

adup HIGHLIGHTS

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A Legacy of Faith and Progress: Dr. Rosario Delivers 109th State of the University Address

Reflecting on a journey that began in 1917 with just 36 students and 10 faculty and staff, Dr. Arceli Rosario, University president, delivered the 109th State of the University Address at the Philippine International Church on January 29, 2026. Under the theme of being “ablaze” for God’s glory, the address celebrated the University’s growth to an enrollment of 5,172 students and 624 faculty and staff.

A Foundation Rooted in Spirituality

President Rosario reaffirmed the University’s identity as a “special treasure” chosen for a redemptive mission. The address highlighted “Transforming Spirituality” as the primary institutional goal, noting an increasing trend in student, faculty, and staff involvement in personal and public evangelism. A standout achievement in this area was the ministry of the University’s 18 singing groups, which conducted a total of 174 local and international concerts last academic year.

Academic Excellence and Top Performance

The University continues to excel in academic quality, with 22 programs holding Level 4 accreditation and 11 holding Level 1. Dr. Rosario highlighted the institution’s consistent success in national licensure examinations and the renewal of its autonomous status.

Financial Strength and Stewardship

One of the most significant portions of the address focused on the University’s “powerful turnaround” in financial health.

- Financial Stability: The University now maintains 6.19 months of working capital, meeting the institutional 6-month requirement.
- Net Assets: Net assets have grown to 2.23 billion pesos, reflecting a 15% cumulative increase.
- Capital Investment: Over the past four years, the University invested

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AUP Ignites 109th Foundation with “ALAB” Theme and Dynamic Exhibitions

Embodying the theme “ALAB,” the Adventist University of the Philippines (AUP) opened its 109th Foundation Anniversary at the AUP Soccer Field Grandstand on January 25, 2026. The celebration commenced at 6:30 a.m. with a motorcade and float parade.

“ALAB,” symbolizing a blazing passion for mission, connotes a celebration of the fire that God Himself has ignited in the hearts of the AUP community. *Alab* is a Tagalog word meaning flame, blaze, and intense passion. The word *Alab* means blaze—a powerful symbol of passion, resilience, and unwavering commitment. It reflects the fire that God ignited in the hearts of AUP’s founders in 1917—a fire of faith, learning, and service that continues to burn today.

The opening program began with the devotional message of Pastor Rex Mangiliman, executive secretary of Cavite Mission and an alumnus of Batch 2001. The ceremonial torch lighting by Dr. Arceli

Rosario, the University president, followed. The field came alive with exhibition showcases from the AUP Elementary School calisthenics and the AUP Academy



Teen Leadership Training fancy drill. These performances, characterized by synchronized discipline and youthful vigor, visually articulated the University’s philosophy of holistic student development.



Showcasing *Alab* throughout the week’s celebration, float entries were awarded during the opening program. The College of Arts and Humanities secured first place for their creative display of the penguin mascot, followed by the Student Services Office’s fury display of the AUP flame mark, and the Maintenance Department came third.



The ceremony concluded with the Oath of Sportsmanship, led by the Central Student Council President Hans Wilhelm Federico, and the official opening declaration by Dr. Gracel Ann Saban, vice president for academics. As the University anthem, “Shine On, Forever,” resonated, the event affirmed AUP’s commitment to its mission. The intramurals commenced in the afternoon.

CSC Opens “Find Your Flame” Organization Fair

The Adventist University of the Philippines (AUP) officially launched its annual Organization Fair on January 26, 2026, at the University Gym Parking Area, gathering 17 student organizations and academic departments under the theme “Find Your Flame.” The opening program signaled the start of a multi-day initiative aimed at strengthening student involvement and holistic formation within the campus community.



Running until January 29, the fair provided a platform for recognized student organizations and selected academic units to showcase their missions, programs, and service opportunities. Participating groups include Celestial Echoes, Light Plays, Ministerial Association, Advent Explorer, Discovery, Touching Lives, University Voice, Sinai, Campus Youth Ministry, Student Association of Literature Evangelists (S.A.L.E.), One in Christ, Senior Youth Leadership, Maranatha, Red Cross Youth Council, ABCD, the Nutrition and Dietetics Department, and the College of Nursing.

The event underscored AUP’s commitment to provide an ACE (Academic Excellence, Christlike Character, and Exemplary Service) journey by encouraging students to engage beyond the classroom. Through leadership initiatives, ministry involvement, creative expression, and community outreach, students were provided avenues to develop their talents while cultivating a spirit of mission.

Dreams in Motion: AUPA Career Day 2026

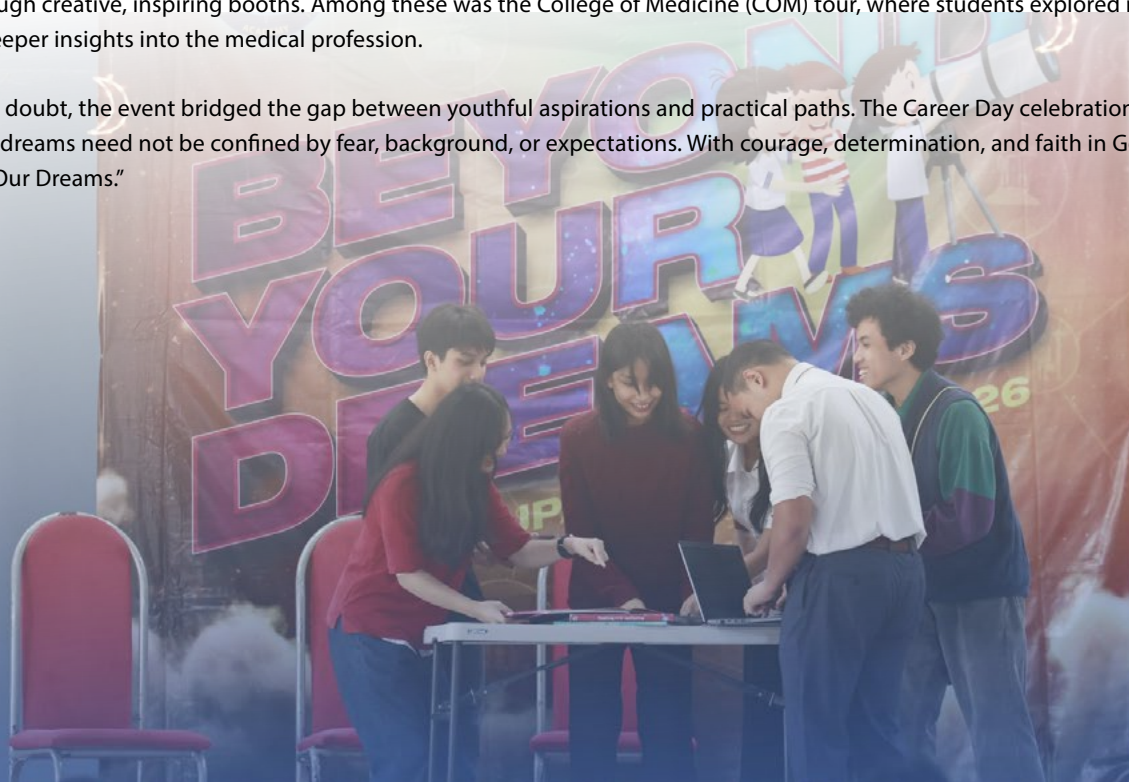
by Jovial Reijn Gadela

The Adventist University of the Philippines (AUP) Academy hosted its much-anticipated Career Day, guided by the theme “Beyond Our Dreams” on January 27. Held at Samuel P. Dizon Auditorium (SPDA), the event sought to expand students’ perspectives on their future careers, encouraging them to look beyond the stars and envision the paths they might take.

The program opened with a devotional in which the speaker reminded everyone that God is the ultimate planner of each person’s future. Following this, the “March of Dreams” and “Career Constellations” commenced. From educators and entrepreneurs to healthcare workers and engineers, each grade level joyfully presented their constellations, highlighting the diverse and meaningful career paths available.

A major highlight of the day was the career exploration segment, which gave students the opportunity to interact with college representatives through creative, inspiring booths. Among these was the College of Medicine (COM) tour, where students explored medical facilities and gained deeper insights into the medical profession.

Without a doubt, the event bridged the gap between youthful aspirations and practical paths. The Career Day celebration reminded students that their dreams need not be confined by fear, background, or expectations. With courage, determination, and faith in God, they can truly go “Beyond Our Dreams.”





PANAA Held 109th Anniversary Alumni Games

The PUC-AUP National Alumni Association coordinated a day of athletic competition and fellowship during the Alumni Games held at the Puting Kahoy Barangay Covered Court on January 27, 2026. The event brought together former students and denominational workers for a series of high-energy matches.

The games featured 54 players representing various organizations within the alumni network. The participant breakdown included:

- AUP Alumni: 16 players
- Cavite Mission: 17 players
- Adventist Medical Center Manila (AMCM): 11 players
- Central Luzon Conference (CLC): 10 players.

The sports program featured basketball for the men's teams and volleyball for two women's teams representing AMCM and AUP.

The AMCM emerged as the dominant force in the tournament, winning the championship matches in both basketball and volleyball.

"SALINDAYAW" Cultural Night Brings Filipino Heritage to Life at AUP

Students of the Adventist University of the Philippines (AUP) showcased the richness and diversity of Filipino culture during the Cultural Night themed "SALINDAYAW," at the University Gymnasium on January 27, 2026, as part of the University's 109th Founding Anniversary celebration.

Organized by the Central Student Council, *Salindayaw* is a Filipino term frequently used to describe a celebration of culture, pride, and heritage, often defined as the "passing on of pride" or "dance interpretation" of cultural traditions. It merges the concepts of conveying Filipino heritage, stories, and arts through vibrant dance performances. Hence, the program featured a vibrant lineup of performances representing various regions and festivals across the Philippines. The College of Teacher Education (CTE) opened the night with *Sayaw sa Banko*, a traditional Pangasinan dance known for its



Festival dance from Quezon. The College of Dentistry later filled the floor with a colorful, dynamic *Kadayawan Festival* performance inspired by Mindanaoan traditions. The College of Arts and Humanities performed *Singkil* of Mindanao, a traditional dance of the Maranao people, showcasing grace, strength, and rich cultural heritage. The College of Business also showcased the *Kaamulan Festival* celebrated in Bukidnon, Northern Mindanao.



balance, precision, and risk-filled movements. This was followed by the College of Theology, which performed *Maglalatik* from Laguna, captivating the audience with rhythmic coconut-shell percussion. The College of Nursing energized the crowd with its *Panagyaman Festival* presentation, while the College of Health drew strong applause for its synchronized and visually engaging *Niyog-Niyugan*



At the close of the evening, CTE was declared Champion of the Cultural Night for its compelling *Sayaw sa Banko* performance. The College of Arts and Humanities placed first runner-up, while the College of Dentistry secured second runner-up.

Through the *SALINDAYAW*, the AUP community journeyed across Philippine regions, celebrating cultural identity, unity, and heritage through music and dance.

AUPE and AUPA Ignite Pioneers' Vision in AUP 109th Midweek Service

The University ignited the celebration of its 109th founding anniversary during the midweek service at the Philippine International Church on January 28, 2026. Under the theme "ALAB," the Elementary and Academy school led the community in a spiritual journey to keep the pioneers' "faith and commitment burning in our hearts."

The highlight of the evening was a special feature titled "AUP's Pioneers Vision and Its Relevance Today," which used a creative dialogue between a teacher and a student to rediscover the University's visionary past. The presentation emphasized that AUP is not merely an academic institution but a "blessed reality of mission-focused and God-led visions."

Honoring the Pioneers

The service brought to life the stories of key figures such as Arthur G. Daniels, who envisioned training local Filipino leaders, and Irving A. Stain, the first principal, who believed education should train the "mind, the heart, and the hands." The narrative also honored Mariano A. Rojas, the first Filipino teacher, whose presence proved that Filipinos were "partners in the mission."



"Our schools were never meant to be just academic institutions," one student presenter remarked, "they were meant to be training grounds for missionaries."

Living Testimonials: From Classrooms to the Mission Field

Beyond historical reenactments, the program featured moving testimonials from current students. Jedidiah Tolentino, a Grade 12 academy student, shared how participating in evangelism shifted his perspective on education. He noted that while he once focused only on grades, he now understands that "evangelism is not about being perfect, it's about being willing" to serve others.



Student leadership was also redefined during the service. Reflecting on the "posture of service" exemplified by Christ, Janiyah Lavigne Alvarez, a Grade 12 student, shared a lesson that resonated with many: "He doesn't call the qualified; he qualifies the called." She concluded that true success is measured by "how Christ shines through your life."

A Holistic Legacy

The elementary students highlighted the practical side of the pioneers' vision, noting that the University's commitment to holistic wellness—including healthy cafeteria options like tofu sisig and potato salad—is a legacy passed down through generations. "Learning



important lessons in life, their dedication reminds us that to follow what we learn for good because of what the pioneers have done we are given the chance to study in a school that teaches Christian values as students go through their lessons we should treasure this opportunity and apply these lessons in everything we do," Fille Isabel Fronda, Grade 6 student testified. This vision is currently embodied by leaders like Dr. Arceli Rosario, whose work reflects the pioneers' belief that education is a sacred trust.

Jadyn Noeleen Mariñas, a Grade 5 student, poignantly stated: "AUP isn't just where I study; it's where God is shaping who I'll become." In the same way, our pioneers believed education should prepare young people not only for careers but for service to God, to the church, and to the world.

A Sacred Duty to the Future

In her closing remarks, Sharon Perdon, Academy principal, reminded the congregation that while the pioneers laid the foundation with limited resources, their impact lives on in every character shaped today. She emphasized that it is the "sacred duty" of the current generation to keep the flame alive.

The service concluded with a prayer by Pastor Joshua Castillo, who petitioned for the fire of the Holy Spirit to strengthen the community's faith. He closed with a call to action that serves as the mission for the years ahead: "May what they have started be finished with this generation."

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384 million pesos in capital expenditures, funded through what Dr. Rosario described as “abundant provision from the Lord.”

Citing Institutional Goal #6, “AUP cannot stand alone,” Dr. Rosario explained that the University’s growth and sustainability depend on cultivating meaningful partnerships and strengthening relationships with key stakeholders through collaborative and outward-facing initiatives.

Physical Development and Future Projects

Dr. Rosario urges the University community to “have faith” in carrying forward the University’s development projects. The address detailed extensive campus improvements and ambitious “pipeline” projects:

- AUP Medical Center (Phase 1): The ongoing construction of a three-story, 100-bed teaching hospital is a flagship project with a target completion date in December 2028.
- Facilities Development for 2026: Campsite, Development Communication laboratory, Psychology observation laboratory, CTE Learning Resource Center, the cafeteria façade, Kubo expansion, volleyball court at Students’ Park, University Gym floor repainting, TVET renovation, materials recovery facility, student center rooms in Samuel P. Dizon Auditorium, Administrative Offices renovation, children’s park, lay-by/drop-off area, and lactation room.
- Sustainability: The University is launching a “Clean Energy Road Map” to incorporate solar power and reduce dependence on traditional electricity.

A Vision for the Future

Concluding the address, Dr. Rosario shared a dream of a university where “God is a living reality whose presence is felt,” and where the community remains “diligent in our seeking” of knowledge. She urged the University family to avoid “institutional amnesia” by remembering the sacrifices of pioneers and staying committed to a life of service.



“We want to tell the world how much the Lord has done for us,” Dr. Rosario appealed, referring to the Lord’s blessings to the University for the past 109 years. “Today, we reiterate our dream of strengthening our old partnerships and linkages and forging new ones. We dream of cementing our relationships with our alumni with other stakeholders, knowing that by giving we are made rich and by receiving we are blessed.”



The University also heard felicitations from esteemed leaders: Dr. Miriam Narbarte, president of the Association of Christian Schools, Colleges, and Universities-Accrediting Council Incorporated; Dr. Edna Domingo, president of the Alumni Association of Western-North America; Dr. Sumido, Commission on Higher Education, Region IV-A; Bishop Dr. Elorde Sambat, executive director of the Association of Christian Schools, Colleges, and Universities, Executive Director.

“We want to tell the world how much the Lord has done for us,”

---Dr. Arceli Rosario, University President





Special awards were also given to distinguished awardees: Dr. Elizabeth Role, Dr. & Mrs. Jeimylo and Kyna De Castro, Dr. Danilo Poblete Sr., Dr. Ramon Lijauco Jr., and Dr. Zenaida Willison.



Another highlight of the event was the recognition of 61 faculty and staff who kept the fire of service burning as they received the service award from the Human Resource Office.



Continuing the celebration in the afternoon, the University, with its Board and constituents, witnessed the inauguration of three projects: the Jeimylo and Kyna de Castro Research Center, the Manna Dining Hall Phase 1 and 2, and the Bethel Prayer Garden.



As the University celebrated its 109th year, the call is for AUP to remain ablaze not just in name, but in its active fulfillment of the mission to prepare students for service and eternity.



Thanksgiving Sunrise and Community Extension Day Held during the 109th Anniversary

On January 30, 2026, the day started at Centennial Park, where the first light of day appeared on the horizon. Faculty, staff, students, and alumni joined in congregational singing, filling the morning air with hymns of praise and gratitude.

Pastor James Cabañero centered his message on gratitude. Many can be thankful for the achievements and milestones the University has reached, but few may look back on Jesus as the 10 lepers did. He reminded the University community not to forget to look for Jesus. He also challenged faculty and staff not only to guide students to academic excellence but also to guide them to return and seek Jesus, just as that one leper did.

Following the worship program, the University served soy coffee and pandesal, providing an opportunity for fellowship and shared gratitude as the campus embraced a new day, both literally and symbolically.

The day continued as the Community Extension Services (CES) Office organized a comprehensive day of service. Mobilizing faculty and





students from various departments, the University implemented healthcare, nutrition, mental health, and community arts initiatives across Barangay Putting Kahoy, demonstrating its commitment to the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) STRAND on Community Engagement and Social Responsibility.

Advancing Public Health Through Diagnostic Screening

The Bachelor of Science in Medical Laboratory Science conducted its annual community Blood and Urine Testing Program at the Barangay Puttingkahoy Health Center. The program provided free laboratory screening for 73 beneficiaries to detect common illnesses, including anemia and kidney-related conditions. Supported by 10 faculty members, 20 students, and 10 barangay officials, the initiative aligns with SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-Being) by promoting preventive healthcare and monitoring community health trends. Beyond testing, beneficiaries received basic health education and guidance on interpreting results to empower proactive health-seeking behavior.



Nutritional Support for Early Childhood Development

Simultaneously, the Bachelor of Science in Nursing facilitated a Nutrition Education and Feeding program for kindergarten pupils at Putting Kahoy Elementary School. To address malnutrition and promote healthy habits, 26 student volunteers and 3 faculty members delivered interactive lectures using songs and visual aids. After a demonstration of proper handwashing, the children were served a



nutritious meal of porridge. This activity supports SDG 3, reinforcing the school's existing nutrition programs.

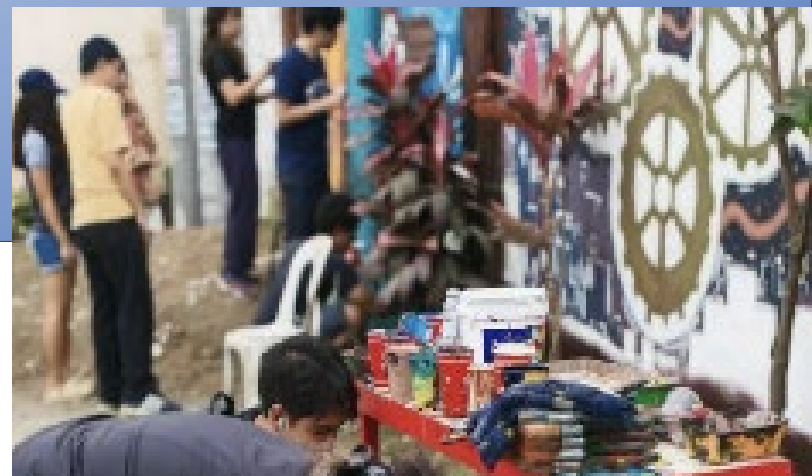
Prioritizing Mental Health and Psychological Well-Being

The Psychology and Guidance Departments extended their expertise to the same school through a Psychological Assessment and Intervention Program. Targeting pupils in Grades 4, 5, 6, and 11, the program focused on identifying stress, anxiety, and depression. By providing psychological screening and psychoeducation sessions on emotional resilience, the initiative sought to address psychological barriers to education, supporting SDG 4 (Quality Education) and SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities).



Community Enhancement through Public Art

Rounding out the day's activities, the Tradigital Fine Arts Department engaged in a Mural Painting project at the TRI-R Fence in Barangay Putting Kahoy. A team of 13 students and 2 faculty members worked to enhance the aesthetics of public spaces, fostering community pride and cultural identity. This creative outreach contributes to SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities) by transforming public fences into inclusive, vibrant landmarks.

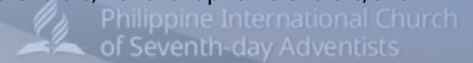


Voices Ablaze in Praises at the 109 Choral Festival

The day concluded at the Philippine International Church on the evening of January 30, 2026, with a grand choral festival. The event served as a musical tribute of gratitude, bringing together diverse vocal ensembles from across the University community. Some singing groups invited their alumni to sing with them.

A Diverse Tapestry of Song

The festival featured an extensive program that showcased the musical talents of various age groups and departments. The evening began with youthful energy from The Singing Sunbeam Society, the Sunbeam Ukulele Ensemble, the AUPE Little Singers, PIC Seniors Chorale, AUP Canticlares, Indonesian Chorale, AfCon Choir, Music Society of Nurses, Music Majors Chorale, Regent Square Chorale, AUP Academy Chorale, College of Medicine Chorale, AUP Ambassadors, AUP Unceasing Cantica, Celestial Echoes, Sola Gratia Chorale, Advent Euphonic Chorale, and The Philippine Meistersingers.



A Unified Finale

The festival witnessed voices in harmony as the alumni of AUP Ambassadors, together with The Philippine Meistersingers, sang “My Eternal King” by Jane Marshall. The main highlight of the night was a mass choir rendition. All participating choirs joined together to sing “Steadfast Music” by Craig Courtney, symbolizing the University’s unity and enduring faith over the past 109 years.



AUP Keeps the Flame during the Sabbath Service Celebration

AUP celebrated its 109th anniversary special Sabbath service at the Philippine International Church on January 31, 2026. During the Sabbath School program, the AUP Light Plays depicted how this flame, ignited at the institution’s founding 109 years ago, has endured decades of challenges and triumphs to remain a guiding light for the University today, illuminating a student’s journey.



Dr. Elizabeth Role, an alumna and former faculty member of the University. Anchoring her reflections on 1 Thessalonians 1:3, she described anniversaries as “sacred pauses” that allow God’s people to remember His leading and discern His direction.

Keeping the Flame Alive

During the divine worship, the keynote message, titled “Keeping the Flame Alive at 109: Faith, Love, Hope in Action,” was delivered by

Dr. Role emphasized three dimensions of ALAB: a work of faith, a labor of love, and a patience of hope. She underscored that advancing by faith means integrating faith and learning—where academic rigor is guided by spiritual conviction and innovation does not compromise identity. “Advancing by faith means growing academically while remaining spiritually grounded,” she emphasized, reminding the congregation that Adventist education prepares students not only

for careers but for Christ-centered character.



Highlighting love as central to Adventist education, she affirmed that “every student is redeemable” and that teaching is a ministry of restoration and transformation. She also stressed that supportive teacher-student relationships significantly shape academic and character outcomes.

Concluding on a hopeful note, Dr. Role declared that Christ remains the anchor of the institution’s mission. The flame, she said, has endured for 109 years because faith has moved forward, love has served sacrificially, and hope has refused to surrender.

Dream Big With Our Big God

“Our faith is as big as our dreams, and our dreams are as big as our God,” Dr. Rosario appealed, during the gathering of love offerings for the AUP Medical Center. Abundantly



blessed, the love offering received amounted to Php 234,427.50 with an additional Php 1 million pledge.

Sundown Alab Experience

As the sun dipped below the horizon, the AUP community gathered at Centennial Park for *Alab* sundown worship. The worship centered on recognizing and “find[ing] the flame” of Christ’s presence within the AUP community grounds.

The evening featured the “Passing the Flame” activity, where participants formed small circles to share their personal AUP stories using symbolic plastic candle flames. A poignant moment occurred during the “Lighting the Map” activity, attendees placed their symbolic flames onto a large map of

the AUP campus, marking specific locations where they had personally witnessed Christ’s flame—kindness, courage, or hope.



A testimony was shared by Nedelin Reyes, vice president finance of Adventist Hospital Gingoog, an alumna, Class of 2001. The event culminated in a powerful collective appeal in which AUP students, faculty, staff, and alumni raised their lights to symbolize their commitment to keeping the University flame alive wherever they go. Together, they committed to carrying the alab, the flame of Christ, into every classroom, dorm, and daily interaction in their respective fields. This symbolic “finding” of the flame served as a reminder that the University’s light is not just found in big events, but in the everyday shine on moments.





CSC Holds Color Run 2026, AUP Introduces ACE's Partner Mascot

Organized by the Central Student Council, "Momentum: Keep Moving, Enjoy Life" was a vibrant CSC Color Run on February 1, 2026. The event had a total of 334 participants, including students, faculty, staff, and members of nearby communities who ran.

A Race for Every Pace

The morning began with a warm-up session and a brief opening program, followed by runners setting off in 3K, 5K, and 10K categories. Strategically placed color stations along the route ensured that participants were thoroughly doused in vibrant powders, enhancing the festive atmosphere and school spirit.

The competitive spirit was high, with the following runners securing the top spots in their respective divisions:

3K Category (Men)

- 1st Place – Edify Tangid
- 2nd Place – Richmond San Gabriel
- 3rd Place – Jerick N. Lucifio

3K Category (Women)

- 1st Place – Gracel Saban
- 2nd Place – Gwyneth Asi
- 3rd Place – Jahz Manzano

5K Category (Men)

- 1st Place – Prince Karl Christian Piano
- 2nd Place – Louie Mutya
- 3rd Place – Faller Ejerson

5K Category (Women)

- 1st Place – Danielle Joy Arit
- 2nd Place – Mejiezekiah Carcillar
- 3rd Place – Paola Aquino



10K Category (Men)

- 1st Place – Josue Baga
- 2nd Place – Orbin Jerald
- 3rd Place – Adrian Fuentes

10K Category (Women)

- 1st Place – Noelyn Mae Benavidez
- 2nd Place – Johndelle Cruz
- 3rd Place – Donnafé Soco

Mascot Milestone: A Nostalgic Reunion

One of the most anticipated highlights of the event was the official reveal of the new partner ACE, the penguin school mascot. The reveal featured a short animated clip titled

"The Reunion." The clip was designed and animated by Jay Mosquera, an AUP alumnus.

"It features ACE, AUP's Penguin Mascot, along with his new partner! They are the penguin statues that were displayed beside the University store," Mosquera stated. "I saw them every day during my time at AUP. It was a fun little project to work on. I really enjoyed designing and bringing them to life through animation. Congratulations to AUP on its 109th Founding Anniversary!"

Running for a Cause: Supporting Student Leadership

Beyond the physical activity and entertainment, the Color Run served a philanthropic purpose. The event successfully raised a total of P20,000. These funds were designated to support the Federation of Adventist Colleges and Universities Student Government Summit 2026, an upcoming gathering that aims to unite Adventist student leaders across institutions through shared faith and leadership development.



Dr. Angela Lalas Calls Alumni to Keep the Flame Burning at AUP University Banquet

Alumni on fire are not optional; they are essential,” Dr. Angela Lalas, president of Class of 2001, stated in her keynote speech during the AUP University Banquet at the University Gymnasium on February 1, 2026. Representing the Silver Jubilarians of 2001, she anchored her address on the anniversary theme, “Alab@109.”

She acknowledged the motivations that draw alumni back—curiosity about campus changes, reunion with friends, or simply reliving cherished memories. But she also suggested a deeper reason: “Somewhere inside each of us, there is a flame that burned brightly enough to bring us home.”

The Fire Tetrahedron: A Metaphor for Alumni Passion

Drawing from modern fire science, Dr. Lalas introduced the concept of the fire tetrahedron, heat, fuel, oxygen, and a chemical chain reaction, as a framework for understanding alumni engagement and institutional mission.

Heat, she explained, represents the transformational experience at AUP. It is where faith was shaped, values refined, and purpose clarified. She described professors who mentored beyond academics, chapel

services that shaped identity, and moments when education became a calling rather than merely a credential. “It was never just about earning a degree,” she emphasized. “It was about becoming people prepared to serve.”

Fuel is the mission carried forward, living out AUP’s values in hospitals, classrooms, churches, businesses, and communities worldwide. Without mission, she warned, even the warmest memories fade.

Oxygen symbolizes belonging. Alumni engagement thrives when graduates feel heard, welcomed, and valued, not merely remembered when support is needed. “Relationship does not end at commencement,” she said. “It continues across seasons and generations.”

The fourth element, the chemical chain reaction, transforms a spark into a movement. When alumni mentor students who become alumni who mentor others, passion becomes self-sustaining.

“When heat refines us, fuel sustains us, and oxygen connects us, the flame no longer lives in one place; it lives in people,” Dr. Lalas declared.

Addressing Pain and Rekindling Passion

In a candid portion of her speech, Dr. Lalas acknowledged seasons when alumni’s passion dimmed due to unresolved pain stemming from administrative decisions that affected people and ministries they deeply cared about. While belief in AUP’s mission remained, she admitted that the “chain reaction” of engagement had stalled.

However, she expressed gratitude for efforts toward healing and restoration under the leadership of Dr. Rosario. She cited the recent joint musical rendition of the Philippine Meistersingers and the AUP Ambassadors, conducted by Dr. Ramon “Bojo” Lijacuco Jr., as a symbolic moment of reconciliation. “It was more than music,” she said. “It was reconciliation set to harmony.”

Alumni on Fire: Essential to the Mission

Dr. Lalas stressed that for a mission-driven institution like AUP, alumni engagement is not optional but essential. Alumni who are “on fire” advance the mission by carrying AUP’s values globally. They uplift the community by encouraging students and strengthening faculty and staff. They persevere alongside the institution during

uncertain seasons. "When alumni burn with purpose," she said, "AUP's mission does not merely survive, it flourishes."

Honoring the Alumni on Fire

A central part of the program was the formal honoring of Jubilee Batches, celebrating alumni across six decades of service and excellence. The following batches were recognized for their enduring connection to the University:

- 10th Jubilee Batch – Class of 2016
- 15th Jubilee Batch – Class of 2011
- 20th Jubilee Batch – Class of 2006
- 25th Silver Jubilee Batch – Class of 2001
- 30th Pearl Jubilee Batch – Class of 1996
- 35th Coral Jubilee Batch – Class of 1991
- 40th Ruby Jubilee Batch – Class of 1986
- 45th Sapphire Jubilee Batch – Class of 1981
- 50th Golden Jubilee Batch – Class of 1976
- 55th Emerald Jubilee Batch – Class of 1971
- 60th Diamond Jubilee Batch – Class of 1966

Furthermore, the Rectitude batch, Class 2001, was recognized for their cash donation project amounting to P282,887.00 + \$10,300.00 for the construction of the DevCom laboratory.

The event concluded with an alumni report on various projects and the recognition of major AUP donors in 2025-2026:

1. Pr. and Mrs. Reuben Rafanan
2. Advent Share Incorporated
3. Dr. and Mrs. Alberto Bagingito
4. Diamond Batch
5. Alumni of Central North America
6. Mrs. Ruth Montano
7. Mr. and Mrs. Fiel Lucrida
8. Dr. and Mrs. Ferdinand Roda
9. Mr. and Mrs. Marco Antonio
10. AWESNA
11. Dr. and Mrs. Jeimylo de Castro



CON Hosts Taglamig Fair 2026 at AUP Soccer Field

Taglamig Fair 2026, organized by the AUP College of Nursing, with the theme "Taglamig na, Sinta Ko," drew a large crowd of students, alumni, and visitors at the University's soccer field on February 1, 2026.

The fair, one of the most anticipated annual activities within the AUP community, was organized by third-year and fourth-year nursing students as part of their college initiatives and University foundation event. The event transformed the venue into a festive space where attendees gathered to enjoy food, fellowship, and a lively atmosphere that reflected the spirit of the season.

Beyond entertainment, the Taglamig Fair also provided an opportunity for nursing students to demonstrate leadership, teamwork, and event management skills. By planning and hosting the activity, the organizers were able to engage the wider campus community while fostering camaraderie among students, alumni, and guests.

Through events such as the Taglamig Fair, the University continues to strengthen community connections and create meaningful campus experiences that complement academic life at AUP.





AUP Sets Ablaze in Faith During Its Week of Spiritual Emphasis

Organized by the Campus Youth Ministries (CYM), AUP conducted its Week of Spiritual Emphasis at the Philippine International Church on January 12–17, 2026, with the theme “Ablaze: Refinement by the Spirit in the Furnace.”

Throughout the week, student speakers delivered messages focused on navigating life’s trials through faith. Addressing the concept of inner tranquility, John Cyrus Arellano noted that “peace isn’t the absence of problems; it is the presence of trust.”

Regarding resilience, Evan Johanes Kaloh defined patience as being “grateful for having both blessings and problems.” In a world often marked by hardship, Hans Wilhelm Federico reminded the assembly that “cruelty never wins when kindness carries the cross.”

The messages also emphasized divine constancy and personal transformation. Rainiel Mandaing noted that even when individuals question or are faithless, “God remains faithful.” On the topic of discipline, Zhar Dynne Cleah Caroz remarked that “self-control isn’t about resisting; it is about setting your soul ablaze with God.” Rex Dominic Perico, CYM President, concluded with a testimony of grace, affirming, “I am not enough, but God has completed my life.”

The week-long spiritual journey culminated in a Sabbath baptism, during which the community celebrated the acceptance of Christ, and in a sundown worship led by Pastor Abram Christopher An, who reminded attendees that Jesus remains in every heart that is open to Him.



AUP Hosts Korean Language Seminar to Promote Cultural Awareness

by Daniella Sophia Alarcon, AUP University Voice

The Department of Global Korean Studies of Sahmyook University conducted a Korean class seminar at the Adventist University of the Philippines (AUP) Language Department of the College of Arts and Humanities from January 5-9, to strengthen students’ global competence and cultural understanding.

The seminar featured interactive activities such as keychain-making, a Kahoot question-and-answer portion, Korean dance, and cooking kimbap and buldak, during which they gained insights into basic language structures, cultural practices, and the growing global influence of Korea. The Korean class was divided into two separate rooms, with two separate lessons. one for language and the other for culture.

The attendees were also taught to count, greet, and buy in Korean. In an interview, Kim Huiju, one of the Korean language instructors, shared the importance of conducting this seminar. “Learning a foreign language is not just about vocabulary and grammar,” Kim said. “It is also about understanding the culture behind the language.” She also added that combining mind and physical activities helped the students better understand the language and culture.”When students are exposed to cultural

contexts and real examples, they become more engaged and less afraid of making mistakes,” she said.

In another interview, Jackielyn Agustin, one of the assigned student coordinators, shared that the seminar helped deepen her appreciation for the Korean language. “It is very fun to see the participants learning more rather than just annheongaseyo and kamsamnida,” Agustin said.

The program highlighted how language learning goes beyond memorization and serves as a bridge to understanding traditions, values, and social norms.

This seminar is part of AUP’s ongoing commitment to holistic and globally relevant education, creating opportunities for cultural exchange and multilingual learning. Through this program, students were given an opportunity to shape their communication skills and cultural awareness.

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