Special Feature
Faculty Visit
Turkey and Rome
About the Cover

One of the strengths of AIIAS is its strong international community, with its students, faculty and staff coming from over 45 countries. Seen on the cover are representatives from China, Indonesia, the Philippines, Pakistan, Ghana, Papua New Guinea, Venezuela, Argentina, and Germany.
“Pulling Together”

Until last week I had never heard the sound of large trees being uprooted. But now I know that it is a kind of snapping, groaning, whooshing sound—or perhaps that was just the 120 mph (193 kph) wind rushing by? It was hard to tell in the midst of a typhoon.

Last week AIIAS was hit by Typhoon “Milenyo” as it passed through the Philippines. Compared to other places, we survived fairly well. We lost several trees and portions of the security wall, but at least none of the buildings were swept away and no one was hurt.

A few days after the typhoon the true AIIAS spirit came out as everyone worked together to restore the beauty of our campus. Faculty, students and staff—Asians and Africans, North and South Americans, Europeans, Indians and Pakistanis, side by side, pulling together for the common good. Read more and see the photos on pages 8 and 9.

In this issue we visit Turkey and Rome with the semiannual faculty, hear from an AIIAS graduate who is currently managing a large project for UNICEF in Indonesia, and learn what it’s like for a tall (6’3” or 1.9 m.) German to land in the Philippines.

We also heard from you, our readers, and received many letters of thanks and congratulations following the launch of our inaugural issue of Flags—read a sample of the letters below.

As always, we welcome your letters and are especially interested in receiving news items and photographs from our alumni. Please write to us at our new email address: flags@aiias.edu

See you in our next issue of Flags.
Gina Wahlen, editor

Letters to the Editor

Congratulations on publication of the first issue of Flags. To my thinking your initial effort is a journalistic winner!

The breadth of carefully edited and interesting content, coupled with the use of informative design that makes judicious use of color, all harmonize to create a magazine that I have a feeling is only going to get better as future issues follow.

All hail Flags, and the staff that have brought it to life!
- Herbert Ford, Emeritus Professor of Journalism, Pacific Union College
Angwin, California, USA

Thank you for sending me the inaugural copy of Flags. What a beautiful and representative magazine for AIIAS.

I remember fondly my weeks on your campus in teaching and interacting with seminary students and the wider community of your school. I received as many blessings as I delivered and this remarkable new journal brought those happy times back to my mind in a fresh and happy recollection.

- James A. Cress, General Conference Ministerial Association Secretary

Congratulations on a beautiful magazine! What a catchy and appropriate name! Thank you for the easily understood pronunciation tip for AIIAS, “I Us.” I enjoyed reading the excellent interview with your president. There are a nice variety of articles (with photos) of alumni, faculty, a guest speaker, campus news, and your online programs. Wow. You’ve done a lot of work. Well done.
- Sherrie Wendt, Modesto, California, USA

Thank you very much for the copy of Flags. It will be placed prominently on our shelves so that it is accessible to our patrons, especially those who are preparing for graduate study.

The Northern Caribbean University family congratulates you on the publication of your magazine. We applaud, and encourage you to continue to keep the Adventist community informed of your programs.
- Heather Rodriguez-James, Director of Library Services, Northern Caribbean University, Mandeville, Jamaica

Thank you ever so much for sending us the first copy of Flags, we are definitely looking forward to receiving future issues. We truly believe that it is of good value and our students and staff will definitely benefit from it.

From the city of Cape Town in South Africa, our beautiful country, we pray that God bless you abundantly as you labour in His vineyard.
- Patricia Papu, Helderberg College Library Cape Town, South Africa

On behalf of our university administration, we would like to express sincere appreciation for sending us your very first issue of Flags, and to congratulate you on a job well done on your magazine.

We look forward to receiving future issues of your very informative magazine.
- Kutan Oli, University Librarian
Pacific Adventist University
Papua New Guinea

NEWSFLASH

Dr. Stephen Guptill, Education Director of the Southern Asia-Pacific Division was elected president of AIIAS at the management committee meeting in Washington, D.C. on Oct. 8, 2006. “Faculty, staff and students welcome Dr. Guptill and his wife, Peggy, acknowledging God’s guidance in providing a couple so experienced in the concerns of this region,” said Dr. Graeme Perry, acting president. In May, former AIIAS President, Dr. Julian Melgos, accepted a call to Walla Walla College, Washington, U.S.A. More on the new AIIAS President in the March, 2007 issue of Flags.
Meet the Vice President for Finance

By Samuel Bangura, M.B.A. student and Chan Shun scholar

Mr. Max Langi, the new VP for Finance at AIIAS, shares wisdom and insights gleaned from his financial experience in a variety of countries.

**Flags:** Mr. Langi, when did you first hear about AIIAS?

**Langi:** In 1987, when the institution was called the “Far Eastern Theological Seminary.” I was involved in the Division committee that planned to bring AIIAS out of the AUP [Adventist University of the Philippines] campus. I was the secretary of the building committee when we reviewed the AIIAS development plan.

**Flags:** Were you involved in the search for the current AIIAS property?

**Langi:** No, but I came to see the location when the property was purchased. I remember the report presented in the Division committee that they finally chose a location near Silang because the prices of other locations [near Tagaytay] were increased as a result of the search, so the committee chose this one. So I have known AIIAS since it’s formation. And I also remember keeping AIIAS project development accounts in the Far Eastern Division (FED) in Singapore back then.

**Flags:** I understand that while working in treasury at the Division office, you also completed an M.B.A. degree through the Victoria University of Technology, Melbourne, Australia, finishing in 1997, the same year that the large FED was split into the Northern and Southern Asia-Pacific Divisions. Where did you go from Singapore?

**Langi:** I moved with the Southern Asia-Pacific Division (SSD) to the Philippines. At that time, SSD was temporarily located on the AIIAS campus, where we built six apartment towers as residences for Division officers. Half of the library building served as the Division office while the new SSD building and campus was being constructed just down the road from AIIAS. We moved onto the new SSD campus in 1999.

**Flags:** How long did you work for FED, for SSD and where did you go afterwards?

**Langi:** I began working at the FED in 1987 and continued on with SSD until October, 2001 when I accepted a call to serve as union treasurer of the Ethiopian Union Mission. It was a good experience, as it was the first time I had a chance to go to another part of the world, and because I got to know more people and become familiar with other cultures. I also learned that being a Seventh-day Adventist allows you to have similar practices and beliefs with other Adventists all over the world, for we are all members of God’s family.

**Flags:** What are some of the challenges and successes you experienced while in Africa?

**Langi:** When I went to Ethiopia, I was warned to be careful because people there are difficult to work with. But I found that I could work with the people. And I left Ethiopia with satisfaction, because I was able to assist them in working together, and in solving some of the problems they were experiencing. Financially, the Ethiopian Union was able to live within their means and when I left the Union in July, 2004, it was in a very good financial position.

**Flags:** What other work did you do while in Africa?

**Langi:** While I was working as treasurer in Ethiopia, I was officially called two times to work for ADRA in Sudan as country director, but because I was still new in Ethiopia and there were things I needed to finish in the union, I did not accept the call for Sudan. A year later, another call came from ADRA to work as finance director of ADRA-Guinea. The timing of this call was better, so I accepted the call and moved from East to West Africa. And it was while working for ADRA that I was called to work here at AIIAS last y-year.

**Flags:** Looking at AIIAS in its initial stage and comparing it to what it is now, how do you see the developmental growth?

**Langi:** AIIAS has developed so much. The institution’s growth has been more than just in buildings. My impression of AIIAS is that it is an excellent institution of higher learning in the worldwide Seventh-day Adventist church. AIIAS is
made up of professional people—the staff, the professors and students—they are all professionals. They come from different backgrounds and experiences. AIIAS students are not like undergraduate students who have never had professional work experience. Usually those who have passed through graduate and postgraduate levels of education are those who are highly intelligent. That’s the impression I have as I work with this intelligent group of people.

Flags: What are your plans as the new Vice President of Finance to help the new development and fundraising office for AIIAS achieve its goals?

Langi: Well, I shall do my best to support the committees in achieving their goals and, at the same time, I shall do my best to manage the funds in the best way possible in accordance with AIIAS policy.

Of course AIIAS is still heavily subsidized by the church—about 45% to 50% of the annual budget. We should develop a plan of how AIIAS can be self-sustainable. It is easier for other Adventist universities to be self-sustaining because they have undergraduate as well as graduate students. AIIAS only offers graduate and post-graduate level education. We are not anticipating thousands of students flooding our campus and AIIAS becoming a large institution, but we are looking at how AIIAS can serve the need to provide leaders for the church and society.

Flags: In a previous Flags interview, former AIIAS President, Dr. Julian Melgosa said that he hoped that AIIAS would one day be as well known as its sister General Conference institutions—Loma Linda University and Andrews University. In looking at the appropriations AIIAS receives from the GC, what financial challenges do you anticipate for AIIAS?

Langi: That is the big challenge we have now. While the GC appropriation will not be reduced, it will only remain the same although there will be inflation and several increasing challenges. AIIAS needs more time for development and funding, and we have a good strategic plan which guides us in our pursuit of excellence.

Flags: Recently we attended a philanthropic seminar where the presenter stated that students and alumni are the best fundraisers for their institution. Do you think AIIAS will also adopt that strategy?

Langi: Yes, we are looking to AIIAS alumni to lead in supporting their alma mater. And with over 3,000 alumni, who are mostly working as leaders in and out of the Adventist church, we hope to get substantial financial support from them.

Flags: With your varied financial and management experience, what are some of the challenges you have faced and wisdom you have gained?

Langi: When you work with people, you should note that people do not have the same character or manners. Also, in an organization, you work with policies. In ADRA, there are many policies which are very strict, and how you integrate or incorporate these different people with their individual interests, so that they can comply with the policies—this is the biggest challenge. And that means you have to make them understand the goals and objectives of the organization. Besides financial limitations, you have objectives and strategic plans that you want to achieve, despite the limitations. These are the challenges, and it will be joyful when you are able to achieve your goals. But remember, we don’t work as individuals, we work as a team. For example, if I am asked, “How did you make changes in Ethiopia?” I will answer, “No, I did not make the changes. We worked as a team. It’s not an individual who deserves the credit, it’s the team.”

Flags: What further advice might you have, particularly for those working in the field of business?

Langi: When you do your work, do it seriously and finish it. When you have an assignment, finish it. In the case when you cannot finish, find out why you cannot. And when doing your work, be fair and honest with the people you are working with.

Welcome to the Langis

Max and Elsye Langi are happy to return to the Philippines. The Langis have served in a variety of places including Guinea, Ethiopia, Singapore, the Philippines and Indonesia. Max was working as associate treasurer of the Far Eastern and then Southern Asia-Pacific Division when the Division moved from Singapore to the AIIAS campus. He is now vice president for finance at AIIAS and Elsye works at the Instructional Media Resources Center in the Leslie G. Hardinge Library. The Langis have four grown children.
“Equipping People to Solve Their Own Problems”
AIAS alumna manages US$29 million project for UNICEF in Indonesia
By Gina Wahlen, editor of *Flags*

When Mildred Pantouw volunteered to work for a health program in Guinea, West Africa, she didn’t quite know what she was getting into.

“I learned how to brush my teeth with a tree branch, sit six hours to have my hair braided African style, ride on a donkey, learn how to sift for gold, struggle to communicate in French, go hippo watching in the Niger River, sit under waterfalls, visit refugee camps and experience a country in a state of civil unrest,” says the vivacious AIAS graduate.

Following her October, 2004 graduation when she received a Master of Public Health (M.P.H.) degree, Pantouw was approached by Mr. Max Langi, who was then working for ADRA-Guinea, to be a volunteer for the health program in that country. Planning to spend just a month there, mainly as an observer, Pantouw flew to West Africa and joined the ADRA team. However, due to her background in nursing and her M.P.H. degree, she was quickly promoted to health project manager.

“I worked there for 10 months but accumulated 10 years’ worth of experience,” she exclaims. “Mr. Langi, who is like a father, mentored and encouraged me to keep my eyes fixed on the goal, despite whatever circumstance I may face.”

That mentoring is now paying off as Pantouw has just been chosen by UNICEF (the United Nations Children’s Fund) to be one of the coordinators for UNICEF’s 29 million dollar program entitled, “Improving Maternal Health in Indonesia.” The project covers 21 districts and 7 provinces throughout Indonesia.

“Improving Maternal Health in Indonesia” project is given the responsibility of overseeing the UNICEF funded program in a province comprising 5 districts with a population of more than 500,000.

Pantouw finds her new position both challenging and rewarding as she works with her counterparts in the Indonesian government, NGOs (non-governmental organizations) and universities as they implement the projects.

“We provide funds and monitor their usage,” says Pantouw. “The main goal is to strengthen the system leading towards good governance, empowering the people to solve their own problems, providing quality service in maternal and neonatal health and access to health services for all.

“I creatively find a way to allow my counterparts to own this project,” she says. “This task isn’t always easy,” admits Pantouw, “as it involves persuading top government leaders.”

Pantouw credits much of her success to the training she received at AIAS. “In every class I took, each teacher used their heart and mind in teaching. The M.P.H. program gave me a strong foundation. We were encouraged to think beyond the classroom, and that was easy because with everyone coming from different countries we were able to imagine life in many cultural settings. Everything I learned I applied by tailoring it to the given environment, people, norms and system. We were given the tools in the classroom and in the field it’s up to us to sharpen them.”

Mildred also recognizes the spiritual benefits she received during her graduate training. “I appreciate how the Lord has used AIAS to equip His people. It has really helped me to achieve my dreams while also strengthening me spiritually through Bible studies, worships and outreach activities with friends. It gives greater meaning to the work I do now.”

While serving as ADRA project manager in Guinea, Mildred was involved with the “Family Planning and Safe Motherhood” program funded by USAID. While managing that project, she was asked to write a proposal for another safe motherhood project together with Save the Children (a worldwide nonprofit organization).

“It was impossible for me to sit for hours researching this proposal while I had a project to manage,” recalls Pantouw. “I was taught to know what and where my resources are, so I contacted Dr. Milton Mesa, one of the professors of the M.P.H. program at AIAS.”

Seeing an opportunity to give his students practical service experience as well as assisting Mildred, Mesa adapted the requirements of the course he was teaching, requiring them to conduct a literature review for an actual (rather than

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“Finding the World Church at AIIAS”

When Marcel Wieland stepped off the plane in Manila he was half a world away from his German homeland. “People were just staring at me everywhere,” he recalled. Thinking he had entered a different world, the 6’3” (1 m., 92 cm.) European wondered when he might awaken.

Reflecting later on his initial experience in the Philippines, Wieland remarked, “Now I know that the people here are just watching and observing you, they just look at you. They don’t mean it mean, but [they stare] because you are interesting and different.

“It’s normal that in the beginning a foreigner feels insecure because everything is different, but then you learn how to deal with differences. What helped me a lot was when I got to know the people.”

Wieland had heard good things about AIIAS from an AIIAS student and a professor who visited Seminar Schloss Bogenhofen, an Adventist college in Austria where Marcel was studying theology. During his presentation, the professor talked about AIIAS’ academic programs, as well as recreational opportunities available. Marcel was particularly impressed with the pictures of Taal volcano and the natural beauty that surrounds the AIIAS campus.

The idea of pursuing a graduate degree was not new to Marcel and his wife, Nicola. They had already investigated the possibility of attending an Adventist university in the U.S., but found the cost to be prohibitive.

As they read the AIIAS Bulletin, the Wielands were surprised to learn that obtaining a graduate degree from AIIAS was about half the cost of gaining one in the U.S. Furthermore, they were impressed with the wide range of international, qualified professors at AIIAS, as well as the variety of graduate degree programs available and the international accreditation held by the institution.

Other attractive factors included the English-speaking environment of the institution, while being situated in Asia. “My wife is half Korean,” explains Marcel, “and we had never been together in Asia, so I thought it would be nice for me, a Western guy, to get to know the Asian context.”

The spiritual atmosphere of AIIAS was another important factor for the Wielands. Having studied Protestant theology for two years at a well-known university in Berlin where a critical attitude towards the Bible and God’s revealing power in human history predominated, Marcel wanted to be sure to do his graduate work at an institution where theology would be presented in a balanced way, while giving the students an overview of the most influential theological schools of thought, but providing answers based on a biblical worldview. After careful consideration and prayer, Marcel and Nicola decided that AIIAS was the right choice.

Coming to the Philippines a few weeks ahead of Nicola in order to find housing, Marcel enrolled in the Master of Arts in religion program. Once Nicola arrived, she began to study for a Master of Public Health degree. However, since she already held a master’s degree in clinical psychology from the University of Salzburg, AIIAS professors encouraged Nicola to enter the Ph.D. program in education. Because of her positive academic experience, along with the warmth and encouragement of her teachers, Nicola decided to pursue doctoral studies.

In addition to finding satisfying academic pursuits, the Wielands have become attached to the AIIAS family. “We feel welcomed and loved and the longer we stay here the closer we get to the people, which helps in coping with all the differences,” says Marcel. “AIIAS is an international place, so there are many people you can talk with who share similar experiences,” says Marcel. “I highly recommend that Western people come to AIIAS,” he adds. “They will learn and grow so much . . . now I really understand what the world church is!”

GW
Typhoon Sweeps AIIAS
By Gina Wahlen, editor

Just after 11 a.m. on September 28, 2006, Typhoon “Milenyo” roared across the AIIAS campus, uprooting dozens of trees, scattering debris, breaking down portions of the security wall and causing flooding across the lower areas of campus.

Packing sustained winds of over 120 mph (193 kph), the typhoon swept across the Philippines causing landslides, flash floods, fallen trees and billboards, killing 72 people and displacing 900,000. Milenyo was the strongest typhoon to hit Manila and its surrounding area in 15 years, according to government authorities.

Although a few buildings at AIIAS were damaged by high winds and falling trees, and the 12 foot high (3.65 m.) cement security wall surrounding the campus was breached in four places, causing some flooding, “we are fortunate that no one on campus was hurt,” said Dr. Paoring Ragui, Vice President for Student Services and Public Relations. “I’m sure the Lord must have sent His angel to protect us.”

Power was knocked out for days in wide areas across the country, affecting not only electricity but water supplies. Using a back-up generator, AIIAS continued to have both electric power and water, sharing water with the surrounding community until full power was restored.

A few days after the storm, the administration declared a “bayanihan” (community working together for a common cause) day, with students, faculty and staff working together to restore the beauty of the AIIAS campus.

“We were a mess, but because of the bayanihan spirit of everyone coming together, we were able to almost completely wipe out all the effects of the typhoon!” exclaimed Faelmar Tañada, technical support services manager for the Division of Online Learning.
ADRA has helped many by distributing food, providing assistance with shelter and water supplies along with many other necessities all over the Philippines where calamities never seem to cease. Never before have we been in the middle of a typhoon as was the case at the end of September. The wind raged and the trees fell, the rain poured and the basements flooded. Electricity, telephone lines, Internet connection – all just stopped functioning. Whereas we normally find ourselves engaged in helping others, ADRA now had to care for its own situation.

Even so, plans and preparations were quickly made and volunteers from SSD and AIIAS worked eagerly and tirelessly many hours to pack 350 sacks of food rations and used clothing for families in need in the greater Silang area.

It was very moving to see all the people gather at the ADRA office that Sabbath afternoon to receive their rations. The Pathfinders from AIIAS, and other volunteers, saw with joy the result of all their hard work.

Something very interesting happened towards the end of the distribution. A Korean pastor had been waiting to receive five rations for families he knew needed help, but was told to wait until everyone had come for their food. The reason for this was that the Department of Social Welfare, who had helped us identify the most needy, had given coupons to the beneficiaries and every sack was already promised to a certain family.

When the people with coupons had all received their food, there were still 14 sacks left. The Korean pastor was very happy to finally get the five sacks to distribute to the people he had identified in another community. 14 – 5 = 9. But when I turned around awhile later there were now 17 sacks on the ground – exactly the number of sacks needed for 17 women without coupons who had been waiting timidly in the background. Not a bread-and-fish-miracle, but still a miracle!

Two days later, another 500 families received food and used clothing in Cavite and Laguna. The entire operation reached more than 4,000 individuals. The value of the assistance is estimated at about US$20,000 (Php 1,000,000).

Everyone involved really felt God's presence as we were able to help and do a little to alleviate the difficulty and suffering of many people in this part of the world.
The Second International Bible Conference of Seventh-day Adventists brought together teachers and theologians from around the world to Izmir, Turkey from July 7 to 17, 2006. The topic of the Conference was “The Adventist Theologian and the Nature, Mission, and Unity of the Church.”

The purpose of this gathering was to explore the biblical doctrine of the church, to foster fellowship and unity among theologians and scholars and to equip them to better serve the world church. The Conference was attended by about 250 individuals and was primarily coordinated and sponsored by the Biblical Research Institute and the Adventist Theological Society.

A Sabbath sermon by Jan Paulson, the President of the General Conference highlighted the first weekend. He stressed both the privileges and responsibilities of theologians and teachers within the church. During the afternoon, one hour presentations were given by selected participants at the Conference.

Mark Finley, Vice President of the General Conference, gave daily devotionals based on the seven churches of the Book of Revelation. There were also plenary sessions given by other Vice-Presidents of the General Conference as well as leading Bible scholars and theologians of the world church.

Over seventy one-hour presentations were given during the Conference including three from professors at AIIAS. Gerald Klingbeil read a paper entitled, “Between ‘I’ and ‘We’: Towards a Biblical Perspective of the Nature of the Church;” Jim Park gave a presentation called “The Theological, Sociological and Missional Nature of the Church as an Organic Unity in Psalm 1;” and Clinton Wahlen presented a paper entitled, “Heaven’s View of the Church in Rev. 2-3.”

The Conference was held at the attractive Surmeli hotel, situated on the beautiful blue Aegean Sea near the ancient city of Ephesus. Delicious meals were served in a very spacious buffet style setting.

The Conference also included five days for touring the seven churches of the book of Revelation as well as Patmos. During these days the participants climbed aboard buses and travelled to the biblical sites in Western Turkey. Each bus had a coord-
nator from the Conference and a local tour guide. The visits to these sites provided important archeological and historical information as well as picture-taking opportunities. The sites at Pergamum, Laodicea and Ephesus were particularly impressive. At the end of the Conference, most of the attendees sailed to the Greek island of Patmos where John wrote the book of Revelation.

AIIAS was probably the only institution which was able to send all of its professors to the Conference. Some of the highlights of their interaction were the celebration of Seminary Dean Joel Musvosvi’s birthday at 35,000 feet, the holding of a faculty meeting in the hotel lobby and the wonderful opportunity to share this special time together.

The Conference voted a consensus statement which affirmed the participants’ commitment to the message and mission of the SDA church. After the Conference, several AIIAS professors travelled further to explore biblical sites in Greece and Rome. More information and pictures of the Conference can be accessed at the BRI website at http://www.adventistbiblicalresearch.org/seminars.htm#second.
Graduates Emphasize Service to Others

“Touching Lives, Saving Souls” was the aim and motto for the October, 2006, AIIAS graduating class. “Through discussion, the class came up with this theme because it is what Jesus calls us to do—to imitate Him—and this can be applied to any profession,” explained class president Joseph Bieksza. “It stems from the attitude of what we have learned here at AIIAS. It’s not just about receiving a degree. Of course we have learned the necessary skills, but there is a higher purpose of touching lives, of imitating Jesus.”

The 95 graduates represented a total of 21 countries including: Bangladesh, Canada, China, Congo, Gabon, Germany, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Moldova, Myanmar, The Netherlands, Nigeria, Philippines, Rwanda, South Africa, Taiwan, Thailand, Tonga, and U.S.A.

Dr. Robin Saban, president of the Adventist University of the Philippines (AUP) and commencement speaker for the AIIAS graduation on October 15, encouraged the graduates to be “salt” before becoming “a light” in his address entitled “Bridging the Gap.”

As this was the final graduation service over which outgoing AIIAS President, Dr. Julian Melgosa, would preside, a special plaque of appreciation was presented to him by Drs. Graeme Perry, Dean of the School of Graduate Studies, Joel Musvosvi, Dean of the Theological Seminary, Paoring Ragui, Vice President for Student Services and Public Relations, and Mr. Max Langi, Vice President for Finance.

AIIAS Programmer Develops New Software

“Help” has come to AIIAS in the form of a new academic software system called “IUTUS.” IUTUS (a Latin word meaning “help”) was developed by Italo Osorio, a programmer working in the AIIAS IT Services department.

The new system, launched this past June, was the result of a long journey beginning in 2002. During the previous ten years, AIIAS had been using an old academic system running on an isolated computer in the registrar’s office.

Realizing the need for a new academic system, AIIAS decided to contact Osorio, who had previous experience creating an academic system for the Peruvian Union University, and later installing it also at Bolivia Adventist University and Montemorelos University in Mexico.

Osorio’s goal was to build an academic system using the latest technology, accessible through the Internet for teachers, students, staff and administrators. One of the main objectives was to include online registration in order to avoid the long lines during of the manual registration process.

The first and second versions of the new software system were created with an HTML user interface. This system worked well for three years, with the second year seeing the addition of online registration. During this period of time new requirements were made and new technologies developed.

The latest version, IUTUS, has a new database structure to meet new requirements. A new access control makes it more secure. The user interface is based on Rich Internet Applications technology. It was built using Macromedia Flash which allows the inclusion of dynamic information. The current interface is multilingual.

IUTUS has now been in operation for 4 months and has been used for one online registration at AIIAS. It is currently being further developed in order to integrate academic and financial registration processes into one system, incorporating the Sun Plus accounting system, which is recommended by the General Conference. Day by day new features are being added to IUTUS which keep it in constant development.

Many academic institutions have shown their interest in IUTUS. To date, the software system has been installed at the Adventist University of Africa (AUA) and the University of the Southern Caribbean (USC). More institutions will follow in the next few months. For further information, please write: iutus@aiias.edu.
Special Events Assist Church Fundraising
By Ivy Ng, Chair, AIIAS Church Fundraising Committee

AIIAS alumni, students, faculty, staff, friends and local community leaders have come together in a number of special events designed to raise funds for the new church/multi-purpose building, and in the process have built a strong sense of community.

One of the biggest community events was a concert by internationally acclaimed opera singer Sal Malaki. A voice graduate from the University of the Philippines, Malaki is a professional tenor with the Los Angeles Opera and Los Angeles Master Chorale in California. His magnificent voice delighted the audience with a selection of international songs, a few inspirational compositions, two opera arias from Verdi and Puccini, concluding with some Filipino selections. He was accompanied at the piano by former Conservatory of Music professor Lydia Habaradas-Chu.

The event attracted about 400 people from Silang and Manila, including several senior government officials and prominent business people. The event was able to raise over PhP326,000 (about US$6,500).

The AIIAS International Food Fair was another popular community event where AIIAS clubs, departments and individuals prepared and sold various ethnic foods. Gross profits from the one day event exceeded PhP43,000 (US$860). Members from the community as well as those from AIIAS enjoyed mingling around the 10 brightly colored tents, savoring the variety of healthy, international flavors. The most popular tent was that of the African Club, followed by the Indian and Indonesian Clubs.

Students from the AIIAS Junior Academy participated in a “Peso Parade,” raising a total of PhP97,133 (US$1,943) for the AIIAS church building project. Under the direction of their classroom teachers, Mr. John Marter, academy principal, and Mrs. Ivy Ng, chairperson of the church fundraising committee, the students enthusiastically solicited their friends and neighbors, some as far away as the U.S.A. and Australia to help support the building project.

The AIIAS Church designated one Sabbath as a “Celebration of Praise and Thanksgiving” when the International Ladies Choir led the church in a special worship service featuring songs of praise and thanksgiving and personal testimonies. During the worship service, the congregation was given the opportunity to contribute to a special offering toward the church building project, resulting in a total of PhP274,000 (US$5,480) given that day.

In addition to funds raised through these special events, individuals and institutions have contributed generously to the project. Mi Hyang Song, a talented musician at AIIAS, contributed 1800 of her professionally recorded music CDs, resulting in sales of PhP414,196 (US$8,284) so far. “Danny’s Kookie Kitchen,” operated by an AIIAS teen, bakes cookies and contributes a portion of sales to the building project.

Institutions who have generously contributed to the building fund include the Burleigh Heads Church, Australia; JISDAC Church, Jakarta; Kebayoran Church, Jakarta; Korea SDA Language School; Myanmar Union Mission; Print 4 Less Printing Shop, Philippines; and Thailand Adventist Mission.

To date, a total of PhP12,723,370 (US$250,000) has been raised toward the new building. In addition, a pledge of US$300,000 was made by an Adventist businessman. The pledge was given as a matching challenge. The overall amount needed for the building is PhP48 million (US$957,000). We would like to encourage all AIIAS alumni and friends to join together in this worthy project. Those interested in making a donation, please visit: http://www.aiias.edu/campus/church/fundraising/index.html. Thank you!

Upcoming Academic Forums

- The 10th AIIAS Theological Forum will be held October 29-31, 2006.
- Theme: “Growing in Christ: Conversion, Baptism and Nurturing.”
- Presentations from practical, biblical and theological-historical perspectives will be given by seminary faculty, doctoral students and alumni.
- For more information contact Ruby Orate, administrative assistant to the Dean of the Seminary, at rubyo@aiias.edu or telephone: (63) (46) 414-4333.
- The School of Graduate Studies is presenting the “Higher Education Empowering Development” (HEED) Forum from Nov. 16-18.
- The HEED Forum is sponsored by the Adventist Development and Relief Agency International (ADRA).
- International keynote speakers include Dr. Ron Mataya, chair of the Department of Global Health at Loma Linda University and Dr. Wagner Kuhn, associate director at the Institute of World Mission, Andrews University.
- Other presenters include Ronald Kuhn and Analynn Ignacio-Brice, both from ADRA-Thailand, Revelindo Garcia, Dean of the Graduate School of Business and Management at Philippines Christian University, Göran Hansen, director of ADRA-Philippines, and Mildred Pantouw, a U.N. program coordinator in Indonesia.
- Workshops include: proposal writing, project management and emergency preparedness.
- For more information write to: heedforum@aiias.edu or telephone Sally Moises, administrative assistant to the Dean of the School of Graduate Studies at (63) (46) 414-4361.
“Jesus Our Super Hero”
By Julia Daimbani & Jacques Nkinzingabo

“Who is your super hero?” asked Dr. Baraka Muganda in his first week of prayer presentation at AIIAS. Using this simple and relevant question, the speaker centered on Hebrews 11. According to Dr. Muganda many people idolize artists, celebrities, athletes, politicians and religious leaders. However, in the end these “heroes” are just human beings with their weaknesses. Dr. Muganda asserted that we need a true hero who can save our soul. The only one is Jesus Christ, the true hero.

From September 2-9, Dr Baraka Muganda, General Conference Youth Director, spoke on the topic “Jesus, Our Super Hero.” The AIIAS community enjoyed the spiritual event full of practical messages that met spiritual needs. Day by day, Dr. Muganda encouraged his audience to look up to Jesus as the true hero, to be aware of the enemy and never to give up in whatever circumstances.

The week was organized by AIIAS administration in cooperation with the Student Association. Meetings were scheduled twice a day Monday-Thursday, and once each on Friday, Sabbath, and Sunday. A “wailing wall”, symbolizing a wall in the heavenly sanctuary, was set up for people to post their prayer requests, which were then presented during a season of prayer at the meetings. For many, this was one of the most touching moments of the week of prayer.

The event culminated on Sabbath with a message calling listeners to be heroes ready to die for a cause as were Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego (Dan. 3:16-18). An agape feast, organized by the AIIAS church and SA social committee was held immediately following the morning program. In the afternoon, Dr Muganda participated in a ceremony organizing the AIIAS Master Guide Club, and then spoke at a youth rally held in the gym. Many young people from surrounding churches attended the rally.

Youth Chorale Tours Indonesia
By Daniel Wahlen & Aimee Tappeeria

Editor’s Note: The AIIAS International Youth Chorale (AIYC) is a musical organization that provides choral opportunities for the young people of the AIIAS community. In this report, two chorale members give Flags readers a glimpse of the group’s Indonesian tour.

The AIIAS International Youth Chorale’s Concert Tour to Indonesia was a never-to-be-forgetd experience that changed the lives of all the members who had the privilege of going. The three month long preparation was difficult: long practice sessions, memorizing dozens of religious and secular songs, learning complicated choreography steps, and the most difficult of all, the “no sweets, no junk food, no soda or cold water, no listening to non-choir music, and no screaming” rule!

Leaving the gate of AIIAS at 5:00 a.m. on March 29, 2006 marked the beginning of the journey. A rough overnighter was held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia where we spent the night trying to sleep on the cold marble floor, thinking about the next day which would begin our non-stop journey of singing, praying, and singing some more.

The three-week tour covered four main cities—Malang, Jakarta, Bandung and Dufan. Malang is the place we will always remember for hospitality and friendliness. We met friends there with whom we are still keeping in touch. We had the opportunity of having a combined secular concert with the Adventist University of the Philippines Indonesian Chorale, which was very intimidating at first, but turned out to be a great launching pad for our upcoming performances. On the last day in Malang, our hosts took us to the “Taman Safari” which we all enjoyed immensely.

Next, the capital of Indonesia—Jakarta—a place to be remembered for the hectic schedule, hot weather, and the AIIAS alumni. Here we experienced the daily routine of arriving home at 10:00 p.m., falling asleep around 11:00 or later, and waking up at 4 or 5 a.m. to prepare for the morning performances. With the little sleep we got at the house, we took advantage of the long bus ride by sleeping as best as we could, only to wake up at our destination to sing. “Kain, Kanta, Tulog,” as Filipinos say, which in English means “Eat, Sleep, and Sing.” That was our motto. The most memorable experience was singing for the AIIAS Alumni. Seeing old friends again was wonderful.

Our last official singing destination was Bandung, home of the prestigious UNI Chorale. Bandung held the most intimidating atmosphere, as we attended the “National Music Seminar” at UNAI where many choirs from around the country sang. Although we had our own separate performance, we also sang in the mass choir concert. In preparation for our appointments here, we experienced praying every 15 minutes, then practicing alone and together, and just meditating in order to prepare ourselves physically, mentally, spiritually, and vocally. It was such a spiritually uplifting experience, that the words “Not by might, nor by power, but by My Spirit says the Lord” immediately following the week of prayer.

Before returning home, we were treated to “The Dunia Fantasi,” the country’s major amusement park located in Dufan. At last we were able to free ourselves from the stress of the tour as well as indulge in the previously forbidden sweets and fun.

Putting 21 young people spanning the ages of 12 to 21 together and having them eat, sleep, and be together for 21 days is chaotic to say the least, not to mention having youth from different countries, cultures, and backgrounds. But, when you think of it, that is what makes the AIIAS youth so special, because we can combine and mix with anyone—age, color, or race—and still be happy serving the Lord.
Master Guides to Lead Chinese Youth

When Pastor Kuang Yi Fang first heard about Pathfinders and Master Guide programs in 2001 from Pastor Liu, the former youth department director of the Chinese Union Mission, it “unsettled” his mind. “I had participated in youth ministry in the Adventist church for more than ten years, but had never realized that youth work could be organized like this,” he said.

Pastor Kuang, who is studying in the M.Div. program at the Theological Seminary, decided along with his wife Li Na, to join the Master Guide program offered at AIIAS. “Master Guide training is about how to be a successful leader of youth,” he explained. “The youth leader should understand and be a friend of the youth, and he should know what the youth are interested in, and why they are the way they are, as well as know the proper way to train them.”

The Kuangs see the Master Guide program as providing valuable instruction that will assist them when they continue their work in China. While official Pathfinder Clubs are not currently viable in China at this time, Pastor Kuang plans to nurture the children and youth through the pathfinder curriculum integrated with other children’s programs. He estimates that there are approximately 50,000 children and youth in Chinese Adventist churches.

On April 28, 2006, three Master Guides from China were among those who were invested during a service at the AIIAS Adventist Church—Li Na, Kuang Yi Fang, and Zhang En Ze. These three will be the first Master Guides in China. “We solicit prayers for God to inspire many people to join youth ministry and make a meaningful contribution to its development,” urges Pastor Kuang.

Changes Come to Seminary Journal
By Dr. Gerald Klingbeil, editor, Journal of Asia Adventist Seminary

In the editorial of the first issue of the journal Asia Adventist Seminary Studies, Edwin Reynolds used the metaphor of a newly born child. Eight years down the road the child is still well and has matured considerably during the past nine months of planning, maintaining all the good things that had characterized it and improving in some of the weaker areas.

We have changed the name to Journal of Asia Adventist Seminary (JAAS) and will be publishing two issues per year (instead of one). Since we are committed to publishing quality biblical-theological research we have instituted an international review board that includes some thirty leading Adventist and non-Adventist scholars whose expertise will enhance the review process.

Both the cover and inside of the journal have been redesigned to provide an aesthetically appealing product. In addition, we are close to a world-wide distribution agreement with a major international distributor of biblical and theological scholarship, which will facilitate international subscriptions via credit card payment, an option we could not offer previously.

Heading a new and enthusiastic editorial team is Gerald Klingbeil as editor, along with Clinton Wahlen (associate editor), and Ph.D. candidates Michael Sokupa (book review editor) and Emmer Chacon (subscription manager).

We are about three weeks away from printing the first issue and hope that you will not only like the journal’s new look, but will consider becoming a subscriber and being kept up-to-date on high quality biblical-theological research, important critical book reviews, as well as abstracts of completed theses and dissertations from the Theological Seminary at AIIAS. For more information, contact the editor at gklingbeil@aiais.edu or the subscription manager at emchacon@aiais.edu.

SGS Publishes Journal
By Dr. Shawna Vyhmeister, editor, International Forum

The International Forum journal is published twice yearly by the School of Graduate Studies on themes of interest to an interdisciplinary, international readership. The purpose of InFo is to provide scholars and interested professionals with a forum for disseminating original research focusing on the needs of the Asia-Pacific region. The journal accepts empirical studies and theoretical analyses on current themes related to business, education, and health, including research integrating Christian values, ethics, and development.

If you wish to subscribe to the International Forum or to submit scholarly work for possible publication, please contact us at infojournal@aiais.edu.
Welcome to the Razmerita Family

Dr. Gheorghe Razmerita is a new professor in the Theological-Historical Studies department of the Theological Seminary. Having successfully defended his Ph.D. dissertation entitled, “The Role of Dual Anthropology in Theistic Evolutionist Systems: An Analysis and Assessment,” Razmerita is happy to be joining the AIIAS faculty.

When Gheorghe, his wife Diana and three-week-old son Edmond came to AIIAS in October, 2001, their original plan was for Gheorghe to complete his Ph.D. degree and return to their native Moldova where he would resume teaching at the Moldovan SDA Seminary. However, due to various challenges, the seminary in Moldova had to close its doors to students and faculty alike.

Gheorghe first learned about AIIAS from the president of the Moldovan Seminary when the General Conference Department of Education sent an advertisement along with a school bulletin. Impressed by the high quality graduate education offered at AIIAS, along with the affordable financial package, the Razmeritas decided to come to the Philippines.

Once at AIIAS, Gheorghe enrolled in the Ph.D. in religion program, and a few months later Diana began studies for an M.A. in religion. Both Gheorghe and Diana will receive their degrees at the October, 2006 AIIAS graduation.

While Gheorghe will be teaching classes at the Seminary, Diana plans to continue her studies by pursuing an M.A. in education.

Before teaching at the Moldovan Seminary, Gheorghe worked as a district pastor for several years in Moldova. Taking a special interest in young people, Gheorghe encouraged the youth to form missionary groups and travel to various villages surrounding his churches. One young person who was involved in this group was Diana, whom Gheorghe was able to baptize in 1997. They were married in 1999.

One day they plan to return to their homeland where Gheorghe will again work as a pastor and Diana hopes to assist in establishing schools.

In addition to Edmond Cristian, who is now 5, the Razmeritas have a daughter, Edna Daniella, 3, who was born in Silang.

Welcome to the Sabuins

When Richard and Paula Sabuin decided to come to AIIAS, it was a big step of faith. Having sold all of their possessions, they left their home country of Indonesia with a total of US$2,000 sewn into special pockets of their clothing, and the promise of financial aid for the first semester as a gift from Dr. Ken Mulzac (a former Old Testament professor at AIIAS).

Sabuin first met Mulzac when he served as the professor’s translator at the AIIAS distance learning center (DLC) in Jakarta. Sabuin was just completing a Master of Ministry degree at the DLC, when Mulzac asked if he would like to come to AIIAS for further studies. “Of course,” replied Sabuin.

Richard, his wife Paula, and their children, Ralphaxel, 6 at the time, and Richla, just 3, arrived at AIIAS on October 15, 2001. Richard enrolled in the Ph.D. in Religion program, majoring in New Testament, while Paula was busy caring for the children and earning funds by watching children, baking cookies, and various other means. In addition, Paula was very active in the Women’s Ministry department of the AIIAS church. At the end of their first year at AIIAS, Paula was one of six recipients of a women’s ministries scholarship. As a nurse, Paula was interested in health education, so she enrolled in the Master of Public Health program, graduating in October, 2004 with an M.P.H. degree.

The month following Paula’s graduation, Richard became very ill with leptospirosis, a life-threatening viral infection. The illness, which has many symptoms similar to hepatitis, is often fatal due to misdiagnosis, says Paula. However, the Sabuins are grateful to God and to Dr. Ricardo Sandi, dean of the De LaSalle University medical school, for correctly diagnosing Richard and providing the necessary treatment.

Richard continued with his doctoral studies as well as tutoring, teaching math at AIIAS Jr. Academy, and working as a Chan Shun scholar. In May 2006, he successfully defended his dissertation, “Repentance in the Book of Revelation.” He will receive his degree during the October 15, 2006 graduation—five years to the day after first stepping onto the AIIAS campus.

Dr. Sabuin has accepted a call to teach in the Biblical Studies department of the AIIAS Theological Seminary, where he is teaching New Testament subjects.

“Yes, teaching at AIIAS is more difficult than studying at AIIAS,” Dr. Sabuin says with a smile. “It is really challenging because this is a graduate school, and there is a lot of preparation involved.”

“We would like to thank everyone who has been a channel of blessing to our family,” he adds. “We cannot mention them all by name, but we are really thankful for what they have done. We cannot do anything in return except we can serve the Lord.”
Welcome to the Whiddens

As a child, Woodrow “Woody” Whidden knew he would one day be in Asia. Enraptured by the mission stories told by Nellie Ferree, an early missionary to the Philippines, at his home church in Cocoa, Florida, U.S.A., Woody longed to share in those experiences. That desire continued to grow through his academy years when Woody wrote in his vision statement that he would one day “be a college teacher in the Philippines.”

Although fulfillment of that dream took several decades, it finally came true on August 23, 2006, when Dr. Woodrow and Mrs. Peggy Whidden stepped onto the AIIAS campus—with Dr. Whidden accepting a position as professor in the Theological-Historical Studies department of the Seminary, and Mrs. Whidden as music teacher at the AIIAS Jr. Academy.

Library Gains Two New Librarians

Two new librarians have joined the staff of the Leslie G. Hardinge Library: Dr. Hernan Hammerly, as library director, and Megumi Flores, as reference librarian.

Dr. Hammerly holds a Ph.D. in library and information studies from the University of Michigan, and has worked as a professional librarian since 1969. Born in Uruguay, Hammerly grew up in Argentina and has spent most of his career working in South America, including the Instituto Juan Bautista Alberdi and River Plate College (now River Plate University) in Argentina. In a chapel presentation soon after he arrived on campus, Hammerly spoke about “The Personal Library for Tomorrow’s Professionals.” He impressed the audience with the importance of being able to effectively choose and use information.

Dr. Hammerly and his wife Hilda are happy to be in the Philippines and are especially enjoying the variety of tropical fruits. The Hammerlys have 3 married children and 3 grandchildren.

Megumi Sol (Meg) Flores, a 2003 AIIAS graduate, is the full-time reference librarian at the Hardinge library. After earning her M.A. in education with an emphasis in library administration, Meg worked for three years as the librarian at Lipa Adventist Academy.

Meg appreciates the important responsibilities of being reference librarian. “You need to give updated information and sources for students,” she says. “So we are working hard to make as many sources as possible accessible to students.”

The library has instituted the “Ask a Librarian” service, which may be accessed at www.aiias.edu/library. Alternatively, questions may be emailed to askalibrarian@aiias.edu.

Megumi Sol is married to Abel Flores, who worked previously as a pastoral district leader in Western Batangas. Abel is currently working part-time in the Student Affairs office helping to process visas and is active in the AIIAS church visitation program. The Flores’ have one son, Yohann Megal, who is 3.
Upcoming China Trip

Under the auspices and support of the China Union Mission in Hong Kong, the AIIAS Theological Seminary has been asked to send a delegation to visit key seminaries in China from October 16 to 27, 2006. The team includes the Seminary dean and department heads: Drs. Joel Musvosvi, Aecio Cairus, Praban Saputro and Clinton Wahlen. In addition, Dr. Jim Park has been asked to coordinate the trip because of his past experience in China and our chief librarian, Dr. Herman Hammerly, has been asked to come in order to exchange materials and ideas with the seminary libraries there.

The itinerary will include a visit to Hong Kong, Beijing, Nanjing and Shanghai. During the short stay at these places the team will attempt to set up an ongoing professor exchange between AIIAS and the seminaries there. Local SDA churches and their leaders will also be visited and the group will see other important sites as time allows.

The idea for the trip grew out of an official visit by leaders of several seminaries from China to AIIAS last year. The China Union Mission in Hong Kong is sponsoring the visit and graciously covering the travel expenses and Elder Robert Wong is coordinating the group’s travel within China. It is hoped that a regular exchange of professors, ideas and influence will flow out of this initial visit.

New Ph.D. in Business Degree Program

The Department of Business at the School of Graduate Studies is preparing a new post-graduate program in business. “We hope that this program will enable us to prepare business faculty who can go out with a Christian attitude” said Dr. Ronald Vyhmeister, program head for the new doctoral degree. The new program aims to begin mid-2007 so prospective students should apply now.

“The new program includes classes on campus, and some online interaction with adjunct professors,” continued Vyhmeister. Students should expect a minimum study period of three years to complete the program. “If a student comes in with a research area in mind and works on it from the very beginning, they can finish the program in less time, but three years will be the normal length” Vyhmeister added.

The Ph.D. in business degree is an exciting new addition to AIIAS. Students and professionals are encouraged to learn more by visiting the AIIAS Ph.D. in business website at http://www.aiias.edu/academics/sgs/business/phd. Dr. Vyhmeister can be contacted at rvyhmeister@aiias.edu.

Agreement Signed by ADRA and AIIAS

The Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA), and AIIAS signed an agreement to facilitate the development of community projects by Master of Public Health (M.P.H) students in cooperation with ADRA. M.P.H. students, who are to design and implement a major project during their coursework, will benefit from the infrastructure of the agency, while ADRA can take a further step in bringing relief to people through the work of graduate students and their professors.

Da Vinci Decode Seminar

A two-part Da Vinci Decode seminar was presented to a packed audience at AIIAS on May 27 and June 3. Examining claims made by Dan Brown in his book, The Da Vinci Code, and the subsequent film, presenters discussed the origins of those claims and encouraged participants to view the assertions in a critical and educated manner.

The seminar included illustrated slide presentations and lively discussions during the question and answer forums.

Presenters included Dr. Clinton Wahlen, associate professor of New Testament Literature and Interpretation, Dr. Aecio Cairus, professor of Systematic Theology, Dr. Joel Musvosvi, professor of New Testament Literature and Theology and Dean of the Theological Seminary, and Dr. Graeme Perry, associate professor of Research and Statistics and Dean of the School of Graduate Studies.

The seminar was based on the newly released book, The Da Vinci Decode, written by AIIAS visiting lecturer Greenville Kent and his associate, Philip Rodionoff. The book was published by Signs Publishing Company, Victoria, Australia.

Healthy Lifestyle Training

The AIIAS and SSD community service departments organized a joint event to train 250 community health professionals. The two-day training seminar was the result of many planning meetings of representatives from AIIAS, SSD and the Silang municipality who were looking for ways to benefit the health of the people in Silang. In the planning, it became apparent that there is an increasing number of preventable deaths and therefore a need for people to implement positive, healthy lifestyle choices, which can only be accomplished with a large task force of well-educated trainers.

Delegates to the training included community health workers, social service counselors, nurses, midwives, daycare staff and elementary teachers. The program included lectures and demonstrations on healthy living based on good nutrition, exercise, the use of water and sunlight, temperance, air, stress management, social interaction and trust in divine power. The seminar went on to propose ways of community organization and mobilization, as well as planning sessions to tackle the health needs of the community.

Seminary Professor Presents at Asian Bible Conferences

Dr. Gerald Klingbeil, professor of Hebrew Bible and Ancient Near Eastern Studies, recently presented topics at three Bible conferences in Thailand, Myanmar, and Singapore, together with Drs. Peter van Bemmelen, Jiri Moskala, and Roy Gane (all from Andrews University).

The meetings in Thailand were held at Mission College and involved some 100 pastors and administrators from Thailand, Cambodia and Vietnam. In Myanmar, 120 pastors and administrators participated in the Bible Conference, held at the Union Mission offices and central church in Yangon. The Bible conference in Singapore included lay leaders and elders as well as pastors.

Topics included a new look at the judgment, the doctrines of the sanctuary and salvation and an innovative look at using archaeology to reach out to secular people and other religions.
The Faces Everyone Sees

When most people arrive at AIAS one of the first people they meet is Faith Bayot, the new receptionist who works at the main entrance of the administration building. Much more than just a pretty face, Faith attends to many of the daily needs of the campus, such as sorting and distributing the mail, handling utility bills, and taking computer-related requests. She also answers the main campus phone and deals with a variety of questions from those passing by her desk.

Faith graduated from the Adventist University of the Philippines (AUP) in October, 2005 with a Bachelor of Science degree in office administration. She worked as assistant to the human resource manager of the Olivarez Corporation in Tagaytay before coming to AIAS.

While her previous employer accommodated her request not to work on Saturdays, Faith was wanting something more. “I wanted to improve my spiritual life,” she says. “It’s nice to work at AIAS because the people are kind, friendly and very close to God.”

Faith and her daughter, Faye Ann, 3, live close to the AIAS campus in Silang.

After greeting Faith at the front door, the next person most people will see is Norizel Cam, administrative assistant to Dr. Paoring Ragui, vice president for student services and public relations.

Norizel handles all visa requests and government documentation, housing requests and correspondence for Dr. Ragui. With well over 250 foreigners on campus, Norizel has her hands full putting all of the names and faces together.

“At first I thought, Wow! This is a tough job,” says Norizel, “But from the very start I have been interested in meeting people. . . I learn from them, especially about different cultures.”

While growing up, Norizel had ample opportunity to meet a variety of people because her father’s position with the Central Luzon Conference required frequent moves. Born in Pasay, Philippines, she has two older sisters and one younger brother.

In 1997, Norizel graduated from AUP with a B.S. degree in biology. Before taking up her current position, Norizel taught biology at AIAS Jr. Academy and, previous to that she worked as a tutor for a recruitment agency in Manila. Norizel and her husband, Eli Evan, live near AIAS with their children, Nicole, 8 and Ron, 3.

Faith and Norizel are initially employed under a six month contract with AIAS.
Good news! The steady growth of the Seventh-day Adventist Church and its institutions has created a demand for qualified personnel who can support its worldwide mission with their talents and education.

In response to this need, the General Conference has launched the Adventist Professionals’ Network (APN)—an electronic global registry of Adventists who hold a degree in any field and have an email address. APN assists Adventist institutions and agencies in locating candidates for positions in areas such as teaching, ministry, health care, management, administration, and research as well as consultants and personnel for mission service.

Once registered, APN members can find job opportunities in Adventist organizations, join one of many Adventist professional associations, and network with thousands of Adventist professionals around the world. Members are protected from solicitations and unwanted mail.

Enter your professional information directly in the APN secure website, free:

http://apn.adventist.org

Encourage other degreed Adventists to join APN and enjoy its many benefits.
For questions and comments on APN, contact us through apn@gc.adventist.org