



THE UCMPFI NEWSLETTER

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Busy January

The year 2024 ended not with a whimper but with fireworks of activities for the Foundation. Not to be outdone, 2025 is beginning with a bang!

January 4: Scholars' Fellowship

Instead of a year-end Christmas get-together in December 2024, the Grace Enough to Ensure Secondary Education (GEESE) and Teodoro Regala Assistance for Continuing Education (TRACE) scholars had a new year fellowship on January 4, 2025. It was a fun-filled event where the scholars showcased their talents during the program and the games that included ice-breaker B.I.N.G.O., Tumpakners, Seven-Up, and ABC Conversation. The Biblical Family Feud tested the scholars' learning during their monthly Bible study throughout the year. TRACE alumni Judy Ann Alvez and Joje Ariego hosted the program and games. Present during the fellowship were UCMPFI Trustees and Working Committee members Ms. Lily Torrente (who is also the regular Bible study facilitator), Mrs. Linda Murray, and Mrs. Nadine Sarreal.

The program ended with gift-giving, awarding of winners of games, and a festive meal. UCMPFI has seen these scholars develop strong ties with each other through such regular fellowships.



Games



GEESE girls



GEESE boys



TRACE scholars

January 6: Resumption of CENEP Classes

The three CENEP sites (Brgy. Tumana, Marikina City; Brgy. Sto. Domingo, Cainta, Rizal; and Brgy. Highway Hills, Mandaluyong City) resumed classes on January 6. The teachers in the respective sites ably reoriented the children back to classroom routines and learning activities after the two-week Christmas break.



January 24: CENEP Teachers and Staff Meeting

To aid the assessment of the CENEP program, the Foundation organized a meeting of all the teachers and staff of the three CENEP sites on January 24. This was facilitated by Teachers Boots Andal and Pam Tira of Cornerstone Play and Learning Center.

The participants were grouped into teams by site. The members were asked to honestly rate themselves and to share their experiences, challenges, concerns, and suggestions. The performance evaluation covered six work categories: professionalism, program development, work with children, family engagement, teamwork, and professional development.

A follow-up workshop/seminar will be scheduled within the year.

The participants, with advisers from the Foundation, also decided to follow the official school calendar of the Department of Education in the program of activities for school year 2025-2026.



LACE Enrollees

Enrollees in the two Learning and Accreditation for Continuing Education (LACE) sites for school year 2024-2025 are:

- 35 (all junior high level) - San Antonio National High School (SANHS), Makati City
- 20 (8 elementary and 12 junior high level) - F. Serrano Sr. Elementary School (FSSES), Parañaque City

January 29: Scholars' Field Trip

This year, the chosen destination for the GEESE and TRACE scholars' field trip was the newly renovated National Museum in Manila. This happened on January 29.

The National Museum comprises the Museum of Fine Arts, the Museum of Anthropology, and the Museum of Natural History. The scholars, some of whom were visiting the museums for the first time, were awed by the vastness of the three buildings where the artifacts are displayed in spacious chambers in an area covering several hectares. The tour started at the Museum of Fine Arts where a guide ushered the group to the display of *Spoliarium* (Juan Luna's most celebrated painting), gave an introduction on the Museum's founding and rehabilitation, and finished with detailed information on the history of the *Spoliarium*. From there, the scholars proceeded to tour the many halls with stunning displays of art.

The Spoliarium



Museum of Fine Arts



Lunch at Aristocrat Restaurant



The group had their lunch break at the Aristocrat restaurant. The scholars expressed their appreciation for the dining experience, one of them even confiding that it was the first time he was handed a menu and served by a waiter.

Museum of Anthropology



Museum of Natural History



After the meal, the group returned to the museum, this time to the Museum of Anthropology showcasing the ethnographic and terrestrial and underwater archeological collections of the country. The Museum of Natural History was visited last. This building exhibits the rich biological and geological diversity of the Philippines.

The tour ended at 5:00 p.m., with the scholars' bodies weary from the visit but their minds enriched by the day's experience.

Do visit our website www.ucmphilfoundation.org to know more about the Foundation's activities and to participate in continuing to provide a better life to these children and young people. For your inquiries, please call (63 2) 8812-6062 or 8812-5609 or email us at ucmpfi@gmail.com.