

AUP HIGHLIGHTS

The Official Newsletter of the Adventist University of the Philippines

AY 2024 - 2025 | Volume 14 Number 8 | March 2025



ake Drill

AUP Observes Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Week

With a firm commitment to cultivating a culture of safety and preparedness within a faith-based educational framework, the Adventist University of the Philippines (AUP) observed its annual Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (DRRM) Week from March 3 to 7, 2025, carrying the theme “Agap: A Step Towards Safety and Preparedness.” The Filipino word “agap” conveys the idea of swift response, alertness, and timely action—an apt expression of the university’s proactive stance in promoting disaster readiness rooted in responsibility and care.

Organized by the Central Student Council (CSC) – Student Welfare and Basic Services and the Institutional Quality Assurance Office, in partnership with the Silang Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office (DRRMO), the week featured a range of interactive and educational activities

designed to prepare the AUP community for emergencies.

The program opened with interactive booths at the SA Park from March 3 to 6, which provided students hands-on experiences in preparedness education.

On March 4, a University-wide earthquake drill was held at 9:00 AM, followed by a residence-wide drill at 8:00 PM, conducted with the support of Silang DRRMO, AUP Pioneer International Church (PIC), and the Trailblazers Master Guide Club. Both drills engaged over 3,500 participants, underscoring the university’s commitment to collective readiness.

Spiritual reflection was woven into the week through a midweek worship held on March 5 at PIC, where disaster survivors shared their testimonies, reminding the community



that preparedness is both a practical and spiritual calling.

The week concluded with a Colleges Majors’ Forum on March 7, with sessions hosted across multiple campus venues and facilitated by officers from Silang DRRMO: Mark Christian M. Sulit, RCRIM, EMT, Administrative and Training Section Chief, spoke at the Samuel P. Dizon Academy Gym to approximately 500 students from the College of Health and College of Education. At the CAH Multipurpose Hall, Hardzel Hail T. Magpuri, EMT, Administrative Aide IV, addressed around 250 students from the College of Arts and Humanities.

About 500 students from the College of Business, College of Dentistry, and College of Theology, met at the University gymnasium, where they were joined by Paul Gerald Ermitaño, EMT, Research and Planning Section Chief.

Finally, Nieldrin Bautista, EMT, Administrative Aide 6, conducted a session at the CST Multipurpose Hall for roughly 200 students from the College of Science and Technology.

Through these integrated activities, AUP reaffirmed its holistic approach to education—empowering students not only to succeed academically but also to lead with vigilance, compassion, and faith in times of crisis. Indeed, “Agap” became a campus-wide call to be spiritually grounded, service-oriented, and ever-ready in the face of life’s uncertainties.

Racca Publishes Research in Mathematics Journal

Dr. Abraham P. Racca, chairperson of the Mathematics and Physics Department, published his latest research paper in *Mathematica Bohemica*.

Dr. Racca’s paper, titled “Integration by Parts Formula for McShane and Kurzweil-Henstock Integrals via Double Lusin Condition,” delves into advanced integration theory, contributing valuable insights to the field of mathematics. *Mathematica Bohemica*, a well-respected research journal published by the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic, is indexed in Scopus, one of the largest abstract and citation databases for peer-reviewed literature.

The University recognized Dr. Racca’s dedication to mathematical research and his continued contributions to the University’s reputation in scholarly work. His research in integration theory has been influenced by esteemed scholars, including Dr. Emmanuel Cabral and Dr. Ian Jun L. Garces from Ateneo de Manila University and Dr. Peng Yee Lee from the National Institute of Education in Singapore.

This achievement reflects the University’s pursuit to fostering a culture of research excellence and intellectual inquiry. Dr. Racca’s success exemplifies the AUP’s dedication to advancing scholarly contributions in the field of mathematics, further solidifying AUP’s reputation in academic and research communities.



AUP Undergoes Accreditation with PACUCOA

The University underwent accreditation from the Philippine Association of Colleges and Universities Commission on Accreditation (PACUCOA) on March 11-12, 2025. The accreditation visit covered several programs, including Level III 1st Re-accreditation for Bachelor of Science in Office Administration, Bachelor of Science in Medical Laboratory Science, Bachelor of Science in Library and Information Science, and Bachelor of Arts in Theology. Level III Reaccreditation was conducted for Bachelor of Music in Music Education, Bachelor of Science in Information Technology, and Bachelor of Science in Electronics Engineering.

“Your presence here marks a significant milestone in our continued pursuit of education,” Dr. Arceli Rosario said as she welcomed the accreditors. AUP, as an institution, is committed to holistic Christian education.” She emphasized that aligned to the University’s commitment to



excellence "we embrace this accreditation process."

The accrediting team, chaired by Dr. Ferdinand Somido, consists of experts in various fields: Dr. Dolores Flora for Librarian and Information Science, Dr. Noli Valera for Office Administration, Dr. Rufo Calixto, Jr. for Medical Laboratory Science, Rev. Fr. Glenn Baes for Theology, Dean Oliver Junio for Information Technology, Engr. Cesar Coronado for Electronics engineering, Dr. Honey Jane Santiago for Music Education, Dr. Felixberto Mercado for research, Dr. Melanie Florentino for Student Services and S.O.C.I., Engr. Nestley Sore for the physical plant and facilities, and Dr. Teresita Calma for the library.

The two-day accreditation included reviewing exhibits of the

involved programs; visiting the University's adopted community; conducting classroom observations; and engaging in dialogues with students, faculty, staff, administrators, alumni, and Board members. During the exit conference, Dr. Somido expressed his gratitude and looked forward to a bigger and brighter future for AUP. "I feel content now, but I will be happier if many students can experience the quality of education that AUP provides," Dr. Somido commended. "Truly, AUP is a quality school."

Highlighting the University's commitment to excellence and quality education, PACUCOA assured the leadership that they will "always be your big partner, big brother in achieving quality and excellence."



AUPA Earns Accolades in Academic and Institutional Excellence

The Adventist University of the Philippines Academy (AUPA) exemplified its commitment to academic excellence, Christlike character, and exemplary service, securing two significant recognitions that further affirm its mission of holistic Adventist education. Through these achievements, AUPA demonstrated the institution's unwavering dedication to quality education and values-based learning.

Silver Award from the Cavite Province Association of Private Schools (CPAPS)

AUPA was honored with the Silver Award for its active participation in the activities of the Cavite Province Association of Private Schools (CPAPS) on March 14, 2025. This recognition was presented during the Year-End Executive Meeting themed "K-12 and Private School: One Value in Education." By fostering a spirit of academic engagement and continuous improvement, AUP Academy upholds its mission of equipping students with knowledge and values that align with its core principles.

AAA Grants AUP Academy Five-Year Accreditation Status

Another milestone is the granting of the Adventist Accrediting Association (AAA) to AUPA a five-year accreditation status, following a comprehensive evaluation conducted on September 17-19, 2024. AAA rigorously assessed AUPA's adherence to academic and operational standards by reviewing documentation, conducting interviews with school representatives, and performing on-site observations. Based on their findings, the accrediting team recommended continued accreditation until December 31, 2029, contingent upon an annual written report documenting AUPA's compliance with recommended improvements.

These recognitions underscore AUPA's dedication to delivering a Christ-centered, academically rigorous, and service-oriented education. Through its unwavering commitment to excellence, AUPA continues to foster an environment where students are empowered to excel in their studies, grow in faith, and serve their communities.



AUP College of Theology Submits to ATESEA Accreditation

The College of Theology (COT) submits to accreditation from the Association for Theological Education in South-East Asia (ATESEA) on March 24 to 25, 2025.

The ATESEA accrediting team composed of distinguished educators and theological scholars was composed of Dr. Jeaneth Fallar, former dean of Silliman University Divinity School, Dumaguete City, Philippines; Dr. Batara Sihombing, lecturer of Abdi Sabda Theological College, Medan, North Sumatra, Indonesia; Dr. Naw Hay Ta Mu, academic dean of Karen Baptist Theological Seminary, Yangon, Myanmar; and Mr. Toni Afandi, librarian at Southeast Asia Bible Seminary, Malang, East Java, Indonesia.

In preparation for this major milestone, the College of Theology conducted an extensive institutional self-study and presented detailed documentation and exhibits. These were aligned with ATESEA's core accreditation criteria, which evaluated the clarity and consistency of the vision, mission, and institutional objectives, as well as the effectiveness of institutional planning, evaluation, and educational assessment systems.

The evaluators recognized COT's strengths across several key metrics such as the faculty standard; curriculum, learning, teaching, research; community life and spiritual formation; and relationship with other schools, the church, and the community. The accreditation team re-accredited COT's academic programs, faculty, facilities, and overall mission effectiveness.

This re-accreditation process affirms the College of Theology's strategic role in shaping future leaders of the Adventist Church and beyond. It also underscores AUP's broader mission to provide transformative, Christ-centered education that equips students to serve with excellence, integrity, and compassion in a rapidly changing world.





AWESNA Recognized AUP Tradigital Fine Arts Students for Medical Mission Logo Design

The AUP Alumni of Western North America (AWESNA) with Dr. Jose Manalo, president of AWESNA; Dr. Esther Ong, director for AWESNA community affairs; Mr. Mario Ong; and Mr. and Mrs. Constantine Totalca recognized the academic excellence and artistic innovation of the University students from the Tradigital Fine Arts program for their contributions to the AWESNA Medical Mission logo design.

This initiative highlighted the alumni's dedication to fostering creativity while allowing students to apply their artistic talents in meaningful endeavors. Under the mentorship of Ms. Sunshine Cervantes, students from the Digital Design 1 class were tasked with developing a logo that represented the mission's theme. The competition served as a platform for students to demonstrate their ability to translate complex concepts into visual designs. During the awarding ceremony, each participant presented their work and explained the significance of their design elements, reflecting their deep understanding of artistic communication.

The participating students were Regee Lorn Mangaring, Mart Jay Ignacio, Ron Basia, and Mario Andre Lapuz. Special recognition is given to the grand prize winner, Justine Carl Dela Rea, for his excep-

tional creativity and dedication to the logo used during the AWESNA Medical Mission 2025 in Valencia, Bukidnon.



"Their generation loves minimalist yet powerful visual interpretations. Still, it portrays the depth of meaning conveyed through simplicity," Dr. Ong commended. The event exemplified how alumni organizations can engage with the University community to harness and showcase student talents in service of greater causes.



The awarding ceremony recognized the students' achievements with cash prizes, underscoring AWESNA's and AUP's dedication to supporting young artists and encouraging them to contribute their skills beyond the classroom. This initiative reflects the University's mission to integrate academic learning with real-world applications, reinforcing the role of creativity in community service and outreach.



AUP Nurtures Christ-Centered Living Through Transformative Week of Prayer

In alignment with its strategic goal of transforming spirituality, the Adventist University of the Philippines (AUP) continues to foster a vibrant faith environment that nurtures a Christ-centered spiritual life among its academic community. The University recognizes the vital role of spiritual formation in the holistic development of both students and employees, and this commitment was once again embodied through the recently concluded Week of Prayer events across different academic levels.



College Students' Week of Prayer: "We, Come. Welcome"

The faculty, staff, and college students gathered for their 2nd Semester Week of Prayer, anchored in the theme "We, Come. Welcome" on March 17-22, 2025. Throughout the week, student representatives from each college led both morning and afternoon worship sessions, engaging their peers with personal testimonies and reflections grounded in the Word of God.

The messages throughout the week served to remind students of God's unwavering presence in their journeys—both academic and spiritual. Several attendees expressed deep personal insights drawn from the series. One student shared, "It resonated with me because it reminded me that God is not done with me yet; my story is not

yet over." Another reflected on the value of waiting, stating, "Delay is a blessing from God and teaches us to trust in Him." Others found clarity in identity, saying, "I learned that I do not need validation from anyone's choice because God has already chosen me." One testimony particularly emphasized the spiritual purpose behind their education: "I am so blessed for God reminded me once again that academics was not the only reason I came here to AUP but also to know Him more, to search Him more, and to let Him come into my heart." Students were also reminded of their worth in God's eyes, with another saying, "We are enough in God's sight." Kyra Dollontas, a Psychology student shared that "sometimes God allows seasons of emptiness in our lives not to abandon us or forsake us but to create a space for Him to move in our lives."

The spiritual impact of the week culminated in the baptism of five college students, reaffirming the power of God's call and the University's mission to lead young people to accept Christ. Those who publicly declared their faith included Prings Ashley D. Agbunag, Beatrice Louise A. Lebajo, Janelle Imekedang B. Masao, Allysa Trisha G. Perez, and Arabella D. Tinamisan.

AUP Academy's Week of Prayer: "Love, You, and I"

The AUP Academy held its 1st Semester Week of Prayer on March 24-29, 2025 with the theme "Love, You, and I." Rooted in 1 John 3:1, this spiritually enriching series was led by student speakers, who delivered sermons designed to deepen the understanding of God's love, explore the value of healthy relationships, and affirm each student's identity in Christ. In a culture where love is often misinterpreted, relationships are tested, and self-worth is questioned, the program offered biblically grounded messages that brought healing, hope, and clarity.

The sessions explored a wide range of topics essential to adolescent spiritual development and emotional well-being. Students examined



the question “Who Am I?” through reflections on discovering identity in Christ. They were reminded that they are deeply valued through the message “You Are Loved – The Unconditional Love of God.” Further sessions discussed the spiritual implications of being God’s children in “What Does It Mean to be Called a Child of God?” and challenged students to live out their faith boldly in “Called to Shine: Living Out God’s Love.” The theme of purpose was explored in “Loved to Love: Finding Your Purpose in Christ,” while “Understanding God’s Timing” addressed the importance of trusting in divine delays. Issues of love and relationships were addressed in sessions such as “How Do You Know if It’s Still Love?” and “Relationships and Temptations – Honoring God with Purity.” Students were guided through emotional healing in “Healing from a Broken Heart – God’s Love Never Fails,” and encouraged by the reminder in “Single But Not Alone – Finding Fulfillment in God.”

The week concluded with a practical application of faith through the session “Love in Action – Serving Others with Christlike Love.” This spiritually charged week concluded with the baptism of nine academy students, who responded to the call of Christ. Those baptized were Leonora Cassandra Vianca Almenanza, Erin Schelle Botabara, Hannah Sophia Calinao, Nethanel Edward Castro, Wayne Horez



Esguerra, Kevyne Rhiane Mergal, Jaeden Kevin Olarte, Allyzandra Reyes, and Kit Danielle Unsay.

A Continuing Mission

These Week of Prayer experiences serve as a testimony to AUP’s unwavering commitment to spiritual growth as a central pillar of Adventist education. In every message shared, prayer lifted, and life surrendered to Christ, the University continues its vision of preparing individuals not only for this life but also for eternity.



Liora 2025: Grade 12 Class Presentation

by Alyssa Bayona

The AUP Academy (AUPA) graduating class organization held its class presentation at the Philippine International Church on March 19, 2025. This event formally introduced the graduating class to the school community and administration, marking the beginning of their final journey toward graduation. Parents, teachers, and students gathered to witness this milestone as the graduating class was recognized for their dedication and hard work. The ceremony set an inspirational tone for the remainder of the school year, encouraging the graduating class to stay focused and resilient as they approach the end of their academic journey.

Zynarik Tabelisma, class president of AUPA Amaranthine 2019 and Top 3 in the 2024 Philippine Nurses Licensure Exam, delivered an inspiring message using the acronym 3 P’s — Pause, Pray, and Proceed. She encouraged the graduating class to pause and trust that God has a plan for them. She also emphasized the importance of prayer, urging them to surrender their plans to God, knowing He understands what is best. Finally, she reminded them to proceed with faith, even in times of uncertainty, trusting that God would guide their steps.

Her message highlighted that only through God’s guidance could students truly face and overcome obstacles.

Ms. Janeth Bacomo, AUPA principal, formally accepted the students as candidates for graduation. Leighanna Caagbay, the graduating class organization president, unveiled the batch name “Liora,” which means “my light.” “Why Liora? Because each of us carries a light within. We shine in different ways, and it’s that light that makes us stand out,” Caagbay explained referencing Matthew 5:14-16. Her words reflected the idea that the Class of 2025 is composed of individuals with unique qualities, whose combined brilliance makes them a remarkable and unforgettable batch.

The Grade 12 Class Presentation encouraged the graduates to stay determined, work diligently, and persevere in their paths toward success. As the countdown begins, AUPA will continue to witness these individuals embody the essence of “Liora” — shining brightly for the glory of God in their endeavors.

Colleges Conduct Multi-Department Community Extension Services to University-Adopted Barangays

In a continued commitment to holistic and Christ-centered service, several departments of the Adventist University of the Philippines (AUP) conducted community extension initiatives aimed at improving health, promoting wellness, and enhancing educational resources in nearby adopted barangays.

Fine Arts Department: Mural Painting for Community Enrichment

The Fine Arts faculty and students extended their talents to the community through a mural painting project at Tri-R, Puting Kahoy, beautifying public spaces and promoting positive messaging through visual art. The initiative demonstrated the role of creativity in community development and environmental uplift of Barangay Puting Kahoy.



Psychology Department: Anti-Substance Abuse Awareness Campaign

Faculty and students from the Psychology Department launched an interactive campaign at Muting Ilog Integrated National High-school titled "Get Right with God, Live a Happy and Healthy Life with NEWSTART and SAD-Free." The awareness program aimed to educate and empower young minds against substance abuse through values-based discussions and wellness education.



Medical Laboratory Science Department: Free Diagnostic Testing

The Medical Laboratory Science (MLS) Department provided free laboratory services including urinalysis, fasting blood sugar, cholesterol, and uric acid testing to 50 senior citizens of Buklod Bahayan, at the Buklod Covered Court in Tartaria, Silang. This program advocated for preventive health measures and was conducted in partnership with the College of Medicine, College of Health, and College of Nursing.



College of Dentistry: Dental Services for Five Barangays

The College of Dentistry conducted dental outreach to residents of Barangays Carmen, Hukay, Inchican, Puting Kahoy, and Tartaria. They served a total of 65 clients with a team of 59 student clinicians, 11 faculty members, 4 staff, and 5 work scholars.



College of Medicine: Physical Examinations and Vitamin Distribution

The College of Medicine conducted physical examinations and distributed vitamins to daycare pupils in Barangay Puting Kahoy with 81 children and in Buklod Bahayan with 118 children. The program aimed to ensure early health monitoring and nutritional support for preschool-aged children.



College of Nursing: Breastfeeding and Nutrition Education



The College of Nursing conducted a breastfeeding and complementary feeding education session at Buklod Covered Court, collaborating with the medical and health sciences departments. Mothers were educated on preparing simple, affordable, yet nutritious meals for their children, and vitamins were also distributed as part of the initiative.

College of Science and Technology: Library Enhancement and Literacy Advocacy

The Library and Information Science Department, under the College



of Science and Technology, re-organized the Tartaria Elementary School Library and conducted a book shower to expand its collection. A Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) was signed to formalize a long-term partnership for library development and consultancy services.

These community engagement efforts exemplify AUP's mission of academic excellence, Christlike character, and exemplary service. Each department's contribution reinforces the University's vision of shining on for Jesus, bringing faith-driven impact and mission-centered support to the University's surrounding communities.

PACUCOA Extends Warm Greetings to AUP on its 108th Founding Anniversary

In a heartfelt message dated January 28, 2025, the Philippine Association of Colleges and Universities Commission on Accreditation (PACUCOA) extended its warmest congratulations to the Adventist University of the Philippines (AUP) on the occasion of its 108th founding anniversary.

The letter, addressed to Dr. Arceli Rosario, AUP President, commended the University's longstanding commitment to excellence and Christ-centered education. PACUCOA Chairperson Dr. Esther Vedaña, who signed the letter, acknowledged the anniversary theme, "Advancing, Uplifting, Preserving: God is Limitless @ 108," and described it as reflective of the University's mission and vision.

"The vision of your University to be a leading Adventist educational institution in the Asia-Pacific region as well as your mission to provide quality Bible-based education, nurturing students for academic excellence, Christ-like character, and exemplary service, are basic values that PACUCOA so dearly uphold and treasure," Dr. Vedaña stated. "You can together forge ahead and see an institution with total quality and excellence," she expressed confidence in AUP's continued growth.

She concluded her letter with a prayerful message for AUP to have "a fruitful and memorable celebration, and continued success in your future endeavors." She prayed "that you will be guided by the Lord Almighty."

EDITORIAL INFORMATION

AUP HIGHLIGHTS is a monthly newsletter of the Advancement Office

AUP HIGHLIGHTS STAFF

Oemer Rey T. Daquila
Advancement and Publication Director

Rodel D. Romero
Layout Artist

Charissa Uy
News Writer/Editor/Layout Artist

Sheri Joy Namanya
News Editor

Protos by: **Silang Memoirs & AUP CSC**

AUP ADMINISTRATORS:

Dr. Arceli H. Rosario
President

Dr. Gracel Ann S. Saban
VP Academics

Mrs. Aileenmae G. Silverio
VP Finance

Dr. Julio C. Amurao
VP Student Services



Adventist University of the Philippines

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

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