

AUP HIGHLIGHTS

The Official Newsletter of the Adventist University of the Philippines

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Silverio Takes Office as Vice President for Finance at AUP

Aileenmae Goyal Silverio, CPA, MBA, was installed as the vice president for finance of the Adventist University of the Philippines (AUP). The event, which was held at the Philippine International Church on September 29, 2023, was attended by faculty, staff, and students.

Dr. Arceli Rosario, the University president, welcomed Mrs. Silverio to her new role with high hopes. She expressed her aspirations for Mrs. Silverio's tenure, stating, "May your time in office be marked by wisdom, vision, and a profound sense of purpose as you lead us toward a financially secure and morally grounded future."

During her inaugural address, Mrs.

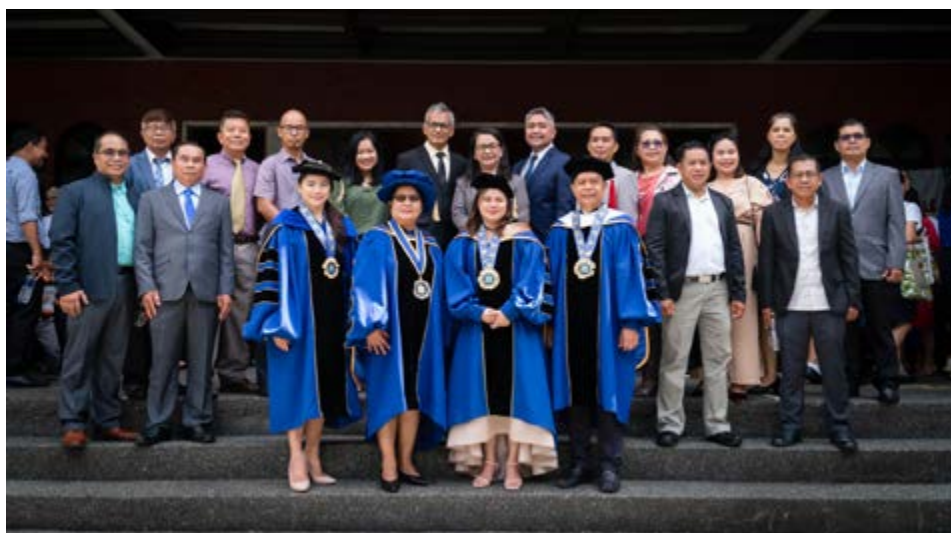
Silverio shared three profound reflections on her journey of service, faith, and purpose. She emphasized the values of humility and gratitude as guiding principles, regardless of one's position or rank. Acknowledging the role of faith in her success, she reflected, "Everything that I possess, every moment I have embraced, every opportunity I have seized, belongs to a higher purpose." She went on to underscore the belief that, whether fully prepared or not, "it is God who guides our way."

One of the highlights of the installation ceremony was the symbolic passing of the key of responsibility from the former Vice President for Finance, Dr. Robert Borromeo, to the newly appointed



VPF. Additionally, Mrs. Silverio was formally donned, hooded, and capped by President Dr. Rosario and the other University officers, signifying the commencement of her position.

The ceremony also paid special tribute to the dedicated staff serving in the Finance and Operations Department. Furthermore, Mrs. Silverio articulated the shared commitment within the Finance and Operations Department, stating, "For we, in the Finance and Operations team, firmly believe that dedicating ourselves to the service of the Lord is not only a solemn duty but also a path to continuous improvement. It stands as an enduring testament to the unwavering faithfulness of God throughout our journey. Moreover, together, as a unified body, we embark on a noble calling that God summons us to fulfill with unwavering dedication and purpose."

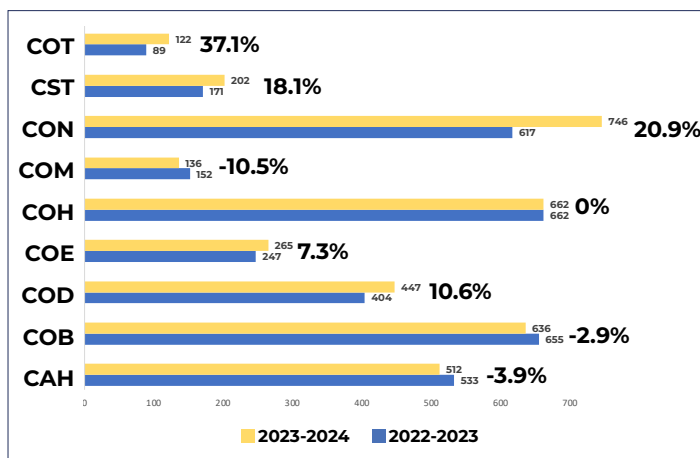


AUP Witnesses Enrollment Growth by 4.62% in the First Semester of 2023

The Adventist University of the Philippines (AUP) reported a substantial 4.62% boost in enrollment for the first semester of 2023 compared with the first semester of 2022. As of October 10, 2023, the University officially registered 4,715 students across all levels.

Levels	School Year		Increase
	2022-2023	2023-2024	
College/ Undergraduate	3,530	3,728	5.61%
Academy	648	656	1.23%
Elementary	324	331	2.16%
Total	4,507	4,715	4.62%

As for the undergraduate level, 3,728 students are officially enrolled in various programs. Remarkably, five of the nine colleges offering undergraduate programs experienced notable increase in enrollment.



The College of Theology, having welcomed 122 new students, took the lead with an impressive 37.1% increase in enrollment. Following closely behind are several other colleges that reported substantial growth, including the College of Nursing with a 20.9% increase (746 students), the College of Science and Technology with an 18.1% increase (202 students), the College of Dentistry with a 10.6% increase (447 students), and the College of Education with a 7.3% increase (265 students).

As VPA Gracel Ann Saban stated, "We are an academic team---Together Everyone Achieves More for the Lord." The overall increase in AUP's enrollment for the first semester of 2023 signifies the institution's growing appeal and commitment to develop academic excellence, Christlike character, and exemplary service among its students.



AUP Participates in Historic MOU Signing at Malacañang

Representing the Adventist University of the Philippines, Dr. Gracel Ann Saban, vice president for academics, and Dr. Raymond Caagbay, dean of the College of Nursing, participated in the ceremonial signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) at the Malacañang Palace. This momentous occasion held on September 28, 2023, at 3:00 PM was witnessed by 19 higher education institutions (HEIs) who collaborate with the Commission on Higher Education (CHED), the Department of Health (DOH), selected hospitals, and the Private Sector Advisory Council (PSAC). His Excellency President Ferdinand Marcos Jr graced the event.

AUP is the sole HEI representing Region 4A in this partnership. The partnership, guided by Joint Administrative Order (JAO) No. 2023-0001, jointly crafted by CHED and DOH, with valuable input from PSAC, pertains to the Nurse Workforce Complementation and Upskilling Program for Clinical Care Associates (CCAs).

Emphasizing its potential to aid underboard nurses in securing employment, Dr. Caagbay expressed that “this upskilling program of President Marcos in collaboration with the DOH, CHED, and the PSAC is an excellent initiative to help underboard nurses to be employed and to have a flexible program of review that will help them have a better chance of passing the board examination.”

Dr. Caagbay expressed his affirmation to President Marcos's keynote address “that this program will help address the lack of healthcare workers in the country today.” This MOU would address the pressing challenge of the country's Human Resource for Health (HRH) shortage by enabling the hiring of underboard BS Nursing graduates from participating HEIs in public and private hospitals.



VPSS Amurao Delivers Inspiring Address at Convocation

Vice President for Student Services Dr. Julio Amurao delivered an inspiring message during the student convocation on September 8, 2023, at the Philippine International Church.

In his address, Dr. Amurao underscored the profound influence of his life motto, which revolves around experiencing and sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ. He challenged not only the students but also the faculty and staff to engage in introspection. Dr. Amurao specifically encouraged students to reflect on the foundations of their faith in Christ and, more significantly, how to integrate these beliefs into their lives.



In the latter part of the program, Mr. Jun Tayaben, the Behavioral Management officer, discussed University policies, minor and major infractions, along with their corresponding penalties. Additionally, he reminded students of their responsibilities as members of the academic community.

The event also included a spotlight on the Student Services Office. The faculty and staff associated with the Office were officially introduced to the student body.



The Office provided an overview of its diverse services. Subsequently, the convocation featured the introduction of the Central Student Council board and council members.



Five Development Projects Enhance Campus Facilities

As a testament to the commitment to continual improvement and safety, the Facilities Development Office of the University recently concluded five significant projects aimed at enhancing various aspects of the campus environment.

University Facility Upgrades



In line with government regulations, the University embarked on projects to ensure safety and environmental compliance. Fire exits were installed in Apartments A, B, and C, providing emergency exit options for all residents. The installment of these exits amounted to a total of P3,616,670.



Simultaneously, in collaboration with the University's pollution control officer, the installation of a sewage treatment plant (STP) and outflow pipes in the Health Service Department ensured compliance with the Water Act of the Philippines. The newly installed STP cost P2,390,000, and the outflow pipes cost P190,000. This project will maintain a safe level of water quality, safeguarding the environment when discharged into the creek



The renovation of the University gymnasium comfort rooms was an initiative to create an ambient and welcoming atmosphere for its users. The renovations include the replacement of counter sinks and light wall repainting, with a total cost of P184,995.68.

Academy Facility Upgrades

In partnership with the Academy Home and School Association, the Facilities Development Office undertook transformative development projects in the Academy.



The Samuel P. Dizon Academy gymnasium drainage project was initiated to address potential hazards related to slippery floors due to rainwater and mud infiltration. Stretching across approximately 90 meters, the drainage project incorporates a combination of open channels with gridded covers and reinforced concrete pipes, totaling P233,957.80.



Furthermore, the SPDA gymnasium floor painting project elevated this sports facility with rubberized paint, making it safer and more vibrant. The project cost P710,113.20.



Added to the improvements in the Academy was the construction of faculty comfort rooms. The total cost for this upgrade amounted to P230,511.50.

Congratulations

to our new **REGISTERED LIBRARIANS**



**JOSEPHINE N.
CAPECENIO, RL**



**RITZEL F.
FALCULAN, RL**



**ROMIELYN F.
GALOSO, RL**



**SHEILA MAE A.
GUARDIAS, RL**



**LOLITA D.
OBRIQUE, RL**



**EDWIN JR. G.
SORETES, RL**

To God be the Glory!

September 2023
Librarian
Licensure
Examination

AUP PASSING RATE

75%

NAT'L PASSING RATE

62.64%



AUP

College of Science & Technology
**LIBRARY SCIENCE
DEPARTMENT**

CST Lib-Sci Succeeds in the September 2023 Librarians Licensure Examination

The College of Science and Technology Library Science Department witnessed an outstanding performance of its graduates, with a passing rate of 75% against the national passing rate of 62.64% in the September 2023 Librarians Licensure Examination.

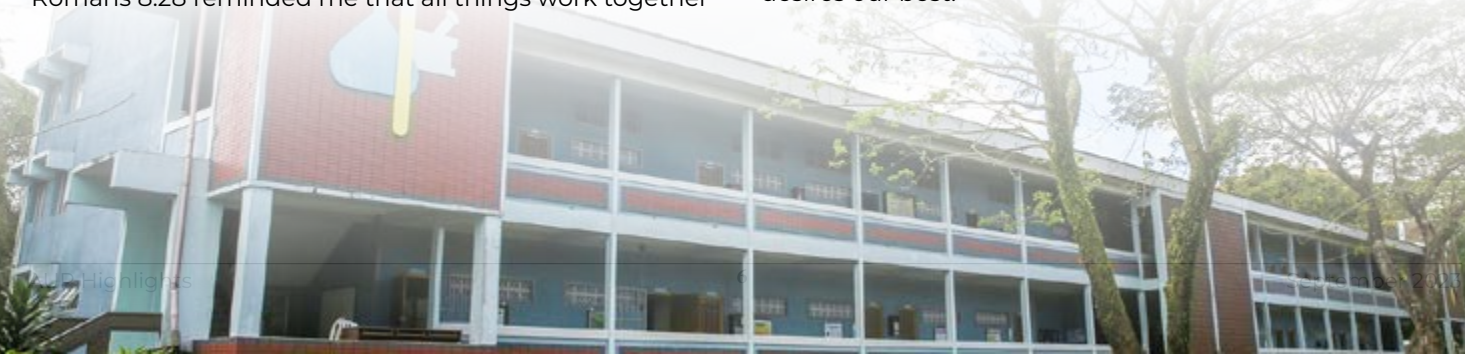
Six registered librarians namely Josephine Capecenio, Ritzel Falculan, Romielyn Galoso, Shiela Mae Guardias, Lolita Obrique, and Edwin Sorettes passed the said board exam.

For many of these successful candidates, the journey leading up to this achievement was deeply rooted in faith and resilience. Guardias, a registered librarian, shared, "Romans 8:28 reminded me that all things work together

for good for those who love God, and Jeremiah 29:11 assured me of God's plans to prosper me and give me hope and a future. Indeed, there is power in prayer!"

Galoso, another registered librarian, expressed gratitude amid the pressures and doubts of preparing for the examination. She stated, "Amid pressure and doubt, divine intervention, and prayer, I found strength and guidance. As Matthew 21:22 says, 'If you believe, you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer.' All praise and honor be to Him."

Falculan, who initially hesitated to take the board exam after graduation, attributed her success to her supportive family and the encouragement she received from the LIS department. She shared, "When the results came on September 15, 2023, God's gift of success overwhelmed me with gratitude. I owe my journey's success to God, my family, CST, BLIS department, and AUP. I've learned that with prayer and trust in God, nothing is impossible; He desires our best."



COE Dedicates 21 LET Takers

by Jerlyn Paguntalan

The College of Education hosted a special Sabbath School program dedicated to honoring and consecrating 21 Licensure Examination for Teachers takers on September 19, 2023. Featuring tomorrow's teachers, the program consecrated the education graduates to God, the source of all wisdom, as they will be taking the examinations on September 24, 2023.

The LET takers were invited to stand before the congregation, and they were presented with bookmarks bearing God's promises. The participants were divided into five groups, each led by a designated facilitator. In these groups, they discussed how their faith and the teachings of the Bible had supported them throughout their LET journey, including their preparations.

From the discussions, some graduates balanced work commitments alongside their LET review, while others devoted themselves entirely to the examination preparations. Robert Busely, one of the LET takers, shared that their initial review schedule was planned for Saturdays. However, due to some circumstances and the teachers' assistance, it shifted to Sundays. "We supported each other during the review process, ensuring that no one was left behind." He shared high hopes for his batch that they aspire to achieve top-notch results and a 100 percent passing rate.

Inspirational remarks were delivered by pre-service teachers and professors, who encouraged the LET test-



takers to continue striving for excellence in their future careers with God as their guiding light. Pastor Lani Esteves, the Philippine International Church senior pastor, concluded the program with a dedicatory prayer.



Con Corda Holds a String Ensemble Concert

The AUP Con Corda String Ensemble held a concert with the theme "Panglakaton" on September 7, 2023, at the Pillar Hall Auditorium, Music Department.

Panglakaton means journey, a word from Kinaray-a, a Philippine dialect spoken by the Karay-a people, mainly in Antique. Through their music repertoire, the Con

Corda brought journey-filled music worldwide throughout different times.

"With all the journeys and travels, nothing beats returning home," Aera Jean Apalat, one of the founders of Con Corda, expressed during the opening remarks. The Con Corda is celebrating its 7th year anniversary. Sharing their gift of music, the Con Corda has rendered music in the Philippines and Indonesia. By God's grace, they recently returned from Thailand, and "coming home has never been more exhilarating."

Since the pandemic, this is the second face-to-face concert of the group. The 16 advanced music major students performed with Elle Pamela Pedernal and Deo Montejo Torico on the violin and Jairus James Esteves, Kryzielle Anne Beratio, and Yzabelle Clarizze Lanit on the cello as collaborating artists. Gian Paolo Barayuga led the ensemble as its guest conductor.

"Music builds bridges, it connects, it destroys barriers. Because the only barrier that exists is the barrier we create in our lives," Mrs. Sheryl Ann De Dios remarked as she closed the program. Indeed, "music gathers everyone from different walks of life."

Dr. Lerie Dellosa, the Department's ever-supportive sponsor from the University of Texas, graced the program.

GACCE Recognizes AUP Tradigital Fine Arts

The Global Artists' Creative Collaboration for Empowerment (GACCE) recognized the Tradigital Fine Arts Department during the "Aspire" international art exhibit at Ricardo's Galleria Al Fresco in Amadeo, Cavite on July 24-August 3, 2023.

GACCE is known as the first and only Fil-American State-registered art organization established in Silicon Valley, California. Initially sponsored by the New York Foundation for the Arts and now by Intersection for the Arts, San Francisco, GACCE is dedicated to promoting and enriching the appreciation of the arts, emphasizing the invaluable contributions of Filipino artists to the international art scene.

During the presentation of the creative placemaking and tala awards, the Tradigital Fine Arts Art Park of the Adventist University of the Philippines was recognized as a venue for "Creative Placemaking with Glocalization Approach." The Department's Art Park received a public declaration of support and endorsement from GACCE. The Tala Award for Social Impact-Social Justice Posthumous Award was granted to the late Reuben Abaya Pagaduan, a former chair of the Tradigital Fine Arts Department and contributor to GACCE, whose legacy resonates for generations to come. Ann Galeon Anolin received the award as a representative of the late Reuben Pagaduan.

Ann Galeon Anolin, the current chair of the Fine Arts Department, was granted the Tala Award for Social Impact-Social Justice Most Distinguished Awardee for her remarkable leadership and commitment to providing equal educational opportunities to students and faculty through active participation in the art community.

"It is the hope of GACCE to serve as a bridge that will connect each one of us to build a more sustainable and equitable community. As we 'aspire' to sustain and improve ourselves and our works, we will continue to advocate for social justice to highlight our role in society," chairman and founder of GACCE Dr. Bernadette Escalona-Cooper expressed.

John Merick Eupalao and Ann Galeon Anolin curated the international group

art exhibition of 27 delegates assisted by the Fine Arts Department faculty: Melanie Rose Cabalde and Francess Nicholeen Labrador.

As the event ended on August 3, 2023, the AUP Tradigital Fine Arts faculty, students, and alumni left an indelible mark on the international art scene, inspired creativity in Filipino artists, and fostered meaningful connections across borders.





CSC Dedicates Servant Leaders

It is God who has called you and chosen you. It is a sacred and spiritual responsibility," Dr. Gracel Ann Saban, vice president for academics, emphasized in her message during the oath-taking and dedication ceremony of the Council of Organization Leaders on September 8, 2023, at the Philippine International Church. Led by the Central Student Council, the event's theme was "Called and Chosen."

Dr. Saban's message centered around seven essential leadership lessons from biblical teachings. She emphasized the profound significance of being called and chosen, underscoring the role of commitment in this divine appointment. She prompted the student leaders to ponder what leadership truly means by recognizing God's impression and "us[ing] your power to extend God's love."

Dr. Saban reiterated the core values of exemplary service, which encompasses servant leadership. "Servant leadership is what we should emulate," she remarked. Through this, she encouraged student leaders to lead with God because "you cannot achieve true success without constantly connecting yourselves to God. That is the secret to a successful leadership."

Fely Rose Boquida, CSC vice president, presented the presidents and leaders of their respective colleges and organizations. Taking the call for service, David Agustin led the oath-taking.

The Council of Organization Leaders comprises college presidents, presidents of all religious organizations, music groups, non-profession groups recognized by the Student Services Office, and presidents of duly recognized associations of the University.



Esteemed AUP Alumna and Founder of Southeast California College, Honored as Best of 2023 in San Bernardino



Dr. Edna Domingo, a distinguished alumna of the Adventist University of the Philippines (AUP) and the founder of Southeast California College, was bestowed with a remarkable award. She was recognized as the "Best of 2023" in San Bernardino, a distinguished honor presented by the San Bernardino Award Program.

Under Dr. Domingo's exceptional leadership, the Southeast California College of Nursing was also celebrated as the "Best College of 2023." This recognition underscored her remarkable dedication to the field of education and her commitment to nurturing excellence within her institution.

Dr. Domingo earned her degree at the Philippine Union

College (now AUP) as a member of the Nursing Batch of 1972 and Master of Science in Nursing Batch of 1987. Her passion for education and dedication to nursing were evident as she served as a faculty member at the PUC College of Nursing from 1979 to 1987 as the lead faculty for Pediatric Nursing and taught Obstetric and Med-Surgical Nursing.



Dr. Domingo also served as a valued member of AUP's Board of Trustees from 2011 to 2015. Her insights, leadership, and dedication to the University's mission have been instrumental in shaping its growth and success.

The "Best of 2023" award presented to Dr. Domingo is a testament to the University's enduring commitments such as academic excellence and exemplary service. Her story inspires and exemplifies the University's mission to produce graduates who make a meaningful impact in the world and the world to come.

Psychology Faculty Attends 59th PAPCON 2023

The Psychology Department faculty attended the 59th Psychological Association of the Philippines Convention held on September 21-23, 2023, at the Legazpi Convention Center. The convention, with the theme, "PAP@60: Moving Forward Towards a Global, Scientific, Ethical, and Social Relevant Philippine Psychology," brought together professionals and scholars in psychology, including practitioners, researchers, educators, and learners from across the nation. The event spanned three dynamic days characterized by collaborative learning, knowledge-sharing, and a spirit of warm fellowship.

Among the attendees representing the Department were six esteemed faculty members: Dr. Sheryl Ann Castillo, Ms. Cutie Cañesares, Ms. Buenafe Olita, Dr. Rhalf Guanco, Dr. Mylene Gumarao, and Dr. Mrytle Grijalvo.

Dr. Mrytle Grijalvo, the chair of the Psychology Department, highlighted the significance of the event: "The convention provided updates to the Psychology faculty regarding the directions and plans for psychology practice in the Philippines. For instance, the new courses included in the board examination and the longer hours for practicum would greatly help the Department in the revisions of the curricula for graduate and undergraduate departments." These enhancements aim to serve better our students, the University, the Church, and the wider community.

Furthermore, Dr. Rhalf Jayson Guanco underscored the convention's broader impact on the journey toward an approach that is global, scientific, and socially relevant and embodies the essence of Philippine psychology. "By upholding scientific rigor, emphasizing social relevance, promoting inclusivity, and fostering collaboration, we can shape a psychology discipline that not only enhances our understanding of human behavior but also contributes significantly to the well-being of the Filipino people and well-being of the global community as a whole if we adopt a global perspective," he shared.



The Psychological Association of the Philippines (PAP), founded in 1962, is committed to promoting excellence in psychology's teaching, research, and practice and its recognition as a scientifically oriented discipline for human and social development. The PAP is the Accredited Integrated Professional Organization (AIPO) for registered psychometricians and psychologists of the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC). It is the oldest and largest professional organization of psychologists in the country.



CSC Jump-starts “Siklab” Recreational Games 2023

by: Reaneh Faith Cagampang

Through its Physical Development Council, the Central Student Council (CSC) kicked off the “Siklab” Student Recreational Games at the University gymnasium on September 17, 2023. The Student Recreational Games are conducted once every semester to foster sportsmanship and camaraderie among University students, faculty, and staff. Organized by the CSC, the games occurs every Friday from 12:00 noon to 3:00 p.m. and Sundays from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., culminating on November 19.

The festivities began with a vibrant parade as students from various colleges wound their way through AUP’s major thoroughfares starting at 7 a.m. on September 17.

During the devotional service, College of Theology faculty member Pastor Danilo Endriga, emphasized the symbolism of Jesus as the consuming fire, radiating His transformative power to bless others through individuals who allow His Spirit to be present in fellowships, devotionals, games, and activities.

Following the devotional, each college showcased its chants and muses with the panel of judges, including University president Arceli Rosario, CSC adviser Roger Fabroa, and Physical Education faculty member Jonalyn Aclon. Their assessments led to the College of Business (COB) securing third place, the College of Nursing (CON) placing second alongside its inflatable dinosaur mascot, and the College of Dentistry (COD) garnering first place with its elephant mascot.

Rhaesha Yu, the College of Arts and Humanities president, shared her experience during the event, stating, “It is different from the previous ones we had. The committee is doing its best to be organized and to have



the students enjoy the event. They want this to be alive; they want it to be active, and everyone to be active.” She further expressed that the event was a “ thumbs up, grade A, always.... I think [this is] something that we should continue.”

Dr. Rosario declared the CSC Recreational Games, SIKLAB 2023, officially open after the oath-taking and torch lighting. The games, which included basketball, volleyball, soccer, frisbee, badminton, table tennis, and lawn tennis, commenced around 1 p.m.



ADC Holds Acquaintance Program

The AUP Dormitory Circle held an acquaintance program with the theme: "A!D! Connect!" on September 16, 2023, at the University gymnasium. The event aimed to foster meaningful community connection and belongingness among dormitory students in their "home away from home."

The participants had banners and color-coordinated shirts representing six women's dormitories and six men's dormitories. In line with the theme, Pastor Noel Mariñas, dean of Dean of Apartments E, F, G, and H, spoke about the human need for connection and community during the devotional service.

During the acquaintance proper, the dormitory and apartment occupants engaged in games such as *The Boat is Sinking*, *Sack Race*, *Pop that Balloon*, and *Don't Let It Fall*. These games promoted teamwork and connection. Januaren Cortez, a dormitory occupant of Molave B, said, "The event was a lot of fun, and I hope to see more events like this."

Jean Pillar, president of the ADC, elaborated that the theme "A!D! Connect!" is an acronym for Amplify, Discover, and Connect. So, amplify the fun, discover each other, and connect with the community."



The AUP Dormitory Circle's "A!D! Connect!" event not only connected the dormitory and apartment occupants but also exemplified the spirit of unity and camaraderie. Mrs. Raquel Capiendo, the dean of the women's dormitories, expressed, "I am happy that dormitory occupants with their partner dorms enjoy knowing each other and building camaraderie."

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