THE CHRONICLERS

University of the Immaculate Conception
Graduate School

ISSUE NO. 1
Academic Year
2025-2026

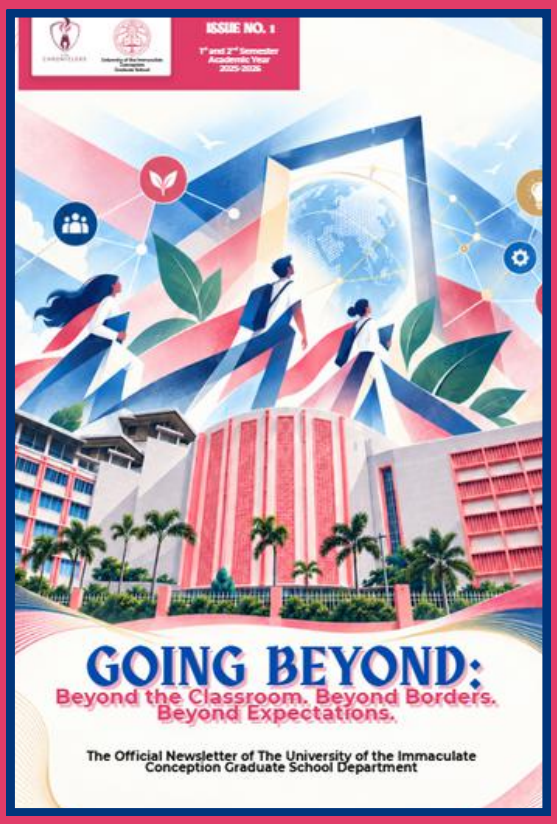


GOING BEYOND:

Beyond the Classroom. Beyond Borders. Beyond Expectations.

The Official Newsletter of The University of the Immaculate Conception Graduate School Department

About the Cover



The cover begins where every UIC graduate learner begins, firmly rooted. The familiar façade of the University of the Immaculate Conception represents the heritage and community that shape Ignacian Marian learners. At the same time, the upward-moving lines suggest wider horizons, deeper questions, and new possibilities. This movement captures the issue's central theme: **Going Beyond, Beyond the Classroom. Beyond Borders. Beyond Expectations.** Guided by the RVM Ignacian Pedagogy, learning at the Graduate School does not end with lectures, research papers, or thesis defenses. Knowledge is connected with life, deepened through reflection and faith, and transformed into meaningful service.

Going beyond also means crossing disciplinary, institutional, and geographical boundaries through research, internationalization, faculty exchanges, conferences, and community engagement. Yet reaching outward does not require leaving one's identity behind. Instead, it calls graduate learners, educators, and researchers to bring the Ignacian Marian values of faith, excellence, and service into larger conversations. The cover therefore celebrates more than institutional progress; it reflects a continuing journey toward purposeful scholarship and transformative leadership—rooted in faith, strengthened by excellence, and always directed toward service.

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THE CHRONICLERS
University of the Immaculate Conception
Graduate School

ISSUE NO. 1

1st and 2nd Semester
Academic Year
2025-2026

University of the Immaculate Conception:
GOING BEYOND FOR SUSTAINABILITY AND INNOVATION



Courtesy of the UIC webpage



UIC Graduate School Hosts International Research Forum, Advancing Sustainability and Innovation Through Interdisciplinary Scholarship

By: Narell Tricia Ouano

The University of the Immaculate Conception (UIC) Graduate School brought together scholars, researchers, and graduate students for the International Research Forum 2025 on May 10, 2025, at the UIC Mini Auditorium in Bonifacio. Anchored on the theme, "Integrating Sustainability and Innovation: Interdisciplinary Strategies for Tackling Complex Global Challenges," the forum underscored the role of research and higher education in responding to issues that increasingly demand collaboration across disciplines.

More than a venue for presenting scholarly work, the forum provided an avenue for meaningful exchange—connecting academic inquiry with the broader challenges communities and institutions face today.

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UIC Graduate School Holds Thanksgiving Mass, Acquaintance Celebration

By: Daryll Imperial


Courtesy of GSSG FB page

The University of the Immaculate Conception Graduate School (UIC-GS) brings together its graduate students to show their fellowship and thanksgiving at its Thanksgiving Mass and Acquaintance Celebration on Saturday, September 13, 2025, at the UIC Bonifacio Campus. The students don their polka-dot ensembles to create a vibrant, connected atmosphere on campus.

The program starts at 3:00 p.m. with the call time and attendee settling, followed by the Thanksgiving Mass at 3:30 p.m. in the 5th Floor Mini Auditorium. The Mass is presided over by Rev. Fr. Amiel Arado, DCD.


Courtesy of GSSG FB page


Courtesy of GSSG FB page

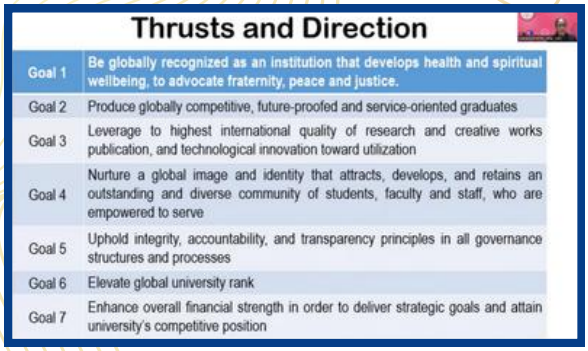
Dr. Ave Joy B. Dayagon, Vice President for Academics, gives the Opening Remarks, and Mrs. Aniaor E. Scapoya, MBA, GSSG Moderator and Director of Student Affairs and Services, gives a message of inspiration. The program also features the induction of the AY 2025-2026 Graduate School Student Government (GSSG) officers.


Courtesy of GSSG FB page

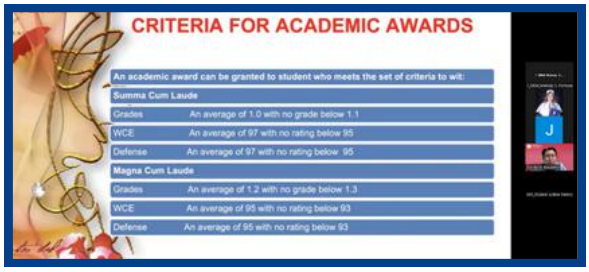
The celebration includes a serenade by the UIC Music Band, dinner, raffle activities, and fellowship among students. Dr. Mary Jane Amoquis, Dean of Graduate Studies, delivers the closing remarks, followed by the singing of the UIC Hymn.

Throughout the event, graduate students strengthen camaraderie, make new friends, and build meaningful connections at a festive, colorful gathering.


Courtesy of GSSG FB page



Following the dean's remarks, Dr. Avee Joy Dayaganon, Vice President for Academics, outlined the university's seven strategic goals: global recognition, competitive graduates, research and innovation, international image and identity, integrity and transparency, global university rank, and financial strength. Dr. Dayaganon emphasized that these guides will further the institution's causes and improve the school's quality of education. Dr. Danilo G. Baradillo then emphasized the RVM philosophy of education and the graduate school policies and guidelines. He highlighted that as a Catholic, Filipino, and RVM institution, UIC mirrors the values of Christian doctrine in exemplifying ethical, academic, and corporate responsibilities. The goal is to create well-rounded, moral, and humane graduates who preserve the relevant and wholesome Filipino culture, values, and attitudes.



The orientation continued with the presentations of various servicing bodies of the institution, including the Admission Marketing and Scholarship Office, External Relations and Internationalization Center, Alumni Affairs, Health Services, Guidance Services, Community Development Services and Drug-Free University/Laudato Si Advocacy, Library, Student Affairs, and the Graduate Studies Supreme Government. The event concluded with closing remarks from Prof. Anaflor Sacopayo, MBA, Director of Student Affairs. She thanked everyone for their participation and encouraged the students to make the most of their time at UIC, emphasizing the importance of community and support throughout their academic journey.

UIC Advances Global Collaboration Through Internationalization Initiatives

By: Christine Jill Sedoriosa

The University of the Immaculate Conception (UIC) strengthened its internationalization initiatives in 2026 through academic partnerships, mobility programs, benchmarking activities, and global engagements. Led by the External Relations and Internationalization Office (ERIO), these initiatives provided students, faculty, librarians, and administrators with opportunities to collaborate with international institutions and enhance global competencies.



Among the university's major initiatives were the participation of 18 Clinical Pharmacy students in a 20-day Clinical Immersion Mobility Program at Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM), the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding with Fooyin University in Taiwan, and the College of Arts and Humanities' Short-Term Mobility Exposure Program at Universitas Katolik Widya Mandala Surabaya (UKWMS), Indonesia, promoting academic collaboration and cultural exchange.

In addition to these initiatives, UIC also expanded its global presence through participation in the Times Higher Education Global Sustainable Development Congress 2026 in Jakarta, Indonesia, led by University President Sr. Marietta V. Buisan, RVM, reaffirming the university's commitment to sustainability and international collaboration. The UIC Library likewise conducted benchmarking activities in Japan, while university administrators visited leading universities in Beijing, China, to learn innovative practices in higher education.

The UIC Graduate School further advanced global scholarship through the ASCEND Program in Indonesia, where faculty members participated in academic lectures, research collaboration, and scholarly exchange. These initiatives reflect UIC's continuing commitment to building strong international partnerships and developing globally competent Ignacian-Marian graduates prepared to contribute to local and international communities.

Beyond the Classroom: Graduate School Deepens Community Engagement Through Service and Partnership

By: Narell Tricia Ouano

For the Graduate School, education extends far beyond lectures, research papers, and academic requirements. Through a growing range of community engagement initiatives, the Graduate School continues to connect learning with service, bringing faculty expertise and student involvement directly to partner communities.

According to Dr. Edna Salva, Community Development Services (CDS) Coordinator of the Graduate School, community engagement remains integral to graduate education and reflects the University's core values of faith, excellence, and service.

"I do believe that education should extend beyond the classroom," Dr. Salva said. "We would like them not only to earn a degree for their own personal improvement but as well really provide meaning, use their knowledge, research and professional expertise."

As CDS coordinator, Dr. Salva works closely with academic coordinators to integrate service learning across the Graduate School's various programs. Unlike undergraduate units, the Graduate School caters to diverse disciplines, requiring collaborative planning to ensure that community engagement activities remain relevant and academically grounded.

Central to these initiatives is a needs-based approach.

"We really need to know first the needs," Dr. Salva emphasized. "So based on the needs assessment then that is where we are going to apply whatever community engagement we are going to provide."

This approach has resulted in a variety of programs, including environmental activities such as tree planting and tree parenting, disaster response initiatives, and resource-sharing efforts for partner communities. In 2025, the Graduate School extended financial assistance to communities affected by an earthquake through collaborative institutional efforts.

mong the Graduate School's flagship initiatives is Lambo Magtutudlo, a continuing professional development program for teachers in adopted schools. Through workshops conducted at the University, teachers are introduced to innovative instructional strategies, including the use of Artificial Intelligence in teaching.

They were taught about the latest sa AI which could make them more or less really get the attention of their students," Dr. Salva explained. "They really find it very interesting and they really find it relevant in their teaching."

The program will continue in the coming academic year as part of the Graduate School's sustained commitment to educational outreach.

Beyond immediate assistance, community engagement also aims to empower partner communities toward self-sufficiency.

"Our program is not that forever they will be dependent on UIC," Dr. Salva shared. "So pag na-empower na sila on certain aspects, pwede na silang iwanan and we could go to another community."


Courtesy of GSSG FB page

The Graduate School is likewise expanding its partnerships. Among its future directions is a proposed collaboration with SOS Children's Village, where graduate programs may provide counseling, parenting support, and youth development initiatives.

Despite scheduling challenges brought about by students' and faculty members' professional commitments, several graduate programs have maintained active community involvement. Guidance and Counseling students continue their outreach initiatives with women persons deprived of liberty, while Information Technology and other programs participate in various extension activities.

Looking ahead, the Graduate School hopes to strengthen faculty-led initiatives and increase student participation through the Graduate School Student Government.

"I would like the students to be involved in the community development services initiated by the graduate school program," Dr. Salva said.

As the Graduate School continues to broaden its partnerships and service-learning initiatives, community engagement remains central to its mission of forming socially responsible and service-oriented leaders—professionals who recognize that education finds its fullest meaning when shared in the service of others.

UIC Marks First Outbound PhD Dissertation Experimentation in Thailand

By: Madel M. Catre



Courtesy of UIC FB page

Associate Professor Jayson B. Canja, RPh, a postgraduate student in Pharmacy, conducted his dissertation experiment at Burapha University (BUU), Thailand, for five months from February to June 2026. This is the first experimental research under UIC's PhD in Pharmacy program, and the first outbound PhD dissertation experimentation with an international partner.

Canja's research focuses on developing a drug-delivery platform and exploring how its physicochemical properties, antioxidant activity, and release profile can support future pharmaceutical applications. He is jointly mentored by Dr. Ferlien Mae B. Brieta, RPh, of UIC, and BUU faculty researchers Dr. Arpa Petchsomrit and Dr. Thanchanok Sirirak, strengthening the scientific rigor and international reach of the study.



Courtesy of Burapha University

The initiative is carried out under the iUIC ASCEND International Graduate Program, particularly its ASCEND-RESEARCH component, which supports international research immersion and collaborative supervision. Through the Global Thesis and Dissertation Supervision (GTDS) framework, the program enables doctoral students to collaborate with experts at partner universities and access advanced laboratory environments.

This great personal achievement not only reflects Mr. Canja's research acuity but also UIC's commitment to global engagement through long-term research linkages and student participation in international scientific work. By supporting similar research initiatives, the University continues to cultivate innovative researchers who drive relevant advancements in their fields.


Courtesy of UIC FB page

Dilexi Te: A Call to Love at UIC-Grad School's Lenten Conference

By: Madel M. Catre

The UIC Graduate School community gathered on March 5 for its annual Lenten Conference held at AVR 1 of the Bonifacio Campus. Facilitated by Rev. Fr. William Cajes, DCD, this year's conference centered on the theme Dilexi te drawn from the encyclical of Pope Leo XIV.



Courtesy of Alem Sánchez

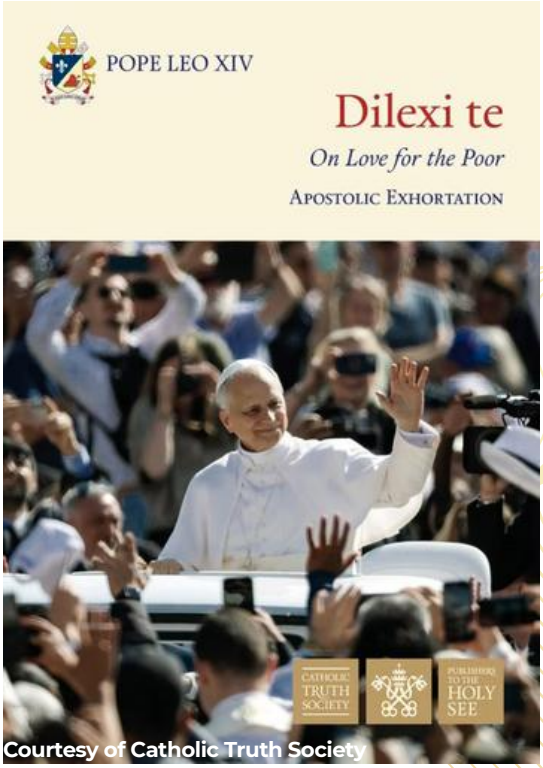
Fr. Cajes served as the conference facilitator, guiding participants through a reflective exploration of the encyclical's central message. Christ's love is revealed in a special way through the poor and the marginalized. Drawing from the text continued from the works of Pope Francis, he underscored that Christ identifies Himself with those who have but little power, which makes loving Christ and loving the poor inseparable. He noted that the poor is a privileged place where God makes his presence known, not an afterthought. This call challenges every academic community to practice justice, solidarity, and compassion in concrete ways.



Courtesy of GSSG FB page

Throughout the session, faculty members, graduate students, and staff engaged in moments of prayer, scriptural reflections, and dialogue. The conference invited participants to reflect on how the Lenten season can deepen their commitment to integrating spiritual formation with academic excellence. Transformation begins with recognizing God's enduring love that calls every person to renewal and invites them to encounter Christ in the poor.

Extending beyond the Lengten season, the insights from Pope Leo XIV's Dilexi te remind the community to love more deeply, serve more generously, and walk more faithfully in the path of Christ.



Courtesy of Catholic Truth Society

UIC Faculty and Administrators Expand Academic Horizons Through National and International Conferences

By: Jovanny G. Villalon



Faculty members and administrators of the University of the Immaculate Conception (UIC) continue to strengthen the University's academic and research presence through active participation in national and international conferences. Throughout 2025–2026, UIC representatives presented research, exchanged knowledge, and engaged with scholars and professionals in education, artificial intelligence, health sciences, philosophy, technology, sustainability, and innovation.



Among the notable engagements was the BIMP-EAGA International Research Conference and Training, where UIC professors and administrators presented their research studies. Dr. Lolly Jean C. Simbulas, Dean of the College of Teacher Education, was also recognized as one of the Best Presenters. UIC administrators participated in the Coursera Conference, contributing to discussions on artificial intelligence, learning, reskilling, and the future of work.



UIC faculty, researchers, and students further expanded their international engagement through participation in IMPaCHS 2026 and ISoPH 2026 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, as well as other international conferences focusing on technology, environmental sustainability, and multidisciplinary research. UIC also hosted the PHAVISMINDA–SEPI International Philosophical Conference 2026.

These engagements demonstrate UIC's commitment to research excellence, professional development, innovation, and international collaboration, providing its academic community with opportunities to share expertise and contribute to addressing contemporary global challenges.

Graduate Students Deepen Faith Through Online Recollection

By: Jovanny Villalon

The Graduate School of the University of the Immaculate Conception (UIC) conducted separate online recollections for its Master's and Doctoral students in March 2026, reaffirming its commitment to holistic education and spiritual formation. These activities provided graduate students with meaningful opportunities to pause from their academic responsibilities, reflect on their personal journeys, and strengthen their relationship with God.

The MA Online Recollection, held on March 21, 2026, was facilitated by Rev. Fr. Marbender Morallas, DCD, while the PhD Online Recollection, conducted on March 28, 2026, was facilitated by Rev. Fr. Ritchie Gamay, DCD. Both recollections emphasized the importance of nurturing spiritual well-being alongside intellectual and professional growth.



Courtesy of Paulus Rusyanto

Centered on fostering a meaningful encounter with Jesus Christ, the recollections encouraged participants to recognize God's presence in every aspect of their lives, including moments of joy, uncertainty, success, and adversity. Through spiritual reflection, students were invited to appreciate how their experiences contribute to their personal transformation, deepen their faith, and strengthen their commitment to living purposeful and meaningful lives.



Courtesy of Corpus Christi Catholic Church

The recollections also emphasized the five pillars of Ignacian Spirituality: simplification, exemplification of humble and loving service, diligence in work and prayer, integrity, and martyrdom expressed through silent and hidden daily sacrifices. These values serve as guiding principles that inspire students to demonstrate humility, compassion, perseverance, and dedication in their academic, professional, and personal responsibilities.

Beyond academic excellence, the activities highlighted the importance of developing graduates who embody strong moral values, spiritual maturity, and a genuine commitment to serving others. The recollections reminded students that pursuing advanced education is not merely an intellectual endeavor but also a journey of self-discovery, faith, and service.

Through these meaningful spiritual initiatives, the UIC Graduate School continues to uphold its mission of promoting integral human development, encouraging students to become academically competent, spiritually grounded, and socially responsible individuals who live out the Ignacian values in their everyday lives.

Leading with Passion, Integrity, and Service: Transformative Leadership of Dr. Thelma Alderite

By: Christine Jill Sedoriosa





Every graduate student's journey is marked by challenges, growth, and transformation. Guiding many of these journeys at the University of the Immaculate Conception (UIC) Graduate School is Dr. Thelma Alderite, Program Coordinator of the Master of Arts in Education. Through decades of service in education, she has inspired students to pursue excellence, uphold integrity, and embrace servant leadership.

For Dr. Alderite, leadership is not defined by titles but by the ability to serve and inspire others. Every teacher has the capacity to lead. Leadership is not measured by a title, but by the positive influence we create through our actions, dedication, and service to others, she shared. Her journey from kindergarten teacher to graduate school educator was shaped by dedication, , adaptability, and continuous learning. One challenge she faced was balancing the demands of teaching, leadership, and professional growth while adapting to new responsibilities. Through perseverance and a commitment to lifelong learning, she overcame these challenges and developed the resilience that now guides her leadership and mentoring.

One of the most fulfilling aspects of her role is witnessing the transformation of graduate students.

Students who initially struggle with research, confidence, and competing responsibilities often emerge as capable scholars and leaders.

"Graduate studies can be emotionally demanding. Mentors must provide encouragement and reassurance while helping students maintain their commitment to academic excellence."

Her experiences had taught her the importance of patience, compassion, and supporting others through challenges.
Beyond mentoring, Dr. Alderite promotes research, innovation, and lifelong learning. She encourages students to align their work with the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) Research Agenda and the UIC Graduate School Research to ensure relevance and impact. Among her greatest rewards is seeing her students complete their studies, publish research, and achieve academic success.

Today, Dr. Alderite continues to serve as Program Coordinator of the Master of Arts in Education program at the UIC Graduate School. She remains active in mentoring graduate students, guiding research initiatives, and supporting academic development programs. Her message to aspiring educators is simple: pursue everything with passion, uphold integrity, and cultivate a heart for service.Through her example, she continues to inspire future educators and leaders to make a meaningful impact in their communities.

Ushered to Leadership: A 'Not-so Typical' Journey

By: Alde D. Rayla



She grew up in Bislig, Surigao del Sur, in a home where Chinese traditions were not mere customs but a way of life, discipline instilled in every chore, hard work demanded in every task, and entrepreneurship treated as second nature. She pursued a Bachelor of Science in Commerce at the University of the Immaculate Conception, becoming part of the historic first batch of graduates after UIC attained university status in 1993. Though it was her parent's choice, it was practical, structured, and aligned with the values she had been raised to honor. At that time, it felt like the logical next step, nothing more, nothing less.

But God had other plans.

Her early career took her into the corporate world with remarkable speed. She moved to Cebu and began in the hospitality industry, learning the art of of service at a hotel's front desk. She soon became Marketing officer for an international financial intermediary, managing the entire Visayas region under the crushing weight of KPIs and sales quotas. Returning to Davao, she took on various roles, from being sales Financial Executive, then Sales Manager. She thrived in her field, meeting every target with quiet determination . For years, this was her world. The time came when she knew she needed to be someplace else. A friend who shares her faith suggested she take education units and try the board exam. She said yes, taking chances, not knowing something was stirring beneath the surface.

> *At first, it was simply an opportunity I decided to try, but over time, I realized that teaching was more than just a profession. It became a meaningful calling."*

Leaving the corporate world was not a seamless transition. The rhythms were different, the metrics foreign. "I was accustomed to multitasking in a business environment that emphasized targets, operations, and client relations. Entering the academic field was a completely different experience." She had to learn patience, empathy, and a new way of measuring success not in sales figures, but in the spark of understanding in a student's eyes. It was humbling, and it was necessary.

In 2009, she joined UIC as a full-time faculty member of the Accountancy and Business Administration Program. While teaching, she completed a Master in Education major in Educational Management in USEP and continued to pursue a Master's degree in Business Administration first at USEP, then at UIC, balancing lectures and lesson plans with her own studies. The pace was punishing, but she pressed on.

Her doctoral journey, however, would demand more than she thought she could give. Enrolling in 2013 and graduating Cum Laude in 2016, she carried the weight of a heavy faculty workload, the sleepless nights of motherhood, and a high-risk pregnancy with her second child. "There were moments when I felt physically, emotionally, and mentally exhausted," she recalls. "Despite the challenges, the experience taught me resilience, patience, and the value of determination and faith."

That faith is her anchor, not a vague hope, but a lived reliance on Romans 8:28: "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose." She does not recite it lightly. She has tested it in the fire. Every detour, every setback, every sleepless night.



She took on the challenge to lead not because she sought power, but because she realized it was God's hand that put her there and obedience would be the only fitting response. She moderated student organizations, served as researcher-in-charge for *The Ledger,* and coordinated community extension programs that empowered marginalized communities in Davao City, including a mother's cooperative in partnership with the Mother Ignacia National Social Apostolate Center. She also organized the department's milestone first-ever Alumni Homecoming reconnecting generations of UIC communities. Each role, each responsibility, was an act of service, costly, but worth doing anyway.

As Dean of the Graduate School, Dr. Mary Jane B. Amoguis continues to lead with the same heart. The values of integrity, excellence, compassion, and service remain the compass by which she navigates every decision. Her vision for the Graduate School is clear: elevate the quality of graduate education, strengthen research culture, and expand international collaborations. But when asked of the legacy she leave, hopes to not to she points but to herself community the com- serves.



> *"I truly believe that in any organization, we succeed as a team. When people work together with respect, humility, and genuine teamwork, we achieve more meaningful and lasting results."*

As someone who believes that "attitude defines one's altitude." She wants to be remembered as a servant leader, someone who prioritized collective success over personal titles, someone whose life pointed not to her own strength but to the One who sustained her.

Looking back, it became clear. She had been following through the threads in the tapestry of God's divine providence. For her, EVERYTHING – the corporate success, the detour into education, the struggle of graduate studies, the trials of motherhood, the call to leadership, EVERYTHING ALL AT ONCE - works together for good. Not by luck, not by effort alone, but by the faithful hands of a God who never lets go.

UIC Graduate School Faculty Represents Unirversity in International Lecture Program in Indonesia

By: Jessie L. Estrella II

DAVAO CITY — A faculty member from the University of the Immaculate Conception (UIC) Graduate School represented the university in an international academic engagement at Universitas Katolik Widya Mandala Surabaya (UKWMS) in Surabaya, Indonesia, from March 8 to 12, 2026.



Courtesy of Dr. Baradillo's FB page

Dr. Danilo G. Baradillo, Graduate School Program Coordinator, served as a Visiting Lecturer under the UIC External Relations and Internationalization Office (ERIO) Short-Term Mobility Program—an initiative designed to strengthen international partnerships, promote academic exchange, and support faculty development.

Hosted by the Graduate School Department of the Faculty of Teacher Training and Education at UKWMS, Baradillo delivered lectures to both graduate and undergraduate students. He discussed Forensic Linguistics with doctoral students in English Education and presented a lecture on Morphological Typology to undergraduate students in the English Department.



UIC commended Baradillo's participation, highlighting its value for professional growth and cross-cultural learning. "This engagement contributed significantly to professional development, cross-cultural exchange, and international collaboration," the ERIO said.



The activity underscores UIC's continuing commitment to internationalization and global engagement, aligned with its institutional thrust: "iINNOVATE, iCOMMUNICATE, iINITIATE, iCOLLABORATE, iEMERGE, iUIC!"