



News In-Print

UNIVERSITY OF SANTO TOMAS
Miguel de Benavides Library

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A Blessed Christmas at the Miguel de Benavides Library

Sr. Lib. Rosemary B. Balbin

Ms. Lady Catherine de Leon spearheaded the traditional “Belen Blessing” and Lighting Ceremony held on December 4, 2023 at the Library lobby. The theme of the event was “Aming Hiling sa Paskong Darating.” The ceremony began with a mini procession featuring a statue of the baby Jesus, symbolizing our shared faith and unity. Rev. fr. Gaspar R. Sigaya, O.P., assistant to the Prefect of Libraries, led the blessing of the Nativity scene. Meanwhile, Rev. fr. Angel A. Aparicio, O.P., Prefect of Libraries, delivered an inspiring opening message and played a vital role in officiating the ceremony. The gathering concluded the moment of reverence with lively community singing, a testament to our shared joy, camaraderie, and community spirit.

After the Nativity scene blessing, the Library family eagerly looked forward to the annual Library Christmas party which took place on December 20, 2023, at the Library viewing area. The air was filled with excitement and joy as everybody eagerly anticipated the return of the in-person Christmas celebration. This time, the special event was made even more memorable as it was spent with the San Lorenzo Ruiz scholars, adding to the festive spirit and sense of community.



Library administrators, librarians, support staff, student scholars, and custodians pose for a photo at the Christmas Party's culmination.

The Library family had a fantastic time displaying their singing, dancing, and acting skills, much to the delight of everyone present, infusing the occasion with an extra dose of joy and excitement. Divided into six groups, each distinguished by a unique attire color and adorned with a special Christmas headdress to complement their outfits, they showcased their talents with enthusiasm. Inspired by themes from the Christmas Station ID Sing-along, each group presented a captivating singing performance. The competitive spirit was evident as they eagerly demonstrated their adaptability, creativity, and enthusiasm. It was truly a wonderful day filled with joy and excitement, a perfect way to celebrate the festive season!

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Nutrinet Zoominar

Sr. Lib. Marilou G. Palermo

On December 7, 2023, The Nutrition Research Information Network (NutriNet) Zoominar conducted a free webinar entitled “**Disaster Planning for Libraries,**” held via Zoom and Facebook Live and approved with two (2) Continuous Professional Development (CPD) points for librarians. The webinar aimed to create awareness among librarians and other information resource personnel about library disaster planning.

The resource speaker was Ms. Eimee Rhea C. Lagrama, deputy University librarian of the University of the Philippines, Diliman.

Ms. Lagrama discussed the following aspects of planning and preparation for disaster management for libraries:

- 1. Disaster Preparedness Plan** includes the existing working environment, self-coordination and movement, damaged materials, financial and insurance, and the final evaluation of returning to normal working conditions.
- 2. Disaster recovery** refers to reviewing disaster preparedness response programs, a proper and essential recovery plan, a document recovery program, reflection, evaluation, and restart programs.
- 3. Identifying the Hazard Factors** includes the physical form, civil disturbance, fire, and flooding.
- 4. Tasks in Disaster Preparedness** are setting priorities, setting disaster responsiveness, and establishing support networks.
- 5. Setting priorities (Task #1)** refers to identifying vital records, prioritizing records, preparing priority lists per section, and agreeing on priority lists.
- 6. Disaster Response Team (Task #2)** includes disaster coordination, a finance officer who allocates funds, a security officer, a response/recovery officer, and documentation.
- 7. Emergency Management Program** is important to prevent/minimize the loss of collectives in institutions in cases of disorders or emergencies.
- 8. Tasks in Disorder Prevention** identify, eliminate, and reduce all the risks.
- 9. Stefan Michalski’s “10 Agents of Determinants”** includes light ultraviolet, incorrect temperature, incorrect relative humidity, pollutants, pests, physical forces, fire and water, thieves, vandalism, and custodial neglect.

An open forum followed after the discussion.

Indeed, the forum was helpful for library management and also beneficial in guiding librarians and other disaster personnel to be able to survive during library disasters and to be able to deal promptly with other library emergencies.

Nurturing the library community through the Eucharistic celebration

Sr. Lib. Arlene P. Matias

One of the major tasks of the Human Values Committee is to prepare the Eucharistic celebration and to ensure the active participation of the Library staff in the Triduum Masses sponsored by the University. As part of its Key Performance Indicator (KPI), the Committee actively supports and participates in a number of liturgical celebrations and religious events in collaboration with the UST Santisimo Rosario Parish. Throughout the academic year, the group successfully coordinated events like Triduum Prayers and Masses for St. Dominic de Guzman, Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary Feast, and the Mass for the departed.

The Mass is not just a ritual but a cornerstone of the Committee's community efforts. It commemorates Jesus Christ's establishment of the Eucharist during the Last Supper and is a powerful tool in promoting the core values of our community. This ritual strengthens spiritual connections, offers strength, and bestows grace. Our committee aims to deepen staff members' spiritual awareness through thanksgiving, prayers for healing, and remembrance of deceased loved ones.

Participation in these celebrations goes beyond religious duty; it fosters unity among attendees through collective worship, expressions of faith, and shared sacramental rituals. Prayers, hymns, scripture readings, and receiving the Eucharist provide comfort and strength, enriching the community's spiritual journey. These gatherings also offer crucial moments of communal support and spiritual guidance, emphasizing the collaborative efforts of clergy and laity in nurturing collective faith and solidarity.

Through active participation, individuals and the community gain spiritual nourishment, thus promoting values as the library staff serves the Thomasian community.



Forum on “Holy Bible”

Sr. Lib. Arlene P. Matias

In celebration of the ‘National Bible Month’, the Human Values Committee hosted an interactive forum entitled “*Holy Bible: Relevance and Impact to the Modern Times.*” This was held on January 29, 2024, at the Miguel de Benavides Library Conference Hall and through FB live. This engaging event was attended by the Junior High School, Education High School, and Senior High School students, as well as the Bachelor of Library and Information Science (BLIS) practicumers from the College of Education.

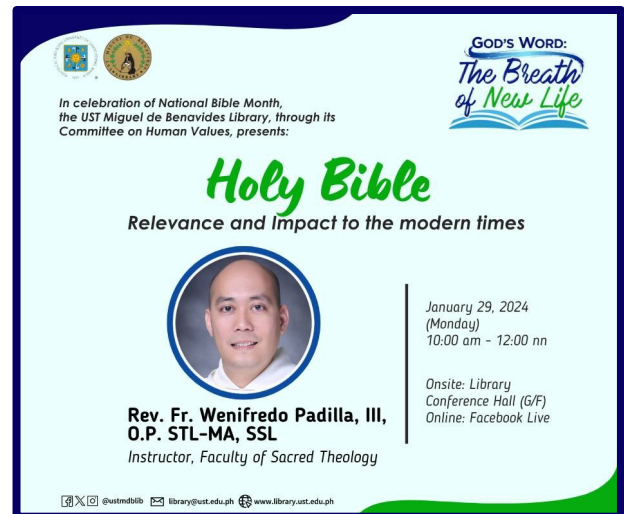
The forum’s primary objective was to encourage the youth to read the Bible, emphasizing the importance of understanding its relevance in contemporary culture. Aligned with this year’s theme, “*God’s Word: the breath of new life,*” as highlighted by the National Bible Society, the event drew inspiration from Genesis 2:7 and 2 Timothy 3:16-17.

Rev. fr. Wenifredo "Jojie" Padilla, III, OP STL-MA, SSL, an instructor at the UST Faculty of Sacred Theology, delivered a compelling talk discussing the significance of understanding the Bible's narratives for the younger generation. Fr. Jojie emphasized that the true essence of the Bible lies not in its mere possession but in its active readership. The forum aimed to achieve several objectives, with the primary goal of enlightening and inspiring the youth to read and understand the Bible:

- to encourage and reach out to the Gen Z to read the Bible and be able to relate it to their everyday lives;
- to understand why there is a need for the revision of the Bible, which is not to change its core message but to update its language and context to make it more accessible and relevant to modern readers. This process has been ongoing for centuries and is necessary to ensure the Bible remains a living document;
- to analyze the cultural relevance of the *Pinoy* version of the Bible; and
- to observe the National Bible Day.



Rev. fr. Wenifredo "Jojie" Padilla giving his talk about the Holy Bible.



As the speaker mentioned, the Bible is the “greatest story ever told.” These stories gave us, guidance to reflect on our daily lives. With that, several copies of “*Ang Bible: Pinoy version,*” wherein the speaker is also one of the translators, were given to some students. The Committee hopes that through this forum, the participants will have a more profound devotion to reading the Bible, underscoring its crucial role as a guiding beacon of wisdom and moral compass across generations, reassuring and grounding the audience in its timeless teachings.

Special thanks:

The Human Values Committee expresses deep gratitude to Assoc. Prof. Ma. Sanita A. Quilatan, PhD., Asst. Prof. Gemma V. Aboy, MEd, and Assoc. Prof. Marites R. Redoña, PhD. for their invaluable contributions in providing the concept for this forum. Their profound insights have helped our Committee formulate the appropriate idea for this activity.

E-libraries for a progressive learning community

Jr. Lib. Marissa A. Chua

Last February 27, 2024, the DOST--STII Library Webinar, in partnership with the Benita & Catalino Yap Foundation, conducted a webinar with the topic "**Taking the Path of Innovation towards Future-proof Learning**" in celebration of the 2024 Philippine Innovation Month. The session aimed to help participants to have a deeper understanding of the processes involved in establishing an e-library that adapts to the current needs and demands of 21st-century library patrons and learners. It gave a better view of locating and strategically utilizing online educational resources.

The session started with the first topic, "**Innovate to Educate: Building a 21st Century e-Library for your School Community**," as discussed by resource speaker Mr. Chito N. Angeles from the University of the Philippines, Diliman. He shed light on how the electronic library, mainly known as e-library, has evolved and transformed through time, together with today's innovations and technological advancements. According to Mr. Angeles, e-libraries give innumerable advantages to individuals as they offer accessibility to a wide range of people capable of acquiring relevant and reliable information anytime and anywhere. Through its enhanced search capabilities, the e-library is proven to be a robust support for web-based learning and teaching. It removes various barriers, especially physical barriers, to allow users to maximize information resources from different databases.

TOPIC 1: **Innovate to Educate: Building a 21st Century E-Library for your School Community**

RESOURCE SPEAKER

CHITO N. ANGELES
College Librarian V,
Head, Information Technology Division,
University Library, UP Diliman

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Mr. Angeles also reiterated the significant components of an electronic library, which are (1) resources, (2) services, and (3) technological infrastructure. First, a library should have vast resources like local digital collections, open-access e-resources, subscribed e-resources, and open educational resources. These can provide users with a quick and easy way of discovering diverse digital content, allowing them to choose whatever topic interests them and search for related content, which is much more extensive than a physical

library can offer. Second, e-library services should be provided, such as laptop circulation/lending, BYOD or Bring Your Own Device, eBook lending, and virtual reference services. Because of this, the role of librarians has become more significant in facilitating an effective e-library that students and teachers can enjoy and benefit from. Third, technological infrastructure is also vital in an e-library as it provides platforms to enhance access to e-resources. Although building an e-library may seem challenging and complicated, school communities should consider its benefit to the growth and learning of its members.

TOPIC 2: **Digital Goldmines: Discovering Educational Resources on the Internet**

RESOURCE SPEAKER

JENNIFER B. DIMASACA
Chief Librarian V,
Bibliographic Services Division,
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The final part of the webinar, "**Digital Goldmines: Discovering Educational Resources on the Internet**," was conducted by resource speaker Ms. Jennifer B. Dimasaca from the National Library of the Philippines. She talked about the upside of creating an electronic library, considering the large amount of data exchanged in this digital age. As we live in a digital universe, she highlighted how the mining cycle, from introduction, exploration, discovery, development, production, reclamation, reference, and closing, relates to building a successful e-library, one which facilitates a diverse learning experience that equips the clientele in the digital world. Through the expertise of librarians, they can serve as instruments in assisting patrons navigate through abundant data and knowledge. Further, there is a need to follow a more structured and systematic approach to building an electronic library, including conducting surveys to know the target audience's preferences for sourcing high-quality, credible materials. Building an e-library may require significant investment in time, money, and the expertise of qualified professionals. Still, it can positively impact users' learning and professional success by providing up-to-date, scholarly information.

JHS batch '67 donates board games

Jr. Lib. Elein G. Caguite

In a heartwarming display of generosity, the Junior High School (JHS) Batch of 1967, represented by Mr. Manuel Melgar and Mr. Louie Laudico, made a unique and inter-active donation to the JHS Library on January 10, 2024. Instead of traditional contributions, they chose to give back in a way that would foster social interaction, cognitive development, and leisure among individuals - by donating a collection of board games.

The donation includes classic favorites such as *Sungka*, Chess boards, DoMath, Scrabbles, Jenga, Word factories, Checkers, and one (1) ottoman bean bag. By recognizing the importance of fostering connections and providing avenues for recreation, this alumni group has significantly contributed to the school community.

"Board games have a timeless appeal and can be enjoyed by our students. We hope this donation will provide entertainment, encourage bonding, and create lasting memories. We will always be here for our High School students, and our batch will never get tired. Just let us know what you need," mentioned Mr. Laudico.

The JHS Batch '67 has a long-standing tradition of giving back to UST JHS, and this latest donation is just one example of their continuous commitment to service. They hope to inspire others to find creative ways to contribute positively. The impact of this donation will be felt for years as Junior High School students come together to enjoy friendly competition and shared experiences. Again, thanks to the generosity of the JHS graduates of 1967.



An assortment of boardgames, including a bean bag chair, donated by JHS alumni Mr. Melgar and Mr. Laudico.

Love between shelves

Janica Kate J. Buan and

Hjadoeya V. Calica

MdBL SLR Scholars

The "Day of Hearts" has always been an anticipated occasion in the University. Many students celebrated their day by expressing appreciation and affection to their loved ones through flowers, small gifts, sweet treats, or letters. However, the Social Sciences section at the Miguel de Benavides Central Library took the day to celebrate and manifest the true meaning of giving and loving one another.

Upon entering the section, students were welcomed with candies and chocolates with cheesy pick-up lines attached to them, which put a grin on their faces. Some pick-up lines read, "If I were a cat, I'd spend all my nine lives with you." "I don't have a library card, but do you mind if I check you out?" and "*PEDICAB ka ba? PEDI-CABang i-date ngayong Valentine's day?*"

Meanwhile, at the high time of the *coquette* aesthetic among the youth, the section handed out ribbons in various colors that resonated with everyone's feelings that day. The color pink is for the single, red for those who found love, white for the *ghosted*, as a known culture in the University, green for those whose hearts have been broken by their friends, yellow for the academically focused, and purple for a rising term "situationship," where one is not committed.

Whether caught with a load of academic undertakings, finding solace in one's company, or happily committed to a partner, the ribbon is a testament to their feelings, which they can display in different ways. Thomasians who visited the section were delighted to acquire the given ribbons, as they incorporated them into their style, as an accessory for their appearance, or in their belongings.

Indeed, these small acts of kindness and simple words of appreciation are a testament to what the "Day of Hearts" truly conveys – no matter what status a person is; they are all capable and deserving of love, may it be Valentine's Day or not.

UST SHS Library's V-Day hooray!

Sr. Lib. Rose Anne Camille C. Dionisio-Galang

The UST Senior High School (SHS) Library organized a one-day activity last February 14, 2024 for the SHS Community to enjoy. Through these activities, learners were exposed to various reading genres, enhanced their awareness of printed materials, and inspired them to become engaged readers.

In the first activity, "**Guess the Title of the Book**," participants must figure out the title based on the hints provided in the quotation, interesting tidbits about the book or author, and the call number. Once they had identified the title, participants were encouraged to approach any staff member who would assist them in claiming their small surprises.

A sample of entry questions in the activity:

From what book does this quote come from?

"To love or have loved, that is enough. Ask nothing further."

Clue: This book is a world-famous novel by Victor Hugo and has a Broadway show and film. A copy of this book is housed at the UST SHS Library with call number PQ2286 .H874 2015.

Answer: LES MISÉRABLES

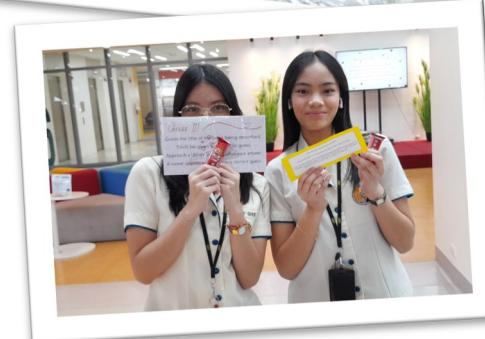
Coinciding with the title guessing is a "**Bring Me**" game with a twist. Instead of random objects, participants need to present the book to any library staff. A sweet treat awaits the winner who gets the requested item. With this activity, learners' awareness and library knowledge were gauged.

A sample entry clue in the activity: "Bring me a book that focuses on celestial objects and the phenomena that occur in the cosmos."

Suggested Titles:

- The Astronomy Book — QB15 .As89 2017
- Astronomy: a visual guide — QB43.3 .R439 2018
- Pathways to Astronomy — QB43.3 .Sch57 2014
- Explorations: an introduction to Astronomy — QB45.2 .Ar66 2020
- Observational Astronomy: techniques and instrumentation — QB43.3 .Su87 2012
- Astronomy 101: from the sun and moon to wormholes and warp drive, key theories, discoveries, and facts about the universe — QB44.3 .P442 2017

Lastly, the staple "**Borrowing Treat**" was still a sweet surprise. Each book borrower was given an indulgent treat for every single borrowed book. Despite digital books, video streaming sites, and expensive chocolates, it is clear that printed books, interaction with friends, and little surprises may continue to provide our library patrons with a unique "*kilig*" experience.



Students enjoy their Valentine's Day prizes.

Promotion/reclassification of Thomasian librarians

Jr. Lib. Marjorie Irish A. Suarez

One of the greatest fulfillments of an employee in the workforce is to be upgraded in the ranking position in the workplace. It does not only increases one's disposition in life in terms of compensation but also boosts additional confidence as an individual and as an employee. It also projects the capability of a certain person to progress in his/her chosen field.

Last November 11, 2023, the Thomasian Librarians in the Miguel de Benavides Library proudly received their new rank through "Promotion and Reclassification." For a librarian to be reclassified and promoted, a certain number of points should be reached to jump into the next rank. The point system is based on several factors such as academic degrees, government examinations, non-degree training and professional continuing learning experience, creative works, creative contributions to teaching and pedagogy and technology, and community and extension service to the University.

The re-classified non-teaching faculty members are the following:

- Sr. Lib. Edward H. Puzon
- Sr. Lib. Jonas T. Sahagun
- Sr. Lib. Ginalyn M. Santiago
- Sr. Lib. Anna Rita Alomo-Murillo
- Sr. Lib. Rosemary B. Balbin
- Sr. Lib. Mercy C. Bano
- Sr. Lib. Lady Catherine R. De Leon
- Jr. Lib. Marjorie Irish A. Suarez

The librarians who finished their master's degree and were subsequently got promoted from junior to senior librarian are Sr. Lib. Rose Anne Camille Dionisio-Galang, Sr. Lib. Lejempf V. Flores and Sr. Lib. Kristi Fevie Macasaet-Recinto.

The invaluable contributions of these individuals continue to uphold and strengthen the university's longstanding tradition of excellence and commitment to high standards. With this, the UST Library takes great pride in and is deeply honored to have them serving the Thomasian community with unwavering dedication and professionalism.

Re-Classified Non-Teaching staff of the UST Miguel de Benavides Library



Promoted Non-Teaching staff of the UST Miguel de Benavides Library



Hasta la vista, Diana!

Sr. Lib. Lourdes Fatima C. Ramos

On December 18, 2023, a touching and memorable event was held at the UST Miguel de Benavides Library Conference Hall to honor Ms. Diana Padilla, who had recently retired as assistant chief Librarian. Her colleagues and closest friends attended the gathering and came together to express their gratitude and admiration for Ms. Padilla's hard work and contributions to the Library.

As the former Head Librarian of the Antonio Vivencio del Rosario Heritage Library, the staff prepared a fun intermission number that showcased their admiration and affection for her. An audiovisual presentation and photo montage were also shared to highlight the memorable moments Ms. Padilla shared with her colleagues throughout her stay at the Library.



Ms. Diana joined by Library Administrators and friends.

The library administrators, headed by the Prefect of Libraries, Rev. fr. Angel Aparicio, O.P., the Assistant to the Prefect of Libraries, Rev. fr. Gaspar Sigaya, O.P., and the Chief Librarian, Ms. Maria Cecilia D. Lobo, presented Ms. Padilla with a token of appreciation for her hard work and dedication.

The gift signified the Library's gratitude for her invaluable contributions to the Organization.



Ms. Diana surrounded by Library administrators, support staff, and friends, at the program's culmination.

Overall, the event was an emotional and meaningful tribute to the assistant chief Librarian and her accomplishments at the Miguel de Benavides Library. It was indeed a fitting farewell for Ms. Padilla.

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