

# AUP HIGHLIGHTS

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## AUP Celebrates 108 Years of God's Limitless Blessing

The Adventist University of the Philippines (AUP) marked its 108th founding anniversary from January 26 to February 2, 2025, with a week-long celebration filled with diverse activities centered around the theme "Advancing, Uplifting, Persevering: God is Limitless." The event brought together university administrators, faculty, students, and alumni, and dignitaries were invited to commemorate the University's legacy of faith, excellence, and service.

### A Grand Opening with Meaningful Activities

The festivities commenced on January 26 with an opening ceremony and parade, setting the tone for the week's celebrations. The Philippine National Police Academy graced the event

with their silent drill performance, providing celebrative energy for the week's celebration. One highlight of the day was the awarding of floats wherein creativity fused with resourceful materials produced wonderful floats for each college and department. The College of Arts and Humanities won first place with its intricate design of paper folding. The College of Science and Technology placed second with its innovative characters, reflecting the theme of limitless advancement. Lastly, the Maintenance Department placed third for its depiction of Centennial Park's The Pillars.

Various activities such as the opening of intramurals, AUP Elementary family day, Palaro ng Lahi (Filipino traditional games), and Psychology Department Continuing Professional Development program were held, engaging students and faculty in both physical





and intellectual pursuits. The day concluded with the Soli Deo Gloria 27th Anniversary Concert, a musical event that uplifted spirits and reinforced the University's commitment to glorifying God.

## Sports and Camaraderie



The celebration was also marked by various sports and student-led events, including College Intramurals held from January 26-29, the continuation of the AUPA Sportsfest Sangyaw, and the AUPE.

## Faith and Fellowship Through Events

Throughout the week, faith-centered activities took precedence. On January 29, the AUP Elementary (AUPE) and Academy (AUPA) led the Midweek Service, providing opportunities for spiritual reflection and community fellowship. Reuben Daniel Rusche, a Grade 6 student from AUPE, shared his story of how he came to know and enroll in AUP. AUPE is competitive academically but most of all with Christian values," he testified to his experience of being welcomed here at the University as a foreign student and a fellow believer of Christ. "May our school continue to embrace foreign students like I used to be," he mentioned, despite our diversity in culture and religion, "we are one in God's eyes."

Keena Lucion, a Grade 11 student from AUPA, shared three key insights about God's limitless power, "God's strength is revealed in our weaknesses, God's timing is always perfect, and God never abandons us." She testified that one's limitations do not define a person; God's power does. She also emphasized to stop putting limits on God. "Trust and have faith that he could do far more than you could imagine. He is limitless, and through Him, so are you."



## Recounting God's blessings with University Key Events and Thanksgiving Worships

A key event in the week-long celebration was the State of the University Address held on January 30, at the Philippine International Church. University administrators, faculty, students, alumni, and invited dignitaries gathered to

reflect on God's abundant blessings and honor AUP's enduring legacy.

Two significant moments of the anniversary week were the inauguration of the chaplaincy office on January 30 and the groundbreaking ceremony of the AUP Teaching Hospital on January 31, which were dedicated to strengthening the University's center of influence.

Reinforcing the theme of limitless faith and gratitude, the University also held a Sunrise Thanksgiving Worship on January 31, gathered to consecrate themselves to God, reflecting on His limitless power that has carried AUP through 108 years of blessings and growth. The morning service centered on "God can do exceedingly abundantly beyond what we can ask or think." This moment of worship, gratitude, and commitment reminded all of God's limitless love, power, and presence in their lives. The worship gathering was a solemn yet uplifting experience, emphasizing how faith has been the cornerstone for AUP's enduring success and one's life transformation.

On February 1, the week concluded with the anniversary of the Sabbath celebration, recounting God's limitless power that transpired in faith encounters and alumni testimonies. Reflecting on the incredible journey of God's limitless love, a grand sundown bonded the community and blessed every small group in the University. In the evening, donors, faculty, and staff were recognized for their commitment at the University banquet. Donors were acknowledged for their continued support of the mission of AUP, while the respective faculty and staff were awarded through dedicated years of service to the University.



## Embodying the Theme: 'God is Limitless'

On February 2, the 108th founding anniversary concluded the week-long celebration by going "Beyond the Limits" through AUP Color Run 2025, launching the AUP mascot, awarding college intramurals, and having a movie night.

The anniversary was not just a series of events but a testament to God's boundless blessings on the University and the institution's unwavering faith in God's limitless power. Each activity, from worship services to academic programs, resonated with the theme, emphasizing that with faith, dedication, and unity, there are no limits to what AUP can achieve.







## Dr. Rosario Recounts God's Blessing to the University during the State of the University Address

A key event in the week-long celebration was the State of the University Address held on January 30, 2025, at the Philippine International Church. University administrators, faculty, students, alumni, and invited dignitaries gathered to reflect on God's abundant blessings and honor AUP's enduring legacy.

The celebration honored the pillars of the University's legacy and recognized key historical figures' instrumental roles in shaping the institution. Among those honored were Dr. Alfonso Roda, AUP's longest-serving president, whose leadership spanned 22 years; Honesto Pascual, composer of the university song; Sam Robinson, development officer in Baesa and Silang campus; and Dr. Reuben Manalaysay, AUP's first Filipino president. Their contributions were commemorated solemnly, highlighting their sacrifices and dedication to the University's mission.

In the posthumous award ceremony, Dr. Gracel Ann Saban, vice president for academics, presented special recognitions to these pioneers, emphasizing their enduring



influence. Dr. Ferdinand Roda, son of Alfonso Roda, recalled his father's guiding principle, "love for God and love for his fellowmen. That was what guided him as a leader for 22 years."



Sam Robinson's granddaughter, Kaela Robinson-Hailey, also reflected on her grandfather's faith-driven work. "All these things were done because God was directing the work..." she testified that even when resources were scarce, "God provided, proving that nothing is impossible for Him."

The event's main highlight was Dr. Arceli Rosario, the AUP president's address reflecting on the University's journey over 108 years. "I take great delight in sharing with you what the Lord has done for us through these years," she expressed. She emphasized the importance of remaining true to AUP's identity and mission as "we look back to where we were and where we are today."

Dr. Rosario traced AUP's roots since its establishment in 1917 and recounted the

University's blessings regarding student achievements, faculty development, and infrastructure growth. She framed AUP's progress within six institutional goals: transforming spirituality, excellence in teaching and learning, committed Christian service and ministry, excellent organizational stewardship, qualified and committed personnel, and effective institutional relations.

As part of the address, Dr. Rosario presented the priority projects for 2025, which include the retrofitting and renovation of the Narra Residence Hall, campsite development, the cafeteria's Phase 2 and 3 renovation, expansion of the Health Foods Canteen and Café, and the construction of the teaching hospital. She revealed that the University has applied for a Level 3 Teaching Hospital status with the Department of Health. "The floor designs have been approved, and we are now at the engineering planning stage," she updated.

She urged the stakeholders to support these initiatives prayerfully and by faith, believing they would come to fruition. "I want to appeal to you that we receive this news prayerfully and by faith believe that this building will rise," she emphasized. She underscored the urgency of the University's mission, citing John 9:4: "Why are we doing so much in a year? Because these things must be done." She further reminded the community, "We have nothing to fear for the future unless we



forget how much the Lord has done for AUP for the past 108 years. If our pioneers were not afraid, why should we be afraid?"

Dr. Rosario encouraged stakeholders to see these projects not as distant dreams but as imminent realities. "See these projects as realities, not mere dreams," she urged. She concluded her address with a strong message of faith: "With deep gratitude, we have recounted what the Lord has done, and with deep faith, let us keep a bold step forward because we believe in the limitless power of God."



The event also honored distinguished alumni who have embodied the University's mission and continued to shine in their respective fields. Among the awardees was Atty. Harlin Neil Abayon III defended the stand of Adventist students' religious freedom in education and testified, "I am a living testimony of second chances. I always remember God's grace, goodness, and kindness." Dr. Miriam Tumangday received the award on behalf of Mrs. Elizabeth Granada, who facilitated connections between AUP and the German Embassy, leading to significant development projects for the College of Science and Technology. "I wish Elizabeth were here to tell you in confidence how God used her to help build these structures in the University," Dr. Tumangday shared.



Other awardees included Dr. Percida Cocos, recognized for her generous support of the Work Scholars Association and College of Medicine students. Dr. Blecenda Varona, honored for her contributions to the field of nutrition, humbly stated, "My little becomes much when I place it in the Master's hand." Dr. Crisamar Anunciado, recipient of the Distinguished Service Award in Nursing, expressed her joy in returning to AUP. "When you train at this University, you go there prepared to help as many people as possible. Moreover, when you do, please remember to carry the torch of service for God because that truly matters."

The celebration concluded with felicitations from dignitaries, expressing their unwavering support for AUP's mission and vision. "It is truly an embodiment that God is limitless," Charlene Marie Abalos, representing former DILG Secretary Benjamin Abalos, Jr., praised the University's legacy. "AUP has made a home for students' minds and hearts, nurturing individuals who are not only intelligent and bright but also God-fearing, God-centered, virtuous, and holistic."



"We take great pride in AUP for fostering an education that extends beyond academic excellence, shaping students to be Christ-centered and service-oriented," Dr. Rogelio Galera, Jr., CESO III CHED region director, affirmed the value of holistic Adventist education. Meanwhile, Hon. Bienvenido Tejano, Philippine Ambassador to Papua New Guinea, commended the address for shifting stakeholders' focus to relying solely on God's limitless power. "We must stand firm on the principles the Adventist Church has instilled in us and believe that God will accomplish great things for AUP"

## AUP Inaugurates the Center for Chaplaincy and Spiritual Development

Written by Marjorie Capilitan



The Center for Chaplaincy and Spiritual Development officially opened its doors on January 30, during the inauguration and ribbon-cutting ceremony at the College of Education (COE) Breeze-way. The event marked the University's commitment as a Bible-based



institution to the holistic growth and well-being of the AUP community.

In her message of appreciation, Dr. Arceli H. Rosario, the University president, expressed her heartfelt thanks to her colleagues and to the Tumangday family—Dr. Sunny, Dr. Charity and Dr. Miriam, who generously supported this project.

Philippine International Church Senior Pastor and Spiritual Development Director Lani Esteves, introduced the present chaplaincy staff which includes Pastor Chester Labrador, Pastor Rodel Arandia, Pastor Danilo Endriga, Pastor Restituto Bualoy, Pastor Diosdado Pumicpic and Pastor Roniel Villamor while also being assigned to different colleges and dormitories.



A special moment of the ceremony included the unveiling of a plaque by Dr. Sunny and Dr. Charity, in honor of Dr. Nick and Dr. Miriam Tumangday, recognizing their significant contribution to the center's establishment.

Dr. Miriam Tumangday shared words of affirmation during the ceremony, saying, "It's beautiful to pray with your students and teachers without interruption," highlighting the spiritual significance of the newly established center.



Mrs. Maureen Mariñas, director of Institutional Quality Assurance, led the litany of thanksgiving and dedication involving the administrators, benefactors, chaplains, college deans and department chairs, students, faculty and staff.

The Center for Chaplaincy and Spiritual Development is dedicated to supporting the campus community through a wide range of services, including counseling, spiritual guidance, and emotional support. With a commitment to fostering faith and personal growth, the office plays a crucial role in promoting religious diversity and leadership for campus ministries.



## University Supports LIHS SHS Students in Career Guidance Program

The University, through its Advancement Office, extended support to students at Lumil Integrated High School (LIHS), Lumil, Silang, Cavite on January 3, 2025. As part of its commitment to education and career development, the University participated in a career talk designed to guide senior high school students in their academic and professional aspirations.

The University was among the schools invited to present during the career assistance program. Marketing Officer Mr. Ivan Perdido led the talk, providing an insightful introduction to the University's course offerings and the dynamic campus life students could experience should they enroll.

During the session, students showed enthusiasm and interest in the various communities and organizations within the University. Given the school's close proximity to the University, LIHS students expressed particular excitement about the University's choirs and campus events.

According to Records and Admission Officer data, LIHS is one of the top high school feeders to the tertiary program alongside the AUP Academy, Olivarez College, and Lipa Adventist Academy. Through this initiative, the University continues to uphold its mission of fostering academic excellence and holistic development, ensuring that students receive the necessary guidance to make informed career choices.







## AUP Makes History with the Groundbreaking of the First Adventist University-based Teaching Hospital in the Asia-Pacific

This is a place where faith and vision converge,” declared Adventist University of the Philippines (AUP) President Dr. Arceli Rosario in her commitment message during the groundbreaking ceremony of the AUP Medical Center on January 31, 2025. With unwavering trust in God’s limitless power, AUP marked a significant milestone as it officially broke ground for its long-anticipated teaching hospital—an enduring testament to its dedication to Adventist medical education, healthcare, and the health ministry.

In celebration of its 108th founding anniversary under the theme “God is Limitless,” the event gathered university administrators, faculty and staff, College of Medicine (COM) students, AUP Health Services personnel, and invited dignitaries, with approximately 200 attendees present to witness this momentous occasion. This project is the culmination of a long-held vision shared by the previous presidents of the university.



The ceremony was graced by esteemed leaders and dignitaries, including Pastor Gerardo Cajobe, chairman of the University Board of Trustees and president of the South Luzon Philippines Union Mission (SLPUM); Honorable Mario Marqueses, barangay captain of Puting Kahoy; Honorable Police General Edward E. Carranza, municipal

mayor of Silang, Cavite; Dr. Teodoro “Ted” J. Herbosa, secretary of the Department of Health; Dr. Efren C. Laxamana, chairman of the Professional Regulatory Board of Medicine; Dr. Zenaida L. Antonio, immediate past chairperson of the Professional Regulatory Board of Medicine; Honorable Bienvenido V. Tejano, Philippine ambassador to Papua New Guinea; Atty. Mika Sollano-Santiago, representing the office of Senator Bong Go; and Architect Charren Kate Carta, representing OneMark Engineering Technologies.



### A Groundbreaking Ceremony Filled with Purpose and Vision

The event commenced with words of inspiration and encouragement from the administrators, emphasizing the hospital’s significance in strengthening AUP’s vision of integrating faith, education, and healthcare.

Dr. Elmer Valenzona, director of AUP Health Services, referred to the project as “our shared commitment in serving humanity,” reinforcing the institution’s mission of service through healthcare.



Dr. Doris Mendoza, dean of the AUP College of Medicine, reflected on the institution's long-standing vision, tracing its roots back to the 1950s, its realization in 2015, and its first operational year in 2016. She proudly highlighted, "AUP is the sixth Adventist medical school, and during the pandemic, the seventh was established in Rwanda." Emphasizing the significance of the project, she stated that the Teaching Hospital would be "the first and only University-based Adventist teaching hospital in the country," fulfilling the Commission on Higher Education's (CHED) requirements for medical schools.

Hon. Edward Carranza, municipal mayor of Silang, admired AUP's progress, stating, "As we break ground, look how far we have come." He assured that "the government of Silang supports AUP" and lauded the institution for its lasting impact on the community.



Previous faculty in the AUP-COM, Dr. Teodoro Herbosa, secretary of the Department of Health, highlighted the need for more healthcare facilities in the country, emphasizing the "need to triple our hospital beds." He recognized the initiative as "a foundation of hope and mission" and assured his support, promising to help fulfill the hospital's mission. He further stressed that "this is not only constructing a building but a sanctuary of mission."

"My wish is for a 200-bed capacity," said Dr. Zenaida Antonio, the immediate previous chairperson of the Professional Regulatory Board of Medicine, as she wished for the Teaching Hospital to expand beyond its initial 100-bed capacity.

Hon. Bienvenido Tejano remarked on the long-awaited realization of this vision, stating that this is a long-time dream shared by many leaders, and "our leaders are supportive, and you can see the commitment."

Representing Senator Bong Go's office, Atty. Mika Santiago affirmed their support: "We look forward to seeing the positive impact this institution will bring to countless lives. Mabuhay po kayo!"

## AUP Leadership's Commitment to the Teaching Hospital

Dr. Arceli Rosario, the president of the university, articulated words of commitment. "I do not speak for myself alone. I speak for the board and all the stakeholders of the university." She affirmed her faith in the project. "I believe with all my heart," she continued. Dr. Rosario reassured those involved in the project that support strengthens her resolve while challenges "keep me on my knees." She passionately stated how words are a driving force of action. "Build a teaching

hospital," she declared. "Let's keep on saying that. The Lord spoke, and it came to be."

"People will have a 'yehey' feeling. Patients will flock here. Do not be afraid because we deliver excellent care," she extended her optimism to future patients and the community. "Closing her speech, she left a powerful statement: "We are not able, but God is able."

Pastor Gerardo Cajobe, president of the South Luzon Philippine Union Mission and chairman of the University Board of Trustees, affirmed AUP's dedication and expressed the commitment "to ensuring the proper implementation of this project."

## A Beacon of Hope for Medical Education and Healthcare

Establishing the Teaching Hospital marks a pivotal step in addressing the increasing demand for an integrated medical education and healthcare system. This facility will serve as an excellent training ground not just for future doctors but physician missionaries, equipping medical students with essential hands-on clinical experience.

Beyond medical education, the Teaching Hospital is set to serve as a beacon of hope for the surrounding communities. Committing to high-quality and accessible healthcare services, it aims to bridge gaps in medical care, particularly for underserved populations. The project is a testament to the university's enduring mission of cultivating skilled and compassionate healthcare professionals who render whole-person care. As the AUP-COM motto says, "through Christ healing and wholeness."

## A Future Built on Faith and Dedication

The groundbreaking ceremony of the Adventist University of the Philippines-Teaching Hospital stands as a historic moment of faith, dedication, and shared commitment. As construction begins, AUP remains steadfast in its pursuit of excellence in education, healthcare, and service. This project signifies not only a building but a legacy—one that will shape the future of medical professionals and extend quality healthcare to those in need. AUP embarks on this journey and puts faith in our limitless God. The university invites everyone to realize this dream mission together through God-willing donations. Indeed, God is limitless, for there are no limits to what can be achieved through Him.



# President Rosario Inspires Students During President's Hour

by: Rose Vi Ebor

**A**UP President Dr. Arceli Rosario delivered an inspiring message to students during the president's hour for the 2nd semester of the academic year 2024-2025. Dr. Rosario urged students to center their lives around God as the new semester begins to unfold at the Philippine International Church on January 17, 2025.

Dr. Rosario underscored the importance of integrating the Bible into every aspect of life. Drawing from her own experiences as an educator for 42 years, she shared how she had been using the gospel as a guiding framework in her years of teaching.

One of the key highlights of Dr. Rosario's message was her emphasis on the transformative power of prayer. "Prayer is the most powerful thing on earth, and a person who prays is the most powerful person on

earth," she stated.

"Whatever joys, sorrows, or experiences I have, I can bring them all to the world and ask God for an answer," she shared as she expressed how encounters with prayerful individuals deeply influenced her life, shaping her perspective and approach to challenges.

For first-year Library Science student Gelian Malapira, one particular quote stood out: "Put God first in everything." Malapira described it as a simple yet profound reminder to prioritize God in every aspect of life, an essential lesson students need as they prepare for the semester ahead.

Dr. Rosario's message of faith, prayer, and dedication resonated deeply with students, offering encouragement and spiritual insight as they embark on the second semester.

## First Sunrise Worship of the Year Held by Campus Youth Ministries

**S**tarting the year with God, the Campus Youth Ministries conducted the first sunrise worship at Centennial Park on January 18, 2025. This event served as a commencement to the year, centered around the theme "Why Me?"—a reflective inquiry designed to help young participants explore their purpose in Christ and their divine calling as God's chosen people.

The worship service began at dawn, welcoming students and small group members who eagerly engaged in various activities. Worship songs and discussion groups covered the significance of the question, "Why Me?" focusing on God's profound love and purpose for everyone.

The event's highlight was the devotional message delivered by the Vice President for Academics Dr. Gracel Ann Saban. With a profound passion and conviction, Dr. Saban conveyed an inspiring message grounded in Isaiah 43:19. She articulated that life's purpose is neither accidental nor arbitrary but divinely orchestrated by God. "What you do with your life is your gift to the Lord," she remarked. "The next time you pose the question, 'Why Me?' remember that God has created you for a purpose. You are alive, and your existence



is sustained through the blood of Jesus. You are called to live by God's purpose, and your presence here at AUP signifies your commitment to that calling."

Her remarks resonated deeply with the youth, underscoring that the answer to "Why Me?" is fundamentally rooted in God's purpose for each one. We are alive, chosen, and called by God not merely for personal fulfillment but to serve and bear witness in every facet of life. "Embrace your youth while taking responsibility of fulfilling God's purpose for you," Dr. Saban urged, encouraging students to utilize their formative years at the University with wisdom, and to focus not only on academic or personal achievements but also on the higher calling of disseminating God's love and truth.



# University Holds First Bayanihan of 2025

The University launched its first Bayanihan for 2025, embracing the spirit of stewardship in Christ through collective action. Faculty, staff, and students came together on January 10, 2025 to participate in the Bayanihan initiative, demonstrating their dedication to keeping the campus clean, green, and beautiful.

This collaborative effort reflects the University's commitment to fostering unity, service, and environmental responsibility. The overwhelming participation highlights the community's shared mission of care, cooperation, and faith in action.



# AUP Faculty and Staff Dedicate New Year of Service to God in a Spiritual Retreat

The faculty and staff of the Adventist University of the Philippines (AUP) gathered for a two-day spiritual retreat on January 10-11, 2025, reaffirming their commitment to faithfully fulfilling their mission in education. With the theme "Find Us Faithful," the retreat served as a time of spiritual renewal, reflection, and rededication to their calling as missionaries in the academic setting.

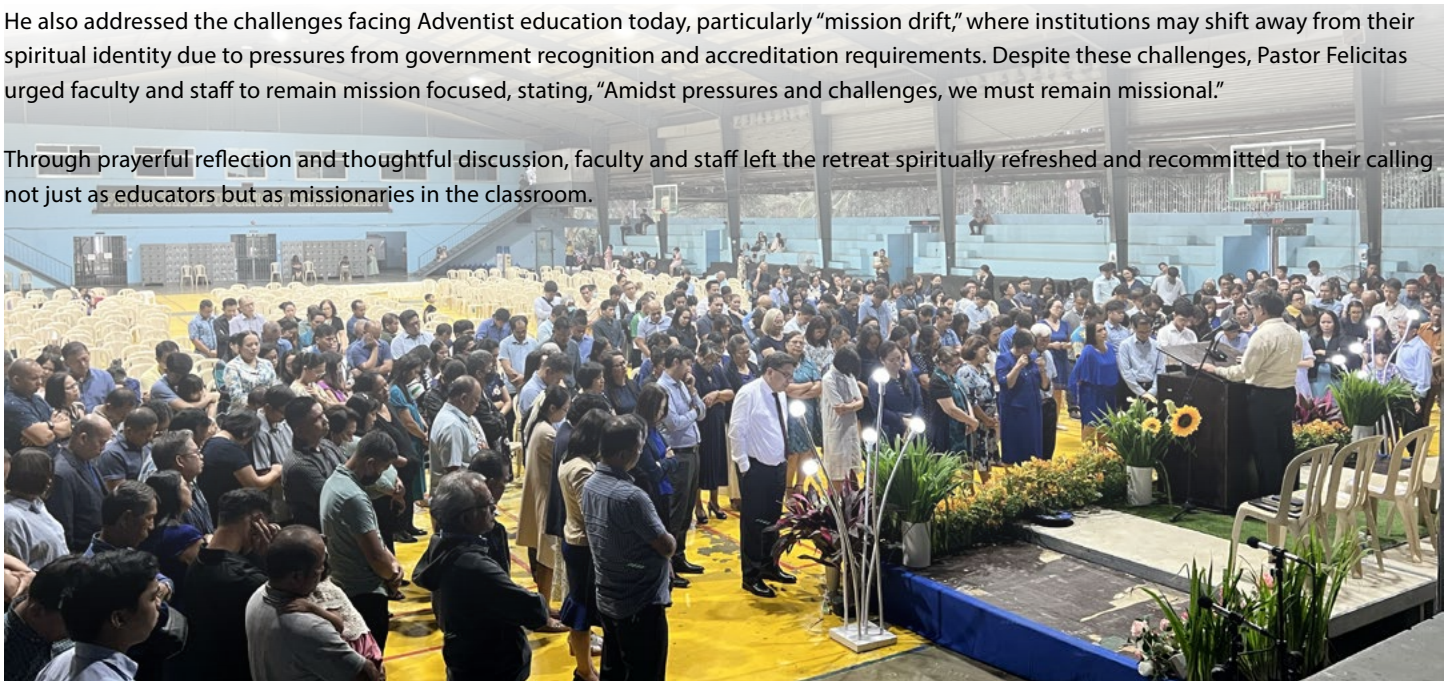
The retreat began with a vesper program, where guest speaker Dr. Nestor Rilloma spoke about faith development through different stages of life. In his message titled "A Response to the Call to Be Faithful," he highlighted that faculty and staff are more than just educators they are missionaries, and their students are their mission field. He stressed the importance of presence and mentorship in an academic environment, stating that "every student is a mission field. God is glorified even if just one student is transformed through a meaningful encounter."

During the Sabbath School session, Dr. Prema Gaikwad emphasized AUP's unique mission as an Adventist institution preparing students for Christ's soon return. She challenged faculty and staff to reflect on how their roles shape students' faith and character.

Dr. Samuel Gaikwad delivered an inspiring worship message, illustrating how being different is part of Adventist education's calling. Through various examples, he reminded attendees that standing firm in faith despite challenges is essential in remaining true to AUP's mission. The retreat also featured a discussion led by Pastor Felixian Felicitas titled "What Is Adventist Education?" He outlined its three foundational characteristics: holistic, mission-oriented, and integration of faith and learning.

He also addressed the challenges facing Adventist education today, particularly "mission drift," where institutions may shift away from their spiritual identity due to pressures from government recognition and accreditation requirements. Despite these challenges, Pastor Felicitas urged faculty and staff to remain mission focused, stating, "Amidst pressures and challenges, we must remain missional."

Through prayerful reflection and thoughtful discussion, faculty and staff left the retreat spiritually refreshed and recommitted to their calling not just as educators but as missionaries in the classroom.







They have also recognized faculty and students who were speakers of the 10 Days of Prayers in the dormitory worship: Stephen Jay Pingcas, Rujem Ricalde, Prince May, Conrad Lo, Seventh Lontaan, Renzy Yap, Ralph Loreto, Yueyeng Li, Shuheng Zhang, Sebastian Dwight Sembiring, Bobby Calvin, Crysle Romero, Bro. Howard Petiluna, Queenziel Kate Divine Camiros, Pstr. Chester Labrador, Bobby Calvin, Shekinah Makalitong, Allyzah Chloe Bacus, Jehaziel Calago, Nealsen Mirk Clifford, Cleah Zhar Caroz, Harvey Fabellar, Zae Cabalbal, Maxyne Pastrana, John Lee Carbungco, Jessrel Lagariza, Laggo Bunwang, and Romyla Lagariza.

The Prayer Ministries also held a fasting and prayer program on the last day as a culmination of the 10 days of prayer.

This event lifted the University community, reinforcing that prayer is not just an act but a way of life. As the University continues its mission to transform lives through spirituality, this collective experience serves as a testament to faith, unity, and the power of prayer.



## Youth Week Celebration Drives Students to Strengthen Faith and Companionship

*by Marjorie Capilitan*

Filled with spiritual enthusiasm and social engagement, the University celebrated Youth Week, with the theme “Pagtan-aw: Renewing Minds, Changing Lives,” organized by the Campus Youth Ministries (CYM). The event ran for 2 weeks, from January 20–25 and January 26–29, 2025 and focused on cultivating the students’ spiritual renewal and growth. It showcased various religious organization booths, promoting their respective small groups.



## University Unites in Global 10 Days of Prayer Initiative

Led by the Prayer Ministries Department of the Philippine International Church, the University actively participated in the 10 Days of Prayer, a worldwide event initiated by the General Conference, held from January 8-18, 2025. This spiritually enriching gathering brought together faculty, staff, and students for a time of worship and prayer in the church and their dormitories.

Each day of the 10-day event focused on a unique theme, offering insightful messages and powerful reflections on the importance of prayer in a Christian's life.

Day 1: Abide in Me – Dr. Arceli Rosario emphasized that prayer is not about what we can do but what God can do. She reminded everyone that prayer should be a constant, not an afterthought, declaring, “A prayerful person is the most powerful person on earth.”

Day 2: Teach Us How to Pray – Pastor Chester Labrador highlighted the significance of praying every day, pointing to Jesus as the perfect example of a prayerful life.

Day 3: Be Specific – Bro. Reynaldo Laberinto encouraged participants to pray with clarity and faith.

Day 4: Unanswered Prayers (and Faith)—Pastor Lani Esteves tackled the mystery of unanswered prayers, urging trust in God’s greater plan.

Day 5: Hallowed Be Your Name – Pastor Diosdado Pumicpic led reflections on the holiness and reverence of God’s name.

Day 6: Your Kingdom Come – Pastor Lani Esteves reinforced the call to seek God’s kingdom first.

Day 7: Your Will Be Done – Pastor Rodel Arandia shared insights on surrendering to God’s divine purpose.

Day 8: Give Us This Day Our Daily Bread – Pastor Dan Namanya reflected on God’s provision and sustenance.

Day 9: Forgive Us Our Debts As We Forgive Our Debtors – Pastor Roniel Villamor spoke on the power of forgiveness.

Day 10: Do Not Lead Us Into Temptation – Pastor Thirdee Polizon encouraged resisting temptation through prayer.

Final Sabbath Celebration: “God’s Power in Our Prayers”

The culmination of the 10 Days of Prayer was a final sabbath celebration, with Pastor Paul Choonghwan Oh delivering a message on experiencing God’s power through prayer.



The first week centered on honing the students' spiritual growth through nightly worship leadership, promotional talks by religious organizations, and testimonies shared during the vesper service. These activities deeply touched the students and encouraged them to strengthen their relationship with God.



During the second week, in collaboration with the Central Student Council (CSC), CYM shifted to a more engaging approach. Student-led religious organizations set up booths to promote small groups: Advent Explorer, Anchors, Discovery Club, H.A.P.P.Y. Family, L.A.M.P., Ministerial Association, One in Christ, 1000 AUP Student Missionary, Sinai for Christ, Maranatha, and Touching Lives.

Mark Jacob Garao, the CYM care group coordinator, expressed his hope that the event inspired the students to live the commitment to service in their daily lives. "I think this Youth Week will impact them in a way that they would be inspired to engage more in service, not just to their fellow students but to the community as well, especially to God. I believe this has opened opportunities where they could serve and minister with the talents God has given them. That to me is a great joy because I get to witness them, discover their God-given talents and skills, and utilize them in serving people, His children." He further emphasized the importance of providing more opportunities for students to serve and minister to others. Beyond service, he hoped for training sessions that would offer mentorship and leadership development, equipping students with the skills to follow Christ's example of service and love. Garao envisioned extending this initiative throughout the semester and beyond.

"AUP's Youth Week blessed me. I am glad to be part of the Ministerial Association. Every day is a fellowship with like-minded believers. I am also blessed to have many friends across religious organizations. It reminded me that no man is an island and friends with the same goals and faith are very important," Rujem Ricalde, a first-year Theology student expressed emphasizing this Youth Week strengthened the students' faith and helped them foster meaningful connections with others.

## Dr. Fajanilan Inspires Growth Mindset at Manado Independent School

Dr. Levy M. Fajanilan had the privilege of serving as the resource speaker for the in-service training at Manado Independent School, Manado, Indonesia on January 9–10, 2025. The training was themed "Cultivating a Growth Mindset," and her lecture was divided into three sub-topics: "Unlocking Potential: The Power of a Growth Mindset," "Rekindling a Culture of Growth," and "Reflect, Plan, Evolve."

Dr. Fajanilan shared that engaging with the teachers during and after the sessions was an absolute delight. Their active participation in discussions and activities was both inspiring and commendable. A particular highlight was their creative collaboration in composing songs, chants, and poems, which showcased their commitment to embracing and fostering a growth mindset through teamwork. The Q&A session provided additional enrichment, with teachers posing thought-provoking questions demonstrating their deep understanding of the growth mindset concept and its practical application in their teaching practices.

In addition to her role as speaker, Dr. Fajanilan took the opportunity to promote the Adventist University of the Philippines to the teachers and administration. Flyers were distributed to each participant, and AUP tote bags filled with food factory products were given as tokens of appreciation.





# COE Inducts 8 Teacher Interns During Pinning and Dedication Ceremony

by Marjorie Capilitan

The College of Education (COE) transitioned eight students into teacher interns as it held its pinning and dedication ceremony on January 23, 2025. Centered on the theme “Kintal,” a Filipino term meaning “to imprint” or “to engrave,” the event highlighted the College’s commitment to instill Christ-like character in the hearts of learners.

The keynote speaker, Mrs. Sheila Relox, an alumna of COE and faculty of the AUP Academy, reminded the teacher interns of their noble calling. “As future teachers, you hold the power to influence lives. You will inspire curiosity, foster creativity, and nurture character.” She encouraged them that while planted seeds of knowledge and values may take years to bear fruit, the harvest will be immeasurable.

Following the keynote address is the main highlight of the program: the pinning and donning of coats, which symbolized the interns’ official entry into the teaching



profession and marked a key moment in their journey.

The program also featured testimonies from former teacher interns Shari Daffodil Abellanosa and Royd Manguera. Manguera recalled how his internship pushed him out of his comfort zone in an unexpected environment.

Dr. Jeremiah Fameronag, dean of COE,

encouraged the teacher interns to embrace the essence of “Kintal” by leaving a meaningful imprint on their students. He also urged them to live out the Christ-like values central to their mission as educators.

Orven Dela Cruz, an intern representative of the batch, expressed his excitement and readiness for this new chapter. “At this stage, we would like to think that we are fully trained because we finished all the subjects,



Rhalf Jayson F. Guanco, PhD

## Dr. Guanco Becomes First Filipino to Receive 2025 APA Award

awarding him the prestigious 2025 APA Award for Distinguished Contributions to Independent Practice. This historic recognition makes Dr. Guanco the first Filipino ever to receive this distinction, marking a milestone achievement for the psychology profession in the Philippines.

Dr. Guanco, a distinguished faculty member of the University’s Psychology Department shined for the University through his significant contributions to clinical specialization, health services, and consulting. His work has profoundly impacted various patient populations, including children, adults, rural communities, minority groups, and individuals struggling with severe mental health conditions.

This award is given to independent practitioners who demonstrate excellence

in psychology, peer recognition, and significant contributions to the profession’s advancement. Honorees are acknowledged for their role in promoting psychology to the public, professional leadership, and outstanding service in their respective fields.

The APA Board of Professional Affairs, which sponsors this award, continues to celebrate psychologists who push the boundaries of independent practice and enhance mental health services and awareness worldwide.

Dr. Guanco’s recognition not only highlights his dedication and impact in the field of psychology but also inspires Filipino psychologists and mental health professionals.

The American Psychological Association (APA) Board of Professional Affairs recognized Dr. Rhalf Jayson F. Guanco for his outstanding contributions to independent psychology practices in Southeast Asia,





## COD Holds Thanksgiving Program, Honoring Board Passers and Inspiring Future Dentists

The College of Dentistry (COD) gathered in thanksgiving for the success of its recent board passers at the University Gymnasium on January 16, 2025. The thanksgiving was a celebration of academic success and a testament to faith through the experience of the COD board passers.

PIC Associate Pastor Roniel Villamor, the keynote speaker, set the tone for the event by reminding everyone that success is not solely the result of human effort but a gift from God. "When you're successful, dedicate your success to God. It's not all about COD; it's all about GOD," he emphasized.

Among those who shared their heartfelt testimonies was Dr. Meriam Fajutagana, who recalled how she approached every exam question with prayerful surrender. She described the intense anxiety she felt while shading her answers, and how her heart pounded so loudly that she could hear it outside her body. However, amid the pressure, she saw God's hands guiding her. Looking back on her 12-year journey to becoming a dentist, she encouraged others never to give up, quoting Isaiah 60:22: "When the time is right, I, the Lord, will make it happen."



Dr. Rhele Urbi reflected on his struggles as a student, admitting that he once complained and blamed external factors for his difficulties. However, he eventually realized that the problem was not with his school or professors but his mindset. He confessed to being too lazy to complete clinic requirements and fearful of failure. He turned to prayer in his darkest moments of doubt and allowed God to lead him. "I praise God that I made it, not because of myself but because of His guidance, grace, and faithfulness," he shared, adding that he is a living proof that prayer works even when the outcome seems impossible.



For Dr. Nathaniah Ruth Dominguez, overcoming fear was a significant part of her journey. She held on to 2 Timothy 2:17, which states, "The Lord did not give you a spirit of fear but of power." This verse reminded her that as a Christian, she was not meant to live in fear but in faith and strength. She spoke about the uncertainty of exam results, where even confidence in one's knowledge could be shaken by unpredictable circumstances. Through it all, she trusted the Lord, firmly believing He was in control of her future life. She also emphasized the importance of specific prayers, sharing that God had answered hers in ways she never imagined.



Meanwhile, Dr. Shem Vincent Santos shared a deeply personal testimony about his relationship with God. He admitted that there were times when his faith was not as strong as it should have been, yet God never abandoned him. He realized that no matter how far one strays, God's love remains constant. "No matter how far you are from Him, you are still loved," he reflected.



As the Top 1 board passer, Dr. Beamor Carranza delivered one of the most powerful testimonies of the event. She recounted how she prayed over every question during the written exams, surrendering everything to God. "Lord, kayo na po ang sumagot ng exam. Wala na po talaga akong alam," she recalled praying. When the practical exams ended, she initially felt a sense of relief, but as she waited for the results, her prayers remained unwavering. She was grateful when she learned she had passed and topped the boards.

Carranza reflected on the greater meaning behind her success, stating, "God wants to remind us that He is our God, and He can do amazing things. Our struggles are part of the process, preparing us for something greater." She acknowledged that doubt is natural, but trusting in God is essential. "The more you doubt yourself,

the more you need to surrender to Him," she said. She concluded her testimony with a humbling reminder that all success is an opportunity to reflect on God's glory, not just personal effort.

Dr. Carranza had not anticipated topping the board exam, but she understood that it was part of God's purpose. "Maybe that was the



purpose all along. God allowed me to top the board exam because He wants to remind us that He uses ordinary people—those who feel unequipped, inadequate, or unprepared—to make His power undeniable," she shared. She reminded her peers that God has a plan for them, even when the journey seems uncertain. "There will always be a reason why. God is preparing us for the good part," she said.

"This success is not just mine. This is a shared victory through God's unfailing love and grace," she emotionally shared with the COD.

As the program concluded, the overarching message became clear: success is not measured by achievements alone but by faith, perseverance, and trust in God's perfect timing. The testimonies of the board passers served as inspiration for aspiring dentists, encouraging them to surrender their dreams to the Lord and allow Him to work wonders in their lives.



## EDITORIAL INFORMATION

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### AUP HIGHLIGHTS STAFF

**Oemer Rey T. Daquila**  
Advancement and Publication Director

**Rodel D. Romero**  
Layout Artist

**Charissa Uy**  
News Writer/Editor/Layout Artist

**Sheri Joy Namanya**  
News Editor

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