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ABOUT THE COVER

The cover represents the tokens of pride for each graduate. These tokens may well represent both their hard work and accomplishment. To all alumni, greater challenges lie beyond AIIAS, which is to be a leader in God’s mission.
Greetings from AIIAS!

As I have transitioned to my new work in leadership at AIIAS, I have heard over and over what a special place AIIAS is to those who have studied and worked here. Alumni, current students, faculty, staff, and even division employees who lived on this campus many years ago as the Southern AsiaPacific Division campus officials and homes were being built—all have spoken with deep affection about their experience at AIIAS. God’s grace is upon this institution, and it is a sweet spirit flows through the interactions here. Even in the few weeks that we have lived here, we have seen people going the extra mile, giving selflessly of their time and energies and outreach for the good of others and for the work of AIIAS.

I think that this selfless service is partly an inheritance of those who have gone before us and given freely of themselves during the 30+ years of AIIAS history. It also speaks of the heartfelt commitment to the Seventh-day Adventist mission in those who work and study here. We are not here for ourselves. We are here to serve our great God in response to His work within us and His calling upon our lives. This is the motivation that unifies us despite the diversity represented at AIIAS. It is that very diversity of countries, languages and customs that helps to make AIIAS such an interesting place. It builds in us the capacity to work together cross-culturally, valuing the differences among us, in the service of mission.

And yet …

Before we moved to AIIAS, we heard some people around us say with puzzlement, “AIIAS? What’s that?”

Is it possible that AIIAS is a well-kept secret? In some regions of the world, that is so. There are many people who have never heard of AIIAS although they recognize our sister institutions. I would invite you to help me change that.

When Jesus spoke to the man He had healed of demon possession, he invited the man to go home to his friends and tell them what God had done for him. When Jesus spoke to the man He had healed of demon possession, he invited the man to go home to his friends and tell them what God had done for him.

The first task was to consider which rooms were needed. Certainly, there are needed space. The AIIAS Administrative Committee and Board agreed that a new building was urgently needed for the AIIAS Academy grades 7-12. A plot of land behind the elementary school was allocated as the spot where the new academy complex would be located.

There is something very creative and satisfying about visioning new facilities, especially when it is for young people. The idea is to plan a facility that will accommodate up to 30 students per classroom.

Conception drawing of proposed AIIAS Academy building

The first task was to consider which rooms were needed. Certainly, there would be classrooms for each grade, along with laboratories and rooms for computers, language study, home education, library, and other needed space.

It was soon realized that AIIAS Academy would never be able to fit all the rooms on one level on the designated site. So, a two-story building was considered, designed so that two more floors could be added, if they should ever be needed.

Then came the task of moving the rooms around on the plans, like a puzzle, looking for the best fit. Gradually, the floor plans began to take shape and consensus was reached on the number of rooms needed and their arrangement. Consultations were held with the teachers and school personnel about each room. Details were added to the floor plans, including laboratory tables, storage cabinets, and classroom furniture. Designs and arrangements were made and changed, and changed again, until marks of satisfaction were seen as the teachers imagined their new classrooms. The trees on the building site were cut to make way for the building. Those trees will provide wood for the carpentry needs of the new building. With those more mature plans in place, the architect prepared some initial cost estimates for the more than 2,000 square meter building. In total, about PHP 40 million or USD 800,000 are needed for this project. It is a sizable sum, but well worth it when comparing the crowded facilities that are currently being used for the academy in the school gym.

AIIAS is now seeking donors who see the vision of a proper school facility for our AIIAS high school children. If everyone does their part, this can be a reality soon. Catch the vision!

To give to this project, send your email to sguptill@aiias.edu
Faculty are mandated to be on campus during the Prime Week, a week set apart at the end of an academic year for a series of intensely focused academic activity. The Prime Week for 2019 was held on May 27 to 29. The main agenda items included (a) a curriculum map for each degree program, (b) departmental approved course outcomes, (c) artifacts for each program, (d) core textbooks for each degree program, and (e) curriculum review for the Academic Bulletin 2020-2022.

AIIAS education professor, Dr. Prema Gaikwad, led the deliberation on the topic “Articulating Student Learning Outcomes and Course Outcomes in Higher Education.” The two-part session was interactive with faculty members reviewing the nature of student learning outcomes, generally termed as learning objectives. The hands-on session had the faculty practice writing “SMART” learning outcomes using the revised Bloom’s Taxonomy. Then followed by a presentation focusing on the essential attributes of course outcomes which served as a stepping stone for the day’s activities.

After the combined session, the break-out session was spent on creating or selecting course outcomes for each course. The Graduate School and Seminary faculty members met in groups of departments and programs to accomplish this. Faculty members were seen deeply involved in this activity trying to incorporate the essential attributes. Discussions and clarifications made the session busy and engaging. Core textbooks, artifacts, and curriculum review engaged the faculty fully well.

AIIAS Online director, Dr. Leni Casimiro, presented useful tips on creating rubrics. Clear criteria and examples provided guidance that the faculty appreciated. At the end of the session, different departments were assigned to create specific rubrics that would be adopted by both schools. The types of rubrics included portfolio, class presentation, research paper, etc. During the break-out session on the second day, the creative ideas of faculty resulted in quality rubrics, which soon will be available for common use by faculty members.

As the faculty continued to fine-tune the items on the Prime Week agenda, major curriculum reviews were discussed by departments while some of the revisions will be reflected in the next edition of the academic bulletin.

One important item for the Prime Week review was the curriculum mapping. The initiative had been instituted a few years ago. The competency-based curriculum being promoted at AIIAS needs collaborative effort by departmental faculty members. Both the Graduate School and the Seminary faculty members revisited the competencies in light of the mission and goals of AIIAS. The departments ensured alignment of the competencies with the mission, vision, goals, and objectives of the respective schools and AIIAS. The courses in the department were matrixed to three different levels of scope—introducing, developing, mastery—in terms of the competencies. Course syllabi were reviewed based on the competencies and competency levels. The highlight of the process for some of the departments was the planned inclusion of the integration of faith and learning in the courses for each day of teaching.

Much has been accomplished through this collaborative effort during the past two years, as evidenced through major curriculum revisions and updates. The latest academic bulletin showcases some of the efforts of this much-deliberated effort.

A GRATIFYING REFLECTION OF THE FACULTY PRIME WEEK

By: Samuel and Prema Gaikwad
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peaking at the 103rd AIIAS Commencement ceremony, Dr. Raquel Korniejczuk, academic vice president of Monticello University, delivered a powerful message on the transformational aspect of education. Korniejczuk urged the graduates of AIIAS to ‘rebuild lives’ as educators, leaders, and advocates in God’s ministry and to decide on which path to follow for the best transformation.

“Education is a transforming experience—transforming for self-destruction of the person or to accomplish the mission with joy. The difference lies on how you and I relate with God,” said Korniejczuk.

Korniejczuk acknowledged that the class chose two powerful words: “rebuilding” and “eternity” that prove to be useful and valuable in education. “For a positively transforming experience, ‘rebuilding’ and ‘eternity’ are used,” said Korniejczuk.

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“The theme, ‘Rebuilding for Eternity,’ was chosen by the class to show how God has modeled a new character in each of them. Going a step further, the class demonstrated how the theme can be applied to the different academic areas,” said Drs. Samuel and Prema Gaikwad, class sponsors and faculty of the AIIAS Education Department, spoke during the consecration service on Friday about gratitude to God and about pressing on toward goals. “Looking ahead, there are challenges, but God is with us. Do not fear to stand alone because you are facing God, and you are following the principles of the Bible,” they concluded. The Gaikwads led out as the class representatives took turns explaining how God has modeled a new character in each of them. The class responded that they would rely not on their might but on God’s leading.

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Who could have believed that a small college in the middle of Madagascar’s highlands would seem so close to AIIAS? The Université Adventiste Zürcher (UAZ) is a college of 450 students known for its nursing and theology programs. The school is located at an altitude of 1,400 meters in Central Madagascar surrounded by a large pine forest of 400 hectares. The particularity of the college is that they have today five AIIAS alumni families working here. As a depiction of AIIAS, these families make up a mix of nationalities representing seven different countries.

During the Ellen G. White Colloquium in 2018, they took the opportunity to organize an AIIAS alumni reunion with two visiting alumni: Dr. Michael Sokupa, associate director of the Ellen G. White Estate in Maryland, USA and Dr. Michael Campbell, associate professor of the AIIAS Seminary. During the reunion, there were exchanges of international food and memories of moments spent together at AIIAS many years ago.

The UAZ Library was able to receive the donation of 20 reference books from the AIIAS Leslie Hardinge Library and major references from the White Estate. AIIAS alumni have organized the delivery of 1,500 French-title book donations from France and are expecting 3,000 more that will be arriving in 2020.

Aside from the book donations, the AIIAS alumni families have also been organizing the distribution of donated clothing for those living in the community; developed a church program in a remote village; and started teaching children how to play music instruments.

"AIIAS has never been so close to Madagascar."

AIIAS Master of Public Health 2018 alumni, Michael Paul and Nant Khin San Htay have been actively working as health lecturers at Myanmar Union Adventist Seminary (MUAS).

Ever since both of them have been employed at the MUAS, the school has reintroduced or taught health education as a minor course. Michael and Nant Khin also teach English classes for the English department. Nant Khin serves as the food service director for the school cafeteria while Michael started the exercise program for the health department students.

Recently, they gave health lectures during the Tentmakers and 1000 Missionary Movement training attended by some graduates of the seminary. They also started teaching children how to play music instruments.

By: Karen Lizzeth Flores

Dr. Carlos Braggi recently co-authored a book with his father, Guillermo Braggi, entitled “Debt Free Finance: Principles of Stewardship, Faithfulness, and Generosity” in Spanish. The book highlights the importance of faithfulness in returning tithes and offerings, keeping a budget, using credit wisely, and enjoying the blessings of savings. It also features the importance of saving money for education, housing, retirement, and insuring assets and health. Originally published in Spanish, the book has been translated into Romanian and Russian languages. It is currently being translated to Bulgarian.

“It is our prayer that by better understanding biblical principles illustrated by stories of individuals and families, our readers will find the door to financial freedom and happiness from the Lord Jesus Christ,” says Braggi, dean of the faculty of Business Administration at Middle East University, Lebanon and Doctor of Philosophy in Business alumni of AIIAS, 2015.

By: Sharnie Love Zamora

By: Cédric Lachenal

Photocredits: Michael Paul and Nant Khin San Htay

By: Sharnie Love Zamora

Photocredits: Dr. Carlos Braggi

Photocredits: Madagascar Alumni

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AIIAS president-elect Dr. Ginger Ketting-Weller met with AIIAS alumni on July 13, 2019. The meet-and-greet, which took place at La Sierra University in Riverside, California, also brought together former AIIAS faculty and staff.

Speaking before the alumni, Ketting-Weller expressed her eagerness to join the AIIAS family. She was impressed by the high standards of research presentations by AIIAS students, which she noted during her visit to the institution as a conference participant last year.

The president-elect mentioned the importance of developing the potentials of academic resources. Aside from the graduate-level programs, she also shared her thoughts about the growing multigenerational leaders through AIIAS Academy. “AIIAS provides powerful education on its campus and I want to be a part of it,” said Ketting-Weller.

Many alumni who attended the meeting live in the Riverside area while a few others were attending a conference event in Loma Linda.

“We were determined to attend the alumni meeting,” said alumna Dr. Octofien Sumendap who lives in Loma Linda. “My husband and I wanted to get to know the new AIIAS president and meet with other alumni.”

The former AIIAS presidents in attendance agreed that AIIAS is an excellent place to serve as a mission field.

A long-time secretary of the president, Purisima Ragui who retired in 2015, shared what it was like to serve under seven AIIAS presidents. Her husband, Dr. Paoring Ragui, who served as vice president for student services for many years, helped organize the alumni gathering.

By: Bruce Sumendap

Alumni relations in a university is the backbone of its sustainability vision. Alumni relations are essential as it assists in recruiting students, promoting training, boosting employment, encouraging donations, and bringing together great resources as per Margaux, a well-known educational administrator, and writer. A neglected relationship by the university is irresponsible as it challenges the degree equity—feeling responsible and accountable to identity, inform, interest, involve, and invest with the alma mater. This creates a gap between the university and its alumni. However, social capital exercised from the university bridges this gap.

A gap is created either from the side of the alumni or from the university. Creating a relationship through social capital helps develop a sense of shared identity and reciprocity. Eventually, the higher the contribution of the institution towards the alumni for their degree equity, the higher the contribution of the alumni to the institution in terms of growth and development.

Communication is the key factor to bridge the gap between the Alumni and the university. Consistent and regular engagements with the alumni resound the role and responsibility of alumni to their alma mater; however, the nature of communication should result in courage and relevance to the alumni share—to stand out with the alumni status to respond. The alumni of any institution can be willing to contribute their best to every facet of the institutional life; however, the ambiguous channels of communication and the bureaucracy start the relationship and the mind of giving. Further, the alumni do emphasize the lack of ample communication.

Every graduate of any institution should be given social equity—the inalienable rights towards their alma mater. Every institution should create an alumni society, where each member should have access to opportunities and resources that they need to contribute specifically to the fulfillment of the vision of the alma mater. This sense of responsibility and accountability is built among the alumni. Communication plays the right role in bridging relationships between the university and the alumni.

Communication gets the alumni connected, engaged, and committed. A well-defined tone with Christlike intention gets alumni connected to a Christian institution. Further, when the vision is well explained with the possible way of getting it accomplished, the alumni get fully engaged. Finally, when the heart of every graduate is touched through the resounding love for the alma mater, he or she stays committed. Let it be communicated.
What are classy acts? These are acts that are extraordinarily special. Some classy acts demand much sacrifice, such as dying for someone or giving away almost all that you have so that someone else can have a better life than you had. Some classy acts, however, do not demand a drop of sweat or blood; they can be as simple as an extraordinarily gracious comment or a spontaneous show of love. Great or small, classy acts are done with such style that it makes them extraordinarily stand out in the ordinariness of life.

I have been recipient and witness of many such classy acts. And now, like delicious food on a platter, I set some of them for you to taste. Perchance, you will remember that you too have been blessed by such acts and in chorus we will echo a phrase in Desiderata that “with all its sham, drudgery, and broken dreams, this is still a beautiful world.”

We’ve come to bid you goodbye. We were moving to a place an hour and a half plane ride away. Chona and Andy came. They traversed hundreds of kilometers on roads that wound through cities and towns and villages, deep valleys and high mountains, and long unpeopled stretches on their motorbike. To say we were touched by such a gesture would be an understatement. It’s a memory we want to keep forever, to be part of a family tradition, a story to be told to the generations to come. Why was that so special? Because they could have chosen the easy way to say goodbye—a text, a call, a card. Because that gesture was squeezed between a tight schedule and a tight budget (they could have taken their car). Because they knew we didn’t have any means to repay them whether by finances or by favor. Because we knew they did it for one reason—simply for love.

May I stand beside you? The pastor was making an appeal. “Come,” he said, “those of you who have burdens.” He repeated his invitation again, and then again, but none among those seated on the rows in front of me nor those behind me stirred. Neither did I. The pastor repeated, “Come ... come ... come!” Then I heard steps behind me, and I saw a lady move forward in long, determined strides. Reaching the middle front, she stopped and stood. The pastor continued, “Come, come, come.” But, I saw only that lone standing figure in a sea of seated thousands. In moments like that the seconds tick loud and long. In my heart I wished to stand to keep that brave woman company. But I seemed to be a thousand miles away and my delayed desire was swallowed by my shame. Then a classy act unfolded before me! I saw Ruthie, one of the serving deaconesses, standing and moving toward that lone lady. Together they stood for what seemed to me a long time. I cannot remember now if others stood later. If there were, they have faded in the background of my memory. What remains is a focused picture of two ladies standing side by side I thanked Ruthie later for her gesture. “It was such a noble act. I’ll always remember it,” I said, “It was simple. I just thought it was the right thing to do,” she replied. She’s right. Classy acts need not be complicated. Most times, they’re so simple only the wise and ready can do.

Forgive my stupidity! Sergo was one of those students who was like part of our family. One day, I noticed he started growing a beard. I like looking at bearded men; they remind me of those noble men of old who paved the way to make this world better for us. But for some reason, I did not like the look of him with a beard. My dislike for which I didn’t have any reason to feel entitled to grew stronger as his beard grew thicker. One day, I met him at the wrong place and at the wrong time. Our encounter was at the lobby of the church before the worship service was to start. The place was full of people, greeting each other in a happy, holy manner. I was doing the normal things—saying hi, shaking hands—until I saw him. “Hi, Sergo,” I said, “I don’t like your beard.” I blurted with the bigoted confidence and certainty of an educated idiot. When the words came out, I knew that if my mother were alive I would be in for a real good spanking. My heart groaned at the weight of my words. How did Sergo react? Oh, I wish you had been there and had taken a video clip. He turned to me and flashed a real sweet smile. “You’re correct, Dr. Rosario. You belong to the majority.” Choked with shame, I moved away. But my heart warmed at the graciousness of his response, at the classiness of his act. He didn’t only save me from the shameful consequences of my stupidity, but he also showed me that the way of wisdom is love.

The natural ingredient for a classy act is love—genuine love for God and for others.
WALKING THROUGH THE BIBLE LANDS

By: Carlos Mora

Once more, the AIIAS Seminary provided an opportunity to visit the Bible lands. Twenty-three AIIAS theology students, faculty, and friends visited the places where many of the biblical events took place. The trip took place on April 24 to May 8, 2019 and Dr. Carlos Mora, Old Testament professor, led the tour.

A three-credit course, OTST/NTST 604 Guided Study Tour of the Bible Lands was offered to the students who attended the trip. It is a great way of teaching and understanding the historical places, geographical locations, and weather of the areas where the biblical narratives happened. The tour guides explained about the various sites, but Dr. Mora and his students also shared insights about those places. The tour continued to visit Israel for five days. The most significant spots that they saw were the Old City of Jerusalem, the Dead Sea, and the region of Galilee. These places, which were connected with the ministry of Jesus, also served as a tool to aid in understanding the stories found in the Old Testament.

Finally, the tour brought the group to Jordan. They visited Petra, which is famous for its architectural structure since the houses, temples, and palaces are carved from the mountains. The group also visited Mount Nebo, Madaba, and Amman.

This kind of trip is more than academic experiences and knowing more about the Bible. It was a perfect moment for a spiritual journey where participants could identify themselves with the Word of God and the biblical characters and their struggles. These places, which were connected with the ministry of Jesus, also serve as a tool to aid in understanding the stories found in the Old Testament.

The Scriptures now become more real to the believers. AIIAS Seminary is committed to provide this kind of educational trips to the students. The Biblical Studies Department is planning a trip to the Seven Churches of Revelation in Turkey and also to visit Greece. There are also plans to have study tours to places related with theological and historical places, such as Europe and the United States. Mission studies will likely take participants to Southeast Asia and China. Traveling for learning is known to be as important as teaching in the classroom and the research in the library.
A n AIAS professor once said that if all education students left AIAS, there would be no more Sabbath school teachers at AIAS. This comment reveals how education students are engaged in serving others. Yet this year, the Education Department Student Association (EDSA) decided to engage in community service beyond the walls of AIAS.

AIAS students and alumni networked to help find a school with the most urgent infrastructure needs in the central region of the Philippines. Liza Facon, an AIAS PhD student and the education director of the Central Philippine Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists introduced EDSA to the administration of the school in Lapu-Lapu City, Cebu.

Our biggest pleasure was to see how other students painted the rebuilt wall and a classroom in the school. The day ended with a special worship service in which Dr. Wa-Mbaleka encouraged service to help find a school with the most urgent need of the school. The most urgent need of the school was to construct a wall for the second-floor classroom. The old wall was already detached from the building and was suspended dangerously over the playground where 100 kids gather everyday. The funds collected were sent to rebuild that wall and to expand the roof in order to protect it from inclement weather. However, it was also our dream to go to our adopted school in Bohol.

After months of preparation, on February 24, a group of six professors and eight students flew to Lapu-Lapu City where they were welcomed with an enthusiastic hospitality. Education professor, Dr. Prema Gaikwad conducted a workshop for school teachers. Simultaneously, another group led a special program for the children. During the afternoon, the two professors and a student conducted School Board Training at the Central Philippine Union Conference. That same day, a group of professors and students painted the rebuilt wall and a classroom in the school. This day marked our appreciation for the effort, time, and resources that benefited the entire community. To see small children, pregnant women, and elderly people receiving clothes and items they needed was priceless.

As we approached the deteriorated Mangyan church building, it looked gloomy inside and outside. The SA sponsored the materials for what was thought to be only a partial painting of the church. However, it was a miracle that the paint multiplied and we had more than enough to cover the inner and outer walls as well as the facade of the church with two coats of paint.

Approximately 300 people received medical and dental attention that weakened from a very eager group of young newly graduated doctors and dentists from the Adventist University of the Philippines (AUP) in Silang, Cavite. The community received simple dental procedures, medical orientation, and medication at no cost.

To summarize what we’ve learned during this mission trip:

1. Time was invested. Money was spent. Skills were applied. Effort was shown. Pains were soothed. Hopes were raised. Hearts were touched. Smiles were seen. Love was given. Love was received. Faith was strengthened. God was revealed.

2. Love was given. Love was received. Hearts were touched. Smiles were seen. Time was invested. Money was spent. This mission trip:

3. Our hearts were rebuilt by the joy of service.

4. As we went out of the comfort zone is when spirituality and mission outreach.

AIAS seeks to excel not only in academics but also in spirituality and mission outreach. Going out of the comfort zone is what defines mission trips such as the ones organized and sponsored by the AIAS Student Association (SA). On a previous mission trip held at Lantayu Baco, Mindoro, some specific needs were noticed in a small community of Mangyan people living in the mountain. The SA decided to (1) include medical and dental assistance to the community; (2) paint the Seventh-day Adventist church building of the Mangyans in the community; (3) distribute second-hand clothes, shoes, and hygiene articles; and (4) do a clean-up drive on the main road of a neighboring community.

The group brought 40 sacks of donated items from AIAS. Part of these donations was distributed among the Mangyans while the remaining items were handed over to the Lantayu Baco Church for distribution to the less privileged members of their church and community. The leader of the Mangyan community appreciated the effort, time, and resources that benefited his community. To see small children, pregnant women, and elderly people receiving clothes and items they needed was priceless.
Organized by the Student Association, the Mini Olympics serves as a breather from the regular pressures of coursework. Whether as a game spectator or a team player, the AIIAS Community showed unmitting support as they participated in the activities with anticipation and excitement. All participants brought home a bond that was developed by good sportsmanship, tremendous effort, and remarkable unity.

Congratulations to the Champion of Mini Olympics 2019—Black Team!

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The AIIAS-founded association, Asian Qualitative Research Association (AQRA), held its fourth international qualitative research conference at the Quest Hotel, Cebu City, on April 23 to 25, 2019.

“What I appreciate is the opportunity to learn with you and to continue to always be becoming,” stated keynote speaker, Dr. Maria K. E. Lahman, professor of Applied Statistics and Research Methods and Education and Behavioral Sciences from the University of Northern Colorado, USA. “I hope as these three days go past, we can knock our ideas against each other and I can learn more.”

Lahman’s expertise brought a career of considering and reflecting on. With what she learned through her experiences, she presented her presentation, entitled “Culturally Responsive Research Ethics: Becoming.”

The theme of this year’s conference, “Ethics in Qualitative Research,” was chosen because of its relevance in the field of qualitative research. Since qualitative research requires a lot of time spent in observations, interviews, data encoding, and subject selection, researchers are faced with many temptations to take shortcuts. This leads to unethical practices in research, and our plenary speakers tackled this subject through their presentations.

AQRA’s fourth international conference for qualitative research united a diverse group of scholars, with more than 200 delegates hailing from 12 countries namely Botswana, Costa Rica, Democratic Republic of Congo, Indonesia, Kenya, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Portugal, Russia, Thailand, United States, and Zimbabwe. The members of the conference represented 72 institutions from high schools, colleges, universities, and government and non-government organizations. The conference came to be for the betterment of these scholars and their qualitative research skills as they shared empirical and theoretical papers during the concurrent sessions and received relevant feedback from other researchers in the field.

At the program’s close, AQRA’s founding president, Dr. Safary Waz Mbaleka, announced the news of his assignment in Kenya. The AIIAS administration assigned Dr. Arceli Rosario as the new president of AQRA. Another development brought along by AQRA this year is the new partnership with the World Conference on Qualitative Research (WCQR).

AQRA hopes to progress its mission of promoting qualitative research and developing qualitative research scholars. In 2020, AQRA will return on April 28 to 30, to Tagaytay, Cavite, with ICQR5.0 with the theme “Rigor in Qualitative Research.”
FOCUSING ON THE BIBLE AND CULTURE: AN AFRICAN PERSPECTIVE

By: Sanned Lubani

The AIIAS African Theological Association held its fourth annual forum discussing issues that can enhance the mission of God in Africa and from an African perspective. It took place on March 27 to 30, 2019, with the main objective of answering the question, “Where do we place a dichotomy between cultural practices and biblical principles?”

The forum had three guest speakers namely, Dr. Kwabena Donkor, the associate director of the Biblical Research Institute, Evangelist Zukisani Mxoli, an enthusiastic lay member from Africa; and Dr. Olaotse Obed Gabasiane, a missiology professor in the AIIAS Seminary. These speakers led to a balanced and lively discussion of the issues.

In the keynote address entitled, “Culture and Adventist Theology and Practice in Africa,” Donkor decried the fact that “much theological education has often approached the discipline of hermeneutics in a way that has avoided the question of contextualization.” He called for the critical evaluation of African cultural customs in the light of the biblical worldview. He reasoned that a proper “segregation” of the culture is as much a work of hermeneutics as is the understanding of God’s Word.

The guest speakers also added their perspectives to the discussion. Mxoli made a two-part presentation entitled, “Our Mission as Africans of Influence,” while Gabasiane presented papers on cultural intelligence and relational leadership in the Bible and African culture. Other presenters from Africa, Pastors Phineas Mangwiro and Blessing Nyahuma, flew from Zimbabwe to present their papers.

A total of 22 papers were presented by the participants of the forum. These papers are being compiled to publish a Festschrift in honor of Professor Joel Musvosvi under AATA’s special book projects. Professor Musvosvi previously served AIIAS as a Seminary dean in 2005-2006. This book will be the second in the series of AATA books.

The major highlight of the forum was a voted statement that brought all the discussions together. The preamble of the communique reads, “… resolved to affirm and abide by the ... principles on understanding our self-identity as Seventh-day Adventists and as Africans.”

A IIAS African Theological Association (AATA) is an academic nonprofit organization formed by African students studying at AIIAS.

ASIAN SCHOLARS DISCUSS CHALLENGES IN SOUL WINNING AND CHURCH PLANTING

By: Prakash Jacob

The AIIAS Asian Theological Society (AATS) marked its eighth theological forum on soul winning and church planting in the Asian context on June 14-15, 2019.

Different aspects and issues on soul winning and church planting were discussed in the forum. It was understood that the biblical principles of soul winning are applicable in all cultures and that its only goal is to bring people to a saving relationship with Christ through faith.

The keynote speaker, Dr. Donny Chrissutianto, assistant professor of the Theological/Historical Studies Department at AIIAS, spoke about the history of church planting in the 1870s. “Studying the Bible and experiencing revival may help the church in doing mission including planting new churches. Personal ministry by church members, public evangelism, and sending missionaries or workers are the ways that Seventh-day Adventists do church planting,” stated Chrissutianto.

Dr. Robert Wong, former ministerial secretary of the Chinese Union Mission emphasized missionary challenges in Asia. He stated, “Church planting or corporate evangelism seems difficult in China but once we got a revival, the church situation was transformed by the Holy Spirit.”

Dr. Richard Sabuin, education director and Sabbath School and Personal Ministries director for the Adventist Church in the Northern Asia-Pacific Division offers a solution to overcome this challenge by retention efforts. Sabuin stated, “Emphasis on retention is related to soul winning. Retention and reclamation strategy is a need to keep newly baptized members of the church.”

The AATS Asian Theological Society is a community of Asian scholars and leaders that make groundbreaking research that helps in the growth of the Adventist Church.
IIAS and the Swiss German University (SGU) in Indonesia have signed a Memorandum of Understanding to strengthen both higher educational institutions’ research capabilities. Both institutions will engage in joint research projects and data dissemination through publication, conference, and workshop. The collaboration of IIAS and SGU with the support of the Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia is an academic activity required by IIAS accreditors, the Adventist Accrediting Association (AAA) and the Philippine Accrediting Association of Schools, Colleges and Universities (PAASCU), in their quest of promoting educational research culture. The first product of the MOU was a seminar themed “Sail Forward: Tourism Business Opportunities in Indonesia and the Philippines”. It took place on June 18, 2019, and was attended by 148 participants from IIAS and the nearby universities. The seminar contributed to the Philippine and Indonesian government’s agenda to develop tourism in both countries by facilitating a learning process and knowledge dissemination on how tourism sustainability may be achieved through educational and medical tourism.

BANGKO SENTRAL NG PILIPINAS NETWORKS KNOWLEDGE RESOURCES WITH IIAS

IIAS and Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (Central Bank of the Philippines) signed a Memorandum of Understanding on July 29, 2019, on the use of Knowledge Resource Network by IIAS business students. The agreement will allow the IIAS business students to have access to the Philippine and international economic and financial data in their research write-up for class and thesis or dissertation requirements. This collaboration is one more step forward in complying with IIAS’ accreditors’ requirement on linkages with the government agencies and industries.
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 17 different countries. The teacher-student ratio is low, giving students the opportunity to work closely with their teachers. Typically, a class of 40 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 AAMU. In addition, the Graduate School programs are accredited by PAASCUP and those from the Seminary by ATESEA.

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 both to 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.

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AIIAS 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 AIIAS?
Distinctively Adventist | Mission Oriented | Affordable Cost
Exotic Location | Outstanding Alumni

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