



The Official Newsletter of the Adventist University of the Philippines

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Adventist University of the Philippines is again granted **AUTONOMOUS STATUS**

by CHED as per CMO No. 7, series of 2024.

AUP Retains Its Full-Autonomous Status from CHED

With the issuance of Commission on Higher Education Memorandum Order (CMO) No. 7, series of 2024, titled “Grant of Autonomous and Deregulated Status by Evaluation to Private Higher Education Institutions (PHEIs),” the University has once again retained its full autonomous status since 2003.

AUP is among the 12 PHEIs in Region IV and 77 PHEIs in the country conferred with autonomous status, which is valid for three (3) years, from September 16, 2024, to September 15, 2027.

“Let’s thank the Lord! Our autonomous status is renewed!” AUP President Dr. Arceli Rosario exclaimed.

According to AUP Accreditation Director Mr. Reuben Carpizo, he described the preparation as “guided by the Holy Spirit.” This faith-driven process began before the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) released its new CMO criteria for granting autonomous status to universities.

“Before the new CMO criteria was released, I had already prepared the documents based on the previous CMO requirements,” Mr. Carpizo recalled. “But the recent CMO is different from the ones I was preparing.” Regarding unexpected yet providential alignment, he said, “If you ask me, I do not know. It is not me—this is not my credit but the Lord’s.”

HEIs with autonomous status have top-quality education, consistent excellent program results, and have many accredited programs. CHED gives them freedom to manage and innovate their academic programs. Both autonomous and deregulated PHEIs have freedom to design their curriculum, establish linkages with recognized foreign HEIs, are prioritized in the grant of subsidies and other financial incentives or assistance from CHED, are exempted from regular CHED monitoring and evaluation and from the issuance of Special Order for their graduates. Specifically, autonomous HEIs can open new programs without securing prior CHED approval.

“Let’s thank the Lord. Our autonomous status is renewed!”



AUP MLS Team Honors Sabbath Faith Above Victory at the 43rd PAMET-PASMETH Quiz Show

By Yanna Yvonne C. Macayan

The 43rd Philippine Association of Medical Technologists (PAMET)-Philippine Association of Schools of Medical Technology and Public Health (PASMETH) Inter-School Quiz Show marked an unforgettable experience for the Adventist University of the Philippines (AUP) Medical Laboratory Science (MLS) team. Sherwin Von Laberinto Palaad, Allen Aguilar Leoncito, Zynth Gen-ebago Sullano, and Nico Andrei Sarmiento Cordial represented the AUP-MLS team at Manila Central University on September 21, 2024.

Competing among 67 participating schools—a record-breaking number for the event—AUP’s team not only demonstrated their academic prowess but also their unwavering faith. The quiz show, a grueling test of academic knowledge, featured 30 questions across three rounds. Before the first round, the AUP team began with a prayer, asking that God be glorified through their performance.

The team prepared tirelessly for months, enduring several practice quiz bees where they consistently placed second. Despite their doubts, they remained steadfast in their efforts. “We kept asking ourselves if we were worthy of representing AUP,” Leoncito admitted. Nevertheless, their perseverance never wavered as they relied on faith, seeking guidance and strength from God.

Competing against renowned schools like the University of Sto. Tomas (UST) and Far Eastern University (FEU), the AUP-MLS team, faced strong contenders. Despite a technical issue that cost them 4 points in the first round due to a glitch in the Quizziz app, they remained focused and scored 8/10. In the second round, they improved with a 9/10 score, and in the final round, they achieved a perfect 10/10, finishing with a total score of 28/30—one of the highest of the day.

As the sun began to set, signaling the start of the Sabbath, the team faced a crucial decision. Despite being in a strong position for the championship, they chose to forgo the tie-breaker round, adhering to their commitment to honor the Sabbath. “Our prayer was for God to be glorified, and we believe we fulfilled that by honoring His day,” Palaad shared. Sullano echoed this sentiment: “God is the source of our answers, and He deserves to be praised on His day.”

“While our team did not bring home the trophy, they brought home something far greater: faith and honor,” Yanna Yvonne Macayan, the MLS Department chair, reflected. “We could have stayed and competed but chose to honor the Sabbath. Three schools were poised for the top spots, but by putting God first, we affirmed that the day belongs to Him. In spirit and faith, our AUP-MLS team are true champions.”

Karen Faith Fumera, one of the MLS Department faculty and the team’s coaches, shared her admiration for the students’ faith. “Working at AUP, I never expected to have to stand for the Sabbath. Given the circumstances, the contestants’ faith made it easier for me to hold on to mine. Had they insisted on staying to finish the championship, it would have been much harder for me. Like Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego—Zynth, Allen, and Sherwin’s faith are reminders to stand for God, though the heavens fall. It is always God over worldly glory; with that, we proudly say, ‘To God be the glory!’”

Nico Cordial, a reserved group member, served as a coach member for the team by creating practice quizzes. “God finds ways for you to share your talents in His service,” he reflected. Indeed, God finds ways for us to share Him and glorify Him.

The AUP MLS team's decision to forfeit the tie-breaking round in observance of the Sabbath set them apart as champions of faith, even without a trophy. Their experience in the competition is a testament to their belief that accolades do not measure success but their commitment to faith and honoring God in all they do. As they continue their academic and spiritual journey, the team is confident that the same God who brought them through the quiz show will guide them through the challenges ahead.



AUP and LTO Calabarzon Sign Agreement to Integrate STRUT Modules into Vocational Driving Education

In a significant step towards promoting road safety awareness among college students, the University and the Land Transportation Office (LTO) signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) at the Finster Hall of All Nations on September 18, 2024. This momentous event marked the formalization of their partnership aimed at integrating the "Student Today, Road Users of Tomorrow" (STRUT) modules into the University's Vocational Education Driving Course.

The partnership supports the University's mission to foster a holistic educational experience that addresses a significant aspect of daily life: road safety.

AUP President Dr. Arceli H. Rosario emphasized the institution's commitment to producing responsible citizens and road users. "We are empowering our students to be road safety ambassadors, fostering a community that prioritizes safety and responsibility," she stated.

"This partnership with AUP represents a shared vision of creating safer roads through education. By equipping young drivers with the skills and mindset needed to navigate the complexities of our roads, we are investing in a safer future for everyone," LTO Calabarzon Regional Director Elmer J. Decena expressed.

The driving course, a two-unit subject (equivalent to 36 hours), will now incorporate 18 hours of theoretical road safety instruction, as the LTO specified.

The MOA outlines vital provisions of road safety modules. With this, the LTO will provide AUP with materials that will serve as templates for the road safety modules in the driving course. LTO will also conduct evaluation, training, and orientation seminars for the AUP College of Science and Technology faculty and staff in preparation for the launch of the STRUT program.



Therefore, upon completion of the driving course, the University students will be qualified to receive a certificate of completion for the Theoretical Driving Course (TDC), a requirement for obtaining a student permit. This certificate, issued by LTO's Driver's Education Center, will streamline students' permit application process.

Congratulations to our **NEWLY REGISTERED**
LIBRARIANS
 SEPTEMBER 2024 LIBRARIANS LICENSURE EXAMINATION

100%
 AUP PASSING RATE

48.76%
 NATIONAL PASSING RATE

JERIC AMISTOSO, RL

FHRYGYTT MALICSE, RL

EUGYNE REI FIEDACAN, RL

ALYSSA SALVACION, RL

NILMA LOMOD, RL

To God be the Glory!

Adventist University of the Philippines | COLLEGE OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY | LIBRARY & INFORMATION SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

LIS Graduates Achieve 100% Passing Rate in September 2024 Licensure Exams

The University once again shone in academic excellence as its Library and Information Science (LIS) graduates achieved a 100% passing rate in the September 2024 Librarians Computer-Based Licensure Examinations. This remarkable achievement contrasts the national pass rate of 48.76%, further reinforcing AUP's status as a leading institution for library science education.

The successful examinees are Jeric Amistoso, Fhrygytt Malicse, Eugyne Rei Fiedacan, Alyssa Salvacion, and Nilma Lomod, all of whom passed the examination on their first attempt. Their success is a testament to the rigorous academic training and the holistic educational environment provided by AUP, which fosters academic achievement and personal and spiritual growth.

Alyssa Salvacion, one of the newly registered librarians, recalled how the preparations for the exams were challenging since she is currently working as a junior library assistant at UPLB. "After the first exam day, the last subject, Indexing and Abstracting, was complicated. Honestly, I guessed almost everything because I didn't know the answers, so with every response I gave, I whispered, 'Lord, it's up to You.' But even though I struggled on the first day, I kept telling myself I'd be a Registered Librarian (RL) tomorrow. And on every scratch paper, the proctors gave me, I wrote my name with 'RL' at the end," Salvacion testified.

Agreeing with the notion of balancing work and studies for the boards, Nilma Lomod, another registered librarian working at the Philippine Cultural College-Caloocan, described that she was overwhelmed with pressure and doubts. "The exhaustion and sleepless nights were hard to bear, but despite all those negative thoughts, I prayed for the Lord to help calm my mind and grant me peace," she mentioned. But in the end, she surrendered everything to the Lord which gave her true confidence.

"I am so blessed because the whole department prayed for us. They have prayer warriors for the whole week praying for us until the results are announced," Eugyne Fiedacan, another registered librarian, testified to how a prayerful community inspired him. "Praise the Lord because AUP witnessed me grow from kindergarten to who I am today. I am now employed here at the University," he expressed. Nilma Lomod also expressed her gratitude for the prayer support of the department and the 1000 AUP Student Missionaries, her former small group in the University.

AUPA Undergoes AAA Visit



The AUP Academy welcomed the Adventist Accrediting Agency (AAA) during their chapel convocation at the Philippine International Church on September 17, 2024. "God has a plan for this institution," emphasized Dr. Bienvenido Mergal, Southern Asia-Pacific Division education director.

The AAA evaluators included Dr. Vicky Mergal, retired AUP assistant vice president for graduate studies; Dr. Mary Jane Zabat, North Philippine Union Conference education director; Agnes Ravalo, North Philippine Union Conference associate director of education; Wilma Reyes, Cavite Mission education superintendent; Dr. Raquel Fajardo, Central Luzon Conference education superintendent; Dr. Vergilio Quimba Jr., North East Luzon Adventist College dean of academics; Jezreel Saquiton, Manila Adventist College financial officer; Jassin Gregorio, Tirad View Academy principal; Luisa Belen Abania, Northern Luzon Adventist College librarian; and Dante Bernal, Adventist Academy Iloilo principal.

The accreditation process spanned for two days, concluding on September 18, 2024. During this time, the AAA team conducted a thorough evaluation of



the Academy's facilities, including the dorm, the cafeteria, and other building infrastructures. They reviewed essential documents and learning modules and conducted interviews with the AUP Academy administrators, faculty, staff, and students.

At the exit report held on September 18, Dr. Gracel Ann Saban, AUP vice president for academics, reflected on the accreditation experience,

describing it with four Rs: "Read, re-examine, reflect, and re-affirm." She encouraged the institution to embrace a "spirit of openness" throughout the process.

Dr. Bienvenido Mergal led the presentation of the general recommendations and suggestions during the exit report. He noted that during the Academy's last accreditation visit in 2016, there were 60 recommendations given. Of those, 45 were fully accomplished, 11 were partially fulfilled, and only four were not completed. With a 94% completion rate, the Academy achieved Level III accreditation, which signifies excellence.

"Objectively, you are a truly great institution," Mr. Mergal stated. He acknowledged the challenges the Academy faces but urged the community



to "keep excelling in the assignment the Lord has given us, for your labor is not in vain." He likened the accreditation process to "vitamins for growth," emphasizing its importance for the institution's continuous improvement.

Each member of the visiting committee shared partial reports, offering both commendations and recommendations in 10 areas of evaluation.

On behalf of the Southern Asia-Pacific Division, Mr. Mergal pledged USD 1,000 to support the AUP Academy's mission and evangelistic efforts. He commended the Academy, saying it was "well-prepared" for this year's accreditation.

Ms. Janeth Bacomo, the principal of AUP Academy, expressed her gratitude by presenting a token of appreciation and a certificate to recognize their dedicated time and efforts in upholding the standards of Adventist education.



University Sees 9% Increase In 1st Semester Enrollment for AY 2024-2025

The Adventist University of the Philippines (AUP) reported a 9% increase in overall enrollment for the 1st Semester of Academic Year 2024-2025. According to the comparative enrollment report released by the Records and Admissions Office as of September 24, 2024, a total of 5,019 students have registered across all levels, marking a significant rise from the 4,620 students enrolled during the same period last year.

The tertiary level remains the largest contributor to the student body, with 3,957 students, showing a 7% increase from the 3,002 students in AY 2023-2024.

At the tertiary level, the College of Medicine (COM) registered the highest percentage increase, enrolling 172 students, up by 26% from the previous year's 136 students. The Graduate Program also saw notable growth, enrolling 567 students, a rise of 11% compared to last year's 500.

For undergraduate programs, the College of Nursing (CON) experienced the largest growth, with a 20% increase, enrolling 892 students this semester, a significant rise from last year's 742 students. The College of Business (COB) followed closely, growing by 8%, with 680 students enrolled compared to 628 the previous year. The College of Arts and Humanities (CAH) saw an 9% increase, with 518 students registered compared to 474 last year. The College of Education (COE) also grew by 9%, enrolling 282 students this year, up from 258 students last year.

Other colleges, such as the College of Dentistry (COD) and the College of Theology (COT), saw steady growth, with a 3% increase. COD registered 453 students, up from 440, while COT enrolled 132 students this year, up from 119 the previous year.

Conversely, the College of Science and Technology (CST) saw a 12% decline in enrollment, with 176 students compared to last year's 201. Similarly, the College of Health (COH) experienced a 3% decrease, with 621 students enrolled this year compared to last year's 640.

The Academy recorded an overall total of 727 students. The Junior High School level experienced a 19% increase, climbing from 337 students last year to 402 this year. Similarly, Senior High School saw growth, with a 3% increase from 310 to 320 students. Meanwhile, Elementary enrollment reached 335 students, reflecting a 3% increase from the previous year.

During this academic year, the University enrolled 435 international students from 52 countries. China, Indonesia, and Myanmar are the top countries of origin for international students.





Sixty-nine University representatives attended the Manila International Book Fair (MIBF) at the SMX Convention Center, Pasay City on September 11, 2024.

Ten librarians attended from AUP Faculty and Staff: 7 from the John Lawrence Detwiler Library, 2 from the AUP Academy Library, and 1 from the AUP Elementary Library.

Fifty-nine representatives came from the academic team: 42 College deans and department chairs, 14 AUP Academy faculty members, and 3 AUP Elementary faculty members.

During the MIBF event, faculty and staff representatives explored new teaching resources and references related to their disciplines. They were able to interact with publishers to enhance their students' learning experience. Additionally, they have a priority list of references to guide them in updating their current resources in their fields of expertise, ensuring that the required copyright standards (at least five years and above) are met.

The MIBF, being one of the largest and most anticipated book events in the country, is Philippines' longest running and largest book fair. It is a significant platform that showcases the latest educational materials, literary works, and digital resources. This event is vital for Adventist educators to enhance their teaching methods and stay updated with contemporary educational trends.

Medical and Dental Mission Kick Starts COM Medicine Week 2024

With the theme, "Kalusugan ng Bansa, Responsibilidad ng Bawat Isa," the College of Medicine (COM) held a medical and dental mission as one of the activities to kick-start the Medicine Week 2024, at the COM Building on September 22, 2024.

Under the leadership of the COM Medical Missionaries for Social Responsibility (MMSR), this mission made a significant impact by providing free healthcare services to approximately 70 local residents. These services included internal medicine and pediatric consultations, dental extractions, and health education.

A team of 27 dedicated volunteers, including 9 from the College of Nursing, 4 dental students from the College of Dentistry, 10 physicians, and 4 dentists, along with several student volunteers from the College of Medicine, came together to make this event a success. Key activities included medical consultations, dental services, and informative health education sessions, all of which aimed to raise awareness about essential health practices.





In cooperation with Barangay Munting Ilog, Barangay Tibig, COM-Medicine Society Council, College of Dentistry, and College of Nursing, the medical mission reflected the COM's commitment to holistic health and community engagement. This event showcased the meaning of COM's slogan: "Through Christ, healing and wholeness."

Brgy. Captain Jorge Pangilinan; Dr. Mary Anne Martinez Manalo; Dr. Gracia Ilagan-Cadalzo; Brgy. Captain Romel delos Angeles Vasquez; Hon. Eric de Veyra; Dr. Jericho Joshua E. Palay, Municipal Health Officer of Silang; Councilor Meynard de Villa Robles, San Juan Batangas Health Office; Mr. Dante Ilagan; and Horus Healthcare Consulting supported the medical and dental mission.



AWESNA Holds 54th Convention in Hawaii

The 54th PUC-AUP Alumni Association of Western-North America (AWESNA) Convention was held in Honolulu, Hawaii from August 27-September 1, 2024. It brought together more than 200 alumni under the theme "Quo Vadis?" (Where are you going?).

The objectives of the AUP AWESNA Convention remain clear: to support AUP and to engage in community service.

At the House of Delegates session on August 30, Friday afternoon, AUP President Dr. Arceli Rosario presented in a 9-minute video the University's achievements in the academic year 2023-2024. After the session, one chapter

president told her: "I am proud to be an AUP alumnus. I would gladly have a sticker stuck in my car with this statement."

In the Sabbath afternoon meeting, Dr. Rosario was given substantial time to give a full report of the University's accomplishments, which she did in 90 PowerPoint slides. Among the highlights of her report were the active involvement of faculty, staff, and students in soul-winning programs which resulted in 300 baptisms; the outstanding results in the licensure examinations, with a Top 7 for the MLS program and Top 3, Top 9, and Top 10 for the BSN program; the granting of Level IV accreditation to four programs—PhD in Business Administration, PhD in Education, MS in Nursing, and BS in Nutrition and Dietetics; the increase in enrolment, which is the highest in the last 9 years; and the completion of the AWESNA—Alfonso P. Miguel, Jr., MD, Building and the Center for Chaplaincy and Spiritual Development—Dr. Nick and Miriam Tumangday; and advocacies to take support work scholars, to embrace the health message, and to promote a positive University culture.



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Outreach Initiative Expands to Local Churchers

As part of its ongoing commitment to promote Adventist education, the General Administration of the University deployed six dedicated outreach groups for a series of church visitations on September 21, 2024.

Each outreach group was strategically assigned to one of the six neighboring churches of the University: Hoyo SDA Church, Inchican Church, Heritage Church, Kuboside Church, Creekside Church, and Pandemic Church.

The outreach teams, composed of faculty members, administrative staff, and family served during the whole Sabbath. The groups used the same sermon material titled “The Legacy of Faith.” One principle the sermon underscores is the value of Adventist education as a family legacy.

This initiative highlights the University’s mission to engage with the broader community and emphasize the value of holistic education rooted in mission-centeredness. Other areas, such as the Student Services, the Finance and Operations, and the Academics, are also involved in this outreach initiative. Within this year, each of the three areas—General Administration, Student Services, Finance and Operations—are enjoined to hold at least one evangelistic crusade, while the Academics at least two.



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In addition, Dr. Rosario shared the University’s dreams for the academic year 2024-2025, which include the construction of a teaching hospital, the completion of Phase 1 and Phase 2 renovation of the cafeteria, and more intentional efforts to make Adventist education accessible.

During the banquet, on Sabbath evening, the AWESNA president, Dr. Jose Manalo, and the chair of the Fundraising Committee, Dr. Eppie Manalo, handed Dr. Rosario several envelopes containing donations from the association’s endowment fund and alumni donors, which totaled \$81,500.

The 54th AWESNA Convention successfully inspired attendees to reflect on the path forward for both the University and its alumni, ensuring that the spirit of generosity and mission continues to thrive.



'I Will Go' Event Highlights Social Research as a Tool for Mission

By Dr. Safary Wa-Mbaleka

A new chapter in the history of Adventist mission in Asia started July 8-9 at the Adventist University of the Philippines (AUP). For the first time in the history of the Adventist Church in that region, academics launched a human-subject research conference that focused solely on mission.

With the theme "I Will Go: Making the World a Better Place through Research," the organizers of the research conference were intentional in making Adventist mission the central focus of the event. This emphasis on mission was meant to ensure that all the research studies were mission-oriented, to help the church understand and address current and pressing needs in society.

For many in local churches, conferences, and even unions, research may not seem like the most exciting topic to discuss. In fact, once the word "research" is mentioned, many people tend to tune out of the conversation. However, research is not and should never be a dreadful concept. Research involves taking well organized steps to understand the root causes of specific problems and to address them in a well informed manner. In a practical way, research helps us understand what we are doing right and what we are not doing well, so that we can continue improving our mission. This doesn't sound all that scary, does it?

Creating a Platform for Safe Conversation

It is with this understanding that the Adventist Human-Subject Research Association-Asia (AHSRA-Asia) organized the first conference on the campus of the largest Adventist university in the Philippines. According to AHSRA-Asia president Arceli Rosario, who is also AUP president, this organization and the yearly conferences are meant to "create a platform where we can have safe conversations about relevant issues that we, as members of the Adventist Church, face." According to her, this is essential in providing "a space where we can connect ... [and] support each other and the church." Adventist research is about supporting Adventist mission.

To ensure there is a strong collaboration between Adventist researchers and the Adventist Church, the leadership of AHSRA-Asia is made up of three university and college leaders as well as two church leaders from Southern

Asia-Pacific Division (SSD). This collaboration led to the participation of SSD delegates, several Adventist unions and conferences, and students, faculty, staff, and leaders from various Adventist higher education institutions. Most delegates were from the Philippines, but a few other countries were represented as well.

A Great Variety of Presentations

More than 60 delegates gathered physically at the conference, while dozens joined virtually. The conference consisted of 32 presentations and one keynote speech that discussed various aspects of Adventist mission, including Adventist church services, administration, leadership, business, education, health, communication, and culture, among many others. There was a special emphasis on mental health that raised the awareness of all the delegates. A few presentations were on data from the recent General Conference Global Membership Survey, with a special stress on what church members believe today.

These various presentations together helped the delegates appreciate more the role research is playing in the Adventist mission worldwide. Many delegates expressed their joy at seeing the General Conference incorporating the voices of the church members worldwide in strategic planning. In his welcome address to the delegates, David Trim, director of the General Conference Office of Archives, Statistics and Research, said, "Research has great power to benefit the Seventh-day Adventist Church, and the more researchers involved and the more research done on the church, the better it will be for this great Advent movement." This became clear to all the conference delegates.

Additionally, the AHSRA-Asia advisor Bienvenido Mergal, currently the SSD education director, emphasized in his keynote address to the delegates that "the launching of this conference is in support of the church global mission of exploring the best methods, strategies, practices, and means on how to nurture our people, our institutions, and our students. This is further an avenue where we can share the truth to the community and to the outermost part of the world."

The original article is published on the Adventist Review website.





#ShineOn US Caravan Strengthens Alumni Connections and Support

Representing the University administration, Advancement Director Mr. Oemer Rey Daquila embarked on a “ShineOn United States Caravan” to strengthen ties with alumni and chapters, as well as garner support for ongoing University projects. The visit, from June 30-August 28, 2024, was marked by heartwarming fellowship, significant updates, and spiritual events with alumni residing in the United States of America.

The chapters visited were 9 alumni sub-chapters of Alumni Association of Western North-America (AWESNA): Riverside, San Diego, Glendale-Los Angeles, Loma Linda, Central Valley, New York, Florida, EASNAC New Jersey, and EASNAC Maryland.

The alumni gathered \$13,550 initially in support for ongoing projects and scholarships:

- AUP Cafe-\$ 1,350
- College of Arts and Humanities Building-\$ 2,000
- Education and Scholarship Funds-\$ 200
- Pledges-\$ 16,000



AWESNA Los Angeles Chapter



AWESNA Loma Linda Chapter



EASNAC Maryland Chapter



AWESNA Glendale Filipino SDA Church



Yllagan Shines Again In National Art Competitions

Pierre Yllagan, a fourth-year Fine Arts student, once more showcased his exceptional talent and skills this September. He participated in two prestigious art competitions and made a mark with his distinctive watercolor works.

Pierre's piece, "*Sa Likod ng Bawat Butil*," (Behind Every Grain) using watercolor on paper (23.5" x 48, 2024), earned him the title of second runner-up at the Vision Petron National Student Art Competition 2024. The artwork delves into the essence of Filipino life and the connection between farmers and society's needs, offering a deeply resonant narrative about how food is acquired, prepared, and valued by different social classes. To underscore his heritage, he grew up in a family of farmers and effectively demonstrated the role farmers serve as the backbone of the economy.

In addition to his success at Vision Petron, Pierre also joined the 36th Kulay sa Tubig National Watercolor Competition. His entry, titled "*Pagputi ng Uwak*," (Whitening of the Crow) explores themes of change and transformation, beautifully captured through the fluid medium of watercolor. The piece was displayed at the Gallery Genesis from September 21 to October 4, 2024. Pierre shared his experience: "Being invited to join the 36th Kulay sa Tubig National Watercolor Competition was such an overwhelming experience. From the interview to the awards night, everything felt like a dream. Being the youngest participant surrounded by seasoned veterans, it was like being thrown into an ocean of sharks—the only difference is that these sharks were friendly. Still, I realized this is exactly the kind of environment in which I thrive the most."



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Prepares People for Heaven*

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