

THE ACADEMIAN

ACADEMY OF OUR LADY OF GUAM'S ALUMNAE NEWSLETTER



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BRINGING BACK TEA TIME (PAGES 3-4)

Take a look inside the Academy's newest alumnae event and learn about how your class can join the next one!



BUILDING UP: AOLG CAMPUS RENOVATIONS (PAGES 5-6)

After Mawar, the Academy's campus needed major renovations. Read about what improvements have been made and what more need to be done.



What is The Academian?

The Academy of Our Lady of Guam prides itself on the sisterhood it fosters among its students through its emphasis on academic excellence, social justice, global awareness, responsible leadership, and compassionate service for all in the tradition of the Catholic faith. This sisterhood extends past graduation and continues to grow with each graduating class.

The Academian is the Academy's official alumnae newsletter published by the Alumnae Services Office under the Office of Mission Advancement and Communications (OMAC). Its purpose is to keep alumnae connected through updates on current Academy news and alumnae events.

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



Hafa adai, Academy alumnae!

It is with great pride that I reach out to you today through the 2025 re-publication of “The Academician,” the Academy of Our Lady of Guam’s official alumnae newsletter. For decades this newsletter has helped alumnae stay connected, and its re-publication is a testament to the spirit of our school’s unique sisterhood that goes beyond graduation. This newsletter is a small way for all of us to stay connected and to share the wonderful ways in which the Academy is growing and evolving. We hope that you find inspiration in the stories and that this continues to foster a sense of pride in your lifelong connection to your alma mater.



Our school’s mission, rooted in the unique charism of Catherine McAuley, foundress of the Sisters of Mercy, has always been to promote the holistic development of a diverse population of young women fostering academic excellence, responsible leadership, global awareness, social justice, and compassionate service for all in the tradition of the Catholic faith. You, as alumnae, continue to embody this mission in the lives you lead and the impact you have on our island community and the world. Whether through your personal successes, professional accomplishments, or your ongoing commitment to the principles that Academy instilled in you, your journeys reflect the very mission and spirit of our school.

I invite you to stay engaged with us. Whether through alumnae events like our annual Tea Time event, following us on social media, volunteering with the school, or simply donating, your involvement enriches our community. Thank you for being an integral part of the ongoing story of the Academy of Our Lady of Guam.

May God continue to bless you and guide you in all that you do,

Rita D. Duenas

Rita D. Duenas, Ed.D.
AOLG President

BRINGING BACK TEA TIME



Since the Academy of Our Lady of Guam opened its doors in 1949, over 5,000 of Guam's young women have graduated from its prestigious halls. These women, whether they be educators, healthcare workers, businesswomen, law enforcement officers, homemakers, or government leaders, have used their Catholic education to proudly represent their alma mater. It's the continued spirit of sisterhood, however, that makes Academy's alumnae shine so bright.

Academy's alumnae "Tea Time" event first began in the 1960s. Its purpose is to bring alumnae from different decades back together on campus. Through food, drink, and laughter, Tea Time gives its participants a chance to meet, network, and fondly reminisce on their Academy memories. Tea Time also includes the "Passing of the Torch" ceremony; this ceremony involves the outgoing 50th anniversary class passing the torch to the incoming anniversary class celebrants. Tea Time usually takes place in the Academy's Ysrael Fine Arts Auditorium during the afternoon. It begins with prayer, alma mater, and the "Passing of the Torch" ceremony. Classes decorate their tables based on themes, and all participants are welcome to share delicious food for all to enjoy.

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BRINGING BACK TEA TIME

Since its first year, Tea Time has successfully continued to bond Academy alumnae from all generations. It is not uncommon to see a graduate from the 1970s laughing with a graduate from the 2000s over their memories from classes, pep rallies, and Songfest. Neither is it uncommon to see religious members of the Sisters of Mercy singing the Academy's alma mater alongside graduates who have become wives or mothers.

The next Tea Time will take place in the AOLG Ysrael Auditorium on Saturday, January 24, 2026 from 1 to 4 PM. All Academy alumnae are invited to attend. Donation fees collected from the event will go towards various school needs. For more information please contact Academy's Office of Mission Advancement and Communication (OMAC) at 671-477-8203.

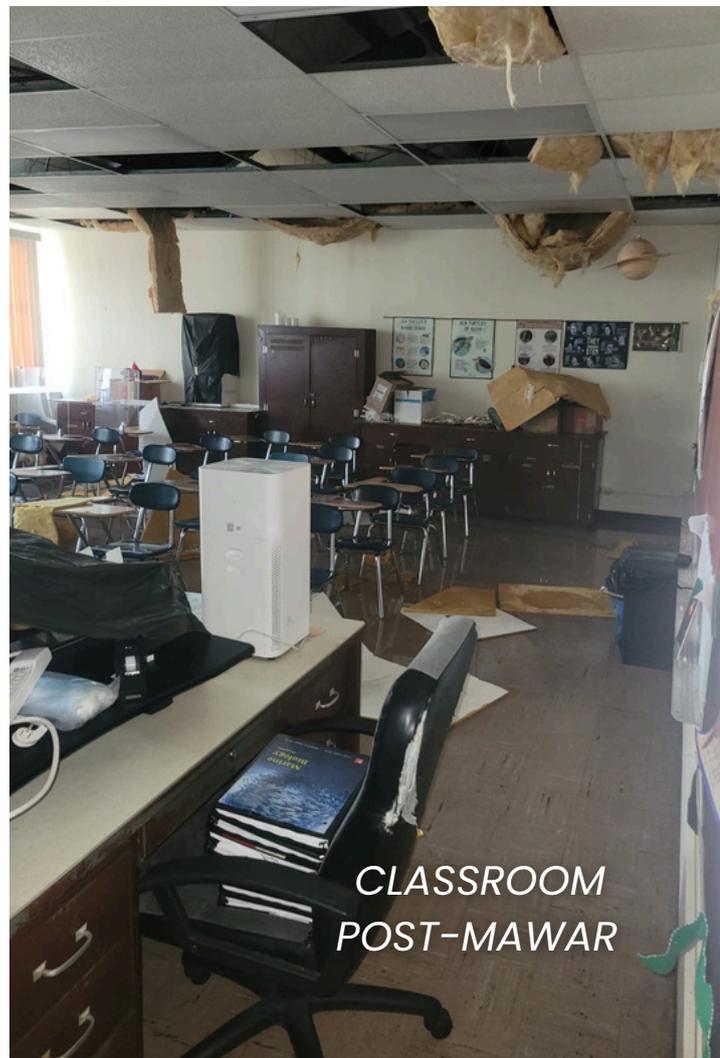




BUILDING UP: AOLG CAMPUS RENOVATIONS

May 2023 brought to the Academy of Our Lady of Guam the induction of 73 new alumnae and Typhoon Mawar. The Category 4-equivalent typhoon hit Guam on May 24, 2023, and wreaked havoc on the island's infrastructure with its hurricane-force winds and torrential rains. For months after the storm's departure from Guam, most of the island's residents were left without water, power, and internet, while others were left with completely destroyed homes.

The Academy was affected too: roof leaks and flooding in the school's cafeteria, gym, hallways, and classrooms left damage across the all-girls high school campus. Ceiling tiles were either badly stained, broken, or fallen on the ground after enduring the weight of collected rainwater. Although classroom ceilings and school supplies in storage experienced water damage, most of the school's equipment stayed dry because of the faculty and staff's swift work in securing the school just hours before the local government declared Condition of Readiness 2. Many school supplies, however, were damaged to the extent that they had to be disposed of during clean-up.



CLASSROOM
POST-MAWAR

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BUILDING UP: AOLG CAMPUS RENOVATIONS

Because of prior renovation needs and the damages incurred from Typhoon Mawar, the Academy's administration prioritized capital improvement for the following school years. The administration also made prioritized making the school's facilities safer for potential natural disasters and safety concerns. These prioritizations are evident through the capital improvement projects that have been completed since the 2023-2024 school year: at least six AC installations for classrooms and faculty areas; elevator renovations including smoke detector; updated water heater; roof repair and tile replacement in the cafeteria; renovation of the girls' locker room, storage room, and floor replacement in the gym; concrete overhang for front school, cafeteria, and garden entrances; and security system including gate, cameras, and safety doors. Majority of these capital improvement projects were made possible through federal grant funding.

Upcoming projects slated for the coming school years include the renovation of the Academy's Ysrael Fine Arts Auditorium's sound and lighting system and the Gym bathrooms. AOLG Alumnae who are interested in making a donation to the school for funding these facilities maintenance projects can contact the Academy's Office of Mission Advancement and Communication (OMAC) at 671-477-8203.





ANNOUNCEMENTS

2026 ALUMNAE TEA TIME

Saturday, January 24
AOLG Ysrael Fine Arts Auditorium
1:00-4:00pm

To attend or donate,
contact AOLG OMAC at
671-477-8203

**FILL OUT OUR ALUMNAE
CONTACT FORM TO
STAY CONNECTED!**



2026 SONGFEST

“Celebrating the Harmony of Sisterhood”

Saturday, February 14, 2026
UOG Calvo Fieldhouse

Tables and tickets will be sold soon!
Check AOLG’s social media for
announcements and sponsorship
opportunities.

Follow us on Instagram!

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