



FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

DR. ZILMA E. SANTIAGO PABÓN

PPOHA Project: Advancing with Purpose

We are pleased to share exciting progress in the implementation of the PPOHA project this fiscal year. In the area of academic program development, four out of five planned submissions have already been presented to the Puerto Rico Board of Postsecondary Institutions (JIP). We are proud to report that three of these—the Graduate Certificate in Educational Technology, the MBA in Human Resources, and the MSN in Critical Care or Geriatric Care—have been officially approved and are set to launch in FALL 2025, offering new opportunities for Hispanic graduate students.

In addition, a new Graduate Certificate in Skin and Wound Care is currently under development, designed to enhance the clinical expertise of health professionals in this critical area.

The modernization of the Graduate Center is also moving forward, with demolition work underway in the designated space within the university gymnasium. This transformation represents a key milestone in our plan to create a cutting-edge learning environment for graduate students.

We've also made significant progress in procurement, with 90% of planned supplies, equipment, licenses, databases, and technological infrastructure for Y1 2024–2025 already acquired or obligated.

Our administrative team is now fully staffed, and the Faculty Development Plan has officially launched, with Phase 1 currently in motion. We deeply appreciate the support that has made these achievements possible, as we continue working together to expand academic excellence and student success.



WALKING TOGETHER TOWARD THE FUTURE

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TAKE A BREAK, CONNECT!

"The highest class of education is that which will give such knowledge and discipline as will lead to the best development of character, and will fit the soul for that life which measures with the life of God. Eternity is not to be lost out of our reckoning. The highest education is that which will teach our children and youth the science of Christianity, which will give them an experimental knowledge of God's ways, and will impart to them the lessons that Christ gave to His disciples, of the paternal character of God." (CT 45.2)

Spotlight:

Academic Vision from the Office of the VPAA

By Dr. Héctor Luis Díaz, Vice President for Academic Affairs

I was born and raised in Juncos, Puerto Rico, and completed my primary and secondary education within the island's public school system. God then opened the doors for me to pursue a Bachelor's degree in Theology and Secondary Education here, at Antillean Adventist University. Later, I earned a Master's degree in Social Work from Case Western Reserve University and a Doctorate in Social Work from the University of Illinois at Chicago. Along the way, I've had the privilege of serving in four public universities and four Seventh-day Adventist universities. These experiences have shaped my perspective and given me a comparative and holistic view of higher education that's firmly grounded on a Christ-centered, Adventist philosophy.

As a third-generation Adventist and a proud alumnus of this institution, proper education must go beyond academic preparation. It must nurture the whole person—mind, body, and spirit. Ellen G. White's words deeply resonate with me: "True education is more than pursuing a certain course of study. It has to do with the whole person, and with the whole period of existence accessible to human beings. It is the harmonious development of the physical, the mental, and the spiritual powers... It prepares the student for the joy of service in this world and for the higher joy of wider service in the world to come." (Education, p. 11)

I envision Antillean Adventist University standing out as a beacon of excellence in Christian, holistic education and as an institution that meets the educational needs of the Adventist Church and the communities in which our graduates serve.

I dream of a university endowed with the economic, human, and political resources necessary for optimal functioning, where every policy and program is focused on the success and well-being of our students.

I long for UAA to be known for academic excellence rooted in service to God and humanity; for its vibrant spiritual atmosphere where every staff member, professor, and administrator lives out the values we teach. This is why I am committed to integrating our Adventist Christian values into every academic program and to cultivating a campus culture grounded in faith and ethical living. I look forward to collaborating with our Office of Student Affairs, our University Church Pastor, the Department of Pastoral Theology, and the Office of Spiritual Affairs to make this vision a reality. One of my key priorities is to expand our academic offerings—both at the undergraduate and graduate levels—to better serve the diverse needs of our university community. We are currently working on strengthening partnerships with universities in Costa Rica, Peru, Colombia, and the United States. I am passionate about mentoring new faculty, fostering online and hybrid education, and ensuring that we meet every standard set by our accreditors, including the Middle States Commission on Higher Education and various professional agencies.

With God's help, UAA will become a leader in Adventist higher education. In order to accomplish this it must first learn how to master the environment in the acquisition of all needed resources.

**Together, let's make our University
shine—for the glory of God!**



PPOHA NEWS



Y1 Faculty Professional Development

Our journey of growth and excellence continues!

Faculty across programs have begun engaging with this semester's professional development resources.



We're excited to count on Dr. Ferrer's expertise in leading a three-phase professional development series for our faculty.

- Phase 1 is already underway, reading Dr. Ferrer's book and completing the online certification
- Phase 2 will take place on August 7, pre and post test is required
- Phase 3 will continue through September 15- Online Prompts Engineering certification

This initiative empowers our professors with tools for innovation, reflection, and student-centered teaching.

Be a part of this journey of growth and transformation!

Our Team for Y1 is Now Complete!



Junia M. Díaz PPOHA ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

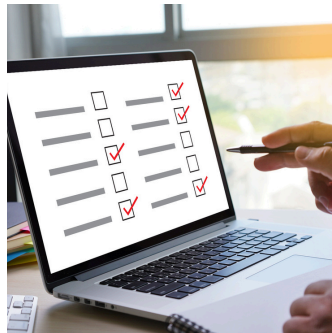
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Junia M. Díaz plays a key role in ensuring the smooth operation of our daily activities. Her responsibilities include managing documentation, coordinating communications, supporting budgeting tasks, and organizing project events. With strong organizational skills and a heart for service, she helps keep everything running efficiently as we continue advancing opportunities for our graduate students.

BE PART OF THIS!

COMPLETE OUR SURVEYS



IF YOU ARE FACULTY

Your voice matters!

WE INVITE ALL FACULTY MEMBERS TO PARTICIPATE IN OUR FACULTY NEEDS ASSESSMENT. YOUR FEEDBACK IS ESSENTIAL FOR SHAPING OUR INITIATIVES AND IMPROVING ACADEMIC RESOURCES. PLEASE TAKE A FEW MINUTES TO SHARE YOUR INSIGHTS AND HELP US ENHANCE OUR SERVICE FOR YOU.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME AND VALUABLE CONTRIBUTIONS!

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IF YOU ARE A
GRADUATE STUDENT

We want to hear from you!

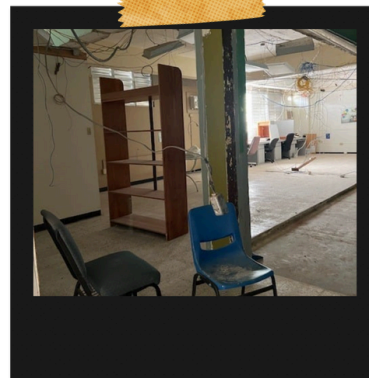
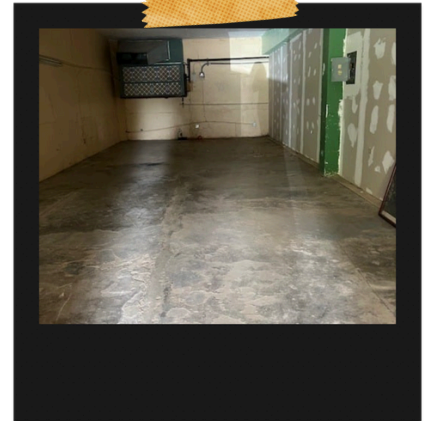
YOUR OPINION IS IMPORTANT! WE ENCOURAGE ALL STUDENTS TO COMPLETE OUR STUDENT NEEDS ASSESSMENT AND SHARE THEIR EXPERIENCES. YOUR FEEDBACK WILL HELP US IMPROVE ACADEMIC SUPPORT AND STUDENT SERVICES.

THANK YOU FOR MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN OUR COMMUNITY!

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THE TRANSFORMATION HAS BEGUN!

We're excited to announce that the wall demolition for the Graduate Center modernization is now underway.



This marks a key step toward creating a more open, functional and technological space that meets the evolving needs of our students and faculty.

**GRADUATE
CENTER
MODERNIZATION**

PPOHA PROGRAM ACOMPLISHMENTS



We are continually working strong, putting in hours of dedicated effort and collaborating across departments in order to achieve our goals for Y1 of

FIVE ACADEMIC PROGRAMS!

We are pleased to announce that four of the programs are now pending approval from the Puerto Rico Postsecondary Institutional Board (JIP). In the meantime, we are actively preparing the submission of the remaining program, with the goal of launching these new offerings during the Fall Trimester of 2025 (FA25- TRI).



The MSN in Critical Care or Geriatric Care equips registered nurses with advanced expertise to deliver top-notch care to critically ill patients and the elderly. It trains nurses for leadership, education, and teamwork roles within inter-professional care teams. The program blends theoretical learning with practical experience in the chosen specialty.



The MBA program with a specialization in Human Resources offers students the opportunity to acquire the knowledge, skills, and attitudes necessary to excel as specialists in human capital management. Students will be prepared to meet the demands of an increasingly complex and competitive business environment at both local and international levels.



This specialized program is designed for healthcare professionals seeking advanced skills in skin and wound care. Topics include skin assessment, wound identification/classification, acute and chronic wound management, dressing application and pressure injury prevention. Students are thoroughly prepared in this specialty.



The Graduate Certificate in Educational Technology empowers educators to integrate technology effectively into teaching. It emphasizes innovative tools and strategies across diverse educational models. Participants develop skills to navigate teaching challenges and foster educational excellence through technology. Completion of the program enhances professionals' competencies in technology education, enabling them to reform and strengthen educational curricula with a focus on 21st-century skills.



SCHOLARSHIPS OPPORTUNITIES FOR NEW ENROLLMENT

Are you pursuing a master's degree or a graduate certification at Antillean? The PPOHA Project offers special scholarships of up to \$1,880 (\$626 per trimester) in the first year of enrollment to eligible graduate students enrolled in our new online programs.

Who Can Apply?

- Hispanic students who are U.S. citizens or permanent residents.
- Those who meet specific eligibility requirements (outlined in the application form).

What We're Looking For

Your application will be evaluated based on:

- GPA
- Financial need (FAFSA)
- Letters of recommendation
- Personal statement

What's in It for You?

- Scholarship funds distributed equally across academic terms (up to one year).
- Opportunities to participate in activities designed to enhance your skills and knowledge in your chosen field.

How to Apply

- Fill out the eligibility form.
- Submit your GPA, recommendation letters, and personal statement.
- The PPOHA Scholarship Committee will review your application and notify you if selected.

Actively engage in the program to maintain your scholarship and grow in your academic journey!



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www.uaa.edu/proyecto-ppoha