



HIGHLIGHTS

Internal Newsletter of the Adventist International Institute of Advanced Studies 04/02/2026

UPCOMING EVENTS

- April 2-5** **Easter Weekend Holidays**
- April 2 "Our Lord's Passover Supper": Biblically Faithfully and Culturally Sensitive Worship Series (5:30PM)
- April 5 AIAS Alumni & Friends Potluck & Fellowship
- April 6 Chapel Series: Alyssa Truman, GC Communications Director
- April 6 Sabah Evangelistic Meeting - Orientation (immediately after chapel)
- April 7 **PhD Religion Defense (2PM)**
Lovanomena Zandritiana , Madagascar
- April 8 **PhD in Education Defense (8AM)**
Kate Yeboah-Appiagyei , Ghana
- April 9 **Araw ng Kagitingan (Day of Valor)**
- April 9-11 AIAS African Theological Association Forum

LIBRARY Workshop: Power BI (8AM)

- April 10 Session 1: From Data to Meaning
- April 17 Session 2: Designing Clear Dashboards
- April 24 Session 3: From Dashboard to Decision

Blue: Dissertation / Thesis Defense Schedules.

Red: No Class / No Work

HOW FILIPINOS CELEBRATE EASTER

As a predominantly Roman Catholic country, many of the Philippines' national holidays are tied to religious celebrations like Christmas (Jesus' birth) and Easter (Jesus' death), All Saints Day, and the local town fiestas (thanksgiving celebration for harvest).

Semana Santa (Spanish for "Holy Week") refers to the week leading up to Easter Sunday. It begins with Palm Sunday, where devotees attend mass and carry palm leaves in a parade to re-enact Jesus entering Jerusalem. Then on Maundy Thursday, they go on "Visita Iglesia" or church visitation where they visit up to 7 major churches to pray, to re-enact Jesus praying at the Garden of Gethsemane. On Good Friday, devotees go on a "prusisyon" or procession where they walk barefoot, beat themselves, and even have a re-enactment of the crucifixion in some areas.

On Black Saturday, everything is silent and still while "mourning" the death of Christ, then early Easter Sunday, another procession called "Salubong" is held to depict Mary going to the empty tomb and meeting Jesus. Statues of Mary wearing a black veil and Jesus are paraded separately and reunited back at the church, where the black veil is lifted to signify the end of Mary's mourning.



With all the businesses and malls closed during Thursday and Friday, some of you may want to witness some of these practices. AIAS is located close to multiple Catholic churches, seminaries, and convents. You can hop on a jeepney, or drive your car to visit any of them.

THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

The Theological-Historical department held their Colloquium Series Session 4 on March 26, 2026 at the Seminary Chapel. The presenters were:

- Dr. Francisco Gayoba - "Understanding the Basics of Historical-Theological Evaluation"
- Ferin Krisminanto, PhD Student - History of 1000 Missionary Movement (1991-2006)
- Marie Therese Ngono, PhD Student - Human Death in the Intermediate State Framework: A survey from the 17th to the 20th Century"

Congratulations to all the presenters and to Maksim Kaminskii, who moderated the event.

AIAS ACADEMY

Jisty Frias-Tapeceria

The AIAS Academy Student Government officers held a Talent Show and Academic Day program for the high school students, on April 1 at the amphitheater.

The event kicked off with five participants showcasing their various talents of interpretative dance, musical talents, and even the solving of a Rubik's cube in record time - blindfolded! The Grade 12 students also shared their educational videos about various natural disasters, all in the style of the interactive cartoon, Dora the Explorer. The Academic Day portion consisted of a fast-paced spelling bee with each participant only writing one letter of the word, and a Kahoot Bible trivia quiz to test the biblical fact that students have ingrained into their minds.

The Academic Day and Talent Show might just become an annual event, being a platform for students to share their God-given gifts and further sharpen their intellect.



[See AIAS Academic Day Photos](#)

EDUCATION

Our education professors flew to Davao on April 1, 2026 to spending their Easter holiday with the teachers of Davao Mission Education Department. This is a part of the department's community engagement activity to "promote the Adventist philosophy of education and integration of faith & learning among educators and institutions in the area".

Let us pray for their safe travels and the success of their mission in Davao City.

ALUMNI FEATURE

AIAS is blessed to have many of our pioneer workers (employees that served from 1990s-2020s) still committed to mission, despite being retired. They have called themselves the AIAS Goldies Circle and their goal is to seeks to promote fellowship among the AIAS retirees and "bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ." Gal 6:2. To keep themselves active and involved in mission, they go on church visitations around the area, host mini seminars, and organize prayer meetings and social gatherings.

May they serve as an encouragement for us to continue or start our own independent ministries and share about God's love to others, until Jesus comes.



FUNNY BONE

(Alumni Contributor: [Dr. G. T. Ng](#))

"Laugh and the world laughs with you, snore and you sleep alone." Anthony Burgess

THIS SUNDAY!

AIAS Alumni and Friends Potluck Gathering

at the [Loma Linda Chinese SDA Church Fellowship Hall](#) on [April 5, 2026 \(Sunday\)](#) at 6PM.

COMMUNITY REMINDERS

- **AIAS LIBRARY OPEN HOURS (EASTER HOLIDAYS)**
April 2 (Thursday) - 8AM to 4PM
April 3 (Friday) - 8AM to 12NN
April 5 (Sunday) - 8AM to 4PM
- **AIAS STORE OUTSOURCING** - AIAS is looking for Adventist entrepreneurs who are willing to take over the AIAS Store operations inside the campus. Interested applicants may request the full guidelines, requirements, and submission details from: finance@aias.edu . Deadline for Application: April 19
- **Zumba Sessions** - every Monday to Thursday, 5:15pm to 6:00pm (none on Holidays) at the Admin Building Kitchenette Hall