

# AUP HIGHLIGHTS

The Official Newsletter of the Adventist University of the Philippines

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## AUP Breaks Ground for the Dr. Jeimylo and Kyna de Castro Research Center

God will make it happen. For me, impossible dreams are God's possible dreams," Dr. Jeimylo de Castro testified as the Adventist University of the Philippines (AUP) held the groundbreaking ceremony for the Dr. Jeimylo and Kyna de Castro Research Center on June 20, 2025.

Donated by the de Castro family and envisioned as a permanent home for the University's research initiatives, the building will serve as a dedicated space where faith meets inquiry and scholarship is anchored in spiritual integrity. It is another milestone in the University's continuing pursuit of truth through Christ-centered research.

"This is God's opportunity to show that He is in control," shared Dr. Arceli Rosario, university president, during her message. "We commit to excellence toward the research center. This will be a venue where God's truth will be permanent, where every study will be done to glorify Him."

Dr. Gracel Ann Saban, vice president for academics, reflected on the humble beginnings of the AUP research ministry in the late 1970s. "Back then, research was just a small office in the library. Now, it will finally have its own home. Praise God for His faithfulness."

More than a building, the research center is a sacred space where students, faculty, and scholars will be nurtured in the University's mission of "offering quality Bible-based education that develops Christlike character and prepares people for service." Construction is set to begin within the year, with the clear intention that the center will be a hub for discovery and transformative knowledge that honors God.

As Dr. De Castro prayed to the Lord, the Lord revealed His resources in this research center, sharing God's truth in research.







## AUP College of Medicine Commissions 28 New Physician-Missionaries in 7th Commencement Exercises

**D**The College of Medicine (COM) of the Adventist University of the Philippines held its 7th Commencement Exercises at the Philippine International Church, celebrating the academic and spiritual journey of 28 graduates as physician-missionaries on June 22, 2025.

Their class name, *Altum Septima*, is a Latin phrase which rightfully represents their class. *Altum* means "high" or "deep," while *septima* means "seventh." The name embodies excellence, which is the kind of graduates they are.

"Medicine is a ministry, not just a career," Department of Health Secretary Dr. Teodoro Herbosa said as he affirmed the sacred responsibility of the medical vocation. In his address, Dr. Herbosa added that healing "is not only about eliminating disease, it is about restoring dignity, hope, and humanity." He further inspired the graduates by pointing them to the greatest example of medical service. "The Greatest Physician

the world has ever known walked barefoot among the poor, healed lepers, comforted the broken, and called the weary by name."

The highlight of the ceremony was the awarding of diplomas and the investiture of academic hoods, symbolizing the culmination of the students' rigorous academic training and their readiness to embody the mission of the College, to produce competent physician-missionaries.

Recognition was also given to those who have exemplified academic excellence and compassionate service. The following awardees with their respective awards:

**Overall Most Outstanding Clinical Clerk:** Elaissa Kae San Jose

**Cum Laude and ACE Awardee (Most Outstanding Medicine Graduate):** Cydrick Ken Romulo

**Dean's Award:** Khryzandre Jhem Dakis

**Leadership Award:** Kevin De Jesus

**Pastoral Care and Physician-Missionary Award:** Michael Brant Fabellon

### Outstanding Clinical Clerk Awards:

For *Batangas Medical Center (BATMC)*: Elaissa Kae San Jose, Gifer Segundo, David Caesar Marasigan, New Yik Shen, Angelica Arandia, Dorish Faith Carillo, Bea Mae Acuña, Kevin de Jesus, Sheila Jessica Roallos, Khryzandre Jhem Dakis, and Renzo Louise Dimaano. For *Adventist Medical Center-Manila (AMCM)*: Khryzandre Jhem Dakis, Elaissa Kae San Jose, and Mikhaile Conrad Aguirre.

The College also recognized the graduates who completed their **Loma Linda University Medical Center clinical clerkship**: Angelica Arandia, Karla Gianne Barayuga, Kristine Mae Casipit, Khryzandre Jhem Dakis, Kevin De Jesus, Gia Zonuel Ilagan, David Caesar Marasigan, and Cydrick Ken Romulo.

In recognition of their pivotal role in the development of the COM's clinical program and in shaping competent and compassionate physician-missionaries through mentorship and institutional support, the following partner institutions were presented with a plaque of appreciation: BATMC and AMCM.

"Let us depart carrying the responsibility that Jesus Christ through AUP-COM has entrusted us," Dr. Kevin De Jesus, class president of Altum Septima, reflected on their shared journey. "We have started and we have finished this chapter because this is our calling. Wherever we go, the people will see Christ in us."

As a token of gratitude and practical support to future classes, Altum Septima gifted their

college a microwave oven and refrigerator.

De Jesus concluded with a commitment "to be in the service of the One who holds the future, in the hands of our Master Physician, Jesus Christ."

In her closing remarks, Dr. Arceli Rosario, AUP College of Medicine Dean, captured the essence of the class name. "Your name Altum Septima means full fullness, perfect

perfection, and complete completeness. You will not lack anything. The love of God that alone is complete and full and perfect be upon you."

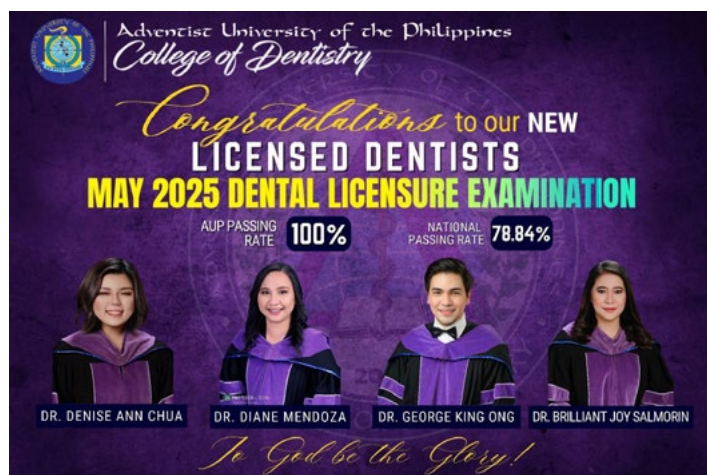


## AUP Celebrates 100% Passing Rate in Certified Bookkeeper Examination

The Adventist University of the Philippines through the College of Business-Accountancy Department gained another academic achievement as its BS Accountancy and BS in Accounting Information System students achieved a 100% passing rate in the Certified Bookkeeper Examination conducted by the National Institute of Accounting Technicians on May 27, 2025.

Out of the 24 examinees of the College, 13 students received the result of "High Distinction," a remarkable feat that reflects their diligence, discipline, and commitment to excellence, grounded in Christian values. These students are the following:

Catito, Shanessa Mae  
Deomampo, Raven Vhynz  
Estacio, El Jireh  
Gandia, D'gnt Mcheart  
Labasa, Hannah Pauleen  
Lorienzo, Linzer Kyle  
Panganiban, Dianne Cholee  
Ramirez, Jim Joseph  
Redioca, Andrea Louise  
Riano, Arnel Angeli  
Rosaciña, Krystel Izabel  
Sumadsad, Lois Hannah  
Tumpalan, Rose Maimah



## AUP Achieves 100% Passing Rate in May 2025 Dental Licensure Examination

The Adventist University of the Philippines (AUP) examinees from its Doctor of Dental Medicine program achieved a 100% passing rate in the May 2025 Dental Licensure Examination (DLE). This outstanding performance stood against the national passing rate of 78.84%.

The newly licensed dentists are Dr. Denise Ann Chua, Dr. Dianne Mendoza, Dr. George King Ong, and Dr. Brilliant Joy Salmorin.

This accomplishment shone smiles of academic triumph but also the spiritual dedication to the Great Healer, who continues to guide the hands and hearts of those trained within the halls of AUP.



# AUPA Chorale Brings Home Gold From Borneo Festival With a Testimony of Faith and Ministry

The Adventist University of the Philippines Academy (AUPA) Chorale earned top honors at the 2025 Borneo International Vocal Arts Festival held in Miri, Sarawak, Malaysia held on May 29–June 1, 2025. The chorale brought home an impressive four awards:

Gold Prize & Category Winner: Youth Choir

Gold Prize & Category Winner: Sacred Music

Gold Prize & Category Winner: Folk Music

Special Jury Prize for Artistic Integrity and Choral Excellence

Yet beyond the accolades, the journey itself stood as a powerful testimony of God's leading, transforming what could have been just a musical competition into a sacred ministry moment.

"Our journey wasn't just about singing, it was about service," shared chorale member Zynel Jael. "From the beginning, this trip was a ministry, not a competition. One of the most beautiful experiences we had happened before we even stepped on stage."

During their preparations, the group regularly sang "Lead Me, Lord," which gradually transformed from a mere song into a shared prayer and declaration. "We were not there to chase recognition but to follow wherever God was leading us in that moment," Jael added.

Mr. Kyle Vallejos, AUPA Chorale conductor, testified to how God honored their faith when they stood firm in their beliefs. Initially, their competition categories were scheduled on the Sabbath, but after prayerful dialogue with the or-







ganizers, a miraculous change was granted. They were rescheduled to perform on Friday with the full panel of judges present just for them.

"Who else can do that but God!" Vallejos reflected. "We didn't just perform. We worshipped. We cried because we saw God's faithfulness." Indeed, it was a testimony of faith. It is "From simply kneeling in prayer to standing on an international stage, we've seen how God can turn small dreams into powerful stories through challenges, delays, and triumphs," Vallejos added. Their ministry continued on Sabbath as the chorale led the worship in one of the churches in Malaysia while all the other choirs were performing at the competition.



International juror and masterclass instructor Dr. David Chin shared his admiration for the group, calling them a "faith-based high school choir from the Philippines" who impressed not only with vocal skill but with "integrity, humility, passion, and spirit."

"Their bond as a choir is truly admirable. They sang for purpose, not for praise," Dr. Chin posted on his social media.

"To say I'm proud is an understatement," Dr. Arceli H. Rosario, AUP president, affirmed the chorale. "You've had a real encounter with the Lord, and through your commitment to singing, I know you will have many more."

The experience aligns deeply with AUP's philosophy of holistic Christian education, where academic, artistic, and spiritual growth meet. It is also a vivid expression of AUP's mission to develop Christlike leaders prepared for service in this world and the world to come.

"When God works, He brings you to the places and people you're meant to reach. And it is always for God's honor," Kyna de Castro, a parent-sponsor shared.





# AUP Inks Initiatives for Internationalization in Japan

Representing the Adventist University of the Philippines, Dr. Gracel Ann Saban, vice president for academics, had a meeting and memorandum of agreement (MOA) signing with Dr. Masazumi Sugi, president of Saniku Gakuin College (SGC), a co-educational boarding school on a senior college level operated by the Japan Union Conference of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

The meeting and MOA signing ceremony took place at Tokyo Adventist Hospital (TAH) in Tokyo, Japan on June 11, 2025. Present in the ceremony were Dr. Masazumi Sugi, president of SGC; Dr. Mirika Hirano, vice president for nursing of TAH; and Dr. Reiko Konno, academic dean. Dr. Sugi facilitated an insightful dialogue by sharing the profiles, contexts, programs, and practices of both institutions. This was followed by a discussion on academic and research cooperation outlined in the MOA. The conversation included identifying specific internationalization efforts and other areas of collaboration related to academic and church missions that will be organized as a result of this partnership.

Dr. Saban also met with Dr. Toshihiro Nishino, president of TAH. Dr. Mirika Hirano, vice president for nursing of TAH, toured Dr. Saban through the 186-bed hospital building, which also includes three medical clinics, a dental clinic, and a home-vis-it nursing station with over 500 employees. The hospital shares its campus with Amanuma Church, the largest Adventist Church in Tokyo, and Saniku Gakuin College of Nursing, the only Adventist nursing college in Japan.

On June 12, 2025, Dr. Makoto Hiratao, principal of Tokyo San-Iku Adventist Elementary School and Ms. Kuriko Maeki, English program coordinator at the same school, hosted a tour that transpired observing curriculum implementation and culture-rich school activities. Dr. Saban noted best practices in learner behavior management and inclusion of work in the daily school program. The visit also involved teacher training exchange and ocular inspection for Student Internship Abroad Program (SIAP) opportunities.



# AUP Honors Decades of Dedication at 2025 Retirement Program

The Human Resources Office of the University paid tribute to dedicated employees during the retirement program held at the Finster Hall of All Nations on June 18, 2025. Themed “A Sweet Ending to a New Beginning,” the program celebrated the faithful service and enduring legacy of five retirees who have served the institution with excellence, humility, and heart.

The following retirees from various departments were formally honored and recognized:

- Dr. Lowena de Ocampo: Department Chair, Office Administration Department, College of Business
- Mr. Medardo B. Samontina: Carpenter, Maintenance Department
- Mr. Leonard A. Mostaza, MBA: Manager, Water Station; Senior Accountant
- Mrs. Raquel P. Capiendo, MAEd: Dean, Women’s Residence Halls
- Mrs. Rebecca V. Mergal, MBA: Administrative Secretary, Office of the Vice President for Finance



Pastor Ephraim Parulan delivered a heartfelt devotional message that reminded everyone of God’s faithfulness through every season of life, including the transition into retirement. Anchored 1 Corinthians 4:1-2, his message emphasized how to be faithful, true, and honest as an *oikonomos* steward. He expounded the word on how one live with humble responsibility, accountability, and service—faithfully managing what God has placed in each individual’s care.

A series of tributes and heartfelt responses followed. Colleagues, family members, and institutional leaders offered their appreciation for the retirees’ contributions not only to their respective departments but also to the mission and ministry of AUP.

Dr. Arceli Rosario, AUP president, affirmed the retirees’ impact not only as professionals but as mentors and models of faith-led service. Pastor Parulan offered a dedicatory prayer for the retirees as they move into a new chapter of life in Christ’s service.





# Beyond Outreach: A Ministry of Transformation in Thailand Border Schools

In the border towns of Thailand—where stories of war, displacement, and silence often fill the air—testimonies are being written, ones of healing, education, and spiritual restoration. A team of faculty and student volunteers from the Adventist University of the Philippines (AUP) conducted an outreach mission in the Thailand-Myanmar border area.

The program titled “God H.E.A.L.S.” (Health, Education, Arts, Lifeskills, and Spiritual Enrichment) was organized by AUP’s Community Extension Services Office (CES) with the support of the AUP/PUC Alumni of Western North America (AWESNA). The team served students at Naung Bo Den Learning Center and Maelahklo Christian School in Mae Sot, engaging over 400 learners with education, psychosocial care, and spiritual renewal.



## AUP Volunteers Extend Educational and Psychological Support

Activities conducted include mental health education, trauma counseling, dental health services, music and art classes, spiritual programs, values education, and livelihood workshops.

At Naung Bo Den, 210 students participated in the program. At Maelahklo Christian School, an additional 205 students participated in values education, music, health promotion, and spiritual activities. “They taught us how to handle our feelings and our pain. They prayed with us,” shared one student. “I did not know people from so far could care this much,” he added.

“The Lord has many interventions,” Dr. Cutie Canesares, one of the missionaries and a psychology faculty of the University shared. “In that border, they carry many scars but you will not notice because all you will see is their smiling faces.” She expressed how emotional it was and testified how healing come in forms of relationships formed. “God heals holistically,” she explained that people can feel God’s presence amidst the brokenness. She emphasized how coming together in the refuge, even among the missionaries in that place, through the mission of presence, they are also healed.



## Stories That Speak

One teacher, Nant Thwe Thwe, movingly recounted the ministry experience at Naung Bo Den Learning Center. “Many of our students, even I, carry past experiences they do not know how to solve. Prayer sessions and psychological services heal our past. God heals,” she testified how the center was blessed with the missionary team and how God healed parts of their being they did not know were still hurting.

Miss Phimpaka Kampeewattana, a teachers at Maelahklo Christian School, expressed a deep gratitude for the mission’s impact, highlighting a joyful time of learning, teaching, and encountering God’s love. “The children were delighted. Our brothers and sisters [from AUP] taught us English related to the knowledge of God’s love as well as music and art.”





Maelahklo Christian School was one of the learning centers visited by the AUP volunteers. Students responded enthusiastically to interactive English lessons and creative workshops in art and music. According



to Principal Worapon Wacharakoon, the volunteers' approach helped students learn "through doing" and brought joy and valuable experience to their daily school life. "The students were happy and engaged," he said. "We are thankful for the team. I hope that next time you can visit again and teach our students more."

The team also conducted a week of prayer, and it reached the hearts of five individuals who decided to be baptized: Andrew March Thang, Ko Ko Linn Maung, Thin Yadarnar Hlaing, Htet Myarl Aung, and Htet Htet Soe.

"I used to see stories of war and refugees only in the news," said Jonas Louis Ranas, a College of Theology student and one of the speakers for the week of prayer. "Now I understand that our mission is global. We are part of something bigger than our campus."

We are part of the Great Commission," he amplified.

Ranas recounted how hearing the hymn *We Have This Hope* sung in different languages made him reflect on the unity of God's people. "The lyrics 'when the nations far and near, shall awake and shout and sing, Hallelujah Christ is King!' reminded me that God is our hope altogether. It reminded me that many are still unreached, but through missions like this, God is turning obstacles into opportunities."

### Small Acts, Lasting Change

One volunteer from the College of Dentistry, Myjela Eunice Carpizo, shared a personal encounter with a 7-year-old girl who was initially afraid of dental treatment. Despite her fear, the child smiled throughout and returned daily with small gifts and a bright smile. On the final day, she gave Carpizo a drawing and a red paper as a thank-you gesture. "How could they be thankful?" Carpizo recalled. "All I did was clean their teeth." The moment gave more profound meaning to a message echoed during the mission: "Small acts, big change."

For many team members, this was their first time serving in a refugee community. Ailen Lazaro, one of the volunteers from the Graduate Education reflected, "Seeing their situation made me realize how much we take for granted. It changed everything. Even if I could do but little, I knew I could pray, and that mattered."



"It was a place full of laughter, culture, discipline, singing, smiles, and hope," said Chessie Aplod, a dentistry student. "This trip allowed me to meet good people willing to travel far to teach, preach, and reach," she added.

Dr. Jolly Balila, AUP's research director and mission volunteer, described the community as a "family," with many of its members finding long-term refuge in the learning centers.

### Indeed, God Heals

The "God H.E.A.L.S" Thailand mission marks AUP's third outreach initiative to Thailand. It demonstrates the University's continued commitment to its motto: "on ever onward," not only in academics but also in compassion-driven service that extends beyond borders.

According to Ranas, "God can use people to heal you. That is why we are doing this mission together." The mission found its purpose not just in programs but in presence, in standing beside the suffering; in teaching; in listening; in loving.





# AUP Tradigital Fine Arts Graduates Unveil “Strata: Layers of Identity” Exhibit

The graduating class of Tradigital Fine Arts from the College of Arts and Humanities launched its culminating art exhibition titled “Strata: Layers of Identity” at the GK Art Gallery & Events Place, Salay St., Ulat, Silang, Metro Tagaytay. The exhibit officially opened in late June and will run until July 7.



The exhibit is a powerful visual narrative of self-discovery and cultural exploration. Each piece is a testament to the artists’ academic and personal journeys, layered with themes of memory, faith, identity, struggle, and growth.

Showcasing a rich variety of mediums, ranging from painting and sculpture to mixed media and digital compositions, the exhibit underscores the unique integration of traditional and contemporary art practices nurtured at AUP.

The exhibit features the following graduates of the Tradigital Fine Arts program:

1. Maderic Bautista
2. Honsel Mie Escario
3. Kane Fabon
4. Ciasxel Cleo Gasapo
5. Dane Ezekyle Linatoc
6. Joanie Carissa Mairena
7. Donnafe Soco
8. Pierre Paolo Ylagan

“Strata” invites exhibit viewers to support and engage with the voices of these young creatives as they take their final bow as student artists and step into their vocation as professional artists.

The exhibit is open to the public and will be open for viewing until July 7, 2025.



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