

dup HIGHLIGHTS

The Official Newsletter of the Adventist University of the Philippines

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Administrative Assistants and Associates Embrace God's Mission During the Dedication Ceremony

With the theme "Embracing God's Mission," the new administrative assistants and associates gathered for a dedication service on January 5, 2024 in the Philippine International Church.

Mrs. Aileenmae Silverio, vice president for finance, remarked that the dedication service serves "as a symbolic stepping stone in the journey of leadership and service

within the family of faith."

Drawing from biblical passages including Matthew 16:24–25 and Mark 9:33–35, Dr. Ginger Ketting-Weller, the Adventist International Institute of Advanced Studies president and





guest speaker, emphasized God's transformative work in the lives of His children. "It is only when the work of humility is done in you that you will be an effective leader for God's children and God's organization." She underscored the importance of humility and servant leadership, urging them to avoid the temptation of comparison and instead follow the example set forth by Jesus Christ.



"Follow me. Be last of all. Be a servant of all," she reiterated, highlighting the far-reaching effect of embodying the principles of the kingdom of God in both mission and leadership endeavors.

"I charge you that you be strong, that you show yourself a man, show yourself a woman, and that you observe what the Lord our God requires of you," Dr. Arceli Rosario, the university president, charged the new administrative assistants and associates, drawing inspiration from the charge of King

David to his son Solomon as outlined in Joshua 1:6-9. She also emphasized that "the Lord will enable you to do great responsibilities so that in this University you will say, 'there is God in this place.'"

Carrying with them the charge to embrace God's mission in humility, courage, and unwavering dedication, the associates and assistants then took their oath and signed their commitment led by Dr. Gracel Ann Saban, vice president for academics.



AUP Alumni Establishes SCLC Alumni Subchapter

With the leadership of Dr. Joyosthie Orbe, the national alumni chapter president, and Mrs. Ardel Sarmiento, the advancement recruitment officer, the South-Central Luzon Conference (SCLC) alumni subchapter was organized during the SCLC worker's meeting on January 29, 2024 in San Pablo, Batangas.



Along with the establishment of the SCLC alumni subchapter was the election of its officers. The newly elected officers are the following: president, Esther Fadriquela; vice president, Dave Pedrosa; secretary, Joshua Aniban; and public information officer, Marvin Ganoya.

The event was attended by around 37-40 alumni. After the officers were elected, Mrs. Sarmiento presented the objectives of the subchapter and promoted the week-long celebration of the University's founding anniversary.



AUP President Arceli Rosario Empowers Students in Their Academic and Personal Journey With Eight Tips

Where are you going? How do you get there? These were the two questions AUP President Dr. Arceli Rosario centered her message on during the students' convocation in the Philippine International Church on January 12, 2024.

She believed that each student, faculty, and staff was "God's miracle to AUP," emphasizing this point with stories on how God had brought them to the university.

Using the flight metaphor, she shared eight insightful tips on how to navigate through academic and personal journeys with God's leading:

First, she urged them to "know where you are going." She emphasized reflective thinking, having calculated steps towards one's purpose, and avoiding *suroy-suroy*, a Bisaya word which is translated as "wandering around."

Second, President Rosario urged students to "take action" toward their aspirations. In context, she used *tabok*, a Bisaya word for "to cross," to illustrate how one should get to a destination. "How do I get there? Simple. Cross. *Tabok*.... Do you want to be a medical doctor? *Tabok*. Come to AUP and enroll. Do you want to be an IT? *Tabok*. Come to AUP and enroll."

Third, "get to the right terminal." President Rosario stressed the importance of discernment which will guide students to reach their intended destinations.

Fourth, "be prepared for surprises." President Rosario encouraged students to embrace unexpected twists and turns as opportunities for growth and resilience. "Enjoy detours. Delays can be a blessing. Cancellations can be blessings in disguise," she remarked.

Fifth, she emphasized not shoving one's way because "you have a reserved seat."

Sixth, she shared how one should make the journey a pleasant experience not only for oneself but also for others.

"You may experience turbulent times during your stay here at AUP, but do not be afraid. You are in safe hands, and the Lord will see you through." She reminded all of their capacity to overcome challenges with faith and perseverance: "You will get through the turbulence."

Finally, President Rosario invited everyone to "trust the Pilot," stressing that faith in God will lead all to their destinations, but especially the ultimate destination—heaven.

"Jesus has planned a good and bright future for each one of you." President Arceli Rosario left students with a powerful reminder of the guiding presence of Jesus—the Way, the Truth, and the Life—as they journey towards the fulfillment of their dreams and their success in the University.



AUP Welcomes SiCAP Officers for an Endorsement Meeting

The Adventist University of the Philippines convened with the Silang Cavite Association of Private Schools (SiCAP) on January 5, 2024 at the Center for Graduate Studies.

Mrs. Ardelma Sarmiento, the Advancement Recruitment officer and former AUP Academy principal, endorsed to the Association Dr. Gracel Ann Saban as the University vice president for academics and Ms. Janeth Bacomo as the newly appointed AUP Academy principal.

The Association also deliberated on its purpose, objectives, benefits for members, and its role in serving the Silang municipality's private schools as part of its commitment to support the Association.

Additionally, Mrs. Eileen Sison, the SiCAP president, outlined the



schedule for the school campaigns in the private schools in Silang, Cavite.

The SiCAP officers—Amor Aure Parra, Charlyn Nadua, Eileen Sison, Freddie Murillo, Janeth Bacomo, Jed Belardo, Josephine Gupta, Ludith Lin, and Marife Caraan Quinones—were present during the meeting.

The endorsement meeting fostered a significant step towards collaboration between the Adventist University of the Philippines and SiCAP.

COB-CES Empowers Kawayan Community in Puting Kahoy

The College of Business-Community Extension Services (COB-CES) program empowered the Kawayan Community on January 29, 2024 in Puting Kahoy, Silang, Cavite. This event aimed to provide livelihood opportunities and valuable training programs for local residents.

The event commenced with the welcome remarks from Mr. Mario Marqueses, the barangay captain of Puting Kahoy, and Dr. Eunice Carpizo, the COB-CES director.

The program featured various training sessions to equip the participants with practical skills and knowledge. Pastor Moises de Ocampo led a candle-making session, providing insights into a potential income-generating activity for the community. Mr. Jeffrey Amoguis, COB faculty, and Mr. Neptali Bacons, COB Graduate Studies student, conducted an entrepreneurship training. Another training given by Mr. Jeric Dindo Baylon and Mr. Niño Sabuero, both BS-Accountancy students, was on cost accounting. They focused on enhancing the participants' understanding of budgeting and financial planning. Additionally, Mr. Vincent Uy Cana and Mr. Francis Jimenez, BS-Business Administration students, shared their knowledge on the fundamental principles of marketing strategies and consumer behavior, specifically the "4 P's of Marketing."



By empowering the residents with valuable skills and knowledge, the College's initiative to extend its expertise and resources to the Kawayan Community cultivated community growth and livelihood opportunities.



Adventist University of the Philippines College of Dentistry



DR. JOENEL GEM ALVARICO



DR. KYLE CYRA CONTRERAS



DR. JERICK LUDFRED FALCULAN



DR. NELISON JOHN FOFUE



DR. ZION TAGLE ILAGAN



DR. GOLD LEMON PERIGO

Congratulations!

November 2023 Dental Licensure Examination Passers

**71.43% PASSING RATE
FOR FIRST TIME TAKERS**

**43.88% NATIONAL
PASSING RATE**

6 COD Graduates Passed the Licensure Examination for Dentists

Six College of Dentistry graduates passed the November 2023 Licensure Examinations for Dentists. The board results were released by the Professional Regulatory Commission on January 17, 2024. In this two-part examination—with the written phase held on November 28–30, 2023 and the practical phase on January 4–11, 2024—the College of Dentistry achieved a remarkable 71.43% passing rate for first-time takers against the 43.88% national passing rate.

These six doctors are Dr. Joenel Gem Alvarico, Dr. Kyle Cyra Contreras, Dr. Jerick Ludfred Falculan, Dr. Nelison John Fofue, Dr. Zion Tagle Ilagan, and Dr. Gold Lemon Perigo.

Exemplifying excellence in dentistry, some of the passers shared their journey:

“Someone told me that the board exam is 99% faith and 1% knowledge. I can attest that it truly tested my faith. During the exam, I imagined Jesus sitting beside me as if we were tackling each question together. Our exam was a 7-hour practical test, which proved to be my most challenging yet beautiful moment with Jesus.... That 7-hour exam was like a summary of my 8 years in dental school. While my first 2 years were marked by confidence and excitement, the subsequent years were full of doubts about my ability to succeed and questioning if dentistry was my true calling. Yet, here I am, by God’s grace. I was able to finish dentistry and am now a licensed dentist, a dream I fervently prayed for and relentlessly

pursued. I remained steadfast in my faith, trusting in God’s promises until they were fulfilled. I am a living fulfillment of that prayer—a licensed dentist.” —Dr. Kyle Cyra Contreras

“During my review days, I always lacked confidence that I would pass the board exams due to my academic standing at school. I kept on degrading myself but at the same time praying that I would pass. I told myself to give the best effort that I could give with no regrets. However, as the exam dates neared, I realized that I was praying to pass the boards while doubting God and myself. During the theoretical exam, my prayer was always, ‘Lord, I lay it all to you. *Kayo na po’ng bahala s’akin* (Please take charge of me)! Then the practical phase came and I thought it would be more bearable than the written phase, but I was wrong because I made mistakes in all five exams. And they were very obvious ones. After that, each day that passed felt very heavy and regrets weighed on me. Then I remembered my previous realization: ‘Pray and BELIEVE!’ So, each day I’d say, ‘I did my best; God will do the rest.’ For with God, nothing is impossible.’ Luke 1:37 was my go-to verse, and God did answer my prayers. He has proven that He will always be there for me and He will never forsake me.” —Dr. Nelison John Fofue



University Engages in Ten Days of Prayer

The Spiritual Development Office and the Prayer Ministries Department engaged in the annual “Ten Days of Prayer” with a series of nightly prayer meetings from January 10-20, 2024, centered on the theme “Priorities of Faith: Christian Virtues in Turbulent Times.” The meetings were held every 7 p.m. to promote spiritual revival through united prayer, daily Bible reading, and prayer requests.

On January 10-13, the first nightly meetings were conducted at the Philippine International Church. The speakers during the sessions, Pastor Danilo Endriga, CarlDave Pareja, Mr. Crely Flores, and Pastor Andresito Fernando, delved into various aspects of faith amidst challenging circumstances.

From January 14-16, the meetings were held in the ladies’ dormitories, men’s dormitories, student apartment housings, and faculty and staff houses.

Resource speakers for our separate nightly meetings were April Obon, Amethyst Manzano, Kheirn Pajarito, Kristel Rey, Mrs. Joyosthie Orbe, Mrs. Alpha Rombaoa, Mrs. Judith Rodelas, Mrs. Levy Fajanihan, Mrs. Ardelma Sarmiento, Mrs. Raquel Capiendo, Mrs. Lowelyn Barredo, Mrs. Melody Abacan, Mrs. Gladys Grace Cadao, Mrs. Rose Susada, Mr. Mark Manzano, Mr. Ferdinand Mendoza, Mr. Beryl Mergal, Mr. Jessrel Lagariza, Mr. Kervev Punay, Mr. Jonathan Perdido, Mr. Ramil Ramirez, Mr. Isabelo Susada, Mr. Crely Flores Jr., Pastor Alvin



Gasang, Pastor Elmer Lagarile, Mr. Juanito Carbonilla, Mr. Conrad Lo, Mr. Andoy Marlon, and Pastor Noel Mariñas. Furthermore, specific departments, such as General Administration, also organized their separate meetings, emphasizing the holistic participation and engagement of the University workforce.

On January 17-19, Dr. Sheryll Ann Castillo, Brother Michael Magdadaro, and Pastor Julio Amurao were the resource speakers at Philippine International Church in continuation of the third nightly meetings of the church congregation.

On January 20, Sabbath, Pastor Noel Mariñas expounded on the imperatives of faith in turbulent times. “In difficult times, find joy in hope, exercise patience, and never stop praying,” he concluded.

COE Dedicates 12 Teacher-Interns for the 2nd Semester, AY 2023–2024

by Jeremiah Fameronag

The College of Education dedicated twelve teacher-interns of the Kairos batch during the 2nd semester, AY 2023–2024. The pinning and dedication ceremony was held at COE Breezeway, Hian Tsin and Sui Lan Building, COE Complex on January 26, 2024.

As the ceremony’s guest speaker, AUP Academy principal Ms. Janeth Bacomo, reminded the teacher-interns: “God has plans for your life, which always happen in His perfect time!” She added, “Just trust His process.”

COE alumni Mr. Jonerey Mirasol and Ms. Jerah Mapute further encouraged the Kairos batch by recounting God’s perfect timing during their internship days. Afterward, COE Dean Jeremiah



Fameronag charged the teacher-interns to be brave, trust God, and “go ye therefore and teach.”

The pinning and coating ceremony followed. The pinning of the teacher-interns represented the culmination of their academic preparation and commitment to the teaching profession, while the coating ceremony symbolized the beginning of their commission to teach.

COE chaplain Pastor Rodel Arandia offered the dedicatory prayer and benediction for the 12 teacher-interns.

Adventist Lawyers of the Philippines Welcomes New Members

The Adventist Lawyers of the Philippines welcomed new Adventist lawyer members on January 20, 2024, at the Adventist University of the Philippines.

The group handled the Sabbath School program and shared their faith testimonies from the recent bar exam. Atty. Rachiel Singing, a graduate of AUP Batch 2019, shared her faith journey, emphasizing the power of prayer during her bar exam experience. Atty. Abigail Gramonte echoed similar sentiments. She recounted God's providence, including unexpected opportunities and divine guidance, leading her to pursue law.

Judge Valencia, the president of the Adventist Lawyers of the Philippines, underscored the role of Adventists lawyers' integrity and faithfulness in legal practice. Paraphrasing from the Education by Ellen White, he underscored: "The greatest want of the world is the want of Adventist lawyers—Adventist lawyers who will not be bought or sold, Adventist lawyers who in their inmost souls are true and honest, Adventist lawyers who do not fear to call sin by its right name, Adventist lawyers whose conscience is as true to duty as the needle to the pole, Adventist lawyers who will stand for the right though the heavens fall."

During the luncheon fellowship at the Finster Hall of All Nations, new lawyers continued to share their testimonies. Among the new lawyers welcomed into the association were Atty. Marielle Bia Alindogan, Atty. Bon Ardette Gomez, Atty. Abigail Gramonte, Atty.



Rachiel Singing, Atty. Jhimbol Pabalinas, Atty. Neil Harlin Abayon, Atty. Sunny Cientos, and Atty. Evin Villaruben.

The event was graced by Adventist legal figures such as Judge Joseph Valencia, former Cong. Harlin Abayon, Judge Francisco Mendiola, Atty. Gizelle Lou Fugoso, Atty. Rex Rosas, Atty. Florescinda Mae Varona, Atty. Elaine De Vera, Atty. Winlove Sandalo-Esperanza, Atty. Aldrin Estimo, Atty. Rey Benedict Ong, Atty. Homelo Estoque, Atty. Harlin Abayon, Atty. Regina Agno, Atty. Minnie Agno, Atty. Jun Sumagaysay, and Atty. Willy Sumagaysay. Attending via Zoom were Judge Chalmer Gevieso, Atty. Joel Ybañez, Atty. Dorothy D. Relloso-Deguit, Atty. Fritz Tagaloguin, Atty. Michelle Joy Itable, Atty. Andrew Estimo, Atty. RB Rogar, Atty. Kate Madayag, Atty. Nikki Catolico, Atty. Kym Nayre-Santiago, Atty. Carl de Liz Acosta, Atty. Donna Cher dela Cruz, Atty. Chito Castillo, Atty. Vic Sarmiento, and Atty. Roma Purino-Estrada.

The Adventist Lawyers of the Philippines welcomed new members by donning a pin, symbolizing their commitment to justice, integrity, and service to the Church.

Events & Announcements



CALL for PAPERS

Adventist University of the Philippines
Research Office

IRF

Theme: **Confluence: Connect, Collaborate, Create**

April 18, 2024
via ZOOM

International Research Forum

Dates to Remember			STRANDS
Deadline for ABSTRACT SUBMISSION	Deadline for FULL PAPER	Deadline for PPT/RECORDED PRESENTATION	
MARCH 1 2024	APRIL 1 2024	APRIL 12 2024	Allied Health Arts Business Education Humanities Sciences Technology

Registration Fees

Presenter Graduate Students Professionals	P500.00
Non-Presenter Graduate Students Professionals	P500.00
Undergraduate Students	P200.00

Link: <https://horntul.atoua.org>

FOR MORE INFORMATION

research-office@aup.edu.ph jballa@aup.edu.ph +63 49 541 1211 local 2351

Dr. Rosario Empowers Researchers at the 8th WCQR in Johannesburg, South Africa

AUP President Dr. Arceli Rosario served as a resource speaker at the 8th Annual World Conference on Qualitative Research (WCQR) on January 23-25, 2024, in Johannesburg, South Africa. The conference program includes keynote presentations, workshops, panel discussions, parallel communications, demo sessions, networking, and cultural activities.

After the WCQR2024 opening, Dr. Rosario, the first plenary speaker, gave a keynote talk about “Dealing with Quality in Indigenous Qualitative Research.”

On January 24, she did a demonstration presentation entitled “Formulating the Research Questions and the Interview Guide for Transcendental Phenomenology.” This topic is part of her advocacy, which is to equip qualitative researchers, particularly in conducting phenomenological studies. During her demo presentation, she gave exercises on formulating the research questions for transcendental phenomenology given different phenomena, followed by formulating the interview guide for the phenomenological interview.

The World Conference on Qualitative Research (WCQR) is an annual event that brings together researchers, world-renowned authors, and research groups from many countries, sharing their experiences with qualitative methods and research studies using qualitative



research designs. The WCQR is one of the most relevant platforms for discussing and disseminating the best scientific production in qualitative research.

The 8th WCQR in Johannesburg was organized by the Global Research Center for Academic Research in collaboration with the WCQR based in Portugal, the South African government, and other institutions.

Dr. Rosario and her husband met with friends such as Filipino missionaries and alumni in South Africa and parents of two AUP students—Matthew Charles and Addon Lutchman. They were welcomed with a big potluck at the house of Pastor and Mrs. Charles. The Rosarios also enjoyed visits to two game reserves where they saw the Big Five—lions, elephants, buffalos, leopards, and rhinos—and many other animals. Dr. Rosario said her best treat was seeing a herd of antelopes and zebras set in a field of wild yellow flowers.



EDITORIAL INFORMATION

AUP HIGHLIGHTS is a monthly newsletter of the Advancement Office

AUP HIGHLIGHTS STAFF

Oemer Rey T. Daquila
Advancement and Publication Director

Rodel D. Romero
Layout Artist

Charissa Uy
News Writer/Editor

AUP ADMINISTRATORS:

Dr. Arceli H. Rosario
President

Dr. Gracel Ann S. Saban
VP Academics

Mrs. Aileenmae G. Silverio
VP Finance

Dr. Julio C. Amurao
VP Student Services



Adventist University of the Philippines

*The School that Trains for Service and
Prepares People for Heaven*

Address: Puting Kahoy, Silang, Cavite
Tel No: (049) 541-1211
E-mail: admissions@aup.edu.ph
Website: www.aup.edu.ph