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## Proud Moment: Conferment of Professor Emeritus to Rev. Fr. Angel Aparicio, O.P.

Sr. Lib. Maria Cecilia D. Lobo, RL, MLIS



Fr. Aparicio, O.P. receives a plaque and medallion in recognition of his appointment as Professor Emeritus.

The University of Santo Tomas Ecclesiastical Faculties conferred the esteemed title "Professor Emeritus" on Rev. Fr. Angel Aparicio, O.P., an honoree from the Faculty of Theology, who currently serves as the Prefect of Libraries at the Miguel de Benavides Library.

The prestigious honor was awarded to Fr. Aparicio, and seven other distinguished Dominican priests for their substantial contributions to Philosophy, Theology, and Canon Law. Regarded as the highest accolade for academic staff, this honor was formally presented on January 31, 2025, at the Dr. Robert Sy Grand Ballroom in the Buenaventura Garcia Paredes, O.P. Building (BGPOP).

Fr. Aparicio's remarkable dedication to the academic study of the Holy Scriptures spans over more than 45 years. He stated, "This is why I came to the Philippines,

## Librarians attend the PASCDR, UPRI, and UST Summit on disaster risk reduction

Sr. Lib. Jonas T. Sahagun, RL, MLIS

The University of Santo Tomas hosted the **Summit on Fostering Localized DRR: Strengthening Partnerships between Academic and Local Institutions and Communities**. It was organized by the Philippine Academic Society for Climate and Disaster Resilience (PASCDR), University of the Philippines Resilience Institute (UPRI), and UST *Simbahayan* Community Development Office, Campus Safety and Security, and NSTP CWTS/LTS Offices. It was held at the 4th-floor function hall of the Buenaventura Garcia Paredes, O.P. Building last December 11, 2024, from 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM.

In his welcome remarks, UST Vice-Rector for Religious Affairs, Rev. Fr. Pablo T. Tiong, O.P., reflected on resiliency and its aspects. The executive director of UPRI, Mr. Alfredo Mahar Francisco A. Lagmay, PhD, gave an inspirational message and challenged academics to bring the best possible outputs and science to the forefront of the battle against disasters. Mr. Naderev M. Saño, the Greenpeace Southeast Asia executive director, delivered the keynote address, emphasizing the urgency of localization of DRR.



(L-R) Fr. Tiong, O.P., Dr. Luna, Mr. Saño, Asst. Prof. Alipao, and Asst. Prof. Gamala.

There were two plenary sessions. UST *Simbahayan* director Asst. Prof. Froilan A. Alipao, MCD discussed climate justice, and Ma. Bianca D. Perez, Enp the Quezon City Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office officer-in-charge Ma. Bianca D. Perez, EnP, who shared good practices of LGU and academic collaboration.

After the plenary sessions, four roundtable discussions were available for participants to choose from:

1. Group A discussed a collaborative approach towards safe schools with UST Campus Safety and Security director, Assoc. Prof. Juliano S. Parena, Jr., PhD, as resource person, and Dr. Ma. Theresa M. Rivera of Far Eastern University, as moderator.
2. Group B discussed academic and local partnerships towards resilience with UPRI Supervising Science Research Specialist, Ms. Arge Louise Joy Esquivel as resource person, and UPRI Director for Education Asst. Prof. Ruben M. Gamala, as moderator.
3. Group C discussed local partnerships in curriculum development towards resilience building with Advocacy, Training, and Influencing (ATI) Programs of the Center for Disaster Preparedness Foundation Team Manager, Ms. Maria F. Cagay, as resource person. Prof. Kristoffer B. Berse, PhD, Dean of the UP National College of Public Administration and Governance, as moderator.

Library participants Physical Facilities Committee Head, Sr. Lib. Jonas T. Sahagun, RL, MLIS, and Extension Services Committee Head, Sr. Lib. Michelle M. San Gabriel, RL, MLIS, joined the Group A roundtable discussions with the intent to develop the "Library Disaster Management Plan" from knowledge gained on assessing vulnerability, developing a safety plan, and capacity building.

Dr. Lagmay gave a fitting quote to highlight these partnerships and collaborations when he said, **"A resilient nation is built not by a few heroes, but by collective empowered citizens. Together, we can build a stronger, safer, and more compassionate Philippines."**

## UST Library engage in Scopus and SciVal training

Sr. Lib. Kristi Ma. Fevie V. Macasaet-Recinto, RL, MLIS

On February 28, 2025, UST administrators, teaching academic staff, and librarians convened for an extensive training session on Scopus and SciVal at the UST Miguel de Benavides Library. This session, organized by the Office of the Vice-Rector for Research and Innovation (OVRRI), aimed to empower participants with the skills and knowledge necessary to fully utilize these advanced research tools.

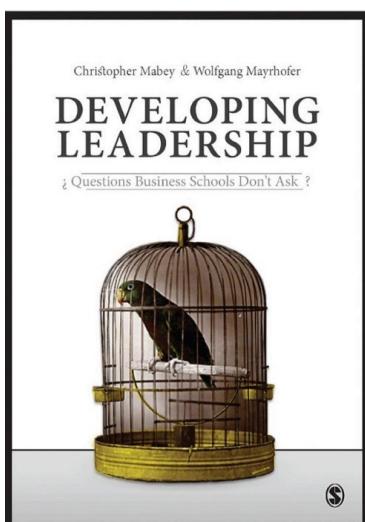
The training extensively covered the pivotal features of Scopus, an abstract and citation database encompassing over 75 million records, including peer-reviewed journals, conference papers, and patents. Participants learned how to adeptly search for scholarly articles, analyze citation metrics, and navigate the platform's user-friendly interface. Additionally, the session delved into SciVal, a powerful tool that provides advanced analytics to assess and enhance research performance at both institutional and individual levels. Attendees explored how to leverage SciVal's benchmarking capabilities to compare the University's research output with that of peer institutions, identify emerging trends, and highlight high-impact research areas.

This initiative reflects the University's ongoing commitment to bolster research support and equip academic staff and students with the resources needed to thrive in today's data-driven academic environment.

For more information on accessing Scopus and SciVal, you may visit the library's website at [library.ust.edu.ph](http://library.ust.edu.ph).

## Why do future leaders need to read this book?

Sr. Lib. Arlene P. Matias, RL, MLIS



The book is available at the Social Sciences Section.

The role of leadership in education extends far beyond mere administrative competence. Effective school leaders must possess a strong ethical foundation, strategic thinking capabilities, and a genuine commitment to serving the needs of students, teachers, and the broader community (Hodgson, 1994). However, many traditional leadership development programs have focused too heavily on technical skills, overlooking the moral and philosophical dimensions that are essential for guiding educational institutions.

In the edited volume "Developing Leadership: Questions Business Schools Don't Ask," Christopher Mabey and Wolfgang Mayrhofer challenge conventional leadership models, calling for a more critical examination of the underlying values and assumptions that shape leadership practice. This book is particularly relevant for students in the College of Commerce, the College of Education, and the Master of Arts in Educational Management and Leadership program at the University of Santo Tomas, as it encourages aspiring school leaders to reflect deeply on their leadership identity, moral compass, and the broader purpose of education (Brown & Treviño, 2006).

The importance of ethical leadership in education cannot be overstated. Education is not merely about imparting academic knowledge (Umonics Plus, n.d.); it is a powerful tool for shaping future generations and cultivating the values, skills, and dispositions that will define

the societies of tomorrow. As such, school leaders must be equipped with the moral competence and integrity to navigate the complex ethical dilemmas that arise in the course of their work (Brown & Treviño, 2006).

### Why every future school leader should read this book

Education is not just about academic instruction – it is about shaping future generations. Effective school leadership requires more than just administrative competence; it demands ethical responsibility, strategic thinking, and a people-centered approach. Developing Leadership critiques traditional leadership education, offering valuable insights that can help school leaders navigate the complexities of modern education systems.

*cont'd on next page*

## This book is particularly relevant to:

### **1. Human Resource Management (HRM)**

HRM students are trained to develop and manage people within organizations. This book's critique of leadership as a mere set of techniques aligns well with the HRM curriculum, encouraging students to explore ethical leadership, character formation, and holistic management approaches.

### **2. Entrepreneurship**

Entrepreneurs must lead in dynamic and unpredictable environments. Developing Leadership challenges the traditional, hierarchical view of leadership and offers a more flexible, adaptive approach – one that aligns well with the creativity and innovation required in entrepreneurship.

### **3. Marketing Management**

Marketers often take on leadership roles in brand management, consumer engagement, and corporate social responsibility. This book's discussion on ethical leadership and the role of values in decision-making provides important lessons for future marketing professionals.

### **4. College of Education**

Future teachers and academic leaders will benefit from the book's discussions on leadership identity, ethical decision-making, and the role of values in shaping educational institutions. It encourages reflection on how teachers can be transformative leaders who inspire students beyond academics.

### **5. Master of Arts in Educational Management and Leadership Students**

School administrators, principals, and policymakers will find this book essential in re-thinking their leadership approaches. It challenges the profit-driven, corporate-style leadership models often adopted in educational institutions and instead promotes leadership that is rooted in ethics, personal integrity, and community well-being.

## Other programs that will benefit from reading this book

### **1. Communication and Journalism**

Aspiring media professionals can benefit from the book's insights on ethical leadership, responsible storytelling, and the media's role in shaping societal values. The book encourages journalists and communicators to consider the moral implications of their work and to lead with integrity in the dissemination of information.

### **2. Health Sciences**

Programs such as Nursing, Pharmacy, and Physical Therapy involve leadership in patient care and healthcare management. The book's discussions on moral leadership and personal identity can guide healthcare students in becoming

compassionate and ethical leaders in their fields.

### **3. Engineering and Technology**

Engineering students, including those in Civil, Electrical, and Mechanical Engineering, often take on leadership roles in projects and teams. The book's insights into adaptive and ethical leadership are pertinent for engineers aiming to lead innovative and socially responsible projects.

### **4. Arts and Humanities**

Students in programs like Fine Arts, Literature, and Philosophy can find value in the book's exploration of leadership identity and ethical considerations, which can inform their creative and scholarly pursuits.

### **A fresh perspective on leadership**

Unlike conventional leadership books, this work doesn't just teach how to lead – it questions what leadership should be. It explores issues like:

- How business and education schools may be failing students by not addressing the moral and ethical dimensions of leadership;
- Why leadership should not just be about charisma but also about character and purpose; and
- How students can develop leadership skills that go beyond profit-driven models and embrace personal growth and social responsibility.

For learners, this book transcends traditional academic resources – it invites a profound re-evaluation of how educational leadership can be re-imagined through morally grounded, introspective, and change-driven approaches.

Tailored for future school leaders, decision-makers, or classroom practitioners, This book serves as a guide to dissect conventional norms and cultivate governance rooted in accountability and vision.

A copy is available at the Social Sciences Section with the call number HD57.7 .D492 (2015).

### **References:**

Brown, M. E. & Treviño, L. K. (2006). Ethical leadership: A review and future directions. *The Leadership Quarterly*, 17(6), 595-616. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.leaqua.2006.10.004>.

Hodgson, T. A. (1994). Understanding leadership's moral dimension. *Journal of Leadership Studies*, 1(3), 67-77. <https://doi.org/10.1177/107179199400100308>

Try New Things – The Umonics Method.

<https://umonicsplus.com/try-new-things/>

# A Festive mystery unfolded in the UST Library Social Sciences Section

Mr. Cristen E. Borgonia

The Social Sciences Section at the UST Miguel de Benavides (UST) Library hosted a lively and festive holiday event for students. The "**Help Santa Find His Naughty Little Elf in the Social Sciences Section**" activity brought holiday cheer, a stress-relieving fun, and a dash of Christmas magic to the busy final examinations review period. Sr. Lib. Arlene P. Matias, RL, MLIS, head of the Section, originally conceived the idea for this event in December 2023. After some refinements, it was brought to life with the collaboration of Mr. Cristen E. Borgonia, the section's support staff culminating in a video presentation in December 2024.

## **The story behind the adventure**

Santa Claus found himself in quite a dilemma when his mischievous elf, *Migz*, went missing! Famous for his playful antics, *Migz* had sneakily hidden among the bookshelves in the Social Sciences Section of the Library. Santa enlisted the help of students to track him down before his pranks caused too much mayhem.

To heighten the excitement, *Migz* was not the only elf lurking among the shelves. Other helpful and mischievous elves were also scattered throughout the section. The student's mission was to find *Migz* first while also uncovering the other elves, each of whom brought unique surprises - some delightful and others downright mischievous.

## **The role of the students**

*Migz* was not the only elf hiding in the library - several other whimsical characters, including Alabaster Snowball, Bushy Evergreen, Pepper Minstix, Sugaplum, and more, were also tucked away among the shelves. Students who discovered these elves earned small prizes as a delightful reward.

The hunt takes a humorous turn with the arrival of mischievous elves like Askasleikir, Bjugnakraekir, Faldafeykir, and Stekkjarstaur, who act as playful obstacles along the way. Despite these tricky detours, the ultimate goal remains - to find *Migz*, who holds the grand prize for the lucky student who uncovers him.

Above all, the true joy of the event lies in the festive spirit and sense of camaraderie it fostered. Students gained a deeper appreciation for the Social Sciences Section and celebrated the holiday season in a fun and unforgettable way.

## **A joyful celebration**

The holiday activity brought joy, laughter, and a refreshing break for students immersed in exam preparation and research. It provided a festive and heartwarming opportunity for the UST community to unite, embrace the Christmas spirit, and create cherished memories.

Through this event, Santa's mischievous elf, *Migz*, was finally discovered, and students embarked on an unforgettable adventure filled with exciting challenges, delightful rewards, and plenty of holiday cheer.



Sharp-eyed students who caught our mischievous elves, and Christmas helper, Miggy, got their prizes!

## Book reward for JHS Library borrowers

Sr. Lib. Marilou G. Palermo, RL, MLIS

The Junior High School (JHS) Library hosted its “**Book Reward Raffle**” on February 10, 2025, as part of the **JHS Week** celebration. This event aimed to inspire both students and teachers to borrow and read as many books as possible, fostering a love for reading. Each participant received a raffle ticket. The lucky winners were: **Margarette Xane Laureta** and **Alliyah Maris P. Cordial**, both from Grade 7, section St. Agatha. The winners were thrilled to receive their book prizes. The Library hope this experience motivates students to continue their reading journey.

*“Books make great gifts because they have whole worlds inside of them. And it’s much cheaper to buy somebody a book than it is to buy them the whole world!”* - Neil Gaiman.



Alliyah Maris P. Cordial (L) & Margarette Xane Laureta (R), lucky winners of the Book Reward raffle.

## Loving vibes at the UST Library

Mr. Bryan Jay R. Billones



Balloon decorations (L) and the Love-rary Message Wall (R) greet Library users on Valentine's Day.

The celebration of Valentine's Day on February 14 was alive and well among the Thomasian community. Faculties, colleges, departments, offices, and students, all had their own little way of celebrating this wonderful occasion. Of course, the Miguel de Benavides Library is not to be left out with its project titled: “**Library Love Vibes**,” which consisted of simple activities sharing love around the Library.

Thomasians were first greeted by the “**Love-rary Message Wall**,” where they could write and post messages to their special someone. Those who shared their messages received sweet treats at the Reference & Information Services. Thomasians got to test their literary knowledge through the “**Love Literature Challenge**,” where they get to answer trivia questions on famous romantic literary works. Students who got at least three (3) correct answers received sweet treats from the Library.

Finally, Thomasians looking to unwind can catch book-to-film adaptations in “**IT'S A (movie) DATE @ the LIB!**” Students got to watch an imaginative, fantastical love story with “*What Dreams May Come*,” a moving romance about long distance relationship (LDR) in “*Dear John*,” and Stephen Hawking’s enduring love story in “*The Theory of Everything*.” Thomasian viewers got to see and feel love in different ways through these movies.

Valentine's Day activities were also held in the Library branches and sections. In addition, heart-shaped balloons decorated the Library, and the staff were all dressed in red to celebrate the occasion. Truly, loving and lovely vibes were felt that day at the Miguel de Benavides Library!

Valentine's at the UST Library hopes to remind everyone how wonderful love can feel. We hope these feelings inspire everyone to be loving all-year round, and give loving vibes every day.

Happy Valentine's Day to everyone! – from your Thomasian Librarians and Library Staff.



The “It's a Movie Date @ the Lib!” announcement on the Library Facebook page.

## Social Sciences Section: Love and letters corner

Jr. Lib. Jonn Robin A. Gonzales, RL, MLIS

This Valentine's Day, the Social Sciences Section hosted the "**Love & letters corner**," a dedicated space where students could create personalized heartfelt cards for their friends, family, professors, and anyone else special in their lives. This activity allowed students to express their feelings through colorful designs and thoughtful messages, brightening someone's day.

Additionally, students had the chance to pick a random paper from our "**Love Jar**," which was filled with romantic phrases, love quotes, and cheesy lines for extra fun and inspiration. This enjoyable activity lifted spirits and encouraged a greater appreciation for the written word.

The Love & Letters Corner was more than just a Valentine's Day activity; it had a deeper purpose within the Thomasian community. It encouraged creativity and self-expression, allowing students to explore their artistic talents and convey their emotions constructively and engagingly. The activity also fostered gratitude and appreciation, providing a dedicated space for students to take a moment to express their thanks. Ultimately, this "Corner" improved emotional well-being by promoting kindness and nurturing positive student relationships.

Valentine's Day is not just about grand gestures; it is also about recognizing and appreciating the people around us. The Love & Letters Corner reminded students of the power of a simple, thoughtful message. Whether it is a beautifully crafted card for a close friend, a note of appreciation for a professor, or a playful message meant to brighten someone's day, each piece carries significant meaning.



The "Love & Letters Corner" of the Social Sciences Section allowed students to write out their feelings for Valentine's Day.

## Proud Moment... from Page 1

and this has been and remains my priority." His unwavering commitment to educational excellence and passion for imparting knowledge have profoundly influenced countless students, many of whom have gone on to hold prominent positions within the Church, including bishops and cardinals. In addition to his teaching responsibilities, Fr. Aparicio has significantly contributed to the development and enhancement of the Library over the past three decades. His extensive service at the University includes roles as the director of the UST Museum, and as the regent of the Faculty of Medicine and Surgery. Additionally, he is a prolific author, having published various works that explore the significance and history of the University and the Library.

The Faculty of Sacred Theology has also recognized the noteworthy contributions of Rev. fr. Rodel E. Aligan, O.P., Rev. fr. Rolando V. de la Rosa, O.P., and Rev. fr. Fausto B. Gomez, O.P.. Meanwhile, the Faculty of Philosophy honored Rev. fr. Norberto M. Castillo, O.P., while the Faculty of Canon Law celebrated the achievements of Rev. fr. Javier I. Gonzales, O.P., and Rev. fr. Jose Maria B. Tinoko, O.P.. This recognition highlights the rich diversity and vibrancy found within the University's academic community.

Awarding the title of Professor Emeritus to these esteemed scholars marks a significant milestone, symbolizing both individual achievement and collective pride within the University of Santo Tomas academic community. The legacies of these remarkable individuals, who have indelibly shaped the educational landscape of the University, will undoubtedly continue to

## Junior High School Library heart month highlights

Sr. Lib. Marilou G. Palermo, RL, MLIS

In February, the Junior High School Library hosted three exciting activities to celebrate Junior High School Week (February 11-14, 2025). Here's a peek at the fun:

- **Blind Date with a Book** – Books were wrapped in newspaper to keep their identities a secret! Started on February 14 and running through the month, this mystery book experience encouraged students to take a chance on a new read. Each book came with a clue to its genre, and to sweeten the deal, students got a piece of candy with their check-out! A simple form tracked the borrower's info, ensuring a smooth exchange.



Blind Date with a Book (L) and Share Your Library Love Board (R) activities in the JHS Library Branch.

- **Share Your Library Love Board** – Students wrote sticky notes, what they love most about the library and posted them on a board outside the Library section. Some shared that it is a great place for studying, a spot to relax with friends, or even a sanctuary to escape stress. Here are a few thoughts:

- "A place to review for tests"
- "A cozy place for studying and focusing"
- "A chill spot to hang out with friends"

- **3-Day Book Fair** – The Library teamed up with the Book Reader's Club and Fully Booked for an awesome 3-day Book Fair (February 12-14, 2025). Students and teachers explored a variety of genres and picked out books that caught their eye. The fair made reading even more fun and helped everyone discover something new!

These activities brought a ton of energy and excitement to the students, sparking a renewed love for reading. It was a reminder of how books can bring people together, inspire, and open up new worlds!



Fully Booked offers exciting books for the students.

## Love, books, and a sweet surprise at the EHS Library

Sr. Lib. Chiara Maye N. Santiago, RL, MLIS

Love filled the air at the Education High School (EHS) Library as the students came together to celebrate “**Love at First List**” and “**Love Notes: A Wall of Words**” last February 24, 2025. This event brought a mix of book sharing, heartfelt messages, and sweet treats making it a fun Valentine’s Day celebration.

The first activity “**Love at First List**” was located inside the EHS Library. It was an activity where the students had the chance to mention the books that they wish are available at the Library by dropping them into a letter box. As a special surprise, three (3) lucky participants were chosen to receive a gift from “Cupid.” There were 20 students who participated in the activity and wished for books like “A Little Life,” by Hanya Yanagihara, and “Heartstopper,” by Alice Olswan - a coming of age book that is interesting and relatable to their age as teenagers. There was also a student who expressed his desire to add more books to the “Naruto Collection” as this series contains good stories of each character and arcs. Another student who seemed undecided on what specific book to suggest just wished to have any “astronomy” book, expressing his strong desire for this kind of genre. This activity allowed the students' wishes to be heard and also for the Library to be able to expand its collection.

Beyond the books, the event also encouraged the students to express their emotions through this activity “**Love Notes: A Wall of Words**” that was located outside the EHS Library. It was witnessed in this very Library that love is still in the air, may it be for classmates, academic staff, friends, and families through “**Love Notes**,” and placed on a creatively decorated “**Wall of Words**.”

It is evident that despite these challenging times, expressing love is not a hindrance, simply through writing something genuine from your heart means love is alive and burning with passion. There was an estimate of 50 students who participated, some of them even decided to have fun and create a heart figure using the love notes in the “**Wall of Words**” that symbolize love and connection within the community.

Lastly, to add an extra touch of sweetness a “**Chocolate Makes Everything Better**” station was set up right at the entry of the Library, offering free chocolates to all patrons at the EHS Library.

We can say that the Valentine’s Day celebration was a complete success as it was met with excitement and enthusiasm, proving that love, books, and a bit of sweetness can bring people together. The EHS Library, on this occasion, completely turned the patrons' ordinary day into an unforgettable one!



Students participate in the "Love Notes: A Wall of Words," (Top) & "Love at First List" (Bottom)



Free chocolates for everyone!

## New librarians!

Sr. Lib. Lady Catherine R. de Leon, RL, MLIS

In September 2024, the UST Miguel de Benavides Library welcomed two librarians: **Jr. Lib Karen Angelica S. Agcaoili** and **Jr. Lib. Jonn Robin A. Gonzales**, whose expertise will significantly enhance the library's services for the academic community.

Jr. Lib. Agcaoili, a UST alumna, holds both a bachelor's and master's degree in Library and Information Science. She takes on the role of assistant head librarian for the Humanities Section at UST Library. Prior to joining UST, she gained valuable experience in academic libraries, serving as head librarian for Dr. Filemon C. Aguilar Memorial College and as Electronic Resources Librarian at the Asian Institute of Management - Knowledge Resource Center. She co-authored a paper in 2017 titled "A Modern Look at a Traditional Library," which discussed how libraries can integrate new technologies to improve services. Known for her lively personality and approachable nature, Jr. Lib. Agcaoili is eager to help shape the library's services and better support the UST academic community.



Jr. Lib. Robin Gonzales, new Asst. Head Librarian of the Social Sciences Section



Jr. Lib. Karen Agcaoili, new Asst. Head Librarian of the Humanities Section.

Alongside her, Jr. Lib. Gonzales assumes the role of assistant head librarian for the Social Sciences Section. He holds both a master's in Library and Information Science from the University of the East and a bachelor's degree from UST. Before UST, Jr. Lib. Gonzales worked at the Department of Health (DOH), where he played a key role in policy development and overseeing digital health solutions, data privacy, and ICT health solutions. His work at DOH included drafting administrative orders and leading training sessions. At UST, he focuses on optimizing research resources for the Social Sciences and supporting academic research across disciplines, advocating for digital transformation and data privacy.

The addition of Karen and Jonn Robin marks a new chapter for the Library, ensuring it evolves with expertise in library management, research support, and digital innovation to meet the needs of the academic community.

## New librarians attend orientation and training

Jr. Lib. Karen Angelica S. Agcaoili, RL, MLIS

As a new academic staff, it is important to understand university policies and technology. Newly-hired librarians, Jr. Lib. Jonn Robin A. Gonzales and Jr. Lib. Karen Angelica S. Agcaoili participated in a week-long hybrid training program from February 10-14, 2025 from experienced academic staff. Resources are available on Canvas, the UST learning management system.

The program discussed the following:

### 1. Thomasian identity

Part of the training includes discussion on the Catholic, Dominican, and Thomasian traditions of education. A short orientation on Thomasian Identity was conducted by the Vice-Rector for Religious Affairs, Rev. fr. Pablo T. Tiong, O.P.. It was also followed by a Eucharistic celebration.

### 2. UST as a research university

Vice-Rector for Research and Innovation, Rev. fr. Jannel N. Abogado, O.P., D.Th.Pat.Sc. tackled the University's research agenda, directions, and initiatives.

### 3. Community development program of the University

A discussion on the University's community development program, was facilitated by the Director of the *Simbahayan* Community Development Office, Asst. Prof. Froilan A. Alipao, MCD.

### 4. UST Faculty Union (USTFU) membership benefits and responsibilities

This highlighted the Faculty Union's benefits and responsibilities, delivered by the USTFU President, Asst. Prof. Emerito C. Gonzales, MA.

## 5. Faculty-related policies, development, and evaluation

This covered the University's faculty policies, development, and evaluation, with a message from Prof. Ma. Carlota B. Decena, PhD, director of the Office for Faculty Evaluation and Development.

## 6. Anti-Sexual Harassment Act and the Safe Spaces Act

Remarks about this topic was given by the Legal Coordinator of the Office of the Vice-Rector, Atty. Elgin Michael C. Perez.

## 7. Pedagogy-driven session

In this session, Asst. Prof. Ana Ruby M. Paez, LPT, MSc, director of the Center for Innovative Teaching and Educational Delivery (CITED), emphasized UST's hybrid learning plan, effective learning outcomes, alignment with teaching activities and assessment, and sustainability in education.

## Technology-focused training

This training touched on UST Cloud Campus orientation, eLearning trends, instructional design techniques, technology integration for digital learners, course quality indicators, Canvas Level 1 training, and task design, which were facilitated by various professors from UST.

The program featured workshops and discussions, where academic staff receive a Certificate of Completion for attending 80% of sessions, completing the evaluation, and submitting the required outputs. The training was engaging, especially on the exploration of Canvas. UST Library's CITED Facilitator, Sr. Lib. Edward H. Puzon, RL, LPT, MALIS, assisted the newly-hired librarians complete their outputs.

## A Farewell and a warm welcome

*Sr. Lib. Lady Catherine R. de Leon, RL, MLIS*

As my time with the Philippine Association of Academic/Research Librarians, Inc. (PAARL) as member of the Board comes to an end, I want to take a moment to reflect on my journey with this amazing Organization and wish Sr. Lib. Raquel B. Lontoc, RL, MLIS, currently the head of the UST Library Reference & Information Services, the best of luck as she steps into her new role as Public Relations Officer (PRO) of this Association. Being part of PAARL has been a wonderful experience. I have had the chance to work alongside many passionate librarians who truly care about our profession. During my two terms – first as Auditor in 2023, and then as a Board Member in 2024, I have always been grateful having contributed to projects that help build a stronger community and support the growth of libraries in academic and research settings.

While it is time for me to step down from my role, I'm excited to share that Sr. Lib. Lontoc will be taking over as the new PRO starting January 2025. She is great at promoting libraries as well as the important work of librarians. I'm confident she will do a fantastic job in making PAARL even more visible and impactful.



Sr. Lib. Lontoc (2nd to the left) sworn in with the other librarians as the new PAARL Public Relations Officer (PRO).

Though I am leaving my position, I am excited to see where PAARL goes from here. With Sr. Lib. Lontoc's participation, I know the Organization will continue to grow and make a positive impact on the library community. I wish Sr. Lib. Lontoc all the best as she takes on this new challenge. Representing UST as a PAARL officer has been a meaningful experience, and I am excited to see what is next to reckon with.

Lastly, I thank the UST Miguel de Benavides Library for giving me the chance to serve PAARL. It is a true honor to be part of this journey, and I'm grateful for the opportunity and experience.

# OUTREACH

## A Visit to Cottolengo Filipino

Ms. Jenalyn D. Aninao, LPT

As part of an initiative by the Extension and Services Committee, led by Sr. Lib. Michelle M. San Gabriel, RL, MLIS, a short visit to Cottolengo Filipino was conducted on February 26, 2025. Joining the visit were Rev. fr. Angel Aparicio, O.P., Prefect of Libraries, Sr. Lib. Narcelita Lane T. Olamit, RL, members of the Library council, and two (2) library staff members; Mr. John Paul C. Orbista and Ms. Jenalyn D. Aninao.

This marked the first visit since January 2022, following the height of the pandemic. The group was welcomed by the children—now noticeably grown—as soon as they arrived. The visit was made even more meaningful by the presence of Rev. fr. Julio Questa, Cottolengo's president and executive director, whose warm hospitality, along with that of the staff and interns, created a spirit of joy and reunion throughout the visit.

The team brought food to share with the children and spent time engaging in a simple 'kamustahan' session. It was a pleasure to meet the children, who were seen walking and playing around the area in their jersey uniforms. This activity forms part of their morning routine and exercise, contributing to their physical well-being and daily structure.

According to the staff, the assistance and financial support provided by their benefactors play a vital role in helping children meet their physical and psychological needs. They expressed deep gratitude for the continued support extended to their institution, emphasizing its significant impact on the children's overall well-being.



The Extension and Services Committee, with Rev. Fr. Angel Aparicio, O.P., and Rev. fr. Julio Questa, FDP, pose for a photo at the Cottolengo Filipino.



(L-R) Sr. Lib. Olamit with Ms. Jayvee Cado, executive secretary, Fr. Julio Cuesta Ortega, FDP, president and executive director of Cottolengo Filipino, Sr. Lib. San Gabriel and Fr. Aparicio, O.P.



The children of Cottolengo Filipino, sporting their jersey for a morning exercise routine.

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Published quarterly by UST Miguel de Benavides Library, UST, Manila.

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