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## The Physical Education and Health Unit Holds the Junior High School Intramurals Opening 2020

BY: Kathleen Ramirez

The Physical Education and Health Unit officially opened the start of Intramurals week for Junior High School (JHS) students last January 22 with a theme of "Uniting Lasallian Youth Through Sports".

This event was held in the De La Salle Santiago Zobel (DLSZ) - Alabang Campus students, and participants included all JHS students, including those from DLSZ-Vermosa through live stream.

"Let us put aside our gadgets for a while and try to have fun in this year's Intrams [Intramurals]," Mr. Rafael Reloza, the school's Executive Vice President, shared in his opening speech.

SEA Games Gold Medalist and DLSZ Alumni, Francesca Altomonte, was also invited to give an inspirational message to students.



"Sports taught me so much about life," she said. "Mainly discipline, learning to accept failure, and trust in the process."

Selected Grade 7 students were tasked to assist in the lighting of the torch, which was followed by the recital of the Oath of Sportsmanship led by Zachary Castro (Batch 2024).

Sports included in this year's intramurals are Tug-of-War, 70-meter Sprint, Cone Race, 40 x 70-meter Mixed Relay, Mixed Volleyball, Agawang Panyo, Floorball, Chess, Basketball, Badminton and Mobile Legends.

PHOTO TAKEN FROM: SPO

## DLSZ Hosts "300 Youth Soujourn"

BY: Eidd Josef Tayag

The De La Salle Santiago Zobel (DLSZ) school hosted the participants of the "300 Youth Sojourn" at the DLSZ Campus last January 23, 2020.

As part of the celebration of the tercentenary of St. John Baptist de La Salle's entrance to eternal life, De La Salle Philippines (DLSP) held the 300 Youth Sojourn. This program has selected individuals from various La Salle schools all over the country to embark to 16 La Salle campuses in Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao for 15 days, from January 11-25, 2020.

Aeron Geron (Batch —) and Cerise Pena (Batch 2022), DLSZ Youth Sojourn representatives, emceed the participants during the DLSZ Welcome Program. The activities were inclusive of pilgrims from the different La Salle schools to share their experiences, as well as special performances by the DLSZ High School Strings and the Zobel Dance Crew.

Participants of the Youth Sojourn are aimed to learn and understand the significant milestones in the life of the founder St. John Baptist De La Salle, gain knowledge about the Philippine Lasallian Family and the individual school identities, and demonstrate an appreciation for the Lasallian Vocation.

"I could say that 300Youth Sojourn would be one of my milestones in life. It was great experience that changed my outlook in life and made me a better Lasallian. In this pilgrimage, I encountered many people and experienced a lot of things which imparted many lessons and realizations to me. Forever grateful!" said Aeron Geron.



PHOTO BY Aeron Geron



PHOTO BY  
Ms. Caroline  
Ramos



# NEWS

## Zobel Parliament Team Ranks High at 18th Philippine Schools Debate Championship (PSDC) 2020

BY: Qichsia Paladin

Students from Zobel Parliament competed at the 18th Philippine Schools Debate Championship (PSDC) held at Ateneo de Manila University from January 9 to 12, 2020.

Therese Lachaona and Jessica Lee (Team DLSZ C, Batch 2022); Raymond Tiuseco (Batch 2020) and Jarom Aguilar (Team DLSZ D, Batch 2021) broke as quarterfinalists while Riva Fong and Andre Gonzales (Team DLSZ B, Batch 2021) qualified as pre-quarterfinalists. Gonzales and Tiuseco also tied for 11th best speaker while Aguilar and Fong tied for 18th best speaker.

Prior to the championship, 156 teams comprised of two people each competed in seven preliminary rounds. The 32 highest scoring teams advance to the finals as pre-quarterfinalists. The final rounds consist of four teams, with the two top scoring teams advancing to the next round, until one team is crowned champion at the Grand Finals.

A total of 312 High School students from 55 different institutions nationwide competed in PSDC this year. The tournament has been hosted by the Ateneo Debate Society since 2002 and is considered to be the biggest debate championship in the Philippines for High School students.

## Lucas Antonio Tujan (Batch 2021) and Meithzel Javier (Batch 2020) Bag Awards in Singapore International Piano Competition 2020

BY: Meithzel Javier

The La Salle Santiago Zobel's (DLSZ) Lucas Antonio Tujan (Batch 2021) and Meithzel Javier (Batch 2020) placed in their respective categories in the Singapore International Piano Competition (SIPC) 2020 last January 16-20, 2020 at the School of Arts and the Victoria Concert Hall, Singapore.

Tujan joined the Youth Class D Age Group and Four Hand Category, where he was awarded the Third Prize and First Prize respectively. In the former category, Tujan performed Frederic Chopin's Etude Op. 25 No. 5, and Isaac Albeniz' Triana. In the latter category, he performed Johannes Brahms' Hungarian Dance No. 1 and 2. He was accompanied by Jannella Teves, a DLSZ Alumni of Batch 2019. Meanwhile, Javier got Third Place in the Youth Class E Age Group for performing Manuel de Falla's Danza Española.

The SIPC is an annual piano competition that welcomes concert and non-concert piano artists from around the world with prior screening before advancing to the final competition held in Singapore. It offers categories ranging from age-based to composer based groups and is judged by juries from different countries.



PHOTOS BY:  
Meithzel Javier &  
Lucas Tujan

Upper Image: Meithzel  
Javier

Lower Image:  
Jannella Teves (left),  
Lucas Tujan (right)



# De La Salle Santiago Zobel (DLSZ) School Showcases Annual School Play The X Factory

BY: Chaeun Jang

The DLSZ Students' Theater staged The X Factory from January 28-31, 2020 in the Sylvia P. Lina Theater, De La Salle Santiago Zobel School.

The play, entitled The X Factory, is under the direction of Repertory Philippines, with most characters portrayed by DLSZ Students from Grade 7-11. The play shows students from a school, showcasing their talents to save their school after being labeled average.

Our very own DLSZ students acted in the play: Bianca Alarcon (Batch 2021), Gwensanica Caday (Batch 2021), Alexandra Josha Angeles Hembrador (Batch 2021), Mary Juliane Charise Vergara Nebria (Batch 2021), Irish Noblejas (Batch 2021), Angelica Grace Mendez Fuentes (Batch 2024), Lourdes Martina Arambulo Vasquez (Batch 2024), Reina Diaz Nagoshi (Batch 2024), Amanda Denise Vargas Malabanan (Batch 2023), Jaime Mateo Cruz Fernandez (Batch 2021), Kyhzsha Cassandra Pineda De Castro (Batch 2024), Princess Maja Rodas Santos (Batch 2023), Julienne Yszabelle Baldonado Roa (Batch 2025), and Roxanne Jean Nicaella Bautista Pabon (Batch 2023).

"The X Factory had an interesting storyline, and their singing, choreography and script were all done very well. Although, I think it can be improved by putting more emotion into their acting, so the audience can really know what they're feeling," Jazzmin Abarentos (Batch 2025) shares.



PHOTO TAKEN FROM: Bianca Alarcon

## SRCC Elections 2020 Finishes With the New SRCC 2021 Members

BY: Mikaelle Karo

The High School Student Representative Coordinating Council (HS SRCC) of De La Salle Santiago Zobel School (DLSZ) conducted the campaign week for the aspiring officers for SRCC Academic Year 2020-2021 on both campuses last February 16-27, 2020, and have chosen the new SRCC for the incoming school year.

SINAG party and an independent candidate, Isabelle Gutierrez, campaigned during this period. 'Miting de Avance' and the elections proper were held on February 26 and 27, 2020 for the Vermosa campus and for the Alabang campus, respectively. The announcement of the election results was held at the Amphitheatre of the Alabang campus in the afternoon of February 27, 2020.

"The student body deserves more opportunities to unleash their full potential, as we form one, big Lasallian constellation with yet so much hope in the midst of darkness," said Kyla Cansana, the incoming HS SRCC President. Incoming Vermosa Representative Kristoff Cruz hopes to unite the Alabang and Vermosa campus, while fostering a welcoming and comfortable environment for the student body.

Congratulations to the incoming SRCC 2020-2021: Ally Gantiqoui (Year 7 Level Representative), Kristoff Cruz (Vermosa Level Representative), Isabelle Gutierrez (Year 8 Level Representative), Tiffany Singzon (Year 10 Level Representative), Janelle Montañer (Year 11 Level Representative), Vikka Arevalo (Year 12 Level Representative), Dexter Canoy (Assistant to the Executive Treasurer), Sachi Dueñas (Assistant to the Executive Secretary), Andi Suarez (JHS Consul), Joaquin Buyco (Executive Treasurer),

Annika Mendoza (Executive Secretary), Mariella Urera (Social Action Vice President), Lance Bersamina (Executive Vice President), and Kyla Cansana (Executive President).



PHOTO TAKEN FROM: SCAO Office



# OPINION

## The Biased Academy

BY: Gabrielle Marcelo

A few weeks ago, the nominees for the 92nd Oscars were released. Of course, everybody was excited to see the list of nominees. However, instead of receiving praise from the Internet, the Academy received hate and criticism, especially when it came to the list of nominees for best director. The root of their disappointment? Greta Gerwig, Lulu Wang, and Lorene Scafari, all of which produced outstanding films in 2019, did not make it onto the list of nominees.

Now, what is so upsetting about it? It's the fact that the list for Best Director nominees does not have any female representation whatsoever. It is not the first time the awards pulled off something like this, unfortunately. With the multiple talented personalities and celebrities in the film industry, we would expect that the nominees and winners of this award show would have some sort of diversity. Sadly, the nominees and winners for the Oscars are usually white males. With this in mind, we can say that the Oscars has a major problem for its lack of representation.



GRAPHIC BY:  
Cher Rylie Matoza

The Oscars are infamous for favoring the West or having a Eurocentric male bias. This inclination towards recognizing mostly white men will lead them to miss out on other amazing actors, actresses, directors, and talents. Due to this bias, people who are skilled and talented have a difficult time entering the film industry. Let's take the director of *Get Out*, Jordan Peele, an African-American director. Because of his work, he opened up more possibilities in creating prompts for horror films. *Get Out* tackles political views unlike stereotypical horror movies which are usually about possessions, religion, and the like. However, there is still a barrier between the privileged and the underprivileged which prevents the mainstream film industry from being so diverse. This is a huge problem, especially when it comes to award shows as there are so many people who work in the film industry who can help broaden it that goes unrecognized.

When you think about it, the fact that the majority of the nominees and winners are white men hinders the mainstream film industry from doing so much more. It becomes difficult when film, an art form that is seen by many, is not relatable to a demographic which doesn't have enough recognition, to begin with. Using Lulu Wang's *The Farewell* as an example, there are a lot of Chinese-Americans who are insecure about their ethnicity due to multiple reasons. However, seeing their culture on the big screen, it helps them embrace and appreciate it. When you see something you can relate to in some way, may it be age, gender, race, and more, it gives you this sense of empowerment.

At this point, it is not only the Oscars that has a problem with representation but the media as a whole. However, why is it so sought after? Representation of groups of minorities such as women, people of color, or the LGBTQ+ community is very important as it motivates the people from these groups to make their voices heard. Representation creates a new norm, a new standard. There could be so many things that society is not even aware of because of the fact that it isn't represented in the media whatsoever. It is important then that as a prestigious award-giving body, the Academy must seek to be inclusive and diverse in the recognition of talents in the film industry.

## Cancelling "Cancel Culture"

BY: Madeleine Aromin

Each person has experienced some variation of hate, it may be subtle or direct but, hate is what it is. From verbal or physical bullying to the use of the internet and various social media platforms, bullying has escalated into a whole new spectrum. The internet has changed bullying's traditional method, coining the term 'cyberbullying', which has become a more accessible method of bullying that many are being affected by. In this new day and age, it is sadly typical and common to receive backlash over the things people post online. Through this constant deterioration and influence from many users, Cancel Culture was born and steadily continues to grow.

Cancel Culture is a way people express their feelings — usually negative — over certain persons' opinions or actions, which results in public shaming and humiliation. It could be viewed as a form of "attack", leading to the victim feeling outcasted. As the backlash grows larger and larger, it is only a matter of time until he or she is labeled as "canceled"; meaning that the person is no longer accepted by the community, as they are offended by the person's actions.

chased out by an angry mob of people; pitchforks and torches galore. The group was formed together due to their shared disgust over the "abomination" that is Frankenstein's monster. This is a great example that shows us how much influence a group of people may have over certain things. The mob, in this situation, represents how people can be drawn to disapprove over the social deviance of a person wherein he or she wishes to go against the social norms. Cancel Culture, like the angry mob, drives out members of a community as it vilifies and puts them in a negative light.

Cancel Culture is heavily prevalent in the online beauty community. YouTubers such as Jeffree Star, James Charles, and Laura Lee have had their own personal issues thrown against them; leading them to get "canceled" by the public. An example would be Jeffree Star. In a video that Star posted, he reviewed one of Kylie Jenner's products. He noted how he disliked the product, stating the reasons in the video. Although his reasons are considered acceptable for not liking the product, followers of Kylie Jenner, took it upon themselves to send hateful messages, bashing Star. The followers also resurfaced some of Star's older posts which would be used against him. It is this type of drama and scandal, which can create an uproar of emotion and hate

Recalling the classic tale of Dr. Frankenstein and his monster, we often associate the scientist and the monster to being

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## cont. Cancelling "Cancel Culture"

that encourages people to antagonize one another. Cancel Culture is not as new as we think as there will always be people who intentionally choose to hate or disapprove of other members of their community, due to the difference of views. There is nothing wrong with expressing the reasons why we dislike a certain individual; although this freedom of expression has no boundaries or limits. Cancel Culture has given individuals the freedom to start "bashing" not only the action of a victim but the victim himself. To make matters worse, other people would join on the bandwagon of hate, to the point that the victim may easily break down. Moreover, as the rapid posts on social media emerge, it becomes easy to target the victim. It acts as a form of cyberbullying that ends up isolating the victim, instead of correcting it. It fails to understand the victim's point of view, as bashers and bystanders are mainly focusing on bringing the victim down. It reflects on our generation's identity as toxic, because of how people choose to hate and say disrespectful words.

Unfortunately, each of us can be seen as both victims and perpetrators of the Cancel Culture. It is hypocritical that we disapprove of this culture and yet, we get influenced to continue the chain of hate. As we are often an audience, we also take part in the cycle of cyberbullying. However, we can change our outlook of "canceling" and "shunning" a person to help them understand and change for the better. The only way for us to kill the Cancel Culture is for us to truly find the good in other people. That is only when we can finally say that the Cancel Culture is finally canceled.

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PHOTO BY: JSTOR Daily

# Fighting For What is Rightfully Ours

BY: Isabelle M. Peralta

This article was originally published in Manila Standard last Nov. 1, 2015.

**M**y name is Isabel M. Peralta. I am an 11-year-old, Grade 6 student at De La Salle Santiago Zobel School (DLSZ) and a proud Filipino.

A few weeks ago, we were given projects by our teachers in completion of our end-term tasks, aiming to promote social awareness on the present territorial dispute in the West Philippine Sea. With the help of our Social Studies teachers, Ms. Julie Agudo and Ms. Rebecca Dela Rosa, we have integrated our projects from different subject areas to produce an infomercial using our media learning devices. Through the social media platform Facebook, we disseminated the information to allow a larger audience to view—

To date, our infomercials have garnered thousands of views, but we need more people to see and hear what we have to say. While many other videos with no social relevance have trended worldwide, what I do not understand is why isn't ours being viewed as much, when we are spreading information that could help our country's future become more economically stable; when we are standing up for our rights as Filipinos; when we, even at a young age, are pushing to fight for what is rightfully ours. Have we, as Filipinos, just accepted that we are helpless in this situation? Have we given up hope on taking back what belongs to us? Do we just don't care at all? Or don't we have enough information to know how significant this issue is to the future of our country?

With all these questions in mind, I did my own research. I asked my family what they knew about the territories and was told by my uncles that they used to freely fish around one of the islands that China is claiming as theirs now. That island now referred to as Panatag Shoal, used to be called Bajo de Masinloc. My uncles still refer to it as such. They knew first-hand that in the past, China has never claimed it as theirs because there were no Chinese vessels manning the shoal and it was mostly Filipinos and some Taiwanese who were fishing in those areas.

The more I learned about the issue, the more questions I had—why has it only been in the past couple of years that China has begun claiming ownership of the territories? If it was really theirs from the beginning as they have claimed it to be, why are they protecting it just now? What have they discovered recently, that fired up their claim to those territories?

I once again did more research and discovered that there are so much resources, including oil, in the West Philippine Sea territories.

What started as a school project pushed me to take a bigger stand in this issue. I am blessed to have teachers who not only provided us with this much awareness, but are encouraging us to be part of the solution.

As students, as Filipino youth, and as the future of our nation, we are now pleading to the government to hear what we have to say in asking them to give more importance to the issue of reclaiming the West Philippine Sea.

Our school President, Brother Bernie Oca once told me—you have the opportunity now to be able to take a stand! Hold your head up high and fight for what is right and true. And those words, Brother Bernie, I take by heart. I love my country and I love being a Filipino. We should all be part of the solution by learning more about the issue and spreading awareness about it.





# FEATURE

## The New Victims of Senioritis BY: Raphael Hebron

The school year is coming to a close, and with it, we see a number of things that will reach its end as well. As the sophomores of Batch 2022 prepare to leave their familiar Alabang campus for the last time, Batch 2021 comes to terms with the new challenges that face them in senior high school, all while the seniors over at Batch 2020 finalize their studies in preparation for their graduation day. Though, not everyone needs to interpret these events in a negative light—the sophomores leaving the Alabang campus this year will get to experience an entirely different atmosphere in a new environment, and the graduating seniors will still have the rest of their lives ahead of them when they enter college with their newfound independence and maturity. The juniors, while not experiencing as big of a change as the sophomores and seniors, will soon go through the period of decline in motivation and academic performance experienced by every batch before them—the dreadful, mortifying, and oh-so haunting case of Senioritis.

The issue of Senioritis, a commonly overlooked problem facing seniors, is a serious threat to consider especially for the incoming Grade 12 students that could fall victim to its effects: a sudden lack of motivation, urge to skip classes, and rise in overdue homework. This, paired with the sheer influence of the students' senior year can prove harmful to their future. If not handled properly, one bad year in their academic life could ruin the chances of getting into their dream colleges, shifting the outcome of a major life event simply from the mishandled pressure that comes with entering their senior year.

Even when informed of the dreaded phenomenon, high school students are usually confident in their ability to withstand the pressures of Senioritis and deny that they will fall victim to it. Not to say that these junior high school

students are wrong about their predictions, but a big reason as to why these students are so sure about their answer is the extreme behavior associated with the term. While skipping classes, consistently not doing homework, and wearing the same wardrobe at home are symptoms of Senioritis, these are just the extreme effects that this issue brings to students; the fact that these are the most mentioned of the effects creates the notion that Senioritis is an easy-to-spot issue that will be of no problem as long as you do not exhibit any of its serious effects. The fact of the matter is, small short-term decisions such as deciding to slack off on studies and frequenting the bathroom to avoid boring lectures can snowball into bigger and bigger issues, leading to the extreme, long-term effects that could prevent the main goal of senior high schools: to prepare students for college life. A seemingly smooth transition from high school to college would then be made much more complicated than it needs to be when a student's bad studying habits are normalized as their high school life ends.

It is easy to dismiss Senioritis as a legitimate concern; parents, school staff, and even students could very much laugh it off as an illegitimate problem, especially when the symptoms of such a problem include laziness, lack of interest in homework, desire to stay home on school days, and a generally dismissive attitude—seemingly normal teenage reactions to school. However, when senior year does arrive and students receive their college acceptance letters, it becomes difficult to focus on studies for the following months. After all, why focus on senior high when the future in your dream college is sealed? Students need to know that the last few months of their senior year matter as much as any other one—especially when most colleges nowadays reserve the right to rescind their decision of acceptance when they take a look at the senior records and don't like what they see.

## A World on the Margins: A World Scholar's Cup Experience

BY: Eidd Josef Tayag

In hopes of inspiring future leaders, the World Scholar's Cup, held at the center of academic excellence at Yale University, is about sharing cultures, welcoming diversity, fighting for what you believe in, and most importantly, understanding a "World on the Margins" to solve societal issues that come with it.

Upon arriving in Connecticut after a sixteen hour plane ride, our delegation, were strangers in a foreign land. Observing and absorbing the heritage that formed icons that seem all too familiar as we see them on our favorite TV and Netflix shows, catcalling familiar brands we saw by the highway like Target and Walmart. Jet lag did not get a hold of us, since the day after, we were up making essays, reviewing materials, and mock debating hours long in preparation for the next few days coming.

The first day of the week long journey had the Scholar's Scavenge. It is a team building activity where we were grouped into teams randomly, with people from all corners of the world. Doing ice breakers and simple challenges like taking pictures with a stranger to telling secrets about yourself that get passed on, we completed tasks as we roamed the entire vicinity of Yale. Ending the day chatting in Shake Shack, eating American burgers, french fries, and some sriracha with my new found friends from more than twenty nations, I realized that we are all the same under the skin, enjoying the same past times, the same food, and feel the same emotions towards certain matters. The competition

became more than just a contest but a tight knit community wanting the best for each other.

The day finally came, and the tension is rising. The event that will dictate the outcome of our exhaustive hours of training is in the midst. The first portion of the competition was the Scholar's Challenger, where we were all seated uniformly on desks. I was fidgeting, brainstorming, and trying to recall 70 pages worth of review materials that can help me answer the exam style test. The Scholar's Challenge portion has begun. An array of trivial and peculiar questions were presented. Topics from Fata Morganas to Mozart's unfinished symphonies were asked. The second half of the event was the collaborative writing portion. Here, teamwork is encouraged to be able to formatively discuss your ideas as a team and be able to point out certain flaws and strengths with your thoughts. Here, one's limits as a writer are tested, through topics that will make one think inquisitively. This part requires great mental organization and the ability to coherently express your thought-provoking ideas. The end of it was extremely fulfilling and at the same time nerve wracking.

Later in the day, there was also a team debate event, which is no doubt my favorite event throughout the competition. One of the motions assigned to our team was to support the fact that robots should be given the same rights as humans. I extremely like how deep a discussion can go considering how unconventional the topic is.

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## cont. A World on the Margins...

This event taught me to try to look at issues from all perspectives and angles first before forming judgements and conclusions—an approach that many should follow and could just be the solution to many of the societal issues the world is tackling.

And lastly, is the Scholar's Challenge. Here all of the participants are inside the Woolsey Hall, a grand and intricate structure, that hosted the final phase of the competition. Here, everyone is given clickers and are tasked to simultaneously answer a series of questions projected onto a big screen in front of the hall. Once again, this event enables collaboration with your teammates, giving us ample time to discuss what to answer, which can even sometimes lead into more arguments, which is also part of the joy.

There were other events as well such as the Cultural Fair and the Scholars Ball that encourages socialization, interaction, diversity, and the sharing of cultures. These events give the competition a fun, warm, and light ambience than what it really is.

In retrospect, as a neophyte in this publication, I recall writing an article about the achievements of the DLSZ delegation two years ago in the World Scholar's Cup. The contrast of the events from the past two years proves that we are all works in



PHOTO FROM Eidd Josef Tayag

progress, and our fate is up to us to dictate. Like the World Scholar's Cup themed a "World on the Margins," the world, its leaders, and members are all works in progress, and it's through events that encourage diversity, initiate to solve world issues, influence the youth, and spark change where St. John Baptist De La Salle is preserved.

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## A Decade In Review

BY: Nikita Rajagpalan & Bernice del Rosario

Over the last 10 years, the world has gotten to enjoy some of the greatest technological breakthroughs in history, while also suffering through some of the worst. In fact, technology has become almost as essential as breathing. Many of us have probably forgotten how to read the time on an analog clock or how to do basic arithmetic problems without having to pick up a calculator for help. From using apps that remind us to do something as fundamental as drinking water to shopping for groceries online, we've come to depend on technology as an extension of ourselves.

A large part of that extension has to do with cell phones. The idea of a smartphone has been repeatedly reinvented throughout the years, both as a result and accommodation of scientific inquiry and digital demands. Although the first iPhone was released in 2007, iPhones 4 to 11 were slowly rolled out over the last decade. This shaped how the world went from a triple-tap keypad to full-screen devices with face identification. And we thought fingerprint identification was cool. Additionally, more and more people have converted from using a keypad phone to touch screen smartphones. This advancement allowed people to have access to the internet. Approximately 1.596 billion people had used the internet by June of 2009 and by June of 2019, around 4.536 billion.

We can also notice how social media evolved throughout the years. In 2010, Pinterest and Instagram were launched. This was followed by Snapchat and Twitch which were launched in 2011. Vine was launched in 2013 but was shut down in the beginning of 2017. That was also the same year Musical.ly was launched where it shut down a year after, migrating its users to TikTok. These allowed people to connect through sharing common content and relating to the same things. These connected people from across the world and made it possible to spread whatever they wanted, whenever.

Even though this aspect of technology continues to provide us with increased levels of convenience, productivity and efficiency, we've also been heavily exposed to privacy risks. In the last year, the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) imposed a \$5 billion penalty on Facebook for having let product quality slip at the risk of its customers' very own privacy. However, these privacy violations have been going on for a very lengthy period of time. In 2018, the notorious Cambridge Analytica Scandal blew up. It was revealed that a researcher from that political consulting firm was given access to harvest raw data from an estimate of 87

million user profiles on Facebook. This was more or less an "under-the-table" operation since none of those users knew that their data was being collected for the purpose of the Trump campaign. With the increase of legal troubles, angry users and investigations, the #DeleteFacebook movement were born.

While the beginning of the decade saw Facebook grow with much promise, the end of 2019 has left worrying signs for the social media platform.

Technology has managed to connect us to the world and disconnect us from each other. Even with the ability to call someone from across the globe within seconds, we've perhaps spent more time with our eyes glued phone screens rather than the actual human beings around us. In a way, relationships formed today would have probably been more authentic had smartphones been less of an influence. While the advancements and innovations have made our lives a lot more convenient, we shouldn't ignore all the bad it has come with. Cybercrime, privacy violations, digital theft are only a few examples of the cost of technology. We need to ask ourselves whether or not we're relying too much on technology. Do the pros really outweigh the cons? Have we allowed technology to fuel the rise of human convenience at the expense of our privacy? These are hard but essential questions we should be thinking about.

If the last decade has taught us anything at all about technology, it's that it is ultimately how we use to utilize it that determines whether we progress towards a better and safer virtual environment or regress to a reality of vulnerability and zero privacy. As we step into the year 2020, we begin our 5G future of speedy and reliable connections that will redesign the bridge between human life and technology.

THE 2010s



# Saying Goodbye After 12 Years

BY: Dominique Perlas, Bernette Morillo, Meithzel Javier

When you start something new, you don't really think of the end. You think of that moment in itself, and how would you be able to survive with something you are unfamiliar with. It would be rather disheartening to think of something ending before you have even started, won't it?

I never really thought about the end when we had first started. I had understood that all of this would end someday, but I didn't linger at the thought as it felt too far, too insignificant at the time. It wasn't needed at that moment – not yet. Maybe it was because of that train of thought that made me refuse to let all of these go.

Small memories became a blur, and major ones remained. Although most of the things I had experienced were not bad, there were still those terrible times I felt that the world was out to get me. I was confused and didn't see the light at the end of this long tunnel that I have gone through – but in the end, I did. Now, what?

Just when I had grown accustomed to the habits and tendencies of those around me, it slowly departs. The feeling of being rushed into a world that you are once again unfamiliar with, having no sense of direction was slowly wrapping itself around me. I didn't like it, not one bit. The feeling on my shoulders became loaded – filled with expectations, unsure if they were placed by others or myself.

There was no reason for me to feel this way. It's a normal experience, as the others say – it was assured that life wouldn't be as hard if you were to always give your best, right?

The doubts in my head were strong, pushing me back to the comforts of what I have loved for nearly 12 years. The efforts I've made and the challenges I've struggled with, I cannot just throw to waste. I did not walk through the tunnel only to go back again.

Yet, I start to realize. This will only become a small portion of my life, there's still so much to do. With a newfound surge of confidence, I immediately get closer to the light; a new chapter in

this path, fearing that if I wait anymore this rush would leave me. An uneasy feeling fills my body, and a rush of excitement pumps in my veins, remembering my original goal was finally just at my fingertips.

I've gone through this already – I can do it once more.



GRAPHIC BY:  
Cher Rylie Matoza



# SPORTS

## DLSZ Flattens AHS En Route to a Crucial Second Round Win

BY: Nigel Jeon

After a first round that saw DLSZ lumber with one win and three losses, the Junior Green Booters opened the second round of UAAP 82 Boys Football with a 5-0 romp of Ateneo High School last January 29, 2020 in the Rizal Memorial Stadium.

The Ateneo High School Blue Eaglets entered Wednesday's game as runner-ups to Far Eastern University-Diliman in the UAAP 82 standings, boasting a record of 2 wins, 1 draw, and 1 loss. The Green Booters on the other hand were still recovering from close bouts in the first round, entering the match with more games tallied under the loss column.

The first half finished with no team searing the net, setting-up what seemed to be a slow and low-scoring contest. But just two minutes into the second, DLSZ Winger Paolo "Pao" Go took advantage of a shot that deflected from Ateneo goalkeeper Artuz Cezar's hands to put Zobel on the board up 1-0. This goal initiated the Green Booters' aggressive style of play, with Andres Aldeguer following up a freekick miss swiftly after Go's opening goal.

La Salle tallied three more shots that hit the back of the net, with the 5-0 rout being punctuated by Angelo Escario's chip-in shot over Ateneo's goalkeeper with three minutes left in the game.

"It was really shocking for us. In our first round, we were losing a lot, but this time in the second we started well. We were bottom of the table, so this game really gave us the morale boost to hopefully reach the Finals," DLSZ Defender Liam Lampayan said after the match. "This game showed us that we can actually win. We need to sweep the second round to make it to the Finals; this was the first game, and there's three more to come."

When asked about what his teammates felt before the game, Liam added, "In the other games that we lost, we felt really down. We lost two in a row and it felt like we had no hope." DLSZ Right Winger Chyle Miraflores shared the same sentiments. "No one wanted to give up, and now we all think there's hope to win the next game. Everyone's happy."

## DLSZ Joins InterLaSalle 2020

BY: Janelle Montañer

Several athletic groups from DLSZ recently participated in the InterLaSalle 2020 event held at the University of St. La Salle in Bacolod, Negros Occidental. The competition lasted from January 26 until January 31.

The DLSZ chess team, volleyball team (girls), and football team (girls) all won the championship in their respective matches. The basketball (boys) and football (boys) teams placed second.

The InterLaSalle is a national competition where athletes from De La Salle schools nationwide gather to participate in various sports events and showcase their talents and skills in competitive matches. The sports participated in include basketball, football, volleyball, chess, swimming, table tennis, and more.

"I enjoyed competing against other Lasallians, and I learned something about our fellow Filipinos from Visayas and Mindanao. I learned that we should treat them equally as we are all Filipinos, and not underestimate them just because they come from other regions," said Rodvin Torres, a member of the DLSZ chess team. The team won first place in all their individual boards.

The DLSZ Delegation competed against 500 participants from De La Salle schools such as De La Salle Araneta University, De La Salle Lipa, La Salle Green Hills, La Salle College Antipolo, University of St. La Salle, La Salle Dasmariñas, La Salle Iligan City, and many more.



PHOTOS TAKEN FROM: InterLaSalle 2020 Facebook Page



# DLSZ Alumnus Sean Ramos and Team Wins Bronze at SEA Games

BY: Eidd Josef Tayag

The Philippine team ranked third for Golf Team Matchplay at the 2020 Southeast Asian (SEA) Games, held at the Luisita Golf and Country Club, San Miguel, Tarlac City last December 4 to 9.

The team composed of Aidric Chan, Carl Corpus, Luis Castro, and Sean Ramos, coached by Miko Alejandro, ranked third against more than 25 teams from across South East Asia. Singapore ranked second, and Thailand was hailed Champion.

The first three days of the event were dedicated to individual play, where Ramos scores a 6 point average. On the last 2 days on team matchplay, Ramos scores 2 under par.

"I was really satisfied with our performance during the SEA Games. Ranking 3rd place is an amazing feeling, especially

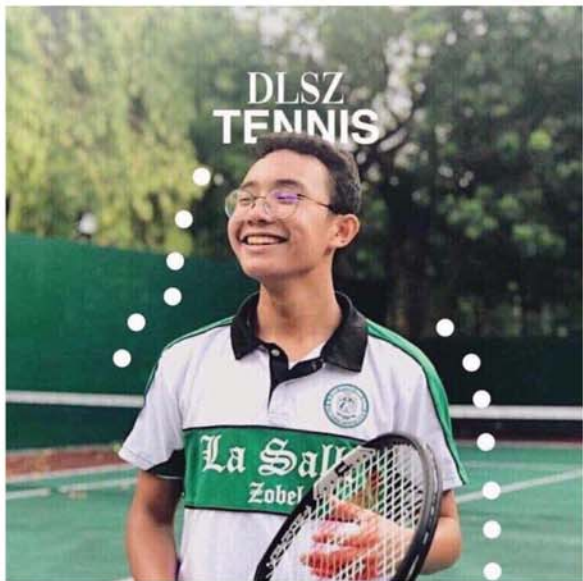
that we represented our country, and performed really well." Said Ramos, a former student of the De La Salle Santiago Zobel School.

"My game plan was just to play my game and have fun," he continued.

The last time a Philippine team reached the podium was in the 2009 SEA Games when Jhonnell Ababa and Jude Estaquio won bronze as well.

Ramos went through an 8-day qualifying tournament, where he qualified to represent the country in the SEA Games, after placing in the top 4.

## ATHLETE'S SPEAK



### Nzo Salazar - Tennis (Batch 2024)

Q: What is a memorable experience, that helped you become a better athlete?

My most memorable experience are definitely all our training days, and the tournaments we play. We play with each other and against each other to become better players and bond as friends. It's like all the time we've spent with each other has made us one big family.

Q: How do you manage being an athlete while fulfilling your responsibilities as a student?

Being an athlete and a student isn't the easiest thing to do. But, just giving an equal amount of time to both academics and sports helps us a lot. Since we're able to play the sport we love, but at the same time pay attention to our studies.



### Mico Imperial - Floorball (Batch 2020)

Q: What is a memorable experience, that helped you become a better athlete?

Actually, we once had a pre-season game before the season started in 2018, and I really found that memorable because we were able to see how we had evolved into a team and as individuals with our own matchups and face-offs. After the game we were all so happy and hyped up that we were screaming in a circle while jumping up and down. It was really intense and we started doing that every time our team would win, especially during our finals win that season.

Q: How do you manage being an athlete while fulfilling your responsibilities as a student?

For me it's all about getting my priorities straight. I decide what is most important and plan the best time for me to work on it. Resting a lot is super important as well because it's hard to do your best if you aren't at your best. Being an athlete should be important to you, but you also have to consider your health, academics, and overall what you value most in life.



### Maggie Flor - Badminton (Batch 2023)

Q: What is a memorable experience, that helped you become a better athlete?

I don't have a specific funny and memorable experience but what I can say is that any day spent with my teammates is funny and memorable. My teammates and I have fun training together. Most of them are funny and so we laugh a lot. Having a good time while training helps us be better athletes.

Q: How do you manage being an athlete while fulfilling your responsibilities as a student?

I use my time wisely. I do my best to learn as much as possible during class and I take down notes so that I can just do a light review when I get home after training or during my travel time to and from school. I also make use of the free period (PEMA) I have in studying and doing my homework.



# LITERARY

## The World Today

BY: Kristoff Cruz

I wanted to know the intensity of the world's declination  
10 days, along with extra knowledge and bushfires,  
was all it took to build in my small workstation  
As the whirring of this unstable mechanism threw me off guard  
I found myself conversing with a kind fellow at his backyard

I observingly said to him "The world today is not as pretty, mate  
Fires causing discord awaken in each city and state  
Yes, technology now connects everyone but with what? Unnecessary tensions  
Anger and misunderstanding perpetually fuels one's intentions

My friend just smirked to the sentiment I relay  
Looked up to me and uttered "touché"  
"While life right now does seem much less complicated than you say,  
One way or another, the same predicament happens here every day."

As I bid farewell to my old Melbourne friend  
I'm afraid this trip will have to reach its end  
Back in my contraption, a realization I see  
Neither better nor worse is what the world has come to be



GRAPHIC BY:  
Cher Rylie Matoza

## Just A Chicken

BY: Audric Vitangcol

All of these past days it seems,  
Were fragments of forgotten dreams.  
I worked for you through night and day,  
And you just left me far away.

All those eggs that I have laid,  
Were made in vain, all those I've made.  
I loved you, and I loved you so,  
More than you could ever know.

You, the one who took care of me,  
Were all that I could really see.  
You fed me, and you gave me baths,  
You joined our separated paths.

I wanted to be the greatest,  
But this eruption, of latest,  
Crushed my hope, destroyed my life,  
It's like I'm crippled by a knife.

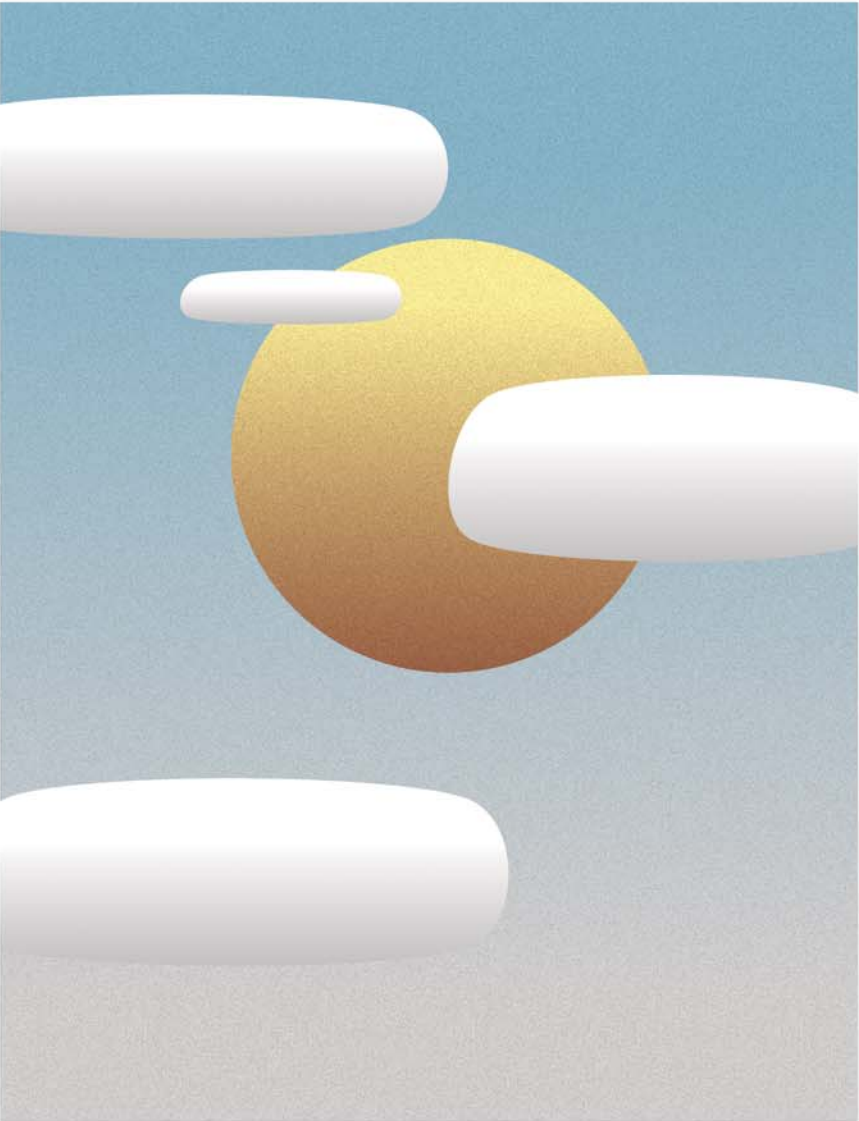
I guess this is part of the plan you've been staging,  
Leaving me here, doing nothing but aging.  
I didn't look elsewhere 'cause t'was you I kept waiting,  
But you didn't look back thus my heart is now wailing.

The hours have passed by, and it now feels like years,  
Am I a nobody? It just gives me tears.  
To you, my owner, was I just a chicken?  
I guess that's so, and I'm extremely heartbroken.



GRAPHIC BY:  
Cher Rylie Matoza





# A Sky of Ash and Rain

BY: Janelle Montañer

The sky turns gray,  
As the ash pours down,  
Upon the lonely streets,  
Of an empty town.

Tears stream my face,  
As I cling to your hand,  
Devoid of all the warmth,  
And love it used to have.

I mourn the beautiful soul,  
That had already faded away.  
I hold you in my arms,  
Your face is a dark and gloomy gray,

Rain joins the ash,  
As if the sky mourned your loss,  
As if it tried to cover up,  
The beauty it had lost.

An abyss settles into my heart,  
As I whisper my last goodbyes,  
Wondering if it were tears or rain,  
That fell down from my eyes.

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