

The Link upskills budding scribes

By: Naira Sali

In collaboration with professionals from different fields, The Link organized a training-workshop to enhance department skills in content writing, cartooning, photojournalism, video editing, and graphic designing last October 1 in Grade 10 classrooms.

The Link's former Editor-in-Chief, now corporate lawyer, **Atty. Abby Elbambo**, led the general talk discussing legal matters on data privacy in different contexts, from which she elaborated on campus journalism. She underscored transparency, honesty, and respect for human dignity in handling data and information as a student journalist. Elbambo also encouraged the students to work with excellence in order to produce the best quality output.

On the other hand **Mr. Peter Alagos**, a business reporter for the Gulf Times, discussed the elements of editorial cartooning including the drawing styles and techniques of different cartoonists. He suggested focusing on simplicity and symbolism when drawing a cartoon, emphasizing that:

“A good cartoon is even without the use of words, you can see the topic by just a glance at the artwork itself.”

Moving forward, the parallel sessions for the content and creative departments commenced. **Ms. Lani Roze Dizon**, a Qatar Tribune reporter, shared her experiences in writing different types of news, from business, sports, to general news. As a workshop activity, she tasked news and sports writers to interview PSD students regarding their reaction to the Philippine athletes' triumph in the 2023 Asian Games. Thereafter, the completed articles of each group were compiled to publish a full-blown report in the Qatar Tribune newspaper.

Next, **Ms. Eleennae Ayson**, an associate editor, content creator, and site administrator who was also a former Editor-in-Chief of The Link, highlighted the inseparable significance between reading and writing to the literary and feature writers. She explained that writing is a continuous cycle of reading what resonates with oneself and then expressing thoughts through words.

"Reading is wide as it reflects the totality of your identity. Who you are determines the things you pay attention to," she articulated.

Furthermore, **Mr. Billy Gonzales**, a PSD alumnus and former Supreme Student Government president, now a film production manager, shared that photography lets one explore the world and learn about different cultures and traditions. He also talked about the responsibility of photojournalists and video graphic designers to provide the best-composed shot. To take the perfect shot, Gonzales stressed the importance of mastering the fundamentals of composition — focal point, rule of thirds, leading lines, depth, and framing.

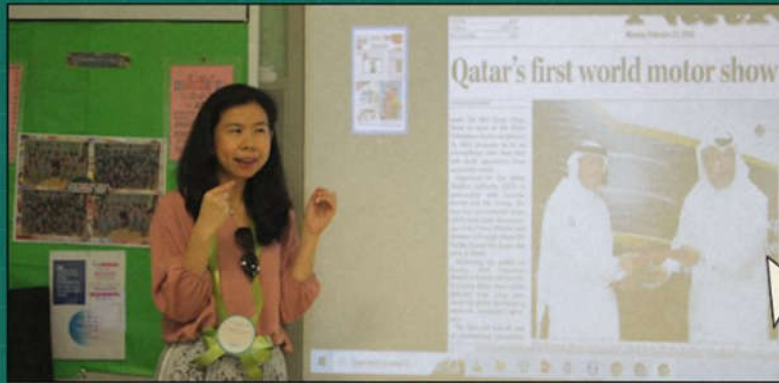
In graphic designing, **Dr. Allen Rosima**, Senior High School teacher, introduced the basics to Photoshop and explained how the students could customize their own workspace to their own convenience. **Mr. Eliazar II Sacil**, a PSD alumnus currently working as a graphic designer and illustrator, advised the layout artists to create moodboards and use online resources for reference when crafting a design. Lastly, **Mr. Gabriel Angelo San Miguel**, a data encoder, graphic designer, and technical support officer, accentuated the role of typography as a bridge for readers to connect with the message of a given content:

"Text must have an element of expression to increase the emotional impact of the message to be conveyed."

With a wider knowledge in campus journalism, the Linkers concluded their training. Rupert Amon, a features writer, said that the training was fun because of the interactive and relatable discussion of Ms. Ayson, especially since she was a former Linker. He elaborated that the lecture expanded his knowledge on reading and writing as a writer. Amon also expressed his gratitude to The Link for new opportunities to develop his skills and abilities.

Additionally, Jameela Ybanez, a photojournalist, described the workshop as engaging since she was able to apply the lessons taught by Mr. Gonzales in their activity wherein they went around the school to take composed photos. *"All in all, I learned a lot in the training and it also gave me a chance to interact and spend time with my fellow photojournalists,"* she stated.

The LINK is the official school publication of PSD having almost a hundred campus journalists across departments moderated and trained by its school paper adviser, Mrs. Elena D. Castro under the wing of the Office of the Student Affairs.



Resource speaker and Qatar Tribune reporter Ms. Lani Roze Dizon imparts her experience and knowledge in producing various articles, ranging from sports to general news.



During their parallel session with resource speaker Ms. Eleennae Ayson, features and literary writers gain more knowledge about the value of reading in the process of writing.



In his parallel session with The Link's photojournalists, PSD alumnus and film production manager Mr. Billy Gonzales underscores the significance of utilizing the fundamentals of composition in creating a well-constructed shot.



Dr. Allen Rosima, a resource speaker as well as a Senior High School teacher, enlightens The Link's creatives about the basics of Photoshop as part of his session centered around graphic designing.



Photojournalists immerse themselves by listening intently and writing notes throughout the training workshop.



With keen eyes and keen ears, feature writers glean crucial information about the relationship between reading and writing.



The Link's Club Moderator, Mrs. Elena D. Castro, takes the stage to deliver her opening remarks.



In recognition for their insightful contributions during the Campus Journalism Training Workshop, leis and certificates of appreciation were prepared for the speakers.

After the parallel sessions were concluded, The Link's editorial board and the resource speakers all smile for the camera.



The News Department and the Sports Department were paired together during their parallel sessions in the workshop.