The 12-meter high belltower is a distinctive feature on the AIIAS campus. Its design includes the letter “A” for Alpha and an omega-shaped circular base. The flags surrounding the tower represent the international community of the AIIAS campus, representing over 45 countries.

The Belltower was designed by former AIIAS theology professor, Edwin Reynolds. The cover picture was taken by former AIIAS business professor, Roger Dunder.

About the Cover
The first time I heard about AIIAS, I couldn’t pronounce the name (hint: I Us). I was told it was a beautiful place, an academic paradise with waving palm trees, glowing sunsets, gifted professors, and friendly students from around the world. I heard that I would love living and working here, and they were right.

AIIAS is a fascinating place. Students and faculty from over 40 countries live, study, and work together on a gorgeous campus that resembles a tropical golf course. Not only do we serve students from every continent on Earth (except for Antarctica!), but because of our location in the Philippines, we are uniquely positioned to provide high quality graduate education to students from the “10/40 Window”—that unique band of countries circling the globe with little or no Christian presence. Here at AIIAS, we are empowering nationals to return home and serve in leadership positions.

Through Flags, we plan to introduce you to the people of AIIAS, past and present, as well as give you a glimpse of our cutting-edge academics such as our online graduate degree programs.

In the pages of upcoming issues, you’ll meet our professors, holders of doctoral degrees from such diverse places as Cambridge University, University of Newcastle, University of Stellenbosch, Andrews University, University of London, University of Santo Tomas, UCLA, Fuller Seminary, Loma Linda University, and University of Illinois, Chicago, to name a few.

If you are among our alumni, we hope you will experience warm memories of your graduate experience at AIIAS. If AIIAS is some place new to you, Welcome!

But AIIAS is more than academic degrees and palm trees. AIIAS is a place where those who love the Lord learn to serve Him better and learn to love Him more. We hope you will feel the Spirit move through these pages and will be blessed.

Connections: www.aiias.edu/connections

AIIAS is part of a global community, and we would like to hear from you!

Email us at ginaw@aiias.edu, or write to Flags, AIIAS, P.O. Box 038, Silang, Cavite 4118, Philippines.

- **Alumni:** Please send us your full name, year of graduation (or attendance) and degree(s) awarded, home country, full mailing address and email address. Also, feel free to send us news about yourself, to be printed in upcoming issues of Flags.

- **Former Faculty and Staff:** Send us the dates that you were at AIIAS, your position, your current mailing address and email address, along with any news notes about yourself for future publication in Flags.

- **Friends, Future Students, Others:** If you would like to receive a free subscription to Flags, just send us your name, mailing address and email address.

- **Everyone:** If you would like to be a part of the good things that are happening at AIIAS there are many opportunities to become involved! Check out our website at www.aiias.edu/connections for more information. Tax-deductible donations may be sent to: AIIAS, c/o Treasury, General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, 12501 Old Columbia Pike, Silver Spring, MD 20904, U.S.A.
Dr. Julian Melgosa talks about names, graduate school, cooking, and what it means to be a General Conference institution. Dr. Melgosa came to AIIAS in 1998, serving first as Dean of the School of Graduate Studies, and now as President since 2002. He holds a Ph.D. in counseling psychology from Andrews University.

FLAGS: When did you first hear about AIIAS?

MELGOSA: It was when I was called to come here. I was the director of the M.A. in Education program at Newbold College when I received a phone call from Elder Colburn at the G.C., saying there was an interest for me to serve at AIIAS. I said I would discuss it with my wife and let him know. We had been at Newbold for eight years, so it was appropriate for us to consider another call, but we had never heard of AIIAS.

FLAGS: AIIAS is the only General Conference institution located outside of North America. When did AIIAS become a GC institution and what does it mean to be part of the General Conference?

MELGOSA: On October 6, 1996, the annual council of Seventh-day Adventists took an action to make AIIAS a part of the GC. When the Far Eastern Division was split into two—the Northern Asia-Pacific Division (NSD), and the Southern Asia-Pacific Division (SSD), the question was raised regarding to whom this institution was going to belong. It was decided that AIIAS should become a GC institution because our constituency was spreading to the world.

In addition, the GC realized that there was a real need to have a graduate institution where they could invest in training world leaders and offer Ph.D. degrees, but in a context that would encourage people to return to their home countries after graduation, rather than staying in the country where the educational institution is located.

We are very grateful to the GC for their annual subsidy of $800,000, and they are very satisfied because they know for the amount of money they give us, it is a very attractive and cost effective investment. Without the General Conference we would not exist.

Nearly 80 percent of our students come from NSD and SSD combined. Officers from both divisions are members of our board, and I am a member of their executive committees. There is a lot of togetherness there that we want to preserve.

But ever since we became a GC institution, our territory has been the world. We need to be aware of marketing concerns and sensitivities, but truly, the fact that we have 5 division presidents on our board is because we are a worldwide institution.

FLAGS: What do you like best about AIIAS and in what ways have you seen it grow and develop?

MELGOSA: I like the multicultural atmosphere, not only among the student body but among the faculty as well. At all levels, AIIAS is really a melting pot and that is so enriching because you learn together and develop skills of tolerance and understanding.

I have seen AIIAS grow in many ways, but two rise to the top. In 1997 there was an economic depression that affected all of Asia, and our enrollment was around 120 students. But now, including our distance learning center students,
we have a total enrollment of 605.

Another big change is in information technology. When I first came there was no computer in my office. In order to send email, we had to go to a computer in the library. At the end of each day they would dial up Manila and send all of the email. Some people would go to the library just to see them make the connection and see all the emails go!

We now have some 200 institutional computers, as well as another 100 or so owned by students and faculty. We have a very powerful campus-wide network, which includes wireless and a high-speed internet connection. We have an online division, which would have been unheard of just a few years ago.

**FLAGS:** AIIAS was the first Adventist educational institution to offer complete graduate degree programs online. How and why did AIIAS decide to venture into the new world of online education?

**MELGOSA:** Dr. Wesley Taylor, former head of the education department, is very creative. He envisioned that AIIAS would do well in the area of online education because of its location, low expenses, and high level of trained international faculty. Following much discussion, Dr. Taylor’s proposal was presented to the board in March 2001, and they voted to establish the division of online learning.

Our public health department was the first to quickly catch on to the idea, developing online courses for the Master of Public Health degree, launched in October, 2003. Two years later, the M.A. in education, with an emphasis in leadership, began and in January, 2006, the Master of Divinity degree, offered by our theological seminary, was launched.

**FLAGS:** How did AIIAS—Adventist International Institute of Advanced Studies—get its name and why are we not allowed to use the word "university" in our official name?

**MELGOSA:** In 1985, a commission headed by Dr. Werner Vyhmeister, was given the task of developing a relevant name so that the school would be granted special graduate status in the Philippines. They were told that the word “international” had to be there, emphasizing the foreign nature of income as well as of students, and that the word-

**FLAGS:** Why should students study at AIIAS, either on campus or online? What can AIIAS offer them?

**MELGOSA:** I think that there are several advantages, but the top three are: 1) financial, 2) level of service offered, 3) the spiritual component of life at AIIAS.

Our graduate tuition is around U.S. $30 per credit. Furthermore, the cost of living is low, and you are coming to a world-class, first-rate institution both in terms of our faculty and our modern, comfortable facilities.

We have also been able to preserve a fairly conservative environment as far as Christian commitment to our church. The atmosphere is very much of a traditional, yet tolerant and culturally sensitive environment in which to live our religion. We don’t have to exert a lot of institutional effort to involve people, because they involve themselves—in community services, jail ministries, singing groups—these programs just bloom, they are a part of life here, and they have results. Every year an average of 300-400 people are baptized as a result of our outreach ministries.

**FLAGS:** Tell us about some of your recent research and writings.

**MELGOSA:** Last year my wife and I published a book about married couples entitled, *To Couples—Enjoying a Stable, Lifelong Relationship*. I have also recently completed a book about mental health from a Christian perspective. It is a practical book of applied psychology. Currently, I am working on a book about self-esteem.

In 2004, I carried out a research project studying adoption issues in the Philippines. The findings were presented at the British Psychological Society meetings held in Paris in January, 2005.

*Continued on page 12*
Born with a Dream
How one AIIAS graduate is making a difference in her home country of Bangladesh

Narattom and Shova Bayen had a dream that each of their children would not only complete elementary and high school, but would one day earn advanced academic degrees. It seemed like an impossible dream in Bangladesh, a country not known for equal opportunities, and filled with economic, educational, and political challenges.

Sweetie, the youngest of the Bayen children, loved school from an early age and got good grades. Working hard as she climbed up the educational ladder, Sweetie graduated with a Bachelor of Business Administration degree from Bangladesh Adventist Seminary and College at the age of 20.

While still in cap and gown, Sweetie was approached by Marilyn Manners, head of Pollywog Handicrafts (www.tagnet.org/pollywog), to work as an accountant. Later, Sweetie was assigned as an accountant for the Bangladesh Union Mission. It was during this time that Sweetie married Anukul Ritchil, on Dec. 20, 1996.

Sweetie and Anukul, also an accountant, shared a common dream—and a thirst for more.

“Lord, if it is your will,” they prayed, “help us to further our education. If we get this opportunity, we don’t want it for the money we could earn somewhere else. We want to continue serving in your church.” Their dream was to obtain Master of Business Administration degrees—but they didn’t know how or when. Finances were tight, work schedules busy. In addition, they were now parents to Alvin Ullash Ritchil, born July 15, 1998.

Then the Ritchils heard that AIIAS was opening a distance learning center (DLC) at the Union office in Bangladesh. They could continue working and be home with their son—and they could earn M.B.A. degrees from AIIAS! It seemed incredible, but more good news was to follow. Both of their employing organizations were willing to sponsor them.

Sweetie remembers the first DLC class, Organizational Behavior, taught by Dr. Adelino Libato in October, 2000. “We worked eight hours during the day, then studied the whole night! We learned a lot.”

Sweetie and Anukul completed their final DLC class in June, 2003—a class that included how to make websites, taught by Dr. Ron Vyhmeister. “During that final class,” says Sweetie, “our hearts were just blinking as to whether we would accomplish everything.” Both Sweetie and Anukul passed, and their dream of receiving M.B.A. degrees came true.

But God had more in mind for Sweetie. In 2005, she was invited to be treasurer of the Bangladesh Union Mission—the first woman to serve as a senior officer of the church in Bangladesh. She also serves on the board of the Bangladesh Children’s Sponsorship Service (www.bcscssbd.org), an organization that “fights illiteracy and ignorance, improves children’s self-esteem, and encourages self-reliance.”

“Really speaking,” Sweetie admits, “being a lady in Bangladesh, I never had the dream of serving in this position. But with the education I received more opportunities were possible. It is a big challenge, but if God wants me in this position, I am willing to serve.”

Sweetie Ritchil
Story of Another “Ruth”

By Erickson Fabien

“Oh! You’re a Seventh-day Adventist!” exclaimed her classmate. Xu didn’t know what to say. She had never heard the name “Seventh-day Adventist;” she had simply introduced herself to other Christians as one who worshipped on Sabbath and did not eat meat! In China, believers often refer to themselves simply as “Christians” rather than by denominational names.

Xu Ruiying (who goes by the name of “Ruth” for her English speaking friends) accepted Jesus in 1983 after listening to a radio broadcast (translated “Good Friend”) from Hong Kong, and was one of the first baptized Christians in her northwestern hometown of Ning Xia since churches reopened in China. Her parents, sister, and several others joined her, and together they laid the foundation for a new Christian community.

Without their own church building, the believers met in the home of a fellow believer. The following year, God impressed Xu to enroll at Nanjing seminary, an interdenominational training institution. Xu soon met two other Adventist students and they started worshipping together in a church building shared by a Sunday-keeping denomination.

After graduating from Nanjing in 1988, Xu worked there until 1991 when she moved to the city of Dandong in Liaoning province of northwestern China. It was there that she married Pastor Wu Weiqing, a former classmate at Nanjing Seminary. Dandong had no Adventist presence, so Xu worked for several years with her husband’s denomination. However, when he left for studies in Canada, Xu found herself ostracized by her husband’s church because of her Adventist beliefs and teachings. One Sabbath, while she was at worship, some members moved in and cleared her apartment of all her belongings.

 Providentially, Xu soon found a job with a Korean company. Shortly after, she was approached by a few Christian believers who had been listening to broadcasts of “The Voice of Hope.” As they met, studied the Bible and discussed their faith, Xu was encouraged, and when the group accepted and began worshipping on the true Sabbath, she was delighted.

The new group started meeting every Sabbath in the members’ homes, but a growing membership soon meant that they needed their own roof. Under Chinese rules, they could not secure permission to have a church unless their membership was at least thirty and they had a pastor. The representative of the Bureau of Religion asked Xu to serve as pastor, since she was the only one qualified. At first, she was reluctant, but realizing the need, she agreed. Once the group amassed enough money, they began renting an office, but before long, even that space became too small.

Xu launched a fundraising drive, sending letters of solicitation to everyone she knew. The response raised enough money for the construction of a church and facilities. The foundation was laid, and in 1996, the new Adventist church opened its doors. By the end of 1997, the baptized membership had passed 100.

Some time later Xu and her family moved to Beijing in response to a need for more teachers at Beijing Seminary. There, she found fellowship with the local Adventist congregation. As a seminary graduate, Xu enjoyed the recognition of the Beijing Christian Council and the government’s Bureau of Religion; however, the Adventist leadership wished to have a minister who was educated at an Adventist seminary. Consequently, the church recommended that she enroll at AIIAS, since China has no such institution.

So in August, 2003, Xu came to study at AIIAS. Known here as Ruth, she has persevered through the challenge of studying for the Master of Ministry degree in a totally different language, tirelessly laying the foundation for better-equipped service for the church in China.
Setting The Stage

Anyone acquainted with global economics knows that Asia is emerging as a leader in both the production of consumer goods and the outsourcing of technical support. Low labor costs coupled with the good service orientation of the culture provide a ready market for businesses who want to position themselves as leaders in a global economy.

For the past four years, AIIAS has been building a firm foundation to provide a high level of online graduate education at an affordable cost for the world field. This process has been fostered by the long-term investment of AIIAS in online education, a solid team, and the freedom to think outside the box.

A Solid Team

All three members of the current development and support team came in 2002. Dolf Oberholster, Ph.D., is the director and comes with a background in education administration. Under his guidance, sound academic policies have been put in place which cover the entire spectrum of the online learning experience.

After receiving two Bachelor of Science degrees in General Science and Information Technology, Faelmar Tañada worked as an instructor in technical courses and network administration. His technical expertise has allowed AIIAS to move from an expensive course management system to a custom implementation of the MOODLE learning environment.

Leni Casimiro received a Master’s degree in Education and was an elementary school principal for five years before coming to AIIAS. She is currently working on a Ph.D. degree in Education. Leni is a globally recognized resource development person and has written a number of widely used handbooks about online teaching and education.

A World-wide Classroom

Currently, AIIAS has 26 students from 17 countries enrolled in three graduate degree programs. Since the programs are in their infancy, the number of students are bound to grow as the online modality becomes more widely accepted in degree and continuing education programs.

"It has been the first time I ever studied online. I’ve loved it. I can study at my pace, at any time of the day I feel like.”

M.PH. Student
Current and Future Course Offerings
A brief overview of the three current online graduate degrees:

**Master of Public Health—Emphasis: Health Promotion**
This was the first AIIAS online program, launched in 2003. The curriculum is designed to assist the student in obtaining clear perspectives on the multidimensional nature of health and to gain skills in research and in conducting creative community health projects. The degree program consists of 40 graduate credits and culminates in a health project.

**MA in Education—Emphasis: Leadership**
Launched in October, 2005, this degree program seeks to prepare qualified educational leaders for institutional, departmental, and classroom settings. Educators completing this graduate degree program will be qualified to serve as educational superintendents, instructional consultants, and trainers for teacher in-service programs. The program consists of 40 graduate credits and culminates in a project.

**Master of Divinity**
This program started in January, 2006. It is designed in two alternative configurations to meet the needs of students coming from either a Bachelor of Theology or Master of Ministry background. The degree program consists of 72 semester hours of graduate course work for those with a Bachelor of Theology degree. Students with a Master of Ministry degree must complete 36 semester hours of graduate course work.

**Master of Business Administration**
In addition to the degrees above, the business department’s strategic plan includes the possible implementation of an online MBA in the future. Please check the AIIAS website www.aiias.edu for updates.

**Application Process and Cost**
Because of the low cost of living, AIIAS is able to offer top quality education at a very affordable cost. Tuition is only US$330.00 per 3 semester hour course, with a twenty percent discount to those who take a course never before offered by AIIAS online. Information about how to apply for any of the programs mentioned above can be obtained at http://online.aiias.edu/content/admissions/apply.htm. Inquiries can also be made at online@aiias.edu.

"Imagine: We were seven in this class. I was the only one from South America in Argentina. There were two from the States, two from Kazakhstan, one from Malaysia, and one from Indonesia. We sure did learn a lot from different cultures.

M.PH. Student

"I would like to thank the Lord for this course. I really enjoyed it. It certainly broadened my thinking regarding Christian Education."

Education Student
A New Era in the Library

“Wow! There’s so much room now!” The theology student stood gazing at the empty space. “Where did it go?” queried another student. The main entrance just got bigger!

No, the building has not expanded. But the card catalog cabinet that stood next to the circulation desk for so many years is gone. Mr. Isaias Paras, master carpenter at AIIAS, built the multi-drawer cabinet in the age before computers.

The cabinet served its purpose well, helping many students and faculty locate books in the collection. But times change, and rather than searching in wooden drawers, students now type their searches into a computer. A few years ago, as part of the general renovation of the ground floor of the library, Mr. Paras built a new counter to house the public access catalog computers.

A place for basketball, volleyball and badminton. A place for potlucks and birds and bird droppings. A place for shouting, and for prayer. Over the past 15 years, the AIIAS gymnasium has provided a venue for all of these activities. As the years have passed, a sense of longing for a dedicated house of prayer has grown in the hearts of those trying to worship in the gym.

With prayer and planning, the AIIAS Seventh-day Adventist Church is moving forward toward constructing a dedicated church building—a true “House of Prayer” for generations to come.

Helping with fund raising efforts toward the 48 million peso (US$857,000) building project, AIIAS has agreed to match all donations toward the project, peso for peso, up to four million pesos (US$77,000). In addition to direct solicitation, many events have taken place, such as the International Food Fair, children’s Peso Parade, and musical concerts. In addition, Mi Hyang Song, a talented musician, has donated all proceeds from the sale of her CDs to the cause, and eighth grader Daniel Wahlen has started a successful cookie business, donating part of his profits to the church fund.

To date, a total of 9.3 million pesos (US$181,000) has been raised toward the new church. For more information on how to become involved, visit: http://www.aiias.edu/campus/church/fundraising/index.html.

The card catalog cabinet was removed in February 2006. Its removal marks the end of a five-year conversion project. Just before Christmas 2005, and right on schedule, a team of catalogers under the direction of Ms. Jennifer Libalib completed the conversion of the card catalog to online format. This means that all circulating and reference books can now be searched over the Internet from anywhere in the world.

Now that this large project is complete, the library can focus on adding its special collections (Adventist Heritage, media, curriculum, foreign language) to the online catalog.
Crocodile Founder Shares Wisdom with AIIAS Graduates

“To be successful, one must have foresight, determination and perseverance; this is my motto and personal policy in life—be creative in thinking, be hardworking in business, be patient and persevering in tribulations, and be humble when successful,” says Dato’ Dr. Tan Hian-Tsin. Dr. Tan was the commencement speaker at the March, 2006 AIIAS graduation.

Tan Hian-Tsin, born the fifth of eight children in Swatow, China, founded the now famous Crocodile clothing brand with his eldest brother in Singapore in 1947. “Crocodile” was chosen for its symbolism of strength, persistence and easy identification—the same could be said of its founder.

The Crocodile founder, also known for his philanthropy, has been awarded numerous honorary titles and degrees, including a twice conferred title of “Dato’”—an equivalent of knighthood in the United Kingdom—by the Trengganu State Government, Malaysia.

A nine person team from the Philippine Accrediting Association for Schools, Colleges, and Universities (PAASCU) visited AIIAS School of Graduate Studies (SGS) February 6-7 to evaluate its programs in business, education, and public health for Level III accreditation at the graduate school level. PAASCU sees voluntary accreditation as “…the process whereby a school, which desires to go beyond the minimum standards required by DECS, assesses its goals and organization, its strengths and weaknesses by means of a self-survey.” Dr. Isagani Cruz, professor emeritus of De La Salle University led the team which included Dr. Conchita Umali (Assumption College), Dr. Celeste Gonzales (Anteneo University), Dr. Cecile Gutierrez (TEE Consultancy), Dr. Marietta H. Gaddi (Holy Angel University) and Dr. Reynaldo Olazo (Fatima College of Medicine). Other distinguished accreditation scholars included Eva Brillo (St. Scholastica’s College), Dr. Flor Gil (PAASCU Commission on Tertiary Education), and Ricardo Palo (Ateneo Professional Schools). The visit was graciously facilitated by Concepcion Pijano, the executive director of PAASCU.

Since SGS requested its initial accreditation in 1997, it has gained Level II accreditation for all programs within the minimum time requirements and gained the maximum period of accreditation at those levels. The SGS faculty await the outcome of this recent visit, already acknowledging the usefulness of the personal interviews and group discussions that have extended our professional networks, understanding, and expertise. We anticipate the benefit of the recommendations that will enable AIIAS to continue the pursuit of excellence and success for its students.

PAASCU Visit

Gutierrez (TEE Consultancy), Dr. Marietta H. Gaddi (Holy Angel University) and Dr. Reynaldo Olazo (Fatima College of Medicine). Other distinguished accreditation scholars included Eva Brillo (St. Scholastica’s College), Dr. Flor Gil (PAASCU Commission on Tertiary Education), and Ricardo Palo (Ateneo Professional Schools). The visit was graciously facilitated by Concepcion Pijano, the executive director of PAASCU.

Dato’ Dr. Tan addressed over 60 graduates besides faculty, staff, friends and other guests at the March graduation. The class chose as their theme, “Faithful in Service.”

Class officers include: Erickson Fabien, president; Joo Min Ho, vice-president; Esther Karosekali, secretary; Haiying “Ellen” Han, treasurer; Kambale W. Mohasa, class pastor; Malyne Hopida, Suzuki Seiji, and Shirley as class artists; John Philip Habaradas, photographer, and Erickson Fabien, musician. Class sponsors are Dr. Francisco and Mrs. Arlene Gayoba.
Welcome Dr. & Mrs. Klingbeil

Gerald Klingbeil, born in W. Germany, studied theology at Bogenhofen Seminary in Austria and Helderberg College in South Africa, where he married Chantal Ross, who was completing her B.A. in English at Helderberg. Gerald earned an honor’s degree in Semitic languages and cultures at nearby Stellenbosch University. While teaching at Helderberg, Gerald received a government scholarship to pursue Ancient Near Eastern studies at Stellenbosch, earning M.A. and D.Litt. degrees.

In 1995, the Klingbeils were called to the then Inca Union University in Peru, where Gerald taught Old Testament and Hebrew classes and Chantal founded an English Institute and obtained her Master’s degree in philology from Stellenbosch.

After finishing their six year term in Peru, the Klingbeils were called to River Plate Adventist University in Argentina where Gerald taught in the fledgling postgraduate program of the University. In addition, Gerald launched the peer-reviewed academic journal DavarLogos in 2002 and the River Plate Adventist University Monograph Series in Biblical and Theological Studies. During this time, their third child, Jemima, was born.

At the end of five years of service in Argentina, the call to serve at AIIAS arrived. Gerald is Professor of Hebrew Bible and Ancient Near Eastern Studies and Chantal teaches in the English Center. The Klingbeils have found AIIAS to be warm and friendly and they feel privileged to serve here and be a part of the wonderful things God is doing in Asia.

Meet the President - Continued from page 4


FLAGS: Tell us about your family and some of your other interests.

MELGOSA: I have been married for 23 years to Annette (nee Dunbebin) and we have two children, Claudia, 19, and Eric, 16, both born in Spain. Claudia is studying biology at Andrews University and Eric is in the ninth grade here at AIIAS Junior Academy. Annette is a librarian and has been doing library work for some 15 years.

I enjoy running, bicycling, listening to classical music and reading, especially classic literature in Spanish. I also enjoy reading the Conflict of the Ages series, considering them to be great guides in behavior and knowledge.

Another interest is cooking, not only for enjoyment, but I am responsible for the cooking in the house and I have to be planning for tomorrow’s meal today!

FLAGS: Please share your future hopes and dreams for AIIAS.

MELGOSA: Whenever I go somewhere and say that I am from AIIAS, people ask, “Where?” Within the Adventist world, everyone knows Loma Linda University and Andrews University. My dream is that someday the same will be said for AIIAS—that everyone will know what we are, where we are, and what we do. And also, many of the leaders in the Asia-Pacific region have graduated from AIIAS. My dream is that some of these AIIAS alumni will be able to serve both inside and outside of the church in key positions around the world.
Welcome Drs. Eustacio & Myrtle Penniecook

Drs. Eustacio and Myrtle Penniecook are among the School of Graduate Studies’ newest professors, but they are not new to academia. For the last 17 years, the Penniecooks taught at the Graduate School in Montemorelos, Mexico. Dr. Eustacio held positions in the business department, specializing in business, economics and finance, and Dr. Myrtle, in the education department, specializing in curriculum and instruction.

The Penniecooks are originally from Costa Rica, which according to the Lonely Planet Guide, is considered to be “Central America’s Jewel,” with “more coastline than you can shake a surfboard at,” and lush jungles with a great variety of animals. Before serving in Montemorelos, Dr. Eustacio Penniecook was president of the Central American Adventist University in their native Costa Rica, and Dr. Myrtle Penniecook was the chair of the education department.

Both Eustacio and Myrtle received Master’s degrees from the University of Iowa, he in finance, and she in education, and they both graduated with Ed.D. degrees from La Sierra University in Southern California.

The Penniecooks have a family of three young adult children who are all medical doctors: Tricia is a qualified M.D. as well as holding an M.P.H. degree, Eustace has gained an M.D., and is an ophthalmology specialist working in Zambia, while Jason also has an M.D. and is currently working on a specialization.

Myrtle serves on the SGS journal’s International Forum editorial board and teaches classes in the education department. Eustacio teaches in the business department. We warmly welcome them to our campus and know that their continuing service will be of great benefit to students and to their colleagues here at AIIAS.

Welcome Mr. & Mrs. Schmidt

AIIAS wishes to welcome Adrian Schmidt and his wife, Mildred, along with their two children, Egan, six, and Aine, four. The family arrived to the warmth of the tropics on July 6, 2005 from River Plate University (Universidad Adventista del Plata) in Argentina, where they served from January, 2002 to June, 2005. Adrian as information technology director and Mildred as chair of the department of nutrition.

Both Adrian and Mildred are already greatly appreciated in their roles at AIIAS. Adrian is serving as associate director of information technology services and as system administrator. Adrian won over the institution with his technical expertise and commitment to service as soon as he arrived. Mildred, with her organizational skills and attention to detail, is making a valuable contribution to the library as book acquisitions assistant. Her habitual cheerfulness has brought sunshine to the department.

When asked about their impressions of AIIAS so far, Adrian and Mildred replied, “We’re very happy with the warm treatment by the whole AIIAS community: administration, faculty, and staff. Since we arrived, everybody has been very kind to us, as if we were part of their family. Thank you very much!”
Revelation Seminar for World Vision-Philippines

Seminary Dean Joel Musvosvi was invited to present a full series on the book of Revelation to World Vision Philippines headquartered in Manila. The event spanned eight months and concluded just a few days before Christmas. Dr. Musvosvi, together with doctoral candidate Prasad Deepati, went every other week to hold a two-hour seminar to some 16 World Vision office employees. Although the majority were Filipinos, there were also two Australians.

As a result of the prolonged contact, friendship was developed with participants asking many doctrinal/lifestyle questions to the speakers. Two of the participants attended the SGS Forum that took place in November and a group of these participants came to AIIAS to present a chapel program on the work of World Vision in the Philippines.

Professor’s Research Published

The November 2005 issue of the British Journal of Nutrition published an article co-authored by Dr. Gina S. Siapco and her professors at Loma Linda University. The article entitled, "Does Regular Walnut Consumption Lead to Weight Gain?" is one of the many findings from the Body Weight-Walnut Supplementation Study, an intervention study among free-living individuals that was done in the nutrition department of the School of Public Health at Loma Linda University (LLU) in 2003 and 2004. The study was done at a time when Siapco was still a doctoral student at LLU. She served as a research nutritionist for the study.

The authors of the study found that, despite being an energy-dense food, regular intake of about a handful of nuts over a long period resulted in minimal weight gain, about half a kilogram during the entire six-month study period, which was much less than expected.

Christmas Party for Dasmariñas Prisoners

A group of AIIAS students, faculty, and staff led out in a Christmas Party at Dasmariñas jail. Songs, games, and other activities filled the air and brought not only happiness but also values teaching, as the games were geared toward the teaching of honesty and veracity. A special meal was organized for the enjoyment of inmates and gifts were distributed.

New Year’s Eve Concert by Golden Angels

The last activity of 2005 on the AIIAS campus was a delightful concert by the official NSD singers, Golden Angels. This is a group of dedicated and highly trained vocal musicians that serve in all NSD territories and even beyond. On this occasion, they came to the Philippines to deliver three concerts: in Pasay City, at AIIAS, and at the 1000 Missionary Movement campus.

Led by AIIAS alumnus Pastor Joshua Shin, the Golden Angels singers presented a contemporary, highly spiritual musical program that was greatly enjoyed by those in attendance. The group of young people spent a week in the Philippines escaping the unusually cold winter in Korea. Golden Angels was formed three years ago and has been very actively singing in evangelistic campaigns and public performances in Korea, Taiwan, Japan, and Mongolia.

Week of Prayer

AIIAS celebrates two weeks of spiritual emphasis a year—one in January and the other in August. The first is organized by the Student Association, the second by the administration. This past January, students invited Pastor Dale Tunnell, director of the Mongolia Mission, to speak.

The theme for this week of prayer celebration was "Run the Race." In addition to his pioneering responsibilities in the country of Mongolia, Pastor Tunnell is also studying in the D.Min. in-ministry track at AIIAS. He comes one month each year to take classes and receive assignments and directions for continuing work on his degree the rest of the year. Elder Tunnell delivered spiritually strengthening, high quality messages to the AIIAS students, faculty, and staff.

AIIAS Mini-Olympics

The 2006 AIIAS Mini-Olympics took place January 8-9 with the motto: "Together we pray, together we play." Students, faculty, and staff were randomly assigned to one of four teams: green, yellow, red, and blue.

Various matches and races were organized and many participated with their respective teams. Assigning groups according to national and ethnic groups was avoided to prevent too much competitiveness.

Families were assigned to the same group. In the evening of the last day, there was a computation of points accumulated over the two days. Trophies of approximately the same size and quality were awarded to the first, second, third, and fourth place teams and everyone felt like a winner.

International Food Fair

In conjunction with the Mini Olympics, the AIIAS International Food Fair took place on Sunday, January 8. On this occasion, the proceeds went to the Church Building Fund. More than 50,000 pesos (approximately US$1,000) was collected for this worthy cause. Cuisine from virtually every region represented at AIIAS was here. The event was perceived by many not only as a fund-raising exercise but especially as a way to strengthen the ties of our community.
Greetings from

Manila Adventist Medical Center
and School of Medical Arts, Inc.
(formerly Manila Sanitarium and Hospital)
1975 Donada St., Pasay City 1300 Philippines
Tel. Nos. 525-9191 to 98/525-9201 to 06
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Website: www.mamc-sma.org
Pastor Dan from Vancouver has questions about how to help youth grow spiritually.

Tammy is teaching English classes in Korea and desires to be a more effective witness to her students.

Elder Tan is a conference president in the Caribbean and faces challenges in doing the mission of the church.

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