

1996

1986

1972

The International Magazine of AIAS
January 2011

1957

Flags

Celebrating 25 Years!

(Sgd.) JUAN
Presidential

MINISTER OF

CONVER
LEG
PH
MA
OF

1989

2011



1991

2011

... shall be classified and treated
foreign school of special character, with an international
body, faculty, management composition and
calendar for...

Flags

CONTENTS

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE	3
HISTORICAL SKETCH	
<i>Our Heritage</i>	4
<i>What Is in a Name?</i>	5
FEATURE	
<i>Memories of AIIAS</i>	8
INTERVIEW	
<i>Meet the New Vice President</i>	17
NEWS AND DEVELOPMENT	
<i>AIIAS at the General Conference Session</i>	18
<i>Education Department Trip to Japan</i>	18
<i>Hope Impact</i>	18
<i>The Big 4 Begins</i>	19
<i>First PhD in Business Candidates for Graduation</i>	19
<i>13th Theological Forum: The Heavenly Sanctuary</i>	20
<i>Bible Land Tour 2010</i>	20
<i>The 11th Graduate School Forum: Building Corporate Identity in a Changing World</i>	21
<i>Let's Reconnect</i>	
<i>Alumni Updates</i>	21
<i>AIIAS on Facebook</i>	21
SA ACTIVITIES	
<i>Week of Prayer</i>	22
<i>Cultural Night</i>	22
<i>Mini Olympics</i>	23



About the Cover

The cover features a representation of the Philippine Presidential Decree 2021 which launched AIIAS as an international graduate school 25 years ago.

Cover Design by **Mac Carlos**



AIIAS

Flags, January 2011 – Vol. 6 No. 1

Flags EDITORIAL BOARD

Editor

Teresa Costello

Content Editor

Shawna Vyhmeister

Copy Editor

Elsie dela Cruz

Layout and Design Editor

Mac Carlos

Committee Members

Paoring Ragui, James Park
Raimond Luntungan

AIIAS EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

President

Stephen Guptill, EdD

Vice President for Academic

Dolf Oberholster, PhD

Vice President for Finance

German Lust, CPA

Vice President for Student Services and Public Relations

Paoring Ragui, DPS

Dean of the Graduate School

Denise Dunzweiler, PhD

Dean of the Seminary

Reuel Almocera, DPS (Acting)

Flags is the semi-annual international magazine for alumni and friends of the Adventist International Institute of Advanced Studies (AIIAS), a graduate-level educational institution of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.

Adventist International Institute of Advanced Studies
P.O. Box 038, Silang, Cavite 4118 Philippines

Phone +63-46-414-4300

Fax +63-46-414-4301

Email info@aiias.edu

Visit our website: www.aiias.edu

www.facebook.com/aiias

ISSN 1908-1693

Greetings From AIIAS,

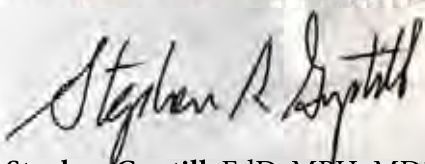
This new year of 2011 is a special year for those of us here at AIIAS. It's also a special year for you, our valued readers. Together we are celebrating 25 years of quality Christian education at the graduate level. Although our Seminary has been in existence since 1957, our celebration focuses on the establishment of AIIAS as a full-fledged international graduate school in 1986. This special occasion calls to mind what AIIAS has been and what AIIAS is to be in the future. In this issue of *Flags* we welcome a new administrator, recount some of the historical events surrounding the creation of AIIAS, and report on campus special events and activities. But central to this issue is a focus on some of our prominent alumni.

It is very affirming to see the kind of people who call AIIAS their alma mater, their school. The list includes some very remarkable people: Church leaders, college presidents and administrators, outstanding business leaders and selfless missionaries. The current and former faculty also represent an amazing collection of renowned leaders and scholars who have made significant contributions to the Adventist Church as well as to their communities. It is our pleasure to feature such accomplished individuals in this issue along with some of their memories and reactions to their experiences at AIIAS. These represent only a fraction of the individuals who could have been included, but for reasons of space, additional alumni stories will be shared in future issues.

As we look back upon the individuals who have gone out from AIIAS to accomplish great things, we consider what AIIAS brings to the future of Adventist education. Our emphasis on education that has academic quality, is international in scope and remains, above all, spiritual in nature must be at the forefront of our goals for the future.

As in the past, the future role of AIIAS will be to provide a special brand of quality education for the thought leaders, movers, and shakers of tomorrow. AIIAS must provide a level of quality in its faculty, research, library, and learning environment that will distinguish it from other Adventist and non-Adventist programs in the region. It must be international not just in its student enrollment, but in its faculty, its curriculum, and its vision for reaching the people groups of the 10/40 window. AIIAS must continue to be seen as a place where there is spiritual nurturing—not only for the students, but also for faculty, staff, and families. AIIAS must maintain its theological reputation as being a bulwark of solid Adventist faith. By doing so, it will continue to provide leaders for ministerial training programs, professors for Adventist universities, writers for core Adventist publications and theological researchers for organizations like the church's Biblical Research Institute.

In the end, the best testimony of any institution is spoken through the lives of its graduates. We are proud of our AIIAS graduates and solicit their prayers and support as we continue to build upon the solid foundation of the last 25 years.



Stephen Guptill, EdD, MPH, MDiv
President



Historical Sketch

OUR

Heritage

The Adventist International Institute of Advanced Studies (AIIAS) was established by the Seventh-day Adventist Church because of its commitment to meet the growing needs of the church for college teachers, church leaders, educators, health professionals, and treasurers by providing quality international graduate education.

In response to a growing interest in the field, the Far Eastern Division of the Seventh-day Adventist Church funded, as early as 1957, a master's program in Religion to be offered on the campus of then Philippine Union College. The Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary, Far East, held its first graduation ceremony in April 1972.

The success of the Seminary led to the expansion of graduate programs to other areas. Thus, on January 31, 1986, when AIIAS officially came into being by Presidential Decree 2021, it was composed of two schools: the Theological Seminary, and the School of Graduate Studies. The School of Graduate Studies produced its first graduates in March of 1991.

As AIIAS came into existence as a full-fledged graduate school, it needed a space of its own. The search for land for an AIIAS campus took a few years. It involved travel to other countries within Southeast Asia, as well as to several regions within the Philippines. Altogether, more than one hundred potential sites were visited before the current site was chosen.

When the Asia-Pacific Division divided in 1996, AIIAS came under the administration of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. AIIAS thus became the first General Conference educational institution outside of North America.

Full recognition has been extended to the entire spectrum of AIIAS degree programs by the Commission on Higher Education of the Philippine government and AIIAS is a member of the International Association of Universities (IAU). AIIAS programs are accredited by the Adventist Accrediting Association (AAA). Some of the Theological Seminary degree programs are also accredited by the Association for Theological Education in South East Asia (ATESEA). In addition, the Graduate School is accredited by the Philippine Accrediting Association of Schools, Colleges and Universities (PAASCU).

Today, AIIAS serves increasing numbers of Adventist pastors, educators, health professionals, administrators, and church leaders in many countries. To better serve them, AIIAS now offers four options for study: full-time study at the central campus, online learning programs via the Internet, and extension programs located throughout the Asia-Pacific region, as well as in other parts of the world. In-ministry programs combine short, intensive classes with full-time work and part-time study. No matter the option chosen, AIIAS continues to offer high quality, uniquely Christian education that honors its heritage, while preparing graduates for service in the 21st century and beyond. 

Note: Portions of this historical sketch were taken from a speech presented by Drs. Werner and Nancy Vyhmeister at the celebration of the 20th anniversary of the groundbreaking for the new AIIAS campus, in February 2009.

Former Presidents



LESLIE G. HARDINGE
1978 - 1983



WERNER VYHMEISTER
1984 - 1990



ROLANDO ITIN
1991 - 1992



ents of AIAS



JOHN PESULIMA
1992 - 1996



DAVID BIRKENSTOCK
1996 - 2002



JULIAN MELGOSA
2002 - 2006

What Is IN A NAME?

By ROY RYAN

With the decision to move forward with a Far Eastern Division Seminary-Graduate School, one of the first challenges was to find a location for the new institution. Each of the countries of the Far Eastern Division was considered. Visits were made to Japan, Thailand, Malaysia and Indonesia, as well as the Philippines. Each country had points in its favor but at the end of the day it was felt that the Philippines offered the best combination of recognition, academic freedom and operating cost. The Philippines was very favorable due in no small way to the excellent reputation for Seventh-day Adventist education as modeled by Philippine Union College, Mountain View College, and Central Philippine Adventist College.

The current site was not the first choice of the committee tasked with locating the new institution. The search for a site took over six months, and 126 different sites were visited. The board gave approval to negotiate for two sites located near the hot springs in the foothills of Mt. Makiling as the first choices. With the failure in negotiations for the first two choices, Dr. Werner Vyhmeister, Seminary President and Daniel Nestares, Vice President for Finance visited the current site and recommended it to the board, and with that, the new institution finally had a home.

The next challenge was what to name the new institution. Preliminary discussion was held between Dr. Werner Vyhmeister, Dr. Pat Jones and Dr. Roy Ryan as to the elements that the name should contain. To this group were added Dr. Fred Hardinge and Dr. Don Van Ornam. The final decision was made under a tree in the backyard of Dr. Van Ornam's house on a Friday afternoon. It was felt that the name should include the word *Adventist*, as that was critical to the identity of the new institution. *International* was deemed important as it would describe the students to be served by the institution. Building design and gates were used to emphasize the international nature of the new institution. *Institute* was used, as the word *university* could not be allowed, since the institution did not have an undergraduate program. It was also felt that *institute* might be better understood in countries with European educational influence. Given that the institution was both a Seminary and a Graduate School, it was felt that *Advanced Studies* best described this unique institution; thus, the Adventist International Institute of Advanced Studies was named, just before Sabbath. [B]

Note: Ryan is currently an Associate Treasurer of the General Conference. He was the first Dean of the AIAS Graduate School.

FEBRUARY 24, 1960 OFFICIAL GAZETTE 11

Sec. 2. Scholars, trainees, participants, students, fellows or professors who come to the Philippines under the auspices of the AIAS shall be allowed entry as special non-immigrants under Section 47 (a) (2) of the Philippine Immigration Act of 1940, as amended, free from the payment of visa and immigration fees; provided, however, that such persons are holders of valid passports, are otherwise admissible, and there is no derogatory information against them.

Sec. 3. The Minister of Education, Culture and Sports in coordination with the other Government agencies concerned, shall issue the necessary implementing rules to carry into effect the purpose of this Decree.

Sec. 4. All laws, decrees, orders, rules or regulations, or parts thereof, inconsistent with this Decree are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

This Decree shall take effect immediately.

Done in the City of Manila, this 21st day of January, in the year of our Lord, nineteen hundred and eighty-six.

(Sgd.) FERDINAND E. MARCOS
President
Republic of the Philippines

(Sgd.) JUAN G. TUVEJA
Presidential Executive Assistant

MALACANANG
RESIDENCE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES
MANILA

PRESIDENTIAL DECREE No. 2024

CONVERTING THE TOMAS OPPUS COMMUNITY COLLEGE IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF TOMAS OPPUS, PROVINCE OF SOUTHERN LEYTE, INTO A NORMAL COLLEGE TO BE KNOWN AS THE TOMAS OPPUS NORMAL COLLEGE.

WHEREAS, the Tomas Oppus Community College in San Isidro, Municipality of Tomas Oppus, Province of Southern Leyte, with its very limited resources, can only meet the needs in education and material resources, and therefore cannot meet the needs of the people of Leyte for teachers to enhance the educational

AIIAS — Yesterday



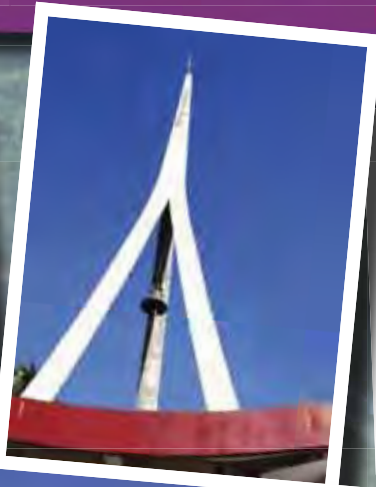


Photo Credits:

MAC CARLOS, EMMER CHACON, KHENJO DELES, RAIMOND LUNTUNAN,
GERSON PAICAN, AND FROM AIIAS COLLECTION

AIIAS Memories

AIIAS is blessed with a unique history woven from countless stories of perseverance, dedication and sacrifice. In this section we highlight graduates and former faculty whose presence at AIIAS has contributed to its rich tapestry of academic excellence, spiritual growth and selfless service.



P. D. CHUN

International Publishing Manager
Adventist World Magazine

First Graduate • Class of 1972

Like many other organizations, the early history of AIIAS is as described in Job 8:7. It says, “Though, our beginning was small, yet your latter end would increase abundantly.”

In order to enjoy freedom in offering the courses necessary for the church’s ministerial and administrative leadership, and in consultation with the Far Eastern Division, then Philippine Union College (PUC) opened its Seminary in 1971. In the middle of my PUC Graduate School study, I enrolled in the Seminary, little realizing its future glorious development.

On April 16, 1972, some 20 years before the official beginning of AIIAS, I marched together with many of PUC’s baccalaureate and graduate degree candidates as the first and lone graduate of then Philippine Union College Theological Seminary. Since AIIAS considers the PUC Theological Seminary as its ancestral origin, I thus became the first graduate of AIIAS.

➤ Chun has spent 49 years in active service to the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Previous positions included local church pastor, departmental director for two missions, publishing director, conference president, division administrator, and division president for three divisions. He was also named Outstanding Alumnus by both Philippine Union College and AIIAS.



HOWARD FAIGAO

Director
Publishing Ministries Department
General Conference World
Headquarters

Class of 1975

My

memories of AIIAS go back to the early pioneering days when the campus was still at Baesa, near Balintawak. Most of us students were single and stayed in the extended boys’ dormitory and our classrooms were with Philippine Union College. We had a wonderful group of students from different countries around the world with outstanding professors. We had a great time. More power to the ministry and mission of AIIAS.

➤ From humble beginnings in Banton, Romblon, Philippines, Faigao has traversed the world in his service as a college Bible teacher, local church pastor and publishing director in various conferences, unions and divisions.

We called ourselves “the pioneers.” Shortly after arriving at Silang from Finland in October 1978, I experienced my first typhoon: horizontal 360-degree rain that turned into red-brown torrents on the dirt roads of the emerging campus in the midst of pineapple, highland rice, and fragrant coffee bushes. Brown-outs, cold water bucket showers, and pre-dawn departures to the market on Friday mornings punctuated the rhythm of our pioneer student life. In the evenings, we tended our garden plots where different nationalities grew plants they missed from home. I first tasted coriander leaves from the garden of Amiya and Selmon Dio, and developed a love for their mouth-scorching Bangladeshi curries.

Our classroom experience was as rich and fascinating as were the Sabbath potlucks. Our classes were small and diverse. I was enriched by John Jones (who introduced to us the concept of contextualization of the gospel); Dr. Larry Herr (whose infectious enthusiasm about archaeology made us want to travel to dusty lands to join a dig); Dr. Ray Holmes (who is the reason why “We have this hope” is still sung as the affirming conclusion to church services in the SSD and NSD); Drs. Leslie and Mervyn Hardinge (who shared their insights regarding the gospel in the Old Testament sanctuary service and the ministry of healing, respectively); Dr. Gil Fernandez (who made church history memorable with his wonderfully dry sense of humor); and James Zachary (who had a passion for evangelism).

I am especially grateful for classmates who are now friends and colleagues in the work of Adventist education and ministry around the world. The two years shared then have resulted in many happy reunions in the Philippines, Pakistan, Korea, Indonesia, the US, Fiji, Papua New Guinea, even Finland, and at every quinquennial session of the General Conference. My studies and the friendships gained during that time prepared me for my role as Director of the worldwide work of Adventist education, and I praise God for AIIAS.

➤ Beardsley's career in education spans 21 years and three continents. She has taught at primary, secondary and tertiary levels, holding faculty positions at the University of Hawaii at Manoa, the University of Illinois, Andrews University and Loma Linda University. Additionally, she has served as a chaplain and an administrator. She holds a Bachelor of Theology from the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary, Far East (now AIIAS), an MPH from Loma Linda University, a PhD in educational psychology from the University of Hawaii at Manoa, and an MBA from the Peter F. Drucker School of Management, Claremont Graduate University.

*D*uring my time, AIIAS was located on the campus of what is now Adventist University of the Philippines. Within the larger campus, AIIAS was a close-knit family. One of the things that intrigued me was the international character of the students and faculty. It was a multi-cultural, multi-ethnic enterprise, operating (so far as I can recall now) without any significant tension.

I remember suggesting to my wife Celia as we arrived on campus that we ought to call home to inform our families of our safe arrival. But it quickly dawned on me that there were no telephones on campus, or any other means of connecting electronically with our family in the U.S. In those days one went into Manila to make or receive an international call.

Over time, we learned to function with less. Life was simple and uncomplicated. My family would long remember closing Sabbath sitting on our back steps, looking out on the bay; and our Saturday evening “entertainment” often consisted of a walk down to campus from the hilltop with our two young children, Dwayne and Kim. One of my biggest regrets about leaving the Philippines was that I couldn't take my mango and papaya trees with me—which, of course, reminds me of the transitory nature of everything earthly, and the promise of an eternal future in the Kingdom of God.

➤ Adams did a six-year term of service at AIIAS, from where his teaching and speaking appointments took him to several other Asian countries (including Singapore, Indonesia, Japan, South Korea, Hong Kong, and Bangladesh). Recently retired from the General Conference, Adams has authored seven books, several of which had their genesis during his teaching days at AIIAS.



LISA BEARDSLEY

Director, Department of Education
General Conference World
Headquarters

Class of 1980



ROY ADAMS

Editor and Author
General Conference World
Headquarters

Faculty, 1981-1986



ROY RYAN

Associate Treasurer
General Conference World
Headquarters

Faculty, 1985-1992

The first Sabbath at the new AIIAS campus was a humble affair. The congregation gathered in the corner of what at the time was the auditorium—located under the current E.G. White Center. The campus was still very much under construction with only a couple of houses finished, none of the student housing completed, only foundations and partial walls for the seminary and graduate buildings standing, and the shell of the library, with no electricity.

Worshippers sat on a collection of buckets, saw horses, and assorted construction material. There were only a handful attendees made up of construction workers, Dr. Hedley Eager and wife Yvonne, Dr. Roy Ryan with wife Carol, Rebecca Villalba, Engineer/Contractor for the new AIIAS campus, and the speaker of the hour, Dr. Mike Ryan, who was visiting from the Far Eastern Division. The program included a song service, special music by one of the construction workers, and a season of prayer followed by the collection of an offering. The words of the speaker have long since faded away, but to this day, all present remember the service as a blessing.

The campus was taking shape, with the landscaping well on its way. Yvonne Eager had a gift for landscaping, and as the first residents of the new campus in one of the two completed houses, she began to beautify her new home. Due to the fine example set by Yvonne, all those moving onto campus set to work to make each individual home attempt to match the beauty surrounding the Eager home. The result was the striking landscaping we see today that is such a hallmark of the AIIAS. Generations of students and faculty owe a debt of gratitude to Yvonne Eager, one of the AIIAS pioneers who created beauty for a new institution.

➤ Ryan is currently an Associate Treasurer of the General Conference after spending 23 years in the Far East where among other assignments he served as the first Dean of the AIIAS Graduate School.



JAIRYONG LEE

President
Northern Asia-Pacific Division

Faculty, 1985-1997

Life at AIIAS represents the peak of our years in the ministry for my wife and me. Our time spent on campus remains in our hearts as an unforgettable experience to this day. We enjoyed the beautiful compound with all its curricular and extracurricular activities. Throughout the 11 years and three months during which I served as theology professor and later as the Dean of the Theological Seminary, the sun setting between the palm branches never lost its ability to create a peaceful ambience for us to enjoy. Our two children grew up in this beautiful environment. Our family still feasts on the memories of sweet fellowship with the international faculty and of the dynamic cross-cultural encounters with students from around the globe.

Our time at AIIAS was not just one of sweet repose; I learned many precious lessons while serving there. One of them was to respect people regardless of others' perceptions of them. I remember one particularly hard and embarrassing lesson. I had called one of our students into my office. I was less than pleased with the negative report I had received from one of the professors about this student's poor academic performance in the classroom. He was a mature student but seemed to fall behind the other students in terms of his academic ability. I was told he was always struggling with his studies. So behind closed doors in my office, I gave him a stern piece of my mind, laced with some harsh words. I could see he was embarrassed, and finally he left my office without a word. I felt sorry seeing him so discouraged. After a few days, he was back in my office. "Sir, I came to say good-bye to you," he said. I felt a little embarrassed as I thought of our previous conversation, but he wore a big smile and continued, "Sir, thank you for your guidance. It was my pleasure to study at AIIAS these past twelve months. I would love to stay here longer but my people are asking me to come back immediately. At the union session last week, they elected me

to serve as the union president." After hearing his explanation I felt even more embarrassed. I apologized to him for being unkind a few days earlier and we prayed together for his successful ministry as union president. Through that experience God taught me a great lesson about respecting other people regardless of their age, social status, nationality, or perceived ability.

The AIIAS campus is a second home to my family and me. Home is the place where we learn and grow and make memories together, is it not? For this and so many more reasons, AIIAS will always have a special place in the lives and memories of my family.

➤ Lee has served as a local church pastor, university and seminary professor, and dean for both the AIIAS Graduate School and the AIIAS Seminary. In addition, he is the founder of the 1000 Missionary Movement. He has also served as the Ministerial Secretary for the Northern Asia-Pacific Division.

We arrived at AIIAS from France, completely lost in the new culture and unable to speak English. My desire was to just learn sufficient English-speaking skills so I could access the literature and be able to converse. When I was negotiating the best way forward with the Registrar (through the help of a translator), he suggested that perhaps it would be best to actually enroll in a second MA course. He felt that this would not only help me to learn English, but would also give me another academic qualification. I did not think I would be able to cope with so many courses. However, with the help of classmates and by working long into the night translating all the lecture notes, within weeks I began to understand what was happening in the classroom. After such a challenging start, what a joy it was to graduate *summa cum laude*!

Therefore, my favorite memory is of people: people who challenged me to step outside of my comfort zone; who presented a vision that was bigger than my own and who helped me succeed in the end. To Dr. Ragui, who saw the bigger picture before I could grasp it, and to my classmates who carried me to success, I am very grateful. The memories of your kindnesses and camaraderie will remain with me forever.

➤ Schubert has served as a college instructor, local church pastor, seminary chairman and president as well as a leadership and professional development manager in locations as diverse as the Philippines, Australia, Pakistan, and Papua New Guinea.



**BRANIMIR
SCHUBERT**

Vice Chancellor (President)
Pacific Adventist University

Class of 1988

*T*he Lord gave me the privilege of teaching at AIIAS for nine unforgettable years (1991-2000). For three of those years I was the Dean of the Theological Seminary.

AIIAS taught me several remarkable lessons through the years. First, AIIAS taught me to be a miracle worker. Teaching 1 pm classes created an immense challenge in keeping students awake. It was not until I read the book, *Thirty Minutes to Raise the Dead* by Bill Bennett, that I learned to perform miracles!

Second, AIIAS contributed to my indebtedness. I received many gifts from students, some at critical times such as just before exams. When a gift is received, the receiver has become a debtor. I left AIIAS heavily indebted!

Third, AIIAS taught me that true rewards are intangible. A case in point is graduation. Witnessing my students graduate year after year brought the greatest sense of fulfillment, immeasurable by monetary standards.

I consider my nine years at AIIAS to be some of the best years in my life. AIIAS will always be a place to be remembered. Long live AIIAS!

➤ Longtime mission advocate, Ng has served as a pastor, health educator, and regional department director in Cambodia, Thailand, Malaysia and his native Singapore. Later he served as professor and Dean of the Theological Seminary at AIIAS. In 2000, he became the Executive Secretary of the Southern Asia-Pacific Division and in 2006 he became an Associate Secretary for the world church.



G. T. NG

Executive Secretary
General Conference World
Headquarters

Faculty, 1991-2000



KATHLEEN KUNTARAF

Associate Director (Prevention)
General Conference Health Ministries
Department

Class of 1993

AIAS holds many good memories for me. I remember how hospitable the various faculty members were in inviting me to have meals with them. I especially remember the outstanding hospitality of the Pesulima family. The campus was quiet and thus so conducive to learning. I liked the jogging trail where each morning after my devotional, I could exercise in a nice, cool environment. The courses were pretty hectic, but the professors were so excellent in their teaching and very objective in giving grades. This made learning very enjoyable and interesting.

I truly appreciated this very pleasant learning experience, especially since I was trained in a non-Adventist environment that had many Sabbath problems. I especially welcomed the Sabbath day at AIAS, during which we put aside our textbooks for the full 24 hours. We greatly enjoyed the beautiful spiritual programs prepared by the AIAS Church and fellowshiping with God and one another. It is my wish that many more students can have this wonderful experience of taking the beneficial courses offered at AIAS and enjoying the balanced environment so they will be equipped for future service to our loving God.

➤ Over the span of 32 years, Kuntaraf has served as a physician, ADRA coordinator and director, assistant ADRA director at the division level and a division Health director. With her husband Jonathan, she has co-authored two books on health.



JOHN WESLEY TAYLOR V

Associate Director of Education
General Conference World
Headquarters

Faculty, 1995-2002

AIAS was a wonderful seven years of our lives. Our favorite memories include:

- The interactions with colleagues and students, with languages and cultures.
- The warm friendships formed.
- The distance learning centers experienced.
- The beaches.
- The typhoons.
- The traffic.
- The palms.
- The flags.

These are all threads in the beautiful tapestry that makes up AIAS. When we reminisce about places we've been and things we've done, the conversation always seems to end up at Lalaan 1, Silang, Cavite. By the way, yesterday, for lunch, we had rice, calamansi juice on our vegetables, and ube ice cream for dessert. And for supper, nata de coco in our fruit salad, along with mango jam on our bread. Did I mention that we now live in Maryland? AIAS has somehow left its mark in so many ways and in so many parts of our lives for which we are forever grateful.

➤ In addition to his time at AIAS, Taylor has previously served as a faculty and administrator at Andrews University, Montemorelos University, and Southern Adventist University. Taylor describes himself as "a friend of young people and a partner with teachers." Taylor's wife, Miriam holds a place of distinction in her own right. She designed the administration building at AIAS and the grounds, artwork, and stained glass windows at the Southern Asia-Pacific Division.

Two words could describe my family's testimony about AIIAS: miracle and change. It brings to mind a favorite quote from Albert Einstein, "There are only two ways to live your life. One is as though nothing is a miracle. The other is as though everything is a miracle."

We came to the Philippines as self-supporting students having already been accepted at the University of Santo Tomas. However, we soon discovered that classes were scheduled on Sabbath. The school offered to provide a private class with the professor but we could not accept. We attempted to enroll at the University of Manila because it did not require Sabbath classes. However, this was in vain and finally, we prayed and gave it to God. Then we settled on AIIAS and decided to enroll immediately. It was a decision we have always cherished.

There were a lot of God's miraculous provisions during our times at AIIAS, but the most important was our spiritual growth. The environment, faculty, students, and community were so conducive for spiritual nurturing. It was as though the motto 'Reach up, reach out and reach across' surrounded us. We were blessed to be acquainted and serve with people from various parts of the world, and so our views changed.

At AIIAS, we not only came out as new persons in life, but with an understanding of being God's stewards in His vineyard. And that is an important added value for managers, administrators, and leaders.

After the final exam in each class, students were requested to complete an evaluation form for our professors. However, before the evaluation questions, there was one question which was interesting to me:

In general my experience at AIIAS has been?

- a. Pleasant and satisfactory
- b. Tolerable
- c. Unsatisfactory

Looking back at God's miraculous guidance and the changes we experienced, our answer was and shall always be: **most** pleasant and satisfactory.



**WILMORE
TAMBUNAN**
Logistics Support Superintendent
PT Freeport
Class of 2002

Described as a dedicated father, husband and friend, Tambunan earned an MBA in Management at AIIAS. Afterward, he worked as an accountant for seven years in two different companies in Indonesia, from 1995 to 1997 at Groupe d'Etudes & Conseils en Ingenierie (GECI) International in Bandung, West Java and from 1997 to 2001 at PT Puncak Jaya Power in Tembagapura, Papua. Currently he is employed with PT Freeport Indonesia (Papua Indonesia Operation) in the Security Risk Management Division as the Logistics Support Superintendent. PT Freeport operates the largest gold and copper mine in the world.

AIIAS has been a great influence in my life, for it molded me into who I am now. I was pastoring seven churches in Cavite when I started my study of Master's in Ministry. All the while, as I juggled the many responsibilities of my career, family and study, I worried that I would not be able to finish my Master's program. However, God provides for us in ways we cannot imagine. In 1999, a call came from Central Luzon Conference asking me to be the Youth Director. I was sure now that with this new position, I would never be able to finish. It was with great joy and thanksgiving that I learned they wanted me to concentrate on finishing my Master's degree.

So began a new and interesting phase of life. During the week, I was busy with my departmental duties but twice a week, I would leave that behind and become a student. I would leave very early in the morning, around 3 a.m., attend classes and return home late in the day. My old van became my shelter during my time at AIIAS. I equipped it with all the necessities: pillows, blankets, toiletries, books, clothes and everything I needed for my schooling. There I would have my meals, take a much needed break between classes, dress, and study. If I wasn't in class, the library or my van, you could find me at the prayer garden. At this peaceful spot, I left behind my titles of student and Youth Director. There I came to God simply as His grateful son, seeking guidance as a husband, parent, worker, and student.

So, AIIAS represents many memories for me: the professors who shared their good advice and godly lives with me, the long talks with God in the prayer garden, and the lesson that perseverance and steadfast trust in God despite the challenges brings its own rewards.



JOBBIE YABUT
Youth Director
Southern Asia-Pacific Division
Class of 2002

Yabut's service to the Seventh-day Adventist church includes work as a district pastor, conference Youth and NSO director, and division Youth and AMICUS director. He is known as an engaging and inspiring speaker with a dedicated love for youth. His wife partners with him in ministry as they parent their three children.



**FERDINAND
REGALADO**

Interdivision Missionary
Montemorelos University

Class of 2004

There is one thing that stands out in my AIIAS experience, it would be the lasting friendships I developed with fellow students and teachers from different countries. Even until now, I'm still in touch and corresponding with AIIAS friends and former professors. During various conferences that I attended such as the Annual Meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature, International Bible Conferences of the Seventh-day Adventist Church abroad, and the like, I reconnect with them again. At those events, sometimes we just talk for hours with the conversation ranging from personal, family, and theological to professional matters. We all relish our AIIAS days and enjoy each other's company whenever we meet even if we haven't talked or met for years.

Some of my AIIAS friends were not even my classmates. We became friends in uncommon ways through the AIIAS environment and activities provided for us. For example, a Chinese student became one of my lasting friends during one of those bus rides from the AUP campus to AIIAS. We were just seatmates on the bus but became friends later on. Some of them became friends of mine while we did research in the library. A friendship would start when a student would ask for my help with something he was researching. At other times, I acquired new friends as a result of the sports fest held every semester or during one of those international food fests.

Indeed, AIIAS became a place of lasting friendships both for students and teachers. This is why I will forever be grateful to AIIAS.

➤ Regalado teaches Old Testament subjects and Hebrew language at Universidad de Montemorelos, México. He taught at the Adventist University of the Philippines beginning in 1994, where he coordinated the B.Th. program and M.A. in Religious Education program, until he, his wife Charito, and their two daughters moved to México in 2007.



**REYMAND
HUTABARAT**

President
Adventist University of Indonesia

Class of 2007

AIIAS is an excellent place of learning. Allow me to share just three of its many areas of excellence as an educational system: qualified professors, easy access for research (tens of thousands of volumes of books, journals, and magazines on campus in addition to an extensive online library), and a great environment with a great variety of cultures. All these factors create an attitude of continuous, life-long learning on campus as well as beyond its gates when graduates venture into the world to serve and share.

AIIAS is also a place for leadership training. There we can find different small groups with religious and social emphasis. By engaging in such activities, people mingle with others from different nations and backgrounds. This often results in widening our worldview and opening our eyes to a bigger perspective.

In short, I am proud to say that I am an alumnus of AIIAS, and I am more than happy to promote AIIAS to my fellow countrymen, because at AIIAS we can enjoy and experience quality Christian, uniquely Adventist higher education.

➤ Hutabarat graduated from AIIAS in October 2007 with a PhD degree in Systematic Theology. Currently, he serves as the President of the Adventist University of Indonesia in Bandung.

I remember life at AIIAS as colorful, often surprising, at times challenging, but always satisfying. It was a great joy to interact at close proximity with so many different cultures. Class discussions would often surprise me—even after having taught undergraduate and graduate students for over 10 years in many different cultural contexts. Our family loved the safety and warmth of AIIAS—and we are not referring to the high humidity or the thermometer. There was a sense of community on the campus that made people feel safe, even when somebody now and again made a mistake or even messed up. While AIIAS is in the Philippines, it is much bigger than the Philippines. Asia, Africa, Europe, and also the Americas seem to meet on this campus. We enjoyed our friendships with faculty and students (that will hopefully last into eternity), our snorkeling expeditions, our daily walks around the campus, the adventurous potluck get-togethers (especially for somebody with mild, non-spicy German tastes!), the warm weather, the stimulation of creative faculty and students, and the care of Trevlynn Oberholster (who took her job as a campus coordinator very seriously and provided wonderful support). We did not enjoy the typhoons, the (at times) noisy auditorium during worship hour, too many committees—and saying goodbye. AIIAS will always have a very important place in the hearts and memories of the Klingbeil family. Salamat po.

➤ Klingbeil brings with him 15 years of teaching and ministry experience in diverse international contexts (South Africa, Peru, Argentina, and the Philippines). During his time at AIIAS, he served as the Dean of the Theological Seminary. Since April 2009 he has been serving as Associate Editor of the *Adventist Review* and *Adventist World* magazines at the headquarters of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Gerald and his wife Chantal co-authored the fourth quarter 2010 Sabbath School quarterly. Klingbeil credits their three wonderful daughters for keeping him busy and young.



**GERALD
KLINGBEIL**

Associate Editor
Adventist Review and
Adventist World

Faculty, 2007-2009

My life as a Seventh-day Adventist minister is divided in two parts: before AIIAS and after AIIAS. My family and I arrived in the Philippines in January of 2003 so that I could begin my doctoral studies. At that time, none of us could have imagined all the blessings that this experience would bring. Allow me to summarize some of them as follows:

At AIIAS I learned to value cultural diversity. Learning to share with people who see the world in a way that is different from mine was truly a life-changing experience. AIIAS has played an important role in helping me to accept those who look, dress, and think differently than myself. There, I learned that a correct Christian worldview goes beyond what my own nationality and SDA culture represent.

At AIIAS I developed a higher sense of the mission of the church. It was there that I learned that we are a large, world-wide family united by the hope of our message. The message we proclaim is what unites and identifies us.

At AIIAS I developed a higher sense of the church's mission. After AIIAS, stories from the mission field took on a new dimension for me. They are more than words now. They represent actual people. I also learned that, if we are to be loyal to our calling, the church's mission has to be our priority. I learned the importance of working for God locally and praying for church growth globally.

For all these reasons, AIIAS continues to be a blessing for me and for my family.

➤ Gonzalez has served the Seventh-day Adventist Church in various capacities since 1987. His service includes work as a chaplain, pastor, mission administrator, and university faculty member. He has written articles for theological journals and is frequently invited to lecture in areas of his specialty. On December 20, 2010 he was elected as the President of Chilean Adventist University (Universidad Adventista de Chile, or UNACH).



**RICARDO
GONZALEZ**

President
Chilean Adventist University

Class of 2008

My AIIAS experience differs from that of most full-time students at AIIAS. Unlike them, I was one of a special group of students that attended the campus only once a year for six consecutive years. Each time I came to this place I felt like I was taking a vacation from my busy schedule. These are a few of the memorable experiences I found on the AIIAS campus:



**SURACHET
INSOM**

Health Ministries Director
Thailand Adventist Mission

Class of 2009

1. A glimpse of heaven. Living in a campus where we all have a common goal, one faith, one God and one in unity regardless of nationality or race. The demonstrations of brotherly love across the campus reminded me of what is waiting for us in the New Jerusalem.

2. A place of spiritual revival. AIIAS was a place for me to renew, revive, rehearse and reevaluate my personal experience with Jesus. I loved the campus prayer garden where I could spend quality and quiet time with my Lord. Each class I took revived my love for Him, acknowledged the Divine plan for my life, and helped me to recognize and realize His plan for my ministry.

AIIAS Church activities helped us grow as we shared the gospel with others around the campus and even in remote areas.

3. A place of intellectual resources. The AIIAS faculty members are loving people who always extended their hands and love to the students as they answered our questions and requests, even when the demands were great. I thank all the dedicated professors and academic faculty for their willingness to help. Also, AIIAS has an excellent library—a place I knew well, as it was where I spent most of my time in study. It contains an extensive collection of books and periodicals that were vital to my studies and even some religious books which cannot be found in other libraries.

4. A place promoting healthy lifestyle. During my AIIAS years, I lived then as I do now, in a big city with inadequate space for exercise. As a result, I was very grateful for a beautiful campus where one could enjoy all kinds of exercise.

To summarize my AIIAS experience, it was a time when I was strengthened in the four vital areas of life: social, spiritual, mental and physical. I shall always be appreciative of what I learned and how it has impacted my life and work today.

➤ Insom's ministry includes service as a Bible teacher, chaplain, local church pastor, editor, college administrator, mission departmental director, and university lecturer. Currently, he lives in Bangkok, Thailand where he is the mission director for three ministries: Adventist World Radio, Health Ministries, and Spirit of Prophecy.

Meet the New Vice GERMAN LUST

In October 2010, AIIAS welcomed German Lust (pronounced herr-MAHN Loost) to the position of Vice President for Finance. Here we invite you to get to know this dedicated individual who is the newest addition to our AIIAS family.



President:

Please briefly share about your childhood and growing up experiences.

I grew up in an Adventist family. I remember my parents as trying to do their best with this child who was always moving, kicking and naughty (as some people used to describe me then). My father was especially patient with me. I am thankful that they always taught love, not only with their words but also with their acts.

What is your educational background?

After finishing high school, I studied at River Platte University (UAP) in Argentina, taking a one-year biblical degree. Then I went to Buenos Aires, where I finished my National Public Accountant degree at Buenos Aires University in 1992. This year (2010) I finished all of the courses for my MBA at Palermo University in Buenos Aires, and I will be concluding my research soon.

Where did you work prior to your current position at AIIAS?

I began as Chief Accountant and Assistant Professor for River Plate Adventist University (Universidad Adventista del Plata or UAP) in 1993. In 2000 I was appointed as the university's Treasurer. Four years later, I was appointed as Vice President for Finance at Chile Adventist University (UNACH). Throughout the years since 1993, I continued to teach classes in addition to my main duties. So, when I received an invitation in 2007 to become the Vice President for Finance at the UAP, I was happy, but also sad because the time-consuming nature of that position would mean that I could no longer teach. We served there until April 2010 when we received an invitation to come to AIIAS.

What motivated you to come to AIIAS?

When we got married, my wife Nilde and I agreed that our family would serve the Lord in whatever way He asked. It was very exciting for us to receive an invitation to a totally different environment with a different language. Our family is very happy to be here with so many wonderful students and colleagues coming from so many different cultures and countries. The other aspect of the invitation that interested us was the opportunity to serve in a place where leaders are being prepared to serve the Lord with a special focus on the 10-40 window.

Please tell us a little about your family.

I think that I can truly say that I have been blessed with the most wonderful wife

that the Lord could have given me. Her name is Nilde Itin and we have been married for 16 years. We have two children: Annie, who is 15 years old, and Alex, who is 12 years old. They are both studying at the AIIAS Junior Academy and are doing well. They are the treasures of our hearts!

What are your interests/hobbies?

Soccer, skiing, trekking (hiking), mountaineering, snorkeling, traveling and music are some of the things I enjoy.

What aspects of life here in the Philippines do you enjoy the most so far?

We appreciate the multicultural environment, excellent atmosphere, getting up early to pray while walking on our wonderful campus, snorkeling, and sharing time with faculty, staff and students.

What are your goals for your time here at AIIAS?

I always ask the Lord that He will impress me about what to do every day. But in the long term, I pray to be a person who can help achieve certain things in our institution such as maintaining a wonderful campus, helping others to fulfill their duties, and achieving certain parameters in the finance field.

What is your vision for your work in the finance department?

I would like to see AIIAS continue as a service-oriented, financially stable institution, providing the essential supporting resources for the entire campus. The function of the Finance Department is to support the academic activities with prudent financial management and accountability. Our department is blessed to have a professional and supportive team that meets this responsibility with dedication and expertise. With the help of the Lord and our team, I hope we can continue to carry on the excellent graduate education programs that develop leaders for the church and the community. It is a blessing and privilege to be a part of an institution like AIIAS. 



AIIAS at the General Conference Session

By RON VYHMEISTER, Recruitment Director and Business Professor

During the 59th General Conference held in Atlanta from June 28 to July 3, 2010, AIIAS had three types of representation: church business, advancement and recruitment, and alumni life. As a General Conference institution, it was our privilege to have three delegates on the session floor to be the voice of our students, faculty and staff: Dr. Stephen Gupitill (President), Dr. Dolf Oberholster (VP Academic Administration) and Dr. David Tasker (Seminary Dean).



In addition, AIIAS hosted a booth in the exhibit hall to introduce visitors to our many educational opportunities and give them a glimpse of our unique global community on campus and through our Online program and Distance Learning Centers. The AIIAS team consisted of Dr. Paoring Ragui, Mrs. Puring Ragui, Dr. Denise Dunzweiler, Mr. Blaine Dunzweiler, Dr. Carol Tasker, Mrs. Trevlynn Oberholster, Dr. Shawna Vyhmeister and Dr. Ronald Vyhmeister. What a pleasure to greet many former employees and students of AIIAS! Large quantities of brochures and Flags magazines were distributed, but the favorite item was the AIIAS Calendar.

Since our alumni have a special place in history and in the AIIAS, no event would be complete without an alumni gathering. On Tuesday, June 29, AIIAS held a reception for former students, faculty and friends, which was attended by approximately 150 people. During that time, we shared current events as well as some of our dreams for the future of AIIAS. It was a delight to also congratulate Beth Reynolds (daughter of Edwin and Connie Reynolds who served at AIIAS for many years) and her fiancé Jeremy on their upcoming wedding. 



Education Department Trip to Japan

By PREMA GAIKWAD, Education Department Chair

A group of 11 members consisting of Education Department faculty and students had its first educational trip abroad to Hiroshima, Japan from November 4-9. The purpose of the trip was to experience the globally acclaimed educational system of Japan. Both Adventist and public schools were the focus of this study trip. The Hiroshima San-iku Gakuin boarding school hosted the group.

The group enjoyed an hour-long interview with Adventist school principal Shiro Onoue. He shared insights on the efficient functioning of the school and about the strategies used to meet the challenges that the school faces. To reciprocate, the Education group made presentations during faculty meetings, Sabbath School, and a chapel program. The presentations included a showcase of the AIIAS campus and the educational programs offered here.

Through first-hand observations of both the Japanese Adventist and public schools, the AIIAS educators gained knowledge regarding quality curriculum, and the commitment of teachers to student learning. The group also visited two other sites: Miyajima shrine, considered a World Cultural Heritage site, and the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum.

The richness of experience through such first-hand learning not only opens our minds to understanding other cultures, but also improves our own professional practice. The Education Department plans to have more such educational trips in the future. 

Hope Impact

By FELIXIAN FELICITAS, PhD Student

On October 2, 2010, members of the AIIAS community, along with members from the surrounding churches of Upper Cavite II, gathered for Hope Impact, a special Sabbath event. Approximately 800 people participated. This nationwide outreach activity was a collaborative effort of all three Unions in the Philippines. The objective was for the church members all over the Philippines to herald the message of hope in Jesus to their communities. Members were encouraged to participate in a parade as well as to distribute literature.

At AIIAS, the event started with a devotional by Dr. Woodrow Whidden to mark the historic occasion. In spite of the rainy weather, the participants assembled outside the new AIIAS auditorium and followed the parade route, going past the local outdoor market. Clad in matching shirts, church members distributed both English and Tagalog tracts as they walked. Local Barangay Tanods (neighborhood safety patrol members) assisted during the event. As the participants assembled at the Southern-Asia Pacific Division headquarters for the closing ceremony, many expressed their appreciation for the activity and their hope that this program will become an annual event. 



The Big 4 Begins

By JAMES PARK, Big 4 Program Director



On Monday, September 20, 2010, 60 students from 11 countries arrived on the AIIAS campus, full of enthusiasm, and ready to begin six weeks of intensive classes emphasizing ministry to the Buddhists, Chinese or Muslims. Known as the Big 4 Program, this specialized training focuses on educating select pastors and workers in the 10/40 window's greatest outreach needs: Buddhist, the Chinese, or Islamic ministry, all of which include training for urban/secular ministry. The students were chosen based on their previous involvement in these types of ministries.

At the end of their four years of studies, the students will obtain an MA in Ministry – Intercultural Studies degree, which will equip them to work in the 10/40 window and beyond. Upon completion of their degree, they will also be responsible for training people in their region for ministry to these target groups. The program has been in development for the past three years, but the arrival of the students marks the official beginning of the program. It also marks the culmination of the planning and work by program developers/directors (Dr. James Park, Dr. Reul Almocera, Dr. Chung Youngsoo) and a team of field experts.

Dr. Ben Mergal did a wondrous job in coordinating the very difficult task of picking up the students who arrived from very early in the morning until late at night at three different bus terminals in the Manila area. The students were then taken to the campus of the 1000 Missionary Movement which had been contracted to provide food and lodging for all the participants.

The classes were taught in the mornings in the new function hall at AIIAS and the students then had time to go to the library, read and study for the rest of the day. Dr. Carol Tasker taught the first class, Ministry and Spiritual Life, which provided an excellent two-week foundation for the whole program.

The next two weeks were focused on Introduction to Buddhism, the Chinese, and Islam. At this point the group divided into their separate cohorts. There were 17 students in Buddhism, 18 in the Chinese, and 25 in the Muslim cohort. Each group received training in urban/secular ministry as well.

During the individual cohorts, the students talked about the various challenges they face in trying to minister to these special groups within their countries. There were many testimonies given about how God has miraculously blessed their work and the many

challenges that remain in the field. The students in the Buddhist and Chinese cohorts also traveled to Manila to visit a temple, Chinatown, and other points of interest.

For the last two weeks the students were together again as one group to learn Academic Research and Writing from Dr. Jim Park. During this course the students began to think about the topic they will research and develop as part of their project requirement at the end of the degree.

A special vespers program on Friday evening, October 29th, concluded the six-week session. During the program, students shared many positive testimonies about the warm camaraderie that had developed among the students as well as expressions of appreciation for the material covered during the coursework.

Next year the Buddhist group plans to meet in Thailand, the Chinese group will meet in Hong Kong, and the Muslim group is to meet in Jakarta, Indonesia during the months of September and October. This will allow a much greater exposure to field experiences within these unique religions and cultures. Field experiences and study will continue during the third year of the program with the students returning to AIIAS for the fourth year of the program.



As the director of the program, I greatly appreciate the many unions and conferences that have supported this Big 4 program by allowing their busy pastors to take the time to learn how better to serve their fields. I am also very thankful to the directors, coordinators and staff from the Distance Learning Center, the Admissions office, the Registrar's office, the Finance office, and the Library. They devoted many hours and much effort to taking care of this large group of students. We look forward to hearing about the many inspiring ways God will lead this group as their ministries continue to be an inspiration to us all. 

First PhD in Business Candidates for Graduation

By RON VYHMEISTER
PhD in Business Program Director

We are pleased that the first two students from the PhD in Business are expected to graduate this March, a little less than four years after the program began in June 2007. This is a milestone not just for AIIAS but for the world-wide church, as the PhD in Business at AIIAS is the first PhD in Business to be authorized by the General Conference International Board of Education.

13th Theological Forum: *The Heavenly Sanctuary*

By FELIXIAN FELICITAS, PhD Student

The 13th Annual Theological Forum of the Seminary was remarkably different. This Forum, held from October 31 to November 2, 2010, was the first to have a combination of plenary sessions and parallel sessions. To add to its uniqueness, four of the presentations were given via live streaming over the Internet.

The theme of the 13th Theological Forum was *Perspectives on the Heavenly Sanctuary*. As a foundational pillar of Adventist theology, this topic created enlightening and thought-provoking Forum presentations and discussions. The presenters represented 21 countries and such diverse fields of interest as Biblical Studies, Applied Theology, and Historical-Theological Studies. The forum was attended by AIIAS students, faculty and staff, in addition to delegates from the Central Luzon Conference, Southeast Asia Union Mission, Southern Asia-Pacific Division, Northern Luzon Adventist College, Central Philippine Adventist College, South Philippine Adventist College, and Mountain View College.

Dr. Fazududin Hosein was the plenary presenter of the forum. Currently he is a professor at the Inter-American Adventist Seminary, a consortium of Adventist schools located in Miami, Florida (USA). In addition, current students served as presenters. They included Elias De Souza (Brazil), Mario Phillip (Grenada), Odek Rabach (Kenya), Patrick Anani (Gabon), Feliks Ponyatovsky (Ukraine), Laurentiu Mot (Romania), John Giantzaklildis (Finland), Alfredo Augustin (Philippines), Felix Cortez (Mexico), Sang Hoon Jee (South Korea), and Alexander Bolotnikov (USA).



AIIAS faculty presenters included Dr. David Tasker (New Zealand), Dr. Carol Tasker (Australia), Dr. Richard Sabuin (Indonesia), Dr. Kim Papaioannou (Greece), Dr. Jim Park (USA), Dr. Kyung Ho Song (South Korea), Dr. Woodrow Whidden (USA), Dr. Bienvenido Mergal (Philippines) and Dr. Aecio Cairus (Argentina). Dr. Cairus presented a well articulated paper regarding the reality of the heavenly sanctuary. He noted that “the heavenly sanctuary is real, but not just because it is a real site with real objects. It is real because it does not point to another reality which is beyond itself.”

The morning devotionals proved to be spiritually engaging as well. Another highlight of this yearly event was the book display which generated a lot of interest. As we look back with appreciation to those who took part in and planned the Forum, we also are looking forward to the 14th AIIAS Theological Forum with anticipation. See you there! 

Bible Land Tour 2010

By CARLOS MORA, Associate Professor of Old Testament Studies

From May 16, 2010 to June 3, 2010, ten individuals from AIIAS toured Egypt and Israel as part of the 2010 Bible Lands Tour. The group consisted of eight students of the Theological Seminary, one alumnus, and Dr. Carlos Mora of the Biblical Studies Department. During the first part of the trip, they went to Cairo and Luxor, where they visited the Giza Pyramids, Saqqara (the former pyramids of the Proto-Dynastic era) and other significant places in Cairo. They also visited the temples at Karnack and Luxor, and their surroundings.



To complete their Egyptian journey, the group climbed up Mount Sinai and enjoyed the unique city of Nuweiba by the shores of the Gulf of Aqaba, on the Red Sea.

After crossing the border into Israel, the team went to several well-known biblical sites such as the Dead Sea, the Sea of Galilee and the Valley of Jezreel. Finally, they spent four days visiting Jerusalem, focusing on the Old City.

There were long days of walking, traveling, and taking pictures. As a result, the group gained new perspectives about the Bible Lands by experiencing them firsthand. Now they can apply this understanding to the Scriptures, as their tour experiences have transformed the Bible into a series of living stories and life lessons.

The AIIAS Bible Land Tour participants are very thankful to God for His blessings and protection throughout the trip. The team also wants to thank the Seminary and the AIIAS Administration for this great privilege. 



11th Graduate School Forum *Building Corporate Identity in a Changing World*

By KENNETH SWANSI, Business Department Chair

The Graduate School of Adventist International Institute of Advanced Studies (AIIAS), Philippines would like to invite you to the 11th Graduate School Forum entitled 'Building Corporate Identity in a Changing World'. The Forum is scheduled for January 27-29, 2010.

This Forum is part of the planned 25th anniversary celebration of AIIAS, a General Conference managed educational institution. AIIAS is an Adventist institution dedicated to train church leadership and among the audience will be students, Church leaders, and practicing managers from around the globe. We have about 45 countries represented on our campus!

Corporate identity comes into being when an organization is able to project its distinctiveness to the world at large and is able to

create a unique corporate persona. It happens when an organization is able to carve out a position in the perceptual landscape [mind] of the customer and is known for something distinct. Often referred to as organizational identity, corporate identity helps organizations to answer questions like "who are we?" and "where are we going?"

What gives an organization its identity? What is the relevance of corporate identity in today's crowded market place? What are the elements of a corporate personality? How can we build identities that will accurately project who we are? How do customers react to corporate identities? Is there a correlation between corporate image and its performance?

These are some of the questions the AIIAS Graduate School Forum 2011 will seek to answer. 



Let's *Reconnect!* *Alumni Updates*

We hope this issue has taken you back in time and reminded you of some wonderful AIIAS memories. Perhaps you're thinking of the friends with whom you've lost touch or you're wondering what ever happened to the pal who sat next to you in Academic Writing. Did you realize that someone else may be thinking the same about you? Take a moment to update us about your life, career and what and where you've gone on to from AIIAS. It's easy, doesn't take long and with a click of a button, you'll be back in the middle of AIIAS happenings.

Go to the AIIAS website and fill in the Alumni Submit Form at www.aiias.edu/alumniupdate

Or e-mail us at alumnioffice@aiias.edu

We're launching a *brand new* alumni section on our website. You can find it at www.aiias.edu/alumni. Check there often to stay informed about alumni events, find out what is new with your fellow alumni and *reconnect* with your AIIAS family.



AIIAS

facebook

Unable to join us for
the anniversary celebration?
Did you know **you can** still
get a front row seat
to the festivities?

Here's how: **Log onto** Facebook at
www.facebook.com/aiias
and catch up on the latest AIIAS news.
Subscribe (just press the "like" button)
and **you won't miss** a moment
of this historic occasion.

Week of Prayer



AIIAS held its second Week of Prayer for the year on August 28-September 4, 2010. The theme for the week was "Certain Words of Life." Elder Wilfredo Sumagaysay, an ordained pastor and a licensed attorney, was the speaker. He is currently the Associate Director of the Trust Services Department of the General Conference of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.



The series consisted of two meetings each day, one in the morning and one in the evening. During each morning meeting, students representing various cultural groups shared their reflections regarding the previous evening's sermon. Students appreciated how the personal testimonies emphasized the evening sermons and added to the overall spiritual tone. Pastor David Gairo, the Papua New Guinea representative, shared that "unless a sermon touches a life, it is not complete. By hearing how the previous sermon impacted a student's life, I could see how it applies to my life. I greatly enjoyed the personal reflections time because of this."

The week included a Friday evening communion service and concluded with the Divine Service on Sabbath. The event was organized by the AIIAS administration and AIIAS student association. The Student Services Committee and the AIIAS Administration would like to thank the Student Association Officers, particularly the Religious Affairs Committee, through the leadership of Ronnel Mamarimbing, for their hard work during this Week of Prayer. 

Cultural Night

By FRANKLIN HUTABARAT, PhD Student

The annual Cultural Night is a highly anticipated event at AIIAS. This year's event was held at the new AIIAS auditorium on the evening of November 20, 2010, and featured cultures from 55 countries. The emcees challenged the audience members to answer cultural questions during the breaks. Successful participants enthusiastically received their prizes.

Members of the AIIAS Filipino community represented the host country and opened the program with a traditional dance featuring graceful couples in beautiful matching outfits. The Japanese community followed with a humorous noodle-eating show that created quite a response from the audience. Next, the Korean community presented an intricate fan dance. To add a bit of exciting action, the Chinese community presented a kung-fu drama in which the winner of the kung fu showdown was the one to marry the beautiful lady.

The Indonesian community performed an impressive traditional dance featuring a giant and a princess. The Latin community responded by combining approximately 13 countries into one presentation, with representatives carrying each country's flag followed by a visual presentation of each country's unique qualities. The North American community then shared a skit that portrayed stereotypical characteristics of Americans.

The African youth thrilled the audience with their opening cultural dance. An all-African community choir's rendition of a traditional song rounded out the African presentation. Next, the audience gained a new appreciation for the Qatar community as they shared unique cultural information via a power point presentation. Afterward, the Indian community demonstrated a compelling cultural dance.

As the program neared its end, the Myanmar/Thailand group lighted up the stage with their candles and unique presentation about the beauty of Myanmar and Thailand. As yet another Cultural Night drew to a close, participants as well as the audience reveled in the diversity of the shared sights, sounds and cultures. 



Photo Credits: EMMER CHACON, RAIMOND LUNTUNGAN, BERNIE DAMBO

Mini Olympics

The 2010 AIIAS Mini Olympics took place from November 25 to 28. This annual event, sponsored by the Student Association, encourages students and their families to join together for two days of athletics, games and races.

It began with a colorful opening ceremony consisting of welcomes, guidelines, speeches, and a devotional Thursday evening. Students, their families, faculty and staff were randomly assigned to one of four teams; blue, green, orange, and red. On Friday and Sunday, teams participated in activities such as soccer, basketball, volleyball, badminton, tennis, and chess.

Another highlight was Sunday's International Food Fair. Attendees could choose cuisine from approximately ten of the many cultural groups represented at AIIAS.

The event was well attended with a great deal of enthusiasm and support from both players and audience members. During the closing ceremony on Sunday evening, trophies were distributed based on accumulated team points. However, the greater rewards included the break from the usual academic routine, the bonding

that occurred among team members, and the memories of yet another way AIIAS enriches student life. [2]





Planning for the future is an important priority

We may not know everything that the future holds, but there are some things that we can plan for—things like making sure that our children will be properly cared for if something should happen to us, and being good stewards for the Lord even when we die.

AIIAS is dedicated to providing assistance in making sure that the plans we make now will be carried out at the necessary time.

When you make plans for the future, we hope you will remember AIIAS in your will or trust. By giving a gift to AIIAS, your influence will stretch far into the future as your generosity provides high-quality graduate education for leaders around the world.

There are some things in the future that will surprise us, and there are other things for which we can plan. Remember AIIAS in your future giving plans.

For more information on how you can include AIIAS in your will or trust, please contact the AIIAS Office of Advancement via email at: advancement@aiias.edu.