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About the Cover
“Ming,” an AIIAS M.B.A. student from Thailand, asks Adventist world church president Pastor Jan Paulsen a question during the “Let’s Talk Manila” live television broadcast on February 7, 2008. Students and young professionals from across Southeast Asia met with the president for the first “Let’s Talk” program in Asia. Read about AIIAS involvement in the broadcast on pages 8 and 9.

Cover Photo by Rajmund Dabrowski
Moving Right Along . . .

Life at AIIAS seems to have been unusually fast-paced at AIIAS during the last few months. While students and faculty continue to research and write, present papers and proposals, theses and dissertations, activity has been seen in getting ready for a new, much anticipated arrival on campus—a new building that will serve as a beautiful church and multi-purpose auditorium. Due to the generosity of many, the building is soon to become a reality. Other exciting things are happening too—as AIIAS plans new strategies and ways of training leaders for the 10/40 Window and beyond in an initiative called “The Big 5 Project.”

Change is happening here at Flags too, as this will be my final issue as editor. In just a few days my family and I will be moving to Silver Spring, Maryland in the U.S.A. where my husband, Clinton, will be serving at the Biblical Research Institute at the General Conference. I plan to continue writing (from home) and to spend more time with my children (they grow up too fast!).

May the Lord bless you wherever you are in the world, and may the Flag of His love and service always fly high in our hearts!

Gina Wahlen, editor
Flags—The International Magazine of AIIAS

Korean AIIAS Alumni Chapter Inaugurated

A special day of celebrations marked the inauguration of the Korean AIIAS Alumni Chapter was inaugurated during a special day of celebrations in Seoul, Korea, on Oct. 29, 2007. Dr. Kyung Ho Song, an associate professor of systematic theology at AIIAS and president of the AIIAS Alumni Association and Dr. Stephen Guptill, AIIAS president, joined over 50 Korean alumni at the event. During the meeting the following chapter officers were elected: as president Pyung Duk Chun (former president of the Northern Asia-Pacific Division); as vice president, Daeguek Nam (professor, Sahmyook University); and as secretary/treasurer, Young Tae Choi (secretary, Korean Union Conference).

Indonesian AIIAS Alumni Chapter Officers Elected

Over 40 alumni gathered at the West Indonesian Union Mission (WIUM) office in Jakarta on Nov. 20, 2007, to form the Indonesian AIIAS Alumni Chapter. During the meeting the Indonesian group voted the following alumni chapter officers: Samuel Simorangkir, president; Julia Lo-nan, secretary; Pamela Lukas, treasurer; and Philipps Mar-bun as public relations officer. The group was welcomed by WIUM President Johnny Lubis, and presentations were given by Dr. Stephen Guptill, AIIAS president, Dr. Kyung Ho Song, president of AIIAS Alumni Association, and Mrs. Gina Wahlen, AIIAS director of advancement. Preliminary arrangements for the gathering were organized by Dr. Samuel Simorangkir, Director of Communication and Public Affairs and Religions Liberty for the Jakarta Conference.
Interview

Flags Interview with Dr. Graeme Perry, Dean of the School of Graduate Studies
By Dr. David Tasker

Dr. Graeme Perry is the Dean of the School of Graduate Studies (SGS) at AIIAS, and his wife, Mrs. Glenys Perry, serves as an associate professor at SGS and is Director of the English Center. Dr. and Mrs. Perry, both from Australia, have been at AIIAS since February 2002. In this interview, Dr. David Tasker, originally from New Zealand, talks with Dr. Perry.

DT: Tell us about your background and childhood.

GP: When I was about 6 weeks old, I was taken to the mission field in what was then New Hebrides (now Vanuatu). This was soon after WWII, so it was the re-establishment of mission work. I stayed there for 4 years with my family, and then we went to Western Australia where I spent the rest of my childhood.

DT: Do you remember anything from your Vanuatu days?

GP: It is difficult to remember, but a couple of things really stand out, and they relate to my relationship with the girls who looked after me. I remember them carrying me over the reef and looking down at the little fishes that were in the coral and somehow breaking pieces off and throwing them up on the beach to get the fish, and I would put them in a little tin under my bed. On New Year’s Day we would go away for a picnic. I remember the local people rolling in the sand, and their black skin would become white. We would have a really enjoyable time, eating the traditional food and playing on the beach.

DT: Back in Western Australia, what do you recall from that part of your childhood?

GP: I grew up in a town where our house was right alongside the water. There were huge pine trees there, and I enjoyed climbing them and building small huts in them. We had a canoe, so the water also became very important to us. My dad was a country pastor, so the other feature I remember was participating in his ministry on Sabbaths. He built a church there, so on Sundays we would work with the people on building the church.

DT: Tell us about your academic journey.

GP: After public education in that town I went to the city for high school, where my dad became involved in supporting a large evangelistic program. I’m sure that had an impact on my life. I attended the Adventist school there. When I was 15 my family moved back to the country, and I attended a public school. It was there that I became aware of how important it was to stand out and be a witness. I was influenced greatly by my science master who was a devout Anglican. He had a special consecration service for us before our final high school exams, before we went off to university. So as well as very positive influences from my family there were some significant others in my life who shaped my values and views.

DT: You first entered a career in chemistry. What was the attraction of chemistry for you?

GP: I guess the spiritual values that influenced my life caused me to follow the things in which I excelled. Chemistry was one of the subjects I excelled at and received distinctions in. I just felt my bent was towards the sciences. Also, while attending an Adventist junior high school I was taught science by a non-scientist, and this actually influenced me.

DT: You thought you could do better?

GP: I thought that our educational system could offer more to young people in their education and give them a stronger foundation. Having said that, that teacher still holds a significant place in my life.

DT: How then did that lead to a Ph.D. in education?

GP: That was interesting, because later in life, after completing my Master’s degree in chemistry, I taught at Avondale High School, because my wife Glenys was transferred to Avondale College. I resigned from being the principal of a school so that my wife could take up a position in tertiary lecturing. I remember saying to her, “I would ask you to do it for me, so why can’t I do it for you?” It was in that situation while I was teaching chemistry that I really desired to go further with my study in chemistry, but I could see no way in which to get the research time I needed in a laboratory. So I became very interested in education and current trends in education, particularly youth perspectives.

At that time, there was a strong analysis of Australian society,
to determine why we in Australia had the second highest suicide rate in the world for young men. What were the impacts of our society on young people? What was going to change? I felt that further study for me was probable if I could set a time late at night to do the extra work. So I used those blocks of time to collect the surveys, and to gather data and analyze it to support my Ph.D. degree program in education.

DT: How did that lead to AIAS?

GP: While I was still working on my doctoral degree, I received an email from John Wesley Taylor who was an associate dean here at the time. He mentioned to me that his predecessor, Hedley Eager, had suggested I might like to become an adjunct professor here. I had to ask him what that was. So I agreed to that possibility without thinking it would amount to much. During that time I also received a call to PAU (Pacific Adventist University in Papua New Guinea). But because I hadn’t finished my Ph.D. I declined that invitation. It was while I was finishing the last stages of my degree that I received an email from AIAS saying there was a vacancy in teaching research and statistics, and asking whether I would be interested. My first response was, “That’s not me. I don’t have that level of experience.” So I said that I would send my CV and the decision would be up to them. I could only tell them what I had to offer. And it was out of that that an invitation finally came.

DT: And when did you actually arrive?


DT: So what attracted you to the place, or was it a surprise invitation?

GP: AIAS had been discussed with me by a number of faculty at Avondale College who had come here to teach short courses. I knew that Hedley Eager had come here and fulfilled a term as dean. I was in my 50s and felt that I had never “done” mission work, even though my parents’ and my sister’s life had been committed to it. Perhaps here was an opportunity for me to make the contribution without the encumbrances of family, and to fulfill some of the ambitions to participate in the mission of the church in the 10/40 Window, and the challenges there confronting the church.

DT: What was your role when you first arrived?

GP: I worked mainly as a statistics lecturer. The previous incumbent had been absent from the campus for a while so there was quite a backlog of statistics work that I immediately became engaged in. I also began supervising Ph.D. students. We had a strong introduction in our first year. I think I counted in our first year that we had four months of separation – quite different to our life before.

DT: What about the research you have since become involved in?

GP: I still have an interest in adolescent development, and their perceptions of the future – what is it that influences their emotional and cognitive responses to the future? but of recent times, my research has tended to focus on two things: the importance of assessment in higher education (how we go about our assessment and how it happens here at AIAS), and the other is the broader area that was introduced to me by a Southern Asia-Pacific Division (SSD) survey in 1998. The data lay dormant for quite a while, and I was invited to take it up soon after I came. I have enjoyed reading, writing and analyzing the responses of about 3,000 Adventists from across the Southern Asia region.

DT: What do you enjoy about teaching?

GP: I teach research and so I enjoy seeing people’s ideas expand and change, and become oriented in terms of what we research and inform them about. I enjoy seeing how this research changes the way in which they look at understanding their world, and understanding how decisions can be made effectively in their professional life.

DT: Tell us about the dean’s position. When did that happen?

GP: During my first year here the associate dean moved away, so I was asked to take care of that position by Dr. Julian Melgosa, who was then the dean. When he was asked to become the AIAS president, I covered for him as acting dean, and later that year I was appointed to the dean’s position.

DT: What have you found most fulfilling in that role?

GP: To see ways in which I can respond to the needs of the field. One of the most interesting of these is the DLCs [Distance Learning Centers], and to see how they expand the professional life of people in these different places. I also enjoy seeing developments within programs. While I have been here we reviewed the education curriculum, and have seen the introduction of the Ph.D. in business.

DT: I understand you are about to retire. What will you remember most about your time here?

GP: I think the thing we remember most about any place is the interaction we have with friends that we make there. The Philippines being the place that it is, with its thoughtful attitudes and the support that one receives from the Filipino people on campus, is something I will never forget. I can only describe it as always gracious.

DT: What is your vision for both SGS and for AIAS?

GP: AIAS has a very clear role—to serve as a leadership development institution for the church in this area. But that depends on us retaining the confidence of the field. And we need to work with that. The other thing is that it must be international. So my vision for AIAS is as a continuing international presence in leadership that meets the challenge of taking the gospel into the 10/40 Window.
AIIAS Graduates Lead the Way in the 10/40 Window
By Gina Wahlen

AIIAS alumni are leading the way in front-line work throughout the 10/40 Window. Here are just a few examples of the over 2,000 AIIAS alumni around the world who are serving as leaders in their various fields of expertise.

**In China:** While experts around the globe grapple with the pressing issues of global warming, poverty, and AIDS, Linda Zhu (Zhu Qing Yan) is providing solutions.

Linda graduated from AIIAS with a degree in theology in 1996 and an M.B.A. in 1998. Returning to China, she immediately started addressing the pressing housing and environmental issues in her native northeastern province of Zhejiang, where she introduced straw-bale building construction. In 1999, she became the Adventist Development and Relief Agency's (ADRA) first employee in China. As the director of the Energy Efficient Straw-bale Housing Technology Transfer Program for ADRA China, Linda faced resistance from the local community who viewed the use of straw in construction as a sign of poverty and backwardness. However, she succeeded in breaking down prejudices and barriers and was allowed to train local teams in straw-bale home construction. Through her initiative, over 600 energy-efficient, earthquake-resistant, culturally-appropriate houses and three schools were built.

Linda's project won the Building and Social Housing Foundation's World Habitat Award in 2005, which she received at the UN Habitat Conference in Jakarta, Indonesia.

The following year Linda developed and implemented the “Street Theater for HIV/AIDS Preventive Education Project,” aiming to reach approximately 1,000 migrant workers in Inner Mongolia.

**In Afghanistan:** Julia Shayunossova is one of AIIAS’ first fully online degree graduates, receiving her M.P.H. in October 2007. A physician (OB/GYN) from Russia, Julia worked in the capital city of Kabul, Afghanistan while studying online. While there Julia developed a pre-natal health education program. Traveling into the mountainous areas around Kabul, she shared her education program with head midwives, who shared the program with other midwives.

**In Kazakhstan and Saudi Arabia:** Anna Nelson is another M.P.H. online graduate. As part of her health project, she developed and implemented a health awareness education program in the capital city of Almaty. She also started a health club, developed exercise programs and led cooking classes, training others how to teach the class.

Anna is now in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, where her husband Richard heads the extension campus of the Loma Linda University School of Allied Health. Anna has been invited by a top Saudi physician to develop a lifestyle modification program for use at his hospital.

**In Mongolia:** Bold Batsukh, a native of Mongolia and the first ordained Seventh-day Adventist minister in Mongolia, received his Master of Divinity (M.Div.) degree from AIIAS in 2005. He serves as pastor of the capital city church in Ulaanbaatar. The Adventist church in Mongolia is still young, and Bold is at the forefront in encouraging and training young people to be active members of the church.

**In the Muslim World:** Noel Nadado finished an M.A. degree in Religion from AIIAS in 2002 and is currently studying in the Ph.D. program. A part of his doctoral research, “Why Christians Convert to Islam: A Filipino Perspective,” was published in the *Journal of Asia Adventist Seminary* (vol. 9 [2006], pp. 47-70), where it has received worldwide attention. Nadado’s research lays a solid theoretical foundation for “tentmakers” working in Islamic countries—including consideration of what can be done to encourage them to remain committed Christians.

AIIAS is very proud of these and all of the alumni who are serving as Christian leaders around the world.
Changed Hearts Lead to God’s Gift

Marrying a pastor was not high on Yeun ‘Yvonne’ Young Ran’s wish list—in fact, it wasn’t on her list at all.

“Please God, give me the perfect man,” she prayed repeatedly, “except for a pastor, because I want to study more.” Enjoying her work as a nurse and wanting to continue her education, Yvonne didn’t see how the responsibilities of being a pastor’s wife in Korea would fit with her graduate education plans at all.

Pastor Cho Chang Woong felt the same about nurses. With several nurses already in the family (a sister and two sisters-in-law), he was determined not to add another nurse to the group. So the two continued living in their separate worlds—with Yvonne working as a nurse in Seoul, and Cho as a youth pastor in a church not far from the capital city.

Hoping to pursue her dream, Yvonne searched the best graduate schools in Korea, but always found that the entrance exams were given only on Saturday. Not wanting to compromise the Sabbath, Yvonne continued searching until she found a school where exams were given on Friday. Delighted, she applied, only to learn that before being accepted into the program she would need to work in a hospital for two full years. So Yvonne worked for the next two years, looking forward to the day when she could take the exam.

At last the time arrived, but when she went to take the exam, Yvonne learned that it had been moved to Saturday! Terribly disappointed, she wondered how she would ever obtain the further education she desired. She also wondered if God would ever send her “the perfect man.”

“I started noticing that some of my friends were married, others had boyfriends, but there was no one for me. So I asked God what was His will for me? Was it to study, and if so, where could I study in Korea? Was it to get married?”

At about this time, Yvonne became close friends with a surgeon at the same hospital where Yvonne worked as a nurse. “She had the same trouble I had in trying to find a husband,” recalls Yvonne, “so we started praying together regularly, asking God to send us ‘perfect husbands.’”

The two often met for early morning prayer at 5 a.m. and would at times attend overnight prayer meetings. Sometimes they would fast and pray. Although the two did meet some young men during this time, none seemed to be “the right one.”

After praying with her friend every day for over three months, a new realization came to Yvonne. “I realized that I was asking God to send me the right man, except for a pastor. So right then I changed my prayer to ‘OK God, I will perfectly depend upon your will. A pastor would be OK. I accept your will!’”

Not long after, a friend wanted to introduce Yvonne to “a really good person,” who also happened to be the youth pastor at a nearby Adventist church. After the meeting, Yvonne decided that Pastor Cho Chang Woong was quite nice, and Pastor Cho decided that having one more nurse in the family might be a good idea, especially if that nurse was Yvonne. The two met in January and married on June 14, 1995. Interestingly, Yvonne’s surgeon friend met her “perfect husband” at about the same time and was married one week earlier than Yvonne.

However, the dream of one day continuing her education was still alive in Yvonne’s heart, although she still did not see how that could happen in Korea. Then in March 2006, the Cho family, (which now included two sons, Hyun Yool, 10, and Hyun Seu, 7) arrived at AIIAS where Pastor Cho would study in the Doctor of Ministry (D.Min.) program, and Yvonne could study for the Master of Public Health (M.P.H.) degree.

“Being at AIIAS and taking the M.P.H. program is a really big present from God,” Yvonne exclaims. “My mind is so much more broad. Before studying here I could only see my family, my church, my community, and my country. But at AIIAS I have met lots of friends—Mongolian, German, African, Indonesian, Canadian. When I talk with them, and learn from my professors, I can see so much more globally.

“I can see that the mission God gives us is not limited to my country or my race. It’s to the whole world. There are many who need our help, our prayers, and our financial support.”

Yvonne and Pastor Cho plan to finish their graduate degrees by March 2009, and then return to Korea to continue serving the Lord.
MANILA, PHILIPPINES--On February 5, 2008 four representatives from AIIAS headed to a television studio located high on a hill in Manila to prepare for “Let’s Talk,” a live broadcast with Pastor Jan Paulsen, president of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.

Chayaporn “Ming” Wittayapiban, an M.B.A. student from Thailand, and Cherille Mae Rabaya, a Filipina who works as a secretary at the Theological Seminary, joined approximately 30 other students and young professionals from across Southeast Asia for the live, unscripted, unedited, one hour program featuring dialogue with the world church president. The program was broadcast live around the world via satellite by the Hope Channel. Dr. Stephen Guptill, president of AIIAS, and Mrs. Gina Wahlen, director of advancement, were observers at the event.

Arriving at the studio approximately four hours before the 8 p.m. broadcast, the group had the opportunity to look around the cavernous building housing the studio, and see the specially-made set for the occasion.

Since 2003, Pastor Paulsen has hosted “Let’s Talk” programs in 18 locations worldwide, but the Manila broadcast was the first to be held in Asia.

In a “Let’s Talk—Behind the Scenes” video produced by the General Conference, Dr. Paulsen shares his vision for these unique broadcasts:

“The first and most fundamental reason we are doing these ‘Let’s Talk’ programs is that I think it is very important in the dynamics of the church that we talk together . . . and we haven’t always done very well in talking with young people.”

Commenting on the live nature of the programs, he stressed that “if you do something live it’s unscripted, unedited, live—it has some raw edges to it, but it’s real. Isn’t that the way we normally talk together?”

During the “Let’s Talk Manila” program, Ming shared her concern about young people in Thailand who leave rural areas to attend universities in large cities, but then lose their faith and leave the church. “What can we do about this?” she asked Pastor Paulsen.

“It’s a big challenge, and this is not unique to Thailand,” responded the president. “Young people will go to educational centers. They must obtain an education in order to be professionally qualified. . . . And sometimes things fall apart for them as far as a spiritual life is concerned. The church has a responsibility. I want to ask you, what do you think the church in Thailand can do or should do that is different?” Turning to the group he added, “Is this a problem elsewhere? I’d love to hear your comments.”

In response, Ming acknowledged that “the church in the city has to be the one to make the effort. Maybe we can start a youth group from the city, and from there
AIIAS Participates in “LET’S TALK Manila” 
By Gina Wahlen

The 60-minute program was divided into 20-minute segments separated by three-minute breaks. During the breaks promotional spots featuring various ministries of the Adventist church were shown. Heading the line-up was a one-minute advertisement produced by the advancement office at AIIAS. The spot, featuring a variety of current students on campus, is entitled “Why Study at AIIAS?” and can be seen on YouTube at http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9WW-HWT6fjo.

During the final segment of the Manila broadcast several political questions were raised, including one from Cherille Mae, who wondered if Adventists could be politically active by “strongly supporting candidates through joining public political meetings?”

Encouraged the young people to be active in their local churches and ended with a special prayer. After the cameras stopped rolling and the stage lights were dimmed, program participants gathered around Dr. Paulsen and the production crew, taking pictures and collecting commemorative certificates of participation signed by Rajmund Dabrowski, the communication director of the General Conference.

Reflecting on her “Let’s Talk” experience, Cherille Mae felt it was time well spent. “It was really great to be able to personally talk with the president of the world church, and especially that he allowed time to be with the youth,” she said.

Acknowledging the timeliness of her question, especially for people living in the United States at this time, Pastor Paulsen said, “The church, as a community, does not endorse certain candidates over others. However, you can support a candidate as an individual. If there is a particular candidate whom you are convinced can better represent the people or the needs of the community—I don’t know of any reason you could not support such a person or attend a meeting where this person speaks.”

As the hour came to a close, Pastor Paulsen spread and not lose our faith.”
Taking Care of Business at AIIAS

Since 1957 many leaders for the world church have received their graduate education from AIIAS. Known then as “The Seventh-day Adventist Seminary—Far East” offering master’s degrees in theology and religion, the curriculum grew to include graduate degrees in education, as well as the Master of Public Health (M.P.H.) and Master of Business Administration (M.B.A.) degree, which began in 1988. Since that time, over 200 students have graduated from the M.B.A. program, and there has been an increasing demand for the church to provide doctoral level programs in the area of business leadership and education.

It is in response to this growing need that AIIAS has developed the Ph.D. in business—the first doctoral program in business authorized by the Seventh-day Adventist church. The program began in June 2007, with the first five students representing five different countries from Asia and Africa. The program will accept a maximum of ten students per year, and at the end of its first year is slated to have at least eight enrolled.

This Ph.D. program is unique in that both resident faculty members and adjunct professors are integral to the program. Students benefit from the research and statistics classes already being taught on campus for other Ph.D. degrees, and also from the Department of Educational Studies, which provides some cognate courses. The business core is provided partly by on-campus faculty, and partly by adjunct faculty of whom the degree program boasts several dozen. Adjunct profess-

ors have agreed to teach a class once every few years, or to help with research, particularly if a doctoral student chooses an area in which on-campus faculty do not hold expertise.

The impact of the Ph.D. program is already being felt in the department as M.B.A. and Ph.D. students socialize together and share in academic endeavors. The same positive effect has also been seen as the Ph.D. in business students interact with other doctoral students across campus.

Business Club

With the arrival of the Ph.D. students, the M.B.A. Club has been renamed the Business Club, still with the motto “We make it happen”—and they do. Business club parties are known to be some of the most exciting events on campus, with Gala Nights regularly take place in March, August, and October; a Christmas party in December; and sundown worships near the end of every term. In addition, the club has sponsored many outings to beautiful places in the Philippines such as Puerto Galera on Mindoro and Busuanga Island.

China

One exciting component new to the business department this year is the teaching of extension courses in China. The National Institute of Technology (NIT) in Beijing, China (in cooperation with the University of Ballarat, Australia) offers undergraduate international business degrees. Through contacts with a business alumnus working in China, AIIAS was invited to teach four different classes in Beijing during 2007, assisting in the collection of funds for student scholarships. Other possibilities were ex-
plored, including opening extension programs. In addition, many meetings with AIIAS graduates were arranged during these visits.

In August 2007, the Chinese AIIAS Alumni Chapter was officially inaugurated by Dr. Eugene Hsu and Dr. G.T. Ng, who serve as chapter advisors. In late October 2007, Dr. Eric Nasution participated in a reunion dinner of the AIIAS alumni in Beijing, many of whom are M.B.A. graduates, including the chapter officers: Youding Chen, president; Linda Zhu, secretary; and Beth Yu, treasurer.

Microfinance

In October 2007, the AIIAS management committee agreed to provide matching funds for a new microfinance venture. This program, named “Shine, Silang, Shine,” has received matching funds from the Jaycees of Singapore. Lessons learned from other microfinance projects in the Philippines and abroad are being applied in an effort to ensure its success. The project has multiple objectives, including maximizing the positive impact on our local community as well as providing a laboratory for students to put into practice the theories learned in the classroom. The program will give students opportunities to participate in community service as well as to pursue academic research.

Qatar

Located near the United Arab Emirates and bordering Saudi Arabia, the small country of Qatar is located on a small peninsula on the Persian Gulf. It is an oil-rich country where foreigners outnumber nationals. In this semi-desert environment, gas is cheaper than water. This part of the world, looking for worthwhile long-term investments for their oil dollars, has realized that international education for their children is a wise choice. Through the negotiations of Dr. Bruce Moyer, a working relationship has been established with the Doha Training Center (DTC). Following the visit of DTC representatives to AIIAS and a visit by Dr. Ronald Vyhmeister to Qatar in October of 2007, firm plans are now being made to begin classes in a Distance Learning Center in Doha. The department chair, Dr. Eustacio Penniecook, sees this as an opportunity to expand the reach of the department as well as to enable faculty to become acquainted with business in this dynamic region. The first intake of applicants will have up to 30 students and represents an opportunity to get to know Muslims and for Muslims to become acquainted with the many beliefs and values that Christians and Muslims have in common.

Online

The Department of Business has voted to begin an online M.B.A. degree in October of this year. AIIAS already offers degrees online in public health (M.P.H.), education (M.A.), and theology (M.Div.). Now business, through its M.B.A. degree program, will join these other programs in making an AIIAS education accessible to those who cannot physically come to campus or join an off-campus program.

Learn More

More information about the AIIAS business department, its activities, and programs is available at www.aiias.edu/academics/sgs/business/. For specific information on the Ph.D. in business program, visit www.aiias.edu/academics/sgs/business/phd.
AIIAS Professors Reach High Academic Standard

Two AIIAS faculty members, Dr. Ron Vyhmeister and Dr. Clinton Wahlen, were recently promoted to the rank of full professor. The promotion came through the recommendation of the School of Graduate Studies and the Theological Seminary. During the October 2007 board meeting, the AIIAS management committee voted the new rankings. The ranking of full professor is an honor achieved only after meeting a rigorous set of criteria involving years of teaching, academic publishing, community involvement, and recommendations of peers, among other requirements. As part of the acceptance, the recipient is asked to present a professorial lecture in the area of his special interest.

Dr. Ron Vyhmeister's lecture was given during the annual academic forum in October, sponsored by the School of Graduate Studies. In his presentation entitled, “The Impact of Epistemological Approaches on the Study of Organizational Culture,” Vyhmeister examined how belief systems about culture impact research design and findings. Five different ways of perceiving culture were discussed, including what they mean to research design and potential findings.

“The Pathway into the Holy Places” (Heb. 9:8): Does It End at the Cross? was the title of the professorial lecture given by Dr. Clinton Wahlen in January. Some of his major points were that the “pathway into the holy places” as described in Hebrews begins at the cross, extends “within the veil” into the heavenly sanctuary, and ends in the heavenly city. Also, that Hebrews 9 reflects a contrast not between the holy and most holy places of the wilderness sanctuary, but between the tabernacles of the old and new covenants.

This second professorial lecture also served to launch a new series of colloquia being organized by Dr. Richard Sabuin of the Theological Seminary. The colloquia will meet monthly and provide a forum for professors and students to meet together, share papers and book reviews, and discuss the results of their research. The first of these was held on Feb. 25, with Dr. Yoshitaka Kobayashi and Daniel Bediako (a Ph.D. student majoring in Old Testament) giving presentations and fielding questions about their research.

AIIAS Authors Participate in Festschrift for Gerhard Pfandl

When academics celebrate a colleague’s birthday or other special occasion, they do not give flowers or fruitbaskets; they produce books. Prominent among these recently celebrated academics is Dr. Gerhard Pfandl, who serves as an adjunct professor of the Theological Seminary, is a frequent participant at conferences worldwide, and is an associate director of the Biblical Research Institute of the General Conference in Silver Spring, Maryland, U.S.A.

The substantial volume (known as a Festschrift and is 500+ pages), entitled “For You Have Strengthened Me”: Biblical and Theological Studies in Honor of Gerhard Pfandl in Celebration of His Sixty-Fifth Birthday, was co-edited by Gerald Klingbeil, dean of the Theological Seminary (and two other former students of Dr. Pfandl, including Martin Pröbstle of Seminar Schloss Bogenhofen, Austria, and Martin Klingbeil of Holdenberg College, South Africa). Several AIIAS professors have contributed to the volume: our new Old Testament professor in the Biblical Studies department, David Tasker, with “The People of God in Prophetic Literature”; Carol Tasker, serving both the Seminary and SGS, contributed “A Rationale for Spiritual Formation in Theological Education”; Mathilde Frey, future faculty member of the Biblical Studies department and Old Testament specialist, wrote “The Theological Concept of the Sabbath in the Book of Revelation”; and Gerald Klingbeil contributed “Rocking the Mountain: Text, Theology, and Mission in Daniel 2” to the collection of essays. The volume was officially presented to Dr. Pfandl during the annual meetings of the Adventist Theological Society in November 2007.

Professor Assumes Leadership Role in New SBL Consultation

Leadership roles in professional societies is an important recognition of academic standing and Flags would like to congratulate Gerald Klingbeil, dean of the Theological Seminary, for his selection as co-chair of a new consultation of the Annual Congress of the Society of Biblical Literature (SBL). This meeting is the largest and most important gathering of biblical scholars around the world, and the launching of a new consultation of the SBL, Ritual in the Biblical World, is a significant event. One of the top scholars working in the area of ritual studies, Ronald Grimes, professor of Religious Studies at Wilfried Laurier University, Canada, was among those involved in the first session of this new consultation.

Academic Presentations Given

AIIAS faculty are a talented group who have given numerous academic presentations during the past months. Following is just a sampling of some of the presentations given in recently: “Quality e-Learning Through Adaptive Instructional

The School of Graduate Studies is Growing

An extension to the School of Graduate Studies (SGS) is currently being constructed. It will provide five new offices, four with an associated storage room. A common entry lobby provides both secretarial and graduate research space. Four offices will form the Department of Public Health Center and the fifth is assigned to the AIIAS/Asia Pacific Research Center and the research professor. Annual AIIAS offerings from the Southern Asia-Pacific and Northern Asia-Pacific Divisions have funded this much-needed project. Thank you! --Dr. Graeme Perry, SGS Dean

New AIIAS Auditorium

In January the trees were cleared as the first step in construction of the new AIIAS Auditorium. In addition to the very generous gifts that have come in from around the world to support this special project, the AIIAS community has been active in not only soliciting funds but also contributing, as was evidenced at a special Service of Giving Thanks on Dec. 15, 2007, where on that one day nearly $10,000 in gifts and pledges was collected. The total amount from contributions and pledges total $985,000, reaching very close to the $1.05 million needed to build the main phase of the building. For further information or to make a contribution, please contact the president’s office at president@aiias.edu.

Plan to Attend These Upcoming Forums:

Theological Forum

The eleventh annual Theological Forum will be held at AIIAS October 30-November 1, 2008, featuring the theme: “Mission and Contextualization.” Presenters will include mission specialists from AIIAS and across Southeast Asia. For more information and to register for the forum, contact Dr. Richard Sabuin at rasabuin@aiias.edu.

Plans are also well underway for the 2009 Theological Forum, entitled: “Trends in Seventh-day Adventist Theology: Between Orthodoxy and Heterodoxy.” Members of the Biblical Research Institute (BRI) from the General Conference have been invited to give presentations for some of the plenary sessions of this forum, which will be held in November, 2009.

School of Graduate Studies Forum

The SGS research forum for 2008 will feature “Contemporary Literacies: Life Skills for Professionals.” This theme encompasses subtopics such as media literacy, research literacy, critical thinking, and integrating faith, learning and practice. Presentations will include primary research and other substantial studies by professionals. Submission of papers is invited. Please plan to attend this three-day research forum scheduled for November 13-15 at AIIAS campus. You may contact sgsdean@aiias.edu or pgaidwad@aiias.edu for more details.
Welcome to the Taskers
By Chantal Klingbeil

Our AIIAS faculty family continues to grow with the arrival of Drs. David and Carol Tasker. David, a New Zealander, and Carol, an Australian, are no strangers to world travel and cross-cultural ministry. They spent time at Andrews University where both gained doctorates. Most recently, the Taskers’ served at the Pacific Adventist University in Papua New Guinea. They bring with to AIIAS a wealth of experience from their 10 years of service there where they held administrative positions, David as dean of the School of Theology, and Carol as dean of the School of Education.

David will be teaching in (and chairing) the Biblical Studies department at the Theological Seminary and Carol will be teaching half-time in the Applied Theology department at the Seminary and half-time in the Education department of the School of Graduate Studies. The Taskers have two grown sons: Nathan, 29 and married, is a pilot who has been a flight instructor at Pacific Union College in the U.S., and is currently seeking opportunities to be a mission pilot; and Stephen, 27, who has an interest in international development, and would like to work with an aid agency. We look forward to better acquainted with David and Carol and to their valuable contribution here at AIIAS.

Welcome to the Mergals
By Glenys Perry

One of the initiation rites of a new faculty member at AIIAS is to be invited as a Chapel speaker soon after arriving. This was Dr. Bienvenido Mergal’s privilege (and for those attending too), when he recently spoke about “Indicators of a Spiritually Mature Person.”

Dr. Mergal is an AIIAS alumnus having graduated with three degrees from this institution: a Master of Pastoral Studies (M.P.S.) in 1989; an M.A. in education in 2000; and a Ph.D. in education in 2001. Since then, he has served as Vice President of Academic Affairs at Central Philippine Adventist College located on the island of Negros Occidental. His appointment to AIIAS is in the Department of Applied Theology at the Theological Seminary.

Dr. Mergal grew up on the island of Samar in the Philippines, and gained a B.A. degree from Mountain View College. Following graduation, he was appointed as a Bible teacher at Southern Masbate Academy. His next assignment was to the Eastern Visayan Mission as a pastor, where he was ordained to the gospel ministry, followed by an appointment to Central Philippine Adventist College, where he later returned upon the completion of his doctorate.

Dr. Mergal feels that studying at AIIAS was the fulfillment of his dreams. His first reaction to the invitation to teach at AIIAS was met with hesitancy on his part, because of the expectations that come with the role of being a professor of a graduate institution. However, with reassurances from colleagues, Dr. Mergal made the decision to come, and since his arrival on campus, he declares with confidence, “I haven’t made a mistake in my decision to come to AIIAS!”

Dr. Mergal’s wife, Vicky, holds a Ph.D. in biology from the University of Santo Tomas, Manila. The Mergals have three children: Beryl Ben who is a nurse; Amethyst Vic, currently studying at college; and Jasper Ben who is in grade school.
Dawn Delivery

Dr. Jim Park, a professor in the applied theology department at the AIIAS Theological Seminary, was one of 15 finalists in a nationwide photo contest in the Philippines. The competition, sponsored by Philippine Airlines, invited entrants to submit their photos at the Professional, Enthusiast or Junior level in Landscape, People or Culture categories.

Dr. Park’s winning entry, titled “Dawn Delivery,” was shot last year near San Ildefonso, Bulacan, where he was speaking at a weekend seminar at the Seventh-day Adventist church. Taking an early morning walk with his Nikon D200 and 18-200 mm lens, he spotted a solitary bicycle rider in the distance with the golden rays of the sun just coming up from behind.

Dr. Park submitted the picture under the Professional division in the Landscape category. His photo, along with those of the other winners and finalists, was exhibited on a tour of major SM malls in the Philippines. The picture will also be published as part of a feature article in the April issue of Mabuhay magazine, a monthly publication of Philippine Airlines given to all its passengers.

Describing the picture as a “lucky shot,” Dr. Park explained that he was in the right place with the right light. “I pointed the camera, clicked the shutter and the Nikon did the rest,” he said. For the competition, the picture was simply cropped and given more saturation in Apple iPhoto.

Pastor Park plans to produce a devotional book filled with interesting pictures and inspirational stories he has encountered during his years of mission service.
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