

**2015 LAS Library School Scholarship**  
**SHERYL HALALEE P. VALERIO**

Sheryl Valerio has had a short, but inspiring career in the library field. In August 2013, following a twenty year career as an English teacher, initially in the Philippines, then in China, and finally in Singapore from 2007-2013 at the Hillside World Academy (previously known as Chinese International School), Sheryl Valerio experienced a life and career changing moment.

The Principal at the new Hillside asked Sheryl to switch from being a teacher to running the library. She found a library with empty shelves, heaps of books and no systems. She realized that she had to rebuild the library from scratch, but had no knowledge about how to start or manage a library.

Sheryl embraced the challenge and found a mentor who guided her for months, took free online library science courses, visited and observed how libraries operated, joined the Library Association of Singapore (LAS) and attended LAS training where she was encouraged to apply to the MSc Information Studies programme at Nanyang Technological University (NTU). She also attended the LAS Virtual Reality Workshop as well as International Baccalaureate (IB) workshops.

In August 2015, Sheryl matriculated as a part-time student at NTU and immediately put what she learned at library school into practice by providing research skills development for students, including using the Internet for research and information discovery, designing spaces, collaborating with teachers across the school, prioritizing the acquisition of resources, and transforming the library into an effective space for teaching and learning.

Additionally, Sheryl established ties with NLB through the DEAR and DIY program and encouraged students to volunteer in public libraries in the CrossBooks, to shelve books, the Library Ambassadorship program, to help out at special events, and even in digitizing and indexing tributes to PM Lee Kwan Yew. She also oversaw the onerous process of transferring the library resources to a new campus. In a very short period of time, Sheryl's efforts made her library one of the most popular places to visit on the school campus.

In recognition of her initiative and impressive accomplishments to date and her potential for making significant contributions to librarianship in the years ahead, it is a privilege to honour Sheryl Halalee P. Valerio with the 2015 LAS Library School Scholarship.