

dup HIGHLIGHTS

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AUP Honors 619 Graduates of the Celestia Batch 2026 during the 142nd Commencement Exercises

AUP marked a significant academic and spiritual milestone by celebrating the graduation of the Celestia Batch 2026 during its 142nd Commencement Exercises, held at the Philippine International Church from March 27–29, 2026. A total of 619 graduates were conferred degrees under the theme, “*Celestia*: Skyward Hope, Grounded Faith,” inspired by Isaiah 40:31.

The term *Celestia* signifies a calling toward a life anchored in divine purpose, characterized by hope directed heavenward and steadfastness, one that looks heavenward in hope while remaining firmly rooted in faith and service.

Pursuing a Life Guided by the True North

On March 27, Pastor Arnold Panganiban Galvo emphasized in his message during the Consecration Service that a celestial life is not merely a distant aspiration but a present experience rooted in one’s relationship with God. He reminded the graduates that true success is measured not by earthly achievements, but by a life connected to the Source of all strength.

“Celestial living isn’t just about doing great things,” he shared. “It is about being connected to the source of power, the great God who gives strength to all of us. *Celestia* is about finding your identity, fulfilling your purpose, and following your destiny.”

He concluded with a solemn call for graduates to fix their eyes on Christ as their True North. “The summit of your life is not success, awards, or achievements. Your finish line is eternity with Christ.”

Focusing Our Eyes on God’s Skyward Hope

On March 28, the Baccalaureate Service further enriched the celebration’s spiritual dimension. Leslie Scott Baker, keynote speaker, delivered a message anchored in Exodus 16:1–8, emphasizing three key lessons: trusting God’s guidance, anchoring expectations on His promises, and maintaining focus on Him alone. His message concluded with a hopeful reminder of Christ’s soon return:

“The evening is here, but the morning is coming.... Because the

morning is coming, we live with skyward hope and grounded faith. There's still a lot of work to be done. Be fully equipped for service and shine on. Never forgetting that your skyward hope is all in the second advent, and your grounded faith is your service to God and the finishing of God's work. The evening is here, but the morning is coming."

Celestial Testimonies

Graduate testimonies reflected God's sustaining grace throughout their academic journeys. Lynde Dwayne Sulit shared how ten years of perseverance in the College of Dentistry taught her to trust in God's timing. Gerlyn Batoy encouraged her fellow graduates to remain grounded in faith and committed to service. Arvie Bacus acknowledged and testified to God's provision through the ALMA-CORA scholarship, while Thando'huhle Tia Thusi expressed gratitude for the affirmation of her calling through the support of others and for how God worked through people to affirm it, echoing the principle of Ubuntu, which asserts that one's life is shaped by community. Thusi stated that "a person is a person because of other people. God used other people, so you should never ever give up on God because He will never give up on you."

Furthermore, four graduates received the Christian Service Award: Altizo, Trixie (CON), Zhar Dynne Cleah Caroz (CON), Vincent Bernard Enriquez (COT), and Donnafae Soco (CAH).



Pursuing Dreams with Skyward Hope

On March 29, 619 graduates completed their academic journey at the University. Of the total number, 23 graduates completed their programs during the May or inter-semester term of 2025, 53 in October 2025, and 543 in March 2026. The graduating cohort included 4 associate degree holders, 457 bachelor's degree recipients, 140 master's degree graduates, and 18 doctoral degree completers, reflecting the University's continued commitment to academic excellence across all levels of higher education.

The graduates represented a diverse academic community: 82 from the College of Arts and Humanities, 127 from the College of Business, 35 from the College of Dentistry, 108 from the College of Health, 188 from the College of Nursing, 22 from the College of Science, Engineering, and Technology, 41 from the College of Teacher Education, and 16 from the College of Theology.

Academic distinction was awarded to 272 graduates, including

198 cum laude, 64 magna cum laude, and 10 summa cum laude honorees, in recognition of their outstanding achievements.



The graduating class also reflected AUP's global reach, with students representing 26 countries, including China, Indonesia, the United States, Rwanda, Myanmar, Malaysia, South Africa, Kenya, Bangladesh, Zimbabwe, India, Nigeria, Saudi Arabia, South Korea, Papua New Guinea, Ghana, Angola, Zambia, Cameroon, Congo, Liberia, Germany, Russia, Solomon Islands, Republic of Leon, and Timor Leste.

In recognition of excellence beyond the classroom, several prestigious awards were conferred. The Dr. Jeimylo de Castro Research Excellence (READ) Award honored outstanding research contributions.



Undergraduate Category:

1st Place: Stephanie Ann Gallivo (Chemistry Department) for her thesis, "Catalytic Photodegradation of Basic Fuchsin Utilizing Zinc Oxide Nanoparticles from Spent Coffee Grounds."

2nd Place: Joshua Jaklic et. Al. (Biology and Chemistry Department), "Efficiency of Aquatic Fern in Soy Wastewater Phytoremediation."

3rd Place: Lea Amor Eshedo et. Al. (Psychology Department), "Capturing the Wounded Healers: A Photovoice Inquiry Into the Experiences of Selected Filipino Mental Health Practitioners with Psychological Challenges."

For the graduate category, Bhabhy Jean Tamboong with her study "A Phenomenological Study on Recidivism: Inputs to Guidance and Counseling Program."

In the doctorate category, "Development of Rubric Scoring System to

Measure High School Students' Adaptive Competency Using Classical and Modern Test Theories" by Dr. Mercedes Ibañez.

The Alfonso and Lydia Roda Student Leadership Award was presented to Zhar Dynne Cleah Caroz of the College of Nursing in recognition of her exemplary leadership and service.



Board examination topnotchers were also acknowledged, including Danielle Eleonor Ardeza (5th place, Psychologist), Zynth Sullano (9th place, Medical Technologist), and Sherwin Von Palaad (10th place, Medical Technologist), underscoring AUP's commitment to producing accomplished ACE professionals.



The Distinguished Service Award was conferred upon Dr. Jose Manalo Sr. in recognition of his lifelong dedication and invaluable contributions to the mission and advancement of the University and its alumni.

In her farewell address, Jimcy M. Ibanez, Batch Celestia president, reflected on the distinctive AUP experience. "Let us remember that our education is not only for personal gain but also for service, to our alma mater, our community, our country, and to the world. A reminder that our faith must remain grounded even as our dreams soar skyward."

Batch *Himaya* 2026: AUP Academy Graduates Called to Reflect God's Glory in Life and Service

AUP Academy marked a significant milestone by celebrating the graduation of Batch *Himaya* 2026 on March 20-22, 2026, at the Philippine International Church. The three-day event unfolded as a deeply reflective journey anchored in the theme *Himaya*, a Visayan word meaning glory, honor, and magnificence, ultimately pointing to God as the source of all achievement. The "glory" they carry does not fade after graduation but shines brighter as they step into the world to serve others and honor God's name.

Ms. Sharon Perdon, AUPA principal, presented 136 graduates representing nine countries: Angola, Bangladesh, China, India, Myanmar, Sweden, Vanuatu, South Korea, and the Philippines. Of which, 14 candidates are in the Accounting and Business Management strand; 28 in the General Academic Strand; and 94 in the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics strand.

The "G-A-M-E"

On March 20, during the Consecration Service, Pastor Manuel Vitug, the Consecration Service speaker and lead senior and teaching pastor of Loma Linda Filipino SDA Church, encoded his message using the letters of the word "GAME," which he presented in reverse order

(E-M-A-G) to define how to live for God's glory: Eternity is the Goal, More will Never Be Enough, Attitude Matters, and God First.

He reminded the graduates to "rise by lifting others up." Using a visual illustration with a container, he demonstrated that if one fills life with fun, studies, and relationships first, there is no room left for God. However, by putting God first, all other priorities naturally fall into place, resulting in a full, complete life.

On Crooked Paths

On March 21, during the Baccalaureate Service, Dr. John Harry Cabuncal, a neuroscientist and evangelist, delivered a message focused on the dangers of following the "crooked paths" of human tradition and the importance of reflecting divine glory. He warned graduates against blindly following the "crooked paths" of the mind, such as following friends, trends, or hobbies instead of thinking and acting as their own person under God's direction. He challenged the graduates to choose Jesus as their hero so that their characters would naturally reflect His image.

Through testimonies of the Christian Service awardees Jemuel Moses

Angelo Felix, Monre Valdez, Shekinah Safe Lucion, and Trisha Mae Arrogante, they recounted how mission experiences and leadership roles reshaped their understanding of faith. They described leadership not as authority, but as humility and dependence on God, and service not as grand gestures, but as consistent acts of compassion rooted in love.

Shining for God's Glory

At the Commencement Exercises on March 22, Keynote Speaker Scottie Baker underscored the essence of Adventist education: "This whole campus changed my life because I met God. God is the awe of AUP." He further defined Himaya as the visible expression of God's goodness in a person's life and God's excellence to be reflected through them. "God's goodness shines out of you. This is the glory of God."

As a tangible expression of gratitude, Batch Himaya contributed a PhP40,000 class gift to support the Home and School Association's ongoing project, which is the renovation of the Samuel P. Dizon Auditorium. This budget will be used to install the canopy, cathedral ceiling lights, and air-conditioning units.

"Himaya is not just a name but a calling," Shekinah Safe Lucion, Himaya class president, stated in her farewell address. "Everything we are, everything we do, is meant to reflect His glory."

She reflected on their journey in the AUP Academy as a transformation from strangers to a community shaped by shared experiences, emphasizing that growth is found not only in milestones but in the unseen moments in between. "May everything that we have and everything we are about to become always be for one purpose for His name, for His glory."





AUPE Celebrates 80th Graduation Exercises with Batch *Tagumpay* 2026

AUP Elementary (AUPE) held its 80th Graduation Exercises honoring 56 graduates of Batch *Tagumpay* at the Philippine International Church on March 19, 2026. *Tagumpay* translates in English as success, triumph, victory, achievement, or accomplishment.

"This occasion indeed, but by God's grace alone," Dr. Isabelo Susada, AUPE principal, welcomed graduates and families in his welcome remarks.

Dr. Susy Jael, assistant vice president for graduate studies and keynote speaker, challenged the graduates to redefine success beyond academic metrics. "I want to talk about success that goes beyond academic achievement, success that is rooted in character." Anchoring in 1 Samuel 16, she reminded that man looks at the outward appearance but the Lord looks at the heart. "You may not always succeed for the first time, but perseverance will carry you forward. Remember this, it is not failing that defines you, it is whether you used to stand up again." She underscored

how *tagumpay* "is also being trustworthy, compassionate, being responsible, resilient, and being faithful to your values. The heart of success is being grateful today."

Demonstrating gratitude and legacy, Batch *Tagumpay* also dedicated a class gift of PhP36,000 in chairs for the AUPE gymnasium.

"*Tagumpay* represents every challenge we face, every lesson we learned," Maryllee Julya Saban, Batch *Tagumpay* president, reflected on the deeper meaning of their batch name during her farewell address. "True success is not measured only by awards, grades, and achievements.... It is living the life that honors God, blesses others, and makes a difference in the world."



COM Recognizes Alumna for Diplomate Achievement in Internal Medicine



AThe College of Medicine (COM) recognized the achievement of Dr. Rossana Carmela M. Bella, from COM Class Hirang 2020, for attaining diplomate status from the Philippine Specialty Board of Internal Medicine in 2026.

Earning a diplomate status signifies a physician's advanced competency, clinical proficiency, and adherence to rigorous standards in the field of internal medicine. This milestone reflects Dr. Bella's sustained commitment to professional development, patient care, and excellence in medical practice.

COM commended Dr. Bella for her perseverance and dedication, emphasizing that her accomplishment exemplifies the institution's core values of integrity, service, and lifelong learning. Her success is viewed not only as a personal achievement but also as a contribution to the broader medical community, reinforcing the role of AUP-trained physicians in advancing healthcare standards.

Dr. Bella's recognition serves as an encouragement to current medical students and young professionals to pursue excellence with discipline and purpose. As she continues her practice, the AUP community expresses confidence in her ongoing service to patients and her contribution to the medical profession.

AUP Promotes Adventist Education at Sta. Rosa Career Expo

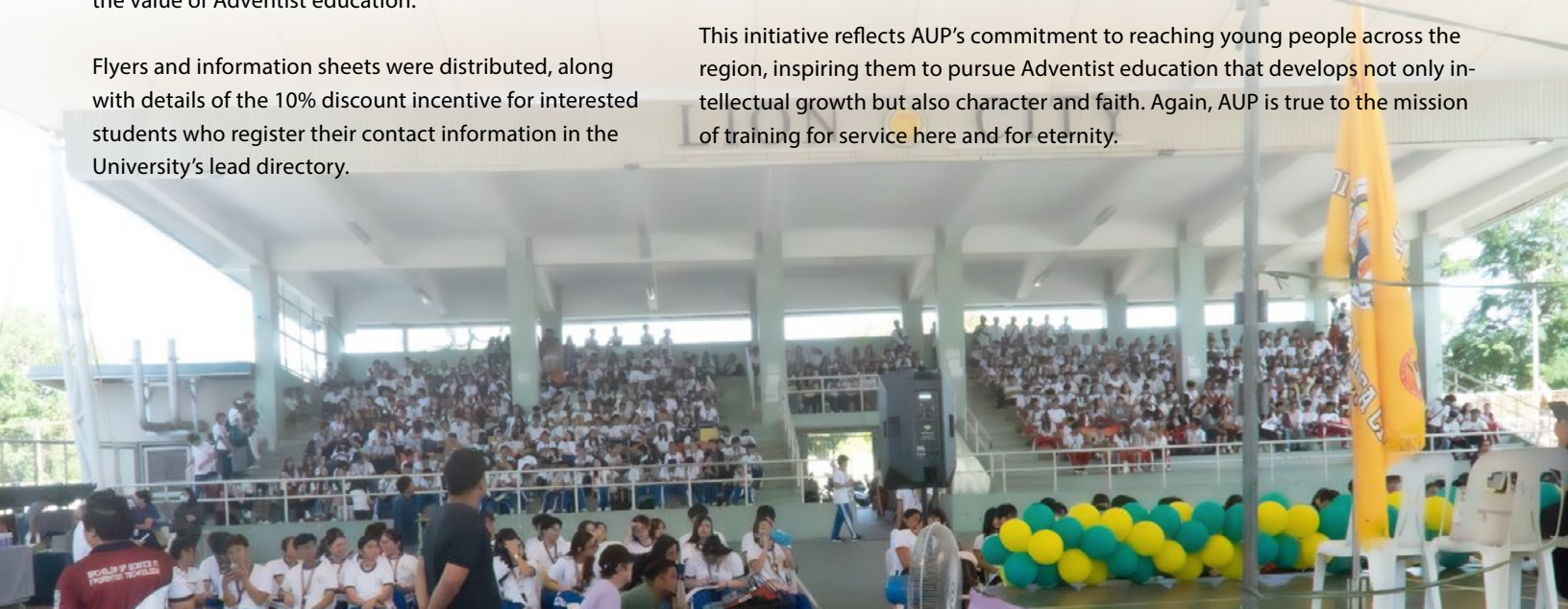
TThe University promotes Adventist education at the Senior High School 2026 Sta. Rosa Career Expo on March 3, 2026.

With over 800 students from Sta. At Rosa senior high schools, the AUP Advancement Office maximized opportunities to promote the University's academic programs and the value of Adventist education.

Flyers and information sheets were distributed, along with details of the 10% discount incentive for interested students who register their contact information in the University's lead directory.



This initiative reflects AUP's commitment to reaching young people across the region, inspiring them to pursue Adventist education that develops not only intellectual growth but also character and faith. Again, AUP is true to the mission of training for service here and for eternity.



AUP Tradigital Fine Arts Graduates Launch “Bitbit” Exhibit at Punlaan Art Space

Graduating students of the College of Arts and Humanities Tradigital Fine Arts Department opened their annual art exhibit titled “Bitbit” at Punlaan Art Space, Amadeo, Cavite, on March 17, 2026.

Bitbit, a Filipino term meaning “to carry,” serves as the conceptual anchor of the exhibit, presenting themes of human encounter, self-identity, nostalgia, and culture. Developed as part of the course requirements for the Tradigital Painting class, the exhibit was produced under the mentorship of John Merick Eupalao.

The collection features a range of works across painting, sculpture, and mixed media, reflecting both technical proficiency and personal expression. Each piece represents the artists’ individual journeys, what they choose to carry with them as they transition from academic training to professional practice in the broader creative industry.

The exhibit highlights the integration of traditional and digital approaches that characterize AUP’s Tradigital Fine Arts program, reinforcing its responsiveness to contemporary artistic demands while maintaining strong foundational practices.



The successful opening was made possible by the support of homegrown Fine Arts artists Lorebert Comision and Honey Maglalang, whose contributions helped realize the exhibit.

“*Bitbit*” stands as a culminating academic requirement and a platform for emerging artists to articulate their creative identities. The exhibit ran until March 30, 2026.

AUP Holds Mass Blood Donation Drive, Records 398 Collections

AUP conducted its 2026 mass blood donation drive at the Medical Laboratory Science Department on March 1, 2026, with a total of 398 whole-blood collections.

Organized by the Medical Laboratory Science Department in collaboration with the College of Science, Engineering, and Technology, the initiative highlighted the University’s continued commitment to community service and health advocacy. The strong participation of students, faculty, staff, and external donors reflected a shared spirit of compassion and responsibility toward saving lives.

The activity was carried out in partnership with key healthcare institutions, including the Adventist Medical Center Manila, Philippine Red Cross–Pasay, and Philippine Red Cross – Silang, which facilitat-

ed the safe collection and processing of blood donations.

Organizers expressed appreciation to the volunteer donors, recognizing them as “modern-day heroes” whose selfless contributions will directly benefit patients in need. The event also underscored the active involvement of Medical Laboratory Science students, who supported the campaign through promotion, logistical preparation, and post-event operations. Their participation demonstrated practical application of their training and a commitment to servant leadership.

The blood donation drive is a testament to the AUP community’s dedication to service and mission. Through initiatives such as this, the University continues to integrate academic learning with meaningful community engagement, contributing to the broader goal of promoting health and saving lives.



AUP Signs Partnership with SmartPay Asia, Inc., Enhancing Digital Payment Experience

In line with its commitment to innovation and improved student services, the Adventist University of the Philippines (AUP) officially introduced SmartPay on March 10, 2026, a new digital payment feature integrated into the University's enrollment system.

Designed to provide a faster, more convenient, and secure way of settling school fees, SmartPay will be available to both new and returning students for the first semester of the Academic Year 2026–2027, marking a significant step forward in modernizing AUP's enrollment processes.

Through SmartPay, students and parents can conveniently make payments with credit and debit cards, as well as QRPH, enabling seamless transactions with major banks and e-wallet platforms. This expanded range of payment options enables families to settle financial obligations at any time and from anywhere, without the need for on-campus transactions.

One of the system's key features is its real-time payment posting, which ensures that transactions are reflected in students' accounts immediately. This eliminates verification delays and contributes to a more efficient, streamlined enrollment experience.

The partnership was formalized through a contract signing with Smart Pay Asia Philippines Incorporated, represented by its president and chief executive officer, Mr. Henry Diaz. On behalf of AUP, the agreement was signed by Mrs. Aileenmae Silverio, vice president for finance, in the presence of Mrs. Raiza Angela Almocera, University controller.

The introduction of SmartPay reflects AUP's ongoing efforts to integrate technology into its services while upholding its commitment to excellence, efficiency, and stewardship. By adopting secure and accessible digital solutions, the University continues to enhance the overall experience of its students and stakeholders.



AUP Fine Arts Students Recognized in AWESNA Medical Mission Logo Contest

AUP continues to demonstrate excellence in creative education as students from its TraDigital Fine Arts program were recognized in the 6th Annual Medical Mission Theme and Logo Contest organized by the AWESNA San Gabriel Valley Chapter on March 13, 2026.

Conducted in collaboration with the Digital Design 2 class, the competition highlighted AUP students' artistic ability to create designs that communicate the AUP's purpose and mission. The winning entries were featured on the volunteer t-shirt during the medical mission in Sta. Josefa, Agusan del Sur, on March 19–21, 2026.

Out of 13 entries submitted, the following students were recognized for their outstanding work: Hannah Calanog (1st Prize), Marjelle Bonotan (2nd Prize), and Aighlavia Pangilinan (3rd Prize). All participating students received consolation prizes with corresponding cash awards in recognition of their creativity and effort.

The organizers expressed appreciation to Kevin Mar Ong for serving as artistic critic and providing professional insights on the submitted works. Support for the competition was also extended by the Advent Mission Foundation, which sponsored the prizes for all partici-



pants. Additional acknowledgment was given to contributors from AWESNA, including Dr. Esther Ong, Mario Ong, Constantino Totalca, and Carissa Totalca, for enabling student involvement in a meaningful outreach initiative.

The activity underscores AUP's commitment to integrating creative disciplines with service-oriented projects. Through this collaboration, students had the opportunity to apply their skills in a real-world context, contributing to a mission-driven endeavor that extends beyond the classroom.

AUP Hosts Inaugural Federation of Adventist Student Leaders Summit

Student leaders from Adventist colleges across the Philippines gathered at AUP from March 4–8, 2026, for the Inaugural Summit. This summit was anchored on the theme “ONE: One Faith, One Mission, One Voice.”

This summit united student leaders from Adventist institutions: Adventist Medical Center College (AMCC), Adventist University of the Philippines (AUP), Central Philippine Adventist College (CPAC), Mountain View College (MVC), Northeast Luzon Adventist College (NELAC), Northern Luzon Adventist College (NLAC), South Philippine Adventist College (SPAC), and Manila Adventist College (MAC).

Delegates engaged in dialogues, policy discussions, and faith-based reflections. A key highlight was the ratification of the constitution and bylaws, culminating in the establishment of the Adventist Student Leaders Association (ASLA-Philippines) as a unified body committed to leadership, service, and mission.

Elected officers of ASLA-Philippines include Hans Wilhelm Federico from AUP as president, Xy Vargas Rodriguez from MVC as vice president, Kylin Deanne Belloc from CPAC as secretary, Noreen Café from AUP as treasurer, and Chase Dhea Hernandez from AMCC as public relations officer.

Alyzza Mulleon, a delegate from AMCC, shared that she’s awed “to see student leaders from different Adventist colleges under one roof. It’s a rare and great opportunity to gain fresh and news perspective about leadership.” Dr. Arceli Rosario, the AUP president, emphasized in one of the seminars, “You are the guardians of the school’s identity and witnesses of Christ’s character.” Lea Grace Carmelo, another delegate from MVC, reflected on leadership, gaining significant insights through the seminar on what a leader stands for in Christ and in the

school. “Every choice we make must match our school’s purpose and show Christ’s love and identity.”

“This whole summit is a great blessing to each one of us,” Archie Balbin Tolentino, a delegate from NLAC, testified. “We are very thankful to the Adventist University of the Philippines as the host of this whole summit because from Day One up till now, there have been no dull moments. Every day is a great blessing to learn.”

Tolentino also highlighted the ratification process and fellowship activities as defining moments of unity and purpose throughout the summit. “I saw and witnessed the eagerness of every student leader to push and to have this kind of association,” Tolentino expressed. Rio Zamora from CPAC shared that one of his highlights was the grand sundown: “I love how we share our thoughts differently.”

“It was Christ-centered,” Princess Angel Ragel from NELAC reflected. “I envisioned ASLA-Philippines becoming a community where student leaders grow together while keeping their relationship and while keeping Jesus at the center of their leadership and their services.”

The summit concluded with a shared vision of Christ-centered leadership, as delegates committed to moving forward as one voice to advance the mission across Adventist campuses.



AUP Research Center Hosts 8IRF

by Jolly Balila

AUP Research Office, in collaboration with the Center for Graduate Studies, hosted the 8th International Research Forum on March 12, 2026.

Guided by the theme, “Innovations for a Responsible Future in Global Wellness,” the forum served as a meaningful platform for advancing research that addresses pressing global challenges while promoting responsible and holistic well-being.

By God’s grace, a total of 127 research papers in IMRAD format were submitted, reflecting strong scholarly engagement across disciplines: 60 in Business and Governance, 35 in Allied Health, 23 in Education, and 8 in Arts and Humanities. These contributions demonstrate a vibrant and growing research culture committed to excellence and impact.

The event successfully gathered researchers, scholars, and institutions from both local and international communities, including AUP, Adventist Hospital Santiago City, Adventist Hospital Palawan, Adventist International Institute of Advanced Studies, AMCM, CPAC, Saint Louis University, NLAC, Palawan Mission, Lapid Kinderland Inc., Federal University Lafia (Nigeria), Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, and Matanda Hospital. This wide participation highlights the strengthening of interdisciplinary and global collaboration, one of the forum’s key objectives.

Distinguished speakers, including Dr. Adrian Lawrence P. Carvajal, SISO TEC Secretariat director II at the Department of Education, and Dr. Jeimylo De Castro, Smart MD Philippines medical director and chief-executive-officer and Philippine Society of Information and Process Improvement president, shared valuable insights that emphasized the application of research in policy,



education, healthcare, and community development.

Parallel sessions throughout the day provided opportunities for meaningful exchange of ideas, allowing presenters to showcase research that contributes to global wellness and societal transformation. The event concluded with expressions of gratitude led by Dr. Jolly Balila, Research Office director, acknowledging God’s guidance and the collective efforts of organizers, presenters, and participants.



Indeed, the success of the 8IRF reflects not only academic excellence but also a shared commitment to using research as a tool for service, innovation, and positive change.

TO GOD BE THE GLORY!

AUP Ranks 5 during the March 2026 ECE and ECT Licensure Examinations

AUP ranked 5th among top performing schools in the March 2026 Electronics Engineering (ECE) and Electronics Technician (ECT) Licensure Examinations in the 10–19 examinees category.

AUP achieved an 80% passing rate in Electronics Engineering, surpassing the national passing rate of 61.62%. In the Electronics Technician licensure examination, the University recorded an 83.33% passing rate, exceeding the national average of 78.16%.

The results reflect AUP’s continued commitment to academic excellence and the preparation of ACE professionals in the field of engineering.

AWESNA Leads Gift-Giving Initiative Benefiting University Work Scholars

AUP Alumni of Western North America conducted a gift-giving program at the University Amphitheater on March 13, 2026, serving 336 work scholars.

The program commenced with welcome remarks from Pastor Noel Mariñas, the AUP dean of apartments, and an opening prayer led by Jun Tayaben, the AUP student support services director. Selected work scholars presented an acrostic “WELCOME AWESNA,” followed by musical and cultural performances, including renditions of “Over the Rainbow” and “Bituing Walang Ningning,” as well as a folk dance by the College of Education students. The event featured a message from AWESNA representatives before the distribution of financial assistance and essential goods.

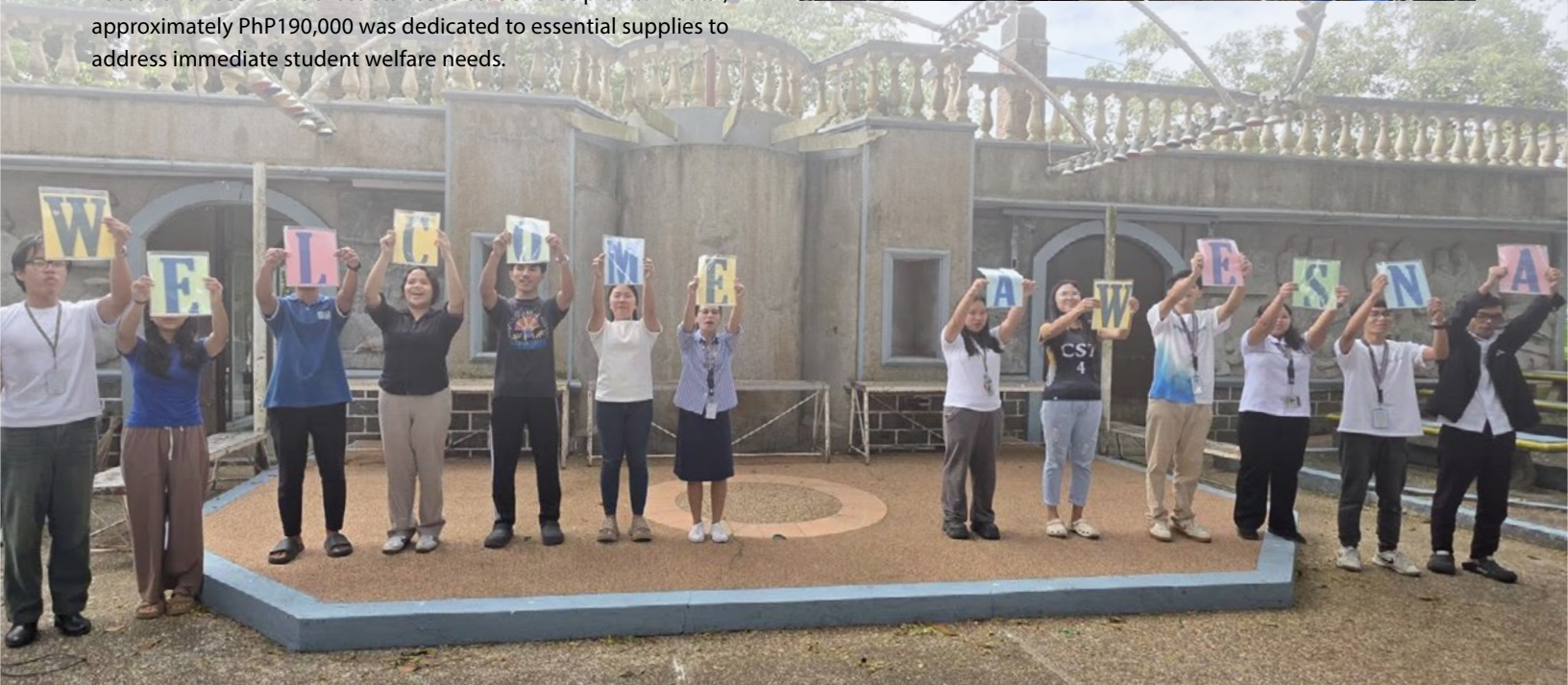


Marian Vidal, Carol Riano, Rosenda De La Pena, Jay Kevin Cajayon, Nerielle Ferry, Kenneth Yunzal, Geraldine Fernandez, Shine Rada, Jelan Ray Yamo, Gino Virtucio, Jesse Lihay Lihay, Jennifer Salboro, and Jhozelle Romero were the 15 work scholars graduating in 2026 who received financial assistance, acknowledging resilient students who have spent over 7 or more years pursuing their degree.

In addition, the San Gabriel Valley Chapter of AWESNA donated four sets of equipment: body composition, blood pressure machine, thermometer, oximeter, and blood sugar test kit to the Community Extension Services.



Through the initiative, the Los Angeles Chapter allocated PhP116,500 to support rice and grocery items. Meanwhile, the San Gabriel Valley Chapter donated PhP207,838, covering PhP72,432 for toiletries and PhP50,000 for meal provision. The remaining PhP85,406 was designated for direct financial assistance to student recipients. In total, approximately PhP190,000 was dedicated to essential supplies to address immediate student welfare needs.



AUP AWESNA Conducts Medical Mission in Sta. Josefa, Agusan del Sur

Demonstrating a spirit of compassion and service, AUP Alumni from Western North America (AWESNA) returned to the Philippines to lead a medical mission in the municipality of Sta. Josefa, Agusan del Sur, on March 19-21, 2026, bringing vital healthcare services and community outreach to thousands of residents.

The initiative, described as a “divine meeting” that began with a simple encounter involving purple corn, grew into a full-scale mission effort that united volunteers, local leaders, and partner organizations in a shared purpose to serve and uplift communities in need.

The mission formally opened with a welcome program hosted by the local government on the first evening, during which municipal leaders and community members warmly welcomed the volunteers. Messages of gratitude and unity were shared, affirming the outreach’s significance.

“May this be the start of how we can serve the people and the Lord,” a representative from the local health department expressed hope for continued collaboration.

“It is an honor for us to serve the community of Sta. Josefa,” Dr. Esther Ong, one of the mission leaders, conveyed the volunteers’ heartfelt commitment. The municipal mayor likewise expressed appreciation, emphasizing the gathering’s deeper meaning. “We accept the compassion and the genuine care you have extended to our people. Even this small municipality deserves care and love. Tonight is more than an event. It is a symbol of unity, compassion, and shared responsibility.”

The medical mission, held on March 19-20, served a total of 2,297 patients through various services, including: 421 medical consultations, 733 tooth extractions, 272 dental procedures, 46 circumcisions, 34 wart removals, and minor surgeries and other treatments. In addition, haircut services and educational activities were conducted,

addressing both physical and community wellness needs.

On March 20, Dr. Ong reiterated that the mission was not only about delivering services but also about strengthening the alumni’s connection to their alma mater through meaningful service. “This medical mission aims to strengthen our commitment to AUP by serving communities in need,” Dr. Ong said.

Beyond medical services, the group extended its outreach to a local tribal community in collaboration with the Sta. Josefa District’s Global Youth Day initiatives. A total of 2,837 individuals from the tribe were served, including 200 children and 150 families, who received care packages and were treated with simple acts of kindness such as ice cream and cake, moments that brought joy and dignity to the community.

The outreach was made possible through the support of various donors and partners, including the Adventist Health White Memorial, Advent Mission Foundation, Don and Gladys Ruman, Dr. Lorna Aguoo, and multiple chapters of the alumni association.

On March 21, AWESNA also conducted a ministry to the Sta. Josefa Central Church. Dr. Edna Domingo, AWESNA president, shared a message on the spiritual foundation of service: “Love for God, love for the church—when love for God is within us, we can build healthy families and a healthy church.”

Dr. Ong posed this challenge: “One purpose to help Agusan del Sur.” The mission concluded with gratitude and renewed faith among volunteers and community members alike. As one participant reflected, “God is good all the time, and I have witnessed that.”

Through this initiative, the AUP alumni once again demonstrated that true education extends beyond. It is manifested in lives of service, compassion, and a commitment to reflect Christ’s healing ministry in communities across the nation.





GC Legal Counsel Visits AUP, Affirms Ethics and Stewardship

The General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists Legal Counsel delegation visited the AUP on March 17, 2026, to discuss ethics, stewardship, and institutional integrity.

The delegation included Karnik Doukmetzian, Of Counsel; Todd McFarland, General Counsel; and Evin Villaruben, Legal Director of the Southern Asia-Pacific Division.

During the visit, the legal leaders emphasized the importance of upholding Seventh-day Adventist values in professional practice and institutional governance. McFarland underscored the responsibility of Adventist workers to maintain high ethical standards: "We really need to uphold these values, morals, and ethics. Our morals should be guided by the Bible." He further encouraged the University community to exercise faithful stewardship as it navigates contemporary challenges.

The delegation also visited the ongoing development of the University's teaching hospital, accompanied by Atty. Gizelle Fugoso

and Dr. Arceli Rosario. The visit provided an opportunity to review the project's progress and affirm its alignment with the University's mission of service and excellence.

The engagement reinforced AUP's commitment to ethical leadership and faith-based stewardship as it continues to expand its academic and healthcare initiatives.



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