



## Teachers' September Conference

From 22-24 September the students had a break while the teachers attended the annual Teacher Appreciation Conference. DIS provides meaningful professional development for teachers during the conference days. The school always tries to find key note speakers, who are specialists in their field, to enhance teachers' knowledge.

This year the school had the privilege to have Ms Alana Steward and Mr Stephen Massiah, both International Consultants for the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC), to train the teachers and staff for the next step in the continuous accreditation process. All the teachers were present, but unfortunately only 80 people were allowed in the gym, because of Covid-19 restrictions, which meant that some staff members had to watch it live-streamed. Our sister school also joined the zoom meeting from Kaohsiung. Ms Ellen Chu was the parent representative at the WASC training workshops.

The WASC training was essential, because the school in coming to the end of its first accreditation cycle.

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## Teachers' September Conference

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Every six years, WASC accredited schools are required to do a self-study, which is a process that involves all the school's stakeholders. The duration of the self-study preparation is approximately 18 months, and it culminates in a document that is presented to WASC, backed up with evidence that confirms the school's focus on learning. If the documentation from a school is to their satisfaction, WASC send their representatives to assess the school and to confirm the evidence. If they find that the school adheres to continuous improvement criteria, they grant another six-year period of accreditation.

Day one of the conference started with Mass and spiritual development for the teachers. Fr Tomasz Zalewski, the School Chaplain, presided at the Mass and Sr Rosa Dabhi took charge of the Spiritual Development workshop. Teachers were treated to lunch at a restaurant, and the rest of the day was free.

On the second day, the WASC consultants conducted a three-hour virtual workshop. Because of the Covid-19 restrictions in restaurants, the school administration and staff had their turn to enjoy lunch at the same restaurant on day 2. In the afternoon, Dr Mercia de Souza facilitated a Classroom Management Workshop.

Day 3 started with a continuation of the WASC training for a further three hours. In the afternoon, Sr Ma. Zenaida Ancheta, O.P. facilitated the Teacher Appreciation session, announcing the recipients of the annual D'TORCH, Star Service, and Teacher of the Year Awards.

None of this could have happened without Mr Ian Crisostomo and the MIT Team. They did such a good job that Ms Alana Steward asked for photographs of the DIS virtual workshop to show to other schools as an example of how it should be done. Both WASC consultants were very impressed with the technological support in the school. They also gave feedback that DIS had provided them with much-appreciated participant enthusiasm.



Mr Ian and his team worked extremely hard to control the technology that was essential to the success of the three day event. WASC consultants commended them on their excellent technical support.



Teachers were divided into 9 groups for the duration of the conference. A computer program randomly chose the members of each group. Teachers got to know their colleagues better and enjoyed interacting with them in a professional learning setting.



From left to right: Mr Brian Simon, Ms Carolyn Hsieh, Ms Bing Racadio, Ms Eve Lee, Mr Joseph Amoguis, Ms Mafalda Wu and Mr Stephen Black.



## Faculty and Staff Awards

Every year, deserving teachers and staff members are rewarded for their hard work during the Teacher Appreciation Conference.

Sr Zenaida presented 2020-21 School Year Awards in a ceremony at the end of the three-day conference. Mr Stephen Black received the Teacher of the Year Award, Ms. Mary Grace Crisostomo and Ms. Doris Hsueh received the Service Awards, and the D'TORCH Award went to Ms. Archie Racadio. Congratulations to our hard-working teachers and staff members who got these well-deserved awards as recognition for their continuous support of our students and other teachers and staff members, as well as their diligence and dedication to the school and the D'TORCH principles.



The previous year's recipients presented the awards to this year's recipients. From left to right: Sr Jackie Manuel O.P. , Nurse Grace Wang, Ms Mary Grace Crisostomo, Ms Mercy Lin, Ms Doris Hsueh, Mr John Erick Moje, Ms Archie Racadio, Ms Mafalda Wu, Mr Stephen Black and Sr Zenaida Ancheta O.P (Principal)



Teachers in their training teams at the conclusion of the conference.

## St. Martin de Porres Lay Dominican Chapter in Formation Celebrates St. Dominic's Dies Natalis

By Br. Patrick Dave Q. Bugarin, O.P.



The Dominican Family gathered in the school chapel.

**The St. Martin de Porres Lay Dominican Chapter in formation under the guidance of Fr. Tomasz Zalewski, O.P. and Sr. Ma. Zenaida T. Ancheta, O.P. celebrated the 800<sup>th</sup> dies natalis of our Holy Father Dominic on August 7, 2021.**

The Fiesta Mass was held at the chapel of the Dominican International School in Taipei. Fr. Dominic Ip, O.P. from the Vice-Province of the Queen of China, was the main celebrant, and concelebrating with him was Fr. Felix Au from the Archdiocese of Kuching in Malaysia, who preached for the occasion. Also present were the Sisters of the Province of St. Vincent Ferrer based at the Dominican International School and Blessed Imelda's School.

In Fr. Felix's homily, he reiterated that St. Dominic was indeed the salt and light of the earth. He shared his life radiating and preserving the beauty and wisdom of the Gospel. Through the emulation of St. Dominic's way of living, the evangelical counsels of poverty, chastity, and most im-

portantly, obedience, we become children of Wisdom—that is Christ personified. By listening and submitting to Wisdom, we are transformed to fulfill our mission to become the salt and light of the world.

As we are comforted by the prayers of our Holy Father Dominic during these difficult times, we celebrate the jubilee by giving life to our faith in charitable practice (James 2:14-17). The mission goes on!



# Congratulations, Dr Isaac Matere



**Dr Isaac Matere obtained his Ph.D in Education from the National Taiwan University of Science and Technology in September.** He also holds a Master's degree in Science specializing in Physics, and a Bachelor of Education with a Science specialization.

Dr Isaac has been a Math teacher at DIS for two years, and he will complete a decade as an educator on two continents by the end of this year.

He also helps to mentor the Math teaching interns who come to DIS for teaching practice. He is known for his patience in the Math classroom, and his dedication to the teaching profession.

Dr Isaac now joins the other eight PhD holders who teach at the school.

Congratulations, Dr Isaac Matere!

#### THE DOMINICAN TORCH Editorial Team

**Editor-in-Chief :**  
Dr Mercia de Souza

**Editorial Committee:**  
Mr John Erick Moje  
Ms Janice Doyle  
Dr Tanya Visceglia

**Technical and Computer Support:**  
Mr Ian Crisostomo

# Welcome, Dr Patrick Bugarin

**Dr Patrick Dave Q. Bugarin teaches Global Issues and Religious Studies.** He holds a doctorate in Asia-Pacific Studies from the National Chengchi University. His research interests include securitization, governmentality, non-traditional security, papal diplomacy, and the Dominican Order. He is a Steering Committee Member of the Philippine International Studies Organization (PHISO). He is also a perpetually professed lay member of the Order of Preachers and coordinates for the Asia-Pacific Council of Lay Dominican Fraternities (APCLDF) in Taiwan. He usually spends his free time cycling.



## Welcome, New Teachers

### Dr. Tanya Visceglia

**Dr. Tanya Visceglia brings fifteen years of teaching experience and academic research in languages and Linguistics to her work at DIS.**

She was born and raised in Brooklyn, New York, and has also lived and worked in Germany and Australia. In 2003, supported by an NSF grant, she arrived in Taiwan to conduct her dissertation research at the Graduate Institute of Linguistics of National Taiwan University. After completing her PhD in Linguistics at the City University of New York, she taught Linguistics, presentation skills and academic writing at the university level for ten years. In collaboration with the Graduate Institute for Phonetics at Academia Sinica, she helped to design, collect and analyze the AESOP corpus of Asian L2 English. Tanya has always been fascinated with the language acquisition process, and she values this opportunity to share her knowledge of language systems with DIS students.



### Mr Simon Jatta

**Mr Simon Jatta teaches Middle School Math.**

He hails from The Gambia, which is situated West Africa, where he grew up in a large family with nine siblings. After his schooling in his home country, he came to Taiwan and has been here ever since. He completed a Bachelor of Science degree at National Pingtung University of Science and Technology, a Master of Science Degree at the National Chung Hsing University, and he is currently a registered PhD candidate at National Chung Hsing University.

He also attended professional development courses at the University of South Alabama (USA), the University of Waterloo (Canada) and Lagos State University (Nigeria).

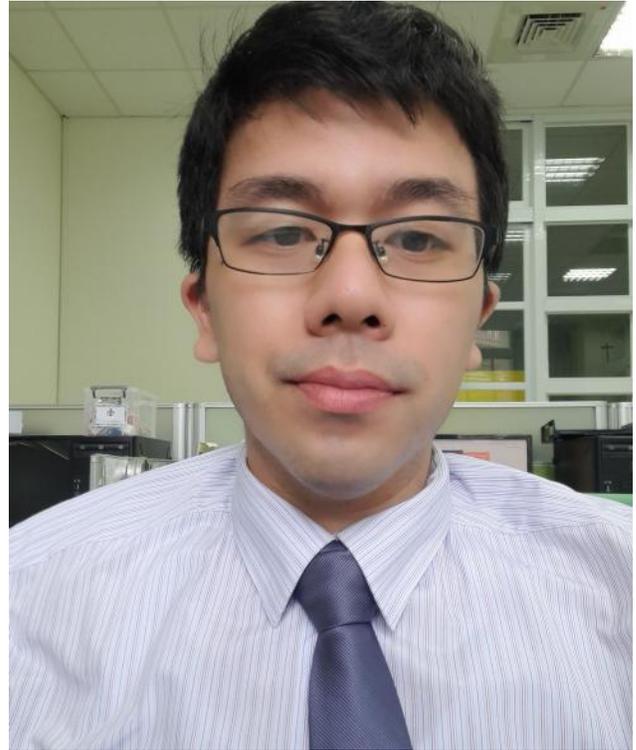
He previously worked at St. Francis Secondary School, teaching High School Math.



## Welcome, New Teacher

### Mr David Lein

**Mr David Lein teaches Social Studies and History in the Middle and High School.** He writes the following about himself, “My name is Mr. Da-Wei “David” Lein. I have a Bachelor’s of Arts degree in History/Political Science from Rutgers University: New Brunswick, and a Masters of Arts degree for Teachers in History from Rutgers University: Newark. In addition, I am also certified to teach Social Studies from grades 6 to 12 in the state of New Jersey. Being a teacher is the only job I have known since 2006. I have taught Advanced Placement on four occasions (United States History twice, World History once, and Human Geography once). Strangely enough, I even taught Biology for one year! In addition, I have been a Model United Nations director since 2015, and have served that role for over 20 conferences (including the THIMUN Singapore). I look forward to continuing the tradition of excellence which Dominican International School first embarked upon in 1957, by embracing D’TORCH principles to carry out my duties as a Grade 6 and Grade 11 Social Studies teacher.”



### New Responsibilities

**Sr Jackie Manuel, O.P. is the school’s new Vice-principal after the retirement of Sr Socorro Teofilo O.P.** She is no stranger to the school, and she was the school’s Treasurer until the end of the 2020-21 school year. She also teaches Middle School Religious Studies. Sr Lorna Alamares O.P. took over the duties of the school’s Treasurer. Welcome Sr. Lorna.



Left, Sr Lorna Alamares, O.P. and right, Sr Jackie Manuel, O.P.

### New Lower School Newsletter Website

All Lower School and other parents who would like to see the work and activities of the Lower school can now click on our new website link for “The Junior Torch”. We would like to thank Ms Adriana Nolin (Art Editor), Mr Erick Gonzales (Webmaster), and the three Editors, Messrs. Seb Langley, Brian Simon and Jake Springer for this new initiative.

# Medieval Day of Fun

By Rosemary Ho (AP English Literature Student)

**On October 29th, members of the DIS family dressed up in medieval costume to celebrate the annual masquerade event.**

Due to the Covid-19 situation in Taiwan, government officials tightened the regulations on mass gatherings and social distancing. The administration team of Dominican International School Taipei (DIST) decided to host a masquerade day in lieu of the traditional Masquerade Night fair. Teachers, students, and staff members all dressed up in medieval clothing to celebrate Halloween. This year's events included horseback riding, a Lower School medieval fashion show, and the much anticipated "At the Table with St. Dominic".

The members of the DIST family began their day with an introduction video produced by the Video Production Club and the Campus Radio. The video commemorated St. Dominic's devotion and introduced the reason behind this year's theme. In order to celebrate the 800th feast day of St. Dominic de Guzman, the Dominican Order selected the prompt "At the Table with St. Dominic" as the 2021 jubilee theme. As a

member of the Dominican family, DIST celebrated the 2021 jubilee through returning to the Middle Ages with St. Dominic. In addition, each class decorated a table that resembled St. Dominic's table. Students from different homeroom classes also created a Coat of Arms unique to their own homeroom. The Coat of Arms incorporated different aspects of the Middle Ages with each class' patron saint. Students were encouraged to present their work in different media such as watercolor, digital art, collage and more.

In the afternoon, the students of DIST participated in a variety of medieval games hosted by the Seniors. These activities provided an opportunity for students to take a break from the fast moving and ever-developing modern world. The medieval dress-up day allowed students to reconnect with the most basic and simple way of living. By "returning" to the Middle Ages, students were able to connect concepts learned in everyday classrooms with lifestyle and culture. Members of the DIST shared a memorable and engaging experience on Medieval Day.



Photos: Jason Shieh



Left: Grade 12 students trying their steps in a medieval dance

Right: Grade 1 students showing off their costumes



# DRAGONS' CHAMBER 台灣

For the third consecutive year, the organizers of The Dragons' Chamber, under the leadership of Mr Elias Ek, gave DIS's student entrepreneurs the opportunity to pitch their businesses during the final round, which is part of Meet Taipei, the largest entrepreneurial event in Asia. It took place from November 18-20.

Finalists pitch their businesses to long-term, established expatriate entrepreneurs in Taipei. Student participation showcases the Dragons' Chamber organizers' commitment to the training of young entrepreneurs and they have been doing so for the past five years. The young entrepreneurs are Grade 12 students who are running real start-up businesses as a school subject - Entrepreneurship.

Elexa Yeh, Daniel Liu and Brandon Huang had the chance to pitch their novelty mug business, very appropriately named Amugos, (derived from the Spanish word "amigos"). Their classmates attended the event on the afternoon of November 20th to support them, and to see what the other Dragons' Chamber competitors had to offer.

The DIS students get opportunities to do networking at the Dragons' Chamber final event, which in the past helped them to do business beyond their Senior year. The Amugos team did business on the spot - they got an order for 200 custom-designed mugs from a businessman in the audience who was very impressed with their pitch.

Past students generated enough business from their Dragons' Chamber networking to grow their enterprises, and now the Amugos team has an opportunity to make a healthy profit and to grow their start-up beyond expectations.

The school is very grateful that Mr Elias Ek of Enspyre and Ms Jessie Chou of Musa Trademark not only give their invaluable support and precious time to our students, but that they provide them with a opportunity that few young entrepreneurs get.



Brandon Huang, Daniel Liu and Elexa Yeh, presenting their business at the Dragons' Chamber finals.

# Three November Babies

**Three new "grandchildren" were added to the DIS family in November.**

Our DIS grandchildren are the babies born while one or both parents are teaching at our school.

Mr Erwin Discaya and his wife, Ms Cindy Huang, added a baby boy to their family on 4 November. Ten days later another little girl named Stella Maris, made her way into the world - the latest addition to Mr John Eric and Ms Scarleth's family.

Everyone waited to see if there would be a third November grandchild and Ms Zoe Lin did not disappoint us when she gave birth to Hope on 22 November- another girl!



Mr John Erick Moje holding Stella Maris after her birth.



Mr Erwin and his wife, Ms Cindy, with their baby boy, after his birth on November 4.



Ms Zoe Lin with her daughter, Hope, just two days old.

## AP Awards May 2021

By Anne Portillo

**Every fall, the AP program recognizes high school students who have demonstrated outstanding college-level achievement through their performance on multiple AP exams.** AP Scholar Awards come in three different categories. We are proud to have a total of 25 scholars with a College Board average of 4.14, who took the AP exams in May 2021.

The 1<sup>st</sup> category is the AP Scholar Awards, which recognize exemplary college-level achievement, for scoring 3 or higher on three or more AP Exams. This year's recipients were Jasper Chang, Charles Chen, Sean Farrel, Joyce Hung, Claire Ko, Elizabeth Kek Liu, Laasya Potharaju, Justin Tsai, Blake Wang, and Pen-Yeh Morris Yen.

The next category is AP Scholar with Honor. These awards recognize exemplary college-level achievement for attaining an average score of at least 3.25 on all AP Exams taken, and scores of 3 or higher on four or more exams. The students who earned the award were Evan Chang, Charmagne Felipe, Helen Ho, James Kao, Michael Lee, and Lucian Lin.

The AP Scholar with Distinction Award is given to students for achieving an average score of at least 3.5 on all AP Exams taken, and scores of 3 or higher on five or more exams. Devin Chang, Andrew Chen, Naomi Chou, Christina Chuang, Rachel Lee, Segyul Park, Emily Su, Charlie Tsai, and Max CK Yang are this year's recipients.

This school year DIS is offering 2 additional AP courses for a total of 17 AP courses to provide diverse college preparation through highly rigorous academic programs.

We are very pleased with our AP teachers' efforts and our AP students' successes. Our teachers cannot just sit back and rest on their laurels but continue their work to promote 21st Century learning and career readiness skills to all our students. The AP teachers prepare lessons that challenge students' critical thinking. They organize classrooms to create optimum environments for learning, and work with their Professional Learning Communities to support student success. The opportunities of another school year are exciting. We are certain that this year will be filled with many rewarding and valuable endeavors. Congratulations AP teachers, students, staff and parents.

## Class of 2021 Scholarships

**Many Class of 2021 graduates were accepted at top universities with scholarship awards.**

The following scholarships were awarded to DIS students (students' names were omitted for protection of privacy):

- Dean's Scholarship Award of \$30,000 to 40,000.USD over 4 years, University of California-Santa Cruz, USA
- Financial Aid – \$16,000.USD per year –University of San Francisco
- Financial Aid - \$24,000.USD per year –Seattle University
- Financial Assistance of 10% per year – Les Roches International School of Hotel Management, Switzerland
- LAPS International Student Entrance Scholarship - \$3,000 CAD
- McMaster University Scholarship Award, Canada - \$1,000 to \$3,000 CAD per year
- Merit Scholarship – University of Guelph, Canada
- Merit Scholarship – University of Toronto, Canada
- Merit Scholarship – University of Ottawa, Canada
- Merit Scholarship – University of Waterloo, Canada
- Merit Scholarship + Need Base – SUNY University at Buffalo, USA
- Merit Scholarship + Need Base – SUNY Stony Brook University, USA
- Merit Scholarship + Need Base – University of Delaware, USA
- Need-Based Scholarship – Purdue University –West Lafayette, USA
- Need-Based Scholarship – Rutgers University –New Brunswick, USA
- Need-Based Scholarship – The Pennsylvania State University, USA
- Need-Based Scholarship – University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, USA
- Outstanding Admission Award of \$1,000 CAD – University of Toronto, Canada
- Presidential Scholarship of \$72,000.USD over 4 years – University of San Diego, USA
- Scholarship Award of \$53,000.USD over 4 years – University of California-Davis, USA
- Scholarship Award of \$3,000.USD per year – University of Washington, USA
- University of South Wales Global Scholarship, Wales, UK

We truly believe that the increased focus and time devoted to learning and implementation of literacy in all classrooms, as well as our commitment to a holistic education, are the cornerstones of our success. We are excited to continue building on these accomplishments in order to provide the students of DIS with a superior education. The work of our Sisters, teachers and staff serves as a model for our students, as we are all continuous learners, focused on service to the community and the families we serve.

# Sports News by Gustl Pido

Because of the Covid-19 regulations, our students were unable to play teams from other schools this semester. Fortunately, now that students have had a first vaccination, they are able to practice their sports at school in the afternoons. Despite the pandemic some individual sports events such as track and field events are allowed by the government .



Brandon Huang - bronze medalist in High School Boys Javelin Throw



Bryan Huang - bronze medalist in Junior High School Boys Javelin Throw

Camelia Huang - 4th place in High School Girls Javelin Throw  
Coach: Dr. Gustl Pido  
Conditioning Coach: Mr Erwin Discaya

