

# *dup* HIGHLIGHTS

The Official Newsletter of the Adventist University of the Philippines

AY 2025 - 2026 | Volume 14 Number 4 | September 2025



Adventist  
University of the Philippines

# Congratulations!

Danielle Elinore C. Ardeza, RPsy

# TOP 5

Psychologists Licensure  
Examination September 2025



## Board Topnotcher Danielle Ardeza Gives Glory to God in Her Journey

Danielle Ardeza, Adventist University of the Philippines alumna, brought pride and inspiration to the AUP community as she clinched the Top 5 spot in the August 2025 Psychologists Licensure Examination. Her success is not only an academic milestone but also a testimony of perseverance, humility, and God's sustaining grace.

Having previously topped another board exam, Ardeza prepared with confidence while creating a companion journal that guided reviewees through study strategies,

reflections on well-being, and Bible verses. Many found encouragement through her testimony, which pointed them to God's comfort and strength.

Her path, however, was marked by challenges. Balancing work and studies tested her focus and determination. Yet in her journey, she shared looking back, "It seems simple, but at the time it felt overwhelming. Things didn't suddenly become easy after that session, but I started to give myself more grace and depend more on God."

Beyond knowledge and skills, Ardeza's story reflects the values of faith, resilience, and humility. "In a way, I saw it as God reminding me that it is He alone who makes everything possible," she reflected.

As AUP continues to uphold its vision of preparing graduates who excel in both competence and character, Ardeza's achievement becomes not just a personal victory but an inspiration to the entire community, an enduring witness that true success is grounded in God's grace.

# AUP DevCom Co-Organizes Webinar on Strengthening Communities Through LGU-Run Radio

The Adventist University of the Philippines-Development Communication Department—in partnership with the University of the Philippines-Los Baños Development Broadcasting and Telecommunication Department, Zamboanga Peninsula Polytechnic State University-College of Arts, Humanities & Social Sciences and Barangay DDBT— co-organized a special webinar titled “Voices From the Ground: Promoting Local Development Through LGU-Run Radio” on September 15, 2025 via Facebook Live and Zoom.

The event highlighted the vital role of local government-operated radio stations in amplifying community voices and promoting grassroots development. Resource speakers included Dr. Richard Ching of DZNT 99.1 FM Radyo Kabag-uhan, along with Ms. Cherry Anjannete Calayag and Ms. Kim Audrey Raymundo of Radyo Kapitolyo, who shared stories, best practices, and lessons learned from their experiences in community broadcasting.

The webinar served as a platform to emphasize the power of radio in strengthening participation, empowering local voices, and advancing development communication.



# AUPA Week of Prayer Leads 18 Precious Souls to Christ

The Adventist University of the Philippines-Academy held its week of prayer with the theme “God, I Have Questions,” led by Brother Caleb Jasper Lumingkit as the guest speaker on September 4-9, 2025. The week-long spiritual emphasis culminated in a baptismal of 18 students.

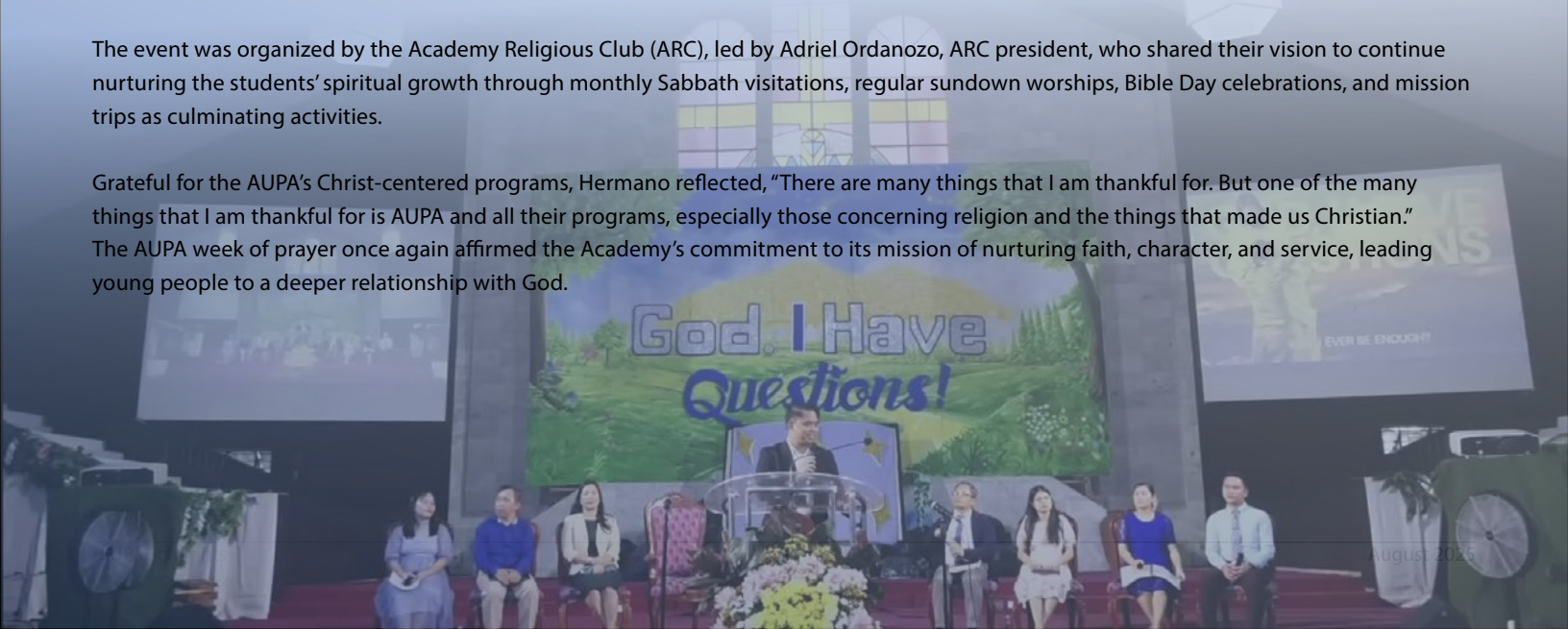
Throughout the week, students were encouraged to bring their deepest questions to God, finding answers in His Word and experiencing His unconditional love. “When God actually cares for a sinner like me,” shared Kirsten Hermano, one of the newly baptized students, expressing her gratitude for how God worked in her life through the AUPA’s spiritual programs.

Pastor Joshua Castillo, AUPA chaplain, affirmed that “through the Holy Spirit, this week of prayer bears fruit of 18 precious souls. Through this week, students saw answers to their questions and some found the unconditional love of God.”

Mrs. Sharon Perdon, AUPA officer-in-charge, emphasized the purpose behind the AUPA’s initiatives. “Our programs, especially the week of prayer, are designed for our students, developing academic excellence, Christ-like character, and exemplary service.”

The event was organized by the Academy Religious Club (ARC), led by Adriel Ordanozo, ARC president, who shared their vision to continue nurturing the students’ spiritual growth through monthly Sabbath visitations, regular sundown worships, Bible Day celebrations, and mission trips as culminating activities.

Grateful for the AUPA’s Christ-centered programs, Hermano reflected, “There are many things that I am thankful for. But one of the many things that I am thankful for is AUPA and all their programs, especially those concerning religion and the things that made us Christian.” The AUPA week of prayer once again affirmed the Academy’s commitment to its mission of nurturing faith, character, and service, leading young people to a deeper relationship with God.



# AUP Hosts Seminar on Suicide Prevention

by Jamelle Claveria, University Voice

In observance of Suicide Prevention Month, the Adventist University of the Philippines-Guidance Services Center hosted a seminar at the Finster Hall of All Nations on September 4, 2025 with the theme "Change the Narrative on Suicide." The program aimed to break the stigma surrounding suicide and equip students with practical ways to respond to mental health crises.

Ms. Princess Marian Macasa, guest speaker and Psychology Department faculty, emphasized that struggles with suicidal thoughts are not new. She cited examples from the Bible and encouraged participants to approach the topic with empathy and understanding.

The event included focus group discussions and case analyses by fourth-year psychology majors, who identified warning signs and proposed interventions. Campus mental health professionals reviewed the work of the students and provided feedback.

In an interview, Beverly Lou Magbaau, one of the participants, shared that the seminar created a safe space for openness. "We gained a deeper understanding that we can reach out to family, friends, teachers, or guidance counselors," she said.

Grace Pialago, another attendee, added that



"it's a valuable initiative that encourages open discussions about mental health, which is essential for breaking stigma."

The seminar strengthened campus awareness, compassion, and readiness to aid those facing mental health challenges.

# COD Ayira Heeds Call to Serve in White Coating

By Kristina Paula Mangilit, University Voice

The College of Dentistry held its white coating and pinning ceremony at the Philippine International Church on September 25, 2025, marking a major milestone for 46 junior clinicians as they formally entered the clinical phase of their education.

With the batch name Ayira, a Luo word from Kenya meaning "You Are Chosen," the program highlighted the honor, responsibility, and privilege of pursuing the dental profession.

The donning of the white coat symbolized not only the students' transition but also their commitment to serve patients with competence, compassion, and integrity.

In her keynote address titled "The Call Beyond the Coat," Dr. Alpha Joanna Gavenia-Galang reminded the students that the white coat symbolizes not prestige, but

purpose. "The pin may tarnish, the coat may no longer be white, seasons will shift, but your calling will remain," she said, emphasizing that they were not called to impress but to serve, as "they have been chosen by God."

Dr. Herminiano Subido, College of Dentistry dean, emphasized the significance of the ceremony in shaping the students' identity as future dental professionals. "This is a privilege given by God's guidance and our hard work. Academics and clinics will always be challenging, but what matters most are the values we uphold: compassion and empathy for every patient," he reminded.

Hevn Glanz Cadao, Batch Ayira president, emphasized that the batch name serves as a reminder that even in moments of self-doubt, God has already called and chosen them first.

The ceremony concluded with smiles; proud moments; and families, faculty, and staff joining in the celebration. It was not only a rite of passage but also the beginning of the students' journey as clinicians dedicated to service.

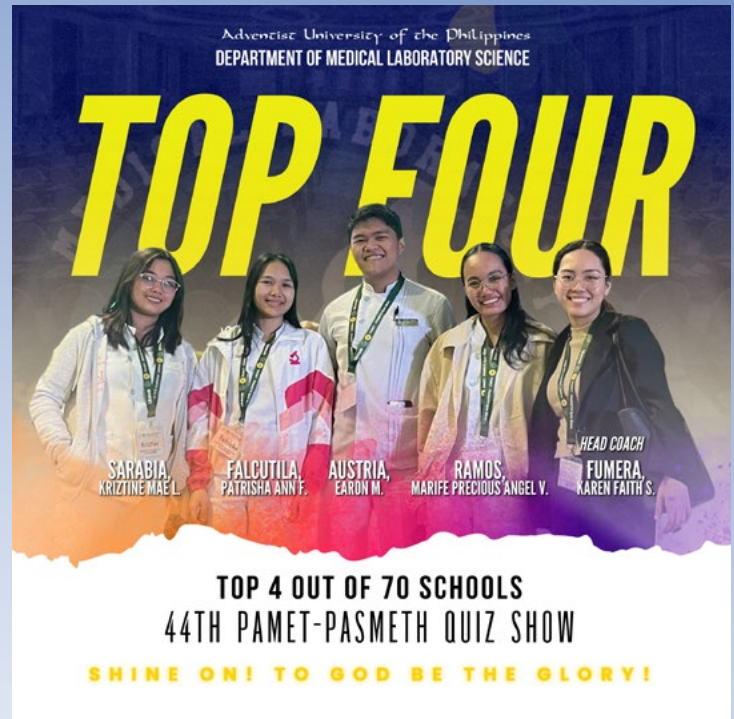


# MLS Team Secures Top 4 Spot in 44th PAMET-PASMETH Inter-School Quiz Show

The Medical Laboratory Science Department placed Top 4 nationwide in the 44th PAMET-PASMETH Inter-School Quiz Show held on September 16, 2025, at with 70 participating institutions from across the country.

Representing AUP were Krizzine Sarabia, Patrisha Falcutilla, Earon Austria, and Angel Ramos. They were guided by their dedicated coaches Mrs. Karen Fumera and Mr. Gerson Mark Cortez, with full support from the MLS Department. Their commendable performance reflects not only academic excellence but also a deep reliance on God's sustaining grace throughout their preparation and competition.

This accomplishment embodies AUP's philosophy of integrating faith and learning, fostering a learning environment where students are prepared for service to God and humanity. It aligns with the University's mission to provide quality Christian education that develops Christ-centered leaders who excel in their chosen fields while upholding Biblical values. As the team testified, their journey was a witness to God's wisdom, strength, and faithfulness every step of the way, inspiring the community to shine for God's glory.



# AUP Sends Delegate to National Search for Outstanding International Students



Culture: Building Futures," international students came from all over the Philippines to the final screening that consisted of 4 sections: interview, extemporaneous speech, written test, and talent show; demonstrating not only their understanding of Philippine culture, but their own distinct heritage.

The Proclamation Rites and Awarding Ceremonies will take place in November 2025 at the 6th International Conference-Training for International Students, Student Leaders, and Advisers (ICTISSLA), in Baguio City.

The Adventist University of the Philippines-International Students' Association participated in the 52nd Annual Search for the Most Outstanding International Students in the Philippines hosted by the Philippine International Friendship and Understanding Association, Inc. (PIFUA) at the De La Salle Angelo King Medical Research Center, De La Salle Medical and Health Sciences Institute (DLMHSI), in Dasmariñas, Cavite on September 22, 2025.

Represented by Evan Johanes Kaloh, International Student Association president from Indonesia, the event themed "Bridging



# CST Celebrates CST Festival 2025

The College of Science and Technology (CST) staged its CST Festival 2025, themed “Equinox: Bridging Gaps for a Sustainable Future,” on September 8-9, 2025. The event brought together students, faculty, and partners in a dynamic showcase of science, technology, creativity, and faith.



The 2-day celebration began on September 8, 2025 with the kick-off program, featuring a vibrant lineup of booth exhibits, hands-on workshops, and innovative product demonstrations. Students



and faculty showcased projects and creative outputs that reflected the integration of scientific knowledge with practical applications, aligned with the University’s mission of service to God and humanity.



On September 9, 2025, the festival continued with a special lecture series; exclusive seminars; and the EquiKnows STEM Quiz Bee, a lively competition that tested students’ knowledge and critical thinking in various scientific fields.



The CST Festival 2025 concluded with college thanking its partner sponsors: Formulab Technologies Inc., Neogen, ALVTechnologies Philippines Inc., Yana Chemodities Inc., and Karce Calculators Philippines.

# ISA Hosts Food Fair 2025

The International Student Association hosted the much-anticipated ISA Food Fair on September 14, 2025, bringing together the vibrant flavors, traditions, and cultures of the University’s diverse international community.



This year’s food fair offered not just delicious meals but a taste of heritage and belonging, as participating associations prepared culturally-packed food per serving to ensure both health and authenticity in every dish. The event transformed the campus into a lively avenue of aromas and flavors, taking the AUP community on a journey across continents.



Represented communities included: North American Student Association, Chinese Community, Thai–Lao Student Association, Malaysian Community, Myanmar Community, African Student Association, Pacific Island Student Association, Indonesian Community, Middle East Student Association, and South Asian Student Association.

Through this food fair, students, faculty, and guests experienced the richness of cultural diversity, fostering deeper appreciation, unity, and community life on campus.

# CON Embrace Calling at Capping and Pinning Ceremony

A total of 218 second-year nursing students marked a significant milestone in their academic journey through the capping and pinning ceremony held at the Philippine International Church on September 18, 2025.

Dr. Judith Marie Andaya, CHED Region IV-A education supervisor, congratulated the students and emphasized compassion and dedication as key virtues in their chosen field. "Congratulations to each one of you. I wish you the best in your journey as future healers of the country," she said in her address.

The ceremony symbolizes the students' commitment to service and their readiness to take on their roles as future Nightingales.



Dr. Raymond Caagbay, College of Nursing dean, encouraged the students to combine skill with compassion, while the Mr. Renz Acquioben, batch president encouraged his peers to remain faithful in their calling to serve.

# MLS Sanaira Dons White Coat in Lab Pledge Ceremony

By Keila Zeehlin Estrada, Univeristy Voice

The Medical Laboratory Science (MLS) Department Batch Sanaira ("to heal") was presented during the second Laboratory Pledge Ceremony at the Philippine International Church on September 19, 2025 held under the theme "Where silent hands meet a sacred purpose." The event marked the incoming interns' devotion to the medical laboratory profession.

The program opened with a solemn procession, followed by the welcome remarks from Ms. Yanna Yvonne Macayan, MLS Department chair, who underscored the importance of habits in shaping careers.

Reynaldo Cabanting, the keynote speaker and chief executive officer of SiRei Dialysis

and Kidney Care Center, urged students to embrace their profession with integrity and faith. "You are not doing this for money. You are doing this because you are called to act. Accurate laboratory results are central to healthcare. Do not settle for 'okay na 'yan.'"

"It's you and the laboratory: the bacteria in the agar, the quality controls, the microscopes, you never really get exposed outside," he added, pointing out the humility and silent dedication that often characterize the field.

Under the leadership of Medjeh Cometa, MLS Clinical Division adviser, the interns recited their pledge, committing to uphold

accuracy, confidentiality, and integrity in their future practice as medical technologists.

The ceremony's highlight was the gowning and pinning rite. The faculty helped students don their white laboratory coats and pins, symbolizing their pledge to serve humanity through the laboratory and to honor God in their vocation.

The ceremony served as a reminder to the incoming interns, staff, and attendees that the profession is not only about running tests, but also about carrying a sacred trust and stepping into a vocation of service to both humanity and God.



# COM Celebrates 10 Years of Shaping Physician Missionaries

The Adventist University of the Philippines-College of Medicine (AUP-COM) celebrated its 10th Anniversary with a series of worships, academic events, medical missions, and fellowship activities throughout September 19-28, 2025.

Themed “From Vision to Victory: A Decade of Shaping Physician Missionaries,” the celebration gathered COM alumni, officers, faculty, students, and special guests to honor God’s leading in training physicians-missionaries who integrate faith, healing, and service.



## Alumni Lecture Series and Vesper Worships

The celebration opened with a virtual vesper worship on September 19, featuring Dr. Hadjiemar Lapidez and Dr. Jeanmuelle Desiree Mae Balintongog, who shared inspiring testimonies from their internship at Loma Linda University. Another vesper worship followed on September 26, with Dr. Paul Rothwell De Jesus urging students and alumni to embrace their calling as physician-missionaries.



Meanwhile, the Alumni Lecture Series on September 24 and 29 showcased the expertise of AUP-COM graduates:

- Dr. Eunice Fe Sabado – Social Mobilizer: Serving the Community After COM
- Dr. Rossana Carmela Bella – Basic ECG
- Dr. Lexian Erdil Cordial – Residency Blues

Through their stories and insights, alumni inspired current students to continue the mission of holistic service to God and community.

## Synergy Wellness Run

A highlight of the Medicine Week festivities,



the Synergy Wellness Run brought together students, faculty, and alumni in a 3- or 5-kilometer wellness activity around campus on September 21. Presented by Synergy, the lifestyle medicine organization of AUP-COM, the run promoted health, fellowship, and whole-being.

## Academic Excellence through CPC and Quiz Bee

As part of the festivities, the Dr. Demetrio Valle Jr. 10th Medical Quiz Bee held on September 21 fostered academic excellence and healthy competition among Year Levels 1 to 3 and clinical clerks. This event aimed to prepare AUP-COM students to become competent and mission-driven physician missionaries.



Furthermore, the Dr. Benjamin Jimenez Clinico-Pathological Case (CPC) Competition was held on September 25 at the COM Siew Huy Memorial Atrium. Students showcased their diagnostic and clinical reasoning skills, with the winning team set to represent AUP-COM in the Association of Philippine Medical Colleges-Student Network National CPC Competition. An alumni team also joined, adding a meaningful touch to this year’s event.

## Sabbath Celebration and Testimonies

The highlight of the celebration took place on September 27, during the Sabbath Anniversary Culmination program. Alumni shared powerful testimonies of how their vision of becoming physician-missionaries was fulfilled through God’s providence.

“The vision I had was very clear: I wanted to become a doctor that follows Christ’s example. True healing comes not only from medicine but from aligning our lives with God’s health principles,” shared Dr. Rothwell.

Dr. Macuno also recounted an experience in the emergency room, saying, “All we can do is really trust God because at the end of everything, it’s God’s decision and we are just instruments of healing. He is the only true healer.”



Dr. Gino Makaraan reflected on the College’s unique training. “AUP-COM gives more than the 5-star physician. It has its ‘plus,’ training physician-missionaries who integrate faith and healing.”

Their journeys highlighted AUP’s enduring philosophy of faith and learning, producing medical professionals who serve with knowledge, compassion, and Christ-centered mission.



## A Day of Hope and Healing

On September 28, the Alumni x MSC Medical Mission was held at the AUP College of Medicine Siew Huy Memorial Atrium, spearheaded by Dr. Jon Sergei Aclan and Kayla Nicole Duremdes, in collaboration with the faculty, Medical Student Council (MSC), Medical Missionaries for Social Responsibilities (MMSR), alumni, and student volunteers.

The mission offered free consultations and health education, reflecting the college’s commitment to community service and public health.



## AUPA Celebrates Buwan ng Wika 2025

by Jovial Reijn Gadela, AUP Academy Voice

The Adventist University of the Philippines Academy (AUPA) celebrated Buwan ng Wika on August 28, 2025, with the theme “Paglinang sa Filipino at Katutubong Wika: Makasaysayan sa Pagkakaisa ng Bansa” (“Cultivating Filipino and Indigenous Languages: Historic in National Unity”). The celebration was held at the SPDA and was organized and led by the AUPA Filipino Organization.

The entire program showcased AUPA’s vibrant appreciation for the Filipino language and culture. The day began with a lively parade where each class marched wearing traditional costumes and carrying banners representing various Filipino

cultural identities. This was followed by a devotional, which emphasized faith and unity among the students.

Class presentations highlighted the creativity and talent of each grade level through cultural performances and artistic interpretations. A festive meal shared by the classes strengthened bonds of friendship and community spirit.

In the afternoon, Grade 11 students presented a *tulang pasalita* (“spoken poetry”), followed by *paglalapat ng kilos sa awit* (“interpretative song presentation”) by Grade 10, and concluded with a *makabayang awitin* (“patriotic song”) performed by Grade

12 students.

To officially close the celebration, the Filipino Organization, led by Mrs. Perfecta Laguador, awarded certificates of recognition to participants and contributors. Then the closing prayer followed.

The Buwan ng Wika celebration at AUPA served not only as a festive occasion but also as a meaningful opportunity to instill in young people a deeper love and appreciation for the Filipino language and cultural heritage.

## PIC Holds the Gospel Festival Week 2025

by Trixie Altizo

The Philippine International Church held its Gospel Festival Week 2025 with the theme, “Ponder: Reflecting Biblically” on September 8-13, 2025.

Featuring Biblical perspectives towards relevant subjects such as worldviews, human condition, purpose and hope, Pastor Ian Felicitas, guest speaker and Southern-Asia Pacific Division field secretary, delivered messages nightly.

Pastor Felicitas encouraged the church to ponder upon the Scriptures with eagerness and open heart, that God may inspire His people to trust His wisdom, which grounded both the believers of old and His people in the present on the truth amidst human worldviews and ideology.

“I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.” John 16:33, NIV. This verse resonated in every session, emphasizing God’s promised peace and victory over inevitable challenges in the faith. The topics included six (6) questions which the congregation reflected on: “Who am I?”; “Where did I come from?”; “Why am I here?”; “What is wrong?”; “What is the solution?”; and “Where am I going?”



The church warmly welcomed the attendees through greetings, handshakes and handing out event bookmarks which was a token of appreciation for their presence and support. All were seated to take heed unto God’s messages throughout the week. Coming with an idea of treating the congregation with bread each night, considering the idea of “festival” which involves having a meal as a community. This simple act of sharing bread was demonstrated, expressing a sense of fellowship and care of the people with one another.

The special week-long program urged the church and the University community to ponder His Word and stand firm on the truth with Biblical foundations.

# MLS Week 2025: Faithful to the Mission, Forward to the Vision

The Medical Laboratory Science Department celebrated its 72nd Founding Anniversary with a week-long series of activities that fostered camaraderie, spiritual reflection, and departmental pride on September 15-20, 2025.

The celebration kicked off with food stalls opened in the department from Hidden Ridge, Falling Beaker, and Sappy Frost. The department also showcased interactive activities and booths that reflect the heritage of the MLS Department. They also released their exclusive MLS merchandise for this year's anniversary.



As letters were read, participants were reminded of God's guiding hand in the past, His leading in the present, and His promises for the future.

Adding to the festivities, the MLS Acquaintance Night on September 20 at the AUPA Gymnasium brought together students, faculty, and friends for a memorable evening of fellowship and fun, marking a meaningful close to the week's celebrations.

The highlight of the week took place during the special Sabbath worship held at the College of Medicine Siew Huy Memorial Atrium on September 2025. With Ferdinand Mendoza, MLS faculty and as the speaker, the worship emphasized this year's theme, "Faithful to the Mission, Forward to the Vision," calling the MLS faculty, students, and alumni to remain steadfast in faith and service.



In the afternoon, the MLS Department hosted the afternoon program featuring a meaningful opening of the Batch 2019 "Christ Dependents" Time Capsule. Sealed during their 2018 spiritual retreat, the capsule contained prayers, promises, and testimonies of God's faithfulness.



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