

# *AUP* HIGHLIGHTS

The Official Newsletter of the Adventist University of the Philippines

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## Raniag 2024 Shines at AUP 140th Graduation Exercises

The Adventist University of the Philippines celebrated its 140th graduation exercises with Raniag, Graduating Class of 2024, at the Philippine International Church on May 26, 2024.

Raniag, an Ilocano word, means “light” or “radiance.” It evokes a sense of brilliance and clarity, like a beacon cutting through the darkness. In its figurative sense, raniag symbolizes hope, guidance, and inspiration,

casting its glow on the external environment and the inner facets of life.

Atty. Randell Ty, the commencement speaker, delivered a stirring speech, urging the graduates to go beyond the confines of AUP and embrace the challenges awaiting them in the outside world. “Continue embracing the mindset of breaking the status quo,” urged Atty. Ty as he emphasized the importance of questioning norms and

taking calculated risks in pursuit of their dreams. He encouraged the graduates to remain grounded, humble, and grateful. He further expressed that gratitude is the most exquisite form of courtesy. “Shine on! The world awaits you,” he concluded.

Dr. Gracel Ann Saban, vice president for academics, presented 576 graduates of Raniag. Among them, 39 completed their graduation requirements in July 2023, 66

in December 2023, and 471 in May 2024. Raniag 2024 comprised of 5 graduates with an Associate in Arts degree, 457 with bachelor's degrees, 104 with master's degrees, and 10 with doctorate degrees. The graduates represented 26 countries. There were 75 international students from Indonesia (16), USA (11), China (7), Myanmar (6), Congo (4), Rwanda (3), Sri Lanka (3), Malaysia (3), Ghana (3), Angola (2), India (2), and Nigeria (2). Additionally, one graduate represented each of the following countries: Korea, Papua New Guinea, Uganda, Bangladesh, Palau, Tanzania, Colombia, Cameroon, Botswana, United Kingdom, Russia, Ukraine, and Syria. The rest, 501 graduates, represented the Philippines.

These graduates came from the following colleges:

College of Arts and Humanities = 95

College of Business = 155  
 College of Dentistry = 25  
 College of Education = 26  
 College of Health = 106  
 College of Nursing = 101  
 College of Science and Technology = 41  
 College of Theology = 27

The University granted 166 Latin awards: 98 cum laude, 47 magna cum laude, and 21 summa cum laude.

"You are A.C.E. Each of you is an ace," Dr. Arceli Rosario, the AUP president, charged the graduates by referencing academic excellence, Christ-like character, and exemplary service, the core values of Adventist education. She reminded them that they were A.C.E.s, each destined for excellence and greatness according to God's plan with a solemn duty—to anchor their

actions, thoughts, and emotions on the principles of the Bible. "I charge you, Raniag 2024, with all the love that I could give. I charge you to shine on, shine on forever."

The University shared its achievements throughout the Academic Year 2023–2024 and honored the topnotchers who excelled in their respective licensure examinations this year: Pittzman Jo Acosta, MTLE 2024 Top 7; Sheynireen Tanamal, NLE 2024 Top 10; Antonio Gayares, NLE 2024 Top 9; and Zynarik Tabelisma, NLE 2024 Top 3. Additionally, Jove Mil Marc Jimenez, Raniag 2024 class pastor, received the prestigious Alfonso and Lydia Roda Student Leadership Award for exemplifying the spirit of holistic Christian leadership that AUP instills in its students.

Embodying their batch name, Raniag donated lamp posts amounting to 250,000 to illuminate the Student Park. The gift and its location symbolize the light that guides and comforts students through their University journey. "AUP will ensure that your generosity will shine brightly for years to come," Mrs. Aileenmae Silverio, vice president for finance, responded.

"Raniag! Raniag! Raniag!" Jane Delos Reyes, class president, bid the University farewell on behalf of Class of 2024. The words echoed the sentiment of brightness and hope of Raniag as they continue to shine on and give glory to God in their future endeavors.



# AUP Academy Celebrates Eunoia at 105th Graduation Exercises

**E**unoia Class of 2024 of the Adventist University of the Philippines Academy (AUPA) celebrated its 105th Graduation Exercises on May 17–19, 2024. The batch name, Eunoia, means a state of beautiful thinking and optimism.

During the consecration service on the 17th, Pastor Jan Elexiz Mercado, Center for Digital Evangelism-Adventist World Radio assistant manager, shared three points on how the batch could be a eunoia for others: service, sacrifice, and solution. He invited the graduating class to “render service with a willing heart” and sacrifice by giving “full-time service to others and God.” In his last point, he underscored that Eunoia could bring solution to humanity’s perennial problem when they “bring them closer to Jesus.” Hence, he challenged the Class of 2024 to be close to God first before they could bring others to Him, because God is the ultimate source of eunoia.

Pastor Gerardo Cajobe, the AUP Board of Trustees chairperson, delivered the message during the baccalaureate service on the 18th. He empowered the graduating class with practical steps to cultivate eunoia in their lives. Pastor Cajobe’s sermon, aptly titled “REFLECT,” provided a roadmap for embracing beautiful thinking in daily life. The mnemonic served as a reminder about

the transformative power of faith and mindfulness: read and delve deeply into the Scripture, engage with God daily through prayer, foster relationships that encourage spiritual growth, list things to thank God for daily, extend help to others through volunteer work, choose media content that aligns with virtuous values, and track attitude and behavior.

During the commencement exercises on the 19th, Atty. Neil Abayon, who preferred to be viewed as tito or uncle, imparted a heartfelt advice to the graduands, whom he referred to as pamangkins or nieces/nephews. He urged them to relish the present moment while looking ahead with trust and optimism. His counsel emphasized the importance of embracing God’s plan, maintaining resilience in the face of challenges, and cultivating a spirit of service and selflessness.

Mrs. Janeth Bacomo, the AUPA principal, presented 131 graduands. The group comprised 16 from the Administration Business Management strand, 31 from the General Academic strand, and 84 from the Science and Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics strand. Dr. Arceli Rosario, the AUP president, declared Eunoia as graduates of AUPA.

“May we have a state of beautiful thinking, inspiring us to focus on the Lord and the Lord alone,” expressed Svetlannah Alexandra Maristela, Eunoia class president, in her farewell address. “Let us show that it is within us that beautiful minds flourish,” she concluded.





Class Song  
 “Chosen (Gipili)”  
 Lyrics: Zoe Meira T. Villaton & Floyd Aaron B. Ereñeta  
 Graduates

## Gipili 2024: AUP Elementary Graduates Embrace Their Chosen Purpose

You are gipili. You are pinili. You are chosen. You are God’s child, and He has chosen you to fulfill a purpose in this life,” AUP President Arceli Rosario stressed the true meaning of the batch name, Gipili 2024, in her commencement address during the AUP Elementary (AUPE) 78th Graduation Exercises at the Philippine International Church on May 16, 2024.

Gipili 2024 comprised 59 graduates who completed the Academic Year 2023–2024. Among the graduates, 19 went home with honors, 10 with high honors, and 2 with highest honors. Additionally, 4 graduated with special loyalty awards, 11 with loyalty awards, 4 with journalism awards, and 8 with sports awards.

Floyd Aaron Ereñeta led the class in the pledge of loyalty. Then, AUPE Alumni Association President Mormie Joseph Sarno urged the graduates to “remember the lessons you have heard here at AUP

Elementary, extend [them] far beyond the confines of the classroom” as he welcomed them into the esteemed alumni fold.

Class Treasurer Zaira Louella Fugoso, along with Class Assistant Treasurer Sophia Ysabella Castrillo, presented a substantial class gift of P40,000. This generous contribution will be used for the renovation, expansion, and air-conditioning of the AUPE gymnasium, a testament to their unwavering dedication to their alma mater.

In her farewell address, Class President DL



Marvi Harmony C. Morado encapsulated the sentiments of her peers as well as their gratitude for the transformative experiences and cherished memories they shared at AUPE.



# AUP College of Medicine Continues to Shine in the April 2024 Physician Licensure Examinations

**ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES-COLLEGE OF MEDICINE**

*Congratulations to our newly LICENSED PHYSICIAN MISSIONARIES!*

*To God be the glory!*

**April 2024 Physician Licensure Examination**

DR. CARL ANTHONY F. ABUEL	DR. JOHANNA DENICE M. ACLAN	DR. NATHANIEL JUDE C. AGLOSOLOS	DR. JEFFER BARNO BACANI	DR. TRISHA NOREEN BATHAN	DR. JERGEN P. BELVIS	DR. GUILTHER BICERA	DR. LYRA PAMELA VERA C. CABACANG	DR. YLLEN LAW CABLINDA
DR. PINKY F. CAMPOS	DR. GEPHER G. CANOY	DR. JANINE NOELLE F. DE CASTRO	DR. ALYSSA ANDRA FETALVERO	DR. ROVI ANNE H. FLORES	DR. REGINE GRACE C. GEALONE	DR. CLAUDETTE JANE A. ILAGAN	DR. PAUL ALVIN KARAMIHAN	DR. BRENT LAGARIZA
DR. AEZLE ASTLEY F. LAJA	DR. IAMY GAEL JULINE A. LILAGAN	DR. JOHANNES KEVIN LIM	DR. JOY LOVELYN D. LLORIN	DR. ROSE JANE MAGAUAY	DR. DIONE KIRK D. MANATAD	DR. LYLE JOBE S. NOVABOS	DR. DENISE JOYCE T. PAREDES	DR. SHANYGNE PASO
DR. GEM CYRELL M. PENALBA	DR. BEALDDUES LEVY F. PERDON	DR. DOZ PIDOS	DR. MARICEL POLLITO	DR. RIEL MARI L. RAMIREZ	DR. RENCHIE ERIKA A. RECOMETA	DR. EUNICE FE SABADO	DR. CHARLES EDWARD JOSEPH TUGADE	DR. DENMARK S. VALMORES

**AUP Passing Rate 91.89% (First-Time Takers) National Passing Rate 55.5%**

The Adventist University of the Philippines (AUP) College of Medicine continued to shine through its commitment to excellence by achieving remarkable results in the April 2024 Physician Licensure Examinations. They have achieved an impressive passing rate of 91.89% for first-time takers, surpassing the national passing rate of 55.5%.

A total of 36 AUP-COM graduates successfully passed the examination with an overall performance of 77.08%:

- Abuel, Carl Anthony
- Aclan, Johanna Denice
- Aglosolos, Nathaniel Jude
- Bacani, Jeffer Barno
- Bathan, Trisha Noreen
- Belvis, Jergen
- Cabacang, Lyra Pamela Vera
- Cablinda, Yllen Law
- Campos, Pinky
- Canoy, Gepher

- De Castro, Janine Noelle
- Fetalvero, Alyssa Andra
- Flores, Rovi Anne
- Gealone, Regine Grace
- Ilagan, Claudette Jane
- Lagariza, Brent
- Laja, Aezle Astley
- Lilagan, Iamy Gael Juline
- Lim, Johannes Kevin
- Llorin, Joy Lovelyn
- Magauay, RoseJane
- Manatad, Dione Kirk
- Novabos, Lyle Jobe
- Paredes, Denise Joyce
- Paso, Shanygne
- Penalba, Gem Cyrell
- Perdon, Bealddues Levy
- Pidos, Doz
- Pollito, Maricel
- Ramirez, Riel Mari
- Recometa, Renchie Erika
- Sabado, Eunice Fe

- Tugade, Charles Edward Joseph
- Valmores, Denmark
- Karamihan, Paul Alvin
- Bicera, Guiltner

“God provided me with the time the resources and the blessing. All I must do was do my part no matter how little that is with faith He will bless my efforts,” Shanygne Paso, one of the passers, testified. “Claim His promises. Reach out and take God’s hand today. Trust Him with every aspect of your life and be content with the uncertainties,” she concluded.

The AUP College of Medicine’s success in the 2024 PLE reflects the institution’s commitment to nurturing competent and compassionate healthcare professionals. As these newly physician missionaries step into their roles, they carry with them the values instilled by the College “through Christ, healing and wholeness.”

# 9 Accountancy Students Shines AUP's 100% Passing Rate

The Accountancy Department of the College of Business achieved a remarkable 100% passing rate in the May 2024 Certified Public Accountants Licensure Examination (CPALE), surpassing the national passing rate of 30.28%.

The new accountants shared how God helped them shine in their CPALE journey:

*"I was the only one delayed for a year due to academic reasons in my original graduating batch. It was hard for me to see my batchmates graduate and obtain the title ahead of me. However, I now realize that God held me back for a reason: to bring Glory to His name by being a part of AUP's 100% passing rate in the recent CPALE. Indeed, God's timing is perfect. Despite being delayed, I never regretted studying at AUP for its quality and Christ-centered service. Shine on AUP!"*

- Vince Marl Cabalbal

*"The Lord's goodness and generosity are immense; by His grace, I passed. My heart is filled with gratitude to my professors as well. They taught me many things, allowing me to grow academically and spiritually. Their continuous support also gave me the strength to brave the board exam. I am grateful I chose to study at AUP."*

- Loverren Bundalian

*"My heart is full of gratitude, not only for passing the board exam but also for the challenging journey, experiences, and values I've learned throughout my time at AUP. God has been with me every step of the way during my academic life. The Lord has guided me through everything from enrolling in the university and managing tuition fees to meeting the retention policy and passing exams. Despite facing obstacles, including failing one of the comprehensive exams, I persevered and ultimately earned two degrees (BSAIS and BSA). I believe that my hard work and dedication are a testament to my faith in God's blessings and His faithfulness to those who remain steadfast in Him."*

- Aaron Herbolario

*"After the three-day board exam, I assessed myself and realized there was a higher chance of failing because it was mentally challenging, but my faith kept me in peace*

*and total surrender. Indeed, the Lord is faithful and true to His promises, and He amazed me again with His wonders and mercy. Also, I am personally grateful to AUP and our mentors and teachers for leading and molding us into an academically strong life that is fully dependent on God. I am certain that God's grace made us all pass."*

- Christell Faith Macatol

*"If there is one thing I learned during my preparation and after passing the boards, it is that God hears and answers our prayers. He blessed us with the CPA title with AUP and our instructors as instruments in our college journey, for which I am deeply grateful. Now, I am equipped to step outside the gates of AUP and shine God's goodness and light into the real world."*

- Aira Grace Mansalapus

*"Taking the CPALE was not only a test of knowledge, but more than anything, it was a test of faith. With that, I am grateful to the AUP Accountancy Department for preparing us academically, emotionally, and spiritually along this humbling CPA journey. Gratitude also goes to the AUP community for their continuous support and prayers. Above all, this 100% passing rate was indeed an answer to our prayers. All Glory and Praise to God!"*

- Paula Justine Olegario

*"It was God, not me. If there is one thing I realized while preparing for our board exam,*

*prayer is powerful beyond expectations. [We had] a nightly prayer meeting with our other friends who would also be taking the exam. Since then, every night before we sleep, we have prayed together through video calls. We prayed to pass the exam and for God to give us peace. It was a safe place to share and surrender all our worries to God. Passing the board exam with my batchmates, garnering a 100% passing rate, is a testament to God's goodness and the power of prayer we have witnessed."*

- Aprilene Felices

*"While striving to do utmost in pursuing goals and facing challenges, certain aspects in life are beyond human control. I am grateful to AUP for instilling hope, perseverance, and trust in God Almighty, especially during difficult times. It is through the grace of God that we were able to hurdle and finish the course and pass the board exam. To AUP, we will continue to shine with good works. To God be the glory!"*

- Kahle KC Raves Valencia

*"All I can say is to put all your trust in God, for He has better plans for us. You may sometimes feel that your goal is taking too much time to achieve, but believe that in God's perfect timing, He does wonders. He is good and merciful. It took me a few years to achieve the CPA title because I chose to work first before taking the CPALE. It is indeed a struggle, however, because of God's guidance and AUP-COB's quality of education."*

- Josielyn Binag

# AUP Brings Together Alumni Through ShineOn Games

The Adventist University of the Philippines (AUP) brought alumni through the Grand Alumni Games, themed “Shine On!”, on May 4-5, 2024. The event gathered over 250 alumni at the University and SPDA Gymnasium.

The Games featured a diverse range of teams catering to all interests. The basketball teams included ten groups: Dreamers, United, Alumni B/W, Alumni Chiefs, Academy 982k, AUP Varsity, AUPA2018, Titus, Workforz, and Pink Penguins, ensuring that there was something for everyone.

In the volleyball division, the volleyball men consist of four teams: AG Spikers, Soya Spikers, AUPA Alumni, and AUP Student Team. Meanwhile, the volleyball women consist of four teams: Batang 90s and Penguins, The Nightingales, and Canines.

More than just a sports event, the Grand Alumni Games provided a platform for former students to reconnect, reminisce, and celebrate their shared history at the University. This gathering not only strengthened the bonds among our alumni but also served as a reminder of their role in perpetuating the values instilled during their time at AUP and collectively contributing to the betterment of society.



# ND Department Held Its White Coating, Pinning, and Dedication

By: Trishia Jara

The Nutrition and Dietetics (ND) Department's 2nd White Coating, Pinning, and Dedication program was held at the Finster Hall of Nations on April 24, 2024.

The event, themed "Illuminate: Kindling Sparks for Purposeful Paths," was a momentous occasion for two groups: the graduating batch Siklab ("ignite") and the junior batch Inara ("ray of light," "illumination").

Ms. Joraleen Dion Yabut, an esteemed alumna, served as the keynote speaker. "Allow God's fire to burn in your life continuously. Let your lives be the burning bush through which others can encounter God. The desire for a burning bush experience is for a season of your restoration

or alignment with God's plan," her words referenced the narrative of Moses's encounter with God at the burning bush. This narrative sparked passion and purpose in the students being dedicated, inspiring them to seek their own burning bush experience.

Dr. Maribel Balagtas, the Nutrition and

Dietetics Department chair, presented the junior batch Inara and the senior batch Siklab. Seventeen students from the junior batch were donned with white coats, while 19 students from batch Siklab were pinned as candidates for graduation. The white coat and the pin represent a dedication to excellence and a readiness to guide purposeful paths in nutrition and dietetics.





# CON Dedicates Elioenai 2024

The College of Nursing (CON) dedicated Elioenai, the graduating class of nurses who demonstrated exceptional commitment and dedication in the nursing practice for 4 years. The ceremony marked the transition of 97 nursing seniors, 20 gentlemen and 77 ladies, from student nurses to professional nurses.

Elioenai is a Hebrew word which means “unto God are our eyes, towards Him are my eyes, and to Him are my fountains.” The word underscores the importance of looking to God in every aspect of one’s life, especially for those in the noble profession of nursing. It reminds nurses to keep their eyes fixed on a higher purpose and draw strength and inspiration from their faith. “Elioenai should be the prayer of every nurse,” Edna Domingo, a CON alumna and a distinguished service awardee of the University, empowered the CON batch with her keynote speech. She underscored the profound impact of the pinning and dedication ceremony, a solemn and significant event that symbolizes the “celebration of achievement and renewal of commitment” to the nursing profession, instilling a sense of duty and honor in the graduating class.



Carmela Malabat, CON Level IV chair, presented Elioenai ready to be dedicated to the nursing profession through the pinning ceremony.

As a gesture of gratitude and appreciation, Elioenai donated 30,000 as a class gift to support the upcoming CON auditorium project. This act of generosity not only benefits the nursing community but also reflects the values of compassion and service that Elioenai embodies.

“Nursing is not just a career but a calling, a commitment to serve,” Dr. Raymond Caagbay, CON dean, emphasized to Elioenai as they set foot on the path of compassion, healing, and service.

The ceremony concluded with a farewell address by Andre Alcantara, Elioenai president, who inspired his fellow graduates to embrace their roles as professional nurses and continue looking to God in all that they do.



# DevComm Launches Its CaviteKnows Newspaper and Its 1st DevComm Talks

The Development Communication (DevComm) Department launched the CaviteKnows newspaper and its first DevComm Talks with the resonant theme "Rooted Resonance" at the Finster Hall of Nations on May 9, 2024.

The occasion welcomed esteemed guests from various government agencies,



including Ms. Jonalyn Cate Magcayang from the DILG Office of Silang and Mr. Ruel Francisco from the Philippine Information Agency-Cavite.

Mickaela Dagos, a third-year DevComm student and the editor-in-chief of CaviteKnows, introduced and spearheaded the launch of CaviteKnows: News for Caviteños, a community newspaper dedicated to publicizing the vibrant narratives and stories within the province.

The participation of 72 students and faculty members hailing from Sto. Domingo Integrated National High School, Hoyo Elementary School, Lumil Integrated National High School, and Magallanes Western Cavite Institute Inc. made the event memorable.

During the DevComm Talks, nine DevComm students engaged the audience with thought-provoking discussions on pivotal developmental issues. These talks delved into various topics: "The Power of Storytelling: Changing the World One Narrative at a Time," "Rediscovering the Purpose of Film," "The Communication of Vulnerability," "Reserved Seat," "Growing a Resilient Root," "Nature Flood Control," "Sexual Assault Awareness," "Addressing Hunger: Feeding Dreams," and "One Child at a Time."

The event, the culminating of the major courses Management and Production of Community Newspaper and Broadcast Speech and Performance, marked a significant milestone not only for the department but for the University as well.



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