

Jimmy Kijai

John Nevins Andrews Medallion

August 4, 2019



This morning the recipient of the John Nevins Andrews Medallion is Jimmy Kijai, whose consistent dedication to research and education has distinguished him among his colleagues.

Kijai earned his BA in physics from Spicer College in 1976. After teaching for several years in Malaysia, he went on to receive a Master of Education in educational research in 1983 and a PhD in educational research in 1987 from the University of South Carolina.

A family man, Jimmy is married to Lucia, and they are celebrating their 41st wedding anniversary. They have three grown sons—John, Jason and Jay. All three work in technology in one way or another. Their careers include software engineering, online business, photography and producing. Kijai loves the outdoors. He is an avid golfer and is known to try his hand at badminton and tennis. In his spare time he loves traveling and photography.

Early in his career, Kijai served as a coordinator of Research & Evaluation at the University of South Carolina. He then went on to work as a consultant for New Buffalo Schools and the Berrien County Intermediate School District. Kijai began his career at Andrews University in 1991, first as an associate professor and then a professor of research & statistical methodology. From 1995–2005, he was also an instructor in the joint Andrews University–Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) Master of Science in Administration (International Development) program. As part of this, Kijai taught in Kenya, Thailand and Costa Rica.

Kijai has published articles in journals, contributed chapters to books and presented research at numerous places in the U.S. and Asia including California, Georgia, Indonesia, Thailand, Malaysia and Hong Kong. Additionally, he has served as a methodologist on over 30 dissertation committees and holds several professional memberships including those with the American Educational Research Association and the American Counseling Association.

For the past 25 years, Kijai has been a life-changing mentor. Not only does he mentor Andrews University students—he serves as methodologist to scores of doctoral students — Kijai mentors faculty and colleagues, especially those serving at Southeast Asia Adventist colleges and universities. He was instrumental in the birth of the Southeast Asia Adventist Research Conference, where he supported the research endeavors of faculty and students from Adventist universities, including those in the Philippines, Thailand and Indonesia.

For his consistent dedication to research and education, the faculty of Andrews University is proud to present Jimmy Kijai with the John Nevins Andrews Medallion.