

# AUP HIGHLIGHTS

The Official Newsletter of the Adventist University of the Philippines

AY 2023 - 2024 | Volume 13 Number 4 | November 2023



## University Opens the AUP Health Foods Outlet

The AUP Health Foods outlet opened on November 20, 2023, at 8 a.m. The event was witnessed by University administrators, faculty, staff, and some guests. Located along the Sta. Rosa-Tagaytay Road, the AUP Health Foods outlet stands at the former old gate of the University.

"AUP Health Foods will teach us and the people around us God's ways," AUP President Arceli Rosario stated during her devotional message. Focusing on the health message, she mentioned that it should be a center of influence. "Innovate!" she challenged the AUP Health Foods faculty and staff. "Strive for the highest level of service so that those who come here will have a Wow experience. They will see and taste that

the Lord is great!"

From the soft opening last February 2023 to the grand opening, Dr. Robert Borromeo, former vice president for finance, gave a brief history of the new venture and affirmed the message with a purpose. Indeed, it is not about the product served, but "this is about Jesus."

"We have big shoes to fill in. Let us share the good memories and food with others," Vice President for Finance Aileenmae Silverio expressed in response to the affirmation message.

Offering the AUP Health Foods outlet to the Lord, Philippine International  
(continued on page 5)



## University Hosts ACSCU Zonal Convention

The Adventist University of the Philippines (AUP) hosted the Association of Christian Schools, Colleges, and Universities (ACSCU) Zonal Convention of the National Capital Region and South Luzon on November 16, 2023. The convention themed "Leading and Communicating Innovations: Upholding Our Vision and Mission: Designing Innovative Programs" took place at the Finster Hall of Nations.

Bringing together 62 on-site delegates and 47 delegates participating online, 16 institutions were present: AUP, Berrea Arts and Sciences High School Inc., Blessings in the World Fellowship  
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School Inc., Herman Harrell Home School, Harris Memorial College, Grace Christian College Foundation, Grace Christian College, Faith Christian School, Manila Adventist College, Makati Hope Christian School, Lipa Adventist Academy, JCSGO Christian Academy, Trinity University of Asia, St. Stephens High School, Quezon City Christian Academy, and Philippine Christian University.

Drawing lessons from biblical narratives such as the building of the tower of Babel, the construction of the ark, and the crossing of the Sea of Galilee, Dr. Rosario shared a devotional message about collaboration models in the Bible. Emphasizing alignment to God's purposes, Dr. Rosario stated that "we should allow God to lead our projects and programs from the beginning to the end." Answering the question "How do we work together?" she proposed a model for effective collaboration. "We should be united in the Lord, with the Lord, and for the Lord," she concluded.

"May our discussions pave a way to advancements in academia . . . that our work be a reflection of Christ's purpose in our institution," Dr. Betty Cernol McCann, president of ACSCU and president of Silliman University, expressed gratitude for the delegates' presence in her welcome greetings. Dr. Kathleen Guimbatan, chairperson of ACSCU NCR/SL, welcomed each delegate and announced that the 2024 National Convention of ACSCU in May

will be hosted by AUP.

Keynote speakers were Dr. Ferdinand Bunag, dean of the College of Computer Engineering and Information Sciences of Trinity University of Asia; Dr. Mylene Gumaraao, chair of Graduate Psychology of AUP; and Dr. Rhalf Jayson Guanco, faculty of the Psychology Department of AUP.

Dr. Guanco delivered a lecture on navigating psychological well-being, urging Christian educators to lead by example in crafting innovative programs and sharing best practices. The focus was on commitment to the mission and vision while prioritizing personal well-being for adequate student support. "I would like to encourage you to wholeheartedly commit to leading our learners by example, to thrive and prioritize our well-being, ensuring that we are in the best possible position to extend genuine care and support to students entrusted to our care," he stated.

Dr. Gumaraao lectured about self-care strategies, including sleep, social support, forgiveness, and living one day at a time. The lecture was entitled: "Self-care for the Stressed Me." She said, "No matter how strong we are, we will tend to experience physical and mental fatigue." She emphasized that educators should be aware of one's boundaries and accept one's limitations.

Dr. Bunag discussed artificial Intelligence (AI) and its application to



education and research. He encouraged educators to stimulate the imagination of students in this age of AI technology. "Always encourage them to think of something that does not exist yet," he challenged. He further emphasized how adaptation to this emerging intelligence can help students use AI effectively in learning.

Dr. Gisela D. A. Luna, president of Trinity University of Asia, moderated a panel discussion with the lecturers. Christine Joy Tan, president of Grace Christian College, shared their best practices on robotics.

Dr. Guimbatan confirmed in the assembly the election of Dr. Christina Mañabat, president of Harris Memorial College and Dr. Arceli Rosario, president of AUP as ACSCU board members representing NCR/SL. They will be serving the association for three years.

The convention closed with cultural presentations and a campus tour led by the University, promoting innovations in Christian education across the NCR and South Luzon regions.







## Dr. Mendoza and Dr. Subido Represent AUP in the 2023 Global Healthcare Conference

Representing the Adventist University of the Philippines, Dr. Doris Mendoza, AUP College of Medicine dean, and Dr. Herminiano Subido, AUP College of Dentistry dean, attended the 2023 Global Healthcare Conference held on October 12-15, 2023 in Loma Linda, California. The conference, themed “Reflections, Renewal, and Resolutions,” gathered healthcare professionals, educators, and leaders.

Dr. Mendoza presented a pioneering study titled “Whole Person Care and Clinical Clerk Competencies—A Rapid, Self-Perception Survey.” This study sought to investigate the association of whole person care to clinical clerk competencies of AUP-COM Level 4 medical students during their clinical clerkship in their designated training hospitals.

Organized through the leadership of Dr. Richard Hart, LLU President, the conference showcased groundbreaking initiatives and collaborations.

One of the key moments of the conference was their involvement in the Consortium of Adventist Medical Education Leaders on October 12. Dr. Subido attended the dental breakout session with deans or directors of dental schools and dentist missionaries. Dr. Mendoza reported on the latest updates from AUP-COM, including insights into the ongoing teaching hospital project.

During the conference, on October 14, a tour took place on the new Loma Linda University Medical Center led by President Hart.



Dr. Mendoza also met the Alumni of Western North America leaders: Dr. Jose Manalo, incumbent president; Dr. Eppie Manalo and Carmelita Laoyan, former presidents. Their discussion revolved around the updates on the AUP teaching hospital project.





# Partido State University Students Enhance Nutrition and Dietetics Expertise Through AUP Internship

To enhance their food production and dietary skills, 21 nutrition and dietetics students from Partido State University in Goa, Camarines Sur, concluded their internship at the Adventist University of the Philippines. The internship spanned from October to November 27, 2023, and was conducted in collaboration with the University Health Foods and Food Service departments.

The students came in two batches—the first came in October and the second in November.

On their first day, Dr. Arceli Rosario, the AUP president, welcomed the students with a tour, led by the Advancement team, to the facilities where they would gain hands-on experience.

Mrs. Zenaida Valencia, the AUP Food Service head supervisor, served as their area coordinator. She oversaw the students' performance with various food production and service aspects.

As a part of their training, Mrs. Annelyn



Camato, PSU coordinator, actively observed the food service operations at the University. Being an Adventist herself, Mrs. Camato emphasized the importance of firsthand experience in understanding the health message associated with food production.

The students expressed their gratitude to the University for their immersion in the actual food service environment. Their reflections provide a glimpse into their valuable experiences during their internship:

"We wanted to experience the real work

of a registered Nutrition and Dietetics in food services. In the future, we will apply what we have learned from this institution."

"It was challenging at first because we were in a different place and met different people with different personalities, but it was full of valuable learning and experiences. We could share these experiences with our families and friends back home and to our work soon."

"Always be patient. It was hard dealing with the fast work pace and tired employees and colleagues. However, you must always think ahead and understand everyone you are with."

"It was a privilege to experience the skills we need to learn in the Food Service Department. Honestly, it was tiring but overflowing with knowledge. We learned how to serve, chop, and communicate with the other employees and supervisors. Overall, it was a good experience, and I will treasure it as I continue my journey as an ND student."

There are different characteristics and personalities I should consider. I faced situations that were challenging to handle, but I always reminded myself to be patient and considerate."



# COE Conducts Campaign Against Dangerous Drugs

By: Allyzah Chloe F. Bacus

The College of Education launched a campaign against dangerous drugs at the COE Building on November 10, 2023. Attended by COE students, faculty, and staff, the attendees gained awareness through the expertise of the City Anti-Drug Abuse Council, Pasay City (CADAC), Adventist Medical Agency, and the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA).

The guest speakers of the seminar were Mr. Jerwin B. Botabara, para legal officer of CADAC; Mr. Daniel Alfano III, executive director of CADAC; Mr. Joe Rey T. Dayahan, vice president of nursing services at the Adventist Medical Agency; and Ms. Brenda Joy Pollisc, provincial director of PDEA. During this initiative, the resource



speakers highlighted the dangers of harmful drugs to future educators. They emphasized the health and legal consequences of these substances.

The speakers discussed further legal actions and procedures for drug use, possession, transport, and abuse. Mr. Botabara explained: "The mere possession of drugs is already a crime... *Kahit nasa labas ka lang ng bahay ninyo at hindi mo alam na nagpo-pot session*

*mga kaibigan mo sa loob ng bahay ninyo, damay ka pa rin.* (Even if you are just outside your house and have no clue that your friends are having a pot session there, you'll still be arrested.)"

Mr. Alfano III elaborated the health risks of using illegal drugs. He pointed out how one could know if a particular person is under the influence of drugs on the physical and mental/behavioral aspects.

## University Opens... (from page 1)

Church Senior Pastor Lani Esteves gave a prayer of dedication. Pastor Esteves sought support for the venture, emphasizing that everything within the outlet centered around a higher purpose.

The AUP Health Foods outlet officially opened as VPF Mrs. Silverio, Dr. Borromeo, Health Foods Director Mr. Sanny Carpizo, and General Manager for Auxiliary Services Mr. Wedrick Ian Rodelas cut the ribbon.

The AUP Health Foods' opening signifies a milestone in the University's commitment to promoting health. It underscores its dedication to fostering a community grounded on faith and well-being.







## College of Theology Attends the 26th AIIAS Theological Forum

The College of Theology participated in the 26th AIIAS Annual Theological Forum with the theme “Theodicy: God’s Justice in an Unjust World,” which transpired on November 9-11, 2023. There were 45 participants from AUP: 9 faculty and 36 students. The forum provided an opportunity for scholars and theologians to discuss and explore issues related to theodicy, about God’s power, benevolence, and love in the face of evil in this world.

During the breakout sessions, Pastor Lowel Domocmat, COT dean, Pastor Ryan Martinez, Dr. Glenn Jade Mariano, and Pastor Francis Ray Gayoba presented studies aligned with the forum’s overarching theme.

The presented studies included:

- “God Vindicating Himself: The Cosmic Conflict and God’s Honor” by Pastor Domocmat

- “Understanding Theodicy in the Writings of Ellen G. White: Insights from Her Personal Experience of Loss” by Pastor Martinez
- “Theodicy of Sacrifice and High Priestly Ministry of Christ in Hebrews 9:11-28” by Pastor Mariano
- “Rest, Freedom, and Justice for All: Theodicy Through the Lens of the Sabbath” by Pastor Gayoba

Rosario, AUP president, served as the guest plenary lecturer on November 11. Representing the SSD Research Team, commissioned by the General Conference to conduct the Global Church Member Survey, she presented their study entitled “Generational Differences in Altruistic Concern Among Seventh-day Adventists in Different Majority Religious Contexts: A Cross-Regional Analysis in the Context of Theodicy.”

Extended beyond the forum sessions, the COT faculty and students embarked on a meaningful tour of the Philippine Publishing House (PPH) after the afternoon sessions.

Gracing the forum, Dr. Arceli



# President Rosario and VP Saban Pays a Courtesy Call to Sahmyook University President

In a recent initiative aimed at fortifying connections and identifying avenues for collaboration, AUP President Dr. Arceli Rosario and VP Academics Dr. Gracel Ann Saban visited Sahmyook University in Seoul, South Korea, on November 1, 2023.

The visit was highlighted by a courtesy meeting with Sahmyook University President Sung Ik Kim to forge connections for potential collaborative ventures and strategic initiatives.

Simultaneously, on the same day, a follow-up meeting ensued with the

SUMOK Edu Co. The discussions made during this meeting were aligned with the goal of increasing enrolment, particularly of Korean students into the college programs.

Dr. Rosario and Dr. Saban were resource speakers of the 2023 NPUC-Wide Secondary Teachers' Convention on October 29-November 3, 2023, which was themed, "Listen like Jesus and Live A Virtuous Life: Staying Emotionally Healthy and Spiritually Alive." This summit was attended by 91 principals and teachers of Adventist elementary schools and education leaders of NPUC.



## Congratulations

to our new **NUTRITIONIST & DIETITIANS**

 JILLIAN E. ALCANTARA, RND	 ZARAH M. CABIT, RND	 SALDOEYLN G. DE LA CRUZ, RND	 JEZIEL A. LAURELES, RND
 MARRICK ILES L. LARENA, RND	 VINCE BOL C. MOPIA, RND	 VILMA N. NOVENO, RND	 GISELLE R. PARAJAS, RND
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 BLANZ RHEA FEA L. SABORNIDO, RND	 NOIRHE FAITH L. SIBON, RND	 AJA B. TIBAY, RND	 KRISTINE JOY R. VELASQUEZ, RND

November 2023  
Nutritionist Dietitian  
Licensure Exam

**AUP PASSING RATE**

**94.12%**  
(FIRST-TIME TAKERS)

**88.89%**  
(OVERALL PASSING RATE)

**NAT'L. PASSING RATE**

**73.48%**

*To God be the glory!*

**AUP**  
College of Health  
NUTRITION & DIETETICS  
DEPARTMENT

## COH-ND Passes NDLE 2023

The College of Health-Nutrition and Dietetics Department passed the November 2023 Nutritionist Dietitian Licensure Exam, administered by the Professional Regulatory Commission on November 23-24, 2023.

The Department achieved 94.12% passing rate among first-time takers and 88.89% overall performance rate, surpassing the national passing rate of 73.48%.

Some of the passers reflected on conquering this milestone praising the Lord:

"Sobra akong na distract kasi lahat ng inaral ko for 4 months, 2% lang yung lumabas. Sa pangalawang set ng exam, medyo tumatak na sa isip ko na 'di ko ma-ipapasa ito, sabi ko sa sarili ko. (I got overly distracted because maybe only 2% of what I studied for the past 4 months came out. And in the second

set of exams, it's starting to register in my mind that I might not be able to pass this, I told myself.) But praise God, he has brought me this far *bilang isang working student* (as a working student.)"

-Vilma Noveno, RND

"It was during these trying times that I consistently sought divine guidance, turning to my faith to help me navigate through the obstacles."

-Marrick Iles Larena, RND

"I started as a working student in AUP, the process was not that easy but praise God for His sustaining grace. I graduated. *Isang paalala ulit na kahit sa pag-tatapos ko sa pag-aaral ay patuloy na may pag-asa pag sa Dios magtiwala* (A reminder once again that even in finishing my studies, there is still hope as long as I trust in God.) It has been a long journey for me and I credit all this milestone to the Lord. For indeed, even from the beginning until the end, He never fails to be a God to me. I did not expect that my name would be on the list of NDLE passers. Throughout this journey, I owe everything to the Lord."

-Gladys Princess Pascual, RND



# Psychology Department Collaborates with PAP and PWD-SIG for TheraFur

In partnership with the Psychological Association of the Philippines and the Person with Disabilities Special Interest Group, the Adventist University of the Philippines-Psychology Department collaborated for a community-based event themed “TheraFur” at the Elementary Gymnasium on November 19, 2023, from 1-5 p.m.

With 80 attendees and volunteers, the event aimed to provide a unique blend of therapeutic activities and the comforting presence of furry companions, combining therapy and fur, hence the term TheraFur.

Dr. Kay Sacdalan, chairperson of the Psychological Association of the Philippines’ Person with Disabilities-Special Interest Group, graced the occasion by welcoming the participants together with Dr. Myrtle Orbon, chair of the Psychology Department.

Dr. Rhalf Jayson Guangco, Psychology Department faculty, shared a message about the positive effects of having a pet on one’s mental health.



The therapy activities were Paws of Fame, Photobooth, Furdom Wall, Games with Fur Buddies, and Commissioned Painting of Pets.

Pet Options and Happy Endings Pet Salon came as sponsors of the event. Dr. Abraham Moses Suyoy, brand manager of Pet Options, delivered a heartfelt message on responsible pet care, underlining the significance of nurturing the well-being of our animal companions.



“TheraFur” served as a platform for therapeutic activities and underscored the positive impact of animal companionship on mental health and overall well-being. The event exemplified the spirit of community engagement and collaboration, bringing together individuals from diverse backgrounds to share in the joy of companionship and support.



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