorable pictures with friends.

The SRCC certainly made sure that the students would experience a memorable thrill last Valentine's Day.



10TH DLSAA ONE LA SALLE WORLD CONGRESS *by Bianca Reforma*

The De La Salle Alumni Association One La Salle Congress, an event that is held every two years, will be at Clark, Pampanga on May 22-24, 2015. This year's tag line is *"Discover the H in HAnimo!"*

The three-day event is packed with various activities such as mass, gala night, and the 'H' tours which include a Mt. Pinatubo half-day tour, sky tour, mammal tour and many more. These activities are meant to entice Filipino Lasallians around the world to attend; however, the 'H' tours are optional, as they require an extra fee.

ZDC HAILED CHAMPS IN CMLI HIP-HOP DANCE COMPETITION *by Samantha Dacanay*

The Zobel Dance Crew swayed their way to the top spot at the championship round of the 56th annual national convention of Children's Museum and Library Incorporated Junior Members and Teacher Adviser (Hip-hop Division) held at the Teachers Camp, Baguio City last October 23-27, 2014. They bested fourteen other groups, even beating the previous champions from School of Saint Anthony.

This is a big feat for the dance crew when they were declared Champions, considering it was their first time to join the said competition. San Sebastian College – Recoletos and University of Batangas were first and second runners-up, respectively.

"Getting in the finals was so surreal. Winning the championship was a blessing! The crew trained everyday and worked so hard. Sacrifices were made, but it was all worth it. We offered that win to the 'Big Guy Up There'",

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Photo courtesy of Mr. Ricardo Lopez

DLSZ STUDENTS ATTEND THE SECOND ACADEMIC AND CULTURAL MEET *by Laurice Sy*

Selected DLSZ High School students showcased their academic and cultural skills in the De La Salle Philippines Second Academic and Cultural Meet held at De La Salle Lipa last January 23. Azrel Vargas (Grade 8), Julia Panganiban (Year 2), Rufus Albano (Year 2),Shaun Gamboa (Year 3), and Robbie De Guzman (Year 3) represented De La Salle Zobel in the Second Academic and Cultural Meet. They were the students who showcased the best performance tasks per level, which were handpicked by the subject coordinators. Since DLSZ immerses itself in integrations, it was no surprise that most of the projects they presented were products of student and subject integrations. Meanwhile, top students of their respective batches Claudine Pulvera (Grade 7), Desher Empeno (Grade 8), and Sofia Suarez (Grade 9) represented the School in the Academic Challenge Quiz Bee and a game of Amazing Race. Meanwhile, the BRafeNHS cultural dance group--Luntiang Dagitab--raised the DLSZ flag as they, along with other La Salle School cultural dance groups, performed a cultural dance presentation reflecting the colorful cultures of the various Philippine tribes.

The Second Academic and Cultural Meet only started last year, as it had been previously held to acknowledge only Academic achievements. In fact, WiZup: the League of the Geniuses, celebrated in DLSZ two years ago, was one of these academic meets. In comparison to last year's meet, this year's celebration had equally focused on the different intelligences and giftedness of Lasallians, claiming that the activity was not only meant for 'textbook smart kids', but also for those who are gifted in other ways. This year's line-up was made under the care of Ms. Agnes Panaligan (DLSZ High School Vice Principal for Academics) and Ms. Leah Castillo (Social Studies Coordinator.)

"(The Second Academic and Cultural Meet is) not just a meeting of the minds, but also a meeting of the hearts. Meaning, it's not just academics that we promote- academic excellence- because it's not just that, it's also about being a community, being a Lasallian family. Because when we go out there, join and participate, we get to know other people who are probably just like us; just as excited to meet other people. We actually learn from them. When we learn from them, we grow better as Lasallians. So, I guess the theme for the next academic year--Communion and Mission--depicts what an academic and cultural meet is," said Ms. Leah Castillo.

Ateneo and DLSU Scholars *by Patricia Santos*

The results of the admissions test for various universities, such as The University of the Philippines, Ateneo de Manila University and De La Salle University, have already been released. Of the thousands who applied in the Top 3 universities, a select few stood out. The said few were recognized for performing well in the entrance tests as well as excelling in their respective high schools. The following are the Fourth Year students who received distinctions from Ateneo De Manila University and De La Salle University.

Ateneo de Manila University
Merit Scholarship
Carlos Benedict F. Echevarria
Ryan Gabriel C. Molen
Director's List Scholarship
Nikko Angelo S. Carisma
Patricia Danielle A. Santos
Kouji T. Tomas

De La Salle University

Candidates for the Star Scholars Program
Carlos Benedict F. Echevarria
Nikko Angelo S. Carisma
Gerardo Francisco M. Munarriz II
Kouji T. Tomas

Candidate for the Gokongwei Grants
Patricia Danielle A. Santos

Congratulations Seniors!

iDREAM CLUB HOLDS UKAY-UKAY FOR #MARIANSELFIE PROJECT *by Lianna Cabigas*

The iDream Club, headed by Sir Cloyd Uyson, held an *ukay-ukay* during the Vision-Mission Week last November 20-21, 2014.

The primary goal of the *ukay-ukay* was to raise funds for the publication of a coffee table book containing a collection of the Grade 9's projects entitled "#MarianSelfie" wherein they had to take a photo of themselves with an image of the Blessed Virgin Mary and post it on their social media sites such as Facebook. The donations of the students served as an application of their lessons in Christian Living, while the fundraiser served as an early holiday bazaar. This market was not only open to the regular students but also the faculty, personnel and BRafeNHS students as well.

"It surely made a great impact. From this said experience, we can tell the whole world that De La Salle Zobel is truly a family, not just a community that cares for each other, and that young kids can make a difference," Sir Cloyd said.

In behalf of the iDream Club, Sir Cloyd would like to thank Batch 2018 for donating goods to the bazaar, the Grade 9 parent volunteers headed by Mr. Ray and Mrs. Dory Rosales, Mrs. Mel Cerutti and Mrs. Cathy Laurian, Ms. Llewelyn Embudo, Ms. Karen Valencia, Sir Allan Padua, Ms. Agnes Panaligan, Ms. Nancy Resma, Ms. Vangie De Peralta, Br. Bernard Oca, FSC and everyone who bought goods from the *ukay-ukay*. The club surpassed its goal by reaching more than P50,000 in their sale and cash donations combined.

DLSZ CELEBRATES ARTS MONTH *by Sofia Recto*



To celebrate the Arts Month, DLSZ sponsored a series of culminating concerts by the different music groups, namely the Beginning and HS Strings, Rondalla, Jammers, Chorale, Young Singers and Symphonic Band.

The world-class concerts were kicked off by the HS Strings that showcased Cuerdas VIII last January 20. The Rondalla and Angklung Ensemble had their collaborative concert after, which was followed by the Symphonic Band that performed last February 17. Then, the Beginning Strings performed to their crowd's delight on February 20. The series ended with the angelic voices of the Young Singers.

Maestro Gerard Salonga shared his expertise with our very own musicians on a two-day training. For their last hurrah, all DLSZ music groups collaborated with Mr. Salonga for a fundraising concert dubbed *To Finlandia and Back* last February 27, 2015.

THE NEW SRCC OFFICERS: REACHING PEOPLE'S APEX *by Elsabet Villaverde and Pia Aguas*



Last January 27, APEX, the latest party running for the Student Representative Coordinating Council (SRCC), started their campaign near Gate 2 and the canteen. On February 3, they went room to room; and on February 4, they held the traditional *miting de avance*.

On February 6, they were officially declared the new SRCC officers. They are as follows: Tami Fernando (President), Betina Hocson (Executive Vice President) Carlos Gemperle (Social Action Vice President), Ica Mercado (Secretary), Won Suk Cho (Treasurer), Danie Evan (4th Year Level Representative), Annelle Dy (3rd Year Level Representative), Andrea Nierras (Grade 10 Level Representative), Bernice Favis (Grade 9 Level Representative), Dani Hermano (Grade 8 Level Representative) and Ara Vera Cruz (Grade 7 Level Representative).

We were fortunate enough to be able to interview Tami Fernando about her new role.

Q: What motivated you to run for President?

Tami: Ever since I was young, I've always known what I'd like to be, and that's to be a leader. I started off as a consistent Class President for several years in a row. When I reached Grade 6, I ran to be the GS-SRCC President and got elected. When I became [a student in] high school, I became a consistent Class President again, became the M.O.V.E Head in Sophomore year, [and] became the Year 11 Social Action Level Contact and HS Girls Football Team Captain in Junior year. Those experiences really helped motivate me to run for the HS SRCC President post.

Q: What do you plan to do since you have been elected President?

Tami: During our campaign, we made sure that we would share with the students what we aim to do when we're elected. Our party goal is for the students and other Lasallians to reach their APEX, or in

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GOODBYE GUTOM *by Vince Rivera*



Social Action Vice President Loudette Bautista of DLSZ Batch 2015, led the High School Student Representative and Coordinating Council (SRCC) in a feeding program named "Goodbye Gutom" last February 28, 2015 at Barangay Poblacion, Muntinlupa City. The feeding activity had participants from the school's very own Lasallian Youth Corp, Search In, Youth for Christ, Lasalyanong Pinoy, and Mission Youth, with a total of 69 volunteers.

"Goodbye Gutom was an amazing experience especially since it brought the whole Zobel together, all the organizations were present but there were no labels made. It was also really fulfilling to see all the happy faces of the kids and parents." shared Martina Serrano, one of the volunteers who joined the activity.

COUNTERPOINT WINS INESSAYS WRITING AND POSTER MAKING CONTESTS *by Sammie Dacanay*



On February 21, 2015 at the SEC C Foyer, the Ateneo Association of Communication Majors (Ateneo ACOMM) awarded Zobel students for their excellent entries to the "Project Motion 2015: Stories of Hope" contest. Ella dela Cruz (JA) and Elsabet Villaverde (JA), won 2nd Place for their Filipino article dubbed "Pag-asa: Ang Ilaw ng Kinabukasan." Meanwhile, Jarel Aguilar (Sr. A) and James Estrella (Sr. B) won 3rd in the poster making category.

Project Motion is a "media literacy competition which aims to promote the value of hope through journalism, advertising and film production." It is open to both private and public high school students.



ZDC HAILED CHAMPS IN CMLI HIP-HOP...

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said Majah Resuello, one of the dancers.

The dance crew was composed of Monina Felice Salamanca (DLSZ 2018), Kirsten Banal (DLSZ 2017), Kirsten Ann Manese (DLSZ 2017), Janella Angelie Varias (DLSZ 2017), Mary Sophia Josephine Ladao (DLSZ 2016), Majah Annika Resuello (DLSZ 2016), Justin Alvarado (DLSZ 2016), Mariana Isabel Serrano (DLSZ 2015), Samantha-Camille Smit (DLSZ 2015), Stefhanelle Jeanne Marie Laurel (DLSZ 2018). They practiced the entire routine for three weeks with their moderator Mr. Mark Joseph Mendoza.

PINOY YOUTHS TAKE PART IN UNITED NATIONS STUDENT CONFERENCE *by Bryan Acha*

A great number of student delegates from schools all over the Philippines gathered at the University of Makati Mini-theater on February 9, 2015 to participate in the annual United Nations Student Leadership Conference on Development. United Nations notable speakers discussed, via video conferencing, with the students from three other countries the need to publish the Sustainablhe Development Goals, which will serve as a sequel to the Millennium Development Goals.

The conference consisted of two parts, the first half was held at the Department of Education's Regional Office in Makati last January 21. That day was dedicated to the training of students and the drafting of the proposal plan of action, which was divided into four major sub themes: Sanitation and Clean Water, Education, Nutrition and Food Security, and Sustainability in Business. The 200 student delegates were also split into four teams to draft a plan of action for each major sub theme. This plan of action basi-

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LEELAH'S LEGACY
by Mikee Almalvez



Isolation and the struggle to fit in are themes that people often experience in their lives. They feel that they are different, that no one likes them, that no one would ever understand how they think, feel, or act. They know that if they tell people of their beliefs and orientation, others would be hell-bent on ruining their lives forever. Such was an experience Leelah Alcorn knew all too well.

As many of you may know, Leelah Alcorn – born Josh Alcorn – was a transgender teen from Ohio who, a few weeks ago, killed herself. She expressed in her suicide note that her parents' refusal to accept her true identity was what led her to feel that ending her life was the only viable option. In the LGBTQA+ community, it is not only Leelah who felt this way, but many others as well. This stems from society's inability to accept these people for who they are.

Others always tell us to be ourselves, to show them who we truly are instead of hiding behind a mask, having people like us for who we aren't. But once we start to show our true colors, society tells us that that's not how we should act. Be someone else. Fix your attitude. Fix your orientation. Lots of people think that loving members of the LGBTQA+ community – specifically trans kids – is to fix them. But loving does not always mean accepting, which is why it's so hard for some parents to accept who their kids are because they feel that their kids are doing it all wrong and their kids should follow their ideals. However, this enforces the mentality that if you think differently, you are not part of us. You do not belong, get away from here. You are not human.



Of course, aside from the LGBTQA+ community, many other people suffer from people who think this way as well. They are made fun of for the way they talk and/or act, for the things they like, for how they are considered too sensitive. Despite being incredibly kind people, they are not wanted because of something they have that they cannot change.

"My death needs to mean something," Leelah said. And it should. It should teach us that just because a boy likes boys, a girl likes girls, someone likes every sort of gender, or that someone changed their gender, it doesn't make them less human. Just because someone acts, thinks, behaves differently, doesn't mean we should treat them differently. They are still human. They have feelings and preferences, too. We are all made up of flesh and bone and blood and organs, so what's the difference? Who cares if they aren't the same as you are? You should embrace them and accept them anyway, because we all come from the same being. Never give people hell for something they couldn't change. Be their safe place. You say you want change? Act upon it. Don't just stand there and be one of those people that refuse to stand up for what they believe in because of what other people might think of them. Because if you are one of those people who are too afraid to bring about some change since they have a reputation to uphold, you are part of the problem. Remember that everyone is one and the same, that differences should never create a barrier between us all. No one deserves to feel like an alien in a place they call home.

AQUINO ADMINISTRATION: A GLINTING GOLD OR REFLECTIVE SHINE?
by Laurice Sy



"Kayo ang boss ko", says Benigno Simeon Cojuangco Aquino III- 15th president of the Republic of the Philippines. Born to Corazon Cojuangco and Benigno Simeon Aquino Jr., 'PNoy' (as the people have come to call him) is the fourth generation politician. In the 2010 elections, the task of rallying the people did not come as great feat to him, given his political background. Now in his fifth year as President , just how far has PNoy come?

PNoy envisioned the Philippines following a 'tuwid na daan', he believed this to be possible through many reform campaigns. The philosophy of the Aquino administration reform's agenda states: If we can rid the country of the culture of corruption, then we can alleviate poverty and collectively move forward to secure an equitably progressive Philippines. Filipinos have experienced the effect of this reform when vast economic reform rejuvenated the Philippines during PNoy's term. In 2012, the Philippines surpassed all expectations, displaying its strongest economic growth yet. Come first quarter of 2013, GDP was recorded at 7.8%. Lead credit ratings agencies have placed the Philippines at the investment grade level, thus encouraging more investors due to reassurance. The Aquino administration proved to the world its sincerity to fight corruption when a breakthrough of justice took place in the form of chastisement of corrupt government officials. It was under the Aquino administration that former Chief Justice Renato Corona was impeached due to his failure to disclose to the public his statement of assets, liabilities, and net worth. Likewise, former president and current Pampanga representative, Gloria Arroyo had not escaped unscathed. The Aquino administration had taken it upon themselves to closely examine and identify the faults of the previous administration and expose Arroyo's alleged corruption. Yet another great feat of the Aquino administration was the uncovering of the long-running Priority Development Assistance Fund Scam (more known as PDAF scam or Pork Barrel Scam). Alleged mastermind Janet-Lim Napoles, along with alleged top-grossing senators: Ramon "Bong" Revilla Jr, Juan Ponce Enrile, and Jinggoy Estrada , were all tried and have since been detained. To add to this great list, the government also worked on strengthening ties with fellow ASEAN members as well as UN allies. Another of PNoy's reform movements focuses on education. The K to12 program would par Philippine educational standards with that of International standards. By the accomplishment of this program, Filipinos would be able to produce more competent students, ready to face the future.

PNoy has truly left his mark on Philippine history. The first bachelor president did a truly remarkable job rallying the masses and helped the nation reach its apex. However, like any other administration, it also had its faults.

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JUSTICE THROUGH JUST MEANS

by Bryan Acha



Since the commencement of the current academic year, the implementation of a traffic color coding scheme has been the object of arguments between the Ayala Alabang Village Association (AAVA) Board of Governors and DLSZ. Up to this day, despite the injunction against the color coding scheme, the issue has been garnering attention from the media and other sectors of the community.

In a letter dated January 5, 2015, Mr. Epifanio S. Joaquin, President of the Ayala Alabang Village Association (AAVA), informed the School that they would implement a color coding scheme that was supposedly going to take effect on February 2, 2015, to reduce the number of vehicles transporting students to and from the school during school days.

This once peaceful and civilized talk between the School and the AAVA has now turned into a full-fledged battle, or even attack on the student body. AAVA officials are consistently re-routing vehicles to call the attention of all residents and eventually push the color coding scheme. Their efforts clearly show how much they prioritize the welfare of the homeowners, which is just appropriate.

There is no doubt in saying that the problem of traffic congestion inside the village is the fault of both the students and the AAVA officials. The area around the vicinity of the school is shared by both the students and the homeowners, making both parties responsible for the said area. Both parties add to the said problem. Why? First, the homeowners who live near the school seem to not mind that their vehicles are double parked even along busy roads. Obviously, these cars can cause congestion during the busiest hours of each school day. Double parking is very prevalent along Molave Road and Acacia Avenue, which are both main roads, passed by school bound and private vehicles.

Second, the AAVA officials and guards are constantly re-routing school bound vehicles, prohibiting them from entering smaller roads that lead to the school. Restricting school bound vehicles to pass only three major roads, namely Madrigal, University and Acacia Avenue, will definitely cause traffic congestion since the thousands of cars will all pass only one route. The blame though is not all on the AAVA officials and home owners; it is also on the school itself. The school has not ceased accepting new students in the past years, not that it is negative, but the sheer number of students causes congestions along the roads near the school. The number of students has surpassed the 4000 mark, with most of them being non-residents of Ayala Alabang. The amazing willingness of the school to offer a high quality education to everyone is ironically the cause of the problem at hand.

As students, what can we do? Nothing is not the answer, because even though it may seem that we can't do anything to address the issue, there is something we can do. The first and most important thing is awareness. As students of DLSZ we must be aware of the issues involving the school which inevitably involves us as well. Spreading the word is key in order to spark a movement. Once people are aware then they can understand and help. Second, it is essential that we respect the decisions of the AAVA officials. The AAVA Board of Governors still has the right to implement certain rules like speed limits and re-routing of vehicles. We should all respect the policies that they make and encourage our parents to do the same. It is also important that we show respect to the guards of the village. Showing respect to others is a quick fire way to gain respect. Lastly, as students of De La Salle Zobel we constantly carry the name of our school no matter where we go. So it is important that when discussing issues such as this we act upon it the way a true Lasallian would--with respect, dignity and moral--especially when talking on media platforms, like on forums, chat rooms and comment threads. It is important that we always maintain proper decorum, especially when making comments on topics of this nature.

It is important as Lasallians that we remember the morals and values that have been instilled upon us. We must fight for our right to an education but in the most just manner possible. With the compassion and commitment of St. La Salle we must move forward with the priority of education in mind and defend the values that we believe and cherish.

AQUINO ADMINISTRATION...

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Unfortunately, the Aquino administration also had its share of mishaps. Everyone remembers the Manila Hostage Crisis. The-said event endangered 25 lives, most of which were tourists from Hong Kong, thus causing tension between Philippine government and Chinese government. What let the people down was the way the administration handled the situation: instead of just receiving the blame wholly, the administration made side comments and citations on how much worse could have happened. What angered citizens more though, was when they caught the president smiling as he was interviewed after the tragic event. In response PNoy said, "My smile might have been misunderstood. I have several expressions. I smile when I'm happy, I smile when I'm faced with a very absurd situation...and if I offended certain people, I apologize to them. It's more of an expression maybe of exasperation rather than anything and again, I apologize if I offended certain people, who misunderstood (my) facial expression". It is not wrong to smile, but he should consider that actions speak louder than words and that he, as the President, cannot risk sending the wrong message not only to his subordinates but also to the brooding Chinese government. The next criticism that came was the government's slow response to citizens' pleas of help after typhoon Yolanda's rampage. International press and volunteer organizations were able to deliver goods to victims at a much faster rate than that of the government. Sad to say, the government was also doubted by the people when it came to their management of relief goods –especially funds-saying of what may happen when donations reach the hands of corrupt officials. And now, hot off the fire, is the incident of the Mamasapano Massacre. Forty-four Special Action Force (SAF) members were killed in the midst of conflict between Moro International Liberation Front (MILF) and Bangsamoro International Freedom Fighters (BIFF) –with whom the government was working with towards a peace treaty (Bangsamoro Basic Law or BBL). It comes into attention how now, all officials are playing the 'blame game'. Who was at fault for said communication failure? Who was at fault for lack of preparations? This badly reflects our nation as one who cannot handle its own shadows- seeing as this puts us at risk of civil war if the issue is not properly resolved.

Despite being an idealist and reformist, PNoy should learn to be more mindful of the way he carries himself as it heavily affects his subordinates and the nation's image.

A great leader, an idealist and a reformist. PNoy is not someone who is afraid to take great risks and go against the social norm. PNoy has become a beacon to those who have gathered and are now on the way to a straight path. Yet with these pros come cons such as insensitivity and miscommunication, it's up to you to decide. Is the Aquino administration really as posh as everyone perceives it to be or is it as any administration before it?


Best Dressed Female, Julianna Cabacho

PROM

by Ella A. Dela Cruz and Sabina Sysantos

Prom is one of the most exciting experiences a high school student could ever have. Hence, the Juniors and Seniors take it upon themselves to assure that the night of nights will indeed be memorable. As such, it is met with anticipation and plenty of preparations, even months prior to the big day. The fashion-savvy scour from Vogue to Tumblr for inspiration for that perfect look, in the hopes of claiming the much coveted *Best Dressed* title. The kids with the killer charisma shamelessly self-promo like there's no tomorrow to assure that they've got that Pre-Prom award in the bag. And then, of course, the promposals. Whether it's a couple who is already together or a completely unexpected pair, the boys can't help but get anxious as he brings out the bouquet, waiting for her reaction. And


Photo courtesy of Edzer Aaron

while time runs out as the big night fast approaches, you may even have found time to squeeze in a bit of a nervous breakdown somewhere in between all those "dress-fitting-altering-waxing-dermadentist-hair-and-make-up-and-mani-pedi" appointments.

But as our own Juniors and Seniors underwent those pre-prom preparations, it's apparent that it all paid off. Last February 2, the JS Prom was undeniably a great success. That of course, with due credits to the 2015 Prom Committee. They made sure to execute the Lumiere theme on point, with fairy lights strewn across branches, as well as a fairytale-esque gazebo, transforming the Bellevue Grand Ballroom into the perfect location to "let the lights guide you".

And what further added to this picture-perfect scene were the students themselves, with the brightness they effervesced as


Prom Prince and Princess, AP Limpot and Rian Lim


Photo courtesy of Therese Padilla

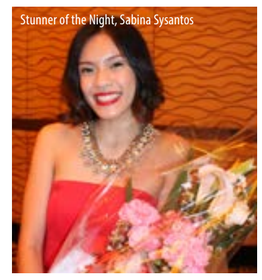

Photo courtesy of Edzer Aaron


Photo courtesy of Edzer Aaron


Couple of the Night, Patrick Morando and Patricia Poblete


Photo courtesy of Edzer Aaron




Stunner of the Night, Sabina Sysantos

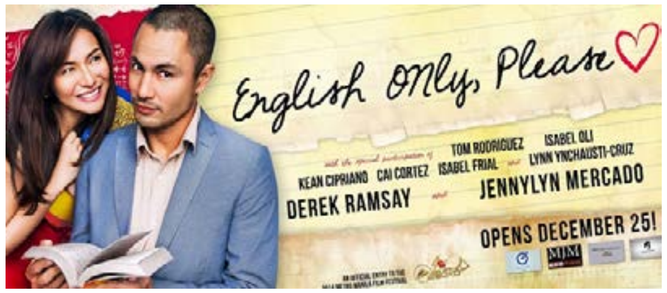


they were simply making the most of a good time. The room, filled with good food and music, was a perfect place for the glit and glam of the the young ladies and gentlemen.

Before the clock struck midnight, the Prom Awards were given to a lucky handful.

What truly made the night were the things that made everyone embrace the unexpected. Yes, it's understood that people can't help but keep the notion in the back of their heads that Prom will be the best night of their high school life. You can't help but have all these expectations. And so maybe for some of our Juniors and Seniors, the "Night of Nights" didn't pan out to what they expected it to be. Maybe they imagined the lights to be brighter, or the dancing a little longer, or hoped things with that one particular unrequited love would finally come together. Maybe they were just looking for a little

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MORE, PLEASE!

by Mika Borromeo

"We can never forget the people we love. But once they're gone, they're gone. We can't do anything even if we look back."

You have probably heard about the success of the Metro Manila Film Festival (MMFF) 2014 entry, "English Only, Please". With its charisma, magic, and unforgettable quirks, it's really hard not to fall in love with its light-hearted touch and flair.

Julian Parker (played by Derek Ramsay) is a New Yorker who comes to Manila with one goal set in mind: to be able to perfectly recite a Filipino translation of his angry letter to his Filipina ex-girlfriend. He then hires an English tutor, a heartbroken yet optimistic Tere Madlangsacay (played by Jennylyn Mercado), to help dictate and translate his letter. Upon spending time with Tere, Julian grows to love the Filipino culture and the unique affinity between Tagalog and the English language. Two fools for the name of love, only to realize that they are perfect for each other.

The movie surprised Filipinos when it bagged a good number of awards in the MMFF Gabi ng Parangal. "English Only, Please" brought home the trophies for the following categories: Best Director, Best Actor, Best Actress, Best Screenplay, Best Original Story, Best Editor and Second Best Picture. A romantic comedy winning all major awards in the MMFF must have created interest among the moviegoers to watch the highly acclaimed film.

The success of "English Only, Please" keeps the genre of rom-com somewhat alive. Ramsay and Mercado were able to balance the charm of the characters and delivered their lines in a relatable and warm manner.

The "English Only, Please" production deserves to be recognized for taking the movie into authenticity. It captures a romance between two broken hearts—a stereotypical storyline—yet surprisingly fresh and different. A message from all viewers: *"we want more, please!"*

TALE AS OLD AS TIME

by Lianna Cabigas



The world renowned tale (as old as time) Broadway spectacular musicale Beauty and the Beast came to Manila as part of the production's Asian tour brought here by Ovation Productions together with Disney Theatrical Productions, NETworks and Broadway Entertainment Group to commemorate the production's 20th anniversary.

Musical director Rob Roth was "blown away by the movie, which seemed like a classic Broadway musicale only animated," when it premiered in 1992. Disney then asked Roth, together with set designer Stan Meyer and choreographer Matt West, who had seen the movie with him, to turn the animated film into a musical.

The show made its Broadway debut on April 18, 1994 and soon enough, Disney offered the musicale to be shown worldwide. With productions being opened in Australia, Germany, Japan, Los Angeles and Vienna, Beauty and the Beast had been nominated for 13 Tony Awards and received the Olivier Award and South African Naledi Award for Best Musicale. The Broadway production played a total of 5,461 shows and had been seen by 27 million people worldwide. It became the sixth longest running Broadway show in history.

Roth was then asked to recreate the show that could tour the U.S. in 2013. Fortunately, it was given the chance to tour internationally too for the first time in Asian countries like Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Singapore, Thailand, United Arab Emirates, and of course, the Philippines!

The Cultural Center of the Philippines Main Theater in Pasay City housed the production's shows from January 8 until February 1. Musicale numbers, notably "Be Our Guest" and "Gaston", were lively and included superb choreography. The costumes, designed by Ann Hould-Ward, were stunning, especially Lumiere's, an enchanted object, whose candles that served as hands lit up at his will. The lighting and effects were equally as impressive, notably again in "Be Our Guest" where sparklers were lit onstage and streamers popped out towards the audience. Also, the scene where Beast became human again was unquestionably superb. The set was clever but simple compared to Wicked, which played shows in the CCP at the same time last year.

If there was one thing that really popped out of the animated film and onto the stage, it was Gaston. The muscular and self-centered antagonist was played by Adam Dietlain, who is as muscular as, and even taller as the Beast. He truly embodies a Broadway actor with his accurate portrayal of Gaston. All in all, the production definitely had its audiences reliving and enjoying the classic Disney Renaissance movie come to life right before their eyes.

PROM...

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more magic. But all those ideals and fantasies don't matter because this time it was reality. "Prom" wasn't just an overhyped concept or some American tradition they see on TV shows anymore. Prom became an actual experience of theirs. As our night of lights wrapped up, the Juniors and Seniors were able to say that they went to their prom and made their own memories – in the sea of chiffon and sequins, when the dance floor was too crowded and their heels were getting the best of them, they still found their way to take the moment and make it theirs to last forever. They each created their own personal memories, and that's more precious than any fantasy - because finally, it was theirs.

Finally, we would like to thank our Teachers, the DLSZ Parents' Association, Ms. Gisselle Lim, Ms. Nancy Resma, Br. Bernie Oca, FSC and the 2015 Prom Committee for the success of the JS Prom this year. We appreciate your great effort, patience, support and hardwork that made the event truly meaningful.

BILIBID...

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When it was about time to leave the facility, the inmates offered their pieces of artwork as a souvenir, and as an incentive to come visit again to acquire more of their masterpieces. After bidding goodbye to the inmates I met, and got back in the bus going home, I acquired a new realization that redemption, even in the grimmest circumstances, can be attained through restitution, and during that process, something beautiful happens—whether in the form of self-improvement, a change in morals and dispositions, and the creation of art.



TOP 8 SUMMER 2015 BUCKET LIST

by Rheanne Mendoza

Is it just me or does it feel like summer is just around the corner? Here comes a time for fun, relaxation and hanging out with your friends. Celebrate these glorious months with exciting activities that will surely knock your socks off. Here are ten things you can do during this summer break that will really make it worthwhile.

1. Have a day with your besties.

Usually summer is focused on vacations and all that, but don't forget about your best friends. Invite them over and have a fun time. It doesn't matter if it's a casual trip to the mall, a spa day, or a sleepover as long you gain new memories.

2. Try something new.

Summer isn't just about being lazy and lying on your bed all day, browsing through 9gag. Do something productive this summer. Learn something new whether it'd be learning to play an instrument or playing a new sport. This summer should be spent to discover something great about yourself.

3. Find your 2015 summer jam.

Music is so popular these days, and who could deny the fact that music brings out the best in us? This summer, find a song that you love, something that you'd sing along to your heart's content wherever you are. Make this your theme song as you embark on new adventures this summer break.



4. Have a day without technology.

Most people say that our generation is a slave to technology, this summer let's prove them wrong. Turn off your internet for just 24 hours and enjoy what the world has to give. Go outside and smell the fresh air. Go back to the basics. Ride a bike, walk around, and just relax. Talk to your neighbors and just socialize.

5. Read a book.

Not all of you may be into reading these paper-filled objects, but take the time and give them a chance. Books will help you strengthen your imagination and inspire you at the same time. It doesn't matter what type of book you read, as long as it captivates you. If you don't know what book to read, ask your friends for some recommendations.



6. Have a movie marathon.

Want to stay home yet you can't find anything to do? Watch some movies. All of you must certainly like movies whether it be horror, comedy, drama or whatever genre. Movies which have a lot of sequels will also be fun to watch like Lord of the Rings (LotR) and Harry Potter. Get some snacks, find a comfortable spot, dim the room and you're now set for a classic movie marathon.

7. Spend time with your family.

School and work can really take its toll on your social life and relationships, especially the time spent with your family. Use this break to bond with them and cherish each loving moment you spend with them. Have a picnic or go to an amusement park. Remember, family is forever.

8. Document your adventures.

Document your adventures, so you could create a record of all the new memories you've gained and all the fun times you've had. In short, make a scrapbook! Make it look nice because someday you will look back at them, wanting to relive those moments. By doing so, you do not only save memories for yourself, but also share these memories with others.

SENIOR AND JUNIOR HS STUDENTS WIN GOLD... *by Samantha Dacanay*

Continued from page 1

the Physics Quiz Bee of the PISKAALAMAN 2015 hosted by the University of the Philippines Physics Association. The elimination round was on February 14, 2015 while the final round was on February 21 when the team brought home the bacon.

"It was actually my first time to coach a team that won a physics contest so I am very happy." said sir John Magalong, coach of the winning team. They have been reviewing since November of 2014 and all their hard work certainly paid off.

ONE GREAT TEACHER: MISS FATIMA GUERRERO

by Elsabet Villaverde

Ms. Fattie, or "Mami F" as she is fondly known by her students, is one of the many esteemed high school teachers in this school. She is not only an Accounting and Geometry teacher of the highest calibre, but also a kind, motherly figure to her students. As a teacher, she makes it her duty to see to it that her students understand the lessons—which are honestly difficult at times— to the best of her ability.



However, Ms. Fattie is so much more than a teacher; she deals with her students with compassion and understanding. She treats them as one of her own children; she not only aids them in academics but also gives them motherly guidance when they need it. You can always count on her to help you out in her subject — just as you can count on her to call you her "anak" when she gives you a VR.

Despite her busy schedule, as she handles both the Junior and Senior levels, Ms. Fattie always gives time for her students. She helps them learn not only theorems in Geometry and posting in Accounting, but also valuable lessons in life. Hence, they are grateful for what she's done for them and what she will continue to do for the rest who will be in the four corners of her classroom.

ALEN DANIEL MERCADER, BLAZING THE GREEN TRAIL

by Danielle Cabahug

"DLSZ aims to form Christian Achievers for God and Country, through teaching minds, touching hearts and transforming lives. De La Salle Santiago Zobel School is committed to the pursuit of excellence and the formation of the whole person." These few lines of the DLSZ Vision Mission statement, one that teachers have diligently instilled in us early on in the lower grades, encompass all that the school as an institution stands for. And though most of us used to recite then that our school is "committed to the pursuit of excellence", our ideals for excellency would usually remain to be in theory. Now, many years later, we are proud to have a more concrete role model for Lasallian excellency, being an alumnus of Zobel, Alen Daniel Mercader (Batch 2012) recognized as a candidate for The Outstanding Young Men award of 2015.

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USO PA BA ANG HARANA?* A Brief History of Filipino Courtship *by Leah Marie Tumlos-Castillo*

*The title of this article is from the lyrics of the song "Harana" by Parokya ni Edgar.



It is natural to be gleeful when it comes to hearing stories of courtship. I, for one, grew up reading romantic pocket books. Courtship stories click with people, young and old, because one can relate deeply to these tales. This is precisely because the love found in these tales resonate optimism and hopefulness.

The Traditional Way of Filipino Courtship

Courtship rituals in our country are considered special and are rooted from pre-colonial period. In traditional Philippine culture, courtship is more subdued and indirect. A man who is interested in courting a woman has to be initially friendly and discreet in order not to be branded as aggressive or presumptuous. Women, on the other hand, are deemed to be essentially modest and shy. It is taboo for them to be aggressive towards men.

If a man wants to be taken seriously by the woman he's interested in, he has to introduce himself formally to the woman's parents. To prove his worth, he also has to exert effort in buying pasalubong (gifts) each time he visits the woman at her home. It is often observed that in the Philippines, courting a Filipina means courting her family as well.



Spanish-Influenced Courtship

When the Spaniards occupied us for three centuries, they left an impact in the way men court women. Filipinos serenade women, also known as harana, outside their homes at night and sing songs of love and affection. The man is usually accompanied by a group of male friends who provide moral support, apart from singing with him. Women are expected to be pakipot or playing hard to get. It is inappropriate for them to be easily swayed by their suitors. By being pakipot, the women are able to gauge whether their admirers are sincere with their intentions. Some courtships last many years before a woman finally accepts the man's love.

Traditionally after a long courtship, pamamanhikan (to ascend or climb a house's flight of stairs) occurs. Pamamanhikan is the asking for the woman's parents' permission to wed. This custom symbolizes honor and respect for the parents of the woman, seeking their approval and blessing before walking down the aisle. At present, this ritual remains an integral part of any Filipino couple's plan to settle down.



Courtship in the Internet Age

Back in the pre-Internet days, Filipinos were very fond of writing love letters (perfumed or not), talking on the telephone and dedicating songs on the radio. Today, courtship has little resemblance to the customs that traditionally led to marriage in the past. Technology and mass media have changed the rules of the game, the expectations and the rituals leading to the ultimate exchange of vows. The evolution of mobile phones (particularly the use of the Short Messaging System or texting), the proliferation of Internet use and the emergence of social networking sites spell out the big difference in courtship rituals. Furthermore, the exposure to mass media such as television and print materials (e.g. magazines) have changed the way people perceive courtship. Television shows that depict dating trends and magazines that dictate dating how-to's have influenced the decisions and rituals of many people across the globe.

In this day and age, the young generation and the young at heart make use of technology and get ideas from mass media. These modern tools and ideas enable them to freely articulate their feelings creatively as well as publicly to show evidence of their affection.

The Essence of Courtship

Regardless which era one is born in, courtship is considered a path to the altar. Through this phase, two people discover each other's strengths and weaknesses, and work harmoniously together to make their dreams come true. It is also a stage where one learns about his/her self in relation to their partner. Hence, courtship becomes a fundamental way to self-discovery.

For Filipinos in general, courtship is essential in building a lifelong commitment – marriage. Even if we are currently living in a fast-paced age, the path to marriage still takes a certain amount of time, effort and energy that usually begins with a "hello" and ends with an "I do".

Note: Ms. Leah Castillo is currently the Social Studies Coordinator of the High School Department. She was a classroom teacher from 2004 to 2011 and has taught Philippine History, Asian History and Introduction to Political Science.



IT'S MORE FUN IN THE PH

by Vince Rivera and Ella A. dela Cruz

As the Department of Tourism launched their promotional tag line, *"It's More Fun in The Philippines"* in 2012, we remember all of the reasons why the saying "There is no place like home" is definitely true. So, why is it more fun in the Philippines, one might ask. For one, we as Filipinos are blessed to be able to gallivant around the beautiful Vigan, engage in budol fights, and cruise around town using our unique public transportation vehicles. As evidenced by these sceneries and unique activities, we celebrate the diversity and originality of our culture. For it is simple things like these that set us apart from the rest of the world and make us proud to be Filipino.

To be able to flit around the streets of Vigan is enough reason why it is more fun in the Philippines. It is a city situated in Ilocos Sur and is one of the few preserved Hispanic towns left in our country. It is now known as one of the "NEW 7 Wonder Cities". A place where time seems to have stopped, it is a perfect example of a Spanish colonial town in Asia. Vigan is recognized for its beautiful structures, featuring Filipino building designs merged with colonial European architecture, with nearly all of which are well maintained and still intact. Vigan also features cobblestone streets with kalesas roaming, completing the look and feel of the Spanish colonial period. It feels as if one might have been transported to Spain, a hundred years ago. Through the magic of Vigan, we get to experience Spain in the comfort of the Philippines.

Another reason would be that of a traditional activity known in the Philippines as the *budol* fight. For those of you who do not know what a *budol* fight is, it is a way of eating in which a variety of food is scattered on a banana leaf and bare hands are used instead of eating utensils. Foods found in budol fights could be anything from rice to fish, and all kinds of viands to fruits. This activity is especially fun when in the company of friends and family members since food is shared and savored among all. In fact, the reason why it's so fun is because everyone is trying to out-eat everyone else!

Public transportation, too, is more fun in the Philippines. From jeepneys to tricycles and even pedicabs- these public transportation vehicles are all customized with vibrant colors and decorations, each one having a unique look. These Filipino vehicles bring life to the road with various phrases, ranging from jokes to quotes, and eye-catching designs. These colorfully customized public transportation vehicles show the creativity of Filipinos, expressing our artistic ideas through these designed vehicles bringing passengers across places. This sets us apart from other countries as we prove that Filipinos try to keep it lively and creative in even the simplest ways.

The Philippines is very rich in culture and unique practices. With the creativity of the Filipinos, we add our own twists to many things. This is exactly what sets us apart from other countries. Despite all the beautiful tourist attractions and unorthodox, creative ways we celebrate, handle situations and do activities in our everyday lives, what stands out the most in our country are the Filipinos themselves. Possessing the values of hospitality, optimism, creativity, and natural friendliness, it is we who give the Philippines its identity and personality. Besides the stunning places, creative twists and the unique culture we posses, it is the people that truly make it more fun in the Philippines.



BILIBID REFLECTION

by Eljay Tomas

I did not expect my visit to the Bilibid correctional facility to be so surreal. As a high school student that does not know anything about the facility itself, besides the fact that it houses and tends to criminals, I was pleasantly surprised. The first two inmates I met and spoke with were very polite and well-mannered, and you would not know that they were convicted criminals if you met them elsewhere. I was skeptical at first, wondering if this is just a facade they put up in order to please visitors, but their behavior towards me and my fellow students was pleasantly, genuine.

As they shared their stories with us while we enjoyed the tea we had prepared for them, I found out what they were in for. Despite the crimes the both of them had committed, they were truly remorseful of their actions. They wanted to start over, this time, on the right path. And that was evident through the various activities they do regularly in the facility in order to correct and better themselves, for the sole purpose of reintegrating back into society. In the facility, they had classrooms for high school education, workstations for woodcrafts and electronics, and many open-air rooms for art.

Most of the inmates seemed to have a knack for art, and they have an entire gallery filled with beautiful, professional-like pieces of artwork to prove it—ranging from burnt wood drawings, oil-pastel drawings, dotted portraits, wooden boats in bottles, and other various forms of art. The gallery, although small in scale, was still very impressive. The inmates were also very keen on teaching us how they do their art, and teach they did, effectively, and efficiently.

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ALEN DANIEL MERCADER, BLAZING...

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The Outstanding Young Men award, initiated in 1959 by the Manila Jaycees has grown over the years to become an institution seeking to give national recognition to young men and women aged 18–40 whose dedication to their profession or vocation has resulted in significant contributions to the welfare of their countrymen, and the advancement of the fields of their endeavour.

Graduating students with a grade of 3.2 and above, and with active participation in organizations, were invited to apply for the award. Of all the seven colleges in DLSU, the candidates for TOYM were shortlisted to the top 25, Alen being the only candidate from the College of Computer Studies who made it onto the list. Second week of February, Mercader is to make a presentation of all his commitments and achievements in the second round of deliberation.

As students aspiring to make a difference and an impact in society in our years to come, we hope to emulate the true Lasallian advocacy as you have, as we grow to be shaped, molded and formed by the institution that many of us proudly call our Alma Mater--our second home. We salute and wish you the best of luck in your endeavors to come, Alen!

PAGSUBOK NA KAYA KONG HARAPIN *by Benedict Chan*

Hango sa aklat na Mga Kwentong Grin ni Teodulo Blas,

Marami tayong mga hindi makakalimutang karanasan, masama man ito o mabuti. Dati akong mag-aaral sa Xavier School na kapatid na paaralan ng Ateneo University at karibal ng Paaralang De La Salle Santiago Zobel. Isang hamon na kailangan kong harapin. Paano ako matatanggap ng bago kong komunidad?

Maiinit, walang air-conditioning unit, masikip na silid, at tambak na aralin araw-araw, ganyan ang sitwasyon ko sa dati kong paaralan. Paglabas ng paaralan, pupunta pa ako sa tutor. Nakadagdag pa sa hirap ang apat na karagdagang Chinese subjects. Minsan pa nga, nasa tutor ako tuwing Sabado pag malapit na ang eksamin.

Ninerbiyos ako pagdating ko pagdating ko sa Zobel tuwing iisipin kong baka iisipin nilang ako ay isang kaaway, o di kaya naman ay dedmahin na lang. Kawawa naman ako pag ganito ang nangyari.

Pinilit kong sumali sa mga gawain sa klasrum at napatunayan kong mali ang aking naramdaman. marami ang humikayat sa akin na parating sumali sa diskusyon sa klase kahit sabihin pang bulol at barok ako sa pananalita. Mahirap talaga eh. Unang wika: Chinese, pangalawa Ingles. Ngayon, nadagdag pa ang Filipino. Pero hindi ako susuko dahil may mga nakaalalay sa aking mga kamag-aral at mga guro na nagtutulak para ako ay tumapang sa pagharap sa mga bagong aralin.

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A VOLUNTEER'S EFFORTS *by Pia Aguas*



Last January 17, Pope Francis visited Tacloban and celebrated Mass with the Yolanda survivors. The people of Tacloban and those who were watching on their TVs were blessed by his presence. Unfortunately, his visit was cut short after the strong tropical storm, Amang. Another tragic news would be the death of the 27 year old Catholic Relief Service volunteer, Kristel Mae Padasas after being hit by scaffolding that collapsed because of the tropical storm.

Upon the news of her death, Pope Francis then called for silence as well as offered prayers during the papal mass at the University of Santo Tomas. There was also a memorial mass held for her at the Redemptorist Church. Pope Francis was able to visit the father of the victim and had given him a rosary. All of these actions manifested how she was beloved by not only her family, but also the community. It also showed us that the Pope wanted the youth to be merciful and to pray over her. All of these efforts, both the people's and the Pope's, show how we have great heart, compassion, and how we can be united in prayer in times like these.

The Pope's visit has impacted our country in various ways. He was able to encourage us to be prayerful and live a life of mercy and compassion. He gave hope to the people and most especially, the survivors of Typhoon Yolanda. Kristel Padasas's passing gave us a show of how the Pope made a huge emphasis over the youth and his journey of mercy and compassion. We should not let this feeling of blessedness slide away; it should stay forever in our hearts and minds.



SUMMERTIME SOLACE *by Sabina Sysantos*

With summer finally coming in a couple more months, the prospect of beach trips, poolside barbeques and picnics have surely been no stranger to your thoughts as of late. And who could blame you? There is no better opportunity to unwind outside.

Though as we all know, the circumstances of a Manila summer do not permit ample relaxation when there's that unbearable heat striking down on you. So when it's the sun that's hindering you from chilling outdoors, make these drinks to cool yourself down. It only takes a few ingredients to make the perfect treats, and you can always tweak them according to your personal preference by mixing flavors or throwing in a dash of some special additive.

Ice cream floats
A glassful of soda topped off with a scoop of ice cream

Flavors to try: **vanilla soda with strawberry ice cream, or classic root beer with vanilla ice cream**

Milkshakes
3 scoops of ice cream + ½ cup of milk

Flavors to try: **mix salted caramel, hazelnut, chocolate, vanilla, strawberry, or pistachio ice cream in a blender with your choice of milk, whether it be low-fat, malted, almond, or regular.**

PINOY YOUTHS TAKE PART...

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cally includes operative clauses that will serve as solutions to problems stated in the guidelines.

The second half of the conference was held in the same venue last February 9. This day included a number of outstanding speakers and was intended for the deliberation of the final plan of action. The discussion was held over international video conference with students from The Omega School in India, Colegio Carol Baur in Mexico, and US Student Delegates in the United Nations HQ. There were also webcast sites in Karachi High School in Pakistan and the Kuvuna Youth Leadership Institute in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

The international conference was co-sponsored by the Global Education Motivators and the Philippine conference was sponsored by the I Am SAM Foundation. The said foundation successfully organized the conference and was able to bring in six different speakers for the night. They were Under Secretary Donato Marcos (DOE), Ms. Gina Lopez (ABS-CBN Foundation), Atty. Darlene Berberabe (Pag-ibig Fund), Mr. Alejandro Melchor III (DOST), Mr. Ludwig Federigan (WWF), and Ms. Fe Agudo (Hyundai).

"UNSLCD was surely a unique event. It was a blessing to be part of it for I was able to help save the world in a small way", said Sammie Dacanay, De La Salle Zobel student delegate to the said United Nations youth gathering.

MIA GATO...

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M.O.S.T. is a yearly search for the most exemplary student among public and private high schools. This award is to given to acknowledge and commend the skillful and excellent students of the city. The specifications for judging is an IQ exam, panel interviews, academic records, talents, skills, and student and community leadership.



ONE HELL OF AN ANIME *by Gerard Ignacio and Bea Rondon*

Imagine a butler who is willing to attend to your every need, no matter the circumstance. A butler that would defend you from any foe, cook exquisite meals whenever you wish, and do all of your work willingly without breaking a sweat. However, all of this does come with a price to pay, and a very expensive one at that. It is your soul.

First released as a Manga, a Japanese-style graphic novel, *Black Butler* was created by the extremely talented, Yana Toboso. She was born on January 24, 1984, in Warabi, Saitama, Japan. *Glamorous Lip*, *Hana Shōnen*, and *Rust Blaster* are some of her other amazing works, yet none of those can compare to the ever-popular Black Butler, which is Kuroshitsuji (黒執事) in Japanese.

Black Butler takes place in the late 1800s, in Great Britain, England. It follows the life story of Ciel Phantomhive, a twelve-year-old boy with a huge range of talents. Sadly, at the age of ten, the Phantomhive Manor mysteriously was set aflame, leaving it—and his parents inside—in ashes. He later forges a contract with Sebastian Michaelis, a demon that has taken the guise of Ciel's butler, to avenge his parents. Together, they fight their way through the cruel world as Queen Victoria's "Watchdog," who takes care of mysterious crimes.

Sebastian, whose origin story is unknown, develops a certain liking for Ciel's soul. He admires the earl's burning determination to avenge the two people who love him the most. This causes their relationship with each other to flourish, forming a bond stronger than the contractual one they share. In the end, Ciel reminisces his life. Ciel has created, strengthened, and severed, bonds with different people. Despite the fact that he knows that Sebastian will devour his soul, Ciel's love for his butler does not fade. Sebastian devours Ciel's soul, with the boy willingly giving up his life to the butler.

And with that, Toboso's story to come to an end... Or does it?

With different people around the world talking about this anime, Toboso decided to release a second season of her story on demonic butlers.

Kuroshitsuji II opens with the introduction of former-slave, now-earl Alois Trancy. Alois was kidnapped right after his birth, resulting in his mother's suicide, leaving his father alone to search for him. Alois lived his younger years in a small shack in the outskirts of a small village. He and his brother, Luka, were constantly abused by the other residents of the village, for they thought to be bad luck. This forced them to result to pick pocketing from the villagers in order for them to get food and other necessities, which they were hated for even more. They only had each other. However, when they visited the village, one night, they found it engulfed in flames with no more living residents. As Alois stole the possessions of the dead residents, Luka disappeared from his brother's sight momentarily, but he was found with his body on the ground, as though his soul was sucked right out of his body. And that was what had happened.

Years after then, he was brought back to the Trancy estate, accompanied by a "black-clad butler." The Earl of Trancy died of an unknown epidemic days after, causing Alois to take his title. He now works as Queen Victoria's "Spider," the one responsible for clearing up crime scenes that bring her great despair.

Claude Faustus, his beloved butler whom he has a Faustian Contract with, told Alois that Sebastian was the one who killed Luka. Instead of wishing for the death of the demon, Alois told his butler that he would like to take his rage out on Ciel, Sebastian's contractee. But can he really trust what the devil tells him?

All in all, the series really has changed the lives of a lot of people. It's a story that has made a great impact on the world. Black Butler truly is a unique story, as it tackles and acknowledges the world's problems today so that we may be aware what is going on in society.

Now the question arises: knowing the story, would you still want a butler of your own, one that will do everything you desire, despite the price?

"X" REVIEW *by Cj Atienza*



Ed Sheeran comes back with another great and inspirational album titled X, pronounced Multiply. The album features 12 songs, with 4 bonus songs in the deluxe edition. The album was released on June 20, 2014, thus adding more songs to the collection. The album hit number one in twelve different countries in its first week.

If ever you're feeling down, had just gone through a breakup, or just like sentimental songs, X is definitely the album to listen to. It features songs about breakups, new loves, cheating, and many other songs that most teenagers could relate to. His hit song Thinking Out Loud reached number 26 in the UK Charts upon the release of the album, until it hit the number one spot last November 2014. The singer-songwriter is well known for this song.



The album also features fast rap songs like Sing, Runaway, Take It Back, The Man, and Don't, which is about his ex-girlfriend Ellie Goulding. It also features slow songs that you'll fall in love with, such as Photograph, One, the hit song Thinking Out Loud, and Tenerife Sea.

Ed Sheeran is definitely the artist to listen to when you're in need of songs that would either remind you or make you forget about something. He has definitely outdone his previous album +.

The singer-songwriter is set to have a concert here in Manila on March 12, 2015, at the Mall of Asia Arena.

SUNS RISE, SONS SINK *by Sofia Recto*

when your father gives you wings
he tells you to fly low

but as a hedonist you
pledged allegiance to
sweet youthful disobedience

up there
the sun god grins
at your gleaming gaze

"come with me," he says,
and he holds his out hand
for you to reach,
"i know a better way."

you marvel at his magnificence
and smile at the sight
of blazing fire:
that blinding, golden light

and you,
you fool,
you flew

face the facts:
wings of wax
dissolve in day

receive this reality:
you are but a tragedy,
a story nearing its last page

Apollo touches the tip of
your wing
and watches as the wax
wanes away

(oh, dear Icarus,
if the sun hadn't burned
brighter
than your feelings of desire
your father
would not
have had
to cry.)

the liar with the lyre
laughs as you lose your life

you fall fast
you fade fast

devoured by the depths
you swallow salt and
the sea steals your screams

A PECULIAR SERIES

by Gerard Ignacio

Something peculiar is stirring. Or, that could just be the movie.

Either way, Ransom Riggs, a New York Times' bestselling author, introduces a peculiar world in the perspective of young Jacob, a young teenage boy who just happens to posses his grandfather's unique ability: to see monsters others can't.

The story begins with Jacob Portman, a young, curious boy, who loves sitting with his grandfather, Abe Portman. Jacob listens to Abe's fantasy stories of his friends. Abe narrates stories of Emma Bloom, who can spontaneously create tongues of flames in her palms, Millard Nullings, the younger version of the Invisible man, and Enoch O' Conner, a boy who can reanimate inanimate objects or deceased bodies for a conversation for a short period of time, just to name a few.

Little does Jacob know, these alleged 'made-up stories' of the holocaust survivor, Abe Portman, who people may call a nut job and people suggest that his 'cheese has finally slipped off his cracker', may be more realistic than he thinks.

Everything changes when Jacob spots a creature so ferocious and disgusting. He attempts to follow it to the forest and discovers a dead dog. The police arrive and he tries to give a full description to the police when he was questioned. The police didn't



believe him and thought the creature which Jacob described was just a figment of his imagination, and the thing that killed the dog was just a bear.

Furious, Jacob ran home just to find his grandfather, dead, still clutching his shotgun, as if he were taking his last stand, defending his home from the creatures.

Looking back at what happened earlier, he starts looking through his grandfather's possessions only to find letters from the kids he thought weren't real. Photos of them even.

He sets off with his father, who as no idea of Jacob's true intentions, to the island that was hinted in one of the letters.

He discovers a place filled with kids, but these kids looked familiar to Jacob. These were the kids from the photos.

He introduces himself as Abe Portman's grandson, which brings most of the kids to tears.

Jacob, after making friends with a bunch of the children, soon discovers their guardian, Miss Alma Peregrine, has been kidnapped. Their group sets out to find their guardian and swears to not let anyone, or anything, get in their way.

With the readers of Riggs' thriller still creating theories on how Jacob and his team of peculiar friends will survive to get back their stolen mistress, Ransom was already beginning to create a sequel to his famed story.

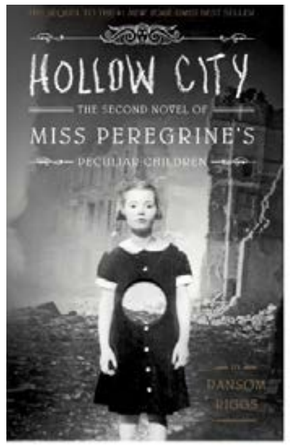
The second story of the Peculiar chronicles opens with the time Jacob and his colleagues reach London, the country where the clues he and his friends found, only to find out that the bird they were brining around, the peregrine who they thought was Miss Alma since she possesses the ability to transform into a bird, was an imposter. They meet up with more kids like them and find out that those kids are rallying together to create an army against the monsters only Jacob can see.

The third, and most likely final, book's release date is still unknown, but fans of the book are raring to hear the end of the Peculiar kids' story. People are literally and figuratively on the edge of their seats to discover all the coming challenges the children must face in the approaching days.

All eyes rest on author, Ransom Riggs, as people hope that he will make the third installment and that it would be greater than the last.

We also hope that the movie, which is in the making, will exceed the expectations of the readers and follow the boom flawlessly. The movie crew has really gotten themselves a challenge with this book-to-movie adaptation. They must create a movie that still maintains the same level of suspense and thrill as the book offers. They also must choose the actors carefully, as each of the characters has a detailed description.

All in all, this story has thrills at every turn, suspense in every chapter, and action in every paragraph. It is truly a hair-raising experience to read a peculiar book series such as this one.



NEW SRCC...

continued from page 4

other words, their maximum potential. I will start having programs and activities that will help further enhance their different talents and capabilities. We will also help the students bring out the Lasallian leaders in them. Having said that, we hope to help them reach their APEX.

Q: What would make you different from the other previous Presidents?

Tami: Every year, each President has a different goal for the Zobel community. Last year, Ana Sarmiento's party goal was to have ONE Zobel. She wanted the BRafeNHS, the day school students, the org members and other Lasallians to all be united and to work together. This year, we hope to bring out in students their hidden talents. We'd like to open new avenues for students to showcase their talents. We could come up with projects like having an art exhibit or we would also challenge the students who are into computer graphics, or even have fashion shows for the aspiring fashion designers. In short, we will create opportunities for them to get out of their comfort zones and make their talents known.

Counterpoint wishes Tami and her party to reach the apex of success as they serve the DLSZ community in the coming academic year.

PAGSUBOK...

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Masasabi kong magandang karanasan ang paglipat ko sa Zobel dahil sa gaan at luwang ng mga gawain, lalo na at walang Chinese subject. Komportable ang silid-aralan at mahigpit ang seguridad. Salamat sa aking mga magulang na nagdesisyong ilipat ako dito.

Dasal ko lang sa Diyos na ako'y mahubog bilang isang mabuting Kristiyano at Lasalyano sa pagdaan ng panahong ilalagi ko dito hanggang makapagtapos ako.

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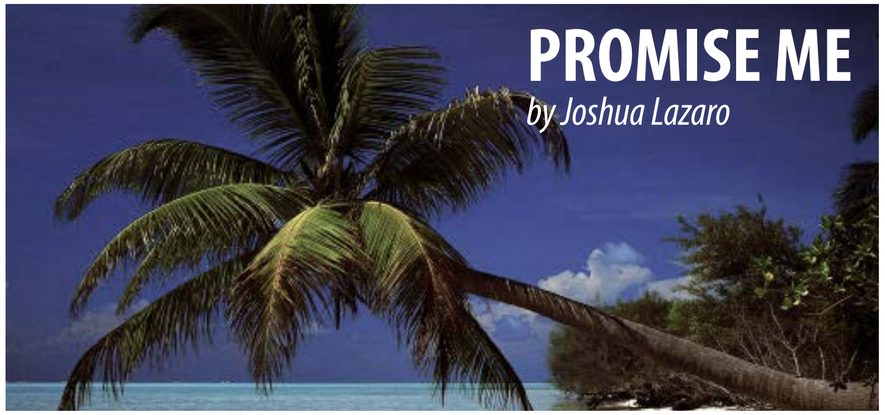
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PROMISE ME

by Joshua Lazaro

Typical love story. Boy meets girl, boy asks girl to be his. When girl flies away to America, boy waits for her even through the toughest times in his life, the girl ends up breaking his heart and doesn't seem to care, and the boy's life is now a lie from the start.

Their relationship was different though- no secrets, no lies, no problems. All because the girl knew that she really loved the boy with all her heart, and no matter what that was never gonna change. Unless the sickness tampering with their relationship gets worse. But now they know when it's due. And they know how it's going to end.

"What's wrong with me?" She asked putting her face in her hands.

He simply took her hands in his and whispered into her ear, "Nothing is wrong with you dear, I love you just the way you are." She held him tight, never wanting to let go, because she knew what was going to happen today.

"We should go for a walk, just you and me," he said pulling her up from the ground. He wiped the tears off her face and pulled her close.

She nodded and texted her mother that she was going out with her boyfriend. Hand in hand the couple left the house and walked over to the nearby beach. They walked barefoot on the warm sand on the shores of their special beach. While walking, he suddenly stopped and gazed up at the stars and simply stared at their beauty. She looked at her loving boyfriend with a puzzled expression on her face. Worried about his current condition, she took his hand.

"You can't get rid of me that easy dear, I'm fine." he said.

She simply relaxed and they continued walking together, but her eyes never left him. Wondering what was going on in his head. He turned his head and slowly up 'til his eyes met hers. She gave him a warm smile and he returned the gesture.

"We're almost there, don't worry about it, my dear," he whispered pulling her close and kissing her hand.

She laid her head against his shoulder and relaxed a bit. The rest of the walk was quiet. Not a sound from either of them. Just the sound of the crashing tides on the shore, both of them seemed more relaxed as they got further into the beach. When they stopped, they reached the opposite side of the beach. Her heart almost stopped, she recognized this place. She remembered clearly that it was their spot-- the place where they can really be alone together, somewhere they can actually be themselves.

"Remember this spot, love? When you left, I told you that this is the place we'd meet when you get back." He whispers into her ear.

She got down on her knees and started sobbing. She remembered it all--the tall coconut tree at the center, the forest on the left, and the beautiful beach at the right. He pulled her up from the ground and brought her to the coconut tree. She looked at the carving in the middle, smiling as she saw their names together engraved inside a heart. She looked back into his eyes and saw a small gold necklace in his hands.

"I forgot to give this to you before you went to America. I saw it in a tiny shop and thought of how pretty you'd look in it."

She turned around and let him put it around her neck.

When she heard him cough, she quickly turned around to see the crimson red liquid that always seemed to pour out of him. With another cough, he collapsed and fell into her arms.

With his head on her knees, he whispered to her, "Do me one favor, love," he said weakly. "Please never let anyone make your decisions for you. Stay just the way you are, and be your own judge.

And lastly," he took her face in his hands. "I love you so much."When his hand dropped, she knew it was all over.

She let a few tears stream her face, but stood up anyway.with one last kiss on his lips, she stood up and walked away. Knowing that he was in peace. "I love you too" she said holding the necklace in her hands and smiling up at the stars.

WILL YOU GO WITH ME?

by James Estrella

Let me be your past, present and future
In every night, morning and afternoon
Wherein you'll see yourself in a picture
All four seasons cast by the sun and moon

In the fields of today and tomorrow
In your every second, minute and hour
I promise that you'll have no more sorrow
For all of time, you're bestowed of my pow'r

The sunlight; the moon shade and the star fall
I'd reach up to and ask for their blessing
For you, my heart's yearning I'd risk it all
To you, I'd submit myself with a ring

Your sweet voice saying yes, I'm longing for
Your love and time; nothing less, nothing more



UNTITLED

by Harry Yioda

They say death is the conqueror of life
A merciless beast that spares no one
That turns wives into widows
And children into orphans

Death may be able to take away our heroes and heroines
But the memories of them will live on
As stories told from generation to generation
And serve as an inspiration to others

We shouldn't cower from the fear of dying
But instead live to our fullest potential
Death shows us the value of our lives
How every second of our lives is valuable

Life is a path that eventually leads us to
our demise
But it will lead us to life's greatest prize

THEIR SMILE

by James Estrella

Sometimes, a smile is the key to happiness. But sometimes, it can become the most unpleasant sight that can bring you down, for seeing a smile meant for someone else from someone you love is heartbreaking more than anything else.

JVEE PATALUD BAGS GOLD MEDAL IN JAVELIN EVENT IN ASEAN SCHOOL GAMES *by Ali Victorio*

The ASEAN games is an annual sporting event that allows students all across the ASEAN regions namely Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, Philippines, Singapore, Brunei, Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam, to compete in regional games. This event was created to promote harmony within the ASEAN regions. Furthermore, it showcases the different talents of athletes from their respective countries.

The ASEAN games last 2014 was held in the Philippines. It was the first time that the country hosted the games. It was a prestigious sporting event to take part in; therefore, it was a privilege to have taken part in the games.

De La Salle Zobel's own Jvee Patalud (Batch 2015) competed in the Javelin event, and won first place last December 3, 2014 in Marikina City. He competed against Malaysia's Jali Bin Omar, and Indonesia's Chun Soon Kon. He scored 59.45 meters against his competitors who scored 54.79 meters and 53.78, respectively.

During the game he believed: "The game is on an international level. I had been here before, and I thought I was already at my peak. I surprised myself and everyone that I am capable of achieving so much better and this opportunity is not given to anybody but to one who is able to do something far greater than anyone had before. Therefore, I believe I was among those people who had done enough to do something that was never done before."

A game against the best representatives of different ASEAN countries could make someone highly anxious. He said, "During the game my mind wasn't focused on anything but myself. I wasn't thinking of how big, how strong or how fast my competitors were. I focused on what I knew, and what I had practiced for 7 years. Every step I took, every part of my muscles and every perfect timing were all in my head, and the results showed how focused I was during the game. I'm sure every player could relate that they could not hear anything but the instinct to play the game."

Jvee Patalud is an athlete, but more importantly he is a student first. When asked how he balances his studies and his training he replied, "I always prioritize school because through school I can get high grades, I am able to go through a good college, and I am able to get a good job which would be able to offer all the things I need and want. In my sport of track and field, there are a lot of opportunities such as scholarships, limited benefits and being healthy, but then these are not good for a long-term span unlike good education which can bring you as far as you can imagine and even further. Basically, I prioritize my studies rather than my sport."

He explained to us how he was able to win the game. "What I did to meet this game was I trained very hard. Every year is different because the intensity and the skill level gets higher and higher and my coaches pushes me to do better, but in the same time they try their best to make me feel comfortable. It's both a psychological and a physical game. You have to be confident, determined and strong to win the game, and that's what I did I trained hard both physically and mentally."

This is only the second time that the Philippines won gold during the ASEAN games. Patalud brought pride to the country and De La Salle Santiago Zobel, and we hope that he keeps on doing so.

DLSZ BASKETBALL TEAM TAKES THIRD PLACE IN UAAP

by Mikee Almalvez

The DLSZ Basketball team won third place overall in UAAP last February 9, 2015 at the Ateneo Blue Eagle Gym; with a standing of 9-5 before final four, they lost to NU by at least ten points. Special awards include having Aljun Melecio as part of Mythical 5.

JANUS DE GUZMAN DOMINATES PHIL BOWLING CONGRESS *by Mikee Almalvez*

Janus De Guzman (JH) unceasingly gives pride to De La Salle Zobel as he bags the much coveted gold medal in the Junior Boys Division of the Philippine Bowling Congress Fourth Quarter Championships held at Astrobowl in Star Mall, Alabang last December 14, 2014.

Janus is currently a member of the RP Youth Pool (Bowling Division).

IT'S SILVER FOR OMER AND BRONZE FOR BAYANG IN TAEKWONDO *by Mikee Almalvez*

Our very own taekwondo players Muhammad Omer and David Bayang received silver and bronze medals, respectively, at the UAAP league.

Four schools competed: UST, FEU, AdMU, and DLSZ. According to the DLSZ team, the match against FEU was the most crucial as it was a head-to-head game.

With their coaches, Mr. Ricky and Mr. Brix, the team is bent on doing it better in the next UAAP season.



UNEXPECTED JOURNEY

by Anna Fatima Royeca, G9 BRafeNHS

When an opportunity comes, grab it. You'll never know, it might be a once-in-a-lifetime chance! That exactly what happened to the eight lucky students from Region 12 who are now attending De La Salle Santiago Zobel as student athlete scholars. Zealous athletes as they are, they trained hard to become great in their sport. This is all for the love of their sport—table tennis. With the help of Jacinto Ruiz Omila Jr., their coach, they are now a step closer to reaching their dreams.

Coming from a little city like General Santos, they had little knowledge of the various schools that give scholarships to students who have talents in sports. So, it was a surprise to them when they were told that they had a chance to go to De La Salle Zobel. They knew that they would be in good hands, even if it means leaving their home. At first, some of them didn't like the idea of being sent to Manila at such an early age. But after some time, they realized that this is the kind of opportunity that they should not just let pass.

Their journey wasn't easy. They had to train and study hard during the summer. It was a little hard for them because summer is a time when you can relax and do nothing all day. But for the sake of their future, they persisted. For two months, they followed a strenuous training program with a two-hour study period for the entrance exams. Although they had a lot of difficulties, they had fun doing it because they were with their friends.

After their hard work, they were ready. When DLSZ Sports Development Office Head Mr. Ace Gacutan came for their deliberation, they were nervous thinking that they were not good enough for Zobel. However, they took that out of their minds and concentrated on doing their best. All of them did well during the deliberation. After that, the only thing standing in their way was the entrance exam which, for them, was harder than the deliberations.

On the day of the examinations, everyone could only wish that the process would be over. When the results came, they were overjoyed that all of them were able to make it! Now they are all at De La Salle Zobel, studying and playing hard to complete this unexpected journey.