

HONORARY DEGREE—MAY 2026

Patricia Gustin

Doctor of Humane Letters

Patricia Gustin has dedicated her life to the field of mission work. Through service as an educator, missionary and Institute of World Mission (IWM) director, she has impacted countless individuals, families and students across the globe.

Gustin received her BS in elementary education from Union College, MA in religion from Andrews University and MA in Teaching and a MA in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages from Azusa Pacific University. She began her career teaching elementary school in Nebraska and later was dean of women at Sunnydale Academy. Gustin went on to teach, and later become dean of women, at Far Eastern Academy Elementary School in Singapore, where she lived for six years.

She then dedicated more than 15 years of her life to mission service in Thailand, where she fulfilled a variety of roles and became fluent in Thai. At Chiang Mai Adventist Academy (CMAA), she worked as dean of women as well as English and music teacher. She also became the administrator of the Tribal Center in Chiang Mai and later was a teacher and principal at the Bangkok Overseas Church School. Her work in Thailand included pastoring at the Ubon Seventh-day Adventist Church and overseeing the student missionary program.

After returning from Thailand, Gustin developed and directed the English as a Second Language program at Walla Walla College. Then, for nine years until her retirement in 2005, she served as director of the Institute of World Mission within the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. During her tenure, Gustin expanded IWM training from two sites in North America to locations in five countries worldwide. She specialized in working with missionary families, addressing the unique privileges and challenges facing missionary children. Gustin helped establish “Re-entry to Homeland” programs for families, teens and

students and oversaw the compilation and publication of “Passport to Mission,” the standard textbook for Seventh-day Adventist missionary preparation.

She additionally created mission orientation and re-entry programs at several Seventh-day Adventist colleges, and her work in education continued after her retirement through contract teaching for IWM and Walla Walla University (WWU). She also served within an interim member care team on the pastoral staff at WWU Church and has published a number of articles in the Adventist Review, Ministry Magazine and Dialogue.

Gustin remains actively engaged in the mission sphere and has worked with Gospel Outreach and Global Mission to train pioneer missionaries around the world. In this role, she helped develop a program designed to introduce people from non-Christian religions to Jesus through Bible stories. These lessons, “Taste and See’ Stories of Hope and Faith,” have been used throughout the global 10/40 window.

For her ongoing commitment to providing education and support for missionaries and their families around the world and her personal commitment to mission service, Andrews University takes great pleasure in honoring Patricia Gustin with the degree Doctor of Humane Letters, *honoris causa*.