

# News In-Print

UNIVERSITY OF SANTO TOMAS  
Miguel de Benavides Library

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## UST librarians elected in professional associations

*Maynard M. Vitug*

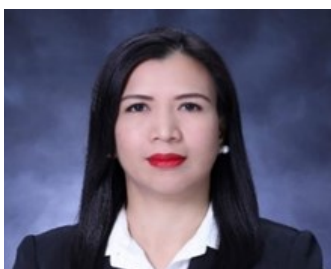
Due to varied reasons and circumstances, not everyone is drawn to have a leadership role in professional organizations. Fortunately, three members of the Miguel de Benavides Library made an exception when they have risen up to the challenge and got elected this year.

Leading the pack is Ms. Maria Cecilia D. Lobo, chief librarian of the University of Santo Tomas (UST) Miguel de Benavides Library, who was inducted as NOMELEC chair of the PLAI-National Capital Region Librarians Council Executive Board on January 22, 2022. She will be serving the until the year 2023.

Another Librarian who won in the election this year as president is Mr. Jonas T. Sahagun, the head librarian of the UST Civil Law section. He was voted as president of the Network of Academic Law Librarians, Inc. (NALL). The election of the members of the NALL Executive Board was held from February 7 to 23, 2022 and the result was announced last February 24, 2022. According to Mr. Sahagun, his ascension to the presidency happened when “the top nine elected nominees of NALL met online last February 28, 2022, and then voted on to determine the composition of the 2022-2024 Executive Board.” His term of office is set to begin on April 1, 2022, and ends on March 3, 2024.



*NALL president elect, Mr. Sahagun*



*PAARL board of directors, Ms. Santiago*

Likewise, joining the elite squad is Ms. Ginalyn M. Santiago, the assistant head librarian of the Antonio Vivencio del Rosario UST Heritage Library, who was elected as one of the board of directors of the Philippine Association of Academic/Research Librarians, Inc. (PAARL). The election was conducted last December 12, 2021, while the formal induction of the new set of officers was held via Zoom on January 28, 2022. She is also appointed as Assistant Treasurer. She is expected to serve the organization for one year.

As they fulfill their duties and responsibilities in their respective organizations, the Library simply wishes them all the best.



PLAI National Capital Region  
Librarians' Council (NCRLC)

**WELCOME MS. LOBO TO THE  
PLAI-NCRLC BOARD!**



**Ms. Maria Cecilia D. Lobo**  
NOMELEC Chair  
PLAINCRLC2022

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The Philippine Association of Academic/Research Librarians, Inc. (PAARL) organized a series of orientations that focused on the updated PAARL "**Library Standards**" which ran from February 4 to 18, 2022. Each session highlighted specific topics such as financial resources, human resources, and collection management among others.

This first part of the series included the following assessment areas and the assigned speakers:

- Vision, Goals, Mission, Objectives, by *Dr. Briccio M. Merced, Jr.*
- Administration, by *Dr. Nora J. Claravall*
- Financial Resources, by *Ms. Cristina B. Villanueva*
- Linkages and Networking, by *Ms. Ana Maria B. Fresnido*

In this part, speakers discussed the development of vision, mission, goals, and objectives (VMGO) which should be aligned and consistent with the VMGO of its parent institution and with proper consultation and coordination with other institutions, departments, and stakeholders. It should inculcate the concept of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) to maximize shared values among the institution's shareholders, and the academic communities; the library budget, and internal accounts; and participate in the resource-sharing programs, and professional collaborative activities, community outreach programs, and other external relations.

The second leg included the following topics and the speakers:

- Human Resources, by *Ms. Dionisia M. Angeles*
- Collection Management, by *Dr. Teresita G. Hernandez-Calma*

Human resources tackled various circumstances regarding staff qualifications, recruitment, selection, promotion and compensation, and continuing staff development program while collection management covers the materials' selection, acquisition, organization, and care (maintenance) as well as the initial core holdings.

The final session had the following areas and its presenters:

- Facilities, by *Ms. Sharon Maria S. Esposito-Betan*
- Services, by *Dr. Sonia M. Gementiza*

Presenters emphasized that the library should be an accessible, well-planned, secure, and safe space for the stakeholders; meets the required seating capacity as well as the appropriate, adequate, flexible, and ergonomically-designed furniture, fixtures, and equipment; and should provide various services that support the programs being offered by the institution.

As stated in the updated 2022 PAARL Standards, these guidelines differ from previous versions not only structurally but also contextually as many provisions in all the eight areas of assessment were revised using an outcome-based approach.

It also mentioned that "with the increase in the availability of information in multiple formats and the revolutionary changes in library operations and services, particularly as a consequence of the impact brought about by the global pandemic affecting educational institutions all over the world, academic libraries are reasonably expected to rise above these standards."

## UST Library takes part in the university faculty institutional training

Raquel B. Lontoc

As part of the university's institutional faculty development program conducted every term, the Office of the Vice-Rector for Academic Affairs (OVRAA), in collaboration with the Center for Innovative Teaching and Educational Delivery (CITED) and the Educational Technology Center (EdTech), invited the UST Library to present in the plenary session of its training program titled "**Gearing Up for Thomasian Education 5.0 (Part 2)**".

Ms. Raquel B. Lontoc, head librarian of the General Reference & Information Section, represented the Library in the live session held on February 12, 2022, via the cloud campus. Ms. Lontoc's talk entitled **Digital Tools and Resources at the Miguel de Benavides Library: Rationale and Objectives**, aims to reorient the teaching academic staff (TAS) on the digital resources and services of the UST Library, inform the TAS of the available library resources which can be used in the preparation of course plans, and provide appropriate library tools and search strategies that will help the TAS in checking and selecting valuable resources.

Supplementing the discussion of Ms. Lontoc are recorded online video content on the available resources tailored to the needs of the various programs of the university's respective faculties and colleges. The recorded videos were prepared by the librarians and are accessible asynchronously on the training course site, library website, and library organization site.

Since the start of the pandemic, the Library has never stopped its services and continued to support the informational needs of the Thomasian community virtually, complementing the university's enriched virtual mode of learning.



## Library Material Pick Up requests made easy

Fides C. Arrogancia

As the influx of borrowing continues to surge, the University of Santo Tomas Miguel de Benavides Library (UST-MdBLib) responded with a more accessible way for library users to get their requested books by launching the "Library Material Pick Up via Courier Service."

For requests to be processed, the **Library Material Check-Out Form** ([bit.ly/USTBorrowLibMat](http://bit.ly/USTBorrowLibMat)) should first be accomplished. For it to be availed, Courier Service must be chosen as the mode of pick up.

Upon submission of the form, the General Circulation (GC) Section will send an acknowledgment via email along with the Terms and Conditions (T&C). The borrower must send back a signed copy of the T&C to the GC section to proceed with the request.

### Mode of Pick up

Mode of Pick up \*

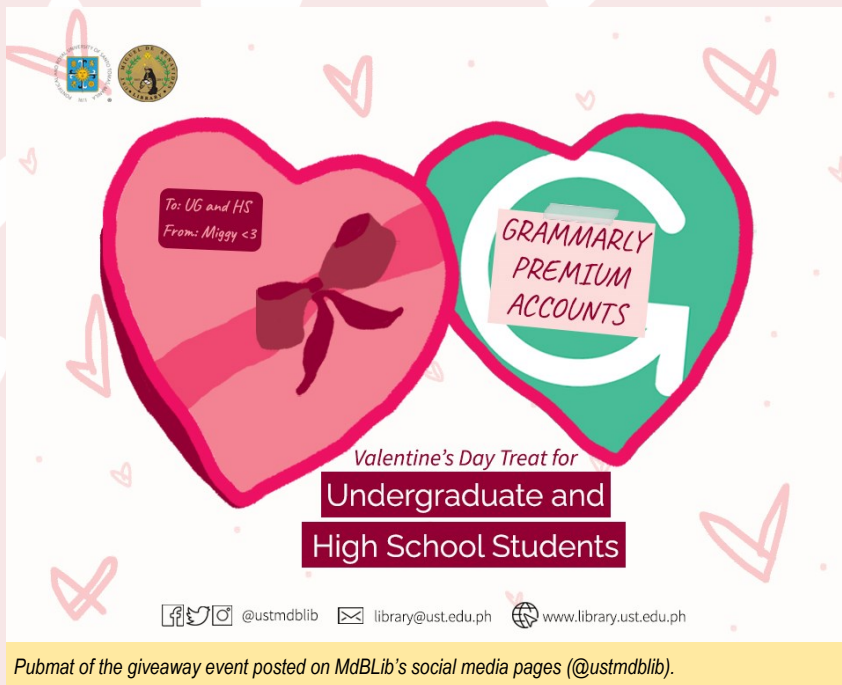
- ☐ Personal
- ☐ Authorized Representative
- ☒ Courier Service

Choices for Mode of Pick Up as seen in the Library Material Check-Out Form.

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## With love, Miggy

Fides C. Arrogancia



Undergraduate and high school students received a 'Valentine's Day' gift from Miggy as the UST Miguel de Benavides Library (MdBLib) gave free **Grammarly Premium** accounts. It was a long-awaited event since it is exclusively offered to UST administrators, faculty members, graduate students, and graduating undergraduate students.

An overflow of answers to the question "What was the best Valentine's Day gift or 'kilig' moment you have received or experienced?" was received across MdBLib's social media pages. Some even shared profound stories that others could relate to. A total of 525 entries were received of which 200 were chosen as winners through a random draw. Friends and classmates of the winners joined them in celebrating their victory.

The love of Miggy for Thomasians was definitely reciprocated as one of the winners showed his gratitude and said "...maraming salamat, Miggy. Belated Happy Valentine's."

## Celebrating love... and all its forms

Fides C. Arrogancia

Because February is the month of love, the Library featured 5 out of the 14 forms of love mentioned in article entitled "The flavors of love: A cross-cultural lexical analysis," by Tim Lomas. These are:

- **Érōs: Aesthetic love** – Love of objects, from physical items (e.g., a work of art) to abstract concepts (as reflected in philosophy, literally the love of wisdom). Love is for the 'object,' rather than the experience of engaging with it.
- **Philia: Friendly love** – The 'Platonic' love that defines close friendship. In classical Greece, it tended to depict fondness, appreciation, and loyalty. This is exemplified by Aristotle's description of 'things that cause friendship' in Rhetoric as "doing kindnesses; doing them unasked, and not proclaiming the fact when they are done."
- **Prâgma: Rational love** – A rational, sensible form of love. The term can be translated as a deed, action, or 'a thing done'. It thus captures the sense that love is not only the swooning feeling of 'falling' for someone, but also consists in the long-term process of building a life together, of forging a bond that does not depend upon the passing whims of desire.
- **Storgē: Familial love** – In classical Greece, depicted care and affection, usually between family members. The "deep and preferential investment by parents" in their children. It refers to "an intimate and active relationship between a "holder" and that which is "held," signifying the deep feelings of nurturance and protection a parent usually feels for a child.
- **Agâpē: Compassionate love** – Involving charitable, 'selfless' love. The term is closely associated with Greek versions of the Bible which is prominent as the kind of unconditional love that God was depicted as holding towards humanity.

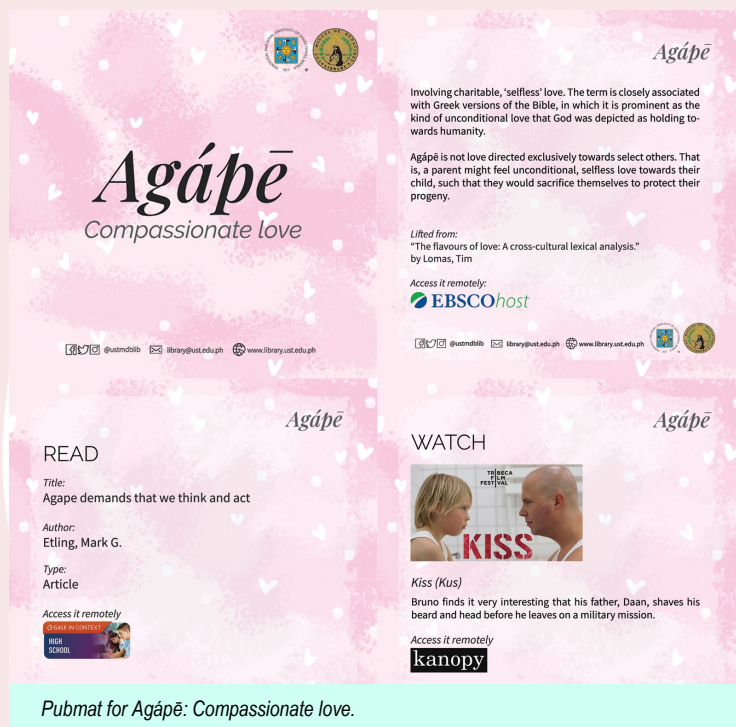
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These were posted daily from February 11 to 13, 2022 which also served as a countdown to Valentine's Day.

To further illustrate the aforementioned forms of love, a virtual short film viewing activity via 'Google Meet' transpired. It was entitled "We'll 'Meet' and K.I.S.S. (Keep It Short and Simple)." The selected titles and the form they're representing are the following:

- **"Günter Falls in Love" for Éros** – It's Christmas Day and Gunter, a pudgy pug, watches from his dog bed as his human family unwraps their presents. When an uninterested child throws an old hand-me-down family TOY to the side, Gunter becomes besotted.
- **"Home Sweet Home" for Philia** – This visually spectacular animated short film tells the gentle story of an old house escaping from its suburban foundations for an epic journey.
- **"Mr. Hublot" for Prâgma** – Mr. Hublot is a withdrawn, idiosyncratic character with OCD, scared of change and the outside world. But when a very invasive companion, Robot Pet, arrives in his home, Mr. Hublot's world is turned upside down.
- **"How to Swim" for Storgē** – Abigail is heavily pregnant, but something is missing. Terrified about the imminent birth, she kidnaps a comforting partner in crime for one afternoon.
- **"Father and Daughter" for Storgē** – Set against a wide landscape, a father bids farewell to his young girl. Through the seasons, the girl matures into a woman, raising a family of her own, yet the love for her father remains with her always.
- **"Kiss" (Kus) for Agāpē** – Bruno finds it very interesting that his father, Daan, shaves his beard and head before he leaves on a military mission



The short films were played in the loop on February 14 from 10 AM to 12 NN. The link to the Kanopy playlist of the film viewing was open until the end of February.

It is thrilling to know that love is not only experienced romantically with a partner but it can come in different states from all kinds of people, things, and even abstract concepts. This year, the Library has not just celebrated love in its singularity but in the uniqueness of all its forms.

## Blessing of the new UST building

Symon Lagao



(From left to right) Fr. Gaspar R. Sigaya, O.P., Fr. Dexter A. Austria, O.P., Fr. Louie R. Coronel, O.P., Fr. Wenifredo V. Padilla III, O.P., and Fr. Rodel S. Cansancio, O.P., led the ribbon-cutting ceremony.

The Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati, O.P. building at España, Manila is the official name of this recently inaugurated building of the University of Santo Tomas (UST). The blessing took place last December 10, 2021. The new building houses the Senior High School (SHS), College of Information and Computing Sciences (CICS), the DOST-TOMASInno Center, the Santo Tomas e-Service Providers (STePs), and the Educational Technology Center (EdTech).

Mass and blessing were attended by administrators, academic officials, support staff, and academic staff of the offices and departments that will occupy the building. Present during the rites were the UST Miguel de Benavides Chief Librarian, Ms. Maria Cecilia D. Lobo, SHS Head Librarian, Mrs. Lourdes Fatima C. Ramos, and SHS Assistant Head Librarian, Mr. Symon Lagao. The blessing of the SHS Library was officiated by Fr. Gaspar R. Sigaya, O.P., assistant to the Prefect of Libraries, and Fr. Rodel S. Cansancio, O.P., Director, Institute of Physical Education and Athletics. A simple lunch was served after.



Fr. Sigaya and Fr. Cansancio, blessed the facilities at the new SHS Library, together with Ms. Lobo, Ms. Ramos and Mr. Lagao.



The Frassati Building features modern facilities including a two-storey library to cater to the SHS community.

Library staff photo opportunity during the luncheon with university administrators, OPA Acting Director Asst. Prof. Virginia A. Sembrano, M.A. and OSG Executive Assistant Dr. Emmanuel M. Batulan, Ph.D.



# The first-ever USTFU virtual Christmas event

Rosemary B. Balbin

UST Librarians attended the University of Santo Tomas Faculty Union (USTFU) virtual Christmas event held last December 7, 2021, at 7:00 PM via ZOOM. The registration link was posted through the USTFU Facebook and also shared by the respective president of the different faculty organizations/clubs/associations.

There were several activities held during the event. There was the raffle where participants needed to register on or before 11:59 pm of December 5, 2021. All pre-registered participants who were present during the online event were eligible to win in the raffle. Names were drawn through 2 sets of "Wheel of Names" (Wheel A and Wheel B). Luckily, two of the librarians won cash prizes in this event. Also, academic staff were encouraged to get their creative juices flowing by joining the "TikTok video contest." They must submit a 45-second video entry of their creation using the TikTok app. Enticing prizes awaited the winning participants. There was also a "Bring Me contest" wherein the first participant must be ready to turn on his/her camera and microphone and show the correct item asked by the host in order to win a prize.

Christmas celebrations should not be damped down by Covid-19! Despite the pandemic, the USTFU's tradition of gift-giving and the spreading of goodwill for the Christmas season incessantly kept going. Health protocols were still strictly implemented and observed inside the campus to prevent overcrowding and had a safe and more convenient claiming experience. The distribution of gifts and other benefits was scheduled on December 13-17, 2021.

Celebrating this holiday season has not been the same due to the drastic changes brought about by Coronavirus disease. This pandemic had immensely changed our lives, the way we communicate, host social events, teach and learn methods and strategies, work-from-home jobs set-up, and many more. It has brought chaos to people's lives and to the economy as well. It has greatly affected everyone! But despite the radical change of events that hit us all globally, it has also taught us to be humble, and



appreciate life more, to be grateful for the simplest and the most important things that matter most in our lives. We learned to walk hand in hand, helped each other to stand, stayed strong, and embraced all the changes. The digital shift forced us to integrate digital technology into almost all areas of our daily lives. Little by little, we learned to adapt and accept that these changes will be here to stay. With open arms, we enthusiastically welcomed these innovations and new technology, especially the tech-savvy generation. With innovative thoughts and a positive attitude, we will surely pull out the straw together and know that there are better ones coming.

Let us all be kind to one another, be more patient and understanding, and show that we care because we do not know what others have been going through right now in their personal lives. More than anything, we should not forget that **"JESUS IS THE REASON WE CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS."** Indeed, a very joyous event! Merry greetings to everyone!

## Library material... from p. 3

Once the requested materials are ready for pick up, the borrower will be informed by the Section. Booking of the preferred courier service and the delivery fee will be shouldered by the borrower. Furthermore, essential information such as the *Name of the Courier service*, the *Name of the Rider*, and the *Expected time of arrival at the pick-up station* (Dapitan, Gate 10) shall be sent to the GC section.

Courier Service pick up is only allowed from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM, Mondays to Fridays.

Library users may also opt to have the books picked up by them personally (by choosing 'Personal') or through a representative (by choosing 'Authorized Representative').

## Celebrating Christmas amidst the pandemic

Lady Catherine R. de Leon

How do we celebrate Christmas in the UST Library this year 2021 amidst the Covid pandemic?

The answer would be – with simplicity and humility. In the past, we used to gather at the feast, celebrate with everyone – friends, colleagues, and families, enjoy Christmas parties, gift giving and celebrate the Paskuhan Mass and festivities.

With the Covid-19 virus still around, meddling in the air for almost two years now, we are still pre-occupied with the guidelines – batching of the library staff, wearing of masks (thank God no more face shields), observing social distancing, frequent hand washing, and sending virtual hugs and greetings. Even our UST Paskuhan is celebrated virtually. No Christmas party yet with the entire Library staff (batch 2 of the staff celebrated a small group party on the last day of the December operations). The usual Christmas glee and merriment that we have been accustomed to is still not possible this year.



But let not Covid-19 hinder us from celebrating Christmas. We have a lot to be thankful for – a job, a family that is complete, and that we are healthy and still alive, our colleagues and friends -we all try to survive the challenges of the pandemic.

Let this season remind us once again to be safe, calm, and to be kind. “Have a safe and merry Christmas everyone!”

### ERRATUM

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Page 3, Paragraph 3, Line 1

Original Text: “her profound gratitude...”  
Correct Text: “his profound gratitude...”

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