

dup HIGHLIGHTS

The Official Newsletter of the Adventist University of the Philippines

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University Bags Awards During the 2023 CHED IV-A IZN Awards Night

The Adventist University of the Philippines was honored with three prestigious awards during the 2023 Commission on Higher Education Regional Office IV CALABARZON Internationalization Awards Night. The ceremony took place at De La Salle Lipa gymnasium on December 14, 2023 and was attended by presidents,

vice presidents, and representatives of higher education institutions.

In recognition of the exceptional commitment to holistic development through extension and outreach programs, fostering collaboration among international institutions, the University received three

prestigious awards: Top 1 Performing HEI in Internationalization for Community Extension, Theological Accreditation Award, and Medal of Distinction Lifelong Medical Missionary Service Award.

The top 5 Performing HEIs in Internationalization for Community

Extension were (1) AUP, (2) De La Salle Lipa, (3) Cavite State University, (4) Southern Luzon State University, and (5) University of Perpetual Help System-Laguna.

Dr. Gracel Ann Saban, vice president for academics, and Dr. Reuben Carpizo, accreditation director, received the awards. These accolades recognized AUP's unwavering support for the internationalization of Philippine higher education through exemplary initiatives and accomplishments on national and international fronts.



Indonesian Embassy Explores Partnership with Center for Graduate Studies

Strengthening educational ties, the Indonesian Embassy-Religious Affairs Division did a courtesy meeting with the Center for Graduate Studies on December 6, 2023 to explore potential collaborations. Prof. Aisyah Endah Palupi, Education and

Culture Attaché; Prof. Achmad Syahid, Minister of Religious Affairs Jakarta Director; Dr. Gracel Ann Saban, vice president for academics; Dr. Susy Jael, assistant vice president for academics; Dr. Mylene Gumarao, Graduate Psychology chair;

discussed the possibility of establishing a partnership with the AUP Graduate Studies. The Indonesian embassy will recommend the University to Indonesian nationals, starting with the Graduate Psychology program.

University Honors the Late Dr. Romulo Valdez with a Book Launch

A book launch was held at the Finster Hall of Nations to present the autobiography of the late Dr. Romulo Valdez, who was a distinguished alumnus of the University and one of its major donors. The book titled "Winning with God" was launched on December 1, 2023. The event was attended by administrators, librarians, some faculty and staff, along with the Valdez family, including Romelyn Valdez-Woodruff, Nicette Valdez-Balukjian, Nicole Amber Woodruff, Joshua Hamilton Valdez-Woodruff, and Bradley James Balukjian.

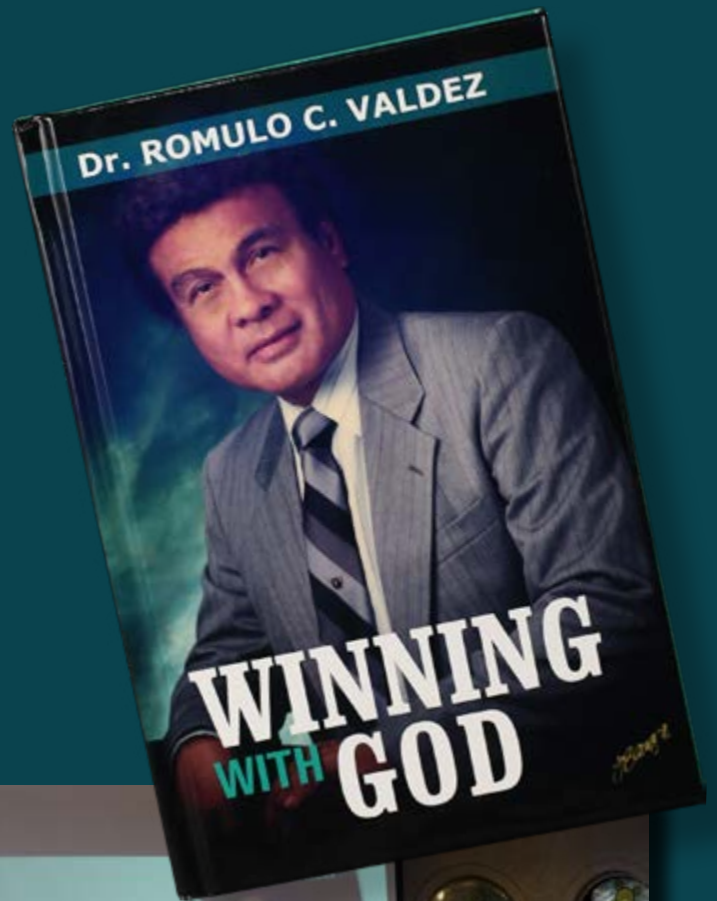
Mrs. Maureen Mariñas, the administrative assistant for planning and institutional effectiveness opened the event with her invocation. Mr. Oemer Rey Daquila, advancement director, welcomed the attendees, especially the Valdez family.

Shari Daffodil Abellanosa and Chloe Bacus, College of Education students, offered a special music. Then, Dr. Arceli Rosario, the University president, delivered an inspiring message reflecting on God's goodness in the life of Dr. Valdez.

On behalf of Dr. Valdez, his two daughters introduced the book's background and history. Published in 2021, the book was a collective project of the family in realization of Dr. Valdez's dream. The family did the editing and publishing of the book. The sole purpose was to share the remarkable life of their father and to keep his legacy alive.

Dr. Michelle Carbonilla, the director of libraries, accepted the book, which would be placed in the records section of the JLDM Library. This will allow students and other stakeholders of the University to access it easily. During the book dedication ceremony, Pastor Lani Esteves, the senior pastor of the Philippine International Church, prayed for the family and the book's influence on its readers.

Dr. Valdez served as the president of the PUC/AUP Alumni Association from 1989-1992. He had been an active member of the PUC/AUP Alumni Association for three decades. Dr. Valdez and his wife donated the Student Services Office building.



AUP Hosts CODEB 4A Board Meeting

To strengthen ties and foster collaboration among educational institutions, the Adventist University of the Philippines hosted the Council of Deans and Educators in Business–Region IV-A (CODEB 4A) Board meeting on December 10, 2023, at the Center for Graduate Studies. The event saw the convergence of esteemed officers, including college deans and presidents from various colleges and universities in Region IV-A.

Dr. Gracel Ann Saban, vice president for academics, welcomed the guests, namely:

1. Dr. Rosalie A. Bautista - ACLC College Calapan
2. Dr. Lualhati P. Sausa - Adventist University of the Philippines
3. Dr. Bendalyn M. Landicho - Batangas State University-Main Campus
4. Dr. Rogel L. Limpiada - Colegio dela Ciudad de Tayabas
5. Dr. Zosimo D. Maglangit, Jr. - International Peace Leadership College
6. Dr. Amado L. Magsino - International Peace Leadership College
7. Dr. Christopher Dennis Catapang - Lyceum of the Philippines-Laguna
8. Dr. Flormando P. Baldovino - Manuel S. Enverga Institute Foundation
9. Dr. Maryflor M. Uber - National College of Business and Arts
10. Dr. Fernando T. Pendon III - Pamantasan ng Cabuyao
11. Dr. Jess Jay M. Sajise - Redlink College
12. Dean Mikee V. Constantino - Sumulong College of Arts and Sciences
13. Dr. Marianne D. Atinaja - University of Perpetual Help System–Molino



The gathering aimed to facilitate meaningful discussions on academic initiatives, share best practices, and explore opportunities for collaborative projects that would benefit the academic community in the region.

Pastor Martin Seals Deed of Donation for AUP

Pastor Benjamin Martin, one of the major benefactors and alumni of the University, formally sealed a deed of donation with the Adventist University of the Philippines at the Riviera Golf and Country Club Subdivisions on December 15, 2023.

Advancement director Oemer Rey Daquila and Legal Officer Rey Laberinto administered the seamless execution of this benevolent act. Mrs. Zenaida Martin, the wife of Pastor Martin, attested to the donation as one of the witnesses. The deed, made and executed



by Pastor Benjamin Martin, solidified his commitment to advancing Adventist Christian education through a generous donation of real property.

This act of philanthropy cements a lasting legacy and reaffirms the University's mission to provide quality education and foster a spirit of generosity among its stakeholders.

AUP DevCom Visits UPLB CDC

The Development Communication Department of the Adventist University of the Philippines visited the Development Communication (CDC) of the University of the Philippines-Los Baños College on December 1, 2023.

Twenty students with faculty members and staff—Dr. Juvy Lou Bhatrai, Dr. Jervenesense Florece, and Ms. Charyse Vine N. Unggay—

had an educational tour on the Knowledge Management Office of the UPLB College of Public Affairs and Development, Development Innovations and Policy Laboratory, Radyo DZLB in the Department of Development Broadcasting and Telecommunication, CDC Library.

Furthermore, the DevCom students observed and experienced guesting in a live broadcast of DZLB News, one of the programs of the CDC, and shared interaction with CDC students in media production and community fieldwork. They also had a courtesy call with Dr. Maria Stella C. Tirol, CDC dean, for possible collaborations.



Photo credit: UPLB Devcom

NLM Forms Alumni Chapter

The Northern Luzon Mission met at the Adventist University of the Philippines gymnasium during the NPUC-wide Ministerial year-end program on December 13, 2023.

At the gathering, the NLM Alumni Chapter was established, and its officers were elected. The group of elected officials includes the following: Pastor Ismael Cabason, president; Pastor George Perdido, vice president-religious; Pastor Oliver De Vera, vice president-social;



Rowena Estraña, secretary; Jolly Amor Bacate, treasurer; Jomillito Atazar, public information officer; and Jay Rupenta, auditor.

Fifty-three COE Graduates Passed the LEPT 2023

Fifty-three College of Education graduates passed the the September 2023 Licensure Exam for Professional Teachers. The results were released by the Professional Regulatory Commission on December 7, 2023.

For the elementary level, 11 takers passed, achieving a 90.91% passing rate for first-time takers and 91.67% overall performance against the 47.01% national passing rate.

For the secondary level, 42 takers passed, exhibiting a 90.48% passing rate for first-time takers and 76.36% overall performance against the 56.27% national passing rate.

Some Teachers of Tomorrow testified how they experienced the work of education in their lives firsthand and shared some encouraging words:

"Indeed, it is a wonderful thing to lift the name of the Lord our God and give Him thanks and praise. His love for us is immeasurable, and His mercy knows no bounds." - Angelyn Bacayo

"To become a licensed teacher, discipline is what you need not lose sight of." "To all dreamers, see God first day and night. Do

God's will for you and do something you are passionate about to effectively make a difference to the people around you. Discipline yourself also in everything you instill in your mind and take action for it so that your dream will turn into reality. If you think you can't do

it, trust God, and He'll make it possible for you. Breakthroughs will come to those who chase their dreams with grit and a positive outlook." - Christopher Gatdula



VOY Unstoppable Reaches the Unreached in Central Luzon, South-Central Luzon, and Cavite Mission

The Adventist University of the Philippines (AUP) deployed 29 groups for the Voice of Youth Unstoppable 2023 initiative throughout the territory of Central Luzon Conference (CLC), South-Central Luzon Conference (SCLC), and Cavite Mission (CM). The deployment, from December 8 to December 23, 2023, aimed to spread messages of hope and faith across these regions.

The VOY Unstoppable mission groups reached the following territories:

- CLC: Rizal (3 groups), Aurora (3 groups), Zambales, Pampanga, Rizal (4 groups),
- SCLC: Quezon, Mindoro (8 groups), Batangas
- CM: Cavite (8 groups)

VOY Unstoppable December 2023 Baptism Updates

The impact of AUP's efforts was particularly notable in the realm of spiritual growth, as reflected in the baptism numbers reported a total of 137 baptisms:

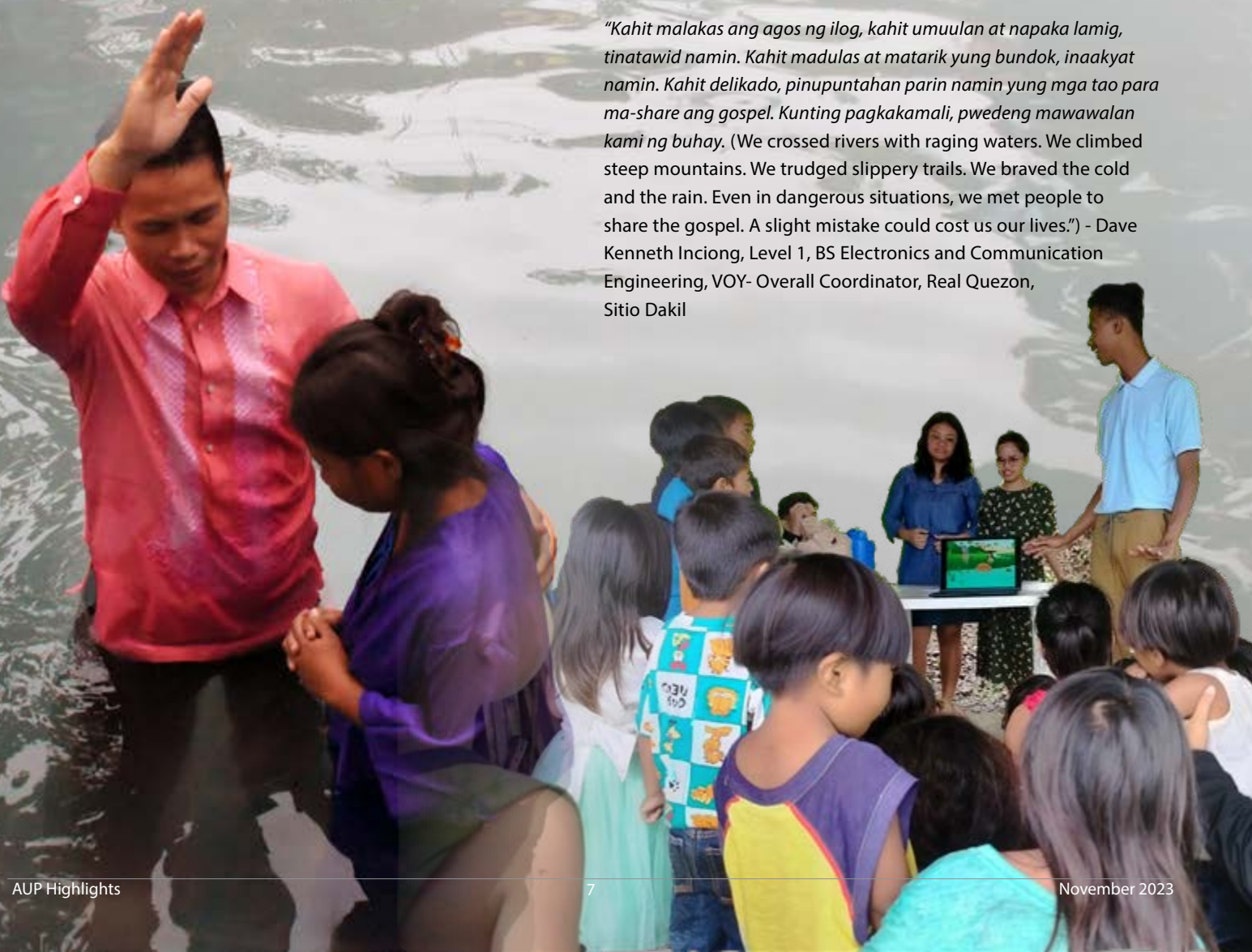
- CM: 29 Baptisms
- SCLC 53 Baptisms
- CLC: 55 Baptisms

The commitment of the University and its dedicated students to spreading hope and faith has resulted in a remarkable spiritual harvest during the festive season of December 2023. Reflecting on these experiences, some students shared their testimonies on how they were able to feel the working of the Holy Spirit through their encounters with the community.

"Every time the Voice of Youth program takes place, there will be different members, churches, problems, and circumstances. But one thing remains constant...though we may become faithless, He remains faithful." - Jonas Louis Ranas, Level 3, COT, VOY Role – Speaker, Golden City, Dasmariñas, Cavite

"You might be new or do not have enough experience to do something that God has assigned you, but remember that God has already prepared you in the past and will empower you in the present and will still be with you in the future." - Noel Andrei Nuga, Level 1, Information Technology, VOY Role - Documentation Voice of Youth Assignment, Mabuhay City, Dasmariñas, Cavite

"Kahit malakas ang agos ng ilog, kahit umuulan at napaka lamig, tinatawid namin. Kahit madulas at matarik yung bundok, inaakyat namin. Kahit delikado, pinupuntahan parin namin yung mga tao para ma-share ang gospel. Kunting pagkakamali, pwedeng mawawalan kami ng buhay. (We crossed rivers with raging waters. We climbed steep mountains. We trudged slippery trails. We braved the cold and the rain. Even in dangerous situations, we met people to share the gospel. A slight mistake could cost us our lives.)" - Dave Kenneth Inciong, Level 1, BS Electronics and Communication Engineering, VOY- Overall Coordinator, Real Quezon, Sitio Dakil



Kumukutikutitap 2023 Year-End Thanksgiving Program Illuminates AUP Campus with Joy and Gratitude

The University gymnasium glowed on December 12 as the University faculty and staff held its Kumukutikutitap 2023 Year-End Thanksgiving Program. The celebration, marked by a series of heartwarming events led by the University Socials Committee, brought together the AUP community to reflect on the year's many blessings.

The festivities started with a delightful kids' time at 2:15 pm, setting the stage for the main program starting at 3:30 pm. The highlight of the event was the Parol Making Contest, which elicited enthusiastic participation from 12 departments and colleges, including CAH, COB, CST, CON, COM, COH, Cafeteria, Maintenance, Academy, General Administration, and the Student Services.

The Parol Making Contest winners were the following:

1st Place: Maintenance Department

2nd Place: Academy

3rd Place: General Administration with Research Office and Accreditation Office

People's Choice Award: Maintenance Department

The dazzling parols showcased the creativity, resourcefulness, and teamwork of the AUP community.

AUP President Arceli Rosario expressed gratitude during the closing ceremony. She remarked, "Let us look forward with great courage. God, who has been with us, will always be with us."

She extended heartfelt thanks to the retirees, recognizing their significant contribution to the University. She urged faculty and staff to express gratitude to the retirees because "AUP cannot be what it is today without their dedication."

The event closed with the faculty and staff lining up to receive their bonus. Then everyone went to their own homes blessed and grateful.



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Prepares People for Heaven*

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