

The Official AIIAS Magazine
October 2016

Flags

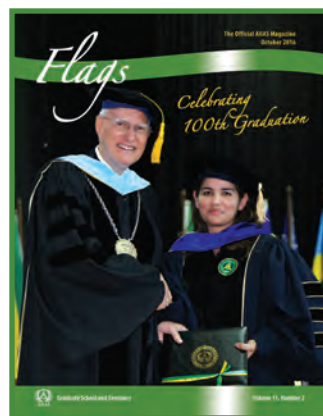
*Celebrating
100th Graduation*



Graduate School and Seminary

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ABOUT THE COVER

AIIAS President Dr. Stephen Guptill, pose with Doctor of Philosophy graduate Alfa Lizardo de Guzman shortly after handing out her diploma. This photo was taken during the 100th Graduation Ceremony commencement program in March 6, 2016 at the Siew Huy Auditorium.



Flags, October 2016 – Volume 11, Number 2

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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.

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Celebrating Academic Excellence

Ten years ago, the first issue of *Flags* rolled off the press. I could imagine the excitement of those who received their copy in their hands. Looking back, it must have been a historic moment for AIIAS to have a publication that would, in the words of its founding editor, “introduce to you the people of AIIAS, past and present.”

Yes, its the people who makes AIIAS a special place who are worth knowing. *Flags* continue to talk about people—those who dedicate their years at AIIAS for academic excellence. Some stayed longer than the others. But what does it mean by academic excellence?

I was talking to a PhD in Business student who commented on a question that came to him that a prefix in a name (like “Dr.”) is just a prefix, nothing more. To this he smiled quietly and said, “Oh there’s more to it! You become a different person once you are finished, you are never the same person again!”

I pondered on those words and wondered if I have found the right definition of academic excellence. Be it a skill, value, best practice, strategy, or academic record, in the end, academic excellence makes you become a different person.

In this issue, we will ‘meet’ people who make AIIAS what it is today, men and women who strive for academic excellence and become someone ‘better’ in the process.

We celebrate the class of 2016 who have the distinction of being the 100th graduating class. We celebrate the newly appointed leaders of the institution. We celebrate the faculty, staff and students who excelled in research and publication.

In this issue, we focus on how AIIAS inspires a rich and deep learning experience in all levels of academia.

I hope that this issue will inspire you through various news, stories, testimonies, and reflections of people who define academic excellence in different ways.

Bruce Sumendap



Alumni Connection

AIIAS is a global community, and we would like to hear from you!

Email us at flags@aaias.edu
or write to

Flags, AIIAS, Lalaan 1, Silang, Cavite 4118
Philippines

ALUMNI: Send news that can be shared in upcoming issues of *Flags*. Please include your picture, full name (indicate if it has changed since you were at AIIAS), degree completed at AIIAS, and year of graduation.

FORMER FACULTY AND STAFF: Send us the dates that you were at AIIAS, your position, your current mailing address, and e-mail address, along with any news notes (along with a recent picture) for publication in *Flags*.

EVERYONE: Come be a part of AIIAS with the many opportunities to become involved! More information is available at www.aaias.edu and on Facebook: www.facebook.com/aaias.

AIIAS offers services for students including scholarships. Financial support is greatly appreciated. It will help students have opportunity to experience AIIAS as they prepare to further God’s work throughout the world. Tax-deductible donations may be sent to:

AIIAS, c/o Treasury
General Conference of Seventh-day
Adventists
12501 Old Columbia Pike, Silver Spring,
MD 20904, U.S.A.

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On May 5, 2016, the Board of Trustees of the Adventist International Institute of Advanced Studies (AIAS) re-appointed the AIAS administrative team to continue their service for the next quinquennial term. Previous to the May meeting, the Board appointed two new administrators for the institution. We are happy to report that Jorge Montero, Vice President for Finance and Ricardo González, Dean of the Theological Seminary joined the administrative team earlier this year.



From left to right: Ricardo González, Seminary Dean; Jorge Montero, VP Finance; Stephen Guptill, President; Frederick Oberholster, VP Academic Administration; William Green, Graduate School Dean; and Bryan Sumendap, VP Student Services

New AIAS Leaders Appointed

Ricardo Adolfo González Astudillo

Dr. Ricardo González is a native of Chile and an alumnus of AIAS. He graduated in 2008 with a Doctor of Philosophy in Religion degree. “We are excited to have Dr. González join us here at AIAS and for the addition he will be to our leadership team,” said Dr. Stephen Guptill, AIAS president. “The González family are not strangers to AIAS and we look forward to having them be a part of the community once again.”



Dr. González has previously served in various pastoral and administrative positions. Most recently, he was appointed as the Executive Secretary of the Central South Chile Conference. Preceding that appointment, he served as the President of Chile Adventist University for five years.

He is married to Mrs. Nery Vásquez González, who taught at Chile Adventist University prior to coming to AIAS. They have two adult children: Constanza and

Felipe.

Outgoing Seminary dean, Dr. Richard Sabuin, served as the dean since April 2011. He was recently appointed as Education and Sabbath School and Personal Ministries Director of Northern Asia-Pacific Division at the end of 2015.

Dr. Stephen Guptill said, “We are sad to see the Sabuins leave. Dr. Sabuin has been a great asset to our administration and to our community. The whole Sabuin family has been very active in church activities. We will miss them.”

Jorge Montero, MBA

Jorge Montero comes to us from Peru. He has worked in higher education financing for more than 10 years and comes with very high recommendations. Mr. Montero has served as a Union Treasurer, Associate Division Treasurer, and as a university



Vice President Finance for more than five years. He has an MBA and is working on a doctoral degree. His wife, Dolores, is a nurse and they have two children, 11 and 13 years old.

“We are delighted that the Monteros have joined us at AIAS,” says AIAS President, Dr. Stephen Guptill. “I believe that God has answered our prayers as we considered almost 40 names for this position.” Mr. Montero is taking the place of Mr. German Lust who was called to be the Treasurer of Northern Asia-Pacific Division of Seventh-day Adventists. We were blessed with Mr. Lust’s fine leadership in the finance office and with Nilde’s vital contribution as Director of Admissions and Records. They will be greatly missed.

The administrative team is led by Dr. Stephen Guptill, who has served as president of AIAS since 2006. The other re-elected administrators are Dr. Frederick “Dolf” Oberholster, Vice President for Academic Administration; Dr. Bryan Sumendap, Vice President for Student Services; and Dr. William “Bill” Green, Dean of the Graduate School.

The Adventist world church has increasingly recognized the necessity for mission training. Numerous urban areas of the world, combined with extensive cross-cultural territories which remain unreached to this day, is a challenge for mission.

Responding to this need, AIAS launched a Doctor of Missiology (DMiss)/Doctor of Intercultural Studies (DIS) program to prepare professionals for leadership roles with advanced cross-cultural mission skills.

The purpose of this degree program is to develop culturally sensitive leaders while equipping them to pursue the mission of the church better.

The DMiss program which started in August 2016 is the highest research degree in missiological studies.¹ It is initially offered with emphasis in urban mission. Other emphases include world religions, intercultural studies, and postmodernism and secularism.

¹ AIAS Academic Bulletin: 2016-2018, p. 200

“This new program is going to challenge the way we approach mission in un-entered places,” said AIAS Seminary Dean, Dr. Ricardo González. “Moreover, it will provide the church with a new generation of leaders and church planters with a renewed understanding of the challenges and opportunities of our mission.”

The DMiss program at AIAS has all the elements of a quality program. “This program offers the best contextualized education from a global perspective. It provides quality training embedded in the world religions context at an affordable cost,” notes Dr. Cristian Dumitrescu, Associate Professor of Mission and DMiss Program Director.

In this program, students can continue their current employment while learning. They attend four weeks in residence at the AIAS campus each year and do reading, assignments, and projects while at home. This continues

AIAS Opens Doctor of Missiology Program

for four years. The program promises a learning environment in a ‘mission field-like’ setting, under the supervision of professors with cross-cultural experiences. They network with professionals who have developed successful contextualized ministries.



FRONT ROW: First batch of Doctor of Missiology coming from different countries such as Brazil, Philippines, Indonesia, Myanmar and Hong Kong. SECOND ROW: AIAS administrators and professors. This photo was taken just before their very first class.

Allias Awards Faculty and Staff

Allias has announced the names of 24 faculty members and teaching assistants who received awards for Academic Publication and Presentation. Annual awards were given to faculty or staff members who presented academic papers and published academic articles or books in 2015.

The awards range from Level 1 to Level 4. Level 1 awards are given for publishing an article in a publication of local or regional interest, a book review, or abstract. Level 4 awards are given for publishing a full-length scholarly book or presenting a full-length scholarly paper in a formal academic venue. For each Level 4 award, an Allias personnel receives \$200.

"There were 40 Level 4 publications and presentations compared to only 32 the previous year," said Allias Vice President for Academic Administration, Dolf Oberholster. The largest number of Level 4 awards were presented to Michael Campbell, Cristian Dumitrescu, and Arceli Rosario. The awards were presented at the annual reception dinner for the Allias Board of Trustees on May 5, 2016.

Faculty in Allias are periodically assessed and encouraged to engage in various kinds of research. Research is an important component of the academic ranking process. Faculty ranking is based on teaching, community service, and research.

In 2015, the number of presentations and publications by Allias faculty far exceeded the minimum requirements for accreditation. "We have met the requirement but we have more work to do because we would like everybody to publish," concludes Dr. Oberholster.

Ranjith Kingston, a PhD in Education student of Allias, was awarded the Nemesio E. Prudente Excellence in Research Award 2015 for his paper, "Internationalization of State Standards through Institutional Research: Bridging the Knowledge Gap for International Competitiveness," outdoing 600 entries of abstracts from 14 countries.

The award was presented during the 3rd International Research Conference on Higher Education last December 5, 2015 held at Subic Bay Freeport, Olongapo City. The conference focused on the topic, "Policy Framework on the Internationalization of the Philippines Higher Education, Commission on Higher Education (CHED)."

Kingston presented a topic related to the agenda on a national research level. He realized that the knowledge 'gap' that he found was a prevailing issue in light of the Philippines' role as an ASEAN member. His research gained recognition from CHED and policy makers who perceived it as "the suggestive solutions that CHED was currently looking for."

A 'Best Paper' award was given for another submission of Kingston entitled, "Empowering Tertiary Students through

► Sharnie Zamora

"Success will not come right away. Failures are the first steps to success."

Technology: Social Media as a Learning Tool." This was presented at a conference on Educational Research organized by the Spicer Adventist University, India, on January 17, 2016.

Kingston became a virtual presenter for the conference since he couldn't attend the event due to full-time teaching responsibilities at the Allias Academy.

Seminary Students Win Writing Contest

Ministry is the International Journal for Pastors published monthly by the Seventh-day Adventist Church since 1928 and currently reaches approximately 75,000 pastors around the globe.

Marcos Blanco, who hails from Argentina, is currently a PhD in Religion student at Allias. His article, "Adventist Theology and the New Anthropology: Challenges and Opportunities" won grand prize in one of the *Ministry* Ministerial Student Writing Contests. When asked what encouraged him to join the contest and his reaction about winning, he stated,

I heard about the *Ministry* writing contest through one of the professors in the Seminary. Since I was very busy with my classes, I did not pay attention at that time. A few months later, another professor mentioned that there were just a few days left until the deadline of the contest. He encouraged us to

participate, mentioning that in the past several Allias students had won.

Having no time to start from scratch, I took one of my papers that I wrote for my classwork and arranged it into an article. As I had written it in such a short time, I did not entertain any illusions about winning. This is an international contest involving students from around the world, so I even forgot about it after submitting the article.

Months later, I received an email from *Ministry Magazine*. I was so focused on my comprehensive exams that I left it unread in my inbox. I read it instead the next day. It was a note of congratulations from Derek Morris, editor of *Ministry Magazine*, for having been granted the grand prize for the 2013-2014 Ministerial Student Writing Contest. I could not believe it—the grand prize winner!

"I am indebted to Allias not only because the article was based on one of my papers, but also because some professors encouraged me to participate in the contest."

► Sharnie Zamora

Kingston Receives 'Best Paper' Award

He acknowledges the faculty of the Graduate School for inspiring him to read a lot and do research.

He believes that it is important to grab every opportunity as a learning experience.

"Take it as a challenge that you should not step out of this institution without having presented papers in international conferences and having published papers," concludes Kingston.



Ranjith Kingston hails from Pune, Maharashtra, India. Before coming to Allias, he earned several masters' degrees including degrees in Education, Sociology, Psychotherapy and Counseling, and in Social Work.

Donny Chrissutianto, a PhD in Religion student, won third place in the *Ministry Magazine* Ministerial Student Writing Contest in 2014.

It was his first time to submit an article in the English language which took him approximately a month to write. "When my paper was selected, it gave me the confidence to write even if I'm limited in writing because English is not my first

"Pray, especially when you write about spiritual things, because God will help you. I know myself, I cannot do it alone. I did it only by God's grace, the support from Allias, and my family."

The winning article entitled, "Ellen G. White and the 1873 Revival: A Case Study in Revival and Reformation," described how the revival gave direction to the struggling church during those times.

"It took half a year of screening and I didn't think that I won because there was no news," said Chrissutianto. However, in December 2014, Dr. Michael Campbell informed him that he won. "I could not believe it! It was not until I received an email from Derek Morris, the editor of *Ministry Magazine*. Then, I guess it's true," he added.

language. As long as it contributes to the good of others among the church, God will help me. God has done it before and God will do it again," he stated.

Chrissutianto is currently working on a paper for the Adventist Theological Society forum this coming November 2016. His abstract had been accepted and he was asked to present his paper in San Antonio, Texas.



Donny Chrissutianto comes from Central Java, Indonesia. He was a former church pastor, department director for Sabbath School and Personal Ministries and Education, as well as coordinator of Voice of Prophecy, Public Affairs, and Religious Education at Central Java Mission, Indonesia.

Promoting Academic Integrity

A Closer Look on Plagiarism

For AIAS, “*Academic integrity is a core value of this institution, and honesty in all academic situations is an extension of personal integrity, which is expected of any Christian.*”¹ As a Christian institution, everyone in this campus—professors and students alike—should reflect the admonition to practice academic integrity (Prov 10:9; 11:3; 2 Cor 8:21; Titus 2:1), which permeates its elements such as research and writing. On the other hand, its deviation is called *plagiarism*.²

Defining Plagiarism

Plagiarism takes place when a writer/researcher/student “claim[s] the words and ideas of another as their own.”³ This happens when an author or a work is not cited and enclosed in quotation marks after borrowing a thought or text,

¹ Frederick Oberholster, ed., *Academic Bulletin* (Cavite, Philippines: AIAS, 2016), 38. Italics supplied.

² Ibid.

³ American Psychological Association, *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association*, 6th ed. (Washington, DC: American Psychological Association, 2010), 15.

respectively.⁴ Moreover, it also occurs when another person writes for the writer/researcher/student.⁵

Citing is important for the following reasons: to “give credit,” “to assure readers about the accuracy of your facts,” “to help readers follow or extend your research,”⁶ and to exhibit that you are well-informed of the topic.

Dealing With Plagiarism

At AIAS, we emphasize the gravity of plagiarism. Thus, we take proactive measures to avoid it.

One of the ways we address this is by discussing this issue during the Faculty Colloquium. This period is allotted to encouraging the professors to educate the students on how to be better writers by not plagiarizing and instead, helping them to practice honesty in their writing and in how they credit borrowed ideas or sources. Included in the discussion

⁴ Shawna Vyhmeister, *AIAS Research Standards and Writing Manual: Requirements and Recommendations for the Theological Seminary and the Graduate School*, 2nd ed. (Cavite, Philippines: AIAS, 2014), 11.

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ Kate L. Turabian, *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations: Chicago Style for Students and Researchers*, 8th ed. (Chicago, IL: The University of Chicago Press, 2013), 135-136.

are topics such as the forms, examples, and types of plagiarism whilst on the other side of the coin, proper citing. The consequences of plagiarizing are also highlighted.

Another approach is by conducting seminars and lectures to students on how to avoid simply copying one’s work—thoughts or texts—to learning how to dialogue with, react to, critique, and develop other notions/writers. These activities create an awareness in students that writing needs a lot of hard work (and sometimes a lot of time)—reading, reflecting, and paraphrasing—to produce a good research paper.

One more tool to reinforce checking of plagiarism is an application known as *Turnitin*. This device allows submission of a paper to trace the similar texts with the sources covered by this app such as academic papers, journals, and Internet articles. The writer is then able to deal with the copied texts by paraphrasing or quoting them properly. Apart from this, it gives the source (even the link) from where the similarity is traced and it also shows its content, although not all. Some sources cannot be viewed, especially if those are students’ papers. Additionally, it provides a percentage of breakdown of the matched texts. Thus, the person checking is able to know and/or be

reminded of where and/or from whom the bulk of the valid copied texts are taken. Furthermore, it is also a system to check if students copy from each other or one’s own work. Actually, *Turnitin* provides a lot of resources about plagiarism and writing. This apparatus is helpful for the students, professors, and editors of AIAS. Therefore, learning how to use it is given importance.

Ditching Plagiarism

Some of the tips to avoid the issue of plagiarizing are the following: (1) cite sources, (2) copy direct and block quotations accurately and don’t forget to enclose them in quotation marks,⁷ and (3) abstain from asking someone to edit the content of your paper (unless you need the input of your advisor and committee members).

Rick Warren states, “Integrity is built by defeating the temptation to be dishonest.” Plagiarism may seem as a way out of sleepless nights while here at AIAS; nonetheless, it does not help develop a scholar.

⁷ Ibid., 347.

► Ellen Compuesto

“Academic Excellence refers to doing the best that you can in your academic program despite the final grade that you may receive. It’s not related to just getting As all the time.

It’s related to the fact that you are performing according to the best that you can based on the gifts that you have received from the Lord.

Nobody is capable of everything. We all have strengths and weaknesses. And in that sense, we need to work with each other. We need to support each other in those areas in which we are strong. We need to support those who need our strength in that area. We also realize that we need the support of those who are strong in areas where we are weak.

Academic excellence is about preparing people for work beyond the classroom, serving the larger community. ”

► Ricardo González

“Because we have a common mission which includes academic excellence we have a framework in which to move forward. In order to achieve our mission, we all need to work together doing the best that we can in everything.

Academic excellence, in the context of Student Services, not only involves the academic performance of the students, but also includes excellent service support from all supporting departments that contribute to the goal of academic excellence.

In my understanding, it means we all work together according to the gifts and talents given to each of us. ”

► Bryan Sumendap

What Is Academic Excellence?

“Academic Excellence starts with excellent faculty. It is quality people who make all the difference. Quality people are those who are the best in their disciplines, the best in their relationship with students, and the best in their commitment to God and the mission of AIAS and of the church.

An excellent library is also essential for building strong academic programs. Outstanding library professionals manage and build the library resources which support the programs. Every employee plays an important role in creating academic excellence. ”

► Stephen Guptill

AQRA: Looking Beyond Variables

Research activities in AIIAS cover different fields of study such as business, education, public health, and theology. Research has traditionally focused more on quantitative methods, which means looking at and measuring variables, and analyzing trends. Qualitative research has yet to see more development especially in the Philippines. With the dire need of qualitative research in Asia and the available qualitative

about qualitative research and develop needed skills in this area.” AQRA was founded and launched by AIIAS on October 28, 2015. As an integral part of the Graduate School, the vision of the association is to empower scholars and to “touch lives through research,” as indicated in the mission statement.

AIIAS presently has a number of qualitative research faculty and the

for those interested in qualitative research. It plans to generate funds for some research grants. AQRA presently has more than 350 members from over 50 higher education institutions nationally and internationally. Within the first ten months of existence, it has provided training in capability-building to more than 10 institutions in the country. It hosted a much acclaimed international conference on April 20-21, 2016 in Tagaytay City, Philippines, which drew 152 participants from more than 50 colleges and universities from more than 15 countries. The conference consisted of 80 concurrent sessions, two keynote sessions, and four plenary sessions. Dr. Ella Simmons, one of the Vice Presidents of the General Conference, graced the occasion by delivering a powerful keynote session entitled, “Eyes That See and Ears That Hear: A Case for Qualitative Research” and a plenary with the title, “That God May Know My Integrity.” AQRA leaders are already planning the second conference in 2017 and looking forward to offering capability-building training sessions to four of our Adventist colleges and universities in the next few months.

The leadership of AQRA consists of Dr. Safary Wa-Mbaleka as the founding President, Dr. Arceli Rosario as Executive Secretary, and Dr. Sunia Fukofuka as Chief Financial Officer. The AIIAS Administration is working closely with AQRA in its support of this innovative organization that will help highlight the strengths of AIIAS around the Philippines and Asia. More information about AQRA can be found at www.myAQRA.org.

► Bruce Sumendap



Dr. Ella Simmons, GC General Vice President, delivers her keynote speech during the AQRA conference.

It's the beginning of the week. A sea of white-uniform attired students assemble for the raising of the Philippine flag. The sun gleams as the flag rises and the students' voices ascend to the blue sky in song, companionship, and respect even though we are a diverse group representing various countries.

The AIIAS Academy takes pride in its diversity, sporting students and staff from over fifty different countries gathered together to learn and teach. In the academy, it is not a rare sight for children of all different backgrounds and races to be seen playing, learning, and laughing together. The AIIAS Academy is an international Adventist school that offers a world-class, government-accredited Christian education from Kindergarten to Grade 11.

“AIIAS Academy makes you feel like you are part of one big family,” says Ryan Sitanggang from Indonesia, who recently graduated from high school at the AIIAS Academy. “What I like the most about AIIAS Academy is the diversity. It is the perfect school to network and expand your references. At the same time, you are exposed to a vast array of cultures and traditions.”

There is no doubt that the AIIAS Academy has a deeply rooted culture that thrives in the hearts of alumni, teachers, and students from around the world.

This culturally-diverse school has many great components, among which is its overall inspiring spiritual aspect. The AIIAS Academy encourages its students to “follow the teachings of the Bible and honor God in all my activities,” as stated in the school pledge. Engaging religious programs such as daily worship services, week of prayers, and bimonthly chapel periods take place to help enrich the spiritual lives and characters of the students.

The school also offers features such as its English Medium policy. English as Second Language (ESL) students are able to learn English and interact with peers in a multicultural environment. This exposure is a unique trait that the academy maintains best.

Academy teacher Ranjith Kingston says, “We look beyond world standards by catering to different groups of students coming in. We require our students to be more interested in learning to be life-long learners. The AIIAS Academy is an educational portal through which people pass. This opens a huge network among people from different parts of the world in a very short time. That's why AIIAS Academy is unique.”

With several notable alumni and a rich history, it's hard to believe that the AIIAS Academy only recently received its full government accreditation from the Department of Education in 2012. As a result of this recent accreditation, the AIIAS Academy has seen a drastic

increase in its number of students. The AIIAS Academy's high school has approximately 130 students at present and is planning to incorporate Grade 12 in the coming year.

Not only has the high school experienced an increase in enrollment, but the elementary school has seen major growth as well. This school year, 2016-2017, boasts the highest number of students in the AIIAS Academy history so far. With new renovations and facilities, the academy is prepared to continue growing and advancing into the bright future ahead.

The AIIAS Academy most definitely has not yet peaked and has so much potential. I can't wait to see what the future holds for the academy.

AIIAS Academy: A Blend of Diversity

► Komal N. Swansi & Angel Anne A. Patalinghug



AIIAS Academy students from the Philippines, Russia, India, South Korea and Indonesia.

AQRA organizers with the AIIAS Graduate School Dean during the conference awarding ceremony. From left to right: Sunia Fukofuka, Arceli Rosario, William Green, and Safary Wa-Mbaleka

research experts at AIIAS, Asian Qualitative Research Association (AQRA) was launched.

“In qualitative research we look at the whole human,” says the founder and current president of AQRA, Dr. Safary Wa-Mbaleka. “Numbers cannot give justice to an in-depth exploration of a research idea. For this, we needed to provide a platform for people to talk

research they have done is notable and highly commended. “AQRA exists to develop qualitative research scholars,” continued Dr. Wa-Mbaleka. He believes that a lot of circumstances around the world today present issues that are far too complex to be answered by quantitative research alone.

AQRA aims to set high standards and provides a platform for interaction

100th Graduation

The class of 2016 which participated in the graduation ceremony of AIIAS on March 4-6, 2016 have the distinction of being members of the institute's 100th graduating class. The graduating class chose the motto, "Exalt Christ, Excel in Service."

"We are proud of this milestone in AIIAS history," said Dr. Stephen Guptill, AIIAS president, during his welcome remarks at the graduation ceremony. "We are happy you have come to celebrate this academic achievement of our graduates."

The graduating class consisted of 141 candidates from 30 countries and 11 of the 13 world divisions of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Four candidates earned graduate certificates, 124 candidates earned master's degrees, and 13 candidates earned doctorate degrees.

Speakers during the graduation weekend included Dr. Bienvenido Mergal, Chair of the Applied Theology Department at AIIAS Theological Seminary; Dr. Ella Simmons, Chair of the AIIAS Board of Trustees and Vice President of the General Conference of

Seventh-day Adventists; and Dr. Juan Prestol-Puesán, Treasurer of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. It was an honor and privilege to have two leaders of the world church speak for the 100th graduation ceremony.

Highlighting the personal and professional experience of developing church leaders, Dr. Prestol-Puesán challenged the AIIAS graduates to face the future with God. "Learn, learn, learn. The day you stop learning is the day you stop living," challenged Dr. Prestol-Puesán, in his commencement speech. He went on to describe the traits of good leaders and encouraged the graduating class of 2016 to never become anything less than a great leader.

"This morning I stand to salute you for what you have done by God's grace, but more so what you will do by God's grace when you leave here," said Dr. Ella Simmons during the Baccalaureate service. Her message focused on the service aspect of the class' motto and

she challenged each individual to serve God with a sincere heart. She charged the graduates to "do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with thy God," as stated in Micah 6:8.

AIIAS is a graduate school that offers masters and doctorate degrees in four main areas: Business, Education, Public Health, and Religion. It is operated by the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. Our mission is to develop leaders through distinctively Seventh-day Adventist graduate education, excelling in spirituality, scholarship, and service to the church and society.

AIIAS alumni serve as leaders in all six habitable continents and in all 13 world divisions of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, within the Adventist church as well as in the public and private sectors.



The Class of 2016 after the commencement program during the 100th Graduation Ceremony at the Siew Huy Auditorium

Graduation Flashback

AIIAS graduation at PUC Baesa

AIIAS graduation at the Finster Chapel of All Nations at AUP

Graduation at the AIIAS Gymnasium

P. D. Chung—first graduate of AIIAS in 1972

Wisdom From Worms

“The mediocre teacher tells. The good teacher explains. The superior teacher demonstrates. The great teacher inspires.” Those were the words of William Arthur Ward. This is perhaps the greatest need of students today: the need to be guided by great teachers who do not tell, explain, and impart knowledge but are able to impact, transform, and inspire students. For the public health students of AIIAS, Dr. Ayuka W. Oendo was that kind of teacher.

Seventeen students of a class on environmental health were challenged to ‘be better’ than who they were in their dealing with the

environment. Dr. Oendo made it clear that the objective of the class was to help the students become aware of the fact that they are stewards of God’s property and as such they should not just be aware of the challenges of their environment, but also how to use and take care of it. With such goals in mind, the class covered various topics from energy generation, waste management, and the impact of electronic-waste on the environment. They learned that every decision taken has an impact, whether they see it directly or indirectly. The students were surprised to find that they didn’t begin to fathom how much their actions impacted their habitat. The seed of change was already planted in their hearts and they were inspired to bring all those lessons learned from the cognitive to a practical level.

Professor Oendo took them on a class field trip to a zero-waste educational facility, a waste-management facility, and the local dumpsite. Upon returning to the classroom, you could sense restlessness as the students struggled to be content with learning theory only.

The students decided to propose a practical project instead that aligned with the subject of study for their final requirement of the class, which was accepted by Dr. Oendo. Subsequently, they organized themselves into two groups. One group focused on composting as a way of

utilizing what they had here at AIIAS and the other group dealt with waste management. After much research and discussion, the students finally came up with the idea of using worms in the composting process. They used two different types of worms: the African worm and the Australian blue worm. The ladies in the class even sat down and collected the worms one by one until they had around 850 worms. The group members were tasked to feed, shelter, and protect these numerous worms. It was not an easy task. The students faced a lot of challenges along the way such as lack of space, unexpected circumstances, and battling the elements.

Eventually, only about a quarter of the worms survived after three months. Regardless, the students never gave up. They remained patient, trusting in their teacher, classmates, and project believing that they could learn numerous lessons from this experience which they could apply to their personal lives. Students were amazed how their small project became something that could benefit their community. They learned to work together, be patient, learn from their failures, and most of all, make a positive impact on their surroundings. They thanked their professor and school leaders who played a big role in this project by giving them the opportunity to have such an amazing experience.

Looking back at their work, the students are satisfied with what they have achieved. Who would have thought that worms could teach so many lessons? This happened because one teacher decided to inspire instead of just tell. Imagine a learning facility where students can come and see first-hand on how nature is able to help us be good and responsible stewards of what God has entrusted to us.

► Nadine Rutaganzwa

AIIAS started out as a small institution with only a few students. The present campus in Lalaan 1, Silang, opened with six student towers that accommodated just over 40 students and their families. Today the AIIAS campus has seventeen student towers plus the student annex just across the street with its nine housing units.

Student enrollment trends have changed significantly in the past few years which has resulted in the need for additional safe and comfortable housing.

“The student body is growing and we always have the challenge of making sure that new students can occupy a housing unit once they arrive on campus,” says Vice President for Student Services, Dr. Bryan Sumendap. This has led AIIAS to build a new student tower every year for the past three years.

Another challenge that comes with growth is the need for more scholarship funds. AIIAS has greatly appreciated those who have supported student

Student Scholarship Tower Opens ► Bruce Sumendap

scholarships through the years but the need has increased far beyond existing scholarships.

Thus, a new idea was formed to meet the need for student housing while at the same time increasing scholarship funds. In May 2016, AIIAS inaugurated a student housing tower which will address both issues of housing and funding for scholarships. The “Student Scholarship Tower,” Tower Q, was inaugurated by the AIIAS Board, Administration, and Student Association leaders. The new tower was funded through a generous gift



Architect Augie de la Paz hands a key to the AIIAS president symbolizing the completion of the new tower.

from the Crocodile Foundation and offerings from the SSD and NSD, AIIAS Capital Funds, together with significant individual donors. Funding for the tower was provided with the understanding that the entire proceeds from the tower will be used for Student Scholarships.

“On behalf of AIIAS students, I want to say thank-you,” said AIIAS Student Association President, Alvaro Rodriguez. He expressed delight that this building will provide not only urgently needed student housing, but also urgently needed scholarships. Rodriguez said that this will enable even more missionaries to get their preparation to take the Gospel to the world.

The four-storey tower has 15 housing units with two bedrooms each. The tower is expected to generate enough funds to provide 16 tuition scholarships continuously.

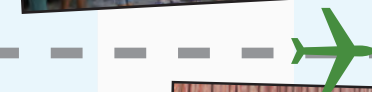


The Student Scholarship Tower looms over the attendees of the inauguration ceremony in May 5, 2016.

AIAS DATE LINE

AUGUST 2015 ABCD PROJECT

AIAS Public Health Department in collaboration with the Silang Municipality barangay officials conducted a Medical and Dental Mission in Biga 1, Purok 2. The program is just the onset of a long-term intervention partnership called AIAS-Biga Community Development (ABCD) to make a difference in the community members' lives. This is an entry project to establish good relationship with the residents of Purok 2. ABCD envisioned 5-10 years of community service beginning with a comprehensive (health) assessment or diagnosis that will end with an intervention based on their needs.



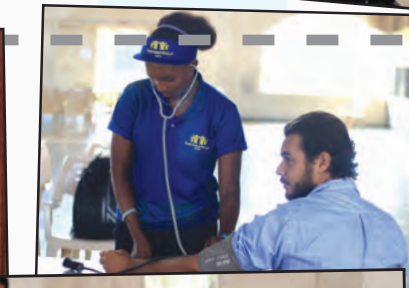
AUGUST 2015 – MAY 2016 SSC: SEASON 2

Sacred Concert Series comes back for season II twice the power of season I. Every first and third Saturday evenings of each month, various talented performers including choirs, orchestra, and string and wind instrumentalists from AIAS are featured. Some performers rendered songs and music in their own languages. The concerts are intended to foster spiritual reflection and prayer.



OCTOBER 2015 HEALTH EMPHASIS WEEKEND

The AIAS community celebrated the health festival weekend themed "Wholeness, Health, and Oneness" which is organized by the Public Health Department and AIAS Church Health Ministries Department. This program is held annually to encourage the community to have a healthy lifestyle. Various programs including lectures, fun games, child nutrition, health screening, fellowship, international buffet, exercise, and culinary class were packed in one weekend.



AUGUST 2015 SCHOLARSHIP TOWER GROUNDBREAKING

AIAS breaks ground for a scholarship tower that will provide on-campus housing for students while also providing scholarships for worthy students. Proceeds from the rent will fund scholarships. This will allow more students to continue their studies to better serve the church in their capacities.



SEPTEMBER 2015 SA WEEK OF PRAYER

The spiritual emphasis theme, "Faith of Our Fathers" encouraged the congregation to contemplate on the faith of 'our fathers.' During this Week of Prayer, attendees were divided into three groups during the morning session to ensure active participation. Everyone was urged to join in the discussion.



NOVEMBER 2015 CULTURAL NIGHT

The AIAS Cultural Night 2015 was themed #throwback2015: Highlights of World History. Based on the theme, each community presented a portion of their country or community's history through interpretative dance, music, and drama. Through the performances, the AIAS community learned more about each other's culture and history. The venue was filled of thrilled and excited spectators.



NOVEMBER 2015 THEOLOGICAL FORUM

The 18th Theological Forum focused on Ellen White's life and writings. Over 30 international presenters including the keynote speaker Dr. George R. Knight presented research and findings related to Ellen White's writings.

There were over 500 people who attended the event, which consisted of church leaders, pastors, teachers, laypersons, and university students.



NOVEMBER 2015 INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

The 16th International Conference on Business, Education, and Public Health covered various topics about wholeness, which included environmental crisis, vegetarian diet, and teaching and learning trends. More than 250 educators, researchers and practitioners came for the two-day event, which involved 38 presenters. The conference also became an opportunity to network with national and international experts.



JANUARY 2016 MINI OLYMPICS

Mini Olympics is one of the most awaited events of the year. Although there are regular schedule of sports activities in AIIAS, the mini-olympics is the most notable. This is when everyone on campus, students and personnel alike including their families join together for a friendly competition. Students and personnel momentarily 'suspend' their classes and work for a weekend of fun, sports, and fellowship.



JANUARY 2016 THESIS AND DISSERTATION WRITING RETREAT

Dr. Safary Wa-Mbaleka hosted a Thesis and Dissertation Writing Retreat. The event focused on helping the attendees to improve their writing and research planning skills and also to help them understand the processes involved in thesis and dissertation writing. The 55 participants who attended this seminar composed of AIIAS students and staff, and faculty and students from universities nearby.



MARCH 2016 100TH GRADUATION

AIIAS reached its 100th graduation! There were 141 graduates from 30 countries and 11 of the 13 world divisions of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. AIIAS was privileged to have two leaders of the world church speak during the graduation ceremony—Dr. Ella Simmons, chair of the AIIAS Board of Trustees and Vice President of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists; and Dr. Juan Prestol-Puesan, treasurer of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.



MARCH 2016 TED WILSON'S VISIT

AIIAS is privileged to have the GC President Ted Wilson preach during the Hour of Worship on March 19. He spoke about how AIIAS plays an important role for the church in a global scale, especially in training leaders for mission.



MAY 2016 SCHOLARSHIP TOWER INAUGURATION

Several months after its groundbreaking, Tower Q is ready for occupancy. This dormitory is called Scholarship Tower because the proceeds from the dormitory fees will help raise scholarship funds. The AIIAS President, Dr. Stephen Guptill, led the ribbon cutting during the opening ceremony.



JULY 2016 MISSION EMPHASIS WEEK

Mission emphasis week is an annual event at AIIAS wherein mission is emphasized and encouraged through testimonies, devotionals, and other activities. This year, a showcase of mission-filled experiences from different mission entities such as 1000 Missionary Movement, Philippine Frontier Missions, and Adventist Development and Relief Agency illustrated the great need for mission workers and challenges in the mission field. The goal of the event is to encourage the AIIAS community to be actively engaged in mission.



AUGUST 2016 DMISS INAUGURATION

The newest program in AIIAS—Doctor of Missiology—finally commenced after its inception in 2015. The first batch of DMiss students is composed of eight individuals coming from the Philippines, Indonesia, Brazil, Hong Kong, and Myanmar. The commencement of the new program is a historic moment for AIIAS as it is aligned with the strategic need of the world church—advancement of the Church's mission.



AUGUST 2016 WEEK OF PRAYER

Each year, two Week of Prayers are held on campus. This Week of Prayer focused about the change of character in preparation for the second coming of Christ as illustrated in the theme Maranatha! AIIAS community was urged to share about Christ's second coming and to help others prepare for this great event. A Bible transcription was also launched during the event as part of the week of prayer activity, which would serve as a reminder that through Bible transcription, anyone could be shaped according to God's ideals; through Bible transcription, anyone can learn more about God deeply and personally.

AUGUST 2016 NEW AIIAS FLAG DEBUT

A brand new AIIAS flag was introduced to the AIIAS students, faculty, and staff. This is the first official flag approved by the AIIAS board. The new flag was launched beginning with the marching of color guards; followed by the unfurling of the flag; and finally, with the hoisting of the flag. The short ceremony ended with a prayer of blessing for AIIAS.



The 19th Theological Forum to Focus on Archaeology

19th AIIAS Annual Theological Forum
November 10-12, 2016
 AIIAS, Lalaan I, Silang, Cavite

DIGGING *the* SCRIPTURES
Light on the Text Coming from the Past

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REGISTRATION FEE

	Early Bird	Late Registration
International Participants:	PhP 2,200 or US \$47	PhP 2,800 or US \$60
Students:	PhP 1,995	PhP 2,495
Professionals:	PhP 2,200	PhP 2,700

Note: All registrations are inclusive of three meals (lunch). Early bird discount ends on **October 10, 2016**.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER



DR. MICHAEL G. HASEL
 Director, Institute of Archaeology
 Co-Director, The Fourth Expedition to Lachish
 Professor, Near Eastern Studies & Archaeology
 Southern Adventist University



DR. SCOTT STRIPLING
 Director, Khirbet el-Muqattir and Shiloh Excavations
 Adjunct Professor
 Houston Baptist University



DR. ADOLFO ROITMAN
 Libeth & George Orya Curator of
 the Dead Sea Scrolls
 Head, Shrine of the Book
 The Israel Museum, Jerusalem



DR. CONSTANCE CLARK GANE
 Curator, Horn Archaeological Museum
 Co-Director, Madaba Plains Project/Jalil
 Associate Professor, Archaeology & Old Testament
 SDA Seminary, Andrews University

AIIAS theological forums have for years provided a wealth of great learning experiences. The forums aim to give numerous opportunities to explore topics of mutual interest in various areas of history, theology, and the Seventh-day Adventist church's distinctive beliefs. To present and discuss scholarly research papers is regarded as an integral part of these forums. The benefits of attending a theological forum are to provide the framework for a deeper biblical understanding and to foster spiritual growth.

The 19th AIIAS Annual Theological Forum promises to be a "historic event." We look forward to another memorable and thought-provoking forum. This year's forum will focus on archaeological study and interpretation of the Scriptures. Its core tenet will give a heavy emphasis on contextual biblical studies as a tool for rediscovering the past.

Biblical archaeology is a vital tool for the layman, historian, and biblical researcher. It places the biblical text in a more positive position. Archaeology can substantiate and enlighten the biblical setting and cultural background. This year's theological forum will focus on the biblical text from a historical and archaeological perspective and thus bring relevance to our modern understanding of the Scriptures. Additionally, it will provide an informed view of contextual biblical studies. In light of this, the title of the forum is, "Digging the Scriptures: Light on the Text Coming from the Past."

► Youssry Guirguis

What it feels to be at AIIAS for the first time...

► Lillete Brofas

Coming to AIIAS is probably one of the most important decisions a student can make. Being in a new place always means adjusting to a new environment, having new personal commitments, and learning new things. Whether students are sponsored by an organization or are self sponsored, there are always mixed feelings of worry, excitement, and determination.

We asked three of our new on-campus students to tell us what it feels to be at AIIAS for the first time. They are part of the group of 14 new students from 10 different countries that arrived last July 2016.

"I felt peace and calm when I arrived here on campus. Everyone greeted us with smiles and polite behavior. Moreover, on Sabbath I could hear songs of praise with musical instruments from everywhere. I thought that this is how Sabbath in heaven will be. I noticed that every church member is very active because many of them are pastors. I really felt that AIIAS church was full of energy."

— *Hirotami Amano, Japan*

"AIIAS was smaller than I thought it would be but I was very happy and impressed to see the diversity of the student body and faculty. I was excited to finally be here but I was also a little nervous because I didn't know what to expect or what would be expected of me since this was my first time attending an Adventist school."

— *Reyna Ligonde, USA*

"I had a good impression of AIIAS. I missed my flight coming here causing me to stay two days at the airport and arriving at AIIAS at midnight. I felt so relieved and good, looking at the environment, especially when I was given accommodation. I am happy to be at AIIAS. AIIAS is a place to dream."

— *Samuel Nwogu, Nigeria*

November 16-17, 2016
 AIIAS, Silang, Cavite, Philippines

Embracing Disruptive Innovations:
In Business, Education, and Health

17th AIIAS International Conference on Business, Education, and Public Health

IMPORTANT DATES
 Abstract Submission Deadline: **August 30, 2016**
 Full Paper Submission Deadline: **November 10, 2016**
 Early Bird Registration Deadline: **October 15, 2016**

SUBMIT ABSTRACTS TO:
 The AIIAS Graduate School Forum Reviewers Committee
 at conference2016@aiias.edu

KEYNOTE SPEAKER
Dr. Michael E. Cafferky, DBA, MDiv
 Southern Adventist University, Tennessee, USA

EARLY BIRD DISCOUNT & SPECIAL STUDENT RATE

	Regular conference Fee	PhP
Professionals:	PhP 3,000	
Students:	PhP 2,500	
	PhP 2,000	
	PhP 1,500	

Note: Early bird discount ends on **October 15, 2016**.

The 17th AIIAS International Conference is organized by the Graduate School of the Adventist International Institute of Advanced Studies (AIIAS). AIIAS is a Christian graduate school operated by the General Conference of the Seventh-day Adventist Church based in Maryland, USA. AIIAS is recognized as a graduate education institution of international character by the government of the Republic of the Philippines, as certified by the Commission of Higher Education (CHED). AIIAS has been granted PAASCU Level III Accreditation.

Are you ready to *change the world?*

Why wait?



DOCTOR OF MISSIOLOGY DOCTOR OF INTERCULTURAL STUDIES

The DMiss/DIS program is designed for leaders and professionals who are serving in cross-cultural mission settings. It will equip students with the ability to relate theology to different cultural and social contexts. The program is designed to be

completed in 4 years, spending only 4 weeks in residence at AIIAS campus every year. The program allows a student to actively network with 15-20 other cohort students who come from a diverse range of experience and mission expertise.

How to Apply

Complete an Application Form at
<http://www.aiias.edu/download/application.pdf>

To find out more, visit www.aiias.edu
or email us at dmiss@aiias.edu
or call us at +63 (46) 414-4357



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