

# Adventist HIGHLIGHTS

The Official Newsletter of the Adventist University of the Philippines

AY 2023 - 2024 | Volume 13 Number 11 | June 2024



## Dr. Rosario Serves as ACSCU's National Corporate Secretary

**A**UP President Dr. Arceli Rosario was elected as the corporate secretary of the Association of Christian Schools, Colleges, and Universities (ACSCU) during the National Convention held at the Adventist University of the Philippines, Finster Hall of All Nations, Puting Kahoy, Silang, Cavite on June 12, 2024.

Dr. Rosario is the ACSCU corporate secretary effective August 1, 2024–July 2027. She also

serves as ACSCU trustee from NCR-South Luzon cluster for the term 2024-2025. Along with her are the ACSCU National officers for the term 2024–2027:

President: Betty Cernol McCann, PhD, RPsy, Silliman University President;  
Vice President: Gisela De Asas Luna, RN, PhD, Trinity University of Asia President;  
Corporate Secretary: Arceli H. Rosario, PhD, Adventist University of the Philippines President;

Treasurer: Marivic L. Daguio, PhD, Makati Hope Christian School Principal.

Consequently, she is a member of the Board of Trustees of the Coordinating Council of Private Educational Associations (COCOPEA).

The election was held during the 62nd ACSCU National Convention on June 10–12, 2024, with the attendance of 74 ACSCU member schools.





## CON Oath-taking Ceremony of New Nurses

During the Oath-taking Ceremony for New Nurses at the Plenary Hall, Philippine International Convention Center in Manila on June 18, 2024, the AUP College of Nursing (CON) was honored by the Philippine Regulation Commission and the Professional Regulatory Board of Nursing.

The College achieved an impressive seventh place in Category A, solidifying its position as one of the Top 10 Performing Nursing Schools nationwide. AUP's sister institutions---Mountain View College, Manila Adventist College, and Central Philippine Adventist College---were also recognized as top-performing schools.

At the ceremony, 85 CON students, took the oath of professionals led by Hon. Elsie Tee, the chairperson of the Professional Regulatory Board of Nursing. Additionally, three outstanding alumni of the University received their recognition as board topnotchers: Zynarik Alzola Tabelisma (Top 3), Antonio Alexi Gauzon Gayares (Top 9), Sheynireen Andrea Atiteo Tanamal (Top 10).

After the pledge of commitment, the induction of the new members to the Philippine Nurses Association, Inc. followed.





# History Department Leads Celebration of the National Independence Day

Led by the History Department, the University celebrated the 126th Philippine Independence Day on June 12, 2024, with the theme “*Kalayaan. Kinabukasan. Kasaysayan*” (Freedom. Future. History). The University held a special flag-raising ceremony to commemorate the day.

History Department Chair Dr. Jesse Songcayawon expounded on the theme that moved the audience to consider the reason in celebrating the country’s liberation. “Malaya na po ba tayo? (Are we truly free?)” he questioned. He pointed out that the fight is ongoing and that “apparent obstacles to freedom are still interwoven into the fabric of our social and economic system.” He emphasized that “Filipinos are still at war with poverty, social and economic inequality, and poor quality of education.... We are not there [freedom] yet.” Aside from honoring the country’s heroes, he also reminded the attendees how one should “learn [from] the mistakes of the past through the study of history to avoid repeating the same mistakes.” With this, he empowered future generations to make valuable contributions to the country. “We are all heroes of the modern period,” he emphasized. “Hindi natin kailangan mamatay (We do not need to die) to be heroes.” In the context of the ongoing feud in the West Philippine Sea, he said, “Instead of throwing stones, let us sit together and engage in a discourse.”

“I am proud to be a Filipino,” AUP President Dr. Arceli Rosario said. She also challenged her beloved fellow citizens and the University to be free with God. “Despite our trials and limitations, we can rise to be totally free.”







## ACSCU-ACI Awards Four Programs Level IV Accreditation Status

The AUP was honored with the prestigious Level IV initial re-accredited status by the Association of Christian Schools, Colleges, and Universities-Accrediting Council, Inc. (ACSCU-ACI) during the 38th ACSCU-ACI Annual Convention at Hotel Lucky, Binondo, Manila. This recognition, held on June 17–19, 2024, underscores AUP's unwavering dedication to academic excellence and its ongoing pursuit of improvement.

The University's academic excellence was highlighted by the recognition of its graduate and collegiate programs. The Master of Science in Nursing, Doctor of Philosophy in Business Administration, and Doctor of Philosophy in Education along with the collegiate program in Nutrition and Dietetics from June 2024 to May 2028.

Dr. Ruben Carpizo, accreditation director; Cryslie Romero, accreditation staff; and Maureen Mariñas, institutional quality assurance director, received the awards.

Currently, AUP has 33 programs from primary education to graduate level that are accredited. Thirteen programs—Bachelor of Arts in English, History, Psychology; Bachelor of Science in Accountancy; Bachelor of Science in Business Administration; Master of Science in Nursing/ Master in Nursing; Bachelor of Elementary Education; Bachelor of Secondary Education; Bachelor of Science in Nursing; Bachelor of Science in Nutrition and Dietetics;

Bachelor of Science in Biology, Chemistry, Mathematics; Master in Business Administration; Master of Arts in Education; Doctor of Philosophy in Business Administration; and Doctor of Philosophy in Educational Administration—have Level IV accreditation status. Eleven programs—Bachelor of Science in Development Communication, Bachelor of Science in Psychology, Bachelor of Science in Accounting Information Systems, Master of Arts in Psychology, Doctor of Philosophy in Psychology, Elementary program, Junior High School Program, Bachelor of Medical Laboratory Science, Bachelor of Science in Office Administration, Bachelor of Library and Information Science, and Bachelor of Arts in Theology—have Level III accreditation status. Seven programs—Doctor of Dental Medicine, Preschool program, Bachelor of Tradigital Fine Arts major in Visual Communication and Design, Bachelor of Music in Music Education, Bachelor of Science in Information Technology, Bachelor of Science in Electronics Engineering, and Bachelor of Science in Engineering Technology—have Level II accreditation status. Two programs, Master in Public Health and Doctor of Public Health Major in Preventive Health Care, have Level I accreditation status.





# COM Commemorates its 6th Graduation Exercises



**A**UP-College of Medicine commemorated its 6th Graduation Exercises with 33 graduates from Aurum Batch 2024 at the Philippine International Church on June 21-23, 2024. Their batch name is Aurum, a Latin word for gold and in the periodic table.

“When Jesus looks at you, He no longer sees you. He sees Himself. That is what it means to be Aurum—to be gold,” Dr. Jan Harry Cabungcal, the consecration speaker, emphasized. He referred to the batch that was tried in the fire by the Refiner’s hands.

The baccalaureate speaker, Dr. Jocelyn Gayares, emphasized the special significance of the term “Aurum.” She described gold as a noble element in chemistry: never rusts or loses its luster, malleable and soft yet becoming stronger when solidified. “You are God’s aurum,” she declared, “You are God’s gold.”

During her message, Dr. Gayares reflected on the challenges the graduates faced while studying during the pandemic, highlighting their resilience and dedication. “You are already God’s gold from the beginning,” she expressed. “You allowed God to mold you into who you are today. You are products of God.”

During the commencement exercises, Dr. Hector Gayares, Jr., the keynote speaker, inspired the graduates with the parallelism between a tree’s growth and medical

students’ transformation into a full pledged doctor. “The tree is a microcosm of your life as a graduate,” he stated. “Your medical education here at AUP-COM has formed the roots and foundation of your path to becoming a missionary physician.” Dr. Gayares likened the medical students to a sturdy, strong, and resilient tree capable of withstanding challenges and of growing. He underscored that only God can enable them to live out His character. “The moment people see the reflection of Jesus Christ in you, you are true gold. You are true aurum,” he emphasized.

This year’s graduation was particularly notable. Five graduates committed to the Doctors to the Barrios Program and 12 graduates were recognized as scholars of the Commission on Higher Education (CHED), showcasing their academic excellence and commitment to public service.

The excitement heightened as diplomas and academic hoods were awarded. Nicholas Andrew Racelis and Karla Gutierrez received the Dean’s Award while Khrista Mari Racelis received the Latin award *cum laude*.



The Most Outstanding Clinical Clerk Awards were also given to the following graduands:

#### Adventist Medical Center-Manila Clerkship:

1. Rica Veran
2. Jan Jeannette Labastida
3. Hadjiemar Lapidez
4. Khrista Mari Racelis
5. Luis Gabriel Riberal

#### Batangas Medical Center Clerkship:

1. Keith Raynel Francisco
2. Karla Gutierrez
3. Shelomith Sayson
4. Rochemae Yosores
5. Jennirose Amurao
6. Nathalie Chail Canlas
7. Luis Gabriel Riberal
8. Khrista Mari Racelis
9. Grace Eunice Salvacion
10. Rica Veran
11. Johnsen De La Cruz
12. Nicolas Andrew Racelis
13. Aldrin Ikher Bandiola.

#### Loma Linda University Clinical Clerkship:

1. Jennirose Amurao
2. Wilmaureen Shiela Dapog
3. Dannielle Anne De Villa
4. Leslie Anne Diego
5. Karla Gutierrez
6. Hadjiemar Lapidez
7. Luis Gabriel Riberal
8. Shelomith Sayson.

Khrista Mari Racelis received the Overall Most Outstanding Clinical Clerk Award.

Finally, Shelomith Sayson received the Physician-Missionary Pastoral Care Award and Luis Gabriel Riberal received the Outstanding Leadership Award.



# AUPA Marshalls Participate at CPAPS Sportsfest 2024



The AUP-Academy (AUPA) Marshalls represented the University at the Cavite Province Association of Private Schools (CPAPS) Sportsfest 2024 held at the My Messiah School of Cavite, General Mariano Alvarez, Bulihan, Silang, Cavite on June 6–7, 2024. The Marshalls is the official varsity group of the Academy.

The Marshalls showcased their volleyball expertise in the tournament. The girls' volleyball team clinched second place with eight players. "We did not proceed with the championship since it will be held past 5 p.m., which will fall on Friday sunset," Mrs. Nera Valdez, the overall coordinator and AUPA physical education faculty member stated. The boys' volleyball team, consisting of nine players, earned third place.

Four volleyball players from AUPA Marshalls—Carille Mindoro, Jessa Rafael, Johannes Bersaluna, and Andrew Arevalo—were honored for their outstanding performance and were included in the Mythical 6 for volleyball.

Despite their best efforts, the Marshalls' basketball teams faced tough competition. The women's team, composed of five players, and the men's team, with 10 players, showed determination and skill but only advanced up to the elimination round.

Eight private schools in the province participated in the event: My Messiah School of Cavite, Inc.; Overflowing Christian Academy; Rosario Institute; Cavite Community Academy, Inc.; AUP; Royal Heirs International Academy; Grace Baptist Christian School; and JHOAN

Colleges of the Philippines, Inc.

The Marshalls' coaches and coordinators dedicated leadership and guidance made it possible: Jay Lucero led the basketball team, while Reginald Valdez served as the head coach for volleyball. Nera Valdez, the AUPA physical education faculty, was the overall coordinator of the sports fest.



"Our students shared why the women's volleyball team did not play in the championship round: 'we are Sabbath keepers. We do not want to compromise our faith to play in the championship match. Even though not all our players are Adventists, we were able to witness in a simple way through sports,'" Mrs. Valdez testified.





## AUP Honors Major Benefactor Dr. “Dato” Tan Hian Tsin in Singapore

The University represented by Vice President for Student Services Dr. Julio Amurao and Advancement Director Oemer Rey Daquila, joined the celebration of life and tribute to Dr. Dato Tan Hian Tsin in Singapore on June 19, 2024.

Dr. Tan was a significant benefactor of the University through his generous donations, contributing significantly to its development and growth.

Dr. Tan’s contributions have left a lasting impact on AUP. His contributions include the College of Education Hian Tsin and Sui Lan Building, which amounted to \$244,374 through the Crocodile Foundation, Inc.; the College of Medicine Siew Huy Memorial Atrium, \$300,000; and the Tsao Sui Lan Memorial Endowment Fund, \$1,500,000.

Dr. Tan and his family exemplified a passion for excellence in education and goodwill. The University’s tribute underscores its deep appreciation and respect for Dr. Tan’s remarkable contributions and enduring legacy.







## ACSCU Hosts 62nd National Convention

The 62nd National Convention of the Association of Christian Schools, Colleges, and Universities (ACSCU) was held at the Adventist University of the Philippines (AUP), Finster Hall of Nations, Puting Kahoy, Silang, Cavite on June 10-12, 2024.

The convention with its theme—“Innovating Christian Education: Navigating Challenges, Embracing Opportunities”—was a platform for educators and stakeholders to come together and discuss the future of Christian education.

### **ACSCU National Convention Opening Day**

June 10, 2024—The event began with an opening worship led by Dr. Ginger Ketting-Weller, president of the Adventist International Institute of Advanced Studies (AIAS). In her message, Dr. Ketting-Weller inspired the attendees to “pray for vision.... May we see what God wants.”



Dr. Betty McCann, president of ACSCU and Silliman University, officially declared the convention open with a keynote address. She underscored the unity and shared purpose of the attendees, stating, “We all come from different fields of assignments or missions across the country, but our presence here underscores the importance of

focusing on our theme. This convention is designed to bring us together to share knowledge, build alliances, and explore new ideas as we face another stage in Education.”

Following a hearty lunch sponsored by the Philippine Christian University, the plenary session in the afternoon commenced with greetings and messages from Dr. Arceli H. Rosario, president of AUP, and Dr. Kathleen Rose Guimbatan, ACSCU National Capital Region (NCR) and South Luzon chairperson. Dr. Rosario highlighted the faith-based foundation of the schools, saying, “We take faith. The reason why we exist is far greater than our earthly realities.” Dr. Guimbatan encouraged collaboration and innovation by inviting, “Together, let us embark through this innovation.... [This is] a chance to enrich education for all. Together, we shape Christian education.”

The convention featured breakout sessions per region: NCR and South Luzon, North Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao. Regional representatives led the discussions on the missions of their schools, advancements in educational missions within the association, and the spiritual and material successes of each institution. These sessions also provided a platform to address unfinished business from the last regional convention. Dr. Betty McCann, ACSCU president, presented her report during the event, detailing the association’s progress and future goals. Ms. Rhodora Angela Fernandez Ferrer, executive director of the Private Education Assistance Committee (PEAC), provided an insightful report on “Continuing the Advocacies of the Private Education Sector in EDCOM 2.”

Ms. Ferrer shared updates on PEAC’s enrollment data, co-implementation of Government Assistance to Students and Teachers in Private Education (GATSPE), and current initiatives to increase support for private education. She highlighted vital priorities and year-1 report highlights of EDCOM 2, including



policies to extend GASTPE benefits to students in K-6 and other policies under the strategic plan for 2021–2024.

Day 1 of the convention concluded with a welcome night, where the attendees experienced Philippine heritage through a traditional folk song repertoire of the AUP Sola Gratia Chorale and a cultural dance performance of Cavite National High School Sandaloy Pangkat Mananayaw.

### **ACSCU National Convention Day 2**

June 11, 2024— The second day of the ACSCU National Convention continued to foster dynamic discussions and insights with its plenary sessions.

Dr. Greg Pawilen from the University of the Philippines System delivered an insightful presentation on the implementation of the MATATAG Curriculum. He highlighted core features designed to enhance educational outcomes in the curriculum, multiple and functional literacy, emphasizing 21st Century skills, habits of the mind, and life skills to prepare students for life. He also expounded that it is a decongested curriculum to help teachers focus on analyzing and teaching complex subjects more effectively; prioritizing thoughtful instructional design and planning; centering education around student competencies through competency-based learning; integrating innovations and special curriculum; clearer articulation of 21st Century Skills aligning with the DEPED framework; and a focus on functional literacy and life skills to prepare students with practical skills for life beyond school. Pawilen emphasized that these features are crucial for developing a holistic and future-ready education system.



Atty. Joseph Noel Estrada, EDCOM II chief legal officer, focused on legislative updates and governance of the Second Congressional Commission on Education. Key topics included findings from the Basic Education Standing Committee, TVET highlights, and a joint resolution on the creation of a Cabinet Cluster for Education. He also discussed significant legislative measures such as the No Permit, No Exam Policy, Universal Access to Quality Tertiary Education, Career Progression System for Public School Teachers Act, amending the Teachers Professionalization Act, and expanded Government Assistance to Students and Teachers in Private Education (GATSPE). These updates reflect ongoing efforts to enhance educational governance and support for students and educators.

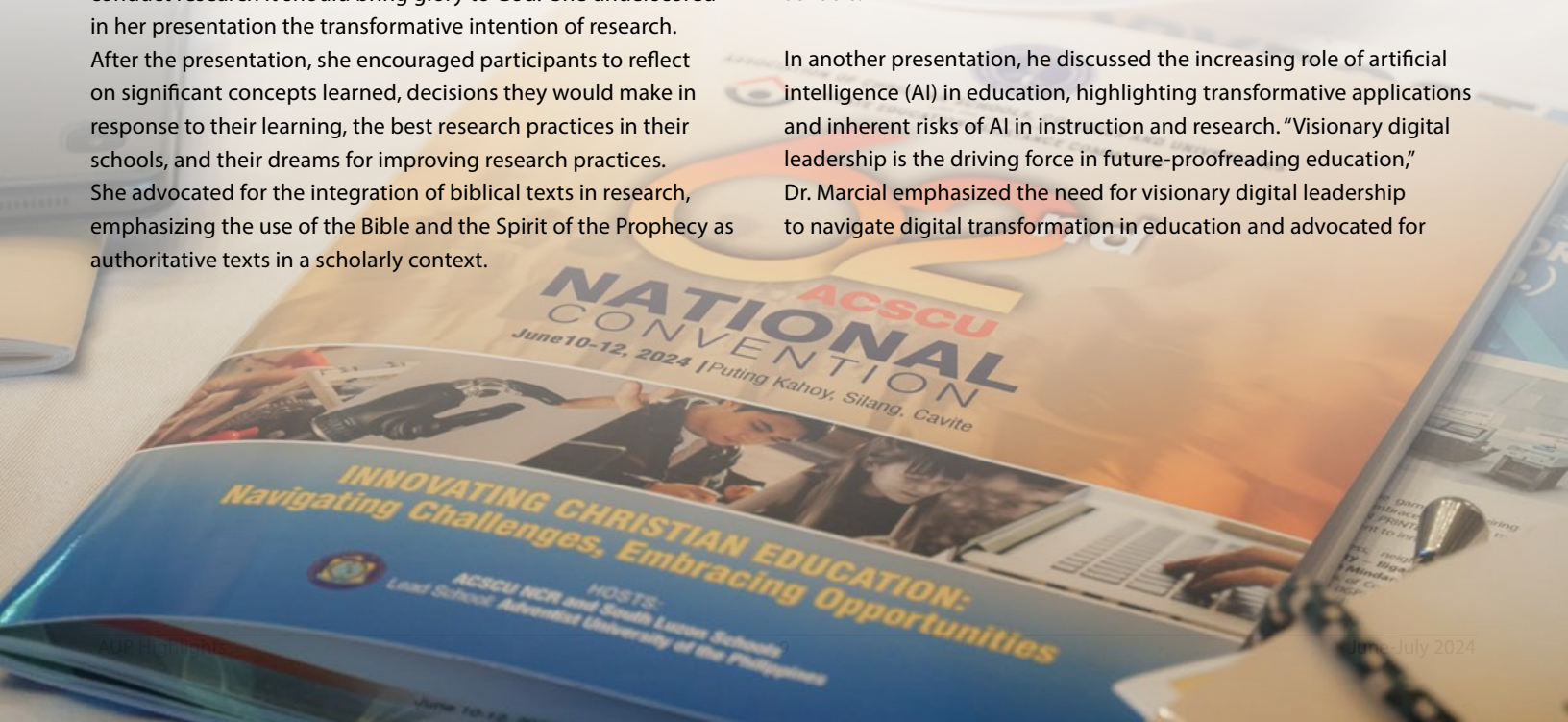
Dr. Dave Marcial, Dr. Mariano C. Lao Global Studies Center director from Siliman University shared insights on “Micro-credentialing: Navigating the Future of Professional Development.” He presented how micro-credentialing is highly associated with responding to skill mismatches among graduates and the job market. He further

## ***“When we conduct research, it should bring glory to God.”***

Dr. Arceli Rosario, AUP president, addressed the evolving trends and approaches in research within faith-based schools. “When we conduct research it should bring glory to God.” She underscored in her presentation the transformative intention of research. After the presentation, she encouraged participants to reflect on significant concepts learned, decisions they would make in response to their learning, the best research practices in their schools, and their dreams for improving research practices. She advocated for the integration of biblical texts in research, emphasizing the use of the Bible and the Spirit of the Prophecy as authoritative texts in a scholarly context.

elaborated on the micro-credentialing infrastructure in the Philippines, its components, and visualizing micro-credentials within schools.

In another presentation, he discussed the increasing role of artificial intelligence (AI) in education, highlighting transformative applications and inherent risks of AI in instruction and research. “Visionary digital leadership is the driving force in future-proofreading education,” Dr. Marcial emphasized the need for visionary digital leadership to navigate digital transformation in education and advocated for





proactive approaches to integrate AI ethically in schools. He stressed that as technology advances, it is imperative for educational leaders to guide their institutions with a forward-thinking and ethical approach.

The Day 2 concluded with a “Cultural Night of Songs,” featuring a performance by the Philippine Meistersingers, adding a celebratory note to the convention’s proceedings.

### **ACSCU National Convention Day 3**

June 12, 2024—The ACSCU National Convention culminated with reflection, camaraderie, and forward planning as delegates gathered for the Closing Ceremonies on Day 3.

Dr. Remuel Tornalejo, Mountain View College president, welcomed attendees with a reminder of the distinct worldview that underpins Christian education. “We Christians hold a different worldview. We believe that education is not only for this world but also to prepare our students for the future. This is embodied in our mission,” he implied.

Central to the convention’s theme, Dr. Jane Zabat, North Philippine Union Conference education director, shared her devotional message drawing parallels to the leadership of Nehemiah in biblical times. She highlighted Nehemiah’s leadership as guiding principles for educators in preparing individuals spiritually and intellectually.

Chaired by the ACSCU president, the Convention Business Meeting focused on critical convention business and future planning. Delegates engaged in voting and strategic discussions under the theme “Charting Our Ways Forward,” marking a pivotal moment for the association.

Reports from ACSCU regional presidents were also presented during the business meeting. Dr. Dahlia Businos, representing ACSCU Mindanao; Dr. Kathleen Rose Guimbatan for ACSCU NCR & South Luzon; Rev. Allan Prado for ACSCU North Luzon; and Dr. Earl Jude Paul Cleope for ACSCU Visayas, provided insights into regional initiatives, challenges, and accomplishments.

Dr. Cristina Manabat, ACSCU’s corporate secretary, presented a report of the Membership Committee. She also included the induction of new member institutions such as Southland College of Cabangcalan and Gracel Christian College, Inc., highlighting the association’s

***“We Christians hold a different worldview. We believe that education is not only for this world but also to prepare our students for the future.”***



Special recognition for long consecutive attendance in National Conventions was accorded to 8 schools:

#### **5 Conventions: 2019-2024**

Harris Memorial College  
Philippine Nazarene College  
Temple Christian Academy Kabankalan

#### **10 Conventions: 2014-2024**

Tabuk Institute  
Twenty Conventions: 2004-2024  
Davao Christian High School – V. Mapa Campus  
Fortress College

#### **30 Conventions: 1994-2024**

Siliman University  
Trinity University of Asia

Dr. Marivic Daguio, ACSCU corporate treasurer and Makati Hope Christian School principal led the report of the finance committee. Attendees received financial updates, including the presentation of the 2024-2025 Budget, crucial for ensuring the sustainability and future growth of the association.





# AUP HIGHLIGHTS

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## 1st AHSRA-Asia Conference Held At AUP

Held at the Adventist University of the Philippines, the 1st Adventist Human-Subject Research Association-Asia (AHSRA) Convention with the theme, "I Will Go: Making the World A Better Place through Research" on July 8-9, 2024. This historic conference brought together researchers, educators, and church leaders to explore how research can support the mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church across Asia.

Dr. Arceli Rosario, president of AUP and president of AHSRA-Asia, welcomed the delegates by walking the audience through the history of AHSRA-Asia. "AHSRA-Asia has its roots tracing back to 2013 when the Global Church Members Survey SSD team was formed," she explained. AHSRA, formerly AHSRA-SSD, was renamed in February 2023 to reflect its expanded regional focus better. With its origins tied to the General Conference's (GC) efforts to understand church member experiences globally, AHSRA-Asia now seeks to engage researchers across the Asian continent.

"Our goal is to engage researchers here in the Philippines and then move to other campuses across Asia," Dr. Rosario emphasized. She outlined the importance of expanding Adventist research beyond church institutions and into schools, hospitals, and other denominational organizations. Recognizing that higher education institutions play a crucial role in fostering research, she stressed the need for increased collaboration and involvement from researchers in various fields. AHSRA-Asia's mission is clear: to foster a collaborative research culture within the Adventist community and to bring Adventist voices into global conversations. "Research is part of the Adventist distinctiveness, part of our mission," Dr. Rosario affirmed, urging Adventist scholars to actively participate in research and ensure that their findings contribute to church and academic discussions.



***"Research is part of the Adventist distinctiveness, part of our mission."***







Dr. Bienvenido Mergal, AHSRA-Asia Adviser and Southern-Asia Pacific Division education director, welcomed the delegates, stating, “The launching of this conference is in support of the church’s global mission... to nurture our people and institutions.” He highlighted the AHSRA-Asia Conference as a significant platform for interdisciplinary research, bringing educators, healthcare professionals, church leaders, and other experts together to tackle pressing issues facing their communities. Dr. Mergal further emphasized the role of research in advancing the church’s work, “Your participation and involvement in this conference is an indelible demonstration of your support and commitment to promoting a culture of research in our institutions.” He reminded attendees of the broader impact of their work, which contributes to the betterment of the Adventist Church and the communities they serve.

#### ***Dr. Safary Wa-Mbaleka Calls to Advancing the Mission Through Research***

**W**e are called to be part of the mission... the focus here is that everyone must be involved in the mission,” Dr. Safary Wa-Mbaleka, the representative of the Office of Archives, Statistics and Research of the General Conference, passionately urged members of the Seventh-day Adventist Church to embrace research as a critical element in fulfilling the church’s global mission as the keynote speaker. He emphasized that all church members, regardless of their profession or status, have a role in advancing the “I Will Go” initiative, a strategic plan launched by the GC. Drawing from the 2018 GC data, he affirmed that research is vital within the academic and church sectors. He explained that the research department under the GC’s Office of Archives, Statistics, and Research provides data-driven insights, enabling church leaders to make informed decisions for enhancing the church’s mission.

“Can research contribute to the ‘I Will Go’ initiative? The answer is yes,” Dr. Wa-Mbaleka also underlined the crucial role of research in guiding the church’s mission, offering data-driven insights for improving its outreach and internal operations. He highlighted that research is not exclusive to academia but vital to the church’s decision-making processes. The “I Will Go” initiative is supported by specific Key Performance Indicators (KPIs), which members can explore and incorporate into their research. These KPIs cover education, health, and community outreach, helping focus efforts on critical issues that align with the church’s strategic goals.

***“We need to make decisions based on data, not just opinions.”***

“We need to make decisions based on data, not just opinions,” he stressed. He encouraged leaders and members to conduct needs assessments and program evaluations to ensure their efforts are practical and aligned with the church’s mission. “We may never be pastors, but we all can be part of the mission with our research skills,” he expressed that research is not just an academic exercise; it is a form of service to the church. He encouraged members to contribute by conducting research at their local churches, ensuring decisions are data-driven and mission-focused.

Dr. Wa-Mbaleka also encouraged researchers to take on projects that align with the “I Will Go” objectives. He urged the church to base its strategic planning on data, from needs analysis before evangelism meetings to program evaluations. He stressed the need for excellence and ethical conduct in all research endeavors to honor God. “We





do not need to wait until a research office is at the conference's mission. Let us start within our church," Dr. Wa-Mbaleka concluded by encouraging members to start research projects at the local level, ensuring data-driven decisions for effective church functioning and mission fulfillment. Through research, every member can contribute to the church's mission and help make the world better.

The two days of the ASHRA-Asia Conference featured 10 sessions with 31 presenters, attracting 57 attendees on the first day and 50 on the second. The sessions covered a wide range of topics, reflecting the diverse expertise at the conference.

***"Let us all come together and be responsible for the growth of our Adventist researchers."***

The ASHRA-Asia Conference marked a significant step forward in uniting Adventist researchers across Asia and strengthening the church's mission through research. As Dr. Rosario urged, "Let us all come together and be responsible for the growth of our Adventist researchers. Let us tear down walls and consider ourselves all brothers and sisters, commissioned by the Lord to champion the truth."



## ND Department Marks Nutrition Month Celebration in Silang Communities

The Nutrition and Dietetics celebrated their Nutrition Month with community nutrition and wellness programs in Silang Barangay Health Centers. Centered in this year's theme, "Sa PPAN: Sama-sama sa Nutrisyong Sapat Para sa Lahat!" (Through PPAN, let us collaborate on nutrition security for all!) They also raised public awareness about the value of good nutrition through the Philippine Plan of Action for Nutrition (PPAN).

As per the National Nutrition Council, the Philippine Plan of Action for Nutrition (PPAN) is a comprehensive strategy that aims to enhance nutrition across all life stages through various interventions. These interventions include improving the

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## Raniag Batch 2024 Tradigital FineArts Opens Exhibit at Pithaya Art Space

The captivating art exhibit “Continuance” features the works of TFA Alumni 2024. The opening exhibit occurred on July 14, 2024, at 4:00 PM, at Pithaya Art Space, Tagaytay-Sta. Rosa Road, Purok 1, Pasong-Langka, Silang, Cavite.

This month-long exhibit, running until August 14, 2024, will showcase the diverse talents of ten artists: Sherlyn Belga, Gio Jadrian Dela Cruz, Michael-Aris Empleo, Kristianne Espolon, Francis Myko Fadriquela, Steffi Galeon, Frank Harvey Gil, Jarett Daniel Jalando-on, Micah Angely Tumaneng, and Jean Pamela Vista.

The gallery is open daily from 8:00 AM to 7:00 PM, inviting art enthusiasts and the public to immerse themselves in the creative expressions.



## Guided by Purpose: MLS Department Celebrates 71st Anniversary

The Medical Laboratory Science (MLS) Department celebrated its 71st Anniversary with a series of events under the theme “Guided by Purpose: A Day of Dedication and Inspiration” on July 3-6, 2024. The four-day celebration not only highlighted the department’s commitment to excellence and service but also reaffirmed its faith in its mission.

To kick off the Anniversary, on July 3-4, the MLS Department hosted an open house event for students and visitors who wanted to discover their laboratories and programs. They also held a community extension service program at Brgy. Puting Kahoy. They shared a health awareness campaign with topics: “I am

Clean Inside and Out,” “Say Hi to Hygiene,” “Dengue-t Ready to Rumble,” and “Dengue-rous Mosquito.”

On July 5, 2024, the MLS Department conducted its annual medical mission for the anniversary festivities. The department provided free medical check-ups, laboratory tests, and vitamins to 80 children from the community of Puting Kahoy. This noble endeavor, which significantly improved the health of the community, was made possible by the collaborative efforts of the 2024 Community and Public Health students, MLS alumni, who have since become esteemed medical doctors, MLS faculty and staff, and dedicated volunteers from the College of Nursing.

“Thank you to everyone who participated and made this event special. God bless us all as we continue to be guided by purpose in all we do,” Neil Justine Ang Fetalvero, a key organizer of Medical Mission 2024, expressed gratitude to





everyone who participated and contributed to the event's success.

The celebration culminated with a memorable dedication sabbath at the Finster Hall of All Nations on July 6, 2024. Dr. Gladys April B. Catibog, a distinguished alumna from the MLS Class of 2013, delivered an inspiring message as the keynote speaker. She resonated the meaning of purpose through an acronym: pursuit of excellence, understanding purpose, resilience in adversity, passion for service, ongoing innovation, spiritual growth, and education as a mission. This special event also dedicated the August 2024 Medical Technology Licensure Exam candidates with prayers and fellowship.



## Pastor Don MacLafferty Challenges the Elijah of Today in AUP

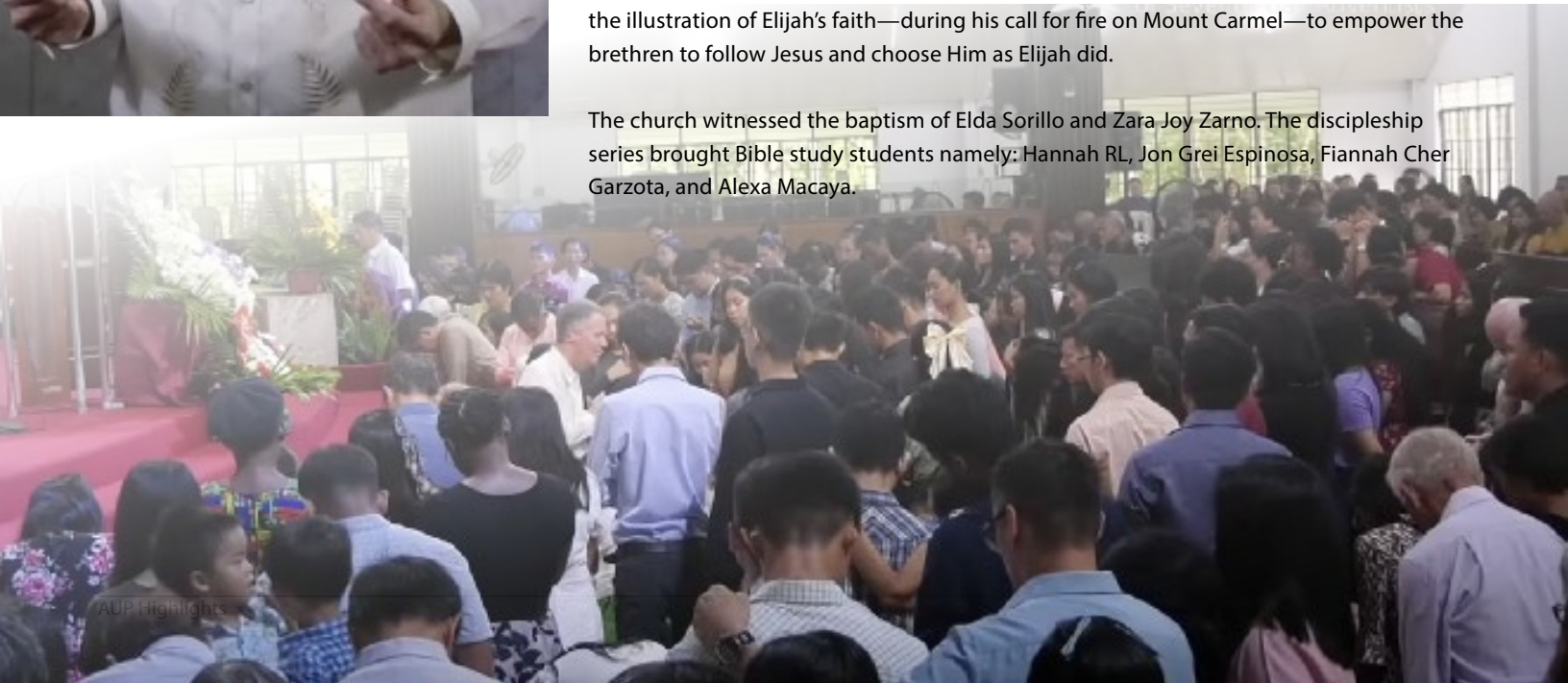
**A**re you willing to be the last Elijah of these last days?" A question Pastor MacLafferty posed during his discipleship series at the Philippine International Church on July 10-13, 2024. His discipleship series, "The Last Elijah," evoked spiritual enrichment to the University's students, faculty, and staff.

Pastor Don drew inspiration from the Prophet Elijah's relationship with God. Just as Elijah stood up against adversity, today's generation is called to stand up against the world's challenges. He challenged us to live out our faith, face the challenges with conviction, and become the Elijah of our generation.

He also led a discipleship training every morning at 5:00 a.m., fostering personal growth through reading the word of God and reflective morning prayer sessions. These sessions, designed to deeply connect participants with their faith, not only prepared their hearts for the teachings and discussions to follow but also empowered them to grow personally and spiritually.

The series culminated with his message during Sabbath worship on July 13, 2024. He used the illustration of Elijah's faith—during his call for fire on Mount Carmel—to empower the brethren to follow Jesus and choose Him as Elijah did.

The church witnessed the baptism of Elda Sorillo and Zara Joy Zarno. The discipleship series brought Bible study students namely: Hannah RL, Jon Grei Espinosa, Fiannah Cher Garzota, and Alexa Macaya.





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consumption of healthier diets, adopting positive nutrition practices, and increasing access to quality nutrition services and enabling mechanisms.



### **Nutrition Program in Barangay Communities**

In collaboration with the Municipality of Silang, Rural Health Unit, ND student interns were deployed in nearby barangays in July. The interns' month-long practicum empowered communities to make informed diet choices.

Students were assigned to different barangay health centers in Lumil, Buklod, Inchican, Putingkahoy, Muzon, Tartaria, Imperial, and Silang-Rural Health Unit to practice their assessment, counseling, and leadership skills. Additionally, the celebration of nutrition month for 12 different barangays in Silang—Lalaan 1st, San Miguel Dos, Maguyam, San Vicente Dos, Biluso, Poo 1, Malabag, Kaong, Sabutan, Tartaria, Biga Dos, and Toledo—was conducted in the community with the participation of BSND students. The ND student interns conducted nutritional assessments, counseling sessions, health lectures, and educational games.

### **Wellness Program in the Workplace**

In a 2-week health and wellness program for the 29 administrative members of the University from June 24-July 5, 2024. The ND collaborated with the Occupational Safety and Health office to create a wellness program entitled "Nutri Quest: Nourishing Your Workday for a Restart of a Healthier You, a Workplace Wellness Program."

The program involved pre-assessment, one-day juice fasting, free lunch meals for six days computed based on their energy requirements and needs, health lectures, and simple exercises applicable to office setup. After completing the two-week implementation of the program, the participants had their post-assessment.



### **Nutrition Month Celebration in the University**

The ND Department also led the University's Nutrition Month celebration at the Student Association Park on July 4, 2024. Dr. Gladys Mae Laborde, the Department Chair in the Public Health Department, was invited to lecture about the importance of nutrition in the community setting and emphasize the importance of collaboration with other departments to spread and promote proper nutrition in the community. Nutritional assessments, counseling, and healthy food selling were also conducted at the celebration.





# Sola Gratia Chorale Triumphs at the 8th Singapore International Chorale Festival

**S**ola Gratia Chorale emerged as the Grand Prix Champion at the 8th Singapore International Chorale Festival 2024, securing their qualification for the 4th Asia Choral Grand Prix 2025. The prestigious event occurred at the Yong Siew Toh Conservatory of Music Esplanade Concert Hall on July 31, 2024.

Sola Gratia, consisting of 40 members led by Cyril Punay, their conductor, excelled in multiple categories. During the competition event from July 28-July 31, 2024.

In the recent competition, the choir achieved remarkable success across various categories. In the F-Folklore, Open category, they performed "Ili-Illi" arranged by Ily Matthew Maniano, "Pa-ru-parong Bukid" arranged by Fidel Calalang Jr., and "Kusinilo si Bao" arranged by Nilo Alcala, earning a final score of 86.87 where they received a gold award.

In the B2-Mixed Voices, 25 years and below category, their repertoire included "Jagdlid Op. 59, No.6" by Felix Mendelssohn, "When I have Sung My Songs to You" by Z. Randall Stroope, and "Pamugun" by Francisco Feliciano, achieving a final score of 92.20 another gold award.

Lastly, in the S-2 Musica Sacra, Open category, they performed

"Jubilate Deo" by Giovanni Gabrieli and "O Magnum Mysterium" by Evo Antognini, securing a final score of 89.67 and a gold award.

The Singapore International Chorale Festival (SICF), an annual gathering since 2014, has showcased choirs from around the globe, celebrating and competing in the art of choral music. The festival has become a prominent fixture in the local and regional choral music calendar. This year's competition featured over 70 choral groups from Chinese Taipei, Indonesia, the Philippines, Thailand, Singapore, Hong Kong, and China. Seven of 72 participating choirs advanced to the Grand Prix Round, where Sola Gratia triumphed.

Sola Gratia Chorale was founded by Cyril Punay in 2019 and translates to "Grace Alone." The chorale's name, as expressed by Mr. Punay in his recent Facebook post, bears significant sentiments to him. "The name means so much to me, reflecting on where I was at that time. I knew God's grace had sustained me and allowed me to be where He wanted me to be. Even now, there are and will always be many hurdles in life, but my experience with Sola will always be a testimony to share with all of you," he expressed.

Sola Gratia Chorale comprises diverse students currently enrolled at the Adventist University of the Philippines and young professionals based in Silang, Cavite. Mr. Punay, an alumnus of AUP Batch 2015, holds a Bachelor of Music in Music Education degree with a concentration in Choral Conducting. He served as a music instructor at the Junior High Department of AUP Academy from 2017-2021.

This year, he recently graduated with a masters in Music - Major in choral conducting, from Andrews University in Berrien Springs, Michigan, USA. He also serves as a graduate assistant of

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