

THE LINK

The Official Publication of PUC/AUP—Alumni of Western North America



Occupy
'till I come



THE LINK-AWESNA

VOLUME 51 ISSUE 2 WWW.AWESNA.ORG FALL 2020

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AWESNA *“...to Serve and Shine!”*



THE LINK-AWESNA



Occupy 'till I Come Cover page

Designed by Jeruel Ibanez, Layout Editor

Medical Dental Mission Group picture



Message from the AWESNA President



September 2, 2020

“OCCUPY TILL...2021 and Beyond!

Dear Fellow AWESNA Officers, Members, and PUC/AUP alumni,

This weekend would have been our annual AWESNA Convention in Scottsdale, Arizona. I have received and read messages from several of you expressing how much you miss this yearly fellowship and gathering of alumni and friends. For obvious reasons, you understand why we are not meeting as an alumni organization this year. God willing, we will be able to celebrate His goodness to each of us faithful PUC/AUP alumni next year during the Labor Day weekend in the same venue.

Meanwhile, let us continue to allow God to use us in productive ways while we await that time when we will once more meet and share memories and blessings with our fellow alumni.

Despite the obstacles posed by COVID-19, AWESNA praises God for enabling the organization, through generous donors, to raise funds for important projects: \$5,000 for Sound system, \$3,500 for AWESNA website (development and completion), \$10,000 for Inter semester assistance and \$9,300 for AUP working students' laptops.

May I express gratitude and appreciation to those of you who have generously shared your blessings to the deserving but underprivileged students at AUP.

The last seven months have been marked with unprecedented events, not only in our local setting but also in the global environment. Internet sources and dictionaries define the term *unprecedented* as fresh, new, novel, original, strange, unfamiliar, unheard-of, unknown. On all angles, these characterizations reflect the world's and AWESNA's current experience with Covid-19—an unprecedented pandemic that has drastically altered normal life, affected our plans, and caused fear over our and our family's health and future. Add to this health challenge the barrage of confusing information, social unrest, and political innuendos occupying all forms of media.

AWESNA is not immune to what is happening in this sin-sick world. Our association had to make adjustments to abide by federal, state, and county regulations to ensure the health and safety of our members. Among the measures the officers and the Board employed, included postponing the annual convention scheduled on September 4-6 at Hilton Resort and Villas, Scottsdale, Arizona, to 2021 labor weekend. Consequently, the planned joint convention in the Philippines on March 19-21 is likewise moved to 2022

(venue and dates to be reconsidered).

However, despite all of the havoc this invisible foe has wreaked both globally and locally, AWESNA has remained undaunted, relying on God's promises, among which: *Don't be afraid, for I am with you. Don't be discouraged, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will hold you up with my victorious right hand* (Isaiah 41:10, NLT).

Praise God for technology, particularly zoom; for despite our inability to hold in-person meetings, the officers and the AWESNA Board continue to keep in touch. In fact, on the positive note, our zoom meetings enabled chapter presidents, like Rachel Pedernal from Cascadia and Roger Rodriguez from Alberta, to join us after several years. Through the last 10 months, since this new term started, despite foreseen and unforeseen obstacles, AWESNA has implemented its plans and discussed means to continue fulfilling our objectives—engaging in outreach and assisting our dear alma mater.

1. Important actions taken from October 2019 to May 28, 2020:

- 1.1 Approval of committee job descriptions.
- 1.2 Centralization of scholarship funds for working students.
- 1.3 New award—Most Outstanding Chapter (to be awarded during the annual banquet).
- 1.4 Creation of Ad Hoc Committee to review and recommend amendments to the Endowment Fund Bylaws. Members are: Liberty Olive Bautista, Michelle Perdon Wongkaren, and Pong Manalo.
- 1.5 Election of Dr. Elmer Bangloy (by the EF Committee) as chair of the Endowment Fund Committee on November 24, 2019.
- 1.6 Joint AWESNA/EASNAC convention (originally in 2021; now moved to 2022).
- 1.7 Fundraising for AWESNA sound system and website. (Read details in No. 3 below).

2. Annual Events

2.1 Spiritual Retreat at Miracle Springs Resort and Spa on January 24-26, 2020

Pastor Jun Bautista from New York served as guest speaker. Although we recognize areas of improvement, the retreat has succeeded in encouraging more young alumni participation.

2.2 Medical-dental-evangelistic outreach to Lucban, Quezon.





This year's outreach which employed the expertise of more than 50 AWESNA and local volunteers, extended services to 2,700+ patients and baptized an initial 76 new members to the Seventh-day Adventist Church. More baptisms were scheduled during the city's centennial celebration in May, but was halted due to the shutdown. We continue to pray that those who have decided to join the church will continue to hold on till the next baptism.

3. Local Projects

Through chapter and individual donations, needed funds for the following projects voted on by the AWESNA Board have been raised:

3.1 The AWESNA website (total cost- \$3, 500; monthly maintenance of \$99). The site (puc-aupawesna.org) has been built, and needs populating. I encourage and request chapter presidents to submit your lists of officers, members, reports, and activities to our Multimedia and Communications Design chair, Dr. Jesse Role, who will work with AWESNA PIO, Marjorie Huynh to make the website functional.

3.2 Sound system. (total cost- \$5,000). This will help the association provide maximum, quality media services, and save on rental and related expenses

during retreats and conventions.

4. Assistance to 135 AUP Working Students. In addition to existing scholarship programs sponsored by several AWESNA chapters, the association extended:

4.1 Inter-semester assistance to AUP working students. Responding to the need for assistance to 135 working students' food and personal needs for June and July, the AWESNA Board, authorized the president to meet with chapter presidents for this purpose. At the zoom meeting of the AWESNA president with chapter presidents on June 1, 2020, Dr. Salvador Molina, AUP vice president for Student Services provided details on this urgent need. Praise God for the following chapters who readily responded to raise a total of \$10,000 which was sent to AUP:

Cascadia

La Sierra

Greater Los Angeles

Greater Central Valley

Loma Linda

4.2 Laptops for Graduating Working Students. Due to COVID-19 impact on education—requiring online classes, AWESNA responded to the request from AUP Student Services for assistance for laptops to be used by graduating working students. Through generous AWESNA Board, chapter, and individual donors, \$9,300 was raised as of August 6, 2020. This project will not only enable graduating working students to earn their degrees, but above all, provide committed workers in God's vineyard. Alumni who want to share their blessings are still welcome to donate to this project.

"Occupying Till Jesus Comes"

As we navigate the challenges the Covid-19 pandemic and other distractions have imposed on us individually and as an association, we move forward in faith and with unflinching determination and unwavering commitment to God's mandate in Luke 19:13, when he called His ten servants and delivered them ten pounds, and said to them, "Occupy till I come." In the Bible, when God commands us to continue, it does not provide a known or specific terminal point. This uncertainty makes it easy for us to become weary in performing our respective tasks and ministry (in this context, our involvement in AWESNA affairs). We need to be faithful until Jesus returns. "Let us not be weary in well doing." Instead, let us take courage in God's promises and the words of the prophet, Ellen G. White,—"*In reviewing our past history, having traveled over every step of advance to our present standing, I can say, Praise God! As I see what the Lord has wrought, I am filled with*

astonishment and with confidence in Christ as leader. We have nothing to fear for the future, except as we shall forget the way the Lord has led us, and His teaching in our past history."—Life Sketches, 196.

God bless, AWESNA! Shine On, dear AUP!

Sincerely,

Eppie Manalo

Eppie Manalo, AWESNA President 2019-2022



Farewell Lunch for Dr. Doris Mendoza at Claim Jumper on March 10, 2020



Farewell Dinner for the AUP COM Interns at Benjarong Restaurant in Redlands on Feb. 4, 2020



EDITORIAL

BY: MARJORIE REYNO HUYNH, AWESNA PRO

August 30, 2020

Dear Fellow Alumni,

To my knowledge, this is the first time that an AWESNA Convention has been cancelled due to a pandemic. The Coronavirus has affected our daily lives, the economy, travel plans, schools and maybe affect even our election outcomes. The effects has been broad and deep, however, we continue what we can do to our utmost ability for AWESNA.

As our theme, "Occupy till I Come", AWESNA has conducted business despite the restrictions in social distancing and inability to meet in large groups. The positive side of the pandemic included us becoming more adept with technology by the use of zoom meetings, texting, emails and looking at Facebook Link for announcements. This is also the first time in AWESNA history that the LINK will be distributed electronically. It is cost effective, easy to disseminate and green.

This edition includes reports from the chapters, Medical Dental Mission to the Philippines which was a success and it happened even when the travel ban restrictions for COVID19 started. The AUP scholarship funds and laptop projects were accomplished in short periods of time. We saw our members collaborate with different alumni from around the world to present piano concerts, choirs and online churches. We have made good use of our time and talents. We were blessed by your efforts in furthering the work of AWESNA and the Kingdom of God.

We have lost a few of our AWESNA officers and members due to COVID19 and other diseases. I am saddened that my predecessor, Edwin Araba, two-time AWESNA PIO, creator of the Facebook Link, former student of mine, who helped and supported in my first term as my Layout Editor passed away suddenly. Just recently, we lost Vilma Palma, Loma Linda Chapter Auditor and the person that nominated me to become President for the Loma Linda Chapter (2013-2016). She has been an inspirational person as being the first woman General Manager of the Philippine Publishing House. Until we meet again, let's make use of time and talents and get ourselves occupied till Jesus comes.

Sincerely,

Marjorie Reyno Huynh, AWESNA PIO— 2019-2022

THE LINK

The Link is published by the Adventist University of the Philippines Alumni of Western North America (AWESNA).

www.awesna.org

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Greater Central Valley Chapter

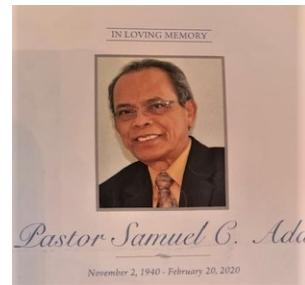
By Gladys Gallego, Chapter President

Greetings to all! Due to the pandemic our chapter meetings were curtailed. However, I am grateful to our members who responded to the appeal of our AWESNA President, Eppie Manalo to help needy working students at AUP. Donations were mailed, some sent by Venmo, some handed personally to me. One member drove from Hanford to Fresno to deliver her check. Our chapter contributed \$1,295.00. Praise God for the opportunities to help.

What have our members been doing this lock-down times? Most members have participated in the 100 days of Prayer. Some of our members, Joseph and Annie Polite, Joe and Carel Esposo, Nonie and Zeny Misal, Carl and Lorna Penaflorida went to sing, pray and cheer up our elderlies on Sabbath afternoons. Endok and Dahlia Ignacio started meals on wheels every week for our elderlies too.

Pastor Samuel C. Ada, a retired minister, a dedicated and loving husband, father, grandfather was laid to rest at Hanford, CA on March 2, 2020 after battling the big C for many years. He is survived by his wife Marlyn Famisaran Ada and their 3 children, Rhodney, Welmar and Myla Joy (Awesna member). He will be greatly missed.

"We are living, we are dwelling in a grand and awful time, says the song. Yes, we are, and so I leave you the promise in Philippians 4:19. "But my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus."



Fresno Group



Armona/Hanford Group



Bakersfield Group



Loma Linda Chapter

By Perida Tongpo, Chapter President

To better serve the constituents of Loma Linda Chapter additional officers were needed and as a result of e-mail voting. Here is the final officers of the AWESNA Loma Linda Chapter. We are saddened by the loss of our Chapter auditor, Violeta Palma.

In addition, the Chapter participated in the fundraising for AUP Working students to raise funds for laptops to be used for online classes, and other computer needs such as writing papers and emailing them to the teachers. In order to raise funds, members and friends were invited to pick dragon fruits from the garden of the Tongpos for donations towards the laptops.



Loma Linda Chapter Officers 2019-2022

President:	Perida Tongpo
Vice Presidents:	
Religious:	Roger Bitanga
Membership:	Crisly Penaflorida
Social:	Euly Sharifi
Fundraising & Projects: Joy Orpilla	
Secretary:	Amelita Galang
Treasurer:	Armand Zabala
PRO:	Nida Halversen
Auditor:	Violeta Palma
Advisers:	Carmelita Laoyan Romulu & Arlegia Tabo John & Ellen Aguilar





San Diego Chapter

By Crisamar Javellana Anunciado, Chapter Advisor

Five boxes of nursing, medical and PhD books plus bags and toiletries were sent to AUP-College of Nursing for the upcoming schoolyear 2020-2021. Books were collected mostly from one source, San Diego City College of Nursing School through the generosity of the faculty, Dometrives Armstrong, DNP, RN, a former doctoral student of Crisamar J. Anunciado, PhD, FNP-BC, AC-ADM. Toiletries and bags were from Dr. Anunciado's varied travel and medical conference attendance. The mailing cost was sponsored by AWESNA San Diego Chapter.

Joyosthie Basco Orbe from the AUP College of Nursing responded: "Alumni Thoughtfulness Overflowing"

Thanks for the five boxes of nursing references for clinical instructors to worm into. New wellsprings of knowledge in topics/volumes/books/student module of a wide variety of authors: Anatomy and Physiology, Theories Fundamentals to Nursing, Foundations of Nursing, Health Assessment, Pharmacology, Math and Calculations, Nursing Care Plans, Maternity and Child Nursing, Pediatrics, Community Health, Informatics, Geriatrics/Gerontology, Med-Surg Nursing, Leadership and Management, Test Taking tips to NCLEX Reviewers, Nutrition and Dietetics and more, as well as, handy dandy nurses notes and devotional books and things! And, our nursing alumni and friends did not forget the freebies! May God replace the empty space these blessings have created when shared—with more blessings from heaven's storehouse!





Cascadia Chapter

By Ching Pedernal, Chapter President

Here are the activities of the Cascadia Chapter:

Pre-COVID19 we had the opportunity to do a retreat .

During COVID19:

- 1) We partnered with a local food chain in the Philippines, OscarAnn's Vegetarian enterprise for our feeding ministry. The effort resulted to feeding front liners at Manila Adventist Medical Center formerly Manila Sanitarium and Hospital and the street people coordinated by Bro. Lachica. Currently, the street group meets for Bible prophecy series. David and Dr. Blecenda Varona are our AUP and Inspire Ministries church representatives.
- 2) We also did drive-by visitations giving cheers, cards, prayers, comforting Bible promises and care gifts for our outreach.
- 3) We also brought church in people's backyards and met them where they are.
- 4) We do zoom fitness for our health message.
- 5) We also started exercise ministry with "Run with Ric, walk with Jesus".
- 6) We do zoom online prayers as well.

We truly praise God for His continued safety, health and protection.



Cascadia Chapter Report continued





Life Sketches of Edwin Araba January 11, 1964—July 27, 2020

By: Mildred Araba Garcesa

Edwin Lardizabal Araba was born on January 11, 1964 in Pasay City, Philippines. He was the fourth of five children of Oseas and Virginia Araba from Borrongan, Eastern Samar. "Kiwin" or "Iwin" as he was fondly called, was named after Pastor Edwin Gibbs, an American missionary, who baptized Virginia into the Adventist faith. Edwin's paternal grandparents were the first Adventists in their hometown. Edwin almost died when he was an infant, but God had a plan for him. Fearing that he would not even last a day, his parents dedicated him to the Lord, and this was the beginning his relationship with Jesus. Growing up, life was financially tough, but his loving Christian parents instilled in him the value of good Christian education. He completed his elementary and secondary education at Pasay City Academy. It was during his elementary years that he started his love for books, astronomy, and being in the Pathfinder club. He became one of the Pathfinder staff members in high school, under the leadership of then Youth Director, Francisco "Kiko" Gayoba.

In 1986, Edwin graduated from Philippine Union College, (now Adventist University of the Philippines), with a degree of Bachelor of Science in Medical Technology. He proceeded to medical school, and graduated from Manila Central University, College of Medicine, with the Doctor of Medicine degree. He completed his Post-graduate Medical Internship at the former Manila Sanitarium and Hospital (now Adventist Medical Center Manila), the same hospital where he was born. During his medical internship, he founded a book club called "Ben Carson International Book Club." In acknowledgement, he received a letter from Dr. Ben Carson himself, who at that time, was an active Pediatric Neurosurgeon when his book, "The Gifted Hands," came off the press. Aside from reading, Edwin also had a talent and love for journalism. In college, he was the

first editor-in-chief of the "SMILE" group called "Ripples." He was elected PIO for AWESNA and became its periodical editor of "The Link". He also started his own local church bulletin. In 1997, he married the former Melinda Joy Villoso. They had two wonderful boys, Edwin Dale William (1998) and Stanley Rei (1999). Sadly, Joy passed away in 2003, leaving Edwin with the two very young boys to raise. With God's help, he was able to send his boys to Adventist schools. Dale just graduated from Pacific Union College in June this year, earning him the degree of Bachelor of Science in Biology, cum laude. Stanley is about to enter his senior year as a nursing student, expecting to graduate in 2021. In 2016, Edwin married the former Mabel Dizon. They lived in Elk Grove, California until his demise. Edwin loved music, and was a firm believer that music can heal the soul. He made sure his children learned to love music, as well. Dale was an active member of the PUC orchestra, and was the principal violinist until his graduation in June of this year. Stanley was also a member of the AUP orchestra, playing in the viola section. Edwin served as an Elder, and as one of the members of the praise team at his home church, the All Nations SDA Church, in Elk Grove, California. One of Edwin's favorite song

was, "We
Have This
Hope." We
will miss Ed-
win's tenor
voice, but we
cling to the
hope soon we
will see him
again when all
the dead in
Christ shall
rise and live forever.



Pictures from the 2020 AWESNA Spiritual Retreat (Article on page 16)



AWESNA SPIRITUAL RETREAT



Miracle Springs Resort & Spa nestled in Desert Hot Springs and overlooking Palm Springs and Coachella Valley was the venue for AWESNA's Spiritual Retreat on January 24-26, 2020. Far from the cities, blessed with scenic landscapes and known around the world for its hot and cold healing waters, it was the perfect location to refresh the body, mind, soul and spirit.

The theme of the Retreat was "AWESome Neo-Anthology: The Gospel Leadership Agenda based on Colossians 1:11-14. The Theme Song was: "Make Me a Servant". The Speaker was Pastor Rodolfo "Jun" Bautista and it was coordinated by Liberty Olive Bautista, AWESNA Vice President.

Friday night services had two parts: First part was the impromptu audience participation while the speaker and program coordinator were stuck in heavy traffic. Participants included Lysenia Quijano, Fe Asuncion, Marjorie Huynh and an inspirational talk from Dr. Beth Role, Former Director of Graduate

Studies and Research who talked of her church ministries at the University of East Africa. The second portion was presided by Liberty Olive Bautista, and Speaker "Jun" Bautista, Jr. who is currently a pastor in New York City. The format included a talk from Pastor Jun and followed by a lively group session following a written guideline.



Dr. Beth Role

Sabbath services saw more involvement from the Young Alumni leading in the services starting with the Praise team, BINHI, Loma Linda Group and other musicians. The sermon and group discussions were geared to having our personal stories serve as a witnessing tool and it's the project of Pastor Jun to compile these personal stories and make into a devotional book. Neo-anthology is a collection of stories which will be-

come a legacy. The Medical Dental Mission participants going to Lucban Quezon were dedicated in prayer by Dr. Miguel Fernando., President of La Sierra Chapter.

Buffet lunch was served with an additional bilo-bilo brought by Mar Mutya.

The afternoon sessions included personal testimonies from Mel Junio, Ruben Quijano, Rose Malaguit who gave us an insight how God's Providence allowed them to come to PUC/AUP along with a mini musical concert by BINHI and Loma Linda Youth group. Some parts of the program were broadcasted live to the Facebook Link website so that members who cannot attend the services can watch the service. Games and socials followed in the evening and the Board of Officers was held on Sunday morning.

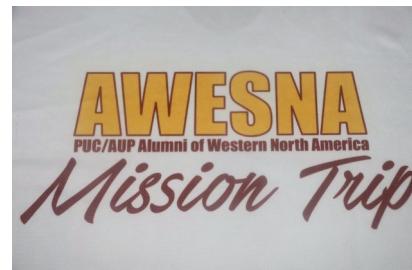
To submit your stories for compilation, email it to Eppie Manalo, AWESNA President at meppie@ymail.com



AWESNA 2020 Outreach to Lucban, Quezon



By Esther Liongco Ong
Chair, Community Affairs



First and foremost, I am so thankful to the Lord that in spite of all the odds we encountered including the Corona Virus outbreak in Asia before the medical mission, God blessed this year's outreach with success. I really admire the volunteers who sacrificed themselves and risked their health with all the travel advisories. It was a pleasure to serve the people of Lucban, Quezon.

This year's medical-dental-evangelistic outreach was a success in terms of the following: 2,747 total number of patients served, which exceeded the goal of 1,000-1,500. We had to cut down the number on the last day since we were running out of supplies because we served more than 1,000 people on the 3rd day. We provided the following services: medical consultation with free medications, biometric screening which includes lipid panel and blood sugar testing (expensive test in Philippines approximately Php 2,700.00/test), minor surgery for cysts and circumcisions, dental services for both extraction and cleaning using our 2 new machines, spiritual care support, optical and eye care other basic health teaching stations for hand hygiene, oral care, foot care and CPR demo.

The breakdown of services is as follows:

- **Medical - 1,145 (Adult, Pedia, OB-gyne cases, Ear Check and Cleaning)**
- **Minor Surgeries - 128 (Cysts and Circumcision)**
- **Dental - 541 (Extraction and Dental Cleaning)**
- **Lipid Panel & Blood Sugar Test - 300 which was not counted in the total because I included as part of the medical consultation**
- **Optical and Eye Care - 833 (Refraction, Reading Eyeglasses and Sunglasses) - the most sought station**
- **Massage - 100 (Patients excluding the volunteer's back rub massage)**
- **Basic Health Teaching for all the Medical and Optical/Eye care patients**

Spiritual Care support for all the Medical and Optical/Eye care patients - prayers, offering counselling and visitation etc. The week-long evangelism/reaping campaign yielded an initial baptism of 76 for November- February. Additional baptism was expected in May during Lucban's centennial celebration, which was halted by COVID-19.

Praise God for generous donors who made this year's outreach possible.

Monetary contributions:

AWESNA volunteers

Emiliano Manalo Foundation

Adventist Health (White Memorial, supplies and lab tests)

North Philippine Union Conference

Rose Malaguit's donors

Asian-Pacific Ministries through Dr. Vic Lous Arreola and Pastor Elizer Sacay

Dr. and Mrs. Octavius Quijada

Dr./Atty. Bill and Mrs. Bing Latour

Dr. and Mrs. Eduardo Gonzaga

Dennis and Mermie Borillo

Dr. McRay Ojano (dental supplies)

Bella Almario Litvin (reading glasses)

Dr. Romy and Mrs. Olga Rodriguez

Lucban SDA Church

Elfrie Cuizon

and a donor from New York.

2,747

Total number of patients served in Medical, surgical, dental, optical, laboratory and massage services



Our gratitude goes to our

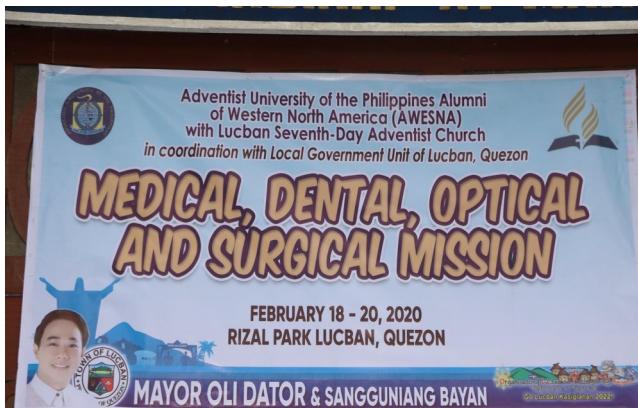
2020 volunteers:

- AWESNA and PUC/AUP alumni
- Adventist Manila Medical Center physicians and nurses
- Lucban SDA Church volunteers, physicians, and dentists

AWESNA volunteers with the Lucban Mayor, Oli Datur

What a good start of our medical mission that we set the baseline in successful ways. God is so good for providing the needed means. In addition, the medical mission won't be successful without the team's commitment and contribution; and of course, the great efforts of the local counterpart in providing us our needs and organizing the local volunteers etc. Everything turned out great because everybody worked accordingly to their assigned areas. Actually, it provided me a different paradigm, ambience and perspective since I was working with Adventists unlike in Adventist Health where most patients are non-Adventists. It was a different experience since this was also my first-time medical mission with AWESNA.

Pictures from the Medical Dental Evangelism Mission 2020







AUP COLLEGE OF MEDICINE - The Loma Linda Experience

One Big Step for our Vision

By Robbie Jay Castro

The Adventist University of the Philippines - College of Medicine reached one of its biggest milestones to date. Though being a newly opened Medical School in the country with just 5 years into its birth, the college has made a remarkable feat by being able to send out three of its clinical clerks to its sister school in the United States of America which is Loma Linda University. These medical students were sent there to be part of the Loma Linda University's Global Health Institute Program: International Professional Development Program led by its program manager, Bing Frazier. This program took place from January 23rd to February 5th of the year 2020.

The students sent from the Adventist University of the Philippines are all senior medical students pulled out from their clinical rotation from Batangas Medical Center and Adventist Medical Center – Manila to be part of this program. The students were Ira Alexis Aclan, Jezrael Casel, and Robbie Jay Castro of the graduating class HIRANG – Class of 2020 which were accompanied by their esteemed clinical coordinator and faculty Dr. Elmer Valenzona. Prestigious and highly regarded the opportunity given to these students, they were, in the contrary humbled as they were honored to bring the name of the College of Medicine as well as the university abroad. These students made preparations and composed themselves before being sent out for they themselves know that the task ahead would be daunting as the hopes and prayers of the families, friends, and faculty of this team are upon them. They went forth knowing whatever they do would make a lasting impression to the Loma Linda University and for generations of their medical brothers and sisters to come.



L to R: Ira Aclan, Robbie Castro, Jezrael Casel

The program of the Global Head Institute have had various programs that have long been inviting and accepting professionals and graduate students from all affiliated institutions around the world with the intent to share what the Loma Linda University has, and in turn, as these professionals go back to their institutions, they will be able to impart what they have learned. This program of the Loma Linda University – Global Health Institute adds value to the university and makes a lot of friends from around the world. In this particular program where the AUP-COM students took part in, there were other affiliated institutions that also sent their medical students. These were students from Zhejiang University School of Medicine and Zhejiang University Community College which were both rotating in Sir Run Run Shaw Hospital in China. All in all there were 11 senior medical students taking part in this program accompanied by three faculty members from the respective institutions. The program's goal was having the medical students experience the life of a medical student and becoming a medical/surgical resident in the LLU Health System with of course having them learn the US Health System and standard of care.



L to R: Dr. Valenzona, J. Casel, I. Aclan, Bing Frazier, R. Castro

Led by Ma'am Bing Frazier of the Global Health Institute, this unique program for these medical students was a comprehensive two week program for the students in which they given opportunities to take classes alongside their American counterparts and take several evaluations as a normal medical student of LLU would be taking. The students were made to listen to lectures and sit in some of the laboratory sessions from

year level 1 of medical school to clinical rotations of year level 4 of medical school. As for the evaluation of these medical students, they were given an opportunity to observe the medical students do their laboratory work, simulations, and even small group dynamics. After sitting in the classrooms and observing how the school and the students work it was time to prove themselves as they were to take OSCE or Observed Systematic Clinical Examination in which students were given the opportunity to meet real patients with simulated clinical cases and interview them and perform physical examination on them. Though this may not be new for medical students, the approach is different as patients in the US have different clinical presentations and different prevalence of diseases as compared to the local settings in China and the Philippines. The students eventually were given the opportunity to rotate in their desired medical or surgical specialty in the University's Hospitals as clinical clerks alongside their American counterparts. From the emergency room, to the wards, to the operating rooms, these students did their best to learn from their mentors in their respective departments. At first it was overwhelming as the patients and the protocols and approach differ from school and local setting, yet by and by all the students were able to understand and learn from their short experience what it was like becoming a doctor in the US.

Though short those two weeks may have been, it was long enough to make new memories and create bonds between colleagues and mentors both from the US and from China. The students were given the opportunity to meet Dr. Richard Hart, the present president of Loma Linda University Health and director of Global Health Institute, Dr. Kevin Codornez the present clinical coordinator of the clinical clerks of LLU School of Medicine, and the School of Medicine's dean Dr. Tamara Thomas whom one of the students was given an opportunity to rotate alongside her in the emergency room. The people from GHI and SIMS who were the most accommodating and hospitable as they almost acted as foster parents to the foreign students namely: ma'am Amanda Biddle who always greets everyone with a smile every morning, as did ma'am Angeli Yutuc, Sir Obed Carrera from SIMS who was always there, Sir Ed Drachenberg, director of SIMS, who even invited everyone for barbecue at his home and ma'am Bing Frazier who was there for the group every step of the way from start to finish. Of course it was not all clinical rotations and classrooms. The students were also given opportunities to see some places of the United States and see the culture, help do community work for the people, and appreciate the beauty of the country on the western hemisphere. It was an experience that forever changed the lives of the students and broadened their perspective in both practice and life. The experience of living a life on the other side and having to learn things that books could not teach are all gems that these physicians-to-be will forever treasure in their memories, cherish the bonds they created in their hearts, and impart to others what they have learned wherever they are. These have all been possible by God's grace for another door has opened for Adventist University of the Philippines' dear College of Medicine.





AUP COM Dean Received Award

By: Patricia Velez-Gaid, MD

Editor's note: The following article was presented as a devotional to the Loma Linda University Adventist Health Sciences Center Board of Trustees earlier this year by Doris A. Mendoza, MD, professor of pediatrics and pediatric cardiology, West Visayas State University, Iloilo City, Philippines.

Congratulations my friend , Dr Doris Adsuara Mendoza, for receiving your University Global Health Leadership Service Award from La Loma Linda University on March 6, 2020. Doris is the founding Dean of the Adventist Medical School in Cavite, a classmate of Class '75 College of Medicine, University of the Philippines and dedicated pediatric cardiologist of Iloilo where she taught at WVSU before she was called to head Adventist's medical school

Dr. Doris Mendoza relates her incredible journey to Loma Linda University.

This is my fifth visit to the United States. What's my purpose this time? I have come to Loma Linda on a mentorship program in the areas of pediatric cardiology and heart transplantation as well as spirituality, wholeness and Christian bioethics.

I was born in Manila, christened in a Roman Catholic church, and accepted Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior in a Methodist church at age 12. Prior to my present exposure to Adventism, I had been educated in diverse religious environments. While on a study tour in the Holy Land, being the only Christian in the group, walking "where Jesus walked," I baptized myself in the Jordan River "in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit."

In 30 years of teaching, I have had Seventh-day Adventist medical students, who, despite all odds, refused to attend classes or take exams on Saturdays. They were steadfast: "No exams, no classes on the Sabbath." I pondered, "What brings about such faithfulness and tough resolve in these young people?"

Four years ago, in 2003, I suffered a stroke, rendering me half-paralyzed. This gave me several months of much needed rest and in depth study of God's word. Eight months after the stroke, a cancer was detected. Surgery, chemotherapy, and reverse isolation followed. Several months later, another malignancy was diagnosed, needing a second surgery, and 20 plus courses of radiation. A series of serendipitous events then followed. Bed-bound for many months, I inadvertently came across the Adventist television station, 3ABN, from which I watched programs on health issues, positive spiritual outlook, and more importantly, the Sabbath.

Then one day in late January 2006, browsing in a used book shop, I saw a paperback book titled *Legacy*, authored by Richard Schaefer. I bought and read the book and learned that pioneer infant heart transplantation in this country in the 1980s was done at Loma Linda University Medical Center, a Seventh-day Adventist institution. Within days, I e-mailed the institution, introduced myself, and applied for a two-month observation in my field of specialty. Within a short period I was e-mailed and phone interviewed and my mentorship program was set for January 2007. I filed for a Sabbatical leave, which my institution granted, and then came to Loma Linda.



Someone had said “knowing the truth costs.” I agree. I had to leave my private practice, reschedule all my appointments, and purchase a round trip ticket to the United States. I have experienced the wonderful blend of intellectual medical learning with what Chancellor Richard Hart calls the “other curriculum.” The truth of this institution’s vision/mission has come alive for me.

In the book *Railway to the Moon*, President B. Lyn Behrens, MBBS, posed these questions, and I paraphrase: “What sets Loma Linda University apart, what keeps it from being ‘just another’ among 2,500 colleges and universities? What sets LLUMC apart, what keeps it from being ‘just another’ among more than 5,700 hospitals in the United States?” Having lived and immersed myself in the “hill beautiful” these past weeks, I have discovered the answers.

I believe Jeremiah 29:11 that God’s plans for me are good, though His ways may be beyond my comprehension. This much I know, God brought me to Loma Linda, a place I did not know until a year ago. I await expectantly what God will unravel out of this latest experience.

Like Paul, I declare, “I have been crucified with Christ, and I no longer live but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God who loved me and gave Himself for me.” Galatians 2:20.

I thank Loma Linda so much for playing a significant role in my on-going incredible journey.



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ROLE EARNS DNP DEGREE

By: Eppie Manalo

Jethrone M. Role, director of Supplemental Staffing Network (SSN), Loma Linda University Health; and Founder/CEO of Jetformatics Healthcare Solutions LLC, graduated with the Doctor of Nursing Practice Degree in Nursing Informatics from the University of Minnesota (Twin Cities) through a virtual ceremony, which his family watched in the evening of May 16, 2020. He was a recipient of the Bentson Family Scholarship award for his doctoral upgrading.

A full-bred PUC/AUP kid and alumnus (elementary to college), who enjoyed growing up with his sister on campus, Dr. Jet graduated with the Bachelor of Science in Nursing, *magna cum laude* in 2004; and earned the M.S. in Nursing/Nursing Administration from Loma Linda University in 2016 under the Bonnie A.C. Lee Fang Nursing Scholarship.

As a nurse and nurse educator, Jet has served the Seventh-day Adventist Church in various capacities: **Loma Linda University Health**—manager then director, Supplemental Staffing Network; nursing management resident; co-chair, Daisy Awards Program; clinical instructor; medical-ICU registered nurse; **White Memorial Medical Center**, Los Angeles—registered nurse; and **Adventist University of the Philippines**—clinical instructor.

In his present role as director of LLUH Supplemental Staffing Network, Dr. Role supervises central staffing, flexible integrated team (resource pool), and in-house registry pool; and develops strategic plans and conducts process improvement projects as business automation workflows to streamline processes, implementing staffing dashboard in collaboration with Information Technology, and developing an educational resource mobile application for resource pool in collaboration with SSN educators and managers.

As AUP alumnus, Dr. Role has been actively involved in AWESNA as chapter member, Honors and Awards and Sports/Recreation chair, vice president for Socials, Loma Linda Chapter; and is currently a member of the Multimedia and Communications Design Committee. He has likewise served Loma Linda Filipino Church as elder, VBS director, Sabbath School superintendent, chair and secretary of LLFC Nominating Committee, and director of the Children's Choir. His professional leadership responsibilities include: chair, LLU Medical Center staffing workgroup, unit project coordinator, team leader/shift coordinator.

A diligent researcher and scholar, Dr. Jet has shared his knowledge and skills through several project and poster presentations. For his outstanding performance, he received the following scholarships and awards: Bentson Family Scholarship Award, Bonnie Fang Scholarship, LLUH Values Citation, Most Outstanding Alumnus, AWESNA, Physician Recognition Award (White Memorial Medical Center), Magna Cum Laude and Valedictorian (Adventist University of the Philippines). Licensed by the California Board of Registered Nursing, he is also a certified leader in Health Information Technology (LHIT); and holds membership in the American Organization for Nurse Leaders.

Dr. Jet is eldest son of Drs. Jesse and Beth Role, former AUP faculty and administrators and missionary to the University of East Baraton, Kenya. Through his challenges and successes, he is grateful for God's blessings; and for the love and support from his parents and immediate family—his lovely wife, Jewel (AUP BSN 2004, serving as

ICU nurse at LLUMC) and his three beautiful and talented daughters: Julianne Princess, 14; Jayleen Precious, 10; and Jordynne Pearle, 1.



Jet with parents—Drs. Jesse and Beth Role



Jet with Jordynne, Jewel, Jayleen and Julianne

AWESNA'S FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROJECTS

By: Eppie Manalo

First of all, may I express my gratitude and appreciation for your prompt and positive response to the appeal from AUP Student Services to help (voted on by the AWESNA Board) with Inter-semester expenses for working students and laptops for the graduating working students in the university.

Praise God from whom all blessings flow! And praise Him for generous chapters and individuals who participated in both the Inter-semester assistance (\$10,000) to working students and the laptops:

Inter-semester Assistance:

**Cascadia
Greater Los Angeles
Greater Central Valley
La Sierra
Loma Linda**

As of August 6, 2020, we were able to raise \$9,300 for laptops from the following chapters and individuals. This amount was sent to AUP last week: (We still welcome additional donors for this project. To date, about 30 graduating working students are enrolled). Please read attached copy of the guidelines for use of the laptops from the VP for Student Services, Dr. Salvador Molina.

**Obed Apostol
Alberto Bagingito
Elmer and Lorie Bangloy
Cascadia Chapter
Rene and Imelda Donato
Benjamin and Pridelyn Francisco
Don and Marjorie Huynh
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**Don and Gladys Roman
Frank and Tessie Sirna
Pedring and Perida Tongpo
Ray Villanueva**

Recently we were shocked by news of the death of one of our committed former officer/PIO/secretary and board member, Dr. Edwin Araba. While we do not understand all that happens in this sin-sick world, we continue to trust in God who has continued to guide and direct our lives. Edwin's death has left his two sons, Dale and Stanley, who have also been actively involved in AWESNA affairs.

May I invite you to be instruments of love and hope to Stanley and Dale through sharing your blessings. To send financial help, Send directly to:

Venmo (@Dale-Araba) or
PayPal.Me/daaale.

Whenever possible, please extend words of encouragement to them as they navigate the coming challenging/lonely days without their dad.

Again, thank you very much for your continuing support and participation (despite the current crisis) in projects that bring hope and help prepare future workers for God and above all, lead others to a saving relationship with Jesus and make them ready for His second coming.

Keep safe and healthy!

Eppie Manalo
President, AWESNA

**Fundraising by
dragonfruit
sales by Perida
Tongpo with
Lita Laoyan**



Medical Dental Mission pictures continued



Welcome Dinner hosted by the Malaguit & Family



Second day— Welcomed by the Mayor's sister



Second Day -Local and AWESNA Volunteers



AWESNA volunteers with Lucban Mayor Oli Datur

The Adventist University of the Philippines -
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The Link

2772 S. Erin Way San Bernardino, CA 92408

Phone: (909) 965-6936

Email: MajoReyno@aol.com

To:



THE LINK—AWESNA

AWESNA *“...to Serve and Shine!”*

2021

AWESNA CONVENTION

(Proposed venue)

Scottsdale Hilton,

Scottsdale, AZ

