AIIAS is like an airport where students and faculty arrive and depart on a regular basis. It is a wide avenue for building legacies. But what does it mean to leave a legacy? Is it a material thing, an accomplishment, or a good deed; a legacy is something that you leave behind for which you will be remembered. Let us focus on the latter.

Can you think of someone who has left a legacy in your life? Have you encountered strangers who have deeply affected you through random acts of kindness. Leaving such a legacy might not have been a grand gesture, but it has left me thinking and wondering how ordinary people can radiate love and care to those they do not know. It is challenging to create a legacy but building it allows you to give your life purpose and meaning.

Martin Luther, Florence Nightingale, Mother Teresa, and Nelson Mandela are some of the countless people who had a great influence in the history of mankind. Their lives showed us a glimpse of what Jesus’ character must be like as the utmost example of love, care, leadership, and logic in today’s world. Through their legacies, lives have been changed, unity has been created, and their contributions have greatly impacted the areas of health, science, politics, and religion.

Many AIIAS students will achieve great heights in academe and it might seem to be the priority for now. However, people will also remember you for how you made them feel or what you did for them. Yes, attaining an excellent degree will give you a title and significant success in life. It will give you an opportunity to serve in a more powerful way. But, touching a person’s life can make a difference in the world. It will give you an opportunity to serve in a more powerful way. But, touching a person’s life can

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A VISIT TO THE Creation Science Display

By Stephen Guptill/Sharnie Love Zamora

With a simple ribbon cutting, the new AIIAS Creation Science Display was opened by the AIIAS Board on May 1, 2018.

The featured items on display include fossils and specimens, generously provided by the Geoscience Research Institute in Loma Linda, California. The collection also includes fossils from Madagascar, selected and transported by AIIAS faculty and alumni working and visiting in that country. Also on display are beautiful shells from the personal collection of Dr. Stephen Guptill, AIIAS president.

The display also features a creation/science video display highlighting the best of media supporting the perspective of science consistent with the Biblical view. There is also a display of outstanding books on this topic.

“We are preparing materials to address the many questions about how a person with a creationist view looks at dinosaurs, the fossil record, the flood, and other related issues. We want the visitors, whether they are children, adult scholars, or theologians to better understand a scientific worldview that is consistent with the Bible record,” explained Guptill.

“Flying” above the display area is a huge model of a flying dinosaur-like animal, artistically constructed by AIIAS Public Health student, Miguel Quiñones. This model is a favorite item for the children visiting the display and draws them into a discussion about the fossils and how they relate to earth history, creation, and the Biblical flood.

It is expected that this will become a favorite feature for those groups visiting the AIIAS library.

The display is located on the second floor of the Leslie Hardinge Library on the campus of AIIAS in Silang, Cavité, Philippines.

AAA CONDUCTS ACCREDITATION VISIT

By Dolf Oberholster/Sharnie Love Zamora

A team of 10 accreditors from the Adventist Accrediting Association of Seventh-day Adventist Schools, Colleges, and Universities (AAA) based in Maryland, USA came to AIIAS on July 30-August 1, 2018 to evaluate all areas of the institution’s operation. Through assessment, interviews, and observation, the team completed a draft report containing commendations and recommendations that can assist the institution in developing further. The final report stating the period of accreditation is expected later in 2018.

The AIIAS leadership thanks the AAA team for the important task they dedicated themselves to in identifying areas and processes that should be prioritized for improvement. AIIAS pledges to address these issues in a timely manner.

AIIAS and all its programs are accredited by the AAA. It has enjoyed the highest accreditation rating offered by the AAA for the past four accreditation terms. Having demonstrated a continuous commitment to excellence, AIIAS achieved the designation as an institution.
Passion for Mission, Heart for Service—102nd Graduation

BY SHARNIE LOVE ZAMORA

AIAS held its 102nd Graduation Ceremony for 159 candidates, representing 40 countries from 12 world divisions of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, which took place at the AIAS Auditorium from March 9-11, 2018.

Out of the 159 graduates who finished their programs, 62 came from the central campus, 87 from Distance Learning Centers, and 10 from the Division of Online Learning; 74 graduates were from the Seminary and 87 were from the Graduate School. Four were recipients of graduate certificates, 137 earned their master’s degrees, and 18 earned doctorate degrees.

The 159 graduates represented the following countries: 36 from Indonesia, 33 from Bangladesh, 27 from the Philippines, six from South Korea, four from Myanmar, three from Argentina, China, Haiti, and United States; two from Cameron, Ethiopia, Georgia, Malawi, Malaysia, Mauritius, Nigeria, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Russian Federation, and South Africa; and one graduate from Angola, Chile, Colombia, Congo, Egypt, Fiji, Germany, Ghana, India, Japan, Kenya, Peru, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Tonga, Trinidad & Tobago, Uganda, and Zimbabwe.

Consecration speaker, Dr. Safary Wa-Mbaleka, president of the Asian Qualitative Research Association and associate professor in the education department inspired the graduates to depend fully on God, to accept where He sends, to walk in integrity, to love those that they serve, and to serve those that they lead.

“Shine the light of Jesus. In everything that you do, serve. When you are committed to serve, it’s not about your ability, it is about your availability,” appealed Wa-Mbaleka.

Baccalaureate speaker, Dr. Delbert W. Baker, president of Adventist University in Nairobi, Kenya, encouraged the class to be a band of comforters. He reminded the class about the steps to becoming a comforter.

“You’ve got to be faithful … Though things will be difficult, if you keep hanging in there, God will bless you. He is taking you through experiences so that He can develop you and teach you comfort so that you can also teach others.”

In her commencement address, Dr. Ella Simmons, general vice president of the Seventh-day Adventist Church world headquarters, reflected on the idea that love for God yields passion for mission and that love for neighbors yields a heart for service.

“No fear of failure, no fear of rejection, no fear of losing face … Constantly press onward and upward, whatever you do,” Simmons emphasized the importance of living life without mediocrity. “God has called you to greatness. You must aspire to greatness for the honor and glory of God’s name.”

The class chose the theme “Passion for Mission, Heart for Service.” This theme was inspired by the essence of Christian education and the personal desire of AIAS scholars to humbly serve Jesus Christ by carrying out His mission with passion and faithfulness.

“We were inspired not to aspire after position and comfort, but our purpose is to serve others, to be willing to be God’s instruments. Despite our weaknesses and limitations, God can still use us to do great things,” remarked Joshua Dylan Antoine, a graduate of Master of Arts in Religion.

The graduates who are now part of the AIAS Alumni serve as leaders all over the world both in the public and private sectors, especially in the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

AIAS is a graduate school that offers masters and doctorate degrees in four main areas: business, education, public health, and religion. It is operated by the Seventh-day Adventist Church world headquarters.

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In matters of acceptance and salvation, my guess is, most people would like to be included. Most of us, Adventists and non-Adventists alike, would want to be accepted and favored by God, and people too. But what are the qualifications? How does one get accepted?

Jesus lived in a culture with a conveniently simple worldview in terms of people. The whole of humanity was divided into two distinct groups: the good guys and the bad ones. And invariably the ones you happened to talk to consider themselves as the good ones while the others were the bad guys. And it naturally followed that the good guys were in and the bad ones were out of God’s and human favor. I suspect that this cultural aspect is alive and well even today.

Jesus tells a story to a crowd of unsuspecting listeners (Luke 18:9). Two men came to the temple to pray; one was a Pharisee, and the other a tax collector; the first one instantly stood out in the crowd, clearly a righteous man. His prayer was such a blessing to listen to, beautifully patterned after a Psalm of Thanksgiving, except that he was thankful for his own goodness, not so much for God’s. But it was all magnificent: he was fasting twice a week, paying tithe of all he got (so much more than the others). God was so impressed with him! In fact, God must have felt really fortunate to have such a good person. He was able to thankfully list even all the bad stuff he’d never done, unlike the others: “God, I thank You that I am not like other people; swindlers, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector” (v.11). He was a hard-praying, Sabbath-keeping, always grateful, church-going person—in other words, an all-around good guy. “What a great example! Should be the first in line for the kingdom of Heaven,” numinated the crowd excitedly, as they continued to listen to the story.

The tax collector, on the other hand, was standing on the side. He did not think much of himself. In fact, he did not even have a list to present … any list; not the good deeds to be proud of, nor the bad stuff to avoid. When he looked at himself, it was all bad. He must have been one of the others, people concluded. And, besides, he must have had a really bad conscience, as he couldn’t even look up heavenward, beating his chest instead. And his prayer? Oh, no eloquence at all, nothing to write home about. All he could muster was a few awkward words blurted out: “God, be merciful to me, the sinner!” Who would come to God with such a poor prayer?

Everyone knows that you have to find the right words, beautiful words in order to approach God. You’ve got to put your best foot forward, don’t you? It’s like going to church, you know, you have to make yourself presentable, put your white hat on and try to hide what’s really bothering you on the inside. But since this guy was obviously one of the others he understandably did not know better. Poor judgment, though.

Jesus pauses his story for a moment. His listeners perk up, “Go on, go on, we want to know what happened!” And then without even the slightest warning, Jesus drops quite a bombshell, turning their world upside down (or is it the right side up?): “This man (tax collector) went to his house justifi ed rather than the other.” What!? Jesus, are you saying, that the bad guy, one of the others, got in? … while the good guy got left out? Really?!

Years later an old and weary friend of Jesus, writing a letter to his church members, summarized the main thrust of the story well: “For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast.” (Ephesians 2:8-9). Turns out—grace is the operative word in matters of acceptance with God. Could that be true for our human relationships as well?
Evelyn Villafort Almocera is one of the outstanding faculty of AIIAS who has dedicated her life to serving the institution as faculty of the Public Health Department in the AIIAS Graduate School and as the AIIAS School Physician.

As a Doctor of Medicine graduate from Southwestern University Mattas H. Aznar Memorial College of Medicine, Cebu City, Philippines with a Master in Public Health degree from AIIAS, Almocera also has experience in clinics and hospitals around the Philippines. She is a certified School Health Consultant by the Philippine Academy of Physicians in School Health, Inc. as well as a certified Family Life Educator by the Faculty Ministries Department of the Seventh-day Adventist Church world headquarters.

FLAGS: What motivated you to serve at AIIAS?

ALMOCERA: AIIAS is a wide mission field with multicultural exposure. Because of this, AIIAS is an enriching workplace for students and faculty to learn from each other not only through books but by personal experience. I believe that working with AIIAS is a great challenge especially in preparing workers and leaders, not only for the church but also for the world. After all the years of working in AIIAS, it is just so rewarding to meet graduates who are now leaders in their respective countries, churches, and work fields.

FLAGS: Why should a student pursue a degree from the AIIAS Public Health department?

ALMOCERA: The faculty composition is so diverse with rich experiences in their own field of specialty/ training. Our students are also from different countries. Our courses help prepare students to serve as public health professionals and leaders in either government, non-government agencies, or the church organization. Students can choose to prepare themselves to be involved in research or in public health practice such as community development. Some of our graduates now serve as health directors and wellness/lifestyle center directors while some work with UNICEF and the Department of Health (Philippines). Students can also choose from three areas of emphasis: Health Ministry, Health Promotion, and Nutrition. For students who are unable to come to AIIAS for the on-campus modality, classes are also offered in Distance Learning Centers and Online. These are designed for students who cannot leave the convenience of their homes and professional responsibilities for full-time study. Students who choose to study at AIIAS will not only find it affordable but will also be enjoying high-quality Christian education.

Almocera has been actively presenting her research in various conferences in the country. Her research interests are in infectious disease prevention, teen pregnancy, maternal nutrition, and women, children, and adolescent health. She is also the medical consultant for the “Journal of Health and Home” by the Philippine Publishing House as well as a peer reviewer for “Catalyst” a Journal for the Institute of Interdisciplinary Studies in the Asia-Pacific International University located in Thailand.

Almocera has published a book on “Healthy Foods Healthy Lives.” She is currently writing three books: Family Medical Encyclopedia (2019), Healthy Cooking (2020), and Stress-Free Lifestyle (2021). She is also in the process of publishing two articles on the impact of religious beliefs on prevention and treatment attitudes towards HIV/AIDS among Africans in the Journal of the AIIAS African Theological Association and authentic online assessments (fieldwork) in the special edition of the Journal of Adventist Education.

With a heart for mission, Almocera has actively participated in the medical, dental, and surgical missions for the AIIAS Adventist Church. She organizes cooking classes once a month for the AIIAS community, and in collaboration with the Public Health Department, she also organizes health screening activities for the AIIAS Adventist Church and for the town of Silang. She also conducts marriage enrichment seminars together with her husband. She facilitated the fundraising activity for a water system in Zubiri Mission.

Almocera has been serving at AIIAS since 1991. Aside from teaching undergraduate and postgraduate level subjects, she is also the first one to teach a fully online course in 2003. AIIAS is grateful for the unwavering service and dedication of Dr. Evelyn Almocera.
A CALLING TO THE MINISTRY

BY HUAYI LIU

Having grown up in a village in China, I regularly went to a Christian church with my mother. There I danced and sang without knowing that I was doing it for Jesus. I only started to understand the difference between Christ and science when I was at the university.

I have one sister who is two years younger than me. Back in 2011, during her third year in high school, she worked so hard to prepare for the National College Entrance Examination. One day, she called me saying that she did not know why she had so many red spots on her feet and legs which were very painful. After several days, I went to her school to visit her. I saw that she could not walk anymore because her feet and legs were so swollen, she couldn’t even wear shoes. We had no choice but to carry her back home with the help of her teacher and classmates.

We later brought her to hospitals in Beijing, Shanghai, and Changchun. All of the doctors said that my sister had a serious disease called Erythema Nodosum which according to Wikipedia, is an inflammatory condition characterized by inflammation of the fat cells under the skin, resulting in tender red nodules or lumps. Since we were late in bringing her to the hospital and we did not have money to move her to a bigger hospital, my parents planned to sell our land and house for money. Her disease became so serious that even her kidneys started to fail. More lumps appeared on her arms and were very painful. After several days, I went to her house into their rehearsal studio, and she loved it!

Many times one would see her roaming around campus, looking for one of her students who had to come for a scheduled lesson. She held little individual ceremonies to recognize and celebrate her students’ progressive achievements. They would go home bubbling with joy and confidence, inspired with possibilities of what they could be. Once in a while, you could meet her walking around campus with one or two of her students, who now assumed roles of her English teachers and she, their student!

She had come to AIIAS campus with her family because her husband, a professor, was on a sabbatical. Just before they left for Korea, parents of the children she had so much helped, touched by her kindness, organized a farewell ceremony for her. A surprise video of her students playing their pieces was the highlight of the program. They expressed their gratitude to her. She shed tears at the thought of parting with them all. They hugged and shared pictures. It was a moving experience for all present.

Many of the parents had never even met her, until that farewell ceremony. Even more interestingly, none of her students ever knew her name (Mrs. Lee Kwang Soon). To them, she remains this kind-hearted, but unknown teacher.

With the help of her teacher and classmates, she had come to AIIAS campus with her family because her husband, a professor, was on a sabbatical. Just before they left for Korea, parents of the children she had so much helped, touched by her kindness, organized a farewell ceremony for her. A surprise video of her students playing their pieces was the highlight of the program. They expressed their gratitude to her. She shed tears at the thought of parting with them all. They hugged and shared pictures. It was a moving experience for all present.

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To begin with, none of the young people she took as her students were from her cultural background. She could not speak English and none of them could speak Korean, but that would not deter her missionary instinct. She communicated with the students and instructed them in an improvised language, something that only the people in that class could understand.

After recruiting the first few learners, word soon spread among the young ones that there was a very kind piano teacher offering lessons free of charge. Sooner than later, she had a tight schedule with these learners virtually turning her house into their rehearsal studio, and she loved it!

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THE UNKNOWN TEACHER

BY WATSON MBIRU

AIIAS is a graduate education institution with a heart for mission. It is the ‘heart for mission’ epitomized by this story on the AIIAS campus, that is on my mind right now. Here is an inspiring story, with all the ingredients for a class and none of them could speak Korean, but that would not deter her missionary instinct. She communicated with the students and instructed them in an improvised language, something that only the people in that class could understand.

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We later brought her to hospitals in Beijing, Shanghai, and Changchun. All of the doctors said that my sister had a serious disease called Erythema Nodosum which according to Wikipedia, is an inflammatory condition characterized by inflammation of the fat cells under the skin, resulting in tender red nodules or lumps. Since we were late in bringing her to the hospital and we did not have money to move her to a bigger hospital, my parents planned to sell our land and house for money. Her disease became so serious that even her kidneys started to fail. More lumps appeared on her arms and were very painful. After several days, I went to her house into their rehearsal studio, and she loved it!

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Everyone likes the idea of being remembered when they're gone. However, is it enough to be remembered as a good man or a good woman? Living in Southeast Asia, I've noticed that their culture isn't about a one-man show as it normally is in other parts of the world, but of a collective group that doesn't hesitate to help each other move forward. Evidence of this is when the Bataan province in the Philippines achieved a Guinness World Record in 2015 for planting over 223,000 trees by 18,000 volunteers. Not much was said about the originator of the idea because the focus is on the significance of the actions of those who participated in the Bataan Green Legacy Program. It seemed to be something greater than themselves.

Coming to AIIAS has helped me understand the meaning of legacy in a new light; that having a life of legacy is only for the humbled. The administration, staff, and professors have been a beacon of this influence because of their desire to contribute to God's cause unselfishly. Through their humility, I've learned that life is about giving value rather than to keep expecting to receive value. It takes humility to be willing to give-up being remembered for who you were, or what you did, or even what ideas you came up with because you basically understand that changed lives are more important. In other words, legacy isn’t about being remembered when you’re gone; it’s making the world a better place even if you don’t get the credit for it.

When I got home that day after the funeral, I saw a quote on the internet by Albert Pine that said, “What we do for ourselves dies with us. What we do for others and the world remains. and is immortal!” When a person only expects to receive value, it makes the world a worse place even if you don’t get the credit for it.

Developing a Humble Legacy

BY SAMSON BUSH

Everyone likes the idea of being remembered when they’re gone. However, is it enough to be remembered as a good man or a good woman?

We receive even more by giving; more rings in my mind everyday think of our trip to Mindoro. The activities with the local church members; the small creek with clear water flowing along the trees; the salty fragrance of the open sea; and the smiles and laughter shared by all were only some parts of the trip which can be described through words. The rest will continue to remain in the heart and mind.

On February 22-25, 2018, 15 AIIAS Business Club (ABC) members with their children joined a trip to Oriental Mindoro province—an island 140 kilometers southwest of Manila, Philippines. Our purpose was to help the on-going Adventist church construction in Barangay Calima, a project which began in 2013.

After 10 hours of travel by land and sea, we arrived at Barangay Calima where a forest, a fresh flowing creek, a waterfall, and a small bridge welcomed us. Walking through the village's narrow roads created a warm, yet familiar atmosphere. We easily found stores to buy food and even halo-halo. Calima is a lively village where everybody is well-acquainted with one another.

We had the opportunity and pleasure to join and lead in the vesper prayer meeting, the Sabbath Worship service, the children's Sabbath School, and the Adventist Youth program. The church members are mostly elders and children. Though small in number, the young people of Calima church are full of energy and active in the ministry. Things were more fun on Saturday evening when we played games with them during a social night event.

Sunday was dedicated to painting the church's walls. We brought in six large buckets of paint and 20 units of ceiling fans donated by generous and blessed contributors. The children were the ones excited to get their hands on the brushes as they were also the first ones to wake up early in the morning. The church members also joined in painting and cleaning the walls. The ladies cooked delectable Tinola while some of the men were pounding, wrapping, and steaming bananas. We finished painting the church before noon, and still had a little time left for a quick dip in the creek to wash the paint off of our skin. We are indeed grateful for the experiences we had and happy that we could give something for the church. Most of all, we thank God for bringing us to meet our brothers and sisters in Calima.

I am convinced that by giving more, you receive more and you become closer to Jesus.

*B halo-halo is a dessert made of ice, milk, beans, jelly, and fruit popular in the Philippines, especially during the hot summer season.
*Tinola—a ginger-based soup usually served with chicken and green vegetables, also a local favorite.

Photo Credit: Akiko Sinaga

By Akiko Sinaga
TOWER R CONSTRUCTION

Construction continues on Tower R, which consists of 16 3-bedroom units. This was made possible through gifts from a very generous anonymous donor, from the Southern and Northern Asia-Pacific Divisions, and from family and friends.

LIVE LIKE JESUS

The Week of Prayer with the theme “Live Like Jesus” was conducted by Philip Baptiste, special assistant to the president of the East-Central Africa Division.

ALUMNI HOMECOMING

Seventy alumni gathered at AIIAS to reconnect with one another, relive their memories, and respond to the call to represent the 3,500 alumni around the world.

SEMINARY FORUM

235 attendees attended a forum about the “Protestant Reformation in Global Context” to learn about the contributions of Martin Luther and its connection to the Adventist Church as the world recounts the events of the 500 years of Protestant Reformation.

ICONFERENCE

300 scholars of Business, Education, and Public Health responded to the call for “Social Responsibility”, during the Graduate School forum highlighting valuable research and practical proposals to promote, educate, and practice social responsibility. Keynote speaker: Dr. Elissa Kido, director, Center of Research for Adventist Education, La Sierra University, California.

HEALTH FESTIVAL WEEKEND

The Health Festival Weekend is an annual reminder that health is wealth. Led by the Master in Public Health class, AIIAS continues to promote living a healthy lifestyle.
ON GIVING, MINISTRY, AND GOING HOME

During the church service in conjunction with the Southern Asia-Pacific Division year-end meetings, guest speaker Elder Ted N.C. Wilson, Seventh-day Adventist world church president shared a message about pressing forward in the great Advent movement and the Gospel Commission.

CULTURAL NIGHT

This year’s cultural night, an annual AIIAS tradition of music and performance, featured a celebration of unity amidst differences.

MINI OLYMPICS

During three full days of sports, cheers, and teamwork, students, faculty, and staff joined one another in fun and camaraderie.
Sacred Concert Series

AIIAS is blessed with much musical talents and there’s no better way to give back to the Lord the talents that He has given than to share with the AIIAS family. Featured every first and third Sabbath of the month, this marks the fourth year of the Sacred Concert Series.

United in Diversity

United in Diversity is a special talk-show program featuring the many unique perspectives from people around the world. This program deals with various topics from cultural practices and traditions and a plethora of issues that are not often discussed.

Preaching Lectureship

With the support of the Southern Asia-Pacific Division ministerial department, along with additional support from the North Philippine Union and Central Luzon Conferences, 200 attendees were enlightened on “The Sermon Journey”, a discussion by Dr. Randy L. Roberts, senior pastor of the Loma Linda University Church. Roberts explained how to develop a sermon from Bible study right through to delivery.

January 2018

WEEK OF PRAYER—GOD IS LOVE

Dr. Artur Stele, a general vice president of the Seventh-day Adventist Church world headquarters together with his wife Dr. Galina Stele, research and program evaluation manager at the Seventh-day Adventist Church world headquarters, highlighted the importance of recognizing God’s love and His character through a week-long journey to know more about God.
The chosen theme for the event was “Engaged to Mission.” As just as engaged couples, this theme portrays a strong relationship between God and His followers. Christians are created for a mission and, as such, ought to be engaged to it. As Ellen White emphasized, “We should now feel the responsibility of laboring with intense earnestness to impart to others the truths that God has given for this time … Now is the time for the last warning to be given” (Evangelism, p. 16).

In response to the messages of inspiration, Liz Zambriano, an AIIAS Online student from Thailand testified, “I am blessed to be part of the week of prayer. It is a challenge to witness in a Buddhist country being the only Christian in my workplace. I pray that God will help me share His love through my contact with others.”

The other features of the event included interactive Reflection Forums about the messages; a Prayer Garden where students and professors prayed for each other; My Story where everyone shared testimonies about their own mission work; and Call-a-Friend for those who want to share their burdens and concerns. These features made the week of prayer engaging, thus, avoiding the strong temptation to worship passively in an online event.

The chosen theme for the event was indeed “very positive and enriching.”

Many online students of AIIAS work in various mission fields: the kingdom. This year’s online week of prayer, which was held on March 12-17, 2018, was participated in by more than 60 students and guests in 25 countries around the world. Wolfgang Schick, an AIIAS Online student from Germany testified in the online forum that the week of prayer was indeed “very positive and enriching.”

Online Students Celebrate Missions

Online students have proven anew that distances in space and time cannot hinder God’s people from worshipping together to celebrate God’s mission of saving souls for the kingdom. This year’s online week of prayer, which was held on March 12-17, 2018, was participated in by more than 60 students and guests in 25 countries around the world. Wolfgang Schick, an AIIAS Online student from Germany testified in the online forum that the week of prayer was indeed “very positive and enriching.”

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The highlight of the event were the chosen speakers who have been involved in mission from various fields of endeavor such as health, business, education, and church ministries. These fields were intentionally chosen as they represent the degree programs of AIIAS students, thereby making the messages directly applicable to them. The speakers emphasized biblical principles in doing mission and gave ideas on how to actively engage in it.

Many online students of AIIAS work in various mission fields; hence the interest in the topic. They were then invited to showcase videos of their ministries in order to inspire others. This sharing proved exciting to the participants as they witnessed their schoolmates’ actual mission work in Australia, Caribbean, Cuba, Egypt, Germany, Qatar, Thailand, United States, and Zambia.

AQRA Hosts 2018 International Qualitative Research Conference

Aisan Qualitative Research Association (AQRA), an AIIAS-based research organization, hosted its Third International Qualitative Research Conference in Subic Bay, Philippines.

Themed, “Horing the Craft,” the conference was attended by more than 200 scholars from all over the Philippines and several other countries from April 24-26, 2018 at Subic Bay Travelers Hotel.

“We are so excited to host another important conference as we are actively expanding our platform for interaction with those who are interested in qualitative research,” remarked Dr. Safary Wa-Mbaleka, president of AQRA. “We are committed to setting high standards for qualitative research.”

Continuing the tradition of featuring high profile resource people at the event, the keynote speaker for the conference this year was Dr. René Drummen, the associate dean for the College of Health at the University of Mississippi, USA. Dr. Drummen came with a large wealth of expertise that has landed her millions of US dollars in research grants in the past several years of her scholarship. She spoke from experience, not just from books.

It was a record-breaking event where more than 80% of the attendees presented their qualitative research (QLR) studies. Up to seven concurrent sessions were held simultaneously to accommodate the numerous topics during the conference.

Many participants of the event commented that the conference had deepened their knowledge and understanding about qualitative research. Many have expressed appreciation to AIIAS faculty members, Dr. Arceli Rosario, Dr. Piema Gaikwad, and Dr. Safary Wa-Mbaleka for not only imparting knowledge about qualitative research but spending time encouraging new qualitative researchers.

“This conference is about building another one and helping another grow in qualitative research,” continued Wa-Mbaleka.

During the testimonial session, participants shared many ways how qualitative research helped them grow in their personal and professional lives. One commented on how qualitative research helped her keep her job by increased research output. Another noted that qualitative research helped in the understanding of the whole human that cannot be answered by quantitative research.

A23

During the event, a new book entitled “Qualitative Research for Senior High School” by Safary Wa-Mbaleka and Ranjith Kingston Gladstone was launched. The book contains a practical, self-explanatory, and step-by-step approach with illustrations on how to conduct qualitative research at the senior high school level.

The field of qualitative research has drawn a huge amount of interest among scholars in recent years. Proponents of this interest argue that qualitative research provides an in-depth exploration of complex issues. AQRA was founded in 2015 with a mission to promote QLR and develop QLR scholars. In just three years of operation, AQRA has reached 1,300 registered members and has more than 2,000 following and participating in qualitative research discussions virtually.

At the closing of the conference, organizers announced that the 2019 AQRA international conference will be held in Cebu City, Philippines, on April 23-25, 2019.
The selection of this theme proved to be needful during the AATA Forum. These scholars represented a fair level of research findings with enthusiasm. Health and wholeness presenters were keen to share their scholarly papers and contribute to biblical, theological, historical, and missiological studies in the Asian context.

A. Gonzalez, AIIAS Seminary dean, emphasized the significance of this forum in his welcome message. According to him, "Since more than half of the population of the world lives here, it is important to talk and to discuss religious pluralism and how it impacts the mission of the church in this part of the world.”

The major highlight of the forum was a voted statement that brought all the discussions of the week together. The conclusion of the statement reads, "We thus resolve to live, teach, and preach health and wholeness in Africa, and regions beyond, on Biblical foundations until the coming of the Master architect and Restorer of health and wholeness."

AATA took the occasion to appreciate AIIAS President Dr. Stephen Gupitl for his support of the association from its formative years to the present. AATA will publish a book from the presentations at the forum which will be also dedicated to Dr. Gupitl.

Under the special projects AATA seeks to undertake, was the launch to write a book in honor of Professor Joel Musovski, who served AIAA as Seminary dean, before he moved to AUA to serve in the same capacity. Currently, he is the vice chancellor of Solusi University in Zimbabaw. Dr. Sokupa was assigned to be the chief editor of this book, earmarked to be published in 2019. A call for papers is underway from the editors.

The AATA 2018 Forum witnessed great success because the association’s members worked as united patriots, the AIAA administration was greatly supportive, and all the presenters were keen to share their scholarly papers and research findings with enthusiasm. Health and wholeness is a need for all humanity and thus overlooking health concerns is an inadequate presentation of the gospel.

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"We thus resolve to live, teach, and preach health and wholeness in Africa, and regions beyond, on Biblical foundations until the coming of the Master architect and Restorer of health and wholeness.”
The apostle Paul wrote the systematic relationship of the body organs to illustrate the presence of the Holy Spirit among God’s people in 1 Corinthians 12. This analogy applies fits the AIIAS community, giving the diverse population of nationalities. I wish with my colleagues and friends to remember me as a man of God who faithfully discharged my role in building the body of Christ, especially in encouraging and giving hope to all. —David Dumbuldoo, KwaZulul-Natal

I want as many students to develop some sort of scholarship work which will not only help shoulder their educational/living expenses but will also extend to their professional career and field growth. For that, I want to work on many areas which would urge attention and then submit the proposal to the concerned department and personnel. At the end, I want to see it successfully operating and making a huge difference in student life and in the alumni’s professional life after leaving AIIAS. —John Andrew Mohan, Penang

I want to be remembered as a helpful friend and classmate. Studying at AIIAS can be difficult, but with helpful friends and classmates, it becomes easy. Friendly and helpful classmates are always remembered because they give a long-lasting influence on others. —Caroline Marie Celeste, Philippines

I would like my colleagues to remember me as someone who was never to be caught up in my studies that I forget that there are people around me and a world in need of God and His love. —May Ann Baragona, Philippines

I would like people to remember me as a SMILING WOMAN. A little kindness just to brighten up someone’s day. —Ruth Sendie Edmond, Haiti

I believe in the spiritual formation of students in school as the foundation needed for them to be built in faith as they go out into the world to serve. I, therefore, wish to contribute my quota by integrating content and pedagogy for the benefit of their students. I also want to be known as every one has their own strengths and weaknesses. I hope that everyone of us could create one entity, especially the business faculty, alumni, and students, to help Adventist members to overcome their economic challenges by strengthening their financial. This could be as ‘supporting ministry’ to our church around the world. —Anjo Kanginangan, Bonacasa

In my field as a teacher, I don’t want to stay stagnant so I want to keep learning. I want to educate young minds not only academically but also in values and most especially with the fear of God. —Elisa Pasiong, Bonacasa

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I want to be remembered as someone who served God without any reservations, even unto death. —William Appardo, Philippines

The legacy that I would like to leave behind in AIIAS is the good memories about my life and family, not just to my colleagues and friends but also to our beloved students and faculty in AIIAS. I also want to have a good relationship with all the students here because I know very few we will meet again as students of God in His Field. That is why I want to build good relationships with others, not just with my Indonesia community but with the international community also. I want to be remembered as a good student who works very diligently and has integrity in all things, so one day, if they need an Indonesian friend to work with them, they will know how to find him. —Kamalulli Firdausy Christian Salot, Indonesia

As I have grown through studying and living together as united in diversity within the AIIAS family, I want to respect others, especially the students and alumni, and then help Adventist members to overcome their economic challenges by strengthening their financial. This could be as a ‘supporting ministry’ to our church around the world. —Anjo Kanginangan, Bonacasa

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AIAS Poll

A man after God’s own heart. —David Thomas Draman Zebideen, Lebanon

I would like to participate in different activities organized by my colleagues as the institution, especially the spiritual activities. —Amon Amon, the spiritual activities.

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MAKING DISCIPLES for JESUS

BIBLICAL, THEOLOGICAL, AND CULTURAL PERSPECTIVE

November 8-10, 2018

AIIAS Amphitheater

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

G.T. NG, PhD
Secretary
General Conference of the Seventh-day Adventists

PLENARY SPEAKERS

ERIK CARTER, DMin, PhD
Chair, Relational Studies
Assistant Professor
School of Religion
Loma Linda University

J. JOSEPH KIDD, DMin
Professor of Christian Ministry
Coordinator for OAH Evang System & Church Growth
Andrews University

STEINERD MUELLER, ThD, DMin
Biblical Research Institute
General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists

YURI DRUMM, PhD
Master and DMin Programs Coordinator
Zaoksky Adventist University

BIENVENIDO MERCAL, PhD
VP for Health, Discipleship;
Reconstruction and Integrated Evangelism Lifestyle
Southern Asia Pacific Division of the Seventh-day Adventists

REGISTRATION

Inclusive of forum materials, souvenir shirt and three meals (lunch only).

Early Bird
Late Registration (after October 10, 2018)

PhP 2,500 or US $47
PhP 3,000 or US $50

Contact us

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DR. REMNUL R. TORNALEJO
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The LEADERSHIP CHALLENGE

November 20-22, 2018

AIIAS, Lalaan 1, Silang, Cavite, Philippines

For registration and other queries, please contact:

Sally Moises
AIIAS Graduate School
Tel. No.: +63 (46) 414-4370
Email: graduateschool@aiias.edu
Website: iconference.aiias.edu

Registration Fee

EARLY BIRD: until Oct. 31, 2018
Professionals: PhP 3,000
Students: PhP 1,500

REGULAR: Nov. 1-10, 2018
Professionals: PhP 3,500
Students: PhP 2,000

Inclusive of forum materials, souvenir shirt and three meals (lunch only).

Early Bird PhP 2,500 or US $47
Late Registration (after October 10, 2018) PhP 3,000 or US $50
ABOUT AIIAS

The Adventist International Institute of Advanced Studies (AIIAS) is a graduate-level Adventist educational institution that offers quality education while keeping the tuition at a great value. AIIAS has three modalities: online learning, distance learning centers (DLCs), and on-campus full-time programs. AIIAS is located on a beautiful tropical campus 45.5 kilometers outside of Manila, the capital city of the Philippines. This location offers easy access to opportunities for mission trips and community outreach both locally and internationally, especially within the 10/40 window.

The AIIAS community consists of over 200 graduate students from more than 80 countries all over the world. The faculty members come from 16 different countries, a majority of which are expatriates. The teacher-student ratio is low, giving students the opportunity to work closely with their teachers. Typically, a class of 10 students will represent many nationalities that create access to a variety of insights and global perspectives.

The AIIAS alumni hold prestigious positions throughout Asia and the world. They serve as teachers, pastors, world church leaders, university presidents, administrators, business executives, and health professionals. Many of the students come to AIIAS to have a strong foundation as a benefit from world-class graduate training.

RECOGNITION & ACCREDITATION

AIIAS is recognized as a graduate educational institution of international character by the government of the Republic of the Philippines, as certified by the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) pursuant to Presidential Decree No. 2021. The institution and all its programs are accredited by the AAA. In addition, the Graduate School programs are accredited by PAASCU and those from the Seminary by ATESEA.

AIIAS has a secure entrance.

AIIAS has an abundance of opportunities for one to grow spiritually, whether it is through prayer meetings, Sabbath worship programs, or church ministries off-campus. There are many other opportunities that will allow you to both receive a blessing and be a blessing.

THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

The AIIAS Theological Seminary exists to equip mission-driven professional teachers and other church leaders in a holistic, multicultural, and collaborative approach to learning. The AIIAS Theological Seminary promotes biblically-informed scholarship, spirituality, and a meaningful field experience.

GRADUATE SCHOOL

The AIIAS Graduate School develops service-oriented professionals known for integrity and scholarship in the fields of business, education, and public health, within an international context.

ENGLISH CENTER

The AIIAS English Center gives students intensive and personalized instruction in the English language in an English-speaking environment. The English Center helps students to learn English in line with well-recognized English language programs.

ONLINE

AIIAS Online delivers quality graduate Christian education that is accessible and affordable through student-centered and contextualized learning experiences for better service to the church and society.

Why choose AIIAS?

- Distinctively Adventist
- We champion the educational philosophy, teachings, and lifestyle of the Seventh-day Adventist Church and a clear sense of its mission and identity.
- Academic Excellence
- We maintain the highest academic quality, highest accreditation level, and employ outstanding faculty recognized in their field.
- Affordable Cost
- All AIIAS students enjoy the highest quality of education through the benefit of financial subsidy by the Adventist world church.
- Exotic Location
- Dive to undisturbed coral reefs, enjoy unspoiled tropical beaches, hike up a world-famous volcano, or shoot the rapids. All these activities can be enjoyed within a short distance from AIIAS campus.
- Mission oriented
- AIIAS being strategically located in the Philippines, provides greater access to the “10/40 Window” for research opportunities and field experiences.
- Excellent Supporting Resources
- Exemplary graduate research library with a collection of more than 70,000 volumes means easier access to a growing gold mine of library resources.
- Alumni Impact
- AIIAS alumni have become well equipped leaders around the world committed to the church and its mission.

ADMISSION DEADLINES

Dec 6, 2018 for 2nd Semester, Term B
Feb 1, 2019 for Intersemester
Apr 30, 2019 for 1st Semester, Term A
Jul 4, 2019 for 1st Semester, Term B
AllIAS Program Offerings
Graduate Education with a Heart for Mission

GRADUATE SCHOOL

Business
Master of Business Administration (MBA)*
Master of Science in Administration (MSA)*
Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Business

Education
Master of Arts in Education (MAEd)*
Education Specialist (EdS)
Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Education

Public Health
Master of Public Health (MPH)*

SEMINARY

Professional Programs
Master of Ministry (MMin)*
Master of Divinity (MDiv)*
Master of Arts in Ministry
Doctor of Ministry (DMin)
Doctor of Missiology (DMiss)

Academic Programs
Master of Arts in Religion (MA-R)
Master of Theology (MTh)
Doctor of Philosophy in Religion (PhD)
*also offered Online

Why choose AllIAS?
Distinctively Adventist | Mission Oriented | Affordable Cost
Exotic Location | Outstanding Alumni

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