



News in Print

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MIGUEL DE BENAVIDES LIBRARY

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LIBRARY EXHIBITION IN 2011



The University Officials, members of the Advisory Board, dignitaries and ambassadors of various embassies to the Philippines pose for a souvenir photo. Left to right by rows: 1. Amb. Luis Arias Romero, Amb. Tomas Javier Calvillo, Madame Martha Buckley, and Rev. Fr. Rolando de la Rosa, O.P.; 2. Prof. Evelyn Songco, Atty. Nilo Divina, Commissioner Juanito G. Espino, Jr., Mr. Javier Laporta, Ms. Corazon Alvina, Ms. Leticia Syquia, Rev. Fr. Isidro Abaño, O.P., and Mr. Michael Angelo Malicsi; 3. Assoc. Prof. Isidora Lee, Dr. Jaime Romero, Ms. Estrella Majuelo, Madame Maria Teresa del Rosario Zeller, Madame Soledad Lavinia de Arias, Rev. Fr. Angel Aparicio, O.P., Rev. Fr. Pablo Tiong, O.P., and Assoc. Prof. Giovanna Fontanilla; 4. Assoc. Prof. Ninia Calaca, Fr. Manuel Roux, O.P., Ms. Marian Pastor Rocas, Amb. Klaus Zeller, Prof. Ma. Teresa Fenix, Prof. Maíta Reyes, Prof. Joselito Zulueta, and Prof. Florentino Homedo.

the role of the University in the birth, growth and status of our country.

Present during the launching were university officials headed by Rev. Fr. Rolando V. de la Rosa, O.P., Rector of the University, the Advisory Board members and members of the Patrons Committee such as the dignitaries and ambassadors of various embassies to the Philippines.

The affair was formally opened by way of an Invocation led by Rev. Fr. Isidro C. Abaño, O.P., UST Secretary General. This was followed by the opening remarks delivered by Rev. Fr. De la Rosa, O.P. With much enthusiasm and interest on the project, Rev. Fr. Angel Aparicio, O.P., Prefect of Libraries, shared his thoughts about the preparations for this event. He also presented the promotional video of the exhibit which aims to encourage the patrons to support and involve themselves in this worthwhile project.

The UST Miguel de Benavides Library had the formal launching of its exhibit with the theme *A Treasure of our Nation: An Exhibition of Historical Collections* last April 27, 2009 at the UST Museum of Arts and Sciences. This is the library's contribution to the commemoration of the 400th year anniversary of the foundation of the University. Through the display of its precious rarebooks, the Library hopes viewers will grasp

Ms. Marian Pastor Rocas, President of TAOInc., and the official curator for the exhibition, discussed its objectives, qualities, and sectioning. According to her, the key learning message to be learned by its viewers would be the importance of the UST library as the key witness to the growth and development of the Filipino nation through its 400 years of existence. In addition, she

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PRECIOUS MOMENTS WITH MA'AM ANA

It is always a pleasure and a great opportunity to meet, work, and most of all, learn from people whose knowledge and experiences in their chosen field are truly outstanding. One example is Ms. Ana Santos Aramburo, currently the Director for cultural activities at the Biblioteca Nacional in Madrid, Spain. She was, for a good number of years, with Universidad Complutense working as Director of the Historical Library of the University.

The University of Santo Tomas Miguel de Benavides Library was fortunate enough to have Ms. Aramburo to visit and be a partner in helping the Antonio Vivencio del Rosario UST Heritage Library assess and suggest ways to improve its collection. This was made possible with the cooperation and support of the Biblioteca Nacional (National Library of Spain) through a consortium initiated by the UST Prefect of Libraries, Fr. Angel Aparicio, O.P. and also with the help of Mr. Manuel Perez, Librarian of Instituto Cervantes in Manila. Ms. Ana has been on commission grant by the Library of Spain for this particular project. She visited the UST Library from March 28–April 5, 2009. Her travel had been facilitated by Ms. Diana Padilla, one of the UST librarians and who is directly involved in the library's upcoming exhibit.

Before starting work at the Miguel de Benavides Library, Ms. Ana was treated to an outing in Tagaytay City and Batangas. Fr. Aparicio, Ms. Estrella Majuelo, UST Chief Librarian, Mr. Perez, UST Librarians, Mrs. Narcelita Lane Olamit and yours truly, were with her to explore the many attractive sceneries in these places like the Tagaytay Southridge, Taal Vista Lodge and the Taal church in Batangas, considered to be the biggest church in Asia. The group also had a taste of the beautiful private paradise, Sonya's Garden in Alfonso, Cavite near the vicinity of Tagaytay City. We had the chance to meet the owner, Ms. Sonya Garcia, herself an alumna of UST. Behind all these

fun-looking places were the spirits of friendship, camaraderie and sharing. With these outing escapades, I was sure that Ms. Ana felt relaxed and prepared herself for a series of activities at the UST Heritage Library.

To acknowledge her presence, Ms. Ana made a courtesy call to the Rector of the University, Rev. Fr. Rolando V. de la Rosa, O.P. In the course of her stay at the UST Heritage Library, she had the chance to meet some people who have participation in the library exhibit. They are: Fr. Fidel Villarroel, O. P. of the UST Archives, Mr. Eric Zerrudo, Director of the UST Center for Conservation of Cultural Property and the Environment in the Tropics (CCCPET), Ms. Maria Bernardita Reyes, a well-known paper conservator, and Ms. Marian Pastor Rocas of TAOInc.



Ma'am Ana and Ms. Reyes as they examine the restored Hentenius Bible which was published in Venice in 1587.

Ms. Ana started her work at the Heritage Library through a series of consultations with the staff of the section, pointing out the comparison between the Complutense University Library and the UST Heritage Library. Both libraries use the Millennium library system and both are considered the oldest university in their respective countries. She made a thorough assessment of the historical materials housed in the library and acted as one of the consultants of the Library's forthcoming exhibit. She unselfishly taught and shared her craft to us. We were truly amazed with Ms. Ana after having witnessed her expertise and dedication for work.

She gave recommendations for the improvement of the Heritage Library. In terms of policies and procedures, Ms. Ana stressed that library promotion can be done in the easiest and inexpensive yet effective way and that is by sending email to the researchers of the UST Heritage Library regarding events and other updates about the library. Therefore, a directory of all the researchers including faculty members and students of the university must be available. She discussed some guidelines



Ms. L. Olamit, Ms. J. Capule, Ms. E. Majuelo, Ms. A. Aramburo, Fr. A. Aparicio and Mr. M. Perez in front of the Taal Church in Batangas.

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¡MUCHAS GRACIAS, SEÑOR!

Last January 14, 2009, Señor Francisco Mulet donated a number of books on Pharmacy and Medicine to the Antonio Vivencio del Rosario UST Heritage Library. These are the following:

- ◆ *La Farmacia Valenciana en la Época de San Vicente Ferrer*
- ◆ *Tratado de los Medicamentos Simples- Abu-S-Salt Umayya 1068-1134*
- ◆ *Diccionario Histórico, Biográfico y Bibliográfico de Profesionales Farmacéuticos Valencianos*
- ◆ *Historia de la Farmacia Valenciana*
- ◆ *Historia de la Farmacia Valenciana Siglos XII and XVIII.*
- ◆ *La Farmacopea Valenciana en Torno a Luis Vives (1450-1550)*
- ◆ *La Farmacias: imagines de nuestra memoria*



Ms. Capule with Mr. Mulet together with the books he donated.

Señor Mulet is one of the diligent researchers of the Heritage Library. He is a Pharmacist-Optician from Alba, Valencia, Spain. He came to know the University of Santo Tomas through the Instituto Cervantes de Manila, a worldwide non-profit organization established by the Spanish government in 1991 to promote and to teach the Spanish language and culture worldwide. His first visit to the Library was in July 2008.

Señor Mulet is passionately interested in the life and works of Anacleto del Rosario, a leading Filipino Chemist during the Spanish period and is considered the Father of Philippine Science and Laboratory. In fact, his dissertation is on del Rosario. Through the Catalogue of Rare Books Vol. 3 Part I (Filipiniana), he was introduced to a number of books about this famous Chemist. He is also fascinated with the Filipiniana rare books on medicine particularly the *Manual de Medicinas Caseras para Consuelo de los Pobres Indios en las Provincias y Pueblos Donde no Hay Medico ni Botica* by Fray Fernando de Santa Maria, O.P., published in 1863. He said that this book, which is a manual of medicines, is indeed

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CPE: ISSUES AND CONCERNS

The Philippine Librarians Association, Inc. held a forum on CPE (Continuing Professional Education): Issues and Concerns last March 6, 2009 at the National Library auditorium in Ermita, Manila. This aims to update Librarians on the continuing professional education requirements as a condition for the renewal of license.

As stated in Resolution No. 2008-465 "Attendance to the Continuing Professional Education Courses offered by CPE Council, and PRC accredited CPE providers as a requirement for all professionals to be in good standing and globally competitive."

The following are the objectives of the forum:

- ◆ to provide and ensure the continuous education of a registered professional with the latest trends in the profession brought about by modernization and scientific and technological advancements;
- ◆ to raise and maintain the professional's capability for delivering professional services;
- ◆ to attain and maintain highest standards and quality in the practice of his/her profession;
- ◆ to comply with the professional's continuing ethical requirements;
- ◆ to make the professional globally competitive; and
- ◆ to promote the general welfare of the public.

The following are the sources to earn units:

1. Seminars / Conventions / Trainings
2. Academic Preparation (Residential and Distance Mode)
3. Self-directed Learning Package
4. Authorship
5. Inventions
6. Postgraduate / In-service Training
7. Study / Observation
8. Professorial Chair
9. Such other activities / programs / sources as recommended by the council approved by the Commission

There are implementing guidelines and procedures for accreditation of CPE Provider. Application forms are available at the PRC or PLAI CPE Council. All organizing bodies are subject to approval.

This forum was truly informative and enlightening for librarians.

Madonna Remedios V. Alonzo

“JUAN SENSON” OF ANGONO

The exposition on the life and works of Juan Senson has come to reality when it was showcased last February 26, 2009 to May 2, 2009 at the Metropolitan Museum of Manila. It was the first ever major exhibit about the most treasured artist of Angono, Rizal, Juan Senson, also known as “*Tandang Juancho*.” He was one of the painting masters during the Spanish and American colonial periods. The landmark exhibit was entitled *Juan Senson: 19th Century Master of Angono*, where all his works, achievements and influence on the enduring community art of Angono, Rizal were recognized.

Juan Senson was considered to be one of the “Nuno sa Sining” of the town as he was the first of the famous and talented artists to have contributed religious images to Angono and its nearby towns. He even extended his reputation when his first public exposure outside of Angono came via the Royal Exposition where he exhibited his painting *Vista Parcial del Pueblo de Angono y Laguna de Bay*, a secular work which shows the nineteenth century lifestyle and topography of Angono. The Royal Exposition was the first regional exposition in the

archipelago showcasing the varied arts and achievements of the Philippines. This painting, which is now in the possession of The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas art collection, was included among those displayed in the exhibit together with the other significant Senson artworks.

Moreover, it should be given importance the presence of the book entitled *Catalogo de los Objetos Presentados en la Exposicion Regional de Filipinas Inaugurada en Manila el Dia 23 de Enero de 1895*, which, aside from the copy available in the National Library of Spain (*Biblioteca Nacional de España*) can only be found in the Antonio Vivencio del Rosario UST Heritage Library. This book shows that the Senson’s painting, *Vista Parcial del Pueblo...* is really included in the Royal Exposition and likewise citing its significance. Thus, the inclusion of the book made a notable contribution in the exhibit because once again, it proves the richness of the UST Library collections.

Jenneth G. Capule

SCHOOL MEDIA CENTERS IN TAYTAY, RIZAL

Librarians who were enrolled last semester in the Graduate School under Prof. Candida C. Agcaoil organized a tour as a requirement for their subject “Library Materials and Services for Children and Young Adults” (LS 611). This was held last January 28, 2009. The group visited the different school media centers in Taytay, Rizal such as: Siena College, San Beda College, Assumption College, and the De La Salle College.

The objectives of the tour are the following:

- ◆ to develop a comprehensive outlook and expertise in analyzing the current trends in the organization and management of varied resources and services for the effective use of young people in school and multimedia libraries;
- ◆ to analyze the needs and problems of young people and to devise strategies that can be adopted to solve those problems; and
- ◆ to become effective in the planning of library services for children and adolescents.

During our visit, we were gladly welcomed, on separate schedules, by Mr. Vidal Santos in Siena College, Fr. Paul de Vera in San Beda College, and the librarians of the Assumption and De la Salle colleges. They were kind and generous enough to share their different library programs and practices; they even toured us around the



(From left) Ms. Loida Cordoba, Ms. Gloria Cruz, Fr. Paul de Vera, Prof. C. Agcaoil with a group of USTGS students in front of San Beda School Library, Taytay, Rizal.

school media centers. The group visited both the elementary and high school libraries.

This activity was truly a remarkable experience. We have not only had the chance to meet fellow Thomasian librarians but we have also been inspired and motivated by them to improve in our chosen profession particularly in rendering effective library programs and services to the clientele. Lastly, we got some pointers on how to be better librarians in the manner by which we should present ourselves to the public especially to our constituents.

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RECOGNITION FOR UST FACULTY

With this year's theme "Alab at Sidhi sa Pagtuturo," the University of Santo Tomas in cooperation with the UST Faculty Union, maintained the tradition of giving tribute to its faculty members who have given honor to themselves and to the University through outstanding works in teaching, research, and community service.

Faculty members who reached the milestone years of their teaching career at the University were given recognition during the 10th annual Dangal ng UST Awards last February 27, 2009. This was held at the San Martin de Porres cinematorium (Medicine auditorium). The opening remarks was given by no less than Rev. Fr. Rolando V. de la Rosa, O.P., Rector of the University.

During the ceremony, 293 faculty members received awards for the following: 120 Gawad Benavides Awards for years of service ranging from 20 to 50 years; 64 newly-appointed professors; 7 Gawad San Albertus Magnus Awardees for outstanding research, invention, technological

innovation and creative work; 2 Gawad San Lorenzo Ruiz Awards for CHED Higher Education Institute Awards; and 1 Gawad Santo Domingo Awardee for extraordinary acts of charity and volunteerism in the delivery of a community service program. Each faculty member who was awarded was given a "Certificate of Service" and cash.

The Miguel de Benavides Library was proud to have librarians included among those who were given recognition. They were: Ms. Madonna Remedios Alonzo, Head Librarian of the Circulation section and Ms. Sabina Viernes, Head Librarian of the Music section for their 25 years of service in the University.

The University of Santo Tomas is, indeed, fortunate to have many dedicated faculty members who have not only served for a good number of years but who have also contributed exceptionally in the attainment of the mission of the University through exemplary performance in their respective fields.

Our heartfelt congratulations to all the awardees!

Sabina C. Viernes

"BUILDING A HIGH PERFORMANCE TEAM"

A famous baseball player, Babe Ruth, once said, "the way a team plays as a whole determines its success. You may have the greatest bunch of individual stars in the world, but if they don't play together, the club won't be worth a dime." This to me is the very essence of the UST Library In-house seminar entitled "Building High Performance Team" which was held last May 27-28, 2009 at the Miguel de Benavides Library conference hall. It was organized by the Library Committee on Professional Development.

The seminar was formally opened with an Invocation led by Mrs. Theresa Milabo, a staff at the Reference section. It was followed by the opening remarks of Mrs. Madonna Remedios Alonzo, Head Librarian of the General Circulation section. Three speakers, all from the University, were invited to share their expertise, namely: Prof. Maria Bernardita M. Reyes, a chemist and paper conservator and presently connected with the UST Center for Conservation of Cultural Property and Environment in the Tropics (CCCPET);

Prof. Perla C. Villamarzo from the Faculty of Pharmacy; and Assoc. Prof. Cecilia L. Bahrami-Hessari, Director of the UST Human Resources department.

On day 1 of the seminar, Ms. Reyes tackled the topic "Recovery Efforts After a Disaster." She mentioned the various steps for recovery after flood and/or fire like drying of wet books and pamphlets. She also discussed about molds and how to prevent its growth. The other speaker,

Prof. Villamarzo, whose topic "Communication Skills for Library Staff," gave pointers on effective communication; how to develop one's vocabulary was given emphasis. Four (4) UST

library staff shared in a nutshell what they have learned about the seminars they had attended during the past school year. Mrs. Ma. Luz David, Head Librarian of the Ecclesiastical

Faculties Library, talked about the "1st Library Link Conference" wherein she familiarized the staff with the Filipinas Heritage Library and its task of reinventing the image of the librarian. The art and science of fundraising, librarian as leaders, and nation building through promotion of reading were also

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Prof. Maita Reyes



Dr. Perla Villamarzo



Prof. Cecilia Bahrami-Hessari

Library Exhibition... from page 1

said that the exhibit will be created with distinct qualities such as astonishing, breathtaking, compelling, and expansive in nature and would endeavor to offer memorable experiences that would teach the minds and capture the hearts of its viewers. Moreover, it will be designed with modern features to make learning interesting and pleasing to everyone. The exhibition will be divided into seven sections to help the community develop deeper understanding on the significant events happened in the Philippine history from 16th – 20th century. Then, ribbons and portals will also be used to show connectivity and link among the materials to be displayed.

Various historians, artists, sculptors, translators, painters and scholars will be engaged in the actual project pool. A trilingual exhibition in Filipino, English, and Spanish will help achieve the aim of disseminating significant information about the exhibit to various sectors. Several Philippine dialects with computers and recorded languages will be featured in a certain section of the exhibit which will make the project exceptional and exciting in nature. These are more or less the concept of this project.

A sumptuous dinner was served afterwards. While the guests were enjoying the food, some relaxing background music was played by the string quartet musicians from the Conservatory of Music.

On the same day, the Contract of Services for the library exhibit has been signed by Rev. Fr. De la Rosa, O.P. This implies that the execution of the plan for this project will be done this school year in coordination with Ms. Pastor-Roces.

This remarkable exhibition of historical collections will be open to all Thomasians and to the public in the school year 2010-2011. It will be mounted at the ground floor of the Miguel de Benavides Library and will be moved to another venue for others to have a chance to view the library's precious rarebooks collection.

Presently, the library is on its publicity/fundraising campaign which aims to inform the community on the significance of the exhibit and to generate financial resources needed for the realization of this event.

This exhibit will certainly serve as an educational and enlightening medium to all the students, faculty members, alumni and other people in all walks of life. Let us all be involved and show our concern and support for this auspicious project of the University!

For your contribution, please visit the library website: <http://library.ust.edu.ph> or call (632) 731-3034 / (632) 406-1611 local 8234.

Diana V. Padilla

Precious Moments... from page 2

regarding 'loan of materials for exhibition', recommended useful and operational websites, collection development of the reference materials for rare books and even proper disposition for the basic areas, one of which is the stackroom, where all the rare books are stored. Other concerns that she emphasized are the following:

- ◆ description and condition of the books from the sixteenth century up to the twentieth century collections;
- ◆ proper storage of rare fragile materials;
- ◆ general rules for the facsimile copies of rare books; and
- ◆ prioritization of valuable rare books for the process of restoration.

According to her "it is MAN who is the worst enemy of books." She pointed out that books can easily survive natural enemies like humidity and insects but only few of them can survive people who do not know how to make proper use of them for the simple reason that they do not know how to protect books or if they know, they simply do not care.

In her assessment of the collections of the UST Heritage Library, Ma'am Ana emphasized how invaluable and priceless the Filipiniana rare books are considering the few copies that our library has and there are no copies available in the libraries of Spain. She has justified this by consulting some of the sophisticated library systems in Spain such as *Catalogo Colectivo del Patrimonio Bibliografico Español*, a union catalogue of all bibliographic resources in Spanish libraries and institutions, whether public or private, that form part of Spain's historical heritage and the *Cisne*, online public access catalog of the Complutense University Library. One of the Filipiniana rare books that has only few copies in the libraries of Spain is the book entitled *Relaciones de Pedro Teixeira del Origen, Descendencia y Succession de los Reyes de Persia y de Harmvz* by Pedro Teixeira which was published in 1610. Likewise, she informed us that there are some Filipiniana rare books that are not found in the UST Heritage Library but are available in some libraries in Spain. She said that these books were brought to Spain by Francisco Guerra, a famous Spanish Bibliophile.

In addition, it should be noted that Ms. Ana donated audio visual materials from the National Library of Spain in Madrid regarding preservation and digitization of rare library materials. These materials will be very helpful to the library staff as additional reference and tools for the improvement of the library.

All of these significant points including Ma'am Ana's visit to the UST Museum of Arts and Sciences with Fr. Aparicio as well as her chance to explore some of the historical sites in Manila such as Intramuros and the Quiapo church were the important highlights of her visit to the University. She echoes to all her appreciation of our library and is proud to be part in promoting its rich historical value.

Jenneth G. Capule

Muchas Gracias... from page 3

a marvelous work that caters to the needs of the poor natives living during that time in the provinces without access to a physician or pharmacy. He is also delighted about the book's vocabulary in eight different languages such as Spanish, Tagalog, Pampango, Pangasinan, Cagayan, Visaya, Zambal and Ilocano.

Señor Mulet's altruism is not only reflected on the books that he donated but also on his willingness to support the conservation program of the library's rare collection. According to him, the Filipiniana rare books are very interesting and truly need to be preserved. He initiated the preservation of these precious books through digitization. Through the arrangement of the Heritage Library with Tanco Asia Philippines, Inc., one of the leading providers of integrated document archival and retrieval solutions in the country, the Filipiniana rare books that were found useful by Señor Mulet for his doctoral thesis have been digitized. A soft copy was sold to Sr. Mulet and a complimentary copy was given to the Heritage Library where it is now stored in one of its computers using the Tanco Asia's DOCU1 archiving software. In this software, entries are automatically created in a database format which makes it easier for users to access the files. This is a user-friendly imaging and document management specially designed for the demanding process of conversion of paper documents into electronic format.

Señor Mulet has not only supported the conservation program of the Heritage Library but also has been helping in improving the information availability to its patrons while the original materials are kept intact and preserved.

Jenneth G. Capule

School Media Centers... from page 4

In our interview with the librarians of the schools we visited, we could sense that they love their chosen profession. We were amused, and at the same time, we admire Mr. Santos when he said that the noise the students create is music to his ears. Fr. De Vera, on the other hand, emphasized the importance of sharing expertise and resources among librarians. These people really learned and mastered the teachings of our "gurus" from UST especially the knowledge and wisdom of Prof. Agcaoili who is very happy and proud of her former students whom she considers as among the finest librarians in the country.

The camaraderie gained by meeting librarians from other institutions with a different setting and the opportunity to share and exchange ideas with each other are truly a learning experience. Library tour is indeed one great way to get a feel of what is really happening in other libraries and a good opportunity to gain knowledge of new things.

Michelle M. San Gabriel

Building a High Performance... from page 5

discussed. Ms. Ma. Czarina Lopez, Head Librarian of the General Reference & Information section, shared what she has learned regarding customer satisfaction including some helpful tips from the forum "Customer Care Service: Trends and Practices." Current trends in conservation like disaster planning/emergency measures from the seminar "Paper Conservation" was discussed by Mrs. Ginalyn Santiago, staff at the Antonio Vivencio del Rosario UST Heritage Library and the one directly handling the task of conservation of the Library's rare collections. The last to echo for that day was Mr. Jose Enrico David, Head Librarian of the Civil Law section. He shared what he has learned from the two (2) lectures he attended; first was "Risk Management in Libraries and the Role of Information Professionals" where risk management, its steps, and daily risk factors in libraries were discussed; and "Combating Plagiarism" which explained plagiarism as intellectual dishonesty and is differentiated from infringement of copyright.

On the second day, Prof. Bahrami-Hessari shared her insights on work values in her lecture "Cultivating a Positive Work Attitude" in which *teamwork* was given much importance. She also pointed out the values affecting workplace such as courtesy, humility, professionalism, punctuality, and pleasant outlook. Furthermore, a self evaluation activity on the Negativity Scale was done to see if one is a carrier of the "attitude virus." The lecture of Prof. Bahrami was then concluded with the singing of "If We Hold on Together."

Still on day 2, two more UST librarians shared new insights and experiences. Ms. Kaori Fuchigami, a Librarian at the General Reference & Information section, introduced to the participants the new "WebOPAC." Its new interface was introduced along with its contents and features. The new library brochure was also presented. Lastly, Ms. Angelica Frances Cruz, Head Librarian of the Science and Technology section, shared their experiences in the Singapore tour and their visit to two of Singapore's world-class libraries: The National Library of Singapore and Lee Wee Nam Library of the Nanyang Technological University. This activity was likewise organized by the Committee on Professional Development.

The 2-day seminar ended with the closing remarks of Ms. Estrella Majuelo, Chief Librarian. Ms. Shiela Ortencio, a librarian assigned at the Technical section, was the Master of Ceremonies. It was truly a fruitful and meaningful seminar from beginning to end.

In conclusion, let me paraphrase what Mrs. David said at the end of her talk, that "*being part of the UST Miguel de Benavides library staff is a commitment. It is not a job, neither a career, but a lifelong passion. We contribute towards the betterment of learning and information. This is what we do; this is what we live for.*"

Jonas T. Sahagun

UST LIBRARY TEAMBUILDING 2009

The annual Teambuilding and Planning activity of the Miguel de Benavides Library was held last April 16-17, 2009 at the Club Balai Isabel in Talisay, Batangas. This activity was initiated by the Committee on Professional Development led by its



The library staff as they listen intently during the planning session.

chairperson, Ms. Madonna Remedios Alonzo with her enthusiastic members, namely: Michelle San Gabriel, Kaori Fuchigami, Ma. Theresa Milabo, Agnes Estudillo and Enrique Gestiaa.

The teambuilding was organized:

- ◆ to increase the ability of the group to work together as a team by identifying strengths and areas for improvement;
- ◆ to boost staff morale;
- ◆ to improve group dynamics and communication; and
- ◆ to foster personal growth.

The planning session was held on the first day. It was attended by all the library staff. Chairpersons of



The participants enjoy a playful moment during a parlor game with Fr. Aparicio, O.P.

the eight committees, namely: Linkages, Information Technology, Collection Development, Extension Services, Physical Facilities, Human Values, Research and Publications and Professional Development presented their accomplishments of the previous year as well as their plans and projects for SY 2009-2010. After each report, an open forum ensued wherein anybody could share opinions, insights, comments and suggestions regarding the reports and anything related to the library.

After the planning session, it was time to freshen up and feel the beauty of the surroundings of Club Balai Isabel. Some went straight to the lakeshore for a little 'bonding moment'; others looked for comfort in their own room; while the rest just enjoyed tripping around the place. At the latter part of the program, several games were prepared and participated in by the library staff. Everybody enjoyed the sumptuous dinner by the pool.



Fr. Aparicio, O.P. and the staff during the celebration of the Holy Mass.

On the second day, Fr. Angel Aparicio, O.P., Prefect of Libraries, officiated the Holy Mass. Afterwards, the staff spent the rest of the day relaxing. Everyone admired the elegance of the resort. Some took a boat ride to get near the Taal Volcano, some went swimming particularly at the infinity pool and took pictures of the astonishing *mobideep in-lake pool* facility. This joyous event would not be possible without the cooperation of the entire library staff and also, the support from the Library Administrators. This activity is done annually but still, the excitement is always there; maybe because each one feels energized.

On behalf of the organizing committee, I would like to express my gratitude to all the library staff who have participated in and who have shared their time and talents. This only proves that by being a team, we can achieve more!

Kaori B. Fuchigami

SINGAPURA: UST LIBRARIANS' EXPERIENCE

“UNIQUELY SINGAPORE!” is one of the many taglines that the country has! Indeed, the UST librarians had this unique Singapore experience.

Singapore's original name was *Singapura* which means "lion city." The country, although a small island city-state, stands as one of the wealthiest countries in the world. Also notably commendable are its first-rate libraries, the reason why the Committee on Professional Development of the UST Miguel de Benavides Library organized a 3-day library tour to Singapore. A total of 17 participants, consisting of 15 librarians and 2 support staff, the group took off at the NAIA airport terminal 3 last March 30, 2009.

It was a warm humid day when the librarians arrived in Singapore but it did not abate their enthusiasm to proceed with the city tour. As soon as luggage have been deposited at the hotel, the librarians had a satisfying lunch at one of the *Kopi tiams* which is similar to our local food courts.

Day 1 (afternoon) – CITY TOUR

First stop was the Raffles Hotel, a famous and expensive hotel in Singapore wherein the librarians had a good sightseeing session. It was named after Sir Thomas Stamford Raffles, the founder of Singapore. Next, we took a drive around the Fountain of Wealth, listed in the “Guinness Book of Records” in 1998 as the largest fountain in the world found in one of Singapore's largest shopping malls, the Suntec City. The five tower blocks represent the fingers and thumb, the fountain forms the palm of the hand. In popular culture the inward flowing water of the fountain was used for two reasons. First, according to *feng shui* experts, water is known as the symbol of life and wealth, and second, the water flowing inwards represents riches pouring in, thus, the name Fountain of Wealth.

The group also visited the Raffles Landing Site which is near the north bank of the Singapore River. A statue of Thomas Stamford Raffles is found here, the figure marks what is thought to be the site where Sir Stamford Raffles landed on January 29, 1819 in the hope of establishing a British port to compete with the Dutch ports in the region.

Raffles was the founder of Singapore. It is said that with his genius and perception he changed the destiny of Singapore from an obscure fishing village to a great seaport and a modern metropolis. Other nearby attractions include the Asian Civilisation Museum, Victoria Theatre and Concert Hall, the Dalhousie Obelisk and Esplanade Park.

A trip to Singapore is never complete without visiting the Merlion Park. The Merlion has been installed as a symbol to welcome all visitors to Singapore. Two (2) Merlion statues are installed at the Merlion Park which is said to be the mother and the child, and a third one, the father, the biggest among the three is at the Sentosa Island. The Park also offers a good view of the



The group as they pose for a souvenir photo at the famous Merlion Park.

Esplanade, Singapore's centre for the performing arts.

Another tourist attraction that the librarians visited is the Thian Hock Keng Temple (also: Tianfu Gong Temple or Temple of Heavenly Happiness) the oldest and most important Taoist temple in Singapore. It is erected in honor of Ma Zu Po, goddess of the sea and protector of all seamen. It is a magnificent piece of architecture elaborately decorated up to the last detail. What is surprising is the fact that it was constructed without using any nails in its main structure. Guarding the doors are tigers, lions and door gods, traditional sentinels of any Taoist temple.

The group also made a stop at the Singapore Gems & Metals Company. The whole gallery is a display of vibrant colors. Their artistic works are embodied in forms of mosaic, statues, stone carvings

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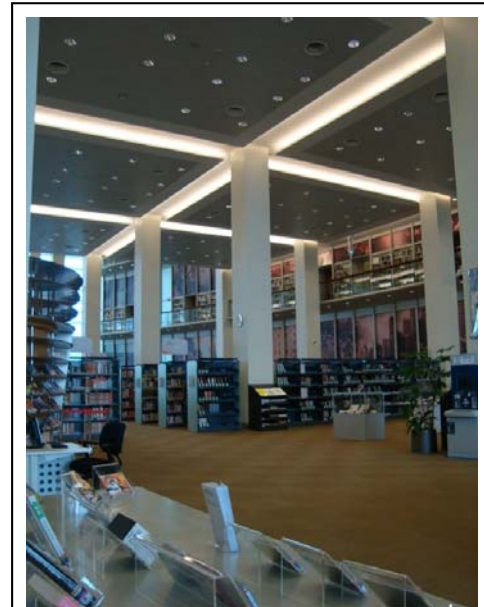
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and jewelry, all of which use various gems and precious stones. It goes to show just how exceptionally creative and imaginative the Singaporeans are.

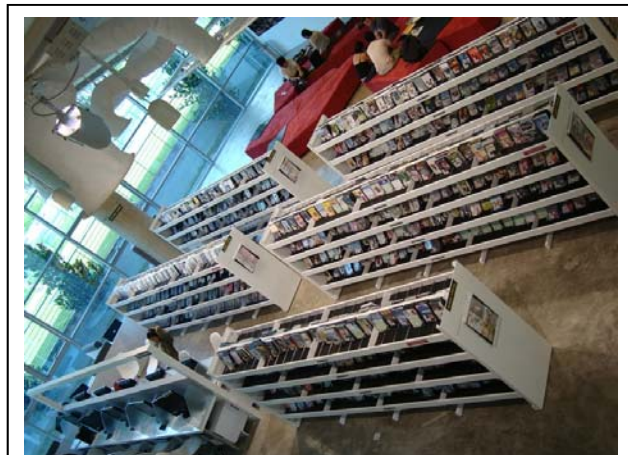
It was a different kind of excitement when the librarians took a cable car ride going to Sentosa Island. With adrenalin pumped up at every sudden glide of the cable car, everyone was so thrilled to get to the site. Part of the attractions at Sentosa is the 3D Magix which provides an interactive experience. A state-of-the-art theatre gives a whole new generation of movie magic through the synchronization of a full spectrum of visual effects, surround sound, individually-controlled motion seats and special live environmental effects such as water spray, thus, engaging all senses. This time the group did not miss the Underwater World, an oceanarium showcasing some 2,500 marine life from 250 species from around the regions where one can view deep sea fishes up close and personal. It is a “voyage to the bottom of the sea” which proved to be a fun and educational experience. It is a spectacular underwater journey through a moving travelator with a tunnel housing creatures that inhabit the ocean depths. While at the Dolphin Lagoon the group was entertained by three charming pink dolphins which demonstrated their natural ability like spy-hopping, tail-walking and vocalizing. Everyone was extremely fascinated by how smart these dolphins are. The last stop at the park was a fantastic show performance, the ‘Songs of the Sea.’ It was an enchanting show with a live cast and dramatic effects like pyrotechnics, water jets, brilliant lasers, special computer imaging, stunning flame bursts and the captivating music was simply amazing!

Day 2 – the main event: LIBRARY TOUR

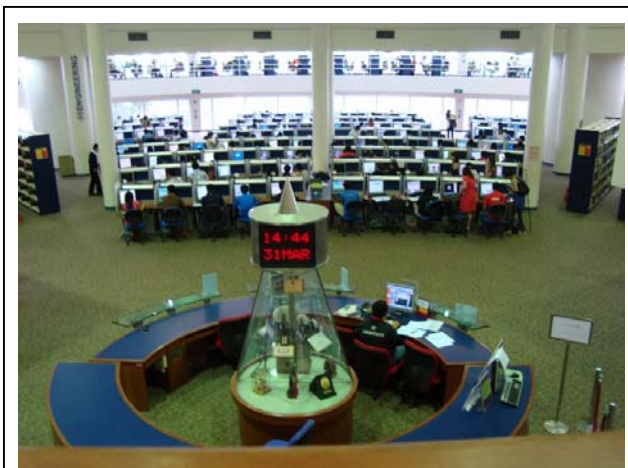
Just a few blocks from our hotel is the National Library Board of Singapore. Evolving for nearly 200 years it has transformed to a large reference library, an extensive network of public libraries and a digital library with online services. The library is remarkably modern. It is a great proof that even public libraries have a lot of potentials to be the leading information provider for all the members of the community. After a short video presentation about the library, the participants were led to see the various sections and facilities. The group observed how well NLB was able to utilize cutting edge technologies especially in their circulation services. Borrowing, returning and even paying of overdue fines may be done by the patrons without any assistance. They are very dynamic and innovative in promoting their collections, services and facilities which is evident in their multifarious brochures, posters and other promotional paraphernalia. With NLB’s vision to



The Arts and Business Collection of Lee Kong Chian Reference Library of The National Library Board of Singapore.



The Art Design + Media Library at the Nanyang Technological University (NTU).



Computer stations at NTU Library.

bring knowledge alive, spark imagination and create possibility for a creative and vibrant nation, it has set the best example for other libraries. NLB has a very welcoming atmosphere that was felt by the participants who were profoundly thankful to NLB librarians for their accommodation.

After an hour drive, the group finally arrived at the next library, the Nanyang Technological University Library. NTU Library's value lies in the information resources, tools, services and facilities that they provide to all NTU staff and students. They have a range of library materials that cater to various learning needs and preferences. The library boasts of a print collection of more than half a million books now and is growing at about 40,000 volumes per year. They also have a good selection of audio visual materials, rich electronic resources, and other multimedia materials. The group was amazed of the library's collection and facilities, namely: the mini-theatres, listening booths and media room, and even the modern equipment they provide in using their different resources. A digital repository is available which makes it possible to access the full-text of NTU students' theses and examination papers.

It is admirable how NTU Library implements a subject-librarian system in their organization structure. Since 2004 all professional librarians have been assigned individual subject responsibilities to identify and meet the information needs of specific target groups of users according to subject discipline. This, they say, has effectively pushed all librarians to the front-end of service work and emphasizes the importance of serving users directly.

The participants also observed how NTU library buildings were designed and how they make library spaces useful, innovative and attractive for users. The approach in the way they design the library space is very interesting. There are seats and spaces designed and built to facilitate discussion and collaborative work among learners. At the same time spaces for a conducive environment for study and reflection are also provided. The quiet area is painted black while the area which allows discussion is painted white to give a clear distinction. They regularly put exhibits which display the books they have on specific topics. A drop box is then provided for the reservation slips that may be filled up by interested patrons. This goes to show how they view libraries as important social and community space in addition to being depositories of books and other informational objects.

It is really a wonderful experience to visit other libraries. The librarians get to see the value of their own libraries and gather a lot of ideas on how else

they can improve it. They get to evaluate, compare and contrast it to the existing scenarios in their own libraries. It is a great opportunity for the librarians, for their work enhancement. Likewise, it is a good motivation for the library staff to work hand in hand towards better service.

It was almost sundown when the library tour was finished. After taking a short rest, some participants entertained themselves to a trip to Night Safari while others took pleasure in experiencing nightlife in Singapore.



UST librarians together with the NTU librarians pose for a souvenir shot.

Day 3 (morning) – MORE CITY TOUR

One cannot leave Singapore without indulging to appreciate the city even more. Singapore, after all, is made up of different cultures which can be attributed to its cultural diversity that reflects its colonial history. It is environmentally friendly; the country is known for its clean surroundings.

The participants enjoyed visiting shopping malls. The country is highly cosmopolitan. As English is one of its numerous official languages, it is generally easier for tourists to understand local population of the country especially when doing their shopping. The participants also savoured the local dishes, each trying a different food during every meal.

Transport exhaustively covers most, if not all, public venues which provides convenience for tourists, the most popular is the Mass Rapid Transit (MRT) system.

As every journey has a beginning it must also come to an end. And then it was time to leave. In one of the key chains, it says "Singapore: so easy to enjoy, so hard to forget"... really an unforgettable experience!

Angelica Frances M. Cruz

CHEER UP FOR GEL!



This is how I describe my relationship with my good friend Angelica Frances Cruz. I have known her since we were in college. Our relationship blossomed into a wonderful friendship.

Gel, as her friends fondly call her, is the youngest and the *unica hija* in a brood of four. She was born on the 11th day of April in 1983 to Angel and Francisca Cruz of Baliuag, Bulacan. Gel attained her primary and secondary education at St. Mary's College in Baliuag. She pursued her college degree at the University of Santo Tomas, took up Bachelor of Secondary Education major in Library Science. She passed the Licensure Examination for Librarians given in November 2004.

“A true friend is someone who thinks that you are a good egg even though he knows that you are slightly cracked”

Bernard Meltzer

Her first assignment in the library was at the General Reference and Information section. She was later transferred to the Science and Technology section as Acting Head Librarian and at the same time trained to take charge of the library website. She was appointed as the Head Librarian of the Science and Technology section in June 2008, a position she holds up to the present.

Some of Gel's hobbies include reading, baking, traveling and nature tripping. One thing I discovered about Gel is that she is an amazing storyteller! She once shared her talent, on the very same stage, with GMA-7's newscaster Ms. Pia Arcangel in one of the UST Grade School Library activities for the National Book Week.

Gel is a homebody and when it comes to her family, she is a determined fighter and a strong adversary. Expect it from this delicate femme! A great friend like her is hard to find, difficult to leave, and hard to forget.

Kaori B. Fuchigami

Fr. Angel Aparicio, O.P.

Prefect of Libraries

Ms. Estrella S. Majuelo

Chief Librarian

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