



News in Print

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Scarcity of librarians: threat or opportunity?

On January 13, 2014 the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) came up with a list of fifteen (15) hard-to-fill occupations which could soon be open to foreigners. Based on the Bureau of Local Employment (BLE), librarianship is one of the identified professions that is included in the



Philippine Skilled Occupational Shortage List (SOSL). In an interview with DOLE Secretary Rosalinda Baldoz, she stated that in order to fill in the gap, BLE proposed to open the labor market to foreign workers.

In order to service 1,163 public libraries; 43,755 government offices; 1,000 corporate libraries; 37,338 elementary schools, 4,323 tertiary schools, and 6,200 secondary schools, 7,185 librarians are needed to cover up the insufficiency. (Alenzuela, 2014) (retrieved from Lecture notes online website: patls.org/index.php./news/26-1014-mbf-forum...)

One hundred percent (100%) of the Filipino librarians are no longer expected in the Philippine working arena. Studies show that in 2014, 7,185 librarians are needed to cover the services in different institutions. *Precisely, librarian's role is indispensable to academic institutions.* Patrick Ness, an American-born British author, journalist and lecturer, once considered librarians to be teachers without classrooms. They are the thoughtful people who render service to the library users. *They are considered as information specialists who are responsible for information dissemination and knowledge preservation.* Librarianship is a profession devoted in application of theory and technology towards creation, selection, organization, preservation, dissemination, utilization, and management of collections of information in all formats (Reitz, 2014).

A review of the Library Information Science (LIS) and Masters of Library Information Science (MLIS) curricula is essential to cope with the growing demand. Quality, quantity, and competency are a must-have of the Library Information School. Since student-based learning outcomes are a requirement, a shift of institutional focus should be imposed. Librarians are facilitators of learning; they should find their niche and make the competition relevant.

**"Librarians are
tour guides for all
knowledge."**

– Patrick Ness

Mercy C. Bano

Springer summit 2014

Springer is one of the largest international publishers of scientific, technological and medical (STM) books in the world that creates and delivers quality content through innovative information products and services.

The 2014 Springer Summit was held last October 3, 2014 at the De La Salle Learning Commons organized by Libtech (iGroup Asia Pacific, Ltd.). Invited librarians and researchers from different schools had actively participated in the said event. The theme was “Enhancing Research and Development in the Philippines.”

The program was formally opened by Ms. Mabel Tang, senior marketing manager, Asia, followed by a discussion delivered by Mr. James Mercer on the Research Output in the Philippines and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Region. Ms. Fides Datu-Lawton, director of Libraries at the Australian Catholic University (the largest Catholic University in the English-speaking world), discussed the “The University Library – Being a key Partner in Teaching, Learning and Research.”

After the two discussions, Ms. Odessa Maceda, sales executive of Springer and Ms. Mabel Tang, facilitated the group discussions on how librarians and researchers demonstrate and report the value of library within each one’s institutions and what could the publishers do to help in this challenge. The last topic discussed by the group was about how the Research Office engaged the library to support its work and what can publishers do to assist the Research Office to achieve its aims. SpringerLink is a research platform that offers online collection of science, technological and medical contents for today’s research needs.

Since the university is committed to research, information regarding the different research platforms is important to better augment the research needs of the university particularly the library clientele. With this, Springer is open to demo sessions of the products they offer.

Marivic G. Usita

What is OBE?

A librarian will be forced to ask this question when a discussion about OBE arises. Because OBE (Outcomes Based Education) is a curriculum design, an activity which librarians seldom participates in. But one should understand that with the present educational reforms, librarians must take the challenge of giving OBE a shot at their literacy programs.

The MUNPARLAS Library Association, Inc. (MLAI) conducted a one-day seminar on “Outcome-Based Education Library Instruction Program” at the Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Muntinlupa (PLMUN) last October 10, 2014.



Seminar attendees pose for a souvenir photo.

Ms. Angelica Frances C. Ciar, head librarian of the Education High School (EHS)/Grade School library, attended the said seminar. The speaker was Ms. Zarah Gagatiga, librarian at the Beacon Academy, Laguna. Dr. Ellen Presnedy, PLMUN

president, welcomed the participants.

Before Ms. Gagatiga explained the details about OBE, she challenged the librarians to be enthusiastic about the changes that will come their way. Because of the educational reforms that are currently happening in the Philippines, librarians should face the challenge to bring the best literacy programs for the patrons.

After giving an introduction which included the objectives of the seminar and the program flow, the speaker set an activity that required participants to produce a sample performance task. She explained that being cognitively functional is important. She also stressed that OBE is an approach to curriculum design. This design was formulated by William Spady, a sociologist. It emphasized the importance of using different methods of instruction to accommodate students’ different learning modalities: playing, video, poster, slide presentations. These equip students with the knowledge, competence and qualities necessary for

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“Smart librarians: jump-start your financial future”

“S tarting out” can be defined in various things to many people. Whether one is a recent graduate entering the workforce, or finding oneself on his own for the first time - now is the time to get into the habit of saving for one’s future. There are many ways to make financial goals a reality, but it needs to develop a plan that works for one person.

In line with this, the Catholic Educational Association of the Philippines-National Capital Region (CEAP-NCR) Tertiary Library Committee together with the UST Library Science Alumni Association (USTLAA) conducted a joint lecture-forum on “Smart Librarians: Jump-start your Financial Future.” This was held last November 21, 2014 at the HRM Function Room, St. Paul University, Quezon City.

The highlight of the forum was based on the following objectives:

- to be informed and prepared to be prudent managers of financial resources, enabling them to achieve long- and short-term financial goals and security;
- to actively participate in and understand management of personal savings and investments; and
- to be engaged in establishing career goals that will provide adequate income and personal fulfillment.



Asst. Prof. Suson as he lectures during the seminar.

The invited speaker was Asst. Prof. Edwin M. Suson, faculty member from the College of Commerce and Business Administration, University of Santo Tomas. Prof. Suson presented numerous strategies and tips in making and spending t h e i r financial resources wisely. He showed s e v e r a l financial videos as well to understand m o r e the

good essence of personal savings and various ways of investing. Certainly, the kind of fuel that a person puts into his body affects how he feels every day and has long-lasting consequences – for good or bad – in years to come. In the same way, one’s daily money habits not only create his everyday financial reality, but also the foundation of the future.

CELPh meeting at UST

M eetings were conducted in rotation among the m e m b e r institutions of the Consortium of Engineering Libraries in the Philippines (CELPh). This time, it is the UST Miguel de Benavides Library’s (UST MdbL) turn. Last October 22, 2014, the UST Library sponsored the CELPh meeting. This was held at the Conference Hall of the library.

Represented during the m e e t i n g were the following institutions:

De La Salle University-Manila (DLSU-M)	Abrigo, Christine
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Mindanao State University-Iligan Institute of Technology (MSU)	Castillano, Meles Cahanap, Agnes
--	-------------------------------------

Technological Institute of the Philippines –Q.C. (TIPQC)	Estepa, Maribel Manalo, Sonny
--	----------------------------------

University of the Philippines - Los Banos, Laguna (UPLB)	Saul, Concepcion Copioso, Lina
--	-----------------------------------

University of San Carlos (USC)	Cabarron, Maxie Doreen
--------------------------------	---------------------------

University of Santo Tomas (UST)	Majuelo, Estrella Usita, Marivic
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Since the UST MdbL hosted the meeting, the Chief Librarian, Ms. Estrella Majuelo presided over. The highlight of the activity was the preparation of the final draft of the CELPh’s Memorandum of Agreement (MOA). The routing schedule was arranged finally for its signing by the highest official, library director or the chief librarians of the member institutions. Each institution is responsible for the next destination once the document reaches their institution until all have signed the (MOA).

Finally, the group decided that the next meeting will be conducted at the Technological Institute of the Philippines, Quezon City on December 5, 2014.

Marivic G. Usita

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2015: “Year of the Poor”

As we prepare for the 500 years of the coming of the Christian Faith to the Philippines on March 16, 2021, the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) allotted nine years of preparation focusing on the nine priorities of our country. **2012-2013** was declared **Year of Faith**, while **2013-2014** was about the **Year of the Laity**. This new liturgical year, we celebrate the **Year of the Poor** with the commitment to vision of the Church in becoming the Church of the poor.

This “Year of the Poor,” we are all called to gaze at the Crucified Christ and how we are like Jesus who is suffering with us in all things and all aspects of our lives with the focus on the following:

1. Those who are poor...

In the year of the poor, we are called to look back to see how the suffering of Jesus Christ is related to all the sufferings that we experience in life. How He is with us in all aspect of our lives as we cry for mercy and compassion... we recall the words of Jesus as we recall from the scriptures “I have come to bring life, and bring life to the full,” and “Blessed are you who are poor.... Blessed are you who hunger now... Blessed are you when men hate you...” (Matthew 5:1-12). As Jesus lays down concrete terms of shepherding His love to the poor, so too are we called to respond to His call in our daily lives “Whatever you do for this poor person, that you do for me... Whatever you do not do for this poor person, that you do not do for me?” “Feed the hungry. Give drink to the thirsty. Clothe the naked. Shelter the homeless. Visit the sick. Ransom the captive. Bury the dead” (Matthew 25:31-46). While economic impoverishment is the most prevalent form of poverty in the Philippines, it brings with it other kinds of poverty, like powerlessness and selfishness, which are non-economic in nature.

Furthermore, relying on material wealth alone is a trap. It is another form of poverty. Those who look upon material wealth as the only solution to poverty tend to shut themselves off from other people and from other deeper human concerns, making them self-centered and truly unhappy.

2. Those who are weary...

While so much has changed in the world, there has been little success done in uplifting the condition of the poor. There are many efforts to alleviate poverty but the world is still best by massive destitution. Each day millions of people face hunger, marginalization, and death due to the lack or complete absence of the basic necessities of life. In the year of the poor, all who labor and are heavily burdened are invited to approach Jesus and reflect on His words “Come to me, and I will give you rest” (Matthew 11:28). We are called to remember our labor in love as we think of our families and friends who toil with us and make us better individuals. For all of us get tired and exhausted in life and we need to go back to the crucified Christ and see where we are heading in life.

3. Those who are rich...

Jesus entrusted the poor to us. They are our responsibility. How we respond to the plight of the needy is the way we will be judged at the end of time. In the year of the poor, we are reminded to prioritize the need of the poor over our earthly wealth. For if we ignore their cries, we will be lead to dangerous attitude of selfishness, pride, idolatry of money, etc. We need to see the poor as human beings and not just as mass of people. The need to see the poor from what they experience in life and not on what we see around us.

4. Behold Jesus, hope of the poor...

The Church teaches that the deeper cause of poverty lies far beyond the laziness of the poor, sheer mismanagement of economic resources, or population size, for the primary cause of poverty is deeply rooted in something spiritual – in the moral behavior of the people. In the year of the poor, we are called to look at the crucified Christ, filled with love. The crucified Christ that brings us love and encouragement for He strengthens us as we respond to His call in building up the Christian community here on earth from destitution to the fullness of life for we are the bearers of the Good News of Salvation.

Reference: *Archbishop Socrates Villegas* on his For the Catholic Bishops’ Conference of the Philippines Message - Year of the Poor, November 30, 2014 First Sunday of Advent

Joseph Christian M. Legaspi
CLE Coordinator
UST High School

The month for books, library and reading

The whole month of November, by virtue of Proclamation No. 837 s. 1991, is declared as Library and Information Services (LIS) Month “in order to focus public awareness to the invaluable service that libraries and information centers render such as providing data and materials for lifelong knowledge and learning, for research and for leisure.”



is *Nasa Pagbasa ang Pag-asa*.

Furthermore, the period from November 24 to 30 of each year is designated as National Book Week (NBW) by Proclamation 109 s.1936. As part of the activities for the LIS Month and the NBW, the

Likewise, every year, in the month of November, the Department of Education (DepEd) leads the whole nation in the celebration of the National Reading Month (NRM). This year's theme, through DepEd Memo No. 121 s. 2014,



Philippine Librarians Association, Inc. (PLAI), in partnership with the National Library of the Philippines (NLP) and the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA) held a poster making contest with the theme *Philippine Libraries: Future Possibilities*, the winner of which is posted below as cover of the NBW Souvenir Program.

The month of November is indeed special, not only for librarians, but for avid Filipino readers as well. With continued awareness and support of the above activities, Philippine libraries can surely reach any future possibilities – “*dahil nasa aklatan at pagbasa ang pag-asa ng bayan.*”

Jonas T. Sahagun

UST High School celebrates 80th National Book Week

It all started with **Proclamation No. 696** issued in 1934 by the then Governor General Frank Murphy. He chose June 18 to 24 to celebrate the National Book Week noting June 19 as the birthday of Dr. Jose Rizal, “one of the foremost men of letters of this country.” It was later amended in 1936 by President **Manuel L. Quezon** who issued **Proclamation No. 109** and since then replaced the date to November 24-30. Pres. Quezon reiterated Murphy's purpose in declaring this significant national annual activity that “it is desirable that the task of arousing a wider spread interest in the reading of good books be recognized as a highly patriotic duty as well as a privilege;” and he also added that “reading of good books or the printed page is one of the most effective methods of bringing enlightenment within the reach of the largest possible number of people, and or promoting the cause of popular culture with its tremendous social benefits.” It was basically to advocate literacy among Filipinos and encourage reading and promote public libraries in the Philippines.

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Photos of activities during the National Book Week celebration.

EHS National Book Week 2014



Photos during the opening ceremony of the 3-day book fair.

The EHSian's Book Lovers Club in coordination with the EHS/ Grade School Library led the EHS National Book Week celebration last November 19-24, 2014. The theme for this year was "Philippine Libraries: Future Possibilities." The library holds this kind of event in support of the National Book Week celebration in the Philippines.

For the preparation, involvement of the EHSian's Book Lovers Club officers was important. Aside from inviting exhibitors to participate in the book fair, necessary permits must be obtained from the university's Office of Finance and the Security Office.

In addition, several pocket activities were conducted such as the Fictional Book Character Cosplay Contest; Book Seek Library Scavenger Hunt Contest; and Book-A-Doodle-Doo, paint how the book should have ended contest and awarding of the EHSians Top Book Borrowers.

The Book Fair was formally opened on November 19, 2014 at 9:00am to 10:00am with the attendance of the grade 7 students, the

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"An early trick or treat @ Bamban"

October 25, 2014 another group of librarians reached out to their young fellow brothers and sisters at Bamban, Tarlac. Angelica Frances Ciar, Kristi Ma. Fevie Macasaet, Jenneth Capule, Rosemary Balbin, Mercy Bano together with the Committee Head for Extension Services, Nancelita Lane Olamit, conquered the mountainous Bamban to share love and service to the Aeta children.

The group arrived at the place at around ten o'clock in the morning. The children looked so happy to see the group visiting their place again and very eager to see what they had prepared for them this time. A prayer led by Ms. Macasaet started the day's activities. Headed by Ms. Ciar, the group taught the children the different parts of the body using picture chart. It was a joyful sight to see the meaningful smiles on the faces of these kids as they

moved in action. Games about body parts followed; Ms. Bano and Ms. Macasaet assisted in the games while Ms. Ciar instructed them about the game mechanics. Since it was a season for trick or treat, plenty of candies were distributed. Other items like snacks, pens and slippers were also given.

The significance of doing small things in a very personal way is very fulfilling. The group were able to make the children feel that they are cared for. Although the fun lasted for only an hour, the enjoyment that they exhibited would always remain in their hearts as well as in the hearts of the participating librarians. The joy in every child's face made the group realized that the activity was valuable, successful and worth-doing.



Photos show the different activities undertaken for the Aeta kids.

Mercy C. Bano

UST librarians re-visit Cottolengo Filipino, Inc.

Sunday is known to every Filipino as a family day. It is the day of the week that most people spend time with their dear ones to make them feel loved and secured. *Cottolengo* Filipino, Inc. children have always been part of the family of the Miguel de Benavides Library.

Last November 16, 2014, Fr. Angel Aparicio O.P., Prefect of Libraries, together with a group of UST librarians, once again brought delight and enjoyment to the *Cottolengo* Filipino, Inc. children. During their stay, dancing and singing were the bonding activities that the children and librarians shared. Seeing in them true happiness and contentment for the simplest things truly inspired the people around them. At mealtime, the children enjoyed the food that Mrs. Gloria Reyes, a friend of the library, generously offered them. The librarians assisted the in-house volunteers in feeding them. Just before their rest time, the group bade them goodbye with the promise of coming back soon.



One of the children sings as Ms. Olamit joyfully listens.

With each visit to *Cottolengo* comes a different experience for the children. Like all other families, time is the most important gift that every member can give to make each one feel important and valued. Surely, the time spent with the children at *Cottolengo* brought a feeling of joy, fulfillment and gratitude to the kids and the librarians as well.

Lourdes Fatima C. Ramos

Updates on library electronic resources

In order to update the librarians' knowledge in the recently subscribed e-resources of the Miguel de Benavides Library, the General Reference and Information librarians have organized a half-day activity for this purpose.

Last December 10, 2014, the library invited representatives from the different agencies that provide e-resources to discuss its nature and different features. These are the following:

IEEEExplore Digital Library. A powerful resource for discovery and access to scientific and technical content published by the IEEE (Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers) and its publishing partners. (Resource Person: Carlos L. Eclevia, Jr., Senior Sales and Marketing LibTech Source Philippines Inc.)

Oxford Music Online. The gateway offering users the ability to access and cross-search multiple music reference resources in one location. (Resource Person: Christian Abe Sales and Marketing Executive, LibTech Source Philippines Inc.)

Oxford Scholarship Online. Offers full-text access to scholarly works from key disciplines like biology, philosophy, religion, economics and finance, psychology, sociology, art & architecture. (Speaker: Christian Abe Sales and Marketing Executive, LibTech Source Philippines Inc.)

Oxford Reference Online. Offers in-depth reference on performing arts, art and architecture, language reference, linguistics, music and contemporary history (post 1945). (Christian Abe Sales and Marketing Executive, LibTech Source Philippines Inc.)

McGraw-Hill Accesspharmacy. An online curricular resource designed to meet the changing demands of pharmacy education. It is a flexible resource that allows users to select a core curriculum topic, browse by organ system, review textbooks, search across leading pharmacy online references and view optimized content on a mobile device. (Speaker: Audie Laudencia Marketing Executive at McGraw-Hill Education (Asia))

At present, the library has seventy-six (76) journal titles that have print subscriptions and could also be accessed online from the different database aggregators. All these are accessible in the library website <http://library.ust.edu.ph>

Kaori B. Fuchigami

What is OBE? from page 2

successful fulfillment of their various life roles. She also listed down the steps in creating information literacy programs, one of which is to know the educational philosophy of one's school and the educational approach that it adapts. Librarians must pay close attention that one of the roles they must play is to be instructional partner.

In closing, Ms. Gagatiga gave the following tips: (1) that American Association of School Librarians (AASL) Information Literacy Indicators are very helpful when formulating an instructional literacy program; and (2) that librarians must guide the learners not only towards independent learning but learners who know the ethical value of information.

This seminar proved beneficial in the conduct of activities at the EHS/Grade School Library and in the respective libraries of the other participants.

Angelica Frances C. Ciar

Smart librarians... from page 3

Indeed, the lecture-forum was very beneficial to all the participants. They were enlightened about the new techniques to creatively make their financial goals harmoniously in line with their career that will definitely give abundant earnings and personal fulfillment.

Build a bright financial future. Give oneself the gift of financial freedom.

Anna Rita L. Alomo

UST High School... from page 5

This year, the National Book Week theme was "Philippine Libraries: Future Possibilities." Last November 4-7, 2014, the UST High School Library in cooperation with the UST High School Readers' Club celebrated in advance the 80th National Book Week prior to its scheduled annual national event which was November 24-30, 2014. Together, they lined-up tons of activities, games, programs and gimmicks to celebrate the annual event that spiced up the four-day celebration to entertain the library patrons. These include the following: a book fair organized by the UST Readers' Club, photo exhibit of the latest school library trends, souvenir photos through an improvised photo booth with a backdrop design of the 80th National

Book Week theme, contests like "Teen Book Choice" and "Guess the Mystery Books," and a "Freedom Wall" wherein anybody can write their own views and reasons why they love the library. Another activity was a forum entitled "Critique on the Go: a Forum on Book Critiquing for High School Students" held at the Miguel de Benavides auditorium. The resource speaker was Mr. Philippe Jose Hernandez, a faculty member from the UST Faculty of Engineering, who shared his expertise on how to critique a book the proper way. Ms. Estrella S. Majuelo, UST chief librarian, also joined in the forum and delivered the closing remarks.

The celebration was a commendable experience. National Book Week was created to inculcate the love for books and encourage users to visit libraries, promote the importance and value of reading most especially for the new breed of Filipino learners; to cultivate these young minds in their literacy skills and reading essentials and, lastly, to boost and market what our own libraries can offer. We are now reaping what the library pioneers in the Philippines had once wanted to propagate. It was their vision and earnest hope that "there will be no illiterate Filipino; that everyone should be given a chance to learn; and that, no one should be left behind."

Rosemary B. Balbin

EHS National Book... from page 6

winners of the top ten Book Borrowers Award and the EHS administrators, Fr. Jesus Miranda, Jr., O.P. and Asst. Prof. Loreto Sauz. They also performed the ceremonial ribbon cutting.

To encourage the EHS students to support the prepared activities and to encourage them to visit the library and borrow more books, prizes were given to the winners of the top ten book borrowers. Each of them was given five hundred pesos (Php500.00) worth of gift certificate sponsored by the National Book Store. The winners for other contests were also given prizes like trophies, crown and gift packs to be shared by the whole class.

The EHS National Book Week celebration was indeed successful and full of fun. The support of the EHS administrators and the library administrators were very important in the success of the said activities. Hopefully, more activities, both enjoyable and enriching for the EHS students, will be carried out in future EHS National Book Week celebrations.

Angelica Frances C. Ciar

UST librarians at the 'Walled City'



The librarians joyfully pose for a souvenir photo in front of the Fort Santiago arch entrance.

The librarians of the UST Miguel de Benavides Library visited the historical "Walled City" or Intramuros last December 12, 2014. The said activity was organized by the University of Santo Tomas Librarians Association (USTLA) headed by Ms. Nora M. Matawaran, USTLA president. The objectives of this activity were: (1) to enrich the cultural and historical knowledge of the librarians; and (2) to appreciate the skills and talents of men and women mostly out-of-school youth of Escuela Taller.

The first destination was at the Rizal Shrine in Fort Santiago. Mr. Jeron Renente, the tour guide, explained the timeline of Rizal's life, works and writings. The shrine showcases exhibits of Rizal's actual relics including a number of overcoats that he wore and some medical equipment he used during his medical practice. Other exciting features include: a room with an audio recorded conversation of Rizal's trial, a glass urn with Rizal's bone with a bullet still embedded on it, and a modernized Rizal's museum with an interactive Rizal e-learning site. Their next stop was at the San Agustin Museum located beside the church. It houses columbarium, exhibits of robes used by priests, an old altar and fine collection of paintings and images of the saints.

To prepare themselves for their succeeding tours, they fueled themselves with delightful lunch at *Restorante delle Mitre*, a restaurant owned by a

group of religious located across San Agustin church. The place is adorned with images of a bishop enclosed in a glass cabinet and some saints.

For the afternoon activity, the group proceeded to the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA) gallery which showcases the different works of painters on prominent personalities in Philippine government, politics, sports, arts, culture and show business. To complete the tour, the librarians also visited the *Escuela Taller* located inside Intramuros. It was established in 2009 and funded by the government of Spain. It is considered the first school workshop in the Philippines that addresses the growing concern to train and develop the skills of out-of-school youth. The librarians were divided in two groups for the video presentation and orientation which were conducted by Ms. Zorina Santos, the person in-charge of the students' welfare and Arch. Douf Cabarubia. During the orientation, the group was informed that the school only accepts indigent students through the recommendation of the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD). These apprentices embark on a training program in occupational skills related to the restoration of the built heritage. After the students completed the training period, they would be evaluated through written examination conducted by the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA). For those who successfully completed their training course and passed the examination, they would be given a certificate during their graduation.

Afterwards, the librarians were toured around to the different working areas of the school. They were amazed by the talents and skills of the students thru the works they have done.

This activity was truly fun, interesting and very informative. The USTLA officers would like to thank the library administrators and the librarians for their continuous support and cooperation.

Marilou G. Palermo

A merry Christmas party @ Miguel de Benavides Library

Christmas is the perfect time to celebrate the love of God and family and create memories that will last forever. Indeed, the right time for the UST library staff to get together and celebrate as one family.

Last December 11, 2014, the UST Miguel de Benavides Library convened a simple yet merry Christmas party for the whole staff. It was held from 1:00-4:00 pm at the ground floor lobby of the library.

The program commenced with an invocation prayer led by Raquel Lontoc. It was followed by the opening remarks of Anna Rita Alomo who was also the host of the celebration. To formally start the festivities, a short video clip was shown that elucidates on the idea of a simple and more meaningful Christmas celebration centered on the reason for the season – Jesus Christ.

Activities lined up included games, intermission numbers, and lots of raffle prizes which comprised of cash, home appliances and essentials, basket of groceries, etc. Raffle prizes were given in between activities. The games 'Dice, dice, baby!' and 'Pick-a-bill' were two of the parlor games that made the celebration intense with fun, more joyous and cheerful. Not only the game participants were excited but also the audience were energized and thrilled throughout the games.

There were three intermission numbers presented. Firstly, was a jovial Frozen-inspired song and dance number by a group of working scholars namely Jamille Bringas, Melrose Calamba, Kristine Krizzia Castañeda, Ma. Suzanne Grace Guevara, Ma. Lois Lico, Kaydin Umali, and Mikel Joshua Hipolito. This was followed by an exceptional dance number by the charming librarians to the tune of Mambo #5. And last but not the least, a unique performance by a group of support staff dancing to a remix of 1980's songs along with a video presentation as its background.

Of course, the celebration was not complete without the Christmas meal to share with one another while everyone enjoyed the Christmas mood that the background music brought.

Fr. Angel Aparicio, the UST Prefect of Libraries, delivered his Christmas message with great enthusiasm recalling the library's exhibit two years ago on *Belen* entitled *Misteryo : Ikaw at ang Pasko*. He also led the community singing of *O Come All Ye Faithful* which ultimately brought the celebration to an end.

Steering this successful program was the Christmas Party Committee led by Ms. Estrella Majuelo, chief librarian, together with her members, namely, Narcelita Lane Olamit, Ma. Cecilia Lobo, Ms. Alomo, Ms. Lontoc, Dolores Morante, and Rowena del Meda.



Raquel B. Lontoc

New assignments

“C”hange is inevitable” as the saying goes. Reshuffling of staff happened again at the Miguel de Benavides Library. This is not just to improve the section, but to develop the staff professionally as well.

Effective the first semester of academic year 2014-2015, the following librarians have accepted their new assignments:

Names	Previous Assignment	New Assignment
Ma. Theresa F. Estoya	Cataloger – Technical Section	Head Librarian – Music and Internet Section
Sabina C. Viernes	Head Librarian – Music and Internet Section	Head Librarian – Circulation Section
Mercy C. Bano	Acquisitions Librarian	Asst. Librarian – Health Sciences Library
Rosemary B. Balbin	Asst. Librarian – Health Sciences Library	Librarian – High School Library

Lady Catherine R. de Leon



Salve VICTORIA

Victoria is the Latin word for 'victory' or 'conquest'. People by this name are excellent at analyzing, understanding, and learning. They tend to be philosophers, scholars, and educators. When presented with issues, they will understand the larger picture. This is very true with my new colleague but old friend, Victoria.

Last 2014, another young professional has been added to the roster of the UST Miguel de Benavides librarians. Ma. Victoria C. Acuña, or “Beck” is a native of Balagtas, Bulacan. She is assigned at the Technical Section assisting in the acquisition of books and other library materials.

Born on September 12, 1989, Beck is the fourth daughter of Mamerto and Florinda C. Acuña. She finished her primary school at Sta. Rita Elementary School and her secondary education at Marcelo H. del Pilar National High School, both schools are located in Bulacan. She pursued her bachelor's degree at the University of Santo Tomas (UST) and graduated *Cum Laude* in March 2013 with a degree of Bachelors of Library and Information Science. During her college, she was a finalist in the 22nd *Search for Library and Information (LIS) Wizard* held at the University of the Philippines-Diliman. She also placed 10th in the *Philippine Licensure Examination for Librarians* given in November 2013.

Beck started her career as a part-time abstractor at the Peace and Equity Foundation from July-August 2013. Later, from August 2013 to September 2014, she worked as a librarian in the Acquisitions Section of the Ateneo de Manila University Rizal Library. But as the saying goes “there is no place like home,” Beck decided to try her luck in UST. Fortunately, she was hired in October 2014. Likewise, she started to pursue her graduate studies. She is currently enrolled in Master of Library and Information Science (MLIS) at the School of Library and Information Studies (SLIS), University of the Philippines in Quezon City.

I truly admire how this lady manages her time as a librarian, student and attending to the needs of her family. For some, it is a difficult task but knowing her, I have no doubt she can do it. Her strength comes from within, fueled by her passion to succeed and to give her family the best.

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