



# News In-Print

UNIVERSITY OF SANTO TOMAS Miguel de Benavides Library

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UST deserved the *Casa Asia* prize by: Jorge Mojarro

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BELONGING to the government of Spain, Casa Asia is a cultural Institution, whose goal is to promote knowledge about Asian nations and cultures and also to support the relations between Spain and Asian countries in the cultural, economic and educational spheres. It was founded in 2001, and its headquarters is located in Barcelona although they have a branch in Madrid. It organizes courses and workshops. It has a center for documentation. It launches and publishes books about Asia. It provides research grants, and it mounts exhibitions, among other activities. Needless to say, it is a very prestigious Institution, and I was extremely joyful to know that the University of Santo Tomas (UST) received Casa Asia's yearly

prize in the category of education and science. Its jury argued that this University "is an historical, academic and cultural Institution that has played a key role in the education of Filipino people during more than 400 years, which makes it the oldest modern University in Asia."

The survival of any human institution for more than four centuries is an achievement in itself and even more so if we take into consideration its excellence. It is a sign that the people in charge of it and the community that it has been serving do greatly appreciate its importance and commitment. In line with this, I would like to highlight two of my favorite places in this University.

Unknown to many, the Heritage Library and the Archives are absolutely world-class. The Library has several antiquated books, including "De Bello Judaico" (On the Jewish War), by Flavius Josephus, printed in Paris in 1535, and the first edition of the very controversial "De Revolutionibus Orbium Coelestium" (On the Revolution of the Heavenly Spheres), Nuremberg, 1543, by Nicholas Copernicus, which is itself an event in the history of science. For this last title, worldcat.org, a world catalogue of books, indicates the existence of just around 15 copies in the world. A look at the catalogs that this Library has been publishing during the last years provides an idea of the incredible value of the Library's holdings from which several generations of students have been benefiting. Two things must be mentioned: its incredible collection of newspapers and its pioneering digitalization efforts. Many of their holdings are freely available through digilib.ust.edu.ph, an initiative that has proven to be crucial to many researchers in these times of pandemic.

# What's Inside

'Panopto and Zoom'' eLearning trainings	3
orum on Saint Thomas Aquinas	4
.ove goes on!	5
ibrary outreach activities	6
Aonthly Masses for the UST library staff	7
Extension Services Committee donation drive	8
Aacasaet elected in USTFU Board of	8
JST Library coordinators for AY 2020-2021	9
Changes and challenges in the UST Library	10
JST MdB Library launches "Virtual Office"	10
"LOVE in time of the pandemic"	11
Former Library San Lorenzo Ruiz scholar receives IOHSK scholarship	12

cont'd on next page



The Casa Asia award banner with the award recipients. (Image credits: https://www.casaasia.es/actualidad/resolucion-del-jurado-de-los-premios-casa-asia-2021/)

The Archives are, in my opinion, completely underrated despite the exceptional value of its holdings. It also has a unique collection of old books, but its manuscripts have been attracting researchers from all over the world, documents dealing with the foundation of the University; contracts written or signed in baybayin (pre-Hispanic language); accounts of martyrdoms and of the Philippine revolution; early newspapers; the grades of José Rizal; dictionaries and grammar books of different languages, including Fukien and Japanese; and lively testimonies of the Japanese occupation are just some of the jewels that can be found. There is no doubt that any top-ranked university would wish to have what this Archives has. A US scholar I met once told me with a smile of resignation, "I just realized I would need six months to see all I would like to read. And I am [already] leaving tomorrow!"

It should not be forgotten that both the Library and the Archives have survived several earthquakes, typhoons, fires, the Katipunan revolution and even the Second World War. It is almost a miracle that these have survived almost entirely intact.

Although Casa Asia has given the prize to the University of Santo Tomas as a whole, I am of the opinion that the Library and the Archives are of such an exceptional quality that they would have sufficed to deserve the prize. But there is way more: the commitment of the professors and the administrators during the pandemic, I did not expect it. About that, I am happy to say I am a privileged witness. And, therefore, I can predict that UST shall be granted more world-class prizes such as the one from Casa Asia in the forthcoming years.

### ERRATA

Page 1, Paragraph 1, Line 17 Original text: "...this University "is an historical, academic and..." Corrected text: "...this University "is a historical, academic and..."

Page 1, Paragraph 3, Lines 2-3 Original text: "...including "De Bello Judaico" (On the Jewish War), by Flavius Josephus, printed in Paris in 1535..." Corrected text: "...including "La Guerra Judaica" (On the Jewish War), by Flavius Josephus, printed in Seville in 1492.."

Page 1, Paragraph 1, Line 1 Original text: "The Archives are, in my opinion, completely..." Corrected text: "The Archives is, in my opinion, completely..."

# "Panopto and Zoom" eLearning trainings Rose Anne Camille C. Dionisio



The UST Educational Technology Center (EdTech) conducted an eLearning training series on "Panopto Video Management System and Zoom Web Conferencing Tool." It was held on December 11 and 15, 2020 and was attended by the UST Librarians.

The first training was a quick guide in curating and creating video learning materials through Panopto for beginners with Ms. Carolina Torres, the eLearning specialist from the College of Fine Arts and Design. For starters, "Panopto Video Management System" is a video platform wherein educators can produce interactive learning materials,

do live streaming, video recording, editing, and indexed video playback to easily retrieve the discussed topics.

The training covers the overview of what Panopto is all about, how to access it, its recording features, necessary editing tools, integration of Panopto to Blackboard/UST Cloud Campus, and usage and analytics of the student participation during classes.

On the other hand, the second training focused on setting up synchronous sessions via Zoom and was discussed by Mr. Charliemaign Stanley Cruz, the eLearning specialist from the Faculty of Pharmacy. Zoom is a cloud-based telecommunications app that allows people to set up online video and audio conferencing, web-based seminars, and other collaborative sessions.



The session tackled the accessibility of the Zoom Dashboard, how to create Zoom meetings, and the navigation toolbar and its functions.

These trainings are well-timed and practical, most especially in the ever-active online learning environment. Platforms such as Panopto and Zoom would make library orientation and tutorial sessions more engaging to the Thomasian community.

## Forum on Saint Thomas Aquinas Arlene P. Matias

The forum on Saint Thomas Aquinas is a yearly activity of the Human Values Committee to commemorate as well as to celebrate the feast day of St. Thomas. This activity also serves as an avenue for the UST High School students and the Miguel de Benavides Library staff to acquire additional knowledge about St. Thomas and to be able to apply the virtues learned from the life of this Saint. It is also the Committee's hope that the participants will gain insights thru personal reflections, to strengthen their spirituality and be able to support themselves during these trying times.

This year's forum was entitled "Surviving the Pandemic through the Wisdom of St. Thomas Aquinas." The activity was held last January 27, 2021, 1:30-3:00 in the afternoon. It was conducted on-line through Google Meet and Facebook page of the UST Library. The invited speaker was the former Rector Magnificus of the University of Santo Tomas, Rev. Fr. Herminio V. Dagohoy, O.P., PhD, Acting Dean, Faculty of Philosophy, Ecclesiastical Faculties. This activity was attended by the selected students of Senior



High School, Junior High School, and Education High School (UST-EHS), faculty members, library coordinators, and the UST Library staff.

According to Fr. Dagohoy, the topic is relevant, however, problematic, since he cannot remember any text on Aquinas that talks about surviving the pandemic. Therefore, his presentation revolved in the prayer of St. Thomas. From the prayer, the speaker emphasized the words "**Conduct Pleasing, Perseverance, and Hope.**" He discussed each and relate to present situation and how this prayer can be a guide to survive the pandemic.

Through this activity, the Committee hopes that the participants will be able to fulfil their duty as faithful and effective Christians patterned after the life of Saint Thomas Aquinas.

# Love goes on! Fides C. Arrogancia

Nothing can stop us in celebrating LOVE! This year, the UST Miguel de Benavides Library goes online for its annual Valentine's day activity. From February 11-14, two romantic-themed quotes were posted in the Library's social media pages each day. Library users were given a chance to guess from which book it was lifted. It was made sure that the books are all part of the Library's collection to promote its usage. A lot of library users participated in the said event in the hope of winning a free "Grammarly Premium" account for the whole second term. Some of them even posted the answers seconds after posting the quotes. The library users' active participation in this online activity proved that despite the current situation, love does go on.



# Library outreach activities Michelle M. San Gabriel

The Library outreach activities usual visit to Sitio San Martin Library, Bamban, Tarlac, and Cottolengo Filipino, Inc. are not feasible due to the restrictions because of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Amid the current crisis, the Library, together with its staff, will continue to participate and support outreach activities by voluntary cash donations.

For Academic Year 2020-2021, the nature of the activity to Bamban will depend on the recommendation of the UST Simbahayan Community Development Office (UST-SCDO) Director, Asst. Prof. Froilan A. Alipao, MCD. For the first term, the said Office recommended essential school supplies that would



Turnover of donations to the UST Simbahayan Office.

help the Aeta children in their studies, especially in working on their modules.



Turnover activity of the UST Simbahayan representative to the Aeta community.

The UST Library administrators together with the Extension Services, Human Values, and the Information and Communications Technology Committees facilitated this outreach activity in Bamban. A total of 100 elementary Aeta children benefited from the school supplies such as bond papers, pencils, crayons, and plastic envelope bags.

For the Second Term, the remaining four Library committees namely, Collection Development, Linkages and Research, Professional Training and Development, and the Physical Facilities, will conduct the second and last outreach activity for Bamban. The group will donate basic pandemic kit in March 2021. The UST-SCDO will turn over these donations to Ms. Rowena David, the person in charge of the said community.

Another outreach activity was the visit to Cottolengo Filipino Inc. Likewise, we conducted a voluntary cash donation drive last December 2020, and we raised Php19,300.00. It was turned over through the personal initiative of Ms. Diana Padilla, UST Library asst. chief librarian. Also, gratitude goes to the UST Secretary General, Rev. Fr. Jesus M. Miranda, Jr., O.P., PhD for giving a personal cash donation for the children of Cottolengo.

Indeed, the mark of being a compassionate Thomasian is evident among the UST Miguel de Benavides Library staff. May the good Lord continue to bless everyone for their generosity.



Turnover of cash donation to Cottolengo Filipino Inc.



The Committee on Human Values of the UST Miguel de Benavides Library headed by Arlene Matias organized a monthly celebration of the Holy Eucharist which will be officiated by Rev. Fr. Angel Aparicio, O.P., Prefect of Libraries.

A monthly Mass is being celebrated which started on November 13, 2020. It was attended by the Library staff and held at the library lobby. The November Mass was offered for the souls of the departed loved ones; while Mass for December was offered for the month's birthday celebrators. January was the start of the 2nd term and Mass was held on January 20, 2021 offered as a thanksgiving and also for the January birthday celebrators. February was the start of the Holy Week and Ash Wednesday, repentance was the theme. Ash Wednesday is important because it marks the start of the Lenten season leading up to Easter celebration. The ashes symbolize both death and repentance. During this time, we Christians show repentance and mourning for our sins because we believe Christ died for us. As customary in all churches nowadays due to pandemic, Fr. Aparicio sprinkled ashes on the head of each attendee to minimize physical contact.

The Holy Mass for March will be held on March 17, 2021.



## "LOVE. SHARE. DONATE."

The year 2020 was truly a significant year for every Filipino. Other than earthquakes and volcanic eruptions, there were strong typhoons that hit the Philippines one of which was typhoon "Ulysses" that lashed the main island of Luzon.

The Extension Services Committee had a donation drive for hundreds of thousands of Filipinos affected by the said typhoon including members of the Thomasian community. It started November 17 until November 24, 2020. The Library staff sent cash donations thru bank transfer and GCash. All cash collected was sent to the UST Simbahayan Community Development Office. The Committee was able to collect a total of P11,600.00.

## No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted - Aesop



# Macasaet elected in USTFU Board of Directors 2021-2026

Marjorie Irish A. Suarez



#### **PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP**

PHILIPPINE LIBRARIANS ASSOCIATION PHILIPPINE ASSOCIATION OF ACADEMIC AND RESEARCH LIBRARIANS, INC. UST LIBRARIANS ASSOCIATION (USTLA) er (2021-)

#### PLATFORM

It is an honor to run for a position on the USTFU Board of Directors and to have an opportunity to serve our Union and work as an advocate for the advancement of faculty members. I will approach with enthusiasm

- professionalism to: work with the USTFU leadership to further the goals of the Uni collaborate with officers/members in Committee works and
- contaborate with Onese international strategies and the strategies activities;
  ensure transparency, accountability, of funds and records; and, open communication among membership;
  advocate and support increase health and retirement benefits for a strategies.
- empower and represent non-teaching faculty in furthering their advancement.

EDUCATION 2019 MASTER OF LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SCIENCE UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINE LOR OF LIBRARY AND



The University of Santo Tomas Faculty Union (USTFU) conducted its Board of Executive Officers and Directors for 2021-2026 online elections last February 15-17, 2021. Kristi Ma. Fevie Macasaet-Recinto achieved victory as she was elected one of the USTFU Board of Directors under the party Kabalikat.

Ms. Macasaet-Recinto is the Asst. Head Librarian of the Science and Technology section of the UST Miguel de Benavides Library. Likewise, she was elected secretary of the University of Santo Tomas Librarians Association (USTLA) for AY 2021-2022. She is currently the Public Relations Officer of the Association.

With her experiences in officership, she was able to come up with this platform that will benefit the members of USTFU in the present time and in the long term as well:

- work with the USTFU leadership to further the goals of the union;
- collaborate with officers/members in Committee works and activities;
- ensure transparency, accountability of funds and records, and open communications among its members;
- advocate and support improvements in health and retirement benefits for members; and
- empower and represent non-teaching faculty to further their advancement.

The Miguel de Benavides Library has been very supportive and is truly proud of her success as she begins her journey as member of the USTFU Board of Directors.

# UST Library coordinators for A.Y. 2020-2021

Anna Rita L. Alomo

The Library Coordinators are responsible for updating their faculty members and students in their respective faculties/colleges/institutes/schools about the library activities, acquisitions, policies, and other developments. They are expected to recommend learning materials appropriate to their course outline with the help of Library Committee members.

For this academic year, the following library coordinators are as follows:

- 1. Asst. Prof. Dennis Ligan, Ph.D. AMV College of Accountancy
- 2. Ar. Felicisimo Tejuco Jr. College of Architecture
- 3. Assoc. Prof. Mary Caroline Castaño, Ph.D. College of Commerce
- 4. Asst. Prof. Loreto Sauz College of Education
- 5. Mr. Raphael Emmanuelle Kalaw College of Fine Arts and Design
- 6. Mr. Allan James Tan College of Rehabilitation Sciences
- 7. Ms. Kathryn Hipolito College of Science
- 8. Asst. Prof. Ryan T. Liba, Ph.D. College of Tourism and Hospitality Management
- 9. Asst. Prof. Mary Patrice Pacis Conservatory of Music
- 10. Ms. Ruth Jamel Castillo Education High School
- 11. Prof. Franz Giuseppe Cortez, Ph.D. Faculty of Arts and Letters
- 12. Engr. Noel Sabarillo Faculty of Engineering
- 13. Prof. Robert Uy, M.D. Faculty of Medicine and Surgery
- 14. Asst. Prof. Jaclyn Johnson-Magpantay Faculty of Nursing
- 15. Asst. Prof. Michelle Bartolome Faculty of Pharmacy
- 16. Assoc. Prof. Ian Raymond Pacquing, Ph.D. Graduate School
- 17. Asst. Prof. Eugenia Zhou Institute of Information and Computing Sciences
- 18. Ms. Mia Elaine Andaliza Institute of Physical Education and Athletics
- 19. Mr. Sir-Lien Hugh Tadeo Institute of Religion
- 20. Mr. John Raymond Sandoval Junior High School
- 21. Mr. Aldrine Guevarra, Ph.D. Senior High School

# Changes and challenges in the UST Library Fides C. Arrogancia

As the pandemic continues to impose its threat, the UST Miguel de Benavides Library stays true to its commitment to aid the Thomasian community in their educational pursuits. This health crisis is being battled by the Library staff with creativity, adaptability, and resilience. Along with the major change from face-to-face to online services, some of the Library staff also have changes in their roles and responsibilities.

The Senior High School Library is now headed by Lourdes Fatima C.

Ramos. Also, a new Assistant Librarian, Symon Lagao, and a new support staff, Karl Leo G. Dela Rama have been added to their team. Elein H. Geronimo is the new head Librarian of the **Junior High School Library**. Along with her is her assistant Chiara Maye M. Navarrete. **General Reference and Information Section** has a new assistant Librarian in the person of Kaori B. Fuchigami. Michelle P. Paciencia is the new support staff of the **General Circulation Section**.

The Library staff are known for their versatility, being able to function well in any duty they are assigned to do. Transitions may be seen as a challenge but for them, it is an opportunity to demonstrate their honed skills and to further utilize their great talents.

It has been a year since the pandemic forced educational institutions to facilitate enriched online learning. And as the University pivots new ways, the UST Miguel de Benavides (MdB) Library and librarians also grapple with new ways to enhance services to support the community's learning needs.

# UST MdB Library launches "Virtual Office"

Kristi Ma. Fevie V. Macasaet

The crisis has been an opportunity to defy the traditional impression that libraries and library services are limited to the four walls of the building. The UST MdB Library converted all its services online to expand access to academic resources and provide library and information literacy instructions. Some of these online services are: request for book borrowing and



document delivery service, suggest a purchase, availing of Grammarly Premium accounts and Turnitin service, Ask-a-Librarian service thru chat, email and phone call, and the UST Library Virtual Office.

The UST Library Virtual Office powered by Google Meet was launched last September 1, 2020. It is open from Monday-Saturday, 8:00 AM to 8:00 PM for all Thomasians. Questions and concerns are answered and assisted by experienced librarians, and information to these transactions are kept confidential.

To avail, simply log the UST Google Suite account and proceed to this link, bit.ly/USTLibVirtualOffice, or simply click the Virtual Office icon that is located on the upper right corner of the UST Library website's homepage.

When the Virtual Office is offline, library users can still get help. Through the "On Demand Resources" and "Library Guides" tab for help with frequently asked questions and common library issues.

Offering the latest and most relevant information is vital to running a business. A virtual library puts information at employees' fingertips and is easily accessible to multiple people at once. A virtual library can pull documents from different sources all over the world, creating an information powerhouse that makes a business competitive globally.

The program was initially received enthusiastically by the students and academic staff. And this service will continue to help and support Thomasians who are seeking for timely assistance in the enriched teaching and learning set-up.



Marriage is a sacred union between a man and a woman, to enter into a covenant where God's love seals and strengthens their love for one another. Many people look forward to weddings. But unfortunately, there are no exemptions to the slur brought by the pandemic. However, the Covid-19 did not stop our very own Librarian and her fiancé from tying the knot. Kristi Ma. Fevie Macasaet, Assistant Head Librarian at the Science and Technology Section, married his long-time partner, Mr. Ernie Recinto of Lipa City, Batangas, in an intimate ceremony.

Ernie is a seaman at a cruise ship. Their relationship extends to more than (10) years of being together as partners. Fevie and Ernie were daycare playmates as they both grew in the same barangay. Despite Ernie boarding the cruise several times, their love and support for each other have remained strong which eventually led to a wedding proposal. The couple exchanged vows last January 27, 2021 at the Archdiocesan Shrine and Parish of St. Vincent Ferrer in Lipa City. The reception, attended by the couples' cherished family, relatives, and friends, was held at Lake Haven Resort, Mataas na Kahoy, Batangas.

Ms. Fevie accorded that her wedding day was filled with a roller coaster of emotions. She recalled that the sun shone bright before the wedding ceremony and it rained while they were exchanging vows. Thankfully, as the wedding ended, a ray of sun appeared once again. Likewise, not all their family members were invited considering the limited number of allowed guests. But thankfully, the ceremony was a success in its totality.

Serving as principal sponsors for the couple were Mrs. Marivic Usita, Mrs. Lucy Bermudez, Mrs. Jasmine Mangona, and Mr. Nemesio Magtaan, from the UST Miguel de Benavides Library.

Our best wishes to the newly-wed couple! May your union be filled with special memories you can treasure forever. Cheers to a lifetime of love, blessings, and happiness!

# Former Library San Lorenzo Ruiz scholar receives IOHSK scholarship

Rosemary B. Balbin

Rica-Ella M. Pollante was a Miguel de Benavides Library (MdBL) San Lorenzo Ruiz scholar. She is also an alumna of the UST Physical Education and Athletics (IPEA) major in sports and wellness management. During her undergraduate years, she worked as a student assistant / working scholar for four (4) consecutive years at the UST Library while simultaneously studying full time and managing her heavy study load. Despite the challenges she encountered while joggling her work and studies, she graduated Magna Cum Laude last academic year 2019-2020.

Hard work has truly paid off for this intelligent, earnest, and diligent young lady as another feather has been added to her cap. Ms. Pollante was granted international student scholarships by the International Organization for Health, Sports and Kinesiology (IOHSK). As mentioned in official paper of the University, the Varsitarian, and I quote "She is one of the 16 recipients of the international scholarship in the college category who were cited for academic excellence and dedication to contribute and serve their communities together with a co-Thomasian, Mr. Aljireh Lan Fuchigami."<sup>1</sup>

Pollante is so grateful as she quoted: "Whatever achievement I attained and whoever the person I am now, it is because of two (2) significant things - my beloved UST where I gained my knowledge, and the people within the confines of its walls from whom I gained wisdom and experiences. The latter is more appreciable as I am blessed to have worked with my MdBL family for 4 memorable years; people who possess strong work ethics and

high moral standards which I acquired within the workplace, and which I will carry on throughout my calling or walk in life. You will always be remembered with gratitude for your dedication and selfless service to the Thomasian community. Wherever destiny leads me, UST will always remain my solid foundation!"

Congratulations Rica! This is just the beginning; there are more stars to reach. Continue to soar high and keep collecting your stars. Continue spreading the light and shine the brightest wherever your destiny leads you. Your MdBLib family is and will always be proud of you!



<sup>1</sup>The Varsitarian (2021). *IPEA alumni awarded int'l scholarships by global sports org.* https://varsitarian.net/sports/athletics/20210222/ipea-alumni-awarded-intl-scholarships -by-global-sports-org

## EDITORIAL STAFF

-Editor-Rosemary B. Balbin

-Copyreader-Diana V. Padilla

-Layout Artist-Raquel B. Lontoc

-Asst. Layout Artist-Fides C. Arrogancia

-Circulation Manager-Dolores E. Morante

## -Contributors-

Anna Rita L. Alomo Fides C. Arrogancia Rosemary B. Balbin Rose Anne Camille C. Dionisio Elein H. Geronimo Symon Lagao Kristi Ma. Fevie V. Macasaet Leonila M. Manuel Arlene P. Matias Jorge Mojarro (*The Manila Times Columnist*) Michelle M. San Gabriel Marjorie Irish A. Suarez

## English Editor:

Ms. Estrella S. Majuelo

## -Advisers-

Fr. Angel Aparicio, O.P. Ms. Maria Cecilia D. Lobo

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