DLS-CSB celebrates SMIIC Milestone

De La Salle-College of Saint Benilde (DLS-CSB), along with eleven other schools, takes center stage in the three-day celebration of the 32nd anniversary of the South Manila Inter-Institutional Consortium (SMIIC) on February 16 to 18, 2007.

United schools
The SMIIC is the oldest academic consortium in the Philippines. Since its inception in 1974, it has functioned as “an instrument for the maximization of institutional resources through the sharing and cooperation of universities and colleges in the South Manila area.”

Also part of the SMIC consortium are De La Salle University-Manila, Adamson University, Emilio Aguinaldo College, Lyceum of the Philippines University, Philippine Christian University, Philippine Normal University, Philippine Women’s University, St. Paul University-Manila, St. Scholastica’s College, Technological University of the Philippines and University of the Philippines-Manila.

Thanks to the cooperation between its member schools, the SMIIC has fostered “a support network to ensure quality, humanist and holistic education.” The consortium has likewise addressed issues affecting the academe and has backed service-related projects.

Three-day fete
To commemorate over three decades of continued collaboration, the SMIIC decided to host the three-day event. Each of the member schools’ Culture and Arts offices were tasked to come up with presentations that would showcase their respective students’ talents.

Gil A. Castillo, officer-in-charge of DLS-CSB’s Office of Culture and Arts (OCA), spearheaded the conceptualization of DLS-CSB’s presentations in the SMIIC milestone. Dubbed “12@32,” the anniversary extravaganza boasts of many highlights like the “Elementum” fashion show featuring the works of DLS-CSB’s AB-Fashion Design and Merchandising students. “This event is an opportunity for DLS-CSB’s students to be in the spotlight and experience firsthand the audience’s response to their work and performance,” Castillo said.

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Welcome to DLS-CSB!

ANTHONY JOHN BALISI
Coordinator, Partnership and Outreach Services Program (POSP)
Social Action Office

Tuni has been involved in the field of social sciences, the non-profit sector and development work for almost eight years now. His work has mainly focused on development interventions in various underserved, depressed and disempowered sectors in the Philippines. Tuni’s passion for development work is basically drawn from the affirmation for the love of life and the endeavor to develop respect for all its forms and interactions. He believes that each individual and community has the right for a decent and appropriate quality of life.

In doing work related to the academe, Tuni has realized the importance of integrating service with learning that enhances student education and maturity. This has been his guiding principle towards helping inspire students. These, he believes, would contribute to the realization of De La Salle-College of Saint Benilde’s vision and mission that would cultivate further holistic human development.

MAY FLOR ARTAGAME
Coordinator, Advocacy Program
Social Action Office

Meps is the new advocacy coordinator for the Social Action Office. She joined SAO last October 2006. Part of her responsibility as advocacy coordinator is to implement the campus and conscientization and education program. She is also responsible for mobilizations and activities pertaining to social issues and the promotion of social consciousness and volunteerism. Meps previously worked as a campaign and advocacy assistant at the Kanlungan Centre Foundation, Inc., an NGO working for the promotion and protection of migrants’ rights.

In her spare time, Meps loves to read books and watch television and movies. She also loves to play lawn tennis.

MARK CERVANTES
Coordinator, Community Development Program (CDP)
Social Action Office

Mark is the eldest of the three children of Ernesto and Nenita. He was raised in a humble family with a modest lifestyle. To earn his degree in Political Science, Mark had to be a working student.

Mark has been involved in different development, environmental and peace organizations for the past years. He volunteered in the Green Alert Negros Environmental Network which focused on protecting Negros’ last forest bastion: Mt. Kanlaon Natural Park. While doing volunteer work for Greenpeace, Mark was part of the group that stopped the building of the proposed 50-megawatt coal-plant in Pulupandan. He also lead the volunteers of the Philippine Rural Reconstruction Youth Association in Negros working on both environmental and community development initiatives. Mark eventually helped in the formation of volunteers on the aforementioned organizations.

Prior to working for DLS-CSB, Mark helped establish an NGO in Negros. The said NGO was set up by virtue of a peace agreement between the Government of the Republic of the Philippines and one of the rebel groups. Through a scholarship given to him by Pax Christi Pilipinas, Mark was able to take his Masters in Conflict and Reconciliation Studies at the University of St. LaSalle Bacolod. He eventually handled Eco-tourism and Development, Conflict History and Project Management subjects for the said school.

During his free time, Mark enjoys outdoor activities like hiking, soccer, meditation and cooking. He enjoys listening to reggae music with his wife Romialah, and soon with his baby Roraima Chaitanya.

FAYE ILOGON
Project Officer
Marketing Communications Office

Faye, a graduate of UP Diliman, has always worked with words. Her essays can be found in anthologies like Sleepless in Manila and My Fair Maladies. She is also the contributing features editor of OK! magazine’s Philippine edition, where she writes about Hollywood stars doing crazy things. To read her other articles, simply conduct a search on Google or try to find her hidden blog. Her essay about the Eraserheads is also part of an anthology that’s soon to hit the bookstores. (MCO Graphic Design Coordinator Chong Ardivilla’s essay is also in the said anthology.) Faye is left-handed. She detests umbrellas and trains.
In line with its Community Development Program, the DLS-CSB Social Action Office (SAO) organized the Bukluran Para sa Kaunlaran ng Lumban Multipurpose Cooperative (BUKAL MPC) for the residents of Lumban, Laguna. The coop is one of SAO’s latest livelihood and social empowerment efforts geared for Lumban.

SAO tapped the School of Management and Information Technology’s Career Development Program coordinators in conceptualizing a seminar on managing conflict for the core members of BUKAL MPC. The seminar, held last December 2, 2006, featured Ms. Connie Labitan as the main speaker.

The SAO-SMIT collaboration promises to boost BUKAL MPC’s capacity-building endeavors and its overall organizational development.

New Zealand Trade and Enterprise (NZTE), together with the New Zealand Embassy, the Philippines-New Zealand Business Council and the Podium mall, will be staging the New Zealand Festival at the premiere shopping complex, the Podium from February 9 to 11, 2007. The festival will be the highlight of New Zealand Week. The celebration is in commemoration of New Zealand’s National Day (Waitangi Day) on February 6.

The festival is a three-day exposition of the best things New Zealand has to offer—with a trade fair/exhibit that will allow visitors to sample New Zealand food and beverage products. People will also get to learn more about New Zealand as a tourist and study destination.

One of the main events of the festivities will be the cultural performance on February 9 at 6:30 pm at the center stage of the Lounge Area of the Podium. This will be followed by a wine-and-cheese cocktail reception, where Filipinos can once again enjoy fine New Zealand food and beverage products. Other activities include, a travel/tourism seminar, culinary/cooking demonstrations and face painting.

DLS-CSB’s Benildanze will be part of this celebration with Just DaNZin’, a dance presentation to be staged on February 10. Benildanze’s artistic/dance director, Declan Patrick, is from New Zealand.

The New Zealand Festival will be participated in by the NZTE, the New Zealand Embassy, Immigration New Zealand, Air New Zealand, ANZ Bank, Fonterra Brands, Wine Depot, Syrups, Sub Zero Foods, Alexanrey Enterprises and various other sponsors. For more information about the New Zealand Festival, please call 891-4625.
Runway fever

Set to be staged at The Music Hall of the SM Mall of Asia on the opening night of "12@32," Elementum also has several members of Benildanze performing on the catwalk.

Castillo related, “DLS-CSB was naturally assigned to take charge of the fashion show because we’re the only school with a Bachelor of Arts in Fashion Design and Merchandising program. I wanted to put together a fashion show that would stand out. I wanted it to be unconventional. That was why I chose to inject elements of theater into the show. We collaborated with Benildanze. Their members will help make the runway really come alive.”

Castillo took into consideration the students’ range of creativity in the process of brainstorming for the show and, at the same time, aimed for a unified look that would truly embody the chosen theme fleshing out the Earth’s four elements. "I had a lot of help from the fashion show’s project manager, Magda de Leon," Castillo said.

Elements of fashion

After coming up with a definite game plan for Elementum, Castillo and De Leon then pitched the idea to the School of Design and Arts’ chairperson for Fashion Design and Merchandising—Mitali Goswami. Goswami then got the students in her Advanced Draping and Fashion

The Benildean fashion designers

Photo taken by Mochie Cuyco

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The Benildean fashion designers

Photo taken by Mochie Cuyco
Line Development class involved in the project.

Making up Elementum’s roster of participants are Cai Abdon, Arumi An, Jed Cagalawan, Alexis Chan, Elaine Chua, Jadelyn Co, Sarah Cocuso, Ed Dizon, Cali Faytaren, Rachele Garcia, Emma Huang, Beilyne Lautchang, Dianna Lee, Emman Mendoza, Pia Moras, Nicole Mori, Menina Orbeta, Glaiza Perez, Rowena Salonga, Me-anne Santos, Debra Tan-abing, Carol Tayao, Meagan Ti-Mata, Aris Trinidad and Gerswin Qua.

Model students

As for the models who will wear the Elementum collection, DLS-CSB’s OCA easily tapped the students from the SMIIC member schools. Taking on the runway for DLS-CSB are Precious Adona, Patricia Anne Dunca, Rachelle Anjanette Go, Pia Carmen Prinsipe, Andrea Barbara Santos, Hannah Sison, Arisa Taira and Valerie Angeline Villamar. All in all, there are 48 models participating in the fashion show.

Other DLS-CSB groups will also be giving performances throughout the three-day SMIIC affair. Also set to perform at the opening night on February 16 are Coro San Benildo’s Teepee Aguilar and the School of Deaf Education and Applied Studies’ own dance group, Silent Steps.

Other highlights of the SMIIC celebration include the February 17 Food Festival set up by SMIIC schools with culinary programs. On the same day, DLS-CSB’s Student Council will participate in the Student Friendship Party. At the closing ceremony on the evening of February 18, OCA’s in-house dance troupe, the Footworks Dance Theater, will be presenting “Atrophy” and Teepee Aguilar will also be featured in a duet with The Dawn lead singer Jett Pangan.

All “12@32” events are set to be held at The Music Hall of the SM Mall of Asia.

For more details on the performances or activities and their specific schedules, please call the DLS-CSB Office of Culture and Arts at 524-7441 local 256.
As we celebrate National Cultural Month, we ask a few members of the DLS-CSB community to cite their favorites from Filipino culture. Find out why they love Filipino performers, classic dishes, ditties, stories, books, films and TV shows.

— Leo C. Cortes, SAO

I like Rico J. Puno’s singing style. He’s cool.
— Jay-R So, DLS-CSB Bookstore

I’m from Cebu so I love the lechon Cebu because it doesn’t need any sort of sauce to bring out its flavor. You just dip it into vinegar and it already tastes great. That’s why every time I go back home, it’s what I look for.
— Marlon T. Eusebio, CPO

Gusto yung kantang “Hawak Kamay” ni Yeng Constantino. Masarap pakinggan dahil maganda yung melody n’ya.
— Michael Tropa, PMI

I like Kuh Ledesma’s rendition of ‘Ako ay Filipino.’ I also like the song ‘Sampaguita,’ which is by composer Dolores Paterno and with lyrics by National Artist Levi Celerio.
— Sonia S. Mendoza, CCS

My favorite Filipino author is F. Sionil Jose. I would like to cite his short story, “Olvidon.” The story is about a strange disease that spreads on the body and causes great discomfort. However, the only ones afflicted with it are corrupt government officials. I hope this work is read by those who wish to run for public office in the upcoming elections.
— Chong Ardivilla, MCO

ERRATUM: We apologize to JOSEPH ROC TABIOS, who was featured in last issue’s The Benildean Minute. We misspelled his name as “Joseph Roctabios.”
Prizewinning MMA student gives advice to indie filmmakers

Multimedia Arts student Jhosareen “Love” Nakagawa—who bagged the 2nd Prize at the 2006 Cinemadali National Competition—gives a lot of credit to the DLS-CSB School of Design and Arts’ MMA program.

In particular, Nakagawa considers MMA professor Elvert de la Cruz Bañares as her mentor. “In his class, I realized that there is another medium through which I can express my art. I’ve never been a good Illustrator and that frustrated me because I thought that you could only be an artist if you know how to draw. But because of Mr. Bañares’ class, I now use video as a tool to make my concept or art visible,” she related.

As it turns out, Bañares is the adviser and manager of the DLS-CSB-based association Indiebenilde, a group of independent filmmakers and artists. Nakagawa is also an Indiebenilde member.

With her MMA training and the added know-how imparted by Indiebenilde, Nakagawa easily made an impact with her entry for Cinemadali. The competition—a project of the National Commission for Culture and the Arts’ Committee on Cinema in cooperation with the Film Academy of the Philippines—was open to independent, amateur and non-professional filmmakers. It required the participants to shoot a one- to five-minute video at the Luneta using any format or medium such as celluloid, digital, hi-definition, or even phone cameras. The chosen theme supported the efforts to promote the revival of the Luneta.

In her four-minute short film, Ngiti, Nakagawa portrayed the Luneta as a living backdrop for the irony of being miserable in a place that is commonly perceived as carefree. She explained: “In the face of so much happiness, there are also sad things happening. Most of the time, we do not see the sadness.”

Nakagawa, who was also recently part of a group project geared for a video competition on HIV awareness, encourages other budding filmmakers to be fearless with their creations. “Gawa lang nang gawa! Isipin lang natin na may mga taong mas magagaling pa sa atin, at hindi lahat ng bagay kaya natin gawing mag-isa. Sumubok ng sumubok para sa huli makita natin kung saan tayo nagkamali at para maging maayos na ang gagawin natin sa susunod,” she said.

Canal de la Reina
By Liwayway A. Arceo

Canal de la Reina, a Filipino novel written by acclaimed author Liwayway A. Arceo in 1972, is both a cautionary tale and a social commentary. Its plot is timeless. The main characters—Caridad and Nyora Tentay—fight over the piece of land known as Canal de la Reina. The middleclass Caridad, who is the legal owner of the property, is overwhelmed by the hostility of Nyora Tentay and all the other people who have “informally settled” on her property. Needless to say, Caridad is rudely awakened from her seeming innocence about the disparity between social classes. This is a work of fiction that successfully fleshes out the frightening reality of the haves and have-nots.

Philippine Picture Postcards
1900-1920
By Jonathan Best

Jonathan Best proves to be worthy of his name with this book. Awarded the Best Book Design honors at the National Book Awards in 1994, this hardbound coffee table must-have is not just a mere collection of rare Philippine postcards. It presents postcards as artifacts from an era when the country still had its Old World charm. The book’s featured postcards document the landmarks and iconic scenes of the age. It is “intellectual nostalgia” at its (for lack of a better word) best.

Do you know a book or learning material you want to write about? Send us a 250-word article on why we should read it. The book must be available at the Br. Fidelis Leddy Learning Resource Center.
Musical theater lovers are in for a treat.

Benildanze, the resident dance company of De La Salle-College of Saint Benilde, is going big on Broadway on February 1 and 2, 2007 at the college’s Augusto-Rosario Gonzalez Theater. The shows are at 7:00 p.m. on Feb. 1 and at 1:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. on Feb. 2.

The show will feature original dance numbers choreographed by several members of the company, including artistic director Declan Patrick, executive director Cindy Lapeña-Amador and Contemporary Dance teacher Oliver Palad.

Of course, the numbers are all set to Broadway showstoppers like “Rhythm of Life,” “Aquarius,” “Big Spender,” “America,” “42nd Street,” “Ne Me Quitte Pas,” “Seasons of Love” and more. World-renowned soprano Joscephine Gomez will sing the Broadway tunes while Carlos Perion will provide musical direction.

So kick up your heels and get ready for a lively evening of dance and song with Benildanze, in cooperation with Shakey’s La Salle Taft, DLS-CSB PUSO, Instituto Cervantes, PhilStar On-Line and the New Zealand Embassy Trade and Enterprise Office.

For tickets and information, contact the Benildanze office at 5267441 to 47 local 168 or e-mail benildanze@dls-csb.edu.ph.