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flags

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Graduate School and Seminary



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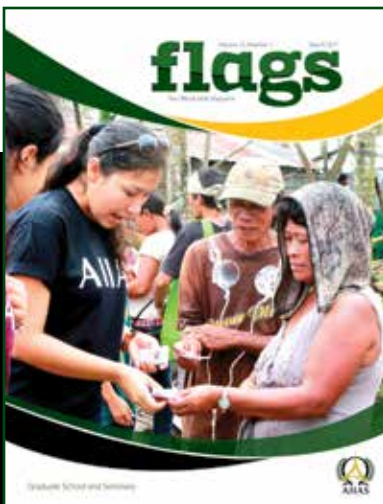
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About the Cover

Master of Public Health students reach out to village residents through community service such as distribution of goods and lectures in health, food preparation, and hygiene practices.

This is an opportunity for students to apply what they have learned in class.

Cover Design by *Miriam Carlos Pamula*

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ERRATA:

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Page 13, photo caption: For "P.D. Chung" read "P.D. Chun"

Page 23, author: For "Lillete Brofas" read "Lillete Brofas"

Service *in* Action

Every individual that comes to AIIAS—whether for education, work, or simply for fellowship—becomes connected to an international web of opportunities for networking, learning, and service.

A student becomes enriched as he or she embraces new knowledge from competent professors. Fellow students also share various worldviews and cultures. Those experiences make learning at AIIAS an adventure in itself.

However, integrating leadership or opportunities for service goes beyond the classroom setting. The AIIAS Graduate School has included a Service Learning component to assist and train students to

be quality leaders ready to serve the church and the global community.

In this issue, we will revisit the various programs and activities in AIIAS. An international conference, a theological forum, a new building project, the trend in the rising student enrollment, and many more. We will also read about the contributions of those who have chosen to make AIIAS their second home while managing back and forth the busy thoroughfare of academic life.

staff to go and share their blessings to the community. We will read stories about how they were able to share God's ministry to areas where His love is a need to be felt.

May this be a motivation for us to be determined to learn and live for God's glory. ■

—SHARNIE LOVE ZAMORA, RN



AIIAS encourages alumni, students, faculty, and



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AIIAS enrollment continues to grow in diversity and in number. On average, the total enrollment in each academic year increased by approximately 2% per year over the last 10 years. However, a much more dramatic trend can be seen in the increase in enrollment in doctoral programs.

Diversity

During the academic year 2015-2016, students continued to come from diverse backgrounds, and it is this diversity that makes AIIAS so culturally rich. About one-third of the students were from the Philippines, one-third from other parts of the two supporting divisions (Northern Asia-Pacific and Southern Asia-Pacific), and one-third from regions beyond. The 77 different countries (see Table 1) from which the students came represented every region of the world—all 13 world

AIIAS Student Enrollment

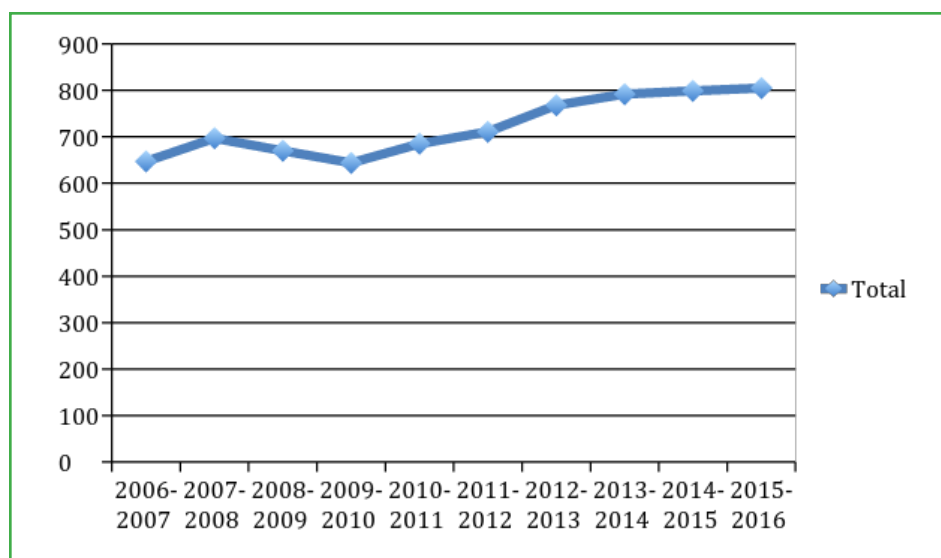


Figure. AIIAS Student Enrollment by Academic Year 2006-2016

Table 1
Regions and Countries of AIIAS Students

REGION	Number of Countries
Africa	24
The Americas	14
Australia and the Pacific	7
Europe	10
Middle East/South/Central Asia	10
Northern Asia	3
South East Asia	9
TOTAL	77

divisions of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Even so, the tremendous diversity provides valuable learning opportunities and most interesting experiences whether online, in the classroom, during discussion groups, or at the annual cultural program for those fortunate enough to study on the AIIAS campus. A small majority of the students (approximately 60%) study part-time, i.e., at Distance Learning Centers, as part of on-campus cohorts or through online learning.

Enrollment Trends

In 10 years, the enrollment of AIIAS increased from 647 to 805 (see Figure). This represents a 2% yearly increase on average and a 23% increase overall. The most dramatic change, however, was in the enrollment of doctoral students where the numbers increased by 263% (from 89 in 2005-2006 to 234 in the academic year 2015-2016). Interestingly, the previous 10-year period saw a 241% increase (i.e., from 37 in 1995-1996). ■

— DOLF OBERHOLSTER

As the student enrollment and academic programs have expanded at AIIAS, so have the number of faculty. Three new faculty positions were added at the last board meeting. There were two additional positions for the Seminary and one for the Graduate School.

No additional faculty housing units have been built since the early years. Currently, almost all AIIAS faculty housing units are occupied, and there is a critical need for more. At this time, the greatest need is for 4-bedroom units for larger families.

Because AIIAS faculty are very diverse and come from many different countries, securing housing off-campus is difficult.

On-campus housing is ideal because it is a safe place for the children, there is easy access to the library and classrooms, and it is easy to meet students for advisement and fellowship.

The plans to construct two faculty duplexes were announced on October 24, 2016. AIIAS is blessed with forward-thinking leaders who purchased a plot of land along the south side of the campus that provides the ideal location for new faculty duplexes.



Duplexes under construction that will provide four additional housing units for faculty.

AIIAS Development PROJECTS

The AIIAS administration and Board voted to proceed with these urgently needed faculty homes, and construction has begun. The project should be completed by the end of April, in time for opening ceremonies during the AIIAS Board on May 4, 2017.

There are other urgent needs at AIIAS. There is a need for an additional well and water tank to support the expanding campus. Student housing is completely full, and there is an urgent need for another student-housing tower with 3-bedroom units. In addition, AIIAS has an old van that is no longer

dependable for longer trips to Manila. This van needs replacement. So AIIAS has many needs for development that have come as a result of its expanding programs and student body.

To help fund these projects, AIIAS is seeking generous alumni friends who have a vision for service and a desire to develop leadership by financially supporting these projects. If you would enjoy having a part, kindly contact Dr. Guptill at president@aaias.edu. ■

—STEPHEN GUPTILL

I love the diversity of AIIAS and I cherish the days visiting exotic places in the Distance Learning Centers.

PHOTO CREDIT: STEPHEN GUPTILL

Stephen Guptil and wife Peggy with alumni in Kigali, Rwanda.

Alumni *Share* Memories About AIIAS

An AIIAS alumni reunion means reconnecting and reminiscing about the past. It is also an opportunity to cherish old friendships and build new ones. But more than that, an AIIAS reunion is a time to celebrate the God-given gift of service.

AIIAS alumni are all over the world serving in churches, schools, and private and government organizations. Wherever they go, they carry a sense of pride toward their alma mater. This sentiment is clearly evident during the past two alumni gatherings last December 2016 in the United States and Rwanda.

Thirty-two alumni attended the AIIAS alumni reunion on December 22, 2016 in Riverside Indonesian Seventh-day Adventist Church, Mira Loma, California.

Former faculty, Dr. John Jones, shared a devotional on the meaning of Christmas. "Jesus is the greatest

gift that cost all heaven. Let us celebrate Christmas by opening our doors to Him. Let us invite him into our hearts and our lives by accepting His grace, deliverance and forgiveness," reminded Dr. Jones who first taught in the Theological Seminary in January of 1979.

Alumni, including former administrators and faculty, introduced themselves one after the other. "We have good feelings about AIIAS. May it grow much more," said Obed Khan, the first graduate of the Education Specialist program.

Sarmun Kartagi, a recipient of the Chan Shun Scholarship fund, expressed his deep gratitude for the help he had received. "I love AIIAS, and I hope to visit it again."

Hedrick Edwards, former Public Health professor, was delighted to see former students in the meeting. "I love the diversity of AIIAS and I cherish the days visiting exotic places in the Distance Learning Centers."

Hendrik Sumendap, who completed his MA and MDiv from the Seminary, said he's proud that all his children are presently serving his beloved alma mater.

Then there was Jonathan Kuntaraf, the first MDiv graduate of 1977 in the then Balintawak campus. Since the 1990s, he has frequently taught classes for AIIAS. His wife, Kathleen, was the first MPH graduate.

Edgar Lloren talked about how his training in public health helped him to successfully develop a strategic plan for a hospital in Davao City in the Philippines.

John Pesulima, former AIIAS president, together with his wife Lies, shared about God's

John Jones



leading in the early months of the present AIIAS campus. "AIIAS has grown so much since those days when we used our bedroom as a classroom for the first batch of business students," she fondly recalled.

Paoring Ragui, who recently retired from AIIAS, organized the meeting. For me, as Public Relations director, I was glad to present updates about AIIAS. Everyone enjoyed a variety of national dishes that truly replicates a typical potluck in AIIAS.

On two separate occasions, six attendees came to the Dominican Republic alumni gathering while 12 attendees came to Kigali, Rwanda, where

able to meet many international friends and professors that became like family to him. "AIIAS is a very good place. I received a high quality education from qualified teachers, and I am grateful to God," he added.

"I was very much impressed by the AIIAS alumni. I can see how God has blessed AIIAS by allowing us to be instruments in training leaders. Many are in significant leadership positions, and I am impressed by the impact that they carry out to the world," said Dr. Guptill as he recalled meeting alumni from Rwanda and from various places during his trips.



Bruce Sumendap with alumni and families during the alumni reunion in Riverside, Southern California, USA.

they were met by AIIAS president, Dr. Stephen Guptill, and his wife Peggy. They reminisced memories during their time at AIIAS. They also viewed photos and videos of AIIAS as they shared a meal together.

Ndahayo Claver, who completed his PhD in Education, described his most memorable experience at AIIAS as being

I look forward to hearing more encouraging stories from our beloved alumni around the world. Just to know firsthand how their presence and services impact the communities they serve fills my heart with admiration and gratitude. ■

—BRUCE SUMENDAP



Alumni in Dominican Republic.

Alumni Connection

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

email us at flags@aiaas.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.aiaas.edu and on Facebook: www.facebook.com/aiaas.

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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New AIIAS

Nationalities

AIIAS is filled with people who come from various countries around the world. Though moving to a new place may be challenging, it is a special time when new students come from countries that have not yet been represented in the history of the total student population.

We interviewed two new students who are the first representatives of their countries to study and join the AIIAS community.

NAOMI BOOIA, a Kiribati national, is taking up Master of Arts in Religion. She has a degree in Bachelor of Arts in Theology.

How and when did you first hear about AIIAS?

I heard about AIIAS when I was at Fulton College in 2009 (my first year in college) from my lecturers—Mrs. Romina Lata Masih, Pr. Younis Masih, and Dr. Ronald Stone, who are alumni of AIIAS.

What motivated you to come to AIIAS?

I believe that it is by God's grace that I am here. It has always been my prayer that one day I will continue my studies. Coming to AIIAS is not just a simple answer to my prayer. It is a blessing that will change my life forever.

How have you and your family adjusted?

We come from a very small country with a very small population. It is a big change for us moving to this country with lots of people from around the world. We discover so many new things and ideas while living here at AIIAS. Coming to AIIAS is an adventure for us.

How would you describe your stay here in AIIAS?

Upon arrival, we were welcomed by many kind and loving people here on campus. The South Pacific community made us feel that we are not total strangers here. We are enjoying our stay here. AIIAS has become our home. I am sad that one day I will leave all of this behind and move on.

If given a chance to invite people from your country to come to AIIAS, what would you tell them?

I know that AIIAS is far and that coming here might be impossible. That is exactly how I felt the first time I heard about this place. Going through all the trouble to get myself and my family here is the best decision ever. AIIAS makes everything worth it. You can never be a stranger here. You will always get a chance to meet old friends and most importantly make new ones.



Kiribati
Nationals

PERCY STEVE POINTE, from Seychelles, is taking up Master of Divinity. He has a degree in Bachelor of Arts in Education.

“Almost a year and a half ago, we set foot in AIIAS and we can say that it has been the best decision we have ever taken as a family. In a nutshell, AIIAS is the best thing that has ever happened to us. We believe our coming here was orchestrated by God and our experience here unwraps this reality every single day we spend on this beautiful campus,” said Percy Steve Pointe.

How and when did you first hear about AIIAS?

We were introduced to AIIAS in the midst of our search for an ideal place. We had received admissions from a few other places such as France and the United Kingdom, but we were not at peace because we felt that we had not yet found the right school. One day, while talking to someone who had studied at Mission College in Thailand, we were told that AIIAS is the “Andrews University of Asia” and we thought, *Maybe we should consider going there.* Right then, we felt that God had answered our prayers.

What motivated you to come to AIIAS?

After watching some AIIAS videos and going through its programs online, we fell in love with AIIAS, and we were convinced that it was the right place. One aspect that struck us was the motto “a heart for mission,” which we really wanted to experience. Since we arrived, we have been living this moment of truth because AIIAS is so special. Words are inadequate

to describe such an experience. Our motivation was not only based on the beautiful campus, but also on the philosophy of the institution, which is committed to preparing men and women for the mission field.

How have you and your family adjusted?

The Philippines and Seychelles share almost the same kind of weather and the same staple food—rice and fish. We really feel at home here. We like the Filipinos for their jovial attitude. It is delightful to observe how they laugh at everything—from someone being hit by a coconut to falling from a bike. We are glad to have been able to visit a few places, Puerto Galera being our favorite.

Staying in a multicultural atmosphere is something we have welcomed with open hearts. We are able to mix with all communities because the spirit goes beyond the origin of birth, skin color, or language. We acknowledge

that the love of Christ is a magnet that pulls all His children together.

How would you describe your stay here in AIIAS?

AIIAS is a safe place that is conducive for children and adults to build friendship. We really like the support we get from the faculty and staff, as well as the persons who have a kind heart, who always find ways and means to help.

If given a chance to invite people from your country to come to AIIAS, what would you tell them?

We have invited many people from our country to visit the Philippines and AIIAS. As the first family to come to AIIAS from Seychelles, we are certain that many more families will be joining us this year and even more so in the coming years. If we have to do it all over again, we would still choose AIIAS. ■

—LILETTE BROFAS

Seychelles Nationals

My AIIAS Experience

Having grown up outside the Seventh-day Adventist Church, I found Christ through an Adventist high school that motivated me to have a closer relationship with God. Since then, I became a teacher, and teaching in an SDA school has drawn me closer to Christ. All the students that I taught showed an appreciation for Him as well.

I chose to come to AIIAS because I was looking for a Christ-centered institution. I explored many other universities in the Caribbean, but I couldn't find what I was looking for. During the General Conference session in 2015, I visited

of things to a completely different setting. I am learning to overcome it as the days go by and with the help of my professors and friends who have embraced me and assisted me in coping and dealing with my challenges.

In the AIIAS Graduate School, my experience has been tremendous. The professors are from all over the world, and they can identify and empathize with me which makes things a whole lot easier. They show that they care about their students as they guide us in a way that we are able to truly understand what is expected of our performance, making the experience worthwhile.

As the students of AIIAS are from different countries, the experiences that

The things we learn in class have impacted me greatly as I am able to look at things from an international perspective.

the education booths I saw the AIIAS booth in a corner. There, I met friendly people who persuaded me to come to AIIAS.

My AIIAS experience is somewhat challenging as I transitioned from the western view

we share during class are enriching. The things we learn in class have impacted me greatly as I am able to look at things from an international perspective. This holistic view has helped me in understanding the true purpose of education. Before any class session begins, we always have a devotional



PHOTO CREDIT: YEARBOOK

message. We reflect upon how God has helped us throughout our experiences in life. Truly, Christ is at the forefront of this institution.

AIIAS has helped me to develop leadership skills that I'm looking forward to apply when I graduate and go back to my country. I have learned so much here at AIIAS that I am willing to share what I've learned with my colleagues, and even to the community at large, as many do not have the chance to experience what I have learned. Knowledge is something that one should not just keep for oneself. It must be shared.

Are you considering of pursuing your post-graduate studies? Do you want to come to a place where Christ will lead you? Come to AIIAS! It is not simply a small school in the Philippines. It is a big school with vast ideas. Coming to AIIAS will make your experience worthwhile. ■

—DWANE BRENT SYLVESTER

Dwane Brent Sylvester comes from the twin island country of Trinidad and Tobago. He is a current student in the Master of Arts in Education with emphasis in Curriculum and Instruction.

I first heard of AIIAS when Dr. Laurent Kasay, an alumnus of AIIAS, came to serve as vice rector for academics for Lukanga University (UNILUK). Being a student there, I observed Dr. Kasay closely. I noticed that there was something different about him—something positively different. So, I approached him and asked where he studied. He told me he graduated from AIIAS. I thought to myself that AIIAS seemed like a great school, so I browsed online to see the campus and what courses it offers.

At that time, I could not speak English. I couldn't have all the information that I needed about AIIAS but because I had talked to Dr. Kasay, AIIAS became my dream.

I had considered to study in Canada because I wouldn't have a problem with the language. French is their primary language, and it is also the official language in the Democratic Republic of

Congo. However, the language barrier didn't stop me from going to AIIAS. Even if AIIAS uses the English language as a mode of instruction, I challenged myself that I should learn the language so that I would succeed.

As I graduated from college, I told my family that I wanted to pursue my post-graduate studies at AIIAS. I prayed and asked God to choose the school for me. Upon arriving in the Philippines, I went from one institution to another just to find out

field trips. One time, we visited the stock exchange companies. We also went to the working field and gained experiences while learning from other people. We also had investment training. We not only learned from a theoretical setting, but we were also exposed to the practical setting, truly preparing us for the work to come.

AIIAS has a Service Learning component, which consists of 100 hours spent in community service. My program is Master of Business

How AIIAS Has Made Me *Who I Am Today*

where God wanted me to pursue my education. After a lengthy wait of 3 months without any admission, one professor from AIIAS asked me about my plans for post-graduate studies. He motivated me to study here at AIIAS. Within a day, I was able to talk to the chair of the Business Department and begin the admission process.

AIIAS is an amazing place. The lessons I've learned from AIIAS have changed me spiritually and intellectually. I was able to learn a new language. It has equipped me to face the advanced areas of study. AIIAS has helped me to know what I need to focus on to attain what I aim for.

The professors from the AIIAS Graduate School motivate their students. They teach us to build relationships and create networks with other business opportunities around the world. We had

Administration with emphasis in Business Management and Information Technology. So, I applied my knowledge and worked closely with the AIIAS Information Technology Department. I have also adopted a business back home. The business has grown profitably, thanks to what I have learned at AIIAS.

As each person has a DNA, AIIAS has its own unique DNA of Christian values. Studying in AIIAS gives one a competitive advantage—being exposed to an international setting. If you want good education, come to AIIAS. ■

—ELIAS KAMBALE KITAGHENDA



Elias Kambale Kitaghenda comes from the Democratic Republic of Congo. He is a student in the Master of Business Administration program of the AIIAS Graduate School.



Residents of Baran community service

Service Learning

AIIAS has a mission to develop leaders who are service-oriented. However, not everything can be learned in the classroom setting. AIIAS encourages students to go out and apply what they have learned theoretically into skills that serve the diverse members of the community.

Service Learning is a teaching and learning strategy that integrates meaningful community service with instruction and reflection to enrich the learning experience, teach civic responsibility, and strengthen communities.¹

Through Service Learning, students are able to implement theories, models, and strategies related to their field of study. It is also an opportunity to learn and enhance professional skills.

The Service Learning requirement consists of 100 hours that is spent in community service, church-related organizations, schools, health-related institutions, business firms, governmental or non governmental entities, and the general public at large.²

It can be accomplished through the following, but not limited to, volunteering in community service, participating in field education like mentoring or teaching in a school, conducting a seminar or workshop, presenting in a conference, or engaging in internship programs for vocational development.

References:

¹ Frederick Oberholster, ed., *Academic Bulletin* (Cavite, Philippines, AIIAS, 2016), 60.

² Ibid., 61.



ngay Biga in Silang Municipality benefited from
ces rendered by AIIAS.

What are the benefits of Service Learning to Students and Faculty?

According to Dr. Kenneth Swansi, chair of the Business Department, "Service Learning is integrating classroom theory with meaningful community service. For example, after learning supply chain management in class, the students go to Silang market and assist the fish vendors to develop more efficient supply logistics. It basically links the classroom learning to community problem solving. Through service learning, students:

1. Do community service
2. Learn the subject matter
3. Reflect on what they did and learned
4. Develop communication skills
5. Seriously think of personal and career interests
6. Get the feeling of usefulness and self-worth
7. Appreciate civic responsibility
8. Become a responsible citizen
9. 'Go on God's errands!'" ■



The AIIAS Health Festival Weekend is traditionally an annual 3-day event by the AIIAS Public Health Department. This event is held as an encouragement to the members of the community to improve their lifestyles. It also serves as a reminder on the importance of living a healthier and happier life.

The students of the Health Ministries class of 2016, under the guidance of the faculty of the Public Health Department, reviewed data from the previous AIIAS Health Festival Weekends. The data revealed that the health behaviours of the participants were modified as the program ended. Previously, the programs were designed to improve awareness, knowledge, and the initial motivation of the participants. This year, they decided to also focus on sustaining change.

Stop *Saying* I Wish, Start *Saying* I WILL!

With that in mind, the class proposed a project that focused on empowering people to change their lifestyle behavior. "It's easy to learn to exercise 3 times a week but it is much more difficult to make you wish to exercise or like to exercise regularly," said Dr. Cesar Galvez, chair of the AIIAS Public Health Department.

By collaborating with the AIIAS Church Health Ministries, the class ran a 6-week program called "*Stop saying I wish, Start saying I WILL*," which was designed to allow the students to work with each of the participants. They encouraged them to take charge of their health and established improved modification by teaching them various skills in food preparation, wholesome natural diet, and regular physical exercise.

The participants were provided with an initial health assessment before they were coached by the members of the class, along with other volunteers from the exercise group, who led each morning and evening in the exercise routine around the campus. The participants were classified into different categories: *beginner* for those who start off by walking, *intermediate* for aspiring joggers, *advanced* for aspiring runners, and *regular* for those who were already on a running routine prior to the program. >>>

...continued on page 14

Stop Saying I Wish...continued from page 13

PHOTO CREDIT: MPH



Public Health students offer advice to the participants of health screening during the lifestyle change program.

» A guest lecturer, Dr. Carrie Beets, shared with the participants the benefits of salads, carbohydrates, and fruits. The class members guided the participants how to prepare rainbow-like, colorful salads with gourmet dressings, deliciously flavorful whole grain dishes, and endorphin-boosting fruit-based desserts.

The participants were invited to an exit health assessment. They were also invited to the celebrations on October 28-30, 2016. They were treated to a special weekend where they learned about the foundations of the Adventist health message. They also listened to an inspiring message on *Finishing the Race* by the SSD Health Ministries Director, Dr. Ma. Rizaline Alfano. Those who came enjoyed an international selection of healthy gourmet food at a community potluck and explored topics such

as *Our Amazing Brain, Live up to 122 Years and 165 Days*, and *How to Create New Behaviors* with Dr. Galvez.

The weekend concluded with a graduation ceremony. Testimonies were shared and prizes were awarded to the most improved male and female participants, who shed approximately 52cm and 14cm off their hips besides the kilograms that came with it.

“This program has changed my perspective on what I am able to do. It enabled me to take charge of the different areas in my life and health through exercise, food preparation workshops, and personal coaching. The

coaches motivated me to reach my best as I saw them apply what they asked us to do in their own lives,” remarked Momoi Sausau, the most improved female participant of the program.

“I have not exercised since graduating from college in 1996. I reached my biggest and heaviest when I arrived in the Philippines in 2016. I could not bring myself to venture out of my home because I did not fit into any of the clothes that I brought with me and was embarrassed about my size. However, these feelings changed when I joined the program and I felt comfortable among many other like-minded individuals. Today, I am much more confident to head out shopping for

“This program has changed my perspective on what I am able to do.”

clothes. I am now able to play multiple back-to-back full court basketball games instead of struggling to finish 15 minutes of one game,” said Lareta Titau, the most improved male participant of the program.

Even after the program, those individuals who signed up for the program continue to enjoy the results of their newfound health as manifested by a significant improvement in their cardiovascular fitness, hip and waist measurement, weight, blood pressure, and quality of life. ■

—DARREL WAH & CESAR GALVEZ

flags | March 2017

Public Health students demonstrated how to prepare healthy food.

PHOTO CREDIT: MPH



Children greet the audience of the AIIAS cultural night while they showcase their national costumes.



PHOTO CREDIT: BENJAMIN CHAY

“While it is well enough to leave footprints on the sands of time, it is even more important to make sure they point in a commendable direction.” These are the words of an American author, James Branch Cabell.

Footprints: A Legacy for the Future was the theme of the AIIAS Cultural Night held on November 20, 2016. AIIAS is filled with a variety of people from other nations who carry with them different cultures and traditions. An annual program is organized by the Student Association to celebrate international diversity in a show of talents from representatives from different countries.

This year’s event was unique compared to the previous years’ because it featured an international food fair, where the communities showcased their country’s unique and tasty treats.

The Siew Huy auditorium was lit up with spectacular lights and filled with people who were excited to watch the uniqueness of AIIAS and its diverse range of culture. The audience witnessed a little of everything from those who represented their culture and country.

The presentations were well represented by the communities from Africa, Europe, South America, South Asia, and the

Leaving a *Legacy* Through *Footprints*

South Pacific, as well as those from the countries of China, Indonesia, Myanmar, South Korea, and the Philippines. Each depicted an extraordinary presentation of acts of human kindness, enduring heritage, religious foundations, traditional folk music, and spectacular folk dances.

“All the presentations were so interesting that I developed myself a checklist of countries that I am going to visit someday,” said Princy Razafimahasolo, a student from Madagascar.

A photo booth at the lobby entrance was arranged so people could take photographs with the participants in their stunning cultural outfits. This booth acted as a platform for the community members from different countries to come together and take pictures that would leave a trace of footprints in the pages of their lives.

At the end of the program, everyone proceeded to the AIIAS Function Hall

to taste and enjoy the food that was attractively arranged and presented. Each community supported the food fair as they prepared some of their best delicacies. As the Function Hall was filled, more people were seen lining up outside the hall waiting to come in and enjoy the tasty food.

“The event left me feeling proud to belong to such a diverse yet united family. It exceeded my expectations, and I am excitedly looking forward to next year,” said Reyna Ligonde, a student from the United States of America.

The AIIAS Student Association worked hard for the success of the program. More so, the program reflected the essence of the diverse culture of AIIAS. A legacy was surely left behind as one of the best cultural nights over the years. ■

—HAMENGAMON KHARSYNNIANG



The AIIAS 17th Graduate School International Conference held on November 16 and 17, 2016 was marked by the diversity of ideas that were presented from the field of Business, Education, and Health on the theme—*Embracing Disruptive Innovations*.

The Business Department under the leadership of Dr. Kenneth Swansi was in charge of organizing the conference. In coming up with the theme, the department used the definition of Clayton Christensen, a Harvard professor. He defines “disruptive innovation” as “the process by which new ideas unexpectedly displace an established world order.”

There were three plenary sessions: Dr. William Green and Dr. Rita Henriquez-Green emphasized the knowledge that was of most worth—traditional discovery research that includes integrated, application, and curriculum development; Dr. Cesar Galvez, Dr. Chirlynor Calbayan, Dr. Maria Vallejos, and Kepha Pondi determined the influence of knowledge and attitude on lifestyle practices among Seventh-day Adventists—a study representing the findings from 1,459 Adventist believers in Manila; Dr. William Andress, an associate professor of Health Sciences from La Sierra University, Riverside, California, United States, presented Disruptive Aging—deriving principles from the Bible for longevity and improving the quality of life—a session where most of the participants enjoyed the laughter therapy and discussing disruptive

Embracing DISRUPTIVE Innovations

The keynote speaker, Dr. Michael Cafferky, is the Ruth McKee Chair for Entrepreneurship and Business Ethics at Southern Adventist University, Collegedale, Tennessee, United States. He emphasized biblical themes and how they possess the power to become the most disruptive technology in the universe. He discussed these themes—the Sabbath, Shalom, the Covenant, and many others—and the transformative power these themes have in our relationships whether they be in our professional or private spheres when practiced accordingly.

principles for aging well. These sessions were described as eye opening, interesting, and thought provoking.

The conference ended with Dr. Samuel Gaikwad and Dr. Sunia Fukofuka engaging the audience in a conversation on disruptive innovations. They challenged the audience to think about educational processes, the obsolescence of schools, the format of comprehensive exams, and the resilience required to weather the turbulence that is an inevitable part of disruptive innovations.

Those who attended the conference were 254 participants from 21 different countries. They represented more than 28 universities and colleges. There was one keynote session, three plenary sessions, and 54 presentations in 10 concurrent sessions. Some of the attendees commented, “I was amazed because it was great here.” “I was

inspired to continue my research because of this conference.” “Excellent logistics. AIIAS professors did an excellent job in their presentations.”

Dr. William Green, the conference convener, remarked that this year’s conference and its theme would be challenging to institutions of higher learning because these institutions tend to be more conservative in nature. Thus, to be able to trade new ideas that can foster change in these institutions, administrators should be willing to bring about some needed changes. Of the 150 participants who filled in the conference evaluations, 138 of them (92%) were committed to embrace disruptive innovation in the workplace.

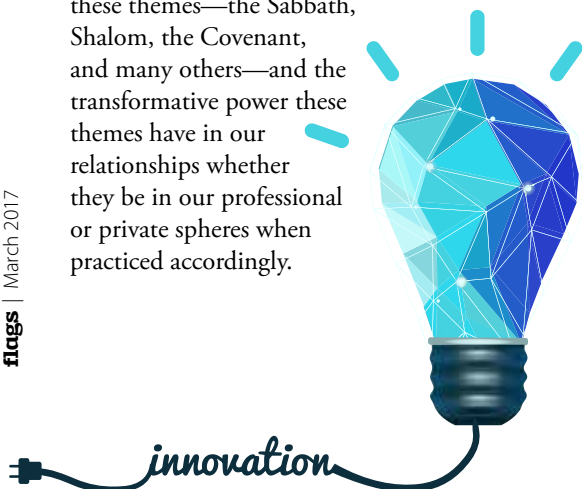
It was a joy to see the conference unite students, staff, faculty, and administrators—working together under the power of the Holy Spirit to make the conference a success. Events such as these allow opportunity to network, collaborate, learn, and showcase AIIAS and its mission to the world.

Based on the responses of the attendees, 130 participants (84%) committed themselves to attend the AIIAS 18th iConference which will be led by the Education Department next year. ■

—SUNIA FUKOFUKA

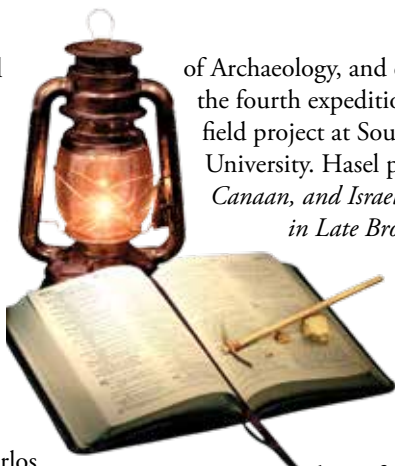


PHOTO CREDIT: YEARBOOK



DIGGING the Scriptures

The 19th AIIAS Annual Theological Forum themed *Digging the Scriptures—Light on the Text Coming from the Past* was held on November 10-12, 2016, dedicated to focus on archaeological study and biblical interpretation as a tool for rediscovering ancient history.



of Archaeology, and co-director of the fourth expedition to Lachish field project at Southern Adventist University. Hasel presented *Egypt, Canaan, and Israel: A Perspective in Late Bronze Age*

Interconnections.

Hasel challenged attendees to look at Scriptures through the lens of archaeology as

he addressed the case of Khirbet Qeiyafa, a biblical site located in Israel. He raised an important point that “while Jerusalem and Hebron remain problematic in light of many of the issues, Khirbet Qeiyafa provides significant data from the early kingdom of Judah.” Hasel urged the audience to consider the unique connections between archaeology, history, and prophecy as the three concepts are intertwined.

Joining him were three other archaeology experts: Dr. Adolfo Roitman, author of several books, curator of the Dead Sea Scrolls, and head of the Shrine of the Book at the Israel Museum, Jerusalem; Dr. Scott Stripling, director of the Khirbet el-Maqatir Excavation; and Dr. Constance Clark Gane, associate professor of Archaeology and Old Testament, associate director of the Institute of Archaeology, and curator of the Siegfried H. Horn Archaeological Museum at Andrews University.

These distinguished scholars discussed the impact of archaeology and how it has enlightened the biblical text. The other presenters from



Dr. Constance Clark Gane

the AIIAS Theological Seminary also shared their views and studies related to archaeology. Like Hasel, they admonished the audience to view Scriptures in light of archaeological evidence to enhance their understanding of the biblical setting and cultural background.

One of the highlights of the event was a display of original, stone-carved artifacts, some recreated in resin cast which were dug up in various archaeological locations.

The 300 attendees at the forum were students, faculty, church pastors, teachers, and leaders.

Come and join the upcoming 20th Annual AIIAS Theological Forum that will be hosted by the Historical-Theological Studies Department on November 9-11, 2017 for the celebration of the 500th anniversary of Christian Reformation. Visit www.aiias.edu for further announcements.

The 3-day conference was prepared under the leadership of Dr. Carlos Mora, Dr. Teofilo Correa, and Dr. Eike Mueller, faculty of the AIIAS Theological Seminary. ■

—YOUSSEY GUIRGUIS



Dr. Michael Hasel

The second annual preaching lectureship was held on January 19-21, 2017, featuring Dr. Hyveth Williams, who is the director of as well as professor of preaching at Andrews University. She is a distinguished woman who has served with distinction in a variety of posts in the denomination, most recently for 13 years as the senior pastor of the Campus Hill Church at Loma Linda University. She also holds the distinction of being the first non-Episcopalian to receive the prestigious Fellowship from the Episcopal College of Preachers, National Cathedral, Washington, D.C.

Dr. Williams highlighted how one of the chief problems in the denomination is poor preaching. Pastors have a responsibility not only to preach quality biblical sermons, but also to train church leaders how to communicate God's Word. She shared many personal experiences from her rich experience in pastoral ministry. In addition to talking about preaching, she offered practical advice, step-by-step, on how to develop powerful biblical sermons. Pastors must never surrender to mediocrity when it comes to preaching God's Word.

The need for preaching biblical messages, argued Williams, was that such preaching must be always culturally sensitive. The authority



Williams *Preaches for* 2nd Annual Preaching Lectureship

derived in sharing God's Word does not come from shouting or impressing people with the latest fads. It comes, instead, by anchoring the sermon in the authority of Scripture. "When you know you have the authority, you don't have to prove it," she said. She furthermore urged that we need "to stop showing images of Jesus as Caucasian." She cautioned that preachers need to think of ways to share Jesus in new cultural contexts, especially here in Asia where there are many Muslims, to explain Jesus to them in a way that makes sense.

Another challenge for pastors, counseled Williams, was how the "Sabbath is the worst day for pastors." Part of preaching fresh, relevant messages is making sure that each preacher is able to grow spiritually. Unfortunately, much of worship tends to be "human-centered instead of God-centered." With seemingly impossible expectations, she urged pastors that the most important practice for preaching is derived from having a living encounter with God. She urged pastors, since they are often so busy on Sabbath, to make sure to take

additional time out during the week for personal worship and devotions.

Dr. Williams covered a wide plethora of topics related to preaching during her visit to AIIAS. After the preaching lectureship, she then modeled on Friday evening for vespers, as well as during the divine worship hour at AIIAS Church, to an auditorium that was seen as the most packed that anyone could remember in recent memory.

This annual lectureship was made possible through the partnership of AIIAS with the Southern Asia-Pacific Division, the Northern Philippine Union Conference, and the Central Luzon Conference. The goal is to provide a venue for students as well as pastors in the field to give them an opportunity to hone their communication skills in the promulgation of God's Word. ■

—MICHAEL W. CAMPBELL

AIIAS is presently home to the National Broadcast Center of the Hope Channel Philippines. This Center is where the programs are recorded. These programs allow the gospel to be broadcasted throughout Asia via satellite and often live streamed from AIIAS campus.

A memorandum of agreement was signed earlier this year by the AIIAS administration and the Hope Channel Philippines. This agreement enabled Hope Channel Philippines' main production studio to use the AIIAS Media Center.

"It is an honor for AIIAS to host the Hope Channel at AIIAS. We've been praying for this for so

many years. We praise God that this dream has come to reality," announced Dr. Stephen Guptill, AIIAS president, during the Hope Channel Philippines Convention on October 15, 2016.

Hope Channel Philippines launched the uplink to a new satellite called GSat, also known as Global Satellite, the footprint of satellites across Asia. This satellite allows direct television viewing across the Philippines and various countries including China, Mongolia, Japan, South Korea, Taiwan, Malaysia, Sri Lanka, Myanmar, and Pakistan.

Pastor Nelson Paulo, president of Hope Channel Philippines, stated, "We continue to

pray that we will be able to address the need of the 10/40 window in the Southern Asia-Pacific regions." The 10/40 window is a geographical area located 10 and 40 degrees north of the equator. It is claimed to have the highest level of socio-economic challenges and very minimal access to the gospel message.

"I believe what Jesus said that this gospel of the kingdom will be preached as a witness to all nations and then the end will come," said Dr. Derek Morris, president of Hope Channel International. "God is preparing a way for everyone to hear the gospel to go to the whole world so that soon Jesus will come. Even so, come Lord Jesus." ■

—SHARITE LOVE ZAMORA



AIIAS and Hope Channel Ties for TV Outreach

Hope Channel is a Christian television network with more than 40 channels around the world. It gives individuals the ability to share God's ministry through music, testimonies, discussions, and to spread the word of God by means of media.

NEWS 19

Excitement arose as students and faculty and their family members got together for a weekend of adrenaline-pumping sports and fun—an event called the AIIAS Mini-Olympics.

This year's Mini-Olympics was held on January 27-29, with the theme, *Completing the Race*.

The weekend was graced with rain but that did not stop the games from happening. In fact, the cool weather made it quite suitable for players and cheerers alike.

The AIIAS community came with their colored shirts and cheering props. Everyone was anticipating the thrill brought about by a break from class work. The community was divided into four teams: Black, Blue, Gray, and Red.

The event was officially opened in the afternoon of January 26, 2017, following the Mini-Olympics flame relay around AIIAS campus. "This torch symbolizes the spirit of sportsmanship that we all should carry in order for us to finish the race," declared Dr. Bryan Sumendap, vice president of student services, as he raised the flaming torch and lit the cauldron.

The Mini-Olympics consisted of major games: namely, basketball and volleyball for men's and women's division. There were also racket sports of badminton, lawn tennis, and table tennis. For those who preferred mental

stimulation over physical sports, there was chess that challenged representatives from each team.

An Olympic event is not complete without races and other field games. Hence, a marathon, for both joggers and aspiring runners, was held early morning of January 29. As the crowd cheered from the sidelines, runners bent on their marks, got set, and went! The cheers crescendoed as the runners neared and crossed the finish line.

"It was a beautiful experience. It brought excessive joy to the hearts of people. Fun was the main ingredient, and I'm more than grateful for the effort of the people to make this a memorable event for each one of us," said Dodona Namoradze, team player and student from the AIIAS Academy.

Before the event ended, the teams joined together for a friendly game of tug-of-war and sack race. During the closing ceremony, Yoanes Sinaga, a representative of the Student Association (SA), announced the winning teams for the Mini-Olympics 2017: Blue Team, followed by Red, Black, and Gray.

"We can definitely say we finished the race. From the bottom of my heart, I am grateful for your participation in the games. Your presence made the event possible," expressed Henry Tembo, SA Social Leader. ■

Completing the Race



Library staff from AIIAS help set up library in other schools.

Loverarians in Action

As the heart of the institution, the Leslie Hardinge Library aims to provide information services and resources that meet the spiritual, academic, and research needs of the AIIAS community. However, away from its premises, the library heeded to a call of service.

Where and what you might ask?

It all started in Baguio City, the Summer Capital of the Philippines. Mrs. Gil Tampoa, an AIIAS alumna and owner of ABC VETEC School under the VETEC Foundation Inc. in Acop, Benguet, invited the AIIAS Library team to visit the school and requested for

assistance to start their school library.

The team accepted the invitation and helped organize the school's library from April 25 to May 3, 2015.

The following month, the team was called to help set up the Berean Integrated School in Lipa, Batangas, a school run by the Jimenez Family. The third library that was organized by the library staff was in Silang Adventist Elementary School.

The teachers from each institution were willing to help beautify and organize their libraries. Each library was

endorsed to a teacher who would take charge of the maintenance of the collection starting from the organization, maintaining of collection, and circulation of books.

The library staff were fortunate to organize the libraries for these schools. From our own little way, we were able to show that we care and that we are not just librarians but LOVERARIANS.

In addition to helping libraries, the Loverarians spent a Sabbath at a church in Poooc, one of the districts of Silang, Cavite on November 28, 2015. This visit led to an opportunity to start a Branch Sabbath School program for the children which began the following year.

The Branch Sabbath School first met on February 13, 2016. In the beginning, there were only 10 children who came. However, after a few weeks, the number of attendees increased to 24 children until their graduation on May 21, 2016. Under a jackfruit tree, the children from Poooc learned about Bible characters, sang songs, and most of all, felt God's love for them.

At AIIAS, we have been blessed to have the opportunity to serve others. We are encouraged to help spread God's love to the community. We are excited to know where God will lead us in the years to come.

—LYRA JAZEL ILAGAN



Lyra Jazel Ilagan is the Periodicals Acquisition/Web services librarian of Leslie Hardinge Library.

The AIIAS International Children's Choir (AICC) is a singing group whose members are composed of children ranging from Grades 4-8. The AICC was invited for a concert tour in Indonesia in April 2016. While planning for the tour, the group was advised to have a fundraising project to present to their audience.

One of the parents searched around Silang, Cavite for a church that needed assistance. Pastor Laudimer Gatus, AIIAS Church pastor, recommended Biluso, a church under the care of AIIAS Church. One Sabbath, the AICC visited the church and concluded that it was indeed the church that they would help out. They decided that it would be the project that they could present during their tour in Indonesia.

The church structure was standing on a small piece of land which was only partially paid. The church building was a rectangular structure with corrugated metal roofing and wooden walls. It was relatively small that during worship services, the room would be crowded and hot. When it rained, one couldn't hear the person speaking as raindrops hit the roof.

Thus, the group went to Indonesia to raise fund for Biluso Church. The kind and generous people, whom AICC met in Indonesia, donated to this project. One particular donor gave enough money to pay off the land.

God has used the children to help Biluso church. With the land paid off and extra money to fence the church, the parents of the AICC members planned a Branch Sabbath School.

AICC Reaches Out in Barangay Biluso

From September 3 until December 10, 2016, the AICC members, along with their parents, were divided into groups. They led the programs, taught songs, helped children with their crafts, shared stories about the life of Jesus, distributed printed memory verses, and served snacks.

The community members who attended the Branch Sabbath School, children and parents alike, learned about AIIAS and the Seventh-day Adventist teachings. They expressed their excitement as they patiently longed for each Sabbath day.

"We are so thankful because of the AICC's ministry in our community. The children are always very excited to participate in the activities, and we are all happy and blessed!" said one of the mothers who, with her children, attended the Branch Sabbath School programs.

Toring, one of the community members, was diabetic and bedridden. His physicians had advised him that his leg needed to be amputated due to the wound that was not healing. When the AICC heard about his ailment, one parent who is a nurse visited the man daily and dressed his wounds.

Every Sabbath, some of the parents also visited and prayed for Toring. By the grace

of God, his diabetes is controlled, his wound has healed, and he can now walk. Since then, every time the family is visited by the group, Toring and his wife, with tears in their eyes, joyfully mention their gratitude to God for the miracle of healing. The family has been currently attending the Sabbath morning services and have decided to be baptized at a later time.

The graduation of the Branch Sabbath School was held at the AIIAS amphitheater. This event gave the members an opportunity to visit and appreciate the beauty of AIIAS campus. The older children expressed their desire to come and attend the worship services of AIIAS on a monthly basis. A group of about 15 teenagers hoped to continue studying the Bible. Parents of the AICC accepted the request, and they will keep on visiting the community to conduct further Bible studies. The AIIAS Church also has a plan to hold a medical and dental outreach there in the near future.

Likewise, outreach is similar to a farmer that sows the seeds and leaves the rest of the work to the Holy Spirit for watering, cultivating, and fertilizing the seeds. In due time, a plentiful harvest will happen for the glory of God.

—GIMYLIN WA-MBALEKA





Why did you **choose to study** at AIIAS?

The academic and spiritual environment is great. I have been looking forward to experience this.

—**BEERSHEBA MAYWALD**, *MA Religion*, India

I chose to study at AIIAS because of the quality education it offers which I believe will help me grow.

—**TESFAYE HAILEGNAW**, *PhD Religion*, Ethiopia

Because it encourages us to grow in faith and to have a close relationship with God.

—**NANT MONALIZA**, *MA Education*, Myanmar

I chose AIIAS because it offers the right program and environment I so desperately need for my academic, spiritual, and physical development.

—**SANNED LUBANI**, *PhD Religion*, Malawi

Because I want to increase my knowledge of the Scriptures and our church history and be well equipped to serve our church and the world.

—**TIMOTHY OMWEGA**, *MA Religion*, Kenya

What can you **say about** AIIAS?

AIIAS has surpassed my personal expectations. I have perceived a high level in academics, spirituality, and lifestyle.

—**RAFAEL BAMPI DE OLIVEIRA**, *MA Religion*, Brazil

It's a beautiful campus with a friendly community and a vast array of cultures.

—**TIMOTHY OMWEGA**, *MA Religion*, Kenya

AIIAS is a great institution. It offers academic excellence.

—**BEERSHEBA MAYWALD**, *MA Religion*, India

This is the right place in any way. This is the place where thought leaders in the SDA Church are nurtured.

—**SANNED LUBANI**, *PhD Religion*, Malawi

AIIAS is a training place where I see that dreams can be fulfilled for the glory of God.

—**AURELIO PAULINO**, *MA Religion*, Angola



AQRA: 2nd International Conference on Qualitative Research

Tagaytay City, Philippines
April 25-27, 2017

Asian Qualitative Research Association (AQRA) is an international network that brings together qualitative research enthusiasts from all over Asia and beyond to share their passion, expertise, research outputs, and resources in order to empower each other in becoming even better qualitative researchers. It is a platform that promotes both sharing with, and learning from, other scholars.

The theme of the 2nd ICQR is *Exploring the Depths* as we try to understand how deep qualitative research can get in order to address the complex challenges that we face today.

The 2nd ICQR is a golden opportunity for academicians, researchers, educators, and practitioners from any discipline who are interested in current and best practices of qualitative research that involves primarily human beings.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER:

Dr. John Wesley Taylor IV
Associate Director of Education
General Conference, Maryland, USA

REGISTRATION:

February 26 to March 31, 2017
Late registration: April 1-20, 2017

For inquiries, please contact us at:
aqra@aaias.edu or (+63) 917-502-7369
Monday through Thursday (8am-5pm)
and Friday (8am-11am)

For more information about AQRA membership,
please go to www.myAQRA.org

UPCOMING EVENTS

23

DATES TO REMEMBER

APRIL 20-22, 2017

AIIAS African Theological Association Forum
***"The Adventist Church & National Politics/
Governance in Africa"***

Keynote Speaker:
Obert N. Mudzengi, DMin
President, North Zimbabwe Conference
Contact: aata@aaias.edu

JUNE 9-10, 2017

AIIAS Asian Theological Society
"The Role of the Holy Spirit in the End Time"

Keynote Speaker:
Ron E. M. Clouzet, D. Min., Th.D. (ABD)
Director, Ministerial Association
Northern Asia-Pacific Division

Abstract Due: March 30, 2017
Full Paper Due: May 26, 2017
Contact: aats@aaias.edu

JULY 17-22, 2017

AIIAS Mission Emphasis Week

MAY 2, 2017

AIIAS Alumni Homecoming
"ReConnect. ReLive. Respond."

We cordially invite all AIIAS alumni, former students, and former faculty to join us at the AIIAS Function Hall for a chance to reconnect, relive, and respond with fellow alumni from all over the world.

Kindly visit www.aaias.edu for further announcements.
RSVP to alumnioffice@aaias.edu



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